

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

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Clarissa alighted from her ride alongside Gina as both of them entered the restaurant.

Within the private lounge, Ryler was sitting there waiting for their arrival.

Seeing her entering alongside Gina seemingly surprised him.

Removing her coat as she sat down, Clarissa grinned and explained, "Gina here acts as my bodyguard."

Ryler could not help but felt curious as he queried, "Are you under threat?"

Not wanting him to worry, she was at a loss of what to say.

Finally, she explained, "Matthew's the one who's not at ease. Just think of Gina's presence as a companion whom I can chat with whenever I'm bored. We get along pretty well."

Ryler felt relieved at her explanation and decided not to pursue the matter further.

After all, many wealthy people liked having bodyguards or some skilled personnel around them. A fact which was not too surprising, really.

Gina sat down and was quiet throughout the whole time. She did not even interrupt their conversation, merely munching on her food..

Meanwhile, Ryler and Clarissa were both chatting and eating at the same time.

"Have you brought up the matter about your wedding with your grandmother?"

"Yep, I mentioned to her."

"That's great. So, you are going to forgo the engagement and just move straight into the wedding?"

Clarissa hesitated and said, "I have never thought about these details before. I think I'll just forgo the engagement. Don't think it's necessary anyway. We'll just directly get wedded."

"True that. Just discuss between the two of you and let me know when the time comes. I'll be leaving D City in a while, but I'll definitely show up for your big day."

Clarissa grinned, "Ry, thanks a zillion!"

"Are you thanking me?" Ryler was grinning from ear to ear. After all, their relationship had moved way past those genteel formalities.

"Alright, I admit I've said it wrongly. We're way past that after all."

After that, Clarissa brought up the matter with Jamie.

"So, are you still seeing Jamie..."

Shaking his head, Ryler answered, "Clare, you're too curious. I'm merely friends with her by the way."

For some reason, his face became solemn upon saying that.

Clarissa pursed her lips and cursed inwardly at her own insensitivity. "Alright."

This explained why Jamie was not looking too happy that night. It could be that she was frustrated at the lack of progress in her relationship with Ryler. Perhaps she was outrightly rejected by Ryler himself.

Right after they finished their meal, Clarissa received a WhatsApp message from Jamie. Speaking of the devil...

Jamie wanted to meet up with her.

Looking at Ryler intently, she told him of Jamie's intent.

Ryler did not stay for long and quickly left. When Jamie came in, she only saw Clarissa.

"Ms. Quigley, I have something to ask you ."

Jamie looked a bit tired and haggard. Staring straight into Clarissa's eyes, the former seemed conflicted and filled with untold complications.

Clarissa was slightly taken aback. However, she concealed the doubt in her heart with a smile. "Please have a seat first. Have you had your meal yet? Feel free to tell me your problems. I'm all ears and won't hold anything back."

Ignoring Clarissa's words of concern, Jamie sat down heavily and jumped straight to the point.

"Ms. Quigley, The person Mr. Cooper likes is you, am I right?"

Clarissa had not anticipated such forwardness. Her eyes widened as she stared straight at Jamie in shock.

"Jamie, I grew up with Ryler. I am very familiar with him. If we were meant to be together, we would've been in a relationship a long time ago. I wouldn't be with Matthew in the first place. You're reading too much into the situation. Since you like Ryler, just try your best to win his heart. Whether he accepts you or whether he has someone else in his mind has nothing to do with me. This matter is something between both of you entirely."

Clarissa felt that she spoken her mind in the most tactful manner possible.

After all, the matter between Jamie and Ryler had nothing to do with Ryler's feelings towards her at all.

In fact, for Jamie to bring this up directly with her was just too impolite.

Clarissa herself tried not to mind too much about it.

However, Jamie pushed the matter more. "Ms. Quigley, I'm sorry. I'm just too emotional. I know for a fact that both you and Mr. Tyson are deeply in love. Yet, Mr. Cooper rejected me because he..."

Jamie had wanted to say something but did not complete her sentence. Instead, she suddenly grabbed Clarissa's hand and eagerly begged, "Ms. Quigley, can you help me? Since you're so close to Mr. Cooper, I'm sure you can help me talk to him. I really like him. Please... Ms. Quigley."

Troubled by the request, Clarissa frowned. She quickly pulled her hand away and sat up straight, keeping a distance from Jamie.

“Jamie, Ry and I are just friends. Even with our many years of friendship, I have no right to butt into his personal relationships. I’m sorry that I can’t be of any help. However, I do feel that you’re a good girl. Should Ry accept you, it’ll be a blessing to him. Conversely, if he doesn’t, it’ll mean that he doesn’t have foresight. That’ll be his loss, don’t you think?”

Clarissa said all these with a tinge of jocular tone trying to ease the situation.

However, Jamie’s expression darkened.

She stood up suddenly and stared into Clarissa’s eyes vehemently before saying, “Ms. Quigley, I’ve misjudged you.”

Right after, she turned and walked away in a manner as if she were the one who had been ill-treated.

Meanwhile, Clarissa felt trapped, as though she were the villain in a televised drama.

She was rooted to her spot for a while before she finally shook her head and sighed. Looking at Gina knowingly, she got up and walked out as well.

“Gina, you tell me. When a woman fails in her relationship, why does she have to blame it on another woman? Actually, a relationship is something between a man and a woman. I am sure there may be external causes, but aren’t the internal factors be of utmost importance? I totally do not expect Jamie to act in such a way.”

Casually, Gina replied, “That’s a problem with personality.”

Nodding in agreement, Clarissa remained silent. After all, the matter between Jamie and Ryler was not hers to meddle in. Surely, Jamie would come to her senses soon after her anger had subsided.

...

Lately, Clarissa had been relatively free. After submitting her script, she let her hair down.

Stepping into the studio in person, she told Yael that she would never ever work on a script during the holidays in such a cold weather. Also Valentine's Day was approaching too.

