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Sylvia went inside after that. The room was dimly lit, and the stench of alcohol in the air stung the nostrils.

Right after Sylvia came in, she saw Edmund dozing off on the couch. He wore a floral shirt that was unbuttoned down to his chest, revealing his broad muscles. The stubble around his chin was apparent while even his messy hair was longer. He looked severely disheartened.

Sylvia frowned and called out to him. "Edmund."

Edmund's eyeballs shifted before he opened his eyes.

"Syl?" He bolted up and looked at her in awe.

Sylvia's brows remained furrowed. "I heard Sherry said you've been drinking here. What happened?"

Edmund put the bottle of whiskey that he had been holding on onto the table. He hurriedly tidied his clothes and hair before he smiled at her. "I'm fine. I'm just bored, so I came to have some fun."

"Is it because of me?" Sylvia asked.

Edmund's face fell, his lips tightening. "Edmund, I've remarried Odell. It's not worth it anymore. Don't do this because of me."

He looked away with a bitter scowl and said, "It's not because of you."

"Then, you shouldn't drink your life away here. Are you really going to ignore your men outside? They follow you because they want to do business with you, but here you are being irresponsible."

Edmund frowned. A hint of annoyance started showing on his face. "It's none of your business. I'll deal with it."

"Okay. Then, I'm leaving."

Sylvia already said what she wanted to say, so it was time for her to leave.

"Wait!" Edmund held her back.

Sylvia turned around and saw him on his feet.

He tried approaching Sylvia but stopped when he was a meter away from her. Despite really wanting to be closer, he held the urge back. He stared at her and said, "Syl, tell me, how have you been lately?"

Sylvia looked into his eyes and said, "I'm fine. Odell is treating me well."

Edmund frowned. "He doesn't abuse you?" "He did during our first marriage, but this time, he really doesn't abuse or bully me. I have also decided to do my best to spend the rest of my days with him." Edmund lowered his head in disappointment. "Okay, nice to know."

In that dim room, when he looked down, Sylvia could not quite capture the expression on his face. All she heard was loneliness in his words.

Some thoughts later, she said, "Edmund, thank you for what you've done for me. I appreciate it. I really hope you can do better in the future. I don't want to see you keep wasting your life away."

She did not want to see him like this because of her.

However, Edmund remained quiet.

Sylvia pursed her lips and wanted to leave.

It was then that Edmund held her back again. "Syl, can I hug you?"

Sylvia turned around and saw a pitiful Edmund begging her like a boy asking for candy. She did not want to hurt him, but lines must be drawn. She bit the bullet and said, "I think you'd better save it for your future wife."

Edmund forced a bitter smile and curved his bloodshot eyes. "Okay, I will." She then left the room without turning back anymore. After a few more exchanges of words with Sherry, Harry, and Lloyd, Sylvia went downstairs. Tara managed to capture a shot of Sylvia from the corner. Since Sherry, Harry, and Lloyd were waiting at the entrance, Tara was unable to get a shot inside the room. So, even after Sylvia left, Tara stayed behind. She must have a shot of Edmund, or else when she showed it to Odell, Sylvia would try to argue again.

Just when she was trying to figure out how to get a shot of Edmund, the door of the VIP room opened. Edmund finally came out.

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Harry and Lloyd almost burst into tears when they saw their boss come out of the room. They stared at Edmund with teary eyes.

"Master Price, you're finally out!"

Edmund gave each of them a kick on the bum. "Shut up! Stop acting like pussies!"

The two of them did not only stay after the kick, but they even hugged Edmund excitedly.

Although Edmund had disgust all over his face, he did not try to push Harry and Lloyd away. He then said to Sherry, "Ms. Fowler, thank you for calling Syl over. You can go back to work now. I'll pay you double for the whiskey I've drunk in the past two days." "Of course." Sherry did not even try to be courteous. She wore a sweet smile and then returned to work.

Edmund then pulled the clingy Harry and Lloyd off his waist.

Intrigued, Harry asked, "Master Price, what did Sylvia say to you?"

