Jacket

Yoonworks

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About this edition

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Chapter 1

Synn's POV

"Synn, make sure to be back in an hour, okay? Or head straight to the dressing room where we'll transfer," I heard our manager stated which I just returned with a cheeky smile.

"Okay, manager, I love you!" I exclaimed, the natural sweetness in my voice, as what they always say, coming out making her laugh a little.

"I swear to God if you aren't so adorable I won't even allow you to go out. You are about to perform in less than two hours," she shook her head as she turned her attention back to my other members who are all sitting still while they get their face dolled up.

"Hey, Synncinati Richards, don't go around making some trouble, okay?" I heard Snow screaming which I responded with a loud giggle before finally going out of the room.

With a black cap and face mask, I swiftly strode around the vicinity trying to hide myself and blend in with the staff who usually go around the area. It's common for a staff of every company to also wear a mask as long as you're wearing an id for the distinction which I am.

Some of our staffs let me borrow their id as I usually do this before awards. I roam around the area and watch people as they do their kinds of stuff.

It's not something I just do for fun but it kind of helps me calm down. I got too much energy inside me like it's about to burst, I need something to keep everything intact. Honestly, it was Aki who suggested that I do after I accidentally broke one of the makeup kit inside our dressing room as I try to calm my nerves. Now, it becomes a habit.

Even my boss told me it's fine as long as I make sure to be safe.

At first, I just roam around the place wasting a little time as I try to get fresh air. Until I started paying attention to my surroundings and even mingle with a few people too.

I watch our fans and even the fans of other stars. I listen to their cute and adorable conversations and even found myself watching when some gets into a little fight.

As much as I wanted to stop them, to tell them how thankful we are that they support us, we'll all get into a lot of trouble if I reveal myself.

Of course, there were moments when a fan somehow recognizes me but I make sure not to linger too much until fact hit them straight to the face.

I've seen a lot of secrets too, some that I will make sure to keep to myself. My fingers probably weren't enough if I'd to count the number I saw idols secretly meeting.

If I open my mouth or it gets slipped, I'd pretty much ruin a lot of idol's career.

But I won't. It's their life. They date secretly because they will be condemned and judged by the harsh society. And who am I to do that to them?

It's not rare that some fans turn their backs on their idols once they date. And I hate that. As a member of ROY4L, a four-member girl group, living a comfortable life wasn't easy.

Why can't one love without being restricted? But I chose this. I chose this dream so I have to deal with it. Things won't be different just because I am starting to act like a whiny bitch. What I should be, is a grateful idol who's lucky to find some people to love me even with my imperfections.

Those thoughts are what I always put in mind, that even though there are things that are painful, that is hurting, that I don't want to see, I shut my mouth - we shut our mouths.

There are moments when I felt apologetic not only to my members but to other idols as well when they get bashed because of me. And I know they feel the same too.

I and the girls had talked about it. Sometimes, you can't help but feel hurt when you read mean comments directed to your members and that's because the said fan loves you. And they feel the same if it's their fan and I get to be the receiving end of the hate.

It hurts that sometimes, we feel awkward with each other because of it. We love each other, treat everyone as a sister. But we also love our fans and we're thankful. Besides, not all fans are like that. And almost every fandom has this problem.

Liking only one artists form one group is fine but I hope nobody gets hurt at the expense of loving only one person. I just wish a day will come that nobody will ever get hurt.

But that's impossible, isn't it?

Turning into a corner, I noticed that there are too many people in the hallway and a few reporters too. Without hesitating, I pushed the door towards the fire exit.

It wasn't two steps when I heard the sound of two people talking.

"Didn't I tell you not to talk with him?" I heard the voice of a guy.

I stopped from my tracks, my body stiffened a little. The guy's voice sounded harsh and I wasn't sure if I like it.

His voice sounded familiar though...

"Are you really going to ignore everything I tell you? ," I heard him again and I didn't know if it was curiosity that whispered within me but I started walking once again, my steps lighter, careful enough not to make any sound.

"Gold, we've talked about this,"

I stopped once again when I heard the girl talk.

No doubt, it was her.

And did she say Gold? Like Gold from PERSONA? If he's who I think he is, he's one famous senior in the industry. He's so famous almost everyone alive probably knows his name. They won multiple awards from prestigious awarding bodies, had broken multiple world records and has like, half of the population of the whole world as their fans. He's untouchable.

"And we aren't finished talking too. I told you not to talk to him and you will do that," his voice was stern it's actually scary.

But what she said next is even scarier. I'm not sure if I should feel bad for Gold or what.

"I won't stop talking to him just because you told me to. I'm over you and we're over so stop calling me out like this. You're wasting my time," she said and I gulped when I heard the sound of her heels fading as she marched her way out.

Once the door closed, I was startled when I heard the sound of the door getting hit.

I bit my lower lip. That must have hurt. Looking at the situation, it looks like they just broke up, or maybe they just had a fight.

But why does it feel like he was begging rather than being angry?

Synn, it's not your place to be here. Get out.

Just as I was about to turn, I miscalculated my step causing me to be outbalanced, a loud yelp escaping on my lips. Thank God I was able to take a hold of the hand rails.

A relieved sigh escaped my lips, only to be replaced by fear when I heard his voice.

"Who's there?"

I heard Gold's voice and before I can even hide, he was quick enough to jump double steps on the stairs until I was face to face with him.

My eyes widened, his face looking so serious.

He looked so pissed off, he's not even wearing a mask.

He was looking at me intently, his stares too strong I feel like I'm about to get burn.

Slowly, he moved forward, his hand reaching for my mask.

"Wow, the rookie had been snooping around," he snickered and I felt my cheeks burned red in embarrassment. Why did I have to stay right here where he can find me?

"I didn't see anything sir," I whispered out of nervousness, my voice even cracking a little, in fear of what he would do. Based on their conversation, he seems a little scary and that caught me off-guard a little because his image to the public so far from what I just saw.

"Really?" The smirk in his face tells me he believes otherwise.

He moved forward making me step back in instinct. And we did that until my back was leaning on the wall, his hand now pressed on my side making it hard for me to escape.

"What is the famous Synncinati doing here in disguise? Are you out to meet someone too?" he whispered, his face too close to my liking, it's starting to scare me even more. He looks very intimidating yet I can't seem to stop myself from staring.

"I-ahmmm," I gulped. He was looking at me intently; I feel my knees getting weak for a moment.

"I was just looking around," I whispered, avoiding his gaze.

He was silent for a moment, until I heard him sigh.

"You didn't see me here. You didn't hear anything. One word, lady. Just one word and you wouldn't like what I'll do to you..." the smug look on his face tells me he's not joking.

Damn. How can someone be this intimidating yet so adorable and puppy-like when he is in front of his fans?

My eyes caught how his eyes landed on my lips. For a moment, I thought I was a hallucinating but he sure looked a little distracted before he turned his back on me.

What was that?

He was already walking down the stairs when I noticed his hand, a bruise visible.

I didn't know why but I felt bad for him. It was obvious that he's into the girl more than the girl was into him. But who am I to judge?

Before I can even stop myself, I called his name and he stopped walking. He turned around and I felt my throat getting dry. He was looking at me, curious at why I called him and I don't know if I should regret it or not.

Whatever.

"Your hand sir, make sure to have it checked. Your fans will definitely notice," I told him and he looked at his hands for a moment, his eyes not showing any emotion.

He shrugged his shoulder and I watch as he turned his back once again, not even saying anything. It's like he never heard a word from what I said.

Once he was out of sight, a long sigh escaped my lips, my hands on my chest as I feel the rapid beating inside it.

That was some rendezvous, Synncinati.

Gold, it wasn't noticeable but when he was staring at me, I saw the sad look in his eyes. He may have sounded like he was strong; but the façade he was showing on his exterior cannot hide his true feelings.

He must have really like her.

Stop thinking about it.

"Let's get back to work," I whispered to myself. Slowly, I made my way out of the fire exit to get back to our dressing room. I had too much of my escapade, I feel like I won't be doing this again for the time being.

I wasn't sure I'm looking forward to seeing him anytime soon too.

Chapter 2

Synn's POV

"Hey, Synncinati! We have been waiting for you since ten minutes ago," I heard my manager's voice and my eyes noticed how almost everyone was looking at our direction, my other members in particular not looking too happy about my late arrival.

In no time, our makeup artist is already starting to doll up my face too. At the corner of my eyes, I saw Elisse sitting beside me.

"Hey, are you okay? You look shaken up a little when you came back. Did you get caught?" she whispered, the worry in her voice can be heard.

A smile tugged at the corner of my lips. As usual, Elisse would notice. It's no surprise since Elisse is always attentive and caring towards us.

She sees the smallest things and pays attention to every detail.

Remembering what happened earlier, I felt my stomach churning in nervousness. Even though he's not here, I kind of feel a little intimidated still.

His presence was too strong I can't simply shake it off my mind.

To be honest, it was the first time that we've spoken with each other. Of course, I've seen him multiple times as we attend the same awards sometimes but that's just it. It's not like we have a reason to talk anyways. We don't work in the same agency nor are we friends with each other.

However, I'm pretty much reminded of him every day. Why not? When half of my fans ship me to him.

At first, I was bothered by it. What if he hates being shipped with me? Plus, sometimes, the edits that I see online are too disturbing. Some of them looked so real sometimes I have to question myself if it indeed happened.

But it's impossible. Gold and I, it's impossible for us to cross paths.

Until earlier.

"How I wish I was just caught instead," I whispered. My voice low to make sure she doesn't hear.

Just then, the sound of someone knocking on the door was heard and an unfamiliar face showed.

"Sorry, we just left a few of our outfits here when we transferred to the next dressing room. I'll just take it, I'm sorry," the lady smiled and so our manager.

She started taking the stack of clothes on the corner and a few more that are scattered around.

Those are for men though.

Shrugging my shoulder, I stopped paying attention after my makeup artist asked me to close my eyes so I followed.

Forget what happened, Synn. You won't be talking to him in the future anyway.

My hands took a grip on the chair I was sitting on.

Damn. It has been what, ten minutes but my knees are still shaking.

His presence was too overwhelming it amazes me how he appears so soft in photos especially when he's with his fans. I can't question it though since even I get my heart melted whenever I see people who love and supports us.

His eyes, he was definitely lonely. He seems heartbroken.

Remembering the expression that he had on his face made my heart skipped a beat, my hand automatically reaching for my chest.

What the hell...

I gulped. I can't possibly like him, right?

Impossible.

I gritted my teeth in frustration.

You were just sad for him. You pity him. Because he was hurt and he seemed lost. And your heart is weak for that. Right. I told to myself.

Soon enough, our makeup artist has done her job and all I need to do is to change which I will in a little over ten minutes since my other members are still changing.

I reached for my phone and scanned the messages that I had.

One is from my mom, the other from my dad. A few of them were from my friends and each of them I responded.

"Synn, look at these," Arika called for my name as she showed me a gif of a cute little baby.

"Ahhh, she looks so cute," I cooed, my other members, joining while a few of our makeup artists followed as they do finishing touches on their hair.

"It's my cousin. Doesn't she look so adorable?" she giggled, her gummy smile showing. The same one that kills the hearts of our fans.

"Hey, do you want to have a baby now too?" I teased and she hit me on my shoulder, Elisse and Snow giggling.

"She can't even find herself a boyfriend,"

"Or a suitor," Elisse added at what Snow had stated.

Apparently, there are a lot of people having a crush on Arika but her personality was too strong that some guys were afraid to reach out to her.

In all honesty, that is true. Arika has an intimidating personality when performing but they fail to see how clumsy and soft she actually is.

After wearing my outfit minus my jacket, we were all just having fun while we watch out fellow idols perform through the monitor inside our dressing room.

"Guys, we need to move backstage so you can wear your mics. Your other outfits were also there," One of our managers stated and we were all still giggling as we follow our staff outside.

"Synn, did you find anything interesting outside?" I heard Snow asking. The image of Gold automatically comes into view and I was about to answer when I bumped into someone.

"Careful," I heard a very familiar voice and my body stiffened as I turned towards his direction.

Gold Simons.

Fuck.

He was smiling but something tells me it meant something else. Like, he was reminding me to shut my mouth.

"We're sorry, Synn," I heard Eros, his fellow member, and we bowed automatically. The sudden meeting surprising me a little. Even our members were not talking. We have never really had a moment with them, apart from me who happened to, unfortunately, bumped into PERSONA's youngest member.

"We're so sorry, sunbae," Snow spoke on my behalf as I felt my tongue got stuck on my lungs or something. (Sunbae is a word they use as a respect to someone who was in the industry longer than them)

Eros smiled at us while Gold was looking at me, his eyebrow raised a little and I gulped.

I didn't even know how we parted ways but all I know was I was stiffed the whole time.

"Synn, are you okay?" Our manager asked while they put our mics on.

I shook my fingers to calm my nerves and I breathe a little before smiling.

"Yes, manager. Must be the nerves," I added and she smiled.

Synn, get yourself together.

"Okay, the last performer is done and you are now being introduced. Be ready!" one of the staff stated and we started rumbling to prepare.

"Wear your jackets, Synn and Arika!" our stylist stated and I reached for the folded jacket that I was supposed to wear on the corner.

Elisse was talking to me as I wear my jacket.

"Shoot," my voice faltered the moment the jacket hugged my whole figure, it being twice my body size made every one of my members' scream in panic.

"Synncinati where is your jacket?"

"That definitely isn't yours!"

"Oh my God, Synn!"

Before I can even respond, the production manager came in eyeing every one of us warily.

"Girls, you need to go to the stage in one minute,"

"Fuck," I whispered as I felt a few pairs of hands pushing us so we can go to the stage.

There's no turning back.

The next moment, the sound of our fans cheering boomed the whole arena and I put my signature smile.

I didn't notice how my three members looked taken aback at the sight of me from behind.

I didn't notice how our managers were freaking out behind the stage.

I didn't know that another team's whole crew was having a mental breakdown because of the sudden situation.

And I didn't know that a certain man was fuming in anger at the sight of me on their team's monitor as they watch our group perform.

The jacket I was wearing, what it says...

I didn't know...

Chapter 3

Synn's POV

"Synn, how did it went?" I heard Snow asked as I arrived inside our dorm after my manager dropped me off.

We even had a hard time going out of the building because there were a lot of fans camping outside of the office.

Elisse and Arika were standing behind Snow, eager to hear my answer, their dogs circling around them.

Slowly, I walked straight to the couch and let out a long sigh.

"Is it that bad?" Arika asked.

Elisse sat beside me, her hands on top of mine.

"It wasn't your fault, okay," she mouthed and I smiled at her encouraging words. But the truth is, it was partly my fault.

I should have checked too. It was supposed to be my outfit after all.

The meeting with our company's CEO didn't go quite well. Our makeup artists, stylists and managers were all scolded. And even though he did not indirectly call me out, I feel so apologetic for being careless too.

Additionally, the press going wild about this news made everything even more complicated.

"Stop checking the articles Synn. It won't do you any good," Arika told me as I continue to scan my phone. The messages that I received was even more than the usual messages I get for the whole month.

Being an international singer is not an easy job. Everything that we do is being watched, every wrong word, every wrong post, every wrong move, all of them creates an issue that affects not only me but a lot of people. And the world that I am in, fans are possessive.

My Mom and Dad did not message me though partly because they know I would tell them if I'm dating someone. My parents, they won't meddle with anything about my life unless they have too - that, I am so thankful for.

That's right. I'm practically rumored to be dating PERSONA's youngest member now after I performed on the crowd wearing his jacket, a jacket that I never even knew he owns.

After both of our companies had talked, we realized that our jacket was switched unintentionally when we transferred rooms. The color and design were apparently the same

and it was accidentally exchanged. It was folded initially and maybe because it was extra chaotic that we have to switch places and all, the mishap happened which I can't even put the blame to someone specifically.

Since PERSONA will be performing last, they didn't notice that the jacket has been switched too not until I appeared on the stage. I heard Gold doesn't usually wear his jacket inside their dressing room because he works out, according to what one of our managers heard.

My members can't tell me to remove the jacket on stage because I was only wearing a glittery tube inside. I mean, I can probably pull it off but it will be a little uncomfortable and nobody would want to have a wardrobe malfunction with that.

It was only four letters and everything was a mess. GOLD, that's all it has at the back. But the fact that his members have the same jacket in different colors gave everything away.

Apparently, Eros and Chase were already seen by the fans wearing their jackets so even though PERSONA changed their performance outfits the last minute to do damage control, it was pointless.

In the end, both our faces were plastered across all social media sites with fans demanding an explanation.

Shippers were celebrating but above all, I get most of the hate. In our industry, the girl always gets most of the hate so it’s something that is not new to me now.

More importantly, I have upset both of our fans and our members. Imagine dragging their names with mine?

To add to that, our fandom isn't as intact in particular. We can't persuade our fans to like us all. As unfortunate as it sounds, almost every fandom has this problem and we the saddest thing is, we can't do anything about it. Regardless of what we do and didn't do, some people will love us and some won't. That's one of the downsides of being an idol.

What I am scared now is that my members would be affected. We're supposed to have a schedule tomorrow but I heard there are some arrangements that they will need to discuss so it has been postponed. And I knew it was because of last night's incident.

"Synncinati!" I was startled when I heard Snow, my eyes leaving my phone. And that's when I realized that my members were all looking at me intently.

They looked at me in worry, a sincere expression showing in their face.

My members, they are the closest thing I have to family. Actually, scratch that. They are my family.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

"I'm sorry, it's just," my shoulder dropped in frustration, "I know this will affect you guys too. It's just so annoying I have to deal with this issue. The last thing I wanted is to be associated with that person and it just has to be him?"

Elisse raised her eyebrow and I noticed how Arika's lips is twitching upwards.

Shit. I probably shouldn't have said that, right? Now my members will think that something is going on.

"Synncinati Richards..." Snow called for my name. And her calling me in my full name isn't always a good thing.

I gulped.

Before they can even ask me a question, the sound of my phone ringing broke the silence.

Fumbling with my phone, I immediately answered the call. It was my manager.

"Manager!" I answered, glad to be saved from the impending doom I was about to experience with my members.

"Synn..."

The smile showing on my face immediately getting erased at the sound of her heavy voice.

"What's the problem?" my voice shaking a little, the beating of my heart increasing too.

I heard her sigh from the other line and my heart clenched in pain.

Please, no.

"I just want to bid you a farewell. We won't be seeing each other anytime soon..." she stated and I knew just what it meant.

"Manager Yana what happened?" I asked in worry. I knew something was wrong. She won't be acting like this if there isn't.

And then she started crying. I saw my members moving forward in worry too.

"Both companies agreed to let the ones involve be held responsible. I'm sorry we made this mess Synn. I hope we can see each other soon. Take care for me, okay?" she whispered before dropping the call.

"I- Yana... " my voice hangs midway, unable to continue what I want to say.

She's my personal manager and she's been with me for like three years now. She's not usually shown to people because we also have a guy manager but I'm close to her the most.

"Synn..." Elisse called for my name in worry but I was just there, sitting confused.

"Why?" I asked, my voice shaking. "Why do they have to take sole responsibility for something that is my fault too?" I asked. Arika moves forward and engulfed me for a hug and then the rest also did.

We were like that for some minute until I excuse myself and headed straight to my room.

Lying flat on my bed, my eyes focused on the ceiling.

"It's unfair..." I whispered.

Gold, why do I have to suffer because of you?

Without second thoughts, I reached for my phone and dialed a number. Each ring made my heart pound in nervousness too.

"Yow, Synn!" I heard Alex's voice on the other line, his cheerful demeanor not getting past my ears.

"Lex, your turn!" I heard someone speaking but Alex didn't respond.

"Sorry, did I catch you at a bad time?" I asked and he chuckled, like always, everything seems always fun for him. Sometimes I envy how happy-go-lucky he can get.

"Don't mind them. What's up? You don't normally call me," he asked and it's my turn to laugh. It took me by surprise a bit and felt a little embarrassed too. Do I really just call him whenever I needed something?

My cheeks were probably red but it doesn't matter. He cannot see me anyways. Besides, this is Alex. I shouldn't feel shy with my childhood friend.

"Well, I need a little favor. You think you can give your friend's number?" I gulped. I know Alex wouldn't question what I was doing but I still feel kind of embarrassed.

"Who, Gold?" he asked chuckling and my cheeks turned red even though he can't see me.

Of course, he heard about it too. In fact, he was also at the same venue last night.

"Well today is your lucky day my friend," he answered and my brows furrowed.

Don't tell me...

"Coz I got him right here,"

"Wha-" before I can even finish, I heard the sound of grumbling from the other line.

After a few minutes, my breath hitches at the sound of that familiar voice, the rapid increase of my heart beating almost deafening my ears.

"So....what does the sneaky Synncinati need from me?" his voice raspy and I feel like he's drunk a little. I don't know why but his voice sends shivers down my spine.

"Fuc-" my eyes widened, stopping midway.

Shit! Shit! Synn. I covered my mouth in shock at what I was about to say.

He was silent for a minute until I heard him speak, this time, amusement can be heard in his voice.

"Tell me the time and place, cupcake. That can be arranged,"

Holy shit.

Chapter 4

Synn's POV

"So, what does a little doll like you need favor with?" I gulped at what Gold had said, my body almost twisting in nervousness. My cheeks have been burning red ever since I came out after receiving a message that he's out. Of course, he'd gotten my number courtesy of Alex.

Right, after that phone call incident, Gold agreed to meet me. He asked for my address and for some reason, I couldn't simply say no. I have a favor to ask after all. Let's just hope we don't get into another trouble for this.

Synn, you need to do this, for your manager.

"Please ask your company not to fire my manager," I told him up front, his eyebrow rising as if amused at my words.

He crossed his arms, his back leaning on the wall, my head hung low in embarrassment.

We're currently outside our dorm on the backside of the building where not a lot of people go. It's past midnight anyway so I'm sure nobody would come.

We can't risk being seen at this time, not even my other members. The scandal that had shaken both our agencies are still fresh. In fact, it hasn't been a week or two.

"I don't think you're in a position to demand that, Richards," he stated, he was smirking as if I should know that.

But I was desperate. "I know. But I can't let my manager lose her job. She doesn't deserve this!"

He looked at me straight in the eyes and I almost waver at how serious he looked. His eyes, they cater no emotions. Unlike when he was on stage and camera, and unlike when I saw him last time. My gaze dropped back on the ground.

"It's not something I have control over with. That's the decision of both companies and our manager is being reprimanded too,"

I lifted my gaze at what he just said, "Reprimanded? So he wasn't fired, right? Can't my manager be the same? I mean, it wasn't her fault either. In all honesty, everything was just an unfortunate accident. It's not like I-" I stopped from rambling the moment I saw his reaction, the smirk showing on his face even scarier.

"What Richards? It's not like it was your intention to be associated with me, is that it?" he snickered.

Words seemed to get stuck on my throat, his eyes assessing my expression.

"Ah, hmm," What do I say? Think, Synn!

If I tell him Yes, I might sound too conceited but if I say No, that will be even weirder.

And then I heard him chuckle, amusement once again showing on his face.

"Tsk," I heard him snicker, "I get it. Though I wouldn't be surprised if you ever think that way. Richards, I realized you have weird habits," he stated and I was startled when he started moving forward, his steps heavy, every move he does make me step backward too.

Why does he look so intimidating?

And the fact that I can clearly see how muscular he looked, the muscles on his arms clearly visible as his arms still crossed over his chest makes everything even scarier for me.

He wouldn't do anything bad, right?

And then I felt it, my back hitting the wall.

Well fuck.

My eyes widened, the fast beating of my heart can now be heard and I'm not liking it. I shouldn't be getting this nervous because of him. For one, it wasn't entirely my fault. Everything that had happened wasn't intentional.

"That offer," he whispered his face now just a few inches from mine. I turned my face on my right, afraid that our face would make any contact.

My knees are shaking and that feeling was your ears are deafening were so strong I feel like I wouldn't be able to hear anything in a matter of minutes if this continues.

"If that offer is still valid, I might reconsider," he teased and my eyes traveled back to his in confusion.

"What off-" but before I can even finish, my cheeks blushed even redder as realization dawned into me. He was talking about the incident over the phone.

I felt my body stiffened. Good Lord, what is he doing to me?

My eyes saw how a playful smile edged across his face, and I know, he was having fun with my reaction.

He was having fun teasing me.

I flinched a little when I felt his hand on the side of my face, tracing every feature of me. And it was fascinating.

The beating of my heart doubled and there was sudden rush electricity running through my body, something I have never felt before.

Maybe because you were nervous.

"Wha-what are you doing?" I stuttered, moving my face a little as his touch started to burn my skin.

I heard him sigh.

"She was like this too..." he whispered and my heart stopped beating for a moment. I was sure, that was pain I heard on his voice. My eyes locked with his. And I saw it, the sadness I once saw in his eyes.

"You never said a word about what you saw, right?" he asked but more of making sure and for some reason, I feel like I don't want him to be bothered by it so I nodded and he smiled, the type of smile that doesn't reach his eyes.

He sounded vulnerable and he looked like it too.

I wonder what happened with the two of them. Did they get back together?

"Good," he whispered and I gulped when I felt his hand tracing the side of my lips. "Synn..." he called for my name and I saw how he was looking at my lips now.

Shit. Why does his voice need to sound so hoarse like that?

The sound of a camera clicking got our attention and in instinct, he pulled down the cap that I was wearing to hide my face.

"Shit. Don't look around," he mumbled. The place was dimly lit so we're sure our face wouldn't be recognized that much.

I was startled when he pulled something from his jacket, a mask, and wore on my face.

Suddenly, his arms were on my shoulders, "Go back to your dorm and post an IG story on different clothing," he stated and I watch in awe when a smile suddenly emerged on his face. Before I even knew what's happening, he lifted the cap I was wearing and then his lips were now on my forehead giving me a quick kiss. It was so quick I was not even myself even when he was quickly fixing my cap and mask once again.

Fuck.

"Now go Richards. Before we get into any more trouble," he said before gently pushing me to the corner where the back door to our building is.

My steps were slow, and my mind was blank. Before I reached the back door, I turned once again and saw his figure as he turned his back and break into a run.

Gold Simons, one moment he was fuming in anger and then next, he seemed like he cared.

My hand reached for the spot where he kissed.

What the hell was that?

Chapter 5

Synn's POV

"It's not safe for yo-are you even listening to us, Synn?" I was startled when Snow taps me by the shoulder, my eyes immediately back to her and I know there and then that I'm doomed.

I just came back from our company building after I was called this morning. And of course, my members already heard from our managers.

Our company received some photos of me with Gold from last night. It wasn't posted on social media nor on news sites because our face wasn't seen but I can tell it was me and him and I'm sure our fans could if they saw it. Plus, the fact that it was taken at the back of the building where we live is one proof that it may be us.

I was scolded really bad. They told me it was a good thing that the reporter works from our company and that they sent it first to us instead of posting it in public. Our managers were scolded once again and for a second, I was scared that I will get them into trouble again because of this.

"Synn..." Arika sighed. I bit my lower lip before pouting. My eyes are getting teary for a moment.

"I know your intention was good but it was so dangerous, Synn. You're putting a lot of people in trouble. It's not just about you, okay?" she explained and it doesn't help that her voice doesn't sound like she was angry but more of like sympathizing towards me. And I hate it. I hate it because she was right.

It wasn't just about me. It wasn't even just about ROY4L nor our managers. Not about Gold, or PERSONA. It was about everyone, even our fans, the irony of living an idol life.

It wasn't as easy as it looks like. Our life, we are caged into a wall that limits us of our freedom. Sometimes it's suffocating and it's one downside of living our dream. So we can't do anything but abide by that rule.

Our CEO was disappointed. He understood that the incident that happened from the awards wasn't my fault but this time, it was only me.

That's the reason why I was grounded now. I am not allowed to go anywhere without my manager for a week. Anything outside of our schedule for this week is prohibited unless I ask permission and have any of my managers go with me.

"So, was it worth it?" my head snapped to Elisse's direction after hearing her words. She was still looking at me with a sad smile on her face.

"What?" I asked confused and she raised her eyebrow at me.

"Last night, I mean, doing something that is against the rules. Was it worth it?" she elaborated and I almost choke on my own saliva in nervousness.

She knew why I did it. And so are the girls because I told them.

Her question made me remember the incident last night, how my eyes were open the whole night thinking about what took place.

More importantly, the feeling of his lips pressed into my forehead still lingers in my skin. I didn't even know how he did it. I was wearing a cap so he actually had to bend a little to kiss me.

Above all else, why? Why did he do that?

Was it because he was teasing me? Was it because he thinks it's easy to play with me like that?

Because there's no way there is another reason. For some reason, my heart started beating rapidly at the memory of it.

"Oh gosh, your cheeks are blushing, Synn!" Elisse's laughter resonated with the whole room and soon enough, all three of them were laughing.

"What, do you have a crush on him?" Snow teased and I felt my ears burning.

Impossible. Why would I? Besides, that's just a little kiss on the forehead, nothing major.

"I don't!" I denied - the heat on my cheeks probably enough to burn an egg or something.

Elisse looked at me as if scrutinizing the sincerity of my words and I almost waver. I can't really lie that much to my members. They read me like an open book.

A sly smirk appeared on Snow's face before messing up my hair.

"We know why you did it and we understand Synn. Don't burden yourself too much. You tried enough," she whispered and I almost stifled a cry when all three of them came and crushed me into a big hug.

It could have been emotional like those in dramas and shit but, No - one has to ruin it. Arika had to break the hug and run for ice cream. Can't blame her though. A girl needs to eat.

"Disperse everyone. I've had enough of you guys for the day," Snow laughed and we all followed. Elisse grabbed her phone and headed to her room. We seldom have time to rest these days so we make the most of it when we have a chance.

Soon enough, I was left alone in the living room my phone in my hands.

"Let's see..." I whispered before sliding my body a little until I was already lying on the couch, my head resting on the cushion, my hands carefully scan the comments our fans had left on the articles about my little incident om the award show.

"Stay away from our Gold!"

"Are they really dating? So were the interactions true then?"

"She's pretty much a rookie, what is she even thinking?"

"I ship them!"

I cringe at a few more comments. To be honest more than half of them were not in favor of my "alleged" relationship with PERSONA's youngest member. And I can't blame them. Even a few of my fans weren't in favor of it.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

"As if I wanted to be in this situation..." I whispered to myself before closing the web. My members were also getting affected by this scandal. We had to postpone a few of our schedules too.

My mind went back to the time I saw him on the fire exit, the sadness in his eyes, the way his voice had turned into an icy tone rather than the soft and endearing one he always used whenever he was talking with his fans.

For some reason, I felt something tug within me. Am I feeling bad for him?

"Ah, Synn!" I thought out loud, waving my hands in front of me to erase such thoughts.

Suddenly, my phone started ringing, my hands immediately reaching for it on my side where I drop it earlier.

A video call...

"Gold?" my mouth hand wide open, my body bolting up from the couch immediately as his name register on my phone.

Three rings...

Seven...

Until it stopped, my heart almost dropped outside of my chest.

"Oh my God..." I was in a panic. I was barely trying to calm myself when my phone suddenly started ringing again.

"Why is he calling me?" I asked to myself. Biting my lower lip, I hit the accept button knowing this might cause me another trouble.

With me frozen on my seat, my eyes caught a glimpse of his abs, his phone probably resting on the table while he stood just a few inches away while he wears his shirt.

"Shit," I whispered. I knew he has toned and chiseled abs but I didn't know it looks this divine.

I gulped.

"Oh, I thought you wouldn't answer, "I was startled when I saw his face in front of the camera, a cheeky expression reflecting on him.

He just caught me ogling at him. How the fuck.

"Did you like what you saw?" he teased and I started coughing at his words, my ears heard his deafening laughter.

Oh my God. Can the ground open up and swallow me right now?

My mind was too caught up with everything that is happening that I didn't hear what he said.

"What?" I asked confused and he just smiled.

He actually fucking smiled at me, the first time he did.

What in the heavens?

"I said from now on, we're dating, Richards,"

Wait, what?

Chapter 6

Synn's POV

"I love you, Synnderella!"

"You're so pretty!"

A smile spread across my face when I heard a few of our fans calling out my name. Some of them still call me Synnderella and I find it so adorable. It was a joke Arika started but our fans were so adamant in saying that it was true even compiling some videos of me acting like it. I can still remember Elisse laughing over a video of me sitting like a man.

Once I enter the premises, my manager laughed at my expression.

"Why are you smiling like that?" she asked and I giggled. Seeing her with us right now makes me happier.

Though confused, I was quite impressed with how Gold, despite telling me he won't do it, made a move and had his agency request that no personnel is laid off due to what happened. So, our manager wasn't fired.

She was ecstatic when she called me to tell the news and though I was happy, I wasn't sure how to really feel.

Gold, why did he do it?

Does he have a motive?

More importantly, my thoughts traveled back to the memory of the other night, when he called me trying to pull a prank.

Yeah, it was a fucking prank that almost ruined my whole system, shaking my consciousness a bit.

How was it easy for him to tell me that we are now dating?

Imagine my shock when he said that only to be frustrated when I saw him laughing his ass off of my reaction.

Though I wasn't really sure how I would react if in case he was really asking me out.

Why would he though?

It was obvious that he really likes her.

Apparently, he called me to tell me that he'd thought about what I said and gave it a try. He said he felt bad for my manager because she didn't do anything wrong.

For a moment, my heart fluttered at his words. I knew PERSONA was known to show love to their staff but him thinking about the welfare of ours caught me a little off-guard. In all honesty, he doesn't have any responsibility for our people.

It's my job to do what he had done but I guess at this point, he has more capability than I am.

At least for now.

"Synn, you need to hurry. Your members are waiting in the dressing room," my manager reminded me. "Just head there. I just need to go and do final arrangements before I meet you guys," she added and I smiled in acknowledgment.

Soon enough, I was walking down on the familiar pathway leading me to our usual dressing room.

The girls headed first to the location for the filming of our performance of our Music Show appearance while I had to drop by the office really quick for a quick orientation about my next month's schedule.

I had a few events to attend due to my modeling and advertising commitments.

Hopping a little, I was humming our new song on our way to find our room.

Soft chuckles escaped my lips when I realized what I was wearing. Elisse will kill me for wearing her favorite shirt.

Just when I turned on a corner, I pivoted autopilot when my eyes caught a familiar built, with a face that can make millions of girls' swoon over. In short, the face of the man I was dreading to see, Gold Simons. He was wearing a set of clothes I am guessing that was a stage outfit.

Right, they were currently promoting their album.

The man was borderline trouble. And it's something I am avoiding right now. I have been called on the office too many times for this month. I don't need another invitation.

But before I can muster another step, I felt a hand stopping me from behind.

Shit.

"Not so fast, cupcake," my body stiffened at the sound of his voice. It was captivating and I want to scold myself for getting affected. It was just four words. Damn it.

Pulling me gently, he was able to make me turn towards him, my eyes locking with his in an instant, the smile showing on his face made my heart skip a little.

Calm down, Synncinati. He's just Gold, that Gold.

"You look happy today. Are you that happy to see me?" he teased and I started coughing, pulling my arm off his grasp gradually.

How did he end up a tease like this? I remember hearing things about him being all too shy around with girls. Or am I that unappealing that he isn't even fazed one bit?

Regardless, how can he act like this when we're literally just on the hallway of a fucking Music Show where a lot of staff and even fellow idols go?

With that in thought, my eyes unconsciously checked our surroundings. And like what I thought, a few idols were looking in our direction. Some looked confused while the others looked interested in what's happening.

Shit.

This may get her into another trouble.

Before this turns into an even more awkward situation, I immediately bowed my head to greet him.

"Nice seeing you senior," I greeted before attempting to walk past him only to be stopped once again, this time, he stepped sideways to block my way making me almost hiss in annoyance.

"Whoa," he chuckled, catching the slight annoyance on my expression.

"Senior," I whispered, my expression changing a little. As much as possible, I am trying to avoid any interaction with him. My members have talked about these and they were worried I'd get too much hate from the fans. "Please let me pass. I don't want to get myself into another trouble," I said gritting my teeth as I try to control myself.

"At least thank me Synn. You owe me one for taking care of your people," he said raising his eyebrow at me. "All I need was a smile and an attitude that is anything but indifference,"

And that hit a nerve.

His words were nothing but the truth. He did what I can't. He took care of the situation that I was supposed to handle.

Because you're still weak Synn. You have to work harder. I told to myself.

With my hands balled into a fist, I bowed once again to express my gratitude but his next words stopped me.

"Too bad, I changed my mind. Save your 'thank you' for another day. You won't know when I'd be needing your favor in the future," he whispered and before I can respond, both of us turned our attention to our right when we heard someone calling his name.

"Hey Gold!" his co-member Raze, came rushing pulling Gold by the collar, eyes widening when he saw me. "Oh, Synn,"

"Hi," I greeted and he smiled at me in acknowledgment.

"Is this guy pestering you, Synn?" he chuckled head locking Gold in an adorable way, the younger one hissing uncomfortably. Though I know they are close. A lot of people and celebrities like us. Perhaps, they are the very few groups with relationship no longer like a business but like of a family.