Therefore, having passed up her script, she had decided to take a break to rest.

Yael magnanimously agreed with her decision and heartily said, "Yes!"

Clarissa was surprised. "Haha... Yael, you're just so kind. How come you're so accommodating today?"

Looking up, Yael snidely teased, "Oh? Are you complaining that I'm too kind? Then, I'll..."

"No... please don't! I take back my words!"

Clarissa hurriedly clarified, "Hehe... I'm just expressing my eternal gratitude. Yael, you're so kind-hearted. Bless you!"

Yael chuckled, which was a rare sight, before saying, "Alright. I'm not that magnanimous. I just know that you need time to prepare for your wedding, am I right?"

"Ah?" Clarissa was taken aback.

Mandy, who overheard the conversation, exclaimed loudly, "Clarissa's getting married? A wedding in the making? Ahhhhhh... How come you never mention such a huge event to us? You're so heartless!"

Twitching her lips, Clarissa retorted, "Mandy, you're overreacting. Fancy you using such a word on me. I'm hurt, you know."

Mandy laughed, "C'mon! Just let it go. Clarissa, you're really getting married soon? To whom?"

"..."

Everyone's eyes were trained on her, staring at the fool in front of them.

Feeling embarrassed, Mandy spoke up, "So what? I'm just too excited!"

"What for? You're not the one getting married," came the reply.

Christian grinned and said, "Clarissa, you're getting married to Mr. Tyson, right? When's the date?"

"Not yet. We're still in the early planning stage. Not too sure yet."

"You'll invite us to your wedding, right?" Mandy asked nervously, fearing to be left out and not being invited to attend.

Clarissa hugged Mandy and replied with a smile, "Don't worry. I won't leave you out. When everything is set in stone, I'll inform you all."

"That's awesome! Congratulations, Clarissa!"

Later, Clarissa exited the studio and proceeded directly to the top floor.

Today was not the day to linger around and let herself be fondled. She was called up here by Matthew for an important matter.

She had no knowledge of what the matter was about, however...

"What's with this mountain of stuff?"

Clarissa stared blankly at the piles of wedding-dress-related photos and catalogs on the table. She felt overwhelmed by the sight.

She pouted as she tilted her head to look at Matthew with puppy eyes. Matthew got up of his seat and walked over to her.

As per his habit, he hugged and kissed her for a while before sitting down with her.

"I know it's a lot. However, these materials are the best ones they can come up with. Since we'll only get married once, shouldn't we be more meticulous for our big day?"

His deep black eyes were filled with earnest care. Looking at him, Clarissa was deliriously fascinated once again.

After a while, she snapped out of her delirium and turned her head away in embarrassment. Her blushing face was flushed and red.

“Alright. I’ll go through everything slowly. What are these by the way?”

As she said that, she flipped through the samples and catalogs, trying to hide her love-struck embarrassment.

Matthew chuckled lightly in his baritone voice, lovingly rubbed the lobes of Clarissa’s ears. He did not leave her side but leaned in deliberately, wanting to see her blush and acting all awkward.

As Clarissa was browsing, she could feel his scent closing in more and more.

Unable to resist anymore, Clarissa turned towards him and wrinkled her nose. Reaching out, she pushed him away on his chest.

“Go and do your own things. Don’t bother me here. Shoo, shoo...”

Matthew pretended to sulk, “Bother you? Since when have I done that? Clare, I didn’t even say anything!”

Clarissa frowned and did not say anything, her cheeks slightly red.

That little gesture seemed to communicate silently to Matthew.

However, Matthew merely raised his eyebrows, as if reluctant to accept her signal to leave.

He was enjoying the whole process thoroughly as he found her reactions exceedingly endearing.

Clarissa gave up in the end and said, “Shoo, just go away. You’re not the one having to choose. Don’t impede my decision process.”

“I know you’re having a hard time making up your mind. But...”

“But what?”

“I just want to kiss you.”

As he said that, his big hands held Clarissa’s face as he kissed her passionately.

This was actually his intention to call her over. Browsing these catalogs and samples could be done anywhere. After all, where else could he get all physical with her in private if not in his office?

Later, Clarissa flipped through the catalogs and samples while glaring at Matthew from time to time.

In response, Matthew met her glaring eyes with his gentle smile.

She finally gave up. She was never a match for Matthew’s cheekiness.

Pretending to be fuming, she stopped stealing glances at him.

Immersed with browsing through the mountain of catalogs, she was drinking in the details of different wedding styles and localities as much as she could. From ancient castles to tropical islands...

All these photos containing all sorts of successful grand weddings...

All these were out of reach should one be poor...

Forget it.

She stopped sighing.

Grinning to herself, she recalled her initial dream wedding—a mere simple banquet in a hotel of some sort.

Now that she was on a whole different level, she would definitely want a romantic and grand wedding—just like any other girl would.

Of course, she was no exception.

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Despite going through them for a long time, Clarissa was still undecided.

Mesmerized by the different pictures of luxurious weddings, Clarissa was overwhelmed and struggled to pick one.

The biggest reason was that all of them were beautiful, romantic, and obviously expensive.

After relating her dilemma to Matthew, he gave her an answer only the filthy rich would.

"Let's hold a wedding with every one of the themes then."

Ignoring his opinion, Clarissa felt that it was better if she chose it herself.

Of course, the next question was which season was it going to be held.

"Winter? Or Spring next year?"

That was Clarissa's next dilemma.

However, she was leaning toward spring next year as they were in winter now, and she wasn't sure if they could convince the Tysons in time for the wedding. Furthermore, there were still lots of other matters to attend to and it simply felt too much of a rush.

"What do you think?"

Clarissa asked Matthew for his opinion.

Matthew chuckled, "I think the earlier the better."

Clarissa pursed her lips, "So, do you want to get married tomorrow then?"

Matthew raised his eyebrow, "Tomorrow's not a problem at all as long as you're fine with it."

