

This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr

Chapter 111

Sonia laughed. "Isn't that true?"

For Tina, he will go to the extreme. Even a cry from Tina would send him crazy as he might even give up his life for her sake.

Toby gazed into the iciness of Sonia's eyes that was exceptionally jarring to him. Ah, so this is how she perceives me.

With a grim expression, he slipped a hand into his pocket and stood up. "Ladies and gentlemen, regarding the concern that Vice President Reed raised, I could confidently promise you that the partnership will be a fair assessment without any favoritism. Please do not worry about it."

"Since President Fuller has given his promise, we are now assured." A chorus of laughter broke out among the other attendees, dissipating the confrontational atmosphere.

Only Titus forced a smile and kept quiet as he wallowed in regret. After a couple of confrontations, he should have known better—Sonia was not a weakling. Despite that, he couldn't help but recklessly go head-to-head with her to the point where he shot himself on the foot.

"I appreciate the trust you have placed in me. With that, I announce that our meeting has ended. Please head back and start preparing for the plan."

Upon saying that, Toby rose to his full height and left the room with Tom.

Once they were both gone, everyone else followed suit and spilled out of the room. Titus was the last one to exit. When he passed by Sonia, he halted and hissed at her, "Young lady, you better not be full of yourself."

“Of course not! I can’t be too gleeful when you are still standing.” She turned around and flashed a smile at him—an act that sent him into a daze again. The resemblance is extremely striking. Why is Sonia’s smile a carbon copy of Mom when she was younger?

“President Gray?” Sonia noticed that Titus had gone blank and she raised a brow suspiciously. What’s wrong with him?

Her voice pulled him back to reality. An uneasy look flashed across his eyes as he coughed slightly and warned in a steeled voice, “That is if you have the capability to defeat me! Hmph!”

Once Titus left, Sonia was finally alone in the room. She took her time to gather her stuff and prepare to return to the office. Her cell suddenly buzzed at this moment. She placed all her stuff on the table and took out the phone to answer, “Hello?”

“Sonia, has the meeting ended?” Charles’s flirtatious voice was heard from the other end.

She nodded. “Yes.”

“How was it? Did you get a seat in the partnership?” He sounded anxious.

With a bitter smile, Sonia shook her head. “It is not going to be that simple. There were twenty attendees and only five will be chosen as business partners. The organizer gave us a test that requires us to come up with a plan, which will determine our placement in the competition for the five coveted seats.”

“That sounds fair.” Charles nodded in agreement.

Sonia rubbed her forehead in exhaustion. “I’m quite frustrated right now because I don’t know how to draft the plan, though! Look, I have never been involved in the energy sector and I am clueless when it comes to professional jargon! Where do I even start?”

At the same time, Toby overheard her confession outside the meeting room and stopped himself from pushing open the door. Behind him, Tom spoke, “Pres—”

Before Tom could even utter a word, Toby shushed him. Tom quietly complied and held his tongue.

On the phone, Charles chuckled, "What's the problem? Send the materials to the Planning Department. Aren't they hired specifically to deal with this?"

"No, I can't." Sonia lamented as she shook her head, "I don't even know how many moles Asher has planted in the company. Do you believe that he'd sabotage the plan if I request for someone else to draft it? He doesn't want me to win the competition, which means I have no choice but to draft the plan myself."

"You're right. How about we draft the plan together? Even though I don't have experience in the energy sector, two heads are still better than one." He scratched his head and offered help.

She grunted and answered, "Sure. I'll hang up now. I still need to visit the hospital later."

"Okay." He nodded.

Behind the door, Toby turned around and said, "Let's go."

"President Fuller, do you still want to collect your stuff from the room?" Tom checked with him.

Toby pursed his lips and finally decided. "No. Just let the hotel staff send the items to my office."

Since Toby had clearly expressed his wish, Tom had nothing more to add.

They arrived in front of the elevators where Tom pressed the button to head to the lower floors. Suddenly, he heard Toby's voice. "Find two people to put on an act for me."

"Huh?" Tom was confused by the request. "What act?"

Toby's eyes twinkled wittily as he explained his plan to his assistant.

After Tom heard the plan, he looked exasperated. "President Fuller, if you want to help Miss Reed, why don't you just tell her so? Is there—"

"She won't accept my help, so I have no choice but to do it another way." Toby stared at the elevator doors and grunted. Sonia was currently avoiding him like the plague. He could tell that she wanted to keep a distance between them. Therefore, he figured that she would not accept his help.

As Tom was speechless by Toby's explanation, he paused for a while and finally gave a dry cough. "I will make the arrangements."

Satisfied, Toby nodded.

On the other hand, Sonia had just left the meeting room with a handful of her stuff. A few steps later, she overheard a conversation that included the word 'energy'.

As that word had caught her attention, she immediately came to a stop and looked over in the direction of the discussion. She saw two college students, one male and the other female, chatting merrily over there.

The girl asked her companion, "Have you completed your thesis on the topic of energy?"

"No! It is too difficult. Had it not been my cousin telling me about the newly discovered alternative energy technology of Fuller Group, I don't think I could have started on my thesis."

"It's not like you have a choice. If you don't complete the thesis, you can't get a place in the Research Department of Fuller Group. Just hurry up and get it done! I'm almost done with mine. How about I recommend some books to you? You should read the books on this list and I'm sure you can easily write your thesis after that. These books include a lot of expert knowledge and jargon of the energy industry."

Next, the girl blurted out a couple of book titles, which the guy repeated after her. Then, they left the place together.

Sonia stared at the audio recording on her phone with excitement and disbelief. Although she was shocked by the coincidence, she did not think much about it and secretly thanked the two college students for their indirect pointers.

That was because she had recorded their conversation. After she visited Rose, she planned to search for the books that were mentioned in the conversation. She believed that, armed with the sources, she could come up with a plan with much less difficulty.

At that thought, Sonia kept her phone away with a wide smile on her face as she walked toward the elevator. Much to her dismay, she saw her archenemy in the lobby just as she exited the elevator.

Toby was on the phone with his back facing her. Someone had told him over the phone, "President Fuller, Miss Reed has witnessed the 'act' that you wanted to put on."

As she was standing at a distance, Sonia could not hear the phone conversation and she planned to take the opportunity to slide away, acting like she had not noticed him. Much to her surprise, Toby suddenly stopped talking and abruptly hung up. Then, he turned around to face her. There was no surprise on his face when his eyes landed on her. Instead, he nodded gently to greet her.

Since he had extended his goodwill, it would be rude for her to ignore him. After all, he was the initiator of the partnership. If she wanted to secure a seat on the project, she could not risk ruining their professional relationship. With that in mind, she took a deep breath and forced a polite but aloof smile. "President Fuller."

"I have been waiting for you," came his reply.

Sonia was taken aback, but she finally figured out the reason behind his composure. He was not shocked to see her, precisely because he had been waiting for her.

"What is the matter? Could it be that you are angry at me because I talked back in the meeting? What? Are you thinking of kicking me out of the candidate's list?"

Toby furrowed his brows and sternly answered, "Sonia, can you stop talking brashly? And please don't take me as an unprincipled man."

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Sonia could already tell that she had ruffled his feathers. As she looked away, she had a faint smile. "Oh, my apologies, President Fuller. This is my real side. I always show my blunt side to my enemies."

Her enemy? Toby clenched his fists as he was shocked after learning that she saw him as an enemy.

The only question that bothered him was the reason behind her hostility. Is she unfriendly to me solely because of my behavior, or is she angry because of Tina?

"I will not kick you out of the candidate list. Didn't I reassure everyone that there shall be no favoritism in this partnership?" he questioned as he rubbed his forehead.

She flicked her hair. "Oh, is that so? I feel at ease then, but why are you waiting for me?"

"I'm bringing you to visit Grandma at the hospital," Toby answered.

Sonia was slightly taken aback at the reason he offered.

"I'm sorry. I will not go with you. I came here in my car and I can drive there on my own," she rejected him coolly.

Toby frowned at her and was about to reply when the elevator chimed before the doors slid open. A cart full of overflowing cardboard boxes suddenly appeared from within the elevator. Since the boxes were stacked high, one could not see the person wheeling it. Similarly, the said person could not see the road ahead and almost rammed into Sonia.

“Look out!” Toby’s eyes flickered and he sternly warned her.

As Sonia was confused by the situation, she only came to the realization when a great force knocked into her from behind in the next second, causing her to lurch to the front.

Toby was standing right in front of her.

“Get out of the way!” She yelled at him in terror, but he seemed not to have heard her at all, for he stood there like a rock.

Had it not been the calm expression on his face, she would have suspected that he was stunned by fear.

“Um...” She fell right into his arms before he caught her in a tight embrace.

Still, due to the sheer impact from her weight, he was thrown off and stumbled backward to steady himself; he only came to a stop when his back slammed into the wall.

Sonia let out a relieved sigh and quickly wriggled out of his embrace. “Are you okay?”

Toby gently nodded his head and replied in a hoarse voice, “I’m fine.”

“What’s wrong with your voice?” She furrowed her soft-angled brows and asked with concern, “Are you hurt?”

