

## Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 681

### Chapter 681 Stolen Blueprints

After sending Kate and the others off, Tiffany tried her best to keep her anger suppressed as she reprimanded her brother, "Jayden, why did you borrow money from loan sharks? Don't you know that they're all heartless bloodsuckers?"

Jayden flashed her a guilty look as he explained, "Someone talked me into this, Tiff. They said I could earn millions if I got lucky! You may not know this, but my luck has been down in the dumps lately. I failed at starting a business, and I haven't been able to close any deals as an insurance agent either.

That's why I decided to try my hand at gambling instead. I was winning at first but somehow started losing after a while. Not wanting to give up so easily, I put all of my money into it and even borrowed some from the loan shark."

"Are you stupid or what? How could you believe such ridiculous lies? Countless families have been destroyed because of gambling debts!" Tiffany yelled furiously in disbelief.

"Tiff, your brother only did it to help our family out! Your husband Derrick isn't even complaining, so how about you stop scolding your brother?" Ophelia protested.

"The Hissons may be wealthy, but their money doesn't grow on trees, and they aren't obligated to settle Jayden's debts either! Just so you know, a few million isn't a small figure! They're already looking down on me due to our family background, so you guys are only making things worse for me! Are you all trying to ruin my life?" Tiffany's chest was heaving from anger as she said that. It was the first time she had gotten this mad.

I've been working my butt off all these years, but no one has ever thought to ask me if I'm doing all right! They only call me when they need money! What do they think I am, an ATM?

"Don't be like that, Tiff. Your brother has learned his lesson, and he won't do it again. We'll take him home now to save you the eyesore, okay?" Ophelia said sarcastically.

Just like that, Tiffany's family members took the next flight home after leaving that mess behind. Tiffany had thought that it was all over, but it turned out to be the beginning of her troubles.

Due to them being busy with their work, Tiffany and Derrick didn't go on a honeymoon after their wedding. As the filming for the movie that Derrick invested in was about to start, they had no choice but to postpone their honeymoon. After all, it wouldn't be easy for a publisher to do the work of a producer.

While Tiffany was busy with the script for the movie, her family members kept calling her to ask for money. They were practically treating her like an ATM after knowing that she married into a wealthy family, much to her chagrin.

Although she gave them the money as requested, their actions angered her so much that they messed up her creativity. In the end, she was completely stuck and couldn't even write another word.

Noticing her frustration, Amelia brought her out on a date to help her relax. "Come on, talk to me. What's going on?" she asked while handing her a drink.

"Oh, just my family is an absolute pain in the neck as usual. You know how it is. My mom is pretty much treating me like an ATM right now. As if calling me every few days asking for money wasn't bad enough, she even called Derrick! She doesn't care about my feelings at all!" Tiffany replied with a wry smile.

Amelia frowned and stirred her drink as she said, "I remember your mom being a reasonable and rational woman when we were young. She has never asked you for money when you started working out here, so why would she start now?"

Tiffany simply lowered her gaze and fiddled with her teaspoon in silence.

A greedy family is probably one of the worst fears a woman can face after marriage... They'd keep asking her for money regardless of whether her husband's family is wealthy...

Amelia thought to herself with a sigh.

"Did your mother-in-law say anything about it?"

"She never liked me to begin with, so finding out about my failure of a family only worsens things even further!" Tiffany replied with a sullen look on her face, showing no sign of her usual high-spirited self whatsoever.

Instead of enjoying a sweet and happy life after marriage, all I'm feeling is mental and physical exhaustion. Knowing their ugly nature, I wouldn't have invited them over to my wedding if I had a choice! Even if I did become a successful author, they'd still think of me as a mere white-collar worker!

"You need to bring back that positive energy you used to have, Tiff. When I was blind, you kept telling me to not give up. Right now, I'm returning those exact words to you. I believe this is all temporary, so you need to stop sulking and pull yourself together! Do it for Derrick too!" Amelia reminded her.

After taking a moment to regain her composure, Tiffany shrugged and said with a smile, "Don't worry, Babe! I'm fine!"

Amelia took a sip of her drink. "I am glad to hear that, Tiff! Just talk to me if you ever need to get something off your chest, okay? Your brother may have gone a little too far this time, but he is still your family. You can't possibly sit by and do nothing unless they've really crossed the line."

Tiffany nodded.

Of course, I understand that perfectly well. It's just that the way my family constantly asks me for money is really driving me up the wall! They've been doing it in the past, but not to this extent. They really showed their ugly side the moment they found out about me marrying into a wealthy family. Honestly, they never fail to test my patience...

"Babe, you know what? I suddenly get this feeling that your adoptive parents aren't actually half as bad. They may have been cold to you, but at least they don't screw you over like mine!"

Not wanting to comment on that statement, Amelia simply smiled at her in response.

Every family had its own fair share of problems, and things weren't necessarily what they seemed.

Realizing she had misspoken, Tiffany was quick to apologize, "I didn't mean it like that, Babe. I was just a little stressed out by my family's shenanigans! Please don't take it to heart, okay?"

"Don't worry about it!" Amelia replied with a chuckle.

The two of them then chatted for a little while longer before returning to their respective homes.

While Amelia dove deep into her work, Tiffany tried her best to rid her mind of distractions and focused on writing the script. Fortunately, her family members had stopped calling her for some reason, much to her relief.

Right as everyone thought things were taking a turn for the better, news about Amelia plagiarizing someone else's blueprints started spreading like wildfire on the internet.

Another blueprint that looked exactly the same was found online, and it was actually published before hers.

Amelia was flabbergasted to find out that someone had accused her of plagiarism. Her colleagues in the design department were equally shocked but didn't dare say anything due to her status as Oscar's wife. After all, the Clinton family wasn't one that they could afford to mess with.

It wasn't long before Amelia was summoned into Shane's office.

“Have a seat, Amelia. I still have a document to take care of,” he said while pointing at the couch.

Amelia did as she was told, and Shane made his way over as soon as he was done with the document.

“Don’t worry, Amelia. I’ve already had someone take care of the plagiarism issue. Still, this incident did cause quite an uproar on the internet. Most of the companies that requested for your blueprints have all withdrawn from their contracts, so you may have to take a break for a while.”

Amelia groaned in frustration and said, “Shane, I have never plagiarized anyone’s work. I’m not entirely sure how the exact same blueprint was published before mine, but I believe someone might’ve stolen mine. I would like to investigate this matter personally.”

Shane flashed her a smile. “I do believe you, Amelia. I wouldn’t have summoned you to my office to reassure you if I didn’t. You are without a doubt an incredibly talented designer, but my faith in you isn’t enough to convince everyone else. While I will be investigating this matter myself, I have a feeling that Mr. Clinton won’t just sit by and ignore it either. If you are innocent, then it’s only a matter of time before the truth gets revealed.”

Amelia nodded.

“All right, you can either get back to work or take a few days off and rest at home.”

“Oh, I can work. I’ve done nothing wrong, so I have nothing to fear,” Amelia replied decisively while heading for the door.

“Do be more careful of your colleagues, Amelia. That person was able to steal your work so easily, so it is highly possible that the culprit is someone you trust a lot,” Shane reminded her.

Amelia paused briefly before replying, “Got it.”

Jolin, who had been waiting outside the door, quickly followed behind the moment Amelia left Shane’s office. “We will get to the bottom of this plagiarism issue, Mrs. Clinton. It was my mistake that led to your blueprint being stolen. For that, I am truly sorry.”

Amelia flashed her a smile in response. “This isn’t your fault, so don’t beat yourself up over it. I just got careless, that’s all.”

I thought I’d been careful enough to avoid conflicts at the workplace, but it looks like I was wrong. Sure, not everyone here likes me, but I don’t think I’ve offended anyone in

particular either. Looks like people are a lot more complicated than I'd imagined. Maybe I've gotten soft and slow after being pampered for too long, so someone took advantage of that opportunity. They stole my favorite design and accused me of plagiarism, which is a great insult to a designer. It is basically saying I've lost my talent.

## Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 682

### Chapter 682 Walk Back To The City

As Jolin was personally investigating the plagiarism incident, it wasn't long before Oscar found out about it. He then had his best hacker infiltrate the computer of the netizen that uploaded the image to find out more about him.

Although the culprit was clever enough to make that upload with an anonymous account registered under a fake ID card, Oscar was able to have his hacker investigate the source of that fake ID card.

Thanks to the amount of money he was paying for that information, they soon received an anonymous tip which helped them greatly.

In just a few days, Hugo had managed to find and catch the underaged teen who uploaded the blueprints online.

Intimidated by how tough Hugo and his men looked, the young man knew better than to mess with them and confessed immediately when asked about the blueprints.

"What happened was, a woman came to me and offered me a thousand. All I had to do was make a fake ID card and upload these blueprints online. That woman looked really fashionable with her sunglasses and high heels. I couldn't get a clear look at her face due to the sunglasses, but I could tell she looked pretty. I'm not a big fan of her thick makeup, though!" The young man was terrified at first but got all excited when he started describing the woman.

"Shut up!" Hugo yelled at him, causing the young man to go silent instantly.

Hugo then had one of his men fetch him a piece of paper and continued, "Go on."

"Huh? Go on to do what?" the young man asked in confusion.

Hugo shot him a cold glare as he replied, "Think long and hard about the woman's appearance, then describe it to me as best you can. Keep in mind that your life depends on your description."

"R-Right!"

The young man then did as he was told, and Hugo quickly sketched a portrait according to his description.

“Is this her?” Hugo asked while showing him the drawing.

The young man nodded profusely in response.

Hugo nodded at one of the bodyguards, prompting him to give the young man a beating. “Next time, don’t just accept random offers from strangers.”

With that, Hugo and his men left the scene.

“Here you go, Boss. I sketched this based on the young man’s description.” Hugo said respectfully while handing Oscar the drawing.

Although Oscar found the woman to look rather familiar, he couldn’t recall where and when he had seen her before.

“Go find out who she is,” Oscar ordered.

“I’ve already had our friend at the police station look her up in the census. I’m sure we’ll have an update soon,” Hugo replied.

