

N Destiny 2421

Chapter 2421

Zacharias smiled. "A couple always share a room, don't they?"

"But we're not a real couple!" Shirley protested quietly.

"Then we'll become one," replied Zacharias seriously. Quietly, Shirley requested, "Can't you ask them to free up two rooms for us?"

Zacharias answered hoarsely, "No. They're going to tell everyone we're not on great terms."

"They won't."

"Just deal with it and share a room with me for a couple of nights." Zacharias wouldn't help her.

Speechless, Shirley bit her lip. She couldn't exactly say if she was looking forward to this, but she wasn't insisting on getting another room.

They had a candlelit dinner that night. There were only two of them, but they were served with more than twenty dishes. They weren't big enough to fill the couple, but they tasted good.

Shirley had a nice time. After dinner, she went through the art gallery and jewelry exhibit to wash her food down. At nine, she came to the master bedroom. She saw a pink, revealing nightgown on the hanger beside the bed and a

gray pair of men's pajamas draped beside it. Shirley stared at the nightgown, stunned. Zacharias crossed his arms, staring at her challengingly. "I challenge you to wear that nightgown."

*Challenge accepted. After all, I have a nice body." Shirley would not refuse a challenge, and she was easily riled up. Zacharias leaned down. "Wear it for me tonight."

Shirley regretted taking on the challenge and tried to find an excuse. "It's pretty chilly tonight, though."

"I'll make sure the AC is warm enough." Zacharias made sure she couldn't weasel her way out.

Shirley had no more excuses. She stared at the nightgown again. No woman can resist this. It's gorgeous. I guess I'll just wear it for him. We're already here anyway, and we're sharing a room now. There's nothing I can't do now.

"I have some work to do. You do whatever you want. Zacharias led her to the couch.

Shirley had nothing to do, so she watched as Zacharias took his laptop out, put it on the table, and stared at the screen. He typed away on the keyboard, sliding on his mousepad. His hands were beautiful. Ah, men are really hot when they work. Zacharias proves just that. Also, he has no idea how hot he is. He never cares about his looks, but that's why men like them are more charming.

Shirley looked at the time, deciding not to disturb him. When she picked up her phone, she noticed a text from her mother asking if she was having fun. Shirley put her phone on silent mode and chatted with her mother.

The clock struck ten. Zacharias was done with work, and he closed his laptop. He then asked Shirley, "Are you using the bathroom first, or should I go first instead?"

Shirley looked at him. "Go ahead."

"I challenge you to come in with me." Zacharias smiled.

"No." Shirley didn't fall for it this time. She realized she had to think every time before she answered Zacharias.

Zacharias laughed and got up for a shower. Shirley couldn't even pretend to watch the news. She was distracted by the sloshing of the water in the bathroom, and she got nervous. She stared at the bed that looked incredibly inviting. I have to share that bed with Zacharias tonight. Can I even fall asleep? Shirley became nervous upon thinking about that.

She looked at the couch. Hey, I can sleep on the couch. If worse comes to worst, I'll do that.

She was engrossed in her thoughts for a while, and the bathroom door creaked open. Zacharias didn't take his pajamas with him. He came out wearing nothing but a towel around his lower body, revealing his muscular build for Shirley's enjoyment.

Chapter 2422

Shirley looked at Zacharias and felt her cheeks burning up. I wonder if I can even sleep while in his arms.

"Get showered. I'll be waiting in bed," said Zacharias calmly.

Shirley got up and took the nightgown. She quickly went into the bathroom, too abashed to meet Zacharias' eyes. After showering, Shirley changed into the nightgown and stood before the mirror. She heaved a sigh. Even Shirley had to say she looked hot, let alone everyone else.

Her hair tumbled down her shoulders, fluffy like a cat and sensual like a succubus. Her cheeks were flushed from the shower, and her eyes were glistening. She bit her lip and took a deep breath before she opened the door. Shirley thought Zacharias was already in the bed and probably under the blanket, too, but she was shocked to see him leaning against the wall outside the bathroom. He had worn his gray pajamas, and his belt was loosely tied. His chest was revealed for Shirley to see, obviously trying to flirt with her.