Clarissa snorted, "Stop fooling around."

However, Matthew hugged her tightly and whispered something into her ear.

After a brief silence, Clarissa smiled in response.

"I can't believe you thought of that."

However, Matthew smiled before sealing her lips with his own. As both of them kissed in each other's embrace, it slowly led to a night of passion.

The next day, when Clarissa met Ellie, she was tsk-tsked by Ellie instead. "You sure are all dolled up today. Why aren't you going to see Uncle Matt? Instead, you came here to see me?"

Clarissa snorted as she was visibly upset.

"He has gone on a business trip overseas as there has been an emergency. It seems to be pretty serious so he had to head over urgently."

Just thinking about it caused Clarissa to feel disgruntled. Why does it have to be today of all days?

Ellie chuckled. "Fine, since Uncle Matt isn't here, I'll keep you company. Isn't that what you want to hear? Let's go now. Coincidentally, I'm relatively free these few days and waiting for the shopping season to start. Haha... I am going to make a lot of money. By the way, you have to help me too. Or else, I'll be overwhelmed then. Once we finish our meal later, I want to take a few more pictures of the new products. I have even started livestreaming..."

Just like that, Ellie's busy work had taken Clarissa's mind off her initial displeasure.

After she returned to Zen Highlands in the evening, she was reminded that she forgot to call Matthew the moment he video called her.

Lying lazily in bed with her phone in her hand, she could see Matthew's exhausted expression, causing her to sympathize with him.

"How are things over there? Is it serious or even dangerous? You have to be careful..."

Matthew massaged his forehead and smiled faintly.

"I'm fine. We will resolve the problem soon enough, so don't worry."

"Alright, it's not like I know much about your work. However, you must promise me that you will keep yourself safe. Recently, I read about mass shootings in certain countries which I find really scary. Therefore, I worry whenever you're out of the country. Also, make sure you eat well and get enough rest. I don't want to see you losing weight or looking haggard when you return, alright?"

Clarissa look the part when she barked out her instructions.

And Matthew simply loved this side of her.

"Alright, I'll listen to you and obey all your commands."

Faced with Matthew's acquiescence, Clarissa's stern face couldn't help but break into a smile as she looked at him coyly.

"Hmph! You have to obey everything I say now."

"Of course."

Clarissa laughed in response as she slid underneath the blanket, only exposing her head.

She pouted her lips coquettishly. "Come back as soon as possible, alright?"

She had never acted this way before but now, she has grown even more dependent on him.

As long as Matthew wasn't by her side, she would not feel grounded. After all, he was someone she depended on her entire life and also her lover. Hence, only she can make such requests of him.

Matthew locked his dark and gentle gaze on her, as that was his only way of showing his desire.

After being lost in a longing gaze with each other, Clarissa suddenly chuckled.

“Look at us both being foolish. Anyway, let’s stop the staring contest. We can continue when you’re back. For now, I just want to go to bed.”

Matthew replied with a deep voice, “Alright. Sleep early then. Good night and sweet dreams.”

“Hehe... I’ll be dreaming of you. See you in my dreams then.”

Matthew’s eyes were filled with gentleness and adoration.

With regards to Matthew’s trip overseas, it wasn’t considered a secret. Hence, anyone who was interested to know could find out easily.

When Margaret somehow knew about it, she ended her phone call and quickly summoned Yuliana.

“Yuliana, come with me to Zen Highlands.”

Remembering her husband’s warning to not get involved in Matthew’s business, she hesitated at the request.

Although she didn’t like Clarissa joining the family, she still felt apprehensive because of her husband’s words and the icy cold gaze Matthew gave her the last time.

“Mom, shouldn’t we let Matthew know in advance before we head over there? Furthermore, would he even let us in?”

“What are you talking about? He is overseas now, and I’m his mom. They wouldn’t dare keep me out. Get ready, we’re heading over there now.”

Yuliana finally understood what Margaret’s plan was.

She intended to do something to Clarissa given that Matthew was away.

As Margaret was her mother-in-law, it would be difficult for her to disobey. Therefore, she had no choice but to take Margaret to Zen Highlands.

However, when they arrived, they were still stopped at the gate and required the owner’s permission before they could enter.

This served to further infuriate Margaret. If it was Matthew that had treated them this way, Margaret wouldn't have been that angry. After all, she knew her son's character very well. But since this involved Clarissa now, Margaret was simply outraged.

"Who does she think she is? Why do we need to notify her?"

Sitting inside the car, Margaret had the urge to barge into the house and vent her frustrations on Clarissa.

Even Yuliana was upset as she felt Clarissa was just showing off her authority over them.

However, the truth was that Clarissa wasn't at home. She had been busy at Ellie's studio helping out.

Hence, the security guard informed them that the owner wasn't home and only the maid was there.

That was when Margaret had the impression that Clarissa was hiding from them. After giving Mrs. Lawson a call and an earful along with it, Mrs. Lawson finally let them in.

However, after waiting at Zen Highlands for the whole afternoon, they had no choice but to leave as Clarissa didn't return.

Leaving empty-handed, Margaret felt humiliated by it and threatened Mrs. Lawson.

"Tell that girl that I order her to come to the Tyson residence this afternoon."

When Mrs. Lawson called to pass the message, Clarissa felt helpless.

"What's wrong?" Ellie asked.

After giving it some thought, Clarissa felt it was better to tell her the truth.

"Mrs. Tyson wants we to go over to the Tyson residence."

"Why? Hasn't she given up yet? She's just being ridiculous, so just ignore her."

"However, she said that I must go."

Ellie tsked. "Fine, I'll come with you then. Uncle Matt isn't around so I'll protect you and make sure no harm will come to you."

With that, both of them headed to the Tyson residence

The moment Clarissa and Ellie arrived, they saw Shermaine there.

Isn't it obvious she's here to watch the fireworks?

