

## Chapter 45

The door slammed behind me, and I shrank back in fear, losing all my earlier boldness.

He threw me onto the sofa with all his might. I instinctively held my belly and looked at his bloodshot eyes in horror. “W-what are you trying to do?”

“Oh, now you are afraid. Were you not fearless earlier?” He sneered and held my chin with one hand. He said coldly, “Am I a cheater? Am I fickle? Am I unable to distinguish right from wrong? Am I disgusting?”

The more he said, the angrier he got. He tightened his grip and his pupils constricted. “I did not expect to have such an image in your heart.”

I had said some words out of anger earlier, but now that he held me tightly like this, my temper flared up again. I lifted my leg and kicked him.

“Ah!” He pointed his trembling hands at me. “You...”

me. You...

This kick was not light, and I felt a little guilty. However, I still said defiantly, "Theo, are you still a man? You always use this method to deal with me. If you want to kill me, just do it. You do not have to torture me like this."

At first, I was just trying to scare him. However, the more I spoke, the sadder I became. I started to sob. "You know that I love you. Even if you do not love me, you should not bully me like this. What kind of man bullies a woman..."

By the end of my sentence, I broke down completely and burst into tears.

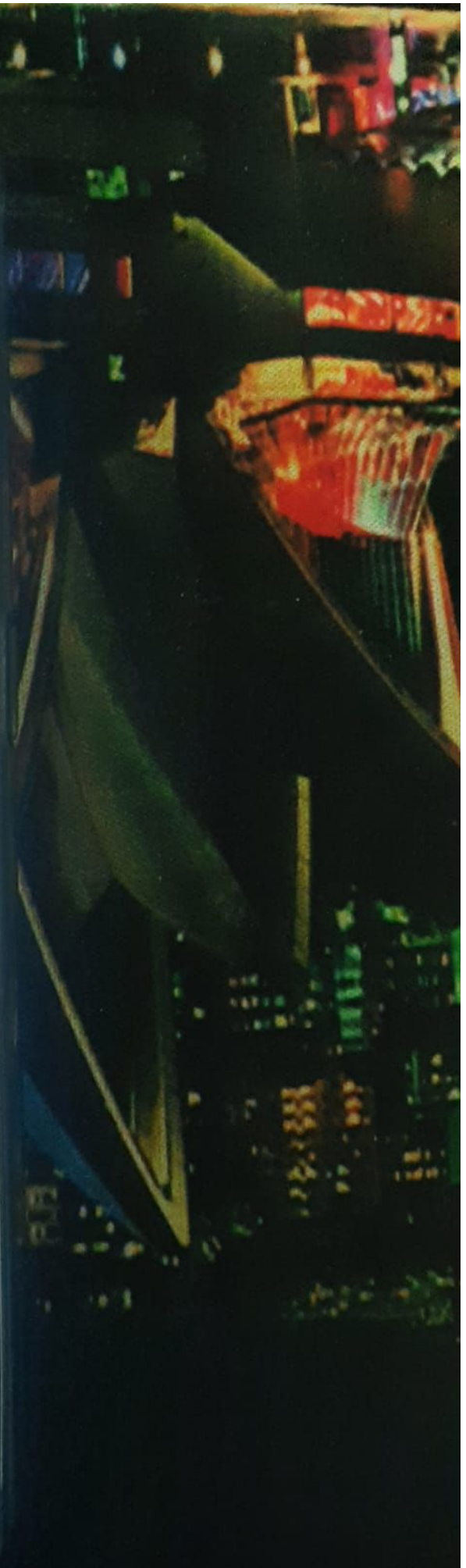
I could not stop now...

