

My Three Darlings by Anonymous

Chapter 16

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Chapter 16

After he admitted his crime, Michael was taken away by the police.

Eliza shifted on the bed carefully.

She could feel the warmth of Beau's palm holding her waist.

Since she was placing her focus on Michael and the policemen just now, she didn't realize that she looked like a loving couple with Beau.

Now, there were only two of them left in the ward.

The atmosphere inside the room was romantic and the lights were warm. The distance between them was so close that they could feel the rhythm of each other's breathing. Since she hadn't been in an intimate relationship with anyone before, she felt slightly uncomfortable with Beau sitting so close to her.

He could literally feel her every movement.

Eliza's face was flushed red because she could still feel his hands holding on to her waist. After a long while, she bit her lip and said, "Mr. Valentine, now that they've all left, I think we should let go of each other."

Just now, her behavior was just a pretense for everyone to see.

Beau raised his hand and pulled her into a tight embrace. He said with a low and magnetic voice, "You didn't address me as Mr. Valentine just now."

Eliza couldn't think straight because she could feel his breath just beside her.

Well, it was true. She did address him as her hubby just now...

If her face could get any redder, it would be emitting steam by now.

Quickly, she pushed his hand away and backed off. Her face was burning, and she didn't know how to react at all.

"Eliza."

He didn't touch her any further. Instead, he leaned against the windows and crossed his arms, "I don't like it when you lie."

Not knowing what he meant, Eliza looked at him with a blank expression.

“You told me that you didn’t know how to fight.”

Even though Michael was old, he was still a middle-aged man with a large figure.

How could a petite woman like Eliza beat him without training?

She even stabbed him twice in the legs.

“I’m not lying.”

Realizing that he was referring to this problem, Eliza pursed her lips and said guiltily, “Well, I’ve been a stunt woman for many years, so I might’ve picked up some basics.”

Beau narrowed his eyes. Obviously, he did not believe it.

“Besides, Michael is too weak.” Eliza lowered her head as she tried to think of an excuse.

To tell the truth, she had some training from Luca before. Back then, he taught her some moves because she was a weak and scrawny girl who looked like easy prey.

Besides the birthmark on her waist, Luca had also warned Eliza about keeping her knowledge of self defense a secret.

Eliza did not know Luca’s intentions behind it. However, since she had already agreed to hide it, she would keep it a secret until the end.

While she was lost in her thoughts, Beau grabbed hold of her wrist all of a sudden.

Eliza looked at Beau. “You...”

Beau narrowed his eyes.

“Crack!”

He just dislocated her wrist accidentally.

“I’ve told you. I’m not good at fighting at all. Michael is just too weak of an opponent.”

Sitting in the back seat of the car, Eliza looked at her wrist, which was wrapped in gauze, in dismay.

Beau, who was sitting by her side, said with a solemn expression, "I didn't know that you'd be so fragile."

He just wanted to test her abilities. It wasn't his intention to dislocate her wrist at all.

Looking at her angry expression, he felt guilty.

How could someone as fragile as Eliza work as a stunt woman in Parson Media?

All of a sudden, he was curious to see how Eliza was like at her workplace.

Soon, the car stopped at the gate of the villa.

Braint was waiting patiently at the entrance. Demarion, on the other hand, rushed to them. "Daddy, is mommy okay?" Eliza got out of the car.

"Mommy-!"

Demarion rushed to Eliza and looked at her injured right hand. "Are you hurt?"

"I'm fine, I accidentally dislocated my wrist."

Eliza ruffled his hair with her left hand and reassured him, "I'm really fine, don't worry." Demarion gritted his teeth angrily and said, "Did those gangsters do this to you?"

Eliza pursed her lips as she turned to look at Beau, who exuded a brooding aura. She nodded. "Yes."

That gangster was indeed a vicious man.

"How dare he hurt my mother!"

"I'll seek revenge against him in the future!"

Demarion was filled with indignation.

"Does it hurt a lot?"

Braint stood up. He turned around and entered the house. "I've prepared your favorite milk tea." "Right!" Demarion grabbed Eliza's hand and pulled her into the house enthusiastically. "Mommy, Braint figured out that you like to drink taro-flavored milk tea!"

"We even asked the butler to buy the ingredients for us! We made it ourselves, it will definitely calm down your nerves!"

