

## Love the Second Time Around Chapter 92

### Love the Second Time Around Chapter 92 Complicated

I opened Twitter and realized that the previous headline of Dominic and Nicholas vying for the same girl had dropped to the second spot in terms of popularity.

The number one trending tweet was about the best actor who protected his crush and sincerely hoped that others would not disturb her.

I felt a headache upon reading the tweets. Why did the reporters twist the words that were said?

The tweets overwhelmed me and made me feel like drowning.

Nicholas made it clear that we were only friends and asked them not to disturb me because I was not an actress. However, the tweets insinuated that he was determined to court me. That was why he care for me and did not want me to be disturbed by the press.

Moreover, the pictures on Twitter were purposely chosen to show him gazing at me affectionately.

"How is it? How do you feel after reading the tweets?" Shannon teased me about it.

I threw the tablet onto the couch and said helplessly, "I feel like dying."

"Liliana, to be honest, I think people are too nosy to pry into your relationship with Nicholas. But as far as I can tell, there seems to be something between you and Dominic."

Shannon paused for a while and continued, "Were the things he said true? Did you sleep with him? Also, you were obviously with me last night; why did you lie to him?"

Shannon and I were close friends. Since she asked the questions and I did not want to lie to her, I answered calmly, "He's my ex-boyfriend. We happened to bump into each other again recently."

Shannon was unexpectedly superb at connecting the dots. After falling silent for ten seconds or so, she suddenly realized something important and yelled, "He was the one who popped your cherry!"

I massaged my throbbing temples and nodded, acquiescing to her speculation.

I had shared my past casually and mentioned Julius' virginity complex to Shannon. I was shocked to know that she still remembered it.

"In that case, is he coming back to ask you to get back together?" Shannon touched her chin and asked curiously.

I cast a sideways glance at her and said coldly, "Didn't you hear our conversation this morning? Did we sound like we wish to get back together? Besides, Dominic has a fiancée."

"Oh..." Shannon dragged out the word for a while before she continued, "When you were in trouble last time, I could tell that he cared about you. That was why I thought something was going on between you two. But then you're denying it. No matter what, I think you two are the perfect match."

She then added, "However, after what happened today, I think he only has the looks but is mean-spirited. I mean, the things he said this morning proved that he is a jerk. He's not like Nicholas, who is handsome, imposing, gentle, and all in all perfect."

"Stop it. I know Nicholas is perfect!"

I could not stand to hear her compliments of Nicholas anymore. Although I had to admit that Shannon was right about Nicholas, I could see that she was lovestruck. Hence, I had to stop her from dwelling on it non-stop.

"Shannon, why don't you join their photoshoot and take more pictures? I'll stay here to sketch some drawings."

Feeling delighted upon hearing my suggestion, Shannon left without further ado.

Deep down, I wished to come up with some quality drawings to forget the rumors.

Nonetheless, it was clear that I had overestimated myself, for I subconsciously thought about the past not long after I started drawing.

I remembered that one day when Dominic and I were dating each other, several hooligans blocked our way in a quiet alley.

After asking for money, they began to spew some disgusting words at us and even wanted to get a bit handsy with me.

At that moment, Dominic dashed toward them and fought without hesitation. I was so worried about him because he had to fight four men alone.

Although Dominic was wounded, he unexpectedly defeated all four of them. I remembered that I scolded him for being impulsive.

Dominic told me that in this lifetime, I could belong to no one else but him. As such, he would not allow anyone to bully or humiliate me. Even he himself could not do that to me.

Ironically, it was Dominic who bullied and humiliated me today, yesterday, and in the past.

As I recalled that Dominic used to be kind to me, I put my hand on my heart. Even though we had broken up, I could vividly remember our beautiful memories.

However, such memories were gradually being eroded by Dominic's recent unpleasant behavior.

I pressed against my chest and felt heartbroken.

"Hey, are you lost in thought because you're thinking about me?"

The voice that came out of nowhere startled me. I lifted my head and saw Dominic looking at me with a disdainful smile.

"Why are you here?" I recollected myself and asked coldly.

The next moment, Dominic grabbed my arm and pulled me into his arms tightly. I tried very hard to struggle away from him but failed.

"Dominic, what do you want?"

"I want you. Is that okay?"

As Dominic was speaking, he rested his head against my face. I could feel his warm breath by my ear.

"Not at all! Let go of me now! If you dare lay your hands on me, I'll sue you for rape!"

I was furious and could not understand why he wanted to do this to me every time we met.

After what happened in the morning, I thought no one with a sense of shame would show up again. But Dominic did not seem bothered at all!

"Hehe, we're only doing some aerobic exercises with mutual consent. How can you sue me for that?" Dominic teased me and did not sound afraid.

It's impossible to make shameless people feel ashamed!

Before I could argue, he nudged me two steps forward and stopped in front of the drawing board. Then, he pointed at it and said, "What did you write? Well, it says 'Dominic,' which is my name. Do you think you can sue me since you miss me so much?"

Staring at the word embarrassingly, I was unsure when I had written it.

"Does it matter? Does it mean I miss you just because I wrote it?" I denied hastily. "Well, let me be frank with you. I wrote it down so I could curse you!"

Unperturbed, Dominic chuckled and replied, "Whether you were cursing or missing me, your body will tell me honestly."

With that, he touched my chest and began groping me. I was shocked and almost screamed.

What a lustful pervert!

As I desperately wished to wriggle free from him, I repeated what I said in the morning to irritate him.

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 93**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 93 It Cannot Be Heartache

"Dominic, can you not find yourself other women? I've said that you're incomparable to Nicholas, so why are you still pestering me?"

I was anxious. I thought those words would be enough to make Dominic let go of me.

And indeed, he stopped moving his hand on my chest and loosened the arm he used to lock me in place.

But before I could heave a breath of relief, he turned me around and tightly tucked my hands behind my back.

Looking grim, he locked his ferocious gaze on me so intently that I felt a chill down my spine.

"Am I right to say that you and Nicholas have already slept together? Since you say I can't compare to him, I don't mind getting into action and proving to you whether he's good or I'm better. You'll know how grave your mistake is in a minute, Liliana. Calvin, come in."

Following that, Dominic loosened his grip on my hands. I hurriedly retreated to stay away from him as far as possible.

The room's door was pushed open and in came Calvin, whom I had not seen for a long time.

I started to really panic when I heard Dominic instructing Calvin to render me unconscious.

Make me unconscious? What is he gonna do after that?

Flustered, my lips were trembling as I stammered, "Y-you've gone too far, Dominic! We're at the filming location and there are people everywhere!"