Toby’s Adam’s apple had slightly rolled, but he gave no reply. Instead, he awkwardly shifted his gaze away from her and silently calmed his racing heart.

Every time he looked at her, he would be reminded of the tenderness of her breasts when they were pressed against his chest.

Mistaking his silence as him suffering from an injury, Sonia felt her chest tightening and she could not stop stealing glances at his back. “Did you hurt yourself at the old place? You know, the area where you were hit by a basketball last time?”

“No, that has healed.” After Toby calmed himself down, he stared at her again. He noticed the nervous look that appeared briefly in her eyes, a discovery that brightened his eyes. He answered her concerned question with a warm and gentle voice. Is she worrying about me? It seems like she is not as heartless as she described herself to be; she might still have some feelings for me.

That thought had brought joy to him for some unknown reason.

She gazed at him for a while to make sure that he was not hurt anywhere before she sighed in relief. **“That’s good then.”**

After that, he had knocked his back into the wall all because he wanted to protect her.

If Toby was hurt, Sonia would feel guilty.

At that moment, a staff member wearing a yellow uniform shuffled up to them with an apologetic look. He repeatedly bowed to them and apologized, **“I am really, really sorry. I did not do that on purpose; I did not see anyone in front of me. Are the both of you alright?”**

By taking a quick look at their outfits, he knew that the two victims were rich. If they were hurt because of him, he could never afford to compensate them given his paltry pay.

Sonia merely waved her hand. **“It’s okay, we are not hurt. You may leave.”**

The employee was a little surprised by her benevolence. **“Miss, don’t you blame me at all?”**

She smiled. **“You said you did not run into us on purpose. It’s true that I was blocking the elevators and stood in your way. There is no reason why I should blame you. So, you are free to go.”**

“Yes; thank you, Miss! Thank you, Sir.” The relieved staff gratefully bowed to them again and wheeled the cart away.

With a slight pout, Sonia growled, **“It was me who forgave him and allowed him to leave. Why did he thank you as well?”**

A smile crept up Toby's face after hearing her envious tone. He thought that she was adorable.

"Oh, right." She suddenly thought of something and looked at him, at which point his smile disappeared. "What is it?"

"You shielded me from a flying basketball at the stadium last time. If we count today's incident, you have saved me twice in total." She gestured the number two with her fingers.

Toby lifted a brow in amusement. "And?"

"Plus, I forgave you for your cold attitude toward me in the past six years. Now, I won't treat you in a hostile manner. We will see each other as an acquaintance." She looked up at him. "What do you think?"

His eyes narrowed. "Acquaintances?"

"Yes, do you have an issue with that?" Sonia tilted her head quizzically.

Indeed, Toby was rather upset and bummed.

He would only be her 'acquaintance'. He wasn't even good enough to be a friend. For some reason, he strongly rejected the idea in his mind.

Unfortunately, he also understood that her suggestion was the best way forward for their relationship.

At that thought, Toby cast his glance downward and replied in a dull tone, "Okay then."

"If that's the case, President Fuller, I shall excuse myself now to visit Grandma at the hospital."

Sonia flashed a restrained smile and turned around to leave. Without giving up anything, I have returned two favors he has done for me. What a nice feeling! I feel... light and relaxed.

Toby, who was behind her, stared at her with pursed lips. Is she glad to label us as acquaintances?

“President Fuller.” Tom’s presence distracted Toby from his sadness.

As Toby’s eyes flickered, he suppressed the frustration in him and turned around to address Tom, “What’s the matter?”

“I received a call earlier about an emergency at our subsidiary in the Republic of Mesania. They need you to host a meeting back at the office to deal with this matter,” Tom informed.

Toby frowned and said, “Got it.”

It looked like he could only visit Rose at the hospital after the emergency meeting.

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The moment Sonia arrived at the hospital, she went straight to the VIP ward and soon found her way to the door of Rose’s room.

While she held a bouquet of flowers and a bag of health products in her left hand, she lifted her right hand to knock on the door.

The door was opened from within. Mary had wanted to ask about the guest, but the moment she saw Sonia, she dropped her question and looked pleasantly shocked. “It’s Young Mistress!”

“Mary!” Sonia greeted her with a smile and did not forget to correct her, “I am not the Young Mistress anymore.”

“Well, you will always be the Young Mistress in my heart.” Mary gave an affectionate gaze.

Sonia was immensely touched by Mary’s treatment and she felt tears swimming in her eyes. “Mary, thank you for treating me well. Anyway, now that I have divorced President Fuller, it might be a little disrespectful for you to call me Young Mistress when Miss Gray is his new partner. Why don’t you call me by my name?”

Mary sighed. “Sure, I will call you Sonia then.”

“Okay.” Sonia nodded and handed her the flowers. “Mary, is Grandma awake?”

"Yes, she is." Mary accepted the flowers and they both heard Rose's voice. "Mary, who is that?"

"It's Sonia," Mary turned to answer.

Upon hearing that, Rose hurriedly urged, "Let her in right away."

"Sure!" Mary replied and invited Sonia to Rose's private room.

While staring at the old lady in the bed, Sonia's eyes welled up in tears. "Grandma."

"Sonia!" Rose beamed at Sonia with love and was secretly cheered up by her visit.

Sonia placed the items on the table before she took a seat by the bed. While taking Rose's hand, she inquired, "Grandma, are you feeling better?"

"I am." Rose nodded with a smile before she asked, "By the way, how did you know that I am hospitalized?"

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"President Fuller called me earlier, so I came to visit," Sonia answered.

Rose acted as if she was exasperated and grunted, "Hmph! That b*stard! Didn't I tell him not to inform you?!"

"Grandma." Sonia touched Rose's hand in disappointment and asked, "Why didn't you want me to know? Is it because you don't like me?"

"No. Of course not." Rose ruffled Sonia's hair as she added, "I just didn't want to worry you."

"However, if you don't tell me, I would be even more worried when I learn about it later and I would never forgive myself for

not learning it any sooner." Sonia gently held the old lady's hand. "Promise me, Grandma. You must never keep me in the dark if something like this ever happens again."

"I agree with Sonia since she has a point." Mary expressed her agreement with Sonia's words when she was done arranging the flowers in the vase.

Upon hearing what the ladies said, Rose grinned from ear to ear. "Alright. Alright, I promise I'll tell you everything."

"That's more like it." Sonia responded with a chuckle.

"I'm going to follow up with the doctor about your condition, Old Mrs. Fuller. So, perhaps I shall leave you and Sonia to it," Mary said as she rubbed her hands.

"Alright, go ahead." Rose nodded.

As soon as Mary left, Rose seized Sonia's hand and asked, "Tell me: how have you been lately, Sonia?"

"Alright," Sonia replied. Then, she proceeded to share with Rose the recent happenings while only mentioning the pleasant ones. As she refused to worry Rose, she didn't bring up a single word about the detrimental politics against the Gray Family.

A few moments later, they heard laughter outside the ward, which Sonia quickly recognized to be Tina and Jean.

At the same time, Rose could also tell whose voices those were as the benevolent look on her face was instantly replaced by a glacial expression. Soon, the door was open before Jean and Tina walked in while they chuckled in the middle of their conversation.

After noticing their reaction, Sonia raised her eyebrows in an annoyed manner and wondered why they didn't look sad and worried about Rose's condition. What's wrong with these two people? Grandma is sick, but their laughter is telling me they're not concerned about her at all.

“Miss Reed?” Tina appeared to be surprised the moment she noticed Sonia’s presence.

The moment Jean heard Tina’s words, she turned around and set her eyes on Sonia who was sitting beside Rose. As Jean’s expression darkened, she questioned Sonia in a harsh tone, “What are you doing here?! Who gave you the permission to come?!”

Before Sonia could answer, Rose tightly held Sonia’s hand and replied, “I told Sonia to come. Do you have a problem with that?”

Jean gave an awkward smile and spoke, “Easy, Mom. Of course, I don’t have a problem with that, but she is still an outsider after all, which doesn’t seem like a good idea for her to be here.”

Rose coldly grunted and refuted Jean. “Who says Sonia is an outsider? She might have been forced to divorce Toby, but she will always continue to be like a granddaughter to me.”

“Grandma...” Sonia looked at Rose in a touched manner.

In that instant, Tina looked down as she tried to mask the shame on her face because she knew that Rose was referring to her.

“Alright, you win. She is indeed like your granddaughter.” Jean forced a brittle smile despite her strong grudge against Sonia. I don’t understand what this old lady likes about her. She’s already left the Fuller Family, so why does the old lady still protects her?

“It’s getting late, Grandma. I should make a move now.” Sonia took a look at her watch and realized it was time for her to leave. Although she was planning on accompanying Rose for a little longer, she had changed her mind when Jean and Tina arrived.

However, Rose refused to release Sonia’s hand. “Stay with me for a few moments. I have something for you.”

“Something for me?” Sonia was confused but was still smart enough not to ask what it was at that moment.

Upon hearing Rose’s words, Tina bit her lip as her jealousy overwhelmed her. I’ve never stopped visiting and pleasing you all this time, Old Mrs. Fuller, but why won’t you even cast an eye on

me? Yet, Sonia gets to have a gift the moment you see her. What has she done to deserve that?!