"Hey!"

Even though annoyed, I can't help but admire the closeness that they have. They really seemed to be a family.

Just then, I saw Gold's face darkening, his eyes glued behind my back.

Before I can even turn around, his right hand reached for the top of my head messing my hair a little. My breath hitches at the sudden contact and I know even Raze was surprised.

"I'll call you later," he cheered, a smile now showing on his face. But I know, I saw it, the same glint I saw from last time, sadness.

He's at it again, faking the smile on his face, putting up a facade. But I can see through him.

So I let him. I let him play with my hair even though I hate it when my bangs get messed up if that's what will make him comfortable…if that's what will make him feel better even for a little bit.

And then our eyes met. I wasn't sure but the glint in his eyes changes yet I wasn't sure what to call it.

With one last bunny grin, he pinches the side of my cheeks lightly before turning around pulling a confused Raze along with him.

I was left in awe, struck about what just happened. He smiled. The bunny smiled was sincere.

Or was it?

By this time, I've noticed a lot of eyes on me, even her.

So that's the reason.

Because of her.

Why Synn? Why do you let him play with your feelings like that?

And why does it hurt you when you see him in pain?

Shaking those thoughts in mind, I slowly headed straight forward.

I better find my members before I create another mess. I seem to get involved in such weird situations these days.

Chapter 7

Synn's POV

"I don't think you have the right to tell me what to and not to do now. Not after you just left last time..." my hands were left hanging midair after I heard an all too familiar voice coming from outside. My body stood frozen in front of the sink, my heart started beating rapidly.

Not again.

Waiting for our turn to film, I excused myself so I can go to the restroom after we learned that there will be two more groups to record their performance before we get to do our own. I was about to wash my hands when I heard the sound of his voice.

Gold

Why am I always stuck in this situation where I get to witness these private conversations that they have?

And obviously, she's with her.

"Is that all you can do? Use some random girl to get back at me?" she snickered and I felt my stomach churning.

Boy, she's angry. I can feel her seething right outside.

"What, you've got some overrated Royal baby taking my place?" she spat and I raised my eyebrow at her words.

Wait. Was she talking about me?

My arms eventually rested on the sink, my hands slowly forming to a fist, realization slowly sinking in. The image of her looking at me after Gold's antics earlier came into view.

Yeah, she probably saw the articles last time and Gold doing that to me kind of tick her off.

Why do they have to drag me to all this shit? It's not like I have anything to do with their relationship. Or if they still have one.

"Don't bring her into this,"

I was startled when I heard the stern voice coming from him as if he was annoyed.

Did he just stand up for me? I mean, the Gold that I know?

Then, the sound of fake laughter started echoing inside the restroom. It was menacing and scary. Never once have I thought that I'll hear something unpleasant coming out of her lips.

The image she has, vulnerable, appealing, the mass loves her like she's some princess.

And to think that I thought Gold was being controlling to her the first time I heard their conversation.

"Don't even think I'll be affected by your silly show. She's beautiful but I'll put her face into shame if she's beside me. She's just a nobody," she laughed and I felt my insides burn, my blood starting to crawl straight to my face, my cheeks are starting to heat up.

I'm fuming. My insides were going crazy. I never knew she's mean like that. For some reason, my hate towards the girl is starting to build up.

"I can leave you anytime I want and not a girl like her can simply replace the mark I left in your life," she added and I don't know if I should be angry for myself or for Gold. She's clearly belittling him.

"Really?" I bit my lower lip when I heard his voice. He sounded even angrier than he was before.

"Hell, thank God I get to see this side of yours," he started. "You may be beautiful but your face doesn't even compare to her. She looks like a living doll, and thankfully with a better personality. And babe, she doesn't need to replace a mark because you never left one. You can't simply mark a Gold Simons. If someone can, I guess it's not you. I'm pretty sure I won't lose my shit just because I don't have you. You're not exactly irreplaceable..." he finished and I was left in awe. I didn't know Gold had it in him.

"Are you crazy? I know you're just using her to get me back!" she hissed but her voice wavered a little and I can't help when a smirk tucked at the corner of my lips.

Bitch

Silence.

I didn't hear his response and that made me want to puke.

Is that it? Is that why he's acting like some Robin hood stealing some of my time creating troubles? Just so he can have her back.

And then I heard it, the sound of his laughter. It wasn't sweet and to be honest, it's quite scary.

"You're funny. Don't think too highly of yourself. I'm not a person to use someone for my own sake. I can get you back if I wanted. Simply because I can," he spat breathlessly and I had to do a double.

And again, it was silence but I know something else is going on outside. Even without seeing them, I can feel the pressure and tension.

"Fuck you, Gold! This isn't over! I'll show you how you're not over me and you'll beg down on your knees so I would take you back. And I won't!" she snarled, her voice shaking in anger.

Afterward, I heard the sound of her heavy footsteps, her heels clanking along the surface it's painful to hear and I don't know if I should laugh or not.

Right now, she’s the one sounding desperate and for once, I feel so proud of Gold even though I don't like him that much.

With an eerie feeling surrounding before me, I moved to do what I was supposed to be doing earlier before the whole fiasco and slowly went outside.

Thinking that Gold had also left earlier, I was caught off-guard when I saw him leaning against the wall just opposite the door of the girl's restroom.

"Senior..." I muttered uncomfortably, him raising his eyebrows at my direction while his arms crossed over his chest is a little intimidating.

"You really are everywhere huh?" he asked and my cheeks blushed immediately. The situation has become awkward. And it's not like we are in good terms either.

"Sorry," my breath hitch at the sound of his voice, my eyes locking with his and I find it difficult to avoid his gaze.

"Sorry for her words. She doesn't mean any harm. And she's normally isn't like that, " he added and I felt butterflies running wild in my stomach.

Even at this point, he still cares for her. He still cares about how I will see her and how bad I might think of her.

I can't help but feel envy.

"You love her this much?" I asked and I saw something flicker in his eyes. This time, it was he who avoided my gaze.

I'm right.

"Don't put words on my mouth, cupcake. That's not very nice," he hissed and it was like the first time, my stomach flipping after he called me names.

Before I knew it, I was spitting words I didn't know I might regret in the future, " I can help," my hand fidgeted on the hem of my clothes.

Breathe, Synn. Again, it's just him.

He looked at me confused and I let out a sigh.

"I can, I mean, I can help you get her back," I stuttered, confidence slowly eating my system. "I might not look like it but I can be a good wingman, you know," I told him, this time, my voice firmer than before.

If I will do him a favor, we can call it even. Though I'm not confident that I'm doing the right choice.

"I need no wingman. Or woman. I can get a girl on my own, Richards," he smiled, amusement showing on his face.

"But you'll never know! I mean, just try. Try me!" I said a little more confident.

He stared at me for a minute before smirking, "Have you dated before?" he asked and that made me shut my mouth.

"Does it have anything to do with what I am offering?" I answered breathlessly.

"I thought so," He moved forward, his right hand reaching for the locks of hair I didn't notice had fallen out of my ponytail, his hands slowly tucking it in behind my ears.

Good Lord.

Why is time this painfully slow?

When I lifted my gaze, I saw him smirking, enjoying the uncomfortable state I am currently in.

"Your offer... It's tempting but I'll think about it. For now, go back to your members because I'm sure their worried sick for you," he whispered and I felt like my heart is about to burst when again, he moved closer, my eyes immediately closing.

He fucking kissed my forehead, again. Is this his thing?

Eyes still closed, I felt him patting the top of my head gently, the sound of his sweet voice hitting my ears like a goddamn sweet melody,

"I'll see you soon, Synncinati,"

And then he left.

Oh, fucking hell. What am I doing with myself?

Chapter 8

Synn's POV

"Nope, not going to happen Lex," I muttered over the phone before lying on the couch inside our dorm's living room, Alex's endless chatter, my eyes on my other hand as I examine my newly fixed nail art.

"Yeah, yeah but my answer is still the same," I pouted before bidding my fellow artist a goodbye.

The sound of Elisse's laughter filled my ears next and I look to my side to see here coming from the kitchen with a plate of sliced apples in her hand.

A smile spread on my face at the sight of her, my insides melting towards her cute attire. She was wearing some shirt one of our fans had given her, a big avocado design was in the middle with an image of Elisse pouting was underneath it.

"What does that kid want now?" he asked before plopping her body on the empty couch beside mine, the plate filled with apples now set on the table available for me too.

I sat on the couch and leaned forward to get a slice.

"The usual, asking me to go on a gathering he arranged with some artists. He knew I won't do that shit after he tried to set me up with that senior artist last time," I snickered and Elisse laughed at what I said.

Alex, no matter how much I love him as a friend and my fellow artist, is really such a pain in the ass.

He got drunk at that gathering and left me with a senior artist that he invited. To say that I was uncomfortable was an understatement and it took me a great amount of courage to decline his offer when he openly asked me to go on a date with him.

What made it even more frustrating was that Gold Simons arrived just right in time to witness it. The jerk even openly teasing me about it when the senior artist was gone.

He teased me about having the guts to decline to the person when it's almost a rule in our world not to say no to your senior. But then again, I got confused when he told me I did a really good job before he left to see his friends.

That man.

It has been months after the jacket incident and the scandal had died down. The last time we saw each other was through that gathering. I heard he was out of the country doing his world tour.

His group had become so famous; I can't help but be amazed. He must be having the time of his life. Then again, I hope he was having fun but not pressured at the same time.

Why do you care?

"Why not?" my eyes snapped to Elisse's direction when I heard what she said.

She was looking at me smugly and I raised an eyebrow.

"You're joking, right? You want me to go?" I asked and she giggled. That kind of giggling that will make every man swoon.

"Synn, you can always say No when to those men. You've done it to a senior artist, why can't you do it again if the situation calls for it?" she teased and I scoffed.

"And what? So they can call me out? You know this industry isn't that simple," I told her and she shrugged her shoulders.

"Well, you have a point. Plus, it's not really good to always say No to our seniors. It's a scary industry culture but we can't really do anything about it. However, I know you want to see your other friends too..." she pouted and I smile at how cute she is.

I knew she just wants for me to enjoy it.

"Don't worry about it. I'm sure I can find time to see them somehow. By the way, where's Snow and Arika?" I asked. I haven't seen the two since I woke up. And when I say woke up I meant waking up at five in the afternoon. We were too exhausted and arrived home at midnight.

We just had our concert in Japan and we were given time to rest.

"They were on a shoot. The manager said ours is the day after tomorrow," she added and I nodded.

It must have been hard for the two. I was sure they barely had slept.

After finishing the apples, she stood from her seat and brought the plate back in the kitchen. It wasn't long when she went back and muttered that she'll be sleeping in her room.

It was already past eight.

I reached for my phone and opened the messaging app. Kate had sent me a message.

"You sure you're not coming here? Your supposed boyfriend is here though. He seemed to be having fun while drinking with Lex."

I shake my head when I read the message. Kate had never moved on from my scandal with Gold. She insists that there is definitely something going on and always teases me about it.

After all the times that I told her there wasn't, I gave up in the end and just let her be.

However, the fact that Gold was there made me curious.

He should be resting and not going on some gatherings.

Well, he misses his friends too, you know.

After responding to Kate telling her to have some fun, I put down my phone on the table and turned on the television. It has been so long since I last saw a movie.

Two hours, that's probably how long I binge watch on the television until I heard the door opening revealing a very exhausted Snow and Arika. Excitement took over so I turned off the television.

"Hey!" I cheered and they both smiled at me. Arika's eyes are almost closed and after hugging the two, I let them be as they both headed to their room leaving me alone once again.

"I'm bored..." I whispered.

Lying on the couch, I was startled when I heard the sound of my phone ringing. Reaching for my phone which is resting on the table, I almost drop it on my face when I realized who the person was.

Why is he calling me now?

The memory of him kissing my forehead came into view. At that, my heart started hammering in my chest.

"Just be cool about it Synn," I muttered to myself and I hate the fact that my stomach was churning and this is him not being in front of me.

After the sixth ring, I slide the accept button to answer his call and the sound of people cheering caught my attention.

"Hello?" I whispered and I was thankful my voice didn't crack.

"She answered, whoa. It must be true then,"

Was that Sid?

"Yow Synn, I feel so offended!" I heard Alex screaming on the other line and after a few more shouting, my ears were greeted with a much calmer background.

"Sso-rry," his voice stuttered a little and I raised an eyebrow.

Was he that drunk?

"Alex, th-that punk took my phone and saw your numm-number," he said while slurring and I got a little worried.

"Gold," I called for his name and he was silent.

I didn't know why but the sound of his breathing made me feel at ease.

"How have you been?" he asked and I cringe at how awkward this situation looked like.

"Ahhm, good. How about you senior?" I asked too and he snickered.

"Being formal again, aren't we?" he teased and I smile a little.

Then, silence filled our conversation but it wasn't as awkward as before.

"She's here..." he whispered and my brows furrowed.

"Who a-ooooh" before I can finish asking, words got stuck on my throat when I realized who he was talking about.

"With a fucking man," he added and I gulped. His voice, even though he's drunk, sounded so stern.

He's definitely pissed.

The thought made me feel upset a little. I wasn't sure if it's because I care about him or because I hate the fact that she was deliberately doing this to make him feel upset since she knew he still has feelings for her.

What a woman.

Before I knew it, I asked him something I hope I didn't.

"Are you angry that she was over you?"

And he was silent. Somehow, I thought if I was being too much, prying over something I shouldn't.

"I wasn't," he answered. "But I was angry because I am not over her," he added and my heart dropped at his words, the pain he was feeling wasn't hidden.

He was being bare and open about it. Yet, I admire the fact that he wasn't in denial about his feelings.

The sound of his voice is heartbreaking. To many, he is an artist loved by everyone. They didn't know this side of his story. And he has an exceptional way of hiding his emotions if I may add.

"Why? Why are you telling this to me?" I asked, confusion eating my system.

He was silent for a moment and I bit my lip in nervousness.

"Because you're not her," I straightened my seat at his answer. It wasn't clear to me and I wanted to hear more.

"Because I know you won't use this against me because you're not that kind of person..."

His words made my heart flutter and I have no words to say.

"I trust you, I know you won't hurt me like she did... Never..." he added and I knew right there and then, it's game over.

You're totally fucked up Synncinati.

Chapter 9

Synn's POV

"Interesting. I definitely remember you dropping the call earlier telling me you won't come?" Alex raised his eyebrow in my direction after opening the door, a smug look showing on his face.

"Don't go sassy on me, you disrespectful little ball of shit. I still haven't forgiven you from last time," I pouted before pulling him for a friendly hug.

He chuckled at my response and even lifted me gently on the ground.

"I already apologized for that. Besides, I won't do that again. Gold called me out for it," he stated before putting me down, I felt my body shivering with just the sound of Gold's name.

Wait, what?

"Huh?" I asked, confused, the loud cheering inside catching my attention.

He smiled at me knowingly.

"Are you two dating? Coz I don't really get why he would be mad at me for introducing you to our seniors" he leaned back a little, his arms crossed over his chest as he examines my face, checking my reaction.

Gold did that?

"We aren't," my cheeks blushed at his words and he chuckled.

"You aren't dating but you are here just after he called you. That's really something, Natti," he added and I grimaced at his words.

Truth is, Gold didn't know I was really coming. Whether this is a good decision or not, I don't know but I have decided to help the guy after what he told me.

He was drinking too much and even told me he has to go home tonight as he has a schedule set for tomorrow night. I ask him why he isn't leaving but his answer made me feel bad for him.

"I don't want to leave like this. She'll think I'm still affected,"

"But you are. And she's probably thinking that even more because you're drunk," I told him but he just laughed at my words.

"Fetch me then. So I have a reason to go," he teased. My eyes closed at his words but decided otherwise.

"Wait for me," I told him before ending the call.

So even though my actions will raise questions, I went out.

We're now even Gold.

"Where is he?" I turned to Alex but the guy just shrugged his shoulders.

Pissed off, I went inside the unit only find their group of friends on the couch, drinking and laughing with each other.

One a separate table were a few female artists, one being Kate who cheered when she saw me.

My eyes landed on the people she's with.

Zara, Shey, Hana, Cahli, Jean, Sam and Steffy.

I bowed before coming close to them, a smile readily plastered on my face.

"Yow, came here to collect your man?" Kate teased and the other girls laughed, except for her.

"Synn!" Zara winked at me and I just shake my head. Shey smiled at me too while Sam beamed waving her hands at me.

I nudged Kate at the shoulder and turned when I heard Sid calling for my name.

"Yow Synn! You're his ride home?" Sid asked amused after I moved closer to them, bowing to his friends. Thankfully, it's just them.

My eyes landed on Gold who's head was resting on his palm. He hasn't noticed me yet.

This man got drunk like this because of some woman.

Did she save the world on her past life to have a man like him love him like this?

But then again, everyone deserves love unconditionally like his.

"Hey, Gold, your girlfriend is here," RK teased and my cheeks blushed even more.

"It's not like that," I whispered but they all just laughed and that's when Gold lifted his gaze until his eyes locked with mine.

His hooded eyes brightened at the sight of me and my heart did a mini somersault.

"You came!" he smiled and I almost raised an eyebrow when looked at me like he was surprised.

Didn't I tell him I'm going?

"Guys, sorry but-" I flinched when he almost stumbles after he tried to get up," I need to go. Cupcake here is a stub-" he hiccupped and I wanted to smile at how adorable he looked, "stubborn little lady. We don't want her getting mad," he finished and the guys cheered at his word.

Oh my God.

He made his way towards my direction and I almost choke on my own when he forcefully pulled me for a hug, the weight of his body towering mine.

"You came... For me..." he whispered on my ear and my knees almost gave in when I felt his breath on my skin. The sensation it brought on my body is more than enough to shake me off my senses for a moment.

Holy fuck.

"Yeah," I can't help but answer. The simple thought that he didn't believe I'll be here for him bothered me a little. "But please do me a favor and try to stand properly to support your weight. I can't carry you around like this," he hummed at my words but felt him moved a little, this time, I knew he understood coz he's no longer leaning towards me, though my ears felt like exploding at the sound of the loud beating of my heart.

"You sure you can handle him Synn?" Alex looked at us a little concern and I just nodded.

"Do you need help?" I heard Steffy behind me and I muster my sincerest smiled at her.

"We're good. Don't worry," I told her and she returned my smile before he moved and sat beside some male artist I forgot the name.

"Wooh, go Synn!" Kate cheered and I just wave them goodbye. The rest of the girls' cheers too and I almost die of embarrassment. The things I am doing for this guy here, he better thanked me tomorrow.

The fact that his arms are wrapped around my shoulders while I try to support him with my arms around his waist is something. I can't believe the amount of body contact we've shared when we aren't exactly the closest.

Alex guided us outside and even messed with my hair before we go.

"Be careful, okay? You sure you don't want me to accompany you?" he asked and I just shake my head.

To be honest, I'm not really sure if this is a good idea but I feel like Alex being with us is even worse. Gold was drunk and might spill something and I don't want him to regret whatever the outcome will be the next day.

The moment the door closes, I turned to his direction and look at his face.

His eyes were closed and I noticed how he was breathing heavily.

"Are you, okay?" I asked concerned and his eyes opened, his face turned towards me and I gulped at the close proximity.

Hie hooded eyes met with mine, and glossed over it was a lot of emotions.

My lips quiver at the sight of him. He looks so heartbroken.

"You love her this much? She doesn't deserve you," I told him and I can't believe I did.

"You think so?" he asked and my eyes softened at his state.

"You deserve better..." I told him. And I mean it. I know I didn't know him for so long but seeing him being like this made me realize how lucky that bitch is for having his heart.

You deserve better Gold...

Chapter 10

Synn's POV

"Oh my God," I didn't know whether to laugh or grimace at Demo's words when he almost freaks out before reaching for Gold from my arms, a groan escaping my lips along the process.

Gold freaking Simons is so heavy. I was barely able to carry him back to their dorm. I had to gather all the strength that I have in me so I can bring him home without causing a ruckus.

"Why is he this drunk? Come in," he rambled as he carefully leads Gold inside, me following his footsteps. On my hands was Gold's jacket which he started removing along the way, complaining about how it is hot. I had to apologize to the taxi driver.

Surprisingly, I was able to get Gold's address and floor number out of him before he reaches the state of almost being unable to talk.

Blood, sweat, and tears, just like their song, were all I gather in order to get him home. Why I did everything? I'm not sure of myself.

One thing though, I can't seem to leave the man all alone, especially when he's in despair when he is hurt.

Still, why?

I was startled when I heard a loud thump echoing across the room. I didn't notice that I already stopped walking while Demo casually lay Gold on the couch.

"Wow! This kid, arghh!" Demo was shaking his head while pushing Gold's body so he'd be comfortable while on the couch. At this rate, I don't think anybody can bring him towards his room.

He looks so wasted and flat out dead on the couch. demo, his co-member, grimaced before pinching Gold's cheeks, "You are so dead tomorrow, Goldie! Grrrr!" I had to cover my lips to refrain from laughing at how adorable they look.

"Ah," Remembering my presence, Demo turned to my direction while scratching the back of his head. "Sorry for this Synn. Our Gold had bothered you. He said he's going to meet his friends," he smiled awkwardly and I moved forward bowing a little.

"It's fine, sunbae,"

"Demo! Call me Demo," he smiled. My cheeks blushed a little.

"I can see that you're quite close to our youngest member which means we can be friends too," he cheerfully added even clapping his hands and I smiled. He's so bright I feel like he's someone I won't get awkward with. Besides, I honestly admire his dancing even before I debut.

"Okay, Demo!" I answered and he looked satisfied. "Here's his jacket by the way," I extended my hand and gave Gold's jacket to his, but not before I caught the playful glint in his eyes.

"What is it?" I can't help but ask. He was trying to keep himself from laughing.

"Nothing, I just remember how your jackets got exchanged during that awards show. And how you are carrying his jacket now. Ironic, isn't?" he asked and I almost choke on my saliva upon remembering the incident. The incident that started everything.

"By the way, why don't you sit for a while so you can rest. I don't think it's not a good idea for you to go right now. You look exhausted," he stated before turning back to Gold. "Ge'ez, this little baby!" he said before hitting Gold's leg lightly.

They really look so adorable, I'm close to gushing.

Before I knew it, I was already sitting on the couch listening to Demo's stories.

"Maybe in a few more months, a year two, maybe then we'll finally have our tour," I told him and his eyes widened.

"Hey, I can totally see it. Do you know how many fans your group has?" he exclaimed.

"Obviously, not as many as your group?" I teased and he pouted.

"Hey, Synn! It's not always about that. As long as there is one, two or three people who believe in you, that's all that matters," he answered and I felt my chest getting warm at his words.

"I know," I smiled. "I needed this, this little pep talk. I didn't know I'll earn something from helping this pain in the ass over here," I snickered and he crossed his arms, his eyebrow raised a little.

I didn't know why but I feel too comfortable with Demo. He suddenly feels like, a brother?

"Which reminds me, why are you two together? I understand that you may have the same set of friends but it's still a little weird. I don't remember Gold telling us about you being his friend. In fact, he didn't even say anything even after getting involved in a scandal with you," he added, his eyes looking at me in suspicion.

"Hey! Demo! It's not anything like that," I started.

"What? What am I thinking?" he singsong, him being too playful. I ended up laughing over his words.

"By the way, where are the others?" I asked. I haven't seen any of his members too.

"Oh, Raze and Zero were sleeping. The rest were probably outside," he answered before standing up.

"Wait here, let me get you something to drink. I have been a bad host," he added and before I can even stop him, he was already rushing to where I think was their kitchen was.

It wasn't even a good minute when the sound of the front door opening caught my attention.

"Oh, not sure," I heard someone spoke. He sounded awkward but I knew that was Mono, another member of their group.

I stood up from my seat when my eyes caught the figures of the people who just came it.

Chase and Eros looked pissed off but the moment they saw me inside, confusion filled their face. Even Mono tripped on the step before bowing towards my direction as I kept bowing in return. I smiled a little, unsure of how to greet them at this point.

"I can go and check on him Mono. He was so drunk I felt so bad and I-" my face automatically hardened the moment I saw her face; her words were cut off once her eyes landed on my direction.

Before I knew it, I was already standing close to Gold. The amused smile on the guys' faces visible for me to see.

But I didn't back away.

"Oh, you're here..." she stated, a fake smile showing on her face.

Wow. The audacity.

Gathering all the sweetness I had within me, I faked a smile and bowed towards her direction.

"I didn't know Gold had invited you to their dorm," she added and I wanted to raise my eyebrow.

The girl everybody loved...the sweet girl everybody admires... Innocent, talented... All that she is in front of the camera, I don't see any trace of it right now.

My eyes can't believe this woman. She brought her new boyfriend for Gold to see...threw him hurtful words and basically drop him like he's nothing and she's acting like she still owns him.

No. I won't let you break him. You've hurt him enough.

"Yeah. I didn't know you're still coming here though. I thought you two had broken up. Gold definitely told me about it," I answered and I heard Eros coughing.

My eyes locked with hers.

I'd probably put myself into trouble once again and I don't even care how Gold will react afterward but right now, I can't let this woman play with his emotions.

She doesn't deserve his love.

"We fought and he got drunk. I'm here to take care of him,"

Bitch.

"Really? But you don't have to do that. I can take care of him. He asked me to," I smiled and I noticed the change in her expression.

"Are you dating him?" she challenged and I raised an eyebrow. This girl is trying to bring the bitch out of me.

"Why, are you still dating him?" I challenged back and the facade she was putting up exploded in front of everyone.

"You, ahhhhh!!!!" She screamed so loud before turning her back towards the door, my hands covered on my ears.

After a loud thud, my knees wobble and I almost fell on the floor if it wasn't for the person who caught me. Talking to her drained all of my energy.

"Are you okay?" Demo looked concerned.

He guided me so I can take a seat.

"Her pipes were so strong," Chase muttered sounding amused.

"Most importantly, she's crazy," Eros added.

"That's some good show you put up, Miss Richards," Mono stated before sitting on the couch opposite mine. Now, all four of PERSONA was looking at me.

I just buried myself into trouble, for this goddamn man on the couch. And there he was, snoring while marching on dreamland when here I am, praying for the ground to eat me alive.

Shit. How do I handle this situation?

Chapter 11

Gold's POV

"Hey!" I threw a cushion towards Eros as he laughs at my state. Even without seeing myself, I know I look like a total shit right now. Wasted, that's how I was.

"Just how much did I drink?" I asked myself and my hands landing on my face in frustration, my band members' laughter echoing inside the room.

Just right after I woke up, they were all acting weird. They were all laughing and giggling like some teenager and it's starting to piss me off.

"Ah, why?" I whined and Zero casually smacking the back of my head while passing by.

"Stop throwing things to your older brothers," he said in warning pertaining to the cushion I just threw towards Eros' direction, the later smirking playfully and I just snickered in response.

It's not something serious between us. I know they let me do everything I wanted but I respect them very much. Everyone knew we were being playful and I knew when to stop.

"Also, can you please tell that goddamn ex of yours not to visit this place anymore unless she wants me to tear off her lungs. I woke up in the middle of my slumber because of her shitty attitude," he added and I raised an eyebrow at his words.

Ex?

"Huh?"

Raze sat beside me, his face a little amused. "You don't remember what happened last night?"

His words made my forehead crease.

"Last night?" I asked before leaning a bit forward. I was sitting on the couch while every one of them does the same. Chase and Demo on the floor playing some game I can't remember. I am too wasted to even bother.

"Oh, I was at Alex's!" I exclaimed even clapping my hands after remembering but my words were stuck on my throat the moment I realized something. The thought made me lean back to the couch.

Chase's face softened. "Why would you even go there? We told you to take a break..." he stated and I knew what they were talking about.

After what happened, my members were so insistent of me not getting back with her. Not that I'd do that but I don't really trust myself this time.

She was that girl, the first idol I had the courage to talk with. Actually, it was her who first talked to me.

I was on my way to the restroom one time during our rehearsal for our music show performance when she stopped me. My mind can still vividly remember, she was all shy, her cheeks were blushing red contrary to the confident image she had with the public.

Yes, she was sweet and adored by many but she's also known for a lot of things like I am.

And maybe that's what hooked me into her.

I was happy. We were. Until changes started breaking us apart. Now, I can't seem to reach her. She seemed so far from my grasp.

A long sigh escaped from my lips. I suck the air from my lungs after my face got hit by a pillow.

"Hey!" I bolted out of my seat and Raze laughed out loud.

"Stop spacing out because of that woman. You don't even know how much of a mess you were last night. You missed the show," he chuckled and I raised an eyebrow.

The look on his face tells me he really enjoyed what he saw.

"Gold, you didn't tell us you're close with ROY4L's youngest member? The last time I remember, you didn't even care when you two had gotten into a scandal," Mono asked and I know, that expression on his face where he was trying to check my reaction. I've seen it too many times not to notice.

They were right though. It didn't bother me that we got into a scandal. It's not something new anyway. A lot of idols get into one even just by doing the same gesture or looking a little alike.

"Why? We're not that close. I mean, we just had a few conversation and I k-" I gulped when I saw Zero crossing his arms over his chest.

He was looking at me intently, as if one wrong word and I'm dead.

"What? Did you kiss her?" a smug smile showing on his lips and I choke.

"What?" I looked around and saw the look of everyone, my cheeks blushing along the way.

Ge'ez, what am I? A girl?

"Why would I kiss her?"

But you did. I thought to myself.

Though I can't really tell that I did actually kiss her forehead. She looked adorable I can't help but tease her.

Plus, it was after she found out about us. For some reason, I knew she wouldn't say a word about what she saw.

For some reason, I feel like I can trust her.

I trust you, I know you won't hurt me like she did... Never...

I turned my head a little, my brows furrowing, the words in my head seemed familiar but I can't remember.

"Then why did she do that?" Demo asked but I feel like he asked it more tp himself. Since earlier, I noticed how he'd been so silent.

"What?" I asked again. What the hell are they keep on talking about?

"She brought you home last night," he added and memory suddenly flashed before me.

That time when I was talking with her over the phone....

For some reason, I always found myself opening up with her. Maybe it's because she knew. "Obviously, she knew what's going on because she clearly said that you and that bratty girl had broken up and that she found out from you," he mumbled and I was left in awe.

"What?" I looked around and saw everyone smirking.

"Well, she clearly pissed off your ex, Gold. And I can say I'm glad she did coz she made it look like you're over that woman," Mono weigh before looking at me expectantly. "You are over her, right?" he asked and words got stuck on my throat.

Am I?

Just then, I felt my phone vibrating from inside my pocket. I put it on silent last night.

What I read though made my eyebrow raise a little.

"I'll help you get over her. I will. just don't try to win her back,"

A snicker escaped my lips. I clearly told her I can handle this.

Just what are you up to Richards?

Chapter 12

Synn's POV

Three weeks. It took me three weeks to think and realize that I was stupid for pulling that trick between her and Gold.

What if Gold decides to get back with her?

What if he gets mad for what I did?

What if he tells me to back off and mind my own business?

If any of this actually happens, I won't be able to save my face after all those things I said to her. I'd appear as a loser and pathetic.

Above all this, what adds up to my frustration is that Gold didn't even bother answering. Looking back, I acted like some possessive bitch who's trying to get in between two people who had a relationship when I don't even have anything to do with it.

You are so stupid, Synn! Stupid!

I gritted my teeth and lightly hit the top of my head in frustration.

Just pretend nothing happen when you see him. I tried convincing myself.

"Wow! This girl has gone mad," My attention was caught by the sound of laughter of my members, Snow even raising her eyebrows.

We were currently inside our van on our way home. We just came back from our concert in Japan.

"Japan made her lose her cool," Elisse laughed and I glared at them earning a new set of laughter from the three.

"Seriously, Synn, are you on your period or something?" Arika asked, amused at my reaction.

My eyes scanned the three and they were all looking at me like I killed someone secretly or something. Too bad, it's probably my self-esteem that has been buried - alive, if I may add.

These three don't even know the shit I had to go through these past weeks. But it's still my fault. I knew they will scold me if I tell them. Then again, it was my decision. I carelessly decided for myself just because I feel bad for that fucker who had the decency to leave my message on seen.

"Ugh, I am stupid!" I inanimately cried while grabbing a fistful of my hair, the three laughing all at once.

"What, did you confess with someone or what? Coz that'll be totally awkward if you got rejected," Snow asked. By this time, our van was already down the basement parking, our manager maneuvering it to the designated lot for us.

I hissed at her words and Arika moved forward and pinched my cheeks.

"Let's go eat some ice cream, Richards. Stop with your tantrums," Elisse patted my shoulder as the door suddenly opened, our other manager urging us to go out.

For some reason, my heart skipped a beat when she called me by my last name. Gold often calls me that.

Ge'ez, Synn. Get yourself together.

"Synn, did you do something wrong? You took your Mom's favorite bag again, didn't you?" They continued asking while we're on the elevator. Our manager no longer with us.

"That was one time! And for the record, I told her I'm borrowing it and she forgot," I bantered and Snow just stuck her tongue out, messing with me.

"Stop asking me weird questions. It's not like you guys doesn't act like this from time to time. I mean, Arika acted like some cat even rolling on the floor three months ago when she got drunk," I whined, even stomping my feet a little and that made them tease me even more.

"Shut up, Synn. You told me I was adorable," she chuckled and I didn't answer because she's only speaking the truth.

The sound of the elevator opening signaled us to move forward and it wasn't even three steps when Snow stopped, Elisse and I ended up hitting both her and Arika's back.

"Awww!" I whined, rubbing my nose a little.

"Arika!" Elisse exclaimed.

My brows furrowed when the two didn't move forward.

These two are at it again.

"Hey, Synn..." Snow whispered.

"What? Hey, I need to pee!" I pouted just in time for her to move sideways. And it was as if I was stuck in my place. Coz there he was, leaning on the wall in all his glory.

Holy shit.

"Gold..." his name naturally coming out of my lips.

He was there, both hands inside his coat, his Timberlands still available for me to see.

Elisse pushed me forward.

"Go..." she whispered, pushing me forward along with SNow and Arika.

My hands reached for the walls as I try to stop them.

"No!" I panicked, "No! Wait! Wait!" I turned around ready to run but Snow and Arika grab both of my arms carrying me towards our door.

"Hey!" I was kicking in my feet and Elisse was openly laughing at my state.

The three are ganging up on me.

"Traitor!" I hissed at Elisse and she just winked.

In no time, I heard the sound of our door being opened and the three of them coming in leaving me in front of Gold.

"Senior, you should talk in the living room. Someone might see you two outside. We'll just be in our rooms," Snow bowed, along with the two.

I rolled my eyes at their actions and mouthed series of curses that they just all return with a giggle.

"Enjoy," Elisse mouthed before running off inside her room, the two following.

My ears felt weird and I knew my heart was thumping really hard inside my chest.

My knees were shaky. I doubt I can even turn around to greet him.

My hands reached for my face, covering them in embarrassment. After that stunt I pulled at their dorm, the message I sent to him and what I did just now, I don't think I still have any strength left to face him.

"So..." he started, his voice husky, I thought I forgot to breathe. "Are you not going to let me in?" he asked and my eyes closed.

Breathe Synn...

Opening my eyes, I slowly turned around and smiled at him awkwardly.

"Senior..." I timidly greeted, even bowing in front of him, the amused expression on his face available for me to see. "Ahh, come in," I offered, and I was quick to turn around so I can enter our dorm.

"We're back to being formal, I see," he started. I heard him follow and I march my way towards the couch.

I turned around and saw him checking our place out before he casually sat on the couch before I even offer. He was just wearing simple clothes but that made him look even more surreal.

He smiled at me and my stomach churned. He smiled. He just gave me the fucking bunny smile.

Good Lord.

"So, senior, what brought you here?" I asked, sitting on the empty couch opposite his.

Just after I asked the question, the corner of his lips twitched upward, making me even more nervous.

Trouble.

His smile spells trouble.

"Why? Can't I go visit my girlfriend?" he deadpanned answered and I was sure I heard something crashing in one of the rooms inside but I didn't have the time to be bothered.

By this time, my mouth was hanging wide open, my brain unable to fully process what he said.

As if he didn't just drop something big in front of me, he just has to add another.

"I miss you, cupcake. Don't I get a hug? " he added, his arms spread wide open as if waiting for me to come over and that's more than enough for me to lose my shit.

Fucking bunny smile just caused my death.

Chapter 13

Synn's POV

"I miss you, cupcake. Don't I get a hug?" he asked, his arms wide open waiting for me to actually give what he was asking for.

My mouth left agape, my consciousness leaving me.

Never in my lifetime did I thought that Gold Simons, the world's most famous youngest idol would ever ask Synncinati Richards a hug.

He was fucking asking for a hug.

From me. From someone like me.

"Why?" before I knew it, I was already asking. The beating of my heart slowly started calming down.

Because I knew it. I heard this before. He pulled this trick on me before and I won't fall for it.

Not again.

I can't fall for it again.

My eyes caught how his expression changes, his face softened and the conviction in his eyes changes. And I'm not ready for whatever he was about to say.

