

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

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As shameless as Hilary was, Clarissa's sharp gaze still got her to feel guilty.

Hilary averted her gaze before yelling at Clarissa. "I never said that I forbid you from marrying anyone, but am I not allowed to at least share my opinion? I am your mother, and you're getting married. How can you not tell me anything?"

Clarissa scoffed. Hilary might be shameless, but Clarissa felt embarrassed.

"Are you sure you want to have this conversation here?"

Sensing everybody's gaze on her, Hilary realized that she didn't want to fight in public.

Someone rushed over quickly and offered, "Ladies, we have a private lounge you can use."

Hilary commanded immediately, "Lead the way."

Ellie stayed by Clarissa's side even when they went into the private lounge.

Hilary suddenly had a revelation and asked, "Ms. Tyson... as in Matthew Tyson's niece?"

Ellie murmured an affirmative response, and that got Hilary to talk endlessly. "Good, if you're a member of the Tysons then it's good that you're here," said Hilary, "I can't discuss the matter with anyone else, so I'll talk to you about it. The Tysons are rich and of high social status, and my Clary can't possibly reach that social status. Your family has been against this wedding from the start, and as a mother, I cannot let my daughter throw her life away. Your family claims that Matthew will marry Clary, but the truth is that you guys have always discriminated against my baby, haven't you?"

"Hilary, that..."

Ellie wanted to explain the situation, but Clarissa cut her words short. "Ellie, don't bother wasting your breath explaining anything to her," interrupted Clarissa.

Hilary frowned and reprimanded, "Clarissa Quigley, what is the meaning of this? I am doing this for you. Why are you siding with the outsider?"

"Hah!"

Siding with the outsider? Wow, you really know how to twist facts and turn things around, huh?

After sneering, Clarissa mercilessly dissed back.

Hilary instantly looked worse because her daughter had never been so rude or dissed her like that. Unfortunately, Clarissa spoke up before Hilary could.

"Stop beating around the bush, Mom. First, you acted like you're unhappy with Matthew, then you're deliberately making things difficult for Ellie. After that, you faked how you're doing this for my happiness and told me to think things through. It's plain to see that you're doing all this to drive a wedge between Matthew and me to break us up. Anyone, even an idiot, can see what your true motive is, so stop beating around the bush. Just a few days ago, you were hoping that I would marry into a rich family, and you were so excited when you learned about my relationship with Matthew. My, how quickly you changed your stance. I wonder if this is really out of concern for me? Are you really worried that I won't be happy in the future? To be honest, I don't buy a damn word you said," insulted Clarissa.

"You..."

"In addition to not trusting a word you say, I will also be disobeying you. Who the hell do you think you are? My mom? Oh right, you are my mom by blood, but you abandoned me all those years ago when I needed you the most. You're not worthy of being a mom from that moment on. I have been putting up with you over the past few days and acting civil due to that pitifully weak bond that stemmed from the blood we share. However, I am completely okay with disowning a mother like you if you keep trying to take advantage of me. You can try pushing my buttons if you don't believe it. Know this, though. You're only my mom if I allow it. If not, you are nothing but a selfish, pompous woman who is not worthy of being a mother. I don't give a sh*t about someone like that at all!" added Clarissa.

"Y-you unfilial daughter!"

Clarissa truly infuriated Hilary at that time. This daughter... She has never said anything that harsh to me before.

How dare she expose me like that and be so disrespectful towards me in front of an outsider?

Hilary's expression was practically distorted. Her eyes glowed with anger and hatred toward Clarissa.

Ellie saw that from the side. Regardless of how angry a mother is, I never thought I'd see her have any hatred toward her own daughter...

Clarissa wasn't fazed by that at all. She had already anticipated what Hilary would feel, so she expected that gaze.

"Whether I am filial or not depends on you. I am curious, though. What could Shermaine have possibly offered you to make it so that you are willing to destroy your own flesh and blood's happiness for her? So, as far as you are concerned, I don't even amount to an idol? My gosh."

Hilary turned pale and refuted, "W-what are you talking about? I have no idea."

"Your sins have already been exposed. Does Shermaine think that she will be with Matthew if he and I break up? Well, then let me be honest with you. It doesn't matter if I am in the picture or not. She will never be his wife. If you like her so much that you want to destroy your daughter's engagement for her sake, why don't you just take her in as your daughter? You can pretend that you've never given birth to me, and we are complete strangers. I'm sure this is what you want, right?"

Hilary couldn't refute at that point. Clarissa had seen through all of her schemes, and it seemed like Hilary was afraid that Clarissa would discover something else.

Clarissa started leaving the private lounge with Ellie.

At that point, the relationship between mother and daughter had practically fallen apart.

Clarissa paused. She turned to Hilary and added, "There really is no need for the two of us to reunite and separate repeatedly. Let's just put an end to our connection. You have a family of your own, and I never cared about getting a mother back, anyway. Hence, why bother wasting each other's time?"

Is she disowning me?

Hilary suddenly panicked. She turned around immediately and walked up to Clarissa. By then, the panic on Hilary's face had been replaced by fury.

"Hold it right there. What was that supposed to mean? Are you disowning me? Clarissa Quigley, how dare you? I am your mother. It doesn't matter if you want to admit it or not because I am your mother, regardless."

Clarissa scoffed, "What's the point?"

"What do you mean? So you are disowning me? If you do, I will expose you for being the heartless daughter you are!"

Hilary had only just learned that her own daughter was a pretty famous writer.

She had always thought that her daughter was useless, so she was surprised to see how much Clarissa had accomplished.

