

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

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After the festive holidays, it was time for Damian to start preschool. Although Clarissa was busy with work, the thought that he was going to kindergarten now made her feel melancholic. After all, he would be spending most of his time in school going forward.

On his very first day, she and Matthew brought him there. Matthew had chosen the school despite the fact that the school fees cost a fortune. Hence, Clarissa pretended not to know as her heart would ache every time she thought about how expensive it was.

Meanwhile, they spent the whole morning at the preschool, just in case Damian had any issues settling in.

However, much to Clarissa's disappointment, Damian didn't cry for his parents at all. In fact, he seemed to have forgotten about them.

Given that he had made many friends, he was simply lost in the excitement.

When school ended, he even felt reluctant to leave his friends and promised to come back bearing gifts the next day...

Back at home, the first thing Damian wished for was for the night to end quickly so that he could be back to school the next day.

Consequently, Clarissa felt dejected.

She finally saw how independent he was. In the past, others commented about how reliant

Damian was on her. In truth, she was the one that was dependent on him.

And yet, this is just preschool. What about when he goes to primary school, high school, and then university? When he finds a girlfriend and gets married...

As the images flashed across her mind, Clarissa could feel her heart tighten.

What am I going to do? There is only a three-year gap between the time he was born to his first day of school. I only had his full attention for three years, isn't it just too short?

Feeling upset, she threw herself into Matthew's embrace in search of comfort.

"Hubby, why does having children feel this way? The time he spent with us is just too short.

It makes me really sad..."

Given the mood Clarissa was in, there was no way Matthew could tell her how secretly happy he was.

In truth, children would leave the nest sooner or later, boys especially would do so at a younger age.

Hence, the only one who could stay by her side throughout the years would be her husband.

Unable to speak candidly, Matthew could only convey it in a roundabout manner.

"Clare, children grow up sooner or later, so don't feel sad over it. If they stay by your side forever and don't grow up, then you should be worried instead. All that matters is that he grows up to be a kind person with steadfast principles. That would make you feel proud, wouldn't it?"

Clarissa's silence meant that she implicitly agreed with him.

Matthew seized upon the opportunity to add, "Actually, when our son grows up, he will have his friends, teachers, and classmates by his side. Following that, he would have a girlfriend who would later become his wife. Didn't you go through the same thing? Right now, the only person who will always be with you is me."

Lifting her gaze to look at Matthew thoughtfully, Clarissa was moved by his words.

Tightening her hug, she rubbed her head on his shoulders.

Wrapped in her husband's arms, Clarissa felt as if she had turned into a little girl.

"Uncle Matthew... you cannot leave this world before I do. I will die of loneliness."

Matthew was amused at how the topic took such a grim turn.

He stroked Clarissa's head and promised, "Alright, I'll try my best."

"Your best isn't good enough. You must make it happen."

With a stubborn look on her face, she was so adamant that she almost got Matthew to swear on it.

Matthew nodded at once. "Of course, I will definitely do it. Look, I'm even working out every day. By maintaining my health, I will close the ten-year gap between us. Consequently, I won't die before you do."

"Since you promised, you definitely have to make it happen."

"I definitely will."

Smiling, Matthew leaned in for a gentle kiss. However, Clarissa pushed him away suddenly.

With a stern expression, she scrutinized him. "You can't look too young either. Girls nowadays love rich middle-aged men. If you look young at forty, you will end up being a temptation to them. No, I can't have that. You can work out at home. But in public, you have to look older and uglier, alright?"

Women. They really can be self-contradicting.

No matter how feasible or strange the request was, Matthew knew he had to agree to it no matter what.

"Sure, Clare. I know what to do."

Only then did Clarissa feel relieved. Reaching out her hand, she pinched his cheeks and ears before breaking into a smile.

Turning around, she rode on him as if she was his queen.

"Matthew..."

Clarissa called out his name with a sensual tone. Reaching out a finger, she teased him by brushing it across his chin.

At the same time, Matthew reciprocated with a smile.

“I’m here. Darling, what are you planning to do?”

Clarissa let out a mischievous smile.

“Call me your queen!”

“My queen!”

“Hahaha...”