Oscar nodded.

Hugo’s phone started ringing a few minutes later, and he answered it as quickly as he could. “Hello? I see... Understood, I’ll treat you to a meal later. Bye now.”

He then hung up the phone and said, “According to the police, this woman is Rory Sanders. She’s a fresh graduate and works in the same company as Mrs. Clinton.”

That was when Oscar finally remembered who that woman was.

We’ve met a few times before, and she would stare at me from time to time for some reason. Amelia has always looked after her, and this is how she returns the favor? By betraying her? She’s got some guts coming after my woman!

With that in mind, Oscar ordered, “Bring her to me.”

His men soon brought Rory over and tied her up before tossing her onto the floor. It wasn’t until she looked up and met Oscar’s icy-cold gaze that her face turned as white as a sheet.

“M-Mr. Clinton... W-Why did you have your men bring me over like this?” she asked with a forced smile.

Oscar shot her a glance as he read out the fake ID card number that she used. "You sure are a bold one for coming after my woman, Rory."

Despite being scared out of her wits, Rory still tried her best to play dumb and said, "Huh? W-What are you talking about, Mr. Clinton?"

"Rory, I wouldn't have brought you over if I didn't already know what you did. Come clean with me, and I might just allow you to carry on living in Tayhaven," Oscar said with a sneer.

Trying to hide it when he already knows everything will only make things worse. I should tell him the truth if I want to stand a chance at making it out alive!

With that in mind, Rory confessed with teary eyes, "I'm sorry, Mr. Clinton! I only did this because I was blinded by greed! Someone came to me and asked me to teach Amelia a lesson in return for a huge sum of money! I know I've made a very huge mistake, and I am willing to take responsibility for it. Please spare my life, Mr. Clinton! I have a sick mother at home in need of treatment! I really didn't mean to hurt Amelia like this! I only did it to save my mother!"

Oscar glared coldly at her. "Are you done?"

Rory nodded with her body curled up in fear.

"If you admit to stealing the blueprint and apologize to Amelia, I will let this slide," Oscar said.

Rory fell into a dilemma after hearing that. If I admit to it, I'll lose this amazing job that I worked really hard to get! It'd also make me worthless to Jennifer, who has been helping me out in secret! She might even get rid of me like a useless pawn!

Noticing that she was still hesitating, Oscar pressed on, "What's the matter? You won't do it?"

"Mr. Clinton, will you really spare my life if I admit to it?"

"Of course. I am a man of my word, and I won't deliberately make things difficult for you." All I'm going to do is use you as bait to catch the mastermind behind all this!

Rory knew full well that she was at Oscar's mercy, and that he would pin the crime on her regardless of whether she admitted to it or not.

Given how powerful Oscar was, a mere white-collar worker like her could never afford to mess with him.

Rory truly regretted destroying Amelia's trust in her for such an insignificant monetary reward.

After all, offending the Clintons would make life a living hell for her in Tayhaven.

Oh, Oscar... You're such an excellent man, and I've had a crush on you for so long! To think that the first time I get to speak to you up close would be under such horrible circumstances...

With that in mind, Rory slapped herself hard across the face as she said, "Mr. Clinton, I will admit to everyone in the office tomorrow that I stole the blueprint, and that I betrayed Amelia despite her helping me out so much."

Oscar simply stared at her in silence before summoning Hugo, who then brought Rory into another room.

She was subjected to extreme torture that left no marks on her body whatsoever. However, she was in so much pain that she could barely stand up by the time Hugo untied her.

He then shoved her into the trunk of a car and dropped her off in a rural area in the countryside.

"Rory, Boss says you will either show up at the office tomorrow for your confession or leave Tayhaven forever," Hugo said before driving off.

Rory stared blankly at the deserted area around her as she wondered what she should do. Her phone and money had been taken, so walking back to the city was her only option.

Her entire body was suffering from excruciating pain, and she had no idea how many hours of walking it would take for her to reach the office.

## **Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 683**

### **Chapter 683 I Stole The Blueprints**

The next day, Oscar sent Amelia to work as usual. However, a weak voice rang out as she approached the office building's entrance.

"Amelia."

Amelia turned around and saw Rory standing not too far away. Her eyes widened in shock.



“Rory, what happened to you?” she asked.

Rory grabbed her arms as her eyes flashed with fear. She said, “Amelia, I’m sorry. Please forgive me.”

Amelia was baffled.

“Amelia, why are you still standing around?” Oscar’s voice rang out. Rory froze, let go of Amelia, and moved to the side.

“I thought you left already,” Amelia replied.

Oscar lifted the bag of breakfast in his hand. “You forgot breakfast.”

Amelia took it from him and smiled. “Hurry on. You’re going to be late for work. Look, you have scared Rory. She used to be a big fan, always asking me questions about you.”

His lips curled into a half-smile. “Really? What an honor.”

Amelia pushed him toward the car. “You should go to work.”

Oscar placed his hand behind her head and pulled her in for a French kiss as if they were the only ones around.

“Amelia, I will get to the bottom of things regarding the theft of your blueprints. I hate presumptuous people. I won’t forgive whoever comes begging for your forgiveness after doing something wrong,” Oscar said after the kiss.

Amelia was baffled as she could tell that Oscar was threatening someone else.

“Go on. I will find out more about the blueprints.”

Oscar nodded.

Amelia turned to check on Rory after Oscar left. “Rory, are you okay? You don’t look too good. Do you want me to take you to the hospital?” she asked out of concern.

Rory shook her head and replied awkwardly, “Amelia, let’s head in.”

Amelia gave her a once over. “Rory, why don’t you go home and refresh yourself first?”

Rory shook her head and twitched her lips. “Let’s go, Amelia.”

Amelia let her be.

Their colleagues were shocked to see Rory looking slightly disheveled upon their arrival at the design department. After all, she was known for being vain and had always dressed to the nines for work. It was as if she was trying to seduce all married and unmarried men in the office, causing her female colleagues to look at her with disdain.

She was a menace to her female colleagues for being a promiscuous woman. Rory thought she did well hiding her true colors, but little did she know that her colleagues viewed her as an easy woman.

Hence, everyone was gloating over how disheveled she looked at that moment.

“Rory, what happened to you? How could you look so unkempt? Don’t you feel inferior standing beside the beautiful Amelia? We have a lot of rules even though we are a small and medium-sized enterprise,” one of her female colleagues mocked.

Rory gave her a look as she clenched her fists before releasing them.

Amelia stood in front of Rory and smiled. “Lillian, Rory ran into some trouble today, so she’s not in a good mood. Please stop making fun of her.”

Lillian pouted and simpered. “Did you go through a breakup? But it’s okay. You’re a social butterfly. Plenty of our male colleagues from various departments like you, so it’ll be easy for you to move on to the next relationship.”

Amelia sent Rory to the restroom to freshen up and to shield her from all their female colleagues’ mean comments.

She knew many of them had taken offense to Rory’s high-and-mighty attitude. Rory is bound to get herself insulted at the workplace one day if she doesn’t change her old ways, but it’s going to take a great deal to get her to change.

Amelia sat down at her desk and was about to start her day’s work when she recalled that she was suspended from work since no one knew the whole plagiarism story yet. Hence, she turned on her computer and sat idly by.

Jolin walked into the office while carrying a computer bag and handed Amelia a cup of tea she had brewed. She then looked around the office in search of Rory.

“Mrs. Clinton, is that annoying woman not here yet?” Jolin asked.

“She went to the restroom.”

“Then, I’ll go there too.”

With that, Jolin turned around and left. However, Amelia called out to her.

“Is there anything else, Mrs. Clinton?”

“Jolin, life has been full of lemons for Rory. Don’t make things any more difficult for her.”

“Mrs. Clinton, you can’t just judge a book by its cover. She could be a wolf in sheep’s clothing. Have you never suspected her of stealing your blueprints?” Jolin replied.

Amelia was stunned. It did cross her mind that Rory was the thief. However, she refused to believe that a girl in her mid-twenties would do something like that. She would rather the thief be someone else as it would make Rory seem very scary if she were the one who did it.

Jolin smirked. “Mrs. Clinton, she’s not an angel. Let me go to the restroom first.”

Amelia stared into space after Jolin left.

It was just as Tiffany had guessed. Rory was an ungrateful child.

Jolin went to the restroom and blocked Rory’s way out. She folded her arms and said, “Rory, how dare you mess with Mrs. Clinton? Not only will you have to apologize to her in public later, but also bark three times and call yourself a bi\*ch.”

Rory clenched her fists tightly.

Jolin leaned forward and pinched her chin. “Rory, you should have seen this coming when you stole Mrs. Clinton’s blueprints. You shouldn’t have messed with her, of all people. I would have cut off your hands if it were up to me before you turn into a thief for good.”

Rory just let her be.

“Remember to bark three times and call yourself a b\*tch later on. I’m not as kind as Mrs. Clinton. She may be able to forgive you for stealing her blueprints, but not me and Mr. Clinton. You’re not even worthy to be called a dog in our eyes as it would be an insult to those very loyal dogs.” Jolin looked at her in disdain. “You’re just an ungrateful child.”

Rory stayed in the restroom for a while longer after Jolin left before she returned to her desk.

She felt scared and vulnerable and she stood in the middle of the office and stared at her colleagues. Everyone had arrived by now. Rory was about to back away when she saw Jolin’s warning gaze.

She opened her mouth and felt her throat tighten up all of a sudden.

“Rory, what’s the matter? Go back to your desk if you don’t have anything else. Don’t stand in the way,” someone said as he couldn’t stand how Rory had blocked the entrance.

Rory gave him a look and remained rooted to her spot.

“Hello everyone, I’m the one who stole Amelia’s blueprints and posted her work on the internet. I wanted to humiliate her but regretted my decision when people accused her of plagiarism. I was really scared that I would ruin her career just like that. This is the reason why I’m standing here today and apologizing to Amelia. I hope she can find it in her to forgive me.” Rory finally spoke up.

The crowd went into an uproar upon her words.

“Rory, is this true?”

“Rory, how could you do that? Amelia has been so nice to you. You’re being very ungrateful.”

