

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 81

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 110 Awakened In The Middle Of The Night

I would definitely refuse without saying a word if it was any Tom, Dick, and Harry asking me for my number.

However, that man was Royce, who really stood out from the group. After pondering for a while, I had decided to exchange numbers with him.

When the event ended, Shannon and I left Century Hyatt right away. We were chit-chatting about the night while waiting for our ride by the roadside.

Right then, a black Hummer pulled over. Startled, Shannon and I stopped talking.

Wondering who the bad driver was, I was cursing in my heart at his driving skills. Unexpectedly, Royce got out of the vehicle.

Luckily I kept my mouth shut. Otherwise, it'd be so awkward.

"Mr. Horton," I greeted him with a smile.

He nodded. "Hi. I saw you two from afar. Are you trying to get a ride? It's going to be a challenge at this hour. If you don't mind, I can drive you home."

I did not want to trouble him. Moreover, it was our first meeting and we hardly knew each other.

A little precaution won't hurt.

"Thanks for the thought, Mr. Horton, but we've engaged a driver. Our ride should be here in no time."

Shrugging, he answered indifferently, "Okay, I'll get going then. See you around."

"Bye."

Watching him leave, Shannon pinched me on the waist and questioned, "We didn't call a car, did we? Why did you say no to a free ride?"

"Isn't he one of the dates? His name is... Royce Horton, right? Hmm... So, are you two planning on seeing each other?"

I quickly clarified, "He asked for my number and mentioned that we could keep in touch. He's pretty all right. Anyhow, I just got to know him, so I should think it's best to be wary of people. Who knows? He might turn out to be a jerk."

Shannon started getting all excited that her face was beaming. Caressing my head, she teased, "Oh my dear sweetheart, you've gotten smarter. I'm so proud of you that you're guarding against strangers now."

I slapped her wrist and pulled her hand away. "Get lost. I'm not as gullible as you think I am!"

"Haha, just admit it. Don't worry, I won't leave your side even if you're dumb."

Amused, I gestured to vomit and corrected her jokingly, "Don't be so cheesy, I'm getting goosebumps. I like men, okay? Don't you get the wrong idea!"

Shannon playfully wrapped her arms around me and refused to let me go, attracting unnecessary attention from the passersby.

We tried to hail a cab, but to no avail.

When I was ready to give up, a flashy red sports car stopped right in front of us.

To my surprise, the driver was none other than the president of Galaxy Corporation, James.

"Yo, ladies, what a coincidence!"

Tsk, tsk, tsk... Judging from his stylish outfit, alluring smell of cologne, and party vibe, he seems to be out on a hunt for pretty girls.

Well, I don't think that he needs to exert any effort in picking up girls. They will be attracted to him automatically as soon as they see his getup.

Just as I had predicted, a few sexy ladies approached him within minutes.

I had not seen him since the last incident when he partnered with Dominic and tricked me to show up at Galaxy Corporation.

Now that he had appeared in front of me again, I could not help but recall the ridiculous things that Dominic had done to me. It made me feel upset.

Shannon winked at him. "Mr. Dalton, what a pleasure to see you here. If you're not too busy, why don't you send us home?"

I elbowed Shannon. "Hey, I was about to engage a driver. His car is a two-seater, it won't fit us three anyway."

James got out of his car right away and said while snapping his fingers, "I'm glad to be at your service, gorgeous girls. Just give me a moment to get someone to send another car here."

As soon as he finished saying that, he made a call. Within five minutes, an MPV arrived magically.

"Mr. Dalton, as per your request."

James took over the keys and told us, "Get into the car, I'll take you both home."

We gladly accepted his kind gesture since he offered to be our chauffeur.

During the journey home, I was chatting softly with Shannon in the back seat. Suddenly, my phone vibrated.

It was a text message from Royce. Ms. Zanetti, have you arrived home safely?

I was quite astonished to receive such a sweet word of care from him.

Shannon leaned over, trying to take a peek at my phone screen. "Is that from Royce?"

"Yup." I simply acknowledged.

I'm almost home, thanks for checking. I replied.

Then, he returned my message with a concise three words. Glad to know.

"He seems to be quite keen, huh? What do you guys talk about, Liliana?"

Keeping my phone in the bag, I took my time to answer her. "Just the standard stuff like our names, occupation, and age. What else can we talk about?"

Arching her brows, Shannon was dumbfounded. "And you've given him your number? That's new."

I tilted my head in thought. "He's seemingly nice and pleasing to the eye. He looks like someone I know."

"Who?" Shannon pursued further.

"I can't tell, but he looks really familiar at the very first glance."

She gasped. "Liliana, is that love at first sight?"

Rolling my eyes, I was almost rendered speechless. "What nonsense! Forget it, you won't be able to understand."

Sometimes I question how her brain functions. We're clearly not on the same page on this topic.

Out of the blue, James spoke up, "Which Royce are you referring to?"

Impatiently, I retorted, "Mind your own business and focus on the road."

Why is he asking so much? Does he even know him?

Thereafter, James remained silent and responsibly sent the both of us home respectively.

When I got back, I took a nice shower and snuggled up in bed.

I was annoyingly awakened by my ringing phone in the middle of the night.

I blew a fuse when I saw that it was from Dominic.

What the hell is he trying to do? Does he want to settle scores at this ungodly hour when people are sleeping soundly? Is he insane or what? I need my rest even if he doesn't!

Furious, I hung up on him and switched my phone off completely.

While I was trying to calm myself down and get back to sleep, I heard a loud and urgent pounding on the front door.

Having a bad feeling about it, I turned on the lights in my room and glanced at the phone that I had chucked aside.

What time is it? Is it two in the morning? Dominic can't possibly be this crazy to show up at this hour, right?

Chapter 81 Bail Him Out

My inspiration was all but gone after Dominic's appearance. At the sight of the awful work on the tablet, I put the stylus down in despair.

The moment I remembered that he was coming back to check on my work, I

immediately shot to my feet and slipped out the door. Who said that his words were a royal decree? I'm not going to play along with him!