Braint's unhappy voice echoed from inside the house, "Demarion, you shouldn't lie. You know I prepared it myself."

"I was there accompanying you the whole time while you were preparing it. So that means I prepared it with you!"

Braint rolled his eyes at his twin.

Beau, who was still sitting in the back seat, frowned slightly when he saw his two sons bringing Eliza into the house.

"These brats! I can't believe it! They have never done anything by themselves in the house. Eliza has only arrived for a few days, and they're already doing their best to win her favor," Beau sighed as he thought.

Why was it that he had a feeling that his children had betrayed him?

"Mr. Valentine, I've found it."

Declan knocked on the door and handed a document to Beau. "Eliza went to meet her father, Luca Chapman, who lived in the slums. That is why she was found in that alley today."

"Luca is a drunkard who is in a huge amount of debt. I'm positive that Eliza went to give him some money." "Also, all the surveillance cameras of the hotel had been destroyed today. However, one of the cameras on the streets showed that Eliza's sister, Esme, went to the hotel today."

"Should I do a background search on the Lawson family?"

Beau waved his hand and said, "Wait for further instructions."

"Mommy, this way!"

At dinner time, Demarion pulled out Eliza's chair carefully and gestured her to sit down.

On the other hand, Braint made sure the utensils were neatly placed on the table in front of her.

Sitting on the opposite side of Eliza, Beau frowned when he saw the scene before him.

All of a sudden, he felt like an outsider. I

However, he felt guilty when he saw Eliza's right hand, which was wrapped in white gauze.

After a while, Beau stood up and served the food personally to Eliza.

"Thank you." Eliza lowered her head and thanked him before she enjoyed her meal. Since her right wrist was injured, she could only hold the fork with her left hand. However, she was right-handed, and she just couldn't get used to it. Noticing Eliza's clumsy movements, Demarion said with a cheeky smile, "Daddy, mommy is hurt. Why don't you feed her instead?"

"You're her husband, that's why you have to take care of her!"

Eliza's complexion was flushed red when she heard that. What shocked her beyond words was that Beau actually stood up and walked towards her. When he was approaching her, she could feel her heart drumming against her chest at his presence. Finally, he sat down beside her and picked up her fork and spoon. *Was he really serious about feeding her?*

"No... no! It's fine!" Eliza waved her hand nervously and said, "I can do it myself!" She was already short of breath when he was approaching. If he fed her personally, she would literally suffocate and die. "You're lying." Braint glanced at her indifferently. "You can't even pick up your fork properly. How are you going to eat?" "That's right!" Demarion said with a furtive smile, "Mommy, you should listen to Braint." "I always see couples feeding each other in Korean dramas. It's normal." Eliza was so sheepish she didn't know what to say anymore. She turned her face away and acted as if she was a mother parenting a child. "You should learn from Braint. Stop watching Korean dramas. Focus on your studies instead..."

Braint looked up and said, "I think what Demarion said is right."

"Daddy should feed mommy." Eliza was speechless.

"Open your mouth."

Beau's magnetic voice echoed from beside her.

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Eliza opened her mouth. Just as she wanted to say something, a spoonful of rice was shoved into her mouth.

She could not even speak. It was as if she was gagged.

Feeling helpless, she had no choice but to swallow the food.

Just when she opened her mouth to speak again, Beau shoved another spoonful of vegetables into her mouth.

Just like that, Beau assisted her until she finished her dinner.

At first, Eliza wanted to refuse his gesture. However, she gave in in the end.

After all, using her left hand to eat was very inconvenient. Besides, Beau was the one who injured her, so it was only natural for him to pay for it.

As she was eating, she looked up at Beau.

Beau seemed to be a cold and introverted man, which gave off a feeling that he was arrogant and an unfriendly person. However, Eliza could feel that he was really careful and gentle while feeding her.

Under the kitchen lights, she could see his defined facial features.

It wasn't a dream at all. This man was Beau Valentine.

He was Eliza's current husband.

He was so attractive that Eliza couldn't stop staring at his face. She was so drawn that she even forgot to open her mouth.

"Mommy, why are you staring at daddy like that? Is he really that handsome?" Suddenly, she heard Demarion's laughter from beside. Eliza snapped back to reality. She realized that Beau was still holding on to the spoon while waiting for her to open her mouth.

He looked at her with a smile.