Hilary's threat got Clarissa to feel even more distant and colder.

No, it would be inaccurate to say that her heart felt cold or hollow. She no longer held out for hope and was pretty much used to it.

Some time ago, the Lesters said that she was heartless for abandoning her family. And now my own mother is saying the same thing. They may be my family, but they keep threatening me and try to ruin my reputation.

Some family these people are!

Clarissa laughed without a care in the world. What was even scarier was that her laughter seemed genuine. She showed no signs of distress after being threatened, and that frightened Hilary.

It took some time before Clarissa finally spoke up.

"Do whatever you want. I've always had a poor relationship with my own family anyway, so who cares if I'm being called heartless?"

After saying her piece, Clarissa left immediately. Hilary didn't even get to stop her.

Hilary stared at Clarissa's back as Clarissa walked away without even looking back. She's really determined this time.

The anxiety in Hilary's heart became worse. This girl... is she really going to disown me?

No, that can't be, thought Hilary. Clarissa's determination to cut Hilary off completely terrified Hilary.

The latter quickly chased after the former, but it was too late. Clarissa had already left in a car.

Hilary stood at the same spot. Her gaze instantly became lost.

Ellie snuck a peek at Clarissa a few times in the car.

In the end, Clarissa grinned and said, "You don't need to keep an eye on me. I didn't feel hurt at all. I've long known what kind of person she is."

Ellie didn't comment on the relationship between the mother and the daughter, but she was curious about something.

"How did Shermaine get involved? Isn't she swamped and drowning in trouble? How is she still getting Hilary to make things difficult for you?"

"I know, right? She is like a poltergeist that could split herself up. She has the Smallwoods running around fixing her issues, is actively finding ways to trouble me, and still has the time to create negative gossips about me online. Tsk. She is going all out against me."

"Calling her a poltergeist is too nice. I'd say she's more like a cockroach."

"You're right. She is a cockroach, and she will always be one. The celebrity of the past has turned into a cockroach," said Clarissa, who couldn't help scoffing aloud, "And that is how she will remain for the rest of her life. She will be annoyed, but she still can't do anything about me. Matthew and I are destined to be together, and there is nothing she can do about it."

Ellie smiled and commented, "You've really changed."

Clarissa raised her brows and asked, "How so? Did I become prettier?"

"Yes, you did turn prettier, and you've also become more confident. If nothing else, the relationship between you and Uncle Matt has changed a lot for the better."

"Change? Not at all. We've always been so close~"

"You are so shameless," said Ellie before she rolled her eyes and added, "I dare you to tell the truth. Have you really never doubted Uncle Matt before? And never assumed that the two of you would break up?"

Clarissa shrunk away a little and was quiet.

Ellie continued saying, "I don't even know when it happened, but your relationship with Uncle Matt suddenly became so stable. Did you change? Or has Uncle Matt finally done enough to earn your trust? What makes it so that you are both certain of each other and that you will never break up?"

Clarissa couldn't help giggling evilly after Ellie asked that question. The former's grin exuded a hint of mystery.

Clarissa wrinkled her nose at Ellie and said, "Either way, we will never be apart."

"Are you keeping a secret from me?"

"Not at all. He gave me a private island. I would have to be a fool to leave him."

Ellie's lips twitched before she said sarcastically, "Yeah, right. A private island is all it takes to get you so sure? Looks like money really can buy anything, and the dowry will be crazy."

Clarissa smiled. She was the only one who knew how happy she was.

Ellie shook her head. Do all women act so silly when they're in love?

She suddenly had an epiphany and thought, I don't look that silly, do I?

The two friends didn't go home immediately after. They went for a meal and a movie. When they left the cinema, they realized that it was raining.

Rain in the winter... The iciness could seep right into a person's bone, and Clarissa did not enjoy a weather like that.

She couldn't help trembling from the cold when she got out of the cinema. Turning to Ellie, Clarissa saw that she was sending a signal.

Surprised, Clarissa turned around and saw the tall and handsome man in a black windbreaker. His pleasant aura made him stand out in the crowd, and he was standing by the entrance to pick her up.

Happiness spread in Clarissa's heart. She took off and ran into Matthew's arms immediately. A satisfied sigh left her lips when he held her in his embrace.

It was warm to have someone to love in the winter.

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow Chapter 237

It had been a while since Hilary and Shermaine saw each other.

Meeting Hilary again, Shermaine realized that the former was not as happy to see her anymore. In fact, Hilary looked guilty and was avoiding Shermaine's eyes.

Shermaine scoffed internally, but she acted frightened and lost on the surface.

"Did I do something wrong to upset you, Ms. Hilary? I understand that no one likes me now, and I am content with the affection you gave me earlier. I am so sorry for wasting your time and disappointing you. I truly am."

Shermaine looked too pitiful in that state.

At first, Hilary was heartbroken over the fact that Clarissa was insistent on disowning her, but seeing Shermaine in that pitiful state got Hilary to forget all about Clarissa.

The heartbreak Hilary felt when she saw Shermaine was a lot more intense than when she saw Clarissa.

As far as Hilary was concerned, Shermaine was the most important one.

The former quickly hugged the latter to offer some comfort. Hilary apologized, "Shermaine, this is all my fault. This has nothing to do with you."

What's the point of being upset, anyway?

That stupid Clarissa is such a thankless wretched for wanting to disown me like that. She truly stomped on the love I have for her.

Truth was, there was no need for Hilary to be sad. After all, when it came to that daughter, she had always been...