“Rory, this is too much. Amelia is a very talented designer, so as a fresh graduate, you shouldn’t have messed with her out of jealousy.”

“Rory, do you know your actions will cause Amelia to lose her job as a designer and get blacklisted in the industry?”

Everyone was criticizing Rory for stealing the blueprints. Nobody cared if it was the truth, for they only believed what they saw and heard. They were the personification of justice there.

Rory kept quiet as she was criticized by her colleagues, while Amelia stared at her quietly, feeling perplexed. She was puzzled why Rory would do that to her when she had never done anything to hurt Rory in the first place.

She didn’t get why as she thought she had treated Rory well.

“Rory, why did you do it?” Amelia asked as she couldn’t figure out why.

Rory gave Amelia a look and cried out, “Amelia, I’m so sorry. I didn’t know what I was thinking.”

Amelia was stunned. How could Rory gloss it over with such a lame excuse? Did our relationship mean nothing to her? Oh my, humans are really complicated creatures.

Instead of feeling sad, she pitied Rory. After all, she had a lot of potentials. She would have gone places if she had focused her energy in the right place.

## Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 684

### Chapter 684 Save Her

Amelia's lips curved into a smirk. "Rory, I can't believe you have such prejudice toward me. You'll never be my friend from now on."

Hearing that, Rory felt her heart sink to her stomach. From that moment onward, she could never rely on Amelia ever again.

At the same time, she had also offended the Clinton family. Oscar was a protective husband and would definitely make her life difficult for her.

Rory's lips twitched, but she said nothing as she spotted Jolin's gaze. Her face went pale as she clenched her hands tightly.

She was utterly conflicted. In the end, she announced loudly to everyone, "Amelia, I'm a bit\*h. I have harmed you for my own interests. I'm sorry for letting you down."

She repeated the apology thrice in a row.

The other colleagues who were initially enjoying the show immediately cast her strange looks as though she were a monster.

Indeed, she's a bit\*h. I can't believe Rory said that out loud. This is strange, though. Why did she admit to being the culprit after harming Amelia? Did she come to her senses and suddenly feel guilty?

However, they knew Rory well enough. There was no way she would feel guilty.

Thus, everyone grew suspicious of her real motive.

Amelia uttered, "Rory, it's fine to make mistakes. However, it's not fine to not have the courage to admit to one's mistakes. Now that you've admitted to your mistake, that means you're not evil to the core. I hope you have a reason for doing so. You've only worked for barely one year, and I sincerely hope you're still as simple as a student."

Rory hung her head low to hide her fury, humiliation, and reluctance from everyone.

Everyone's gaze was boring into her. Amelia was being kind, but she interpreted that as a hypocritical act.

Biting her lips, she told herself not to give herself away to Amelia ever again. Her heart was full of reluctance.

“Amelia, I’m really sorry. Please forgive me this once,” Rory pleaded.

“Rory, I won’t do anything to you. It’s up to the company to decide whether to keep you or fire you. If Mr. Franklin thinks you’re a talent and ignores the fact that you stole someone else’s blueprints, I have no choice but to accept his decision,” Amelia answered.

At once, everyone’s gaze changed abruptly. A hint of sympathy entered their eyes, but most of them were still amused by Rory’s misfortune. They were enjoying the show on the side.

Rory’s face went as pale as a sheet.

After the incident was exposed, she knew she would have to receive punishment for her wrongdoings. Thus, she had expected to be fired. When the security guard escorted her out of the building, she broke down in despair.

Soon, the news of Rory stealing Amelia’s blueprints reached Shane’s ears. He promptly invited Rory to his office.

“Mr. Franklin, is anything the matter?” Rory asked carefully.

“Rory, you stole a colleague’s blueprints. That’s unbelievably despicable and will affect the company’s reputation. I’ve decided to fire you. Do you have anything to say?” Shane gave her the letter directly. “You’re fired. As you’ve provided the company with excellent work for the past year, I’ll still offer you some money. If you’re satisfied with the pay, please take the money and leave right now.”

Rory stared at the cheque as her expression went blank. If she were to accept it, that meant that she had accepted the termination.

Her eyes flickered as she picked up the cheque. “Mr. Franklin, I was blinded by greed to steal the blueprints. I’m grateful that you didn’t blame me. You even gave me my severance pay.”

Shane gave a dismissive wave and ordered, “Don’t try to play tricks with me. You’re no longer my employee. I’ll give you three hours to pack up and leave.”

Rory nodded weakly.

She took the cheque, packed up her stuff, and left without another word.

After Rory’s figure stepped out of the office, Shane gave Oscar a call at once.

When the call connected, he said hastily, “Mr. Clinton, I’ve fired Rory.”

“Got it,” Oscar simply replied.

Shane insisted, “Mr. Clinton, I apologize for overlooking the matter. It was my fault that Amelia had to suffer this much. I won’t say a word if you insist on punishing me.”

“No need. Amelia is an adult, so she should pay the price for her negligence. Besides, she has my support. There’s no need for you to protect her. You’re her employer, so I hope you can be fair. I don’t want her to suffer at the workplace,” said Oscar’s calm voice over the line.

Shane assured him, “Don’t you worry, Mr. Clinton. I’ll definitely do that.”

“Is that all? I shall hang up now. Goodbye.” With that said, the call was cut.

After the call ended, Shane could finally heave a sigh of relief. If the matter wasn’t resolved, he was afraid Oscar would fly into a fit of rage and unleash his wrath on his company.

Shane had poured a lot of effort into building the company, so he couldn’t allow anything to happen to it. Otherwise, he would lose everything.

Patting his chest, Shane felt utterly relieved. Meanwhile, Rory was in a miserable state.

After walking for hours, she came back, penniless. Hence, she had no choice but to beg for scraps. After that, she slept outside the company. Her nose was stuffed after the chilly wind blew at her all night. Furthermore, she had lost her job. The moment she walked out of the building, a bout of dizziness attacked her.

The sun shone on her and a few seconds later, she collapsed to the ground, utterly unconscious.

When she regained consciousness, she realize she was in the hospital. Standing in front of her was a woman. Towering above the bed, the woman folded her hands arrogantly. Seeing that, Rory jolted in fright.

“What’s wrong? Don’t you recognize me after regaining consciousness?” the woman snapped. Rory realized with a start that it was Jennifer.

Snapping back to reality, Rory scrambled out of bed. She smoothened her messy hair and asked, “Ms. Larson, why am I here? Did something happen to me?”

Finding her words amusing, Jennifer burst into raucous laughter. Rory fumed angrily at her reaction.

“Rory, seriously? You fainted out of starvation. People in Alendor can at least find scraps. Can you explain to me why a white-collar worker like you have to starve?” Jennifer demanded.

Rory hung her head low in dejection. “Ms. Larson, I was fired by my company.”

Jennifer’s expression changed slightly, but she quickly calmed herself down.

“Tell me what happened. Don’t forget the person who offered you a handsome reward. You’re just an ordinary working class. If I didn’t choose to work with you, you won’t be doing this well right now!” Jennifer declared.

Rory proceeded to explain everything to her.

“What was that? You mean you’ve been exposed for framing Amelia?” Jennifer’s voice grew shrill.

Naturally, Rory cowered in fear. “Ms. Larson, I’ve done my best. However, I’m not capable of defeating Oscar as of now. I’m penniless now. They’ve taken my ID card and credit cards. I hope you can take me in for the time being,” she said.

Jennifer snorted. She didn’t bother hiding her disdain for Rory. “Rory, do you think I’m a shelter that takes in just anyone?”

“Ms. Larson, that’s not what I meant. You were the one who sent me to the hospital, and I’m grateful for that. It must be fate. I know this reason is a little far-fetched, but I sincerely hope you’ll be able to shelter me. I promise I’ll continue working for you after I recover,” Rory pleaded pitifully.

Jennifer remained arrogant. She loomed over Rory and said, “If I don’t wish to have anything to do with you, do you think I’ll send you to the hospital?”

Rory promptly realized Jennifer’s intention. She flung her arms around Jennifer and thanked her gratefully. “Thank you for taking me in, Ms. Larson. Don’t worry. After this blows over, you can give me more tasks.”

Hearing that, Jennifer shot her a scornful look.

“Rest well and don’t talk nonsense. After you recover completely, you can work as my assistant. I’ll pay you extra for that. However, I want to make sure my money is worth the effort. I don’t want a useless person.

Despite finding her words harsh, Rory nodded in agreement. She had no other choice.

If she disagreed with Jennifer, no one would hire her after she was terminated. The Larson family was the only family who had no fear for the Clinton family and took her in



boldly. Other companies would never consider hiring her as they feared the Clinton family. Thus, Jennifer was her only support for now.

She refused to let the opportunity slip.

“Ms. Larson, I believe you saved me as I can still be of help to you, right? Otherwise, you wouldn’t have shown up at my office without reason. Let me make it clear to you that I shall be at your service as long as you need me. I hereby pledge my allegiance to you!” Rory vowed.

Jennifer cast her a look and relaxed slightly.

Indeed, she was of the opinion that Rory had the potential. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have wasted her time trying to save Rory.

## **Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 685**

### Chapter 685 Transformation

“Boss, Rory left with Jennifer,” Hugo reported everything he saw at Oscar’s office. Oscar replied without looking up, “I see.”

Hugo looked at Oscar and could not figure out what he was thinking. Therefore, he hesitated before asking, “Boss, are you going to let Rory go with only a minor punishment?”

Oscar put down his pen and looked at Hugo. “What would you do if you were in my place?”

Hugo considered and answered, “Boss, I don’t dare to deduce what you think. However, your past self would have destroyed her. Therefore, it is unlike you to let her go after only making her apologize in public.”

Oscar smirked. I’m not going to forgive that woman easily. What I did was only play a game of cat and mouse with her. It is better to torment her slowly. Then, it would be easier for me to crumble her mind and spirit.

“I promised Amelia to be less harsh and cruel in punishing others. Therefore, I do not want Rory to receive her punishment so soon. Since she wants to work for Jennifer, let her be. A person who betrays will betray again. We only have to sit and wait to watch the show. Do you understand what I mean?” Oscar explained with a wicked smile.

