

This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr

Chapter 256

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The sound of Toby's footsteps sounded as if he was stepping on Tina's contracting heart, filling it with fear and panicking her. At the same time, she subconsciously stepped back, her lips trembling in silence.

Seeing her reaction, Toby couldn't help but feel disgusted with it. "What's wrong? The cat got your tongue? Let me answer the question for you. That's because you never lived in Marina City; you never kept a pet dog, and neither did you ever have a stepmother and sister. So, tell me now. Do you still insist that you are Maple?"

At that moment, a loud thump was heard when Tina collapsed onto the ground with a blank gaze on her face. In the meantime, Toby only fixed his eyes on her, immediately knowing what her gesture meant because she could no longer cover up her wrongdoings.

"Tina!" Julia quickly came closer to her daughter and hugged her, placing her hands on her shoulders. "Are you alright, Tina?"

Nevertheless, Tina only puckered her lips, wanting to say something, only to swallow her own words eventually. Feeling helpless and panicked, Julia turned to Toby and asked, "What was it that you were telling Tina, Toby? What's all that about posing as Sonia and Maple? I don't understand a single thing about that matter at all."

Without looking at the woman, Toby kept his eyes on Tina and replied to Julia, saying, "Your beloved daughter posed as the person whom I had always thought to be the woman of my life and enjoyed what was not rightfully hers for six years."

"What?! So, you're saying you don't love Tina now?" Julia raised her voice.

However, Toby responded with a cold grunt and said, "I never loved her, in fact. Sonia has always been the one I've loved because she is the one who's truly my pen pal, and the only reason Tina got to be with me was that she posed as her. Why else do you think I'd confess my love to someone like her, whom I never met six years ago?"

"Well..." Julia was tongue-tied as she began to recall what had happened. While she knew the two of them had never seen each other due to the inequality between their statuses, she quickly realized it was actually Toby who wasn't aware at all about her existence. On the other hand, Tina had truly seen Toby before, judging by how he was an outstanding man any woman would dream of marrying.

One day, Toby unexpectedly showed up at the Gray Residence and confessed his love for Tina, which Julia found to be strange because he had never seen her before, especially with his sentimental gaze. Nonetheless, she quickly dismissed it as a reason that he fell in love with Tina at first sight. Furthermore, their young age served to convince Julia even more that both of them were just a young couple who desperately sought some unforgettable romance. However, now that the truth had been uncovered, she was shocked to discover that it was her daughter who had been scheming to take Toby away from Sonia all along.

At the thought of that, Julia cast a strange gaze on Tina, who guiltily looked away before the latter stood up and seized Toby's arm in a tearful manner. "I'm sorry, Toby. This is all my fault. I'm so sorry! I shouldn't have posed as Sonia, but I just couldn't help it because—I love you!" Knowing she could never get away with the fact that her scheme was exposed, Tina decisively apologized to Toby and begged for forgiveness. After all, she reckoned she still stood a chance to win his favor if she could have his forgiveness.

"You love me?" Toby chuckled in irony while pinching Tina's chin hard. "You posed as Sonia and took what was hers away from her because you loved me. Well, if everyone just takes anything they want from others just because they love them, what kind of world would we be living in?!" Toby pinched Tina's chin harder this time.

As Tina was overwhelmed by the painful twinge, tears began to roll down her cheek. Meanwhile, Toby felt a stab of pain in his

heart when he saw her tears, but it wasn't because he felt sympathetic toward her, but because the same thing that happened at the restaurant the last time was now happening again. Therefore, Toby made up his mind to bear with the pain he was going through on the inside because he was never going to tolerate Tina ever again. After that, he shook off her chin and took a handkerchief from his breast pocket to wipe his fingers with a disgusted look on his face. Upon wiping them, he even threw the handkerchief away as a gesture of revulsion.

"I'll cancel our engagement as soon as possible, Tina, but be warned that I will not go easy on you for the lie you fed us in the past six years, so you'd better pray hard from now on." Toby finished his words while fixing his cold gaze on Tina like a sharp blade that pierced through her soul. It was only a few moments later that he took his eyes off her and left the mansion.

The moment Toby disappeared from sight, Tina went weak in her limbs and collapsed onto the ground like she was exhausted from days of starvation. While her face was covered in a cold sweat, she couldn't stop thinking about Toby's intimidating gaze because he seemed as if he was going to make her suffer in a living hell. At the thought of that, she curled up and hugged herself.

"What's going on?" Julia sympathetically let out a sigh and asked.

"Mom." Tina held her mother's hands and agitatedly asked, "What should I do now, Mom? What should I do?"