I had nowhere to go after leaving, so I decided to give myself the day off and went shopping.

Just when I was trying on a dress, my cell phone started ringing. I knew who was calling at this time without even thinking about it, so I simply ignored it. Instead, I scrutinized the reflection of the new dress in the mirror.

However, the other person was exceedingly persistent. My cell phone continued ringing time and again without any sign of stopping anytime soon. Despite wanting to ignore it, I could no longer do so. I could only unzip my handbag sullenly and fish out my cell phone.

Without even glancing at the caller ID, I answered the call right away.

"I don't belong to you exclusively, you know! Do you know that you're very annoying to phone me relentlessly just because I left for a moment?"

My voice reflected the depth of my resentment, for I was at the end of my patience when it came to Dominic.

I had long since braced myself for a tempest, but the person on the other end of the phone actually went silent. That had the courage I mustered dissipating bit by bit with every breath I took.

"Hello? Say something!" I muttered after a brief hesitation.

This time, however, my confidence was sorely lacking.

"I'm sorry to have bothered you. It... It wasn't deliberate on my part." The deep and lowered voice had my eyes almost popping out of my head.

I promptly moved my cell phone away to have a gander at the caller ID. When I saw the word "Nicholas" on the screen, stark regret assailed me.

"No, no! My words earlier weren't directed at you, so please don't misunderstand. I thought it was that irritating guy. Please don't take offense at me, Nicholas! But why do you sound odd? Did something happen?"

Having my wits about me, I seized the opportunity to divert the subject. After all, I wouldn't dare explain who exactly the "irritating guy" was.

"Yeah, I indeed ran into a spot of trouble. Are you free now?"

Fortunately, Nicholas didn't take offense at me. When he asked whether I was free, I instantly patted myself on the chest and declared that I had absolutely nothing to do and was shopping aimlessly.

"In that case, do you mind coming to my rescue? I'm now in the restroom of a restaurant, and the entrance has been blocked by fans who recognized me. It's all on me for thinking that everything will be fine with me in disguise and keeping a low profile. I told Jake that he didn't need to accompany me and even asked him to collect some clothes from a sponsor. As such, I'm currently caught in a tight spot..."

Oh! No wonder his voice sounds muffled, as though he has his hand cupping the speaker. It turns out that he is in such huge trouble. I asked him for the location at once and reassured him that I would head over right away.

Nicholas swiftly gave me the location before apologizing and thanking me repeatedly. He was so effusive that I was embarrassed instead.

After hanging up the phone, I hurriedly changed out of the dress. Snagging my handbag, I went out and hailed a taxi to the restaurant in short order.

When I arrived, I had the shock of my life.

The restaurant was completely surrounded, befitting his popularity as Nicholas Scott, the award-winning actor. The fans were all clutching their cell phones in anticipation. As they snapped photos, they made calls and gushed that they had spotted Nicholas, telling the other person the location before urging them to come quickly.

Damn it! Judging from the packed crowd, I'll only be able to get in if I were to grow a pair of wings. Well, what now? What should I do?

It was my first time encountering such a situation, so I didn't quite know how to handle it either. Gritting my teeth, I desperately squeezed into the crowd, but I was jostled out by the excited fans before I had even made any headway.

In the process, I almost lost one of my shoes, and my hair became so messy that it resembled a bird's nest.

Panic engulfed me. Nicholas is still waiting for me to bail him out, so I definitely can't disappoint him! All of a sudden, an idea flashed across my mind. My mind whirring, I raced toward the restaurant across the street.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 82

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 82 You Can Continue Stripping

A moment later, I stepped out in a chef's outfit with a mask that obscured my face. With a spatula in hand, I boldly strode up to those rabid fans.

"Make way! Scram! This is a place of business, so get out of my way!"

After I confidently roared at them, they finally noticed my presence. However, the hostile looks they sent me almost killed me on the spot.

I hastily coughed a few times and wedged myself into the gap while brandishing the spatula in my hand. Then, I sprinted toward the restroom.

"Nicholas? Nicholas? Are you here?" I called out softly as I pinched my nose, terrified that I would attract other people's attention.

I was poking my head into the men's restroom, so I appeared extremely bizarre, especially when I was also holding a spatula in hand.

While I was apprehensively glancing over my shoulder, a hand abruptly yanked me into the bathroom. It scared me so much that I opened my mouth to scream, but a hand clamped over my mouth before I could do so.

"Calm down. It's me."

Raising my eyes, I was greeted by Nicholas' fiery gaze and his slightly tilted lips.

Huh? He's actually smiling? What the heck? I'm absolutely terrified, yet he's amused? As expected of a superstar who has seen plenty in his life. But... I've got to admit that he's just too handsome!

It was the first time I had seen him at such a close distance. His perfect countenance was flawless, and his alluring eyes were currently half-squinted since he was smiling. On the whole, he was both captivating and riveting.

On top of that, I could even feel his long and slender fingers through the mask.

"What kind of getup is this? If you hadn't said anything, I wouldn't have recognized you."

His voice was music to my ears now that it was no longer suppressed. However, I could only blink while making muffled sounds with no way of answering him.

Upon seeing that, Nicholas promptly dropped his hand. Nonetheless, he didn't put any distance between us. His hand remained propped against the wall as he stared at me with his head lowered and mouth pursed.

Oh my God, I'm dying! I'm really going to die! With him gazing at me, my heartbeat pounded wildly, and my face flushed bright red. Luckily, I had the mask to conceal it, or I would truly be so mortified that I would rather crawl into a hole and die.

"How could you laugh at me? I've gone all out just to rescue you and only got this outfit after leaving everything I own as collateral. Hurry up and put it on!"

As I said that, I urgently took off the chef hat before unbuttoning the shirt. While I was frantically stripping, I looked up, only to notice that the man's expression seemed a touch strange. It was as though he was amused.

"Hey, what kind of expression is that?" I glared at him with the shirt half-undone.

Pressing his lips into a thin line, he dipped his head and gave a light cough. "I didn't expect you to strip before a man so openly. Or... do you not regard me as a man?"

