

Chapter 152 Humiliate Me Fight Back!

In the late hours of the night, Rena escorted Vera wearily back to her apartment, their exhaustion evident in their weary faces.

However, despite their weariness, slumber eluded them, refusing to grant them respite.

Seeking to provide solace, Rena made a steaming cup of cocoa for Vera, hoping it would bring her comfort in their shared unrest.

Filled with a desperate desire to convince Vera, Rena longed to find the right words to sway her. Alas, the path to persuasion eluded her, leaving her uncertain of how to navigate the delicate matter at hand.

Seated on the sofa, Vera cradled the warm cup of cocoa, her eyes fixed upon its contents. After a prolonged silence, she finally lifted her gaze and posed a tender question to Rena, her voice gentle and trembling, "Rena, do you perceive me as cheap?" With a gentle shake of her head, Rena vehemently denied such a notion, offering reassurance to her

troubled companion.

She possessed an intimate understanding of Vera's anguish, having witnessed it unfold from its inception to its culmination.

In response, Vera's eyes fell, casting a veil over her emotions as tears cascaded into the cup, their sorrow mingling with the liquid within.

Vera had once harbored a profound love for Joseph, despite his despicable nature. Such was the depth of her affection, an enduring sentiment that persisted even in the face of his reprehensible actions.

Quivering with emotion, Vera revealed her innermost desires, her voice trembling, "I yearn to smoke, Rena... I crave the solace of a cigarette."

Sensing Vera's desperation, Rena helped retrieve a cigarette from her friend's bag, offering it to her trembling hands. With her head bowed, Vera cautiously lit the cigarette, taking a drag before summoning the courage to continue.

Her voice still quivering, she disclosed a disheartening revelation. "Aline underwent an amniocentesis. The results revealed she carries a baby boy. Joseph's parents welcomed her into their home, providing her with attentive care, while the staff all treat her like she's Joseph's real wife."

Vera's gaze locked with Rena's as she made a poignant declaration, "Rena, I yearn for a divorce."

Understanding the gravity of Vera's decision, Rena consented, yet a lingering fear clutched her heart. She feared that Joseph would not acquiesce to the dissolution of their marriage with ease.

In response to Rena's concerns, Vera emitted a soft chuckle, an echo tinged with bitterness.

"Do you believe Joseph still harbors feelings for me? No, his apprehension stems from the fear that Aline's baby may not safely come into this world. Should he divorce me for the sake of that child and then Aline fails to deliver, he would end up with nothing and become a laughingstock."

Caught off guard by this revelation, Rena's surprise was palpable, the weight of the situation sinking in.

Having finished her cigarette, Vera added in a hushed tone, her words laden with concern, "Rena, I'm afraid that what occurred between Roscoe and me will have repercussions for you. I heard from him that you had a good rapport with Robert. However, Robert's mother is a challenging person to get along with."

In a gesture of comfort, Rena gently patted Vera's hand.

"Vera, let us refrain from discussing this matter for now."

Yet, deep within Rena, a vague sense of unease lingered.

She couldn't shake the feeling that Robert's absence from the banquet was somehow connected to the events involving Vera and Roscoe. However, Rena harbored no intention of placing blame on Vera.

During her most trying moments, Vera had stood by her side, extending her utmost support. And she would do the same.

That night, the weight of their thoughts prevented restful slumber as they shared the same bed.

Troubled minds occupied their nocturnal hours.

As dawn broke, Joseph arrived, his bloodshot eyes betraying the turmoil within him. Standing at the doorstep, he inquired, "Is Vera here?"

Rena nodded, granting him entry.

Maintaining an air of composure, she calmly poured a glass of water for Joseph, placing it on the coffee table. "I will fetch Vera. You two should have a sincere conversation."

Rena's composed demeanor struck Joseph as surprising, prompting him to cautiously ask, "How is she?"

A faint smile adorned Rena's face as she replied,

"What do you think? Your parents have taken Aline under their wing. Joseph... Many once envied your marriage and now many are left astounded by your actions towards her."

Feeling a pang of embarrassment, Joseph touched his nose, struggling to find words to justify his behavior.

"I didn't take Aline seriously. Besides, Vera also had an affair..."

Sensing that further words were unnecessary, Rena held her silence.

She entered the room and called out to Vera, urging her, "You should engage in a heartfelt conversation with him."

After a while, Vera emerged from the room, her countenance bearing the weight of their conversation.

Perhaps due to the intensity of their argument the previous night, they found themselves lacking the energy to engage in further quarrels that day.

Sitting across from Joseph, Vera spoke with a cold detachment, "Let us proceed with a divorce."

Joseph's gaze remained fixed upon her, his expression a mix of contemplation and disbelief.

After a prolonged silence, he finally responded, his words carrying a hint of desperation, "My

parents took Aline to their home without informing me! I did not request such actions. Vera... you will forever be my legal wife! As long as you sever ties with Roscoe, we can restore our previous harmonious relationship."

Vera averted her gaze, peering out of the window as she contemplated his proposition.

With a somber tone, she questioned, "And what about the child?"

Joseph found himself at a loss for words.