He clearly remembered that Sylvia had only gone in for a few minutes.

Lloyd also narrowed his eyes. He protruded his lips and wore a perverted look as he said, "Master Price, did Sylvia kiss you?"

Smack!

Edmund immediately smacked the back of Lloyd's head. "Kiss my ass!"

Lloyd immediately clutched his head and shut his mouth.

Edmund then explained, "We talked, and that's it. We didn't do anything inside the room. If you keep up with your bullshit, I'll cut your tongues out!"

Harry awkwardly smiled and said, "Of course, of course! Master Price, we all know what kind of person Sylvia is."

Lloyd nodded in agreement.

Edmund then looked at the entrance of Lush Heaven and sighed. "Go book me a spa. I want to have a good bath." "Right away, Master Price!" Harry pulled out his phone and started dialing. Edmund then had a glance at Lloyd. "Bring the car over." "Yes, sir!" Lloyd then immediately went downstairs. Moments later, Harry said, "Master Price, I've made a reservation with the spa. Are we going over now?"

"Let's go!" Edmund strutted downstairs.

Looking at his boss' energetic pace, Harry could not help but praise Sylvia. "Sylvia is outstanding! All it took her was a few minutes with the boss, and he came back to us!"

Edmund was walking ahead when he overheard Harry. His lips then curled into a silent smile.

Indeed, Sylvia's arrival reenergized him. It also served as a reminder to not waste life as he had in the past two days, and it also made him realize that life should not be a smooth ride. He swore to work harder. No matter what it took, he ought to reach the same height as Odell. Since Sylvia said that life was good for her, he would not try ruin them anymore or snatch her away. If one day, he found out that Odell abused her or bullied her, he would then take her back. He could no longer tolerate being threatened and overwhelmed by Odell's influence, just like what happened back at the restaurant.

He had been having dinner with Sylvia when Odell barged in unannounced and threatened him with his business and his men before taking Sylvia away. There was also that time on the yacht when he had planned to confess her feelings to Sylvia.

They were all insults that smacked him in the face.

Right after Sylvia came out of Lush Heaven, she went back to Odell's car.

Odell was still waiting elegantly in the driver's seat. He propped the side of his forehead on his hand when Sylvia came in and immediately stared at her with a deep gaze. His eyes were charming, but there was also an inexpressible feeling to them. Sylvia asked, "How is it? I'm not late, am I?" "You are 36 seconds late." He was counting by the seconds?! Sylvia pursed her lips. "Oh... It's getting late. Let's go home." Odell raised a disgruntled brow. "Is there something you want to tell me?" "What do you mean?"

His face turned frosty.

Sylvia immediately said, "I came out after having a word with Edmund. I'm late for whatever seconds because I also had a chat with Sherry and the others."

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“What did you say to Edmund?” “I told him to get himself together.”

“That’s it?” Odell narrowed his sharp eyes.

A quick thought later, Sylvia continued, “I even told him that I’m having a great life now and that he should live a happy life as well. That’s it.”

“Come over here.”

“What for?”

His frosty eyes remained narrow, Sylvia held her reluctance back and moved closer to him Odell put his hand behind her neck and kissed her He even nipped her on the lips before releasing her.

“This is your punishment for being late for 36 seconds.”

Sylvia was speechless but did not talk back

The man also looked a lot more satisfied after he had his kiss After that he pushed her back onto the passenger seat and drove away from the parking lot

Sylvia did not even want to argue with him

On the way home, Sherry texted and told her that shortly after she left, Edmund had gone out with Harry and Lloyd and seemed to be in a good mood

Sylvia heaved a breath of relief after reading the text she had suffered from relationship problems before and did not want to be hurt anymore. It was only natural that she refused to hurt others

At the same time, Tara was also on the way home from Lush Heaven and was giggling at the video she took Although she failed to capture the scene inside the room, she was able to record Sylvia and Edmund coming out of the room one after another. Edmund even looked reenergized; even an idiot knew it was because of Sylvia. She just had to edit out the part where Edmund had claimed that nothing happened inside the room and then show it to Odell.