Good God!

The moment I heard that, my face seemed to burst into flames. I wanted to explain myself, but the words that escaped my mouth sounded suggestive instead.

"I'm not naked. I've still got my outerwear on top of my underwear!"

I almost bit off my own tongue after saying that. Damn it all to hell! Why did I mention my underwear? What on earth was I saying?

"Oh... I get it. I totally understand. Outerwear and underwear, huh? Okay, go on."

Nicholas' stifled mirth had me on the verge of crying.

Where's the cold and aloof idol? Why is he so flirty in private? Also, he's such an ingrate! Isn't it because of him that I'm wearing layer upon layer here? Yet, he's actually teasing me!

Just when I was inwardly berating him, Nicholas suddenly grabbed my hand. His smile earlier had disappeared, and he stared at me with a scorching gaze. "Thank you. I'm not an ingrate, so I'll remember the favor you did me today."

Thump, thump, thump! My heart just about pounded out of my chest. Can he read minds? And most importantly, his serious expression is too mesmerizing!

"But well... What kind of thanks do you want? For instance, giving myself to you..."

As soon as I heard those four words, I lost all composure. In my shock, I jerked my head back, slamming it hard against the door. The agony was so excruciating that I grimaced in pain without any care for my image.

“I mean, that’s impossible. Don’t you think you’re being a bit too excited?”

Pfft!

At the sight of my bewildered expression, Nicholas burst into laughter. He extended a long arm and steadied me.

“You’re too adorable, Liliana! All right, I’ll stop teasing you. Now... you can continue stripping.”

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 83

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 83 Eloping

I can continue stripping? What the hell?

Nicholas’ words sounded increasingly suggestive. With my face flushed bright red, I panicked so badly that my limbs became a tangled mess as I briskly tugged the chef’s outfit off.

With a smile playing on his lips, Nicholas took it from me and put it on deftly. Those who didn’t know any better would think that he truly had experience being a chef.

In no time, his appearance underwent a drastic change.

He appeared just like a professional chef.

However, his long and slender legs, as well as his alluring eyes, couldn’t be disguised. I wasn’t sure whether it was because I was too familiar with him, but I could still recognize him.

“What is it? Do I look awful?”

Nicholas’ eyes were curved, telling me that he was smiling beneath the mask.

“No, but I think fans who are familiar with you will still be able to recognize you. After all, your eyes are truly too conspicuous.”

I pursed my lips in worry as I racked my brains for a way to conceal his eyes.

To my surprise, Nicholas wasn’t the slightest bit worried. Taking the spatula from my hand, he waved it around like a playful child.

“It’s okay. I think it’s pretty good, so let’s just leave it at this. But... you’ve got to keep me company, okay? If my cover is blown, you’ve got to hold them back for me.”

Huh? My jaw dropped in shock. I’ll probably be trampled to death in seconds by those rabid fans, considering my petite stature. How am I supposed to hold them back?

“Haha, I was just teasing you. Look at your terrified expression!” Nicholas’ eyes danced with mirth once again.

In response, I shot him an indignant glare. Good Lord! He must have gotten hooked on teasing me to keep scaring me despite knowing that I’ve never experienced such a situation.

I huffily reached out to pull open the restroom door, but my arm was grabbed right that moment. Looking over my shoulder, I saw Nicholas gazing at me with a serious look in his jet-black eyes.

“Don’t worry, for I’ll protect you.”

I was stunned upon hearing that. While I was still dazed, Nicholas walked out of the restroom ahead of me. Nonetheless, he didn’t release his hold on my hand though he kept me concealed behind his tall figure.

As soon as we exited the restroom, a group of fans who came into the restaurant in wait of him swung their gazes to us. I was so panicked that my palms turned damp.

Nicholas seemed to have sensed it, for he gently brushed his finger across my palm. I knew that he was comforting me.

Inhaling deeply, I followed him and headed toward the entrance slowly. Scorching gazes surrounded us on all sides as though they wanted to stare a hole into us. Fortunately, Nicholas’ disguise held up. Those fans merely stared hesitantly without making a move.

But as we approached the door, the number of people increased significantly. The only way we could leave was to squeeze our way out. Before we knew it, our interlinked hands got separated.

Feigning calmness, I continued walking with my head held high. However, I then noticed the fans in the restaurant earlier whispering while staring at Nicholas’ back suspiciously. They even started wedging themselves through the crowd after us.

Crap! It looks like Nicholas has been made! See? Didn’t I say that his figure is too conspicuous? Chefs nowadays are plump, so it’ll take a miracle to remain under the radar with his long and slender legs as well as his height of over six feet!

“Nicholas Scott? You’re Nicholas Scott, aren’t you?”

The very thing I feared came to pass, for a fan called out to Nicholas. My mind instantly went blank, and I only remembered Nicholas telling me to keep him company and hold his frenzied fans at bay.

Thus, I spun around and spread my arms out without even thinking about it. “He’s not Nicholas Scott! You’ve got the wrong person!” I shouted loudly.

When my words rang out, a group of people charged at me. Right then, I could almost imagine my pitiful end—being trampled to death under their feet. In the blink of an eye, someone grabbed my hand. With a stumble, I then started running as a force hauled me forward.

When I finally snapped back to reality, I realized that it was Nicholas who was sprinting wildly while dragging me along. Behind us was a group of shrieking fans.

“Liliana, don’t you think we look like we’re eloping right now?”

Huh? Eloping?

I looked up in exasperation, only to see that Nicholas’ mask had already fallen off earlier, revealing his delighted smile in its entirety.

Good heavens! Why on earth is he so happy? Shouldn’t this be a sad moment?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 84

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 84 A Dreadful Encounter

This was the first time I experienced anything like this: sprinting bare-footed across the street. In hindsight, I could use this as reference material for my comic.

For a moment, I forgot I was running alongside Nicholas and his pair of long legs. With every step he took, I had to take a few more to match his pace. Very soon, I was panting madly. There were multiple instances when I almost fell and made a fool of myself.