Ellie went on the offensive first. "Grandma, why are you inviting all sorts of characters into the house? After her devious plot against Uncle Matt and almost causing a disaster to the company, why are you still keeping in touch with her? Aren't you worried that the treacherous snake would bite our family from the back?"

Margaret had almost forgotten about what happened in the past after being fawned upon by Shermaine.

However, after being reminded by Ellie, she felt slightly disconcerted by it.

By pointing out those incidents, Ellie was indirectly ridiculing her, causing her expression to turn gloomy.

And then, she was further upset by the sight of Clarissa.

"That's enough. Now is not the time to talk about the past. Besides, I only called for Clarissa. So, what did you come here for?"

Ellie snorted, "Since you summoned Clare, it must relate to our family. Grandma, as we are discussing family business, why don't you get those who are unrelated to leave first."

Her words were obviously aimed at Shermaine.

Shermaine gave Margaret a pitiful look and remarked, "Mrs. Tyson, it seems now isn't an appropriate time to see you. So, I'll take my leave. However, with regards to what happened in the past, please believe me that I really didn't mean for them to occur. Given how much I'm into Matt, why would I do something against his interest? Putting Matt aside, how could I bring myself to hurt you given our relationship?"

Margaret's heart softened at Shermaine's words, she held onto her hand and stopped her from leaving.

"What's this talk about leaving? I watched you grow up so you're not an outsider at all. Hence, there's no need for you to leave."

Just as she spoke, she turned her attention to Clarissa thinking what a venomous witch she was. Not only did Clarissa seduce her son away causing him to be at loggerheads with his family, but she also convinced Ellie to do the same. To Margaret, Clarissa was nothing but a troublemaker.

She verbally attacked Clarissa right off the bat. "Clarissa, instead of being grateful for how well our family treated you, you deceived Ellie and Matthew into turning against their own family. Has this been your goal the whole time?"

"Grandma, what are you talking about? I have not been tricked. Clare and I are..."

"Shut your trap!"

In an authoritative tone, Margaret cut Ellie off when she tried to explain.

Fuming, Ellie wanted to protest further as she felt that whatever she said would fall on deaf ears.

She realized that her family's misconception and resentment toward Clarissa were too deep-rooted to change.

Hence, all she felt was pity and contempt.

Meanwhile, Margaret continued to admonish Clarissa, mocking and ridiculing her. She blamed Clarissa for all the evils in the world and accused her of scheming against her family.

This was how a prominent family such as the Tysons treated an ordinary girl. All because she fell in love with someone they felt she didn't deserve.

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In truth, Clarissa was more amused by the situation than Ellie was.

Her conscience was clear as she did nothing wrong. Regardless of whether it was at school or work, she had never made a mistake.

Just because she fell in love with Matthew, she had to be humiliated and ridiculed by her elders despite her innocence.

Where's the justice in that?

Clarissa sneered, interrupting Margaret and catching everyone's attention.

However, her expression remained calm as usual.

"Mrs. Tyson, I grew up in a small city where my father died while I was young and my mother remarried. Is it wrong to be born into such a family? I lived with my Grandma and we depended on each other for our livelihood. Although life was tough, there's nothing wrong with it. Despite not being able to afford university, I managed to get a scholarship and study loan with my excellent grades. After I graduated, I quickly paid off my student debt. Is there any fault in that? I excelled in my job too. Despite not being filthy rich, I can still afford to buy my own house and car while taking care of my grandma. Is there anything wrong with that?"

Her explanation was calm and undemanding.

However, her clear conscience radiated out of her eyes and exposed the hypocrisy of others.

After a brief silence, Margaret replied, "I'm not saying it's your fault, but given your background, you aren't..."

"If there's nothing wrong with being born into such an environment, why do you then have to ridicule and humiliate me? Must I be looked down upon by you just because I'm poor?"

"Clarissa Quigley, how can you speak so rudely?"

Shermaine couldn't help but intervene but Clarissa shot her a cold piercing glare.

"I'm speaking to Mrs. Tyson now. What has it got to do with you?"

"You..."

Before Shermaine could react, Clarissa continued her tirade, "Perhaps, you might not see the point in what I said and find it preposterous. But, I just want to let you know that my conscience is clear and I am worthy of Matthew."

"Well said!"

Ellie couldn't help but clap causing Yuliana to glare at her.

However, she wasn't bothered as she only cared about voicing her support for Clarissa.

"I have said my piece. If your intention is for me to leave Matthew, I can only say that there's no reason for us to break up, unless Matthew himself decides to do so."

With that, she turned around and walked out.

"Stop where you are..."

Margaret was persistent as she called out from behind. However, Clarissa had walked out of the Tyson residence.

Ellie quickly caught up with her as she didn't intend to stay back with her family a second longer.

There was no point in doing so as they were just too stubborn. Ellie felt that Matthew was right not to tell them and it would be better if none of her family attended the wedding.

After getting into the car, the emotions that Clarissa held at bay earlier began to manifest. Her eyes reddened as she looked out the window, not saying a word.

Meanwhile, Ellie felt so awkward that she didn't know what to say.

After all, those were her family, and nothing she said would come out right.

After a while, Clarissa managed to calm down and turned to Ellie. "Don't tell Matthew about what happened today. He seems to be dealing with something major overseas, and I'm afraid it will only cause him to worry further. I'll tell him myself when he returns."

"Alright. I'm sorry, Clare."

Ellie apologized as that was the only thing she could say.

Clarissa smiled. "What are you apologizing for? You didn't do anything wrong."

"I'm apologizing on behalf of my family."

"There's no need for that as you can't speak for them anyway. Besides, there's no way they would apologize to me either."

Ellie understood what Clarissa meant and didn't apologize any further.

After Ellie dropped Clarissa back at Zen Highlands, she drove back to the Tyson residence alone.

She was surprised to still see Shermaine there when she returned, causing her to feel disgusted and wary at the same time.