"C-Calvin... Don't blindly follow what he says. It's illegal to do that!"

I was unsure if Calvin heeded my words or if he still had a little sympathy for me. He was riveted to the spot and did not do anything.

But that was only for a few seconds or so. When Dominic coldly called Calvin's name again, the latter walked toward me.

"Calvin, please don't..."

I had yet to finish my sentence when Calvin quietly came close to me. I blacked out after I felt a blow at the back of my neck.

By the time I regained consciousness I was already in a car, though it seemed like it was only a short while after I fainted.

"You're awake? That's fast," Dominic uttered as he swept a grim glance at me.

I leaned toward the car door in a panic and tried to pull it open, only to find it locked.

Dominic's behavior only left me feeling annoyed and flabbergasted.

There was no difference between him and a kidnapper.

I could not escape with the door locked and I had no belongings with me, so I could not use my phone to call for help even if I wanted to.

I was in such a situation where I could only try to get as close to the door as possible. In fact, wished I could merge into the door just so that I could escape from this grim situation.

Clack! I heard the noise and turned to look at Dominic while shivering, only to find that he had lit a cigarette.

He took a deep puff and spat out white smoke before he indifferently said, "I guess you can try to get through the door if you can do it."

Instantly, I clenched my fists tightly. Dominic must be very sure that I could not escape.

"Do you have any idea what you're doing right now?"

I told myself I had to stay calm and not go head to head with him, but I could not hold back the fury in me as I spoke.

When he came closer to me, I quickly struggled to push myself backward until I was stopped by the cold car door behind me.

Dominic then gripped me on my chin before dragging me closer to him.

"I've told you what I wanted to do. Did you forget about it after losing your consciousness?"

That was equivalent to him trying to say, "I'll refresh your memory just a little bit."

The next moment, my lips were corked and a faint scent of tobacco soon filled my mouth.

My hands, which were still free, kept pushing him away with all my might; I even hammered and pinched him.

However, Dominic did not seem to feel any pain and his lips remained locked to mine.

That persisted till I was almost out of breath. He finally let go of me when I felt a wave of ripping pain on my lips.

Lifting my hand to touch my lips, I felt nothing other than a burning sensation on it. Meanwhile, bloodstains left behind on my fingers told the rest of the story.

Similarly, Dominic's lips were stained with my blood as well, making him much more callous and brutal.

"You remember now? About what I wanted to do?"

I did not make any noise and neither did I know what there was for me to say. But my silence did not seem to garner any sympathy points from Dominic.

He lifted his finger and rubbed my lips so roughly that the spots he had bitten earlier hurt even more.

As much as I tried enduring the pain, it eventually became unbearable. I wanted to pull his hand away, yet I accidentally bumped into the cigarette he was holding in between his fingers.

The ash from the cigarette fell onto my hand, so I instinctively gave it a flick without further thoughts.

Even so, there was already a burn mark on the back of my hand. Though it did not look serious, it was still visible and made me wonder if it would leave behind a scar.

Dominic grabbed my scalded hand with a seemingly worried expression.

I was amused to see that. What kind of expression is that? Is he showing concern?

Thanks to Dominic, my chapped lips were still in throbbing pain and my hand was scalded as well. Because I also had no idea where he would bring me and what kind of torturous plan he had in mind, I could not understand why he even needed to feign concern.

“Liliana, we have lots of interesting things to do later. Are you trying to ruin my day with these ugly scars?”

I was spot on. I knew his heart would not ache for me.

At this point, I knew I could not escape. Instead of crying over spilled milk, I decided to go ahead and speak without restraint. “If that could prevent you from touching me, I’d rather you light another cigarette and scald me a few more times.”

As I finished speaking, I noticed Dominic’s expression turning darker than before.

Watching the changing scenery outside the window, I soon recognized that we had reached his mansion.

When the car came to a stop, Dominic dragged me out.

Throughout our journey here, Calvin acted like a wooden stake while driving and showed no reaction at all.

What I was curious about was how Dominic had found himself a loyal right-hand man who paid no heed to the law.

Before we entered the house, I turned to look and found that Calvin had already driven the car off.

Without any delay, Dominic dragged me into the bedroom where I used to stay.

He then flung me onto the bed and pressed himself onto me without giving me any chance to escape.

Before I could react to what was happening, Dominic had already pulled off my knee-length pleated dress and black silk stockings.

He spread my legs open and got inside me without any foreplay whatsoever.

It hurt so much that I took in a deep breath. I bit my lips tightly, totally forgetting about the earlier wounds on my lips.

“Tell me. What’s so good about Nicholas?”

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 94**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 94 Enjoyment Or Pain

“Does it even matter?” I threw the question back at him.

After pausing for a few seconds, he suddenly hastened his actions again as he replied indifferently, “Actually, it doesn’t matter.”

Right after, we both fell into silence. As he ramped up the speed of his actions, the discomfort I had before gradually disappeared. I could not help but let out a few screams.

To be honest, I did not want to hold myself back, either. I reckoned I should just play along with him since we were already in such a situation.

Nevertheless, Dominic suddenly stopped. With blurred vision, I tried to look at him while panting. “Why?”

He raised his hands and groped my chest. “Your screams; I guess you’re enjoying it, huh?”

I could not answer that question of his. After all, I could never be as thick-skinned as he.

With Dominic exerting greater force in his grip all of a sudden, I instinctively reached out to push his hand away as I uttered, “It hurts!”

“So do you want to be in enjoyment or in pain?”



My eyes widened at once. Since when did he become a sicko?

As much as I did not want to make a choice, that increasing pain was becoming intolerable and I had no choice but to grit my teeth and let out the word “enjoyment.”

Given my answer, Dominic lifted the corners of his lips into a smile which I found terrifying.

As usual, accidents tended to occur at such a time. As Dominic and I were having a rough time, a scream that did not belong to either of us sounded in the room.

Reacting quickly, he pulled the blanket beside me and covered me up.

Looking over Dominic’s shoulder, I saw Camille standing near the door with her mouth covered; she was trembling.

I was stunned. The arousal I felt moments ago instantly dissipated.

“Get out!” Dominic sounded extremely cold.

“Dom...” Camille choked up as she said in a mellow tone that would easily make anyone sympathize with her.

“Camille, go out first,” Dominic said once again but in a much softer and gentler tone this time.

I suddenly was in the mood to watch what was about to transpire. I thought it was interesting that Camille was going through what I had once experienced in the past.

Besides, it was probably a much more mind-blowing scene with me and Dominic in that state.