As Julia started to feel Tina's fingers tightening around her palm, she began to see red marks, whereupon she tried to free herself from her daughter's grip. Nevertheless, Tina simply wouldn't let go, as if she was waiting for her mother to suggest something. In the end, Julia helplessly endured the pain and said, "I didn't know about this at all. After all, you did pose as Sonia, and you can't really blame Toby for being mad about it. Anyway, why didn't you tell your dad and me about this back then? We both had always thought that Toby was truly in love with you." In fact, Julia and her husband had always thought it was Sonia who tried to take Tina's place.

"What's the point of saying those things now?!" Tina shook off her mother's hand and screeched, "Toby is going to cancel our engagement now, and I can't let that happen! I went through a lot

before I got this far, so I'm never going to let this opportunity slip away. I'd rather die if that happened!" She then frantically stretched her arms to reach for her own face, leaving red scratch marks on the skin.

Fearing that Tina could disfigure her face, Julia immediately restrained her hands and consoled her. "Okay. Okay, we won't let that happen. I'll call your dad and talk to him about this." As soon as she finished her words, she instantly gave Titus a call.

In the meantime, Tom approached Toby with an umbrella when he saw him coming out of the house. "Have you told her everything, President Fuller?"

"Take me to Bayside Residence now." Toby didn't answer Tom's question, only closing his eyes tiredly after getting into the car. Seeing his tired look, Tom was left with his mouth wide open as he went ahead to start the engine and leave his question behind him.

An hour later, they arrived at Bayside Residence, whereupon Toby knocked on the door at Sonia's apartment. At that moment, she happened to be writing when she heard the knock on the door. Thus, she put down her pen and went to find out who it was. "Who is it?"

On the other hand, Toby was able to hear her voice but didn't respond to it. After all, he knew she wouldn't open the door for him if he did. At the same time, Sonia yawned and went ahead to answer the door without even looking through the peephole. When she saw Toby, she was stunned for a split second before she knitted her eyebrows and closed the door. However, Toby was quick enough to stop it by placing his hand on the door, pitifully begging her not to turn him away. "Please don't close the door. I have something to tell you."

"What is it?" Sonia knitted her eyebrows.

Knowing she wouldn't close the door, Toby put his hand down and set his eyes on Sonia in an emotional manner before he wrapped his arms around her. Shocked by the man's sudden behavior, Sonia took a few seconds to process what was going on, whereupon she tried to shove him away with a pair of widened, angry eyes. "What're you doing, Toby? Let me go!"

However, Toby showed no signs of letting up at all but instead hugged her even tighter. I'll never let you go, Sonia! You're the woman I love!

Meanwhile, Sonia grew angrier and angrier when Toby's drenched shirt was beginning to dampen her clothes because of his refusal to let go.

In the end, she bit her lip and stomped on the man's toe, hurting him as he moaned in pain with a pair of furrowed brows. Nonetheless, he still didn't let go of Sonia, which angered her even more and prompted her to raise her hand in the air before she gave him a slap.

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After getting a slap in the face, Toby found himself facing the other way. Stunned, he subconsciously let go of Sonia as he seemingly didn't believe she would get physical with him.

In the meantime, Sonia didn't seem to be bothered by what Toby thought. Instead, she seized the opportunity and took two steps back, distancing herself from him while glaring at him angrily. "Toby, if you want to throw a tantrum at someone, do it in your own house. Furthermore, I want you to take a closer look at me now! I'm not Tina!"

Toby licked the corner of his lips and replied with a hoarse voice, "I know you're not Tina."

"Why did you still hug me then? Are you out of your mind?" Sonia sounded surprised.

"I'm not." Toby clenched his fists.

"Then, why did you—"

"I love you!" Toby interrupted her words.

Sonia was caught in a trance, her mind going blank for a brief moment before she found her voice. "W-What did you just say?" Did he just say he loves me? How is that possible? I must have misheard it.

Soon, Toby fixed his eyes on Sonia and repeated his words. "I love you?"

This time, Sonia could no longer lie to herself that she might have misheard something because Toby had indeed just told her he loved her. Then, Sonia puckered her lips and responded after taking a moment to process what was going on. "Do you know what you're saying, Toby? If this is all a trick from you and Tina, I'm not going to fall for that, so you can save your energy and—"

Nevertheless, before Sonia could finish her sentence, Toby slipped his hand behind her head and pressed his lips against hers. It was only until she felt something slipping through her lips that she realized what was going on. At that moment, a vengeful look flashed across her face as she tried to shove Toby away with her hands, but to no avail because the man simply just felt like a concrete wall to her.

As Toby took one step into the house through the door, he cornered her at the shoe rack and kissed her harder and harder like he was going to suffocate her. Exasperated, Sonia raised her hand into the air to give him another slap, but Toby was prepared this time. Thus, he caught her hand in the air and pinned it on the wall above her head not long before she found herself helplessly restrained and vulnerable against him.

