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You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

Chapter 379 - 380

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When Matthew reached home, he saw Clarissa sitting opposite Damian.

The moment he saw Matthew come home early, Damian was overjoyed. He threw aside the word cards in his hands and rushed into Matthew's arms.

"Daddy, you're back! I missed you..."

Matthew picked him up and entered the house.

Meanwhile, Clarissa tidied up the cards he left and reminded, "Damian Quigley, you have not finished your lessons yet. Don't you dare think just because Daddy is back, you can stop doing your homework."

Damian pouted and looked adorable doing so. However, Clarissa knew that as a mother, she had to be firm and not give in to his cuteness.

When she glanced at Matthew, he put Damian down and said, "Damian, listen to Mommy. I'll play with you once you are done with your lessons. We cannot give up learning halfway, alright? We are men, and what do men do?"

Damian replied in reflex, "Men keep their words."

"That's right. Come, I'll sit with you."

Matthew's presence seemed to have aroused Damian's interest in his lessons.

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As he was already a smart boy, he could learn with great speed as long as he put his heart into it.

When Clarissa tested him with the cards again, he was able to reply quickly and correctly.

After he was done, he pushed his toy car out and pulled Matthew along to play with him. Matthew naturally went willingly.

It wasn't until after dinner was over that both Matthew and Clarissa finally had time to talk about what happened in the day.

From Clarissa's response, Matthew could sense that Clarissa wasn't really angry.

In fact, it was Clarissa that broached the topic first.

"From your reaction, I can see that you really don't mind the DNA results. Did you not have any doubts that Damian wasn't your son?"

Chuckling, Matthew walked up to Clarissa and toyed with her hands.

"Do you think I would believe something as ridiculous as this?"

"But, it's clearly stated in the test report."

When Clarissa waved it in front of him, he grabbed onto it and threw it aside.

Lowering his head to kiss the tip of her lips, she avoided him quickly. "Stop. Let's finish the discussion first."

Persistently, he stole a gentle kiss before replying. "Isn't it over? There's nothing more to discuss as I don't believe it. However, how did you find out?"

When Clarissa raised her eyebrows at him, Matthew immediately knew who the source was.

"What did they say?"

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Clarissa shook her head. "Relax, they weren't as nasty as they used to be. It's just that I didn't expect them to be able to accept something like that."

After hearing Clarissa explain what their demands were, Matthew furrowed his eyebrows and was visibly upset.

However, Clarissa chuckled instead. "Why are you frowning? I'm not even angry. I'm just curious to know how were you able to cope with their rage given that they were under the impression that I cheated on you? In fact, you managed to pretend as if nothing happened in front of me. You can certainly endure duress!"

Clarissa's words were laced with sarcasm.

However, when she saw Matthew's grim expression, she couldn't help but snort in laughter. She reached out her hand to stroke his face.

"Come on, don't look so glum. I was only joking. Not like it's true anyway. Unless, you actually believed them?"

Feeling conflicted, Matthew couldn't help but sigh. Grabbing her hand, he spoke in a serious tone.

"Clare, even if you're just joking. I still don't want to hear it. Am I clear?"

Clarissa stuck out her tongue cheekily. "Fine. I'll stop. Not like it's true anyway. But, given how serious they make it out to be, I'm puzzled as to why didn't they suspect foul play? Oh, wait. Since they have handed me the report, does it mean that they have verified its authenticity? And made sure that there aren't any problems? In that case, I wonder what happened during the test? Since your parents believed it, what about you? Did you try and find out what happened?"

"I did. There is nothing wrong with the test itself. The only weak link was when my mother and Yuliana sent the hair for the test. Something must have happened on their way there. It's just that the hospital was too crowded at that time, and everyone they met is a suspect. Hence, it's just impossible to eliminate them one by one."

Baffled, Clarissa asked, "Why didn't you use the simplest method? You can just run another test, can't you?"

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In response, Matthew stared intently at her, making her feel awkward.

“Wh-what are you giving me that look for? Did I say something wrong?”

Only then, did he calmly explain, “Clare, I have learned a painful lesson the first time around. Hence, there’s no need for a second time. To me, you and Damian are all that matters.”

Clarissa didn’t know what to say.

Touched by his words, she felt amused and angry at the same time.

Pouting her lips, she pinched Matthew’s ear and gave it a tug. “What am I going to do with you?”