With the situation he was facing – new sweetheart versus old love – how would he explain himself?

After Camille left the room, Dominic got up from me and walked into the bathroom naked.

Next, sounds of water gushing out could be heard. But soon enough, the sounds stopped and I saw him walking out. He was still naked.

He then put on his clothes and said, “Come out once you get dressed.”

After he left the room, I let out a sigh of relief. It was bizarre how he was the one who forced me here but he was also the one getting angry after his fiancée walked in on us.

I took my time in the bathroom and had a quick shower before wearing back my clothes—all except the silk stockings because Dominic had torn them.

Walking out of the room, I saw Camille sitting on the living room's couch alone. Dominic, surprisingly, was not around.

Her eyes were bloodshot. She must have been so upset and cried so badly.

Seeing that sight, I lost all my interest in watching the drama unfold and quietly walked toward the door instead.

When I almost got to the door, I felt a force on my wrist. After turning around, I realized it was Camille.

"I know you were on good terms with Dominic, but you've already broken up. Liliana, I beg you. Please don't steal Dominic from me!"

I was slightly startled yet extremely speechless as well. I shook her hand off and said, "Don't worry; I don't have such an intention."

Nevertheless, Camille did not buy my words and pulled my hand again. "But you two... Dominic and I are getting married soon, Liliana. C-Can you promise me not to meet him again in the future?"

I felt so repulsed by her mention of them getting married that I pried her fingers off me and pushed her away.

The funny thing was while I did not exert much force on her, she fell on the floor as though she had no bones.

Thump! Her head hit the floor.

Seeing that her forehead started to bleed, I was shocked and hurriedly crouched down to help her up.

But before I could touch her, Dominic's hand appeared out of nowhere and pushed mine away.

I landed sitting on the floor. I stared blankly at him as he carried Camille in his arms, looking anxious.

"Camille, are you all right?"

Lifting her hand and grabbing onto Dominic's arm, Camille whimpered, "I'm fine. I lost my balance and Liliana was only trying to help me. Don't blame her."

How I wished I could slap her right at that moment! Those words she said were as good as her not saying anything.

Dominic threw a cold glare at me. "Camille's health isn't that good. Don't you think you've gone overboard?"

I pushed myself off the floor and sized up Camille before putting forth my honest words. "When did I go overboard? I don't see a problem."

The ones who had gone overboard were the two of them. I did not do anything wrong.

Dominic's face fell instantly and started to look intimidating.

"Dominic, don't be angry. I don't blame Liliana."

Seeing Camille being so hypocritical as she tried to put in good words for me, I felt nothing but disgust.

"Hurry and bring your precious darling to the hospital. She's so weak she can't afford a delay. I'm leaving now."

I waved my hand gracefully and prepared to stride out when I remembered I had no money with me.

"Oh yeah. Since you two aren't short of money, care to spare me some cab fares?"

Without waiting for them to react, I reached for Camille's bag, took out a few notes, and left Dominic's mansion.

When I was Dominic's caregiver, I had to book a cab in advance as no car would normally come to such a place.

And as if God was deliberately against me that day, the bright and sunny sky suddenly turned dark and it started to rain.

Holding out against the rain, I walked to a spot that had greater traffic and waited for quite a long time before I managed to get a cab.

Seeing that I was soaked, the driver handed me a tissue.

I thanked him for his kind gesture and used the tissue to wipe off the water droplets on my face and body.

Drenched from head to toe just like a drowned rat, I did not have to worry about being recognized so I got the driver to let me off right at the hotel entrance.

As I got off the car, I passed the driver some notes generously and told him to keep the change.

Heading back to my room, I remembered that my key card was not with me, which meant I could not enter my room.

As such, I had to head back downstairs to the hotel front desk, only to be informed that I would have to present my ID card as proof before they could open the door for me.

With no choice left, I borrowed the front desk phone to call Shannon.

“Liliana!” The call had yet to go through when I heard someone calling out my name. I turned around and realized it was Nicholas.

“Shannon said you’ve disappeared. Where did you go? Why are you drenched?”

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 95**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 95 The End Of The Matter

Since the hotel lobby was so crowded, it would be troublesome if Nicholas was recognized.

I pulled him to a quiet corner and said, “Nicholas, can you help me call Shannon and ask her to hurry back? I can’t return to my room as I didn’t bring my key card.”

Nicholas took off his coat, draped it over my body, and pulled me along toward the direction of the elevator.

He told me Shannon had already headed back to her room and that we had probably missed out on each other.

Indeed, when we got to my floor, I saw that the door, which was tightly closed earlier, was now open ajar.

Upon seeing me, Shannon ran toward me. “Where did you go? When I came to look for you just now, I was scared to death when I saw your belongings but not you.”

Nicholas, who had been standing at one side, chimed in, “Let’s talk later. You’re drenched; hurry and go take a warm shower first.”

I nodded and headed into the bathroom after grabbing the clothes on the bedside.

When I got out of the bathroom, Nicholas passed me a glass of ginger ale, saying it could prevent one from getting the flu.

Upon finishing it up, I turned to Nicholas and Shannon who were both looking at me. "About what happened today... Can you guys not ask anything?"

The two stared at me intently for some time before agreeing at the same time.

And after staying for a while longer, Nicholas left my room.

With his departure, I then told Shannon that I did not want to return to the production set anymore and asked her to bring back photos going forward for me to draw in the hotel.

The reason was that there was a possibility I would bump into Dominic at the set and I did not want that to happen.

Shannon agreed to my requests readily. She asked me to get some rest and that she would wake me up later.

As such, I shut my eyes, snuggled into the blanket, and curled myself up comfortably.

I was indeed tired out since I had woken up early that morning and had put myself through Dominic's threat and torment throughout the day.

Soon after shutting my eyes, I fell into a deep sleep and had some good dreams.

That dream began with Dominic and me being intimate, but gradually, there was a growing distance between us. No matter how hard I called him and chased after him, I did not get his reply, nor was I able to catch up to him.

But that was not a big deal. What I could not accept was that someone was next to Dominic. It turned out to be Camille.

Seeing the two appearing so lovey-dovey and even ganging up to criticize me, I instantly jolted awake from my sleep, soaked in a cold sweat.

I found a stain on my pillow; it was wet to the touch.

Did I cry while I was sleeping?

"You're awake, Liliana? Let's go get some food," Shannon said as she lifted her head to look at me.

I was not hungry, nor had I any appetite for food. All I wanted was some alcohol.

However, Shannon was unwilling to go out with me and attract unwanted attention since I was still considered an enemy of the public.

At last, she went out alone and bought back some alcohol and food.