While Sonia's rage took over her mind, she also felt a strong stab of bitterness surging through her, whereupon her eyes were filled with tears. Soon, Toby's hand that was behind her head felt something wet trickling down her face, putting him in a cold trance. When he stopped and let go of her, he looked up, only to realize she was crying.

"You..."

"Stay away from me!" Sonia bellowed at Toby while rubbing her lips with the back of her hand, her face written with revulsion and abhorrence. Ugh! This is so disgusting! Yucks! Sonia felt like

puking when she thought about the moments Toby shared a kiss with Tina.

Meanwhile, Toby squinted, feeling as if his heart was being cut by a sharp blade, when he noticed the disgusted look on Sonia's face. Does she really hate me so much?

"You're a b*stard, Toby Fuller!" Sonia was shaking from head to toe, staring at him with a pair of bloodshot eyes.

Toby stretched his arm, trying to wipe Sonia's tears for her, but before he could reach her face, she deflected his arm and reminded him of the exact same way he treated Tina back at the Gray Residence. Although Toby's painful hand was turning red because of the impact, he didn't seem to be angry at all. Instead, he put down his hand and said, "I'm not toying with your feelings, Sonia. I'm telling you the truth!"

"What truth? Do you seriously think I'm going to fall for that? You've been in love with Tina for six years, and now you came here to tell me that you love me?! Haha! What kind of joke is that?!" Sonia sneered at the man mockingly.

Toby puckered his lips as he began to speak with a bitter voice. "I know you're probably not going to believe this, but the truth is—I just realized you're the one I'm in love with today."

Finding it ridiculous, Sonia mockingly asked, "What do you mean you only realize you love me today? Are you saying you've been in love with me from the very beginning?"

"Exactly." Toby set his eyes on Sonia in a sentimental manner. "I've loved you long ago, and we've actually known each other..." Before he could finish his sentence, he suddenly blacked out and collapsed onto the ground.

Frightened, Sonia gently kicked the unconscious man. "Hey, are you alright?"

When Toby didn't respond, Sonia realized things might have just taken a turn for the worse. Thus, she crouched down with a preoccupied look on her face to examine his condition. Seeing his eyes closed, Sonia deduced he could be having a fever due to his red cheeks and hyperventilation. Her suspicion was confirmed

when she felt his warm forehead. However, it didn't take Sonia long to understand why Toby had a fever, considering the chilly weather. After all, he was indeed drenched from head to toe, not to mention the fact that he was still recovering from his injury since the accident he was caught in.

"Ugh! Trouble simply just follows you wherever you go!" Sonia let out a sigh and rummaged through Toby's pocket for his mobile phone. Then, she used his fingerprint to unlock his phone and gave his assistant, Tom, a call.

When the phone call connected, Tom's voice was heard.
"President Fuller, have you told Miss Reed that..."

"What is he supposed to tell me?" Sonia asked.

Tom was stunned at first, but soon, he curled his lips upward and revealed a happy smile. Miss Reed has President Fuller's phone with her, so that means she must have already forgiven President Fuller. That's right! The two of them have patched things up. At the thought of that, Tom chuckled and said, "Congratulations, Miss Reed..."

"Stop it right there! Come and pick your boss up and leave my house right away! I don't want any more trouble from him!" Sonia looked at Toby and said in an annoyed manner.

Tom blinked in surprise. "Are you both... not reconciled yet?"

Sonia felt as if she had just heard a joke, rolling her eyes upward in response to Tom's words. "Reconciled? Why should we be? There must be something wrong with me if I did that. Anyway, get here as soon as possible, or he is going to end up in the dumpster!" Upon finishing her sentence, she hung up the call and returned Toby's phone into his pocket. Then, she held the man's leg and dragged him outside the door like she was dragging a dead body.

Just when Sonia dropped Toby's leg and dusted off her hands, the elevator door not far away was open, whereupon Tom was seen stepping out of it. As he saw Sonia standing beside Toby, who was lying on the ground, he called out to his boss in a panicky manner.
"President Fuller!"

"Stop overreacting. He is still breathing." Sonia did a facepalm.

In the meantime, Tom crouched down to check on Toby, only to realize he was indeed just having a fever, which put his mind to ease. Then, he carried him from the ground, placing his arm on his shoulder. "In that case, I'll leave with President Fuller for now, Miss Reed."

"Please do so immediately! And don't ever come back again!" Sonia waved her hand in disgust.

Upon hearing the lady's response, Tom regrettably looked at Toby, wondering what his boss had been doing all the time until he came. Didn't you tell Miss Reed everything, President Fuller? Why does she still hate you so much? Nonetheless, he only let out a sigh and took Toby away with him, ready to drive him to the hospital.