Zacharias was smiling at her, a knowing look twinkling in his eyes. Meanwhile, Shirley was starting to breathe faster. Many women would fall for Zacharias without him even trying to flirt. "We..." Shirley tried to say something.

Zacharias pulled her into his embrace. Shirley felt her chin getting grabbed, and Zacharias leaned down for a kiss. He tightened his hold on her, and the silk pajamas they were wearing weren't doing much. They were almost skin-to-skin.

Shirley's heart was racing, and she couldn't hold back anymore. Zacharias pulled her into a world of lust. No matter what happened here, nothing could go wrong. Shirley had long fallen for Zacharias unknowingly.

“I want you, Shirley.” Zacharias’ breath slithered down Shirley’s neck. He pulled away from the woman and looked at her.

When Shirley raised her head, she was met with Zacharias’ gaze. It was a gaze filled with desire that had been held back for too long. Nervously, Shirley gulped. She couldn’t say no to his face. Instead, she buried her head in his chest and nodded. “Okay.”

Zacharias let out a heavy rush of air. He held Shirley’s chin and stopped her from moving away, and he made her look at him.

When Shirley saw his eyes again, her heart nearly jumped out of her chest. She could feel Zacharias’ desire for her, and he bent down for a kiss.

Part of the reason Zacharias lost control of his lust was Shirley herself, but the other part was her nightgown.

“Hold on, hold on.” Shirley was about to let everything loose too, but she held onto the last sliver of her sanity and pushed Zacharias away, panting.

Zacharias pressed his forehead against hers, his scorching breath burning Shirley’s face. “You’re going to kill me here.”

“Um, do you have that?” Shirley looked at him. She didn’t want to have a kid with him for now, so they had to use condoms.

Zacharias narrowed his eyes. “Give me a moment. I’ll tell someone to get it.”

Oh, so the whole resort’s going to know we’re f*cking tonight? Shirley was embarrassed to let anyone find out, and she didn’t think Zacharias would ask someone to get the rubber.

Her face was a shade of crimson when Zacharias left. Five minutes later, he came back holding something. He smiled at Shirley and approached her. Shirley saw him holding three condoms.

Shirley's face turned a deeper shade of magenta. He got three in one go? Can he even use them all? "Can you even use them all? You got a lot there," asked Shirley.

Zacharias felt underestimated. Frustrated, he pinned her down on the bed. "You underestimate me, Miss Lloyd."

Shirley looked at him. Oh no. I flipped his switch. I'm done for. He's going to use all three condoms tonight to prove he can do it. This is my first time. Can I even take three times?

For once in Shirley's life, she wanted to run away from a challenge, and she pushed Zacharias. "Um, I think I still have something to do. Why don't we sleep in different beds tonight?"

No one would believe that excuse, especially not Zacharias. She said yes just now, and now she's going to back off? Nope, it won't be that easy. Zacharias leaned down. "Okay, I'll just use one condom."

He tore Shirley's nightgown away, and then he went down on her.

The night was ecstatic, but Shirley realized something by the end of it. Never trust Zacharias. Zacharias went through all three condoms even though he said he would only use one. He took her for a ride the whole night. He can really last.

It was ten in the morning when Shirley woke up. Her hair tumbled behind her shoulders. She had become a woman, though she still had a bit of naivete left in her. She also had an air of maturity around her too.

Zacharias was already working. He came into the room and saw Shirley still on the bed, groggy. Feeling for her, he sat on the edge of the bed and ruffled Shirley's unkempt hair. Shirley rubbed her cheek on his arm like a kitten. Disgruntled, she said, "Next time, keep your promises."

Smiling, Zacharias kissed Shirley's forehead. "No guarantees. You're too gorgeous."