He had already realized what was on Eliza's mind.

All of a sudden, her face turned red.

She stammered and turned around. "I. I'm full!"

"Ok then."

Gracefully, Beau finished her leftovers.

Then, he continued enjoying his meal while using her utensils. Upon seeing that, Eliza's heart drummed against her chest.

Was that an...

An indirect kiss?

"Are you sick? Why is your face so red?"

Braint glanced at Eliza with a furtive smile.

Eliza reached out to touch her own face.

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18 26 Feeling the burning heat on her cheeks, she was so shocked that she retracted her hands. "I... I think I'll have to call it a day. I'll go upstairs now!"

After that, she stormed upstairs with quick steps.

Eliza bumped her injured hand into the staircase railing because she was too nervous.

"Ouch!"

The stabbing pain almost made her tear up.

"Mommy!"

Worried, both Braint and Demarion stood up and looked at her.

"I'm fine."

Eliza covered her injured wrist and turned around to reassure them, "I'm fine. I was just too careless..."

While she was speaking, she lost her footing and tumbled down the stairs. EB

Covered her face with her hands, she closed her eyes and prepared to face the impending tragedy.

She knew that she would definitely roll down the stairs.

This was such an embarrassment! Suddenly, she felt someone holding on to her slender waist.

Then, she was pulled into a wide and warm embrace.

Beau heaved in a deep breath and received her right on time.

Quickly. Eliza opened her eyes.

She could see Beau's chiseled jawline just above her.

"Daddy, nice catch!"

In the kitchen downstairs, Demarion returned to his chair. While drinking juice, he gave Beau a thumbs-up. "You're such a gentleman!"

"Braint, don't you think so?"

"Yes."

Braint lowered his head and mumbled as he ate. "If daddy carries mommy back to her room, then he'll be even more of a gentleman!"

Eliza was speechless. Why did she feel that the two children were deliberately provoking Beau to carry her back to her room?

"These kids are so bright, sometimes they don't act their age at all," Beau thought.

Beau snorted and carried Eliza in his arms. Then, he walked up the stairs steadily.

Lying in his arms, she could feel his breathing and warmth at a close distance. All of a sudden, she could feel the adrenaline rush in her body.

It was the first time for her to be held like this by a man.

After what happened five years ago, she couldn't bring herself to have intimate relationships with men.

Although Jay seemed to respect her boundaries on the outside, he had already betrayed her a long time ago. That was why they were never intimate with each other.

That got Eliza wondering. Why did she hate the feeling of touching Jay even though she was in love with him for 6 years? She didn't even faze when Beau carried her in his arms. It was weird indeed. The rhythm of her heartbeat increased when she thought about it.

Finally, Beau arrived at her bedroom door.

As he released one hand to turn the doorknob, her body shook unsteadily.

Almost instinctively, she jolted and clung to him even tighter by wrapping her arms around his neck.

The moment she jumped, she accidentally brushed her lips on his cheek.

Both of them were stunned for a moment.

Beau snapped out of it first.

Carefully, he placed Eliza on the bed.

“Eliza.”

Eliza could feel her lips burning with desire from the slight touch just now. While she was panicking, Beau asked her with a smile,

“You can’t even stand properly. How do you even work as a stunt woman?”

She looked up and their eyes met.

A smile flashed across Beau’s face. It was rare to see his smile, She was slightly stunned.

“His eyes are so enchanting. I can’t believe a man’s eyes can be that beautiful,” Eliza thought.

After a long while, she thought of his question.

Eliza pursed her lips. “I am a professional stuntwoman while at work.”

She just couldn’t think straight with him staring at her like this.

“Why does it take so long for you to respond to my question? Are you playing dumb now?”

Beau joked around, he seemed to be in a good mood.

Eliza shook her head instantly as she said, “No!”

“Then what were you daydreaming about just now?” Beau chuckled.

Eliza didn’t know how to explain herself.

While she was at a loss, they heard a click outside the door.

Someone just locked the bedroom door from outside.

“Daddy, mommy is injured. You should take care of her!”

Demarion’s cheeky voice echoed from outside the door.

Eliza paused and got up quickly, “Demarion, stop fooling around!” “Your father may have to deal with work-related matters tonight. You can’t just lock him in here!”

“Open the door!”

Listening to her panic-stricken voice, Beau frowned and asked, “Do you really hate the idea of living with

me?"

