

# My Three Darlings by Anonymous

## Chapter 31

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When Eliza woke up, it was already the next morning.

She had a nightmare last night. When she woke up, she realized that she was sweating so much that it had soaked through the pillow.

Getting up from the bed, she charged her cell phone and went to the bathroom to wash up.

She still vaguely remembered what happened last night.

Someone locked her in the resting lounge on purpose.

Her phone was dead and her surroundings were pitch black.

Just when she was in despair, she saw Beau appearing before her.

After that, she could no longer remember anything.

However, she could remember Beau's silhouette vividly. It was as if Superman himself had appeared before her eyes.

Thinking of Beau, a streak of red surged up her cheeks and her heart drummed against her chest.

Suddenly, the ringtone of her phone broke her reverie as she came back to her senses.

Eliza rushed to the table to pick up her phone.

It was Graciana. "Why didn't you answer the call, Eliza?"

"You're in a lot of trouble!"

Eliza frowned while wiping the water droplets off her face with a towel. "What is it?"

"Madeleine posted a video of you and Jay online! It's about what happened yesterday during work!"

"Everyone on the internet is condemning you, saying that you're a sl\*t who's trying to seduce Jay!"

Eliza was stunned.

Graciana continued speaking anxiously, "She blurred out your face and wrote that she did it to protect your privacy. However, her words piqued her fans' curiosity and they're now trying to figure out your identity!"

"Based on your outfit on set, they found out that you're working for Roseane as her stuntwoman. It won't be long until they discover your identity!"

Graciana's words were like a knife stabbing into her heart.

She bit her lip and searched for *Madeleine's* post online.

After reading through the post, she finally understood what Graciana meant just now.

"I understand that you find my boyfriend attractive, but please refrain from seducing him in the future. I blurred out her face because I respect her privacy. If she continues to seduce Jay, I will not hesitate to expose her identity."

She attached a video below the paragraph of words. It was that incident where Jay tore open the wound on her shoulder, which caused her to collapse to the ground.

The video stopped after *Madeleine* slapped Eliza's face. *Madeleine's* fans were all furious as they cursed Eliza for being a homewrecker! Some of them even tagged Roseane, demanding her to fire Eliza.

A chill went down her spine as she tried to digest the negative comments about her online.

Initially, she thought that *Madeleine* and Jay were trying to teach her a lesson by locking her up.

However, it turned out that it was just a small step of their devious scheme.

Besides forcing her into a state of mental breakdown, they also wanted to ruin Eliza's career in the entertainment circle. At the same time, they could also use the chance to boost their popularity online.

Even now, they were still trying to use her to achieve success.

Eliza gritted her teeth. It seemed like she had underestimated those scoundrels,

Last night, *Madeleine* didn't just come to the dressing room to threaten her. Her real motive was to check on the exact location of her wound.

Jay would've reached out his left hand if everything went according to the script. Instead, he changed into his right hand at the last minute and landed his grip precisely on her wound!

He exerted so much force that it ripped her healing wound apart.

While she was writhing in pain, Jay took the opportunity to hug her and Madeleine slapped her just in time.

Eliza was struggling to wrap her head around the fact that she had fallen straight into their trap.

Everything that happened yesterday was part of their calculative scheme.

"What should we do?"

Graciana said frantically. "Eliza, why don't you talk to them?"

"We're just lowly actresses. We can't possibly go against famous celebrities like them..."

Eliza closed her eyes. "I will never back down."

She knew that they were doing this on purpose. They wanted her to beg them for mercy,

After she rejected Jay's request to help Madeleine in the afternoon, the couple was already scheming to ambush her at night.

"But..."

Graciana pursed her lips. "Eliza, I'm worried. You might not be able to work as a stuntwoman anymore if you don't apologize to them."

"You were the best actress in our class back then and we all thought that you had a bright future ahead."

"But now, look at what Jay did to you..."

Graciana sobbed. She was at a loss for words.

"I won't give in."

Heaving in a deep breath, Eliza looked at herself in the mirror with a smile. "Worst comes to worst. I can just quit and start working in another industry."

After she hung up the phone, Eliza laid on the bed browsing through the news.

Almost everyone on the internet was sl\*t-shaming her for something she didn't do.

Looking at these insults, Eliza wasn't fazed. Deep down, she knew that she didn't do anything wrong. The shameless homewrecker they were talking about was none other than Madeleine herself. After a while, the manager from Parson Media called. "Eliza, you never fail to surprise me. I can't believe that you have the guts to offend someone as popular as them!"

"Mr. Ellis called me just now. He wanted to see you at his office later."

"I think he wants to fire you in person. I'm guessing your career in the entertainment circle ends today."

After that, the manager hung up the phone.

It seemed like she still had to face reality today.

Sighing, Eliza changed her clothes and went downstairs.

In the living room downstairs, Braint was typing on his laptop quietly.

When he heard her footsteps, he looked up and asked, "Does your shoulder still hurt?"

Eliza stopped in her tracks. How did Braint know about that?

Braint sighed and turned his laptop screen to her.

It was the video posted by Madeleine online.

"That man did it on purpose."

He turned toward her and said compassionately, "It still hurts, doesn't it?" Hearing his concerns, Eliza felt warm inside. She smiled and caressed Braint's head, "It doesn't hurt anymore." "I am a strong woman, you know?"

Braint curled his lips. "If you're that strong, why are you afraid of the dark then?"

Eliza didn't know how to answer that question.

She coughed softly and turned to look around. "Why are you alone? Where is Demarion?"

"Demarion?" Braint shrugged. "He's grounded. He's playing chess with grandpa at the moment." "Why did Demarion do?" Braint looked up at stared at Eliza. His mature demeanor didn't seem to reflect his age at all. "Demarion joked about daddy's inability to give us a baby sister."

Eliza was speechless.

Blushing, she didn't dare to look Braint straight in the face. She grabbed her bag and rushed out of the door instantly.

The manager informed her that Mr. Ellis would be waiting at the main office.

After Eliza got out of the car, he found that the office was filled with decorations. It was as if the company was holding an important event today.

A red carpet was placed at the entrance with spotlights blazing around the place.

When Tom noticed Eliza's arrival, he came up quickly and said, "Eliza! You're finally here. I've been waiting

for you for a long time!"

Eliza was taken aback.

She looked at the lavish decorations behind her and glanced at Tom, who was smiling from ear to ear.

"Are... are you that happy because I'm getting fired today?"

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Tom was shocked. "Fire who?"

Eliza nodded. "The reason I'm here, isn't...isn't it because of the news being spread online?"

"What are you talking about?"

Tom turned to look at his secretary with a puzzled expression, "Update me. What happened?"

The secretary paused. He inched closer and whispered into Tom's ears.

Tom frowned and his demeanor turned serious almost instantly.

Eliza sighed.

It seemed like she could not escape the fate of being fired after all.

Just as she was about to take the initiative to resign, Tom smiled at her and said, "Eliza, rest assured. I will deal with that."

"I'll fire Madeleine Robinson right now!"

Aside from Eliza, the curious onlookers were also stunned beyond words.

The secretary reminded Tom discreetly, "You're talking about Eliza right?"

Tom frowned and said, "No! The one who should be fired is Madeleine! How dare she frame my staff in my company!"

"Eliza is a professional stuntwoman with outstanding work ethics and qualities. There's absolutely no way she'd seduce a small fry like Jay Carr!"

He added while smiling at Eliza, "Eliza, let's go upstairs to discuss the issue further."

Eliza was so shocked that her jaw literally dropped to the ground.

"What's going on?" she thought.

Still in a state of confusion, she followed Tom to the VIP lounge.

Tom poured her tea and said, "Don't worry, I've ordered my subordinates to delete that video. I assure you, that post will not affect your career prospects in any way."

After Beau left, Tom pondered about the incident that happened yesterday for the entire night.

He was shocked to discover that *Mr. Valentine* was nothing like the rumors described.

Rumors had it that Mr. Valentine didn't love his wife at all and he treated her poorly. However, what happened last night had opened his eyes. Unexpectedly, he was a loving husband who cared deeply for Eliza!