"You're blaming me?" Shirley looked at him indignantly, but she felt pleased inside.

“No, this is my fault.” Zacharias smiled, his eyes filled with love. A smile curled Shirley’s lips as well. Zacharias wanted to kiss her, but Shirley pushed him. “I haven’t brushed my teeth. Or washed my face. No kissing.”

“I don’t mind.” Zacharias’ eyes were twinkling with a smile.

Shirley felt sheepish. She got out of bed and, after being reminded of something, pulled the blanket back. “Um, what should we do about this?” She turned to look at Zacharias.

Zacharias looked at the patch of crimson on the sheets, feeling content. He pulled Shirley into his embrace, promising, “I’ll take responsibility for this. For life.”

Shirley knew why he was touched, but she wasn’t very traditional. She gave her first time to him because she loved and trusted him, not because she wanted to trap him for life. Patting Zacharias’ head, she said gently, “I did it willingly. Don’t feel guilty about it.” She smiled. “Even if you dump me somewhere down the line, I won’t get mad at you.”

Zacharias froze for a moment before holding Shirley tightly. “You’re not dumping me after you took my first time.”

Shirley chuckled. “Are you feeling insecure, Zacharias?”

Zacharias didn’t feel insecure. He just thought Shirley was being too carefree. She was like a gust of wind, impossible to tie down. He might lose her one day if he wasn’t paying attention. If she ran into someone better than him, he was worried she might dump him. Zacharias raised his head and imperiously said, “You’re never leaving me.”

Shirley held his cheeks. Even more imperiously, she said, “You’re mine. Only mine.”

Zacharias nodded. “I am yours.”

Throughout the day, the couple enjoyed everything the resort had to offer-its scenery, food, and wine. Zacharias took her to the cellar so she could pick the wine herself. Then, he took her hand and strolled

through the sea of flowers, watched the sunset, went on a ride, and sauntered on a quiet path in the woods.

Chapter 2424

They could totally be at ease here and enjoy their love. Shirley released her inner child and acted like her true self for once. The trip came to an end on the third day. They returned to town and took an evening flight back to their home country.

Shirley and Zacharias had confirmed their relationship on the way home. Even though Shirley was still Zacharias' intern bodyguard, she was treated like his wife in his residence. When Zacharias' car came to Flintstone Residence, Roy's men opened the door for him. Sheepishly, Shirley said, "I can do this myself."

The bodyguards stood beside her, protecting her out of habit. Shirley felt at ease after returning to the Flintstone Residence. Later that night, Roy handed a sealed item to Zacharias.

Shirley was coming downstairs. Seeing that, she curiously asked, "What's that you're holding?"

Zacharias quickly hid the item behind him, looking nervous. Shirley had strong observation skills. Even though Zacharias tried his best to act natural, she saw through his stiffness. "I can't see it?" Shirley crossed her arms.

"You won't be interested in this," said Zacharias, and he tried to leave. Suddenly, Shirley darted ahead and took the item away. Smugly, she said, "Someone's suspicious."

Since Shirley had taken the item away, Zacharias felt like laughing, but he held it back. "If you're that interested, you can open up and check what it is."

Hm, he's giving me permission. She opened up the package, and ten boxes of a certain item fell to the ground. Shirley felt petrified seeing the boxes of condoms, and her face turned red. "W-Why did you get so many condoms?" Shirley was feeling dizzy.

Zacharias went down and picked the condoms up. "I couldn't possibly buy these myself, so I told Roy to get me a ton of it."

Oh, right. Most people can just go into a convenience store and get a box of it if they need to have some sexy time, but if this guy goes into a convenience store to get a box of condoms, he's going to make it to the headlines. That means I'll be on the headline too. "You can ask me to get it next time." Shirley was still blushing. Roy's going to be embarrassed buying this stuff after all.

"Will you do it?" Zacharias smiled.

