

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

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As soon as Matthew returned home, Clarissa rushed over and firmly wrapped her arms around his waist as if she had been longing for his return. She started weeping in an aggrieved manner and reprimanded Hilary, "She's such a shameless woman! In order to achieve her goals, she's willing to do anything and everything!"

It had been such a long time since Clarissa last behaved in such an aggrieved manner in front of him. To be precise, it had been a long time since the last time someone picked on her.

She couldn't do anything to sever ties with Hilary as she had to take Catherine's wellbeing into consideration.

Although Clarissa was fine with tolerating Hilary's absurd request, Matthew was heartbroken because of the things his beloved wife had to go through.

In an attempt to console her, he held her firmly in between his arms and caressed her back in a gentle manner. He was determined to teach those who had gotten on his wife's nerves a lesson.

Out of the blue, he lifted Clarissa and brought her to the couch. He had her nestling in between his arms and continued caressing her back to calm her down.

A short while later, he leaned over and kissed her on the lips as he was aware she needed a way to take things out.

"Calm down and listen to me, okay? I'll teach her a lesson on your behalf! Just leave the rest to me and forget about it!"

Clarissa looked at Matthew in the eyes with her eyes brimming.

Irked, she stammered as she couldn't even catch her breath,
"S-She's such a shameless
woman! I-I can't believe she's threatening me with Grandma!
S-She's currently at W
City—"

"You need to calm down." Matthew interrupted his weeping
wife and handed her a glass
of water.

Once she finished the glass of water, he wiped her tears dry and
caressed her back.

He assured, "Just take your time to gather your thoughts. I'll
always be here for you!

Nothing can possibly get in our way! Have faith in me, okay?"

It was then Clarissa took a deep breath to gather her thoughts
as instructed.

She finally regained her composure with Matthew next to her. A
few seconds later, she

told him Hilary's plan, "She has made her way to W City and
barged into Grandma's

place! It turns out she has also figured out I'm aware she's not
my biological mother!

Hilary wouldn't stop provoking Grandma as she was certain I
would do anything to keep

Grandma in the dark! To be honest, Grandma only gets to spend
another few years with

us! I want her to spend her last few years in joy! I can't afford to
let anyone provoke her!"

Matthew nodded as Clarissa had indicated her will to give in to
Hilary's demand for

Catherine's sake. He asserted, "If that's the case, we'll proceed
with Grandma's sake in

mind. No matter what, we need to keep Hilary in check for the
time being and ensure

she's going to keep the secret safe."

"Mmm! To be honest, I'm afraid of doing anything rash!

Otherwise, she might break the

news to Grandma if she's offended!"

Things couldn't possibly get any worse. Initially, Hilary was the
one who should be afraid

since she was the one at fault.

However, Clarissa was afraid Catherine wouldn't be able to
handle the harsh truth

awaiting her. Hence, she ended up being the one suffering.

On the other hand, Hilary was thrilled as things had just taken a drastic turn of events for the better.

Catherine was Hilary's only chip of bargain she could rely on to gain a fortune. Thus, she secretly prayed for Catherine's wellbeing.

"You don't have to worry. I'm sure Hilary has the same thing in mind and will refrain from trying anything reckless since Grandma is the only one she can make use of."

"What am I supposed to do next, Matthew?"

Clarissa's mind was all over the place. She had a hard time figuring out her next best course of action.

"Hilary is merely coming after you to get her hands on a fortune. We'll just give it to her when the time comes. She's also filing for divorce with Zach. I'm pretty sure she's going after his fortune as well. Let's do her a favor and get her the best attorney to assist her in achieving her goals. You need to stop overthinking things over some trivial issues.

We'll keep her in check for the time being and figure out the proper way to deal with her soon."

Clarissa listened to Matthew's suggestion and said, "Mmm! I'll get in touch with her as soon as possible!"

"She's going to get in touch with you when the time comes. As for now, there's no way she's going to tell Grandma anything."

Concerned, Clarissa asked, "Are you serious?"

"Just have faith in me and everything will be fine!"

Clarissa snuggled in between his arms. She was just glad to have him next to her when she needed someone the most.

Clarissa grasped his hand and expressed her gratitude in a mellifluous tone, "Matthew, thank you so much for being around!"

“Isn’t it natural for me to keep you safe from those who try to bring upon your misfortune?”

“Mmm! Thank you so much!”

“Do I get a kiss in return?”

Clarissa hesitated no more when she heard him. Staring at him in the eyes, she kissed him on the lips.

Her husband brought up something else and requested, “How about a smile?”

As she beamed in satisfaction, the intrigued man couldn’t suppress the urge to kiss her once again.

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Hilary had a great time in W City. She indulged herself in her favorite pastime—shopping.

Although her favorite brands weren’t around, she had a great time splurging.

As Clarissa had yet to get in touch with her since their last conversation, she got increasingly anxious.

Hilary had been keeping an eye on the netizens’ comments. Unfortunately, there was nothing else apart from Clarissa’s last update to press charges against her. The netizens wouldn’t stop analyzing the videos and shared their speculations with the rest on the internet.

I can’t believe she’s able to keep her composure in spite of the ongoing uproar!

Unable to keep her cool anymore, she took the initiative and got in touch with Clarissa.

Meanwhile, Clarissa had learned to keep her composure after spending a few days gathering her thoughts. No longer would she lose her cool just because of Hilary’s provocative statements.

On top of that, she had gotten in touch with Catherine and asked her to join them at D City or have a short getaway at her friend’s place to stay away from Hilary.

Hilary wasn't able to irritate Catherine anymore since Catherine had taken Clarissa's advice and made her way to her friend's place.