Hilary secretly made her decision. She would not sway anymore. Her heart knew who she should side with.

"Shermaine, I was busy lately, and that is why I'm only visiting now. I'm so sorry. I went to see Clarissa a few days ago."

"Huh?" blurted Shermaine before she grinned bitterly and added, "That's right. You have a daughter, and she is the most important one for you. I understand."

"No, that heartless woman doesn't even see me as her mother. She actually wants to cut all ties with me! As if this matter is so important that she needed to do that? She's not nearly as kind to me as you are, Shermaine. How I wish you are my daughter instead."

Shermaine seemed surprised. She asked, "How is that possible? Are the two of you not close? Are there some misunderstandings between you two? Or does she not like it when we hang out together?"

"It doesn't matter if she likes it. The important thing is that I like you. Don't worry, Shermaine. That stupid Clarissa is not worthy of Matthew, and I will not let her get married. I am her mother, and no one can complain if I am against that wedding. You don't need to be sad either. She will not marry Matthew, and you will have your shot. I will do anything for you."

Shermaine acted surprised.

After that, she teared up like she was extremely touched by those words.

In the end, droplets of tears rolled slowly down her eyes before she flew into Hilary's arms and sobbed. She said, "No one has ever been that nice to me before, Ms. Hilary. You're the only one."

Hilary was even more heartbroken. Her tone... is she being bullied by the Smallwoods?

"Don't cry, Shermaine. I will be even nicer to you in the future. I love you so much, and I don't care if the others don't care about you because I care. Your parents..."

Shermaine quickly shook her head and insisted, "No, they're nice to me. It's just that they've never treated me the way you do. We're not even related by blood, but you're still taking such good care of me. I don't think even my mom does that..."

"How can your mom treat you so poorly?"

Shermaine's lips quivered like she was hesitant to say something. She sighed and shook her head before confessing, "They treat me well. It's just that my mom loves my dad even more. Their love is so strong that I sometimes get jealous. Besides, they are probably a little disappointed in me now. Things had gone so far out of hand, and they are affected greatly. I guess it's understandable that they are upset even though I am their daughter."

At that moment, Kayla and James were going all out to help their daughter. If they knew what Shermaine said about them and how she felt, it is likely that they would treat Shermaine the way Hilary treated Clarissa. They would probably call their daughter a thankless wretch.

Naturally, they would never learn that their daughter held that much distaste towards them.

Hilary, however, was infuriated to hear Shermaine's words.

"How can they do this to you? As parents, they should help and love their daughter unconditionally. How can they treat you this way? This is too cruel."

"No, don't talk about them like that, Ms. Hilary. They are my parents, after all, and they gave me such a good life. I have never gone through much hardship throughout my life, and I am content. To be honest, if I had grown up in a poor family, I would never turn out to be the way I am. That is why I am thankful to have the Smallwoods as my family. I really am."

For some reason, Hilary's gaze looked a little strange.

She was secretly glad. Yeah, it's good that Shermaine grew up in a wealthy family and didn't suffer. I'm glad.

"Still, that won't do. You are their daughter, and if they don't love you, then I will. How about I just pretend you are my daughter?"

"That would be wonderful. I am so thankful for how kind you are to me, Ms. Hilary."

"There's no need to be thankful. I truly am doing this unconditionally."

Shermaine smiled. She was genuinely happy.

It truly was great for her, wasn't it?

Someone was genuinely looking out for her and helping her for free. How could Shermaine not be happy?

This woman... Hah! It's a waste to not take advantage of her.

After parting ways with Hilary, Shermaine went to the hospital.

That hospital was none other than the one that Gloria was hospitalized in.

That was the day Gloria got discharged from the hospital, but Clarissa never showed up to pick her up. Catherine simply called Gloria over the phone to tell her to go back as soon as possible. The former even told the latter to stop embarrassing herself in D City. Gloria wouldn't be able to cause any trouble to Matthew and Clarissa, even if she stayed in the city. That was the only reason why Catherine ignored Gloria completely.

The Lester family kept insulting Clarissa and Catherine for being heartless, even though they had already expected that treatment. After all, Clarissa had made things very clear with Mimi the last time they met at Zen Highlands.

That was why they no longer counted on Clarissa for anything.

The family settled the paperwork, then spent a small fortune. Naturally, they had to pay for everything on their own, so it didn't count as them borrowing money from Clarissa. Their trip over was just a trip of getting in debt. Naturally, they didn't have much savings, to begin with,

and they paid their debt via their credit card. Hence, they were simply changing the party to which they were owing money.

They never intended to pay Clarissa all the money they owed her, though.

As they exited the building, Jacob kept scolding Gloria for spending that much money on a trip to D City. He even reprimanded her for getting sick and not dying from it. Gloria had no choice but to endure all of his insults with her head down. Mimi, on the other hand, seemed to be used to it and didn't react to her father's insults.

The second he got out of the elevator, Jacob bumped into someone. Perhaps he didn't see the person there, or perhaps he couldn't care even if he had seen the person. Either way, they ended up knocking into each other.

A young woman dropped something on the floor. She looked like she was in a hurry, and she had a pair of sunglasses and a hat on. Every part of her was concealed, so no one could recognize her.

The lady rushed out of the elevator in a hurry. Jacob secretly pocketed the phone she dropped on the floor.

Jacob smiled and only took the phone out of his pocket after he had left the hospital. He checked the device out.

Mimi snatched that phone over suddenly.

"Dad, did you steal someone's phone?"

"Steal? I was just picking it up. Stop talking shit."