That night, I got drunk before I could finish all the drinks. I was so drunk that I had a hard time getting out of bed the next day.

On the other hand, Shannon was in good condition and left a note saying that she had left for the production set.

I browsed through Twitter and found that the news of me and Nicholas was still the top trending topic. One of the other trending topics was again related to Nicholas, albeit it was about his relationship with Scarlett.

Those were the works of fans who wanted to see the two together. The comments below the articles, however, were still as unpleasant as ever.

I thought Nicholas and Scarlett were a match made in heaven. I, on the other hand, was more suited to lead a simple and peaceful life.

Seeing how rapidly things evolved in the entertainment industry, I figured rumors between Nicholas and me would be drowned by other happenings very soon.

Dominic did not come to look for me since that day, so I enjoyed a few days of peace.

The only not-so-successful thing was that my drafts kept getting returned after submission, with Flash claiming that they were not up to standards.

I ended up editing my drafts so many times until I became lost as to what I should do. Finally, out of the blue, my submission was accepted for no apparent reason.

I was so exhausted from the editing that I leaned against the head of the bed and thought to myself that Dominic probably had something to do with all of this.

As I thought about Dominic, I could not help but be reminded of Camille, too.

Being best friends with her for four years, I was clueless that she was such a two-faced person.

I guessed she was so long used to acting that putting on a facade was by now second nature to her. Even a clever man like Dominic could easily be cajoled.

After several days, those online rumors finally died down.

Luckily, my parents did not follow entertainment news. Therefore, when I called home, they did not seem to know about the matter. The exception was Lou, who kept asking me questions.

In any case, I brushed them off casually, telling him to see it with a pinch of salt.

That morning, I had just begun drawing in the hotel when my phone rang.

I answered the call and to my surprise, it was Vicky Lynch, my class representative at university. We had not been in contact for a very long time.

At first, I thought she wanted to throw me some impactful news. After exchanging a few pleasantries, I realized she only wanted to ask me to attend a reunion.

It had been five years since we graduated. Our class had never held any gatherings before: this would be the first time.

Nonetheless, I was slightly reluctant to attend. Back then, Camille was closest to me and I was only acquaintances with the rest. Since I was not on good terms with Camille anymore, I figured there was no point in attending the event.

I did not want to reject Vicky upfront since she had specially contacted me about it, so I gave an ambiguous answer saying that I would attend if I had the time.

After our call ended, I resumed drawing without paying any heed to the class party at all.

During that period, I barely left the hotel and I did not visit the production set. All I did was stay in the hotel room to work on my drawings.

Perhaps Dominic had been busy entertaining Camille, so the drafts I sent over the last few times were accepted without fuss.

Nicholas, conversely, still contacted me and had casual chats over WhatsApp from time to time.

On Saturday night, as I was lying on my bed fiddling with my phone, Nicholas texted me again. He asked if we could have dinner together tomorrow night since he would be free.

I smiled at that message, recalling that I had previously agreed to treat him to a meal.

Since he was free and I had no other plans, it was not a problem for me.

The next morning, my phone rang. It was Vicky calling to remind me to turn up for the reunion that night.

In fact, I had forgotten all about it since I had no intention of attending the event from the start. Besides, I had agreed to a dinner date with Nicholas so I naturally had a good excuse not to go.

At noon, I headed to the restaurant earlier than the agreed time with Nicholas. I had placed a reservation for a private room beforehand.

The waiter led me in as I followed behind her. But before we got to the private room, someone called me from behind.

“Liliana Zanetti? Is that you, Liliana? Oh my gosh, I thought you weren’t coming!”

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 96**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 96 Blinded

Astounded, I looked at the young lady holding onto my hand for a few seconds before my senses came back.

What a small world, indeed, to be able to bump into Vicky here!

She was smiling so brightly and led me along while grabbing my hand.

“It’s been long after graduation but it seems like you didn’t change much, Liliana. I was so disappointed when you said you wouldn’t come! Almost everyone who can make it is here today. It’ll be more enjoyable with everyone present.”

“The reunion is held here?” I asked in surprise.

“Yeah. It was in the message that I’ve sent in the group chat. Don’t worry; you’ve come to the right place.”

I was instantly at a loss for words. I had chosen to have dinner there since Nicholas had said that the restaurant offered standalone private rooms. I booked the place in order to avoid getting caught by reporters.

Therefore, even though the restaurant was expensive, I went ahead with it.

I had muted the WhatsApp chat group with my university classmates long ago so I did not see the message Vicky was referring to. Had I known the class reunion’s location was at the same place, I would definitely have chosen another restaurant.

“Vicky,” Though I felt bad, I still went ahead to break the news to her. “I’m actually not here to attend the class party. I’ve got a date with my friend.”



Vicky was initially taken aback but then followed with an unbothered look. "The fact that we've met unintentionally just shows that we are destined to bump into each other! Your friend is coming too, right? Ask your friend to join us later. Someone will foot the bill tonight."

Had I not agreed to meet Nicholas in the first place, I might have changed my mind and accepted her invitation because of her enthusiasm.

"Vicky, I really can't take up your invitation. I-I have something important to discuss with my friend today. But I'll join you guys for the next class party."

"Liliana, aren't you being a little too cold?" Vicky finally sounded unhappy.

I sighed softly, unsure of what to say.

Just then, three people—two guys and a lady—walked out of the room at the end of the corridor.

I found their figures somewhat familiar and when they walked closer to me, I recognized that the lady was Xenia Blue.

The two guys looked familiar, too. I knew they were my classmates as well, except I was unsure of their names.

"Vicky, why are you outside and not in the room? We're all waiting for you." The tall and skinny guy on the left started teasing Vicky.

Vicky chuckled. "It's only been a few years but you've become cheekier, Herman."

She then pointed at me and said in slight frustration. "See, I happened to bump into our talented lady here and have been trying to get her to join us. Since you guys are here, help me persuade her, please."

Her words only made me more embarrassed than before. I could only smile awkwardly at that situation.

"Hey, it's been long. Seems like you've gotten prettier."

My memory of Herman Nottingham gradually came back. He used to be a nerd, but he had changed so much over the years!

"You're looking great, too." I politely gave a courteous exchange.

"Liliana, aren't you joining the fun inside? You're literally here already," Xenia asked quizzically.

“Err... it’s pure coincidence. I’m here to meet my friend.” I pondered for a few seconds before I continued, “How about this; I’ll go greet the rest inside but I’ll join you guys at the next opportunity. I really have something on today. Does that work?”