Matthew allowed her to pull his ear. Although it was embarrassing, he didn’t care about his image in front of his wife.

After that, Clarissa kissed him on the forehead and explained softly, “I was angry the first time because you had already done it. The nature of the issue is different. However, since the test was completed with such a result, I’m touched that you chose to endure... Erm, you’d rather be misunderstood than clear the matter up? Wouldn’t that be bad for my reputation? Although, it does feel satisfying to cause your parents some anguish.”

Matthew shook his head. “It’s not that I don’t want to clear your name, but someone is still investigating it. Therefore, there’s no need to repeat the test. Besides, you don’t like it.”

“Fine. You might have considered everything, but you still didn’t predict that your parents would do something like that behind your back.”

“You don’t have to care about whatever they say or do. As I said before, your only priorities are me and our son.”

Of course, I would prefer if you prioritize me more.

However, Matthew knew that it was never going to happen.

Despite having that thought, he knew it was pointless to say it.

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“Okay...”

Clarissa shrugged. “In that case, I have nothing more to add. You should do as you see fit. This time, I trust you entirely.”

Matthew squeezed her in his embrace as he leaned forward to kiss her. Comforting her softly, he let his hand slip under her blouse.

“Clare, since you’re not angry, I feel that...”

“What do you feel? I still need to tuck Damian in, so take your hands out.”

Blushing, Clarissa pulled Matthew’s hand out. She then left the room quickly to coax Damian to sleep.

As for Matthew, he could only smile helplessly. Fine. There’s no hurry. After all, once Damian is asleep, we have all the time in the world.

The next day, while Clarissa was still feeling groggy after waking up, she vaguely remembered what Matthew had said before he left.

He told her that she didn’t need to respond to his family as he will deal with it himself.

In the first place, she had never planned to do so as it was his family anyway.

Moreover, she was so busy that she didn’t have time to mind something like that.

After dropping Damian off at school, she went to the studio for a meeting.

However, she didn’t expect both major shareholders to be there, including Luke.

Given that they were the major shareholders, Clarissa forced herself to smile no matter how awkward it felt.

Throughout the meeting, Clarissa tried her best to maintain her professionalism.

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After the meeting, Yael began chatting with Mr. Collins. Just when Clarissa prepared to leave the room, Luke called out to her.

“Ms. Quigley, how’s filming coming along?”

“Mr. Harrison, it’s still on-going.”

Smiling, Luke lit himself a cigarette. When he saw Clarissa frown in the midst of puffing, he stubbed it out and threw it into the bin.

“Mr. Harrison, I’m still busy, I...”

“Mrs. Tyson...”

Clarissa froze when he called her. With a cynical smile, he remarked, “The first time we met, you were just a pitiful little girl. Tsk, I didn’t expect that you have become my partner. It’s good that you’re really capable.”

Clarissa smiled awkwardly. “Mr. Harrison, what are you trying to say?”

“Oh, I was just making small talk. Is there a problem? Do you not want to talk to me?”

“Of course, I would love to chat with our company’s major shareholder. However, I really am busy. I...”

Luke waved his hand in annoyance. “Fine. Do you think that I’ll bully you? You are Mrs. Tyson now, and I certainly do not have the gall to. Go ahead with whatever you need to do. I won’t impose on you.”

Just as he spoke, Luke turned and saw the young lady in the meeting room. With a mischievous smile, he headed over to hit on her.

Clarissa stood there and watched. Feeling conflicted, she hesitated for a long time before finally deciding to say something.

“Mr. Harrison...”

Luke turned around.

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“Mr. Harrison, my female colleagues are all decent ladies. So, please be nice, alright?”

Blushing, the young lady made an excuse and slipped off. As for Luke, he shrugged before walking away.

“I understand, Mrs. Tyson. You can stop nagging me.”

With that, he left Clarissa Studio.

From her office window, Clarissa heaved a sigh of relief after she watched Luke’s car leave the building.

The moment she turned around, Mandy was standing behind her, observing her intently. “Clarissa, ever since Luke became our shareholder, he comes here very often. Do you feel...”

“No, I don’t,” Clarissa interrupted Mandy.

With a stern look, she added, “Mandy, tell the girls in our office to buck up if they want to continue working here. Moreover, this is my honest advice. Luke isn’t a decent man, so they had better stop swooning over him. Understood?”