Mimi had the phone with her. At first, she was pleasantly surprised, but that quickly turned to disappointment.

"Dad, this is the newest branded model. It's a really expensive device and costs about ten thousand. It's too bad that we can't unlock the phone."

"It's that pricey? If so, then we'll probably get a sizeable sum if we sell it."

"No, don't sell it. I love this phone so much. How about we find someone to help us unlock it? Maybe it'll work then."

Jacob saw how much his daughter liked the phone and that got him to hesitate about selling the phone.

Mimi immediately chimed in, "Dad, I have never had a proper phone before, and everyone discriminated against me for it. With this, they will no longer look down on me and will even be my friend. I might meet better people and when I go to the university, I'd be able to work part-time in the studio. I'd end up making so much more money."

Gloria stood at the side. She had something to share, but she didn't dare to voice her opinion.

Jacob nodded at that moment and said, "Alright then, let's see if we can find someone to unlock this phone."

The family of three thought that they were in luck, but they were captured before they even got to find someone to help unlock the phone.

No one could get away with the crime because the evidence was still with them.

The person who captured them was none other than Shermaine.

"Shermaine Smallwood? The actress?"

Mimi was astonished and jealous when she saw Shermaine there. Darn it, she's so beautiful and popular.

Shermaine's reputation had already been ruined then, but it was undeniable that she used to be a popular actress and was still a beautiful woman. When she stood in front of Mimi, her grace got Mimi extremely jealous.

Shermaine saw how the family of three looked at her and was especially delighted to see Mimi's expression. The young girl's eyes shone with the kind of admiration that stroked Shermaine's ego.

Hmm... there are a few more people than I expected.

Shermaine grinned and invited them to a luxurious hotel. They had a meal there before they went into a private room to chat.

“Stealing will not reflect nicely on your records, and it is especially bad for Mimi, who is about to have her college entrance exams. Wouldn’t you say so?”

Jacob immediately refuted, “We didn’t steal anything. We only picked it up.”

“Oh, is that so? But I’ll tell the police that you stole it. Who do you think they’d trust? Me or you?”

Jacob backed down.

Mimi, on the other hand, turned to Shermaine and asked, “Ms. Smallwood, what do you want? You brought us to such a luxurious place and treated us to such a good meal. You even let us stay in a hotel that nice, and you won’t have done any of that if you had any intention of handing us over to the police. So tell us, what do you want from us? Or, more accurately, what do you want us to do?”

Mimi wasn’t an idiot, so she got right to the point.

Shermaine smiled nonchalantly and answered, “Nothing really. I am just upset about how cruel Clarissa was to you even though she is your family, so I decided to help you guys out.”

You’ll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

Chapter 238

Offering us help?

Suddenly, Mimi recalled that some time ago, there were rumors circulating about Shermaine. One of the rumors was that the latter used Matthew to hype up her popularity and even claimed that she was Matthew’s fiancée.

But now, it turned out that Clarissa was Matthew’s fiancée. Mimi guessed that Shermaine was trying to target Clarissa.

However, Jacob and Gloria knew nothing about that.

Before Mimi could speak, Gloria started to grumble about Clarrisa.

“Yes! I think so too! Clarissa, that brat! I am her aunt. But she doesn’t even care about us. We want to let everyone know how cruel she is to her family. She is rich and even going to marry into a wealthy family, but she is unwilling to give us a hand. Damn that brat ...”

Gloria bared her curses at Clarissa and spoke ill of the latter in front of Shermaine.

“Hold on! Did you say Clarissa made friends with gangsters when she was young?”

“Yeah. She looks obedient but actually...”

Gloria exaggerated Clarrisa’s behavior, and her narration was getting more and more outrageous. At the same time, Shermaine was excited upon hearing the stories.

Mimi didn’t stop Gloria because she knew that Clarissa would never reconcile with them. Now, Shermaine wants to give Clarissa a hard time. Of course, I must grab the opportunity to cooperate with the former to teach Clarissa a lesson. However, I won’t be her cat’s paw unless she offers us some benefits!

“Mom, have some water. You must be thirsty after talking for so long.”

At that, Mimi forcibly put a glass of water into Gloria’s hand. After taking a sip, the latter still wanted to say something, but she did not dare to because Mimi glared at her fiercely.

Moreover, as the head of the family, Jacob should voice his opinion first.

“Ms. Smallwood, do you have a grudge against Clarissa?”

Upon hearing that, Shermaine smiled. “Not really. I just can’t stand the way she treated you. But of course, if you don’t want me to help you, just forget about it. Serves me right for poking my nose into your business.”

Having said that, Shermaine purposely put on a carefree and indifferent look as if she was going to leave.

Upon seeing that, Mimi panicked. Although Shermaine is now a loathsome existence, she is rich and powerful in showbiz. I believe that she can help me.

Hence, she immediately replied, "Ms. Smallwood, please don't get us wrong. My parents didn't mean to offend you or anything. But we haven't thought it through. After all, we are Clarissa's family."

Hearing that, Shermaine shot her a smile and said, "Haven't thought it through? Fine. I'm leaving now."

Shermaine got up and prepared to leave. A moment later, she seemed to have thought of something. Looking up, she turned to Mimi and said, "The password of that phone is six consecutive six. You can have it. It's just a cheap gadget anyway."

With that, Shermaine let out a smile and left.

Actually, Mimi panicked and wanted the former to stay, but she managed to suppress her emotions and did not go after the former at that point in time.

After that, Jacob and Gloria stared at Mimi while the latter furrowed her brows and started to analyze the whole situation.