I was in such a circumstance that it would not look good for me to leave just like that, so I figured I’d compromise and meet everyone for a short while.

Vicky, whose expression was cold and displeased, instantly looked more agreeable upon my words. She waved her hand dismissively and said, “All right, all right. I’ll let you off this time. But if we have another party in the future, you can’t refuse me anymore, yeah?”

I smiled in acknowledgment. We were, after all, still classmates, so I did not want to strain our relationship.

Following that, the two guys left, stating that they would be at the entrance to wait for the others’ arrival. Before heading in with Vicky and Xenia, I texted Nicholas to explain the situation.

Inside the room were all familiar faces. Those youthful university days started to replay in my mind.

Upon entry, I was surrounded by my classmates and bombarded with questions about my relationship with Nicholas.

I shook my head vigorously in an attempt to deny everything.

Someone then took out his phone, found the relevant news on Twitter, and asked me for the truth.

But what more could I say? I reckoned the best way out was to bite through it and negate all the rumors.

Just as I was on the brink of crumbling, Xenia got me out of the tough spot. “Move back, all you nosy-parkers. Let’s go over there, Liliana. Jennie Blanc is there, too; we can have a chat together.”

I hurriedly agreed to it and followed her to sit at a corner.

“Xen, you’re so late. Oh, so you’re Liliana? It’s been a long time.” The lady who had been sitting on the couch smiled at me as she greeted me.

I chugged a mouthful of beverage down and heaved slightly before greeting her. “Hi, Jennie. Yes, it’s been some time since we’ve met.”

Camille, Xenia, Jennie, and I used to be roommates in the same dormitory.

Nonetheless, through the four years of university, I had only become close friends with Camille while remaining acquaintances with the other two.

I then turned to Xenia and said, "Thank you." I was grateful for her rescue just now.

"It's nothing." Xenia chuckled. "But then again, how about you share with us if you're really dating Nicholas?"

"Oh yeah. I saw that on Twitter, too. Hurry and tell us, Lilitana!"

"E-Err... that... that's all jokes."

Without any hesitation, I hastily changed the topic. "Have you two been in contact after graduation?"

Xenia nodded. "Jen and I are working in the same company and we're co-renting a place right now."

"Oh, that's great."

I always believed that friendships forged in school days were the most treasured.

After all, it was rare to have someone like me who had no luck in friendship nor love.

I wondered why I had not become close with Xenia and Jennie back then. Only after that casual chat did I realize they were nice people to be friends with.

I could only blame my own blindness to have befriended the most pretentious one amongst the roommates.

Looking at my phone, I realized that it was past the time Nicholas and I had agreed to meet. As such, I decided to leave.

"I've to go meet my friend. It won't be nice to make him wait too long. Have fun, girls. We'll meet again another time."

"No way! How can you leave so soon? Why don't you ask your friend over, too?"

I grinned. "No need. There'll be opportunities in the future."

If Nicholas appeared there, I was sure his charisma would make everyone at the party go head over heels for him.

At that moment, someone pulled on my sleeve and exclaimed, "Oh, I got it! Lilitana, are you meeting Nicholas?"

## Love the Second Time Around Chapter 97

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 97 Stay Away From Me

I swallowed nervously as I felt their overly-friendly gazes.

“No way! I just invited some regular friends of mine, that’s all!”

Damn it, I knew I shouldn’t have attended this class reunion!

“Then, bring them over! It’s been forever since we’ve seen each other. You don’t want to be a killjoy and leave now, do you?”

It was obvious that they didn’t believe me and were trying to coerce me into doing what they said.

I began considering the option to give Shannon a call and have her get me out of here.

“Come on, Liliana! Out with it! What’s your relationship with Nicholas? We’re all classmates here, remember? It’d be a great honor for us to brag about you dating a hot guy like that!”

What the hell kind of logic is this? I rubbed my forehead in frustration.

“There really is nothing going on between us. I’ve worked with him a couple of times, and that was it. The rumors about us on the news are all fake. Anyway, there’s something else I need to take care of, so I’ll be on my way now! Bye!” I said while slowly moving toward the door.

When I opened the door, however, I saw a sight I dreaded seeing.

Camille had her arms wrapped around Dominic’s as she stood beside him, the two of them looking perfect together.

“Liliana? You’re here too?” Camille asked with a smile.

I’m surprised she hasn’t pulled a muscle with that pretentious smile of hers! I thought to myself as I ignored her, but she was just as shameless as Dominic and reached out to grab my arm.

Having learned my lesson from our previous encounters, I didn’t want her anywhere near me and stepped out of the way while saying disdainfully, “Don’t touch me.”

“Liliana…”

Camille began acting all innocent and hurt like she always did, which disgusted me to no end.

Dominic who was standing beside her flashed me a glare so cold that it looked like he wanted to swallow me whole.

Oh, please... If she's so precious to you, then just keep her locked up at home 24/7! That way, she won't get hurt or get hated by others!

"Move it, you're in my way," I said while trying to squeeze my way through the side.

"Camille has always been polite to you, so why are you so rude to her?" Dominic questioned me coldly.

"Sorry, but that's just how I am. You can just walk away if you don't like it. I don't like her anyway." I replied indifferently.

"Liliana, we used to be such close friends..."

"That's because I had horrible judgment back then. All right, enough talk. I'm in a hurry, so get out my way."

Vicky came over and greeted them with a smile, "Camille, you're finally here! It's so late, I thought you weren't coming!"

Camille was a campus belle thanks to her good looks, sweet voice, and decent family background. At least over a dozen boys in my class used to court her, and she wasn't just popular with the boys either.

Because she managed her relationship with the girls really well, even I found her likable and was willing to befriend her.

Oh, well... I suppose decent acting skills can really get you far in life!

Camille flashed her an apologetic smile. "I'm sorry, but I ran into some delays when I was heading out."

"It's fine. Pretty girls like you need to spend more time on dolling yourself up! Wait, isn't he the campus hunk, Dominic? Camille, are you two dating?"

Vicky's voice was so loud that it attracted the attention of everyone in the private room, and a few nosy ones came running over immediately.

"Oh, my! It really is Dominic! Damn, I can't believe I worked so hard on my makeup for nothing! I'm so sad now..." said the girl deliberately as she held a hand against her chest, much to the amusement of everyone else.

“Yo, Dominic! When did you snag our campus belle, huh?”

“Cut it out, you guys!” Camille blushed and leaned her head against Dominic’s chest.

What was supposed to be a sweet and romantic moment for them got ruined when someone in the crowd mentioned my relationship with Dominic.