Clarissa carried on with the conversation in a calm and collected manner. She said,

"Have you enjoyed yourself over the past few days?"

Hilary asked with her brows furrowed, "Is that any of your business? Are you going to forsake your grandmother or what?"

"Why don't you stop asking the obvious when you're trying to force me into submission with her wellbeing?"

Hilary chuckled and asked, "It turns out you still care about her, huh? I'm glad her

beloved granddaughter isn't going to forsake her just yet. If you're going to forsake her,

I'll just do you a favor and tell her you're not a member of the Quigleys. Maybe she'll feel better."

As Clarissa went dead silent, Hilary burst out laughing once again.

"It turns out you're really aware of the truth! It doesn't really matter because it's only

making my life easier! Since you're aware of the things going on, I don't have to keep you

in the dark anymore! You're not my daughter—you're just an abandoned baby I have

picked up from the streets!"

Hilary started blurting out all sorts of nonsense as she had nothing to lose.

Meanwhile, Clarissa asked with a frown, "Are you done with your nonsense yet?"

"What do you mean by nonsense when I'm telling you the truth? I'm not aware of your

parents' identity since I found you in the middle of a pile of trash. After sending my child

away, I was afraid your so-called father would reprimand me for being such a selfish

woman. Therefore, I brought you home with me. Maybe you were abandoned by

someone who had given birth at the hospital. It might have been the doing of an irresponsible young couple. Well, I guess we'll never find out." Hilary went on and on and made up all sorts of things to deceive Clarissa. She seemed to be having a great time making fun of Clarissa. "Well, it's undeniable you're gorgeous, but you're just a jinx like your grandmother. She was the one who had brought upon your so-called father's demise. If you want to keep Matthew and your son safe, you need to watch out and stay away—"

In an attempt to warn Hilary to mind her words, Clarissa yelled, "Hilary!"

Hilary knew Clarissa was infuriated for real. That was precisely her goal as she couldn't stand Clarissa getting full of herself anymore.

"What? I'm just trying to give you a heads-up! It's not much of a pleasant conversation, but—"

"If you still want our help and the fortune you're coming after, keep that filthy mouth of yours shut tight."

Hilary's lips twitched against her will when she heard Clarissa's warning. She asserted,

"We'll just forget about it then! Speaking of which, since you have figured out the things I'm coming after, when are you going to hand it over to me? It's not much of a challenge for you, isn't it?"

"I'll compensate you for your time over the years and get you an attorney, but we can't guarantee your triumph against your husband."

"You need to ensure I'll get the things I'm seeking! Over the years as Mrs. Garrett, I had no choice but to brace myself through all sorts of humiliation! I'm just trying to get my hands on the things I deserve! It's a challenge to gain ownership over the company, but it's not much of a challenge to gain ownership over the shares of the company, isn't it?"

"Talk to the attorney because I don't understand you at all. Also, we'll only talk about the

amount of compensation once you're back."

"Alright, I'm on my way back!"

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Hilary then made her way back to D City immediately after she hung up the call with

Clarissa.

The moment she returned, someone showed up and brought her to another place.

Hilary was intimidated as the two buff-looking men next to her remained silent

throughout their way to a certain somewhere.

Her mind was all over the place until she made her way into a room and saw Clarissa

sitting on the couch.

When she ensured her life wasn't at stake, she heaved a sigh of relief and started yelling

at Clarissa, "Are you trying to give me the shock of my life?

Have you sent them to

intimidate me?"

Clarissa glared at her in the eyes and answered in a callous tone,

"Why haven't I thought

of taking you out when you're on the way here?"

"Are you trying to pull my leg? Aren't you afraid of karma?"

"I'm pretty sure karma will gets to you before it gets to me."

"Y-You—" Hilary was about to throw another tantrum, but

Clarissa got ahead of her and

interrupted the infuriated woman in front of her.

She asked, "Shall we talk about the amount of compensation or not? If you want to get

the things you're here for, just shut up and listen!"

Hilary was reluctant to give in, but she had to take a seat as

instructed.

She put her bag aside and carried on with her chest held high.

"Alright, let's begin! The first thing I need from you is monetary compensation for my

hard work over the years! On top of that, I need you to clarify

the ongoing issues since

the netizens are still waiting for my clarification! Just announce we have patched things up!"

"That's impossible!" Clarissa turned Hilary down without a second thought.

"Oh? If that's the case, forget about it! Since we can't see eye to eye, I think that's the end of our conversation!"

Hilary got up from her seat and was about to leave.

Afraid Hilary would try something reckless after the failed negotiation, Clarissa yelled,

"Hold it right there!"

Her so-called mother turned around and yelled at her in return, "I'm still your mom! You

better keep that in mind and show some respect instead of yelling at me in the face! I'll

drag that old hag to hell if you don't stop getting on my nerves!

Since you're trying to ruin

my life, I'll go ahead and ruin everyone else's life as well!"

Clarissa glared at Hilary in the eyes—she couldn't afford to put Catherine at stake.

Meanwhile, Hilary, who had nothing to lose, sneered and asked, "Is that a deal?"

"Yes."

"You shouldn't have turned me down in the first place!"

After Hilary returned to her seat, she said, "You need to ensure everyone is aware we

have patched things up."

That was the only thing that could tarnish Clarissa's image since that might invalidate

her statements when she had announced she would press charges against Hilary.

Others would hold her accountable should she announce they had patched things up

over the night without much explanation.

If Hilary were to take advantage of Clarissa's announcement and bring everything to an

end, others would definitely think Clarissa was the one at fault.