Eliza paused and shook her head. "No, I don't."

"I'm just worried that you'll be busy dealing with work tonight."

"I'm not busy."

With his arms on her side, he inched closer and leaned down his body. Feeling his oppressive aura, Eliza backed off. Realizing that she had no escape, she had no choice but to lay down on the bed. Beau raised her chin and said, "I'm not busy." "I'm not working overtime either." "I have plenty of time to spend with you tonight." While speaking, he swept his gaze at her sexy collarbone. All of a sudden, a memory struck him. He looked at her and said in a low and hoarse voice, "How much did you remember about that night?"

At first, Eliza didn't understand what he meant, but when she looked into his eyes, she finally understood his intentions.

Feeling nervous, she stuttered, "...". Before she could finish her words, his lips were already on hers.

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Eliza couldn't resist his kiss at all.

She felt like drowning with every administration of his lips, until

"Ouch!"

When Beau grabbed her shoulder, Eliza couldn't help but gasp in pain.

The romantic atmosphere disappeared instantly. Beau stood up and looked at her with a frown. "What's wrong?"

Even though he was led astray by his emotions just now. Beau was still careful enough to avoid her injured wrist.

Why did she give off such a strong reaction just from touching her shoulders?

"I'm fine."

Eliza was in so much pain that she couldn't get up from the bed.

Beau's hand was placed directly on the wound on her shoulder just now.

Noticing that something was amiss, Beau reached out and tore off her clothes.

The white gauze on Eliza's shoulder was stained with blood.

Beau widened his eyes in shock.

"Did Michael Lewis do this to you?" "No, it wasn't him."

"I accidentally injured myself while at work." Eliza felt uneasy with her left shoulder exposed in the open air. She wanted to get up but Beau held her back.

Carefully, he took off the stained gauze.

Although the wound was not deep, it was still a horrifying sight.

He took the medicine out of Eliza's bag and applied it to her injury. He frowned and said, "You should resign."

Beau applied the ointment softly on her wound. "I'm not Jay Carr, you know?"

"You don't have to work so hard to make money."

"After resigning, you can stay at home to take care of Braint and Demarion. You won't have to suffer from such injuries anymore. The kids will be happy as well."

After he was done, he closed the medicine box and said, "I can give you money."

Eliza quickly shook her head. "I really enjoy my work."

Beau narrowed his eyes and sneered, "How can you say that when you're injured like this?"

"It was an accident." Eliza smiled awkwardly. "I don't get injured at work most of the time." She looked at Beau with a serious expression, "I can still take care of the kids while working."

She said in a determined tone and an expression glimmering with hope, "I like my job. I also like the feeling of fighting for my own career."

Beau glanced at her indifferently. He didn't say anything further.

In the past, all of the women who pursued him used to set sights on his fortune. They weren't exactly interested in him. They all wished that they could live a comfortable life without worrying about making ends meet.

However, Eliza was different from them.

"You should rest."

When she realized that he wasn't saying anything, Eliza heaved in a deep breath and carried her pillow and blanket. She was planning to sleep on the floor again.
1

Beau grabbed her arm the minute she finished spreading out blankets on the floor.

He pulled her onto the bed.

Eliza pursed her lips. "I think it's better for me to sleep on the ground..."

"You're injured."

Beau said with a low voice, "If you don't want to sleep on the same bed with me,"

He went to the mattress below and said, "I can sleep on the floor."

"No, no!" Eliza grabbed his hand quickly and said, "You can't sleep on the ground." He was the man of the house, and this was his home. Eliza was an outsider.

How could she possibly let him sleep on the floor?

After hesitating for a while, she pursed her lips. "Alright then."

Since they were officially husband and wife, sleeping on the same bed shouldn't be a problem.

It was just that...

When Eliza thought about their passionate kiss and what happened that night in the tub, her complexion was flushed in red.

Beau returned to the bed and laid down.

They turned off the lights and went to sleep.

The bed was very spacious. Eliza laid on one side of the bed and Beau on the other.
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The bed was so big it could fit two people between them. But even so, Eliza could still hear Beau's even breathing in the dead of the night.

All of a sudden, the room felt hot, and her heartbeat increased its rhythm again.

Feeling nervous, she grabbed her blanket but she just couldn't fall asleep.