“Boss, do you mean they will turn against each other?” Hugo asked.

Oscar nodded and gave him an approving glance.

“Boss, your wisdom is unrivaled,” Hugo praised.

“That’s enough. I don’t want your flattery. Previously, I asked you to monitor June. Is he up to anything lately?” Oscar suddenly switched the topic.

“Boss, June became quieter after that video blew out on the Web. However, I discovered that his cousin had secretly entered Chanaea today. This cousin is the real heir and June’s biggest rival. Would you like to meet him?” Hugo replied.

“Sure, arrange a time with him,” Oscar replied.

“Yes, Boss.” Hugo replied.

“You may leave now,” Oscar instructed.

Thus, Hugo nodded and retreated from the office.

After that, Oscar continued to work until six o’clock. Then, he got ready to head to Amelia’s workplace.

He saw Amelia coming out of the building with Shane. Therefore, he opened the door and headed toward Amelia.

“Amelia, your knight in shining armor has arrived,” Shane said in good humor.

Amelia laughed and turned around to see Oscar approaching her.

“Mr. Clinton, I shall now return your wife to you. There was a plagiarization incident, but I believe you are a gracious man and will not hold a grudge against me.” Although Shane was smiling, he said that to probe Oscar’s thoughts on the matter.

Oscar glanced at Shane and smirked. “Of course, I won’t.”

Shane breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, he shrugged and said, “Mr. Clinton, Amelia, I’ll stop bothering you two and head off first.”

After Shane left, Jolin, who quietly followed Amelia from behind, also chose to leave wisely.

Amelia held onto Oscar’s arm and stood on tip toes to give him a peck on his lips. She moved away quickly to avoid triggering his lust. “Let’s go.”

Oscar wanted more, but he had no choice but to follow her into the car.

“Oscar, how did you know Rory stole the blueprints?” Amelia asked after putting on the seatbelts.

Oscar caressed her cheek and replied, “Are you unhappy about this?”

Amelia shook her head and answered softly, “No, I’m not. I just didn’t expect her to do this to me. I thought I have always treated her well.”

“There is no end to a person’s greed. Rory is young, but she is unusually ambitious. I had someone investigate her and found her having affairs with many higher-ups in your company. One of them is the manager of your department, while the other is the director of the finance department. Furthermore, she also cozied up to your company’s vice president and various directors. She managed to seduce all these powerful men in less than a year. Therefore, one must not underestimate what she is capable of. I believe she targeted you because you stood in the way of her promotion. She could only achieve her goal by removing you from the company,” Oscar explained calmly.

Amelia narrowed her gaze. She still found it hard to believe that Rory was such a person.

“Oscar, are all these true?” Amelia asked.

“If you don’t believe me, I can send you the investigation outcome for you to have a look.” Oscar retracted his hand from her cheek and started the car. “Amelia, you are kind to people, but it doesn’t mean they won’t envy your achievements. Furthermore, you are not only beautiful but have Shane as your friend during university and the Clintons as your in-laws. Some people are bound to get jealous of all the good things you have. Therefore, I’m not surprised that someone would steal your blueprints. However, you must be careful about the people around you. I don’t want you to get hurt.”

Amelia looked out of the window and smiled. “I was careless. It won’t happen again.”

Oscar glanced at her but said nothing. He considered the blueprints theft incident resolved.

Soon, they arrived home and saw a woman with long straight hair playing with Tony. Amelia and Oscar exchanged glances. Neither could recall ever meeting such a woman.

“Tony,” Amelia called.

Tony immediately left the woman and ran to Amelia.

“Mommy, you’re back. I miss you so much,” Tony said as he hugged Amelia’s thigh.

Amelia carried Tony in her arms and said to the woman standing with her back facing them, “Miss, who are you?”

The woman turned around and asked with a grin, “Amelia, don’t you recognize me?”

Amelia was stunned upon seeing the woman’s face and replied in disbelief, “Eva?”

Amelia had wanted to give Eva a makeover and had sent an etiquette coach to guide her. However, Amelia was too busy lately and could not find time to follow up on Eva’s progress. It turned out to be better than Amelia imagined.

Eva fluttered her lashes playfully and turned around to show Amelia her new look. “Amelia, do you like how I look now?”

Amelia stood closer and held Eva’s hands as she looked at Eva from top to bottom. Then, Amelia said with a smile, “You look even better than I imagined. I think you score ninety-nine out of one hundred. I left out one mark to give you room for improvement. However, I think you look perfect now. You can start pursuing James.”

Eva smiled and asked, “Amelia, is that true?”

Previously, Eva was easygoing and did not care much about her appearance. Now, she appeared ladylike in her every gesture. She looked unbelievably beautiful and reminded Amelia of an exquisitely carved marble statue.

Amelia nodded in response.

However, Eva’s smile suddenly diminished. She looked sad as she said, “Amelia, I feel uncomfortable wearing this gorgeous dress. It feels like I am wearing a delicate mask. Do you think it is good for me to change this way?”

Amelia was stunned by Eva’s question.

Eva had always been easygoing. However, Amelia thought Eva needed to become like a goddess to be deserving of the brilliant James. Now that Eva had turned gorgeous, Amelia wondered if that was something Eva wanted.

“Eva, do you dislike how you look now?” Amelia asked.

Eva scratched her head and answered, “I don’t dislike it, but I’m not used to it. I can no longer drink and feast with my guy friends. All those guys now treat me like a gorgeous lady. They don’t even dare to say anything vulgar freely with me anymore. It feels like I have fallen into an unfamiliar world.”

Amelia guided Eva to a couch. "Don't worry, you will eventually get used to it. Have you met James yet?"

Eva shook her head. "Not yet. When the teacher said I have completed my transformation, I rushed here to find you. So, I haven't had the chance to eat dinner. Amelia, do you mind if I have dinner here?"

Amelia smiled and replied, "Of course not. This is your home."

After dinner, Eva grabbed hold of Oscar and asked, "Oscar, you are a man, so what do you think of my transformation?"

Oscar glanced at her and replied diabolically, "You are much more ladylike than before. If you maintain this, many men would pursue you. However, there is no guarantee that those men are the type that you want."

Eva glared at him. "Is that all, Oscar?"

Oscar raised his eyebrows and replied, "What else do you want me to say?"

"Am I more beautiful or Amelia?" Eva asked.

Oscar rolled his eyes and felt she was asking a stupid question. "You don't even score a zero compared to Amelia."

Eva was rendered speechless.

Then, she realized she was asking for trouble. Oscar was deeply in love with Amelia. Yet, Eva dared to ask him to make a comparison between Amelia and her.

"Oscar, you are so mean," Eva replied indignantly.

"If I don't, how could I have gotten your gorgeous cousin?" Oscar retorted and rendered Eva speechless.

Then, they bickered a little more before Oscar headed to the study to work.

Soon, Amelia came out of the kitchen with a plate of cut fruits. "Eva, come and have some fruits."

"When are you planning to visit the hospital?" Amelia asked as Eva sat down and picked up a slice of apple.

Eva stopped eating and fell silent.

"Why? Do you not love James after you have turned beautiful?" Amelia continued.

Eva looked at Amelia and did not know how she should react. "Amelia, that is not true. I'm just scared he won't like how I look now. People say beauty boosts a woman's confidence. However, I feel it is the opposite for me. I feel my past self was carefree and happy. But now, it feels like I am wearing an exquisite mask. Although I look beautiful, it feels fake."

Amelia smiled and comforted, "Eva, what makes you think like that? It doesn't matter whether you are beautiful or ugly. You are still you and I think you have always been amazing. Furthermore, you have grown beautiful, so you should be more confident. I believe James will like your new appearance, but a relationship doesn't sustain on appearance alone. It also depends on the compatibility of a couple's personality, aspirations, and ideals. A beautiful outlook only gives you a better opportunity. Thus, it depends on you to use that opportunity wisely."

Eva pondered on what Amelia said. After a while, a confident smile appeared on her face.

Amelia noticed her smile and asked, "Have you figured it out?"

Eva nodded.

## **Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 686**

### **Chapter 686 Pursue Him**

Eva decided to spend the night at Amelia's condominium after their talk lasted until eleven. Eva got up early the next day morning to learn cooking from Molly.

One glance at Eva and Molly knew. "Eva, do you have a boyfriend now?"

Eva's cheeks blushed pink at the question. "He's still not my boyfriend yet. I'm still pursuing him, but not sure whether he'll agree."

Molly frowned. "You're so pretty, though. Which man can be so cold-hearted to let a pretty girl like you pursue him?"

Eva smiled. "Molly, there are prettier girls out there other than me. Moreover, I used to look like a delinquent, so I understand why he doesn't like me. He hasn't gotten a chance to see me after I changed, so I wanted to give him a surprise."

Molly glanced at her and agreed. "You have changed a lot. You were so tomboyish back then, and now, look at you, you're so feminine. Men are visual animals. Their first impression is always a woman's appearance. If the woman isn't pretty, it'll be difficult for them to want to know the woman better. All the best, Eva. You're beautiful now, so don't

worry about not finding a man who truly cares for you. I don't object to women doing the chasing, but you need the right skill set for that. You can't make it too easy for him, so playing the cat-and-mouse game is the way to go. Do you understand?"

Eva couldn't help her laughter. She never expected Molly to be a punster.

After preparing breakfast, Eva carefully set the dishes in the thermal lunchbox to keep them warm.

"I'll be taking my leave then, Molly. I'm heading to the hospital so tell Amelia to wait for my good news," Eva said.

"Are you not planning to have some breakfast before you leave?"

"I'm fine. I still have a bus to catch. Else, there'll be too many people on the bus."

Eva disappeared out the door like an agile rabbit.

Molly shook her head and continued preparing breakfast.

During breakfast, Amelia asked, "Where's Eva, Molly?"

"She learned how to make breakfast in the early mornings, saying it was for the man she likes. She was gone the minute she was done. I wonder who the lucky man is to receive such sincerity from that girl?"