Suddenly, Sonia called out to him. "Wait!"

Tom stopped in his tracks. "Anything else, Miss Reed?"

Sonia then fixed her glacial gaze on Toby and said, "When your boss wakes up, tell him to stop harassing me with his fake and disgusting confession. You have no idea how revolting it felt to me!"

"No, Miss Reed. President Fuller sincerely meant it!" Tom tried to vouch for Toby.

Sonia frowned when she heard that, wanting to say something just when the elevator door was open. Then, Zane came out of it with a boutique of flowers in his hand. "Did anyone just say something about sincerity?"

"Mr. Coleman?" Tom looked at Zane in surprise before turning his attention to Sonia. What's Zane doing so late visiting Miss Reed? Please don't tell me there is something out of the ordinary between both of them.

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At the thought of that, Tom fixed his gaze on Toby with a regrettable look while feeling sympathetic toward him at the same time.

In the meantime, Zane raised his eyebrows as his eyes fell upon the unconscious Toby, whom Tom was carrying. "Oh my goodness. What's wrong with Toby?"

"He has a fever," Tom replied with a bitter smile.

Sonia soon pursed her lips and said, "Hurry up and take him to the hospital then." She finished her sentence and looked at Zane. "Come in."

"Sure!" Zane smiled and entered the house, whereupon Sonia directly closed the door without even looking at Tom and Toby.

On the other hand, Tom was left outside as he stared at the door and shook his head helplessly before he walked away with Toby. Although he was worried for his boss because Sonia was now alone with Zane, he was more concerned about his health, which made taking him to the hospital his priority. After all, he reckoned Toby could always live to fight with Zane another day when he recovered.

On the other hand, Sonia was trimming the flowers that Zane gave her in her apartment, whereupon she arranged them nicely in a vase. At the same time, Zane sat on the couch with both of his hands behind his head as he probingly asked, "Why did Toby swing by just now?"

Nevertheless, Sonia failed to sense his intention, pursing her lips and answering, "That guy was probably out of his mind or something. He just suddenly showed up at my door and told me he loves me. Funny, right?"

"What? He told you he loves you?!" Zane didn't find it funny like he usually would but was shocked by what he learned.

Since Sonia was absorbed in trimming those flowers, she didn't notice his expression. Instead, she nodded and said, "Yeah, but it

seemed to me that he was probably trying to pull a prank on me, so I didn't take it seriously anyway."

"Haha. I see!" Zane curled his lips upward and chuckled in an unconcerned manner despite his stern eyes. Deep down, he didn't think Toby was pulling a prank on Sonia because he reckoned that was simply beneath his friend. In fact, he was starting to get worried because he knew that Toby had probably discovered the person he was truly in love with, which meant he was serious about his confession to Sonia.

"By the way, why did you swing by so suddenly?" Sonia placed the vase that was filled with flowers aside and sat in front of Zane, interrupting his thoughts with her question.

Zane avoided eye contact with the lady while putting his mind at ease. Then, he tried to act natural by grabbing an apple from the plate before he took a bite. "I came to talk to you about Rina's imposter. Actually, I'm planning to have her show up at the Gray Residence tomorrow when the time is right."

"Have you made up your mind about that?" Sonia appeared to look rather serious.

Zane nodded. "Yeah, Rina's imposter has already said yes, in fact."

"Alright, what do I have to do then?" Sonia asked.

Zane rubbed his belly with a pitiful look. "Can you cook? I came here with an empty stomach, and you mustn't let your guest go hungry, right?"

Amused by Zane's words, Sonia replied, "Okay then, it seems that my help is not needed for the plan. So, sit here. I'll make something for you now." She stood up and walked toward the kitchen.

Meanwhile, the doctor and the nurse were injecting Toby with some febrifuge to reduce his fever. "How is my boss?" Zane stood aside and asked in a concerned manner.

"He is fine. It's just that the rain might have probably caused inflammation on his wound. We've changed his bandage, so all we have to do now is wait until his fever subsides."

"That's some good news." Tom patted his chest in relief.

Soon, the nurse threw the syringe away and put Toby on a drip before excusing herself. After that, Tom reached for his phone as he intended to inform Rose and everyone else at the Fuller Residence about Toby's condition, but before he could make the call, his boss came to his senses.

"President Fuller." Tom put down his phone and helped Toby sit up straight.

As Toby leaned on the headboard, his feverish red cheeks were replaced by a sickly pale face. Then, he looked around the ward and found his wrist attached to a drip, whereupon he asked in a hoarse voice, "What happened to me?"

"You had an inflammation on your wound and a fever," Tom answered.