Even if it's going to tarnish my image, I guess I'm not really in a position to turn her

down, huh?

"Speaking of the compensation amount, I'm not that much of a greedy woman. Just five million per annum will do. You spend more than that as Mrs. Tyson, don't you?"

Clarissa had long foreseen Hilary demanding more than she would ever need. However, the amount Hilary brought up was absurd.

"Half a million per annum!"

"Huh? Stop wasting my time, Clarissa! You're the almighty Mrs. Tyson of Tyson

Corporation! I'm sure your monthly allowance is more than half a million, isn't it? I won't accept anything less than five million!"

Hilary showed no signs of tolerating at all. Although Clarissa had come prepared, she wasn't about to give in just yet.

"A million!"

"Nothing less than five million!"

"Two million!"

"I won't repeat myself for another time! Nothing less than—"

"Why don't you go ahead and tell Grandma? You don't think I'm a freaking cash

generator, do you? I'm Mrs. Tyson, but I don't have authority over Matthew's personal

asset! I don't even have that much for myself! The most I can offer is two million! If you

want anything more than that, just forget about it and tell Grandma the truth!"

The doubtful Hilary looked at Clarissa with her brows arched. When she caught a

glimpse of Clarissa's stern look, she reluctantly announced,

"Three million! I'll accept nothing less than three million!"

"Alright! Here's the contact number of the attorney representing Tyson Corporation! Just

get in touch with him, and he'll take over everything from there."

"Are you sure he's capable of defending me?"

"If you're having your doubts, feel free to forget about it."

"Well, I guess I'll have faith in my beloved daughter! Clare, shall we forget about

everything and move on? Jonathan has always been fond of you! Once he grows up, we'll get him to be a member of Tyson Corporation! If that's the case, you won't have to rely on Matthew anymore! Don't you think that's a great idea? I was the one at fault for neglecting you back in the day, but I'll take you seriously in the future! Also, I'll stop causing you any more trouble!"

The shameless Hilary had the audacity to bring up the absurd suggestion with a bright grin, but Clarissa would never take her suggestion into consideration.

Sneering, Clarissa asked, "Are you sure that's possible?" She then brought herself up in an attempt to leave the shameless woman behind. It was then Hilary stopped her and demanded, "Huh? Where are you going? Give me my money!"

When the one behind Clarissa handed her a check, she couldn't stop herself from grinning as the only thing she cared about was the agreed-upon sum.

Never had she ever gained such a huge fortune over the night throughout her life.

Hilary was thrilled by the presence of the check. The only thing she had in mind was to make a trip to the bank and get the check cashed as soon as possible.

On the other hand, once Clarissa made her way out of the venue, Matthew's car pulled over at the entrance.

Surprised by his presence, she asked, "What are you doing here?"

He held her hand and asserted, "I have dropped by to check on you because I'm worried.

How's it going?"

Sighing, Clarissa announced, "It's more or less the same as we have imagined."

Overwhelmed by the pent-up fatigue, she nestled in between his arms in silence.

Matthew ran his fingers through her hair and kissed her on the cheek to console the exhausted woman.

"I'm sure she's going to behave herself for the time being since she has gotten her

hands on the things she desires the most. Just tend to the things you have in mind and allow me to take over from now onwards."

"I wish to leave her alone, but she remains a nightmare of mine as long as she's around.

I'm afraid—"

Matthew interrupted and assured her, "It's going to be fine."

Clarissa secretly hoped things would turn out just fine as Matthew had assured her. She

just couldn't wait to sever ties with Hilary.

Her mind was all over the place in spite of being next to Matthew. The thought of Hilary

provoking Catherine wouldn't stop haunting Clarissa.

In order to cheer herself up, she ran her fingers across Matthew's chest and asked,

"Haven't you been casting others for the role of male protagonist behind my back?

How's it going?"

Matthew chuckled and queried, "Clare, are you aware of the things going on all along?"

She raised her head and looked at him. "Have I hit the bullseye? Are you seriously

casting others for the role of the male protagonist?"

The question was nothing more than a trick question. To her surprise, she was spot on for once.

Matthew pinched her on the cheek and reprimanded, "You're such a cheeky woman!"

"It's because I'm certain you won't want Ryler to be involved in my upcoming movie.

Since he's going to play your role in the movie, there's no way my petty husband will

allow that. Have you stopped casting because you're afraid I'm going to be upset after

all the things that have occurred over the past few weeks?"

Matthew nodded and acknowledged Clarissa's speculation.

"I'm just afraid of getting on my wife's nerves!"
His wife found him hilarious and rolled her eyes in return.
"Can you stop getting jealous over such a trivial matter? I'm also afraid of getting on your nerves since this is a gift for you! If you don't really appreciate the actor playing the role of the male protagonist, things are going to be so odd! Actually, it's nothing more than a fictional plot! Ry is just a close friend of mine! You need to keep that in mind!"
Matthew was well aware of the things Clarissa had brought up. He no longer deemed Ryler a love rival, but he couldn't get used to Ryler being anywhere near Clarissa.
Actually, Ryler is the pitiable one—he has to withstand us being lovey-dovey in front of him. There's nothing else he can do to stop us since he considers himself a close friend of Clarissa.
As Matthew thought to himself, he made up his mind to stop getting worked up over such a trivial matter since it was just another movie.
Well, it's nothing more than a fictional story! I guess I'll just turn a blind eye to it for once!

After spending a few seconds to persuade himself, he felt a sense of relief.
Clarissa was the only one he cared about. Therefore, he said, **"It's fine! At the end of the day, you're still my wife!"**
Matthew responded with an amorous kiss as he thought Ryler would no longer be a threat. There was no way he would get his hands on Clarissa for the rest of his life.

