

# PRETENDING TO BE POOR

## Chapter 23

Rachel was aching all over when she woke up.

“Hmm...”

She moaned due to the pain. Her dry throat hurt so much.

Someone stopped her by grabbing her shoulder when she was trying to sit up.

“Don’t move.” A familiar deep voice sounded.

Rachel opened her eyes and blinked a few times, trying to adapt to the lights. A few seconds later, she finally saw Shawn’s cold face clearly.

“Shawn...”

Shawn answered in a low voice, his dark eyes

tinged with tenderness. Stroking her deek, he leaned over and comforted her softly. here. Don’t move. One of your ribs is broken. It’ll hurt in the following days, but you’ll recover soon.”

He held Rachel’s hand at the same time, stroking her back with his thumb to comfort her.

Rachel replied with a weak smile.

A doctor came over to check up on Rachel a moment later, and then left after giving some instructions.

As the room went back to silence again, Rachel, turned to Shawn who didn’t say anything. “Last night...”

Shawn interrupted her.

“Do you think virginity is more important than life?”

Rachel was surprised, and then shook her head, staring at Shawn’s dark eyes.

“I never agree with that.”

However, she had done such a stupid thing last night: hurt herself in order not to lose her virginity.

This was unwise. No one could have believed

that a woman like Rachel would do something like that.

However, she did that and got herself severely injured.

She was lucky to only have a rib fracture. What if the broken rib had stabbed her internal organs?

Rachel turned up one corner of her mouth, her eyes flickering in Shawn's direct and deep gaze.

At no time was virginity more important than life. Although Rachel had always known she should make sure she was safe in the first place, she still ignored her own safety at that critical moment because of a man. Even herself was shocked by what she had done.

Perhaps this was why they all said love would make people fools.

Shawn was waiting for her explanation.

Rachel, who didn't intend to hide anything, answered bluntly.

"Shawn, I was saving my virginity for you. It's all your fault."

She was blaming him, but it wasn't difficult to tell her love for Shawn from her tone.

Shawn, who had been upset, was slightly startled by her words.

He gazed at Rachel with his dark eyes in silence for a long time.

Rachel said directly, "I might have fallen in love with you."

That was why she had done such a stupid thing.

Then it came a short silence. Rachel did not get any reaction from Shawn other than his quietness.

Her fingers, hidden under the quilt, pinched her palms nervously. Then she changed the subject, pretending that nothing had happened just now.

"Those men last night were all powerful in Q City. They won't let me go easily and will probably cause trouble for you too. I don't have a strong family to support me, but I'll fight till the end if they dare to do anything to

US."

Rachel made her attitude clear.

To her surprise, instead of getting scared, Shawn just stroked her forehead gently.

“Don’t worry, they won’t do anything.”

For some reason, Rachel found his words convincing.

If he said so, those men would definitely do nothing to them.

He looked so confident as if he was taking

control of the overall situation, which made Rachel wonder if this man was indeed as weak as she had thought.

Confusion flashed in her beautiful eyes.

“Shawn, is there anything I don’t know about you?”

Shawn raised his eyebrow, asking in a smoky, deep voice.

“What?”

Rachel surrendered to the charm that he showed unconsciously, a unique temperament that only belonged to mature men. Shawn could capture her heart with a single word or glance.

With a blushing face, she moved on from the last question quickly.

“Nothing. Can I have some water? I’m thirsty.”

Then she seemed to have noticed a flash of a smile in Shawn’s deep eyes after he heard what she said.

Her face went redder. Without saying anything, Shawn stood up and filled her glass with water. Then he put a straw in the glass, helping her to drink water.

Rachel fell asleep again a moment later.

Shawn looked at her, whose face was pale in her sleep.

His fingers moved inadvertently because of an urge to smoke.

However, he managed to control himself. When his phone rang, Shawn picked up a cigarette, stood up, and walked out of the ward.

Outside ward, Shawn answered the phone.

He mumbled while biting the unlit cigarette.

“What?”

Steve was scared by Trey’s cold voice.

“Trey, those cowards have admitted their mistakes and are begging in tears for your forgiveness. What should we do now? If you wanna punish them hard, I’ll assure you that they won’t dare to get close to Rachel ever again.”

While saying this, Steve was cursing in secret. What a group of bastards! He had warned them to stay away from Rachel, why wouldn’t they listen?

