

Chapter 81

After that, apart from working, I spent the majority of my time with Cecilia. She was passionate about cooking all day and fed me with her food like a lab rat. I did not even bother putting up a struggle and allowed her to do whatever she wanted.

I was still feeling quite down and had not been sleeping well. I often sat on the balcony the whole night.

Cecilia had brought me to get a prescription for my insomnia that was suitable for pregnant women. However, I often forgot about it and would only take the medication when she reminded me.

Theo had not shown up, and from what Heidi told me, he seemed to have gone

abroad.

Several phases of the show's filming had been successfully completed.

Everything went well, and the premiere broadcast was well-received. The ratings and comments about the show only grew. The final round would be carried out this afternoon.

The spokesperson would be announced and they would sign the contract on the spot. Xander was like a dark horse, cutting his way through the many female celebrities. If everything went smoothly, he had the highest chances of becoming the spokesperson.

I had also thought of a way to handle Newlight Media.

Xander came to my office very early in the morning.

“What are you doing here instead of preparing for the finals?” I chided him.

“I missed you, of course. I haven’t seen you for days.” Xander supported himself on the table and leaned forward with his stunningly handsome face.

“Quit playing. Now I know why the ladies are pestering you. If I were someone else, I might misunderstand it as you’re trying to seduce me,” I complained with a huff.

He sat back in his chair weakly and lowered his head, saying dejectedly, “I am trying to seduce you but I often fail at it. How boring.”

How childish of him. I was already used to seeing him fooling around all these years. I shook my head and did not entertain him further.

“It’s my final chance today, Wandy. If I become the spokesperson, then it would spell trouble for your dear husband.” He put on a rare but solemn expression.

Though within half a second, he was in high spirits again. “That’s not so bad, actually. When Grant Corporation is down, you can then ditch Theo and come with me. I’m good-looking and pretty rich. I’ll be your kid’s dad.”

He put on an excited look as he spoke, looking as though he was telling the truth.

“I’m not confident in letting you raise my kid. Your fans will skin me alive. You don’t need to meddle in Newlight Media’s affairs because I have ways to solve it myself. You just need to be the spokesperson and avoid all negative news. Make sure your popularity doesn’t drop.”

“Who says I want to be a spokesperson? I’m still considering it!” He sat with his legs crossed and assumed an air of arrogance.

“You—” I was speechless and looked at

him for a moment before asking, “What’s the catch?”

“I like how clever you are, Wandy. I’m certain you like me because why else would you know me so well?” Xander looked at me with a smug look in his eyes.

I rolled my eyes. “I can consider everything but the endorsement fee.”

I had spent all the budget for this competition. The endorsement fee could not be increased further.

“You promised!” Xander stood up and said excitedly, “My request is simple. We’ll shoot this advertisement in other parts of the country and you’re required to come along and be there throughout the whole process. You have to write this requirement in the contract. I’ll sign it immediately.”

Although I did not know what he was trying to do, I still thought about it and

nodded to agree. Anyway, it would be inexcusable for me not to be there during the shoot. As for going to other parts of the country, that would be a topic for another day.

“Nice! I like how straightforward you are. It’s noon soon, Wandy, and I’m a little nervous. Can you buy me lunch to cheer me up?” Xander greedily made another request.

I pulled out my phone to call Heidi. “Can you get Mr. Celebrity Xander some takeaway food? I’m buying him lunch this afternoon.”

“Blergh...” Xander put on a pained expression and covered his mouth while saying, “H-How can you do this to me?!” He ran away after saying those words.

‘Do you think I can’t handle you, little guy?’ I looked at his back and gloated.

Takeaways were Xander’s nightmare.

Once, we went out and ordered takeaways. He ended up eating a cockroach. Since then, he would reflexively gag at the mention of takeaways.

The final results in the afternoon were expected. Whether it was the judges' or audience's vote, Xander suppressed everyone and successfully won first place, becoming the rightful spokesperson.

I signed the endorsement contract with him directly on behalf of Grant Corporation and announced another important piece of news on the scene. That was, inviting Sandy, the first runner-up, to be the brand ambassador.

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As soon as I said those words, everyone was surprised. Then, the audience broke into applause, and Sandy's fans began screaming fervently.

I guess only I was capable of announcing a surprise brand ambassador like that.

I did not inform anyone about this prior because I planned to throw Newlight Media off guard and offer them no reason to oppose. Logically speaking, anyone would think that they were trying to become the spokesperson seeing how they had come to participate in the competition.

However, they did not win first place, hence becoming the spokesperson was practically impossible now.

Even so, Grant Corporation kept old friendships in mind and created the brand ambassador title. In everyone's opinion, that was the greatest show of sincerity and love toward Sandy and Newlight Media. They had no reason to not accept it or find fault with the decision.

This matter was thus concluded.

Initially, I was still quite worried that the kidnappers would give me trouble again, but they did not appear even after the competition ended. Thus, I felt less anxious about it now.

The next step was to make arrangements for the advertisement shooting. Due to time constraints, all the employees worked overtime to catch up with the process in order to start early.