The next morning at Carter Tower’s highest office, Cliff knocked on the door before he went in. He said to the man behind the desk, “Sir, Ms. Avery is here. She claims that she has something important to show you.” Odell furrowed his brows. “Did she say what is it about?”

“She didn’t reveal the details but insists it is important and that you ought to know.” Odell suppressed his irritation and said, “Bring her in.” “Right away.” A few minutes later, Tara came into the office with her phone in her hand. She looked rather conservative in a shirt and jeans. There was no makeup on her face, and her hair was simply tucked behind her ears. She looked plain, somewhat tired.

Odell had a glance at her, and the frosty look on his face softened a little.

It seemed like she had learned her lesson.

“Have a seat.”

“It’s okay, Odell. It will only take you a few minutes and I’ll leave after that. I don’t want to disturb your work.”

She then went to his side and started, “Odell, I know you like Sylvia a lot now, and you must be having a happy life with her, but I’m telling you she’s not who she used to be.” Odell’s expression turned frosty. “That’s what you want to say to me?” Tara immediately explained, “I know you won’t believe me without evidence, so here it is.” The look on his face changed. “What evidence?” “I think Sylvia likes Edmund. You might not know about this, but after you and Sylvia remarried, he’s been drinking at Lush Heaven every day. My friend accidentally snapped a video of Sylvia looking for him last night. Look.” Tara then tapped on her phone and played the edited video for Odell. The video started off with Sylvia entering Lush Heaven and dashing up to the second floor.

Judging from the angle, the person who shot the video must have been following her from the start. The camera then followed Sylvia upstairs and showed her going into the VIP room.

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Sometime later, the door finally opened. Sylvia came out and chatted with Sherry and the two men before she went off. Then, Edmund came out. He looked a little disheveled but vibrant. Sylvia must have talked some sense into him.

After that, his men chatted with him.

One of the men asked him, “Master Price, what did Sylvia say to you?”

Edmund did not answer.

The other one then asked, “Master Price, did Sylvia kiss you?” The video then ended abruptly.

Odell did not hear Edmund’s answer.

Tara also carefully looked at Odell’s reaction after playing the video and spotted nothing but frostiness and a wry expression. He was upset, and it must be because of Sylvia.

“Odell, look, I’m not lying. Sylvia really went looking for Edmund. If there’s nothing between them, why would she have gone into his VIP room?”

Tara noticed the cold reaction on his face and continued, “This video is a trimmed version of the original. My friend sent it to me. She said Sylvia went in for almost an hour. I really want to know what they were talking about inside there.” Odell suddenly shut his eyes.

Tara took his silence as a sign of anger. She believed he must be painting a picture of Sylvia and Edmund doing unspeakable things based on her explanation.

She was thrilled but had to conceal her feelings. She then added, “Sylvia is such a nice girl. I don’t think she’d do something that bad behind your back, right?”

“Enough,” Odell suddenly spoke in a gravelly voice.

Tara was immediately silenced.

Odell then opened his eyes. He shot a frigid gaze at her and said, "She did see Edmund last night, but it only lasted for ten over minutes." Tara's expression changed. "How did you know? Did Sylvia tell you?" "I know because I am the one who sent her to Lush Heaven last night," he said in a deep voice, emphasizing each and every word that he uttered. Tara widened her eyes in disbelief. She started to panic. "W-What? H-How is this possible?" Odell glared at her and continued, "Last night, I picked her up after her event at the art academy, and with my permission, I dropped her off at Lush Heaven at 10:05 p.m. and she came back into the car precisely at 10:20 p.m."

Tara's face turned pale. She did not expect Odell to be the one who sent her there.

"Why? I thought she didn't love Odell. Why did she tell Odell if she was going to see Edmund?!" Odell watched as the expression on Tara's face changed multiple times. A hint of disgust appeared in his eyes. Feeling disappointed, he asked, "Tara, what happened to you? What have you become? Or was I wrong about you all the time?"