"Mimi, what shall we do now? I think Ms. Smallwood really wants to help us. Clarissa is not reliable at all. She is such a rich person, but she is so stingy and even unwilling to support us financially. I think she won't care about us too in the future. Her character is just the same as that mom of hers! She doesn't even care about her own blood relatives," said Jacob.

Gloria chimed in, "Yes, that's right. Mimi, I think Ms. Smallwood is nice to us. It's quite good to let her help us."

Mimi thought longer than her parents. Shermaine is just the same as us. I think she wants to make things difficult for Clarissa too. But, it's her idea to cooperate with us. So, I think we will be benefited from this!

When the thought crossed her mind, she smiled confidently.

"Dad, Mom, since Clarissa is getting on our nerves, and now we finally got a chance to fix her, why don't we cooperate with Ms. Smallwood to make things difficult for her? Although

Clarissa is rich, she doesn't even lend us a helping hand when we are having difficulties. So, why don't we ruin her instead?"

A sympathetic look flashed past Gloria's eyes upon hearing that, but Jacob immediately answered, "That's great! Clarissa has no regard for us anyway. Oh, by the way, what do we have to do? How would Ms. Smallwood help us? She's so rich. Can she offer us some benefits?"

Mimi let out a chuckle upon hearing Jacob's words. "Of course. She needs a favor from us too. Her reputation is in tatters now. She must hate Clarissa to the core."

"What's the matter? Do you mean that there's bad blood between Clarissa and Ms. Smallwood?"

Mimi grinned and explained the grudges between Clarissa and Shermaine, which was related to Matthew.

Upon hearing that, Gloria said, "I knew it! That brat is the same as her mom. None of them is any good. Both of them are sluts who love stealing other peoples' men. Back then, her mom... "

Before Gloria could finish the sentence, she swallowed her words.

Actually, Mimi wasn't interested in what Gloria said about Clarissa's mom. At that time, she was thinking about how to contact Shermaine, or they should just wait for Shermaine to contact them.

Then, she turned around and saw that phone.

All of a sudden, she broke into a chuckle. She took the phone, pressed the password that Shermaine told her earlier, and managed to unlock the phone. When she tapped on the address book, there was just a phone number.

Mimi smiled coldly. It seems like this is all premeditated. But so what?

As long as our goal is the same, that is, we want to ruin Clarissa, we can cooperate with each other.

But of course, Mimi didn't contact Shermaine immediately.

At that time, she just wanted to enjoy herself in the high-class hotel together with her parents. After all, she didn't need to pay anything for that. Shermaine would foot the bill for them.

"Dad, Mom, let's just save it for next time. Have fun first. After all, Ms. Smallwood is generous..."

After exchanging looks, the Lester family started to have fun.

Clarissa yawned as she went downstairs. Just as Catherine hung up the phone, Clarissa leaned against her and behaved like a child.

Catherine smiled as she hugged and lovingly caressed her granddaughter's back.

"You're behaving like a little kid now! Sit properly. If Matt sees this, he is going to make fun of you!"

When Clarissa heard Catherine's words, she purposely said in a delicate voice, "He wouldn't dare. No matter how I look and act, he has to accept and love me for who I am. Otherwise, why should I be with him?"

Hearing that, Catherine shook her head and smiled. "Matt always pampers you. You are becoming more childish now. I think you'll be spoiled with love one day."

"Really? That means I'm very blissful now. People say when a woman behaves like a kid, it means that she is having a blissful life. Grandma, you should be happy for me that Matthew dotes on me so much."

Then, Catherine touched Clarissa's forehead. Even though she didn't answer the latter, her heart was leaping with joy.

Catherine remembered when she just reached D City and found out how rich Matthew was, she was worried that Clarissa would be bullied by this man.

However, after coming into contact with Matthew for a period of time, she felt rest assured because she found that Matthew wasn't as bad as she thought.

He was different from how other rich men behaved in her perception. He was more composed and mature. Besides, Matthew was never impatient with her nor was insincere in

treating her. After all, you can pretend to be nice but not for long. Margaret could tell that Matthew loved Clarissa very much that sometimes she felt kind of mushy upon seeing their interactions.

Both of them were truly in love. Moreover, Catherine noticed that Matthew was a very thoughtful man. Every time before he went out or returned home, the first question he asked was 'where is Clare?'. Sometimes, he requested to kiss and hug Clarissa before leaving. During the meal, he would care about her taste preference. When the weather turned cold, he would remind Clarissa to put on more clothes. When Clarissa felt unwell, he would take good care of the former. Other than that, when Clarissa went out, he wouldn't interfere too much in her private life, but he would pick up and send Clarissa to the destination himself...

Matthew had too many good qualities that Catherine could hardly spell out one by one.

She was really satisfied with this grandson-in-law and felt that Clarissa was really lucky to have met such a good man who loved her and also respected her family.

But the only downside was that the Tysons didn't like Clarissa. Although Clarissa and Matthew didn't tell Catherine about that, the latter knew it very well. Other than Ellie, other members of the Tysons never asked them out if Clarissa didn't take the initiative to do so.

When the thought crossed Catherine's mind, she sighed inwardly. Fine, they were from a wealthy family, after all. I think it's the biggest compromise that they've ever made for allowing Clare to marry into their family. Moreover, Clare is not going to live with them. So, I think she is not going to have any conflict with them. Maybe Clare just needs to make peace with them on the surface.