After all, Clarissa and her were suspicious of Shermaine as it wasn't hard to imagine her plotting something vicious.

"What did you come back for? Didn't you leave with her?" Margaret remarked with a hint of jealousy.

When Ellie wanted to retort, she noticed how Shermaine was fawning upon Margaret and suddenly realized that she should adapt her approach accordingly.

With that, she sat beside Margaret and held onto her arm. She changed her demeanor into one of childlike playfulness.

"Grandma, I wasn't going to leave with her. This is my home. Even if I left, I'm still your granddaughter, aren't I?"

Margaret's angry expression ease a little as Ellie was still her granddaughter after all.

"You don't seem to care about me anymore when you spoke out for Clarissa earlier. Aren't you angry at her for deceiving you for such a long time?"

Briefly stunned, Ellie glanced at Shermaine and explained, "Grandma, my feelings are only to be shared with family. I don't think it's appropriate to wash dirty linen in public, isn't it?"

Ellie aimed her words at Shermaine.

Despite that, Shermaine shamelessly refused to leave.

Ellie had no choice but to be more direct. "Shermaine, this matter only involves our family and has nothing to do with you. It's time for you to leave."

"How is Shermaine an outsider?"

"Grandma, don't you think she is? Would a member of our family pull a stunt at Uncle Matt's company and almost destroyed it?"

Margaret's expression changed drastically while Shermaine made the same excuse as always.

However, Ellie sneered and didn't say anything further. She knew that doing so would only cause her plan to backfire.

And that was how Margaret's opinion slowly shifted in Ellie's favor, causing her expression to darken.

Despite being angered, Shermaine had no choice but to take her leave.

When she finally did, Ellie let out a smug smile.

"Grandma, you are always taken in by Shermaine's words because you're too kind-hearted. I know you like her but you can't ignore what she has done. Even if you don't want Clare to be your daughter-in-law, you can't possibly accept Shermaine, can you? Do you think Uncle Matt, Grandpa, and my dad will agree? Our relationship with the Wynters has also been strained. Grandma, you have to consider the big picture. I don't think it's appropriate for you to maintain your relationship with Shermaine anymore."

Margaret was someone that was easily influenced.

After hearing Ellie's words, she couldn't help but be convinced by them.

"Hmm, you're right. However, Shermaine has always been filial and visits me often, I..."

"Sigh, Grandma, at the end of the day, she isn't family. Is her attitude toward you more important than Uncle Matt and the rest of the Tyson family's safety?"

Margaret fell silent in response.

However, Ellie didn't let up, "Grandma, there's something important that you should know. Despite your plans to look for a wife on behalf of Uncle Matt, no girl will dare approach him given how close you are to Shermaine. Did you know that she has been going around accusing Uncle Matt of two-timing? You must not have heard of it as you hardly ever go out, but this has scared away a lot of the other girls."

"Is that true?"

"Of course, she said it on the internet herself, causing everyone to ridicule Uncle Matt for being disloyal and unprincipled. She has even caused the Tyson Corporation's reputation to be affected and its stock price to drop.

"That serious?"

Ellie knew the more she exaggerated the better. "Of course, why would I lie? My friends in the know are well aware that all the matchmaking dates Uncle Matt went on have failed, simply because they know of Shermaine. At this rate, how is he going to find a wife for himself?"

Furrowing her brows, Margaret fell deep into thought.

Ellie's plan was to first remove Shermaine from the picture. After that, she could then slowly change Margaret's impression of Clarissa.

She had to deal with the external threat first before pacifying the internal one.

"Grandma, if you don't believe me, you can ask Grandpa about it. He will definitely object to one of the Wynters as Uncle Matt's wife."

When Margaret nodded in agreement, Ellie heaved a sigh of relief.

"Therefore, you have to steel your heart. When you are too kind, you will end up causing trouble to our family. Going forward, don't take her calls and don't see her anymore. Or else, Uncle Matt will never be able to get married. Do you think that's acceptable to you?"

"Of course not."

"That's the spirit."

Ellie finally managed to persuade Margaret into severing ties with Shermaine.

She was gratified to have been of help to Clare and Uncle Matt.

During dinner, Ellie brought up the matter again and as expected, the rest of the Tysons were not in favor of Shermaine.

Since everyone had voiced their objections, Margaret decided to not let herself be taken in by Shermaine's words anymore.

Realizing she had achieved the result she desired, Ellie smiled smugly to herself.

Although Margaret didn't understand the meaning behind her grin, it was obvious to everyone else what it was all about.

However, the reason they didn't object was that Yuliana and the others were in favor of Sienna. Hence, disposing of Shermaine was in their common interest.

At that moment, Shermaine was oblivious to the fact that she had been ostracized by the Tysons.

After leaving the Tyson residence, she had the urge to tear Clarissa apart when she recalled Clarissa saying that she and Matthew would never break up.

I must do something to stop her now.

The thought of Clarissa seeing Matthew every day and imagining them having passionate moments together was enough to drive Shermaine to want to kill her.

However, after failing a few times, Clarissa had become more vigilant and also had a bodyguard watching over her. Therefore, killing her now was out of the question.

Consequently, Shermaine could only curse Clarissa in her heart.

That b*tch!

Back at Smallwood residence, there was no one at home except for her. Hence, her temper continued to flare until her phone suddenly rang.

“Who is it?”

Despite her feisty tone, she suddenly broke into a smile after hearing what the person over the line said.

You’ll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

Chapter 209

As Clarissa flipped through the wedding catalogs in a disinterested fashion, her mind was actually someplace else.

Gina came in as if she had something to report but was interrupted by Clarissa’s phone ringing.

She answered the call and realized it was Jamie.

During the call, Jamie was apologetic over what happened and for her attitude. Hence, she wanted to meet Clarissa to do so in person, to which Clarissa agreed.

After ending the call, Gina asked, “Did Ms. Trudall call and request to see you?”