It wasn't until the break of dawn that Eliza yawned tiredly as she fell into a deep slumber.

Around seven o'clock in the morning, the alarm clock rang.

Eliza yawned. She got up from the bed and went downstairs to prepare breakfast for the two kids.

When she was almost done, Beau came downstairs, already prepared to leave. Eliza called him over for breakfast warmly.

"Did you prepare breakfast?"

Sitting down at the dining table, Beau asked with a frown.

Eliza nodded, "Yes." Beau stared at her squarely.

"How is your wrist?"

"What about your shoulder? Does it still hurt?"

Under his penetrating gaze, Eliza replied uncomfortably, "No, I'm fine now."

Beau snorted. Then, he turned to look at the two children who were enjoying their breakfast at the table. "Can't you two ask the housemaids to prepare breakfast for you?"

Braint and Demarion looked at each other in amazement.

"Daddy."

Demarion widened his puppy eyes and asked, "Are you... worried about mommy?"

Beau froze when he heard that. After a while, he turned around and went out. "Wait a minute."

Braint stopped eating and said, "Mommy is injured." "You should send her to work."

Beau frowned slightly.

Since Braint rarely asked him for anything, Beau wouldn't reject his son's simple request.

"It's fine, really."

Eliza waved her hand. "We are going in different directions anyway. I can take the bus."

Braint took a sip of milk and said in a soft tone, "Mommy, do you dislike my father?"

Eliza shook her head quickly and said, "No, of course not. I just want to keep a low profile." "I see."

Demarion turned to look at the butler standing not far away. "Can you please get the cheapest car in the garage, so that daddy can send mommy to work?"

Eliza was perplexed at his request. Beau sighed and shook his head. Ten minutes later.

When Eliza saw the BMW parked at the entrance of the villa, she was shocked beyond words.

The butler wiped the sweat off his head and said, "Sir, Madam, this is the worst car I can find in the family."

Beau didn't seem to care. He opened the door and got into the car.

Feeling helpless, Eliza had no choice but to follow him.

The atmosphere in the car was slightly awkward.

Beau grabbed the steering wheel and looked ahead of him. He asked, "Do you want to be the lead actress?" Eliza was taken aback by his question. She almost dropped her phone from the shock.

She turned to look at him in surprise. "What do you mean by that?"

"The reason you're working so hard as a stuntwoman, isn't it because you wish to become the lead actress one day?"

Beau said calmly. "I can make it happen. you know?" "If you want to be an actress, I can make you famous."

Since she didn't want to resign, he could help her to build her career.

It was not a difficult task.

Eliza was too stupefied to say anything.

After a long while, she came back to her senses and reacted, "I think... you have misunderstood me." "I've never thought about being the lead actress. In fact, I don't want to be an actress at all." "I'm happy enough to work as a stuntwoman."

Beau frowned and said, "Are you sure about that?"

He could only see the pain she had to endure from her injuries.

Eliza frowned and smiled. "You don't understand."

To tell the truth, she had actually thought about becoming a lead actress before. Who wouldn't want to be the highlight of the entire show? It was a dream come true.

However, when she observed Jay and Madeleine's journey of building their career, Eliza had actually developed a fear for the entertainment industry.

After all, she used to be a surrogate mother who gave birth to a dead fetus. O

No matter when it happened (and it definitely would at some point). if someone dug up her dark history. she would definitely be ostracised by the public.

She would rather continue working as a stunt woman than enduring snarky comments from the public.

As long as she could earn a living, she had nothing to complain about.

Soon, they arrived at the entrance of Parson Media.

Even though Eliza tried her best to avoid unnecessary attention. her colleagues still noticed the expensive BMW.

"Eliza, who's that? Your sugar daddy?"

Her colleagues ridiculed her.

"No, it's not like that."

Eliza changed her clothes and smiled helplessly. "He is just kind enough to let me hitch a ride to work."

"Eliza, the director is looking for you!"

Before she could finish changing, one of the staff called out for her from the set. Eliza frowned and went to see the director. "You should resign."

The director frowned and glanced at her. "From today onwards, you can no longer work as a stunt woman for Parson Media."

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“Why not?”

Eliza looked really puzzled. “What did I do?”

The director glanced at her irritably. “I don’t know. It’s an order from the higher-ups. They said that you are not allowed to work as a stuntwoman anymore.”