Cecilia's milk tea store had already been sold off. She said that she had

been working tirelessly for many years, so she wanted to use this opportunity to go out and enjoy herself for a bit.

I knew she had been holding herself back after what had happened previously. She was a woman with a strong character, so even though she knew that Cindy was the one who did it, she endured it all and did not mention it for my sake.

I felt extremely sorry, so I registered her for an overseas tour group so she could go out and have a good time.

“You should stay here even after I leave. I’ll hire a caretaker to take care of you during this time.” Cecilia was very worried about me.

“It’s okay. I’ll go back to the villa since Theo isn’t around anyway. Ms. Woods is in the villa, so don’t worry about me.” It was time for me to head back. No matter what happened in the future, it

was not the time for me to leave yet. Living here was not an option.

After sending Cecilia to the airport, I drove back to the villa alone.

I saw Cindy standing in the living room as soon as I walked through the door. She looked just like a matchless beauty — tall with an air of stunning elegance when paired with her white dress.

No one could resist a beauty like her.

My heart throbbed in pain. Her existence was a threat to me. As long as she was around, I was destined to be abandoned at any time. My child might end up the same way too.

At the thought of this, my heart ached to the point of explosion. There seemed to form a bloody pit filled with anger and hatred, which spread rapidly.

How nice would it be if she did not exist in this world? My child would have a

complete family and I would not have to worry about Theo randomly leaving for no reason.

The ugly monster at the bottom of my heart rapidly grew, and my thoughts became a mess. Without thinking much, I picked up the fruit knife beside me and bolted toward Cindy.

At this moment, there was only one thought in my mind—everything would be okay once she was gone. All my worries would disappear.

Just as my knife was about to pierce through Cindy's back, a huge force pushed my body away and the knife fell from my hand.

Theo picked up the knife and tossed it afar, glaring at me with frosty eyes. “What are you trying to do, Wanda Lane?”

My mind was blank but I slowly regained my senses. Did I just attempt t

o kill Cindy?

I was horrified at my own actions and my body went limp as I crashed downward. I was no longer in control of my body. Theo reached out to hold me, but his eyes remained ice-cold. His rage had reached boiling point.

The lingering fear made me tremble. I closed my eyes in agony, and when I opened them again, they were filled with tears. I lowered my head and pleaded in a low voice, “Ask her to leave, Theo. Ask her to leave immediately.”

I ignored his frosty and dark countenance. Yanking his hand, I said urgently, “Theo, I can’t bring myself to see her here. This is our house. This house belongs to you and me. Please, I beg you, don’t make me see her here or I’ll really kill her.”

I kept muttering under my breath,

revealing to him all my love, hatred, grievances, and viciousness without reservation. I told him how much I loved him, how afraid I was that my child would not receive their father's love, and how much I hated Cindy.

At this moment, I was honest and spilled out everything that I had buried in my heart for the past three years.

He listened quietly with his thin lips gently pursed. His grip on my body had loosened.

Cindy was dumbfounded by what just happened and finally realized what was going on. She screamed at the top of her lungs with no regard for her image, "Don't listen to her, Theowy! She's a liar. She's lying to you—"

I was still shivering. Theo held me tight, his moist lips pressing against my forehead. He said in a deep and hoarse voice, "Why are you so silly?"

Having said that, he picked me up and carried me upstairs while saying to Keith, who was just coming in, “Send M s. Cindy back.”

“You don’t want me anymore, Theowy?” Cindy’s voice was sad and piteous—full of despair and unwillingness.

“Keith will take you home.” Theo’s voice was a little cold.

He then closed the bedroom door. Keith’s voice could be vaguely heard from downstairs. “Let’s go, Ms. Cindy. Please don’t make things difficult for m e.”

Theo gently placed me on the bed. His dark pupils scanned me up and down, his countenance dark and gloomy. I did not know what he was thinking about.

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After a long time, he got into bed, embraced me from behind, and stroked my long hair with one hand. He asked softly, “Did you really mean it?”

“... What?” I asked. I said too many things just now and was not sure what he was referring to.

He turned my body over so that I would be facing him. Cupping my face in his hands, he said, “That you love me so much you can’t leave me.”

My cheeks were burning and I was terribly embarrassed. It was the first time I said such things and I did not expect him to repeat them.

“Okay, I won’t ask.” He chuckled before continuing, “But, you can’t do silly

things like that again. Don't you know what will happen if you do that? You're so silly, aren't you?" Having said that, he gently knocked my forehead with his finger.

I frowned in pain but did not say anything.

I did not know what overcame me then. I just could not control my emotions when I saw Cindy standing there.

Thinking about it now, it was really silly of me to do that. Cindy was not worth sacrificing my whole life for!

He embraced me so tightly that I struggled to breathe.

At that moment, his phone rang. He fished it out from his pocket and I saw Cindy's name.

He looked down at me, then put the phone on the bedside table without answering it.

The phone kept ringing. A little annoyed, I sat up from the bed.

He got up as well and embraced me, saying softly, “Ignore her. She’ll stop calling in a while. Get some sleep.”

I did not say anything.