In the meantime, Jean was unhappy about Rose's decision as she squinted and asked, "Why do you have a gift for an outsider but nothing for us? We're your family."

"You really are shameless, aren't you?" Rose showed her anger. "A leopard cannot change its spot, but you can never stop being greedy throughout the last decade since you married into the Fuller Family. Furthermore, I can give whatever I want to anyone and there is nothing you can do about it. Moreover, this is something that belongs to Sonia in the first place."

Rose's words had caused Sonia to frown. Isn't Jean Toby's mother? Toby is already 30 this year, so how is it possible that she only married into the Fuller Family a decade ago?

After being lectured by Rose, Jean stood up for herself as she pouted, "No one knows for sure whether it's hers to claim. In fact, you might be saying that to fool us."

"You—" Rose coughed, her face turning red.

"Grandma!" Sonia was extremely worried about Rose that she was unbothered by Jean's insolence. As an anxious look flashed across Sonia's face, she leaned closer and gently rubbed Rose's chest with her hand to help alleviate her difficulty in breathing.

Meanwhile, Jean was frightened by Rose's intense coughs as she was too panicky to think about her next move. "I-I'm sorry. I didn't mean to work you up." Oh man! I didn't know this old lady was so weak that she could get a heart attack from anyone who pisses her off. Jeez, I hope she is fine! She has to be, or it's going to be over for me.

Fortunately, Jean's prayers were answered when Rose finally seemed to feel better.

It was only then that Sonia and Jean heaved a sigh of relief, but the same couldn't be said for Tina. Tina had secretly hoped that something bad would happen to Rose because no one in the Fuller Family would stand in her way to marry Toby if her wish came true.

“Try some of my chicken soup, Mom.” Jean quickly changed the subject in the hopes of diverting Rose’s attention from her provocative attitude earlier. At the same time, Rose, who knew Jean for who she was, only responded with a cold grunt without saying a word more.

Then, Jean placed the thermal flask on the table and opened the lid, whereupon the appetizing aroma of the chicken soup wafted through the air. However, Sonia somehow found the smell disgusting as she immediately felt nauseous with her face turning as pale as a white sheet.

Upon noticing Sonia’s reaction, Tina knitted her eyebrows in confusion until something crossed her mind as she set her eyes on Sonia’s tummy.

“What’s wrong, Sonia? Are you alright?” Rose looked at Sonia and asked in a concerned manner.

Sonia took a deep breath, trying to suppress her nausea as she nodded her head and endured her discomfort. “Don’t worry about me, Grandma. I’m fine.”

“You don’t seem to be fine to me, though. Are you under the weather or something?”

“I guess I might have caught a cold from the air con on my drive here. Don’t worry, it’s no big deal,” Sonia answered.

Rose frowned in disagreement. “Well, like you said, you might have caught a cold, but I say it’s better to let the doctor check on you.”

“No!” Tina shouted before Sonia could respond, which drew the attention of those around her. At that moment, she panicked because she knew her overreaction could have aroused their suspicion. Thus, she quickly looked down and explained, “I’m sorry, Old Mrs. Fuller. There was a mosquito trying to bite me, so I was just chasing it away.”

“A mosquito?” Jean looked up and around her. “Nope, I don’t see any here.”

Tina was frustrated as she cursed Jean for her unintelligent response. Idiot! Is she on my side or theirs?

“Alright, quit looking around. You’re almost spilling the soup.” Rose felt revolted when she looked at Jean holding the thermal flask.

Nevertheless, Sonia gazed at Tina with suspicion while pondering in a broody manner, Was Tina really just chasing mosquitoes away? Because she really looked like she was trying to stop me from seeing the doctor. At the thought of that, Sonia decided to sound her out as she smiled at Rose and replied, “It’s okay, Grandma. I have some medicine at home, so maybe I’m fine without seeing a doctor. I’ll be sure to grab a pill when I’m back home.”

Upon hearing Sonia’s reply, Tina let out a sigh of relief, believing that Sonia was really not going to consult the doctor. Phew! This is good news! I was even thinking of sneaking out to meet the doctor and bribe him first if Sonia was going to see him, but it looks like I don’t have to do it now.

Sonia secretly peeked at Tina’s reaction from the corner of her eyes. When she noticed the relieved look on Tina’s face, Sonia squinted. It seems that I was right. Tina just tried to stop me from seeing the doctor. Why did Tina do that? Is she hiding something?

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Sonia squinted ambiguously as she made a mental note to visit the doctor later. She wanted to know what was wrong with her health to the point where it made Tina so concerned.

“Suit yourself then.” Upon noticing Sonia’s insistence, Rose decided to give up trying to persuade Sonia even further.

Jean coldly grunted and said, “Mom, I think she must have forgotten her place.”

“Shut up!” Rose berated Jean, who shivered in silence when she heard Rose’s harsh response.

Despite her old age, Rose was still feared and revered for her status. Therefore, Jean had never dared to openly defy Rose, but only complained and grumbled behind her back.

“By the way, this is for you, Sonia.” Rose suddenly raised her hand and took something out from her pillow, which turned out to be a bunch of keys dangling in the air with a red thread.

“Is this what you said you wanted to give me, Grandma?” Sonia curiously held the keys in her hands.

As both Jean and Tina were expecting something much more valuable, they instantly lost their interest when they saw the set of dusty keys.

Rose nodded as she replied, “Yeah, your father gave me this six years ago and told me to give them to you one day. I should have given them to you earlier, but it slipped my mind the last time. So, I guess there is no time like now to pass it to you.”

Sonia looked at the keys in her hands with a bewildered look. “Why didn’t Dad give me the keys himself? Why did he ask you to hand them over to me instead?” It was at that moment that she realized her father and Rose had long known each other.

As she seemingly knew what was on Sonia’s mind, Rose smiled and answered, “Your grandpa and my old man used to be military brothers back then. Thus, when he couldn’t locate you six years ago, he entrusted me with the keys because I was the only one whom he could trust in Seafield. Shortly after that, your father...” Rose didn’t finish her sentence but trailed off with a sigh.

Nevertheless, Sonia knew that Rose would mention her father’s suicide. As she was reminded of that tragic incident, Sonia regretted her decision to leave her father to chase her stepmother who siphoned their fortune. If I hadn’t gone after that woman, I would’ve been by my father’s side and made sure that he wouldn’t do anything stupid. At the thought of the heartbreaking memory, Sonia’s tears began to roll down her cheeks as she began to sob. “Grandma, did Dad mention what these keys are for?”

“Of course, he did.” Rose gave Sonia a piece of tissue paper and said, “Your dad told me the keys are for you to access Reed Residence, where there is something extremely important for you there. He also mentioned that it was a necklace that you must locate and retrieve because it holds a huge secret, but nonetheless, he didn’t tell me what it was about.”

“Alright, I understand. Thanks, Grandma.” Sonia rubbed her nose with a tissue paper and sniffled, fighting back her tears as she forced a smile.

Meanwhile, Rose patted Sonia’s hand and responded, “It’s getting late now, so you should head home now. Visit me again next time.”

“I will,” Sonia answered. “I’ll make a move first then, Grandma.” She then grabbed her purse and walked toward the door without even bothering to look at Jean and Tina.

Jean mocked, “How rude!”

Upon hearing Jean’s words, Sonia paused at the door for a while before she chuckled and left the room in an unfazed manner. When she was about to reach the elevator, she suddenly heard someone calling out, “Wait up.”

Sonia stopped in her tracks and turned to look at the lady. “What’s the matter, Miss Gray?”

“Let’s have a word,” Tina said with a smile.

“A word?” Sonia raised her eyebrows in bewilderment.

“That’s right.”

Sonia smiled. “With all due respect, I don’t think there is anything we can talk about between us.”

“No, there is really a lot we can talk about,” Tina answered with a soft voice as she intentionally glanced at Sonia’s stomach.

It was about more than a month ago when Cynthia managed to stalk and take some photos of Sonia and Toby entering the same

room for a long time. Since those two were alone, Tina believed that they must have likely shared an intimate moment together. Furthermore, Sonia's nauseous reaction when she smelled the chicken soup had convinced Tina even more that she was likely pregnant.

The longer she is pregnant, the more sensitive her body becomes. As for now, Sonia must be thinking she is just feeling unwell, but if she finds out she is pregnant in the hospital, she may confront Toby with her child and hold him responsible for that. At the thought of that, Tina clenched her fists and swore that she mustn't allow Sonia to do that. Toby is a responsible man. If he discovers Sonia's pregnancy, there is no telling that he'll remarry her for the sake of their child, which will render my years of effort a waste. No, I will not be made a fool out of that! Tina's face twisted in anger, her eyes filled with malice.

Sonia squinted as she was able to see through Tina's evil intention. "Fine, let's talk." She looked down. "I'm curious to find out what you want to talk to me about anyway."

"Since you are okay with it, you should probably come with me." Tina's eyes narrowed as she smiled.

Sonia's eyes darkened. "Aren't we going to talk here?"

"It's not convenient as there are many people."

"Sure, lead the way then." She smiled and gestured for Tina to show the way.

Tina coldly grunted and cursed Sonia in her heart, Just keep smiling. I want to see whether you will have the last laugh later! Her lips curled upward as she turned around to take a step forward.