Tara was frightened by the disgust in his eyes, and she started to stagger backward.

As her eyes welled up, she burst into tears. "Odell, my friend sent me the video, she told me Sylvia went in for an hour! I don't know why she lied to me. It's a misunderstanding! It's my fault. I shouldn't have doubted Sylvia. I don't believe my friend anymore!"

She wept pitifully.

Odell frowned. He lost the intention of holding her responsible and did not even bother to find out if her 'friend' really existed.

"Get out. Don't ever appear before my face again."

"Odell..."

As Odell wore a grim look, his furrowed brows spelled frustration.

Tara dared not linger and ran out of the office in tears. The office then returned to peace and quiet.

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Odell was still deeply irritated. It was not just because of Tara's little fiasco but also because of what he had seen in the video.

After Sylvia left the room, Edmund emerged reenergized.

Even his men were shocked by how fast he recovered and asked if it was a kiss from Sylvia that brought him back to life.

However, the video ended abruptly, and he could not determine if that part was maliciously edited or not.

Recalling Sylvia's frank and honest reaction after she returned to the car last night, she did not show any sense of guilt at all, so she must have never kissed Edmund.

Odell was just wondering if Edmund had forced himself on her. The thought put a scowl on his face.

Moments later, he summoned Cliff. "Send some men to keep an eye on Edmund. Inform me if he does anything out of the blue, especially when it's related to Sylvia."

Cliff was taken aback. He curiously asked, "Sir, what did Ms. Avery say to you just now?"

Odell shot a fierce glare at him. "Just do your job."

Cliff dared not press on the matter anymore. He immediately nodded and said, "Right away, sir."

He then quickly left the office.

After some deliberate consideration, Odell called the bodyguard he sent to watch over Tara at Lake Victoria Villa.

The call went through within a second. "Follow Tara wherever she goes from now on. If she's acting weird, inform me immediately."

Sylvia had no idea Tara went to Carter Tower just to tell Odell some fabricated lies. She was explaining to Madam Carter why she was still sleeping with the kids at night.

Madam Carter and Aunt Tonya had just returned from outside when the former heard from the servants that the couple slept with the kids in the same room every night. She went to Sylvia and asked, "Syl, tell me. Are you still feeling repulsed? You don't want Odell to touch you, am I right?"

"No, Grandmother, I'm not."

"Then, why are you still sleeping with the kids every night?" Madam Carter asked.

Sylvia sighed helplessly and answered, "Isabel and Liam have made it into a habit, and they come over every night after their bath."

She started off resisting intimate interaction with Odell, but now, the two little rascals had made a habit out of it and had become extremely clingy. That was the reason why the family of four slept together every night. She simply did not have the heart to chase the two of them

back to their room. Madam Carter also sighed helplessly after listening to the situation. She knew how feisty the little girl and boy were, but things could not remain like this forever. Madam Carter sincerely said, "You have to talk to them and tell them to go sleep in their room. You and Odell just married again. This is an important time for you two to develop your relationship. You can't sleep with the kids anymore."

Sylvia said with an undercurrent of irritation, "I understand, Grandmother. I know what to do. You don't need to worry."

"Great."

Madam Carter left Sylvia alone and returned to her room with Aunt Tonya.

Alas, Sylvia lost the mood to return to her painting. Odell gave her a week's time to tell the kids and calm them down, but it had been days and she had not been making any progress. She had to think of a way to break the news to the boy and girl.

Later that evening, Isabel and Liam came home from kindergarten as usual.

Odell had to work late again, and no one knew when he would be back.

Nonetheless, Sylvia, Madam Carter, and Aunt Tonya had dinner with the two little rascals as usual.

After dinner, Isabel and Liam went upstairs to have a shower. Instead of going back into her room, Sylvia followed the two of them to their room.

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Right after the two little rascals came out of the shower, they saw their mother waiting for them.

“Mommy, why are you here?” Isabel ran over to her with her tiny legs; Liam followed. Sylvia said, “Daddy has to work late today, so let’s sleep in your room tonight. I’ll be here as well.”