Though Tom didn't know why Beau would marry a lowly stuntwoman, he knew for a fact that Valentine's Group would definitely invest in Parson Media if he treated Eliza well.

Tom couldn't help but widen his smile at the thought of the endless benefits that Valentine's Group could offer. "Eliza, I will do my best to nurture talented actresses like you."

"As long as you focus on your work, I will definitely offer you the position as the female lead in the near future!"

Eliza looked at Tom in amazement. She didn't know if she should accept the teacup handed to her or not.

After a while, she received the cup and asked, "Why... why are you so nice to me?"

She knew that Tom wasn't a kind person.

His sudden change in attitude was really alarming and Eliza couldn't help but squirm nervously in her seat.

"That's because..."

Before Tom could finish speaking, someone pushed open the door.

The chief director of the film, 'Snowy Night', entered the VIP lounge.

"Mr. Ellis, I hope you could grant me permission to fire Eliza Lawson, the stuntwoman."

He sat down just opposite Eliza and complained. "I was arguing with Roseane just now because she refused to fire that stuntwoman. Since I can't get on terms with her. I'm hoping that you could..."

Obviously, the director did not recognize Eliza as he continued blabbering,

"Jay's manager just informed me that the incident has affected the couple's relationship drastically. If we don't fire that stuntwoman, they threatened to resign."

"I think we should fire her. Someone as unprofessional as her should be fired. The sooner the better."

"Let them resign."

Tom interrupted him while sipping on the cup of tea. "Does Jay really think that he's that great? He's not in any position to act all cocky."

He smiled at Eliza and added, "Eliza, am I right?"

She didn't know what to say.

The chief director was dumbstruck.

He whispered into Tom's ears. "The drama series is worth 2 billion dollars and we are already halfway through the filming process. If they resign now, we will lose everything." D

Tom snorted. "2 billion dollars is nothing to me."

"You shouldn't fire Eliza for something she didn't do!"

Tom said in a righteous and imposing manner.

Deep down, he knew that 2 billion was nothing to *Mr. Valentine*. If he could win Eliza's favor, he could get the money back easily. If anything, *Mr. Valentine* would return the favor tenfold!

The chief director glared at Tom incredulously and said, "Are you out of your mind right now?"

"I don't know what's wrong with you but I will never fire Jay!"

After that, he rose furiously and roared in disdain, "If you don't fire Eliza, I will go against you by asking everyone in *Parson Media* to quit!"

Bang!

He slammed the door and stormed away.

"Such a rude person!"

After expressing his disapproval of the chief director's attitude, Tom turned to Eliza and grinned. "I truly apologize for what happened just now."

She gritted her teeth nervously,

No matter how dense she was, she could tell that there was something wrong with Tom today.

Tom was the kind of boss who liked exploiting his employees whenever he could.

He would never risk 2 billion dollars for a small fry like herself.

She bit her lips and said, "Mr. Ellis, you don't have to do this, I can resign."

"I'm not worth 2 billion dollars." Tom looked at her cheerfully, "You are definitely worth that money."

"You are *Mr. Valentine's* wife. Investing in you is definitely worth it. I could easily get back 2 billion with you on my side. If anything, 20 billion would still be a small sum to your husband." Eliza was taken aback.

Everything was clear as day now.

It seemed like Tom's drastic change in attitude stemmed from his discovery of Eliza's identity as Mr. Valentine's wife. She was the wife of a multi-billionaire. An uncomfortable feeling surged inside her as she grinned at Tom, "Mr. Ellis, I think you might've misunderstood something." "You can't rely on me to get what you want." "I'm sorry to tell you that I won't be relying on my husband to get whatever I want in my career." She took a deep breath and rose to her feet. "I think I've made things clear to you." "Since I can't promise you the return of 2 billion dollars, I think it's better if you listen to the chief director's advice." After that, Eliza picked up her handbag and turned to leave. "You don't have to fire me. I'll resign myself." Eliza let out a sigh of relief as she left the main office of Parson Media. She would rather lose her job than using Beau to pave her future career.

Most importantly, she could still remain a sense of integrity.

While she was preoccupied with her thoughts, a car stopped beside her.

The window was rolled down, revealing Beau's handsome face. "Braint told me that you're getting fired."

"He ordered me to bring you home."

Beau's sudden appearance was comforting. She opened the door and went into the car. "If you're aware of that, why didn't you help me to save my job?" D Beau smiled, "They'll definitely ask you back." Eliza grimaced and replied, "I'm sure Tom will beg me to come back." After all, Tom was now treating her like a cash cow.

Beau narrowed his eyes. "I'm not talking about him." He turned to look at her. "I will make sure Jay begs you for forgiveness."

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"Then ask *Madeleine* to beg me for forgiveness too."

Eliza pursed her lips and continued, "And all the directors, scriptwriters, and producers who have turned their noses up at me in the past." Beau was slightly taken aback by her words. He narrowed his eyes momentarily, and then he smiled. "Okay." Eliza turned to look at him. "Should I provide you with a list of names, then?" He smirked. "It would be best if you could."

"But even without a name list, I will still be able to find every one of them just the same." Eliza had no words.

"Does he really mean it?" She pondered. Eliza sighed and said, "I was just kidding." After saying that, she rolled down the window to catch some fresh air.

The cool breeze cleared her head. "I was really cool back there when I turned Tom's offer down. I told him that I'll take care of my problems by myself and that I will not rely on my ties with you."

"If I still end up having to depend on you to be acknowledged by others, I'd be really ashamed of myself."

Beau looked at her in silence.

Eliza met his eyes resolutely.

A moment later, he turned to look forward. "I'll be here whenever you need me."

"Does this mean that he's agreed?" Eliza mused.

She quickly nodded in response. "Okay."

She looked at him and smiled sweetly. "I'll come straight to you if I ever need your help."

As Beau turned to look at her, their gaze met. Her eyes seemed to hold an entire galaxy of stars.

Almost instinctively, Beau reached out and gently stroked her head. "I'll be waiting."

Eliza froze at the overly intimate move.

Beau, on the other hand, did not seem to sense anything amiss. He stroked her head a couple more times before he withdrew his hand and leaned back into his seat for a doze.

Eliza was left absolutely flustered.

Her face flushed and her heart raced.

She subconsciously eyed the man beside her out of the corner of her eye.

As he dozed, his eyes were shut, and his profile was so elegant that it was simply captivating.

Eliza wondered if a man like Beau would ever marry her if Braint and Demarion had not taken a liking to her.

They arrived at the villa half an hour later.

Demarion had not returned from playing chess with his grandfather and Braint was nowhere to be seen.

Eliza wondered if a man like Beau would ever marry her if Braint and Demarion had not taken a liking to her. They arrived at the villa half an hour later. Demarion had not returned from playing chess with his grandfather and Braint was nowhere to be seen. On her way upstairs to change out of her attire, Eliza turned on the computer. The bashing directed at her online had increased by many folds. Her information and photos, which had the word "B\*tch" pasted over her face, had already been disclosed and circulated all over the internet. The abusive comments were really disturbing. Eliza found herself affected by them. Her grip on the mouse tightened as she trembled. She had always thought that she was a tough person, but in the face of such insults, she realized that she might not be as strong as she had thought. She could not find it in her to stay calm and ignore them completely. All of a sudden, her cell phone rang. When she saw Madeleine's name flashing on the screen, Eliza drew a deep breath and answered the call, but not before pressing on a button to record the conversation. "The director just told me that Tom has agreed to drive you out of Parson Media." Madeleine spoke haughtily and sounded pleased. "Eliza Lawson, haven't I told you from the very beginning that you won't be getting the best of me?" "Do you remember the first time we met? You were an uppity young lady from the Lawson family, and I was just a poor girl out on the streets." "Back then, you self-righteously drove away a wealthy tycoon who had the intention of making me his mistress. You gave me 500 dollars and told me to carry myself with dignity and to live a good life in the future." "But look at you now..." "You're not some respected lady from the Lawson family, you're nothing but an illegitimate child." "Not only have you been abandoned by your boyfriend and shunned by your newly-wed husband, but you have also lost your job now!" "Oh, how the tables have turned." Eliza clutched her phone tightly. "So you were the one behind all this?" "You went to the dressing room while I was changing yesterday just to confirm the exact location of my wound." "And Jay suddenly switched to grab my right shoulder when he was actually supposed to grab my left shoulder..." "Fuarter" "You're right!" Before Eliza could even finish her sentence, Madeleine interrupted her rudely. "I was also the one who trapped you in the lounge last night." "I know just how terrified of the dark you are ever since that night five years ago, so I devised it on purpose." "You will never be able to defeat me." Eliza took a deep breath and glanced at her phone to make sure that it was recording. She gritted her teeth and continued, "Madeleine, I had coached you on every scene you had ever acted on and analyzed the character development for every one of your roles." "You didn't have to take things so far just because I didn't do the analysis of this production for you, did you?" Madeleine scoffed. "I don't need a reason to screw you up." "Don't think so highly of yourself. I've found a new person to analyze my characters for me." "I just felt like messing with you recently. Do you have a problem with that?" "Of course not." Eliza snorted. "But we'll see how this plays out." With that, she ended the call without another word. "How dare she hang up on me?!" Madeleine fumed. She was so furious that her knuckles had turned white from grabbing the corner of the table tightly. She roared at her assistant who was beside her, "Continue hiring more netizens to bash her! Make sure that their comments are as nasty as they can get!" "Madeleine, you don't have to go that far, do you?" Jay came over and held her in his arms. One could see from his eyes that he still had some pity for Eliza. "If this goes on, I'm afraid that she might not be able to take it. It might put us in trouble if she decides to take her own life." Madeleine buried her head in Jay's chest and said in a sickly sweet voice, "Don't worry, she won't die so