“I thought Liliana was the one dating Dominic? They’ve been together for a few years!”

Everyone stopped laughing instantly upon hearing that and shifted their gaze toward me.

At that moment, I had never felt so tempted to hit someone my entire life.

As if that wasn’t enough, someone else brought up Nicholas too.

“So what if they’ve been dating for a few years? Most people break up after graduation anyway! Besides, Liliana has Nicholas now!”

“You’re right. She keeps denying it, but I think the rumors on Twitter are most probably true. Who knows, we might just be in for a huge surprise later on!”

I didn’t know what else to say and figured it was best to just leave as I had wasted enough time talking to them.

“You guys have fun, I need to go now.”

“Don’t go, Liliana! It’s not easy for us to all get together like this after graduation, you know?” Camille grabbed me by the arm to stop me from leaving.

Damn it, what the h\*ll is her problem? Can’t she see that it’s better for everyone if I leave now?

“Look, you can go ahead and do whatever it is you came here to. I’ve got some things to take care of, so could you please get out my way?”

“Is it because I’m here? Is that why you’re leaving?”

Unable to contain my anger any further, I smacked her hand aside and shouted at her, “F\*ck off, will you? Do you really think you’re that important? Me leaving has nothing to do with you!”

Camille’s teared up instantly after being yelled at, and the private room fell into complete silence.

Dominic pulled her into his arms and shot me a fierce glare. “That’s enough!”

Instead of backing off, I glared back at him and said, "You're right. I've had enough of you two. Dominic, I'd really appreciate it if you'd be so kind as to take her with you and stay the h\*ll away from me!"

I then shoved her out of my way and left the private room after that.

Not wanting to dine here any longer as my mood was ruined, I sent Nicholas a text while heading for the entrance.

He quickly replied saying he had just arrived and was outside the restaurant.

I texted him asking him to wait for me in the car and continued heading outside.

After exiting the building, I glanced at the road and saw Nicholas' car parked around the corner.

I was about to walk over to it when someone grabbed my arm from behind.

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 98**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 98 So Painful

"What more do you want?" I asked in annoyance when I turned around and saw that it was Dominic.

He spun me around to face him and said coldly, "You have no right."

I froze and stared at him in confusion as I didn't understand what he meant.

"You ended our relationship as you pleased five years ago. Do you really think I'd let you do that again now? You have no right to tell me to stay away from you! You owe me big time, and I'm not letting you get away from me this time!"

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry when I heard that. "Since when have you gotten so shameless, Dominic? You're the one who wronged me in the first place, but I'm the one who owes you big time?"

Dominic frowned and shot me a cold glare before breaking into a vicious grin. "Trying to shift the blame, are you? Too bad it's not going to do you any good because I'll make sure to take back twice as much as you owe me!"

His ability to shamelessly lie through his teeth left me speechless once again.

Suddenly, a hand reached out from behind and yanked me free of Dominic's grip before pulling me into a warm embrace.

I looked up in confusion and saw Nicholas looking at me worriedly. "Are you hurt?"

I shook my head and replied, "Come on, let's get out of here."

At that point, I didn't know what else I could say to Dominic, nor did I want to say anything further.

"Stay out of this, Nicholas! I've been kind enough to let you off the hook up until now, but don't mistake my kindness for weakness!" Dominic said threateningly before Nicholas could even respond.

His menacing tone sent a shiver down my spine, and I quickly shoved Nicholas off me. "This is between him and me, so you should stay out of it."

Knowing Dominic and the fact that he has invested in The Wind And Cloud, there's no telling what he would do next!

To my surprise, Nicholas grabbed my hand once again and said, "I won't leave you here."

I knew he was trying to help me, but I had brought him more than enough trouble and didn't want him getting into a direct confrontation with Dominic.

"You should just go, Nicholas."

I tried to get him to leave, but he simply gave me a reassuring pat on the shoulder before turning toward Dominic. "You don't strike me as the type who'd dwell on the past, Mr. Hartnell. There's no point in clinging on to her like this."

"That's none of your business," said Dominic as his voice grew colder.

Before I knew it, Nicholas pulled me into his arms and said calmly, "You're harassing my girlfriend unreasonably, so it's very much my business."

Huh? I'm his girlfriend?

I looked up at Nicholas in confusion, only to see a warm smile on his face and a calm look in his eyes as he continued to stare Dominic down.

"Girlfriend?" Dominic's tone was as cold as ice.

I turned toward him and instinctively mumbled in response, "I'm not..."



Nicholas cut me off by pulling my head into his chest as he said, "It's true that we haven't announced our relationship to the media, but I believe you already knew about us dating when you saw us at the hotel the other day. Isn't that right, Mr. Hartnell? Still, we'd appreciate it you would keep this a secret for us. We'll announce it ourselves when the time is right."

Hearing that made me realize what Nicholas was playing at.

After all, I did go as far as telling Dominic I slept with him, so it wouldn't sound out of place for Nicholas to say we're dating.

"Heh... Your stupidity really is something out of this world, Nicholas! I can't believe you'd fall for a woman who only cares about money and fame! Oh, I get it! You must've liked her for her skills in bed, huh? Well, guess what? I was the one who taught her all that! Are you sure you want used goods?" Dominic said with a sneer.

How could he say something like that? I'm not the one in the wrong! "Dominic! You..."

"What, am I wrong?" Dominic let out a sarcastic chuckle as he continued, "Looks like I've taught you well, Liliana! Very impressive work, charming our beloved superstar and having him all wrapped up around your finger!"

I bit down hard on my trembling lips, unable to say a single word in response.

Nicholas let go of me and walked up to Dominic before punching him in the face.

"You call yourself a man?" he shouted angrily as his body emanated an icy-cold aura.

I wasn't expecting for Nicholas to actually hit him, and the shock left me completely frozen in place.

Dominic took a moment to steady himself before rushing toward Nicholas.

"No, don't!" I shouted in protest, but it was to no avail as his fist landed square on Nicholas' face.

"Oh, she knows just how much of a man I am!"

With tears in my eyes, I quickly ran over and helped Nicholas to his feet.

"Are you okay, Nicholas? Does it hurt? You're bleeding!"

"I'm fine, so you can stop crying now," Nicholas' said gently while wiping the tears off my face.

The fact that he was still trying to comfort me hurt my heart even more, and my tears continued flowing down my face.

Nicholas pulled my head against his chest and patted me on the back. "Listen up, Mr. Hartnell. Liliana is my girlfriend, so I don't want to hear you say anything insulting about her ever again. As for her character, I'll be the judge of it."

He then let go of my shoulder and took my hand in his as he said, "Come on, let's go."