"No!" I exclaimed before he can even speak, my hands covering my ears, my eyes closed. I bent a little almost burying my face on my lap.

Why? Why do I always have to embarrass myself in front of him?

That's it, Synn. You have to avoid being associated with Gold.

"I get it. Stop teasing me. I promise I won't intervene with-" I wasn't even done speaking yet when I felt a hand above mine. My eyes opened once again, face lifting a little, and I saw him crouching in front of me.

He looked so soft I want to squeal.

His eyes locked with mine and I was left in a daze.

"I'm sorry," he started. He was covering my ears too but we both know I can hear every word he says. "I'm sorry for dragging you into this. I'm sorry for putting you in that situation. And I'm sorry for making you go through all that," his gaze soften and my heart stopped hammering inside my chest.

"And thank you..." he added his voice almost a whisper and my heart clenched at the sight of him. "Thank you for caring when you don't even have to. I'm not your responsibility and my problem shouldn't in any way affect you,"

I was at loss for words. Things had gone all too fast, I felt my body being lifted from my seat until he guided me towards the couch, his other hand now wrapped around my waist while the other removes mine over my ears.

And that made it even worse. Because I can hear the loud beating of my heart, my breathing became ragged as I decipher the state of my own emotion.

He must have realized as his other hand started rubbing my arms, drawing imaginary circles over my skin which effectively shuts my panic system as I started to calm down.

"Breathe, cupcake. It's fine. Everything is fine," he whispers, his voice brings melody in my ears, my eyes closing and I allow myself to indulge over his care.

He was humming to me over my silence, a melody I wasn't familiar with. Or was that one of his songs?

I didn't know why but the two of us was just there, my body leaning over his chest, his hands supporting my body while the other now settle on top of my other hand.

And I felt it, my body relaxing over his touch as he leaned his back towards the couch for support, pulling my body along with his.

I bit my lower lip at our situation.

One moment, I was ready to drown myself over the embarrassment, next moment I was here, around his arms indulging myself over luxury I shouldn't be having.

But I didn't pull back. His arms are too comfortable, so I let myself enjoy whatever this is he was up to.

I lifted my gaze for a moment to look at him and realized that his eyes were already closed, his perfectly sculpted face available for me to see.

I gulped.

The Man above heaven was unfair.

How is it possible that there is a man right here that is perfect in so many ways?

"Gold..." I whispered- a moan escaped his lips causing his chest to vibrate, words felt like getting stuck on my lungs.

Holy shit.

There was something bothering me though. And I won't feel at ease until I know the answer.

"Ahmm, did you go see her after that night?" I asked, my heart almost felt like hanging in my chest.

I wasn't ready. Not for his answer.

Knowing that he tried to see her after that incident would probably put me in a foul mood but it's his relationship. Whatever he does, I shouldn't be getting my hands on his decisions.

He was silent. And that made my mood drop a little.

Of course, he would. He loves her Synn. Stupid!

My lips quiver at the thought and I'm just thankful his eyes were still closed.

"No," he suddenly answered and if fireworks can erupt on my eyes, it probably had after sparks of hope has arisen over my chest, a smile now drawn over my face.

Knowing that he didn't let himself go after that menacing woman made me smile. I feel like a proud mom after her son won a competition.

That's how happy I am.

I didn't know the word "No", which most often connotes negativity would bring happiness within me.

Before I knew it, soft giggles escaped my lips and my other hand had to cover my mouth after, releasing his grasp.

I lifted my gaze and saw that the corner of his lips started twitching upwards.

"You're that happy?" he asked and I was startled when his hand once again reached for mine, now intertwining ours together.

Holy shit.

"Gold... " I called his name once again, my eyes over our now intertwined hands. Questions started arising in my head.

Stop thinking too much Synn. This is probably nothing.

"Why did you come here?" I can't help but ask. "And why are we hugging?" my cheeks blushed at my last question but I'd probably die if I don't ask.

"Hmmm?" he answered, tilting his head closer to my direction a little, his breath hitting the back of my neck, I felt the hairs at the back of my neck all standing in shock.

"We aren't," he answered and my brows furrowed. "My arms are just around your body and you're just leaning towards me. So no, we're not hugging," he answered, his breathing now ragged and I was so sure he's starting to feel sleepy.

So I didn't ask any more questions. My eyes also closed once again, as I savor this moment, no longer questioning the weird situation we're now in.

Just go with the flow, Synn. Just let yourself enjoy this moment.

Chapter 14

Synn's POV

"Stop giggling over some messages Synn and focus on what I was telling you," Arika was laughing as she threw me a blanket probably to cover myself while our makeup artists dolls me up.

We're currently inside our designated room where we will be attending a Music show. It's only two in the morning and I was scanning the messages that I and Gold exchanged with last night until I fell asleep.

"That's probably her boyfriend," Elisse giggled and I just rolled my eyes in her direction. Again, with her teasing.

After what happened the other night, Gold and I fell asleep on the couch with me leaning over his chest and his arms wrapped around my waist.

We didn't talk. We just stayed there and eventually fell asleep.

So when his phone started ringing waking up the both of us, I was startled when he pulled me for a hug and kissed my forehead before leaving. And of course, I was left in a daze. If not for the continuous squealing of my other members, I wouldn't get back to my senses and pull myself together.

So much for acting like nothing had happened.

I had to run my way towards my room when I heard the doors of the other girl's opening, the sound of them rushing probably to bombard me with their questions.

They were asking me what's our relationship but I didn't respond.

What is it to tell anyways?

"So, as I was saying, when did the two of you started being cuddly like that?" she started interrogating once again. I even lost count for how many times they did these, the three of them trying to squeeze something from me.

"Synncinati! C'mon! You can't expect us to shut up. You guys were so sweet and all, oh my gosh!" Elisse was squealing and thank God we only have a few staff left inside our dressing room.

My eyes widened in her direction signaling her to calm down. She smirks earning a chuckle from our makeup artists.

"Seriously, Synn. How did all of these happen? I thought you said that that scandal brought nothing but problems to you? How come you two now cuddle buddies?" Snow whispered and I gulped.

How do I tell them that everything didn't actually start from that jacket incident?

But I can't.

That's his secret. And I promised him I'll keep his secret.

I promised.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

"There's nothing going on between the two of us. We're just...friends..." my heart ached at the words I utter.

Yeah, we're nothing but friends.

They could probably taste the bitterness on my voice.

My eyes caught Arika raising her eyebrows but I'm glad they didn't push it. Besides, a few of our managers are now back on the dressing room.

My eyes followed the movements of our staff. They were transferring our things to the other side. It's nothing new.

There were times that we have to share a minimal space because two groups have to share one dressing room.

It's very rare but it happens.

I hope it's with a group we are close with. Things are hard when it's awkward inside a dressing room.

My jaw almost dropped on the floor when the room burst open, and all seven males came rushing in, laughter filling inside the room as they laugh over something.

"It wasn't me!" a deep-almost growling voice echoed inside the room and it sent chills over my body.

"Shut up, Eros. I saw you sneaking out of the kitchen last night.

Good Lord, their presence is surreal.

I gulped.

The moment the boys' eyes landed on our direction, they stopped.

Silence filled the room.

My eyes caught his gaze and he raised his eyebrows, my eyes shifting gaze to something else.

Calm down, Synn. It's just him.

All of us were exchanging glances, my three other members smiling awkwardly but the way Chase and Eros glanced towards Gold and I's direction didn't get pass through me.

"Ahm, three of the dressing rooms were unusable at this time as a repair was happening. We apologize as this dressing room is the only room available for sharing right now," someone I think was one of the staff from the music show came rushing in to apologize.

Holy shit, this is awkward.

Male and female idols can share dressing rooms even on awards but on music shows, it's very rare for this to happen. We often share with another female group. Besides, we film these shows for a whole day.

My eyes watch as my members all stood up to bow and greet them with the guys doing the same. I ended up just bowing as our makeup artist asks me to close my eyes so she can fix my eye makeup.

"Synn!" I was startled when I heard Eros' voice. My eyes went to his direction and saw him waving his hand. I smiled awkwardly and from the corner of my eyes, I can see my members raising their eyebrows.

Shit.

I can't exactly share that I've been in their dorm before, right?

"Sunbae," I answered and I saw how the rest of the boys chuckled.

"We're back to being formal now I see," Chase answered and the rest found a place to sit with.

My eyes widened when I realized that Gold had walked straight to where I was.

"You didn't respond..." he muttered. It wasn't a question but a statement and my eyes landed on my phone, the message he sent a few minutes ago still left unread.

I gulped.

By this time, I knew everyone's eyes were on us. Even our makeup artist had stopped doing her job. Our managers were also watching.

"Ahm, we-we were talking and," my eyes avoided his gaze. Why do I feel like I did something wrong by simply forgetting to respond to his message? "I'm sorry..."

I bit my lower lip at the last thing I said.

Ge'ez! I didn't do anything wrong. Why am I even apologizing?

Mono's laughter echoed the whole room.

"Come back here Gold and let her makeup artist doll her up," They all laughed after and my eyes caught his intense gaze as if I did something wrong.

"Stop being clingy to your girl, Gold!" Eros teased and I felt like my cheeks would burst any minute.

"Read my message and respond," he stated before gently pinching the tip of my nose, my breath hitching at his gesture. My eyes followed his movement until he starts turning his back on me to head to his members.

Elisse caught my attention and saw how she was wiggling her eyebrows.

Shit. Another issue I have to explain. Just great.

And then I remember his last words. My fingers immediately started tapping and my heart almost stopped beating after I read his last message.

"You weren't cheating while I was away, right? Did you miss me? "

Chapter 15

Synn's POV

"Stop! Okay, I'm sorry, Ahhhh!" I was trashing and screaming while my laughter echoed across the room. My eyes brimming with tears threatening to spill.

"Hey, Gold, Stop!" I screamed once again, swatting his hands away from me.

My eyes caught the playful glint showing in his face but stopped, either way, a huge smile spread across his face.

"Told you I can make you smile in less than a minute," he snickered before sitting more comfortably on the couch.

"You cheated, you little rat," I laugh before hitting him on his shoulder and his laughter echoed across the room.

"Didn't tell you I'd play fair anyways," he smirks and that's my turn to laugh. "But for the record, I will never cheat on you..." he added and I almost choke on my own saliva.

There he is again, teasing me through his meaningful words yet he doesn't tell me anything.

Gold visited me in my dorm while my other members were out doing God knows what.

It has been two months after the music show incident and we're still the same. We message each other, visits each other whenever one is free, and ignore both our members whenever they ask what's going on between the two of us until they all gave up.

It's not like I can tell them anything anyway. Gold and I never talked about what relationship we have.

We cuddle, we fight, we flirt and we talk like we are some friends. So I guess we're that - friends, or borderline.

"Why are you here anyway? I heard Alex has a party?" I pouted. That little bitch didn't even invite me, telling me something about me being a traitor after Sorn told him I said his party always sucks.

I watch as he lifted his hand, a habit he has that I noticed. He slowly brushed back his hair, his pointed nose on angles any girl wouldn't be able to stop admiring.

"Alex told me I'm banned at his party because my girlfriend said his party sucks," he grinned at my direction and my eyes widened.

"I was joking, okay?!" I hit his shoulder once again and I was about to say something else when I saw him raise his eyebrow.

"What again?" I rolled my eyes on him and he chuckled.

"So you're the girlfriend," he teased and my cheeks blushed the moment I realized what I just said.

Shit. Why did I even say that? What will he think of me?

Because of us being close, and him being so clingy towards me, both our members started assuming things. And I can't say that I am not affected by it.

Imagine a Gold Simons, someone with million of fans drooling over him, and here I am able to freely talk with him, hug him and even text him from time to time. I know a lot of people are dying to take my place.

Not that they know about it anyways. Plus, Gold, the little flirt, would sometimes do things in public that make fans connects the two of us. Like how he usually does our hand gesture greeting. I know he's doing it to annoy me.

"It wasn't like that. I said his party sucks so maybe he was talking about a friend, a gi-rl..." I want to slap my face for stuttering.

Seriously Synn?

"Oh-kay..." he started teasing once again, his eyebrows wiggling and I swear he got it from Eros. If he isn't looking like a meal that he is, I would have kicked him out of the dorm, to be honest.

As if you have the guts to do it. I grunted internally as I practically hear my own voice talking inside my head.

"Stop!" I started whining, covering my face along the process, his laughter echoed inside the room and I swear, something inside my stomach just did a somersault.

"Come here, Richards," he reached for my hands and before I knew it, his arms were wrapped around my body, my face now leaning over his chest. I realized this is one of his habits, aside from him leaving me with a kiss in the forehead.

Again, anyone who sees us will say we're hugging but he gives me the same response.

"This is still not a hug, right?" I chuckled and I felt his chest vibrating.

"Nope," he answered and I just shake my head in response.

"How about we watch some Netflix?" I told him and he bent a little to see my expression, a huge lump on my throat getting stuck at our close proximity.

"Netflix and chill?" he teased once again and I pinch him on his chest. Not that it will hurt him, to be honest.

Just then, I noticed my phone blinking, a message showing on the screen. Both our gaze landed on my device and I was pretty sure he was able to read the message.

"That guy was texting you?" he suddenly asked and I wasn't sure what it was on his voice.

"Sometimes?" I answered truthfully.

He was silent for a moment and I didn't bother releasing myself from his grasp to check the message.

"And you respond?"

I bit my lower lip at his question.

"Ahm, sometimes?" I told him. Even though I don't want to entertain that person, I don't want to seem rude so I respond sometimes. Though I always find a way to cut off the conversation through my hectic schedule so we won't have to talk with something else.

"Hmmmm," he hummed while nodding. "How did he get your number?" he asked again and my brows furrowed. I backed away a little to see his face but to my dismay, his expression remained calm.

What do I expect anyways?

"Don't really remember, Alex? That bitch always makes me his business," I answered and I saw how his jaw clenched for a moment.

As much as I want to, I don't let things get into my head.

But seeing him acting like he's jealous, I can't help but think otherwise.

And then my phone beeped once again, another message coming in from that person. I saw how his gaze went away from my phone, a smile escaped my lips.

I moved forward and reach for my phone, I felt his grasped tightening, not releasing me and my head snapped on his direction. Our gaze locked and for a moment, I thought he's going to say something until he slowly let me go.

Disappointment filled my system but I reached for my phone otherwise.

"Synn, hi, are you busy?"

"Are you available to grab some coffee?"

After reading his message, I exited the app and put back my phone on the table. I reached for the remote to find something good to watch.

"You're not gonna respond?" he asked and I shrugged my shoulder.

But then an idea crossed my mind. I don't like conversing with that person anyways. So with that in mind, I opened the message once again and gave him my phone.

"You respond to him," I muttered and he looked at me intently.

"You sure? I can tell him you'll go with him," he raised his eyebrow and I did the same.

"You decide then," I answered before standing up, "I'm going to make some popcorns," I told him and just left my phone in his hands.

Whatever he tells him, I'm fine with it. Maybe then I'll know what to do.

After a few minutes, I was already back with a bowl of popcorn on my hand. I sat beside him and saw him playing with something on my phone.

"You're back," he exited the app and smiled, giving my phone on the process.

He reached for the popcorn while his other hand reached for the remote and look for something to watch.

I opened my phone to check what he did and saw that he sent two messages, one for that guy while the other is for Alex.

I clicked Alex's name and had to stifle my laughter at the sight of the message.

"Fuck off Lex. Stop giving Synn's number to anyone. Do it again and I'll post that horrible selfie that Sid posted on our GC - Gold"

Then, I checked his message to that other guy and my stomach churned at the sight of his response.

"Sorry, but she can't go. Please stop messaging my girl - Simons"

He fucking put his last name.

I turned to his direction and saw him focused on that movie by Sandra Bullock.

He wasn't looking at my direction but my eyes can clearly see the smirk plastered on his face.

Does that mean I'm no longer allowed to entertain guys?

Damn Simons for being sweet yet confusing at the same time!

Chapter 16

Synn's POV

"Hey, you sure you are okay?" Arika pouted. She moves forward and engulfs me in a hug. A smile came across my lips at her gesture.

"Ahh, lemme join..." Elisse whined. Just then, the bathroom door burst open and Snow saw us.

"Oooh, group hug!!!!" she exclaimed before running towards us, a strong force hitting us three making us stumble on the couch, our laughter echoing inside the living room.

"Seriously, at what side did they thought you got plastic surgery? Like, c'mon, I've been pinching that nose for God knows how long," Snow laughed and I grimaced.

She really loves doing that.

The amount of support I keep on getting over Twitter and Instagram are immeasurable. The amount of hate isn't even one percent of the love that I was getting so I honestly don't feel sad about what's happening. For what it's worth, the incident made me even realized how much I am loved by so many people.

Gold was overseas and can barely access his phone because he was quite busy but the moment he saw the trending hashtag, he found a way to call me to make sure I was okay.

To be honest, I feel overwhelmed. With our career's path right now and the connection I have with Gold, I honestly feel so blessed.

Whatever we have right now, no label was attached into it. We never said the word. The farthest I ever told him was that I miss him. And that's him teasing me.

But what changed though is that I no longer entertain any text messages from anyone with a different intention towards me. They don't stand a chance since ever since the last incident, it would always be him who'd reply on my phone.

It was like a routine. We'd see each other and he'd ask if I was cheating on him and I'd laugh.

It has become our thing.

Demo always scrunches his nose whenever he hears us.

PERSONA and ROY4L had become close too.

Elisse and Mono would always be talking about so many things in the corner and Chase would entertain us by reciting everything he'd learned from the two.

Snow would bicker around with Eros. I'm not sure what's with the two but I'd always find them fighting over nothing. They look adorable.

Arika, on the other hand, had been busy with our schedules and juggling her time with her boyfriend. Now that the media had revealed their relationship, her fears were lessened.

I salute Arika for coming clean over our boss though. She asked for his permission which he gave considering how brave Arika was to inform management about it instead of simply dating in secret.

After watching a few movies, each of us went to our respective rooms to take a rest.

It has been what, almost a year and I can say that I'm quite happy with what's happening in my life.

We've got a World Tour coming through and we're also preparing a few songs to release.

Our schedules were so tight, the last time I saw Gold was last month.

I miss him.

Dependent, that's what I was trying to avoid. I don't want stay dependent with him. He never says the word but I know I am important to him as much as he is important to me. But assuming is scary.

I don't wanna get hurt.

I was startled when I heard the sound of my phone beeping. I was already lying on my bed.

I checked the message and realized that it's from Alex.

"Did Gold called you? Don't mind the photos, okay? Those were old anyway, and irrelevant if I may add,"

My brows furrowed at what he said.

What photos?

Was he talking about the recent trend under my name?

However, my stomach suddenly started churning. It was as if something is bugging me inside.

So I opened my app and searched for any articles or trending about me.

Aside from the recent respect hashtag, I wasn't able to see anything else.

I was scrolling down a bit more until something caught my eye.

My SynnGold heart is wounded.

Huh?

Without even thinking, my thumb already started doing its job scrolling. My heart almost leaps out of my chest when I saw the comments and some collage photos that fans made.

It was her photo in Japan, and she's wearing one of his jackets and his bucket hat.

And he's also in Japan right now for a concert.

Coincidence?

Well fuck.

I bit my lower lip as they started quivering.

A lot of fans have pointed out the similarity of the jacket and hat with Gold's.

She was all smiles in the photo yet here I am with a disarray system.

Some fans were defending Gold stating that it may not be his but I know. I know those clothes very well. I've seen them a lot of times in person.

I know.

I lifted my gaze in the ceiling and away from my phone as I felt my eyes getting moist.

Of course, they can get back together. He loves her too much. He loves her that he's not scared to show to me that he's hurting because of her. He wasn't able to hide the hurt.

Just then, I saw an update from Twitter. Now, it was a photo of him all smiles with a finger heart. And right there and then, the caption broke me.

"It was nice seeing you again, our fans"

Or fans my ass. It wasn't your fans you just saw.

As much as it hurts, I started typing a response to Alex. I can't let people know I am affected.

"Nope. Gold doesn't need to call me every time. We're friends but it's not like we're dating :)"

And then, I turned off my phone so I won't start checking out even more photos and articles online.

God Synn, what did you expect? He was never yours. It's a borrowed time.

He's hers.

In the end, it was still her.

And it fucking hurts.

Chapter 17

Synn's POV

"What?" I whispered, avoiding the scrutinizing stares I kept on getting from my other members.

We're in a dressing room for an Awards Show and we're just keeping our make up done.

"Did you two had a fight?" Arika asked crossing her arms over her chest, eyebrow-raising a little. She was studying my expression so I tried to show the fakest smile I can muster.

"No, what are you guys talking about?" I feign ignorance but Snow raised her eyebrow even more.

"Eros told me Gold had been acting strangely for a week since they came back. He's easily pissed off and saw that he was trying to contact you on his phone but you weren't answering. Come to think of it, you weren't using your phone that much lately," she added.

"And, you're always out with your friends. You're not giving him a chance to see you at our dorm," Elisse chimed in.

I grunted internally. What's with them cornering me like this?

"We're okay. I promise," I smiled at them but deep inside I was cursing myself.

How do I tell them I was avoiding him because of those things circling over the internet?

After that happened, I mostly disregarded his occasional messages and attempts of talking with me over the phone.

The moment I saw clips of them arriving at the airport, I turned my phone off every now and then to avoid being contacted. I'd even call a few of my friends so I can go out with them. I knew he'd try to visit me at the dorm. By this time, I knew he's figured things out. But I don't have the courage to face him at this time.

This is my fault anyways. I let myself get tangled with him.

I should have backed away after the jacket incident.

I should have turned a blind eye after I saw how much he was hurting because of her. Because now, I'm at the receiving end of the hurt.

And damn it. Even after all this, after these pain, I still can't find myself to see him. Because I am afraid.

I am afraid he'd walk to me and tell me he'll come back to her.

I am afraid he'd stop seeing me because he's back at seeing her.

I was afraid he'd leave when he's not mine in the first place.

Stupid, I know.

"I'll just go and grab something to drink," I told them before standing up. I didn't give them a time to protest as I swiftly made my way out of the room.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

I was about to walk when I heard someone clearing her throat.

"You seemed down, Richards. Did the realization finally hit you?"

I turned autopilot at the sound of her annoying voice.

She was smiling like how she usually does over the camera. The sweet and idol-like image that everyone knows of her available for me to see.

She's confident to talk to me like this because we're located at a rather isolated place rather than the other dressing rooms.

"And I see you're still being delusional," I told her which made her smile immediately falter.

She may still have his heart but I got my pride to stand up with too.

"We met last month. And he was glad to finally see me again. What does it leave you?" she was pissing me off but why does she sound so desperate to me?

But the fact that they indeed saw each other makes my heartache.

"Why, did he get back with you?" I tried asking, sounding a little more confident and not showing how curious I am deep inside.

I almost smile when I saw how she looked taken aback.

He didn't.

I didn't know if I should be happy or not but at least I can use this to piss her off even more.

"I know you're not seeing each other now," she added and I raised my eyebrow at her.

How did she know?

"Just because we had a little fight doesn't mean he'll go crawling back to you. My Gold isn't like that. So stop thinking that you still have him wrapped around your fingers because you don't. He is his own person. Not you or me, or anyone else have him under control. Let that sink into your pathetic mindset," I scowled before walking towards her direction. Directly opposite to where the refreshments can be bought.

I changed my mind. I'm going to see him.

Why did I avoid him in the first place?

But before I can even walk past her, I felt her pulling me back by my arms. I cringed a little when I felt her nails digging deeper on my skin more than necessary.

"We're not over Richards. I'll get him back. You can be happy today but I'm still wishing you good luck," for a second, I got scared at how strange she was sounding. "He loved me first and he'll love me again. I'll make sure you'll end with nothing," she screeched and I winched at how demonic she sounded.

I removed her grasp on me and faced her. "Good luck on your delusional journey. I still wish you happiness...." I stare at her sincerely, "Kim..."

And then I walked past her, my insides were shaking and I knew I was scared of her.

She's very scary and I feel like she's not acting normal anymore. She sounded so obsessed with Gold.

Just when I was about to turn on a corner, I felt a hand pulling me, my back slamming on the wall in an instant. I was sure I was supposed to feel an impact but I felt a hand behind the back and the back of my head so I didn't feel any pain.

Gold's face greeted me. His face full of different emotion and I can't seem to identify them all at once.

But one emotion seem to overpower everything. He was fuming mad.

I saw him closed his eyes for a moment as if he was trying to control his anger.

"You..." he whispered. His voice was shaking a little. "The torture...aisst," he released his hands from me and saw him turn around a little, brushing his hair backward, his tongue running his lower lip along the process.

Good Lord, he looked like a damn fine meal in front of me.

He was wearing a glittering pair of suit. His face already caked with makeup and he looked dashing. Him being angry in front of me gives a different, almost hot vibe.

"You were avoiding me," he started. He stared at me for a moment and I can see his frustration over his face. If I only knew this is how much he got affected by my actions, I would have talked to him sooner.

My heart felt jitters inside me.

His hands were now resting on his waist as he stare at me.

I miss him.

I fucking miss my Gold.

"Why are y-" before he can even finish what he was about to say, I lunged forward engulfing him in a big wide hug. He was caught off-guard for a moment but I felt his arms wrapped around me otherwise.

His breathing calmed down a little and I felt him bury his face at the crook of my neck.

"I thought you're mad at me," he whispered and I hugged him tighter.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry for avoiding you. I won't do it again," I told him and I felt him relaxed even more.

He was rubbing my back and I felt him sway our body back and forth.

"You better not do this again, cupcake. I don't like it. I don't like us fighting either," he whispered and my eyes closed, my nose filled with his perfume and it's almost ecstasy to me.

"I heard you've been hanging out too much with your friends, and a few males too," he added and I just groaned in response.

"I don't like it Richards. So I'd like to make it official," he stated and I pulled away a little so I can see his face, my heart pounding so hard inside my chest.

He was smiling at me, his other hand reached for my nose and pinched it a little, my heart almost skipped out of my chest.

Is he going to say what I was thinking?

"I don't want to ask you because I'm not giving you an option to say No. I want you to be my girl. Heck, I'm claiming you as my girl," he whispered, he bit his lower lip at the end and my lips parted in instant.

Did he just?

His chuckles filled my ears and I swear it felt like music to my ears.

"Fuck, I miss my cupcake," he hummed a little and I saw him gulped. "I'd like to kiss you but I'm afraid to get your lipstick smudged or something,"

And then he did it, like what he always does, he reached for my forehead and that's all it took for me to die.

Chapter 18

Gold's POV

"Stop whistling!" I chuckled when a pillow went straight to my ass after Zero deliberately threw it in my direction.

I leaned forward and threw it back to him which he caught perfectly. He turned around a little but not before crunching his nose in annoyance.

"Yow, Gold," Mono laughed as he plopped his body on the couch.

It was a day after Synn and I became official. We weren't able to meet after the awards as there are too many people but we video called the whole night.

She looks so cute being all shy. Her cheeks were red the whole time and I just love teasing her.

"You seemed happy. Was it because of your ex or did you finally get a hold of Synn?" Demo teased and I grimaced.

They knew how I've been stressed after we head back to the country and not once was I able to get a hold of my girl. She was distant. I didn't know why but even the times I tried to visit her at their dorm had been futile. She was never there.

And then I heard from Alex that they were going out with a few of their friends, like what the fuck?

I mean, what did I do wrong? I told her I have limited access through my phone and we're busy over the tour and she was okay with it. We've been like that for months but she just started acting cold just the last month of our tour.

But then my brows furrowed, my ex?

"My ex is an old story. What does it have to do with me?" I asked before sitting on the ground as Zero was occupying the whole thing. Chase and Eros were on the other couch, and Raze was in the kitchen.

"Didn't Alex tell you?" Chase raised his eyebrow.

"Like I would ask if I know?" I snickered and they laughed.

And what about Alex, what is this about now?

Without even thinking, I sent Alex a text.

"What happened with Synn when I was away?"

I then put down my phone and turned my attention to the others.

"Well, you fucked up," Mono laughed a little and I shake my head.

"We were all good before that. I even called her after that hashtag of her," I ransack my mind of anything that will cost her to hate me.

"Such a clueless kid," Eros rolled his eyebrows.

"Hey, I'm pretty sure I act older than you are at most times," I teased and he giggled.

"I second that," Demo chimed in. He was on his phone.

"Really? At least I would be decent enough to care about my girlfriend's feelings. I mean, pictures of your ex blasted the internet while we were in Japan. She was wearing something similar to what you own plus that bucket hat you gave her last time," Eros stated and it got me more confused.

"And?" I asked. What's the problem then? The hat? It was a gift I gave to her. I can't simply go and take it back. That's stupid.

Every idol is aware that we are being shipped to multiple people. But I don't keep track of it. I didn't know I need to.

"And she took a photo, "coincidentally", the same time you were in Japan. To make everything worse, you posted something the same day with a stupid caption on that selfie which made it sound like you're happy to see her," Demo explained even stressing out a few words.

Japan?

"Wait, I simply said it was nice meeting our fans, didn't I?"I asked clueless. What's wrong with that?

I scratch my head in annoyance.

"Yeah, you did. But Synn didn't know that. What do you think she'll have in mind then?" Chase shook his head in annoyance.

"Fuck!" I exclaimed the moment I realized what they were trying to say.

Damn it. Why am I not aware of that? So that's why she was avoiding me. She was hurt.

"Ahhh, stupid! Stupid!" I messed up my hair in frustration.

I was startled when another pillow hit me, this time, square in the face.

"You just can't let other people sleep, Gold, huh?" Zero was annoyed. By this time, he was already seated on the couch.

"Hey! I'm dying here," I groaned dramatically.

"Well die on your own, stupid. Stop acting rashly. Are you and Synn now in a relationship?" he asked and I nodded.

"Yeah, just last night. I couldn't help it. I was goddamn frustrated about everything I had to make us official the moment I got the chance," I told them.

The boys were aware of our closeness before and I was being honest with them about everything.

"And your ex?" Mono interjected.

Where the hell are they going with this?

"As I said, she's an old story. I'm with Synn now,"

I heard Demo snicker. He was still on his phone but it felt like the reaction was for me.

"What?" I'm starting to feel annoyed. Why does it feel like they know more than I do when in fact I am the one in the relationship?

"Old story huh?" Mono started. "Not 'I-don't-love-her-anymore' but just an old story. Tell you what, no matter how old a story is, if its content still matters, it will still be relevant,"

My mouth hangs wide open, the organ inside my chest started palpitating.

For a second, I felt uncomfortable at how Zero was staring at me. It was as if he was reading my thoughts.

"I hope you were sure about your decision. Synn is a very nice girl, selfless if I may add. Don't go around making her feel rainbows and butterflies if you weren't sure about your feelings with your ex. The last time you saw your ex, you fucking got wasted. That says something, kid,"

His words made me shut up even more.

What exactly do I feel right now?

I know what I feel about Synn now. She's the best thing that had happened to me. All these months, she did nothing but gave me endearing memories. But with my ex, I wasn't sure. I wouldn't like her still, right? I mean, not after everything.

My thoughts were interrupted when I heard the sound of my phone beeping.

I've got two messages, one from Synn while the other was from Alex.

I decided to check hers first.

"Hey cupcake, I just woke up 💟 "

I gulped, my heart skipping a beat.

Yeah, I'm positive I like her.

I didn't know why I didn't respond to her immediately but I hope I did coz what Alex told me crushed my conscience into pieces

"Fuck off, dude. Stop meeting Synn if you're not over your ex. You don't even know how sad she was after your crazy Steffy posted those photos. Man it up dude. I know we're friends but I won't hesitate to hit you in the face,"

"Oh fuck," I cursed myself in instant.

What the hell Gold, you prick!

Chapter 19

Synn's POV

"SHUT.UP." I laughed so hard at Arika's reaction after I told her what Gold gave me yesterday.

Her eyes were shining at the sight of the ring that Gold had given me. In all honesty, I was skeptical in accepting the ring as it almost looks identical to what he was wearing but he told me it's fine.

"Are you guys practically announcing to the world that you're dating?" Elisse giggled.

It's not a secret to each of us that our fans check even the slightest thing that will connect us with other people. Heck, I knew about the SynnGold thingy and to be honest, I wasn't paying attention to that ship at first.

Ever since we've tried not to associate ourselves too much with other people. It was because we all know this industry isn't open to the idea of idols openly dating.

But of course, after that fire exit and jacket incident, I can't simply disregard Gold Simons' presence.

I mean, who in their right mind would not want a Gold Simons as a boyfriend? Right, none.

"It's starting to get so cringy. Please don't date inside our dorm," Snow pouted and I raised an eyebrow at her.

"What was that eye contact that you had with Mono during that last awards? Oh my God, I can't even. That was too obvious! I thought you were close with Eros?" I asked and I almost burst into laughter after I saw her cheeks blushed.

"Shit. Snow is blushing. The Great Snow is blushing, it's time to celebrate!" Arika screamed in victory and she and Elisse rushed towards the kitchen to get something to drink.

We were given two days off and we decided to stay in the house. We've got a World Tour coming and these days, we cherish our time to rest.

"What are they, kids?" shake her head while laughing. Just then, we were startled when we heard the sound of the doorbell ringing.

Snow turned her attention towards me in instant.

"Is your guy coming?"

I pouted.

"Not sure. He didn't say anything about coming over," I answered before standing and headed straight to the door.

Who could it be? After checking the monitor, a smile automatically came across my face when I see the image of Gold along with who seemed to be Mono.

Wait, Mono?

After opening the door, a mischievous smile was showing on Gold's. After kissing the top of my head, his eyes darted towards mono's direction who, after greeting me timidly, headed straight to where Snow is.

And her fucking cheeks were burning.

This is getting so interesting.

Gold's hands wrapped around my shoulder and he urges me to move forward, the mischievous glint on his face still showing.

"What's with that playful grin Gold?" I teased and he chuckled. He leaned a little giving me a quick peck at the tip of my nose.

My stomach did a mini somersault. I still can't believe I finally have him and having these sweet and small moments gives me bumps inside my stomach. I feel like floating. It's surreal.

"Guess who's having a crush?" he whispered before we plopped our bodies on an empty couch. Across us was Snow who was sitting rather timidly beside a very stiff Mono.

Oh great.

I almost chuckle at the sight of them.

Gone was the man who stood confidently in front of thousands of country leaders and people of the United Nations.... The man who spoke perfect English and share their passion, music and insights in life to billions of people...

Gone was the man who talked face to face with the President.... And the man who had gotten the most number 1 hits on iTunes beating the group he also happens to lead.

All I see is a man who's sitting frozen beside a girl he obviously adores... Cheeks red and almost not breathing due to nervousness.

And it's even more adorable because the girl beside her looks exactly the same.

"Oh my God Gold, when did this happen?" I asked and I felt him pulling me a little closer so I can lean on his chest, his other hand now resting on my waist.

"We don't exactly knew when. It wasn't until we noticed him sneaking glances to her during the last awards that we realized. And Eros admitted that Mono asked for Snow's number," he whispered on my ears and I felt like the hairs at the back of my neck stood up. His breath was tingly.

"We like to party!"

"Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!"

The four of us turned our direction towards the door from the kitchen when the two girls came out with drinks on their hands - fucking sodas - and they were acting like they were drunk.

We all laughed at them.

"I should have called everyone. We didn't know a party is going on on this dorm," Gold joked and Arika laughed.

"You'd be surprised if you find out the reason of us celebrating," She teased before looking straight to where Snow and Mono were.

Snow started coughing before sending the two some glares.

We all laughed at her reaction. Mono started coughing too.

"Stop teasing them. Let's just go and order some pizza or something," I told them and Elisse went ahead and do the honors.

In no time, I found myself playing with the hem of Gold's shirt.

"Hey..." he cooed, his other hand reaching for chin, tilting my head a little so our eyes would meet.

I saw how glossy the glint of his eyes were.

"I miss you..." he stated. His hand now brushing the strands of my hair covering my face.

My heart started beating at an abnormal rate. It's so unfair how he is able to make my system go wild like this. It was like he has my heart at the palm of his hands

"I miss you too..." I answered and he closed his eyes, his other hand dramatically pinching the tip of his nose.

"Wait, let me just have that sink in," he teased and I chuckled.

"Whatever, Gold. Why didn't you tell me you're coming over?" I asked and I wasn't sure if it was just my imagination but guilt flashed on his eyes.

Maybe it was just me so I just disregarded what I saw.

"I just miss my girlfriend so fucking bad I can't stop myself from visiting you. I'm allowed to do that, right?" he asked and my cheeks immediately blushed.

I love how Goldis able to bring multiple emotions within me. And from being dramatic and teasing, I love how he can make me go crazy with just a few words.

God Synn, you're whipped.

"Can't I do this? Don't you want me visiting you like this?" he pouted and I shake my head a little too eager which made him chuckle even more.

Shyly, I lowered down my gaze and bit my lower lip.