Toby closed his eyes and asked, "Who took me here to the hospital then?" Did Sonia bring me here?

"It was me," Tom replied, shattering Toby's hope with his answer.

While Toby pursed his lips and shot a cold gaze at Tom, he appeared to be confused and lost. Why does it seem like he thinks I'm a busybody all the time when I'm just trying to help? Is this all my hallucination? Tom faked a cough and added, "Um. Right after you passed out from your fever, Miss Reed gave me a call and told me to take you to the hospital."

Upon hearing his assistant's reply, Toby was seen with his eyes brightening up in happiness. Well, Sonia might not have taken me here herself, but it was her who told Tom to admit me to the hospital. At the thought of that, Toby somehow lightened up a little as he seemed to be more approachable.

Nevertheless, the vibe took an unexpected turn when Tom suddenly asked, "Has Miss Reed forgiven you, President Fuller?" As he recalled seeing Toby lying on the ground, he reckoned Sonia

was probably still mad at him because she wouldn't have let him lie down had she forgiven him. However, he thought it was better for him to hear from Toby himself rather than jump to conclusions.

Toby massaged his temples, apparently looking a little dizzy. "I fainted before I could get it out of my mouth."

Tom raised the corner of his lips, calling Toby useless on the inside. Needless to say, he didn't dare to speak his mind and lecture his boss, so he faked a cough and said, "Well, your health is more important, so let's wait till you recover from your fever before we decide what to do next."

"Have you found a hypnotist that I told you to?" Toby squinted and asked.

"I contacted one earlier, but it seemed that he couldn't find time to make it, so I'm trying to contact someone else," Tom replied.

Toby clenched his jaw and said, "Get it done as soon as possible. For now, get Dr. Anderson to see me." Although Kurtis couldn't see through his problems, he would still like to consult his professional opinion regarding his issues.

"Alright," Tom replied with an affirmative hum and nodded, reaching for his phone to give Kurtis a call.

An hour later, Kurtis showed up at the ward. "President Fuller."

"Please have a seat, Dr. Anderson." Toby pointed at the chair next to the bed.

Kurtis thanked Toby and grabbed a chair before sitting on it. "I believe you have sent for me because you have some questions about our previous meeting, right?"

"Precisely. You suggested that I should seek help from a few other psychiatrists earlier to see whether I was really hypnotized. While all their diagnoses showed the same result, it turned out that I was indeed hypnotized." Toby fixed his gaze on the doctor.

"Are you sure, President Fuller?" Kurtis held his glasses in surprise.

“I met the person who hypnotized me.” Toby gritted his teeth, his every word filled with rage and murderous intent.

Kurtis expressed his curiosity. “And who exactly was that?”

Hypnotism was a magical yet dangerous art because of its capability of manipulating a person’s mind and erasing one’s memory. In fact, some of the greatest hypnotists could even turn anyone into their mindless slaves, which would make them nothing different from gods. Because of that, hypnosis was considered to be a form of black magic that was prohibited in certain countries.

At the same time, Toby was beginning to suspect that the person, who hypnotized him earlier, was among the world’s greatest hypnotists due to his ability to keep his hypnotic effects undetected by so many psychiatrists. While there were only a handful of godlike hypnotists in the world, they were usually aged and old. Besides, most of them had even signed a pact to never use their knowledge and talent for the wrong course. Therefore, he desperately wanted to know which hypnotist had broken the pact by committing the evil deed.

“I don’t know, but my men are investigating the matter. All I know is that he is young and.... handsome.” Toby knitted his eyebrows when he described the mysterious man’s good looks. After all, it somehow felt weird for him to compliment another man for his good looks.

“A young man?” Kurtis was stunned. “How is that possible?”

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“I’m indeed telling you the truth, but that doesn’t really matter. Anyway, there is something I want to ask you. Is a hypnotist capable of causing chest pain to their target?” Toby asked, staring at Kurtis.

Kurtis responded with a low hum. “Would you mind telling me more about it, President Fuller?”

“Sure.” Toby nodded. “I believe you can still remember how I described my fiancée to you, as well as the promises I made that I would protect and love her, right?”

“Of course!” Kurtis nodded.

Toby’s face darkened. “Here is what happened. In the past two days, I realized I felt intense chest pain when I didn’t do as I promised.”

“I see. Well, that was indeed a hypnotist’s doing, but I want you to know that the pain you felt wasn’t real. In fact, it was more like a psychological pain,” Kurtis looked at him and replied.

“A psychological pain...” Toby looked down in a preoccupied manner. “So, you’re saying the pain that I felt was caused by my mind and subconsciousness?”