She couldn’t help but laugh heartily. Dropping the dominatrix act, she lay down on Matthew’s

body and started kissing his cheeks, lips, forehead, nose...

She kissed him everywhere to express the overwhelming affection she had for him.

Holding her waist, Matthew smiled gently and relished in her kisses.

Obviously, he was delighted by her raging passion, especially since she was now in a sober state.

It was a rare occasion for her to behave with such dominance without the influence of alcohol.

Matthew felt as if they had gone back in time to when they first got together. Back then, she

would alternate between being bashful, assertive, alluring, and adorable...

“Hubby... Uncle Matthew... I love you. I love you more than you can imagine...”

Matthew felt his heart tighten. Ah, glorious love!

He didn’t reply. However, Clarissa continued with a sparkle in her eye.

“Hubby, I know that I have many flaws and upset you at times. However, you have always

been patient with me and treated me very well. When I was bullied and ridiculed on the

internet back then, you were the first one who backed me up. I can clearly remember the

impression I had of you then. You were like the knight in shining armor that came to my

rescue. I will never forget it for the rest of my life.”

Feeling nostalgic, she gave Matthew another kiss.

“After all this time, you have always been behind me, providing your unwavering support.

However, I have been too caught up with moving forward that I forgot to stop and appreciate

what you have done. Sometimes, I even resent you and flare my temper at you. Will you

blame me for it? Remember, the last time when I threw my tantrum and you kept admitting your fault...”

Given how he had always acquiesced to her, anyone who was aware of that would definitely

accuse her of being melodramatic.

Matthew shook his head. “Clare, I’m happy to have done what I did as you are the love of my

life. Comforting and submitting to you is the right thing to do. I’m sure you don’t want us

flaring our tempers at each other. To me, loving you also means respecting you.”

Clarissa could feel the warmth from his words permeate her entire being. In his arms,

Clarissa felt like a hot spring had enveloped her whole body.

As his love for her continued to warm her heart, she let herself immerse in it within his

embrace.

“Matthew, what have I done to deserve you?”

When they exchanged smiling glances, Clarissa added, “I know I have many flaws and can

be very stubborn. In fact, I’m sure we still have many conflicts ahead of us. However, you are

my husband, and I will never let you go. Even if you no longer love me, I will hold on tightly to

you. After all, I would be a fool to break up with someone as amazing as you. Therefore,

Matthew, spoil me a little and I will throw fewer tantrums. Even though I may not be perfect,

please stay by my side and grow old with me. When the time comes, we will leave this world

together, alright?”

With his deep voice, Matthew replied with conviction.

“Of course. We will grow old together. Clare...”

Clarissa smiled in innocent satisfaction, just like a kid who had just received candy.

Meanwhile, Matthew sat up and leaned close to her. After kissing her on her dimple, he

moved to kiss her lips.

Happiness is made up of moments like this where the love we have for each other is

everlasting.

The next day, Clarissa was in a jovial mood when she sent Damian off to school.

The moment she opened her eyes in the morning, she saw Matthew’s handsome silhouette

dressed in a sharp black suit.

After receiving a morning kiss from him, she went to wash up and got Damian out of bed for

breakfast.

When they were ready, Matthew drove both of them out. One to school, and the other to

work. Everything was perfect.

When she arrived at her office, her staff were all smiling as they greeted her warmly.

Clarissa thought to herself about how wonderful it was if every day was just as perfect as

today.

Unfortunately, good times never lasted.

Before she even settled down for the day, Yael brought her some grim news.

“Someone impersonated our crew to call for auditions and slept with a few young ladies.

And now, those ladies have banded up and are trying to sue us.”

Clarissa furrowed her eyebrows. “What? This is a scam. Why are they suing us? They should

be suing the scammer instead.”

“No, the scammer is indeed a member of our crew.”

“What?”

Clarissa's heart sank.

"All we know now is that we are being sued. For further details, we will need to investigate further. However, the issue now isn't about whether we are innocent or not. Given that the scammer is a member of our crew, he has caused us significant reputational damage. It will be terrible for our movie to be embroiled in such controversy before filming even started.

Therefore, we need to do some damage control from a public relations standpoint."