"I like it," I started. "I like seeing you and being with you..." I admitted and I didn't try locking eyes with him. At this point, with my heart about to burst and my cheeks burning red, it'll be impossible to hold it in and look into his eyes.

"You can always see me and visit me too Synn,"

Without realizing, I have started shaking my head a little, then stopped after realizing what I just did. I lifted my gaze a little to check his reaction.

His eyebrows furrowed and I gulped.

To be honest, I am not that confident to let people know I am dating him. I mean, he's Gold Simons. With that in mind, my gaze left him once again.

"Synn..." he called and I hummed in response.

"Look at me cupcake ..." his voice soft yet hoarse at the same time. No wonder millions of girls gets hooked.

Shit.

Breathing deeply, I slowly lifted my gaze to meet his.

Calm down Synn.

"Synn, you can see me whenever you want. You can talk to me whenever you like. If I'm not in the country, call me. I am your boyfriend. You have every right to do that because I'm yours, okay?" he assured me and I wasn't sure if it was because those are the words I wanted to hear or if it was because of how sincere he sounded.

His hand started caressing the side of my cheek and I felt so warm.

"I'm yours, Richards. Have a little confidence in owning me coz I know so damn well I'd break faces if someone ever tried taking you away from me,"

My lips quiver at his words and I felt like crying.

Gold, what are you doing with my poor heart?

Chapter 20

Synn's POV

"Hey..."

I turned a little when I heard someone greeting me from behind, a smile automatically forming on my lips.

"Stephen senior..." I greeted back and he just chuckled.

"Isn't it weird that you call me senior when I have to call you older sister in return?" he asked and I returned the high-five he was offering.

It's been what? I'm not even sure how long but I don't remember the last time I talked with him. Both of our groups have been busy. And they fucking win a Song of the Year Award. I called for it.

In all honesty, I thought MILLION seniors will win SOTY last year. Like, Really, Really was the bomb. We have it blasting in our dorm the whole time.

"You got called too?" I asked him and he chuckled.

"And you just got out of the office, right? What did you do?" he teased and I raised an eyebrow at him.

"You're one to talk when you're about to go inside hellhole in five minutes, huh?"

A cheeky grin appeared on his lips. He may look mischievous but I was pretty sure he was nervous too. Like any BP artist or perhaps any other artist out there, we don't want to cause something that will bring trouble to our group, and that's exactly what this is all about.

Our boss recently found out that PERSONA had been visiting our dorm and that I am in a relationship with Gold.

Imagine how nervous I was. The last time he called me was about the jacket incident and basically, the same person was involved, Gold Simons.

He didn't speak. He let me explain myself and gave me the freedom to say whatever I want.

Contrary to what most people thinks, our boss may have a length of lists of things we're not allowed to do but we're still given the freedom to decide. As long as we are able to justify our actions and take responsibility for it.

Sure we'll get quite a scolding but we know when we have to talk for ourselves and when to accept our mistakes. The last time I was called, I wasn't scolded that much but the staff, however this time, it's on me.

So I asked for the company's permission. Our boss is known not to meddle with his artist's love life unless needed. That's particularly true with our seniors. How many dating news has our BLUE seniors have had before but no articles came out as a statement from the company. It was because us artists were given freedom. It's our private life. If we tell them we'll talk, that's the time they give out statements.

I wasn't really sure what our boss thinks about our relationship.

"You okay back there?"

I was startled when I heard the manager's voice. He was in charge of me today and after bidding goodbye to Stephen earlier, I went straight to the van so I can go home. Coming in to the seventh floor was never a good thing.

It always gives me chills and that feeling of being of discomfort bothers me like a magnet.

"Yes, Manager. Sorry to bother you..."

I same him smile at the mirror and I simply directed my gaze outside of the car.

It's past midnight and there aren't much people outside.

You can even get called outside daylight hours.

Coz that's the nature of job I have.

In no time, I was already punching in the password in our dorm.

Just after I was able to remove my shoes, I heard Elisse's laughter echoing inside the room, my brows furrowed.

I didn't know they were still awake. But I was out for roughly three hours so it's possible.

"Well I'm glad to have provided you an entertainment Miss Robin," Demo was sprawled on the floor as Elisse was still laughing her ass off. Not even sure what made her laugh.

On the other corner were Snow and Mono sitting beside each other both reading some books. I shake my head in amusement. They weren't talking but I can clearly feel the tension. It's quite funny actually.

Chase and Eros were watching something while Zero was sleeping on the couch. From where I was standing, I can hear Arika in the kitchen with Raze. They were discussing something about pancakes, of all the topics they can have.

But above all the commotions, my eyes can't seem to locate that one little bunny cupcake of mine.

As Elisse finally took notice of my presence, a worried expression automatically enveloped her face.

"Hey, everything good?" she asked and even Demo turned to my direction. The others also turned to my direction.

A smile tucked at the corners of my lips.

"What did he said?" Chase curiously asked.

I stare at them and I thought how lucky I am to have these people, a relief sigh coming out of my lips.

"Don't get caught," I told them and Eros lips parted.

I laughed at how shocked they looked.

"That's it?" Demo exclaimed and I nodded.

"Where's Gold?" I asked, my eyes still trying to search any sign that he's within the parameter.

"He went to your room, probably fell asleep. He had an extra schedule for the day so he had barely slept," Demo answered. After bidding goodbye, I went straight to my room and there I saw him, sleeping soundly on my bed, my huge blanket covering his buddy.

Adorable.

Giggling, I reached for my phone and snap a couple of photos. He looked so adorable sleeping like that when my blanket has bunny prints too. Plus, his forehead is showing. If only I could show these photos with his fans but I knew better.

Slowly, I walked closer to him and carefully sat on the edge of my bed.

He looked so exhausted, and it was as if my hands were being pulled like a magnet and I started brushing the locks of hair covering his face.

He must have been worried about the entire PERSONA to visit the dorm. Prior to coming into the office, I told him about me being called on the seventh floor. It was sweet of him to offer and come with me but I declined. It was something I need to do on my end.

It's been months since we've started officially dating and I can say he's the best boyfriend I can ever ask for.

He'd make sure to either video call or message me the moment he wakes up and does the same before he sleeps. I told him it's not necessary and that he makes sure to be careful with his phone since his fans have eagle eyes.

He's visited me when he's free and makes sure to send me videos of places he went to. All in all, I knew Gold's everyday life activities.

He's just perfect.

Slowly, my hands started tracing every feature of his face.

How did I get so lucky?

"I love you..." I whispered, a smile still showing on my lips.

Even with him sleeping, I can still feel my heart hammering inside my chest. That's what he does to me. He keeps me afloat. He makes me feel thousands of emotion and it excites me. He's one of the reasons I look forward to my next days.

I leaned forward and kissed him on the forward before fixing the blanket covering him. He needs rest. I knew how much they needed to sleep.

Just then, my attention was caught by the sound of his phone beeping. It was resting at the top of my side table. The volume was relatively low but it's continuous vibrating bothers me a little.

"Goldie might wake up," I whispered out of concern.

The moment I took a glance at his phone, I felt my blood getting drained out of my body, the loud beating of my chest now of different reasons.

It was as if my body is getting numb but I felt it, the fast pulse inside me and that feeling of uneasiness.

I gulp.

Sef calling...

I'm no dumb. I know who could that be.

My intention earlier went down the drain and I was unsure of what to do. This moment, my mind was clouded with questions.

Were they still communicating?

Gold never told me about it.

I watch as the call ended. My eyes darted to Gold's sleeping form.

Was he cheating on me?

My eyes immediately turned sideways as I saw his phone blink once again. This time, a message came right in and due to his phone's settings, I was able to take a glimpse a part of the message.

"Sorry I fell asleep. And thanks for last time. So, I'll see you again on Monday?"

Again...

Fuck.

My knees wobble, my heart feels like literally will be jumping out of my chest. My lips quiver as my eyes started to get moist.

I wanted to wake him up and ask him what's happening. Was he playing on me?

So, he's seeing her? Since when?

Slowly, my knees gave in and I sat on the surface, my eyes still fixed on him.

A tear fell on my cheek, my hands covered my lips as I try not to cry. I don't want to wake him up. I don't want him to see how broken I am right now.

God damn it.

Gold Simons, you aren't perfect after all.

Chapter 21

Synn's POV

"Can you believe it? Citifield? We're finally having a stadium tour?! Like, do you know how many people will be attending that concert? Oh my God, Syn! It was sold fucking out!!!!" he was animatedly playing with his hands as if he can like, imagine everything that is about to happen, his bunny smile available for me to see.

Like always, my heart beats so fast just the sight of him.

And it's so unfair that he has that much effect on me. It's so unfair that he can make and break me like this.

Their stadium tour is in two days and PERSONA had been out of the country for more than a month now, jumping from places to another.

A force smile show at the corner of my lips as I saw him getting all excited.

"Oh Synn, you should have seen the stage. It was effin' huge!"

He was so happy.

And I am happy for him. He deserves everything that he has right now - the fame, the love and supports their group is getting. He deserves everything. He deserves to be happy.

But these past two months, things had been so hard for me.

I never told Gold about what I saw on his phone. I was waiting, hoping that he'd be honest about it. That it was just some misunderstanding.

But it's fucking two months and I never heard a word. Fine, the first month, we barely saw each other due to our busy schedules. Now the second month, he was away completing his tours.

Then again, it's still fucking two months.

I know something was up.

Twice, I have seen Steffy briefly and that mischievous expression she's keeping whenever our eyes lock tells me she's up to something, like, there was something going on and I'm not aware of it.

I have never wanted to smack the living hell out of her until the last time I saw her. She rolled her eyes at me and gave me one last grin before marching her ugly ass away from me.

I didn't know the devil was disguised as a girl.

There were days when I was trying to call Gold's phone but there were moments that his phone was out of reach. It was fucking busy.

Slowly, I'm getting drown over this discomfort, weird thoughts clouding on my head.

I wanted to trust him, to think that everything was still fine between us. But it's not. And I feel like he doesn't even notice.

Granted that I wasn't a hundred percent it was her but fuck, my mind can't even think of any other person that he can call 'Sef'.

I want to stop those negative thoughts but it keeps coming in and it's affecting my relationship with him.

"Hey, something wrong?" he asked and I brought out of my train of thoughts when I heard him speak. I almost forgot we were video calling.

I forced another smile and look at him.

"I'm good Goldie. Just a little exhausted," I whispered and his expression changed.

"How's the preparation for your World Tour cupcake?" his voice softened and something clenched inside me. I can feel it, his concern for me but why the fuck does I keep on getting distracted?

I tried to act livelier. I don't want him to worry and spoil the excitement that he has for his upcoming concert.

"It was great. I'm learning new choreography," I told him. "And you're not gonna like it," I laughed a little, this time, it was genuine laughter as I picture his expression once he sees my dance number.

His face immediately darkens and I tried to suppress laughter.

"Synn, I swear if you're going to dance closely with that guy again," he hissed and I watch as his hand pushes his hair backward, frustration showing on his face.

He was always like that, openly showing me how jealous he is with guys.

Yet I can't tell him I'm close to exploding because of his stupid ex.

Or is she really now just an "ex"?

"Cupcake, are you okay? You keep spacing out..." he whispered and I bit my lower lip along the process, my eyes avoiding his gaze.

Thank God I was in my room as we were given enough time to rest.

"Synn, look at me," his voice was hoarse and I knew by this time he's starting to worry.

Fuck. Don't cry Synn, please. Don't let him see that he's breaking you.

"Synn, you're scaring me. Is something wrong? Do you have anything you want to tell me?"

And that's what it took for me to snap.

"You - Gold, do you have anything you want to tell me?" I asked back. I knew my voice sounded hoarse and there's a force on every bit of words I sputter.

It resonated within the room and for a moment, I thought I'm about to lose it.

His eyes widened as if he was caught off-guard. Whether because of the tone that I use or because of my question, I didn't know.

His face softened and I saw him sigh.

"Am I keeping you for long? Do you want to rest?" he asked and I laughed bitterly.

"Do you want us to stop this?"

I knew by this time, I was already talking about something else. Call me names, I don't care but these emotions I've been keeping, they're in compact and somehow I am scared it's now a ticking bomb.

I'm ready to explode.

"Calm down, cupcake," I saw how his jaw tightened and I wet my lower lip as I try to stop my emotion.

Calm down Synn.

"Sorry, let's just," a sigh escaped my lips as I try to calm down, "Let's take a rest. You have a concert coming up. Go to sleep, Simons," I told him and I saw how he was looking at me intently.

"We cool Synn?" he asked and stared at him for a moment.

God, who I love him?

"Of course. I was just tired, sorry I snapped," I whispered, wishing this call will soon end.

I'm about to lose it.

"Alright, take a rest cupcake. Talk to you soon," he smiled at me and I force my own

"Goodnight..." I whispered before ending the video call.

I lifted my gaze on the ceiling as I try to stop the tears threatening to spill.

Fuck it. Why is it hard to love a Gold Simons?

Chapter 22

Synn's POV

A relief sigh escaped my lips as we struck the ending pose for our performance, the loud cheering from our fans boosting my confidence even more.

That's it. The cheers, the chanting of our names, the support, we live for them. As an artist, hearing the voices of our fans warms our hearts. And this is exactly what I feel right now.

Just as when the lights dim, the girls and I immediately run towards the side of the stage.

This is how normally it is on every performance. Only the people who watch it live sees the things not being shown on the videos.

A smile escaped my lips after we enter our dressing room. Our managers, make up artists and staff we're all congratulating us for a job well done.

We bowed in acknowledgment and I laughed when I saw Elisse bouncing around.

"What are you so giddy about?" I laughed before pulling her for a hug. "Oh my God Elisse, you're still full of energy," our laughter filled the room.

"Yah, Elisse, what do you drink?" Arika asked and I had to laugh really hard when I saw her state. She was almost sprawled on the couch on the corner.

Out of every one of us, Arika gets tired easily. My eyes caught Snow on the other corner using her phone. I shake my head in amusement. I am goddarn sure something is going on with her and Mono but I want to stay on my lane and let them be.

Snow knows what she's doing and so is Mono.

In no time, the four of us was already wearing new set of clothes. We're not going to finish the awards as we have an appointment in a few hours so we have to get going.

As we were on our way, I felt the sudden urge to go to the restroom.

"Hey, wait up. I just have to go to the restroom. Tell our manager I'll follow," I told them and Snow looked skeptical

"You want us to wait for you?" she asked but I shake my head. I have my bag and phone with me.

"Okay, hurry up Synn, okay?" Arika smiled and I turned on a corner to head to the restroom.

Once I entered, I sigh in relief seeing there isn't any idol around.

I entered one cubicle on the far corner to do my thing. But it wasn't even long when I heard the sound of heels resonating the whole restroom.

I didn't know what hit me but I didn't move. I let whoever that person is to think that she is alone inside the restroom.

The sound of the water running was heard.

Silly. What am I doing? I thought to myself. My members are waiting for me.

Just when I was about to move, I heard her speak and I stopped.

Shit. Of all people.

"It's almost done, why?"

Steffy. She's talking on the phone.

"Oh, no. Mhmm..."

I don't know why but I suddenly felt scared. The fear instilled in my being for the past few months slowly coming back.

Why am I getting scared?

She sounded like she's talking to her boyfriend. She has that sweet tone she usually has whenever there is a camera.

My stomach kept on churning and I don't know why.

"Is it beautiful there?" she asked. She sounded so shy.

I'm not sure why but my hands started working on its own and I found myself dialing Gold's number.

Please let it ring, please....

"Oh, okay. I will have to go back too. Take care of me okay? You know I care for you. I miss-"

Busy line...

"you Gold..." she coed and that's it. I lost all the color on my face and my knees wobble a little. Thank God I didn't make any noise.

My hands covered my lips as I try not to make any noise. My heart was beating rapidly and I can even hear my own heartbeat.

Fuck.

I heard the sound of her heels fading and once I was sure I was alone, a whimper escaped my lips.

"Fuck..." I wipe the tears that kept streaming down my cheeks.

Fuck you Gold.

He played me. Was he having fun playing me all this time?

Steffy must be laughing behind my back. Are they into this together?

I bit my lower lip as I wipe the tears on my cheeks.

It's so painful. I fell like my chest would burst in pain and even breathing now seemed to be so hard.

This isn't the right place for this. Anytime soon, the awards show will be finish and I can't take the risk and be caught. Not now, not like this.

My hands fiddle with my phone. I went out of the cubicle. At least outside I'll know if someone is about to come.

Gold was in London. He's about to have his concert in O2 Arena and he fucking has the time to talk with his supposed ex-girlfriend and not me.

I dialed his number. Hopefully, he'll answer since he just talked with her.

And he did. Fucking bastard.

"Cupcake... " the sound of his happy greeting almost made me forget why I called. But my heart is mourning. Not his raspy voice can calm me down at this moment.

Now I wasn't sure if I was the reason for his happiness at times or it was all just an act.

My hands reached for the sink for support.

"Are you calling to wish me luck?" he exclaimed. He was obviously happy.

"When are you going to tell me you're still meeting and communicating with your ex?" I directly asked him and judging from the gasp I just heard, he was caught off-guard.

No denial.

"Synn..." he whispered. His voice was shaking. My eyes closed, tears threatening to spill once again.

A weird laugh escaped my lips.

"Great. Now you're speechless," I started. My voice was shaking. I didn't even bother masking the pain I feel inside. This was long overdue. This talk, this relationship, everything.

"Synn, it wasn't like that. I love you, okay..." he started and I cut him off.

Love is not the right word.

"What bullshit. Do you love me? How can you love me when for months, you don't even notice how hard everything has been for me? Do you know how hard it was for me to pretend I didn't know about you talking with her? Do you know how painful it is for me to wait until you tell me you're shitting behind my back?" I told him. By this time, I knew I'm about to breakdown.

"Synn...." he was pleading. I wasn't sure if he was crying but I didn't care. I'm hurt.

He hurt me.

He lied to me.

This won't do. I don't want to be that stupid person who stays because I love the man.

I'll leave because I love myself.

"I am so done understanding, waiting for you to love me and see me, only me. I'm done being a rebound for your love with her. I'm fucking done Gold Simons," soft whimper escaped my lips and I can hear him begging on the other line.

Shit.

Gasping for air, I spoke one last time.

"Don't ever call me again coz I won't answer. Don't come to our dorm because I won't let you in. Don't come near me. Pretend we ever happened and don't try to do something that will make me hate you even more. We're over,"

I ended the call and faced the mirror in front of me.

Thank God for inventing waterproof mascara.

My make up is still okay but I still tried to fix myself.

No time to self-pity.

Not even bothering to do what I originally intended to do, I made a dash on the exit

Goodbye, cupcake.

Chapter 23

Gold's POV

"Gold, you know how important safety is for you and everyone. What's with you today? "

I was lost, my mind afloat and even after three to four medics were kneeling in front of me to stitch the cut on my ankle, I wasn't exactly bothered. I don't care and the words they keep telling me isn't even registering on my fucked up system.

Of course I knew how everyone was in a panic, voices everywhere, contingency plans getting thrown here and there, but I don't care.

Because my mind was still blank.

Manager Sej was lecturing me right now while the rest of the boys were around us.

"Gold, are you even listening?"

I lifted my gaze only to be back on a daze.

They've injected anesthesia on me. Apparently, the cut was a little deep.

I was so out of focus earlier that I bump straight to the pile of equipments. I was left out of balance and somehow, one piece of equipment ended up hitting my foot.

Lots of blood came out of it and it was Demo who saw me first.

The whole crew was in panic and me being so goddamn distracted at this point is even scaring them.

"Gold, were you playing?" I heard Mono asked and I just shake my head. I can clearly see the worried expression on their face.

By this time, my mind is still somewhere, back to that very special girl that apparently, heartbroken because of me.

Synn, she just broke up with me.

My lips parted, the idea still not registering on my mind.

Don't ever call me again coz I won't answer...

"I think he was shocked," Raze stated and I watch the man bent down in front of me who kept on stitching. I can't even feel the pain.

I don't feel anything.

Don't come to our dorm coz I won't let you in...

"Gold, are you okay?"

Don't come near me...

"Yah, Gold..."

We're over....

"Gold!"

I was startled when I heard Eros' loud voice. My eyes caught everyone's gaze. Demo was biting his fingers.

"I'm okay..." I whispered. But I knew better. Synn just fucking broke up with me.

Because I was stupid. Those days I was struggling after what Sejeong did to me, it was Synn who was there.

Day by day, I found myself being used with her presence, until I found myself admitting that I like her.

When she started avoiding me, I was so pissed off. I got scared whatever we were sharing that time will eventually head into drain. So I asked her to be my girlfriend.

But then, when they started to question my feelings between the two, I started to get confused and found myself communicating with my ex to assess how I feel.

I wasn't sure. I knew I like Synn but I also know I liked Steffy. So that's how it started.

I found myself talking with her over the phone occasionally. But all we ever talk about were casual things. I'm not sure how to feel. I know I still care for Steffy. A month after I talked with her, I tried to stop messaging her but then she got sick. Steffy was sensitive when she's sick and I feel bad because no one usually takes care of her during those times.

I didn't visit to her regularly though except that one time I went to her to bring her the meds. But that was the first and last. I just kept on reminding her what to do instead through messages.

But the stupid me didn't stop. Slowly, I started thinking about her as a friend. I wanted to reassure myself that I'm fully committed with Synn. I want to see me myself not getting affected by her.

But you didn't tell her. Seeing her and talking with her, that's literally as good as cheating on your girlfriend, stupid.

"I'm sorry Gold but you can't perform on this condition. You're gonna have to sit it down for the rest of the tour..."

My head snapped towards Manager Sej's direction.

My members were all silent, the situation is slowly sinking in.

I fucked up, big time.

I should have known the moment Synn started acting weird.

She knew I was talking with her but she never confronted me about it. I feel so fucking stupid. She must have been so hurt.

Her tone earlier, it was full of disappointed, hatred and pain.

"I fucked up..." I whispered. And now I'm even creating problems for my members.

I just have to fuck up and disappoint our fans too. Our fans who spend their hard-earned money to see us, only for me to sit the entire time because I fucking lost it.

My hands washed the invisible water on my face. Subtly, I'm starting to feel the pain on my foot. And I knew one wrong move, the stitches will get messy.

Now, I only got one hour before the tour. The managers, medics and staffs went out of the room.

My eyes caught my members.

"Fuck..." a tear suddenly fell down on my cheek.

"Gold, it's okay. You didn't intend for this to happen..." Chase started, rubbing my back to calm me down. I cover my face in embarrassment.

They didn't know about what happened between me and Synn. They didn't know I was talking with Steffy too.

I'm embarrassed of myself and I'm ashamed of what I did with Synn.

And now she won't talk to me.

I tried calling her number but it's not going through. She must have blocked my number.

The entire time, I didn't talk. I learned that the fans had been informed about me not being able to perform and I knew a lot of them were devastated and worried.

I'm stupid and it's all my fault.

"Gold ah, is there something bothering you? This is so not you. What happened?" Zero asked and I bite the inside of my mouth to stop my tears from spilling.

"Who were you talking with on the phone?" Raze asked suspiciously and I avoided his gaze.

"Synn was crying Gold. What happened with the two of you?" Mono interjected and I saw him checking on his phone.

Of course, Snow.

Before I can even answer, we were all called out to prepare and the managers took me to have my ankle dressed properly while everyone gets our make up done.

And then the concert started. At least I was sane enough to talk with our fans and sing my parts.

The entire time, I was out of it.

I tried to focus on my performance and had apologize to our fans over and over.

I felt so disappointed because my parents were here and I know I got them worried too.

Performing is something I really love doing why did I become so careless?

I was left sitting on the stage singing.

But then my mind still drifts off back to her.

She must be crying still. She must have felt something was wrong with her that's why I did that. She must have felt she wasn't enough.

My heart clenched at the realization. The events earlier made me feel afloat and I was so lost. Yet slowly, I'm realizing the consequences of what I did.

Did I cheat on her?

By messaging and calling my ex, or even seeing her once? Maybe. But it wasn't my intention.

I simply wanted to be sure of my feelings.

Then you shouldn't have asked her to be your girlfriend if you weren't sure.

Fuck.

I felt my stomach churning. Why does it hurt like this?

My heart is aching and I just want to curl up and hide myself to the world.

It's painful, even more painful when Steffy cheated on me.

Just thinking about me not being able to hold Synn against me makes me lose my shit.

I will no longer be able to hear her endearing voice over the phone...

I will no longer be able to see her beautiful smile...

I will no longer be able to call her mine...

"Waiting for you..." Eros' voice echoed the whole stadium.

Everything dawn into me. I made a mistake. I didn't love her right when all she did was give me her all.

I fucking broke her.

My vision started to blur and I had to turn around to keep myself from crying. But I can't help it.

I bent down a little but tears kept coming. Thousands of needles kept punching in my heart and my throat started to hurt. It's suffocating.

I fucked up, seriously fucked up.

"Hey..." Chase cupped my cheeks and tried wiping away my tears and I kept on crying.

I'm so sorry cupcake. I am so sorry...

I'm no different from Steffy coz I did the same to you.

Cupcake, I'm so sorry...

Shit Gold Simons. What do you do now?

Chapter 24

Synn's POV

"Wow, you sure have a strong and determined heart," I watch as Arika ate all of the chocolate Gold had been sending. I raised an eyebrow at her before focusing my attention back to my nails as I try to put on some nail polish.

"He looked so dejected and sad Synn. I swear, earlier, he's even close to crying!" she added. As if that would make me waver.

"He's been coming her nonstop waiting dor you to talk to him,"

"It's been a week since they came back, Synn. You're not coming out of your room every time he visits and you're not answering his calls," I blocked my ears as I listen to what Snow says

And even from a distance, I can feel Elisse's stare from afar.

"And you're not telling us what's wrong. Gold had to come here every day to see you but you're not letting him. Like, what's the problem?" she continued.

I never told my members about my conflicts with Gold's ex-girlfriend nor gave them an idea that they were once in a relationship. I kept it all to myself. And even now, I won't tell them because I know what will happen. With Snow starting a relationship with Mono, I don't want to cause anything that will affect both our group's relationship.

It's been a month since I broke up with him. Thank God he had a lot of concerts to attend to that I've had the time to think and reflect on what happened.

"Did you fall out of love?" Arika asked and my heart clenched at her words.

For a week, I've trained my heart not to feel and to forget everything that has happened.

I've blocked his number and stopped checking my social media for anything related to him. The less I see photos of him, the less I remember, the less it hurts.

I've seen Steffy one time and she looked like she was startled when she saw me. But I didn't bother giving her any attention.

"And you still won't talk? Yah, Synn, aren't you being too much?" my jaw clenched a little. I was trying to stop myself from balling my hand into fist.

Calm down, Synn. They don't know. They don't need to know.

"Synn...." I heard Elisse spoke and by the tone of her voice, I suddenly got scared.

I lifted my gaze and met hers.

"Did Gold cheated on you?" she asked but it feels like she was sure about it. Her arms were now crossed over her chest and for some reason, she looked mad. "Don't even lie to us Synn. I know you. You won't get mad unless it's something unacceptable,"

I bit my lower lip and avoided her gaze.

"What?" Snow exclaimed and the chocolate Arika was munching immediately dropped on the floor.

"Hey, Synn! Is that true?" Arika sounded angry too.

This is why I don't want to tell my members. I stare back to Elisse and pouted. Why does she have to know every time?

I focused my attention back to my nails, my eyes moistening a little.

Don't cry, Synn.

"Uhhhh, Synn..I'm sorry..." I heard Arika cooed. She was close to crying before moving forward and engulfing me in a hug.

Even Snow and Elisse moved forward and started hugging me too.

"Yah, my nails!" I tried laughing it off but my tears are now streaming down my cheeks.

"Oh gosh Synn. I'm going to kill Gold!" Elissed hissed and I chuckled.

"Did you catch him doing it? Who's the girl?" Snow sounded angry as she started tapping on her phone.

"It's okay Snow. I broke up with him," I muttered and they all looked at a loss.

Elisse looked worried. "Did you talk to him? What did he tell you?"

I smiled bitterly. "I broke up with him over the phone, before his London concert,"

Arika gasped. "Gold injured himself at that time. Oh gosh, does it have anything to do with what happened?"

My lips quiver at her words.

I knew Gold got injured. I saw clips of him crying. I tried to stop myself from checking up on him but I still did and I almost called him again to make up. Thank God I stopped myself. That's when I stopped checking him out over the net.

I love Gold. I do. I fucking do but I love myself too. I won't let him break myself apart. I won't let him ruin me.

I'd rather let him be than let him stay just so he can wreck me.

"I feel so proud of you Synn. Don't worry, we won't let Gold come near you. I'm going to break his face if he did," Elisse pouted and I smiled at her.

"I mean, how dare him! I'm going to give him an earful once I see him!" Arika exclaimed.

Just then, Snow's phone started ringing and her face scrunched up immediately. I tilted my head a little. I don't think this is a good idea honestly. I know how protective my members can be. It may not like it but they are. Once, I was bullied when I was a trainee and both Arika and Snow stepped up and made sure nobody can mess up with me.

"Mono," she answered. My face grimaced at the sound of her voice. I feel so bad for Mono. He'll definitely be the receiving end of Snow's anger.

"No. Don't come here today. Oh no. Erase that. Don't come here until I tell you,"

Elisse chuckled while I pout at what Snow stated.

"Well, too bad your so-called Golden member did something horrible towards us. He cheated on Synn. Tell him noto to visit our dorm or I'll break his face myself, do you understand?"

And then she ended the call. I feel so bad for Mono. Snow can be a little hard sometimes.

She started tapping on her phone again and I laughed.

"Hey, you don't have to go hard with Mono like that," I smiled and she pouted.

"Nah, I'll make sure that Gold kid will get it after what he did," she stated and I cried again.

I'm just so thankful I have my members like them.

I guess I don't need a Gold Simons in my life after all.

Chapter 25

Chase's POV

"What, you don't have the balls to confirm your own emotion?" a weird laugh came out of Mono's mouth, his hands resting on his waist while Gold sat on the couch, his elbows resting on his knees with his hands pressed together. I gulped out of nervousness. This isn't good. In fact, this is fucking horrible.

Mono, of all people, of all us, rarely loses his cool. And this was one of the rare occasions that he does. And if he did, it means it was about something serious. He doesn't really lose his cool that easy.

Gold, on the other hand, had been out of it since the London tour. The fact that he was injured moreover a little sensitive isn't much of a help either.

If it's any consolation, I knew Gold wouldn't try anything stupid. Not with Mono. He respects us like that and Mono is basically one of the reasons why he decided to stay with the company before.

Plus, it's only me and Eros around.

I saw how Eros was fiddling with his phone, probably trying to get our other members to come home. At this point, Eros and I will not be able to do anything if ever things get physical between the two. I doubt that will happen though but we can never be sure. The way I see it, both are really mad right now.

Raze went home to his family and Zero did the same. But they were on their way home even before these started. Demo, on the other hand, was in the studio, trying to learn new choreography.

I'm not even sure what's wrong. Gold barely got home and Mono suddenly went out of his room fuming mad.

Gold doesn't even seem to be listening to Mono as well. If this continues, the two might really end up fighting.

This is so fucking bad.

"Yah, Gold!" his voice raised a little and I stood from the couch to move closer. I'm not liking what's happening. Sure, Gold wouldn't do anything stupid but he looked like he was frustrated too.

I saw Gold sigh while massaging his temple.

"Mono, can you drop this for now please?" he sounded so tired. I had a quick glance over his face and realized that he looked kinda different. Within a span of one month, his cheeks humped back a little and the bags under his eyes are quite noticeable.

Is something wrong? Does it have anything to do with his injury?

"Drop this? Wow! " Mono looked even angrier yet amused.

"Mono..." I called for his attention and even Eros stood up too.

I moved towards him. Eros doesn't like it when our members fight. He easily gets sensitive and cries.

"You cheated on Synn? You're that low now?"

What?

But then I heard someone gasped. Gold snapped.

"Why are you fucking mad? Did I cheat on you?!" he stood up, his voice rising too.

"Hey, Gold!" I went in between them in panic. I know I can't stop them if anything, but at least I can try to put it off until another member comes.

"Mono!" Eros was on his phone trying to call someone.

"Mono, let's not be rash..." I tried to reason out hoping that they will listen but they were glaring at each other.

"What? You didn't think I regret this? This whole month I've been hating myself for being so stupid! I didn't want this okay? I didn't mean what happened!" Gold was shaking and I moved closer to him to calm him down.

"You should have thought that before cheating on her. What did you do, two-timed her?"

"I didn't! How dare you?!" Gold was trying to get away from my grasp while Eros was hugging Mono now.

"She was there for you when Steffy made you seem like you're a trash!"

"You don't know everything and you don't even know how broken I am right now!" My knees started shaking at how strong Gold is.

His voice was shaking and it breaks my heart to see him like this. He's crying and somehow, Mono was startled.

"I know I messed up. Sorry if this is getting in the way with you and Snow..."

"Gold..." Eros started crying. "What's this? Why are you fighting?"

"Hey, what's happening?" we all turned towards the door when Raze came rushing, the beads of sweat visible in his face, a sign that he probably ran back her in panic.

"Are you two fighting?" Zero came rushing in too. Like Raze, he seemed to have come here in a rush. Demo probably didn't notice Eros' message.

A relief sigh escaped my lips. At least we have the older ones here now. At least these two will never try something if we have them. Raze may not be strict with us even though he is older but we all respect him a lot especially Mono. He's not the type to go against with both Raze and Zero. Zero is even scarier.

"Mono!"

Mono seemed to calm down a little at the sound of Raze's commanding voice. He is the oldest after all.

Raze rarely gets strict towards us but once he did, you got to listen. We know our boundaries. We know our limits. And disrespecting or not listening to the older ones at a time like this is not something we do. We've come to an agreement; some rules we make sure we all follow in times like this. The thought calmed me down a little.

Gold moved backward and turned around wiping the tears in his eyes.

"What happened for you two to fight like this? Gold, you don't answer back to your older members. What's wrong?" Zero was standing in between us know.

The way I see it, Gold and Synn had a fight and it's getting in the way of Mono being with Snow. We all know something's brewing with the two. What I don't understand is why Mono was accusing Gold of cheating. That's impossible.

"Is that how we are now? You're going to fight like you two aren't brothers? We used to talk things through before. Mono, you're older," Raze condemned and we were all silent.

Gold was still back-facing us crying. His injury hasn't even healed yet.

"Mono said Gold cheated on Synn," Eros sniffed as he wipes his tears.

"What?" Raze exclaimed. Gold turned towards us and sat on the couch.

"It wasn't my intention," he started. It's clear that he's been keeping all of this to himself. So that's why he looked like a dead person these past few days.

We all sat on the couch and even Mono has calmed down.

"I was confused okay. You guys talked about my ex like she's still relevant to my life when I already started being with Synn. And then it got me so fucked up that the moment Steffy messaged me I found myself responding. But I swear it wasn't an occasional thing. She was sick and I felt bad and that was it. My focus was on Synn. I barely even responded to Steffy. But I

fucking blew it. I should have told her. I know now. I know how I feel. I know who I wanted ages ago. Damn!" and he was covering his face. He looked so helpless.

My eyes got teary and even Eros started sniffing. Eros and Goldare like the babies of the group. They were close as most often, Gold acts more like the big brother than Eros. Eros is just so soft you don't wanna break him.

"I messed up. Now she won't see me. She blocked me and I don't know what to do!"

We were all silent. We didn't know Gold's having a hard time.

"They were mad at you. I'm sorry for snapping. It's just, Synn had always been good to you," Mono whispered and he looked so sorry while looking like that.

"I know. She was always there and I just had to be a jerk," he answered and we don't know what to say.

"When did these happen?" Raze asked and I stare at Gold.

"London..."

"Lond-O2!? That long? Is that why you were out of focus?" Zero exclaimed and all Gold did was cry.

Gold never cries, barely.

"She won't give me a chance. No matter how I try. And now seeing all the girls are mad at me too, I won't ever have a chance," he whispered.

My eyes caught Mono's and his gaze landed on the floor. I knew he got too emotional earlier and he didn't mean to snap on him.

Raze leaned his back on the couch and gave a long sigh.

Zero rubbed his face with his hands. "Can't you like, just forget about her? She's not like your first love nor is she your first girlfriend kook," he asked and I grimaced. He sounded harsh but fair point.

Gold was silent for a minute.

"I love her..."

"Well, that's bullshit. You should have thought about how much you love her before you decided to respond back to Steffy. Are you even sure you don't feel anything for your ex now?" Zero asked.

"I don't. If I do I won't fucking feel like I was dying right now,"

I closed my eyes at his words. Synn, the moment I saw her inside our dorm, I knew she'd play an important role in Gold's life. I just didn't know it's her who'll leave such a mark. What else should we do then? Gold is our baby. And our youngest should always be happy.

"Then let's go get your girl back," I told him. He lifted his gaze and his brows furrowed. "C'mon. We've overcome a lot - highest award, BBMA, AMA's, United Nations. Not to brag but like what they say, we started from the bottom. What is starting from square one for your girl? You have six brothers to help you," I smiled at him and he bit his lower lip.