Isabel nodded obediently and hummed a reply while Liam did not say anything. As long as they could sleep with their mommy, the location did not matter.

Sylvia sighed a breath of relief at their calm reaction. Then, she got into bed with the two of them, and while she was sandwiched in between, she read them a bedtime story.

The two little rascals fell asleep after a while.

It was then that the door opened and Odell came in.

Looking at the two little rascals fast asleep on their bed, his eyes showed a hint of delight and then he looked at Sylvia. His gaze was practically telling her to go back to their room since the kids were asleep.

Sylvia had a glance at the two sleeping angels with their tiny hands on her. She turned to Odell and said in a small voice, “Odell, why don’t you go have a rest? I’ll stay here with them tonight.”

Unlike Isabel, Liam was a cautious person and was always alert to his surroundings. He might wake up the moment she tried to get up.

Besides, Sylvia could not just leave them all of a sudden. She should guide them properly and slowly and teach them to be independent on their own.

Odell’s expression turned grim. “Come down.”

Sylvia did not budge, so he strode over and wanted to pick her off the bed.

However, before he could even touch Sylvia, Liam opened his eyes. He clung to Sylvia’s sleeve and shot a begrudging gaze at Odell.

Odell frowned at the little boy’s fierce reaction.

The father and son confronted each other for almost a minute, and neither of them wanted to step down.

Sylvia had to intervene by saying, “Odell, just go take a rest first.”

Odell had a glance at her and decided to release her. "You have three more days. You know what you have to do."

Leaving his final warning behind, he had once last glare at Liam before leaving.

Sylvia hugged the little boy in her arms and said, "Go to sleep, Liam. Mommy's not leaving."

Liam protruded his lips in silence and hugged her tightly. A while later, after he finally fell asleep, Sylvia also shut her eyes.

The next night, Sylvia came to their room and slept with them again.

The bedtime story she chose today was about a child being independent and sleeping alone. She concentrated on delivering the story but Isabel fell asleep before the story even ended. Liam, on the other hand, listened to the end before he closed his eyes and hugged his mother to sleep. Sylvia kissed the two little angels on the cheeks before she, too, shut her eyes.

Three days went by in the blink of an eye, and today would be the deadline that Odell had set.

In the evening, Isabel and Liam came home as usual. Odell was only a few minutes later than them because he did not have to work late today.

The moment he entered the living room, he shot a profound gaze at Sylvia, but she averted it and continued playing with the kids. She got up halfway through the game and went to the bathroom.

When she came up, she was stopped by a towering figure in front of the door. He looked at her and asked, "Today is the last day. Have you spoken to them?" Sylvia tightened her lips. She looked like she had something to say but she just could not find the correct words.

Odell wore a grim look at her hesitant reaction.

"Odell, today I'll — " Before she could finish, Odell's big hand already clutched both sides of her face.

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With her face in his clutches, Sylvia was forced to look into Odell's eyes,

Odell narrowed his eyes at her and said, "I'm going on a business trip tomorrow afternoon. We are going to multiple locations this time, so it will take at least ten days for me to get back. If you are not in the room by 10 p.m. tonight, I'll drag you in myself." He then turned around and left.

Sylvia helplessly pursed her lips.

After dinner, Sylvia went to Isabel and Liam's room again.

She picked a short bedtime story today and was finished even before Isabel started to feel sleepy.

She then hugged the two of them and said in a small voice, "Isabel, Liam, Mommy wants to talk to you guys about something."

The two of them widened their eyes at her. Sylvia continued, "From today onwards, I might not be able to sleep with you guys anymore, but I'll come by and read you a bedtime story every night."

Isabel protruded her lips. "Why? Are you going to sleep with that big meanie!?"

Sylvia patted the little girl's head and comforted her. "Isabel, Mommy and Daddy have married again. We are husband and wife now, so it's only natural for us to sleep together. Besides, you and Liam should have your own private space as well. Mommy can't be with you forever."