I pursed my lips and shot Dominic a glance before nodding at Nicholas.

It began raining heavily all of a sudden after I got into his car, but I saw Dominic still standing there through the rear-view mirror.

A woman ran up to him and hugged him from behind shortly after.

The rain was too heavy for me to see her clearly, but it didn't take a genius to figure out that it was most likely Camille.

My tears began falling again when I saw her dragging Dominic back inside.

Nicholas let out a sigh and pulled my head gently onto his shoulder.

"You can let it all out if you want, but make this the last time you'll ever cry over a man who doesn't care about you."

I grabbed hold of his shirt and wailed loudly upon hearing that.

The pain felt like countless needles pricking every inch of my body, and it took me a really long time to finally stop crying.

"Thank you, Nicholas..." I mumbled with a sniffle after slowly regaining my composure.

He flashed me a warm smile in response. "Come on, I'll treat you to a nice meal."

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 99**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 99 A Perfect Man

Nicholas then continued before I could say anything, "You have to eat something even if you don't have the appetite. It tastes so good, I promise you're going to love it anyway!"

Seeing as he was so enthusiastic about it, I decided to not refuse his offer. After all, we had originally agreed that I would treat him to a meal.

However, he drove straight up South Hill instead of heading to another restaurant.

There was a famous observation deck located at the top of South Hill which provided a stunningly beautiful view of the city, especially after the lights came on at night.

The winding mountain road was illuminated by street lights lined up on both sides. I had expected to see the entrance to the observation deck shortly after, but I was greeted by a bunch of luxurious villas instead.

“Did we take a wrong turn?” I asked in confusion while glancing about.

“Nope, this is where I live,” Nicholas said as he drove toward one of the villas and parked his car in the front yard. “All right, we’re here.”

What’s going on here? Didn’t he say he was taking me to dinner? I thought to myself as I got out of the car.

“Well? What are you waiting for? Go on in!” Nicholas began tugging at my hand when he saw me standing there, seemingly in a daze.

Still rooted to the spot, I stammered awkwardly, “I...I’m not so sure about this...”

Nicholas raised an eyebrow at me after a brief pause and asked, “What? Are you scared that I’ll do something nasty to you?”

I shook my head profusely. “No, I just... I just think it’s a little inappropriate for me to come to your house like this.”

“I’m the only one living here, so there’s nothing to worry about! Come on, let’s go!” he said with a chuckle.

Having no other excuse to refuse him, I simply kept quiet and followed him inside.

Nicholas handed me a brand new pair of men’s slippers after going through the front door, but I spotted a pair of pink women’s slippers inside the shoe cabinet.

That sparked a flame of curiosity in my heart, but I chose not to ask him about it out of respect for his privacy.

Nicholas’ villa was huge, and the light from the chandelier revealed its unique decor.

“Make yourself at home,” he said as he sat me down on the couch and turned on the television before walking off.

After sitting there for a good few minutes, I couldn't stand the boredom and walked toward the kitchen.

Nicholas was cutting up some vegetables when I entered the kitchen.

"Why'd you come over? Did you get bored sitting there by yourself? I was going to whip up a couple more dishes, but there isn't anything else left in the refrigerator, so I made you some pasta instead. Will you be okay with that?"

He was so skilled at it that he said all that while looking at me instead of the chopping board.

"Yeah, sure."

Of course, I'd be okay with it! I'd eat anything Nicholas cooks!

As I took a few steps closer, I realized he was actually multitasking by boiling the noodles with one hand while cooking the sauce with the other.

I felt my appetite building up again when I smelled the fragrant aroma.

"Wow... You really are talented, Nicholas! I bet whoever is lucky enough to marry you in the future would be the happiest wife on earth!"

"How sweet of you! I'll give you an extra spoonful of Bolognese sauce for your kind words!"

I let out a chuckle when I heard that, and whatever negative emotions I had from earlier slowly vanished.

After eating a huge plate of spaghetti, my tummy was so full that it got a little bloated.

"You know what, Nicholas? You could start up a restaurant with pasta dishes being your specialty after retiring from the entertainment industry! I bet you'd have a long queue of customers lining up every day!"

Nicholas gave it some thought and played along by saying, "Sure, that could work! If I start up a restaurant, I'll make you my special VIP customer and give you a 10% discount on every visit!"

"If that's the case, I'll have all three meals of the day at your restaurant!"

We both burst into laughter after I said that.

To be honest, Nicholas had truly surprised me that night. Without having to worry about his image as a superstar, he seemed a lot friendlier and playful than usual.

As we continued chatting, I noticed the bruise on the corner of his mouth and felt my guilt creeping up on me once again.

“Thank you for helping me out so much today, Nicholas. I’m sorry you got hit because of me... I...I don’t know what to say...”

“Stop thanking me all the time. You’ve always thanked me at least once on every single one of our encounters. If you really see me as a friend, then you should stop thanking me so much. I mean, you wouldn’t do the same with Shannon, would you?”

“Of course, I see you as a friend! But you did help me out a lot, so I didn’t know what else to say except...”

“Don’t say those words!” Nicholas cut me off with a stern look on his face.

“Okay, I won’t. Can I at least treat your wound, then? Do you have a first-aid kit?”

“It’s in the cabinet under the TV.”

I quickly scurried off and retrieved the first-aid kit from the cabinet.

I then sprayed some rubbing alcohol on a cotton swab and said, “This is going to hurt a little, so try your best to hold still. I’ll try to be as gentle as I can.”

Nicholas let out a helpless chuckle. “I’m not a kid, okay?”

Obviously, I knew he was an adult and could definitely put up with the pain, but seeing that wound on his face still made me incredibly nervous.

This better not leave a scar or his family members, his manager, and his fans would hunt me down for sure!

Although he didn’t make a sound, I saw him frown the moment the cotton swab touched his wound and quickly moved it out of the way.

“See? I told you it would hurt! Why didn’t you move out of the way when you saw him coming?” I asked while gently blowing on his wound.

As I was about to continue treating his wound, he moved his face away and took the cotton swab out of my hand.

“What’s wrong?” I asked when I saw the strange look in his eyes. Is the pain too much for him?

“Nothing, it’s just a tiny wound anyway.”

Upon closer inspection, I saw that it was mostly treated and decided to not insist on it any further.

Regardless, I still handed him two anti-inflammatory pills and said, "Here, take these. It'll help speed up the recovery."

Instead of taking the pills immediately, Nicholas simply held them in his hand and stared at me for a while before asking, "Liliana, do you mind telling me what's going on between you and Dominic?"