"It won't be easy. You know Snow. She'll fuck you guys up if you even try,"

Zero laughed. "I'd like to see her try then,"

I shake my head in amusement.

Just then, we heard the sound of the door opening and Demo came in.

He was panting and was sweating so badly.

"What did I miss?" He asked in worry and Raze stood up.

"We're having a party and you're ass isn't invited," he joked and we all laughed at Demo shocked face.

I turned towards Gold and massaged his back.

"Don't worry. We're going to try to work things out," I smiled and he nodded.

And knowing how Arika is, I guess this means war, huh?

Chapter 26

Gold's POV

"Gold, please, just listen..."

I tried moving past her but she caught my arm pulling me back a little. A long sigh escaped my lips.

Looking at her, I slowly remove the grasp she has on me. She looked taken aback and somehow, I felt bad for acting harshly on her.

I assessed my feelings. How do I feel?

Nothing.

I felt bad for hurting her but I was sure I don't feel bad for not liking her like I used to. Messaging her before when she was sick, I knew right then it was because I use to care for her. Nothing more.

This basically just exhausting. I should have just let it be. I shouldn't have been swayed by my member's queries. Now I fucked up myself and I might actually end up really losing Synn.

I was wrong. I should have told Synn about it because I am sure she'd understand if I just explained everything.

But I didn't and I know it was my fault. No matter how much my members question my sincerity, my emotion, it was still me who got confused. It was all my fault and not anyone else.

"Steffy, I told you it's over. I don't feel anything for you now and I only see you as a friend. Stop this will you? Please?" I pleaded.

We have a schedule for today and coincidentally, I met her along the hallway. Two weeks ago, she tried getting back with me. I told her no.

I love Synn. I love her and I know I messed up. It's nobody's fault but me. For everyone, it seemed like I cheated. I might not know it but unknowingly, I did. And I know I have to deal with the consequences.

"But the two of you are over. I know coz Synn stopped bitching with me. She lost, I knew it," she stated and my heart clenched at her words.

"What do you mean bitching? Were you messing up with her when I'm not around?" I snarled and she looked taken aback for a moment.

My blood boils at the sight of her. I didn't know Synn had been dealing with her when we were together. Now I feel even worse. I had neglected her. Fuck.

"She had it coming!" I was appalled at how her expression suddenly changed. This wasn't the girl I used to adore. "That bitch, she took you away from me. It was me Gold! It was me, always have been. Can't you see? We're meant for each other?"

All the hair behind my neck stood up. She sounded scary. Her voice sounding hoarse and her eyes were gleaming red out of anger.

She's terrifying.

"Hey, Gold, come back to me, huh?" she was begging and my heart clench at what she has become.

"Steffy, calm down okay?" I tried getting her attention but she's fidgeting. Something's wrong. She wasn't like this. She's usually calm and collected. And I just realized she's started acting differently after we broke up.

I looked sideways and was glad there aren't people around. This isn't a sight people should be seeing.

I moved closer and took her hands, "Steffy, listen okay? Snap out of it. You have to breathe in and out, okay? Calm down..." I tried to ease her nerves but it's no use.

"Gold, take me back please..." she was crying and I felt the blood on my face getting drained.

She needs help.

"What is this, a pity party?"

Both of us turned towards the corner when we heard someone speaking. My heart almost leap out of my chest the moment I realized who it was.

"Synn..." I called but she didn't smile nor acknowledged my presence. Instead, she looked straight to Sejeong with a calm demeanor.

She was wearing a black shirt tucked underneath her denim skirt and a pair of white sneakers.

Right, I heard they were here to do a radio show.

Butterflies went wild inside my stomach. It's been so long since I last saw her. After the incident in our dorm the other night, my members had been planning on how they will help me. Though it wasn't really their problem nor their fault, I was grateful enough that they care for me that much.

She was walking gracefully towards us and the way Steffy's eyes changed got me worried.

"He doesn't need to know how you've been treating me. And I'm not here to start any trouble,"

I bit my lower lip at the sound of her voice.

I miss her. Fuck, I miss her so much I want to move forward and engulf her in a hug.

"What, are you here just so you can laugh at me? I broke you. I broke the two of you. And I will have him back!" she spat and I'm not sure I wanted to say something seeing how serious Synn is right now. I don't want her to think I'm siding with Steffy but I don't want Steffy to think we're bullying her too.

"Technically speaking, it's not you who broke us apart but us. He lied to me and I didn't confront him. We have our own minds to decide on everything. It's on us. Besides, we broke up but you didn't break me. Not a bitch like you can break me apart Steffy. But looking at us now, I feel like you're the one that's broken,"

I was startled when Steffy's expression suddenly softened. That's the same expression she always has whenever she looks at her members.

The expression that tells that she cares.

"I used to like you. A lot of people adore you. I'm sure Gold loved you because there is something good within you," I gulped. Having both my ex now is quite awkward.

"Now I wonder what happened. Why did you end up like this?" she asked full of concern. Steffy's expression also changed.

"I saw how you fought during that survival show. Something snapped within you. By the looks of it, you're basically obsessed with having Gold. Why Steffy?"

I turned to look at Sejeong. Come to think of it. It doesn't look like she still likes me still.

"What are you saying?" her voice faltered and I saw how she started stepping backward. "You're crazy," she whispered looking confused before turning her back leaving Synn and I.

Silence filled the place and I didn't know whether I should move forward.

"Synn..." I whispered and she looked at me blankly. I felt like thousands of needles started pricking my chest.

It hurts to have her near but she seems like she's so far away.

"Don't..." she whispered. My heart ached by the sound of her voice. She was in pain. And I fucking caused that.

"I didn't come here to help you or talk to you. I came forward because of her. Obviously, she needs help. And stop sending chocolates and flowers to our dorm. I'm just going to throw them away," she stated before turning on her heels leaving me all speechless.

My hands balled into fists.

What now Gold, are you going to give up?

A smile appeared on my lips.

I'm going to get my girl back.

Chapter 27

Synn's POV

"Alex, I told you I don't want to go out..." I started whining as Alex started to forcefully pull me out of my dorm because according to him, I barely have time for my "super best friend aka Him".

"What nonsense is that? You've been camping in your dorm for three days now. Vacation leaves should be treated as leaves. It means having fun!" he whined. He was pulling me by the hand and I wanted to kick him in the shin but decided otherwise. I can't get the man injured.

"I want to sleep," I told him and he laughed.

"What? Just because you're single now doesn't mean your sorry ass should stay seated. Let Gold realize what he lost, okay?" He turned towards my direction and gave me a sincere smile.

"Wow, Lex. You could have mellow down a bit you know," I pouted and pretended to feel hurt. The fucker just made a face.

Out of all my friends, Alex is one of the few who knew what happened.

I am strong but I am not that strong not to break down. Plus, I needed an outlet apart from my members, someone who at least knows the two us. He's my friend and he's his friend so bingo.

I actually had to beg Alex so he won't do anything stupid. Alex and I are almost like siblings so it's not new to me how he reacted. Because I knew he cares.

A long sigh escaped his lips before turning towards my direction. He stopped pulling me and a relief sigh escaped my lips.

"Okay, you win," he started before rolling his eyes. "Movie night it is but I get to chose the movie, okay?" he bargained and a huge smile emerging on my lips.

In no time, I was already in the kitchen trying to prepare something we can eat while he set up in the living room.

Alex rarely visits but when he does, we almost just eat or watch movies.

Snow wasn't at home as her friends called her out. It's actually weird because almost all of them went out. Snow didn't really wanna go because she's afraid Gold would come again and visit me.

It's been two weeks since Gold, including his members, kept on appearing outside our dorm. They'd be coming in with lots of food, chocolates, and even anything they can bring from their tour.

However, the moment Snow was able to grab ahold of whatever they bring, she'd close the doors straight to their faces.

I am actually thankful I have my members. At least they make it easier for me to move on.

Everyday, Gold would send me voice messages through different apps. The stupid man had been using his member's phones to try and contact me since I blocked his number.

Every way he can get, he'd try to get close to me. He'd still send me my favorite flowers even after I told him to stop. I wouldn't admit but I like the voice messages he was sending. The flowers, I'd tell my members to have them but when someone's not looking, I'd at least get one flower and hide it in my room.

Hypocrite, that's how I am being right now but let me have my pride at least.

Everything he does now makes me remember how soft he was with me before. Too bad though, because every day, I'd also remember how he was communicating with his ex. And it hurts. It's painful.

I would always remember how he wasn't honest with me. For some, it may not seem that serious but it is to me. I felt like he broke the trust I gave him. He broke me.

But then again I saw them one time while I was on my way to our radio show appointment. I came late because I had a prior commitment.

That's when I saw them which almost crushed me. Seeing them together made my knees so weak.

I was close to crying. In fact, I may have actually cried a little.

I love Gold. I do. Even after all that happened. But I can't let myself be entangled with something that might wreck me in the end. So I decided to let them be.

I was about to get pass through them when I heard Gold almost growling. He was mad.

Stopping on my tracks, I had to do a double-take to check what's really happening. I was nervous.

They were fighting. I didn't catch everything but I clearly heard how Gold was mad to find out Steffy was bothering me.

So he didn't know. That incident made me learn a lot of things.

Okay, he wasn't messaging her often. He saw her once when she was sick and he doesn't love her anymore.

Okay.

But it doesn't erase the fact that I was already hurt and he had broken my trust.

That doesn't change everything. Just because he doesn't love her anymore doesn't mean everything he did was okay.

Steffy, there was something's off about her. It feels like something is wrong and I can't help but feel sorry for the girl. I mean, she may be acting like a bitch but every end has its mean. I wonder what happened to her. And I wonder what made her like this.

With a bowl of chips on my hand, I went back to the living room and found him watching on his own.

I threw a chip straight to his face.

"Fucker, you really can't wait huh?" I grimaced and he just laughed. That's just how he is.

After plopping my body in the empty space near him, we went ahead and watch the movie. He'd occasionally grab his phone and chat someone but I focus my eyes on the movie. I rarely use my phone nowadays.

"Synn..." my attention was taken off from the movie when I heard Alex spoke. I look at him and raised an eyebrow.

"Yeah?"

He was staring at me weirdly and I scoffed. "Spill it. I don't have all the time in the world,"

He chuckled at my words. "Of course, but hey, can I say something?" he sounded wary and that's when I avoided his glance. I know where this is heading.

"I won't talk to him Lex if that's what you want to say. I'm trying to move on and seeing him won't help me. And I thought we were friends?" I rolled my eyes at him and I heard him sigh.

Sure Alex is my friend but he's his friend too.

"You're both hurting..." I heard him whisper.

Right.

My heart started feeling heavy. These past few weeks, I just feel so down. No matter how hard I try to pretend that I am okay, I know I'm not.

I smile even when I'm broken. I pretend to be happy even though I feel like exploding.

The world is unfair. But it won't stop just because you're hurt. That's the reality of life.

My eyes started to moist and my throat started hurting. My breath hitch as I try to stop myself from crying.

But I guess I've been bottling everything up, my tear ducts had betrayed me. Tears started streaming down my cheeks.

I guess I just need to let these all out.

"You don't understand how I feel..." I whispered. I remember all the things Gold had been doing.

"Sure he may be hurting but how about what I feel? Just because he finally realized who he loves doesn't mean I have to forgive him and I can accept him again. It doesn't work like that," my voice cracked as I try to suppress my emotion.

It kills me to feel like this.

Why is love such a hurtful thing? I thought it was supposed to make you feel warm?

"I don't fucking need bouquet of flowers, nor boxes of chocolates. I don't need all of his sorry. I don't need his sweet nothings, or him burning my phone line. I don't need anything right now..." I told him.

My mind is now blank and even the movie playing in front of us is no longer registering to me.

"Synn, I'm sorry..." Alex sympathizes and I sniffed through my tears.

"And you know what? What's even scary is that even after how much I wanted to avoid him and move on, there is still this lingering feeling inside me. That one wrong move, I might find myself falling for his trap all over again and he's gonna wreck me. I fear for my heart, Lex. It's fucking painful here," I pointed on my chest and I'm barely breathing.

I kept on crying and I was already hugging the cushion in front of me.

Alex let me cry. He didn't stop me from letting out all of my emotions. He let me feel the pain.

I cried silently. I cried my heart out. I cried for myself.

And then my eyes caught Alex's phone. Its light was on and I caught Alex's guilty expression. Suddenly, I got so nervous.

I close my eyes and leaned on the couch.

"Fucker," I scowled and I heard him sigh.

"He missed you so much he just wanted to hear your voice Synn. I'm sorry. He was begging on his knees, I can't watch the two of you hurting yourselves..." he reasoned and I didn't speak.

He heard it all... Shit.

"I'm sorry... Fuck I'm so sorry cupcake I didn't know you're hurting this much..." Gold's voice echoed inside the living room. Alex, the fucker, just put his phone on speaker.

And it breaks my heart to hear him cry like that. Why does he keep on crying when he's the one who made the mistake?

My mind remembered the clip of Chase running towards Gold when he realized Gold was crying. It was when he was in London and we just broke up. I know he injured himself and Arika was so adamant in insisting that Gold was crying because of me.

Why?

"If I can take away all those pain... If I can wish to keep all the hurt to just me, I would Synn. I'm sorry I caused this mess. I'm sorry I didn't tell you I got confused. I'm sorry I didn't tell you everything and I'm sorry I broke your trust. I know I don't deserve a second chance with you but please believe that I love you. Don't ever doubt yourself because it was my fault... You may not want to hear me saying sorry but I'd say otherwise because that's how I really feel. This is me Synn. This is me being honest with you..."

Unlike the past few days when I just block my ears with just the sound of his voice, this time, I let him speak.

I listened, something I failed to do before.

I listened to what he has to say. I listened to him pouring his heart out.

The two of us, we didn't love each other right. I turned away. I was afraid.

Gold... I wanted to call his name but I stopped myself.

I missed him. I do that it hurts that all I can do is listen to him like this.

Will you wait for me? Will you wait until I'm ready? I wanted to tell him but I didn't. It would be a hypocrite of me to say I don't love him anymore because I do. But I'm so afraid to get hurt again.

I'm fucking afraid.

Chapter 28

Synn's POV

"Thank you, Manila!"

"You guys are amazing!"

"See you soon. We'll definitely be back!"

"We hope you guys had fun. We love you!"

My hands reach for my chest, the fast beating of my heart almost drowning me over my own ecstasy. This feeling, I will never stop to me be amazed every time. The adrenaline rush, the happiness like I was floating on a cloud nine, the smiles I see from the crowd, their voices when I hear them sing along and cheer for the four of us.

This feeling, this is my outlet, my haven. It keeps me off from all my troubles.

The smile on my face never left even after the lift slowly went down with me and the rest of the girls getting giddy hugging each other.

"Oh my God, the best feeling ever!" Arika exclaimed as she still bounces from her feet, obviously filled with adrenaline too.

Even Snow and Elisse are swaying back and forth with their arms still wrapped around each other.

In no time, we were skipping our way back to the dressing room. The night is still young but it's not like we can go and roam around the place.

"Hey, I'm hungry. Are we still going to swim later?" Elisse asked but Snow pouted.

"I don't think I still have the energy to swim later. I was too excited. I barely slept last night," she answered. Even Arika is starting to slow down as we walk.

We all turned when we heard our manager called for us.

"You guys have five minutes before you can meet your fans for the send-off," he informed us and it wasn't as if Arika was almost out of energy earlier because just hearing about the send-off boosted her confidence a lot.

Elisse and I laughed our asses off.

"Lemme just go and do my business on the restroom," I stated before heading to the dressing room. After entering the room, my manager quickly gave me my phone and I started teasing him.

"Oooh, manager, your cheeks were blushing. Did you finally confessed to our make up artist?" I started wiggling my eyebrows and his eyes widened.

"Yah! Keep quiet," he whispered as he check our surroundings in case someone heard us. "Your mom called earlier. Try calling her back," he stated.

"Who's in love?" I giddily dance in front of him and he just marched his way out of the room still pouting but a smile tucked at the corner of his lips. He was mumbling about me being too much.

Shaking my head in amusement, I headed to the restroom to do my business. My manager is really adorable. He has this huge crush over one of our make up artist and he's just so shy about it.

Fumbling with my phone, I started scanning the messages on it.

One message from Sarah congratulating us. Another from Wendy who wanted to know when we will be back. Then, there is Alex who sent a sad emoji because I didn't respond back to his last message.

After the incident, I didn't talk to him for days. I was upset of what he did but more importantly, I was also ashamed that he saw me in my lowest state. Sure I share my troubles with him but him seeing me like that like I was broken and at my most down moment, I didn't know how to feel.

I was both upset and sorry. He had apologized for what he did and I said it's fine. In all honesty, I just really want things to be done and over with.

My heart skipped a beat after I saw Gold's name on my phone. It was originally saved as "My Bunny cupcake" but I changed it back to his name after I removed it from being blocked.

The same night after I heard his voice, I spent the whole night thinking what went wrong and what I could have done differently. I wanted to assess the situation and see everything in a different sight and perspective. I thought about the what-ifs and what if it wasn't.

The moment I lifted the block over his number, my phone started ringing. And though I was contemplating at first if I should answer, I still did.

That time, I knew wanted to listen. I knew I wanted the chance. So I did.

I answered the call and I heard him gasped, perhaps he was startled that his call got through moreover that I actually even answered.

"Synn..." I heard him whisper.

I didn't speak. But I was sure he knew I was listening. The sound of my breathing gave it away.

"Thank you..." he whispered. A tear fell on my cheeks. I can't help but cry. I miss him.

"I know you don't want to hear me keep saying sorry but I want to tell everything. I want it all clean so please listen. I didn't block her number. When she broke up with me, I was hurt. And deep inside, I was still hoping I can still have her back. And then you came. Day by day, I stopped thinking about her. Instead, I'd wake up each morning and all I remember was your voice, how the sound of your laughter filled my ears from the conversation we had the previous night. I found myself smiling like a fool while practicing because I keep imagining you smiling and cheering for me. Each day, her memories were slowly being replaced by your own,"

I gulped. My heart started feeling warm at his words, words that he never dares to speak to me. He never told me about these things.

"So when you started avoiding me after I went back from Japan, I knew I had to do something. And we happened. I fell asleep that night feeling so ecstatic. Until things started falling apart and I got confused. I was afraid I'd hurt you. I was afraid I haven't fully moved on from her. So when she messaged me and I found out she was sick, I responded and even met her. I was confused and I wanted to confirm my feelings. I was a jerk because I didn't tell you. It was all on me Synn. I will forever hate myself for causing so much pain towards you. Please don't ever think that you're not worth it. I know no matter how much I say sorry, nothing will change. But Synn, you know what I realized after all that's happened?"

I shifted from my position as I listen to him speak.

"I realized how much I love you and how much it will hurt more if I don't have you. If I need to beg on my knees or say sorry forever, I will. I will because I know you're worth it. I will do my best and I won't give us up. I will patiently wait until you can take me back, cupcake..."

Those were his exact words that night. I appreciate him being honest. I appreciate the fact that he admitted everything, even his confusion on his feelings.

I didn't want him to think that I didn't listen so before ending the call, I whispered him goodnight.

And that's how it started. He stopped sending me flowers and chocolates. Plus, I'm mostly out of the country anyway.

Instead, he'd send me poems or sweet messages via SMS, sometimes letters whenever I am in our dorm. I don't respond but at least he knew I was reading them. I won't admit to him but I like them.

I was washing my hands before I head back for the send-off when my phone beeped.

A smile instantly shows on my face.

Drying my hands, I tapped on my phone and read his message. He usually sends me one after our concert.

"I ran out of words tonight and my hair's about to fall out because I keep on grabbing them. Eros even threw his shoes on me because I'm being noisy." I laughed a little at his message.

"So, I'll just congratulate you because I know you did a good job. Have fun and enjoy the rest of your stay in Manila and I wish I can see you soon. Missing you - Gold"

A smile escaped my lips before keeping my phone in my back pocket. This time, I headed to my members with an even happier feeling.

Slowly Gold, we'll take it slow this time...

Chapter 29

Synn's POV

"Hey little brat, stop grinning..." I rolled my eyes at what Snow had said. We just came back from our concert in Manila and our manager had given a few envelopes which I know is full of notes and letters I am sure all came from Gold.

I sat on the couch and started opening them one by one. I've received tons of letters from him since a month ago and I just can't help but be excited to read them.

I can still remember the last one he sent before my flight to Manila.

''

Cupcake,

I hope you know that I love you, a lot. Words cannot explain my feelings for you... You are the sun to my day, the moon to my night... Damn cheesy, I know but I hope my message at least sends you a warm smile and comfort. I won't say good luck with your concert because I know you'd always break a leg.

See you soon...

- Gold

''

It was nice and sweet and he actually has some post-it notes that he had asked my manager to give me in the morning and before I sleep when I was out of the country.

''

Dear Synn,

I've got you something to keep you grinning for the whole day...

"My heart..."

P.S It was Raze's idea. It was supposed to say My handsome face but I thought rather than smiling, you'd get pissed instead if I say that.

Lovelots - Gold

''

Sometimes, it was just out of the blues...

''

Note: this time Eros help me out... My dearest Synn, My love for you is like diarrhea, I just can't hold it in. P/s: Eros insist me to send you this. Sorry its a bit gross!!

''

The note indeed made me smile and it honestly gave me so much energy the whole time. And then one time he got me a poem that made me feel so giddy the entire day.

''

With you passing by

I really can't lie

So give me a minute or two

To explain all of this to you

All I need is you

But in everything I do,

You still don't have a clue

That I'm still loving you

My heart is aching

That you're not even thinking

The pain I caused

The bond you paused

The tears that fell

Rang in my head like a bell

To make you come back

Surely is a skill that I lack

That's why I need your love

'Cause your love is above

Everything around me,

Is nothing compared to you beside me

''

Sometimes, it'll also go on the shortest note.

''''''''''''''''''''''''''''''''''

"if i could be with anyone past or present, i'd always be with you." - Gold

"a life without you is like a pencil that's broken... without a point." - Gold

Synn, You're the sweetest cinnamon roll ever! - Gold

''''''''''''''''

"Synn, what does your boy got for you now? You know I admire him for being persistent, huh. I just don't like the fact that he sends his members here sometimes to deliver his notes especially if it's Demo. He always pinch on my Mandu cheeks and it's pissing me off," I laughed a little as Arika pouted while she rest her back on the couch opposite me.

"You like it when he's here Arika," I raised an eyebrow at what Snow stated. "He keeps you busy and he's keeping your ex off your mind," she added and I grin.

For someone who just broke up with her boyfriend, Arika looked like she was far from being brokenhearted though.

"Stop teasing me Snow, and Synn, just open the goddamn letter please," she whisper-shouted and I heard Elisse laughing as she walks closer to us, this time, the four of us now sitting on the couch.

"What? This is personal. Lemme just go and read this to my room," I tried standing up but Elisse was quick to put her legs on my lap to stop me.

"Not so fast young lady. You should know how the whole PERSONA had kept all three of us your members to help their youngest get into you. So we a least have the right to get a peek of that long-ass letter, please" she comically stated and I laughed when the other two continuously nodded to what Elisse had said.

"Fine, but for the record, you guys benefited the most. You took all the chocolates and the food those boys bring," I chuckled before opening the letter.

I bit my lower lip as I scan it. It was quite long. I was already reading it when the girls started whining so I read it out loud.

''''''''''

hey Synn,

today I'm going to tell you the story of a little prince who fell in love with a flower, a red rose to be exact. The prince loved this rose because out of all the flowers in his garden, it was the flower that had accompanied him through some tough royal times, listening patiently and gently nudging his cheek to comfort him whenever he sat nearby.

The rose was always mindful of its thorns, lest it scratched him, but the little prince didn't mind.

The rose grew to be the most beautiful and blossomed whenever he spoke to it. He watered it every day with a special watering can be filled with magic water that helped it stay in full bloom. He reserved it especially for this rose since he never wished to be parted from it.

The rose loved the little prince just as much, if not more and always strived to greet him and present itself as prettily as possible, thanking him for the magic water that allowed it to stay strong through wind or hail and allowed it to weather the harshest of suns.

But one day, the little prince chanced upon a plant lying by the path on his way to visit the rose, a striking flower that had him somehow enthralled. It was a yellow hyacinth and it looked quite sickly. That day, out of the kindness of his heart, the little prince gave all the water to the yellow hyacinth but there was none left for the rose.

The prince thought that the rose could do without a day's water and turned back into the castle. But the next day, he was compelled yet again to use up all his water on the strange yellow hyacinth and again, he forgot to visit the rose.

This went on for some time, but the yellow hyacinth did not seem to be getting any better. The prince was frustrated and consulted with the old court magician that had given him the magic watering can.

"That is strange," mused the court magician stroking his beard, "my magic is supposed to heal any herbal disease. Show me the flower."

So the little prince duly took the wise magician to yellow hyacinth and upon seeing it, the magician shook his head sorrowfully.

"My prince, what have you done," he lamented, "that is an enchanted flower filled with jealousy and it was stealing all the magic water for itself. It wanted your attention all to itself. The magic isn't working because you weren't talking to it like you did with your rose, so obviously nothing happened. The magic only occurs when you share your heart with the flower that receives the water."

And then the little prince realized his terrible mistake and rushed to the neglected rose. He despaired upon seeing the poor rose almost bare, the ground littered with ruby red petals. He fell to his knees next to it, crying with bitter grief until the old magician hobbled up to him and handed it to him the watering can be filled to the brim.

"My prince, you might still be in time to save your flower. Water it and use your words. Open your heart to it.

The prince took the watering can and poured, pouring his heart out with the water sprinkling on the limp flower...

what do you think happens next, cupcake? Should the rose let itself be revived for a prince who neglected her?

I put down the letter on my lap and stared right through it.

I was at a loss for words. It was amazing.

Silence filled the living room and this time, I was sure it wasn't only me.

"Wooowwww" Arika exclaimed.

"Holy sh---" Snow whispered.

"Oh gosh, Synn. I am so done with all of this," I was startled when I heard Elisse exclaimed. "Just go and collect your man! I mean, what are you even waiting for?" her eyes were so wide it was as if she can't even understand what I was thinking.

I turned towards them and saw Snow contemplating. Arika was at a loss for words.

"You know, I hated Gold for what happened but in all honesty, you both have lapses and it's just really just a matter of taking a step backward and looking back," Arika stated. They knew everything. I admitted my faults too.

"Honey, any man who's willing to do all that shit is something. He's not perfect but he's a keeper, Synn," Elisse added, a huge smile showing on her face.

Is this it? Is this the part I finally start opening myself for him again?

"Synn, just look at these messages. 'I love you to the moon and back, including the universe and the whole whatever it is that consist of the galaxy," she picks up random notes I brought coz I was collecting Gold's letters. And then Elisse picked another.

"Raze gave me another message to send you but it was so weird I threw the note. By the way, that Swalla dance, took me off-guard cupcake, I dunno... "

Then she picked another.

"The star looked so beautiful above but nothing beats your smile,"

I was sitting there, listening to everything my members are telling me. They were actually telling me the pros and cons and I love how the three of them find faults in both our Gold and I's actions.

"So, are you guys telling me to forgive him now and get back together?" I asked but Snow sigh.

"No Synn. What we are saying is that maybe you need to recognize his efforts. Sure things weren't easy but you have to get through this eventually. Think things through. Assess yourself. There's no need to rush but at least give him something he can ponder with. Whether you get back together or not is on the both of you okay?"

I bit my lower lip at her words and soon enough, all three of them went inside their rooms after giving me a kiss on the cheeks as a goodbye.

I was left all alone to think. And after careful deliberation, I found myself slowly tapping on my phone to respond.

"Well, the rose can't decide so she wants to talk to you..."

The moment I hit send, I stood up, gather all the notes and headed straight to my room.

I was smiling the entire time and for some reason, I felt the heaviness on my chest getting lifted.

Baby steps Gold... Baby steps...

Chapter 30

Gold's POV

"Okay, that's it. This is so awkward. What, no one's gonna talk?" I heard Arika exclaimed. Her expression tells me she's so done with all of us, the two of us to be specific.

She was eyeing Synn and me as we sat just beside each other while the rest of them sat opposite from us. Snow's demeaning gaze not helping one bit. She's still mad obviously.

I tried drying the invisible sweat on my hands as I gently rub them at the side of my pants. The moment all seven of us came in inside ROY4L's dorms, I've been so restless. And even after I saw her, my heart didn't calm down even for a bit. In fact, I think I ended up getting twice as nervous as the day we debuted.

"I'm grabbing some food," Elisse stood up from the couch, shaking her head in amusement and headed straight to the kitchen.

"Ouchhhh! Demo!" Arika started whining. Demo literally just pinched her Mandu cheeks yet again.

"Keep quiet," he whispered but it was so obvious how he was having fun seeing Arika getting pissed. I'm glad I brought them along for distraction. I was sure the rest of the ROY4L still didn't like me staying around their youngest member. Not after what happened.

From the other side of the couch was Mono sitting beside Snow. They weren't talking, and like Synn and I, everyone can clearly feel the tension surrounding them. I realized that Snow took everything out to Mono. Aside from me, he took the biggest blow out of all this.

A nervous laugh escaped my lips. Fuck, I didn't know seeing her again like this would make me nervous. In fact, I can still feel my knees shaking. Her effect on me tripled if that's even possible. I wouldn't admit to the boys but right, even the way Synn tucks her hair behind her ears gives me the sense of thrill and chills on my body. My heart is literally hammering inside my chest.

I was goddamn stupid for even being confused with my feelings. I mean, seeing her now, I feel like I would embarrass myself. It's like I am starting to question if I even deserve her. Because God knows she deserves so much more. She deserves everything good in this world.

She deserves the best.

"So..." she started and I had to curse internally because her hoarse voice sent dirty thoughts on my mind. Yeah, it was just me and my stupid libido.

Fuck Gold Simons. Gotta focus here, man!

I started coughing and she was looking at me a little confused.

"Hey, are you okay?" the moment her hand touches my shoulder, I flinched. My eyes widened when she was caught off-guard.

Is this a fucking k-drama or what? I was so sure I felt my stomach churning with her mere touch.

"Is there something wrong, Gold?" she asked and I shake my head immediately.

I don't want her to think that there is something wrong and that something weird is going with me.

"Nothing, cupcake," I gulped. Even calling her cupcake now makes me so shy. "I must have eaten something bad earlier," I reasoned and she just raised her eyebrow. "Can you give me one second?" I asked and she just crossed her arms and nodded.

I immediately stood up and stared at mono's direction, who got the signal real quick and went to my direction.

Everyone was looking at us weirdly and I pulled Mono towards the kitchen.

Elisse was there eating some sliced apples while staring at us, her eyebrow raised but that isn't any of my concerns right now.

"What?" Mono asked and I started freaking out. My hands grabbed a fistful of my hair and whisper-shouted.

"Hey, I can't do it. I'm so nervous I feel like my heart is about to jump off my chest! Here, feel it!" I grab his hand and let it rest on my chest and his eyes widened. And then he did it, he started laughing.

"Gold, what, are you having a crush on your ex-girlfriend?" he teased and I grimaced.

"She's not my ex, Mono," I hissed and I heard Elisse chuckling.

I knew it. I shouldn't have told them. Now they're going to tease me endless.

"Don't you tell Synn about this Elisse," I pouted and she chuckled even more.

I hate them. And now I feel like a girl.

"Sorry Gold, it's just so adorable," she said while laughing. "Imagine having your heart about to burst because you see someone you love? Isn't it adorable?" she giggled and I grimaced. So much for keeping this a secret.

"I hate you. I hate the two of you," I told them and Elisse smirked.

"You don't feel like that when the two of you were together?" she asked and I rolled my eyes.

"Do I have to tell you?" I answered and she nodded rather too enthusiastically. I sighed.

"I do, okay? I feel butterflies and all with her even before. But it's tolerable. But now, even the way she smiles at me feels like my heart will stop beati-stop laughing!" I whined when both Mono and Elisse started laughing.

"God, why did I even bother. I hate you guys. Forget this happened. I'm going to talk with Synn," I was about to turn my back when Elisse called my name. This time, she looked like she was smiling sincerely.

"Do you want to know why you're feeling like that?" she asked and as much as I hate to admit it, I was quite curious too so I nodded.

"Because this time, the fact that she may not accept you back os bothering you. Because this time it was different. You really have to work really hard to earn her respect back Gold. You were doing good with the letters. And I can see you've reflected towards your actions. So don't mess this chance. Coz this might be the last," she then walked passed me even patting my shoulders.

I thought about her words.

"Is that it? Because I was afraid to lose her?" I whispered and Mono messed my hair.

"And you were afraid to mess everything again. So work your ass up Gold because I can hear Eros making your girl laugh out there," he stated and I turned around and indeed, Eros was working his magic.

"Yah!" I whined.

I'm telling his girlfriend about this.

My eyes landed on the very girl who can easily make my heart beat like I was on a marathon.

Synn, I promise I won't mess this chance.

Chapter 31

Synn's POV

"Hava-"

"Ugh, heyy!" we heard Snow whined but I was too engrossed with Elisse and I' s duet, we didn't even bother answering.

"na ohhh nana!" Elisse and I both cheered, our hips even swaying in unison as we sang along with the music on my phone.

"If I knew you'd go crazy, I mean, like uncontrollably weird like this, I wouldn't have pushed you to give that Gold another chance," I heard Snow mumbling, her legs crossed while she pouted, her hair being fixed by one of our makeup artists.

A wide and playful grin showing on my face with just the mention of Gold. The boy just really makes me extra happy especially these past few weeks.

Though amused, I'm really feeling even giddier whenever I see him being rattled with just a mere touch of our arms.

At first, I was confused until he snapped and promised me he'd tell as long as I don't tell a soul and I don't tease him.

Of course, I said I won't but the moment he spoke the words, I ended up giggling at how adorable he sounded.

"I'm feeling giddy like some freaking butterflies or bunnies are actually getting wild inside me. And before you ask another question, yes it's because of you - STOP laughing Synn!!!"

The way he pouted was so adorable I ended up pulling him in a tight hug. I laughed once again when I felt how his body stiffened.

Finding out that my effect towards him changed into something that I thought only I can actually feel is pretty much overwhelming.

Day by day, we slowly patch the marks of doubt and insecurities in our relationship. We aren't back together but at least we know how each other feels.

And I like it. I like how we take things slow. I like how we don't need to do anything but make each other feel important.

"Yahhhh!!!" Elisse and I laughed at Snow's pissed expression.

Elisse and I both know she's being salty like this because Mono hasn't confessed to her.

"Someone's still saltyyyy!" Elisse piped and I ended up doubling with laughter.

Aria was in Paris to attend a fashion week while Snow has a photoshoot. And since Elisse and I had completed our schedules last week, we just ended up coming with Snow.

"Oh God, stop with the Sugar rush!" she whined after she saw Elisse jumping around with a pack of long sweets on her mouth.

When we saw how Snow is still not smiling, Elisse and I toned down.

It was never good when Snow doesn't smile.

"Is it really that bad?" I asked and she scowled. At this rate, her makeup won't even be able to save her face.

"Don't even mention him," she rolled her eyes and I keep my mouth shut to keep myself from laughing. She looks cute when she's pissed. And all because of a guy. Snow never loses her cool. Especially not because of a man.

But we all know Mono isn't just any man.

"You know what, go around the building and find a few of our friends. There's a music show happening on the second floor. I can't stand your hyperness right now," she muttered and we are more than glad to obligued.

Elisse and I were almost skipping.

We'd occasionally bow as we pass a few idols and artists. Perks of having Snow's commitment near one. A few of the artists we are the ones we haven't even met before.

"Hello..." we stopped abruptly as two girls from MISTY bowed to us.

Elisse was ecstatic. She was dancing their new song for a week.

"Oh my gosh, I'm a fan," she squealed and I watched as the two girls turned pale in shock. They are so close to fainting.

"Hey, Elisse, you're shocking them," I giggled and the two kept on bowing thanking us.

I can't imagine how we looked when we were rookies. We actually still are compared to a lot more idols but it"s kinda different if you just debuted.

And then we saw them, the new kids from Gold's agency.

The moment they saw us, they started pushing each other. My brows furrowed.

"Something wrong with them?" I asked Elisse who's now tapping at her phone.

We were still walking and seeing how the DREAM boys were bowing towards us, we stopped and bowed as well.

"Congrats on your debut," I greeted and my eyes locked with the tallest one.

They all bowed in unison and utter their thanks.

"Oh, aren't you the oldest?" Elisse chimed in but I was left amused as I saw him gawking at me, cheeks burning red and I'm starting to feel conscious. It was as if he was on a trance.

Is something wrong with my makeup?

With that in thought, I turn towards Elisse and asked which she answered with a shake on her head.

"Bub, your highlighter, your lips, it's all perfect," she answered but that doesn't calmed me down a bit.

Something is definitely wrong.

"Close your mouth kid," I was startled when an arm swang on the guy's shoulders only to find Gold scowling at my direction.