Fortunately, Nicholas was familiar with the ways of the street. After a few turns, we arrived at the underground parking and hurriedly escaped on his silver Porsche. If not for his crooked chef hat and my messy hair, it would have looked like a cool escape scene from the movies.

Back in the car, both of us broke into laughter.

“Liliana, is this really the time to be laughing? You heartless creature!” Nicholas pursed his lips in an attempt to stifle his laugh.

“I could say the same to you! Even a superstar like you is not bothered by your ruined image, so why would a nobody like me care?” Still panting from the run earlier, I started tidying my disheveled hair.

“A nobody? I’m afraid that won’t be the case from tomorrow.”

I paused and looked at him wide-eyed.

Nicholas continued, “There’s no need to be surprised. We’re in a digital era, after all. Forget tomorrow – perhaps photos and ridiculous comments of us are already circulating on Twitter now.”

Oh, my. How could I have forgotten about this?

I ran through the events earlier, hoping I had done nothing to anger his fans. It then dawned on me that not only did I hold his hands, but I even told his fans they got the wrong person! Even worse, everyone saw how Nicholas grabbed my hands and escaped.

With each passing moment, I became more worried. We were talking about Nicholas, the superstar who had had a clean record so far. If this incident made the headlines, his fans would never forgive me.

What should I do?

As I was lost in my whirlwind of thoughts, the car stopped. Nicholas looked at me with a faint smile. “Let’s get off here and grab some food. I’m starving after the exercise we did just now.”

Who is the heartless one here? We could appear on the headlines at any moment, yet he was still thinking of eating.

I let out a long sigh and got out of the car. Nicholas had taken off his chef’s outfit by that time and placed it neatly in his backseat.

“Um...” I wanted to ask for the outfit back so that I could get my deposit. Yet, he locked the car before I could speak any further. Guess I’ll ask later...

“C’mon. Don’t worry about being disturbed. I’ve got a private room here.” With that said, he strode toward the elevator while I tailed after him.

Once we exited the elevator, Nicholas walked toward his private room with great familiarity. The service staff was excited by his presence. Just as I was about to enter the room, my phone rang.

It was Dominic.

After the mad rush earlier, it completely slipped my mind that Dominic had said he would take me out for dinner. I am guessing he must be asking for my whereabouts. In reality, I would rather not pick up his call but I thought it was best I did not do anything to anger him.

Dominic spoke immediately, "Something cropped up, so I can't bring you for dinner anymore. Remember to grab food for yourself."

Well, that was a relief. This saved me the trouble of explaining myself.

Before I could hang up, I heard a voice from the other side of the line. "Dom, the dishes are served. Aren't you going in?"

Putting aside how well I recognized that repulsive voice, I thought I misheard the voice from outside my phone.

I looked in the direction of the voice. Not far off, Dominic was standing outside a room with Camille. She was smiling seductively while holding his arms.

Hah! So this was what "cropped up"?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 85

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 85 Actor

This scene was a repeat from five years ago. While I thought I was already numbed by it, I could feel jealousy creeping its way into me. Out of anger, I raised my voice. "Save your concern. Someone's treating me to dinner."

From where I was, I could see Dominic's brows furrow.

"Who?" His voice was curt.

"None of your business!" I hung up the phone and entered the room. Once seated, Nicholas handed me the menu. "Don't hold back. My treat!" While saying this, he smiled deviously at me.

If not for what I saw earlier, I would have savored his attractive smile. The call just now made me lose my appetite.

I handed the menu back to him while smiling. "It's all right! I wouldn't want to get hammered by your fans. You decide; I'm not a picky eater."

Instead of receiving the menu, his deep-set eyes continued to stare intently at me. "What's wrong? Don't worry about the photos. I said I'll protect you. I'll call the company tomorrow and they'll handle this."

It seemed like my attempt to put up a normal front was a flop. Even so, there was no way I could let Nicholas know all of my messy issues.

I shook my head. "I'm not worried about that. In fact, this might be good publicity for my comic, which means I'm the one leeching off you here. I really just don't know what to order. You choose."

Nicholas was tactful enough not to insist and ordered a few dishes for us. Just as the waiter left, he leaned in closer. I flinched slightly as his hands approached my cheeks. Then he stopped midway and patted my head instead. A few specks of dust fell off.

"Just look at yourself. What's with this mess on your head? Sometimes I really wonder whether you're a woman. I've never seen anyone of the female race who cares so little about her appearance."

All this while, I was holding my breath. Turns out he's just getting the dust off my head.

In reality, his words hit the spot. I really was not one to care about my appearance. Nevertheless, I knew it was basic respect to look decent while hanging out with a superstar like him.

I smiled awkwardly in my seat. "It must've gotten into my hair while we were rushing just now. Excuse me while I head to the restroom."

It was only when I saw myself in the mirror that I realized Nicholas was already being kind. Not only was my hair a complete mess, but my face was oily as well.

I hurriedly turned on the tap and started rinsing my face and hair. As I was drying myself, I saw an uninvited face reflecting in the mirror.

She must have come in to tidy her makeup. While walking to her station, our eyes met. She paused for a few moments and then broke into a surprised and gentle smile.

"Liliana? Is that really you? It's been five years since we last saw each other! How are you doing now? Are you still drawing? By the way, who are you eating with?"

Her questions came non-stop as though we were close buddies.

I paid no heed to her questions. I threw my tissue into the bin and sauntered my way to the exit. I was not acting rude without a reason. How else could she expect me to treat my ex-best friend who had stolen my boyfriend?

Then, I felt a pair of hands grab onto my arm. "Liliana, do you not recognize me? I'm Camille Madison!"

I detested women like her to the core. Who is she acting innocent for? Only she and I were here. I shrugged her hands off, examined her from top to bottom, and asked sarcastically, "Do I know you?"

Not expecting such a hostile response, Camille was momentarily at a loss. She looked as though I had wronged her.

"Liliana, why are you acting this way? Weren't we best friends in university?"