“Exactly. Hypnotists may be good with what they do, but they are no gods, which makes it impossible for them to control anyone’s pain reception. In fact, this is one of the ways to hypnotize a person, and it’s called the ideomotor phenomenon, which only works on your mental consciousness. In your case, whoever did this to you just wants you to love your fiancée. If you don’t do as instructed, you will suffer from intense chest pain.”

Toby clenched his fists so hard that a popping sound could be heard from his finger joints. “I see. Can you undo it?”

“I doubt I can. After all, I failed to even detect his hypnotist’s influence in the first place, so I don’t think I can rid you of those effects. Therefore, I can only say that whoever did this to you was super talented and... young! Wow! I can’t believe that there’s someone so good hiding among us!” Kurtis exclaimed.

After hearing the doctor’s reply, Toby had his face darkened. When Kurtis noticed that, he chuckled in embarrassment. “I’m sorry, President Fuller. I guess I got a little too carried away.”

Oh man! I just made a fool out of myself. I was rubbing salt on his wound by complimenting the hypnotist who brainwashed him, wasn't I? Ugh! It's no wonder he doesn't seem so happy about it.

Nevertheless, Toby only shot a cold gaze at Kurtis and asked, "I have another question. Since you can't remove the hypnotist's influence from me, why does my chest pain go away whenever I'm close to Sonia?"

"Who is Sonia?" Kurtis asked instead of answering Toby's question.

"The love of my life." Toby's eyes seemed to become slightly friendlier.

Kurtis raised his eyebrows. "Are you referring to the one that you truly love instead of the one you're hypnotized to love?"

"Yeah." Toby nodded.

Kurtis pondered for a short while and replied, "Well, maybe it's a miracle. In fact, hypnotism has its fair share of limits, even though it may be able to do a lot of wonders. Sometimes, the power of love is far beyond one can imagine. Thanks to your love for her, you managed to subconsciously snap out of your influence when you were around Miss Reed, which is why I think your chest pain went away."

Toby jutted his chin in a preoccupied manner. "Alright, I understand now. Thank you, Dr. Anderson."

"Don't mention it." Kurtis waved his hand.

"Tom, please see Dr. Anderson out." Toby pinched his own nasal bridge.

"Sure." Tom nodded and showed Kurtis the way. As both of them arrived at the door, Tom saw a familiar silhouette standing outside the ward. "Dr. Lancaster, what brings you here?"

"I heard your boss has been admitted to the hospital, so I figured I should drop by and visit." Tim calmly replied, his hands in his medical robe's pockets while having his eyes glued to Kurtis.

Meanwhile, Toby, who heard Tim's voice, squinted and called out to his assistant. "Tom, please let Tim come in."

Upon hearing his boss, Tom stepped aside and made way for the doctor. "This way please, Dr. Lancaster. I'll have to see Dr. Anderson out now, so please excuse me."

While Tim chuckled and entered the ward, Toby squinted and fixed his eyes on him. "You heard everything, didn't you?"

Tim adjusted his glasses and replied, "I guess so. I heard that you were hypnotized to fall in love with Tina through the influence of the ideomotor phenomenon, which compels you to care and show your affection to her. Honestly speaking, I'm as shocked as everyone else would be upon hearing this."

"So, are you going to tell that to Tina?" Toby's face darkened.

This man has always been on the same side as Tina. Before I realized I was hypnotized and found out my true love, he was already not happy with me. Thus, I can't help but feel disgusted to see him show me his fake sympathy now. At the thought of that, Toby told himself that he mustn't let Tim know that someone hypnotized him because he feared that Tina could do the same thing and enslave him to love her. Therefore, he swore to remove the hypnotic influence that remained within him as soon as possible.

However, Tim seemed as if he could read Toby's mind while sluggishly leaning against the wall opposite the latter's bed. "Relax, I won't bite. Besides, I'm not going to tell Tina about everything we talk about here because she and I have history too."

Toby's expression remained the same as he sneered, "Why should I believe you?"

Tim shrugged his shoulders. "Well, it's fine if you don't believe in me, but do you really think Tina isn't aware that you've been hypnotized all this while?"

Toby's eyes dilated in horror when he heard that.

At the sight of Toby's response, Tim smiled and said, "I may be a physician, but I'm also a brain and psychology specialist, so do you think I wouldn't be able to tell that Sonia is the one you're in love with instead of Tina? In fact, I'm not the only one who is aware of that. Tina also knows you don't love her at all. Anyway, now that I know you've been hypnotized, this should explain why I was so bewildered previously when you seemed so confused about who you're in love with. After all, who would be that dumb?" Upon a brief pause, he added, "When Tina woke up, I asked her whether she was afraid that you would find out that you didn't love her at all. Guess how she answered."