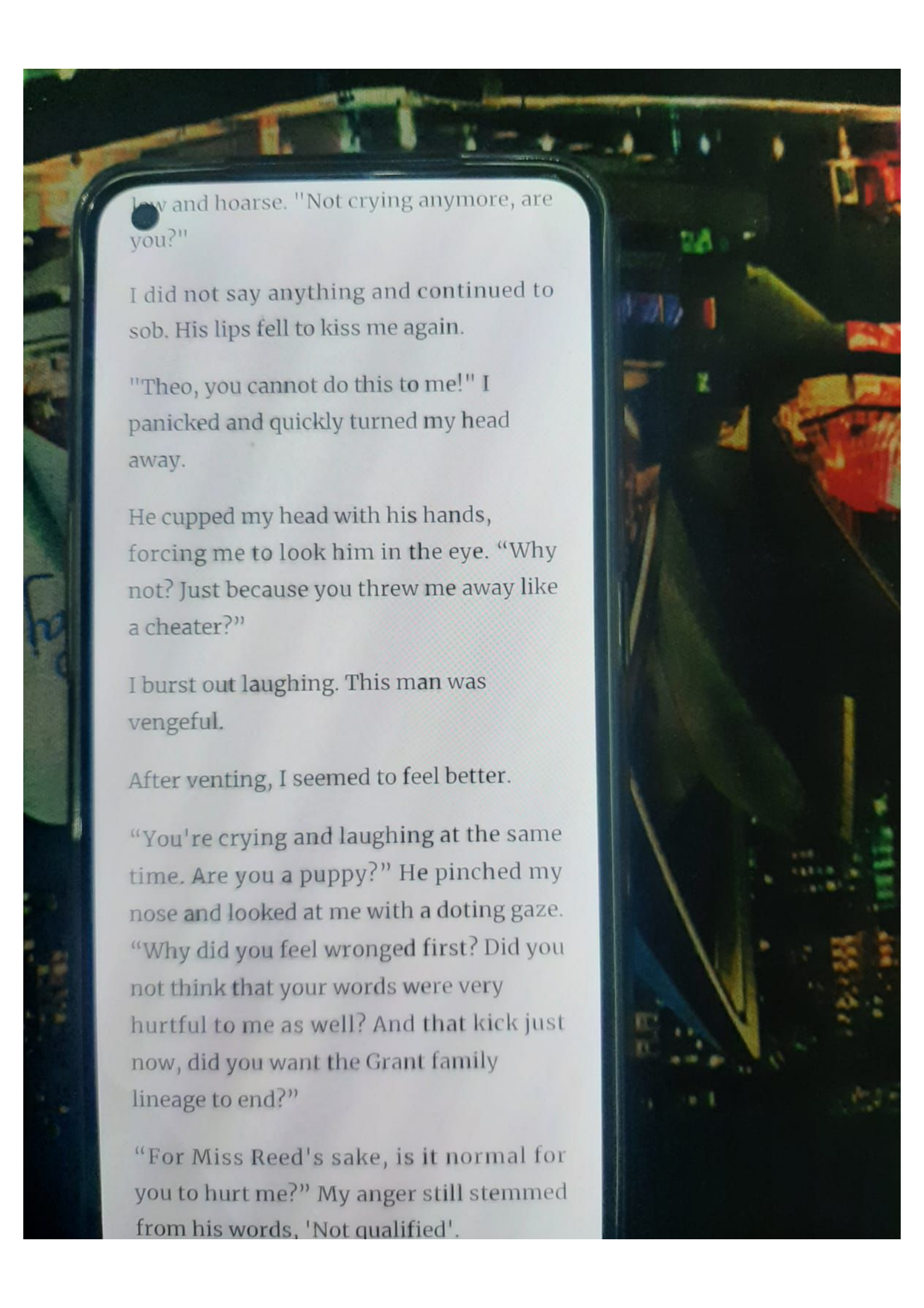
He came over and took me in his arms, whispering soothing words, but the more he spoke, the louder I cried.

Perhaps it was my crying that irritated him. He frowned and then leaned down to cover my mouth with his.

I froze instantly, staring at him with wide eyes.

He smiled and looked up. His voice was low and hoarse. "Not crying anymore, are



The image shows a page from a book with a dark, blurry background of a night scene, possibly a street or a festival. The page is white with black text. The text is arranged in several paragraphs. The first paragraph is at the top, followed by a second, then a third, then a fourth, then a fifth, then a sixth, then a seventh, and finally an eighth at the bottom. The text is in a serif font. The background image is dark with some colorful lights and shapes, but they are out of focus.

low and hoarse. "Not crying anymore, are you?"

I did not say anything and continued to sob. His lips fell to kiss me again.

"Theo, you cannot do this to me!" I panicked and quickly turned my head away.

He cupped my head with his hands, forcing me to look him in the eye. "Why not? Just because you threw me away like a cheater?"

I burst out laughing. This man was vengeful.

After venting, I seemed to feel better.

"You're crying and laughing at the same time. Are you a puppy?" He pinched my nose and looked at me with a doting gaze. "Why did you feel wronged first? Did you not think that your words were very hurtful to me as well? And that kick just now, did you want the Grant family lineage to end?"