Clarissa smiled. “How did you know?”

Gina’s expression darkened in response.

Jamie has asked to meet at a hotel. After Clarissa and Gina arrived at the second floor of the hotel and entered a private room, they saw Jamie alone inside.

When she saw Clarissa, she was visibly unsettled but she did have an apologetic look in her eyes.

The moment Clarissa sat down, she apologized, "Ms. Quigley, I'm sorry for what I did last time. I shouldn't have flared my temper at you. When I calmed down and reflected upon my actions, I realized that I was in the wrong. I'm sorry again and hope that you won't hold it against me."

Clarissa shook her head. "It's already water under the bridge."

As Clarissa stared at Jamie in a probing manner, Jamie felt unsettled by it.

"Ms. Quigley, what's wrong? Are you still angry at me?"

Clarissa shook her head again. "No, since we have cleared the air, it's no longer an issue. Did you invite me here only to apologize?"

Jamie smiled awkwardly as she nodded.

Clarissa could only smile in return. "Alright, I didn't take it personally. What's done is done. I still wish you the best and hope you achieve whatever you are looking for."

"Thank you, Ms. Quigley."

After that, both of them fell into an awkward silence.

The camaraderie they previously had was no longer there. In the end, the knots in their heart remained and it would take some time before it could be unraveled.

After taking a sip of coffee, Jamie glanced at Gina.

"Erm, Ms. Quigley, is it troublesome that Ms. Tyler follows you everywhere?"

Clarissa looked at Gina who remained expressionless. However, she shot Jamie a piercing glance instead.

Jamie quickly averted her gaze and drank her coffee.

Clarissa's eyes sparkled. "It's no trouble, we're all ladies after all. We can even go to the washroom together. Haha..."

"Haha... that's true."

Jamie looked at Gina and suddenly uttered, "Ms. Quigley, I have something personal to tell you and I hope to do so in private."

Clarissa gave Jamie a thoughtful look before smiling at Gina, "Gina, please leave us a moment. Take a walk nearby and come back in a while. After all, Jamie isn't a stranger."

"That's right, Ms. Tyler, why don't you browse the shops in the nearby mall of something. I have lots to talk to Ms. Quigley about."

Gina nodded at Clarissa before standing up to leave.

After that, Jamie fell silent again.

"Jamie, didn't you have something to tell me?"

"Erm, I... I just got a role as one of Mr. Mackenzie's female leads."

"Really? This is a wonderful opportunity. Mr. Mackenzie's female leads have always been top-tier actresses. With this opportunity, you will be able to join their ranks too. Isn't that what you want?"

Jamie didn't look excited at all and squirmed her lips in response.

Clarissa lowered her head to take another sip of coffee and didn't say another word.

After a while, a male waiter entered the private room.

Inside one of the rooms in the hotel, the man put the drugged Clarissa on a bed.

Jamie was worried. "You should leave now. Leave this to me."

The man sneered before starting to unbutton his shirt, shocking Jamie.

“What are you doing? What’s the meaning of this? You should leave now.”

The man looked at Jamie in a condescending manner. “Although you’re not as hot as she is, I don’t mind a threesome.”

“You...”

Jamie was shocked. “We agreed on this. Your job was to drug her and I’ll handle the rest. There’s nothing left for you here. I’ll pay you for this so please leave.”

“Leave? Haha... Since I’m already here with such a gorgeous woman, how can you ask me to leave without doing anything? That’s just impossible. Now that you have gotten me involved, it’s not going to be easy to be rid of me. If you don’t leave now, you will regret it later.”

The man’s vicious gaze terrified Jamie.

Just when she hesitated and looked at Clarissa unconscious on the bed, a group of men suddenly entered the room. All of them were smiling lecherously. Frightened by the new development, Jamie fled the room quickly.

After she left the hotel, she still couldn’t calm herself down. Gritting her teeth, her face lost all color when a thought struck her mind. In the end, she chose to leave in a cab.

...

The moment she arrived at her apartment, her phone rang.

“Mr. Jensen, when are we leaving? I’ve already packed.”

“Leaving? You have been rejected.”

“What do you mean rejected? Wasn’t it already agreed? The assistant director called me personally to confirm that I will be the female lead. Mr. Jensen, there must be a mistake.”

“What do you mean by a mistake? After giving it some consideration, they felt that you don’t suit the role. They only made you a verbal promise and the new female lead has signed the

contract. Hence, you have been rejected. I must say, Jamie, how did you get this contact? Did you and the assistant director..."

"No, Mr. Jensen, a friend recommended me. This is impossible. Please wait for a moment while I check with her."

Jamie ended the call and tried calling her friend. But, no one answered.

Jamie's expression darkened as she quickly shot off a few messages.

"I have recorded our conversations. If you don't answer, I'll send them to the police."

Soon, her phone rang.

Jamie screamed into it, "You promised me that I will be the lead after I have done what you requested. What's the meaning of this? Also, didn't we agree that I will be the one to handle it? Why did you send so many men there? Are you trying to kill Ms. Quigley? How can you break your promise so easily? You're just so evil!"

"Hahaha... I'm surprised it took you so long to realize."

Jamie's heart sank in response.

"Shermaine! I will report this to the police."

"Hahaha..."

Jamie was stunned, "What are you laughing at?"

"When the perpetrator calls the police, who do you think the police will arrest? Jamie, you were the one who invited Clarissa out and paid those men to gang-rape her. Hahaha... You were her best friend yet you did all that. If you feel like calling the police, be my guest."

"You... it's obvious that you instructed me to do it, and I have a recording of our conversation."

"Oh? So what about it? During our chat, what did I say? Oh! I remember now. I only said that if you agree to my request, I will help you secure the female lead role. However, I didn't mention what my request was. So, this has nothing to do with me. Hahaha... Jamie, as your

friend, let me share with you some exciting news. Tomorrow, you must look out for a shocking headline. As to what it is, I'm sure you can definitely guess since you're her best friend."

