

## A Shotgun Marriage

### Chapter 18

By the time Tia came out of Elizabeth's room after helping her to wash up, Lewis was on the balcony making a call.

As she stared at him, Tia figured out how she should tell him she wanted to continue staying here with her grandmother. If possible, she wanted Elizabeth to move over with her.

Just then, Lewis turned around and happened to meet her eyes through the balcony window.

Tia couldn't tell what he had said on the phone, but she watched as he spoke into the phone before hanging up after a couple of words. Following that, he put his phone back into his pocket and slid the balcony door open to come back inside.

"Has Grandma slept?" He asked naturally like they were a married couple who had been living together for years, and everything they said or did was as expected.

When she snapped back to reality, Tia nodded while looking at him, wanting to talk to him about Elizabeth. "Um..." However, she didn't know how to put it.

"Do you have something to tell me?" Lewis asked as he latched his gaze on her.

She nodded in response, still looking at him. Yet, she had trouble putting her thoughts into words. "Um... Well..."

"What is it?" Lewis looked at her with a gaze filled with bafflement, wondering what it could be that was so hard for her to say.

"... I just want to ask you about something. Now that we're married, what are your arrangements for our life after this?" She thought it would be awkward if she directly asked if she should move in with him; perhaps it was more euphemistic like this.

"Which aspect are you talking about?" he asked with a quirked brow.

"It's... Well, it's..." She got nowhere after a long time of thinking about how she should put her thoughts to words. Hence, she chucked all awkwardness and implications out the window and simply said, "Well, we might be married, but Grandma's my only family. We've been living together since I was a child. There's no way am I going to abandon her just because I'm married now." With that, she looked straight into his eyes with determination written all over her face.

It wasn't after a long silence that Lewis slowly spoke up. "You're wrong."

"Pardon?" Tia was stumped, for she couldn't comprehend his words. She asked, "What do you mean?"

"You're wrong," he repeated as he looked into her eyes. "Grandma's not your only family. I'm your husband now, so I'm also part of your family."

Tia was rendered speechless for a long while, and she could only gawk at him.

Lewis grinned when he saw how stupefied she was. He had the urge to ruffle her hair, and he did so while saying with a smile, "How can you exclude your husband from your family when you're aware that you're a married woman now?"

Tia finally came back to her senses, and she moved his palm away, still not used to his intimacy. "I-I'm still getting used to it," she said in embarrassment while scratching her head

Meanwhile, Lewis nodded while putting his hand down. "I get what you're trying to say, and I agree. We should look after Grandma."

"Are you saying Grandma can move over with me?" Tia asked, unsure if they were thinking the same thing.

"Of course," he answered without a doubt. "She's your grandmother, and with our marriage, she's naturally mine as well. It's only right that we look after her."

Tia beamed upon hearing his words and honestly thought marrying him was the right decision. "Thank you," she said sincerely while looking into his eyes.

However, Lewis frowned slightly. "There's no need for thanks between us. We'll be living together from now on. You should get used to the fact that I'm your husband."

To that, Tia chuckled awkwardly and nodded.

While checking his watch, Lewis thought it was a little stuffy in the house, and he unbuttoned his collar while mentioning, "I'd like a shower."

"Oh, the bathroom's over there," said Tia while pointing toward the bathroom.

Lewis nodded in response, then removed his suit jacket and placed it on the couch beside him.

While Tia was still absorbed in the joy of Lewis agreeing to let Elizabeth live with them, Lewis had already entered the bathroom and stripped himself naked. A couple of seconds later, he popped his head out the door and called out, "Tia."

His voice snapped her back to reality, and she looked up to find him standing by the bathroom door, stark naked. Just like that, her brain went offline once again.

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"Do you have any new bath towels?" It wasn't until Lewis removed his clothes and stepped into the shower that he noticed there were only two face towels and a large bath towel. Moreover, they had all been used.

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Growing up, Tia had barely ever seen a grown man in his birthday suit. She had always been living with her grandparents, and her grandfather was an intellect. Be it outside or at home, he would always dress neatly. However, when Lewis suddenly popped his head out just like this, she felt rather uncomfortable and reflexively turned around to avoid looking at him. "N-No, we don't," she answered with a flushed face.

Ever since her grandfather passed, it was just her and her grandmother in this apartment, and ever since her parents passed, they had practically cut ties with their relatives. Hence, barely anyone would visit them. The only person would be Shannon, and she never stayed over. Thus, they never had to prepare any spares.

"Which one is yours?" Lewis' voice came from behind her.

Tia was so mortified that she didn't even stop to think about his purpose for asking the question. "The sky-blue one is mine."

"The face towel too, right?"

"Yeah." Tia nodded haphazardly and said, "I-I'll be in my room!"

With that, she dashed into her room without even looking back.

Lewis looked at himself with a frown when he saw how she had dashed into her room and immediately closed the door. When he figured out why she was acting so self-consciously, he couldn't help smiling and chuckling as he shook his head.

Meanwhile, while Tia was fanning her face with a magazine to cool down, she turned

her head inadvertently and saw what was on her desk. Just like that, the temperature on her face instantly rose a good few degrees, turning her face as red as a beetroot. The two boxes of condoms Lewis had bought in the supermarket when they were shopping for dinner earlier were sitting on her desk. It reminded her of what he said in the evening, as well as the fact that they would be lying on the same bed later. Tia was so flushed at this point that even fanning her face with the magazine wasn't helping. The more she fanned, the hotter her face felt. In the end, she got so exasperated that she grabbed the two boxes and chucked them into her bedside drawer. After that, she stood by the window and opened it to let the night breeze kiss her face. Only then did she feel much cooler.