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Chapter 382

There was a common unspoken rule among the crew to ask for sexual favors, especially when one was auditioning the public for minor roles. Obviously, casting for major roles had its own set of rules too.

Hence, they were unlucky to have the assistant director taking advantage of young girls before auditioning actually started.

Before the matter blew up, Yael tried to manage the fallout. She had hoped to insulate the crew and the movie from the scandal.

If the news got out, everyone would link the unspoken rule to Clarissa's movie.

Given how important first impressions were, having the movie tainted would greatly affect

the readers' and audiences' perception of Clarissa & Matthew.

Therefore, they tried their best to ensure the filming of the movie would go on as smoothly as possible.

With Yael handling the situation, Clarissa closely monitored the latest developments.

As the group of victims had filed a lawsuit against the crew of Clarissa & Matthew, investigations began accordingly. On one hand, Clarissa had to deal with the lawsuit. On the

other, she had to begin conducting auditions for the cast and promoting the movie.

The moment he heard about it, Ryler was the first to offer himself for a role.

He had returned from overseas to see Clarissa on purpose. Firstly, it was about work.

Secondly, he missed Damian.

In the evening, he was invited to dinner at Zen Highlands.

Matthew wasn't pleased by Ryler's presence. Despite his resentment, he knew he had to

play the role of a gracious host still. Both men chatted a little but were well aware of the

animosity they felt against one another.

"Clare. Have you decided on your male lead?"

Clarissa shook her head. "No, it has been difficult to find one. The ones with the popularity

and acting skills might not want the role. As for the mediocre actors, I feel that they are not

up to the task. Therefore, we are still in the midst of discussing it.

Director Yates has told

me that he would help out."

"In that case, do you think that I'm suitable?"

Clarissa was shocked. To have someone as famous as Ryler act in her movie was

considered overkill.

Nevertheless, he was perfect for the role. He was at the right age, had the right aura, and

had excellent acting skills. The idea had occurred to her early on. She just happened to be

too shy to ask.

However, now that Ryler offered himself, she was pleasantly surprised by it.

"Of course you are. Ry, you are the best. However, isn't it too much to ask of you given how

small the role is? I'm worried that your manager and fans would not agree. After all, this is

just a romance movie, and it's also my directorial debut. If you... end up getting criticized for

it, please don't blame me."

Ryler raised his eyebrows confidently. "I beg to differ. Perhaps, I might even end up saving your movie. Haha... just kidding. Anyway, I'm sure you will do a good job. Besides, don't you have Director Yates as your producer? He will definitely be of great help. Besides, didn't I tell you back then that I'm the best person to play your male lead?" Filled with excitement, Clarissa didn't know what to say to express her gratitude.

All she could do was give Ryler a hug and utter, "Thank you." Meanwhile, Matthew, who was playing with Damian, squinted his eyes at the scene. This isn't good.

When Clarissa caught Matthew's gaze, she instantly knew what was going through his mind.

Restraining her emotions, she released Ryler so as to prevent Matthew's jealousy from brewing further.

Just as expected, Matthew joined them carrying Damian. After placing Damian into Ryler's arms, he sat next to Clarissa and put his arms around her. With an awkward smile, he remarked, "Damian, Uncle Ryler adores you. Hence, you should spend more time with him."

Oblivious that he was being manipulated, Damian hugged Ryler to show his welcome and excitement.

Matthew gave Clarissa a kiss before asking attentively, "You look delighted. What are you talking about?"

However, Clarissa could sense the tension in his tone when she leaned onto him, causing her to mentally roll her eyes at him.

Nevertheless, she knew she had to take his ego into consideration when they were in public.

Feeling amused, she replied, "We are talking about my movie. I'm delighted that Ryler has agreed to be the male lead. With such a famous actor, the battle is half won."

Due to her excitement, Clarissa didn't notice the disapproval on Matthew's face.

"Hehe... is that so? I feel that Ryler may not be suited for the role."

Matthew's objection didn't elicit a response from Ryler. Focused on playing with Damian, he pretended not to have heard his comments.

However, Clarissa conveyed to Matthew a look of displeasure. "Why do you think so? I feel that he fits the bill perfectly. More importantly, he is really popular. At the very least, people would watch my movie just because he's in it."