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In the meantime, the moment Hilary got her hands on the fortune she had been seeking, she got in touch with Shermaine to share the good news with her daughter.
"Although three million per annum isn't much, it's more than enough to irk Clarissa! On

top of that, she has given in to all my requests! Shermaine, I get to live a carefree life thanks to you and your brilliant plan! I should've thought of this years ago! How foolish have I been throughout the years to leave them alone? Had I allowed her to get married to Matthew three years ago, I'm a freaking billionaire by now!" Thrilled, Hilary wondered if something was wrong with her back in the day. Had she been slightly more open-minded, she would have long lived the sort of carefree lifestyle she sought.

Shermaine scowled at Hilary's reply.

Three years ago? I guess she's willing to do anything, including betraying her daughter to acquire the fortune she seeks, huh?

She kept her thoughts to herself and instructed, "You need to stop getting full of yourself and save up as much as possible. Otherwise, you won't get a single cent if Mrs. Quigley is no longer around."

"Oh, God! What if that old hag falls down and makes an express trip to hell tomorrow?

Shermaine, you need to do me a favor! What am I supposed to do next?"

"Clarissa is the only one who possesses the things you're seeking for. There's nothing much I can do to help you."

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She's right! Clarissa, who's a renowned screenwriter and the wife of a tycoon, possesses

the fortune I need to achieve the carefree lifestyle I seek! In other words, she's the only one I can rely on!

There's nothing much she can do to sever ties with me for the time being since she's

such a filial granddaughter! However, what am I supposed to do if I can't threaten her

using that old hag in the future?

What if she comes after me without holding back once the old hag passes on? Isn't it a matter of time until the day my life is a mess again? When Hilary lost herself in a train of thoughts, Shermaine added, "Can't you think of something else apart from trying to coerce her into submission? You need to establish some sort of relationship with Clarissa." "Are you serious? Aren't you aware of the grudges she's holding against me?" "She's holding a grudge against you but not your son, isn't she?" Hilary finally snapped out of bewilderment and exclaimed, "You're right! She will never leave Jonathan alone if he needs her!" "See? Just leverage on the relationship she has with your son." "You're right, Shermaine!"

Shermaine is spot on once again! There's no way Clarissa will leave her beloved brother alone! She'll definitely take care of Jonathan in spite of the grudges she holds against me! I have such wonderful children! They're actually contributing to my ambitious goal of living a carefree life one way or another! Only a mere few were involved in the saga of Hilary and Clarissa. Apart from the onlookers, the only ones concerned about the progress of the incident were a pair of husband and wife. "How are we supposed to get our money from Hilary if she's no longer affiliated with her daughter and her husband?" Judy was concerned about their son's future as she thought of acquiring the fees he needed to further his education from Hilary. She thought those involved might have figured out the things going on since Clarissa no longer seemed to deem Hilary her mother. Concerned, Judy asked her husband, "What if they have figured out the truth? If that's

the case, we won't get another cent from them in the future!
What are we supposed to do?"

"Stop overthinking things and freaking yourself out! Since we're running out of cash, it's almost time to get in touch with Hilary and figure out the things going on!"

"Is she going to come after us if she no longer needs us to keep her secret safe?"

Judy got increasingly uneasy as she was afraid Hilary would take them out after repetitively threatening her with the same thing throughout the years.

Her husband reassured her, "Why are you afraid of someone who does not have a backing? She's not even on good terms with her husband and her daughter anymore!

Who else is going to defend her? There's no way she's able to defeat us if it comes to a fight! We'll just see how it goes!"

As soon as the call got through, they carried on with the conversation in speaker mode.

Hilary, who was on the other end of the call, reprimanded the shameless duo without holding back.

The shameless duo was upset as they could no longer acquire any money from Hilary since someone had let the cat out of the bag.

Judy, who thought they would get to live a carefree life for the rest of their lives with

Hilary's secret, started wailing when she figured out the truth.

"Why are you crying when we can try our luck with Ms.

Smallwood? Since she has

returned to the Smallwoods, I'm sure she's having the best time of her life again! Maybe

the Smallwoods aren't aware of the truth just yet! We'll just get in touch with her and see

if we can get anything from her! Hurry up and get in touch with her!"

When Judy heard her husband's suggestion, she stopped wailing as that was a great

alternative.

Thus, she regained her composure and got in touch with Shermaine as her husband suggested.

Meanwhile, Shermaine seemed to be anticipating the call from the shameless duo ever since a long time ago.

She told them it wouldn't be necessary for them to meet in person and agreed to give them a fortune as requested. Judy and her husband were on cloud nine since

Shermaine didn't even hesitate and transferred the requested sum within a few minutes.

"See? I'm sure she's afraid we're going to expose her dirty little secrets! Hilary isn't of much use, but not her smart daughter! Judging by her response, it's safe to assume the

Smallwoods aren't aware of the truth just yet!"

As much as they were thrilled, Judy's husband had his fair share of doubts.

He asked, "Have we missed anything? Don't you think we're getting the things we seek way too easily? Is it possible for Hilary's daughter to keep everyone in the dark when Hilary has been exposed?"

"Well, she's either doing a great job keeping her secrets safe, or she's doing a great job keeping the Smallwoods happy! Maybe they have made up their mind to accept her as a member of the family! After all, they had spent the past two decades together! They're not going to abandon her over the night just because she's not their daughter."

"If that's the case, why has she given us such a huge fortune? Don't you think something fishy is going on?"

Judy felt uneasy when she heard her husband's analysis.