Seriously? Do you really expect me to behave all chummy with the person who stole my boyfriend?

"I don't see any good reason to remember you. If there's nothing else, I'm leaving." I could not bear the thought of staying another second longer with her.

Camille hurriedly added, "What about Dominic? Have you forgotten him as well?"

Are you for real? I did not expect her to mention him so brazenly in front of me. I shot her a steely look before replying nonchalantly, "Do I need to remember a guy I dumped?"

I swore for a moment she looked smug, but that was quickly masked with a look of disbelief.

Damn. She really was an actress to the bone. But was there a need to act in front of me?

Lucky or not for me, the answer came running right after. I heard a bone-chilling voice from behind me. "Oh, really?"

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 86

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 86 Apologize

I looked at Camille dumbfounded. I could not believe that even after five years, I still had not learned my lesson. I fell into her trap again.

She began acting all goody two shoes. While holding my arm, she started persuading Dominic, “Dom, don’t misunderstand Liliana. I’m sure she didn’t mean any of that. S-she must’ve been too excited. After all, we haven’t met for five years, haven’t we?”

Like hell I’m excited!

I shrugged off her hands before turning to meet Dominic’s frosty stare. Although I had said those words out of spite, was he really in any position to be angry at me? He was the one who left me back then.

“Ahh!” Meanwhile, Camille staggered a few steps back before collapsing to the floor. Dominic reacted quickly and managed to let her fall into him.

“Are you ok?” He was visibly concerned.

“I’m fine. Don’t worry about it.” She did not forget to play the victim while in his arms.

Finding her act repulsive, I tried to squeeze my way out. But before I could walk any further, I felt a sharp jerk on my arm.

“Where do you think you’re going?” Dominic was grabbing me tightly.

Where? Does he expect me to continue watching them?

Not turning back, I answered, “Let go. Where I go is none of your business. Besides, don’t you have more important things to do now?”

“Apologize before you go.”

What a ridiculous command! I turned around and glared at him. “Why should I?”

“Shouldn’t you apologize for your rude behavior? Camille was just greeting you nicely.” His grip tightened, sending a throbbing pain up my arm. He then let go of Camille and pushed me firmly against the wall.

“Enough is enough! I’m not going to apologize to her. Not even in your dreams!”

“Really? Then let’s settle all our scores once and for all. Both old and new.”

I averted my gaze. Despite our close proximity, I could sense how distant we were.

“Dom, forget about it. I’m fine. We’re all friends so there’s no need for an apology.” Faking a concerned look, Camille tugged at his sleeves gently. I could not help but laugh in disbelief.

Dominic was furious. “Why are you laughing?” I felt my arm going numb from his sheer force.

“Nothing. Mr. Hartnell, consider me blind. I shouldn’t go around messing with people I can’t afford to. I’ll stay far away and never appear in front of both of you again.”

Just as the last word escaped my mouth, I felt his fingers dig deep into my arms. Any harder and my bones would dislocate. Yet, my pride got the better of me. I could not let him win. I held back the pain and flashed him a look of triumph.

“I dare you!” Immediately after, he turned toward Camille. “Let’s cancel dinner. I’ll make it up to you another day.”

With that said, he dragged me out. I could not believe how unreasonable he was. How ridiculous it was to leave his fiancée there alone just to settle scores with me!

I glanced back and saw the color having drained off Camille’s face. I could tell she was holding back her anger but she still managed to force a smile before proclaiming, “Don’t worry. I’m sure you two have lots of catching up to do after five long years.”

Ugh. How generous. But wait, what does she mean by five years? Is she unaware that Dominic and I have been in contact with each other?

Just as I was being dragged across the floor, Dominic came to an abrupt halt, causing me to bump into his back.

I looked up to see Nicholas blocking the path. He tilted his head and smiled at me.

“Let’s go back. The dishes have been served.” He walked around us, held my free hand, and led me back to his private room.

Instantly, I felt an even greater force from my other arm. Dominic commanded, “Let go.” I could sense bloodthirst from his voice.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 87

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 87 Humiliation

I knew Dominic too well. He was a savage, violent, mentally ill, and unjust man. A gentleman such as Nicholas would not stand a chance against him.

I grew anxious and tried to tug my hand away from Nicholas.

Nicholas stopped walking and looked at me. Seeing that I did not appear disappointed, he smiled softly and asked, "What's wrong?"

I looked at him with guilt and awkwardly smiled. "Um... I think I won't be eating. Maybe next time. Thanks for the treat anyway."

"Why?"

He looked at me so intensely that I didn't know what to say. After all, I could not tell him that Dominic was about to break my wrist. I'm also worried he might cripple you!

As I hesitated, Dominic gave me an even more forceful tug, causing my hand to escape from Nicholas' grasp as I fell into Dominic's embrace.

Dominic replied, "There is no reason. She can only eat with me."

Damn it. He's so domineering!

I don't get it. Who am I to him? Why should he care about who I eat with? If he can eat with Camille, why can't I dine with someone else?

I became even angrier the more I thought about it. I stood steadily and pushed Dominic aside.

"Dominic, don't get too full of yourself. Why do I need your approval to eat with anyone? You always eat with whoever you want; have you ever asked for my consent?"

We had only walked a few steps when Camille caught up to us. As soon as I saw her, I could not control myself and I shouted at Dominic.

"Liliana, I never knew that you don't like me eating together with Dom. If I knew, I wouldn't have come. I'm sorry."

Before Dominic could speak, Camille was already apologizing and looking all guilty. By admitting that it was her fault, she made it look like I was the one bullying her.

F*ck, how shameless can she be?

Dominic frowned and glared at me upon hearing what Camille said.

"Liliana, don't be rude. Camille did nothing wrong. Who do you think you are to me? Do we have to report to you that we're having a meal together?"

I was shocked that he asked me who I was to him.

Indeed, he was my boss and I was only a caregiver. How dare I control who he eats with! Besides, there was nothing wrong with a couple eating together, yet I shamelessly criticized him for that.

I'm such an idiot!

"Dom, don't say that to her. It is all my fault for returning after five years. She just hasn't adapted to it."