"Of course. I need this too, so why can't I buy it?" Shirley realized she could be more open about bedroom matters now. That night, Shirley took a shower in the guest room. Zacharias was still working, so Shirley didn't disturb him.

Instead, she waited for him in her room.

Zacharias went into the master bedroom at eleven. When he realized it was empty, he was surprised. She's too scared to sleep with me again? Zacharias picked up his pajamas and went to the guest room on the second floor. He opened up Shirley's room and went inside, holding his pajamas. "You're sleeping here tonight?"

Shirley liked her own room, and she nodded. "Yes. I'm sleeping here tonight."

Spring was coming soon, but the weather was getting colder. Shirley thought it was a blessing she could sleep in a warm embrace. Zacharias went for a shower while Shirley lay on the bed, watching some news.

Zacharias came out with nothing but a towel on. He didn't wear his pajamas. Shirley rested her chin on her hand and joked, "You look the hottest when you're not wearing anything."

Zacharias narrowed his eyes and turned off the lights, plunging the room into darkness. Shirley heard something getting tossed onto the couch. She felt the blanket flying in the air for a moment, and then Zacharias got into the bed.

Chapter 2425

Zacharias chuckled. "So, you have wished, so shall it be."

Shirley felt herself getting pulled into a warm embrace. She could smell the scent of shampoo on Zacharias. It tickled her heart, and she wanted to get closer to him. Holding her nape, Zacharias kissed her. It was a gentle kiss, enough to melt Shirley. She thought she was going to become a puddle.

In the dark, she tasted Zacharias, and her whole body was overwhelmed by his scent. He nibbled on her lip and dipped down lower. Shirley was shivering, her hands held by Zacharias. In the darkness, Zacharias took what he wanted from her like a predator.

Dawn came. When Shirley opened her eyes, Zacharias had gone to work. Contented, she slept in the place he slept in, sniffing his lingering scent. All she could think of was everything that happened the night before. That was crazy.

Zacharias left a note for her on the table, telling her to stay at home and take a break, and if she wanted to leave the house, she must have bodyguards following her around. After that harrowing kidnapping in Flor, he would not let her get into any risky situation again.

Shirley wanted to swing by her grandmother's place in the afternoon. She didn't ask Zacharias' bodyguards to follow her as she didn't want to waste his resources. If he needed bodyguards, but they were protecting her, he would be in danger. Shirley had nothing to fear back in her home country.

Shirley had lunch at her grandmother's place. It had been a long time since Ava saw her granddaughter. She thought the girl felt a little more grown up this time. She noticed the hickey on Shirley's neck, but her eyes weren't as good as they were, so she thought it was a mosquito bite. "It's winter. It's not mosquito season, so..."

Shirley's cheeks burned up. She quickly clapped her hand on the hickey. "No, no, it was a mosquito. There was one in my room last night." A big and fierce one, too. Ava said, "You have to close the windows. Don't want the bugs to come in."

"Of course, Grandma." Shirley smiled. Whew, that was close. Curious, Ava asked, "So, how's it going between you and the vice president? When's the meeting with the parents?"

"We're getting along well. Won't be seeing the parents soon." Shirley was still a little embarrassed about breaking the secret to her parents.

“Tell him to come over and have dinner sometimes.”

“Not a good idea, Grandma. You know who he is. He can’t go around anywhere he wants,” said Shirley.

Ah, right. The vice president can’t visit just anyone he wants to.

It was almost five, and Shirley wanted to go home. Just then, someone rang the doorbell. Shirley said, “I’ll get it, Grandma.” She came into the courtyard, and when she saw who was standing outside, her eyes went wide. “What brings you here?” She was surprised, but she opened the door for Zacharias.

“Came to see Ava.” Zacharias smiled, holding presents up.

Shirley knew she was tailed again. How else would he find out I came here? “I was just about to go home, and you showed up,” said Shirley.

“We’ll have dinner with Ava, then.” Zacharias smiled. Well, Grandma wants to see him anyway. Shirley nodded. “Sure. Tell Roy to patrol the perimeter.”