However, she thought it wouldn't be a big deal as they could always flee if anything were to happen.

After much considerations, they made up their minds to flee D City with the fortune they had acquired over the night. They thought they would be safe as soon as they returned to W City as Shermaine might not go to the hassle of pursuing them.

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A few days after Hilary got her hands on the fortune, she met the attorney of Tyson Corporation in person to talk about her divorce from Zach. The attorney told her there was nothing they could do to acquire the ownership over the company due to the agreement Zach had with his ex-spouse. However, they could try to get him to compensate her for her loss.

"Huh? The ownership of the company is the only thing I'm going after! What about my son? Can't we do anything about it with his identity as the legal heir of the company?"

"To begin with, your husband was never the owner of the company. He's merely managing the company on behalf of others. In other words, it's impossible since Yvonne is the sole heiress of the company."

"Huh? If that's the case, why am I wasting my time with you and your bunch of good-for-nothings?"

Hilary started reprimanding the attorney of Tyson Corporation. Although the attorney's frustration was written all over his face, he kept his emotions to himself and continued discussing their next best course of action.

Stop getting so cocky in front of us! If it weren't because of Mr. Tyson's instructions, we would have long left!

At the end of the session, Hilary thought the attorney couldn't be of much help. Hence, she made up her mind to confront Zach instead of relying on others.

At first, Hilary was intimidated by Zach as he warned and cussed her for the things she had done. However, when she recalled she had the backing of Tyson Corporation, she thought Zach wasn't much of a threat.

She yelled at him in return and warned him, "Zach, I'll forgive you for being mean towards me throughout the years! I'll also forgive you for neglecting our son, but at the very least, I need to ensure you're not forsaking his sake for your daughter! As long as you transfer the shares that belong to you to our son, I'll let you off the hook!"

"In your dreams!"

"You need to stop pushing your luck! You don't think I'm not aware of the filthy things you have done back in the day, do you? I'm conscious of the things you have done over the years, especially the casualties of that particular project a few years ago!"

"H-How did you figure that out? Ha! It turns out you have been plotting against me behind my back, huh?"

"Well, your secrets will remain safe with me as long you take our son's future into consideration. Unfortunately, you have been deceiving me over the past decade. Up until now, you're still trying to lure me into another trap. Zach, you better take my warning seriously if you don't wish to spend the rest of your life behind bars!"

Hilary started panting heavily immediately after she hung up the call. She caressed her chest in an attempt to calm herself.

A few minutes after she regained her composure, she burst out laughing hysterically as she couldn't contain her joy anymore.

It was the first time in her life she had the sweet taste of victory. In fact, she couldn't believe she had the chance to ruin Zach and Clarissa's lives.

On the other hand, Clarissa was against the idea of announcing she had patched things up with Hilary. She thought she would drag it on for as long as possible.

Similarly, Hilary, who was thrilled by the presence of the fortune she had acquired, couldn't be bothered by the netizens' comments anymore. As Hilary stopped bothering Clarissa, Clarissa completely forgot about it as she had better things to do.

Immediately after the novel was launched, the production for the movie based on Clarissa & Matthew would soon take place.

After the uproar Hilary had caused, Clarissa merely had a few journalists over to officiate the production of the movie. She wasn't there on the day of the press conference. The rest of the production crew had conducted the press conference on her behalf.

A few fearless journalists tried to poke their nose into Clarissa's lawsuit against Hilary, but they were forced to focus on Ryler and Roxanne since Clarissa was nowhere to be seen.

Roxanne was a rookie in the industry. Her manager had published a series of her photos to ride the wave of success. Meanwhile, as the male protagonist, others wondered if Ryler could successfully portray Matthew's indifferent image.

Clarissa kept everything regarding the production confidential. It would be impossible to keep everything from the public, but the crew involved in the production had signed a non-disclosure agreement.

It was an attempt to keep their progress confidential and Clarissa safe. After all, nothing could intrigue the paparazzi more than Clarissa's news. The only great news Clarissa had was the outstanding achievement of the published

novel. It received a lot of positive remarks from the readers, especially amongst females. They wouldn't stop sharing their feedback with her. Most of them mentioned they couldn't wait for the movie. Clarissa, who had been through all sorts of ups and downs over the past few weeks, felt as if a heavy boulder was lifted off her shoulders. She hoped things would progress as planned soon.

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Roxanne was glad she had the chance to work with such a renowned actor for her screen debut.

She was on pins and needles throughout the production as she would frequently run into her idol, Clarissa, as well as the bigshot of the industry, Ryler.

The production crew couldn't get used to it whenever they caught a glimpse of Roxanne losing herself in a train of thoughts around Clarissa and Ryler.

She seemed to be more

of a fan instead of the female protagonist of the movie.

However, they were well aware of the reason behind her odd behavior. After all, they had

long gotten used to Ryler being hailed the inspirational model of those from the industry.

With that being said, they couldn't get used to Roxanne adoring Clarissa in a similar manner.

When Clarissa looked at the screen of the camera, she caught Roxanne staring at her in an affectionate manner again.

She chuckled and teased, "Roxanne, if you don't stop looking at me in that manner, I'm

going to think you're having a crush on me or something."

The moment Roxanne snapped out of bewilderment, she flushed and responded with a sheepish grin.

“Great! You need to remember your current feelings and flush in a similar manner for the upcoming scene we’re producing!”

Ryler, who happened to be around, remarked, “She doesn’t really blush when she’s around me. Maybe we’ll get you to shoot the upcoming scene with her since you’re able to get her to blush.”

“Hahahaha!”