easily! She would have died in that accident back then if she were meant to die so soon." At the mention of the past, Jay sighed lightly. "That's true." "But..."

He leaned down and kissed Madeleine on the forehead. "If you're out to destroy her for good, then why don't you expose her past of being a surrogate mother?"

Eliza had once been a surrogate mother. News like that was much more detrimental to Eliza than news of her shamelessly seducing him.

"We can't just go around telling people that she was a surrogate mother." Madeleine rolled her eyes and said, "Only the wealthy can afford to hire a surrogate mother. Krine is not such a big place after all. If someone puts their heart to it, they will easily be able to find out who hired her." "Furthermore, her child didn't really die. If this gets out of hand and the family of the child happens to find her, they might protect her for the sake of the child. I don't want to risk it."

Eliza received a call from Gilbert after lunch.

"There are paparazzi hounding Roseane because of you. She'd like you to come over." "Since they want footage of you, then we'll give them all the footage they need." "Roseane will be bringing you to the hospital for an injury assessment." "Madeleine's not the only one who can manipulate the public opinion. Two can play the game."

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When Eliza arrived at the hospital, Roseane was already there waiting for her. When Roseane caught sight of Eliza, she got out of the car, took her by the hand, and strode into the hospital. Behind them, paparazzi swarmed around like flies and quickly caught up with them. Roseane brought Eliza to the Department of Injury Assessment. Only after she sat down did Eliza realize that Roseane had brought her here for an injury assessment because of the slap Madeleine gave her. "Forget about that." She smiled faintly and unbuttoned her shirt, revealing a shoulder wrapped in gauze. Then she said, "It'd be better if you could assess this injury instead." Beside her, Roseane's eyes widened in shock. "Eliza, what happened..." Eliza gently removed the gauze, revealing the wound which Jay had torn. "Someone had replaced a prop with an actual weapon when I acted as a stunt double. I got injured and the wound has yet to heal." "What happened yesterday wasn't me being unprofessional, nor was it an accident. Jay happened to graze against my wound while acting." Roseane was stunned for a moment, and then things became clear to her. No wonder they could get footage of Eliza trying to 'seduce' Jay! "I wouldn't call this grazing against the wound." The doctor let out a sigh while examining Eliza's wound. "It's plain to see that he had forcibly torn open her wound, which isn't even healed yet!" "Good heavens, how did you manage to endure it?" The doctor sighed faintly while he dressed her wound.

"You have to take proper care of your wound. You can't have people just tearing it open like that again." Eliza nodded and kept quiet. Roseane looked on at Eliza's bloody wound in shock. After a long while, she gritted her teeth and said, "They did it on purpose, didn't they?" "Yes." Eliza smiled bitterly. "Madeleine was there when I got injured." Without further hesitation, Roseane had the doctor produce an injury assessment report for Eliza's wound and proceeded to post it online. "Eliza is more than just my stunt double. She is also my friend. As a friend, I cannot stand by and watch her being treated unjustly. I must speak out for her!" Soon, Roseane's post began trending online.

There were even professionals who attested to the validity of the report. A staff member on the set also revealed that the stunt woman, Ms. Lawson, had indeed injured her shoulder because of an accident. Someone even took screenshots from the video Madeleine posted to prove that Jay had dug his finger right where Eliza's wound was. That caused an instant uproar on the Internet. So the so-called seduction was just a mess up? Was it a misunderstanding on Madeleine's side? Right then, a newly registered account by the name of "Moon Among the Stars" appeared and commented: It definitely wasn't a mess up, nor was it a misunderstanding! With ample evidence of footage from surveillance cameras set up at all angles on the set and the cameras which were still rolling when the incident happened, along with photos captured candidly by reporters on the set, Moon Among the Stars brought to light what had actually happened on the set the day before. <sup>2</sup> The news immediately went viral on the Internet. The netizens who had jumped on the bandwagon and joined Madeleine in bashing Eliza all went silent.

Other netizens were shocked to find that it was all just a ruse which Madeleine had single handedly devised.

"How could this be possible!" In a fit of anger, Madeleine gave the tablecloth a sharp tug, sending all the vases and teacups on the table clattering to the floor, shattering into a million pieces on the ground in Jay's studio. Staring at the trending post entitled "Roseane Comtois Defends Friend", Madeleine's eyes were filled with resentment!

She was sure that her plan was flawless! Who would have known that Roseane would actually speak up for someone as insignificant as Eliza?

Also, how did Eliza manage to get the footage of surveillance cameras at Parson Media to clear her name? Parson Media's surveillance recordings had always been kept private. How could it be accessible to her?!

Moreover, hadn't she already been fired today?

With no way to vent her anger, Madeleine picked up a vase beside her and smashed it to the ground with all her might.

"Madeleine!"

Upon entering, Jay caught sight of the mess on the ground. He frowned and said, "Breaking things won't solve the problem."

"I've just received a call from the company. We'd better come out with an explanation for this soon. Otherwise, the company will have to throw you under the bus." Throw her under the bus? Full of irritation, Madeleine turned on the computer and had no choice but to refute Roseane and *Moon Among the Star's* statements. "These are all just speculations. Isn't it a bit too rash to pin everything on me just based on a few snippets?" "Besides, even if my boyfriend had really unknowingly brushed against this actress' wound, it didn't warrant for her to fall right on him and have him hold her, did it?" "I only got angry because she fell on my boyfriend and made him hold her." Because of Madeleine's response, the discussion online got heated up once more. "Madeleine Robinson Destroys Seductress" became the trending topic of the day again, surpassing even that of "Roseane Comtois Defends Friend". Seeing how her post was gaining more attention than ever, Madeleine sneered smugly. "How dare you go against me?" The Golden Bull Award was coming up in less than two weeks and Madeleine was currently the most popular candidate for the Best Newcomer award. Madeleine had chosen to do these things at such an opportune time not just to quash Eliza, but also to build up and boost her own popularity! Madeleine felt confident that the trending topic of her 'destroying the seductress' would give her greater fame, thus winning her the award. She picked up the phone and gave a call to someone she had hired to boost her post. "Do everything you can to boost the popularity of my post. I want it to be the hottest topic on the trending list!" The person on the other end of the line went silent for a moment. "Miss Robinson, our charges to boost a post to the first place of the trending list fluctuates according to the hype of the top five trending topics on the list. As of now, the popularity of the post by Roseane Comtois is tremendously high. To boost your post ahead of hers will set you back by approximately 300,000 dollars." Madeleine snorted. "Just a mere 300,000 dollars? Go ahead with it!" After hanging up the phone, Madeleine transferred the remaining 300,000 dollars left in her account to the person. She was set out to get the best of Eliza and to attain greater achievements! Trending topics that made it to the first rank on the trending list were greatly publicized daily and Madeleine had her eyes set on it as it was the fastest way for her to gain popularity! At the same time, a cell phone in the nursery of the Valentine family's villa rang. "Master Demarion, the other party has transferred us the money as requested. What should we do next?" 2

"Of course we'll have to do as she wishes. Go ahead and make her post go viral." Glancing at Braint typing away on his laptop, Demarion snickered craftily. "We've received the money, so we will have to deliver what we promised." The man on the other end of the line paused. "But Master Demarion, if Mrs. Valentine finds out about this, will she get upset..." "What's wrong with what I'm doing?" Demarion rolled his eyes. "I'm earning Mommy money. Why would she be upset?" "Go ahead and do your best. If anything happens, Daddy's got our backs." 2 After hanging up the phone, Demarion went over to Braint. "Bro, how's it going? Has Daddy taken action yet?" "Not too long now." Braint squinted. "Say, how much asset does Mommy's ex-boyfriend have?" Demarion frowned. "Why do you ask?" "I'd like to drain him of all his money."