“Don’t worry. They know what to do without you telling them.” Zacharias put an arm around Shirley and took her into the courtyard.

Ava wondered who the guest was. She then saw a young man coming in. He was handsome and dashing, just like the perfect grandson-in-law she wanted. Ava stood up, welcoming Zacharias. “Hello, Mr. Vice President.”

Chapter 2426

“Just call me Zach, Ava.”

“Very well then, Zach.” Ava didn’t like honoraries either.

“He’ll be having dinner with us tonight,” said Shirley.

“Oh, good. I can show off my cooking.” Happily, Ava went into the kitchen to work. Shirley wanted to help, but Ava kicked her out. “Go and accompany my future grandson-in-law.” That was what she said.

Shirley covered her mouth and came back out, smiling. She saw Zacharias looking at the photos around the house. Ava’s house had an Eastern design. Standing in this house, Zacharias looked a little different than he usually was. Shirley came up to him and held his arm.

Zacharias smiled. “So, when are your parents coming back for Christmas?”

Oh, he wants to meet my parents. Shirley pursed her lips and shook her head. “No idea. They haven’t called me yet.”

She’s trying to run away. Zacharias put an arm around Shirley’s shoulder. “Why don’t I invite your family to celebrate Christmas at my place this year?”

Shirley’s eyes went wide. “Really?”

“Yes. Should be more fun celebrating Christmas with two families around,” said Zacharias.

Oh, right. There’s only him, his dad, and Tony celebrating Christmas anyway. It’s a little quiet. Shirley nodded. “Sure. We’ll celebrate Christmas together.” Shirley then helped Ava wash the greens and set up the table.

Zacharias fell in love with Shirley more, seeing her working hard.

Ava made a five-course meal. Homemade food, of course. It felt like home having dinner here. Zacharias felt nostalgic. It had been too long since he had homemade food. Ever since his mother’s passing, that household didn’t feel like home. Back when he was a teenager, his father hired the best servants around to cook for him, but the food never tasted like home. Now, he found that taste again.

“Eat your greens, Zach,” said Ava.

“You’re a good cook, Ava. I love these.” Zacharias smiled.

Ava loved the compliments. She liked Zacharias. Both Zacharias and Shirley had their fill. Later, they walked out of Ava’s house, and Zacharias suggested they take a walk.

Shirley smiled. “Don’t make things hard for Roy and his men. Let’s go home and just walk around the field.”

Zacharias nodded. “Of course.”

They walked to the car. Even though the stretch of road outside Ava’s house was a quiet spot, a car hidden nearby had someone in it aiming their camera at the couple. The person took careful but clear shots. In the photo, Zacharias was holding Shirley’s hand, and in the photo of them in the car, Zacharias had an arm around Shirley’s shoulder. The person also took photos of Zacharias kissing Shirley’s hair and them sharing an embrace.

It was obvious they were in love. The person only tucked their phone away after Zacharias’ convoy was gone. They sent the pictures to a private account and called someone.

“What?”

“Those photos I just sent? Latest news. Zacharias is seeing someone.”

“Which family is the lady from?”

Chapter 2427

Shirley rested her head on Zacharias’ shoulder and happily enjoyed the piggyback ride. “I loved piggyback rides when I was little,” said Shirley, reminiscing.

“You were adorable as a child. Of course, everyone loved to give you piggyback rides.” Zacharias smiled. He was reminded of Shirley when she was younger, and he cursed himself for never trying to even give her a hug.

Shirley asked, "Was I really that cute when I was a kid?"

"Yep, you were," said Zacharias honestly, nodding. Shirley was reminded of that time he brought up the talk about kids. If we have kids, I wonder who they'll take after. Me or him?

Christmas was coming soon. Shirley got a call from her mother. Her folks were coming back, so she went home and told the servants to clean the whole place. It would be good to have a reunion. It had only been ten minutes after Shirley hung up when her mother called again. It surprised Shirley. Did Mom forget to tell me something? She took the call. "Hey, Mom. Anything you need to tell me?"