Shermaine ended the call laughing while Jamie collapsed onto the ground trembling. Her face had lost all color as she hugged herself in fear.

For the entire night, Jamie couldn't sleep a wink. Her mind was flooded with images of Clarissa sprawled on the bed and the group of men smiling salaciously.

As day broke, a groggy Jamie finally fell asleep out of exhaustion.

Suddenly, she was woken up by the sharp ringing of her phone.

She quickly sat up to check it with her trembling hands. When she scrolled through the trending topics, none of it was the shocking news which Shermaine alluded to.

Jamie heaved a sigh of relief but was suddenly seized by an even greater fear.

With the phone in her hand, she stared at it for a long while before giving Clarissa a call.

After a few rings, Clarissa answered.

"Jamie."

Her tone caused Jamie's heart to race while she was standing by the window with a cold expression on her face.

There was a moment of silence between both of them before Jamie probed, "Ms. Quigley, about yesterday... were you alright?"

Clarissa's tone grew colder. "What did you think happened to me?"

"Ms. Quigley, I..."

"Jamie, you were willing to destroy me over a female lead role. It seems that I have overestimated our friendship. Evidently, it is as you have said so yourself. One had to pay a price in order to be successful. And, the price you paid was our friendship."

"No, no... Ms. Quigley, I didn't do it on purpose."

"Did you not conspire with Shermaine on purpose? Did you also not deliberately try to ruin me in such a vicious manner? Didn't you abandon me when I was in danger?"

"I..."

Jamie was lost for words. After a brief moment of silence, she suddenly bawled. Amidst her tears, she sobbed, "Clarissa, do you think I had a choice? You know how much I love Ryler, but he isn't interested in me at all. Even when he is drunk, all he could talk about was you. In fact, he..."

In fact, when she offered herself to him, he rejected her.

"He only fancies you and you know it. But, you chose to act all innocent. Clarissa, how dare you accuse me of betraying our friendship when you're the one who did so first."

Clarissa was speechless when Jamie twisted the facts in her desperation.

At the end of the day, Jamie was held hostage by her own selfishness over both a man and the role of a female lead.

She was no longer the innocent girl Clarissa knew. Her greed had driven her to become what she was today.

Having lost interest in what she had to say, Clarissa coldly remarked, "Jamie, although you sabotaged me under Shermaine's instructions, you still betrayed me in the end. Therefore, the only thing I can do is to take away what you desire most, which includes your man and your career. That is the price you will pay for betraying me."

With that, Clarissa ended the call abruptly.

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

Chapter 210

Having ended the call, Clarissa didn't feel much better either.

She had assumed the relationship she had with Jamie was a genuine one. But in reality, Jamie had betrayed her over a man and a female lead role.

Clarissa felt that she was too naive and ended up having her sincerity trampled.

Meanwhile, Gina entered the room and sat beside Clarissa. "I've given the orders. Mr. Tyson told you to go ahead with however you want to resolve this."

Clarissa didn't utter a word further as she hugged her knees, looking feeble.

"Gina, is it too much to get Jamie blacklisted?"

Gina replied. "Of course not. She is supposed to go to jail for what she had done. You are being more than merciful by allowing her to keep her freedom."

Eased by Gina's words, Clarissa looked at her and shrugged.

She then pursed her lips awkwardly.

"Let's just go ahead with it. Any lesser would make it seem like I'm a pushover who can be easily bullied."

Stretching her body, she put the matter behind her.

"Gina, did you want to tell me what her plan was yesterday? But, how did you know? You never share it with me."

Yesterday, Gina only knew that Jamie had been in touch with Shermaine but wasn't aware of what it was about. However, she had her suspicions and was already vigilant.

Therefore, when Clarissa met with Jamie yesterday, she dismissed Gina on purpose.

However, what she didn't expect was for Jamie to abandon her at the crucial moment.

At that point in time, she was indeed unconscious but she had a recording pen ready in her pocket.

By the time she awoke, Gina had brought her home.

The pen recorded all of Jamie's words and how she fled cowardly. It also captured the men's disgusting comments and the sound of Gina beating all of them.

Clarissa didn't sleep well the entire night as it was filled with frightening nightmares of her being harmed.

Therefore, she only waited till now to ask Gina about the matter.

"Mr. Tyson has men watching Shermaine. Hence, we are aware of her every move. She met Jamie once and it was during the night where they bumped into each other in the washroom."

Clarissa was surprised. "During the time at the club?"

"Yes. She met Shermaine there but we weren't sure what they discussed. Hence, we were already on our guard. Therefore, no matter what they talked about, we had to be careful. Just as expected, we caught them red-handed."

Gina didn't explain further but the conclusion was obvious.

"In that case, did we manage to find evidence of Shermaine trying to set me up? She is the real mastermind here."

"We only have the phone recording but it isn't enough to secure a conviction in court as she can still deny it. Moreover, the recording is not complete so she can still challenge it. In a nutshell, we don't have anything concrete now."

"What about the men from last night?"

"They were hired by Jamie."

Clarissa gritted her teeth. "Putting these aside, what about the car accident last time? That really put my life in danger. Can't we do anything about it?"

"There's no evidence."

Therefore, am I just to sit and wait for her to come up with another dangerous scheme to harm me?

She is a blo*dy timebomb that can go off anytime and she is just relentless in trying to get rid of me.

She was also the architect of all my troubles. Therefore, am I resigned to being powerless against her attempts to harm me?

“Gina, don’t we have anything incriminating against her? Even if we can’t get her convicted, perhaps we can make things difficult for her.”

Gina raised her eyebrow. “We will let her have a taste of her own medicine.”

Clarissa gasped in realization as Gina added, “Mr. Tyson has given the orders and we will be executing them.”

“What did he tell you? Why don’t I know anything about it? And why didn’t he tell me?”