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The topic of “Madeleine Robinson Destroys Seductress” continued to gain a lot of attention and soon ranked second on the trending list. Staff members excitedly projected the trending list onto a large screen in Jay’s studio. At the sight of her name projected on the big screen, Madeleine gripped Jay’s hand tightly. “Jay, it won’t be long before I reach first place on the trending list.” When that happens, she will get a lot of publicity all over the Internet, and she will be able to gain popularity and be as famous as Roseane. Roseane had achieved fame back then with a similar trending topic of taking out the person who had set foot in her relationship. If that could push Roseane to such fame, then this would definitely work for her too! “Based on the hype we are receiving, Miss Robinson will be at the top of the trending list in less than five minutes.”

Beside them, Jay’s manager, Jayda, whipped out a camera excitedly. “I have to record this historical moment!”

Madeleine and Jay had already taken their positions in front of the big screen, ready to have a photo taken with the post when it reaches the top of the trending list. Everyone waited excitedly for the trending topic to rise to the top. When their post was only two figures away from the top of the trending list, Jayda excitedly pressed the shutter. Her face fell when she took a look at the photo she had taken. “Madeleine Robinson Destroys Seductress” was still the second topic on the trending list! Out of nowhere, the first topic on the trending list became “Storewide Discount: 30% Sale at Matthew Jewellery”.

Jay rolled his eyes and said, “Matthew Valentine is messing things up!” “Of all times to promote their discount, he has to do it now?” Madeleine pursed her lips and made a call again. “Bump my post ahead of Matthew Jewellery’s trending post.” The person on the other end of the line seemed hesitant. “Miss Robinson, from what I understand, Matthew Jewellery spent 800,000 dollars to plant that post at the top of the trending list. If you want to surpass that...” “I believe you’ll have to pay me at least an additional 500,000 dollars.” Madeleine was astonished. She had no idea that Matthew Valentine was willing to spend so lavishly on an advertisement. However, she was but a person of little consequence whom nobody would pay any attention to.

Had the recent news of her taking out a seductress not been such a hot topic for discussion, she would never have gone viral, much less be anywhere near the trending list. She wasn’t ready to give up so soon!

However, she had exhausted all her savings. So, she took a deep breath and turned to look at Jay, who was standing behind her. “Jay...” After a long moment of silence, Jay finally let out a long breath. “500,000 dollars? I’ll pay for it!” “Uncle Beau, Madeleine’s post is trending again.” In an office on the highest floor of Valentine’s Group, Matthew looked at his phone with a frown and said, “I think we should just raise the number of views to a ridiculously high value. She’ll back off when she knows that she doesn’t stand a chance.”

“That will save us the trouble of having to toy with her.”

Beau sat behind his desk and took a sip of his coffee gracefully. "We have to bait her with some hopes of success."

"How else would your cousins make money?" Matthew was amazed. "So what topic are we sending to the top of the trending list next?" Beau slowly lifted his eyes and looked at Matthew. "How about "Matthew Valentine Comes Out as Gay"? How does that sound?" 1

"Excuse me?!" Matthew leaped out of his seat and said, "I'm straight, thank you very much!" "Well, since you're straight, you better come up with the next topic within 10 minutes. Or it'll be about you coming out." Matthew had no choice but to comply.

Twenty minutes later, as Madeleine and Jay waited elatedly for their post to reach the top of the trending list, it was once again surpassed by a new topic. The new topic was about a popular on-screen couple who had just announced that they were dating. Within 10 minutes of their announcement, the couple instantly took over first place on the trending list. Madeleine gritted her teeth. She felt a headache coming on. "Is the whole world up against me today?!" She was so close to reaching the top of the trending list! She refused to be defeated! She was just a step away. A step away from gaining immense popularity! Thus, she made another call. This time, the person asked for yet another million. Madeleine nearly dropped her phone. "That's daylight robbery!" e The person on the other end of the line chuckled. "Miss Robinson, you have to understand that both the celebrities trending right now are way more popular than you are. Their fan bases are huge!" Madeleine was so angry that she was shaking from head to toe. She had two options as things stand. The first option was to dump in a million dollars and end things once and for all, pushing her way to the top of the trending list. The other option was simply to admit defeat. That would not only mean that she would not receive the great publicity she yearned for, but the 800,000 dollars she had paid for would also have gone to waste. She had only one point of consideration. Madeleine clenched her jaws. "Can you lower the price a little?" "No." But she really didn't have that much money. A moment later, she raised her head and looked at Jay with teary eyes. "Jay..." Jay could not bear to see her cry. So, after some hesitation, he finally released a long breath. "I have a million dollars of savings

left."

And with that, a million dollars was credited into Demarion's bank account. 2 "They hesitated for quite some time there. I guess they're running out of funds. It's time." With a yawn, Braint used the account "Moon Among the Stars" to write up one final post and scheduled the time to publish it. After turning off the computer, he gave Eliza a call. "Mommy, did you buy me the starfruits / wanted?" Wandering around the market, Eliza replied, "I haven't got them yet."

She had received a phone call from Braint just as she left the hospital after completing the injury assessment. He had asked for starfruits. So she rushed to the market to buy them. But upon arrival, she was told that all the starfruits in the market had been sold out. She went to a second market and got the same answer. She refused to give up yet, so she went to a third market, and then a fourth... It was now her sixth destination. "It's alright if you can't find any!" A rare trace of humor was evident in his voice. "Just get me two oranges then."

Eliza paused. "Two oranges?" "Yes, I don't feel like having starfruit anymore." D Eliza hung up the phone gloomily. After getting the oranges, she decided to give it one last try, so she took a taxi to a seventh market. Preoccupied with buying fruits for her son, she had no idea that the Internet had been turned upside down. The topic "Madeleine Robinson Destroys Seductress" was constantly at second place on the trending list. However, it turns out that Madeleine's name did indeed reach the top of the list. The trending topic of the day was "Madeleine's Recorded Conversation". The number of views of the post was six or seven times that of the second place. Its content was the recorded conversation she had with Eliza. While Eliza's voice had been masked over, Madeleine's voice wasn't. "Back then, you self-righteously drove away a wealthy tycoon who had the intention of making me his mistress. You gave me 500 dollars and told me to carry myself with dignity and to live a

good life in the future." "I was also the one who trapped you in the lounge last night." "I just felt like messing with you recently. Do you have a problem with that?" Every word she said was loud and clear for everyone to hear. As soon as the recording was released, all those who had supported Madeleine immediately regretted their actions. Madeleine was not a strong independent lady who was out to defend her relationship. Instead, she was nothing but a scheming wench! She faced immense backlash online. In Jay's studio, however, there was pin-drop silence. Jay's manager, Jayda, crossed her legs and sneered. "So, this is the trending post you spent 1,300,000 dollars for?" "Sitewide publicity of voice recording of Madeleine Robinson framing a stunt woman. Guess you got the fame you wished for." Madeleine's face was ashen as she sat down and lowered her head. "Jayda, what should we do now?" "What should we do?" Jayda's expression darkened. "Your reputation is ruined now. We can't have Jay implicated." "You need to break up. This very instant!"