After a very long time, the ringing finally stopped but then came the beeping of WhatsApp messages. I swept my eyes across the screen. [Theowy, don’t you care about me anymore? I’ve lost my parents and my home. You’re the only one I have now!]

The same words. I laughed. Though in my heart, I knew that this was Cindy’s trump card. It would always work.

Theo picked up the phone, his countenance a little dark. Then, he switched it off.

He got up without a word and went to

the balcony to have a smoke. He rarely smoked and would only do it when he was in a particularly bad mood.

Look at just how capable Cindy was that she could control his emotions with a single message.

Exhausted by the whole ordeal tonight, I ignored him and lay down to sleep.

I awoke with a start by the thunder and opened my eyes to see that it was still in the middle of the night. The thunder outside the window was deafening, and flashes of lightning would strike, lighting up the dark room from time to time. It made the empty bedroom seem a little sinister.

I was not a timid person. I had always been alone whenever there were thunderstorms in the past.

Though ever since I got pregnant, I seemed to have become a timider person, especially during this time

when I got used to having people around me. It made me even more afraid of being alone.

I looked around me. Theo was not in the room. There were a lot of cigarette butts on the balcony. He had smoked a lot.

He was probably in the study doing his work. I got up and pushed the bedroom door open.

The study was dark, but the living room downstairs was bright.

I walked to the stairway when I heard Theo's helpless voice. "What are you doing here when it's raining so heavily outside? What will you do if something happens to you?"

Downstairs, Cindy's white dress was soaked through. The rain dripped down her hair onto her face, making her delicate face seem a little pale.

“Theowy, will you be worried if something happens to me?” Cindy looked fixedly at Theo, her eyes determined and stubborn.

Theo did not reply to her question and pulled out his phone while saying, “I’ll ask Zedd to come pick you up.”

“No.” Cindy squeezed a smile, looking somewhat forlorn and pitiful. “Please don’t drive me away, Theowy. You know I’ve been afraid of thunderstorms ever since my parents died because of what happened that day—”

“Don’t say anymore. Go take a shower and change your clothes.” Theo frowned, finally giving in.

Cindy’s guilt-tripping methods were certainly tried and true.

When Cindy heard what he said, she chirped, “Can you get me one of your shirts, Theowy? I didn’t bring a change

of clothes.”

“There’s one in the guest room that you brought here before. Go and get it yourself.”

Cindy nodded and went to the guest room on the first floor.

I stood rooted at the stairway and listened to their conversation, my heart barren.

Back then, Grandma had said that this villa was too big and there were too many empty rooms, so she asked us to have more children to not make it seem so empty. I had disagreed then, but now it seemed that there were indeed too many rooms. There were so many that I did not even know Cindy had a room of her own.

“Theowy, I think there’s no hot water in the shower.” Cindy’s voice was heard from the bathroom.

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Theo responded and got up to walk toward the kitchen. When he walked past the stairway, he saw me and stopped in his tracks. He looked slightly surprised and said in a low voice, “You’re up.”

I should not have gotten up, more so went downstairs. I would not be feeling this sting of pain if I had just stayed in the room.

“Are you there, Theowy?” Cindy, who was in the bathroom, sounded a little anxious.

“You should go. Ms. Cindy might catch a cold later.” I looked up, gave a small smile, and turned around to go upstairs. I did not spare him another glance.

I slammed the bedroom door and began panting. For a moment, my heart was clenching so violently it was as though I was about to suffocate the next second.

The air in the bedroom was stuffy, and the storm howled outside the window. I got up and opened the window, only to be hit by a strong gust of wind. It nearly threw me off balance. I crouched on the floor as the rain came down on me, splashing my body.

I placed my hands on the floor and welcomed the storm. The rain and howling wind continued to splatter and hit my face. The rainwater went into my nose and mouth. I could taste bitterness mixed with the taste of earth.

Only by doing this was I able to ease the prickly pain in my heart and momentarily forget everything.

Who was the one who said that one could get everything one wanted as

long as one persisted?

Why was the result always the same no matter how hard I persisted?

I could only heal my own wounds and endure the pain. I had always been alone, and eventually, I would end up all alone too.

My tears gushed out of my eyes, mixing with the cold rainwater. The sensation pierced through my limbs and bones, chilling my heart and stinging my bones.

The rain would not stop. I shivered in the storm, the cold in my body taking over the pain from before. My head became heavy, and I was slowly losing consciousness.

When I could no longer hold on and was about to crash to the floor, Theo rushed over.

He took me in his arms at lightning

speed and got up to shut the windows, cutting out the deafening sound of the storm outside. I could hear everything clearly again.

“Are you nuts?” He was livid, and his lips quivered in anger. He had never been so furious.

My head was a mess as I lay weakly in his arms with no strength to speak.

He saw me in this state and stopped talking. He hugged me tight, and my wet clothes quickly soaked his clothes. He reached out to wipe the raindrops off of my face before bringing me to the bathroom at lightning speed.

He switched on the hot water tap in the bathroom and removed my wet clothes very quickly before gently putting me into the bathtub.

My body continued to tremble as an inexplicable feeling gushed out of my heart. I felt very uncomfortable.

When my body touched the hot water, warmth returned to my body and I slowly stopped shivering.