With her eyes glued onto Tina's back, Sonia appeared to be calm as she pursed her lips and took her phone out of her purse to dial Toby's number. Although she had no idea what was wrong with Tina, Sonia knew she was definitely up to no good, judging from her malicious look. Nothing can be good, especially now that she is trying to isolate me by taking me to some hidden place. Isn't it obvious that she is trying to do me harm? If that's the case, I must

do something in my defense. That's right; I'm going to show Toby just how wicked this lady can be.

Since Sonia believed that Toby would change his mind about Tina once Tina was exposed, she was counting on that tactic to make him break up with Tina. If it really has to come to that, Tina will have no one but herself to blame.

Soon, the call was connected as Toby spoke with a soothing and deep voice, "What's the matter?" However, Sonia didn't respond as she stared at her phone screen. Instead, she picked up her pace and followed Tina closely to the stairwell.

Sonia placed her phone behind her back and asked, "Miss Gray, now that we're in the hospital's stairwell, can you tell me what exactly we're going to talk about?"

Thinking that Sonia had accidentally called him by mistake, Toby was about to hang up the phone when his eyes suddenly dilated in surprise. Wait a minute! Is Sonia now with Tina?

Tina raised her arms without answering Sonia's question. Instead, she looked up and scanned her surroundings. "There isn't a security camera here, is there?"

"What do you think you're doing?" Sonia pursed her lips and warily looked at Tina.

At the same time, Toby was also curious about Tina's intention on Sonia. Soon, he quickly realized that Sonia didn't call him by accident. Instead, she had intentionally rang him so that he could overhear the conversation between her and Tina, even tipping him off about the address of her whereabouts. Realizing something was awry, Toby tightened his fingers around the phone and instructed Tom to make haste. "Speed up."

"Yes, Sir." Tom responded with an affirmative hum and he floored the accelerator even harder.

Back on the stairs, Tina covered her mouth and chuckled evilly before she glared at Sonia with a menacing look on her face. "Do you have any idea how much I hate you, Miss Reed? I've hated you since the first day we met in university. You and I are like arch

nemeses and there is only room for one of us to survive. In that case, you must die, Sonia!”

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“What?” Sonia was shocked. Although she knew Tina was going to hurt her, she didn’t expect Tina to threaten to kill her. “You want to kill me?” She tightened her grip around her phone and intentionally raised her voice.

Toby’s face darkened the moment he heard Sonia’s words. As soon as he alighted from the car, he immediately scurried toward the building while trying to calm his distraught mind. I can’t believe Tina is trying to kill Sonia!

On the other hand, Tina’s eyes brightened with malicious glee. “Be careful with what you’re saying, Miss Reed. You will cause your own death in an accident, which I have nothing to do with.”

She slowly walked toward Sonia. In fact, she had never given up on her thought to eliminate Sonia, but ever since the incident in the resort, she never found a chance to execute her evil plan until the discovery of Sonia’s pregnancy had prompted her to do the worst thing. I must get rid of Sonia before everyone else finds out about her pregnancy, or it’s going to be over for me.

Tina soon clamped Sonia’s shoulders with her clutches before she gave a sinister smile and pushed Sonia toward the edge of the stairs. As Tina had the upper hand in the battle, Sonia wasn’t fighting back because she was in heels and it wasn’t long until she found herself near the edge of the stairs.

“Meet your demise.” Then, Tina pushed Sonia down with all her energy; the impact had sent Sonia backward onto the flight of stairs. At the same time, Tina stood on the top and stared at the horrified look on Sonia’s face, waving at her and saying, “Farewell!”

Deep in her heart, she believed Sonia would fall to her death, considering the height of the stairs. Even if Sonia didn't immediately die from the fall, she would make sure Sonia was dead.

When Sonia rolled down the stairs and was about to hit the ground, a silhouette suddenly emerged from downstairs to spread his arms to break her fall. However, the huge impact had toppled the man and sent him flying toward the wall, which caused him to hit it hard with his back. As his face twisted in pain with a layer of cold sweat coating his forehead, she suffered from an excruciating pain in her stomach with her limbs going numb, but fortunately, she survived the fall.

On the other hand, Tina, who was looking forward to witnessing Sonia's death, stood atop the stairs in disbelief when her wish didn't come true. What stunned her even more was that Sonia's lifesaver turned out to be none other than Toby. The shocking realization instantly caused Tina's face to pale and rendered her panicky, making her wonder why Toby would show up at that spot.

On the other hand, Toby endured the pain in his back and helped Sonia to her feet. Then, he painfully asked in a hushed tone, "Are you alright?"

In fact, Sonia was able to tell that her lifesaver was Toby from his perfume when he hugged her in his embrace to cushion her from the fall. Thus, she didn't seem to be surprised as she rubbed her belly and shook her head while answering in a trembling voice, "Yeah, I'm fine."

"Good to hear that." Toby heaved a sigh of relief, feeling lucky and grateful for being able to prevent a tragedy. That was close. Sonia would have lost her life had I failed to show up in time. Despite his successful rescue, he still shuddered at the thought of how close the tragedy was about to befall her. Thank God I arrived in the nick of time.

"What about you? Are you okay?" Sonia asked while she looked at him in panic. Oh man! He just saved me once again.

Toby slightly avoided her gaze. "I'm good."

"Are you sure you're okay?" Sonia didn't believe Toby's answer because she thought she had just heard his painful moan. It was just that she wasn't sure about it since she was in extreme fear earlier.

"Yes, I'm sure," he reassured her, trying to endure the pain in his back.

While the both of them expressed their concerns for each other, Tina cast aside her jealousy and tried to sneak away silently. However, when she was about to reach the door, Toby's glacial voice was heard from behind. "Stay where you are!"

She froze as she subconsciously stopped in her tracks.

"Turn around!" he demanded.

Tina slowly turned with her head down as she lacked the courage to look him in the eye. "Toby—"

"Tina, you have disappointed me!" Toby slowly helped Sonia to walk up the stairs while he fixed his eyes on Tina like a stranger. "I've always known you're not as innocent as you may seem. I thought the most you would do is just pull off some mischievous pranks, but I didn't think you'd even try to kill someone!"

Tina's eyes dilated in horror as she looked up and tearfully met Toby's eyes. "Toby, I-I didn't want this to happen either, but I just can't help it."

"You couldn't help it?" Her words sounded like a joke to Sonia. "If you can't control your own actions, you were born to be evil then, Miss Gray."

"No, that's not what I meant..." Tina bit her lips, her tears trickling down her cheeks. She then looked at Toby. "Toby, I wasn't born as a bad person but I'm too insecure."

Nonetheless, Toby didn't seem to be touched by the woman's words for some reason. In fact, he even felt sarcastic when he heard what Tina told him. "You said the same thing to me when you hurt Sonia the last time."

He gazed at her with an unfathomable gaze. In fact, he felt guilty toward her that time, thinking the reason why she would do such a thing was because he hadn't spent enough time with her. Therefore, he sarcastically laughed at himself for the previous guilt he felt for her.

Meanwhile, Tina sobbed while an awkward expression flashed and disappeared across her face. Then, she looked down and tried to talk her way out of the situation. "Toby, I just feel too insecure to lose you."

"You said you felt insecure when I was too close with Sonia the last time and I trusted you, but what about this time? I've already kept a distance from her, so what else are you afraid of?" Toby looked at her with a piercing gaze.

"I... I..." Tina bit her lips and took a step back as she stammered incoherently because she was too afraid to speak about her fear.

In the meantime, Sonia had rested her hand on her painful stomach with a glacial look on her face. "Fine, President Fuller. It seems that Miss Gray is struggling to prove her point. In that case, I say we should involve the police since I have the audio recording to prove that she tried to kill me. I think that should be enough to put her behind bars for a good few years."

Audio recording? Tina's expression changed as she looked at Sonia in disbelief. "You recorded our conversation?"

"Yes, I did." Sonia flashed her phone in front of Tina. "Your eyes gave your evil intention away when you came to see me, so did you really think I was going to play along like a dumb slave without a backup plan?" Although her plan narrowly saved her life, she failed to see through Tina's murderous intent to kill her.

"Toby..." Tina seemed terrified, gazing at Toby with a pale expression while her sympathetic eyes looked as if they were asking him for help. Nonetheless, he only pursed his lips without saying a single word.

Since she was his lover, he knew he was obligated to save her from the worst outcome, yet he couldn't think of a single word to defend her. Furthermore, his conscience kept him from turning a

blind eye to her wrongful action, considering the serious mess she had just created.

When Toby remained silent for a few moments, Tina tearfully shook her head in great dismay and disappointment. He doesn't want to save me. I can't believe he isn't going to save me!

Sonia was also surprised by Toby's actions as she had always thought he would spoil Tina until the salt wouldn't save her. Well, I guess I was wrong about him.

At the thought of that, Sonia gazed at him with a complicated look, realizing that there was more about the man than meets the eye even though she thought she knew him.

"President Fuller, since you have no objection, I'll call the cops now," she said and reached for her phone.