## My Three Darlings by Anonymous

### Chapter 36

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#### Chapter 36

Eliza finally got the starfruits Braint wanted when she got to the tenth market. On the taxi ride back home, she was just about to give Braint a call when she *received* a call from Graciana instead. "Eliza, that was amazing!" "I just finished watching the battle of the trending list Madeleine lost so badly!" Graciana sighed with mixed feelings. "Mr. Valentine is just too cool!" Eliza had no idea what Graciana was going on about, "What's that? Battle of the trending list?" "You don't know what happened?"

Graciana was so shocked that her voice raised an octave. "As one of the *protagonists*, *you* had no idea about the intense battle that took place just now?" Confusion was evident on Eliza's face. "I've just gone to ten markets to buy starfruits for my son..." Graciana was at a loss for words. "Are your son's starfruits more important than your career?" She roared on the other end of the line. "Madeleine almost used you as a stepping stone to get to the top of the trending list!" "Fortunately for you, Mr. Valentine helped you out! Otherwise, you would have become Madeleine's stepping stone!"

Eliza's ear hurt from Graciana's shouting. She held the phone a distance away from her ear. "What exactly happened?" "Go see for yourself!" "I heard that Madeleine spent 1.3 million dollars just to put herself at the top of the trending list." "Well, she did end up achieving what she started out for, that is, she did come out top of the trending list and had sitewide publicity, but not exactly for the news she had hoped for." Eliza frowned and quickly logged onto her online account. The first trending post was an article by an account that named "Moon Among the Stars". She played the video attached with the article and found that it contained the voice recording of her phone call with Madeleine today. She pursed her lips. She had saved a copy of the recording on her computer. Her initial plan was to use it when confronting Madeleine in the future. But now this recording has been published online with her voice masked over? Eliza had no doubt that "Moon Among the Stars" was a stunt by her two naughty sons, Braint

and Demarion. Thus, she had the driver make a U-turn and go back to the market again. She was going to reward them with a good meal tonight. When she walked past the fishmonger, she inexplicably thought of Beau.

She was reminded that she owed him a meal. While waiting for the fishmonger to clean the fish, she took her phone out and continued to read the articles online. There had been a complete reversal of the comments online. While the online community had once denounced her, they now showered her with sympathy. Someone had even made a compilation of her videos when she used to work as a stunt double. "This young lady is Eliza Lawson. She is beautiful, dedicated, and most importantly, she isn't scheming!" Everyone sang praises of Eliza in the comments of that post. Some even said that they hoped to see Eliza becoming an actress. An actress? Eliza smiled faintly and reached over to receive the fish handed to her by the fishmonger. She then strode out of the market. Ever since she decided to be a surrogate mother five years ago, she had given up on all hopes of becoming an actress. She was contented with just being a stunt double. "Mommy!" Back at the villa, Eliza had just opened the door when Demarion rushed out. He stretched his arms out and hugged Eliza, reaching only her thighs. He looked at her with a pair of big, shining eyes. "I heard that your wound had been torn open. I was worried!" Eliza smiled. She crouched down and ruffled his hair gently. "I'm fine now. Don't worry." Demarion nodded with his eyes fixed to the bag of shrimps Eliza held in her hand. "I've been worried about you for the entire afternoon. You need to compensate me for it." Noticing Demarion's gaze, Eliza couldn't help but smile. "Shall we have boiled shrimps?" "No!"

Demarion huffed. "I want braised shrimps!"

Eliza ruffled his hair again. "Okay, I'll prepare it for you right now." With that, Eliza brought a big bag of ingredients into the kitchen and began to cook. Demarion placed a small stool in front of the kitchen and sat down there in order to be able to taste the shrimps the moment they were ready. Upstairs, Braint had already compiled a video of all relevant information of Eliza working as a stunt double and posted it online while discussion about her was still raging. I

Roseane shared the post at once. "She is no less than some actress who has to rely on her boyfriend to land a role."

That evoked another round of discussion. The online criticism against Madeleine reached its pinnacle. *Madeleine's* agency was spammed by netizens, and they had no choice but to close down the comments section.

That left the netizens with nowhere to vent their anger, so they started to attack Jay's account instead.

Just before Braint turned off the computer to head downstairs to have a taste of the shrimps, a piece of breaking news appeared: Jay Carr breaks up with Madeleine Robinson and *draws a* clear line between them. Over with Eliza, as soon as she served the dishes, Graciana's call came through.

"Eliza, it's true that evil deeds bring retribution!"

"*Madeleine* and Jay's relationship has only been brought to light recently, but they're now forced to break up! Isn't that amazing?" Eliza went to check out the news. The information was posted by Jay's management team. The gist of it was that everything was single-handedly concocted by *Madeleine* and that she was an immoral and contemptible person. Jay was portrayed as being deceived, and after he got to know about the news, he too was in great agony. As a result, he saw no other option but to break up with *Madeleine* and was ready to apologize to Eliza. That was a great way of handling the issue. All the blame was put on *Madeleine*, and Jay came out of it all scot-free. O Upon seeing the news, Eliza scoffed. "They deserve it!" "*Madeleine* wanted to make you her stepping stone, but who knew that it would lead to her own demise!" Graciana sighed. "Mr. Valentine sure is powerful!" "He is handsome, rich, and most importantly, he holds you dear to his heart." "Esme would have kicked herself for refusing to marry Mr. Valentine if she learned the truth about him!" "By the way, Mr. Valentine has done so much for you. How are you going to repay him?" Eliza glanced at the dishes laid out on the table. "... made him a fish." Graciana was stumped. "Eliza, are you kidding me?" "Jay nearly spent 2 million dollars in order to put up against Mr. Valentine. For Mr. Valentine to be able to put Jay in his place so easily, he must have paid much more than that!"

"He has spent so much money for you, and all you made him was... fish?" Eliza's hand trembled ever so slightly. "He... he spent so much money?" Eliza hadn't followed the proceedings of Graciana's so-called "Battle of the trending list", so she had no inkling that Beau had done so much for her. "Of course! Do you think that it's easy to control what happens online? That data can be so easily tampered with? You've got to spend big bucks on it!" Eliza bit her lip. "Well..." Indeed, it seems that the fish she made was far from enough to repay his deeds. However, she didn't have that much money... "Think it over!"

Graciana let out a deep sigh. She had the urge to rush over and give Eliza's head a good sharp rap. "Has Mr. Valentine ever asked of anything from you after marriage?" "People like him have no lack of money. What he's after is your heart!" Eliza thought about it long and hard while making her way upstairs. In the end, she frowned. "He wanted me to take good care of Braint and Demarion." "Is that all?" "There's another thing..." "He had Braint sign an agreement with me. To conceive his child within a year." I Graciana was dumbfounded. "Well, why aren't you getting ready yet? Show him your sincerity! Get to work this very night!" .

# My Three Darlings by Anonymous

## Chapter 37

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### Chapter 37

After she ended the call with Graciana, Eliza's mind was in a mess. She had hurt her body badly due to the child she carried five years ago. Thus, there was a low probability of her ever conceiving in the future. Having Beau's child within a year was out of the question. She might not even be able to conceive a child within two years. However, Graciana was right. Regardless of how minuscule the chances of her getting pregnant was, she had to show her sincerity. After she took a shower, Eliza looked at her reflection in the mirror and heaved a deep sigh. Tonight, she was really going to have to... At the thought of that, she blushed a deep, crimson red. She felt as though her heart was about to leap out of her chest.

It wasn't that she hadn't slept with him before.

However, she had been drunk then. She couldn't seem to remember the whole thing clearly anymore.

But now...

Eliza patted her flushed face and stepped out of the bathroom.

After tossing and turning around on the bed for a while, Eliza felt her head get even more muddled up.

In the end, she gave Graciana a call with a blush on her face. "I don't think I can do it. I'll find some other way to repay him." Graciana rolled her eyes at Eliza. "You are a wedded couple. This is the most direct form of repaying him!" "He's done so much for you because you are his wife, and he is your husband! Since you are a married couple, then you should do what married couples do! Seeing how he's so passive, he must be waiting for you to take the initiative!"