He looked at me with dark and sullen eyes. His voice was chilly. “Wanda Lane, there are many ways for you to punish me. Don’t torture me like that.”

My chest throbbed in pain again as I looked up with tears streaming down my face. I muttered, “It wasn’t my intention to punish you...”

I was not thinking too much at the time and merely felt that the rain could ease the pressure in my heart. I was just trying to release my emotions.

He looked down at me and sighed, wiping away the tears from my face with a towel. He said helplessly, “I can’t shirk my responsibility toward the Reeds and Cindy. I can’t just ignore her. Promise me, don’t hurt yourself and the child anymore. You can scold

and hit me if you're unhappy.”

He said these words with a serious expression.

I felt a little sad and reached out to coil my arms around his neck, choking. “I didn't do it on purpose.”

He patted my back for a very long time before he began scrubbing and washing my body.

The rain had drenched my body and mind, making me dizzy. I sat dazedly on the same spot, not budging as he continued to wash me. This was not the first time anyway, so there was nothing to feel abashed about.

After soaking in the hot water, my body warmed up completely and my consciousness recovered.

Theo wrapped me up with a towel, picked me up, and walked out of the bathroom. He placed me on the bed. He

found a set of clothes and put them on for me before grabbing the hairdryer to dry my hair for me.

A gush of warmth flowed within me. I enjoyed every moment of this warmth and bliss, so much so that I feared time would slip away. I hoped that we could forever stay in this moment. ²

After he blew dry my hair, I wanted to lie down and rest but Theo stopped me. He bent down in front of me and said softly, “Let’s go downstairs first.”

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I looked at him, not knowing what he meant by that.

“I’ve always thought of it as my responsibility and didn’t know that my actions would hurt you. From now on, stay with me, okay?” He stared at me with a glimmer in his eyes while waiting for my answer.

“Okay.” I nodded gently. I did not know what he wanted to do, but his demeanor made it hard for me to refuse.

He got up and tried to hold me but I rejected him and insisted on walking on my own. He took my shoulder and we went downstairs together.

Downstairs, Cindy had changed into a princess nightgown and was sitting on

the sofa, pouting and sulking. Sitting beside her and softly comforting her was Zedd, who had arrived some time ago.

Theo held me and we both sat down on the other end of the couch.

Cindy stood up and dragged Theo's hand off my shoulder while saying with tears in her eyes, "I was wrong, Theo. I shouldn't have come over in the middle of the night to disturb you, but I was really scared to be alone. Please don't be angry."

She cried her heart out as her tears streamed down like broken beads.

Theo's cold and dark profile softened as the chill in his eyes dispersed. He did not say a word.

I let out a wry smile. It turned out that Theo did not really mean it when he said that he wanted to 'talk'. He was not able to get rid of Cindy, after all.

After a very long time, he said, “It’s late, Cindy. You should go back with Zedd first.” His voice was deep and low. There was a hint of displeasure in his tone.

“Don’t you want me anymore, Theowy? My parents aren’t around anymore and you’re the only one I have left in this world. If you don’t want me too, then all I have left waiting for me is death.”

“Hah!” I could not stand it anymore and sneered.

“What are you sneering at, Wanda Lane? It’s all your fault. If you hadn’t guilt-tripped Theowy with your child, he wouldn’t be entertaining you now at all. You shameless woman! You’ve resorted to all kinds of threats and are really smug now, aren’t you?”

Cindy spoke louder and louder, completely forgetting the fact that she needed to disguise herself.

I laughed in anger. “You must be talking about yourself, Ms. Cindy! Who is the one who has been guilt-tripping Theo all this while and pulling out all sorts of tricks to make it seem that I have no husband? You even went to the extent of making me have to pretend to have aborted my own child!

After a pause, I continued, “Yes, Theo has the duty to take care of you. That’s why I’ve been enduring your spoiled attitude this whole time. However, Ms. Cindy, what he has for you is just a sense of duty, which means that you don’t have the right to ruin other people’s families as you wish. Legally, I’m his wife, and you’re no different than a mistress for constantly showing up at my door and making a scene like this.”

“Nonsense, Wanda Lane! You’re the mistress who ruined our relationship. You’re the one who interfered in our

relationship!” Cindy screamed with no regard for her image, the veins on her forehead bulging out.

Looking at her exasperation with cold eyes, I said blandly, “You said I interfered, right? What about those years when I wasn’t around? Did Theo promise to marry you?”

My words had struck a sore point. Cindy broke down completely and covered her ears while squatting down on the floor. “I don’t know what you’re talking about. You! You’re the one who ruined my happiness. You’re the one who’s occupying Theowy...”

Zedd bent down to support her and consoled her softly.

Theo’s face was cold and chilly, his pupils so dark that they looked like an abyss. I could tell that he was mad.

I did not know if he was mad at me for saying those things to hurt Cindy or if h

e was mad at Cindy for making a scene in the middle of the night.

Refusing to look at them, I said in a deep voice, “This is my house. Please leave or I’ll call the police to report you for trespassing.”