In his heart, Vera held a significant place but so too did his unborn son.

Aline carried his child and his parents showered her with care and affection. This immutable fact lingered in his mind, impervious to change.

Meeting his gaze, Vera suddenly erupted into laughter.

Her voice was tinged with bitter irony as she said, "Joseph, I can't fathom why I married you all those years ago. You are nothing but a coward. In all honesty, ever since my affair with Roscoe, I've ceased to care about our marriage. You may choose whomever you desire as your wife."

Aware of Vera's affair with Roscoe and reprimanded harshly by his parents, Joseph saw little point in pleading with her any longer.

"Very well, I agree to divorce you! However, you are the one who shattered our marriage. You shall not lay claim to any of my possessions! Furthermore, let us finalize the formalities six months from now. By doing so, when Aline gives birth, I can immediately register our son's place of residence."

Vera's laughter rang out, echoing with a bitter irony. Was she truly the one responsible for the demise of their once-promising marriage?

Regardless, she no longer wished to engage in further arguments with Joseph. Her sole desire was to bring an end to this union.

Nodding in agreement, Vera's response unsettled Joseph, evoking a hint of discomfort within him.

"Well... You may continue residing in the house."

"No, I will move out today!"

Vera's unexpected determination caught Joseph off guard.

He absentmindedly placed a cigarette between his lips, forgetting to ignite it for an extended period.

In that moment, a tinge of sadness washed over him.

There was a time when he had deeply loved Vera.

She had possessed an undeniable allure and breathtaking beauty, requiring his considerable effort and time to win her affections.

Aline, on the other hand, was a different kind of woman.

From the beginning to the end, Aline had embodied dissolute tendencies.

It was for this woman that he had divorced Vera.

All of a sudden, Joseph found himself unable to meet Vera's gaze, unable to bear the weight of her disdain and her entanglement with Roscoe.

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It took Rena two days to find a suitable residence for Vera.

Rena had hoped that Vera would choose to live with her, believing that their bond as friends could provide solace. However, Vera asserted that they were both adults with their own private lives.

Rena couldn't help but suspect that Vera's decision was influenced by the fact that Roscoe would visit her at her new home for intimate encounters.

Vera perceived Rena's thoughts effortlessly, playfully flipping her hair as she casually remarked, "As a woman, I have my own physical needs. Roscoe is skilled in the realm of passion and satisfies my desires."

A blush tinged Rena's cheeks, her embarrassment evident.

Deliberately, Vera posed a question, "And what

about you and Robert...?"

Rena hadn't even shared a kiss with Robert.

She couldn't pinpoint the reason behind their lack of passion. In essence, their connection lacked the fiery spark that defines an ardent romance.

Mentioning Robert, Rena recalled that he had not reached out to her in the past couple of days.

Vague suspicions began to form in her mind.

Rena stepped outside and answered the call, greeted by the voice of an elder woman, emanating dignity and grace.

"Miss Gordon, I am Robert's mother. I would like to meet you."

Half an hour later.

Rena entered a luxurious coffee shop and spotted an elegant lady seated near the window.

She bore a striking resemblance to Robert.

Approaching the table, Rena took her seat. Sporting a subtle smile, she inquired, "Are you Robert's mother?"

Winnie removed her sunglasses, her gaze scrutinizing Rena from head to toe.

Rena, having weathered numerous experiences, exuded a sense of calm.

After a considerable silence, Winnie nonchalantly remarked, "You are even more beautiful than I had

imagined! It is no wonder Robert fell in love with you at first sight and insisted on introducing us. I am acquainted with your family background, as you are the stepdaughter of my old classmate. However, I have recently heard rumors about your eventful personal life."

Maintaining her composure, Rena calmly responded, "Please proceed."

Winnie tilted her chin haughtily.

"Roscoe, Robert's cousin, has become entangled with a woman of questionable character. I've also heard that woman, Vera, has yet to finalize her divorce. Such a woman cannot enter the Figueroa family. Moreover, I am aware that you and Vera share a history as both old classmates and close friends. It is even rumored that you were once involved with Waylen.

Miss Gordon, I do not wish for Robert to be tied to a woman with a tarnished reputation like Vera.

Therefore, if you wish to pursue a relationship with Robert, you must sever all ties with Vera. Furthermore, you must distance yourself from Waylen. Gossip has a way of spreading fear. It would be prudent for you to spend some time abroad until the public's memory of your past fades. Only then will I consider the possibility of your marriage to Robert."

With a graceful poise, Winnie delicately savored her coffee, convinced that Rena, if she possessed any intelligence, would make the right choice.

However, Rena's laughter filled the air.

"I sincerely appreciate your advice but I am afraid I cannot comply.

I refuse to sever ties with Vera; she will always be a cherished friend to me. As for my past involvement with Waylen, I see no shame in it! If you hold a genuine interest in me, feel free to continue your investigations. Let me share an intriguing tidbit: I was once in a four-year relationship with the current son-in-law of the Fowler family! Quite fascinating, wouldn't you say?

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Winnie's countenance grew dark, her finger pointed at Rena, trembling with anger.

No one had ever dared to challenge her like this before!