"For Miss Reed's sake, is it normal for you to hurt me?" My anger still stemmed from his words, 'Not qualified'.

From his words, 'Not qualified'.

He did not say anything and just held me tight.

After a long while, he said, "Mason, Zedd, and I grew up together. We met Cindy in junior high school. At that time, because I did not have parents, I yearned for the feeling of home, so I often went to their house to play. Cindy's parents were very passionate and would always prepare delicious food for me. They treated me like their own son."

He suddenly paused and did not say anything. There was a hint of loneliness on his face and his eyes were a little dark as if he was recalling painful memories.

I did not bother him. I just looked up at him, waiting quietly for him to continue.

"When I graduated from my third year of junior high school, Grandmother did not have time to accompany me. Zedd and Mason left the country, so I followed Cindy and her family to her mother's hometown, a remote little mountain village. I had lived in the city since I was young. The first time I went to a village, I was so happy that I followed Cindy

was so happy that I followed Cindy everywhere and played around crazily in the village. Then, one day..."

He paused again, this time his body trembling. I had a vague idea that something must have happened. I reached for his hand.

He slowly calmed down and continued, "We came to a dilapidated house in the village that was about to collapse. Cindy was afraid and did not dare to enter. Out of curiosity, I ignored her advice and walked in. However, just as I pushed open the door and stepped in, the beam of the house suddenly fell and pressed against my legs."

He closed his eyes, as if afraid. It seemed that what had happened had left a deep impression on him.

After a long time, he said slowly, "His parents heard the news and rushed over. Ignoring the danger of the room collapsing, they rushed in to save me. Soon, they managed to move the beam that fell on my leg away and pushed me out of the room. But..."



## Chapter 46

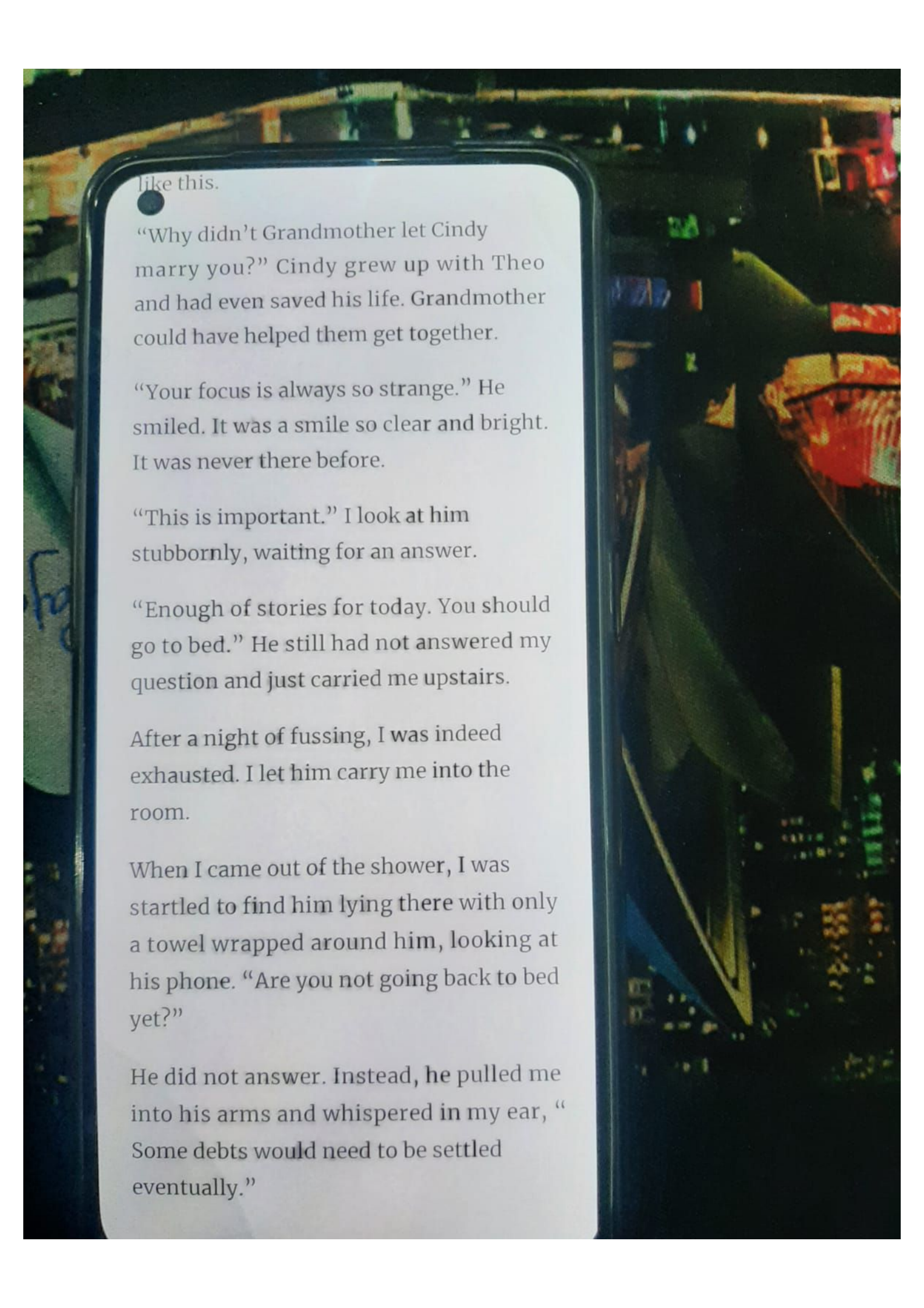
He looked like he was in pain. "But they did not get a chance to run out of the house. All of a sudden, the whole house collapsed, and they were buried alive in the rubble."