"Gold senior!" they all greeted in unison, bowed and greeted Mono too.

"I tagged along to cheer on you guys and here you are doing cutesy faces to these beautiful seniors of yours," he answered and now my cheeks blushed even more.

What is he doing?

I saw how a few of the idols are now looking at our direction. They probably heard what Gold had said.

"Sorry senior," the guy answered and I raised an eyebrow when Stephen leaned in and whispered something to Gold. The latter's brow furrowed and the next thing I knew was him ushering the kids back with a longing reminder to the other guy.

"We'll talk later," stated and with unending bowing, we were soon left with just the four of us.

"Really, Gold? You just scared the kids," I teased him and he scowled.

Just then, we started walking back to Snow's dressing room. I didn't know what Mono and Elisse were talking but Gold and I kept on following them.

"Yuan has a huge crush on you. How do you think he will be able to concentrate if you were standing in front of him smiling like a ray of sunshine. And for the record, that kind of smile was supposed to be just for me," he crossed his arms and I can't help but smirk.

With all these muscles, an innocent face and an adorable whole being, my heart just can't handle him.

"Are you jealous?" I asked and I saw how he avoided my gaze.

Ever since we talked again, Gold's reaction, thoughts, and emotions had been pretty much transparent.

He scoffed, incredulous about what I just said.

"Me? Jealous? No way," he hissed but the way his ears turned red tells me otherwise.

"Okah, then," I answered. "He actually looks really adorable. We might as well watch them perform and congratulate them," I added and I saw him release a long sigh.

His arms suddenly rested on his waist, stopping in the middle of the hallway.

"Really, Synn? You're going to do this?" he hissed and I'm fucking enjoying.

"What?" I answered nonchalantly. "I don't have a boy-"

"You do have a boyfriend and he's fucking standing now in front of you. Don't even try going close to that kid or I'm gonna be a bad senior," he stated and my heart started convulsing inside my chest. His veins were getting wild like it will pop out of his body any second.

Moreover, I like it when Gold owns me.

I raised an eyebrow. And I like it when I tease him too.

"I am nobody's girl yet... " I whispered making him frown,

"Cupcake..." I added, tapping his right cheeks softly before leaving him behind.

I heard him whine which made me chuckle even more.

Us being like this, I am enjoying it.

Chapter 32

Synn's POV

"What, 'Be your own moral Compass', okay, I get it. I hate him. What did I even do? And for the record, he only got that phrase when we were watching The Order on Netflix!"

I laugh as I hear Arika stomping on her feet while she is animatedly elaborate to Snow how much she incredibly hates Demo.

It's so cute I'm starting to think something is going on between the two. Too bad, Arika doesn't even realize that Snow barely listens to her. The older girl was too lost and over the top after Mono, apparently, finally confessed to her. That's what Gold told me.

"Don't you think Arika is being too dramatic over whatever Demo says?" I heard Elisse whispered. She was scrolling through her phone as we both sit on the couch watching the other two.

Arika just came back and Snow still has her shoots and we decided to drop by.

"I know right? But I actually noticed how Demo really lives pinching her cheeks and pissing her off," I whispered back. We don't really want Arika to hear us talking about her.

"Maybe he likes her, or maybe he just sees her as a sister," Elisse smirked and I wasn't sure if she's serious or not.

"Or maybe, it's Arika who's making a great deal out of nothing," I added and we turned towards each other and grin before ending in fits of laughter.

"I hate him!" we flinched when we heard Arika snickered before sitting down on the empty space before us.

Elisse shakes her head.

"Hate the sin - not the person," she stated and I kept my mouth shut as we heard Arika gasp.

Here it goes.

She did the most-Arika-way she would always do.

She started crying.

I covered my mouth to stop myself from crying. Typical Arika. People thought she's badass because she appears sassy at most times but she is actually just a crybaby especially if she's with us.

Elisse started giggling. "I was kidding okay? Don't worry, we're getting our revenge on Demo for pinching your cheeks,"

I pulled my phone from my pocket when I felt it vibrated.

"Cupcake, where are you?"

I bit my lower lip as I type my response to Gold.

He probably just woke up. They had a shoot last night.

I lifted my gaze back to Arika when she growled like a cute little kitten if that's even possible. She's acting like she's Leo only she's much more adorable.

"Don't leave. I'm coming,"

My brows furrowed. Why does he sounded so angry?

I pouted. What did I do this time?

I don't remember doing anything wrong. I mean, we may not be officially dating but we had an understanding. We tell each other everything.

Was it because of that post?

Shrugging my shoulder, I shifted my gaze back to my members. Arika was already laughing as Elisse made cute faces in front of her. Nobody can resist Elisse.

Our attention was caught by the sound of knockings on our door. My eyes drifted towards our right and soon enough, three of them soon emerged.

I watch how Snow's face brightened the moment her eyes locked with Mono's.

Oh, new love...

"Goodmorning!" Demo happily cheered and from that moment, Arika scowled making Elisse and I laugh.

Adorable.

And then Gold's pouty face came in.

Soft chuckles escaped my lips. The way his lips puckered looks so adorable. How do his fans accept the fact that he's no longer their company's baby now?

"You're laughing? Can't you see how serious I am right now?" he scowled before sitting right next to me. By this time, Chaeyoung was already out, probably to meet his boyfriend while my other members were kept occupied by the other two.

Clinging my hand over his arm, I heard him snicker so I backed away to have a good view on his beautiful face.

"What did I do this time?" I teased and the look he gave me sends me off giggling.

"You really have to ask Synn?" he scowled and we heard Demo snickered.

"Can you knock some sense over that kid? He's getting sensitive because of a kid, a kid Gold Simons. Do you hear me?" Demo gagged and Gold just whined.

"Tell me that again if you see your girl taking a sweet photo with a person she knew has a crush on her. Then talk to me again, Demo," he sassed and Demo just pouted at him.

So cute.

"Okay!" I surrendered. I honestly had an idea why he was acting so grumpy like this but I didn't technically expect that he really would. "It's just a photo. And he's a kid for Pete's sake. Stop being jealous,"

The way his eyes widened made me shut my mouth, a smile never leaving my face. I really love how transparent Gold had been these past months. It's like, he'd say something but you'd decipher his words through his expressions.

"He's not a kid Synn. He's old enough to sneak his way in on taking a photo with you. That kid is really gonna get it,"

"See!" I stood up, my hands resting on my waist. "You just said he was a kid!" I teased and he rolled his eyes.

"Whatever Synn. Can you just explain to me why you were doing heart signs with him on the photo? I thought that was my special privilege?"

My eyes caught Gold's phone blinking from his hand. His attention turned towards it and my eyes widened at the photo I just saw.

"Did you do that?" I asked. It was a photo of Yuan. It was obviously something posted in a bulletin but there were marks of pen scattered over his face. Obviously, it was made with intent.

His cheeks redden at my question.

Caught red-handed!

I don't know how I would react. He was acting like a childish jealous boyfriend and I'm feeling giddy about it.

"You have to apologize," I stated. He stood up from the couch, his eyes so wide I can clearly see how frustrated he was right now.

I knew their band has a music recording right now.

Our eyes locked and we were having a stating game. My eyes saw how his lips waiver, a smirk slowly forming on my face.

I'm definitely winning this.

"Okay, you win," he surrendered. "But for the record, it was Eros who drew the connecting moles, okay," he added before leading straight to the door.

He was just about halfway there when I called his name.

"What?" annoyance can clearly be heard on his voice a sweet smile emerging on my face.

My baby, I just really love you... I told to myself.

"Shouldn't you be giving your girlfriend a hug before leaving?" I asked and his brows furrowed.

I watch as his expression turns into confusion, bewildered and all possible reactions until he ended up breaking into a huge grin.

The next thing I knew was him running straight towards me, engulfing me in the biggest, most comfortable loving hug I can ever have.

I can literally feel the fast beating of his heart.

"Oh God cupcake," he was mumbling. His hands cupped my face and he seemed overjoyed and I can't be any happier.

I know I made the right choice.

I know we're living with each other right this time.

Chapter 33

Synn's POV

"You're going to have to release me, Mr. Simons, if you know what's best for the both of us," I chuckled as I felt Gold's hands getting tighter as he pulled me even closer, his face now buried at the crook of my neck. I can feel his breath touching my skin.

Oh, God.

If he doesn't stop this, I'd fucking collapse on the floor.

He was so shameless. He'd tease like it's something that is so natural for him to do.

And then I felt it, his lips grazing my skin leaving a burning sensation on my body, a moan automatically coming out of my lips.

Good Lord.

My cheeks blushed in instant and I pulled away from him a little, just enough for our face to level.

He knew what he had done based on the smirk that is sporting on his expression.

"I hate you," I pouted which he just returned it with a sly smile. He did it again and I had to fight the urge to moan but it's so freaking hard.

"Can we just go to your dorm and cuddle? We're about to go on another tour. And you guys have a World tour right now,"

He leaned closer as his forehead now resting on my shoulder. Ever since we got back together, Gold had been trice as clingy as before.

He'd go to the dorm occasionally and whines until I agree to cuddle with him. Most often, we'd do movie nights on the couch in the living room just because my members kept telling me we're not yet clear to be on our own in my room.

Like they can actually watch me every time.

But yeah, Gold and I had a few makeout sessions but we never had sex. I'm too scared for that shit.

Now, I was at the studio where Elisse was filming for a show. I just arrived so I can give her support but Gold, being on vacation right now had to follow and drag my ass over the building's fire exit.

"If you don't go now we're going to get our ass beaten by either our members or our management," I giggled when he pulled me closer again, his sweet smell leaving a tingling sensation all over me.

"Gold!" I hissed and he chuckled.

"Fine!" he backed away a little but not before giving me a quick peck on the lips. I hit his shoulder in retaliation which just earns fits of laugher from him, his arms still wrapped around my waist.

Just when he calmed down, I stared at him lovingly, my hands wrapped around his neck.

And we were just here, staring at each other's eyes, our bodies swaying from imaginary music which probably is just the beating of our hearts.

I love staring at him. The way his jaw clenches every time he is frustrated... Or when he presses his tongue at the side of his cheeks... I love then. I love how his eyes shine whenever he stares at me. Or how the beating of heart feels whenever he puts my hand over his chest.

I love everything.

I love him. And I am glad we actually had this chance to live each other right.

"You know, I kinda wish we can be like this forever..." he whispered, my stomach churning by just staring at him.

"What? Hiding? Sneaking out afraid that the whole world will judge us?" I grimaced and his eyes turned soft before it gets hooded as our forehead touches.

"Cupcake, listen to me, okay? We will be fine. Whatever happens, even when people find out, we're not going to break up, alright?" he whispered, cupping my cheeks along the process.

Just the thought of us breaking up again kills me. I know there are a lot of people who would support our relationship but it's not as many as those who will oppose.

And everyone knows how fans basically stir every decision any entertainment company has, especially theirs.

I just hope we can survive this. Because the industry we are in is cruel. It's beautiful I know but behind the beauty was a facade every idol had to put up with. And I fucking hate it.

"Noone's going to break us apart. Not them. Our love is more beautiful than that..." he whispered and I feel overwhelmed by his sincere emotions.

Just then, both of us flinched when we heard the sound of the door opening. His hands pulled me even closer and we were able to breathe and calm down when we realized it's the door from the floor above us.

"Keep quiet baby, I need you to keep quiet,"

"Oh, I fucking miss you,"

My right hand covered my lips, my eyes wide the moment we heard their muffled voices.

"My fucking God!"

Relative moans echoed across the place and both Gold and I got the biggest scare of our lives. Or shock if that wasn't enough.

"Fuck!"

Our mouth went agape when we heard the sound of the zipper getting opened.

"Shit!" I whisper-shouted and the next thing I knew was the two of us scurrying outside of the fire exit.

We were careful enough to create any sound.

We were running like crazy and thank God we were at a corner were not most people come in.

After a few more turns, we stopped hurrying, my other hand leaning on the walk, Gold doing the same.

Our eyes met and before we knew it, we laughing like crazy.

"Oh my God, did you hear that?" I whisper-shouted, my cheeks about to wreck from constant grinning.

I watch as I saw his cheeks turned red in embarrassment.

"Please tell me it's not who I think it was," he utters and I kept my mouth shut before nodding.

I giggled when I heard him groan. This information was too much to suck in. I would never imagine this. I mean, I would never think this would happen and apparently, Gold was as shocked as I am.

"He had the audacity to tell me to be careful when he goes around fucking some girl on a fire exit!" he hissed, "and that is not after he even checks if someone was around. Somebody could have seen him!" he sounded so scandalized about what he just saw. Well, I'd probably react the same I heard one of my members having an extreme makeout session.

That's just so fucking awkward.

I shut my mouth, even covering it with my other hand. Gold glared at me.

I was trying to stop myself from laughing.

"Really Synn? You're going to laugh at me?" he scowled and I can't help it, I giggled as I removed my hand.

"Sorry Gold, okay? It's just so funny I can't believe this actually happened," I told him and he let out a long sigh.

Gold pulled out his phone and started typing furiously.

I'm guessing their band will have to have a mini confrontation session in few hours.

Well, that is, after Raze finishes whatever he's doing in the fire exit.

Chapter 34

Gold's POV

"Demo started it," I laugh as our manager called us out just right after our Hongkong concert.

"Hey, it wasn't me. Chase started, I just kinda let loose,"

"Did you see Gold at Ring Bar? Yep, he probably made two or three girls in front pass out,"

I pouted at what Eros muttered.

"Guys, this isn't about you grinding and feeling yourself on the stage. It's about being careful. Raze almost slipped on the edge and Chase, how many times have we told you to lessen the turn or twirl or whatever it was. You guys are going to get injured,"

The seven of us grinned at what our manager had said.

I can't even remember how many times he had reminded us of that.

So, our Hongkong concert just ended and we were reprimanded for being totally out of control on the stage.

Well, can't blame us though. The adrenaline rush, the cheers from the fans, the blinding lights on the stage, the music, the beating of our hearts, we miss it.

Just a week or two of not being able to perform is totally unbearable. Like I'm not even sure how we would be able to handle being on hiatus for more than months. If not, we actually had to stay in practice rooms just to fool ourselves that we were on stage.

We appreciate our fans about asking us to rea\st but sometimes, our bodies just call it too.

The moment our staff dispersed, I reached out for my phone as I sit on the couch, my feet crossed like how my brothers are.

A smirk escaped my lips when I saw Mono fiddling on his phone, frantic. I heard Snow and her had a fight.

About pizza.

Fucking pizza.

Not that I'm interested in any bit of it but Synn told me her member was pretty much pissed and was not responding to Mono's messages. I can't even imagine how frustrating that must have been for my band member. Even I get frustrated whenever Synn doesn't reply to my messages. Well, mainly because I pissed her off too

"Chase, in all honesty, I'd say you really went overboard today," Raze muttered and we all laughed when Chase groaned.

"So no one's gonna call Gold out just because he's our baby boy?" he started whining and I threw the nearest cushion I can grab to his direction.

"Hey, watch it baby boy, I'm still older," he laughed after catching the cushion. Damn guy still has fast reflexes even after too much exhaustion.

"But I'm still definitely taller," I wiggle my eyebrows and he just gave me a finger.

"Still gets him every time huh?" Eros laughed which he fiddles through his phone, probably trying to reach out to his girlfriend.

"Shut up, idiot," this time, Chase threw the cushion straight to Eros's face and it hits him right there, bull's eye.

"But still taller than you," he responded and we all ended up laughing.

Zero stood up to go to the bathroom and Raze was now talking over the phone.

The fucker.

After his little incident on the fire exit, we all agreed to keep our sexual activities on the low, especially not on public areas such as that.

If he was caught by someone else, that could have mean serious trouble not only to him, us, but to that girl group member, he was banging with too.

The boys can't believe it either. Who would have thought that our eldest member, the one who always has to remind us to be careful, was actually the wildest among us?

Not to bring old memories back but I never did the deed yet with Synn. I didn't know why but when I'm with her, I feel like just having her in my arms is more than enough. My feelings get high in the roof and my heart keeps beating like crazy.

Sex is not something that simply crosses my mind when I'm with her. It does, yes but just the sight of her sparkling eyes makes it easier for me to wait. At first, I actually thought that's bad and weird but Zero was good enough to make me realize that sex is not the only factor why two people have to be in a relationship.

It's love. And that calmed me down a bit.

However, there were days that I actually feel so frustrated. Like, I just can't explain. And it all started with the Swalla performances.

The small beep sound coming from my phone took me off my trance.

I smiled immediately when I saw who sent me a message. I was just about to message her too. We had a little fight before my flight to Hongkong and she was upset.

But yeah, every couple encounters that, right?

"I hate you"

My body immediately bolted up from resting my back on the couch, my tongue wetting my lips along the process.

I'm in trouble, aren't I?

I gulped.

I grunted internally. I knew I shouldn't have blabber the last time.

"Oh, it looks like someone is in trouble..." Demo singsonged. I lifted my gaze and realized he was also on his phone but is now looking at me, a knowing look written all over his face.

My brows furrowed. "How did you even know?"

He smirked. "Sources?"

I tilted my head in annoyance. "What happened into not meddling with other's relationships?"

"You didn't say that when you asked for our helped the last time kiddo," Mono answered and I groaned in annoyance.

"Not my fault you started that stupid conversation with your girlfriend. Who's gonna tell this kid he was being stupid?" Demo chuckled and I grunted when everyone willingly raised their hands.

Any chance to tell me I was wrong, they'd grab.

"I was kidding!" I whisper-shouted and Zero who just came back left a snicker.

"No. You were being hormonal and jealous-"

"Add possessive to that," Mono chimed in.

"-and that too. So now you're going to eat all your words and apologize," Zero finished.

"What do I need to apologize for?" I asked appalled. Though I actually have an idea what they were pointing at. I scowled at Eros, "You told them?" Eros knew Synn and I fought.

He snickered. "I don't have to. You're like an open book to everyone if it's about Synn. Your bitchy ass can't be tamed,"

"I was just telling her not to dance too seductive at her concert. It was just-" I huffed. How do I tell them I'm getting frustrated about it?

"Sexually-aroused," Mono completed my words and I exclaimed in denial. "No! It's not like that," I pouted.

"You are and you were being frustrated because you feel like you should be the only one seeing her like that. Well news flash kid, you're dating an idol. And she is as well. Do you even have even the slightest idea how frustrated she must have been too while seeing you grind in front of millions of people?"

I was left at a loss of words.

"What, I'm a guy..." I whispered.

"With millions of fans swooning and drooling over you. What we want you to understand is that you can get jealous in a relationship but know your limits. There is a thin line for that. Do you even know how upset she was after you snapped at her like that? Telling her you don't like her dance and all?"

I stared at Mono.

"I don't hate it. She'd good at it,"

"Well, it sounded like it to her. It'd like questioning her abilities. It's her craft. Respect it,"

"And talk about double standards, idiot. Being a guy doesn't mean you can dance like that and she can't,"

My gaze fell down in the ground.

Am I being too possessive? Or was it even the right term?

Chapter 35

Synn's POV

"Why is that every time you two has a problem, it becomes 'our' problem too?"

I rolled my eyes at what Elisse had just said. We were on the van on our way to our dorm after coming back from our flight in Singapore.

"Stop the attitude, young girl and stop pouting. Elisse has a point though. You and Gold should learn how to manage your relationship. You get grumpy whenever you two had a fight and we don't exactly always have the time in the world to deal with your sassiness, okay?" Arika puffed air out of her mouth while she taps on her phone.

Arika just shrugged her shoulders. I can't really blame them, especially Elisse and Arika. I accidentally snapped at them, after I saw that video of Gold fucking grinding in front of millions of people after he literally asked me if I can change my solo number - the audacity and hypocrisy. Who does he think he is?

Just because we are together doesn't mean he can be a bitch like that.

This is my craft and there's nothing wrong with it. It's not like I was fucking my backup dancer or something.

It was just a simple dance. Other idols have done pretty much more than I did and that doesn't make any of them less than a human being like he is.

Honestly, I know I shouldn't have taken it out on the girls but I really just wanna release my frustration and it happened at the wrong time.

"Sorry..." I muttered and we heard Arika grunted. I raised my voice at her earlier and I wasn't too happy about it either.

The girls and I, we fight but it was normal. But then we all knew not to raise our voices when we do so. We promised to always talk when we have problems.

We were all silent for a moment. Nobody dares to talk with each other.

Everybody was tired and exhausted. In fact, it wasn't even three hours after our concert and we went on a flight straight back to Korea because we have a commitment set for tomorrow.

And I honestly feel so bad. I know I made the mood heavy for acting up earlier. I am just so lucky they were being patient with me even after my stupid behavior.

"So, have you talk it out with Gold?" I heard Arika. She wasn't looking at me but on her phone yet I have this weird feeling that her focus was on me the entire time. Because she cares for me.

All of them. And no matter how pissed they maybe at me for acting up, they will still care.

I shake my head in response.

After I sent him a message, I turned off my phone.

I am just so mad at him.

We won't break up, yes, but we need to cool down even for a day or two. I don't want to do something that or say anything that will hurt both of us.

"Good, that'll give me an excuse not to talk with his Demo who's been getting on my nerves lately," she snickered and a small smile escaped my lips.

Yeah, Demo has been pestering her well lately and I'm still contemplating what it means, good or bad, for the both of them.

"Tsss," we all turned towards Snow who simply scoffed.

"Excuse me?" Arika scowled and I tried to hide the smile threatening to emerge on my lips.

"What? I was reading something on my phone," Snow lied. Yeah, it's obvious that she was lying.

Her phone was bright open and we can clearly see what she's looking at - a dog. Her dog. Who is sleeping. Which is not even funny at all.

"C'mon Ari, we all know you always watches his solos before. Which I think is not entirely weird since he's really hot as fuck too-"

"Elisse!" Arika exclaimed.

"- but, don't try to deny the fact that you're enjoying the attention. No matter how annoying he sometimes gets to you," she finishes and the three of us grinned while Arika pouted.

"I am not watching his solos!"

"Yeah, my bad, just that song with lots of hip thrusts,"

"Yah, Elisse! When did I ever do that?"

"Ah, like, literally four hours ago? During Snow's solo. Don't even deny it. I was changing behind you and you were too engrossed you did not even realize,"

At that, we lost it. Snow and I burst out laughing at how red Arika's face was. "I was just monitoring him for the purpose of pissing him off if he messed up,"

"Ohwwwkayyyy" Elisse answered and even after we were already on the elevator, Arika doesn't want to drop the topic.

"I hate you guys," she started whining and we were all just laughing. She's such a baby.

The moment we opened the door on our dorms, my mouth went agape when I saw a huge box filled with purple hyacinths on it.

"Look what we have here," Snow exclaimed and Elisse reached the flowers first.

"Purple hyacinth, a flower that symbolizes deep regret, or...asking for forgiveness," Arika stated. Hyacinths were her favorite flower.

Her arms took hold of a white paper which I am guessing is a letter.

"Oopps, from your loverboy. Want me to read it?" she asked and my cheeks blushed.

"Cupcake, I know I have upset you with my undeniably unreasonable stupidity. And I'm sorry. I truly am. I can't promise you I won't do anything that would upset you again in the future but I will try my best not to.

I know you're mad, and I know it's my fault for being such a jerk. Please know that I respect your craft and I admire your passion. I love you, Richards. A cup of coffee tomorrow?"

By the time Elisse finished reading the note, my cheeks are close to tearing off from the wide smile I am doing.

"I'm starting to hate your relationship. You guys are reeking too much love I'm tasting bitterness on my lips," Snow stated and I started tapping on my phone.

"I fucking love you, Simons. But I still need that coffee to fully forgive you,"

Somethings may be wrong but it will always be right in the end for the two of us.

I hope...

Chapter 36

Synn's POV

"Mono, I told you we're having our comeback on either March or April, didn't I?" I heard Snow talking on the phone.

Yeah, the two are now official. At least to us. They were too obvious with the fans though. Every instance that we attend the same show, the two just can't keep their eyes off each other, sneaking glances every fucking chance they got to the point that it's starting to disgust me because I feel bitter for their obvious display of affection - something Gold and I can't afford to risk at this time.

We've got too many eyes focused on us sometimes it frustrates me. We can't simply smile nor look at each other's direction without the risk of being caught. It's scary actually.

Now, Snow was arguing with Mono after she learned about their comeback date. She doesn't really want our release to overlap because she know how there are times both fandoms we have are arguing. We can't do something about it but if we can, we try to adjust.

We can't control these kinds of things though since our comebacks are not solely on our control. We need to follow a certain schedule.

My hand easily scrolls through the photos of Gold as they just arrive back to Korea from their concert. I hope he takes a rest. He tends to overworked himself I sometimes get worried coz he might get sick or injure himself.

Just then, my phone started beeping and multiple messages comes right in. The first one was from him.

"I just got home cupcake. I'll see you soon 🫀"

A smile immediately crossed my face. These days, it's hard for us to meet each other. We're both busy and since we both have our comeback and multiple tours, we can't simply find time to meet personally but video message each other occasionally.

I immediately started typing a response to him before checking another message, this time, from my mom.

"I miss you, honey. Your aunt is here, Skype in ten?"

Putting down my phone, I run straight to my room and grab my laptop with me. The girls and I will binge-watch some movie and we're just waiting for Elisse that's why I was camping on the couch.

Arika was in her room taking a rest.

Bringing my laptop with me, I went back to the living room and found Snow giggling, seated on where I was earlier so I sat the space opposite hers.

While setting my laptop for a Skype call with my mom later, I checked my phone for a response.

"I miss you cupcake. I wanna see you... 😑"

I smile at how whiny Gold is sounding. In fact, I can already picture his bunny face, probably pestering his members too.

"Take a rest Gold. I saw those bags under your eyes," I teased. He looked so exhausted. That's no surprise though coz when we are at a concert we give our all. And the amount of energy we put, I guess it's the adrenaline that keeps us going.

The videos of their performances prove it all too. Sometimes I ask myself how it was possible for them to endure that.

"I'd have more energy if I see you. Video call?"

I bit my lower lip at his response. This little bunny just knows what words to tell. Yes, sometimes he acts immaturely but I don't really hold it against him. I kinda understand that there are things that he wasn't able to experience since he started to be in the industry early. He was restricted from some other things. And I know I am the same in most aspects and we had a couple of fights because of that. However, at the end of the day, at least we always come to settle our differences and learn to compromise.

Before I can even respond, I saw an incoming call from my mom on my laptop so I naturally put down my phone on the table.

"Mom!" I squealed, even Snow looking at me and a smile immediately forming on her lips after realizing who I was talking with.

She jumps beside me to greet my mom.

"Auntie!" she waved along with me.

"Oh God, you girls are so pretty," my mom exclaimed making Snow laugh and me pouting.

"You only say that when the girls are with me. You don't compliment me like that if we're alone," I scowled, teasing my own mother who ended up laughing.

"It's because you are my daughter so that's a given. Who else would you inherit those assets?" she boasted and we all ended up laughing at how cute she sounded.

"No auntie, you're prettier than us!" Snow exclaimed and my mom blushed immediately. The relationship between us and each other's parents are so well. We are close to them and is sometimes even attending family gatherings together. We're all family.

"Auntie, I'll leave you talking with Synn. We love you!" after my mom responded back and waived the same, Snow went to her room and I was left with my mom.

"Mom, I miss you!" I whined and she chuckled.

"We're going to visit you soon baby," she started tearing up.

"Oh Mom!" I also started tearing up. We spent so many years away from each other just sip I can follow my dreams. Now that I have, I swore to God I will do everything to give her the best life. I will give everything for my mom to be happy.

After spending a few minutes talking about random things, my aunt suddenly jumps beside my mom.

"Auntie!!!!" I screeched. She's one of the coolest people I know and she loves pop as much as I do. She loves watching concerts as well.

"How's my favorite?" she started giggling and I did the same.

"I wasn't your favorite!" I chuckled. They like to tease me but I know they all love everyone the same.

"Okay, so, when's your next concert? I can't believe I'm missing your comeback. I was supposed to be in Korea but a sudden appointment got my schedules messed up," she pouted and I laughed. My aunt is really so sweet.

My mother's back was already facing the screen. I heard they were trying to cook. Just then, my aunt's phone kept ringing.

"One-second baby," my aunt whispered before turning her back to grab her phone and I nodded. I was contented watching my mother cook.

I heard the sound of the door opening, probably Elisse arriving.

Just when my aunt came back to screen, I felt a pair of hands wrapped around me from behind, a face buried on the crook of my neck.

"Cupcake..." Gold's voice rang on my ears, my eyes widening and the hair at the back of my neck stood up.

My eyes caught my aunt and my mother's expression who were, I can only imagine, mimicking the same expression as mine.

"Synn I-" Gold's words were cut off the moment he lifted his gaze, his mouth forming an o-shape, I swear I saw him gulp the moment my eyes followed his movement. "Ohhh..." he uttered.

I totally forgot my boyfriend is one big surprise addict.

Nor did I remember telling my family that I have a boyfriend.

And that it's one of the most famous boybands to this date.

Okay, shit.

Chapter 37

Synn's POV

"Okay, I've calmed down. Continue," my aunt stated but her face was noticeably red despite the fact that we were on a Skype call. She was hyperventilating. It's like she forgot that Gold is actually seated beside me.

After that little incident where my Mom accidentally saw Gold nuzzling his nose right on my neck, Gold froze in instant and was barely able to speak. He was so shocked and embarrassed that my mother had to see him do that when he hasn't introduced himself.

My Mom was quiet though and I can feel Gold fidgeting beside me. Out of worry, I grab his other hand and held it tightly. I don't want him to feel that he's alone.

I saw how my mom raised her eyebrow at the sight of our intertwined hands. As far as I remember, my mom is a fan of them. But of course, being my boyfriend is a different thing.

"So..." my Mom started. She still isn't smiling and even though my mom is a jolly and friendly person, she can be pretty much intimidating at times too.

"Ahm-" Gold cleared his throat before releasing a sigh. And once again, my mom raised her eyebrow.

"Mom!" I started whining and my aunt started laughing.

"Ma'am, ahm, I'd like to formally introduce myself. My name is Gold Simons and I'm Synn's boyfriend. It's my honor to finally meet her mom and aunt,"

Though nervous, my heart skipped at the sight of Gold's smile. Even in situation like this, he still looks adorable. I flinched when I heard my aunt squealing, soft chuckles escaped Gold's lips at her reaction. Even my mom smiled a little.

"I can't believe you two are in a relationship. And what? You were keeping it a secret?" my aunt added and I pouted.

My mom was still silent and I grunted. I know she's trying to scare Gold.

"We were both busy and we're still at a pace where we're still getting to know each other. Besides, it hasn't been long since we've started dating," my cheeks blushed at the words I stated. I don't really have that much of dating experience and this meeting the parents kind of thing is something Gold and I haven't talked about.

"Yet I almost saw the two of you about to make out,"

"Mooommmm!" I exclaimed sending my aunt into fits of laughter. Gold quickly stood up and bowed real low in apology.

I tried pulling him back but he wouldn't budge and I annoyingly stared at my mom who was now smirking. She's having the time of her life pretty much enjoying this.

"I'm sorry ma'am. I can assure you that I respect Synn a lot," my lips quiver at what Gold had said. Somehow, it warms my heart seeing how he is determined to get my mom's approval.

I can hear my aunt cooeing but my eyes were now focused on Gold. We fought a lot. We broke up, get back together, and fought continuously. But even so, I feel like our bond is getting stronger. I get to learn and be mature, and so does he. There are times when one is at fault and there were moments that both were right in some ways. But I appreciate the fact that at the end of the day, we makeup and accept each other's opinions.

And that makes my love for him grow even more.

With that in mind, I stood from my seat and bowed beside Gold. I noticed how my aunt stopped laughing. "Synn..." I heard her call my name.

I felt Gold's stare boring on my side so I glanced at him and smile.

"I'm with you no matter what," I whispered and he smiled.

Goddamn it. Why does his smile get me every time?

"Okay, you two, stop. That's not even funny. You're making me look like some evil girlfriend's mother," my mom chuckled and I smirk. I knew she'd say that.

All in all, my mom and aunt had quite a few stories to tell. My mom warmth up with him and even told him about her experience when she went to their concert.

"And I'm going to see your concert too. I've got comp tickets as a gift," my aunt squealed and I'm starting to get quite embarrassed but Gold seemed to be fine with it.

"I'd be happy to meet you guys on backstage, auntie," he started and I groan making everybody laugh.

"Nah, I'd prefer to meet you when you're with Synn,"

"Okay, that's enough. It's getting late. Mom, I'll call you soon okay?" I smiled and my mom did the same.

After bidding goodbye and my aunt's constant fangirling with Gold, the video call ended.

Thank God.

"Synn, I think I just shit on my pants," he whispered and I laughed. I leaned my body closer to his chest and there it was, the proof that he was nervous the entire time. His heart was violently beating inside his chest which made me end up in fits of laughter.

"Really?" he pulled away from me a little his other hand resting on my waist.

"What? It's so cute. I mean the great Gold Simons getting nervous because of my mom," I teased and he grunted.

"Let's see you smile like that once you see mine. My mom can be pretty intimidating too," I lifted my gaze and he was wiggling his eyebrows.

My cheeks blushed in instant.

Are we talking about meeting his parents now?

Shit. I don't think I'm ready for that.

"I can't believe my mom saw that," I hissed at him to divert our topic to something else.

He must have understood as he raised his eyebrow.

"What? It's not like you're immune to my kisses?" He teased and I hit him straight to his shoulder.

I leaned back on his chest, our breathing filled the room.

"We're going to be busy in the following months," I stated.

Both our groups will be on a world tour and that means lesser time to see each other. Heck, even communicating with each other will be hard.

I heard him sigh.

"I know..." he whispered.

My chest felt heavier. For the past months, I've become emotionally dependent on him. Can we withstand this? The upcoming struggle we're about to face?

I felt him kiss the top of my head.

I hope...

Chapter 38

Synn's POV

"Are you okay?" I heard Elisse asked. My eyes widened and I tried my best to stop myself from cursing.

"Are you serious? Of course, I'm not! I feel like I'm about to pass out and my knees are shaking! I think I'm going to throw up!" I heard her chuckle and from the corner of my eyes, I sawAria close to crying as she talks over the phone.

Is she talking with Demo?

"Calm down Synn," I heard her chuckle. Out of the four of us, she seemed the most unbothered. But I know she's nervous too. At times like this, I'm thankful that we have at least one member who knows how to handle her feelings.

"Elisse, that's easier said than done. I feel like thousands of bolts are cursing down my veins. I can feel the adrenaline rushing into me. This is Coachella Elisse. You can't simply tell me to calm down," I spat and she laughed again. She's starting to annoy me, in a good way though.

When we first heard that we were invited to perform in Coachella, we were literally bouncing off our feet. We had a party on our own and almost wrecked Arika's bed from all the jumping. Elisse and I almost got in trouble.

My eyes caught the sound of my phone blaring.

My bunny

Gold had been calling me since earlier and I can't find myself to answer his call. I'm not sure why but I'm too nervous I'm not sure I am in the mood to talk.

Gold and I's relationship was going smoothly. At least for me. There were days when we don't call each other because we both know we're both busy. If not, it's usually him who calls.

I don't actually remember where he is right now. Does he have a concert? I know they just had their comeback but I can't really follow their busy schedule too.

There's so much going in my life that I can't really focus. A lot of things are happening and it's so surreal, honestly.

I'm living the dream. We all are.

Imagine being invited to Coachella. God.

Plus, our last song did so well I don't know how I can ever repay the support that our fans had been showering us.

"Yah, Elisse, someone's outside!" Snow stated and we all jumped from our seat.

We were waiting for our set to start and it's nerve-wracking.

There were a lot of artists outside and a few had already visited our set. I can't even fathom how lucky we are to be able to meet these people.

Before I even knew it, we are going outside of our reserved place to meet a few more artists.

"Oh my God," Arika whispered.

It's funny how she looked so confident yet she's literally hyperventilating inside, like me.

"This is unreal... Slap me, please," I whisper-shouted to Arika who just laughed at my words. I know she's also nervous. We all are.

This is Coachella. We can't mess this up.

"Awwww!" my mouth went wide open after I felt a hand on my cheek. The slap wasn't that hard but was more than enough to calm my nerves.

My eyes glared at my right, Elisse's giggly face greeting me. Her hands both formed on a v-shape and I wish I could do the middle finger.

"Why did you do that for?" I scowled while rubbing my cheek.

"You asked for it?" she smiled cheekily and I snorted. I wouldn't admit but what she did calmed me down a little.

I rolled my eyes then smirked, "Well, thank you, I suppose,"

"Tsk, you know you love me," she snickered and I chuckle.

Elisse and I were like cat and dog. We always bicker with each other but we love each other like a sister. We act like this because we understood each other's weaknesses and strengths. I know she's acting playfully with me right now because I am nervous and she's trying to make me feel better.

After a while, we went back inside our designated room while our managers do some finishing touches on our make up.

"Arika..." I asked for Arika's attention. She was fidgeting and kept on checking on her phone.

This time, I want to calm her down like what Elisse just did to me.