Eliza listened silently. "Besides, you don't feel repulsed by him at all. Aren't you curious if he's cured you of your fear towards men?" "Do you not like him? Or do you think that he doesn't deserve you?" Eliza gripped her phone tightly. All of a sudden, she was tongue-tied. What Graciana said... seemed to make sense. But... "Wouldn't it be awkward if he doesn't have the intention to do that?" Graciana offered her another suggestion. "Give him a call. Tell him that you've got a surprise prepared for him at home. Ask him to come home soon."

"If he goes home immediately, that means that he's thinking about it too. If he tells you that he's busy, then he probably doesn't want it." Eliza wanted to give Beau a call after ending her conversation with Graciana. But she realized that she didn't have his number. She thought about going downstairs to get Beau's number from the butler and had just opened the door when she bumped into

Demarion, who was about to knock on the door. The boy handed Eliza a phone. "Mommy, Daddy wants to talk to you." She took a deep breath and picked up the phone. "Mr. Valen... Honey." She changed her form of address towards Beau abruptly. "What time will you be coming back? I... I prepared a surprise for you." "I'm on my way back." Beau's voice was a deep baritone which was pleasing to the ear. "I know what you have prepared." Eliza's face turned bright scarlet, right to the very tips of her ears. She stuttered. "You... You found out?" "Yes, I'm very pleased." There was a hint of amusement in Beau's voice. "But, I'll be occupying you for the whole night. Will that be alright?" Eliza was unable to utter even a single syllable.

A whole night?

"I... Yes."

"Good." He smiled. "I'll be home in 30 minutes. Wait for me in the study." The study room? Was he into such things? Eliza nodded with a face that was burning up. "Okay..." She hung up the phone. Demarion tilted his head and looked up at her. "Mommy, are you feeling unwell?" Why was her face so red? "No, I'm fine." She bit her lip and returned the phone to Demarion. Then, she hurriedly turned back into her room and closed the door behind her. Beau's words echoed in her mind. "I'm very pleased." "I'll be occupying you for the whole night. Will that be alright?" "I'll be home in 30 minutes. Wait for me in the study."

!!) His deep voice was charming and magnetic. Every time she recalled what he said, her heart would start pounding. Finally, she heaved a long breath and took out a set of figure-hugging nightwear from the closet.

It was a wedding gift that Graciana had picked out for her. Graciana had wanted to buy her a set of very revealing lingerie. But in the end, due to Eliza's strong objections, she ended up buying a set of nightwear that wasn't revealing, yet still extremely enticing. When Beau was five minutes away from home, Eliza covered herself in a towel and sneaked into the study like a thief. This was her first time in his study. It was sleekly furnished, with a primarily black and white color scheme. The study was spacious and there was a... black marble table. She bit her lip and sat down on a chair. Somehow, some racy scenes popped up in her head. Almost instinctively, she reached out her hand to touch the surface of the table. Just as she was feeling distressed by how cold the table felt, she heard the sound of a car pulling up, and then the sound of a car door opening. He was back. She bit her lip and plucked up the courage to toss the towel aside. He had spent so much money to help her deal with Madeleine and Jay. This was the least she could do!

"Mr. Valentine, you're back."

The butler's voice rang from downstairs. Eliza was so nervous that she could hear her own heartbeat. But as an actress, she was still able to remain poised. She sat on the chair and struck a pose she assumed looked alluring and waited for Beau to enter. She could hear footsteps approaching from the stairs. But... Why were there two sets of footsteps? Eliza frowned. She thought that she was probably just too nervous and her mind was playing tricks on her. Just as she cocked her head to listen again, the door of the study opened. Apart from Beau, who stood tall and sturdy as usual, another attractive young man entered along with him

The world fell silent the moment the door opened. Eliza almost fell off her chair. What...? What was going on? Why was there another man behind Beau?

She froze on the spot, still holding the posture from earlier on. D The moment his gaze met Eliza's shapely figure, Beau's eyes darkened. "Get out!" He snapped. Eliza immediately blanched. Her face became so white it seemed devoid of any trace of blood. Was he... Was he embarrassed by her? But what he said on the phone... Wasn't this what he meant? Eliza sniffed and came down from the chair. She bit her lip awkwardly and said, "I'm sor-..." Before she could even finish her words, the man behind Beau moved. He shot Eliza a cheeky look. "Aunt Eliza sure is charming!" After saying that, Matthew turned and left in a flash, closing the door behind him. The door of the study room slammed shut. Eliza's apology was cut off abruptly. She looked up in confusion, and her gaze trailed over to the direction where Matthew left. "... "Mrs. Valentine." The man at the door undid his tie gracefully with a smirk on his lips. He approached Eliza slowly, exuding an overpowering aura. "It seems that I've misunderstood your 'surprise'." He backed her up against the desk. "Demarion sent me a photo of a braised fish. I thought that that was your surprise." His gaze swept across Eliza's seductive nightwear. "Looks like I've underestimated you." "It turns out that Mrs. Valentine will not be giving me anything, but is asking for something from me instead."

Eliza was dazed for a long time. All of a sudden, she realized what he meant by that and in a split second, her face flushed a bright red.

## My Three Darlings by Anonymous

### Chapter 38

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#### Chapter 38

"Matthew?" Demarion was just about to go downstairs for some water when he found a suspicious man sneaking around in the corridor outside the study. With a frown, he said, "It's so late already, what are you doing here?" Matthew froze momentarily. Taken aback, he hastily shushed the little fellow and pointed at the study. "Don't make a sound! Your daddy is inside with your new mommy." Demarion's frown deepened and he quickly caught on after some thought.

The little guy pursed his lips and tugged at Matthew's sleeve. "Since I can't bother them, you can't either."

"Let's go, I'll treat you to some plain water!" 3

Matthew fumbled for a reply.

He stopped in his tracks and said, "You can go ahead." "Your cousin brother Matthew has an important task to complete." Demarion blinked in confusion and echoed, "Task? What task?" "Of course it's to..." Matthew pulled out a pen

recorder with an evil cackle. "Grandpa has always been doubting Uncle Beau's sexual orientation... If I were to secure a recording, I would be able to ask him for an allowance..." Before the man could finish speaking, a large hand with slender knuckles swiped the pen recorder from him. At the same time, a low and indifferent masculine voice drifted into his ears, "Well, then, I'm sorry for disappointing you."

Matthew turned stiff on the spot and turned around abruptly.

Behind him stood a man in a white shirt. He leaned against the door frame of the study and his gaze on him was elegant yet lazy. He held the pen recorder between two pinched fingers as he said, "Matthew, it appears to me that you no longer need Eliza's help." The color instantly drained from Matthew's face.

"Uncle, you must have misheard me. "This pen recorder of mine... It was in fact to record Aunt Eliza's voice analysis of my script." "What script?"

A crisp female voice sounded from behind Beau.

Eliza emerged, still donning the bold nightgown, except that she now had Beau's grey blazer over it.

The coat was huge and it dangled off her shoulders all the way to the middle of her thighs, entirely concealing her enticing figure from view.

"Here's the thing." Matthew pursed his lips. "Aunt Eliza, I heard from Roseane that you have extensive abilities at understanding and analyzing scripts..." He smiled sheepishly. "I've been looking into becoming the male lead for a movie lately..." As he spoke, he quickly picked up the script from one side and shoved it into Eliza's hands. "So, I was wondering if I could trouble you tonight to help me analyze and understand my character."

Eliza took the script, feeling a little overwhelmed. A moment later, she turned toward Beau. "When you said... you were going to occupy me for the whole night..." "It's for this idiot's script." Beau began nonchalantly. Eliza could not find her tongue. Alright, then. She had completely misunderstood...