Cindy froze after hearing what I said and cried even louder. “Theowy, Wanda —”

“That’s enough,” Theo said. His tone was a little angry. “It’s very late now. We can talk tomorrow. Send her back first, Zedd...”

I was in an irritable mood and turned around to go upstairs while ignoring them.

When I got back to my room, I curled up in my bed with a barren heart, feeling like everything had lost its meaning. I pulled out my phone to text Cecilia: [I think I’m sick.]

I had been on an emotional rollercoaster during this period, getting furious even when I slept. I had been trying my best to fix it, thinking that everything would be okay if I could control my emotions.

However, after having an emotional outburst tonight, I knew that I might be sick again. ¹

Chapter 86

Cecilia did not reply to my text. It was three in the morning and she was probably still on the plane!

Lying on the bed, my head felt dizzy. I wanted to get a good night's sleep but I just could not. The harder I tried, the more irritable I got; the more irritable I got, the clearer my head was. It all formed a vicious cycle.

I ignored Theo when he came in and pretended to be asleep.

He gently got in bed and embraced me from behind before quickly falling asleep.

I, on the other hand, did not drift off to sleep until it was almost dawn.

When Cecilia gave me a call, I was still

very groggy.

“Where are you? I don’t care where you are right now, I want you to go to the hospital immediately. I’ll buy a ticket home right away.” On the other end of the phone, Cecilia sounded nervous.

“I’m okay, don’t worry. Go and enjoy yourself with peace of mind. I’ll go to the hospital in a while.” I sat up from the bed, Theo’s warmth from his side of the bed still lingered.

“How can I not be worried? You haven’t been yourself lately. I thought your condition would slowly get better. I shouldn’t have left.”

“Don’t worry, I won’t let anything happen to myself. I have to stay strong for my child. I’ve already pulled through and I’m just suffering from insomnia now. It’s nothing...” I comforted her.

I regretted sending the text to Cecilia

and spoiling her vacation mood.

However, I was truly upset at the time and she was the only one I could talk to.

“Promise me that you’ll go to the hospital immediately. Contact me if anything’s wrong.” After reassuring her over and over again, Cecilia finally agreed to not come back for now.

After I ended the call, I climbed out of bed. Although I was reluctant to go to the hospital, I had to go. It was not just to give Cecilia peace of mind but it was also for the sake of the child in my belly.

I opened my room door and was just about to walk downstairs when a voice from the living room stopped me in my tracks.

“What are you doing here this early in the morning?” It was Theo. His voice sounded a little surprised and displeased.

“Zedd said that you plan to send me

abroad, Theowy?” It was Cindy’s anxious voice.

“Mm. If you don’t wish to shoot movies or participate in variety shows, then you might as well go abroad to further your studies for a period of time. Go there and hone your skills,” Theo said in a deep voice. ¹

“No, I’ll not go abroad. Please, Theowy, don’t let me go abroad alone. I’m scared. I can give up being a star.” Cindy’s voice was filled with fear as she pleaded with him.

“It’s fine if you don’t wish to go abroad now and stay in Salt City. I’ll support you in everything you do. But there are two rules you need to follow. Firstly, Wanda is pregnant so please don’t come to my house in the future. If you like villas, I can buy you one.”

After a pause, he continued, “Also, I’ll take responsibility and take care of you t

o the end. But this doesn't include being in a romantic relationship. I have a family of my own, so you should observe your limits.”

Theo spoke very slowly, yet every word he said pierced her heart.

Cindy froze, and after a long time, she said in a shrill voice, “Take responsibility? Is this what you mean by taking responsibility, Theow? You’re going to toss me aside and leave me to die? This wasn’t what you said to my parents when they handed me to you.”

“I promised them to take care of you until the end but that doesn’t mean you can interfere with my life without knowing your limits. Cindy, we’re adults now. We should lead our own lives and have relationships of our own,” Theo said mercilessly.

“Do you love Wanda? No! It’s only because she’s pregnant with your child

and you think you're obligated to take care of her. You don't know what love is at all, Theowy. You won't fall in love with her!"

Cindy screamed those words out. She squatted down on the floor and wailed, her entire body trembling.

I nearly lost my balance and reached out to hold the stairway railing. My fingertips slightly turned white because I had exerted too much strength. I had to admit that what Cindy said was the truth.

After a very long time, Theo said in a slightly exhausted voice, "You should go back first. I still have things to do."

Cindy got up and grabbed Theo's shirt, pleading with him, "I don't want anything, Theowy. I don't want you to do anything either. Don't drive me away, just let me stay beside you like I always have and I promise that I'll not disturb

Wanda anymore. Please, I can't live without you..."

Chapter 87

After all these years, Theo had spoiled Cindy into a princess who lived a noble and proud life. At this moment, however, she completely abandoned her dignity, image, and limits... That made her look somewhat pitiful.

Love could make a person humble.

I sighed. I was the same in the past.

“You’re awake?” There was suddenly the sound of a door opening behind me.

Startled, I turned around. Mason was clad in all-black attire, standing at the study while smiling at me.

“Shh, keep it down.” I quickly ran over.

“What are you doing here?” I was thinking of going to the hospital to meet him.