Isabel's lips remained protruded, but she did not say anything else. Sylvia then turned to Liam and asked him, "How about you, Liam?" Liam also protruded his lips. "Whatever you say, Mommy."

Sylvia smiled and kissed his puffy cheek. She then said, "Hurry up and sleep. I'll be here until the two of you are asleep." The two of them were surprisingly obedient. After her words subsided, they lay down beside her and tried to sleep. Isabel even hugged her leg like a bolster pillow, as if she was not ready to sleep without her mother.

Seconds turned into minutes, and the two little rascals soon fell asleep.

Sylvia got up and laid the blanket over them.

When she came out of the room, the time was not even 10 p.m. yet. She then went upstairs to the master bedroom and found out that the door was not fully closed, and there were no lights inside.

Odell should not be sleeping this early. Had he gone to the study to continue his work? Nevertheless, Sylvia was not overly bothered and went inside.

The moment she set foot inside, a towering shadow dwarfed her, and the door was slammed shut.

A strong arm lifted her up in the dark and pressed her against the wall. The man's strong and scorching kiss ravaged her lips before she could even react. He did not give her any chance to resist at all

Then, his slender and warm fingers moved across her neck, inciting a sensual sensation and causing goosebumps all over her body.

"Mmhmm..."

She tried to push him away, and he also felt her struggle, but he responded by exerting more strength to pin her down. Sylvia was pinned on the wall like a pinata waiting to be cracked open. The rustling couple started to turn the heat up in the room. As he ravaged her body and unbuttoned her shirt, he carried her to the bed. While Odell's towering figure was on top of her half-naked body, he was staring at her with a deep gaze overflowing with lust and power.

Sylvia's lips were finally freed. Her face was as red as an apple as she said in a small voice, "Odell, 1... 1..."

He seemed to be in a good mood, so he patiently asked, "What is it?" Sylvia bit the bullet and said, "I am having my period!"

The pleasure on his face was instantly replaced by shock and bitterness. Feeling embarrassed, Sylvia elaborated, "It started earlier in the day, and I didn't expect it as well."

She wanted to tell him about it when he stopped her in front of the toilet earlier in the day, but he had not given her the chance.

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Odell shot her a grim look. Sylvia awkwardly chuckled and said, "Um, can you be a little more patient?"

He pressed his lips onto hers to silence her. The kiss felt more like a punishment because he only released her after her lips were swollen.

He got off from her and strode to the bathroom. The shower was turned on as soon as he slammed the door shut.

Sylvia sighed a breath of relief and sat herself up.

A while later, Odell came out of the bathroom in his robe. She stared at him shyly, but he simply replied with a frosty gaze.

Sylvia pursed her lips and went into the bathroom. To her surprise, the bathroom remained chilly even after Odell's shower. There was not the slightest bit of warmth inside.

She frowned. 'Did he shower in cold water just now?'

Sylvia turned on the heater and took a shower.

When she came out in her pajamas, she saw Odell reading a book on the bed.

Sylvia crawled into bed and lay down beside him. She then turned to him and softly said to him, "It's getting late. You should get some rest.'

Odell gave her the cold shoulder. He must still be mad about not being able to have sex with her.

However, Sylvia could not help it as well. She lost count of her menstrual cycle and did not expect to get it today. She pursed her lips helplessly and turned to the other side to sleep.

In the next second, a warm presence embraced her from the back. The man's long arms curled around her waist and hugged her into his chest tightly.

His gravelly voice then entered her ears, "Can't you chat to me a little more?"

In other words, he wanted her to coddle him more.

Sylvia gulped nervously and said, "It's late. Get some rest."

He lowered his head to her neck and took a nibble.

Sylvia gasped in shock, but before she could react, he said, "Call me at 8 p.m. every night. If I don't pick up because of work, text me. I want you to do it for as long as I am away for the business trip."

Sylvia was afraid that he would bite her again, so she played along and said, "Okay, I will." Only with her assurance, did he withdraw his strength from her.

After a dreamless night, the next day arrived.