To some extent, Steve also had to be blamed. Those men must have been provoked by Steve when he told them that they couldn’t afford the result of hurting Rachel.

Damn it, a bunch of assholes. Steve swore he would never hang out with those men again! Otherwise, he would feel ashamed himself.

Shawn remained silent for a long time. Steve’s back was wet with sweat because of fear.

“Trey, how about they kneel down and apologize to Rachel?”

Only then did Shawn take away the unlit cigarette from his mouth. He replied coldly, “I’m not in the mood to discuss this.”

He hung up the phone directly.

That unlit cigarette was finally thrown into the trash can after Shawn pinched it a few times.

Mixed feelings flashed in Shawn’s eyes. While he was standing still beside the window, passers-by were all glancing curiously at this tall, serious, young man.

Steve got even more upset after hanging up the phone.

Trey’s silence was definitely the worst reply.

It would have been much easier if Trey had told Steve what to do directly. However, Trey wasn’t in the mood to talk about the punishments. How bad his mood could be?

Steve felt that he was doomed!

Adam called again. Steve, who was also in a bad mood, didn’t answer but cursed in a low voice. Idiots!

Rachel ate some porridge bought by Shawn, and then looked at him who was leaning leisurely against the window with his hands in his pockets. He was so charming. Rachel just fell for him more and more.

She found him extremely attractive these days probably because she realized she had fallen in love with him.

Shawn was also staring at Rachel, whose black eyes made her a little shy.

“I forgot to ask how much you paid for the hospitalization. It must be expensive, right? I didn’t tell you the password to the credit card at our home, so where did you get the money? Plus, I’m living in a single ward now. It must be more expensive than ordinary wards.”

Rachel wasn’t poor after getting the money from the demolition, but she couldn’t bear to see Shawn waste money in this way. After all, she hadn’t gotten used to the life of the rich.

“I robbed the bank.”

Rachel was speechless at this answer.

She chuckled, yet caused a pain in her chest, so she put away the smile quickly, saying to Shawn, “The credit cards are in the drawer beside our bed, one for you and one for me. I didn’t lock it, so you can bring the cards here this afternoon. The password is the last six digits of my phone number.”

Shawn raised his eyebrows with a cold expression. “Aren’t you afraid that I’ll run away with the money?”

Rachel grinned. “That money isn’t much enough to lure you away. As you know, I’m hiding most of my money in a secret place.”

That was the truth.

Shawn rarely smiled. “Still hiding it away? Didn’t you just say you loved me?”

Rachel was a little embarrassed.

Her ears turned red while she looked straight into Shawn’s eyes. “I’ll tell you when you love me as well.”

With a meaningful smile, Shawn walked over to the chair, and then reached out to comb her hair with his long fingers. Staring at her blushing face, he spoke in a low and deep voice, and leaned over so close that Rachel could feel his breath.

“Rachel, listen, no matter how much you love a man, you can’t share all your money with him. Understand?”

His words somehow made Rachel feel hot. As

he stroked her earlobes with fingertips, Rachel’s heart beat faster than ever. For some reason, all the tiny feelings were magnified at this moment.

She flustered, “I see.”

However, her mind was still in a daze after a while.

Shawn let go of her, asking casually, "What do you wanna do with those men who bullied you?"

"What do I wanna do to them?"

Rachel, who had thought she should thank God if those men didn't pester her again, was shocked by Shawn's question.

Shawn added calmly, "If you had the chance, what would you wanna do?"

"Well..."

Rachel replied after consideration, "I don't resent rich people, but it's wrong to do evil things with their money. They should be grateful and do more things to repay the society. Otherwise, they don't deserve to live such wealthy lives."

"So, do you wanna see them go bankrupt?"

"No, that's not what I mean. Isn't there a variety show for children in big cities to change lives with poor children in villages? Maybe these young men also need such experiences. They can't leave the village until they realize their mistakes and become better men."

Rachel chuckled. "Well, I'm just joking, of course. They don't really have to live a hard life as long as they do charity and help

someone sincerely."

She smiled like an angel. Shawn couldn't help but feel attracted by her at this moment.

That night, Steve asked his men to take those men to the airport. They, as well as some supervisors, would fly to a remote village to start their lives as poor people.

It was uncertain when they could come back.