"Is not that. I feel that the role isn't suitable. He is better placed to act as the supporting actor in the book."

Clarissa was stumped.

"I can't believe how that idea even crossed your mind. If he is the supporting actor, who's going to be the lead? Who would even have the gall?"

Smiling, Matthew tousled Clarissa's hair to reassure her. "The vibe is different. Ryler is too gentle. That's why he isn't suited. The male lead had to be cold and aloof."

Given that Ryler was supposed to play Matthew in the movie, there was indeed a big difference in their dispositions.

However, Ryler protested with a smile. "Matthew, I'm an actor. I can exude any kind of vibe while acting."

Just as both men made eye contact, Clarissa could feel the electrifying tension of the stare-down.

Somehow, something was amiss.

"I feel that this isn't..."

Clarissa interrupted Matthew.

"Enough. I'm the director, the original author, and the screenwriter.

Hence, I have the last

word on this. Since you hardly know anything about movies, you should keep your opinions

to yourself. I am eternally grateful to Ryler for offering to play the role. therefore, you should stop messing around.”

After giving Matthew a nudge, she discussed with Ryler their schedule. When he was about to leave, she even gave him a copy of her novel. Although the publishing firm had given her a few copies, it wasn't officially on sale yet. After Ryler had left, Clarissa tucked Damian in. When she returned to the bedroom, she was greeted by Matthew's upset face. Clarissa was already expecting him to express his displeasure one way or another. Just when Clarissa had the urge to ignore him and leave him to brood, she remembered what she had recently said. Due to her flaws, she had caused him a lot of anguish. Hence, there was no point in giving each other the cold shoulder. Therefore, she had reminded herself that whenever there was a problem, she needn't wait for Matthew to apologize first. Sometimes, she had to make the first move in mending the fence. At that moment, Clarissa experienced a paradigm shift. Breaking into a smile, she walked up to Matthew and hugged his neck from behind. With a gentle and alluring voice, she tried to pacify him. “Hubby, why are you upset? We have to be professional when it comes to movie production. After all, this is a field you aren't familiar with. We have to look at his acting skills and influence objectively. To be honest, no one fits the role better than him...” “Isn't there anyone else other than him?” “There is. But, they aren't interested in this simple movie of mine. Given that this is a romantic movie, it isn't profound enough for them.”

“As long as we pay them enough, someone will come. Just let me know who you want, and

I’ll hire him as your male lead.”

“Don’t. Actually, Ryler is a really good match.”

Matthew grabbed her arm and pulled her in front of him. Pinching her chin, he looked at her

with a tense expression.

“I insist that he isn’t suitable.”

He was resolute in his opinion.

“In that case, you have to give me a reason as I don’t get what you mean.

Explain to me

properly and don’t bring up something ambiguous like the vibe he emits.

His acting skills are

good enough to portray anybody.”

Clarissa insisted that Matthew give her a proper reason.

Narrowing his gaze, a tinge of iciness flashed in Matthew’s eye.

“I think he doesn’t just want to portray me, he wants to be me.”

In truth, there was more to Matthew’s thoughts than he was letting on.

Given that Ryler

couldn’t be with Clarissa in real life, he would still gain satisfaction from portraying Matthew

and getting together with Clarissa’s character. In a way, he had won

Clarissa’s heart still.

Although there were many elements of fiction in the novel, Matthew

was still well aware that

a lot of it was true.

And that was how he saw Ryler. To him, Ryler was relentless in his pursuit of Clarissa, even

if she was just a movie character.

Although Clarissa didn’t really understand what he meant, she could smell his jealousy a

mile away.

Maintaining her patience, she let out a gentle smile as she stroked Matthew’s face. “Hubby,

you’re making too much out of it. The movie is just based on a novel. In real life, I’m still

yours even if you insist the novel is true. Besides, it’s the same for the male and female

leads in the story too. So, please don't overcomplicate things, alright?"

"You're the one that's oversimplifying it."

At the back of his mind, Matthew began to rack his brains. Since Clarissa insisted that Ryler

played the male lead, he had to use a different tactic to have Ryler replaced.

All I need is a famous actor, right?

Ryler can't be the only one. I'm sure I can find someone more suitable than him.