One of the production crew burst out laughing and teased, “Mrs. Tyson, can a guy resist your charm when not even a woman can?”

Clarissa was equally speechless, but Roxanne was the most embarrassed one as she was the center of everyone’s attention.

Unable to withstand the embarrassment she felt, she turned around and fled the scene.

Shaking her head, Clarissa looked at Ryler and reprimanded him, “Can you stop teasing our female lead?”

On the other hand, Ryler seemed to be having the best time of his life making fun of

Roxanne. Staring at her departing figure, he was delighted.

In spite of his mischievous character, he knew he had to take his work seriously and

executed the role of an indifferent man perfectly when the camera started rolling.

That was also the case for Roxanne who had fled the scene out of embarrassment. She

was immersed in the role of her character and had a hard time gathering her thoughts even after the shoot.

As a result, she ended up looking at him with an intimate look even after the shoot.

Whenever she returned to her senses, she would flush in embarrassment the moment she noticed her odd behavior.

Occasionally, she would visit Clarissa in person and ask for her feedback as well as the

proper way to portray her role. After consulting others for their advice, she had

unofficially become everyone's sweetheart on set. Since it was a movie with a romantic comedy genre, things were relatively casual on set.

Therefore, Clarissa had a great time being around the production crew.

Matthew was the only one who would get on her nerves as he wouldn't stop asserting dominance over her in front of others whenever he showed up on set. Since they had

most of the scenes produced at D City, he had shown up unannounced out of nowhere

and taken her by surprise for more than once.

Clarissa couldn't get used to being lovey-dovey with Matthew in front of the production

crew. Unfortunately, the man had a great time displaying the sort of affection he had for her in front of others.

Matthew would take a seat next to Clarissa whenever she gathered Ryler and Roxanne

to join her for a round of discussion for their upcoming scenes.

He had his eyes glued to her throughout their discussion.

All while running his fingers through her unkempt hair, he would confess the affection he

had for her as if no one was around them, "Clare, your hair is in a mess, but it doesn't

matter because you're the apple of my eyes."

He would lean over and kiss her on the forehead. Once he was done, he would walk

away as though it wasn't a big deal and had his eyes glued to his phone again.

Tsk!

As Clarissa flushed in embarrassment in front of others, the ladies nearby would start exclaiming.

"Wow! Mr. Tyson is such a lovely husband!"

"Oh, God! Can I get myself such a domineering better half as well?"

"How I wish I'm Mrs. Tyson!"

"They're so lovely!"

Clarissa couldn't stand the remarks coming from the production crew anymore.

However, Matthew wouldn't stop himself from asserting dominance over her.

Apart from running his fingers through her unkempt hair and kissing her out of the blue, he would show up next to her to keep her warm when there was nothing more than a gentle breeze.

Those on set found Matthew's actions cringeworthy when those were nothing more than acts of concern.

He was well aware he would steal the limelight whenever he showed up on set.

Nevertheless, he showed no signs of keeping the affection he had for Clarissa to himself.

As much as Clarissa found his presence a nuisance for the production crew, she actually enjoyed having him around.

In the end, she made up her mind to reciprocate his affection and allowed him to do the things he had in mind without getting in his way for once.

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After another long day on set, she found out it was quite a hassle to be the director of a movie as she had to take everything into consideration. As a perfectionist, she spent most of her time dealing with her internal struggles. Most of the time, she had to work

until late at night to get the perfect shot. That was the complete opposite of the job she had in mind where she could get to sleep whenever she wanted to.

It had been such a long time since she last spent some quality time with her son. As soon as she wrapped up the things on set, she made her way back with Matthew to keep their son company.

Once she joined Matthew in the car, she fell into a deep slumber after a few minutes on

their way home.

Matthew turned around and found out the woman in deep sleep had a relatively pale and haggard look when it was merely a few days since the commencement of production.

He was heartbroken and started caressing her hair in a gentle manner. Instead of stopping her, he had no choice but to support her and play the role of an encouraging husband.

This is the first and the last time I'm allowing her to get things her way! If she brings up a similar request to get herself involved in something hectic in the future, I'm going to turn her down!

Clarissa ended up sleeping throughout their way back to Zen Highlands. Once they reached Zen Highlands, Matthew carried her and brought her into the living room.

Damian sprinted over and was about to yell when he saw them, but Matthew stopped him from rousing Clarissa from sleep.

It was then Damian brought himself to an abrupt halt and made his way upstairs with his parents.

He finally broke the silence and asked in a mellifluous tone after Matthew tucked

Clarissa in, "Daddy, is Mommy exhausted?"

"Mmm! Shall we leave her alone for the time being? I'll keep you company and play your favorite toys with you!"

"Okay!"

On their way down the stairs, Damian said, "Daddy, my teacher has complimented me again! In fact, she has complimented me more than once! When will I get to share my achievement with Mommy?"

"Are you serious? How many times has your teacher complimented you?"

The little boy started counting along on his fingers and announced with his chest held high, "At least six times!"
"Once Mommy's awake, we'll share the great news with her! Actually, we need to punish her for missing out on the great news!"
Damian couldn't suppress his excitement anymore. He asked, "What are we going to do?"
"We'll get her to spend a day at home with us! What do you think?"
"That sounds like a great idea!"
Damian couldn't recall the last time Clarissa joined him for a meal or read him a bedtime story anymore. Over the past few weeks, Matthew was the one who would keep him company.
Although he was aware his mother had a lot of things to deal with on her end, he couldn't stop himself from being overwhelmed by a sense of despair.
Matthew told Damian to show Clarissa his support as she would be able to keep him company again after a few hectic months.
The little boy had been keeping Matthew's words in mind, but he couldn't help feeling excited when he figured out he would soon get to spend a day with his mother.
By the time Clarissa roused from her sleep, a brand new day had begun.