Amelia had a thoughtful expression on her face.

Eva's feelings are bare for all to see. It all depends on James' attitude now. I'll ask Oscar to forcibly transfer him elsewhere if James doesn't know how to appreciate it. Even the most profound feelings will fade and finally disappear as time passes.

When Molly returned to the kitchen, Amelia asked, "Oscar, I need a favor from you. Can you probe James about Eva? She can't control her feelings for him, and I don't want her to waste her passion for a man that doesn't appreciate it. She's my cousin after all."

Oscar nodded with promise. "All right."

Amelia ended the topic after that.

After breakfast, Oscar had Kurt and a few others send Tony to the Clinton residence while he drove Amelia to work.

Days passed, but James' newly opened private hospital wasn't peaceful that day.

“James.” Eva showed up in front of him with the lunchbox she took pains to prepare. Her sudden greeting startled James, who was discussing a patient’s condition after finishing his rounds with a bunch of doctors trailing after him.

James looked at the beautiful woman blocking his path and couldn’t recognize her. He asked, “Miss, may I know who are you?”

Eva’s gleeful expression turned dour. “It’s me, James. Have you forgotten me?”

James tried his best to recall who Eva was from his memory bank but came up blank.

“Miss, I would’ve remembered a beautiful woman like you if I’d seen you before. Alas, I’m sorry, but I’ve no recollection of you, so I think your pick-up line isn’t that great. Now, I’ve work to do, so please leave if you’ve nothing important.” Other than the amazement at the start, James was all businesslike at the end.

His polite yet distant attitude put out the passion burning in Eva’s heart. Eva’s fingers gripped the lunchbox tightly in her hands at the embarrassment she felt.

Deciding not to give up, she went up to him again. “James, I’m Eva, Amelia’s cousin. Do you really not remember me?”

James studied her in detail at her reminder, and her face matched the one in his memory. However, he felt his head ached the moment he made the correlation.

I finally get to live a quiet life. Yet, the troublesome Eva is back again. I wonder what weird things she’s going to do to me now.

His temples throbbed at the thought.

In fact, he would rather have Eva gone from his life forever.

If only Eva knew how much James was trying to avoid her, she would’ve felt incredibly upset.

It was miserable when the man you loved had never truly looked at you, no matter if you’d become prettier or uglier.

Having an unrequited love was always the toughest.

“Eva, what happened to you? How did you become like this? I can’t even recognize you anymore,” James said with a forced smile.

Suppressing the discomfort stirring within her, Eva held up the lunchbox in her hands. “James, won’t you have breakfast with me since I prepared something tasty for you?”



“I have patients to visit. Why don't you eat alone?”

“How about I wait for you in your office, and you can try it once you're done?”

James nodded his head without thinking much, then led his group of doctors away from the scene.

Watching his leaving back, Eva let out a defeated sigh. I became prettier, but James still didn't fall for me. I don't know what else I have to do to impress him.

She went to James' office with her lunchbox.

Meanwhile, James brought his group of doctors to visit the next patient. Since there was no other patient to examine on the way there, one of the doctors joked, “Your luck with women is pretty good, Director. You have so many women throwing themselves at you, and every one of them is a beauty. Take that woman earlier with the breakfast as an example. She's good-looking and sexy, but her name is quite familiar though. It reminds me of a girl who used to dress in punk style.”

James cast a glance at him. “You're in charge of the patients in 28, 35, 37, and 48.”

The doctor that joked earlier immediately wussed out. “I was in the wrong, Director. I have a smart mouth but don't have any ill intentions. Those patients are the most anal of patients. I might die if I handle all of them by myself. I know you're a generous person, so please forgive me just this once.”

James' mood had brightened slightly.

“I see your mouth is quite free, so I'll let you be the first to educate them.”

Despair filled the doctor.

“Is there nothing I can do to change your mind, Director?”

“What do you think?”

Fine. One look at the director's attitude, and I know there's nothing I can do to change his mind. I blame my smart mouth for this. Serve me right for having my workload increase.

After James assigned the other doctors their tasks, he left. He initially wanted to find an excuse to leave the hospital, but a phone call from Oscar destroyed all his plans.

“James, have you seen Eva?” Oscar asked directly.

James exhaled deeply before he replied, “Yes, I did. Just tell me what you want.”

“Don’t treat her so coldly. You noticed her change. Do you know she made them for you? Since you’re a gentleman, you don’t make women cry, right?”

“Oscar, I’m only gentlemanly to certain people. I have no obligation to entertain a woman who I don’t even like. Eva is beautiful after the change, but she is still not my type. Me treating her nicely might cause her more harm than good,” James described straightforwardly.

Oscar’s end was silent for a while.

“Are you angry, Oscar?”

“No, I’m just calculating the likelihood of you falling for Eva.”

James rolled his eyes at the answer.

“Oscar, I don’t remember you have the potential to be a matchmaker. I’ll pursue the woman I like. Instead of getting pursued by a woman, I enjoy being the pursuer. So, I think Eva is more suitable for someone else.”

After contemplating briefly, Oscar said, “James, let’s talk this over. You’re single, and so is Eva. Give her a chance. If it doesn’t work, it’s never too late for you to reject her. You should at least eat the breakfast she prepared for you. Can you at least do that for my sake?”

James gritted his teeth.

“Oscar, give me a reason. She’s just your wife’s cousin, not yours. She’s not even related to you.”

“I don’t want Amelia to be upset.”

This uxorious guy wants me to sacrifice myself so his wife doesn’t get upset. Hmph, I need better friends.

“Oscar, I’ll give Eva a chance, but keep in mind feelings can’t be forced. It’s not my problem if she gets hurt in the end because I’ve tried my best. I’ll consider this as a favor. Remember to pay me back.”

“Fine.”

Having come to an agreement, James grudgingly returned to his office despite his unwillingness.

The second he opened the door, Eva had softened the look on her face. “James, you’re back. Come and have breakfast, or it’ll get cold.”

Looking at the completely different Eva, James felt slightly awkward, as though a tomboyish girl had suddenly turned into a goddess. Other than amazement, all I feel is the surrealness.

Like a person who knows you well suddenly changed overnight. Won't anyone think she's so perfect that it seems fake?

That was James' thought at that moment.

## **Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 687**

### Chapter 687 The Flame Of Marital Love

James's lips twitched. "Eva, I initially thought your personality would alter following the change in your look. I'm surprised that you're still who you are."

Eva's heart skipped a beat. She revealed her inner personality and forgot the etiquette that the coach taught her upon seeing James. Nonetheless, she remembered that James preferred girls who were gentle. As such, her boisterous personality was not to his liking.

Despite that, Eva was willing to change herself if James wanted it.

After a while, Eva sat up straight and said gently, "James, I've changed. Now, I stand and sit gracefully. Also, I refrain from talking when eating and smile with my mouth closed. I'm learning to be a perfect woman and close to becoming one."

"Stop!" James interrupted, "Eva, you're already perfect. Believe me. You don't have to change anything for me. You're already a perfect goddess, and countless men will fall for you."

"What about you?" A glint of hope flashed across Eva's eyes when she asked.

Instantly, James was rendered speechless.

Overwhelmed with disappointment, Eva changed the subject of the conversation. "Just go on and have breakfast."

After James finished, Eva cleaned the table and kept the plates. Now, Eva seemed reenergized. "James, what do you want to eat tomorrow? I'll prepare the food for you. I feel blessed whenever I see you eating my food."

James wiped his mouth clean and responded, "It's okay. Since I don't have a fixed work schedule, I might not have time to eat. In the end, the food might get wasted."

“It’s okay. I can wait for you. I remember that there’s a pantry in your hospital. If the food is cold, I can heat it up for you. I guarantee you can have hot food whenever you want,” Eva said gently. As Eva was speaking, she didn’t touch James like how she used to treat him before.

Looking at the beautiful Eva, James couldn’t bring himself to decline her invitation.

“Since you didn’t refuse, I take it as a yes. Well, you should get back to work. I’ll come again tomorrow.” Then, Eva tiptoed to kiss James’ cheek before she left excitedly.

James was at a loss when he looked at the door and touched his cheek.

Eva left the hospital with the thermal lunch box in her hands. Suddenly, her superior called and instructed her to return. While sitting in the taxi, she wanted to tell him that she probably wouldn’t be available tomorrow. However, James didn’t pick up the phone.

Eva initially wanted to call James back later. However, her superior called her many times and even confiscated her phone once she arrived.

A few days had passed when Eva could finally go home.

Standing in front of Amelia, Eva said tiredly, “Amelia.”

Amelia was at home because she didn’t have to work on weekends. Since Eva looked exhausted, Amelia dragged her into the house and asked, “What happened to you? I called you many times in the past few days, yet you didn’t answer my call. I was worried about you.”

“Argh! My boss instructed me to return right after I delivered breakfast to James. He then asked me to train new bodyguards in the forest and confiscated my phone. Hence, I conducted arduous training for the men and screamed a lot while coaching them. Alas, my training for becoming a graceful goddess has gone down to drain,” Eva explained with a weak voice.

Since Eva was a coach, Amelia thought she could hardly force herself to become a gentle and graceful woman. I’m afraid Eva can become gentle only after she reincarnates.

Amelia touched Eva’s forehead gently before going into the kitchen to get her some food.

While Eva devoured the food, Amelia only frowned but didn’t say a word.

Moments later, Eva wiped her mouth clean and said embarrassedly, “Amelia, don’t worry. I’ll present my best self in front of James.”

Amelia shook her head and advised Eva, "You should stay true to yourself before your loved one. After all, you can't live in disguise for the rest of your life. If a man doesn't love who you are, how long can your relationship with him last? Your look can change, but your personality remains. Hence, you don't have to hide your true self. Do you get me?"

Upon hearing it, Eva smiled wryly.

Fiddling with her neatly trimmed fingernails, Eva said curtly, "Amelia, James will never like who I am now. He prefers gentle and graceful women. However, I don't have any of those qualities that he likes. The only way I might attract him is by faking my gentleness. What difference does it make even after I've become beautiful? I'm still an inferior object."