Since she thought Sonia wasn't bluffing, Tina desperately came up with a cliché yet effective idea to buy herself some time—'fainting'. As her eyes rolled upward, she collapsed onto the ground, which shocked both Sonia and Toby.

"Tina." Toby snapped out of his trance and crouched down to check on Tina's condition with a concerned look on his face, whereupon he did all he could to wake her up. Nonetheless, his effort soon proved to be futile when Tina didn't come to her senses after multiple attempts. As he was distracted by her urgent condition, he carried her in his arms and told Sonia to put the matter on hold. "We'll talk about calling the cops after she comes around."

Nevertheless, Sonia didn't answer the man's words. Instead, she squinted and focused all her attention in observing the lady in Toby's arms. Tina soon appeared to raise her eyebrow a little, but Sonia was observant enough to notice it as her lips curled upward.

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I didn't know that Tina would be so shameless as to pretend to faint.

“President Fuller, I believe she will wake up soon,” Sonia uttered coldly while resting her arms on her chest.

Now that she was still in Toby’s arms, Tina could not help but exert more pressure on her hand that hung in the air. What does she mean by that? Could she have noticed that I am faking it?

Toby seemed to have understood what Sonia was implying, for he lowered his eyes and gazed at Tina for a while.

After failing to detect any oddity, he looked up at Sonia. “What do you think I should do?”

She smiled. “It’s simple—just release her. If she has really fainted, she’d definitely react when she lands on the ground. Why don’t you try it out on her?”

Upon hearing that, Tina’s heart pumped even harder. How could Sonia force me to wake up with that horrible suggestion? She’s cruel and malicious!

Toby frowned at the suggestion and replied, “What kind of idea is that? Have you ever considered that Tina would be injured if I let go of her while she is unconscious?”

Tina let out a relieved sigh. Great, looks like he won’t listen to Sonia.

Sonia’s gaze swept across Tina’s forehead, where Tina’s worried wrinkles were smoothed after being ‘saved’ by Toby. A smirking Sonia added, “If you don’t have the heart to test it out, why don’t we use another method?”

“What is it?” he questioned and Tina, who was in his arms, perked up too.

“You will know soon.” Sonia flashed a mischievous grin and tapped on her phone screen before approaching them.

The sound of Sonia’s footsteps had caused Tina to panic. Sonia, what are you cooking up this time?

No matter what would happen next, Tina was determined to endure it to prevent from exposing herself.

Sonia walked up to Tina and under Toby's watchful gaze, she placed her phone by Tina's ear, after which she tapped the 'play' button on the screen.

Bang!

A loud sound exploded from the speakers, causing Toby to tense up from the shock. He was close to releasing his grip on Tina and causing her to land on the ground.

Thankfully, he was acutely aware of the fact that he was holding someone, which allowed him to avert the crisis.

Much to Sonia's great surprise, even though he was frightened by the loud sound, Tina didn't move whatsoever in his arms with her eyes closed, as though she had really fainted.

Her lack of reaction caused Sonia to frown. An average person who pretends to faint would definitely jump when he or she hears the loud sound.

Despite what had just happened, Tina had suppressed her natural reaction, which required a lot of effort on her part.

Sonia could only accept her defeat in the face of Tina's sheer persistence. "I apologize, President Fuller. Looks like I have made a wrong guess. Miss Gray seems to have fainted for real." She kept her phone away and smiled.

If Tina would not wake up after being frightened by the obstreperous sound, Sonia figured that it was useless to insist on proving Tina wrong. Any attempt to do so would only amplify her own insensibility.

If she wanted to lodge a police report on Tina, she could do that anytime because she had the recording in her hands.

When Tina heard that Sonia had thrown in the towel, she silently let out a huge sigh of relief. It appears that Sonia will not try to expose me anymore.

Anyway, Tina made note of Sonia's prank on her, determined to exact revenge by inflicting double the torture next time.

"I will call you when Tina wakes up." Toby gave Sonia a deep look as he said those words. He did not blame Sonia for delaying Tina's treatment because he subconsciously felt that Tina could be faking her situation as well..

Alas, he seemed to have misunderstood Tina.

The more he thought about it, the more he felt guilty toward Tina as he gazed at her.

"Alright. I shall wait for your call," Sonia answered with a smile.

After that, Toby carried Tina in his arms and brought her to the ER. Sonia was preparing to leave for her doctor's appointment at the Gastroenterology Department, but for some reason, the pain in her stomach worsened.

At that moment, her phone buzzed from Charles' call. "Sonia, have you visited Old Mrs. Fuller?"

"Yes, why?" Sonia walked toward the Gastroenterology Department as she asked.

His voice took a solemn note. "Well, here's the thing. I have found out how Titus Gray was released."

"Oh?" Her eyes scrunched up with great interest.

Charles scoffed at the other end. "Titus Gray had help from the authorities to release him. Yesterday, Tina paid a visit to Titus before heading over to the Wallace Residence."

"The Wallace Residence?" Sonia pursed her lips. "Are we talking about the Wallaces? Isn't that the family of Seafied's Vice Mayor Wallace, just like how the Coleman Family is?"

"Yes, that's the one. Mr. Wallace is Titus's friend from college."

She replied sarcastically, "Ah, I never expected the two families to be connected in this manner! Or should I say that the Gray Family

are very connected, especially with the families who are in power?"

"Right? First, it was the Stryders and now, it is the Wallaces," Charles smirked and replied tartly.

In a quick turn, he burst out laughing in what appeared to be schadenfreude. "Baby, from what has happened lately, don't you think that those who side with the Gray Family always end up in trouble? Think back on Melody Stryder and Cynthia Stone. Following this logic, I am afraid that the Wallaces would meet the same fate."

Sonia chuckled. "That sounds right, but remember, the Wallaces are different. They are the elites of Seafield, unlike the Stryders. One could say that they have an advantage in their own territory."

"I don't see any difference. The Wallaces and the Coleman Family are political enemies." He grinned. "Sonia, you probably don't know about this yet, but the mayor of Seafield will be vacating his seat soon. The two families have their eyes on the position of mayor, which is why they are now in the middle of a showoff! Given that the entire city has heard about Titus Gray's arrest, how did the Wallaces have the guts to free him?"

"Do you mean to say that the Coleman Family will use this incident to their advantage?" A witty twinkle flashed in her eyes.

Charles snapped his fingers in excitement. "Baby, you're intelligent indeed! That's correct! The Coleman Family will definitely use this knowledge to their advantage. Once the Wallaces get themselves in trouble, they would start hating Titus Gray like the Stryders did. Had the Stryders not been in crisis, they would have already taken revenge on the Gray Family."

"That would be good news." A smile crept onto Sonia's face.

"There's more," Charles added. "The Wallaces have offended the Coleman Family lately."

"What happened?" She was taken aback by the news.

To that, he reacted with a maniacal laugh. "Do you really think that the Wallaces would take the risk and save Titus Gray just

because he is an old friend from college? That's definitely not the case. This time around, the Wallaces and the Coleman Family are in a heated fight for the mayor position. As the two families are equally good in politics, it is hard to decide which one of the vice mayors should be promoted. As a result, the higher ups have handed the two families a mission."

"What mission?" Sonia's curiosity was piqued.

Charles shrugged. "I don't know about the details, but the two families are trying their best to attract investments to Seafield. Whoever gets the most investments for the city will be considered faster in completing the mission. At first, the Gray Family were supporting the Coleman Family, but in the end, they withdrew their investment and redirected it to the Wallaces."

"I see what's going on there. The Gray Family has probably used their investments as the bargaining chip to free Titus Gray."

Charles nodded. "That's right! However, Titus Gray's action has turned the Coleman Family into a joke. If the mission ends now, the Coleman Family would have lost the opportunity to even compete for the position. That's why I said Titus Gray has offended the Coleman Family."

At that point, Sonia could not help but smile. "The Gray Family is indeed something. How could they offend all the families in power at the same time?"

"I know right?" He agreed.

When Sonia saw the elevator was arriving, she planned to end the call. "Alright, let's end here for now. Let's leave Titus Gray to the Coleman Family—they'd definitely take care of him for us. As for you, keep an eye on the factory and tell the engineering team to speed up on the construction."

"Don't worry, I got it."

"Okay." Sonia hung up on the call and entered the elevator.

...

Over at the Gastroenterology Department, the doctor held Sonia's report in hand and sat on his chair with a solemn expression.

Upon seeing that, she clutched her hands anxiously. "Doctor, do I have a serious illness?"

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"No," the doctor answered with a shake of his head, which caused Sonia to sigh in relief.

That's good to hear.

Judging from his serious expression, she almost believed that she had suffered from some terminal illness.

"What is the diagnosis then?" She looked at him and asked in concern.

The doctor placed Sonia's report on the table. "I'm not too sure. How about this? You should get a checkup at the OB-GYN. Cases like yours usually fall under the purview of that department."

"OB-GYN?" The corner of Sonia's lips twitched in shock. Isn't it just some abdomen pain? Why is he asking me to go to the OB-GYN?

"Yes, my diagnosis is that you're pregnant. Hence the suggestion," the doctor answered with a nod.

Her eyes wavered as her mind went blank. It took her quite a while to return to her senses before she croaked in a hoarse voice, "A-Am I pregnant?"