The chauffeur and nanny had brought Damian to school. Matthew told her their son was upset as he couldn't even get to meet her in person when she was home.
Sighing, guilt was written all over Clarissa's scrunched-up face. The heartbroken woman then announced, "I'm afraid of letting Damian down again! I don't think I can take it anymore!"
Matthew wasn't particularly surprised. Instead, he was slightly thrilled by her

announcement. He suggested with a grin, "Why don't you get others to take over with the production? Since you're the one handling the script, I'm sure it's going to turn out just fine! If that's the case, we'll finally get to spend some time together! It's time to bring Damian abroad for a trip with us!" Staring at Matthew in the eyes, Clarissa went dead silent. In return, Matthew asked with his brows furrowed, "What's wrong? Are you against the idea or something?" She announced with her lips pursed in an aggrieved manner, "I'm not really going to give up just yet, okay? Can't you say something to keep me motivated?" Chuckling, he asserted, "Actually, I'm just trying to pull your leg. Go ahead and try your best in the upcoming few months. I don't want you to spend the rest of your life in regrets. I'm sure Damian won't blame you for pursuing your dream. Just take all the time you need. We'll always be here for you." Clarissa would be overwhelmed had Matthew brought that up instead of pulling her leg in the first place. As of then, Clarissa couldn't be bothered anymore as he didn't even sound sincere. She responded with her lips twitching involuntarily.

Clarissa, who was in the middle of her meal, gulped everything down after taking a peek at the time. She had no intention to keep the conversation with Matthew going on because it was about time to leave. However, Matthew got ahead of her and grasped her on the wrist. Clarissa turned around and asked, "What do you want? I'm actually in a hurry! I'll really appreciate it if you can do me a favor and let me go!" "Can you spare me another few minutes and listen to me?" "What is it? Hurry up and—"

Irked, Clarissa reached for her phone and drafted a text for the assistant director, instructing him to get everything ready as she might be late. All of a sudden, she felt a racking sensation coming from her lips as he held her in between his arms and lifted her chin against her will, biting her lips with all his might.

When he caught her shrieking, he announced, "As busy as you might be, don't you think it's equally important to take your husband's needs and wants into consideration?"

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What sort of needs and wants is he talking about?

The things related to the production of the movie were the only things Clarissa had in mind. Therefore, she couldn't fathom the thing Matthew had brought up.

She asked in return, "What sort of needs and wants are you talking about?"

He then inched over and ensured she could feel the throbbing in between his legs.

Immediately after she felt him, she flushed in silence.

Unfortunately, he got increasingly aroused the more she retaliated against him.

Clarissa stopped retaliating and stayed still in between his arms.

She asked, "Are you sure this is the time and place for that when it's time for us to start our day and tend to the things we have on our schedules?"

Afraid of offending him for real, she was extremely mindful of her choice of words and

tried to negotiate with him. Otherwise, he might ignore everything else and let loose of himself.

On the other hand, Matthew leaned over and licked her ear. He then chuckled and asked,

"What's wrong? Are you afraid I'm going to devour you?"

"H-Huh? N-No! S-Shall we talk about it once I'm home tonight? I mean, we're running out of time—"

Matthew finally inched away from her. When he caught a glimpse of her cheeky look, he flicked her on the forehead.

“Our son needs you as much as I do! Make sure you’re free on Friday afternoon to catch him performing on stage! If you can’t make it, he’s going to be so disappointed!”

“O-Oh...”

It was then Clarissa figured out the things Matthew wished to tell her. After spending a few seconds in guilt, she glared at Matthew in the eyes and threw a punch on his chest.

“Urgh! Can’t you tell me in a serious manner instead of pulling my leg?”

Matthew rebuked with a smile, “I’m just trying to tell you my needs and wants before telling you our son’s! I mean, I can’t afford to have you prioritize our son’s needs and wants over mine! You need to treat us both fair and square, okay? Speaking of which, when are we going to get Damian another younger sibling? Isn’t it about time to take this seriously?”

“Come again? Aren’t you aware of the things I have on my schedule? We’ll talk about it once I’m done dealing with the things on my plate! Also, get rid of your urge on your own!”

“No!”

“Haven’t you always taken care of it without me back in the day?”

“I’m not going to take care of it without your aid since you’re around!”

Clarissa was rendered speechless by her husband’s reply. Her lips started twitching

against her will as she marched her way upstairs.

Matthew went after her and offered to give her a ride to the set.

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Clarissa had everything rescheduled on Friday and ensured she could make it to

Damian's school for his performance in the afternoon. She reached home at noon and got herself dressed up for their son's performance in the afternoon.

In order to make her son proud, she ensured she dolled herself up properly according to societal standards of beauty.

Matthew was on his way back to Zen Highlands as well.

Out of the blue, Clarissa, who was in the middle of deciding the pair of shoes to go along

with her dress, noticed she had an incoming call.

She picked it up without any hesitation and asked, "Are you reaching yet? I'm almost done!"

To her surprise, the person on the other end of the call wasn't Matthew.

Instead, she heard a woman asking in an irritating voice, "Are you trying to deceive me,

Clarissa? When are you going to announce we have patched things up? It has been quite some time since our last conversation!"

Clarissa responded with a frown when she found out it was Hilary on the other end of the call.

Had Hilary not brought that up, Clarissa would forget about the deal she had with her.

She had no intention to honor her promise just yet as well.

