Chapter 18

Katty held her face and asked, "Then, what if I am not willing?"

When it came to marriage, Granny had reminded her repeatedly not to acquiesce; and especially, not to force herself!

Her happiness must be placed at the top of her priority.

Even though it was a sham marriage of convenience, Katty was still not very willing about it.

At her words, Markus looked at her even more darkly. "You heard what Mr. Albert said just now?"

So, that meant that if she rejected again, her only outcome would be to leave Harborlean!

Katty wanted to say something but when she met the sharp gaze of Markus, she realized that she could not object. So instead, she swallowed her words.

Faced with her silence, Markus asked, "Where's your passport?"

"It's with my elder sister," Katty lowered her head and replied.

Markus glanced at the time on his wristwatch and said, "I'll let you have the afternoon off. Go and get it."

Somehow, Katty now felt that it was a forced marriage!

She had fantasized about her marriage and wedding. She had fantasized about having simple roses and candles. She had also fantasized about discussing the dowry with the groom's parents.

But the kind of marriage where only a passport was required was a fantasy she didn't dream of having.

Even though she felt the coercion, she could only nod her head. "Then, how long?"

Markus raised his brows. "What do you mean how long?"

"Didn't you say it was only a marriage of convenience?" Katty finally recovered from it and knew that she could not escape it.

She could only try to ask and clarify some things as much as possible.

When it came to the duration, Markus knitted his brows. "You'll have to ask Mr. Albert about this."

He only knew that they had to put a stop to that woman's scheme. He did not know exactly how long that would be.

Katty's face was distorted with grief but she dared not go and ask Chris.

She left Markus' office.

Katty was despondent.

Chris was going over documents in his office. When he raised his head and glanced outside, he saw Katty packing up and leaving through the blinds.

Her despondency made him very indignant.

Chris asked in a low voice when Markus came in. "All done?"

Markus nodded and said, "By right, you should have been the one to do it. It's your marriage after all!"

But alas, this man only knew how to threaten people the moment he opened his mouth. Markus was really afraid that he would scare her off.

Even though many women wanted to marry him in Harborlean, it was not easy to find someone who was suitable!

Chris' face darkened as he kept silent.

Katty's reluctance had obviously got him rather hot under the collar.

Markus said, "I gave her the afternoon off to go and get her passport. Miss Minj has an elder sister here."

Chris gave a faint affirmation and did not say anything else.

Markus also felt that it was understandable he did not ask further.

After all, it was a marriage of convenience between the two of them. So, there was no need to go into the regular customs of a wedding.

Katty walked out of Albert Group but did not leave immediately. She had sent Tally a message earlier.

She waited at the flower bed nearby the company.

Before long, Tally arrived.

She was out of breath from running and plopped herself down beside Katty.

She handed Katty a packet of beef jerky and took a few gulps of the frozen lemonade before asking, "What happened this time?"

Katty took the beef jerky and ate. "I am getting married!"

"Pfui!" When Tally heard this, she did a spit take and the frozen lemonade spewed out of her mouth.

She looked at Katty in shock. "What did you say? I didn't catch that!"

Didn't she say she would accompany her and put off marriage and pregnancy for now? Was she abandoning her now?

Katty lowered her head. "To Mr. Albert."

"What? What is this now?"

Tally was utterly confused by what Katty had said.

Even though Markus had said that it was a marriage of convenience and it would be kept under wraps, Katty did not wish to keep it from Tally.

After all, she would not be able to either!

And so, she told Tally everything that had happened just now, leaving no details unsaid. At the end of it, Tally's mouth was left open in shock.

Even though Katty said it very clearly, Tally was still very confused.

"They know that you were the woman that night?" It was a long time before Tally managed to ask.

Katty shook her head. "They do not know. But from now on, if anyone asks me, I have to say that it was me!"

Tally still did not understand.

What the hell was this?

So, Chris did not actually know that it was Katty that night? But he had to get married now.

And Katty had to be the woman that night? Why was that? To thwart the plot of the person behind it?

It was a while before Tally managed to get everything straightened out.

She exclaimed in shock, "Just what is the deal with you and Mr. Albert?"

This was no destiny. Not anything good in any case. It was too terrifying.

If Chris knew that it was her that night, things would definitely turn out differently.

"You have to agree then!" Tally said.

If she did not agree, it would most probably implicate her as well.

Katty informed, "If I do not agree, I will have to leave Harborlean!"

"Your leaving Harborlean is not a big thing... But if the Johnsons have to leave Harborlean..."

What a disaster!

The two of them had worked so hard to hide it. As it was, they had no choice but to keep hiding it.

"What do you plan to do now?" Tally asked when she was faced with Katty's silence.

Katty replied, "Go to my elder sister's place and get my passport."

When her mother remarried back then, she left her own passport with her stepfather.

Hers and her elder sister's were with Granny. When Granny passed away, their passports were kept together.

Hearing that she was going to her sister's, Tally handed her car keys over. "Here."

Katty shook her head. "Not driving."

Her elder sister and her husband lived in the suburbs of Harborlean. If she drove there in Tally's Porsche, it would be too ostentatious.

Tally thought about it and agreed. "In that case, I'll send you to the subway station and drop you off there."

Katty shook her head again. "No need. I still need to buy some stuff at the mall."

Even though she and her sister were in the same city, she seldom visited her sister because she did not want to put her in a tight spot.

Every time she visited her, she would bring a lot of things for her niece so that her sister's in-laws would not make disparaging or waspish comments.

"In that case, I'll drop you off at the mall then? That's got to be okay, right?" The consecutive rejections were getting to Tally, and she was about to flare up.

Katty smiled and gave Tally a hug as she said, "Tally, why are you such a sweetheart?"

Ever since she met Tally, Tally had been really good to her. Junior high school was the phase of formative years.

Back then, many of her classmates looked down on her as she was poor. Only Tally—even though she was an heiress—was willing to hang out with her.

Katty's words sent Tally over the moon and the stress of being exposed dissipated. "Now you know how good I am? Are you having dinner at your sister's place tonight?"

"I don't know. Don't wait for me tonight."

"Alright." Tally nudged her.

The two of them got up and made their way to the underground parking garage. In the car, Katty called her sister, Jessica Quinton, and asked about her niece—how tall and heavy she was.

Jessica knew that she wanted to buy clothes for her daughter and said tenderly, "You don't have to buy anything for her. She has a lot of clothes. Get yourself some good food on your payday. If you have any money left, then put it in your savings and save for a rainy day. You will need it in the future."

Jessica's concern warmed the cockles of Katty's heart.

She knew that her sister was very thrifty. The kid's clothes were made of good materials and were not worn out yet. So, every time she visited, the kid's clothes were visibly shortened!

Thus, when her sister said that her niece had a lot of clothes, it was only because Jessica could not bear to throw a lot away. She did not buy new clothes for herself.