Camille pitifully grabbed Dominic's sleeve and shook her head desperately. Had I not witnessed that scene back then, I might also be led to think that I had misunderstood her.

"You did nothing wrong. She's the one who doesn't know anything and still bullied you. Is this what you call a good friend? Liliana, do you know that Camille..."

"Dom, I feel dizzy. I don't feel so good."

Before I got to react to Dominic's inexplicable accusations, he was interrupted by Camille. He quickly carried Camille in his arms and glared at me.

"Go back immediately. Look at you. He invited you to dinner only because he's met too many beauties and wanted a change of taste to try something simpler. Yet, here you are, assuming he's actually into you."

Then he hurriedly brushed past me with Camille in his arms and left the restaurant.

Dominic's leaving did not burn my eyes but his words hurt my feelings. He humiliated me in front of Camille like I was nothing but dirt on the ground.

If I am really so ugly, why did he treat me like that?

Was it because he also wanted a change of taste and try something simpler?

I didn't utter a word. However, my body was trembling. Suddenly, I found myself in an embrace.

"He's wrong. I only like simpler women. Complex and fancy women make me sick."

Nicholas...

I knew he was just comforting me but I needed the warmth badly. I held back my tears and buried my head in his arms.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 88

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 88 Top Of The Charts

I lamented on Nicholas' shoulder for a while before I calmed down.

I lifted my head and looked at his stunning face. It felt a little embarrassing.

"Um... Thanks for that. I'm really sorry; I must have embarrassed myself."

Well, anyone would feel like giggling after witnessing such an embarrassing moment.

Nicholas tucked my hair aside and smiled brightly. "You don't have to thank me. You helped me as well, didn't you? From what I see, you're not the embarrassing one."

He continued, "Come. Let's continue our meal together."

I had already lost my appetite. However, seeing that he had comforted me for such a long time, it would be ungracious of me to leave just like that.

Whatever. I shouldn't mistreat my stomach because of Dominic and Camille. I need to be nice to myself.

I stopped hesitating and followed Nicholas back to the private room. I channeled all of my grief and anger into my appetite and ate my fill.

After a gratifying meal, Nicholas did not take me anywhere but brought me back to the hotel.

After all, it had been a long day in which many unexpected things happened.

Flash Media arranged our hotel accommodation and prepared a car for us to conveniently travel back forth between the set and the hotel.

Meanwhile, Nicholas and the others stayed even closer to the filming location. After all, it would be troublesome to travel to and fro. Shannon and I were only staying for a month at most.

In front of my room, Nicholas said to me, "You must be tired so take some rest soon. We will be filming early in the morning; I will come and pick you up."

How could I trouble him again early in the morning? I already knew the filming schedule after observing the crew for a few days. The team had to wake up a few hours earlier to prepare for filming.

No matter what I said, Nicholas insisted on picking me up the following morning. I did not know what to say.

After sending off Nicholas, I swiped my key card and saw Shannon snuggling in bed watching drama.

I leaped onto the bed, snatched the tablet away from her hands, and hugged her.

“Hey, what are you doing? I’m at the climax,” Shannon mumbled. She reached out to take the tablet back from me.

“Don’t move. Hug me for five minutes. No, just one minute would do.” I hugged her as a koala would to a tree, reluctant to let go.

Shannon knew something had happened to me and stopped moving. She even patted my back and asked, “What happened? Don’t you want to focus on the film production?”

I shook my head without uttering a word. I didn’t know how to express myself.

I could not just say that I was hurt by my ex-boyfriend and his fiancée, who was also my best friend. After all, it was too much of a twist of events.

“I’m just a little tired. It’s okay; you just keep watching. I’ll take a shower.” I got out of bed, picked up my pajamas, and went into the bathroom.

That night, Shannon went on to watch her drama series while my thoughts were in shambles.

I was worried that this cooperation with Flash would not go smoothly.

Didn’t Dominic say he also invested in it? Based on his numerous attempts to trouble me in the past, I’m afraid it will be the same case this time.

My goodness! What crimes have I committed in my past life to deserve this?

Suddenly, my thoughts were scattered by a sudden ring of my phone.

I picked it up and saw Dominic’s name on the screen. I gathered my courage and hung up on him without hesitation.

That bastard still dares to call me.

But I immediately regretted it. I was afraid that my determination might provoke him to get back at me later.

Conveniently, the phone rang again. It was still Dominic.

I bit my lip, reluctant to answer the phone. Somehow, my finger moved by itself and pressed the “answer” button.

“Where are you? Who are you with?” Dominic asked in a bone-chilling tone.

He still has time to care about me despite being with his fiancée—what a joke.

Intending to provoke him, I said, “I just had a meal with a handsome guy. We’re about to chat and talk about our ideals in life. Mr. Hartnell, you have a beauty by your side as well. Since we’re both busy, let’s not bother each other.”

I entered battle mode right after that and prepared for Dominic to strike back at me.

Surprisingly, I heard a beeping tone on the line. He hung up on me!

I tossed my phone aside and cursed silently, “What a psycho.”

Shannon, who was quiet in her bed, suddenly shrieked as if she saw a ghost. I was startled and almost sprang out of my bed.

I sat up straight and shouted, “Shannon! What are you doing screaming in the night?”

“No... Liliana, you’re trending on Twitter!”

“Why the hell am I trending?”

I’m just a measly little cartoonist; how could I be trending?

She must be seeing things.

Shannon wriggled her way over to my bed with her tablet in hand.

She pointed on the sub-heading and eagerly said, “Look. You, Nicholas, and Dominic are trending. It says the three of you are entangled in a passionate love triangle!”

The more I listened, the more sinister it sounded. What is this all about?

I was bewildered as I took the tablet. After reading the news, I finally understood what it meant to be dumbfounded.

These... When were these photos taken?

There were photos of Nicholas holding hands with me as we were running. Other than that, there were also photos of me, Nicholas, and Dominic confronting each other at the restaurant.

The last photo was of Nicholas sending me back to the hotel.