"I think so," he replied.

Sonia stumbled for a little and felt the world spinning wildly around her. I'm pregnant. How could that be?

She stood up and took the report as she stumbled to the OB-GYN after having decided to go for a thorough checkup at the OB-GYN. What if I'm not pregnant? Maybe the doctor from the Gastroenterology Department misdiagnosed me.

The elevator doors slid open after a chime.

The moment Sonia walked out of the elevator, she looked around to confirm that the OB-GYN was on the left and hurried in that direction.

It so happened that Toby had just ended his call and was returning to the hospital. When he noticed Sonia disappearing around the corner, he could not help but narrow his eyes in suspicion. Why is she still here in the hospital?

"Toby."

While he was deep in thought, he heard someone calling him from behind.

He spun around to see a doctor wearing his white coat and a sly smile on his face.

"What's up?" Toby tucked his phone away and asked nonchalantly.

Tim pushed his glasses further up his nose and answered, "Tina is awake now and she wants to see you."

"Got it." Toby felt much more relieved as he hurried into the ward.

While staring at his friend disappearing down the corridor, Tim pursed his lips for a second before he adopted a smile and followed Toby into the room.

"Toby." Tina was seated on the sofa and looked at him blankly. "Toby, Tim told me that I fainted. How did that happen?"

Upon hearing that, Toby instantly frowned. "Don't you remember?"

She shook her head and pressed her temples. "No, I don't. I can't recall a thing."

He looked at his feet with an expression that was hard to read. Soon, he asked her again, "How about the memories before you fainted? Do you recall any of them?"

Tina tilted her head to think before she shook her head again. "I can't recall that as well. The only thing I remember is that we made up in the morning. Nothing else. Toby, what happened to me?" She glanced at Toby in panic. "Why did I lose part of my memory? Do I have some terminal illness?"

Toby didn't reply; rather, he stared at her with such a deep look that it almost penetrated her mind for the truth.

"Toby?" A confused Tina called while she was suppressing her panic.

It was hard to discern the emotions in his voice. "Do you really not recall anything?"

This time around, before she could say anything, Tim interjected, "She really can't recall a thing."

Upon hearing the news, Toby's expression changed. Even though he had suspected Tina's answer, he would never doubt the veracity of Tim's account, for Tim was not only a friend, but a renowned surgeon. There was no way Tim would not lie to him.

"What happened? Why would she lose her memory?" He fixed his gaze on Tim while Tina turned to Tim in curiosity.

Tim unearthed his hands from the coat pockets to scratch the back of his head. "On this topic... I think it's best if we talk outside."

"Can't I listen?" Tina pouted in anger.

He merely smiled at her. "You better not know about it. Let's go, Toby. We'll talk outside."

After considering for around two seconds, Toby quickly agreed and exited the room before Tim.

Tim trotted behind Toby and before he left the room, he suddenly turned around to quickly wink at Tina.

She smiled and nodded in response.

Once he had received her tacit agreement, Tim turned around and closed the door to the ward.

"Tell me, what's wrong?" Toby stopped in his tracks and questioned with a serious tone.

Tim took out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket and shook it. Then, he handed his friend a ciggy. "Do you want one?"

Toby did not even take a look at the cigarette that was offered to him.

After knowing Toby's answer, Tim kept his cigarettes away and lit one for himself. He took a drag on it with great pleasure. "Tina is schizophrenic."

"What?" Toby's pupils shook upon hearing the shocking revelation.

Tim explained, "To be more specific, she is not only schizophrenic, but she is also suffering from dissociative identity disorder. She has a dark identity. To put it simply, she has a personality that drives her to commit wrongdoings."

Toby tightly clenched his fists. "How did that happen?"

Tim puffed a ring of smoke. "Dissociative identity disorder is usually triggered by extremely traumatic events. Tina previously did not suffer from the disorder; we only observed that in her after she regained consciousness. Do you still recall that she almost went into shock and fell into a coma after learning you

were married the moment she woke up? I assume that she must have developed dissociative identity disorder around that time.”

After learning about the truth behind Tina’s condition, Toby felt a gut-wrenching pain. Tina developed a dissociative identity disorder because of me and Sonia!

“I went through some articles earlier.” Tim extinguished his cigarette. “This dark identity of hers has a strong hatred for your ex-wife, perhaps because your ex-wife took away what had belonged to Tina.”

Toby frowned unhappily. “That has nothing to do with Sonia. It was my fault for not turning Tina down.”

In short, he was the root of the problem.

A reflection flashed across Tim’s glasses. “Toby, are you defending your ex-wife now?”

“That’s enough. We are discussing Tina now. Why would you bring that up?” Toby impatiently pursed his lips.

Tim looked at him in the eye before flashing a smile. “You’re right.”

“About Tina’s dark identity... Does it appear whenever she sees Sonia?”

Tim shrugged. “How would I know? Anyway, the identities usually surface when the owner feels threatened. Maybe your ex-wife has done something to Tina, causing her to develop a vindictive identity.”

“That’s impossible!” Toby blurted out without even thinking.

Tim narrowed his eyes. “And you said you weren’t protecting your ex-wife.”

“I am not. It’s just because Sonia would never do something like that.” Toby gave a cold reply.

He had a hunch that Sonia was innocent.

“Alright, if you say so.” Tim clasped his hands together as his tone took a serious turn. “This identity of hers has probably showed up for the first time, which is why she has lost all her recent memories. I’m worried that this particular identity would frequently surface if things don’t change.”

“Can it be treated?” Toby cast a glance at him.

Tim then nodded, “In the history of medicine, we have observed a number of cases where the dissociated identities have merged with the owner’s main identity. Since Tina’s new identity is a recent occurrence, there is a high chance that it could be merged with her primary one.”

“What should we do then?” Toby asked in seriousness.

Tim pushed the bridge of his glasses once again. “It’s simple. Try to keep her company, make her happy and definitely do your best to avoid her meeting your ex-wife or even to seeing you with your ex. As long as she is not agitated, her identity won’t resurface. Sooner or later, it will merge with her main.”

Although the explanation sounded crazy, Toby still took note of the suggestions. “Got it.”

“If that’s the case, I will get back to work now. I’ve just returned from an international trip. There is lots of work waiting for me.” Tim patted him on the shoulders before leaving.

Toby stood at the same spot and stared at the door in front of him with pursed lips.

Never would he have thought that Tina would be driven to the point of developing dissociative identity disorder. Her behavior toward Sonia in the past month could also be explained by the formation of her new identity. That was why she acted and talked differently from the letters she wrote to me after she regained consciousness!

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Chapter 118**

A faint sobbing sound was suddenly heard from the room.

Without much thought, Toby immediately opened the door and found a frightened Tina. It was after a short pause that she turned to walk further into the room.

"Tina," he called out to her.

She paused and wiped away her tears before turning to face him with a forced smile. "Toby, are you done talking to Tim?"

"Yeah." Toby stared at her for a couple of seconds before he asked, "Did you overhear us?"

Tina nodded as her eyes turned misty again. "Toby, d-do I really have dissociative personality disorder?"

He opened his mouth to say anything, but he couldn't form his words and merely ended up grunting.

She covered her face with her hands and cried her heart out. "I'm sorry, Toby. I didn't know about it. I really didn't know. Sobs..."

"That's fine." As Toby felt sorry for her, he yanked her into a tender hug. "It's not your fault. There's no need to apologize."

"I heard Tim saying that the new identity is evil, though. It is also being hostile toward Miss Reed. Did I do something horrible to her before I lost my memory?" She held his collar and asked with reddened eyes.

Toby looked at his feet and answered somberly, "That identity of yours... She pushed Sonia off the stairs."

Upon hearing that, Tina inhaled sharply and exclaimed, "How could that be? D-Did I plan to kill Miss Reed?"

"That wasn't you. Remember, it was your secondary identity." He touched her hair and corrected her.

She bit her lip and croaked, "Even so, that identity is still part of me. Now I understand why I have been mean toward her in the past few times. I knew I shouldn't have done that, but I couldn't control myself. It's all because I have a mental illness!"

Tina started hitting herself on the head with a dejected and disgusted expression.

"Tina, stop it!" Toby hurriedly pulled her hands away. "I told you that it was not your fault."

"It's my fault! Not only did I frame her for running over me, I even caused her to trip. After that, I even pushed her off the stairs. I-I..." Tina was a crying mess by now.

He kissed her on the forehead. "You were under the influence of your nascent alternative identity when you hurt Sonia twice. That's the reason why you shoved her off the stairs, but it was the doing of your identity. It had nothing to do with you as a person, which is why you have no memory of it. You shouldn't blame yourself."

"Miss Reed doesn't know about my condition, though." Tina sniffled and thought of something as she pushed him away. "By the way, Toby, is Miss Reed okay? She's fine, right?"

"She's fine," Toby answered.

Tina patted her chest and sighed in relief. "That's great. Good to hear that she's okay, but I think she won't let this slide."

He pursed his lips. "She will file a police report."

"A police report?" Tina exclaimed before she gave a bitter smile. "That makes sense. After I pushed her off the stairs, it's only fair that she reported me. I should serve prison time for my behavior. The only thing is that I heard the female wardens are scary and excellent at torturing the inmates. I wonder if that's true."