“Yes, yes. Clarissa, we understand. We have no such intention, so don’t worry.”

With that, Mandy put her suspicions aside. After all, there were some things that were better left unsaid.

You’ll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

Chapter 380

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Gradually, Clarissa settled in to her busy life.

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All this while, she had been writing novels, going out, and raising Damian. Having gotten used to the slow pace of life, she would sometimes ask herself what was the point of working so hard.

Nevertheless, she steeled herself and got back to work.

Leading a busy and meaningful life left her little room for ridiculous thoughts. Her priorities changed along with it. Matters which used to agonize her were considered trivial now.

For example, she used to care about whether the Tysons liked her. But now, it just felt like a waste of time.

Unlike before, she no was no longer concerned by the comments posted by trolls online, regardless of whether they were paid or not.

“Clarissa, the more popular you become, the more detractors you will have.”

When one’s fame rises, it would always attract jealousy and envy.

While editing the movie script, Clarissa realized that there were a lot of changes to be made from the novel.

As Mandy was one of the screenwriters, she began to make idle chatter in the midst of their work.

“Clarissa, you’ve changed a lot. You’re now an author, a screenwriter, a boss, and even a director... you’ve come so far in life that it makes me jealous.”

Taking a sip of water, she replied with a smile. “To be honest, it’s really because I have many capable colleagues. Without you and Yael’s support, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Mandy added with a smile. “Mr. Tyson is the most important one of all!”

Clarissa nodded in agreement. “That’s true. He does deserve most of the credit.”

“You know what they say, ‘Behind every successful woman is a supportive man...”

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Just when Mandy laughed heartily, the others began their chitter-chatter curiously. They wondered how much of what was written in the novel was true.

After all, the real-life love story of a rich and handsome president was definitely a crowd puller.

More importantly, the story would be made into a movie. The novel alone was a beautiful love story and the dream of every girl. Given that any girl who read the story would feel her heart elevated, the movie would be a smash hit if all ladies alone went to see it.

“Clarissa, was it really love at first sight between you and Mr. Tyson?”

In the story, Clarissa left out the part where she was drugged. Hence, the first time they met was when Matthew appeared at Ellie’s place while she and Ellie were chatting.

It was a friendly meeting and could be considered love at first sight.

Faced with the question, Clarissa felt embarrassed and couldn’t resist giggling.

“More or less. Actually, don’t take the story seriously and insist on linking it to me. It’s all fiction. You shouldn’t think too much of it.”

“However, it just feels like you and Mr. Tyson. There’s no way we can perceive it as an ordinary novel...”

“Clarissa, since there’s no mention of a wedding, have you and Mr. Tyson not organized your wedding reception yet?”

“Clarissa, you must have one. Will Mr. Tyson be giving you a surprise? In the event you have one, can I be your bridesmaid?”

“Clarissa, does Mr. Tyson tell you he loves you every day? That’s really romantic...”

Peppered with questions, Clarissa felt as if she was about to explode.

Moreover, these were just the questions from her colleagues. Without a doubt, the barrage of questions the netizens had after reading her novel would definitely be overwhelming.

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When the time comes to promote the movie, I don't think I can get away with not commenting.

Given that there would definitely be an avalanche of questions waiting for her, the thought alone caused Clarissa's head to hurt.

However, there were still some ways to go before it happened. Hence, Clarissa cast the frightening images aside and focused on her script.

...

Since Shermaine was let out of prison, there was no way for her to go back.

Although she was on bail and there was a time restriction, a lot of strings were pulled behind the scenes.

James and his wife had spent a significant amount of effort to secure Shermaine's release. Once she was out, it made everything else a lot easier.

However, Shermaine didn't work at her dad's company like how he told her to. Instead, she asked her parents for some time and space because she was still keen on re-entering showbiz.

Given how mentally fragile Shermaine was, Kayla didn't force her. Instead, she allowed Shermaine to do whatever she wanted.

Since she intended to return to showbiz, James provided her with the financial support needed to rebuild her connections.

However, James' money wasn't the only reason Shermaine sailed smoothly in showbiz previously. Matthew's influence was also a major factor.

Hence, without Matthew's support and the fact that she was an ex-convict, no one dared to hire her even if they were paid to do so.