"I'm in the middle of something! I'll post it as soon as I'm free in the evening!"

"Are you sure you're not trying to deceive me again? I'm not really in a great mood today!

Stop getting on my nerves and post it at once! Otherwise, I'll do it on our behalf!"

If Hilary is the one making the announcement, I'm pretty sure she's going to make things

up and accuse me of something I have never said or done!

Clarissa was utterly disgusted by the persistent Hilary. She had no intention to waste her time with her so-called mother anymore.

In the end, she announced, "I'll post it immediately! Also, stop getting in touch with me

because I have a lot of things to do!"
Immediately after she wrapped up the conversation, she logged into her Twitter account and made an announcement. She had no intention to waste her time with the netizens' comments since she would be meeting her son soon. Never would she allow others to ruin her day and get in the way of such an important occasion. Shortly after Matthew made his way back, he got himself changed into another set of outfits. It was evident they placed great emphasis on their son's performance. Matthew had put on his custom-made coat, whereas Clarissa was in a crimson dress that was equally elegant.

They had gone to great lengths to ensure they could live up to the name of Damian's parents. Clarissa wrapped her arm around Matthew's and alighted from the car one after another. They exchanged glances with a smile. As they marched into the hall, Clarissa said, "I'm so nervous! I wasn't even as nervous when I was part of an international show! Hopefully, we're not going to embarrass our son!" Matthew glanced at the woman next to him and responded with a simple nod. He praised her, "You have done a great job dolling yourself up in a proper manner without putting on any ostentatious items." She secretly clasped their fingers together and denoted, "I liked that you're being so honest!" Has she always been such an adorable and needy woman? If we're not in the public, I'll definitely kiss her on the lips! As soon as they marched into the hall, their son's homeroom teacher showed their son and his fellow classmates the way to the hall.

Damian had put on the formal uniform of the school. Clarissa couldn't take it anymore as it made him seem as though he had matured over the night. Initially, Damian was caught up with helping his homeroom teacher as he wasn't aware his parents were there. When he saw them, he couldn't conceal his excitement anymore. The timid little boy approached his parents with a satisfied beam. He grasped his mother's hand and started complimenting her, "Mommy, you're so gorgeous!" "My son is very handsome as well!" Clarissa returned the favor and started caressing Damian's head. "Mommy, come over and have a seat!"

He showed his parents the way to their seats and announced his achievement with his chest held high. As much as he wished to carry on with the conversation, it was time for him to leave since he had to get ready for the upcoming performance. Clarissa asserted, "We'll be here until the end of your performance! Once you're done, we'll bring you out for a meal with us! We'll carry on with the conversation tonight, okay?" After she wrapped up their conversation, Damian returned to his homeroom teacher's side. The performance began with a speech from the representative of the teachers. It was the first time Clarissa was part of the school's event. She was afraid the teachers would reprimand her son for being a naughty boy. To her surprise, that wasn't the case. In fact, the teacher complimented Damian for being a helpful student. Clarissa was unable to hold back her pride as the little boy's mother anymore. Clarissa couldn't believe the things she deemed trivial could bring her so much joy. She

was proud that her son had brought his homeroom teacher the cent he found on his way back to the classroom.

I'm so proud of Damian! He's such an exceptional young man! I think he's superior to his peers in many aspects!

While Clarissa continued indulging in the honorable moments, Matthew was in a

conversation with the parents of their son's peers.

Matthew was the one who had enrolled Damian in that particular school. Clarissa

deemed it the cradle of the upper echelon since most of the students were the heir or

heiress of a renowned family. A few of them were closely acquainted with Matthew.

They had established some sort of special relationship since their children were friends with one another as well.

Soon, the performance started under the guidance of their homeroom teacher.

The little ones had changed into costumes of different kinds of animals. They were

about to perform a skit they had been practicing.

However, the audience burst out laughing due to all sorts of accidents that had occurred

throughout the show. Nevertheless, they had a great time and applauded at the end of the show.

Meanwhile, Damian, who was nowhere to be seen, finally showed up on stage and took

Clarissa by surprise with his performance.

It turned out he would have to recite a classic poem of a renowned poet. As a

screenwriter, Clarissa had exposed him to all sorts of poems.

Afraid he might be irked,

she had never once forced him to recite any of those.

To her surprise, he was capable of reciting it without any problem.

Damian, who was on the stage, successfully recited the poem without forgetting its

content. As a result, Clarissa couldn't stop herself from applauding and showed him a thumbs up for a job well done. The rest of the parents and teachers wouldn't stop complimenting Damian in front of Matthew and Clarissa. However, none of those could please them as much as a cuddle from Damian. The performance merely lasted for a short while. Matthew, Clarissa, and Damian departed shortly after the closing ceremony. The little boy turned into a chatterbox and couldn't stop himself from sharing the things he had in mind with his mother.

It was the first time in a long time the family of three had the chance to gather around for a meal. After they finished their meal, they thought they would get to spend some quality time together at home, but a call brought the session to a halt. Upon a simple glimpse at her phone, Clarissa found out it was another call from Hilary. She picked it up and heard the irritating voice stuttering, "H-Help me, Clary—" Hilary couldn't even finish her sentence as the conversation was brought to a halt with a loud shriek. Startled, Clarissa dropped her phone. Matthew rushed over to Clarissa's side and asked with a concerned look, "Is everything fine?" Staring at her husband in the eyes, Clarissa had her fair share of doubts and horrifying thoughts. She kept those to herself and said, "I'm not sure, but I'm afraid something bad has happened to Hilary!" Her husband narrowed his eyes to a slit and announced, "I'll make a trip to the hotel with you."