“If you have time to ask me, why don’t you think about what you did to offend them?”

The director looked at Eliza disappointedly. “From today onwards, you can be a stand-in actress instead. Even though you’ll earn less from it, at least you’ll have more free time.”

“You can also take the opportunity to think about your mistakes!”

Eliza returned backstage with a gloomy face. Graciana comforted her, “Don’t be sad. Working as a stand-in actress is not bad as well.” Stand-ins took the place of principal actors and they worked closely with camera setups. The weather was scorching hot. Standing under the sun, Eliza was sweating from head to toe.

As she stood like a mere prop in the background, she thought to herself, “Just who on earth is messing with me?”

“Madeleine or Jay?”

In the office of Valentine’s Group.

Matthew Valentine was sitting on the sofa with a smug expression on his face. “Uncle, don’t worry! I’ll take care of Eliza. You’ve found the right person for the task!”

“I’ll make sure she doesn’t get hurt from work! Don’t worry, you won’t see new scars on her anymore!”

Beau was currently sitting on his office chair while studying the documents in his hands. He frowned and asked, “Matthew, are you familiar with Esme Lawson?”

“Yes, I’ve met her before.”

While crossing his legs, Matthew sipped his tea while chuckling, "That woman tried to seduce me even though she has average looks. After I figured out her intentions, I didn't attend any of her meetings anymore."

"Set up an appointment with her."

Beau flipped through the contract indifferently and said, "Tell her that we, the Valentines, will cut off half the funds allocated to the Lawsons."

"You should also tell her that Eliza is now an official member of the Valentine family. Since they are still Eliza's family, I am kind enough to only reduce the funds."

"If something happens to Eliza ever again," Beau said with malicious intent, "I will destroy Lawson's Group myself." Matthew was taken aback by his words. "Are you sure you're letting them off the hook just like that? They did such horrible things to Eliza!"

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18:27 Beau picked up the teacup and took a sip elegantly. "Yes, I'm sure."

He could forgive the Lawsons for what they did. If someone else were to hurt Eliza, he would definitely make sure they suffer a painful ending.

In the evening, Eliza received a call from Braint as soon as she got off work. "Right now, I'm at a restaurant with Demarion. It is not far away from Parson Media." "We want to treat you to a meal."

Eliza frowned. "You guys are treating me to a meal?"

"That's right."

Braint said steadily, as if he was an adult, "Come here now."

After she hung up the phone, Eliza went to the said restaurant even though she was exhausted from work. When she arrived at the entrance of the restaurant, a familiar red car stopped in front of her.

Eliza recognized it at one glance.

This was Esme's car. Over the past few years, Esme had been working tirelessly in Lawson's Group. As a reward, Riley bought her an expensive car.

After she parked the car, Esme came out with heavy makeup.

"Eliza, what a pleasant surprise! Why are you here?"

As soon as she got out of the car, she saw Eliza.

Esme said wickedly, "This restaurant is considered fine dining. Are you sure you can afford it?"

"As a mere stunt woman, I'm sure you can't."

Eliza gave her a cold look and turned to leave.

She was here to meet the children, not to have an argument with Esme.

But how could Esme give up such a good opportunity to humiliate Eliza? She tugged at Eliza's arm. "Eliza, why are you in such a hurry?"

After what happened to Michael yesterday and she even faced Matthew's threats, Esme was boiling in fury.

She didn't know that Eliza would come to her just like that!

"Eliza, why are you in such a hurry?"

Esme raised her eyebrows and smiled. "Are you here for a date?"

"Why? Did Michael fail to satisfy you yesterday?"

Upon hearing that, Eliza could feel her anger brewing inside.

She turned around and stared at Esme. "You were the one who did that to me?"

She still couldn't figure out what happened yesterday. How could Michael know that she would visit her father?

However, all the puzzles clicked into place if Esme was in the picture. "What does it have to do with me?" Esme smirked. Her reaction didn't seem to reflect any guilt or remorse. In contrast, she seemed really

proud of herself, "Eliza, you can't just blame me groundlessly."

"Do you have any evidence to prove that I have something to do with your abduction?" Esme was smart enough to remove all the security cameras of the hotel yesterday. Even if Eliza were to look for evidence, her efforts would be fruitless.

Eliza finally understood Esme's evil schemes with Michael. It was obvious that they planned the crime together.