While Toby's face turned more and more glacial, Tim went on and revealed the answer before he could say anything. "She said no because she was confident that you wouldn't discover anything. Upon hearing that answer, I confusedly wondered why she was so confident, but after putting all the pieces together now, it all starts to add up that she could be referring to your hypnotic influence. I guess I'm surprised to find out that she does know a hypnotist herself!"

"And you're aware of that too, aren't you? You're close with her after all." Toby responded with a glacial voice.

Tim produced a scalpel from his pocket and fiddled with it like he was spinning a pen. "She and I only started growing close to each other eight years ago, but how was I supposed to know her story before we met?"

Toby looked down slightly, unsure whether he should believe Tim's words. A few seconds later, he looked up and asked, "Can you undo the hypnotic influence within me?"

"I'll have to know who hypnotized you first because every hypnotist has a unique way of going about his or her hypnosis. If I were to remove the effects recklessly, it could cause damage to your mental health," Tim explained.

"It's a good-looking man who did this to me," Toby pursed his lips and answered.

Tim, who was spinning his scalpel, paused and asked, "A good-looking man? Does he have long hair? Was he wearing a white robe?"

Toby's face changed after he heard Tim's response. "You know him?"

"It's my senior!" Tim's expression eventually changed from an unconcerned look to a serious one.

"Your senior?" Toby clenched his fists.

Tim responded with an affirmative hum. "Yeah, I think it's likely him. If he was the one who hypnotized you, I don't think there is anything I can do. The most I can do is just help you keep the situation under control."

"Even you can't remove the effect?" A surprised look flashed across Toby's face.

Tim nodded in response. "My senior was born to be a hypnotist. Since he is plagued with Schizoid Personality Disorder, there are no emotional feelings or traumas that can hurt or harm him, which makes it a lot easier for him to learn and practice hypnotism. By the time I was taken in by my mentor, he was already among the world's best hypnotists. With a snap, a simple eye contact, or anything as subtle as a few mere words, he can literally just control his victim's mind without anyone knowing."

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Tim then let out a sigh and said, "Now that six years have passed, I think my senior is probably even better than my mentor now."

"I see, but how did Tina come to know a hypnotist like him?" Toby probingly looked at the doctor.

Tim continued to spin his scalpel. "Didn't I just say I don't know? But anyway, I'm curious to know more about it."

As Tim didn't look like he was lying, Toby only knitted his eyebrows in a preoccupied manner.

Hmm. Even Tim doesn't know anything about the matter. Perhaps there is indeed more than meets the eye about Tina.

Soon, Tom returned, whereupon Toby instructed his assistant to investigate Tim's senior and told him about the mysterious culprit who hypnotized them.

Meanwhile, Tim watched everything in silence without interfering with the two men throughout their discussion. After all, he and his senior shared a rather strained relationship with each other, which was why he decided to just stand by and allow Toby to investigate his senior.

When Tom left, Toby looked at Tim and said, "Now, please help me gain control over my hypnotic influence."

"Of course, but I'm going to charge double. After all, this job is off the books, so if I get caught, I'm going to get penalized with a pay-cut," Tim playfully replied.

Toby shot a cold gaze at him. "You won't be disappointed."

"Alright then." Tim put away his scalpel.

An hour later, Toby came to his senses after Tim snapped his fingers. When he opened his eyes, he felt so relieved and peaceful in the depths of his mind. At that moment, he knew Tim had already seized control of his hypnotic influence. "Thank you." Toby looked at Tim and expressed his gratitude.

After that, Tim collapsed onto the chair in exhaustion, his face covered in sweat. "Nothing speaks louder than money, so show me your gratitude by paying me right. Moreover, I'd like to remind you that I have only seized control of your hypnotic influence temporarily. The effect still remains in your body, so you might want to avoid meeting up with Tina as much as possible to make sure you won't lose control of yourself."

Toby replied with an affirmative hum to signify his acknowledgment. However, the next thing that came out of Tim's mouth shocked him like a bolt from the blue. "By the way, when I

was trying to gain control over your hypnotic influence, I realized a part of your memory has been locked away.”

“What?!” Anxiety was written all over Toby’s face. Even my memory is being locked away! Is that the reason why I’ve been having headaches all the time recently? Soon, he asked, “Can you undo it?”

Tim grunted coldly and answered, “I would have unlocked your memories and asked to be paid more if I knew how to do it. Only my senior can reverse the effects, so capture him and make him do it for you.” He then waved his hand and left the ward tiredly.

On the other hand, Toby only looked down, hiding his expression while radiating a cold aura that made the entire atmosphere in the ward feel oppressive. After all, he couldn’t believe that someone actually locked away his memories, as if being controlled by some hypnotic influence wasn’t bad enough. What a move, Tina!