What the hell? Was I being followed with my pictures being taken the whole time?

It's only ten o'clock at night, but the news is already trending on Twitter. It's even at the top of the charts.

It had an exceptionally eye-catching title as well. Sensational Designer CEO VS Superstar: Vying for the Same Girl.

I nearly fainted. This is crazy...

"Come on, Liliana. Tell me, who will you choose?" Meanwhile, Shannon was chattering around asking me stupid questions. I instantly had the urge to stab her with a knife.

"Choose, my ass! Can't you see it's all nonsense? Do you think things will work out between Nicholas and me? And Dominic, he already has a fiancée!"

I turned my focus back to the tablet again. Hmm, why are there only the three of us on the news?

Camille was there, too. Why isn't she on the news?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 89

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 89 Just Trust Me

When I was puzzled, the phone that I had tossed aside rang again.

Shannon quickly grabbed my phone and exclaimed, "Ah, Nicholas! It's Nicholas!"

I angrily snatched my phone from her hand. This girl goes crazy every time she sees Nicholas' name.

It was obvious as to why he called.

Jeez. This is really Murphy's law. And everything happens so rapidly.

Nicholas. Oh, Nicholas. I sullied the reputation that you've maintained for years. I'm such a sinner.

"Liliana, are you all right?"

His concerns for me made me feel even more remorseful.

"I'm okay. Nicholas, I'm sorry for causing such rumors." I felt uneasy.

"Haha." Nicholas wasn't worried one bit. Instead, he laughed. "No pressure. It's an opportunity to promote the new drama. Besides, it's not bad press."

I didn't know how to react. With him and Scarlett being part of the drama, there was no need to rely on these rumors to attract attention, not to mention, The Wind And Cloud already had enough publicity.

Therefore, I treated those words as sympathy from him.

"I'm serious. You've been famous for many years and were never involved in any scandal. But because of me... Nicholas, if you need me to clarify, I will not refuse."

"It's not as bad as you think. Rest early. I'll see you tomorrow." Nicholas sounded calm and composed.

"Okay." I opened my mouth and wanted to say more, but I agreed in the end.

"Liliana," When I was about to hang up the phone, Nicholas called out my name again.

"What?"

"Just trust me. Good night."

This time, Nicholas hung up the phone for real. I remained puzzled with my face flushed and my heart beating uncontrollably.

This scenario and conversation. It's like being in a TV series.

"Liliana, what did Nicholas say?" Shannon nudged me, trying to be nosy.

"It's nothing. He just told me not to worry about it."

I tried to brush her off then reached for the tablet and scrolled to the bottom of the comments section.

All sorts of insults were hurled at me. It was also my first time seeing such a rich vocabulary of profanity. What an experience!

To sum it up, I only had one thing in my mind. I'd better know my place and not leap for the moon, lest I get struck down.

I put the tablet on my blanket and planted my head in my pillow. This is injustice. I've been wronged!

There was one thing that I didn't understand. Nicholas had many fans and he was considered a national treasure. I could accept it if everyone insulted me because of him. But why were there many people defending Dominic as well? He was just a designer with a bit of money. How could he weigh up to Nicholas?

And why did the person despicable enough to spread the rumor leave out Camille instead of covering the entire story? If she were in it, I would not be in such a tight spot.

While I was thinking about Camille, I remembered the inexplicable phone calls from Dominic. He couldn't have called me just because of what he saw on Twitter, could he?

If that was the case, then I'm finished. What have I said to him? Dinner with a handsome guy? Talking about our ideals in life?

This is frustrating... I covered my head with the pillow, feeling very depressed.

My phone rang again. Not expecting a reporter to be calling me, I was bombarded with a series of questions as soon as I answered the call. I almost passed out and hurriedly hung up the phone.

Unfortunately, that was only the beginning. My phone continued to ring since then without stopping. It was about to explode.

They were all unknown numbers. As soon as I disconnected one call, another one came in. In the end, I was forced to shut off my phone.

I was terrified. The news was trending only a few moments ago and so many people had already found out about my phone number.

I could not help but worry about my parents and Lou. They might be harassed, too!

I used Shannon's phone to call my family. Fortunately, nothing was out of the ordinary.

I did not sleep well that night. I kept having the sensation that my phone was ringing and I was about to feel sick.

I was still restless after waking up in the morning.

I sat on the bed and logged onto Twitter on the tablet while I waited for Shannon.

Yesterday's headline was still there. It now had more than ten million retweets and the comments section was still on fire.

I could not do anything else other than let out a long sigh.

I was afraid to turn on my phone. I was traumatized by being bombarded with those annoying phone calls but I also wanted to contact Nicholas and tell him not to pick me up.

If he comes over now and gets photographed again, it will definitely add more fuel to the fire.

“Liliana, Nicholas said he has already entered the elevator. Go open the door.” Shannon stuck her head out of the bathroom and yelled.

“What? You mean Nicholas is already here?” I shockingly looked up toward the bathroom door.

“Yes. He sent me a WhatsApp message. He said your phone was off. Go open the door. I’ll be ready soon.” Shannon’s voice echoed through the bathroom.

At this point, what else could I say?

I dragged my feet to open the door, only to see Nicholas standing outside.

“Why are you here so early? I wanted to tell you not to come.” I moved aside to let him into the room and closed the door.

Nicholas smiled and said, “If I didn’t come, I’m afraid you won’t even be able to get out of the hotel today.”

Initially, I did not understand what he meant. Suddenly, I had a thought and asked him faint-heartedly, “Are there any reporters out there?”

He answered by calmly nodding with a smile.

I immediately burst into tears. With so many reporters around, he must have been photographed entering the hotel!

I still remember the words that netizens used to curse me in the comments section. Am I about to die a miserable death?

Nicholas seemed to have read my mind. He poked my head and said, “Don’t worry. I came in through the VIP entrance. Nobody saw me.”

However, something felt off. “Nicholas, I think you should leave. Shannon and I can drive over later.”