"You'd better not let me find evidence of your collusion with Michael!" Glaring at her, Eliza turned around and walked inside. Esme smiled smugly and said, "If you could find any, you would've used them against me a long time ago!"

"You were the one who invited Michael for a date yesterday."

"Are you here to meet another man today?"

You wh*re!"

Eliza paused and replied, "When it comes to whoring around, you know I can't beat you."

She was well aware of the dirty secrets of Esme's private life.

The reason her career as a businesswoman was so successful was that she liked sleeping around to get her hands on potential business partners."

"Don't talk nonsense." Esme stroked the diamond ring on her finger and said, "I am now in love with Rodolfo Ball, soon-to-be the richest man in Krine."

"Not only is he filthy rich, but he also loves me with all his heart. He even asked someone to give me this ten-karat diamond ring today."

While she was speaking, her lips lifted into a smug grin. "I can find someone ten times more decent than Mr. Valentine, and that is only through browsing through online dating apps."

"Eliza, do you feel angry about that?"

Eliza snorted coldly. She didn't even bother to look back. "I hope Rodolfo won't vomit when he sees you."

After that, she pushed the door and went straight into the dining room.

"Humph, you jealous b*tch!"

After entering the restaurant, Eliza scanned through the first floor. However, she did not find Braint or Demarion in there. Then, she went straight to the second floor.

"Mommy."

Braint waved to her from the corner of the restaurant.

Eliza walked over and sat down. "Why are you alone? Where is Demarion?"

"Hush."

Braint handed her a glass of orange juice and said, "Demarion is getting ready."

"He's meeting a friend he met online."

"What!" Eliza was shocked.

"He's meeting an online friend?"

She almost spat out the orange juice in her mouth. Eliza didn't know whether to laugh or cry. She composed herself and asked, "But Demarion's so young. Where did he learn to do something like that?"

Braint shrugged. "I guess children like to play."

Eliza was speechless.

"You are just five minutes older than him." Braint took a sip of juice and glanced in the direction of the door. "Demarion's friend is here." Eliza turned around. "Why is Esme here?" Eliza thought. It was just unbelievable.

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Chapter 20

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Eliza almost spat out the juice in her mouth.

She lowered her voice. "Is she Demarion's online friend?"

Eliza was already shocked enough to know that Demarion was making friends on the internet. Now, she was dumbfounded to see that the so-called friend was Esme.

"Don't make a sound. Let's just watch."

Braint lowered his head and sent a message on his phone.

Over there, Esme sat down at the reserved table and took out a small mirror. While she was fixing her makeup, she also made phone calls to show off to her best friend.

"I'm at the restaurant now. Rodolfo said that he'll be here soon."

"I wonder why men like to fawn over me. We just talked for two days and he has already gifted me a ten karat diamond ring."

"He also told me that he'll announce our relationship to media outlets after meeting me today. Imagine that, I'll be in the headlines and I'll be the happiest woman in Krine!"

"Yes, rest assured. I will definitely invite you to our wedding. Rodolfo is so filthy rich..."

Esme's voice was so loud the everyone in the restaurant could hear her conversation. She was obviously very proud of herself.

Eliza used the magazine to cover her face as she looked at Braint, who was sitting next to her. "What are you guys doing?" "Who is Rodolfo Ball?"

"What does she mean by the ten-karat diamond ring?"

Could it be possible that Rodolfo was Demarion himself?

"Mommy, just wait and see what is about to happen."

Braint smiled and took a sip of his juice.

After a while, Demarion walked into the restaurant in a black suit.

He looked really handsome today. He walked over to Esme and asked, "Hello, miss. I'm sorry to intrude, are you Ms. Bubbles?"

After hanging up the phone, Esme glanced at the child, who wasn't even half of her height. "Who are you?" O

"I'm Rodolfo Ball."

Demarion blinked his eyes and smiled sweetly. "You told me that you didn't mind if I'm younger than you, right?" Esme raised her eyebrows and looked at Demarion contemptuously, "I don't have time to talk to you, kid. Go away!" Based on her conversation with Rodolfo online, he seemed to be a kind and mature man. How could he turn out to be a young child? That was just preposterous! "I'm not lying! I'm Rodolfo Ball!"

Demarion pursed his lips, took out his phone, and sent a message. At the same time, Esme's mobile phone rang, which indicated a message.