Meanwhile, Zane was about to help put away the dishes after finishing his meal at Bayside Residence. At the same time, Sonia stood at the kitchen’s entrance and watched him wash the dish. “I thought a rich toff like you had zero idea about doing house chores.”

“Come on. I’ve been in the military, so what makes you think I don’t know how to handle these simple house chores.” Zane bragged.

“You’ve been in the military?” Sonia sounded surprised.

After washing the dishes, Zane proceeded to place them into the disinfection cabinet. “Of course. I was in the army for years, in fact. If it weren’t for something that came up, I would still probably be serving the army.”

When Sonia heard that, a sad look flashed across her face before she decided not to ask further. After all, she wasn’t a busybody who loved to pry into someone else’s sad story. Suddenly, her phone rang, and she headed to the living room and picked it up from the table to answer the call.

When the call ended two minutes later, Zane curiously asked, "Who was it?"

"It's from the embassy. They called to inform me about my visa's approval." Sonia placed her phone on the table.

"Are you flying abroad?" Zane raised his eyebrows.

"Yup, for my abortion," Sonia stretched herself while answering the man's question.

Zane curled his lips upward. "Wow! You're pretty straightforward."

Sonia smiled and asked, "What do you expect otherwise? I'm tired of beating around the bush."

"Well, you have a point, but why must you fly abroad for an abortion?" Zane expressed his confusion.

Then, the smile on Sonia's face faded away as she proceeded to tell him about the incident that had happened in the hospital earlier. Upon hearing her story, Zane slammed the table angrily and cursed those people who tried to hurt her. "These people should go to hell! Does human life mean nothing to them?!"

Feeling mad at Tim, Zane reproved him for what he did to Sonia. Shame on you, Tim! You're a dishonorable doctor who has no sense of morality and professionalism at all. "Thank God you're alright!" Zane gazed at Sonia with a concerned look.

Sonia held the glass of water in her hand and took a sip. "Yeah, I'm grateful that I survived that, actually." Deep down, she had Tim to thank, or she would have been encased in a box and buried underground if he hadn't discovered the red mole on her wrist in time.

"Tim mustn't go unpunished for what he did to you. If he could kill someone so easily, his hands must be dirty, so I think we should do some digging on him!" Zane squinted and said.

Sonia handed him a glass of water and said, "I'll count on you for that, then."

“No problem!” Zane patted his chest confidently with a smile.

After both of them continued their pleasant chat for a few moments, Zane excused himself and left Bayside Residence. However, he didn't head home right away but instead drove to the hospital.

Meanwhile, Toby was sitting on the bed with the drip attached to his hand and a laptop on his lap while typing. Not long after that, Zane arrived and knocked on the door. “Wow! I have to admit that I really like your fighting spirit! You're lying in the hospital, yet you're still working so hard. Thus, you definitely have my respect for that.”

“What brings you here?” Toby paused what he was doing and looked up, speaking with a glacial voice.

“I'm here to visit, obviously.” Zane raised and showed the basket of fruits he was holding before entering the ward.

“How did you know I'm here?” Toby knitted his eyebrows.

“I saw you faint outside Sonia's doorstep with my own eyes. In fact, I even helped urge your assistant to take you to the hospital. After all, that's what a true friend does, right?” Zane put down the fruits with a smiling face, as if he had an ulterior motive.

In the meantime, Toby clenched his fists on the keyboard, knowing Zane was intentionally telling him that he saw him at Sonia's place. Thus, he closed his laptop and asked, “Why did you swing by Sonia's apartment so late at night?”

Zane grabbed a chair and sat down. “Well, that was something between me and her. What about you? Why were you at Sonia's doorstep at such an ungodly hour? Aren't you afraid that Tina would find out about that?”

“It doesn't matter whether she knows about it because we're going to call off our engagement anyway,” Toby placed his laptop on the nightstand and coldly said.

Zane's expression turned cold. “And then what? You're going to win Sonia's heart back and remarry her?”

Toby was able to tell that his friend was mad, so he coldly pursed his lips. "That's none of your concern."

"I beg to differ. Don't forget, Toby. You promised me that you would stay out of the way when I'm trying to date Sonia, so what exactly were you doing confessing to her at her doorstep?" Zane stood up.

Toby calmly met his eyes and said, "Yes, I love her, which is why I'm going to win her heart once again and remarry her! But you! You knew Tina isn't the one I'm in love with, so you and I are both clearly aware of what you're actually up to for telling me all those things!"

"I..." Zane gulped and clenched his fists. "Yes, I admit that the reason I said those things is that I've been planning to stop you should you ever go back on your words to woo Sonia, but I didn't expect this day to come so soon. Moreover, you made a promise to me, so aren't you ashamed of breaking it now?"