"However..." The man's inky eyes swept over Eliza's burning little face. "There will be more chances in the future." Eliza found herself wordless. She dared not meet his eyes. She could only bite the bullet and stride back into the study with the script in hand. "I'll take a look for you." Beau looked at her sullen figure and smiled. "Does that mean that mommy will have to work overtime tonight?" Demarion stared at Eliza with wide eyes. "That's right." "That's too hard on her." The little boy sighed and said, "I'll ask Braint to make her some milk tea." "Milk tea?" Matthew's eyes lit up. "I'll have a cup too." Demarion looked up at him and said, "We only have plain water for you." 12

Matthew's script was not actually that long, hence it only took Eliza a little less than two hours to finish reviewing it. She was on the sofa with pen and paper as she drafted out an analytic figure of the relationship between the characters.

Occasionally, she would raise her head and steal a glance at Beau. He was sitting in his dedicated seat in the study with his nose buried in his work.

This was the first time Eliza had seen Beau hard at work in such proximity.

In contrast to his usual laziness, this preoccupied man before her eyes looked particularly handsome and charming. From where she sat on the sofa, she could see his long, curved eyelashes, his angular nose bridge, his cool, thin lips, and his chiseled jawline. Unbeknown to her, she began to zone out. "Aunt Eliza?" Matthew spoke, breaking her trance. Only then did she get pulled back to reality. "Is there really any connection between the murderer and this character I'm portraying?" He traced his finger on her diagram and asked curiously. "Yes. It's not too obvious; I had to read the script twice to figure it out." "Sigh." Matthew exhaled loudly. "I hate the actress who plays the murderer. I don't feel like working with her." Eliza lowered her head and continued to note down the psychological process of the characters. She stated indifferently, "A good actor places himself in the character's shoes. Once you're immersed in the role, you won't hate her anymore."

Matthew pouted slightly but remained silent.

Another hour soon ticked past and Eliza finally concluded her analysis of the emotional aspects of each character and their intertwined relationship. Besides, she also wrote down several pages worth of notes about them. She stretched with a yawn and handed the script to Matthew. "I've heard of this movie before. Didn't they decide on Jay Carr as the male lead? How did you make your way into the position?" He retrieved the script and chortled wickedly. "The female lead of this movie is drop-dead gorgeous. I'm thinking of wooing her, so I snatched the position from Jay." Eliza was rendered speechless. How was this possible? It could not have been that easy to snatch a position that had been assigned to someone, could

*it?*

"It took about three or five words." The pen in the hand of the man beside the office desk halted quietly. He lifted his gaze and fixed it on Eliza. "Just let me know if you happen to be eyeing any upcoming projects." Eliza was dumbstruck. She shrugged. "I'm just a stuntwoman. I don't need such privileges!" She stretched again. "It's getting late. If that's all, I'm off to bed." With that, she turned and strode away. Matthew stood rooted to the spot and glanced in Eliza's direction. He furrowed his brows slightly and asked, "Uncle, are you really not going to look into Aunt Eliza's past? I could tell that she loves acting, so ardently too! What's more, she's super experienced. What kind of dark history does she possess that makes her steer away from the career of a recognized actress?" Beau's head dipped again and he resumed writing his document. "Perhaps she has something on her mind." He was not too keen on digging into her past. He did not care if she was good or bad before; he did not care what she had been put through. As long as she was willing to be his wife, no such thing was important at all. Matthew puckered his lips and remarked, "It's such a pity." "It's not a pity. As long as she likes her job, she will shine brightly sooner or later." "But she doesn't want to be an actual actress." Beau kept his head lowered as his eyes scanned the documents. Calmly, he spoke, "Do you think she can stay out of acting just because she's unwilling to act?"

# My Three Darlings by Anonymous

## Chapter 39

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Chapter 39

Having stayed up until two in the morning analyzing Matthew's script for him, Eliza didn't wake up until late morning the next day. Out of habit, she picked up her phone to look at the time. It was already nine o'clock! She leaped out of bed and dashed into the bathroom to wash up. Then, she slipped into a change of clothes, flew downstairs in a couple of strides, and left home.

It wasn't until she climbed out of the car at the entrance of Parson Media did she suddenly remember that she... seemed to have resigned yesterday. O Standing before the wide glass doors that led into the building, Eliza heaved a long sigh. In Tom's office yesterday, she was beyond unrestrained when she declared that she would walk herself out. The grief did not sink in until now when she was standing in front of everything that was once familiar to her.

There was only one Parson Media in all of Krine. If she still wished to continue working as a stuntwoman, she would have no choice but to move to another city. If she were to remain in Krine, that would mean that she must undergo a job change. There was no way she could leave Krine. As for getting a new job... Eliza felt a pang of dizziness strike her. She had spent so many years mingling within Parson Media as a stuntwoman that she had never given any thought to the possibility of a life as anything but a stuntwoman.

"Eliza!"

Just as she let out another sigh, a male voice laced with surprise called out to her. She looked in his direction. It was the Chief Director of the series Snowy Night. The scene of him sternly ordering Tom to fire her yesterday was still fresh in her mind. "Hello, chief director." Seeing him walk up to her, Eliza forced a smile. "Don't you worry." "I'm only here to take a look. I've already quit yesterday-you won't see me in Parson Media anymore in the days to come." After that, she turned and left. Coming here today couldn't be a bigger mistake.

"Wait a minute!" Before she could take another step, the man grabbed her by the arm. He looked at her with a frown. "Did you actually resign?"

"But why?" Eliza furrowed her brows. "Didn't you say it yourself yesterday? If I didn't leave, Jay would refuse to act for Snowy Night and the drama would be forfeited." She simply couldn't wring two billion dollars out of Beau just for Tom, so she chose to step down without objection. The chief director paused for a moment before his lips pulled into a smile. "Ah, it seems you don't know yet." "What do you mean?" He sighed. "Eliza, I wasn't very nice to you yesterday. I apologize for that. "However, it was only for the sake of the crew that I put forward the suggestion of firing you. "Nevertheless, it is thanks to yesterday's trending searches that we now know that you have been framed by Madeleine. We have all misunderstood you." With that, the director raised a hand and patted

Eliza on the shoulder. "Early this morning, Carr's manager had approached me and requested that I recruit you for the position of the second female lead. "To start with, Robinson's role was the outcome of Carr's efforts. Now that they've parted ways, there's no reason for her to remain in the cast. "What's more, you can view this as my attempt at making up for your loss." Seeing the shock in Eliza's face, the chief director laughed. "Also, Mr. Carr specifically mentioned that despite your limited experience outside being a stuntwoman, he believes that your hard work won't disappoint. "The entire Snowy Night crew is excited to watch you flourish." Eliza was at a loss for words. She was simply too dumbstruck to locate her tongue. What in the world was Jay Carr thinking? She had no trouble understanding why he would remove Madeleine from the cast after the huge fuss yesterday and the fake breakup. But why was he so eager to make her the second female lead? While the doubts clouded her mind and kept her from articulating a reply, the chief director's words broke her from her stance. "The second female lead of Snowy Night has a lot of one-on one scenes with Jay Carr. The relationship between the two is complicated and extremely sentimental.

"You should utilize this opportunity to hype yourself up using Carr's status. Fame would no longer be a dream!"

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Eliza drove her teeth into her bottom lip in silence.

No wonder.

It turned out that this role had intimate scenes with Jay. Was he trying to gross her out? At this thought, she took a deep breath. "Chief Director, this is merely your suggestion. I have no obligations to accept it. "I am a measly stuntwoman; being an official actress is not my goal. Not to mention the fact that I do not wish to collaborate with Best Actor Jay Carr." When she finished, she immediately turned and left. She quickly arrived at the side of the road. However, before she could hail a taxi, a sleek black BMW rolled to a stop in front of her. Right behind it were a few vans. Eliza instinctively took a step back. The door to the BMW swung open and Jay stepped out, clad in a formal suit. Countless reporters proceeded to swarm out of the several vans behind with hefty cameras hoisted on their shoulders. Eliza's face instantly turned pale. Without a second thought, she turned to run. Still, she didn't stand a chance against Jay, who stood 5'11 tall. "Eliza." He promptly caught up with her and seized hold of her arm. "I know you don't want to see me right now." Jay looked into her eyes with sincerity and continued, "But, Eliza, I'm going to apologize to you in public today. "I've been in the wrong. I didn't know about the injury on your shoulder, nor did I know that my ex-girlfriend was intentionally making things difficult for you. "I'm sorry for hurting you."