“Theo said he wanted to stay at home to take care of you, so he asked us to come over for a meeting.” He shrugged.

“I happened to be looking for you. Let’s talk inside.” Afraid that Mason would find out that I was eavesdropping, I quickly entered the study first.

“What’s up?” His tone was bland, his expression as usual.

“I need you to treat me.” I sat on the sofa in the study, deliberating how to start the conversation.

Mason sat down across from me and gestured for me to speak.

“I’ve been sleeping very poorly recently, which has led to a series of physical problems and poor mental health. I’m easily irritable, have extremely unstable emotions, lack appetite, and am fatigued.”

He looked up at me with a complicated look in his eyes before reaching out to check my temperature.

After a very long time, he said, “You have a pale complexion. If your insomnia continues, it’s going to trigger you into depression.”

I knew very well about the things that would happen to me if this continued. “Do you have drugs that can promote sleep? Can you prescribe some for me?”

“I do, but you’re not allowed to take them because it’ll affect the growth of the fetus.” He rubbed his forehead and said after a very long time, “I’ll prescribe you some medicine. However, drugs can only treat the symptoms but not the root of the problem. Emotions need to be self-regulated, so don’t put too much pressure on yourself.”

I nodded without a word. There were some things in life that I could not

control.

“How did this happen? Have similar things happened before?” After a very long time, he stared at me and asked.

I did not reply and stood up, saying, “I’m going back now. Thank you, Dr. Mason.”

I did not want to nor did I need to tell him what had happened in the past.

He did not speak further and stood up to follow me outside.

Downstairs, Cindy’s voice rang out once more. She no longer sounded as irritable as before and was much calmer now. “Theowyn, I know you’re a responsible man, but duty isn’t something that keeps a marriage going. A family without love is destined to be faced with a tragedy.”

I paused in my steps and stretched out my left hand to hold my right hand

tight.

Mason stood beside me and said, “You should be thinking of your child. Certain things are better left unheard.”

I let out a wry smile and turned to look at him. “Dr. Mason, do you also think that I should be like before, tolerating everything until I drive myself crazy?”

He frowned, his countenance indifferent as he said no more.

Seeing that Theo was silent, Cindy seemed to have seen a glimmer of hope and continued, “Theowwy, you know how much Wanda likes you. She’s trying to win your heart by using the child. But you don’t even love her. As time passes, you’ll feel bored and annoyed. By then, she’ll have a breakdown because she couldn’t get what she wanted.”

I could not stand it anymore and walked downstairs. Mason reached out t

o stop me but eventually gave up.

“You’re not me, Miss Cindy, so how do you know what I want?” I let out a small smile and looked at her from above.

“Were you eavesdropping on us, Wanda?” My appearance startled Cindy that she immediately accused me.

Theo glanced at me without a single expression on his face.

“You’re the one who came here this early in the morning to say these things to my husband, so why are you blaming me instead?” I looked at her and continued, “Also, I think there’s a need to inform you that I’m just an ordinary woman. In my opinion, happiness comes from staying with my husband and children together as a family.”

“Wanda Lane, are you sure you can secure Theow’s heart with your child?” Cindy was exasperated, asking

me while gnashing her teeth.

“I’m not sure, but at least the child is ours. Moreover, he’s willing to change for the sake of our child. You’re afraid, Ms. Cindy, and showing up at our door to make a scene over and over again is the best proof of that.”

Chapter 88

“You—” Cindy’s face was flushed. She stretched out her trembling fingers and pointed at me but was unable to say a word for a very long time.

Theo looked at me with eyes darkened and a displeased expression, but he did not say anything.

I ignored him and continued, “If you can’t live without my husband, Miss Cindy, then I don’t mind if you waste your youth on him either. Maybe I might grow bored one day and choose to get a divorce.”

My expression changed as I raised my voice, “But before that, can you please be a qualified mistress, Ms. Cindy? I don’t care what you do out there but can you stop coming to my house and

disturbing our peace?”

As soon as I said those words, three voices called out my name at the same time.

“Wanda!” Theo gritted his teeth.

“Wanda!” Cindy was in a thundering fury.

“Wanda!” Zedd was bursting with rage.

Mason, however, remained calm as always and stood on one side looking at me with a faint smile.

I darted a glance at Theo and retracted my gaze. I could not be bothered to spare Cindy or Zedd a glance.

Zedd was extremely furious and turned around, saying, “Theo, this may be your family’s matters but I can’t just watch Cindy get bullied by Wanda without doing anything. If you don’t teach her a lesson, then I’ll do it for

you.”

“Oh?” Before Theo could say anything, I spoke first, “How are you going to teach me a lesson, Mr. Zedd? Are you going to use the same despicable method to frame and set me up? Or will you choose to strike me directly?”

“You vicious, cunning, and shameless woman. You think I don’t have the guts to touch you? Listen, if you hurt Cindy, then I can’t promise I won’t hurt you,” Zedd pointed at my nose and scolded rudely.