Suddenly, Catherine recalled that recently Clarissa and Matthew were busy planning their wedding. Hence she said, "Clare, I've been staying here for a long time. I think I should go back now. I will tell your dad that you're getting married soon. I believe that he would be overjoyed upon receiving the news."

Hearing that, Clarissa was shocked. "What? I remember you saying that you will stay here until the end of the year. Then, I'll go back with you after Valentine's Day!"

"But both of you are busy. Although Jenny accompanies me when you are not here, I miss my friends so much, and I want to spend my time with them. I am bored stiff staying here. Moreover, my friends and I will be participating in a dance competition soon. There are

going to be a lot of activities after the New Year. So, I want to rush back home to join my gang in the preparation for the competition.”

Clarissa knew that old people were the same. They preferred to live in their own house because they had a lot of friends and entertainment there.

But, she was reluctant to part with Catherine.

Actually, she wanted to go back with Catherine, but she knew that Matthew wouldn't allow her to.

After that, Catherine smiled as she said, “Alright, stop thinking about it. My decision is final. I'll go back after your birthday.”

“Huh? Oh, my birthday... I've forgotten about it.”

Catherine laughed at that and said, “You always forget your own birthday. I should remind Matt about this later so that he can remind you next time.”

Again, Clarissa hugged Catherine and whined, “Okay. He'll definitely remember it!”

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

Chapter 239

Matthew did know Clarissa's birthday from her ID card, but not the unconventional name day.

It was Clarissa's family tradition to celebrate their name days instead of the traditional calendar birthdays.

Matthew would not have known if Catherine had not alerted him.

“I'm sorry, Catherine. I didn't know your family celebrates name days instead of calendar birthdays.”

Nevertheless, he did have some time to prepare for it.

Catherine chuckled lightly as she said, "That's alright, Matt. You couldn't have known. It's really only a few days away from her calendar birthday and you can treat it just like her birthday. So let's just prepare more food for the occasion."

Tilting her head in Matthew's direction, Clarissa looked at the man wittingly with her brow lifted.

The delighted glint in the woman's eyes clearly suggested that she did not just expect more party food for her birthday.

Rather, they seemed to indicate that some sort of presents should be in order.

That cheeky look cracked Matthew up as he returned Clarissa's gaze with a manly chortle.

The way the couple exchanged affectionate looks at each other did not escape Catherine's eyes as she looked at them with a smile. The elder woman had an early dinner and retreated into her bedroom and left the pair alone.

The content of their conversation afterward, however, was anything but corny and cheesy.

Clarissa's mind was occupied by something else.

She had been informed by Gina of Shermaine's encounter with the Lesters in the morning. I must say I admire her tenacity in this matter. But what trick is she going to pull by involving the Lesters? I hope she's not thinking to use them as bargaining chips to make me leave Matthew. If yes, her plan will be destined to fail as I don't care for what they do at all. That's not a wise move on her part.

Clarissa then recounted the incident to Matthew. "What puzzles me is that, so what if she succeeds in breaking us up? With her rock-bottom reputation, there's no way your mom will take her in as daughter-in-law. In such a way, we're actually not that different from each other. So, my question is, why is she still doing all these things? Is it just because it's now become something personal for her and she just wants to see me suffer?"

Stroking her hair, Matthew refuted matter-of-factly, "There's a big difference between the two of you."

A smile flashed across Clarissa's face as she turned around and rested her body on top of Matthew. Her chin rested on the back of her hands, which rested on the man's chest as she

questioned, "Why don't you tell me how different are we from each other? Aren't we both on your mother's reject list?"

Despite what Clarissa nonchalantly said, Matthew saw in the woman's eyes a gleam of expectation from him to clarify what distinguished her from Shermaine.

An affectionate smile appeared on the man's face as his fingertips brushed playfully at Clarissa's long eyelashes, causing the latter to blink her eyes involuntarily.

Clarissa continued to pester, "So, what is it? How are we different?"

Matthew finally replied lazily, "Fine. The biggest difference between you two is that I love you, not her."

Clarissa was rendered momentarily speechless by the man's bold profession of love for her. In the next moment, she let out a satisfactory laugh and patted his chest to indicate a job well done. "Not bad, not bad. Your argument is very sound," Clarissa spoke with an unmistakable triumph look in her eyes.

Matthew held onto Clarissa's body and lifted her closer to him so that when he lowered his head, his mouth could reach her lips.

Clarissa was happy to cooperate and they kissed playfully for a few moments before Matthew held the woman in his arms and asked smilingly, "So, what do you want for your birthday?"

Clarissa replied the man with a searching look. Did he just ask me straight out what I want for my birthday? Where did all the sweet talks and romantic gestures go? This is such a buzzkill. Isn't birthday gift supposed to be a surprise?

Clarissa pouted a little as she spoke, "There's nothing that I want."

She was not entirely lying when she said there was nothing that she wanted. She just felt so contented with her life now that she did not feel like anything was missing in her life right now.

Matthew pondered on what birthday present he should get for Clarissa.

I bought her an island as an engagement gift last time, I can't be downgrading her birthday present now. I have to think of something better than an island.

Clarissa leaned onto Matthew's body once more, completely unaware of what the man was planning in his head. If she had known that he was planning to up his game for her birthday, she would have rejected it outright. She was not one who enjoyed over-indulgence, nor would she like his nice gestures to be negatively publicized by the media again.

Meanwhile, the Lesters, who had agreed to work together with Shermaine, had been having the time of their lives.

Shermaine had paid for their hotel fees, arranged for them to move into a nice house, and even hired maids for them.

The way they were treated by Shermaine confirmed their belief that the woman needed their help badly and would do anything to please them.