As he uttered these words, the reporters had already surrounded them in a thick layer. Some snapped a million pictures while others recorded every second of the scene. Jay came well-prepared.

Eliza flung herself free and said, "Mr. Carr, you're too polite."

"I don't need your apology." He had owed her so much from before and never once had he thought about extending an apology. Today's apology was simply a part of his scheme to maintain his fame and feign innocence from recent happenings. She was not at all in the mood to meet his act. She inhaled deeply and forced her way through the massive crowd of reporters. Once out, she Theater strode to the side of the road and hailed a taxi. When the taxi began to leave the scene, she could hear Jay's voice responding to an interview. "As compensation to Miss Lawson, I've already persuaded the director to offer her the position as the second female lead. "There's no need to worry about Miss Lawson's acting skills; she has been one of the most hardworking people I know ever since she started off as a stuntwoman. I'm sure she will pour in even more effort as the second female lead. "Indeed, the entire internet was praising her for her dedication and enthusiasm for her acting dream. I can assure you that her entry to our crew isn't to curry favor with me, so she will definitely give it her all..." What he said next drifted away in the wind since the taxi had driven far. Eliza leaned against the seat in the back of the car and closed her eyes silently. Jay must have done it on purpose. He must have deliberately released such news and taken advantage of the public opinion of the netizens to throw her under the bus. Had she agreed to chime in with his act, she would undoubtedly fall victim to his never-ending foul play. On the other hand, had she turned away from him, netizens would start to question her abilities and her true purpose of joining the cast. She clenched her hands tightly into fists. She had innocently thought that the matter had come to an end yesterday. From the looks of it, though, this seemed to be just the beginning of the battle between her and the former couple... When the car arrived in front of the Valentines' villa, Eliza drew in a deep breath and sent a text to the chief director. "I'll accept the role."

## My Three Darlings by Anonymous

### Chapter 40

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#### Chapter 40

No sooner had Eliza's message been sent than she received a call from the chief director. "Eliza, where are you now?" "I'm so excited that you have agreed to take on the role of the second female lead!" "Are you free now? Come to Parson Media and I will get someone to explain the script to you!" Eliza frowned slightly. "There's no need for that." She had done many years of script analysis, and she didn't need anyone's help with that. The director paused. "But you'll still have to come over to Parson Media. How else can I pass the script to you?" Eliza hesitated for a moment and agreed. The director asked to meet her in the conference room on the third floor of Parson Media's office.

After she entered the conference room, she realized that not only were the chief director, producer, and assistant director waiting for her... But among these people, there was one person whom she was particularly reluctant to meet: Jay Carr. 2

As soon as he saw Eliza enter the room, Jay smiled at her from across the room. "Eliza, I'm so glad that you're willing to take on this role." "With your ability, I believe that you will be able to portray this character very well." Eliza felt faint.

She was just there to get her script! Why must Jay show up before her? "Look how professional Mr. Carr is! He's so considerate of Eliza, the newcomer!" The chief director couldn't help but sigh. "Eliza, when Jay heard that you were coming to get your script, he postponed his filming today just so that he can personally guide you on your character!" "So I gave it some thought and decided that since you have agreed to play this role, you will have many scenes with Jay in the future, so it would be good for you to develop some chemistry with him." As he spoke, he gave his seat up to Eliza and gestured for her to take the seat next to Jay. "Congratulations on having a good mentor like Jay when you are just starting on your career as an actual actress, Eliza!" Eliza could not help but laugh but when she heard the term 'mentor'. She lifted her eyes and looked straight at Jay. "Well, should I be addressing you as my mentor now?" When they first started seeing each other, Jay was just an inconsequential entertainer who had

no experience with performing.

After they got together, she had been the one who taught Jay all about acting and helped him improve his performance bit by bit. She went through all of his performance with him and analyzed every one of his scripts, expounding every character and every emotion. But he was now putting on an air of benevolence, pretending to be her mentor? How ironic!

"I don't qualify to be your mentor." Jay probably sensed that Eliza did not like having him too near, so he simply smiled and scooted away from her slightly, keeping a distance between them. "But we can help each other."

"If you ever need any help, you can come to me, and if I have any questions, I will come to you." It was then that Eliza understood. Jay had set her up. She had refused to analyze his script for him no matter how much he asked her before. But now, he had an excuse to discuss the script with her.

However, even though she saw through his scheme, she could not expose him in front of so many people.

She could only scoff and busy herself with reading the script.

Eliza was indifferent to Jay for the entire day. She did not ask Jay any questions about the script, and when Jay asked her anything, she would just answer that she had no idea too. After they were done going through the script, Jay went into the same elevator as Eliza as they got off work. Eliza was a little annoyed since there were only both of them in the elevator. She began to surf the net on her phone. To her surprise, she found a trending post online entitled 'Jay Mentors Eliza's Acting'. She frowned and tapped on it. The photos attached were of her and Jay reading their scripts in the conference room. Several of them were taken so that she seemed very intimate with Jay. The caption for the photos was very suggestive too. Jay and Eliza Giving off Good Chemistry. A Couple in the Making?" When were the photos taken?

Eliza bit her lips and turned off her phone. She looked up at Jay, who stood nearby. "You were the one who arranged for the photos to be taken, weren't you? Were you also the one who spread the news online?" "It was Madeleine's idea."

Jay looked forward breezily, no longer the polite gentleman outsiders knew him for. "If I spread

news about you and me online, the public will gradually forget about Madeleine." "After everyone forgets what happened yesterday, Madeleine can make her debut again." Eliza drew in a breath of cold air. "So, your act today... That was all for Madeleine?" His affection for Madeleine seemed to run deep. Eliza had been with him for five whole years, and not only had Jay refused to bring their relationship to light, but he refused to even let the world know about her existence. With Madeleine, however, he was quick to let the public in on their relationship. What's more, now that Madeleine was in trouble, he had the nerve to make use of Eliza to take the heat off her? Eliza's heart sank. "I wouldn't say it's purely for Madeleine." Jay smirked and said, "It was for you and me, too." "After this incident, netizens will adore me for being a responsible and kind man." "And you can use this as a stepping stone to go from a stunt double to an actual actress." He looked very pleased. "We killed three birds with one stone. This will benefit all of us, Eliza. You have to cooperate with me." The elevator reached the ground floor. "Cooperate with you? In your dreams!" Eliza spat those words in Jay's face and left. The main entrance to Parson Media was empty and deserted. Eliza stood on the pavement and waited for a long time but there was no taxi in sight. "I'll send you home." A black BMW pulled up beside her and the window was lowered, revealing Jay's face. He took off his sunglasses and looked at her with a smile. "You previously said that you lived with your husband in a posh area that my car was too shabby to enter." Then, he looked around and grinned. "Well, why didn't Mr. Valentine get you a car if he loved you as much as you said he did?" Eliza rolled her eyes at him, walked away from his car, and continued to wait for a taxi further up the pavement. But there were just too few taxis that passed by the area. Half an hour had gone by, but there was still no car passing by.

The sky gradually darkened. Jay leaned against the window stylishly with a snarky smile on his lips. "It will be dark soon. There are a lot of mosquitoes here in Parson Media at night." "My car might be shabby, but for the sake of your face, why don't you put up with it for a while?" As he said that, he yawned lightly. "Eliza, you probably don't know how important an actress' face is because you've never been an actual actress before." "But if you get mosquito bites on your face... Tsk tsk, you're going to get an earful from the director!" Eliza rolled her eyes at him again, then turned around and walked towards the Valentines' villa with her backpack. If there wasn't a taxi, she'd rather walk back herself! But with every step she took, Jay's car would follow closely behind. When she hastened her pace, Jay's car would speed up a little. When she slowed down, the car would slow down too. In the end, Jay said lazily, "Eliza, I almost bought what you said. I thought that the psychopath, Mr. Valentine, really treated you well." "But now, it seems..."

"You got off work so late, but he did not even arrange to have you picked up. I guess you are not living a good life after you married him." As he said that, he raised his hand to stroke his chin haughtily. "Why don't you continue being with me?"

"I can keep you and Madeleine away from each other so that you won't have to meet and interfere with each others' lives. How about that?"