Shermaine didn't blame James for the fact that he was powerless to help her. Instead, she contacted her friends from before regardless of whether they were sincere or fair-weathered.

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She accepted however they treated her. In fact, she would interact with them cordially, as if she had become a totally different person.

And just like that, there were people who began to comment about her online.

I had assumed that Shermaine would remain arrogant. Unexpectedly, she seemed to have changed. She wasn't just well-mannered, she even took all the insults thrown at her in her stride. To be honest, people do turn over a new leaf. Given how much Shermaine has changed and the fact that she had been punished, shouldn't we give her another chance? After all, I can't wait to see her act again. In truth, her acting skills are really good, certainly better than the starlets we get nowadays.

I agree with what the person above has said. We should focus on her acting. As long as it's good, I can accept her.

Exactly. Just look at all those celebrities who are unfaithful and hooked on drugs. After some time, they return to the fold popular as ever. Furthermore, Shermaine has served her time in prison and repented. She certainly has shown more remorse than those who verbally claimed to have done so. Do support her, please. Hopefully, she would be able to start afresh and focus on acting.

Gradually, the wave of support for Shermaine online began to gain traction.

However, there were still many who objected. But they didn't manage to turn the tide.

As time passed, Shermaine's old movies began to garner attention. There were even movie critics who praised her for her performances.

At the same time, her fan base began to grow again. However, those that joined really liked her and didn't care about her past.

Given the low-profile nature of the fan events, they began to grow organically instead of making a splash.

Consequently, Shermaine's reputation began to climb gradually.

After all, humans were forgetful animals.

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Time would wash away the sins of the past. As long as one repented, one would be given another opportunity.

“Shermaine, to be honest, it’s not going to be easy for you to rejoin the showbiz. Anyway, I have a suitable role for you, but it’s a minor one. If you are interested, I will give you the contact. However, if you don’t...”

“Sure, thank you.”

With a grateful smile, Shermaine accepted eagerly.

Given how humble she had become, no one could bear to bully or ridicule her anymore.

After receiving the contact, Shermaine continued chatting with her friend. Meanwhile, there were some other friends who joined them, and the topic of their conversation shifted.

“Recently, Clarissa’s popularity seems to be sky-high. I’m really envious of her for having such a wonderful husband who is supportive of her movie.”

“Me too. Her novels have always been excellent. Furthermore, this is an urban romance movie. Hence, I think it will definitely be a hit...”

“Exactly. I heard from my friend that Clarissa is in the casting process for the movie. Why don’t we give it a try?”

“Definitely! If we fail to land the lead, we could still be selected for a supporting role. Everyone expects the movie to sell out even before the shooting has started. Not because it’s going to be award-winning, but because it’s based on Clarissa and Mr. Tyson’s relationship. All the roles available look interesting...”

“You’re right...”

While they were discussing it excitedly, Shermaine hung her head in silence. Sipping her wine, she simply smiled as she listened to them.

“Shermaine, have you heard about the movie they are talking about? You can...”

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Before the friend finished, it dawned upon her what Shermaine's relationship with Clarissa was. Feeling awkward, she just wanted the ground to open up and swallow her whole.

However, Shermaine wasn't the least bit offended. Instead, she replied, "Mmm-hmm, I heard about it and also think that it will be wildly successful. If it's possible, I would like to join the audition too. It's just that I'm not sure if they are willing to accept me."

"Really? But you have turned over a new leaf. I'm sure they are magnanimous enough not to hold a grudge. Besides, you really are a good actress and second to none."

"Not necessarily, I have not acted for a long time and still have a lot to learn. However, I will definitely attend the audition when the time comes. As of now, I'm going to seize every opportunity I can. Given that I'm starting afresh, I can't be picky. All that matters is someone casting me..."

"Don't be so hard on yourself, Shermaine. I'm sure you can make it..."

Shermaine's humility triggered everyone into giving her encouragement.

Looking as if she was touched, her relationship with them gradually improved.

By the time Shermaine got home after the gathering ended, she went back to her usual routine, which was surfing for the latest news. Coincidentally, most of it was about Clarissa, her latest novel, and the contents of her movie.

Furthermore, as part of the publisher's promotional tactics, they put out a short excerpt which by itself generated a significant amount of buzz.

Just as expected, many were waiting with anticipation.

Smiling, Shermaine was also one of them.

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