I retorted rudely, “Me? Vicious, cunning, and shameless? Use your brain, Mr. Zedd. I do hope you have one. Open your stupid eyes and look closely at the person beside you. Who’s the shameless one here? She’s always pretending to look weak and pitiful but is actually vicious. She pulls out all sorts of tricks to steal someone else’s husband and even cruelly forced me to

about my child, yet you're treating a person like that like a treasure!"

After saying those words, I refused to entertain them further and walked past Cindy who was still crouching down on the floor. I walked out of the door.

Theo reached out to hold me, his perfectly sculpted face looking a little irritable. He asked in a deep voice, "Where are you going?"

"It's none of your business." I flung his hand away and walked out without looking back.

Zedd's incredulous voice rang out behind me. "Are you going to keep letting her act so arrogantly?"

"Don't be angry, Theowy. Wanda doesn't know any better and a woman like that doesn't deserve you—"

"That's enough. Shut up, all of you! Zedd, send her back. Don't come to my

villa ever again...” Theo’s voice was extremely cold.

I hurried my pace, not wishing to hear any more of their conversation.

What bad luck this early in the morning.

With a stomach full of anger, I went straight to the company without having breakfast.

My head was dizzy and coupled with my bad mood, I had no appetite to eat anything. However, at the thought of the baby in my belly, I pulled over at a roadside stall across the company. I bought a hotdog and a packet of milk. I sat there and began eating.

Sitting beside my table were several women who stole glances at me. There was a look of incredulity in their eyes.

I did not know what their reactions meant and thought it was inappropriate to call them out, so I continued to eat m

y food.

After a very long time, a woman could not help but ask timidly, “Is this your breakfast, Ms. Wanda?”

The rest put on similar expressions, looking as though I was eating dung. They all had looks of disbelief.

I looked at the hotdog in my hand and thought there was nothing wrong with it, so I laughed and said, “You’re eating this too, aren’t you?”

“It’s fine for us to eat it, but you’re the most envied Mrs. Grant in the whole of Salt City. How can you eat at a roadside stall? Your breakfast should be prepared by a French chef, and the ingredients should be flown in exclusively from abroad...”

I burst out laughing. These ladies had probably watched too many dramas.

I finished the last drop of milk in the

cup and wiped my mouth. “You’re running late. Aren’t you going to punch your cards?” Since they were calling me Ms. Wanda, they were probably employees of the company. However, there were too many employees in the company so I did not know which department they were in.

Chapter 89

Upon reminding them, the young ladies checked their watches in a panic before grabbing their hotdogs and darting across the road.

I watched them run. They were so full of youth that I could not help but sigh. It was nice to be young. My heavy mood was suddenly lifted.

This was how the world was. No one was satisfied with their current situation and would constantly complain about life while envying others. One would not know that what one hated was precisely what others yearned for.

Upon returning to the office, Heidi reported to me the progress of the advertisement shooting.

The new product this time around was a diamond ring, so the director wrote a script about the male and female leads falling in love after a chance encounter on a trip to the beach. They later experienced separation, and the ending was of the male lead bringing a diamond ring to the city where the female lead was for a romantic proposal.

Although this short commercial had a cheesy plot, the male lead was the good-looking Xander, so this would probably be a pretty good commercial.

“Prepare accordingly, then. Remember to keep this confidential and make sure no rumors are leaked before the commercial is out. Remember to stop the media from taking any pictures.” I reminded Heidi while massaging my glabella.

“I heard you’re coming along for the shoot as well, Ms. Wanda? The director

said we're going to the South Sea to film it. The weather is so hot, and your health—" Heidi looked at me and hesitated to speak.

"It's fine. When the date and time of the shoot have been confirmed, inform me and I'll get ready for the trip."

Although I was not in the best mental state at the moment, the shoot was really important and I would not be able to rest if I were not there to oversee the shoot. Also, I had promised Xander. It was not good to go against my word.

It was a full day of reading and writing. Although it was hectic, I was able to momentarily forget about the unhappy things when I focused on work. It was not so bad.

When it was time to get off work, I refused to go back to the villa because I did not know what the situation was like over there. I got takeaway for dinner and planned to take it to

Cecilia's house to have it there.

“Don't move! Don't you dare move.” I had just opened the door when a deep and low voice rang out. An object similar to a knife was pressed against the back of my waist.

Not again!

Though weirdly, after the previous experience, my first reaction was not fear. Instead, I was wondering what I would be asked to do again this time.

“What are you trying to do in broad daylight?” My tone was calm, and not a hint of fear was heard.

The man opened the door to the back seat and said in a cold voice, “Get in and don't scream. Or else, I can't promise that I won't hurt you.”

Left with no other choice, I could only get in the car. Then, the kidnapper got in as well and revved up the engine. He

drove toward the busiest street in the city center.

What sort of kidnapping was this? He did not knock me out nor did he cover my eyes. I looked at the driver curiously. He was wearing a black shirt, a black cap, and a face mask.

Although he was fully dressed like a kidnapper, I was still able to recognize him and cried out in anger, “Are you crazy? Is it fun doing this?”

I was genuinely worried for a second there, thinking that it was the same group of men who had another request to make.

“It’s not fun at all, Wandy. Say, are my acting skills horrible or are you too smart?” In front, Xander took off his cap and face mask while saying dejectedly.