Amelia furrowed her brows.

Just then, the doorbell rang. Amelia stood up to open the door.

"Babe." Tiffany gave Amelia a passionate hug before going into her house.

When Tiffany saw the woman on the couch, she hesitated for a while and asked, "Eva?"

Eva stood up and said smilingly, "Tiffany, congratulations on your wedding! I'm so sorry I couldn't make it. Besides, my wedding gift probably wasn't worth much to you. I hope you don't mind."

Tiffany gently punched Eva's chest and replied with a grin, "Well, look at you! You're awkward blonde hair is gone! With your long, straight hair, you look like a goddess now!"

Eva shrugged and said, "Tiffany, stop flattering me. I look a little more beautiful only because of the make-up."

Amelia smiled and interrupted, "Why don't you guys take your seats! Besides, we're not strangers and don't have to flatter each other."

After everyone was seated, Amelia noticed that Tiffany had dark circles under her eyes. "Tiff, you didn't sleep well yesterday?"

"I burned the midnight oil to write a script because the director urged me to be quick. Moreover, I had to edit the script because the investor wanted to include a few extra actors at the last minute. In Chanaea, screenwriters are not entitled to human rights while investors have the final say. If the investors are irritated, they can even change an actress' role from a female lead to a minor supporting role," Tiffany explained curtly.

Novelists and screenwriters could be the most arduous jobs. Even though they wrote a lot and had impressive writing talent, they could be underpaid sometimes.”

Without passions and dreams, they could hardly persevere in the industry.

After a while, Eva asked, “Tiffany, you mentioned that the movie that adapted your novel was a box-office success. Also, another TV series based on your work will be released next month. Hence, you’re considered well-known in the publishing sector and among screenwriters. Why did the investors dare offend you?”

“Why not? No matter how famous a screenwriter is, her scripts won’t get selected without investors’ money. Hence, a screenwriter means nothing in front of an investor and a director. One is lucky if she meets an educated investor who delegates more power to the production team. Otherwise, she will suffer,” Tiffany said.

Just then, Amelia flashed Tiffany a smile and said, “Please don’t discuss work during our private time. Let’s talk about something else.”

Tiffany quickly sat up and asked excitedly, “Eva, why don’t you tell me why you decided to change your punk hairstyle?”

“After dying my hair, Amelia hired an etiquette coach to teach me. That’s why I’ve become who I am now.”

Gazing at Amelia, Tiffany said, “Babe, why didn’t I know that you wanted to transform Eva?”

“Weren’t you always busy? You had to publish your novels, edit your scripts, sell your books, meet your fans, and get married. I’m sure you wouldn’t have time to listen to my plan of transforming Eva.”

Tiffany couldn’t help but find Amelia’s statement reasonable.

“Eva, Aren’t you into James? Since your look has changed, was he surprised when he saw you?”

Instantly, Eva’s facial expression turned dull.

After a while, Eva said grumpily, “He still treated me like the plague. Even though I didn’t visit him for a few days, he didn’t call me even once. It seems that I have to work extra hard to court him.”

“Eva, it’s all right to court someone, but we should also preserve our dignity. Let me teach you some skills.” With that, Tiffany gestured for Eva to come closer, for she wanted to share some tips.

Immediately, Amelia separated them and warned Tiffany, "Hey, don't you mislead Eva. You two are more or less the same and don't have much dating experience. Hence, your so-called ideas will only result in unfavorable outcomes."

"Babe, do you have any solutions then?"

"No, but I believe faith will move mountains. You'll succeed if you're sincere in courting any men, including James. If James remains unmoved, it means Eva isn't to his liking. In that case, I'd suggest that she let go of him early instead of wasting time on someone who doesn't like her."

Upon hearing that, Eva grumpily took the pillow on the couch and hugged it tightly.

Tiffany gently patted Eva's ankle and asked, "What's the matter? Are you going to give up so easily?"

Eva was galvanized once Tiffany provoked her. "How is it possible? I've changed my look so that he can notice me. How can I give up after putting in so much effort?"

"How ambitious! Don't give up easily."

Amelia felt amused when Tiffany and Eva encouraged one another.

Suddenly, Eva jumped down from the couch and said, "Amelia, Tiffany, please excuse me. I have to head toward the hospital now."

With that, Eva left the house.

Tiffany chuckled. "Eva's look has changed, but her personality remains the same. As the saying goes, a leopard can't change its spots. Nonetheless, I think Eva's straightforward and unpretentious personality is amazing. I can't understand why men prefer girls who acted all gentle and soft nowadays."

Amelia interrupted, "You're tarring all men with the same brush. Are you suggesting that Derrick likes you because you behave that way?"

The next moment, Tiffany couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Amelia continued, "Are you not planning to go on a honeymoon with Derrick?"

"No. Both of us are busy. Apart from publishing novels for different authors, he is also venturing into becoming a producer. Hence, he always leaves in the morning and only comes home at night. At the same time, I'm always busy editing scripts and have to stay up late. Before getting married, we would spend some time having dinner together and going for a walk after that. Now that we live under the same roof, we're busy doing our stuff and rarely have time to chat," Tiffany shrugged as she said casually.

Amelia advised Tiffany, "You should care more about Derrick's health, for he has shouldered a lot of burden for you. I understand you're busy writing scripts. Nevertheless, Derrick is now your husband. Although he loves you unconditionally, you can't enjoy it without repaying him."

Loving someone was different from getting married. After all, a marriage didn't only involve two persons, but there are also two families in the picture. As they said, when one person sneezed, another would catch a cold. A marriage would collapse if the husband and the wife could not handle the relationships with all the parties concerned."

After listening to Amelia's advice, Tiffany nodded. "I understand. Anyway, Derrick and I get along well. It's just that we're too busy to even talk to each other."

"I have faith in the love between you and Derrick."

Tiffany flashed Amelia a smile and didn't say anything else.

## **Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 688**

### **Chapter 688 Move Back Home**

Then, Tiffany went home from Amelia's place. The moment she stepped into the apartment, she spotted Kate and Finnick sitting on the couch. Squeezing out a smile, she asked, "Mom, Dad, you are here? You didn't call me beforehand."

Kate glanced at her and demanded haughtily, "Where did you go?"

"I was bored, so I visited Amelia." Tiffany changed into her slippers and walked over. "Would you like something to drink? I'll prepare it for you."

However, Kate pointed at the couch and instructed, "There's no need for that. Sit down. I need to talk to you about something."

Tiffany sat down.

"Tiffany, you've already married Derrick. I'm not like those legendary evil mothers-in-law. If you haven't done anything wrong, I won't deliberately target you. However, I'm here to tell you some things and I hope that you'll listen to me. Even if you don't, I hope that you'll at least keep it in mind." Kate shot Tiffany a glance. She was acting so high and mighty that it seemed like her enemy was sitting opposite her, not her daughter-in-law.

Tiffany mustered all her energy as Kate was extremely challenging to deal with. To avoid falling into her trap, Tiffany had to stay on high alert.



Mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law were like born rivals—it was difficult for them to get along well.

“Since you’ve already married Derrick, you should consider moving back to the Hisson residence. Only your grandpa, Derrick, and I are living there now. Your other aunts and uncles are living elsewhere. Both Terrence and I would like you to move back. Give me an answer today,” said Kate as she stared at Tiffany.

Thoughts raced through Tiffany’s mind. She replied, “Mom, Derrick and I are very busy with work. If we move back to the Hisson residence, we’d have to wake up early for work. Since this place is close to our office, Derrick can sleep for a while longer.”

“Tiffany, this is just an excuse, right? Other daughters-in-law are focusing on being filial to their in-laws after getting married. On the other hand, you’re hiding here and enjoying your private time with Derrick. You don’t even care about what elders think!” Kate snorted coldly and snapped, “Your grandpa is getting old already. He might leave us anytime soon! Shouldn’t you get pregnant as soon as possible so he can have a great-grandchild?”

Tiffany’s head throbbed. After they got married, all these matters suddenly got pushed forward in the timeline.

“Mom, having a child is all up to fate. I can’t just have one even if I want to. Let’s take it slow. We mustn’t be too rash,” answered Tiffany drily as she licked her lips.

“Tiffany, you mustn’t be too selfish! Terrence treats you quite well. You can’t really deprive him of a great-grandson just because of your selfishness, right?” demanded Kate in an overbearing tone.

After a slight pause, she continued, “I don’t care whether you’re actually busy with work. You must move back. There’s no room for negotiation. I still have to give you some tonic to condition your body for a child. That way, I’ll have a grandson.”

Tiffany opened her mouth, but could not articulate a single word that she wanted to say.

“Got it, Mom.”

Only then did Kate feel satisfied. She stood up to look at what was in the fridge. However, other than a tub of yogurt, there was nothing else. With a grim expression, she chided, “What kind of wife are you, Tiffany? Since Derrick is busy, he doesn’t have time to cook after coming home from work. As his wife, do you want him to eat delivery every day?”

Tiffany quickly explained, “Sorry, Mom. I’d usually cook for Derrick, but I’ve been so busy recently that I didn’t have time to do grocery shopping. I swear that I always buy the freshest ingredients from the farmer’s market. I’m definitely not starving Derrick.”

Obviously, Kate did not believe her.

“You’re just lazy! Stop finding excuses for yourself. If you move back, there’ll be a chef who’ll cook for you. Look at the life that both of you are living! This isn’t how a home is supposed to be. There’s no homely feeling in this apartment at all. If I haven’t come, it’ll soon become a pigsty,” criticized Kate.

Tiffany listened to her quietly. Even though she had already tidied the apartment, there was no way she could rebuke if Kate was insistent on finding faults with everything.

Kate nagged for a whole hour without even repeating a single point. Her voice filled Tiffany’s mind completely.

Kate talked about all sorts of things—what Tiffany was prohibited from doing or eating, what Derrick liked to eat, how his clothes had to be dry-cleaned, and so on.

“Have you memorized everything I said?” asked Kate as she raised an eyebrow.

“Yes, Mom.”

“Repeat everything to me. I’ll see if you’ve actually listened to what I said.”

That old hag is definitely nitpicking.