I was packing the stuff back into the first-aid kit and froze when I heard that.

"It's fine if you don't feel like talking about it."

I closed the lid on the box and said slowly, "It's a very old story, but I don't mind telling you if you want to hear it."

I then took a moment to reorganize my thoughts and was about to start when the doorbell rang all of a sudden.

We both looked toward the door at the same time.

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 100**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 100 Unexpected

"Oh, no... You don't think it's some journalist, do you?" I asked anxiously.

"No. Security here is pretty tight, so they won't let anyone in without permission. Wait here while I go get the door," Nicholas replied calmly, and I nodded in response.

Even if he didn't say that, I wouldn't have dared go near the door anyway.

Despite what he said about the security guards not letting outsiders in without permission, the traumatizing experience of having my phone number exposed still left me feeling incredibly nervous.

I should be safe inside the house... At the very least, these journalists wouldn't dare force their way in as that would count as trespassing, which is illegal!

Before I could finish my train of thought, Nicholas had returned with someone else behind him.

I couldn't really tell who it was from afar as I didn't have my glasses on, but I could at least see that it was a woman.

It wasn't until the two of them got closer that I got a clearer view of her face, and my jaw dropped in shock when I realized who she was.

Holy sh\*t! T-That's Scarlett Williams!

I quickly scrambled to my feet in a state of panic and tried to say something, but the words were stuck in my throat.

Nicholas burst into laughter when he saw my reaction. "What's with that look on your face, Liliana? I didn't think you'd get this excited over a woman! If I recall correctly, you weren't this excited when we first met!"

He's right! I think I was able to call him by name when I first saw him, but this is different! I mean, Scarlett visiting Nicholas at his villa in the evening? This could only mean one thing! The two of them are having an affair...I mean, a relationship!

"Hello, my name is Scarlett!" she said with a smile while holding her hand out.

I wiped my trembling hands frantically on my jeans before shaking hers.

"I...I'm L-Liliana... Zanetti."

Scarlett gave me a friendly nod before motioning at me to let go of her hand, which I did very quickly.

Being the smart person that I was, I knew Scarlett must have come over because she had something to discuss with Nicholas. Not wanting to be a third wheel and make things awkward, I decided to quickly excuse myself.

"Right, uh... It's getting late, so I should get going now. You two carry on, all right?"

"I saw that it was still raining heavily outside when I opened the door earlier. It'd be dangerous for you to head down the mountain by yourself, and the road's too slippery for me to drive downhill. I've got some spare bedrooms here, so you can just pick one and stay over for the night."

Being able to have dinner at his house was surprising enough for me, but spending the night here was completely beyond my expectations.

Even Scarlett seemed rather shocked and had a strange look on her face when she heard that. "Nicholas..."

“No, I can’t possibly do that! Don’t worry about me, I can manage myself just fine. I’ll just hail myself a cab or something. These drivers won’t say no to a good tip!” I refused his offer immediately as I found it inappropriate to stay over at his place.

“That’s even more dangerous! What if the driver is a perv\*rt and tries to rape you or something? You would have no one around to save you!”

My goodness, I didn’t know he had such a vivid imagination!

“I’ll have Shannon come pick me up, then. We’ll be perfectly safe since we have each other!”

I thought I had come up with a great idea, but Nicholas shot it down once again by saying it was twice as dangerous.

“I live pretty close by, so you can stay over at my place instead, Ms. Zanetti. If you don’t mind, that is,” Scarlett spoke up all of a sudden.

I didn’t know what else to say at that point as both options felt inappropriate all the same.

Still, if I had to choose between the two, I would probably go with Nicholas as I knew him longer than I knew Scarlett.

“Just stay over at my place tonight and forget about everything else. Go up to the second floor and pick a room that you like. I’ll head over to Scarlett’s and fetch you a change of clothes. Come on, Scarlett, let’s go.”

Just like that, Nicholas had made the decision for me. Scarlett too, nodded after a few minutes of silence.

The two of them then left the villa, leaving me there all by myself.

A few minutes later, I decided to check the weather outside and opened the door, only to be hit in the face by a mix of water droplets and a chilly breeze.

Holy sh\*t, he wasn’t kidding about how heavy the rain is!

Not wanting to give up just yet, I stubbornly gave Shannon a call, but her phone was switched off.

Damn it! Her phone is usually on 24/7, so why is it off now? Huh, it looks like I really will be spending the night here... Oh, well... I’ll just have to accept my fate, then...

I thought to myself as I put my phone back into my handbag.



Nicholas had asked me to go take a look at the rooms on the second floor, but I was too scared to wander around such a big house all by myself.

In the end, I decided to sit on the couch and wait for Nicholas to come back.

About ten minutes later, he came in through the door with a bag in each hand.

“You haven’t checked the rooms out?” Nicholas asked while handing the bags over to me.

I shook my head and replied honestly, “No, I was a little scared to go upstairs by myself.”

Nicholas burst into a chuckle upon hearing that. “Come on, I’ll go upstairs with you.”

Instead of having me choose my room, he led me straight to one of the bedrooms and said, “You said you were scared, right? Well, you can have this room, then. Mine is right next to it, so if anything happens, all you have to do is scream and I’ll come over right away.”

Nicholas sure is thoughtful!

I gladly accepted his arrangement, and we both entered our respective rooms.

After taking a shower, I retrieved the clothes from the bags and saw that they were all brand new with the price tag still on, including the underwear.

On top of that, he got the measurements for everything down perfectly. Okay, maybe he’s a little too thoughtful...

I did a quick calculation in my head to see how much the clothes cost, and I nearly choked when I saw how expensive they were. Regardless, I would still pay Scarlett back the full amount.

I then tidied up the stuff and snuggled into the covers before going through my daily routine of scrolling through Twitter before bed.

The thought of Shannon not answering her phone earlier got me annoyed once again, and I sent her a ton of text messages on WhatsApp to express my annoyance.

Nicholas’ message came in right after I was done scolding Shannon: Hey, you asleep? Is it cold?

I replied accordingly and transferred fifty thousand into his bank account, insisting that he accept it as payment for Scarlett’s clothes.

Feeling relieved that he did, I chatted with him for a little bit more before saying good night.

However, I couldn't seem to fall asleep no matter how much I tossed and turned. Eventually, I decided to grab my phone and log into my old Twitter account.

After going through my old posts, I posted a new Tweet: Don't be silly, he doesn't care about you!

With that, I closed my eyes once again and tried to put away all feelings of sadness.

The next morning, I was woken up by the loud blaring of the ringtone on my phone.