“Crazy fellow.” I was still mad and gave him a grumpy look.

“I’m sorry, it’s all my fault. I’ll buy you a meal to make up for it, okay? I was too bored and wanted to pretend to be a kidnapper to prank you.” Seeing that I was actually angry, Xander immediately apologized.

As I was used to being pranked by him, I was not actually mad at him. I was just not in the mood to play around with him.

I did not speak, so Xander became afraid. “Don’t be mad, Wandy. It won’t be good for your health. I promise I’ll stop pranking you in the future. Why don’t you hit me to relieve your anger?”

“I want a feast,” I said, not wanting to listen to his nonsense. I happened to not want to eat alone tonight.

“Sure. As long as you stop being mad, I’ll buy you anything you want tonight. What do you want to eat?” Xander’s otherworldly charming face was

plastered with an ingratiating smile, which made him look a little hilarious.

“Anything as long as it’s expensive.” I shut my eyes after saying those words and ignored him.

He clammed up grumpily and concentrated on driving.

Chapter 90

Soon, the car came to a stop and I looked up. Sure enough, he actually brought me to the most expensive French restaurant in Salt City.

However, it was a little awkward because everyone knew this was a popular dating place for couples.

“You asked for the most expensive and this is the most expensive place in Salt City.” Seeing how hesitant I was, Xander put on a helpless look. However, I had a feeling that he was over the moon because the joy in his alluring eyes was overflowing.

It was just a meal, and since I was already here, I did not hesitate further and took the lead to walk inside.

However, Xander's series of unexpected moves after that quickly made me regret my decision. He had not only asked for a couple table and ordered a couple set meal but also ordered a bottle of red wine that was worth a lot of money.

Looking at the rose, candles, and red wine in front of me, this very romantic candlelight dinner would be the perfect dinner arrangement for actual couples.

However, we...

“Must you do all these things?” I was extremely awkward but did not know what was the right thing to say.

“What's wrong with this? Don't you think it's more enjoyable to dine in such an atmosphere? Besides, I've long dreamed of coming here with you. I didn't think we'd get the chance to—”

“What do you mean you've long

dreamed of coming here with me? You should be bringing your girlfriend to a place like this,” I grumbled.

“Let’s not talk about this. Since we’re already here, we should make full use of the money spent. Just take it as though the electricity has run out at home, so you’re here to eat something good and relax.” Xander chuckled like a fool. He poured himself a glass of red wine and ordered a glass of juice for me. ¹

Left with no other choice, I bowed my head and prepared to eat when I received a text message on my phone. I tapped in to see that it was from Theo, asking me why I was not home yet.

I did not text back and switched off my phone so I could eat in peace.

Xander did not eat and was only leisurely drinking the red wine. He looked at me for a very long time and said, “You look like someone when you

get mad.”

“Are you going to say that I look like a certain female actress?” Many people said that I looked like a star back in university. They would say that I looked like a particular actress today and another one tomorrow. Over time, I had gotten used to it.

“No, you’re prettier and more elegant than any star out there. They can’t compare to you at all. But when I saw your angry face earlier, I suddenly realized that you look a lot like my mother. I can’t tell which part exactly, but you just seem really alike,” Xander said in a very serious tone.

I froze. When I went to Xander’s house for dinner that night, someone seemed to have said the same thing.

However, I quickly let the topic drop and cut a piece of steak before placing it in my mouth. I said, “I have an average

face, so I look like a lot of people. That's nothing unusual." I remembered Grandma used to say that I look like Cindy. 2

Xander twitched his lips and took a sip of wine before continuing, "Why did you suddenly drop out of university and disappear so suddenly back then?"

I was startled. How did he find out this secret from so long ago?

I previously sat for a test to enroll in another university but because something came up, I dropped out in freshman year before finally retaking a test to enroll in my current university.

"How do you know when we're in different intakes?" Xander was younger than me so we were definitely not classmates. Besides, I had only studied for a semester so no one at university would know me.

"I know so much more than that. The

elementary school in the country, junior high school in town, and Mrs. Lane,” Xander briefly said.

I was dumbfounded, and my tone was a little harsh. “You investigated me?”

I did not want others to know about my past life.

“Looks like you really don’t remember me.” Xander let out a wry smile and drank large gulps of the red wine in his glass.

I shook my head dazedly. I knew Xander because he was the first artist who came for an interview at Nectarine Entertainment.

“Do you know why I didn’t turn to big companies at the time and instead picked Nectarine Entertainment that no one knew about at the time?” An uninhibited smile remained on his face, but there was a hint of bitterness.

I shook my head. Thinking about it now, it did seem pretty weird. When he signed the contract at the time, he only had one condition—he did not want an agent and asked to be under me.

Although I was not an agent at the time, I had no choice but to participate in events with him.

“These aren’t important anymore. Just don’t disappear out of the blue like what you did last time.” Xander’s eyes were a little misty. He propped himself on the table and looked dazedly at me. It was only then did I realize he had finished drinking an entire bottle of wine.

I felt a little awkward and turned to look out the window, where I happened to see two people walking by downstairs.