

## Chapter 55

It was human nature to gossip . Olivia's decision to give up her studies for a secret marriage had long become a mystery at the University of Aldenvine.

Everyone was curious about her relationship with the usually aloof Keith.

Although Ethan was watching in silence , she could feel the pressure from his gaze.

She put her utensils down, wiping her mouth gracefully with a napkin as she addressed the guests. " Are you that curious?"

"Of course! Olivia, tell us! A late friend of mine even told me to visit her at the grave and update her about your secret husband when I learned about him!"

"Yeah, an old classmate of mine is curious about that too."

Olivia scanned the room and put on a bright smile. " My secret husband is ..." She deliberately stared at Ethan for a tad longer.

He remained expressionless . But he was rubbing the area between his left thumb and index finger with the fingers of his right hand.

She had lived with him long enough to know that he was sending her a warning—he would not want her to

mention him.

She smiled through her heartache and said, "Well, he's more like an ex-husband than a secret husband now."

Marina, who had been quiet, suddenly interjected, "Oh? And who would that be?"

She did not say anything more as she waited for the drama that would ensue.

However, Olivia took aim at Marina, "Others might not know about him, but you do, don't you?"

Before Marina could offer a reply, Calvin gasped, "Olivia, you're divorced?"

"Yes, I am. More accurately, I am widowed. My late husband passed away not long ago."

Everly was trying to drink away her nervousness. But she spat it out in the face of an unlucky classmate when she overheard Olivia's explanation.

She tried hard to suppress the grin on her lips while wiping her victim's face clean. "I'm so sorry. I was reminded of some sad memories. I can attest to that—Liv's late husband died a gruesome death."

That immediately set everyone off. They bugged Olivia with questions. "This might come off as rude, but we're very curious about your husband's death."

"He ..." Olivia shot a glance at Ethan, who looked

rather displeased.

However, she refused to be controlled by him, especially after they were divorced. She vividly recalled all the pain he inflicted on her in the past year.

So, she continued, "I don't want to air dirty laundry, but you are not really outsiders to me. I'm okay to tell you about it. He ..."

Knowing that Olivia would go easy on Ethan, Everly cut her off and explained, "That jerk deserved it! He was good to Liv at the beginning, but once he got bored, he started flirting with other women. And those shameless bitches threw themselves at rich married men without conscience ..."

Marina slammed her fork onto the table. "That's enough!"

"Ms. Carlton, I wasn't talking about you. Why are you angry at me?" Everly questioned her.