Tiffany forced out a smile. “Mom, I only remembered half of it. You spoke so fast that I forgot. “

Rolling her eyes, Kate rebuked, “Didn’t you say that you remembered everything?”

Tiffany fell silent.

“Dearest, you shouldn’t put too much pressure on her. Let’s take it slow. Don’t be too rash, okay?” coaxed Finnick.

Kate fidgeted with her slender fingers. Raising an eyebrow, she asked, “Tiffany, did I put too much pressure on you?”

Tiffany shook her head. “Everything you say is right, Mom.”

“Good that you know.” Kate snorted coldly and continued, “You and Derrick will move back five days later. You’ll inform him about this. I do not wish to hear your refusal. Otherwise, I’ll settle the score with you.”

Lowering her head, Tiffany replied, “I’ll talk to Derrick about this.”

After finally sending Kate and Finnick away, Tiffany slumped on the couch feeling all exhausted.

Even though Kate was deliberately making things difficult for her, she could not possibly scold or rebuke her. All she could do was endure it silently.

Derrick returned home at night. Tugging at his necktie, he spotted Tiffany sitting motionlessly on the couch. A gentle look surfaced in his eyes. After changing into his slippers, he walked over and hugged her from behind. "What's wrong? Are you unhappy? You look so gloomy."

Tiffany was shocked. She only calmed down after hearing Derrick's voice.

"You're back. Have you eaten?"

"Not yet. Did you leave any food for me?"

Tiffany nodded and left his embrace. She entered the kitchen, brought out some dishes, and placed them in front of him.

Derrick took a bite of the food. When he noticed that Tiffany was evidently out of it, he placed his fork down and asked, "What's wrong, Tiff?"

Returning to her senses, Tiffany met Derrick's gentle gaze and smiled. "Mom visited today and said that she wants us to move back. What do you think?"

A brooding look flashed across Derrick's eyes. "Did she purposefully make things difficult for you?"

Tiffany shook her head.

"Mom said that Granddad is getting old and wishes for a great-grandson. Hence, she wants us to move back and keep him company. I think that she's not wrong. Why don't we just move back?"

Naturally, Derrick knew how much Tiffany had suffered after marrying him. It was not an easy feat to be a daughter-in-law of the Hissons. In addition to the ruckus created by the Winters family at the wedding, the Hissons were already secretly displeased. Although Kate would not be able to say anything if he refused, Tiffany's life would become even more difficult.

"Do you want to move back?"

"I'm already married into the Hissons. It's normal for me to live with the elders." Tiffany refrained from saying whether she wanted to move back or not.

Lowering his gaze, Derrick fell into deep thought.

“Let’s move back then,” he suggested.

Perhaps, moving back and living with the family would make it easier for Kate to see how good Tiffany was. That would inevitably improve their relationship.

Although Derrick’s intentions were good, Tiffany’s life would not actually be that pleasant as she would be stuck in a tight spot. Kate had played a huge role in making Tiffany’s marriage so turbulent.

After Derrick agreed to move back to the Hissons residence, Kate instructed the maids to help them move. Within two days, everything in the apartment was gone.

As Tiffany gazed at the empty apartment, her heart sank. She had spent a lot of time and effort to make it feel as homely as possible. Her wedding photo with Derrick used to be hung in the master bedroom, but all that was left now was a blank space.

Hugging her from behind, Derrick rested his chin on her shoulder and said, “If you like this place, I’ll ask someone to redecorate it. When we’re free, we’ll come back and stay for a few days. Otherwise, we can stay in other apartments. I’ve also bought an apartment with four bedrooms under your name. I renovated it according to your liking. Dad and Mom don’t know about it. When you’re tired, you can go there and rest too.”

Tiffany felt extremely touched and her sorrows dissipated in an instant.

“Thank you, Derrick.”

“You’re my wife. I’ve promised to treat you well forever.”

Tiffany wrapped her arms around his waist, feeling extremely blessed.

“Let’s go on a honeymoon to Baxrich. But the holiday will only last for two weeks, so you’ll have to accommodate me. When we have more time, we can go there again.”

“Don’t you have to film a movie and publish a novel? Can you afford the time?”

“I’ve already arranged all my work. I have a few weeks to spare to spend time with you.”

Grinning, Tiffany nodded. “Okay, let’s go on a honeymoon.”

“After I finish my work, let’s go to Baxrich.”

Tiffany nodded.

However, such plans would never be able to outpace the rapid pace of changes in life.

Just when Tiffany and Derrick were about to board the plane to Baxrich, she received a call from Amelia.

“Tiff, Mr. Winters and Mrs. Winters are with me. Have you boarded the plane? If not, come over to my place. They look quite disheveled,” said Amelia.

Tiffany knew that Amelia would not call her unless something major happened. Hence, she had no choice but to look at Derrick apologetically and say, “Derrick, my parents are here. We might have to push our Baxrich honeymoon trip back.”

Stroking her hair, Derrick said affectionately, “It’s fine. Your parents are more important.”

Derrick and Tiffany rushed to Amelia’s place. When she saw her parents, she asked anxiously, “Dad, Mom, what happened to you?”

Her parents’ heads were wrapped in bandages. In addition to the bruises at the corners of their eyes, there were also cuts beside their mouths. They looked extremely haggard as if they had just emerged from a fight.

## **Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 689**

### **Chapter 689 Save Your Brother**

When Ophelia spotted Tiffany, she clung to her tightly, as if she was her only lifeline. Ophelia wailed, “Tiff, you’ve got to save your brother this time. He went to borrow from the loan shark and is now drowning in debt! Those gangsters are hunting him relentlessly. Your dad and I tried to break up the fight, but they beat us up too!

They even kidnapped your brother and his son and gave us ten days to pay back the debt. Otherwise, they’ll chop off your brother’s limbs! Left with no choice, we could only look for you. You can’t just stand by idly without doing anything!”

Tiffany’s hands shook in fury.

“Didn’t I return his debt already? Why did he borrow from the loan sharks again? Is he trying to force me to an early grave?” roared Tiffany. “Mom, I told you. It’s not that I don’t want to help him but he has gone overboard! He treats me like an ATM machine. I can help him once or twice, but he can’t possibly keep asking me for charity, right? Although Derrick is rich, his money doesn’t appear out of thin air. If my brother keeps borrowing money from loan sharks, I can only cut off all ties with him. I don’t want a brother who’ll always sabotage his sister.”

Ophelia paled. Although she knew that her son had gone overboard, he was still her child—she could not just leave him to die.

She pleaded through tears, “Tiff, help your brother one last time. He wasn’t like this in the past. Perhaps, the failure of his business traumatized him too much. Just help him out one more time. When I go back, I’ll give him a harsh scolding.”

Although Tiffany was furious, it was impossible for her to ignore her family like that and refuse to help.

Walking over, Amelia said, “Tiff, let’s talk calmly. They’re still injured. I wanted to send them to the hospital first, but they insisted on waiting for you here.”

Only then did Tiffany remember that her parents were still injured. Her anger dissipated slightly as she helped Ophelia sit down.

Derrick asked softly, “Mom, can you tell me why Spencer went to borrow from the loan sharks again? I remember Tiff mentioning that he never gambled in the past before he attended our wedding. However, not only did he learn how to gamble, but he’s also borrowing from loan sharks. I think that someone had deliberately lured Spencer to gamble.”

He could not possibly gamble for no good reason. It was possible that someone had dragged him there to sabotage him. Either that or someone wanted to take revenge on him by making him addicted to gambling. Drowning in debt and with a broken family, Spencer would be ruined.

Ophelia widened her eyes in disbelief. “Which b\*stard would be so immoral? Why would they be so keen on ruining his life and breaking his family apart?”

Derrick glanced down. After a slight pause, he asked, “Mom, does Spencer have an enemy?”

Ophelia thought about it, but could not come up with a guess.

“I don’t think so. Although Spencer isn’t really that capable, he won’t offend others so easily. Even when he started his business, he treated everyone in a friendly manner. Now that he’s working in an insurance company, he’s been relying on his own abilities to make a living. There might be competition, but it won’t amount to someone hating him,” explained Ophelia.

Derrick remained quiet.

Spencer only learned how to gamble after attending his wedding with Tiffany. Furthermore, he mentioned that someone had deliberately lured him into it, saying that if he was lucky, he might win millions in a single night. Tempted with greed, people

would still blindly chase after that dream money despite knowing that the chances of losing were very high.

Spencer did not have any enemies in the city. Hence, it was possible that the culprit was targeting Derrick or Tiffany. However, Tiffany would stay at home all day to write scripts most of the time unless she had to attend the press conferences for her books. She had a very simple social circle, so the culprit was more likely targeting him.

Who could it be?

“What are you thinking about, Derrick? Do you know which b\*stard made my son like this?” asked Ophelia.

Returning to his senses, Derrick replied, “I’m not so sure yet. But I won’t just ignore everything that’s happening to Spencer. Don’t worry, I won’t let anything happen to him.”

Ophelia grabbed his hand emotionally and exclaimed, “Derrick, Tiff married the right guy. As long as you save Spencer, I’ll definitely scold him when I get back. He won’t be a burden to both of you!”

Derrick nodded.

He did not really care about a few million. However, it did not feel good to be toyed around with and sabotaged by someone who was manipulating everything behind the scenes. Hence, Derrick was determined to investigate the matter and find out who was so vicious that they could only be satisfied after breaking up a happy family.

Derrick sent Tiffany’s parents to the hospital to get treated. Meanwhile, Tiffany remained at Amelia’s.

Smiling bitterly, Tiffany asked, “Amelia, why did my parents come to you?”

“They said that they couldn’t reach you through the phone, so they called me. I didn’t want to call you because I know that you’re going on your honeymoon, but your parents looked so disheveled. Mrs. Winters kept asking to see you, so I was left with no choice but to call you back and stop you from going on your honeymoon. You won’t blame me, right?” explained Amelia.

“Of course not,” replied Tiffany. “I just think that nothing smooth has happened ever since I got married. If my mother-in-law finds out that my brother has become a burden, she’d scold me again. I don’t even know what to do anymore.”