Gina remained silent and let out a rare mouth shrug.

Clarissa’s lips twitched. “Fine, if you’re not talking. I’ll go and ask him myself.”

With no intention of telling still, Gina nodded and left.

Clarissa gaped at how tight-lipped Gina was as she watch her walk away.

After that, Clarissa gave Matthew a call to ask him what he had ordered Gina to do.

“Nothing much. Clare, aren’t you supposed to take good care of yourself? Why are you making me worry?”

Clarissa was silent for a brief moment. “I am fine.”

“I’ll be back very soon.”

“Don’t. I’m fine here. Come back only once you have dealt with your matters.”

“Hmm, don’t you miss me?”

Matthew raised his eyebrow as his gaze turned cold in a threatening manner.

It felt like if she said no, the frostiness he emitted would even permeate through the phone.

Clarissa pouted. "Of course, I miss you. How could I not?"

Having heard what he wanted, Matthew smiled in satisfaction. It made him look gentle and mesmerizing.

Clarissa smiled back in response. "But, are you finished with your business? Instead of returning and going back, why don't you resolved everything in one go? You then don't have to make two trips."

Matthew chuckled. "Mmm-hmm. I know you're reluctant to let me leave."

Clarissa wrinkled her nose. "Hmph, I'm glad you know that."

"Don't worry. I'll come back once I'm done."

"Alright, I'll be waiting for you to return home."

Return home?

When he heard the words, Matthew felt his heart warm inexplicably. He felt the urge to embrace her and give her an affectionate cuddle.

"Alright, I'll be back soon."

As they were on a video call, Clarissa nodded in acquiescence before sending him a flying kiss. After that, she fell back on her bed in laughter and rolled in it. She then continued chatting with Matthew about happier events.

As for the sad incidents of the past, she had already forgotten about them.

On the day Matthew returned, Clarissa went to the airport to pick him up.

As she had arrived early, she found a seat in a cafe and scrolled through the news out of boredom.

Coincidentally, she saw a shocking headline.

Shermaine Smallwood's reputation ruined. Actress exposed. Actress found to be a hypocrite.

In just a few minutes, the news was flooded with bad press over Shermaine.

Clarissa was utterly shocked as she read the details. It described how another actress that worked together with Shermaine in a lesser role was set up or harmed by her.

She revealed that Shermaine had disfigured her while they were filming together years ago, simply because she was well-liked and the director had praised her for her beauty. After recuperating at home for many years, she still had to live with a scar on her face.

When she was breaking her story to the press, there were lots of other people who had equally damaging information on Shermaine to share.

They were members of film crews, Shermaine's ex-classmates, friends, etc.

In a nutshell, all of Shermaine's wrongdoings were exposed, including that of cheating men of their feelings.

There were many incidents and all of them were legit.

In a short while, Shermaine's reputation was in tatters.

Many influential social media personalities, including Yaala and Yarick, liked and shared the articles that exposed Shermaine's misdeeds.

It demonstrated that they too had a negative perception of Shermaine.

The impression she gave most people was typical of a famous actress. She would be cool and aloof. However, most people would comment that she was charming, acted like a diva, or was even nice. But no one expected her to be this vicious.

Especially when it came to disfiguring an actress just because she was pretty. That had gone against the grain of everyone's moral fiber.

The disfigured actress had planned to make a police report but decided against it for fear of reprisals from Shermaine. However, her injury had caused her to lose her job and even suffer from depression over the last few years. Her family had to painstakingly go through a difficult period with her. Therefore, she wasn't going to let Shermaine off easily. Currently,

the police had started their investigations and found the matter to be true. Hence, Shermaine was just waiting to be charged in court.

Regardless of whether Shermaine committed all those deeds, the tide of public opinion was against her. Some of her die-hard supporters were also badly ridiculed for trying to defend her.

The incident had inadvertently brought to light many of Shermaine's other misdeeds.

Someone even highlighted that Shermaine was behind the smearing of Clarissa's reputation when she was working with the drama crew, causing Clarissa to be violently disparaged online.

Tsk...

When Clarissa read through the exposé, she believed them to be true.

Is Shermaine finally getting a taste of being attacked viciously online?

However, the exposé quickly disappeared within minutes.

Clarissa figured that Shermaine must have done something to wipe them away. However, this served to further inflame the online reactions.

Not only were the netizens cursing Shermaine, they even berated the social media platforms for being manipulated by Shermaine's patron given that they tried to censor the news. In a short moment, the outrage grew louder.

In just half an hour, the internet was set ablaze.

Just when she was reading intently, Clarissa's phone was snatched from her hand. As she instinctively got up to grab it back, she fell into a warm and comforting embrace.

She was stunned for a moment before breaking into a smile. Raising her head, his handsome face came into her view while his familiar gaze fell upon her.

"Ah! You gave me a fright."

Matthew smiled. "Isn't it supposed to be a surprise?"

Clarissa laughed. "Alright, a surprise it is. I wanted to give you one actually."

She didn't expect him to find her first.

Matthew's voice was deep and magnetic. "Mmm-hmm, to me, it's still a surprise."

There was no need to say anything further. Lowering his head, he kissed her on her lips and tasted what he had long missed.

However, as they were in public, Matthew just gave her a peck before letting her go reluctantly. Ignoring the gaze of others, he put his arms around her as they headed out.

The moment they got into the car, Matthew pressed against Clarissa and gave her a deep passionate kiss.

They kissed for a very long time before he was willing to let go of her.

As he gently brushed his fingers across her lips, his gaze deepened. Clarissa could recognize the lust that filled his eyes.

However, they were now still in the car.

Clarissa blushed and tried to distract him by saying something to break the awkward silence.

"Did you get someone to expose Shermaine online?"

Matthew's gaze darkened at the thought of what Shermaine did. He couldn't help but feel the urge to kill that woman.

Hence, exposing her and destroying her reputation was just the first step.