"I just talked to your grandmother. She told me you're dating Zacharias? Is that true?" Angela was shocked like she had heard the most fantastical news.

Shirley pursed her lips. Okay, didn't think Grandma would spill the tea. Sheepish but honest, Shirley answered, "Yes, we're dating."

"Tell us when you're taking him to see us. We need to get ready for it." Angela smiled.

Shirley thought Angela would lecture her. After all, she did start dating without telling her family. She didn't think Angela would talk about the meeting with the parents. "You and Dad have to get ready before you come back. Zacharias said we'll be celebrating Christmas together. Both our families."

"Oh, that's fast." Angela was delighted. "I thought we'd have to wait for a while."

"You aren't surprised I'm dating someone, Mom?" Shirley asked, curious.

"Nope. Who do you think wanted you to get that internship? Not your dad. Yes, it was me all along. I wanted you to date Zacharias."

Shirley's eyes went wide. What? Mom got that internship for me on purpose? "So, you've been planning this all along, Mom? I can't..." Shirley was at a loss for words.

“I know. Unbelievable, right? Just a hop and a skip, and hey presto, Zacharias is now your fiancé.” Angela was happy she made this decision.

Shirley was half amused, half annoyed. So, Mom set me up.

“I’ll tell your father about this. You kids get along now.” Angela hung up.

Shirley put her phone down and smiled happily. Maybe destiny wanted us to be together.

Three days later, Shirley was told that Imogen had been extradited. She would serve her sentence in the nation. Her sentence? Life imprisonment. Shirley didn’t feel fazed hearing that piece of news. Everyone has to pay for their actions.

It was late at night. In a private, upscale tea shop, three silhouettes congregated. The light was dim, so their faces could not be seen. On the table were photos of Shirley and her parents. The trio fell into their thoughts.

“We cannot go after her unless we’re out of our minds.”

“Our target is Zacharias. Only when he steps down or disappears will it benefit us, or we’re going to be kicked out of the game.”

“Zacharias’ policies are impossible for us. He’s obviously coming after us. His ascension to power will rid us of our strength. Apparently, he’s dating this woman because he wants the power and backing of her family. They can strengthen his hold on his position.”

“We need to come up with a perfect plan. This time, we cannot let Zacharias escape.”

Chapter 2428

The trio’s eyes glinted cruelly. These men were Zacharias’ enemies. They were also the ones who sent killers after Zacharias on the highway, but Lady Luck was on Zacharias’ side at that time, and he escaped.

In the morning, three days later, Shirley was told that her parents were back. Happily, she drove back home to welcome them. Zacharias had work to do, so he couldn't leave. She was the only one who could come to her parents.

Richard was in the garden, watering the flowers. The first thing his wife saw after their return was the wilting of her beloved flowers. It dampened her mood, so the first thing he did was to tend to the flowers.

"Dad!" Shirley called, and she went into the lounge. Angela was in the lounge, sorting out the flowers she bought. She was trimming them, about to house them in her vase. Angela was a woman who loved life. No matter which home she was in, it was a warm and lovely place.

"Whoa, Mom, you're getting better at flower arrangement." Shirley was always in awe of the art pieces in the house when she came in.

Angela smiled. "Of course. This is my life's love." She looked past her daughter. "You're alone? Where's your boyfriend?"

"He's busy, especially now. Tons of work to do.

so he couldn't make it," said Shirley, a little resigned.

Angela paused for a moment. Oh, right. I forgot about that. Zacharias is perfect, but he's a super busy man. "You'll have to bear with him. His work is monumental," said Angela.

"I know." Shirley nodded before looking at her mother curiously. "Mom, can you tell me how you wooed Dad?"

Angela stopped trimming her flowers for a moment. She recalled her sweet memories, and she said, "I made the first move. He was too popular. If I hadn't made the first move, I would never have made him mine."