I was stunned. I did not expect this at all. I could not help but wrap my arms around Theo's shoulders and gently pat his back.

"It is okay. The hardest part is over." He did not seem used to being treated with such compassion. He pulled me back into his arms.

He continued in a deep voice, "They were rescued after that. Grandmother hired the best doctor, but with their serious injuries, they still did not make it. They passed away one after another. Before they left, they entrusted Cindy to me."

I had always known how important Cindy was to him, but I never expected it to be like this.



like this.

“Why didn’t Grandmother let Cindy marry you?” Cindy grew up with Theo and had even saved his life. Grandmother could have helped them get together.

“Your focus is always so strange.” He smiled. It was a smile so clear and bright. It was never there before.

“This is important.” I look at him stubbornly, waiting for an answer.

“Enough of stories for today. You should go to bed.” He still had not answered my question and just carried me upstairs.

After a night of fussing, I was indeed exhausted. I let him carry me into the room.

When I came out of the shower, I was startled to find him lying there with only a towel wrapped around him, looking at his phone. “Are you not going back to bed yet?”

He did not answer. Instead, he pulled me into his arms and whispered in my ear, “Some debts would need to be settled eventually.”

It was late at night by the time we were done showering. After washing up, he hugged me satisfyingly and fell asleep.

As for me, I could not sleep at all. My mind wandered all night until dawn.

When I woke up again, it was nine in the morning. Theo was nowhere to be seen. Thinking back at what happened last night, my face turned hot. Luckily, he was not around. Otherwise, I would not know how to face him.

I had to go to the office today. Despite my lack of energy, I forced myself out of bed.

Heidi was sitting on the sofa downstairs.

“Why are you here?” I was surprised.

“The President asked me to bring you to the headquarters.” Heidi placed the nearly-empty glass of water on the table. It seemed like she had been waiting for a long time.

Why did he want me to go to the headquarters so early in the morning? I do not have time to think about it. I took a few bites of the breakfast that Heidi brought and got up to leave.





● Because Heidi drove, I was dropped off at the entrance of the company.

Coincidentally, I bumped into Zedd, who was holding a document in his hand. He was probably here for a meeting.

For many years, the Grant family owned department stores, restaurants, and entertainment businesses. The Nichols family developed real estate, whereas the Lynch family built their business around hospitals and medicine.

Although the three families had developed their respective businesses well, each business was considered small. After the heirs, Theo, Mason, and Zedd took over their family businesses a few years ago, they merged their companies.

The merger was very successful. The development of Salt City was currently controlled by the three families. All essential amenities covering food, health, shelter, and transportation were under them.

However, it was not enough for them. In the past few years, they already had plans to go to a bigger city to develop their

company.

“Oh, Mrs. Grant, showing off so quickly already? Let me tell you, Second Brother does not have you in his heart. It is useless even if you stay here 24/7.” Zedd looked at me disdainfully. His eyes were full of mockery.

I froze momentarily, unsure what he meant.