"Are you okay?" I asked her and saw her typing on her phone again.

"I'm nervous Synn. And Demo keeps on telling me that it will be okay but how will it be okay? Have you seen the crowd? I mean, what if it's dead silent later? Oh my God, I think I'm going to faint," she started rambling and my heart warmth at the sight of her.

Arika had always been viewed differently by most people. She exudes a strong persona outside but all of us knew how much fears she has within her. She's the type to keep them inside in fear that she will burden us but that what makes it harder for her.

We want her to remember that she's not alone and she can share the burden, that we'll gladly carry it with her.

I can still remember how Elisse was supposed to have her solo debut first but was so scared about people's expectations and results. That's why Arika stepped up and took the burden off from her shoulder. She volunteered to go first to test the waters.

And she took a great deal of hate and doubt for it. People say she's not ready. Well, she isn't. But she did it for us.

Sometimes, I want to tell them that whatever we do, us girls already talked about it. Whatever actions we do towards one member, it means we agreed on it.

We decide what's best for all of us. If need be, I'd be willing to take the burden too if it's for them.

My hands reached for hers and she turned her attention back to me.

"You're going to rock it, Arika. You always do," I smiled at her and she seemed to calm down a little.

I know she will. She's born for it.

Once she calmed down, my eyes landed on my phone and saw my unread messages.

Should I call Gold?

Before I can even reach for it, we heard the door opening revealing one of the organizers.

"Hi everyone, I just want to inform everyone that your set will start in approximately ten minutes. We will need you all to prepare and be on backstage in five minutes. Good luck guys!"

Our managers started rambling, getting our things ready.

"Guys, be ready!"

"Let's get it!"

I am so excited. Too excited that calling him had slipped on my mind.

I should call him later instead.

Right.

Chapter 39

Gold's POV

"Sorry I wasn't able to answer your call. The girls and I went out. I miss you cupcake, see you soon 😍"

A smile edged on the corner of my lips at the sight of her message. Our concert just ended and the first thing I did was check my phone for any message from her.

It's been almost a month since I last talk to her. We were both busy and every time I try to call her, she's caught up in a schedule and it just doesn't match.

I miss her. I miss her so much and I can't wait to see her, to be honest.

"What, is that Synn?" I heard Eros asked and I grin. He scoffed for a moment and I just didn't answer back.

Amongst all the boys, I can say Eros was the one who helped get out of my shell. I was an introvert back then and overly shy. But because of him, I was able to overcome those fears.

And even now, he's the first person I get to confide with when I'm struggling. But this time, I hope I didn't because he seemed pretty pissed about it.

It was one time, we were drunk and I was trying to call Synn. Their Coachella performance recently ended but she and the girls ended up hanging around with some friends. It's okay. I was fine with it.

I want her to have fun too. But I kinda miss her and somehow, those failed attempts of me trying to reach her via phonecall is starting to upset me too.

And that's what I told Eros.

I didn't know he'll get pissed. Eros was overprotective. He treats me like his brother, we all treat everyone like one.

"Tss, a message, really?" he scoffed. He was sitting on on the couch as he tries to keep the adrenaline down. The others are changing as we're going to head back to the hotel to rest in a while.

"Eros, she's just busy. They have a lot of schedules," I reasoned and he raised his eyebrows.

"You're busy too but find time to try to at least call her. And look at him," he pointed Mono who was having a phone call while seated ln the couch on the other corner of the room. The way he grins just proves he was talking to his girlfriend.

"Granted that she's busy but why can Snow spare at least two minutes of her time every fucking day to talk to her boyfriend? Even Demo talks with Arika over the phone from time to time. And they were not even in a relationship,"

I shut up from what he said. To be honest, I have those thoughts in mind too.

Sometimes I get so upset. I can wait for her to finish if she has a concert. If she's busy, I understand. But it feels weird when she can't talk to me yet I find my other members talking with her members over the phone.

There were days when I try calling her but her phone's busy. I'll wait for her to call me, send a message but I barely get one message a day.

I'm not saying anything about it because I don't want her to feel like I was being clingy or what. I want her to enjoy too. I want her to have fun and enjoy these moments of her life.

I don't want to restrict her freedom. But I kinda feel left behind.

"It's okay. I'm sure Synn has so much on her plate," I tried explaining but I heard him sigh.

"Tss, Gold, you know I want Synn for you. You know that. But you can't stop me from worrying. This series of events had happened before, with your ex. The same fucking pattern where you're the only one left in love in the end. You almost wreck yourself because of that stupid girl and if I see you going in the same direction with Synn, sorry but I won't keep quiet. I'm so done with seeing you losing yourself because of a girl,"

He stood up from his seat and headed straight to the bathroom.

A long sigh escaped my lips. I can't blame him for acting like that.

During my dilemma with Steffy, I was always drunk and stressed out. I would cry in front of him to the point that I fall asleep unconsciously. I was an emotional wrecked and I know my members were affected too.

But this time, I know it's different. Synn is far different from her. I know Synn will not hurt me deliberately. I know that she loves me.

I started typing a message to her.

"I miss you baby. Are you busy? Can I call you?"

After sending it, I waited for a few minutes and waited for a response. Was she asleep?

I know she was out earlier because I saw some photos of her with her newfound friends. She's a very jolly person and there's no doubt people will love her naturally.

Ten minutes...

Fifteen...

Giving up, I ended up logging in to social media and see if I can find something interesting.

And I did.

I saw a clip of her walking with Elisse and their friends.

So, she was out. Why can't she tell it to me so at least I'd know?

And it's not like she doesn't have her phone. I saw it on her hand on the clip. She can at least tell me even just that.

I bit my lower lip in frustration. Why do I feel like I'm starting to lose her too?

My heart started beating weirdly. Just the thought of losing her scares me to death.

I love her so much.

I love her so much that I can't say a word even if I'm getting a bare minimum of her this time.

It's okay Gold. Let her enjoy. She'll call you back.....

I tried comforting myself.

I hope.

Chapter 40

Synn's POV

"Synn, don't forget out dinner tonight, okay. You better be here. See you, bubs 🍾😘"

A smile escaped my lips upon reading Arika's message.

I was out today for a photoshoot and Arika had to remind me about having dinner tonight in our dorm. She was so adamant into making sure I get home so we can eat together.

In the past days, we barely had time to eat with all four of us. After our performance in Coachella and even with our North American Tour, there were days that we go out individually. Our company allows us a form of our rest. And since we met quite a few people, we were given these chances to go out with new friends.

The days that we were in America was fascinating. I experienced a lot and we felt a lot more free than when we are in Korea. But Korea is where we started and we'll keep coming back. As they say, there's no place like home. And even though I'm not exactly Korean, Korea had been my home for God knows long. My dreams came true while in this country and it will have a special place in my heart no matter what.

Yep. We were now back in Korea. We just came back yesterday and the moment we reached the dorm, I fell asleep. I wasn't even able to contact Gold to tell him I had already arrived.

Well, he probably already know as fans always post our departures and arrivals. That's also one way how I can easily monitor Gold as well.

Speaking of Gold, we haven't seen each other for so long. And yeah, we talk over the phone sometimes but that's after all the commitments I had. Plus, after the Coachella, I had been so busy hanging around with our new friends, I was barely able to keep up.

"Synn, we'll do a few shots with this dress then we'll have you change with another with a different hairstyle and make up okay? I know you can swing it," the organizer stated and I smiled.

I put my phone back to my bag as my make up artist instructs me to close my eyes so she can fix my eyeshadow.

Once the makeup was done and I had the first outfit on, I did my usual routine and followed whatever the photographer requests of me.

When I was younger, I was always into dancing and performing that I never once thought I'd actually become a model too. I never thought I could be one, to be honest.

All my life, I've devoted myself to performing, dancing on the stage so swerving a little into this kind of art was a blessing. I didn't know I'd enjoy doing it.

I did a few more poses and even checked the other shots.

What they say was true, when you do something you love, you tend to forget the time. I didn't even notice that I'm on my last set.

While the makeup artist does a few touch-ups, I saw my phone lighting up indicating another message.

"Synn, just reminding you that we have dinner. Come home the moment your shoot ends,"

What's with Arika?

I tapped a few keys and sent a response.

"Okay. I'm almost done. See you guys in a bit,"

And just right after the last shot, I heard the sound of someone squealing and when I turned around, I saw a few of my friends standing along the hallway.

"I knew it. No girl can swing those outfits as you can Richards," Sandra laughed and I smirked. This girl had that crazy habit of boosting my ego a lot.

I eyed the girls she's with and smiled. "It's not every day you see idols hanging out together. I just came back but you don't even call me guys," I teased and they laughed.

"We just had a shoot for a guesting on the floor right above this and heard you're doing a shoot so we decided to drop by," Mona winked at me and I laughed.

Just then, an idea came into me. "Do you have someplace to go? How about we go grab a coffee?"

It's too early anyway. Arika and the girls would be able to wait for a few minutes right? Like an hour or so?

"Sure," Trina smiled and we all walked out of the vicinity. My manager looked like he was a little conflicted but unable to say something probably because of my friends. He easily gets intimidated by the girls.

We just went to a private restaurant and have a light dinner. But what I actually didn't realize is that we'll end up having a lot of fun. Before I knew it, our respective managers are already calling our attention.

After bidding goodbye, I headed straight to the van and had myself settled.

I closed my eyes for a moment and wad startled when I felt my phone vibrating inside my bag.

Before I was able to answer, the call ended. My brows furrowed when I noticed how many missed calls I had.

38 missed calls? And all from different people!

Six from Gold

Nine from Arika

Seven from Elisse and five from Snow...

The others were from the rest of Gold's members.

I suddenly felt my stomach now churning. It was like there was a hole in the middle and I feel myself slowly sinking in.

Is something wrong?

I saw some messages on my phone and all of them were asking where I was already.

Right, I forgot to send Arika a message that I will go out and have coffee with our friends.

My palms started to get sweaty. Something is wrong. I can feel it. But I can't seem to identify what.

And when I lifted my gaze and locked eyes with our manager from the mirror, I can clearly recognize disappointment in them.

"Okay, what did I do?" I snapped but he just avoided my gaze.

When we reached our building, my steps got heavier and heavier as I got closer to our dorm.

What's this feeling? It was as if I did something horrible.

I gulped. Uttering a short statement of encouragement to myself.

Punching in the code, I heard the sound of the door opening, the usual music it brings to my ears no longer present. That's how scared I was.

And I know I should be. Because the moment the door opened, my eyes can't believe what I just saw.

Shit Synn. What have you done?

Regret...Guilt... And some other more emotions I can't put a name with.

"Fuck,"

When I turned my head a little, my eyes locked with my members. The three of them sitting on the couch. On Elisse's hand was the remote as the watch tv... Arika and Snow on their phone.

The look on their faces tells me they were disappointed.

Yeah Syn, you really fucked up.

"He left?" my voice shakes as I stepped forward. My heart feels so heavy I was afraid I'd collapse.

Arika eyed me a little as if asking me what I was expecting.

"I-" my voice cracked a little. "I didn't know," everything was slowly sinking in.

I messed up, didn't I?

"Three hours Synn, he had been here waiting for three hours. He tried pushing his flight just so he can still wait for you. Even to the last minute, even if he was already being scolded. Because of what? He wanted to surprise you. It was your anniversary Synn. How can you forget?" she whispered in pain.

Oh my God.

"Eros snapped Synn. We didn't know you barely call or message Gold even though we have lots of free time in America. What happened Synn?" Elisse asked concern though disappointment was still laced on her voice.

Arika just shakes her head and continued typing on her phone.

I was too caught up with what's happening with my life that I forgot about him. I forgot how he was always there for me.

Because I knew he will be there.

My eyes scanned the place. He did these for me?

My lips quiver at the sight of our dorm. There were petals everywhere. Even though the candles were lighted off, I can still smell the aroma coming from them. And in the middle of our dorm was a table set for two, with plates and all. On the couch, I saw a big teddy bear and huge bouquet of tulips.

I walked forward and saw a letter slipped on the bouquet. Pulling out, a small gasp escaped my lips at the sight of his message.

"A year with you is a year of happiness. And I promise happy forever..." my hands covered my lips at the message before me.

"Gold..." I whispered.

"It was him, he prepared all that the moment you went out of this dorm. Synn, I hope you do realize how much Gold did for you just now. He almost didn't make it to the airport trying to wait for you. He even considered taking the next flight if not for the guys who opposed," Arika added.

"And it frustrates me because despite everything, all he said was it was his fault. He didn't even blame you. Because he wasn't able to organize this shit earlier Synn. You could have at least

called. We're not stopping you to be with your friends. But we keep on telling you this is important. If this was really a dinner with us, are we also that unimportant to you?" Snow sigh.

I bit my lower lip in frustration. I heard the sound of my phone beeping.

"Are you home cupcake? Sorry I wasn't able to wait for you. I'll be back next month after our tour. I'll make it up to you, I promise. Happy Anniversary. Iloveyou,"

Fuck. What did I do to deserve all this?

And moreover what have I been doing these past weeks that I even forgot our anniversary?

Oh, God.

Chapter 41

Synn's POV

"Just because you got your pretty ass over here doesn't mean I no longer hate you. I still do, royal kid. What you did last time was so fucked up,"

I bit my lower lip at what Eros said. He was towering me like crazy, his hands resting on both sides of his waist while I seat here on the couch inside their dressing room. My hands can't stop fiddling with the hem of my shirt.

Apparently, Gold just went out to prepare for his solo performance, reason why I had to stay hidden along with the staff for almost an hour earlier while I wait until he's gone.

And yes, my conscience wouldn't stop bugging me and I can't even sleep properly knowing how bad of a girlfriend I had been to Gold these past weeks.

I was too engrossed with all that had happened yo my life that I neglected him. What's even worse is that he did not even get mad at me for it.

I forgot our fucking anniversary, OUR anniversary. How shitty of a girlfriend have I become?

So I did what I had to. I flew straight to where they were despite the fact that this may cause me great trouble.

I had to beg to my members and my manager to help me even promising to grant them one wish each just for this.

Thank God I don't have any schedule. How I manage to reach here without getting caught beats me. I had to ask for help, a lot of help. I had to bother a lot of people just so I can do this. And regardless of how much trouble I had to go through because of this, it doesn't matter. Because it's for him. And I know it's worth it. He's worth it.

"I know, I'm sorry..." I whispered, unable to really look at him in the eye.

"I can't believe this. You do realize we're all dead once even one fan sees you, right?" Zero raised an eyebrow at me and I bit my lower lip in response.

I know this was a reckless move, a big one, but all I know is that I gotta do something.

"You are one stubborn lady with stubborn sisters if I may add. Do you know how Snow threatened to break up with me if I don't help you?" Mono chuckled and I grimaced.

I heard it when Snow rambled all kinds of threats to Mono just so he would help me. I owe her a lot of favor.

"You're lucky that's all Snow told you. Arika actually threatened that she'll never see me again if I don't help Synn. I can't believe those girls are pulling all kinds of cards for these two. Just how many times will we save their asses just so they can keep their relationship?" Demo snickered and I whined.

"I really need your help this time and I promise I'll make it up to you guys. Just help me this time," with all the courage that I have in me, I mustered the sweetest smile that I have.

"No. Stop with that creepy smile. Oh God, you're just like Gold," Chase whined and I wasn't sure if that's a compliment or what.

"Just look at that kid. He was all smile and carefree. It was as if he can feel his girlfriend's presence nearby," Raze chuckled and a smile emerged on my lips as I watch Gold performing on the monitors inside their dressing room.

He was beaming, so carefree. It was as of he was floating as he sing to the people he loves. My eyes were mesmerized. I know how beautiful Gold is but damn, my heart still keeps every time.

"Close your mouth young lady," Eros scowled and I just stuck my tongue out. I saw him smile at my action.

We all turned towards the door when one of their manager came, a big box on his hands. A smile immediately made way on my lips as I jump towards him. Another manager came in with a paper bag on his hands.

"What are those?"

They all move forward and check what the manager brought.

It was a box filled with roses. I had it ordered and delivered here for Gold.

I know he is a guy but for me, a box of flowers is even more than he deserves.

"Hey, you're really doing this shit huh?" I heard Chase but I didn't respond. My eyes were mesmerized with the pink roses arranged inside the box before me. It's beautiful.

"Hey!!!!! This is expensive!" Raze exclaimed and that's when I saw how they were checking the paper box that his other manager brought. I even ordered a box of cake.

"You're really going all out Synn!"

I chuckled at their expression as they look at the watch I bought for him.

I know it's expensive and had cost me a lot but again, the person I want to give it with is worth more than enough.

"Okay, he's done. Pull out the cake and let's light it up. It's showtime Synn. Make it up with your guy," Mono tapped my shoulder and I smile.

We were rambling all together. One of the staffs even helped us because we start to panic.

Soon enough, the loud cheering ended and we heard the bad playing. We specifically had it arranged so the boys can help me before they go out again to perform.

"Oh my God," I started to panic, the cake sitting on my hand.

The lights were already off and we were all silent. On my back was Eros with the box of Roses while Demo insisted he carry the watch.

And just like the prince that he is, he slowly walked inside the room, his laughter echoing as he ask what's happening. My heart was hammering inside my chest.

He sounded happy. I can't believe I did something horrible to him.

"Yah! it's not my birthday..." he chuckled and when he turned around, his eyes widened at the sight of me. The small ray of light coming from the candle making my face recognizable to him.

"Cupcake?" he whispered and my lips broke into a huge smile.

"Happy anniversary, Gold!" I whispered and that's all it took for him to dash forward and engulf me into a hug. I didn't even know who took the cake in my hands because it almost slipped.

"Oh baby, I miss you so fucking much," he whispered, his face buried on the crook of my neck.

Yes, all the trouble is definitely worth it.

For my Gold...

Chapter 42

Synn's POV

"Yah! You guys are going to get everyone in trouble," Zero hissed.

"Sorry," I bowed apologetically before doing a v-sign.

A long sigh escaped his lips.

"I can't believe you're pulling the Leo-look on me. Just so you know, I am a loyal Holly-man, Synn," he hissed but smiled nonetheless. I know he was only worried. I was supposed to head back to Korea two hours ago, but Gold is a stubborn little kid, and because a part of me misses him too, we ended up talking a lot making for all the times that we missed. And of course, we did it in their hotel. I went straight tp where they were staying even before the concert ended and pretended to be one of the staff to freely do so.

I had to wear a really loose jacket and loose pants, a wig and all just so no one would recognize me. We're all dead if someone realizes that a member of a girl group was actually staying in the same hotel as another boy group. Not to mention they're famous.

So, Gold pleaded that I stay for an hour which ended up lasting for more than two causing me to miss my flight. Our managers are stressed out but I missed him so much we both forgot the time.

I feel really stupid after realizing how much time I spent neglecting him for the past weeks. Like, he'd always been there for me and I messed up.

Sorry, I told him that over and over again but he said he understood. He said he fucking understood because, at one point, he felt the same. He said at one point, he was overwhelmed by all the love and support they were receiving. Fuck, how am I this lucky?

So now, my manager had booked my flight for tomorrow instead. That means I'll have more time with him.

"Okay, no sex Simons. Go bring that fucking bed over here in the living room and we'll do a pajama party. You two missing each other this much is too dangerous. We can't be having a baby in a matter of less than a year after this, okay?"

"Ah, yah!" Gold whined at what Raze stated. His hands were resting on either side of his waist while scolding us.

It's not like we're going to do it. I thought to myself but my cheeks blushed at the thought.

Good Lord.

"Okay, I'm taking the couch!" Eros came right outside his room, on his Tata pajamas with a huge pillow on his hand. Behind him was Chase who was wearing a white shirt and some boy shorts.

Apparently, the boys took the penthouse of the building instead of their usual individual rooms.

"Pajama party, asssaaaahhh!!!" Demo was cheering and I heard Gold sigh. His lips were puckered animatedly and I cannot help but smile at how adorable he looked. I leaned forward and hugged him sideways. We were sitting side by side and his body was resting on the couch.

So adorable.

"Ahhhh, hey!!!! Can't you guys stay in your rooms and we'll stay here outside?" he hissed but I almost burst into fits of laughter when Mono suddenly came into view. He was wearing a shower cap, on his grey pajamas and a huge pillow with him.

"I'm not going to sleep beside Demo," he suddenly mutter and Gold groaned.

He looked at my direction as if asking for help but I just gave him my sweetest smile.

"You don't miss me," he started whining, pretending to push me a little and I laughed out loud.

"Awwwww, is my cute little bunny cupcake upset?" I cupped his cheeks with both my hands and grinned, a scowl showing on his face. But what he did next made my all of the little things in my tummy do weird things.

He leaned forward and gave me a quick peck on the lips which earned a lot of protest from his members.

"Yahhh!!!"

"Oh God, I can't take this,"

"You little flirt!"

He was smirking so proudly that I had to hit him on his chest to hide away the redness of my cheeks. He grabbed my hands and guided them on his lips giving me chills all over.

God, Simons.

"I'm not doing this. I'll sleep in my room," Zero scoffed and marched in his room. The others stay though.

Gold was smiling giddily that I had to ask myself if staying here is a good call. I might die of a heart attack.

"Cupcake, why don't you go to my room and go get changed? I have some sweatpants and shirts on my luggage," he urged and I gladly skipped my way over his room.

I was there earlier as I settle my things too. Not that I brought a lot of stuff anyways.

After opening his room, my eyes immediately caught on the ope luggage on the right side of the bed.

I took a large jumper out of his stuff and decided to drop the sweatpants as he said. I was pretty sure I had a pair of shorts with me on my bag.

I headed straight to the restroom and had a quick half bath.

Once done, I made sure all of my stuff is properly arranged inside my bag. I didn't bring that much as I was supposed to be back in Korea earlier. I just hope I get by without anyone noticing me.

I was busy combing my hair and I saw my phone beeping from the bedside table. Curious, I stood up and grab my phone only to be confused by the message.

"Can I talk to you? Please don't tell Gold I messaged you,"

My brows furrowed and I felt my stomach churning. I began to get nervous.

There's only one person I know that could possibly talk to me about Gold.

Steffy.

Steffy was never a good memory to both Gold and I. And even though we treated everything to be all in the past. I can't say that it didn't leave a good mark on our relationship.

We're not perfect and until now, we're still mending from the past.

And why does she want to talk with me?

Chapter 43

Synn's POV

"What do you need? Spill, as I don't have all the time in the world," I hissed, my arms crossed as I stare at the girl before me.

We were standing on a secluded hallway inside the entertainment building. We can't possibly meet outside or people would see us. I don't want to be associated with someone like her. Not until I am sure she's acting normal.

She had a shoot and I had to go out my way and visit this place. I don't even know why I am doing this shit. I just don't want her to start acting up again so it's better to have everything settled now.

I heard her sigh, the proud look on her face never left. I guess she's still the same.

"I won't beat around the bush. Leave Gold. You're going to ruin his career," she stated and I raised an eyebrow.

That's it? That's the reason why she wanted to see me?

A long sigh escaped my lips. I can't believe I wasted my time on this.

"And you won't?" I asked. I just don't understand where she's coming from.

She wavered for a second and I can't think otherwise. She's not as brave as before.

"Do you know much antis your ship has? People will accept it better if it's me," she desperately answered and I smiled bitterly.

I'm not even sure if she's okay or not. I don't see the logic of whatever she is saying.

Of course, there's this small percentage that she has a point. Most people will say that the only reason me and Gold were in a relationship was for publicity. But whatever, we decide for ourselves. Not her or anyone else has a say about it.

"And who are you to decide on that? Besides, this is our relationship. It's not about who people will accept and won't. You can't decide for us," I tried explaining. My eyes softened. She looked tensed.

"Steffy, what is wrong with you? Why do you keep doing this?" I asked. I am so curious as to what is wrong with her.

I've known her as someone sweet and adorable. She was full of talent and a lot of people loves her.

She bit her lower lip in response. Her eyes were avoiding my gaze.

Just what is wrong with her?

"Steffy, if you need help, you can tell me..." I get so worried about her. It feels like there was something behind her actions.

"Do you love him? Do you still love him?" I asked and she hesitated for a moment before answering.

"Of-of course. Why would I contact you for nothing?" she asked but I saw otherwise. I saw through her.

Our eyes met and I tried so hard to read her mind.

She looked uneasy.

"No, you don't," I told her. Her eyes widened and she looked so much in panic. Her movements were edgy and she looked liked she was scared.

"I do. You can't decide for me Synn," she banter and I smiled sadly.

"You don't. Because if you do, you wouldn't do this," I told her. Her eyes widened as if realizing something. At that, I continued. I know I hit a nerve.

"If you still love him, you won't do anything that will break him. You will let him go and be happy, even if that means you're going to be alone. You will give him up just so he can have what will make him live. Because that's what love is. It's unconditional. It doesn't ask. You always think of their happiness because that means you value your worth too. You won't settle for something that will make you lose your own worth. That's love, Sejeong. Because that's what Synn did. He let you go before to make you happy, and realized his own worth," I told her.

I saw how her eyes moistened, her lips quivering too.

Why does she look so much in pain?

Without even thinking, I reached for her hand and started massaging them.

"Steffy, you can always tell me. Gold and I will listen," I told her and she lifted her gaze, looking at me straight in the eyes.

Her eyes were clouded with so many emotions that I can't even decipher. She looked so lost.

"Synn..." she whispered. She sounded like she was in pain.

"You wouldn't understand," she started. I looked at her so I can listen. I want her to know that I am here, that her voice was being heard.

"Try me," I urge. I am no hero, nor an incredible person like some but I care for my fellow idol's mental health. The way I see it, Steffy was suffering from something. Whether it was anxiety or not, All I know is that I need to listen. She needs someone who will listen to her.

"Synn, I need Gold. I need him, please..." she started pleading and by this time, tears are now streaming down her cheeks. My heart softened at how desperate she sounded.

"Steffy, Gold isn't mine," I explained to her. "He's not something I can easily give because you beg for him. He is someone dear to me. And I'm pretty sure Gold will hate both of us for that. I'm not telling this because I want him for himself. I'm telling you this because I love him and I care about you,"

She started bawling her eyes out and I started to panic. It wouldn't be long until someone sees us.

"Oh my God," I whispered and I was so frantic my phone almost slipped when I tried taking it out of my front pocket.

But before I can even call for help, I was startled when I saw Gold coming with one of Steffy's members.

"Synn..." he called. He looked stressed as I bit my lower lip.

"Stef..." her member called her name and gently took her away from me.

Gold wrapped her hand around my waist as we bow to them. Before I knew it, the two were already gone from our sight.

He pulled me closer and I buried my face on his chest.

"Cupcake..." he whispered.

Gold knew I was meeting her. I confided him about it and two of us talked about everything. Unlike before, I decided that if I want this relationship not end, I will make sure to be open to him.

We both think that something is wrong with Sejeong right now and as a friend, he was also worried.

Initially, he doesn't want me to do this but I explained my end and he understood.

As much as I hate the girl for all that she did, part of me was scared for her wellbeing.

So, without Steffy knowing, Gold was waiting for a far but I didn't know he has her girl group member with him.

I felt him kiss the top of my head.

"You did great cupcake," he whispered. He pulled away from me a little and cupped my cheeks. "And I heard everything that you said. I love you so much, Synn..." he smiled before pulling me for a soft kiss.

"I love you too Gold... I love you too," I whispered and engulfed him in a tight hug.

Chapter 44

Synn's POV

"Please Synn. This is the last chance I have. You have to help me. He'll say yes if you tell him,"

A long sigh escaped my lips. This had been going on for so long and it's starting to really bother me.

Not that I don't really wanna help her but somehow, it scares me that whatever is happening on her life now might scar and affect Gold's career too. Seeing how desperate she is right now scaring me to shit.

"What's wrong? Is she still texting you?" Snow brows furrowed, her lips puckered adorably as she takes the seat right across the couch I was seated. She just had a conversation with her boyfriend and it amazes me how Mono can snatch one quick phone call even in the midst of concert just to tell Snow an amusing incident he encountered.

I smiled at her and simply shruffed my shoulders.

We were at our dorm taking a rest. We just finished packing our luggage as we are about to go out of the country once again for another concert.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

Steffy kept on sending me messages begging for me to talk to her. Gold was pretty much pissed about it. He's starting to get really annoyed.

That time when I first received a message from her, I told Gold immediately.

Gold and I had gone through so much that I guess we've come to the realization that trusting each other like this really helps. I've opened up to him my fears and so was he.

We have different scars and I've come to realize that I wouldn't want to live collecting these scars until I have no space left.

It's just a matter of backing away a little, try to see things in a different view, get back on track as you already know which direction to choose.

I've decided to meet Steffy even though Gold said it might not be a good idea. He was afraid Steffy would physically hurt me. I guess that's one reason why he ended up staying near us even after I told him that I can manage.

Through our conversation, I'm pretty sure Steffy has problems. She's just too stubborn and doesn't accept the help I was offering. After all that has been happening in our industry, if we can reach out and try to make a difference, I'm pretty sure it would help. However, I still

acknowledge the fact that I can't help everyone around me. The willingness should also start from them. Plus, sometimes, there are scenarios where professional help will help the most.

To be honest, I was starting to get scared for her mental health. I wasn't sure if she's really fine or what. She' starting to look so obsessed with Gold but I feel like there's a reason behind her actions too.

I wonder what triggered everything or what made her be like this.

"You know, you've got to report this so our company can reach out to hers, right? I mean, we don't want any more problems arising right now," she uttered and I sigh.

This is not the best year for us, for our company. Every artist that we have, regardless if guilty or not ar being targetted with malicious comments and sometimes, I just wanna scream and tell the world that we're human too.

"I'll talk about it with Gold," I answered.

Opening my Instagram, I checked the clips of his group's concert. My heart feels warm at the sight of him. Their fans surprised them by singing Young Forever and he burst into tears.

He looks so soft I wish I can be with him and hug him.

Sometimes, it's those little things that those people we love do that breaks us. But it's also those little things they do that make us feel alive.

Like how things are even more painful if the person we love was the one who hurt us.

Gold loved Steffy. I admit and acknowledge that fact. He loved her and that's a part of his past that I had accepted wholeheartedly. And somehow, I feel a little concerned that maybe Gold is hurting too.

I don't want him to be torn into being concern with her ex and worrying about what I would feel. That's half of the reason why I was the one who's insisting that we help her in the first place. I don't want him to be burdened. I know how much he cares for the people important to him and Steffy had been a friend too.

Even if he doesn't say a word, I know he's worried too.

I scroll even more and checked the photos of him, his smile, the way his eyes shine whenever he looks at their fans.

I just, love him, every bit of him. I don't even know if there are enough words I can use to express how happy I am to have him in my life.

I'm just so happy.

"SYnn, have you seen Arika and Elisse?" I hear Snow asked and I lifted my gaze off pf mt phone.

"Elisse fell asleep after packing. Arika might be not so secretly stalking someone on Instagram too," I chuckled and Snow smirked.

Thank God, Arika can't hear us because she'll start spitting fire again of she learns that we're teasing her.

My eyes caught the movement in her room, the sight of her bedroom door opening almost made me jump out of my seat.

Good Lord, does she have weird powers or something?

I was about to tease her but the serious look on her face tells me otherwise.

She was marching, on her loose black shirt and short shorts, the fire on her eyes show how much she was in a rage.

She walking so fast with her phone on her hands somehow I started to really get worried.

Why do I feel like whatever she was about to tell me will wreck me into pieces?

And it did.

"Do you know about this?" she asked, her hand showing me the article flashing on her phone, even Snow moved a little to see it.

And I hope I didn't. Because what I just saw almost took my sanity away.

"Idol Steffy suspected to have had a miscarriage from idol ex-boyfriend,"

My heart was hammering inside my chest and I was pretty much concerned over my ribcage.

"Synn..." I heard Snow concern voice while my eyes go over the article, the date, the months, it's exactly when they were together.

My lips started quivering and my head feels like it's about to burst. I was too overwhelmed about what I was reading I almost dropped Arika's phone.

"Synn, are you okay?" she asked in worry as I leaned my back on the couch, my breathing starting to get uneven.

My hands balled onto a fist. Is this why Steffy kept on bugging me?

Just what the fuck is this all about?

Chapter 45

Gold's POV

"Did you tell her you're coming back?" Eros asked as he woke up and saw me looking at the view as I sat near the plane's window.

I nodded in response. I sent a message earlier before the plane took off and before I turned my phone on an airplane mode.

We're on the plane back to Korea and all this mess is stressing me out. Our tour just ended and it's been a whole fucking week but I still can't get a hold of Synn.

Even the boys were trying to reach the other girls but to no avail, all we hear are busy lines.

I bit my lower lip as I sat on the couch near me. The boys were all awake. We'll soon be landing but we still have an hour, yet, they don't feel like sleeping.

I turned to them and tried to muster a smile.

"You guys can go ahead and take a rest. I got this," I told them and Zero just smirked.

"If you think we're going to sleep while you go around acting like a kid, you're dreaming kid," he answered and I laughed.

Demo shakes his head. "You know, I've been meaning to ask this since this morning but they were stopping me. However, I don't think I can sleep if I don't ask," he started and I raised an eyebrow.

"Yah! Do you really have to ask? Of course, something happened!" Chase answered and my brows furrowed.

What were they talking about?

"But was she really pregnant at that time?" Mono added and I almost choked on my saliva.

Are they thinking what I think they were thinking?

"Hey! Gold is too young for that!"

I gave Eros a thumbs up at what he said and he gave me a wink.

At this point, they were fighting by themselves apart from Zero who was simply shaking his head.

I can't believe them.

Raze was spitting nonsense that I had to stop them, the memory of him making out on the fire exit last time is still making me gag.

After the article came out, the boys had been too attentive to me. The news was very shocking. I never thought I'd get to read a piece of news like that. Not a dating scandal, but a miscarriage.

Additionally, a few of our managers knew of my past relationship with her and I was even called at one point.

"Guys, I can't believe you were talking about this like it's nothing," I told them and Chase pouted.

"But you did it, didn't you?"

"I didn't, okay! I can't believe how little trust you have in me," I told them, shaking my head.

"You didn't? Not even once?" he exclaimed and I had never wanted to reach Chase and smack the back of his head until now.

"I didn't. We never did the deed," I told them and Chase looked appalled, I threw a cushion on him.

Soft chuckles escaped his lips. "You were head over heels in love with the girl. Can you blame me for thinking something had happened?" he answered and I scowled.

Sure I was in love with her. And even if something happened or if I ever got her pregnant, of course I would be responsible.

To be honest, I am kinda worried about her. Did it really happen though? Was she pregnant at that time? So she's two-timing me, was she?

But even if she did, I can't help but be sad about what happened. It was a life that she lost. Maybe that's the reason why she had been acting so differently for the past few months. I would never be happy about life losing.

Was she okay though?

I remember Synn being so worried about her.

A long sigh escaped my Synn.

"Do you guys think Synn is mad at me?" I asked and they were silent. I can't help but be nervous. The past few days that I can't get a hold of her is pretty much alarming. I know see's attending shows and appointments as what I can see on social media but why can't I get a hold of her?

Was she mad? Did she think the baby was mine?

All these thoughts are stressing me out. Also, the fact that people have started to do a quest into identifying Steff's ex-boyfriend is not helping. To me, there's not really much of a problem if people find out that I am a part of her past. But this isn't just about me. My mother will be so

worried. I have my members who will be affected too, our fans and Synn. I don't want her to feel sad about this, not when nobody knows I have her now.

"Synn is a wonderful girl, she'll understand Gold," Mono answered but that doesn't calmed me down one bit.

Synn and I had been talking about going public before but she declined. I've already asked permission about this and our company doesn't really restrict us with our relationship. Of course our fans, a few of them will be sad considering the idol culture but that's something I don't really have control with.

I want people to know Synn is with me as she's quite popular with the boys. And I'm such a jealous jerk you can't blame me if I want people to know that she's mine.

"But why can't Gold get a hold of her?" Eros asked. I know that look that he has on his face. He's pissed off.

Out of all the boys, Eros was probably the most that get so affected if it's me. I was so aloof with before but he was the one who helped me let go and finally be who I am today. All of my members had shaped me to be who I am now. But Eros had this bad episode with Synn after what happened last time and as much as I don't want any beef between them, I know Eros was just worried.

"I'm sure there's a reason," I answered and that's when one of our managers told them that we're landing in a few minutes.

We were quick to settle ourselves and not long after, we were already on our way out when we were startled at the triple amount of reporters outside.

There were fans screaming which was not really unusual except for the fact that most of them were screaming my name, a lot of them were crying and my members were quick enough to move closer to me when people started swarming closer.

Our security were quick enough to make a move and even airport securities were trying to protect us.

"Gold, we believe in you!"

"Gold, we love you!"

"Please tell us it's not true!"

"It's not true, right? We'll wait for you!"

"You're not her ex, please tell us!"

"Gold! We got your back!"

I was so confused with what is happening and Raze lowered my head when I tried to search for our fans' faces.

What is happening?

Due to tge enormous amount of people, it took us longer to get out.