After that, she stole a glance at him, but he did not notice it because he was busy thinking about Tim's suggestion.

To help Tina's new identity merge with her main one, Toby couldn't send her to prison.

If she went to jail, she would definitely be traumatized again, given how vulnerable her personality was. By then, not only would they be unable to treat her, they might even witness more subsequent identities forming.

At the thought of that, Toby narrowed his eyes and answered, "Don't worry, I won't let you head to prison."

"Is that true?" Tina looked at him with her bright eyes, but the light in them had almost immediately dimmed. "Miss Reed won't agree with your decision, though."

"I will talk to her," he muttered as he stared at the floor.

At this time, his phone buzzed from a call—it was from Tom.

"What's the matter?" Toby answered and asked with a serious tone.

Tom replied respectfully, "President Fuller, two research teams have arrived from abroad to authorize our alternative energy technology."

"Okay, serve them for the time being. I will be back soon," Toby ordered.

After the call, he kept his phone aside in his pocket. "Tina, I need to head back to the office. Get some rest for now and don't overthink it. I will take care of everything that happens after this."

Tina nodded obediently. "Okay."

Toby pocketed his phone and turned around to leave.

Not long after that, Tim returned to the room. "Are you sure this is the best solution? If you fake a mental illness and your lies are exposed, I'm afraid that your reputation will be in tatters."

"So what?" She shrugged without a care. "My reputation was already damaged at the banquet when I accused Sonia of running over me. I don't care if my reputation is worsened. Plus, why are you so sure that I'd be exposed?"

He pushed the bridge of his glasses. "Nothing is without risk. I just want you to be careful."

"Don't worry, I know my limits. After all, I don't have other options apart from lying; or else, Toby won't offer to help me. At that time, I'd really be imprisoned. Most importantly, I have targeted Sonia a couple of times. Even if he doesn't say anything about it, he must have felt upset at me."

Tina lifted the glass of water and elegantly took a sip. "I can tell from how he refused to help me before this. If I pretend to suffer from dissociative personality disorder, I can direct all the blame to my non-existent identity and he will not resent my main personality anymore. Instead, he'd feel sorry for me."

On top of that, even if she wanted to hurt Sonia in the future, Toby would not think of her as evil. He'd only believe that her actions were due to her worsening mental condition.

While staring at the cocky and confident Tina, Tim shrugged helplessly. "Alright. Since this is your decision, I will respect it."

"You're the best!" She flashed a sweet smile at him, which caused him to be in a daze.

A moment later, he softened his voice. "You're my savior and my angel. It's only fair that I treat you well!"

Her smile froze for a while and she looked to the floor to hide the guilt in her eyes. After that, she seamlessly changed the conversation topic. "By the way, I need you to do me another favor."

"What is it?" He was oblivious to her change in expression and asked blankly.

Tina pursed her lips solemnly. "She has the voice recording of me pushing her off the stairs. I know that Toby has promised to protect me from being imprisoned, but that recording is a ticking time-bomb that I want you to take care of immediately."

"That's easy." Tim inserted his hands into the coat pockets and assured her with a relaxed look.

She added, "Another thing... She's pregnant."

"Whose child is she carrying?" He lifted a brow in amusement.

Her face contorted as she forced the answer through gritted teeth, "It's Toby's child, but she doesn't know. If he knows that she's pregnant, he will immediately know that it's his child."

On that fateful night, Tina had drugged Sonia with the plan of having Sonia sleep with other men. She would then take photos and videos of Sonia to ruin her reputation. Much to her dismay, not only did Sonia not return to her room, she even spent the night with Toby in another room. It was safe to say that Tina's plan was a colossal failure.

As she was at the end of her wits, she could only launch her plan B after Toby left. She ordered the man whom she hired to pretend to sleep beside Sonia and suppress the truth that Sonia had spent a night with Toby.

It was just that Tina never expected that their one night stand would lead to Sonia's pregnancy!

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As she thought about it, Tina clenched her fists and hissed, "That is why we must hide the news of her pregnancy from Toby or at least until Sonia has an abortion or miscarries."

If not, knowing how responsible Toby was, he would definitely not divorce Sonia, and instead advise her to deliver the child.

Tim slightly nodded before he inquired, "What do you want me to do then?"

"Since the Lancaster Family is an influential family in the field of medicine, I believe you have influence on all the hospitals in Seafield. I want you to keep an eye on her. No matter which OB-GYN she visits, you need to ask the doctors to advise her to abort the child because of complications. It's even better if they can let her die on the operating table."

Tina looked at him with a terrifying smile.

Even Tim, who was well aware that he wasn't a kind soul, couldn't help but be shocked by the woman's brutality. Doubt then started to plague him. Is this cruel woman the same girl who saved me from the human traffickers when I was a child?

However, when he saw her almond-shaped eyes that reminded him of that young girl, all his doubts dissipated into thin air.

"Alright. If that's what you want, I will get it done for you." There was a reflection on Tim's glasses.

At the same time in the OB-GYN, Sonia was sitting anxiously in the OB-GYN while waiting for the results of her checkup.

A nurse called her into the doctor's office ten minutes later.

"Doctor, what's the result? Am I... really pregnant?" Sonia clasped her hands and asked in nervousness.

The doctor nodded and handed the report to Sonia.
"Congratulations, Miss Reed. You are indeed pregnant. The baby is now four weeks and ten days old."

Her mind went blank again.

Although she had mentally prepared herself for the result, she was still stunned when she received the confirmation. I'm pregnant! How am I actually pregnant?

Sonia's hands trembled as she held onto the report. Her face was drained of color as she looked frantic and lost.

"Miss Reed? Miss Reed?" The doctor had to call Sonia twice to catch her attention before she turned to him with a pale face.

As he sensed that she was upset about the news of her pregnancy, he instantly knew that it was not the outcome that she wanted. With a sigh, the doctor suggested, "If you don't want to keep the

baby, you can schedule a surgery as soon as possible to reduce the risks. By doing so, your body can recuperate faster as well.”

“S-Surgery?” Sonia was taken aback.

He nodded. “Yeah, I thought you didn’t want to keep the baby.”

“I... I never said that,” she replied as she reflexively covered her belly.

For some unknown reason, the thought of an abortion made Sonia’s heart ache.

The doctor was stupefied as he asked in confirmation, “So, does that mean you plan to keep it?”

Keep it?

Sonia bit her lip and muttered, “I... I never thought of that either.”

The baby had arrived suddenly, which left her with no time to react.

How could she possibly agree to keep the baby at that moment?

The doctor was not surprised at Sonia’s vague stance. After all, he had seen numerous cases like Sonia in her years of practice. He suggested with a smile, “Miss Reed, since you need time to think through it, why don’t you discuss the matter with your partner and make a joint decision?”

Sonia forced a smile at him and left the hospital soon after.

She wasn’t in the right frame of mind throughout her journey as her mind was preoccupied with news of the pregnancy. Not to mention, she almost crashed into the car in front of her a couple of times.

After multiple close calls, she finally arrived at Paradigm Co. in one piece.

Once she had parked her car, she headed straight without even looking out and almost ran into a wall. A muscular arm suddenly appeared and pulled her back to safety.

Sonia fell onto a firm, masculine chest and her nose was instantly flooded with a crisp mint scent. When she looked up, her eyes widened in surprise. "Why are you here?"

As he dodged her question, Toby bellowed at her with a serious expression. "What are you doing? Watch your way when you're walking. Had I not pulled you aside, you would have knocked into the wall."

Since she was as guilty as charged, she lowered her head without a word.

He could not say anything given that she looked pitiful. As he rubbed his forehead, he interrogated her, "What was on your mind?"

"Nothing." Sonia's eyes gleamed as she replied flatly.

Toby suspiciously narrowed his eyes. "Does this look like there's nothing going on?" Her troubled mind is fully reflected in her expression. What is it that has caused her to be in a low mood?

She pursed her rosy lips in determination. "This is my personal matter, so it has nothing to do with you. I'll make a move first."

With that being said, she turned around and attempted to leave, but he took her arm instead.

Much to their surprise, the file in her arm had slipped onto the floor. He looked down and saw the name of the hospital printed on the document.

It was the same hospital that Grandma was warded at.

"Were you injured from the fall but didn't say anything about it to me?" Toby tightened his grip on Sonia's arm.

She frowned. "No, I didn't."

“Are you sure?” Now that his eyes were scrunched up, he clearly did not trust her words.

Before Tina had regained consciousness, he had clearly witnessed Sonia walking to another department the hospital.

Although he had no idea which department she visited, it was clear that she went there to treat her injury after the fall.

“Is it an internal injury?” Toby asked again.

“President Fuller, why are you being nosy? This is my personal matter. What does it have to do with you?” Sonia mocked him with a smile. He keeps asking all those questions. Those who didn’t know better would think that I am someone important to him and that he’s concerned about me.

Since she was tight-lipped about her situation, he decided to bend over and pick up the file.

Upon seeing that, her expression fell and she grabbed the file to hide it behind her since she had no plans to reveal the report to him.

Toby frowned at her frantic move, which confirmed his guess about her health condition.