When I was in university, I majored in media. After I entered the Grant family, I was arranged by Grandmother to work in the corporate planning department. Three years ago, after I married Theo, I was transferred to manage Nectarine Entertainment.

Since then, I rarely visited headquarters unless necessary.

Seeing that I did not say anything, Zedd continued to mock me. “Don't think that just because you are Mrs. Grant that the Grant Corporation would be yours. Just because you're married to the boss, it doesn't make you the boss.”

## Chapter 47

“Thank you for your concern, President Nichols. An outsider does not need to worry about the ownership of the Grant Corporation. You should mind your own business, President Nichols. It would not be good if the Grant Corporation was dragged through the mud because of your mistake.”

It was early in the morning and I did not want to argue with him in front of the office. I turned and walked inside.

“Wanda, you!” Zedd wanted to flare up, but when he saw the looks in the eyes of the surrounding employees, he sensibly shut his mouth.

I took the elevator to Theo's office. It was still cold and felt solemn.

Keith was busy at his computer. When he saw me enter, he looked up and said, “Miss Lane, the President is meeting with President Nicholas shortly. He wants you to wait in his office.”

to wait in his office.”

I nodded and entered Theo's office. I sat on the sofa and waited for him.

Half an hour later, Zedd's voice came from outside the door. “Second Brother, have you considered Cindy's feelings before when you decided to transfer her back to the headquarters? If Cindy finds out, she will be very sad. Besides, didn't you transfer her away because you hated her?”

“This is a work arrangement.” Theo's voice was low, but it had a dominant tone.

The door was pushed open and Theo was stunned to see me sitting inside. “You're here already?”

Zedd snorted when he saw me and turned his face to the other side.

Theo sat down opposite me and looked at me. “The company plans to enter the online space in the future, so we plan to acquire a few internet companies. You will be responsible for this. From today onward, you will return to the headquarters to work.”

headquarters to work."

●  
He wanted me to return to the headquarters?

So, they were talking about me just now?  
No wonder Zedd's words were so sarcastic early in the morning.

Ever since I joined the company, I had always been involved in matters related to publicity. I had never been involved in such an important project as acquiring a company. Why did Theo hand it to me?

I had plans to leave as well...

"You're not willing to do it?" Seeing that I did not speak, Theo frowned and sounded displeased.

"No, I have never done an acquisition before. Plus, I have not been feeling well lately." I hesitated, unsure of what to say.

"There is a first time for everything. You are a shareholder of the company, so you have to familiarize yourself with all the aspects of the business. For now, you will still be in charge of the publicity for the new product. You would have to find the right ambassadors. As for the acquisitions ..."

right ambassadors. As for the acquisitions  
...

He paused for a moment. "First, take some time to read up on a few companies and understand their business model. Then, draft a report for me."

"Speaking of ambassadors, we can continue working with the previous ambassador, Sandy. She is super popular now, and she is also good at promoting products. Didn't the jewelry she endorsed previously become a bestseller?" Zedd interrupted.

"I have a better candidate for the ambassador this time." I had already discussed it with Xander previously and had forgotten about this matter these few days.

Theo looked at me and said in a deep voice, "You can decide on this matter. You have to grasp a principle. The artists you choose must not have any misconduct, no negative news, and do not cause any negative impact on the brand's image. You have to hurry. There's not much time left."

I nodded. It seemed that I could not

nodded. It seemed that I could not refuse. At the very least, I had to do this well.

"Although the acquisition case is not urgent, we still have to familiarize ourselves with it quickly. Learn more from the professionals..." Theo nagged like an old woman.

After leaving his office, I called Heidi and asked her to get some survey forms. I planned to go to the market with her in the afternoon to understand the public's opinion and consumer psychology of male stars endorsing jewelry.

In the past, when Theo asked me to find an ambassador, I would only recommend the most suitable person. The decision was not mine, so I naturally did not have to worry about the market's feedback and demand.

Now that he wanted me to take full responsibility, I had to be careful. I could not make a rash decision without a detailed data investigation.

detailed data investigation.

Heidi quickly took out the survey forms. For the whole afternoon, she and I wandered around the various jewelry stores in Salt City.

From determining the consumers to finding people to fill in the survey forms, we were extremely busy.

At six in the evening, we finally finished at the last shopping mall and were about to return to the office to work overtime to sort out the results when Theo called.

“You're not in the office?” His voice sounded cold.

Did he go to the office to look for me? “Heidi and I were doing market research,” I said. “We're going back to OT.”