“Liliana, I told you that you just need to trust me.” Nicholas held my shoulder and we looked at each other in the eyes.

At that moment, Shannon was coming out of the bathroom. Simultaneously, there was a knock on the door again.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 90

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 90 | Hate Being Belittled

The three of us were startled and I clearly saw Nicholas frowning.

Oh, no. Nicholas is frowning. Does it mean... the reporters are outside? My heart skipped a beat once the thought flashed through my mind.

“Should I open the door?” Shannon turned around and asked Nicholas and me.

“Don’t go!”

“Wait!” Nicholas and I stopped her simultaneously.

We’re doomed. Even Nicholas doesn’t agree with opening the door. The people outside must be terrifying!

“Liliana, open the door! Liliana!”

That familiar voice made me stay rooted to the floor. Is that... Dominic?

I hesitantly moved toward the door.

After listening to the voice for a while, I confirmed that it was Dominic’s.

Before I opened the door, I instinctively turned around to gaze at Nicholas. Deep down, I couldn’t help but feel that we would be in trouble soon.

As soon as the door opened, Dominic pushed me aside expressionlessly and entered.

“Mr. Hartnell, what a coincidence! We meet again,” Nicholas greeted Dominic with a grin.

However, Dominic acted like a statue and made no response.

Meanwhile, Shannon came up to me and winked, gesturing that it was time to watch a good show.

“Hey,” Then, she poked me and whispered, “what’s going on? I mean, both of your rumored boyfriends have gathered here. Liana, I think you must have done something great in your past life to deserve this now.”

“Shut up!” I couldn’t believe she was in the mood to imagine such things.

Doesn’t she feel that the situation is about to go out of hand?

As Dominic came closer toward Nicholas, I immediately rushed toward Dominic and blocked his way. I warded off Dominic from Nicholas, thinking that I had to protect my friend.

Besides, if the two fought, I believed Nicholas was no match for Dominic.

Ever since I knew Nicholas, he had always been helping me and even said he would not let Dominic bully me.

“Dominic, don’t be impulsive.”

“Are you protecting him? Make way!” Dominic sounded terrifyingly cold.

Although I was frightened, I was still reluctant to go away. Besides, I was betting with myself that Dominic would not dare hit a woman.

“No way. You... Don’t you ever hurt Nicholas.” I mustered up my courage to yell at Dominic.

As Dominic walked closer to us menacingly, I subconsciously stepped back and bumped into Nicholas. At that moment, I knew that there was no way for us to escape.

“Don’t make me repeat myself for the third time. Make way!”

“I don’t...”

I refused to back down even though Dominic seemed threatening. The next moment, Nicholas grabbed my wrist and dragged me behind him.

I was nervous. “Nicholas, be careful!”

“It’s fine. I’m not that weak anyway. Besides, since Mr. Hartnell is a gentleman, I don’t think he’ll do anything to me.” Nicholas was as composed as usual.

However, I could not help but grip my shirt anxiously. Is Dominic considered a gentleman? He’s a wolf in sheep’s clothing!

None of the things that he did to me was gentlemanly.

A few seconds later, Nicholas continued to ask Dominic, "Mr. Hartnell, why are you here so early? Is there something wrong?"

Dominic answered crossly, "It has nothing to do with you."

"In that case, Liliana and I will get going. Please excuse us, Mr. Hartnell." With that, Nicholas grabbed my hand and pulled me into his arms to protect me as we walked toward the door.

Dominic dashed to the front to block our way. Fortunately, Nicholas intercepted Dominic when the latter wanted to grab my hand.

"Mr. Hartnell, this is too much." I could sense Nicholas' voice becoming more hostile.

The next moment, Dominic pushed Nicholas' hand away and grabbed my arm with great precision, pulling me toward him. However, Nicholas also reacted quickly and grabbed Dominic's arm in return.

Hence, the two six-foot-tall men glared at each other in a standoff. The situation was tense.

As I thought they would begin fighting, Dominic suddenly burst into laughter.

Then, as if to show off and humiliate Nicholas, Dominic said, "Nicholas, ask her how many times she's slept with me. Besides, I'm sure a prominent figure like you can have as many women as you want. So, there's no need for us to get ugly with each other."

Although Nicholas had not responded to Dominic's remark, I felt Dominic's words just now were more hurtful than what he said to me yesterday.

Nevertheless, I told myself that I could not cry.

"Dominic, are you out of your mind? So what if I slept with you? Get with the times. Isn't it normal to have one-night stands nowadays? And are you suggesting that I must stick with you just because I slept with you a few times?"

As I became emotional, I hugged Nicholas' waist and sneered, "Nicholas and I did it with mutual consent yesterday. As far I could tell, you're a lot worse than he!"

Although I seemed to be speaking freely, the truth was that my hand on Nicholas' waist sweated profusely. I was also gripping his shirt tightly as I was very nervous.

Meanwhile, Dominic suddenly grabbed my wrist and applied greater pressure to his grip on me upon hearing what I said. It was painful but I remained composed and did not exhibit my emotions.

I would rather endure the pain than listen to Dominic's belittling remarks.

"Mr. Hartnell, didn't she make it clear? Why don't you let go of your hand?" Nicholas said.

Dominic shot me a disdainful glance and slowly let go of me.

I would have lost my balance and fallen to the floor if I wasn't hugging Nicholas' waist.

"Liliana, remember what you said to me today," Dominic warned while letting out a wry smile.

I bit my lips and did not reply; nevertheless, I felt bitter and heartbroken deep down.

"Mr. Hartnell, since you said so, I have something to tell you," Nicholas suddenly added, "Regardless of your past relationship with Liliana, it's all over now. If you're a man, please act like one. Don't hold onto things that don't belong to you anymore."

"Also," Nicholas paused for a while and hugged my waist before he continued with a smile, "who hasn't encountered scumbags before?"

I felt a lot better; I even almost giggled at Nicholas' remark.

Dominic stared at me for a while without saying a word. A moment later, he slammed the door shut and left.

At that point, I finally could not hold back. I broke out into tears, which were hot and scorched my face.