Since Sonia was unwilling to tell him, he decided to look into the matter when he visited Grandma later in the evening.

At this moment, a red sedan drove over before it rolled to a stop beside them.

The moment the door was opened, it revealed Charles, who emerged from the vehicle before he slammed it shut. Then, he jogged over to Sonia and cast a wary look at Toby. “Why are you here?”

Toby’s gaze swept past him and landed on Sonia again. “I am here to have a talk with you.”

“What is it?” She furrowed her brows with a look of caution.

She could not figure out anything that was worth discussing between them.

Knowing that his words would anger her, he chose to pause for a moment before he requested in an apologetic tone, "May I ask for you not to file a police report on today's incident?"

Indeed, Sonia's expression soured. "What did you say? You want me not to lodge a report against her?"

Toby muttered, "Yes."

She snickered from the ridiculousness of the situation. "Toby, what are you thinking? When I said I would lodge a report, you did not oppose it. And now, you are suddenly against it. What is it that you want?"

"Darling what's wrong? What happened?" Charles was confused as his eyes darted between her and Toby, but nobody paid attention to him.

Toby lowered his gaze. "I know that I have placed you in a difficult spot, but—"

"No 'buts'." She clenched her fist and loudly interrupted, "Toby, Tina wanted to kill me. She had pushed me off the stairs because she wanted me dead, but now you are asking me not to report her to the police. Are you the crazy one or has the world gone mad?"

"What? Tina Gray pushed you off the stairs?" Charles finally had a clue of the incident and trembled in rage. He glared with red eyes that was full of hate at Toby.

Charles finally lost control of his temper and landed a punch on Toby's face. "Toby, you are f*cking mad, aren't you? Are you asking my darling to pardon her assailant? How dare you! Who do you think you are?"

The punch came as a surprise to Toby, who was punched right on the face. He stumbled backward as the corner of his lips was bruised and bloodied.

Sonia was equally shocked. When she recovered her composure, she quickly went up to him. "Are you okay?"

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Upon hearing her concerns, Toby softened his gaze as he rose to wipe the corner of his mouth. He was just about to assure her that he was fine when she walked right past him toward Charles.

Sonia took Charles' hand and examined it. "Is your hand alright?"

Charles seemed to have put his anger behind him as he grinned. "Yeah, I'm perfectly fine."

"That's great." She sighed in relief.

Toby's gaze darkened and it had a downcast air around him. It was obvious that he was undoubtedly unhappy.

He was mistaken; she had never cared much for him.

Still, it was understandable, for Charles was her boyfriend. It was only natural for her to worry about Charles. Despite knowing that, Toby still felt upset.

Toby's hands clenched into fists and his expression was as cold as ice.

Sonia didn't notice him. Instead, she jokingly poked at Charles' forehead. "You really gave me a fright! Why did you suddenly start punching people?"

"He's so shameless that I can't stand it." Charles threw Toby a cold snort.

Her expression turned cold as she looked at Toby. "President Fuller, please just leave. I haven't changed my mind and I'll still file a report."

Toby's gaze lowered. "What do you want?"

“What?” Sonia was stunned for a bit.

He looked at her as the words passed through his thin lips. “As long as you agree not to call the cops, I will give you anything you want.”

“You b*stard...” Charles was close to going berserk again.

Sonia stopped him before she smiled sarcastically at Toby.
“Anything at all?”

“Correct.” Toby nodded.

She narrowed her eyes. “All right, don’t go back on your word now. I want either Fuller Group or Triforce Enterprise. Make your choice. Give me one of them and I won’t call the police.”

Charles’s eyes brightened. “Great move, darling.”

Toby didn’t expect Sonia to have such wild ambitions to ask for either the Fuller Group or Triforce Enterprise right off the bat. His eyebrows were locked in a tight frown as he replied, “Sonia, are you kidding me? You know very well that I cannot give you either one of them.”

Sonia crossed her arms and sneered. “Yes, I am kidding. Your efforts are futile, so just give up. I will never reconsider my decision because I want nothing more than to see Tina being thrown behind bars!”

With that, she pulled Charles along as they walked toward the elevator.

In truth, she was quite grateful toward Toby for appearing on time and saving her, for she would really be dead otherwise. However, after seeing Toby’s actions moments ago, her gratitude was replaced with pure disgust toward him.

To her, it was acceptable to pamper people whom one loved, but if the pampering was limitless and disregarded even the law, then it was overboard.

Toby watched Sonia leave, but he didn’t move to stop her.

He knew that stopping her wouldn't help, which meant that he had to think of other ways to save Tina.

Emotions flitted across Toby's eyes as he turned to leave.

Meanwhile, in the elevator, Charles was still ranting. "That was too much! How could he say such shameless things with a straight face?"

"All right, calm down. I don't feel angry anymore, so why are you still hung up about it?" Sonia smiled a little as she watched Charles' angry behavior.

He pouted. "Darling, are you really okay with it?"

"Yeah. Don't hold your anger for too long; it's not worth it, especially when it's about irrelevant people," she answered calmly.

Charles blinked in excitement. "You're right, darling, They're irrelevant people, but—"

"But what?" Sonia walked out of the elevator.

He quickly followed up on his words. "Toby couldn't change your mind this time, so he definitely wouldn't give up. He might just do something."

Her gaze turned dark. "If that's the case, then let's see what he can do. It's just me and myself, so I'm not scared of him. Two of us can play the game."

Charles was shocked. "Darling, don't say that. What would I do if something bad happens to you?"

Sonia rolled her eyes at him. "I'm just kidding. Don't take it so seriously."

Still, if Toby really managed to threaten her, she would be ready to fight him to the end.

They had arrived at the office in the midst of their conversation.

Sonia immediately entered and she took out her phone to call the police.

At the mention of intentional homicide, the police were instantly on their feet and left to apprehend the culprit. Soon, Tina was arrested in the hospital.

When she was caught, she was still in bewilderment as her mind was filled with fear and panic. What's going on? Didn't Toby say that he would convince Sonia not to call the police? Why did she do it regardlessly?

Her face was pale as she was taken to the police station and into the interrogation room.

The police then immediately notified Sonia.

"Understood. Thank you. I'll be there right away to provide evidence." An expressionless Sonia kept her phone away after the call before she rose to her feet.

"Darling, let me accompany you." Charles put down the coffee in his hand and offered.

She shook her head. "No need. Just stay behind at Paradigm Co."

"Okay," he responded, albeit a little unwillingly.

"I'm off then." Sonia grabbed her bag on the desk and walked out.

She soon drove to the police station and found a spot in a parking lot near the police station. Then, she alighted from the car.

She had taken not more than two steps when she suddenly heard the loud engines of a motorcycle roaring behind her.

Sonia turned around to see a black motorcycle headed right toward her at an alarming speed.

She was so shocked that she turned pale and her legs were frozen in place.

The motorcycle was just about to run into her and she could only subconsciously flinch before squeezing her eyes shut.

After bracing for a full-on impact, Sonia realized that only her shoulder was hurting.

Then, the bag on her shoulder was immediately snatched by the motorcyclist.

The strong pull had caused Sonia to fall to the side.

Her car was right beside her, so it had managed to break her fall. Still, her stomach slammed against the sidelights whereupon the subsequent sharp pain caused her to yelp and break out in cold sweat.

Sonia hissed in pain and rubbed her stomach.

However, her hand quickly moved away from her stomach to pull open the door as she hastily sat on the driver's seat. She drove after the thief in hot pursuit, enduring the pain in her stomach. I have to get my bag back.

The bag contained not only her credentials, but her phone as well. There was even an audio recording of her call with Toby on her phone with evidence of Tina pushing her. She couldn't afford to lose it at any cost.

Sonia frowned deeply as she gave chase, flooring the gas pedal.

Tom had just driven over when he saw Sonia's car disappearing out of sight. He couldn't help but remark in confusion, "President Fuller, I think that was Miss Reed's car. She's going so fast, like she's chasing after someone."

Chasing after someone?

Toby was in the backseat, tending to the injury on the corner of his mouth. The moment he heard Tom's words, Toby's eyes widened. "Who is she giving chase to?"

"I don't know. I didn't see them." Tom shook his head.

Toby thought for a few seconds before shouting his orders, "Follow them!"

"Understood," Tom responded before he started the car once again.

Sonia chased after the motorcycle with all her might.

As it was a busy road, her car couldn't match the speed of that motorcycle.

The motorcycle weaved in and out between the cars, but she was stuck and unable to move.

In the end, she could only watch as the motorcycle drove away out of sight.

Sonia's eyes reddened in anger as she slapped the steering wheel in frustration.

As a result of the sudden movement, her stomach had ached even more.

She could no longer endure the pain and pulled up to the side of the road. Then, she slumped onto the steering wheel in intense pain.

At that moment, she heard a knock on the car window.

Despite the pain, Sonia raised her head and turned to look at the source of the knock. She then caught sight of Toby's stern face outside the window.

The bruise on his face was the only flaw in his handsome features.

She rolled down the window and glared at him. Her tone was irritated as she spoke, "What?"

Upon seeing her all sweaty and pale, he frowned and asked in a tense voice, "What happened to you?"