Shermaine, on the other hand, was more than happy to cater to their greed. To top things off, Shermaine took Mimi under her wings and introduced her to a few of her associates in the showbiz circle and film academy. Shermaine also helped Mimi expand her network considerably in the entertainment industry. But she had yet to ask of any favors from Mimi and her parents.

Instead, after lying low for a while, Shermaine decided she should become more active.

With regards to her court case, there was still no concrete evidence for a judge to pass a verdict. Thus, despite her dreadful reputation, Shermaine continued to enjoy her freedom by making multiple appearances in public.

Backed up by her cash and some showbiz communities who had not severed ties with her, Shermaine could still be seen attending some public events.

She had now cultivated a completely different image from her prior arrogant and aloof impression; everywhere she went, she was smiling cheerfully into the cameras. Even when the reporters pestered her on questions regarding her court case, Shermaine managed to maintain her cool and did not get worked up at all.

It also did not concern her that all of her recent posts on social media had attracted a large swath of comments from internet users, most of them were there to give her a piece of their mind. To Shermaine, these were all publicity that she welcomed.

All in all, she had become more thick-skinned to whatever attacks that came her way.

Whenever Shermaine appeared in front of cameras, a new figure was always next to her: Mimi Lester.

As with Shermaine, Mimi was impervious to the negative news surrounding Shermaine, as long as she managed to gain media exposure in the process. She even felt grateful for Shermaine's help in acquainting her to people she deemed helpful in the showbiz business.

After spending all that time with Shermaine, Mimi had come to see her as more of a family member than Clarissa was. After all, Shermaine was the one who was willing to pull the strings for Mimi in advancing her career, whereas all Clarissa did was lecturing her for her life choices.

Shermaine had now successfully wrapped the Lesters around her little finger. They would practically do anything for her.

One evening, Shermaine and Mimi were at yet another gathering with some fringe celebrities. In spite of Shermaine's awful character, the entertainment business was not full of glorified souls either. She was bound to have a few like-minded friends.

While Shermaine watched with a smile at Mimi flirting with an artist from afar, a woman, whom others called the mother of mistress, approached her and asked, "Ms. Smallwood, who's this kid? I've seen her stick to you like glue lately. What's the deal?"

"Mimi? She's my weapon."

"Weapon? What do you mean by that?"

A grin spread across Shermaine's face. "A weapon with which I'll use against whoever that treads on my toes."

"I still don't get it," the woman replied.

Saying no more, Shermaine turned to her friend and clinked glass with her as she spoke, "What's with you lately? You're slipping, getting caught like that. Have you at least pocketed the money?"

The woman let out a sarcastic laugh. "Oh well, the odds were not in my favor this round. But who cares, the money was still mine to grab. I don't care for people's opinion of me anyway. Worst comes to worst, I'll just go overseas and turn over a new leaf there. Start afresh, you know?"

Shermaine nodded. "You're right."

The women smiled knowingly at each other before Shermaine's friend asked, "So, are you still planning to stay in this business? Why don't you come with me overseas? I'm sure you'll find someone to your liking, since no one will recognize you. Many of my friends do that and they can't be happier!"

"I may consider going overseas. But now is not the time. I still have some old scores to settle around here."

"Huh? Do you mean the writer?"

Shermaine responded with a canny smile.

The woman said no more. But she started praying for Shermaine in her heart. I don't know what got into her. She just won't give up on this Matthew business. Can't she see what horrendous situation he has landed her in right now? This man is just not someone I'll mess around with.

Nevertheless, the woman kept these thoughts to herself. After all, they were no more than just social friends. Their friendship was only as strong as the mutual benefits, lacking which, nothing was more important than serving her own interests.

Shermaine waited until Mimi left with the artist before she stooped up and stretched a little, ready to leave the party too.

This family is about to do some paybacks for all the time and money I invested in them.

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow Chapter 240

Clarissa had been more active in social media than she ever was, especially Twitter. There were countless comments on her Twitter posts, pleading her to post updates even when she only stopped for a day.

She was fine with posting words but never photos of herself or Matthew since the online bullying – she did not wish to go through that once more. She had a side account, but the photos were intentionally blurred as a precaution of it being hacked.

Every time she took a break from posting, people will be urging her for more.

Her followers were extraordinarily enthusiastic.

Her page started getting flushed full of comments from her followers after she became Mrs. Tyson.

Realizing the change, she would occasionally reply to some comments in bitterness.

She replied to one of the comments: Y'all are so shameless! Y'all were never so active when I was still single. Ouch!

A fan replied: Don't get upset, Mrs. Tyson. We're sorry. You're still our goddess, and we'll always love you.

Clarissa chuckled at their sweet talk.

However, her fans added a comment following that: We'll always love our idol too.

Clarissa replied with an angry face emoji and went speechless.

She was not actually angry, just fooling around with them.

She understood the perspective of the fans. Those who do not know Matthew personally must have thought of him as a mysterious and powerful heroic figure.

When she first heard about him from Ellie, she felt more intimidated than those fans did.

More than that, she knew that he was a cold and brutal man, especially in the business world.

That was why she was filled with fear instantly upon knowing that Matthew was the one who saved her.

Those fans had a more personal impression of him as her lover.

Clarissa smiled and replied to the comment: Don't be fooled! He's just an ordinary guy. Stop idolizing him!

A fan replied: Ordinary guy? Unless Mr. Tyson has the same issues like normal guys?

Issues?