Cliff came over around noon with his briefcase to pick Odell up.

Sylvia sent them off at the entrance. While Cliff helped put Odell's luggage into the trunk, Odell turned around and hugged Sylvia in his arms. The two of them would not be seeing each other for at least ten days, and even she felt a little empty.

She returned his hug and said, "Odell, good luck with your work."

Odell lowered himself to kiss her. The kiss lasted for a while before he released her. He then stared at her with the warmest gaze and said, "Thank you."

Cliff watched from afar and chuckled at the scene.

Sylvia started to blush. She said, "Hurry up. Don't be late."

Odell smiled. "Wait for me."

"I will."

He turned around and hopped into the car. Sylvia watched as the car disappeared beyond the junction before she went back inside.

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Odell was the one who left for his business trip, but Sylvia felt like the house was empty. At night, after she accompanied her kids to bed, she went back to the master bedroom and slept alone there.

She had already told Isabel and Liam that she could no longer sleep with them at night, or else they would only cultivate a bad habit.

Two days went by in the blink of an eye.

That afternoon, Sylvia headed to the art association office to conclude the unfinished meeting from the other day.

She had originally refused to attend, but Christopher had called her twice and texted her a bunch of messages, asking her to judge the Westchester Art Competition which was hosted specifically for the students.

Sylvia eventually agreed, hence her attendance.

The atmosphere of the meeting was a lot better than last time. Other than Ariane and Renna who intentionally avoided her, the others were rather friendly and even greeted her with a smile. Some of them even took the initiative to apologize to her about the previous meeting.

The meeting progressed smoothly.

After the meeting, Sylvia went to the toilet and accidentally overheard Ariane and Renna's conversation.

Renna asked, "Ariane, have you contacted Tara anyhow? I texted her, but she doesn't even reply to any of my messages. Is it true that she broke up with Odell?"

Ariane answered with a sigh, "I heard that it's true. Sylvia already remarried Odell, and since the romance has been reignited, Tara must have broken up with him. I bet she's suffering a lot now."

"Do you think we should visit?" "I don't think so. She doesn't even want to talk to us. What makes you think she wants to see us?"

"I guess you're right." The gossip ended when the two of them left the toilet. Sylvia then came out shortly after. The last time she saw Tara was at the art academy where she had informed her about Edmund's drunken situation at Lush Heaven. She had a feeling back then that Tara must be planning something malicious.

She even wondered if Tara still harbored feelings for Odell. However, judging from Tara's outfit from that night and Odell not even laying a finger on her, even if Tara still had feelings for him, Odell would not be romantically related to her anymore. With the thought put aside, Sylvia washed her hands and left.

At Lake Victoria Villa, Tara was lying down on her newly bought cashmere couch in her branded silk pajamas. Her brows were tightly furrowed as she stared at the screen of her phone.

After being chased out of Carter Tower the other day, Odell had blacklisted her number. No matter how many times she tried, it just could not get through. Fortunately, Odell did not block her on WhatsApp, so she could still text him. However, despite texting him more than a hundred times since that day, she did not even get a single reply. He obviously was giving her the silent treatment.

Tara was frustrated. If he did not want to talk to her, why would he arrange a bodyguard to follow her around? Even if she was out shopping, the bodyguard would follow her, robbing her of any chances that she could use to accuse or frame Sylvia.

Just when she was about to smash her phone on the floor, the servant came in and said respectfully, "Ms. Avery, there's a middle-aged woman at the door looking for you. She said she knows you and that she's family. Her name, if I remember correctly, is Ms. Melanie Miriam."

Tara's expression changed. She bolted up and said, "Bring her in!"

A while later, a woman with curly hair, heavy makeup, and a crimson red dress came in. She twisted her robust waist as she walked around and sized up the room with gleaming eyes.

Tara raised a brow at her and then said to the servant, "You can go out now. Don't come in if I don't call for you."

The servant nodded and left.