After thinking about it, Amelia said, “I’ll accompany you to your hometown. Someone’s probably dragging your brother into this mess. Perhaps, the person is targeting you or Derrick.”

A look of shock appeared in Tiffany's eyes as she glanced at Amelia. "Amelia, are you saying that the person is sabotaging my brother just to take revenge on me or Derrick?"

"Other than that, I can't think of anyone else who would spend so much effort thinking of a plan to get your brother addicted to gambling. Once that happens, it'll be like getting addicted to drugs—he'll feel uneasy if he doesn't gamble for even one day," analyzed Amelia calmly.

A conflicted look surfaced in Tiffany's eyes. She felt extremely horrible.

Amelia grabbed her hand and assured, "Tiff, this is just my guess. Don't be bothered by it. Oscar and I will accompany you there. Your brother will be fine with Oscar there."

Tiffany smiled weakly. "Thank you, Babe."

After Derrick drove the old couple back, Tiffany suggested that she would make a trip to her hometown. Her parents were so concerned about Spencer that they did not care about their injuries anymore—they insisted on following her back. Unable to convince them otherwise, Tiffany agreed.

Spencer had borrowed from another underground loan shark. Even the local gangster whom Oscar had invited was not shown any courtesy—he was kicked out immediately. The loan sharks said that they only wanted money. It did not matter who came.

When Oscar heard what Hugo said, he frowned. "Looks like there's a powerful force backing the loan sharks up. They aren't even intimidated by the local gangsters."

Amelia said worriedly, "Do you have any other solutions, Oscar? Although a few million isn't a huge sum, we need to solve this problem once and for all. Otherwise, after we repay this debt, he'll start borrowing again. The vicious cycle will continue. Even if Derrick and Tiffany can make a lot of money, they won't be able to keep repaying the debts. One day, the family will go bankrupt."

"Don't worry. I'll contact another reputable friend there. I think that they'll show him some respect." Oscar whipped out his phone, called another friend, and explained everything that had happened. "Someone lured the brother of my wife's friend into being addicted to gambling. Now, he owes the loan sharks money. I need your help, but I'm not sure if you'll be willing to help me."

"Mr. Clinton, since you've already asked me, I can't possibly refuse. Where are you now? I'd like to treat you to a meal. Would you be kind enough to accept this invitation? We can discuss your friend's matter over the meal. How's that?"

Since he was the one asking for the favor, Oscar agreed immediately. "Sure."



“Only your wife can make you do this, Mr. Clinton. You never agreed whenever I asked you out in the past. Now, you’ve even humbled yourself and contacted me just to save someone. This is indeed my honor,” said the person over the phone.

“Stop acting so formally with me. I know how you’re like,” joked Oscar.

After chatting casually, they ended the call.

“Is he reliable, Oscar?” asked Amelia.

“Don’t worry, he’s good,” assured Oscar firmly. “Follow me to eat with him later. He wants to meet you.”

“Okay,” she agreed quickly.

## **Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 690**

Chapter 690 Crosby Foster

Oscar took Amelia out for a meal. Derrick had also contacted his friends on that side, but coincidentally, everyone was away on business trips. They would only be back two days later.

Derrick smiled bitterly at Tiffany and said, “Tiff, I’m sorry. They are all not available at the moment. But, don’t worry. I have already told them to come back as soon as possible.”

Tiffany adjusted his coat before reassuring him, “Don’t apologize. It’s Jayden’s fault. I should be the one apologizing.”

Derrick pulled her into his arms. “All we can do now is to wait for Mr. Clinton’s news. I realize that I am nowhere as capable as Mr. Clinton when dealing with emergencies.”

“You’re also very outstanding compared to others. My husband is not a good-for-nothing.”

When Derrick heard the compliment, he caressed her hair with a smile on his face.

Oscar took Amelia to a high-end Chanaen restaurant where the hostess brought them to their private dining room on the second floor. The hostess knocked on the door and only opened it when she received approval to do so.

She gestured to them before saying, “Mr. and Mrs. Clinton, this way please.”

When Oscar and Amelia went in, a middle-aged man of around forty walked toward them. He was well-built and good-looking. His confident demeanor told Amelia that he was someone of great importance.

Just as Amelia was studying the man, he walked up to Oscar and gave him a fist bump before embracing Oscar warmly.

After their brotherly greeting, the man noticed Amelia and asked, "Is this your wife?"

Oscar nodded and introduced the two of them, "Yes, this is my wife, Amelia. We have been married for nearly eight years now." Oscar then turned to Amelia and said, "Amelia, this is Crosby, and he's into real estate. If you like to read financial publications, you should know him. That's because he has been featured in the country's most popular financial newspapers before, and can be considered one of the big players in the city. He's a few years older than us."

Amelia extended her hand gracefully and said, "Hi, Crosby. It's a pleasure to meet you. When I was twenty years old, I had already read about you in financial publications. Unfortunately, I didn't have the good fortune to meet you until now. I didn't expect you to look even more handsome in person. Your wife must be a very lucky woman to have someone as distinguished as you as her husband."

Crosby accepted her handshake and smiled. "Thank you for your kind words. But, you are just as exceptional. Oscar is lucky to be able to marry you."

After exchanging pleasantries, they finally got seated.

Crosby handed Amelia the menu before saying, "Go ahead and order what you like. Both of you hardly come by. You must allow me to be the host and give you a treat."

Amelia went through the menu before ordering three dishes. She then handed the menu back to Crosby and said, "We are done with the order."

In one go, Crosby ordered six dishes and a bowl of soup. After handing the waiter the menu, he asked them to serve the food as soon as possible.

Very soon, the food arrived, and the three of them started eating. Crosby asked, "Oscar, which one of your friends has gotten into such serious trouble that even you need my help to resolve it? I thought you have forgotten about me."

Oscar explained to him what had happened briefly.

After listening to Oscar, Crosby said, "All the loan sharks want is their money. Why don't you just pay them off?"

"I don't want anyone in our city to ever loan him money again because I don't want to have any loose ends. His sister and Amelia are best friends. If something happens to him, there's no way his sister will sit back and do nothing. That will also worry and implicate Amelia. Do you understand what I mean?" explained Oscar.

Crosby gave him a long and meaningful smile before saying, "I thought you have become a more helpful person. It turns out that you are worried that your wife may be implicated. You are truly a doting husband. Well, I'll help you out on this account."

"If you can resolve this issue, take it that I owe you a huge favor," said Oscar.

Crosby took out a cigar, but he kept it away when he recalled that a woman was around.

"We are brothers. Let's not talk about such things. You have hardly ever asked me for any favor. If I can't even do anything to help you out, what good am I? I promise you that I will settle this issue," Crosby assured him.

"Then, let me thank you in advance. Just let me know how much they want."

"Don't worry about the money. As your host, I should help you out. Unless you look down on me."

Oscar laughed. "Crosby, don't tease me. Even biological brothers should keep money matters separated. It's bad enough that I need your help. How can I still ask you to fork out money?"

"Amelia, look at him. We have known each other for more than a decade, but he is still acting distant from me. How am I supposed to be brothers with him?" said Crosby in an ambiguous manner.

"Crosby, Oscar treats you as a real brother. That's why he wants to draw the line where money is concerned." With that, Amelia got up and poured a glass of wine. "Crosby, let me drink to you. It's our destiny to meet one another. I'm very happy to know a generous brother like you. I shall drink up first."

Crosby laughed out loud when he saw Amelia down the drink in one go without any pretense.

"Good. I like your attitude." Crosby also finished the wine in his glass. He then said, "Oscar, your wife is really something. No wonder she is able to win a picky man like yours."

Oscar agreed with him, "In my eyes, she's the most perfect woman. There may be women who are prettier than she is. But, not many will understand me the way she does."

Crosby was amused. "Oscar, your proclamation of love is too much for me. I'm getting goosebumps."

Oscar continued eating with a straight face. "Crosby, when can we meet your other half? When you got married, you didn't even invite me. What kind of brother are you?"

"Both of us only got registered and received our marriage certificate. We didn't even hold a wedding. She doesn't seem to be from this world. All day long, she will be talking to me about the need for women's freedom and not to be bound by such matters. In the end, we didn't even hold a wedding. She's mischievous and full of nonsense. Even I can't handle her. Perhaps, once Amelia meets her, they may become friends." It sounded like Crosby was complaining about his wife. However, the love he had for his wife was apparent in his eyes.

Amelia smiled and teased, "It looks like you love her very much."

"She's my one and only wife. It's not easy to meet someone who cares dearly for me. If I don't love her, then who should I love? Those indecent women out there?" Crosby raised his glass. "Come, let's drink up."

Both Amelia and Oscar clinked glasses with him, and they too finished their drinks in one go.

After a few drinks, Amelia's impression of Crosby had improved. She found that he was an unpretentious and straightforward person that she could be friends with.

The three of them only parted ways after two hours later. Crosby smiled and said, "I'm very happy to have dinner with both of you today. When you come by here again, give me a call. I will settle that issue for you the minute I got home. If you are free, stay here for another couple of days and have some fun. I can ask my wife to come along. She has been wanting to go mountain climbing for quite some time now."

"Sure! Crosby, you're the host. We'll leave the arrangement to you."

"All right then. It's settled."

After bidding goodbye to Crosby, Amelia and Oscar got into the car. Amelia said, "Oscar, I did not expect Crosby to be such a straightforward person. I recalled one of the financial magazines saying that he is a charismatic man who is cold and decisive in his work. I certainly didn't expect him to be so easy-going. How did the two of you meet?"

"We have worked together in the past and also met up a few times in private. Both of us seem to get along well, so we start to contact each other more often. He is very generous with friends. Although there is a bit of a gap in our ages, we don't feel the

difference. It will be nice for you to befriend his wife. An extra friend won't hurt. In fact, it might be helpful in the future," said Oscar.

Amelia nodded. Even without any benefits, she was still very interested in meeting the quirky wife of Crosby. Amelia wanted to know what kind of woman she was that she could win the heart of such an exceptional man.

She was really looking forward to it.