“Didn’t you only make him yours because he stayed in the base all the time and never got to see any girls?” Shirley asked.

“It was a romantic process, how your father and I met. And one little thing kickstarted our relationship.”

“What is it?”

“A stick of lipstick,” said Angela.

“Was Dad that romantic?” Shirley smiled.

Angela told Shirley about her past, specifically how she met her husband. Shirley thought it was an interesting story, and she was glad she was born into a family filled with love. A while later, Angela took Shirley with her and picked Ava up. They were going to have dinner together that night.

Back in Zacharias’ office, Freddie asked someone to come in. He presented a report from their secret trackers. After reading the report, Zacharias’ face fell. “These parasites think they can topple me.”

“We need to make our move, sir. We cannot let them have the high ground. If we had evidence about their involvement in the explosion, we would never have let them run around for so long.”

Zacharias nodded. “Summon the minister for security. We need to work together this time.” He raised his head. “And on what day am I free?”

Freddie checked the itinerary. “Your schedule for this week is full. Even your mealtimes are reserved for appointments.”

“See if you can cancel any.” Zacharias frowned.

“No. They’re all meetings with foreign guests. You have to be present,” said Freddie, a little troubled.

Zacharias nodded. "I see. You may leave now." After Freddie was gone, Zacharias picked up his phone and called Shirley, Gently, he asked,

"Are your folks back?"

Chapter 2429

"I'll be staying at my place tonight, then. I probably can't go back to your place for a few days," Shirley said. With her parents around, she couldn't stay overnight at someone else's place.

"It's alright. Spend some time with your family." Zacharias chuckled. "I can hold it in."

Shirley chuckled, too. "What if I can't hold it in?"

"Then you come to me anytime you want," Zacharias responded in a husky voice.

Shirley blushed. It's getting worse. Can we even do it if I go at random times? She then imagined how she would flirt with the serious Zacharias, and she thought she was getting a little pervy.

After the call, Shirley went out with her parents to get some Christmas stuff. Moreover, they had to visit their relatives. Three days went by, and not once did Shirley get to see Zacharias. She couldn't even call him at night, worried that he might be seeing guests.

She would love to video call him at eleven, but it was too late, and she didn't want to disturb him. He would be having an early day the next day. Eventually, Shirley's longing was getting too heavy to bear.

The same went for Zacharias. Every day, when he came back home from work, it was already late at night. He missed Shirley dearly, but he didn't want to wake her up, so he held his longing back. Unbeknownst to him, Shirley would also be in her bed thinking about him.

Ugh, it's so hard just to see him now that I'm not at his place. She started missing the days at his residence. She could see him any time she wanted to.

Time passed, and it was now two days before Christmas. It had been five days since Shirley saw Zacharias. She texted him, 'You busy? Can we meet up for just ten minutes?'

Zacharias called her. Shirley's heart raced, and she took the call. "Hello?"

"Come to my office. I've spared twenty minutes to see you," said Zacharias. His time was valuable-his itinerary was even scheduled to minutes.

Shirley quickly said, "I'm going right now." She hung up, picked up her bag, and trotted to the porch just to backtrack and check her outfit in the mirror. She then got a new outfit and changed into it. Only then did she leave. No one but lovers who were madly in love could understand the delight someone could have when they were on a trip to see their beloved.

Even the air was sweet despite how chilly it was. The scenery was gorgeous, and Shirley smiled. After going through a series of checks, she finally stood before Zacharias' building where he worked. The people going around were staff members or those who had important business to settle. She was the only one here to see a guy.

Freddie was waiting for the escalator. When he saw her coming out, he said, "Ah, Miss Lloyd, you're here."

"Hey, Mr. Hurst, is the vice president..."

"He's waiting for you in his office." Freddie smiled.

Shirley went around Freddie, her cheeks burning. Freddie knows why I'm here, but why am I embarrassed? I'm just here to see Zacharias. Eventually, Shirley was standing in front of the office. For some reason, she was breathing heavily, and as her heart raced, she knocked on the door.