Tara then looked at the woman. "Mom, what brings you here? I thought I told you to stay away from this place." Melanie glared at her daughter with a stern gaze. "If I continue to leave you be, you'll be chased out of Westchester by that little bitch."

Tara was shocked. "H-How did you find out?"

Melanie's eyes shifted. "Do I even need someone else to tell me? Everyone in Westchester knows that Odell remarried his ex-wife, Sylvia."

The name reignited Tara's frustration. She furrowed her brows and sat down on the couch.

"Odell and Sylvia might have gotten back together, but he still gives me the same sum of money. I'll think of a way to snatch him back. You don't have to worry. Go back. Don't come here anymore."

Melanie's eyes gleamed. "He really gives you the same sum of money as before?"

"Yes, it's even more than before actually."

Tara felt slightly better thinking about the huge sum of money that Odell gave her as living expenses.

Melanie also wore a delighted look. She then said, "Don't worry. If they ask who am I. I'll say I'm your aunt. I won't let Odell know I'm your mother."

Chapter 360

"No. Odell is having a little misunderstanding about me. You can't stay here," Tara said with a frown.

If Odell found out that she had a mother, he would know that she had lied to him back then.

Once he found out the truth, her perfect life would disappear overnight. She did not even have to think about winning his heart back. Not only that, given his temper, she would probably pay a severe price for lying to him. Melanie understood her concern, so she said, "Tara, don't worry. Just call me Aunt Melanie. I won't let others find out about me and you. I'm not just here to visit. I'm here to help you deal with that little bitch Sylvia. I want her to give you back the title of Mrs. Carter!"

Tara wore a frustrated look. "I don't know anything. I don't know how to deal with her. Any bright ideas?"

Melanie was just an old woman whose glory days were behind her. She used to have several rich boyfriends, but she had failed miserably and lost every one of them. What could she possibly have to help Tara?

Odell was unlike the men she met in the past. He was young, handsome, capable, and considered the perfect man. Almost all the girls in the upper social circle were infatuated with him, not only because he was the eldest son of the Carter but also because of his personal charms. Melanie held her daughter's hands and said, "Tara, I'm older and more experienced than you. As long as we can seize the chance, I assure you we can chase that little bitch away. Just trust me once."

She came prepared this time because she had a 'consultant' behind her back. This 'consultant' seemed to have a conflict with Sylvia as well.

If she could just separate the little bitch from Odell, not only would she do her daughter a big favor, but she would also receive a huge sum of money from her 'consultant'. She would never have to worry about the rest of her life anymore. Tara felt reluctant, but looking at her mother's confidence, she compromised because she was out of ideas.

Melanie then said, "I heard Odell went on a business trip abroad and will only be back in ten days. Let me stay here and help you."

Tara's eyes shifted. "Odell went on a business trip? Where did you get this news?" "I have my connections." Melanie grinned confidently and wore a smug look on her face. Tara's expression changed. "Can your connection be trusted?" "Of course! He's able to get anything that I want to know," Melanie answered immediately. "Who is this guy?"

“I don’t know his name either. I know him from my ex-boyfriend. I just know he has a vast network and has a certain influence.” Melanie had a sense of respect and fixation on her face that was covered in heavy makeup when she mentioned her mysterious contact.

Tara knew there were influential figures who decided to keep a low profile from the public, like Edmund who had retired from his gangster life but remained influential. Melanie must be referring to someone of his caliber, or else he would not have known that Odell went on a business trip abroad two days ago.

Tara’s eyes gleamed. She did not expect her mother to know someone this influential, but it would definitely help her snatch Odell back from the little bitch’s possession.

Later that night at the Carters’ residence, dinner ended before 8 p.m. Sylvia was playing with Isabel and Liam in their room. She set an alarm for 8 p.m. to remind her to call Odell. After two nights, the two little rascals knew she had to call Odell at this time, so they put their toys down and stayed quiet. –

Sylvia was sandwiched between the two of them when she called him.

Two dial tones later, the call ended abruptly. Sylvia thought he was busy, but just when she was about to put her phone away, she received a text from him. “Video call me.” “Huh?”