And once we were on our van, I removed my mask. It was suffocating.

Zero was massaging his temple. I suddenly felt bad for him. Zero hates being congested like that.

"What's happening? That was insane out there," Mono asked our manager.

"Yeah, and they were screaming Gold's name. Did something happened?" Raze asked.

I don't even know why but my heart started to race.

I reached for my phone and once I opened it, I was bombarded with several messages and notifications from different chatrooms I was in kept appearing, my other members now already on their phones too.

"Sorry guys, I know you probably want to rest but we have to drop by the company for a moment to discuss this mess," our manager stated.

"Holy shit," Chase muttered before he turned his phone towards my direction. And there I saw several article titles associated with my name, my jaw almost dropping on the floor.

"Steffy's ex idol boyfriend speculated to be Gold Simons after Steffy and Synn's incident"

"Synn from ROY4L said to be the reason for Simons and Steffy's break-up"

"Steffy was seen slapping Synn Richards in front of other idols"

There were several articles that made me dizzy but my hand was quick enough to click the article that caught my attention.

I have never scrolled so fast in my life, I think my veins are about to burst. I can hear my own heartbeat.

My lips went dry when I saw a video of Synn standing in front of a crying Steffy. They were both wearing performance clothes.

The video was obviously taken a few feet away from the two and though the audio wasn't clear, Steffy was obviously crying. And just when Synn attempted to move closer, Steffy's hand flew straight to Synn's face and that's when her members came, and then the video ended.

"Fuck. That's so messed up," Eros whispered who was watching beside me the entire time.

"The staff and idols who were around said Steffy was screaming your name, Gold," Mono said in worry as he read the articles.

I was silent for a moment, my back leaning on my seat. All this is draining me, I had to close my eyes as I cam feel my head pulsing.

Moreover, I am worried about Synn.

"Why is Steffy associating you with all this when nothing happened between you two?" Demo asked and I didn't even bother answering.

The van was already moving but I'm starting to feel so restless. A lot is happening on my head. My parents would be shock if they thought they almost had a grandchild and died. And no doubt our fans our crying. That's too much to take in.

Plus, there's Synn. She's been dragged on this mess that I have with Steffy.

Is she okay?

Chapter 46

Synn's POV

"I can't believe we get to have a good rest because of this," Elisse chuckled, her body sprawled on the couch while the others do the same. I was on the bean bag on the floor though, Arika was searching for something to watch on the television.

Snow was out, probably for that shoot she needs to complete for that drama.

So, after the incident, I was called back at the office. I know this was a huge mess I was in. Considering the culture in Korea and the severity of the situation Steffy was in, me being dragged into this mess is something our company would be shaken about.

If news came out that Steffy went berserk on me, people will easily make assumptions that it has something to do with the recent news. And I wasn't wrong. Just a few minutes after the incident, articles linking our incident shows my connection towards the man they were suspected to be her supposed ex-boyfriend. And seeing how Steffy had been shouting Gold's name last time, I wasn't surprised to see his name on the articles.

The articles consist of Steffy hitting me and speculations that Gold and Steffy may have separated because of me. Now, it's chaos. Not even sure how the fans are reacting but I am damn sure his fans were devasted.

I mean, fans are pretty much possessive and I won't be surprise to see most of them crying after they realized that Gold was in a relationship.

What's even worse is that he is now being named as Gold's ex-boyfriend.

Right now, I don't even have the slightest idea of what is happening with him.

And just when Arika turned the television to a news channel, our mouth went agape at the sight before us. PERSONA just arrived at the airport and now, the fans especially the media are all over them. The captions were a bit messy but it was obvious how the boys were pretty much crumbed altogether as they circled Gold who was obviously the reason for the sudden mob.

"Oh God, that's a mess. It's chaos and that's thrice of the normal amount of people they usually encounter," Elisse said in worry.

The looks on the boys' faces were full of confusion. I have this feeling that they didn't know about what happened so they weren't prepared.

If they only gave me my phone, I could have warned him. I bit my lower lip in frustration.

It took them a long time before the staff and airport security were able to break through the crowd. I can see a lot of fans crying.

Damn.

"That wasn't live so the boys are either at their company or at home. This is so frustrating!" Arika hissed and for once, I wanted to be thankful she isn't rambling about her hate with Demo. She must be worried too.

My eyes linger at Gold's confused face. I wonder what's on his mind.

Just then, we heard the door opening and soon enough, our manager came in. On her hands were our laptops, tablets and our phones. I have never run this fast in my life and before she can even tell us what to do, we were all grabbing our stuff.

"Oh my God!" Elisse was leaping and so was I.

The moment I took a hold of my phone, my excitement immediately went down flat to the ground after I realized that the battery was drained. Of course, it's been a week.

I took off to my room and drab my charger before hurrying back in the living room. I reached for the nearest outlet and plugged my device.

"Ohhh, their company sure works fast," Arika muttered as she scans on her Ipad. I jumped straight to where she is to check what she was reading and there I saw an article released by their agency.

"After confirming with our artist, the two were indeed in a relationship in the past but were never intimate. They enjoyed having conversations and sharing the same interest but eventually, their relationship fell apart due to their busy schedules and other personal stuff.

Our artist is very much apologetic for worrying their fans and we humbly ask that our artist be refrained from being linked with the issue moving forward. Thanks for your understanding," Elisse read out loud.

"Wow!" Arika muttered and I sat on the couch before us. "But how about your relationship? After what Steffy did, many will think that you and Gold are together," she added and I sigh.

To be honest, it doesn't really matter to me. Gold once brought the idea of going public but in the state of our careers, I am scared that it will bring negativity to either of our groups. This isn't just about me or us. There are a lot of people involved and I can't risk that.

"Maybe if you guys let me speak, you would know," our manager pouted and the three of us ended up laughing. "Our company is also in talks with their company about how we will respond about Gold and Synn but for now, we will release our side of the incident. Of course, minus the confirmation of your relationship as we are still discussing the best course of action for this incident," she informed us and I calmed down a bit

"Thanks, manager," we answered and she rolled her eyes as she tries to tease us.

"When will you guys stop causing an uproar. I really need to ask for an increase," she tattled and Arika tackled her playfully including Elisse.

"Yah!"

Usually, I'd join in the teasing but I decided otherwise. Instead, I headed back to my phone and turned it on.

I just wave my hand when our manager bid her goodbye.

Once I got the signal back, my phone was blasted with so many messages including my mom's. Biting my lower lip, I started typing a response to my mother to keep her from worrying.

I even saw messages from Shay, Alex, and the others. But out of all these, the most number of messages came from the person I miss the most - Gold.

I backread all of his messages, most of which are asking if I was fine.

Just when I was about to respond, my phone started ringing, his name showing on the screen. Without even thinking, I answered the fucking call, my heart racing and I had to remind myself to calm down.

Me and my fucking hormones.

"Gold..." I whispered, my voice almost hoarse and I pray to God I didn't sound so desperate.

"Cupcake..." he whispered. God, I fucking miss him.

"I'm sorry, they took my phone, our phone and I don't have anything to try to reach you," I started rambling and my breath almost hitches when I heard him sigh from the other line.

"I miss you, cupcake, so so much. Damn it. Are you okay? Baby, it wasn't mine okay? Steffy and I, nothing happened bet-"

"I know," I cut him off. It hearts so much that he was stressed about it. "I know baby, don't worry," I assured him and I heard him sigh in relief.

And then he got silent.

A silence that got me scared a little.

"Is there something wrong?" I asked and he wasn't able to respond immediately.

"The company, and yours, they were talking," he started but why do I feel like something wrong is about to happen?

"Synn...." he sounded uneasy and stressed my heart is starting to ache.

"Tell me..." I told him. Whatever he was having a hard time with, I wanted him to know that he wasn't alone.

And then he dropped it. He dropped the bomb that I wasn't sure how to react with.

"Cupcake, they wanted us to break up..." he stated and it was the last straw that was keeping me together.

"Shut the fuck up,"

Breakup? Fuck them.

Chapter 47

Synn's POV

"I can't believe we get to have a good rest because of this," Elisse chuckled, her body sprawled on the couch while the others do the same. I was on the bean bag on the floor though, Arika was searching for something to watch on the television.

Snow was out, probably for that shoot she needs to complete for that drama.

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"Shut the fuck up,"

Breakup? Fuck them.

Chapter 48

Synn's POV

"Gold, I'm sorry but that's utter bullshit. This is stressing me out," I grunted and the girls looked at my direction but I signaled them that I was fine but in all honesty, I want to stand up, get out of our fucking dorm and decide who I should confront, Steffy or either of our company.

Fuck.

I didn't put up with all of Steffy's shits just so they can break us apart.

I was about to snap a lot more unreserved words but his chuckles echoing from the other line stopped me.

Damn.

Before I knew it, I found my nerves calming down, the fire about to go wild in me starting to dance into the rhythm of his laughter. I tilted my head a little to keep me on track.

"Gold this isn't funny. Why were you even laughing?" I scoffed but somehow, a smile now emerged on my lips. Somehow, knowing that he can still laugh after all this means the situation must have been lighter than I see it. Well at least for him.

"Nothing. I wish I saw you when you went off like that," he answered still chuckling. He still thinks it's funny. Wait till I hit him.

"Sorry, but, cupcake, of course, I'd slam that idea off the table. There's no way I'd let them break us apart. Even if it's for a show, I'd rather ask them not to answer than to hurt you and every one by lying," he answered and that made me smirk. This little piece of shit still has it, making my heart flutter this easy.

What would I do without you, Simons?

"Then why did you have to tell those words to me earlier? You really wanna piss me off, don't you?" I pouted and again, he chuckled. This time, I just listened because damn laughter really brings music to my ears.

"Cupcake, I just want to update you about what they were talking about. I didn't know you'd go off before I can even finish. For the record, I was scolded for whining so much when they told me about it so same-same baby,"

I laughed at his words. I can imagine him being a baby and whining about it. A real cute adorable one.

"So, what did they decided?"

I heard someone talking beside him and Gold made a hushing sound.

"Oh, our company already released a statement. Now, we just have to wait for yours to answer the incident with Steffy,"

I was about to answer when I heard Arika cursing.

"Holy shit, they chickened out, didn't they?" I heard Arika exclaiming, my eyes now focused on the television. And there it shows the statement of their company stating that Steffy never had a miscarriage and that it was false news.

"Why didn't they release that article the first day?" Elisse mouthed and I sigh. "Now that Gold's company released their statement, they were so eager to go out of this mess," she added.

They even released a statement that Steffy was under stress and was apologizing for the incident that had happened with me.

"Okay, Synn deserved a real apology,"

I chuckled how Arika kept ranting and Elisse just goes on agreeing with her. So all in all, everything is settled in the media.

"Jesus, who pissed Arika? I can literally hear her screaming from over here. I'm going to pray for Demo's soul later - awww, hey!" I heard him whine from the other line and I laughed. They were probably on their living room.

"I miss you..." I whispered. I miss him so much and now that I am able to hear his voice again, it fills in the strength I lost the past few days.

He got silent for a minute.

The world, it's always against idols like us. We train so hard, live our lives away from our family, restrict yourselves from doing things that would really make us happy at the expense of making those people who love us be happier. We get ridiculed for being skinny. We get bashed for being fat. Whatever we say, half of the people around us would twist them. Whatever photos we post, people will try to put meaning to it.

But they can't let us love the person we love. They can't fucking let us happy.

"You don't even know how crazy I had been these days because I can't get a hold of you. If it wasn't for our concerts, I would pack my bag and head to wherever the fuck you are," he whispered and my eyes closed immediately.

God, being away from him is excruciatingly painful. His smile, it's what keeps me going but all this mess is keeping us away from each other.

Why do they have to keep us away from each other?

"I love you..." he whispered and that ended everything.

"God, I wanna see you..." I told him and he grunted.

"Thank God I wanna see more than you wanna see me..." he chuckled.

"Huh?" I asked confused and then I heard it, the sound of the doorbell ringing.

"Open the door baby, before Demo change his mind. He heard Arika ranting and is now scared outnof his wits - yah!!! I'm going to tell you off to Zero!"

What? No way....

My heart started beating faster. I have never felt this excited in my life. This is a different kind of excitement compared to when I go on stage when I hear our fans chanting out our names, cheering us...

This is just, pure bliss.

I saw Elisse marching her way to open the door and when it opened, I dropped my Samsung and took off the moment I saw Gold. He was wearing his black shirt and cargo pants, his face mask now pulled down while his long messy hair dances with his every movement.

He saw me and moved closer. I didn't care if our members were with us. I didn't care if I'd look too clingy.

As long as I am with him.

So I took off. I jumped straight to him, my arms clinging on his neck while my legs wrapped around his waist. Gold was quick enough to use his hands for support as he carry me.

There he is, my man.

I didn't know why but my lips started quivering, my face buried on the crook of his neck.

"Okay, I take that back. I think we miss each other equally," he chuckled and I bit his ear to tease him.

I clung into him.

"God, I miss you..." I whispered and he pulled me tighter.

"I'm here now cupcake... I got you..."

Chapter 49

Synn's POV

"Synn, you're going to get really tired if you keep dancing for shit like that," Arika laugh as I wiggle my body playfully.

Snow was doing her set and instead of using this time to momentarily take a rest, I can't seem to keep myself still. I feel so giddy, I can't sit still so I was playfully dancing in front of them.

"I'm too excited I feel like something is going to explode inside me," I giggle and Elisse laughed at my clumsiness when I almost tripped.

"Go wild on your number then. You're going to perform a new version of your Swalla. You do realize you're about to kill some weak hearts, do you?" Arika raised her eyebrow and I pouted.

"What are you even talking about? I am so pure and innocent,"

"Yeah, then don't twerk later,"

"And don't let that dirty tongue of yours go out of your equally foul mouth,"

"Yahhhh!!!" I exclaimed, stopping myself from dancing, my hands now resting on both sides of my hips as I gawked on my two members who were laughing at my reaction.

"I always brush my teeth and the tongue work is never intentional, oh my God that didn't sound right," I exclaimed once again and they were laughing their asses, having the time of their lives.

It's our last concert for this leg and I just can't seem to calm myself.

A lot of things had happened since the Steffy incident. The issue has been long buried and Steffy went on hiatus. Her agency stated that all her activities will be halted until she got better. They said she's undergoing some mental health problems which did not really surprise any of us.

I do hope she got better though. I have never really gotten a proper apology from her nor I was expecting to receive one. Somehow, Gold also felt so bad because a few of their fans went berserk after his name got dragged into it.

He knew something's wrong with Steffy and as much as we would like to hate the girl for doing so many things that kinda made us wanna hurt her back, we still worry for the girl.

The past few months, Gold and I just did whatever we want. Our companies gave up on stopping us. Not that I would let them anyways.

Those people who love us will remain no matter what. Whatever we do or we don't do, people will say shit about us.

And I say they can keep their bullshits to themselves.

Additionally, it's been almost a month since I last saw my guy. He is on a world tour so we just make sure we chat and video call each other.

We've learned from our past mistakes. I've learned. I won't neglect him as I did before and whatever problems we encounter, we make sure to talk about it.

"Synn," I turned my head towards my right when I heard one of my managers.

"Let's go. Your other member is almost done," she answered and I gave my other two members a wink.

"You little piece of shit. Break a leg,"

"Shake that booty and kill'em!"

I laughed at their unsolicited advice and even send them my kisses, Arika even playfully catching one then forcefully smack it on Elisse's cheeks.

"That is so disgusting!"

So basically, I was calmer until I reached the platform, my set about to start. And when it did, I gave my all like how I usually do.

The screams were louder, they were cheering my name. And that's one of the best feelings in the world, knowing that these people love and supports me and the girls.

After my last pose, I was catching my.breath but I can still make out a few words the fans were screaming about.

"Oh my God, Gold!"

"Mono, I love you!"

Huh?

I was already on the lift as it pulls me down but I was so confused.

Are they shipping again?

I shake my head a little and was greeted by one of our staff. "Let's go, be careful," she uttered.

I was high-fiving a few of our staff who were greeting me while I drink on my tumbler.

Arika is up for her solo and we'll go do our last set next.

Just when I entered our dressing room, I saw Snow fiddling with her phone and a few of our managers doing some phone calls.

I walked a little and was about to reach her hand when she looked behind me.

"You sneaky bastard!" she exclaimed and I was surprised when Snow made a run.

The moment I turned around, I saw how she buried her face on Mono's chest, his arms wrapped around her.

"Oh, I miss you too, baby" he chuckled and my mouth went agape.

Holy shit.

So the fans were really talking about them?

My heart started hammering inside my chest. I gulped. I just drank water but I feel like my throat is getting dry for some weird reason.

And then I saw him, his figure slowly emerging from the door. He was wearing a black hoodie and sweatpants. Damn kiddo still looks fine as hell even with the simplest clothing the had on.

He stopped walking the moment our eyes met.

"So I'm not getting a warm welcome like Mono?" he chuckled but I was too lost. Just the idea of him and Mono watching our concert and fans seeing them had lost of my wits.

Like, what the fuck?

I saw them chuckle at my reaction and Gold was smiling amusedly. My eyes caught how he gracefully made his was towards my direction before engulfing me on a hug.

His warmth, it was calming me down.

Have you ever felt so contented in your life that when a person hugs you, all you feel.inside was pure bliss? Like, your heart was beating rapidly but your insides were calm like you were in some secluded island and it's just the two of you?

I don't exactly know if I'm making sense but that's how I feel.

Damn.

My gaze lifted until our eyes met. He leaned forward and gave me a quick peck on my forehead, his kind of thing.

"I miss my cupcake so much, I had to make sure I go straight to you the moment the plane landed. Don't even ask how I got in baby coz I have tons of resources I'm willing to use if it's for you," his bunny smile showing.

Fuck.

He gave me another kiss on the forehead before pulling me even closer.

"Damn, I miss you," he whispered and Elisse whining broke me of my trance.

"I hate you guys! Stop hugging in front of me you shits," she was stomping her feet rather adorably.

"Not our problem your boyfriend doesn't have balls and can't visit you," Snow raised her eyebrow.

"Flash news, he has balls. And they're exclusive, okay,"

"Ewwwww!" I whined and they all chuckled. Not until we saw one of our managers coming. Her face was so serious and someone from the boy's company is also here.

"You kids really like it when you make trouble and we'll work our asses to fix it, don't you?" she scowled but we made a peace sign.

Last time, Demo attended one of our fan signing events and nearly got mobbed. The excuse was that he was passing by and got curious, fucking lame but he posted it on Twitter before consulting the company. In short, we almost got our asses busted.

"Tell me Demo isn't here too because I'm going to break his balls,"

We all turned to Arika who obviously caught up with the situation. One of the staff reached for her so she can put her jacket for the next number.

"Wow, that was the exact same thing Demo predicted you would say so he said he'll see you after the concert instead," Mono answered and I smile as I saw him brush Snow's hair.

"Okay, stop with the PDAs and work your fucking asses. Meeting after this and just so you guys know, your puppy smiles won't work this time. And you two, kiss your girlfriend's goodbye because you have to be out of here before the concert ends or the media will be on your tails,"

Gold grunted but he faced me and cupped my cheeks.

"I miss you, cupcake. I'll see you later. We'll go straight to your dorms, okay?" he smiled and my heart melted.

"I miss you too, you guys could have waited there instead," I chuckled but what he said next made my heart flutter even more.

"I don't even mind crashing on the stage with you now. Much better so I won't have to answer tons of text from your admirers,"

I smile at him adorably.

Gold Simons, I fucking love you...

Chapter 50 (Part 1)

Gold's POV

"You are not being serious with this, are you?" Chase asked and I just wiggled my eyebrows. I am too busy admiring the soft fabric in front of me.

I am imagining her reaction and I was kinda hoping it's how I am picturing it.

"Stop trying to reason out with him. He already got everything taken care of. Even our boss wasn't able to shake off that lovestruck kid's decision," I heard Mono stated and I just smirked.

Not even our boss can stop me this time.

In the past years, the public had been eyeing both me and Synn. A lot of people had assumed that we were in a relationship. After all, there were times when I deliberately sneaked into their concerts, of course, with one of the boys with me.

Both our company never really released any statement. They let us decide.

Our relationship had been a roller coaster ride. We fought, broke up, made up, then fought again. It's a cycle like how any other relationship is. But what I am so thankful for is that all those faults, those misunderstanding, made our relationship stronger.

My brothers had been my source of strength. They kept my feet on the ground and like what I said in the past, I may have been a manifestation of all their personalities put together.

But then Synn came.

I thought everything was perfect. Yes, Steffy had made an impact on my life. I loved the girl even after all that had happened, I won't deny that. But I was kinda thankful because if she hadn't broken me, I probably wouldn't have this kind of relationship with Synn.

With her, I get to realize how after everything I've been through, I wasn't even half to where the road to the end of maturity is.

I was fucking immature. I overthink. I go overboard and don't think of what others would feel. I can still remember how the boys had lectured me about my crazy double standard remark. I felt so little I apologized to Synn.

I am a work in progress and Synn is the same. There were times that we had to sit in front of each other and tell our worries and fears. Our relationship isn't perfect. I get really jealous over the guys who, for some reason, are able to still get her number. I had hit Alex on multiple occasions because of that. And Synn gets really childish sometimes too.

"Did you reach out to her team about that? And Synn, does she know?" Eros raised his eyebrow.

A small pout came out of my lips.

"You're just jealous I used your favorite color for this," I banter and he smirked.

"I look good on whatever I wear. Shut up kiddo,"

We both chuckle when he stuck his tongue out and made a face.

"But seriously Gold, that's a very huge decision and a big risk too. I know we've discussed this as a group a lot of times but we wanna know, are you seriously ready for the consequences of this action?" Mono asked and I saw how all of my members were looking at my direction.

We were sat on the couch as we wait for the start of the awards show.

Right, I'm pulling this shit on the biggest awards show of the year, MAMA.

I know what they were worried about. There are times when we get pretty upset whenever there is bad news about us especially since we know a few of our fans will be so sad but we've come across ways on how not to mind them. We've worked our asses to be where we are right now and we have loyal fans. However, I know what I am about to do can do some damage to both of our teams.

But I'm ready. I know my brothers aren't afraid of the consequences or the public's reaction. They were simply concerned for my wellbeing and for Synn's, how this will emotionally and mentally affect both of us.

"I got this," I tried cheering them up and that's when one of the managers stated that we have to be ready for the show.

After the red carpet and a few interviews, we were already enjoying our fellow idol's performances.

I felt a hand on my knees, stopping them from shaking, my eyes immediately darting towards my right.

"Hey," I frowned. We were already on our designated locations were other idols were also seated.

My knees were shaking but it wasn't because of performing. Of course, I still get nervous because of that but my emotions are more of due to excitement and the adrenaline rush inside me. Plus, the fact that Synn and her members were seated just two tables away from us.

My members were so annoying. They strategically sit to where I can see her so I was forced to sit on a place where my back was facing Synn.

Then there they were, greeted by the loud cheering of the crowd.

ROY4L is now a name to be reckoned with. The girls didn't simply build a wall of success, they built an empire. How many have they and my group broken records of each other? Though it's quite saddening to see a few of our fans fighting, we always congratulate each other.

I heard Raze laughing when Synn suddenly twerked.

As much as I would like to admit it, her being so fucking hot and having so many admirers still gets me. I'm jealous, I admit.

And when she did her rap part, I had to stop myself from standing and jam real hard.

Calm down Gold.

I was clapping so hard when they finished and that's when a staff came towards our direction and told us to prepare.

Showtime.

"Tss," I heard Zero scoffed when I was wearing my shirt.

"Don't disappoint me, kid," he tapped my shoulder and I chuckle. Way to calm my nerves.

I put on my jacket and let our makeup artist do a retouch.

My hand reached for my chest.

If I'm gonna do this, I gotta do it with me looking like someone she can be proud of.

Watch me, cupcake.

Chapter 50 (Part 2)

Synn's POV

"Synn, here..." I reached for the blanket that Arika had given me. A small smile escaped my lips and the girl just really had to wink at me. I bet a few fansite had probably taken a video and soon, I'd see a few clips on Instagram about it. That's just how Arika is. She loves showing affection towards us and our fans go crazy for it. Who wouldn't though? Arika is just so adorable.

"Synn, did you hear the cheers for your name earlier when you sent that kiss? And you twerked. I saw that on the screen. You little shit," Snow teased and I smiled timidly. Our performance just ended and I actually still feel so pumped up.

I can still hear the roaring of the crowd, their cheers when they shout our names. I've always told myself to get used to it but I just can't. Every other performance felt so different. It just gets better and better and I still can't believe I was lucky to be living the dream.

Our eyes were then focused on the next performer. Red Flavor was up next and we were clapping. We were friends with them and I just can't stop myself cheering.

We were dancing along with their music and were singing along.

Just when their performance ended, Elisse started teasing us. "Your guys are up next. Please refrain yourselves from cheering too obvious. I know you love them but calm your tits ladies,"

Our jaw dropped at what she told us and since we were cramped a little closer to her, we all knew she told those while ensuring no one can read the way her lips moved.

"Yah!" Snow hissed and we all laughed.

"Elisse, your mouth gets dirtier and dirtier as days pass," Arika smirked and Elisse's smile started to fade then form into a cute little pout.

Our eyes were then focused on the screen before us. It hasn't even started but the crowd were now cheering with just the VCR - their power.

As much as I can, I tried not to show too much reaction whenever I see Gold on the screen despite the loud beating of my heart. The past months had been very fruitful for both of us. Our relationship isn't purely rainbows and butterflies but I can say I can never wish for anything else but be with him.

Gold and I's relationship had taught me a lot. It made me see my imperfections and helped me grow. I still have a lot more to learn in life but I feel like, a part of me had changed because of him.

We both know what our priorities are. Though we love each other dearly, we try to talk things through and remind ourselves that the world doesn't just revolve between the two of us. We still have so much to achieve and learn.

About revealing our relationship and going public, we've talked about it several times and even our management had given us a go signal. We just haven't thought about when to actually do it.

We stopped being careful about revealing it and there are multiple occasions that fans and the media had thought about the possibility of us being together. Who wouldn't when he and his members would often sneak into one of our concerts and such. Those rebels.

Anyways, I'm not too worked up in revealing us anyways. There are moments when I get jealous when I see articles about him possibly dating another girl but this is just me being stupid. I've given my full trust to Gold. Sure we had a rough start and had an issue with his past girlfriend but that's just about it.

I'm just so fucking glad I went to the fire exit that day.

The VCR ended and the cheers got even louder. A smile slowly creeps its way on my lips.

Cupcake, annihilate the stage, baby. I silently cheered.

We were seated in a place where I can clearly see them perform and when he went out, I had to stop myself from reacting because my man looks so goddamn breathtaking.

When was he not though?

Thankfully, it wouldn't look so bad if we dance along with their song since a lot of idols do the same. We just have to be careful not to show too much or fans would be fast enough to say something. Not that I'm scared but sometimes, it's just so hard to decide what to do or not to do when the whole world seems to follow our every move.

"What did he ate to go crazy like that?"

I was a little distracted when I heard Arika. Her eyes were wide so my brows furrowed. I followed her line of sight and almost choke when I saw Gold going wild on stage. He was standing close to where we are and indeed, he was having fun and giving his all.

They were not doing their choreography for the song and has settled into moving freely so all the members were scattered around the big stage.

And then it happened, our eyes met and as much as I like to look away, something tells me I shouldn't. So I didn't, despite the fact that it probably lasted more than five seconds which is quite long in the eyes of few.

He turned around and went so hard on a dance move so I gulped. But it didn't stop there.

He faced my direction, eyes focused on me. My cheeks blushed and I heard Elisse squealing.

My eyes widened after what Gold did next.

He winked.

He fucking winked.

At me.

In front of these idols.

In front of the fucking crowd.

In front of the whole world.

And after he did. He turned around as the music changes. Boy with Love started and they get in their formation.

The girls immediately glanced at my direction, eyes-wide and questioning.

I gulped. I noticed a few eyes from many idols glancing at us too.

"What the heck?" Arika exclaimed and I felt my heart going crazy. My hand reached for my cheek as I felt it burning.

"He just winked at you in front of everyone. He must have gone crazy," Snow added and I was just out of focus the entire time.

My eyes went back to Gold and I wasn't sure what to think. He was dancing and smiling like he didn't do something peculiar earlier.

I knew their choreography for Boy with Love since I've seen it multiple times but surprisingly, the went freestyle at the final verse of the song and like earlier, Gold glanced at my direction.

What the hell is he doing?

Our eyes met and it was as if the whole world stopped.

My eyes started picturing the very first time we had an encounter on the fire exit, how he was being scary, how I realized how sad he was and how much he was in pain.

Visions of us getting closer as I try to save him from his pain, up to where we fell in love, hurt each other, and learn from all the pain.

Everything... I saw all of 'us' flashing before me.

Gold Simons, he'd occupied a huge space in my heart and played an important role in my life.

Gold...

As if what he did earlier wasn't enough damage to both of us after, he smiled at me once again before heading back to his members so they can do the final pose.

I watch him sing and dance. And just when he was walking backward, he was removing his jacket.

I saw Eros giving another one. It looks a little like the same jacket we had exchanged the first time but with a few shades of purple scattered on it.

He glanced back to my direction while wearing his new jacket and I wasn't sure what's happening but my emotions were all over the place.

His beautiful voice echoed the whole place and unlike their usual routine, he turned his back later than everyone else.

"than a boy with love..." he sang.

And my jaw almost dropped on the floor when he turned around.

"Holy-"

"Shit," Elisse finishes what Arika has started.

With their ending hand signal, he turned his head towards my direction and smiled.

By this time, my heart already jumped out of my chest.

I didn't he'd do something like this for us.

He gave the world an answer.

He gave 'us' an answer.

Him doing this means a lot. For me, it means he's ready to fight for us. That he's mine and he's fucking proud.

A smile spread widely on my face. I didn't care about my members shaking me like crazy.

Fans were screaming, everyone was going wild.

Their performance ended and I didn't care about the fact that even the ONE's members were squealing while looking at my direction, or the fact that a few fans close to us were screaming my name and his.

The boys were already bidding goodbye and thanking their fans, Gold was doing the same.

"I love you..." he screamed and I knew, my heart knew.

"I love you too..." I whispered.

I love you too, Gold. He didn't have to do what he just did but I felt so important. He wasn't afraid to tell the world how much he loves me, despite the possible fallback we may both receive. We all know how some fans are crazy possessive but I was kinda hoping that their love for us is more than enough for them to accept what will make us happy.

We will think about the future but right now, we'll simply enjoy the memories we can enjoy together.

Gold Simons, he's mine. He just told the world that he's off-limits, that his heart was already owned by someone.

Because like what the back of his jacket says, he's already...

SYNNCINATI's..

Chapter Special

Synn's POV

"Synn if you don't follow in a minute I swear I'll ask Mono to make sure Gold doesn't get to see you later," I heard Snow threatening me while I fix my shoelace. Crouching just a little, I gave her my most innocent facial expression.

She's too excited to go home. I wonder what she and Mono are up too. And please don't let it be congratulatory sex like, I get that PERSONA won another major award, news flash, we also did. But that wasn't the point. She is obviously too excited to go home. She even asked Elisse and Arika to run straight to the van.

"Just go, I'll run into the van once I'm done," I told her and she grimaced but left otherwise. I have my manager to accompany me anyways.

We just attended a yearend award and like last year, we received a major award alongside our seniors.

A smile slowly made a way on my lips. How many years has it been since Gold and I broke the internet?

After that not so little stunt he pulled at their performance, the jerk even had the guts to say 'I love you' to me during their speech. Imagine how red my face was and how the girls around me were hitting me playfully.

To make things worse, several cameras kept on focusing on me. How do I hide my emotions when everyone was screaming, even fans were going crazy?

I'd say what he did really went down to the history of Music. And up until now, we're making history.

After that incident, both our companies immediately released statements. Now every fucking time, the media always had to ask Gold's opinion to whatever news about me. Sometimes it pisses me off because I think it's being too much but then again, this is the life we chose.

"I love you. I love you so much I can no longer keep it to myself. So yeah, I made a shoutout to your admirers as a warning to keep their affection towards you to themselves,"

Soft chuckles escaped my lips as I remember Gold's exact words after I asked him why he did that stunt before. I wanted to swipe the proud smirk written all over his face but my heart was in a frenzy, it was hammering inside my chest so hard I ended up pulling his face closer until our lips touched. And yeah, that escalated into something we were both scolded the next day.

Because of all places, Gold fucking Simons just had to leave a mark where people can literally see.

He actually left four marks! And on different places where it's fucking hard to hide!

My makeup artists kept chuckling as she hides those hickeys with makeup.

That bastard. He just laughed at me when I told him off about it, mayhaps even proud of what he did.

All in all, our years together had been both public and private. We still have our private moments, those days when we celebrate important occasions, or when he'd suddenly appear on one of my events.

The general public's reaction was crazy but it's not something we didn't anticipate with. After all, he did make a lot of his fans cry. He was their Golden baby after all.

The sound of my phone ringing pulls me off my trance. I saw Snow's name on the screen and it made laugh.

Before I can even answer, my phone died. Oh fuck, I forgot to charge my phone.

Quickly, I dashed straight to the door only to be startled when I saw Steffy leaning on the wall, her hands in front of her as she fiddled with her nails.

I raised an eyebrow at the sight of her and as much as I wanted to take another step forward and forget about seeing her, the awkward smile showing on her lips stopped me.

"Two minutes, that's all I asked," she whispered. She sounded a thousand times calmer compared from the last time we talked, and that was years ago. I was honestly surprised to see her in front of me now.

After she went hiatus, I didn't bother checking her out. Even after news of her coming back, we fortunately never had an encounter, except those times that we see each other on award shows.

A long sigh escaped my lips. I'll definitely get a good scolding from Snow after this.

She looked a little tensed and that scared me a little. But I hears she's fine now, that's according to the news that I heard from before.

"Two minutes and I'm out of here," I told her. I leaned on the wall opposite her and we didn't bother changing locations. The awards ended earlier so there were less people roaming on the place. Plus everyone knew what happened before so why bother hiding?

I saw her closed her eyes for a moment and released a long sigh. I was startled at what she said next though.

"I'm sorry," I saw how her eyes started to get teary. "I'm sorry for all the mess, for all the pain that I've caused both you and Gold. Whatever reasons I have, it's my problem and I shouldn't have taken it out on you two. I brought so many problems to you too and I know I had been a pain in the ass,"

I laughed a little at what she said last. True indeed, she was such a pain in the ass then. She seemed to relaxed a little when she saw me smile.

"I'm not gonna oppose that," I told her and she smiled.

"My apology has been long overdue and I am not expecting your forgiveness but please know that I wish both you and Gold's happiness," she bit her lower lip and I waited until she said what she wanted to say because obviously, there's still more.

"Thank you, thank you for not giving him up and for loving him the way you are loving him now. He deserves happiness. He deserves you," she added and that made my heart feels warm.

She smiled one last time before she gave a quick bow.

I watch as her figure slowly diminished from my sight.

My hand reaches for my chest.

I may not have told her I forgive her but I did, I already did a long time ago and so was Gold's. I am just glad she's opening a new chapter of her life with a positive outlook. And I hope she fully heals in time.

I felt lighter. This even felt better than when we first won a major award. I guess it really does feel different when you don't have anything hanging in your chest.

Turning on my heels, I quickly made my way outside to go to the van. Snow will kill me. Behind me was my manager talking over the phone.

"What? So what am I supposed to do?" I heard him mutter and before I can even ask, a hand reached for mine and I almost shrieked in surprise if I didn't hear him chuckling.

"Yah!" I turned towards him and hit him lightly on his shoulder. He pulled me closer and engulfed me in his strong yet comfortable hug. His manly scent seeping through my nose just enough to make me go crazy.

It's been years but I still have this Gold effect that makes me swoon on him more and more each day. It's pathetic as what my members tease me. But I don't care because he loves me just the same.

"Your member was so pissed off because you took so much time so I volunteered to pick you up instead after I jumped on our van to kinda say goodbye to you. What were you doing inside?" he asked. He pulled away from me a little and stared at my face, his right-hand reaches for my messy hair.

I smiled cheekily at him and smirked.

"I was about to go but someone stopped me midway and made a confession. You know I'm not that mean to just leave and don't listen, right?" I bit my lip as I try to stop myself from laughing. Gold's annoyed expression greeting before me.

He really is so adorable when he's jealous.

"I guess I'll need to put another mark on my cupcake so they'd get the point," he growled and before I can even protest, he started walking with his arms wrapped around me.

Together, we walked outside like there weren't a few reporters left. A smile slowly made my way to my face.

He really likes to showoff. But it doesn't matter because, in all honesty, I like it when he does this. At least all those idols who has a huge crush on him could back off.

He pulled me even closer and I heard him whisper.

"I love you cupcake,"

Damn. How did I get lucky to have such a man?

I wasn't able to respond because a few reporters came closer to ask and we've got our managers tried to stop them.

It doesn't matter. I'll tell him those words multiple times later. I don't know where though, my room or his.

Damn, I'm excited.