Clarissa smirked and replied: Yes, he does have an issue with his ego. He likes to give me the cold shoulder when he is upset, bickers with me, and even...

Clarissa picked out trivial habits to reveal instead of stuff like his morning breath and his sex drive that were more personal.

She finds joy in sharing the sweet details of their relationship as she used to be envious of others who did.

However, she draws her line at photos of them.

She trusted her loyal followers to keep the updates for their own enjoyment. Little did she know that they would retweet those updates.

The day after, she got to know that what she commented about Matthew had been screenshot and spread throughout the internet.

She only knew after Ava called to apologize.

"Clarissa, I'm so sorry. It was Autumn who leaked the post. She gave me a call immediately after the post went viral. It started when her friend insisted that the love between Mr. Tyson

and you was not real. Out of anger, Autumn sent her friend screenshots of your posts. She told the friend to keep it confidential, but it ended up like this.”

Clarissa scanned through the comments on Twitter. Luckily, most were rather neutral with a few bitter ones. Luckily, she was not that easily agitated.

“I understand. The scale of this issue is still relatively small, hence it wouldn’t be that much of an issue. But please be more careful in the future. If this happens again, I might have no choice but to stop my updates.”

Ava was like an old friend to Clarissa as they had more common topics to talk about.

“Indeed. It’s hard to know who to trust, even your long-time fans. I think it would be best for you to keep the details of your personal life to yourself. I’ll do my part by stopping myself from sharing too.”

“Thank you so much, Ava.”

“Don’t mention it. Oh, and our mini committee had been looking forward to a gathering with you. We know you’re at D City. Can we arrange for a meetup?”

Clarissa considered for a moment and asked, “When are you thinking?”

“What about the coming weekend? We’re all friends now after the many gatherings throughout the years. It’s a little regretful that you couldn’t join us.”

Clarissa smiled warmly and replied, “I feel so touched.”

“We just hope that you wouldn’t be startled by our warmth when you meet us.”

Clarissa chuckled while she put down her phone and lay on the sofa.

Catherine saw and nagged, “Clare, please mind your posture!”

Clarissa pouted and rebutted Catherine, “Why are you nagging me about this now? You didn’t do that when we were back at home!”

“Previously, there was no one to compare you to. Now look at Matt – he’s such a prim and proper guy. I wonder what he sees in you.”

“Grandma, I’m your granddaughter, not Matthew!”

Catherine smiled and teased, “I’d love to have him as my grandson! But I’ve got to live with what I have.”

Ugh!

Clarissa felt left out by Catherine.

Ignoring Clarissa’s response, Catherine continued to nag, “Stop lazing around and start preparing dinner. Matt loves the grilled fish that you make. Hurry! It’s about time he gets off work already. He must be tired from working so hard even though he makes a decent salary.”

Clarissa was at a loss for words.

She got up restlessly upon hearing her grandma showing concern to her dearest grandson-in-law.

When Matthew was back, Clarissa rolled her eyes at him. He felt confused as to how he had upset her.

When Clarissa went to wash her hands, Matthew followed and gave her a tight hug.

However, Clarissa tried to shrug him off to no avail. Clarissa intentionally flicked the water off her hands at Matthew and made his face wet.

Matthew chuckled and kissed her ears.

“Clare, are you upset? Was it something that I did?”

“Yes. It’s your fault.”

Clarissa glared at Matthew through the mirror’s reflection and furrowed her brows.

Matthew looked into her eyes through the mirror, his fingers intertwined with hers, and asked, “Clare, please tell me what did I do?”

"No, you didn't do anything. You're just prim and proper, hardworking, with a decent salary."

She was repeating the positive traits of Matthew that Catherine had mentioned.

Following that, she listed out all her negative traits. Matthew was confused at first and realized what she was doing a while later.

She was jealous of him.

Matthew kissed her cheek and smirked. "Grandma was showing her concern for me, but I am more concerned about my dear Clare."

"Hey, that's my grandma!"

"Alright, your grandma."

The corner of her lips turned into a smile, but she still gave Matthew another eye roll.

"Let's have dinner."

"You're not upset anymore?"

"Hmph! Who told you I was upset?"

She tried to wiggle out of Matthew's embrace but was pressed against the wall and got kissed by him. It was a light kiss, and both of them chuckled.

"Clare, did you miss me today?"

Clarissa rolled her eyes and remarked, "You must be crazy."

"I've missed my dear Clare very much. Didn't you miss me? You didn't send me a single text, give me a single call, and you didn't even hug me earlier." Matthew smiled and confessed while they were kissing.

Clarissa's lips were frowning, seemingly trying to hide her smile. "Oh. I gave you something – an eye roll."

Matthew went speechless.

Clarissa could no longer hold it in and let out a chuckle. "Hahaha! Okay, who said I didn't miss you? I even made your favorite dish!"

Her gentle tone and flirtatious gesture made Matthew's heart flutter.

Matthew smiled and planted a deep kiss on her lips.

Such interactions were part of their daily joy.

Good morning kisses, hugs in the evening after work – these were all little blessings to them.

Clarissa's jealousy dissipated after all the sweet gestures from Matthew.

At the dining table, Catherine nagged, "Matt, please eat more. These are all your favorite dishes."

Clarissa's eyes were on her favorite, the baked chicken wings.

She made those as a reward for making Matthew's favorite grilled fish.

Just as Clarissa reached out her fork, Catherine's words made her uneasy.

Matthew smirked and grabbed the baked chicken wings for Clarissa. "Clare, I know this is your favorite."

Catherine smiled as she saw Clarissa's gleaming smile.