Someone opened the door from inside. Zacharias had taken his suit off, leaving a white shirt on. He looked and felt professional, and he radiated a regal air that many leaders had.

Shirley could never hold back when something so delightful was standing before her. She acted natural when she came in, but right after she stepped into his office, she pounced on Zacharias. Zacharias held her tightly and closed the door, and then he bolted it.

Shirley raised her head. Zacharias pinned her against the wall beside the door. He held her chin, leaning down for a powerful kiss.

Electric currents swam through Shirley's body, and she tensed up. We're in his office! His sacred office!

Chapter 2430

Yet now, he's pinning me against a wall and kissing me like crazy. This is thrilling. The more thrilling it was, the more Shirley melted. In the end, she let herself go and went along with the crazy game. She wrapped her arms around Zacharias' neck.

The kiss went on for three minutes, and it soothed their longing slightly. Shirley raised her head, her eyes glistening with timidity. Both their eyes were also gleaming with desire.

"Come to my place tonight," requested Zacharias quietly. Their kiss was not enough to quench his thirst. He had missed Shirley too much.

Shirley gulped nervously. "I'll tell my folks I'm taking the day off."

Zacharias looked at the sheepish lady and kissed her forehead. "Sure."

Shirley wrapped her arms around Zacharias' waist. She loved his cool, alluring scent, and she looked at him closely, trying to see if he was exhausted from all the work. Fortunately, Zacharias seemed to have an abundance of energy. He looked as lively as ever.

"Have you been busy lately?" Zacharias held Shirley's hand and led her to his couch. He picked up his teacup and handed it to her.

Shirley took it and had a sip of water before she nodded. "A bit, but not as busy as you."

Zacharias took a seat, staring at Shirley's face in love. Shirley held up the teacup, enjoying the attention he was giving her.

Just then, Zacharias thought of something on a whim. He wanted to take her along for dinner later. "I have an appointment tonight. Dinner, if you will. Can you come with me?"

It was an appointment with another country's vice president. He would bring his wife along as well, so Zacharias wanted to bring Shirley with him.

Shirley was a little nervous hearing that she would be meeting an important guest. "Me? Who are we meeting?"

"Dansbury's vice president and his wife," Zacharias said. She smiled. "This will be part of your life eventually. You can practice for it."

Shirley realized that marrying Zacharias didn't just mean a regular marriage. She had responsibility. She must stand with him and face the future together. Bravely, she said, "Of course. I'll go."

She was willing to face anything with him. No matter how nervous she was, she must conquer her fears. Marrying him was not an unconditional thing. She must become a woman who could face anything with courage.

Zacharias was touched. He pulled her into his embrace and kissed her forehead. "Thank you for coming with me."

"Part of my job." Shirley smiled. This was her honor. When she told her parents about it, they backed her up. They knew the responsibility Zacharias was carrying, and if their daughter wanted to marry him, part of that responsibility would fall on her as well.

Noon arrived. Shirley was in the waiting room. A makeup team and outfit team were serving her. These people were professionals. They picked a light green gown that gave off a fresh feeling. It was simple yet elegant. Shirley's hair was curled, which made her look even more elegant.

Shirley stood before the mirror, looking at herself. She pursed her lips and took a deep breath. I have to bring my A-game tonight. I can't embarrass Zacharias.

Then, it was evening. Zacharias stopped working and came out of the conference room. Freddie draped a suit over him and said, "Sir, Miss Lloyd awaits you in the waiting room."

Zacharias made his way to the waiting room, buttoning his sleeves. Shirley was on the couch, reading. When he saw her, he was stunned by her beauty. She looked gorgeous, with the regal backdrop accentuating her. Zacharias stopped breathing for a moment.

Shirley sensed someone coming in. She looked up and saw Zacharias and stood up, smiling. "Is it time to go?"