Demarion shook the phone proudly and said, "That's me!"

Esme was speechless.

She was looking forward to meeting Rodolfo. How could he turn out to be this brat?

Was she deceived by this child?

Esme was both frustrated and embarrassed at the same time. "You shouldn't be on dating apps at such a young age!"

"How dare you lie to me! I'm sure you'll grow up to become a criminal!"

"Stay away from me!"

As soon as Esme finished speaking, Demarion pouted and sat on the ground. He started sobbing uncontrollably.

"You've broken your promise!"

"I even stole the ten-karat ring for you! My father bought it as a gift for my mother!"

"How dare you go back against your words!"

"You told me that you would take good care of me after receiving my gift!"

"I'm so young, how dare you lie to me!"

"Boohoo!"

Everyone in the restaurant shifted their attention to Demarion once he started crying.

Someone recognized Esme instantly as he said, "Isn't that person Esme Lawson, the daughter of the Lawson family?"

"This is just unbelievable! Did she just ask the child to steal his parents' diamond ring for her? This is a scandal!"

"She's such a shameless woman!"

"Why is she doing that to a child?"

Very quickly, the restaurant patrons started gossiping among themselves.

Some of the customers took out their phones and broadcasted the live event on different social media platforms.

Esme was petrified. She didn't know how to react at all.

Who would've known that Rodolfo, the kind gentleman whom she'd been talking to, to turn out to be a young child? Rodolfo was a rich man with an enormous fortune. Based on all the pictures he sent to her, he was a handsome man who was living in a mansion! Esme thought that she was in luck this time. That was why she promised to meet him in person after they got to know each other for only one day.

After all, Michael had just gone bankrupt and she had lost a significant investor. Right now, she was in urgent need of another business partner.

Esme had even decided to get married to Rodolfo after meeting him.

But, who would have imagined this to happen? "You liar! Get out of my way!"

She glared at Demarion and turned to leave.

Demarion hugged her leg instantly and yelled, "You can't go!"

"Give me back my ring!" "And the money I transferred to you online! You have to give it back to me!"

Esme rolled her eyes. "Why should I return them to you?"

While she was speaking, she kicked Demarion away.

Everyone in the cafe was filled with indignation.

Not only did she dare to deceive such a young child, but she even tried to abuse him!

When she saw Demarion falling to the ground, Eliza's heart went out for him as she shoved the magazine in her hands.

However, Braint held her hand and said, "Calm down, mommy."

Eliza pursed her lips and lowered her voice. "He's your brother, aren't you worried about him?"

Braint paused and turned to look at Eliza with a stern expression. "Do you care about Demarion?"

"Of course!"

Eliza clenched her fists to suppress her anger. "Demarion has never been treated like this at home. She doesn't have the right to kick him like that!"

"Mom, please don't." Braint looked at her face seriously. "Mommy, thank you for caring for Demarion." Eliza felt slightly uncomfortable under Braint's solemn gaze. When Eliza looked at Esme again, the butler had already brought along some policemen with him. "Miss Lawson, someone reported that you tried to swindle money from underage children in an online dating platform. Please come to the police station with me."

After they finished speaking, the two policemen detained Esme.

She struggled violently while screaming, "I didn't do such a thing!"

"I'm not the one who swindled this kid! He's the one who approached me first!"
"Please, I beg of you. You need to help me..."

Demarion was still bawling his eyes out.

The butler held Demarion in his arms with tears streaming down his cheeks. The butler said scornfully, "Demarion is only five years old this year. How could he steal his parents' ring without any form of persuasion?"

Noticing that both of them were crying pitifully, the policeman turned and said, "Miss Lawson, are you seriously accusing the child of committing a crime? If you want to blame someone, you should at least come up with a more logical explanation."

"We'll talk at the police station!"

After that, the police took Esme away.

Carrying Demarion in his arms, the butler followed suit. Eliza was dumbstruck. Braint sighed and jumped down from his chair. He grabbed Eliza's pinky and said, "Mommy, let's go to the police station to get Demarion."

Eliza still couldn't wrap her head around the incident. She came back to her senses and asked, "Did you guys plan all this?" "That's right!"

Braint took her hand and walked out of the door. "But we didn't lie to that woman!"

"Demarion told her that she'll be on the headlines after they met each other."

"But she'll be in the criminal news section instead."