

Chapter 27 Aren't You Leaving?

Catherine gave herself a self-deprecating and bitter smile. She followed him from behind, stood beside the table, and put some food in his plate.

"Sit down and eat with me!" Ryan demanded.

After taking a seat, she ate her food in silence.

Just then, her phone rang. It was a call from her mother.

Her mother's cheery voice rang when she answered the phone, "Hey Cath, I've bought groceries today. Invite Luca home for dinner tomorrow night, will you?"

"Hey, Mom! Luca's pretty busy these days."
Catherine didn't want to discuss the matter with

Ryan about bringing Luca back home, especially during this awkward atmosphere. She was certain that he wouldn't agree to it anyway.

"Shouldn't he eat even when he's busy?"

To be frank, Catherine really wanted to go home. She hadn't seen her parents since the last time she had caught a cold.

However, she also felt bad when she thought of the disappointed look on her mom's face if she didn't go home. Just as she was about to explain the situation, Ryan flashed his phone at her. There were a few words on the screen: "Bring him home."

When she looked up at him, he had already put away his phone as if nothing had happened. He merely carried on scooping food onto his plate.

"Okay, I'll come home with him tomorrow night."

After her mother hung up, Catherine thanked Ryan softly.

"But you two can't stay overnight at your place."

"Got it!"

With that, silence filled the air throughout their meal. Ryan went back to the study afterward.

She was really hoping that he would go home early because Jas must be eagerly waiting for him to come home.

"Get me a cup of tea!" he suddenly shouted at her from the study.

Catherine went to make him a cup of tea and placed it in front of him. When she sent the tea into the room, Ryan didn't even spare her a glance. He just stared at the computer screen.

She stood near him, waiting for him to shift his attention from the computer screen to her.

"Why are you still here?" An hour later, Ryan finally raised his head and noticed her presence. He questioned her while twisting his stiff neck to relieve the sore muscles.

"When are you leaving? Jas..."

"This is my house. I can leave whenever I want. Now go and prepare a bath for me."

Was he going to bathe here? Was he not planning to leave?

Even before he got married, he never stayed here for the night.

Sometimes, she felt that he treated her like a brave woman. In fact, Catherine was afraid of being alone at night. When the night crept in, she always

longed for him to stay with her, but she never took the initiative to ask him to stay with her.

Later, she slowly got used to sleeping alone. He would sometimes visit her in the middle of the night and had sex with her, and after that, he would leave again. What a strange person!

"Didn't you hear what I said?" He sounded a little displeased.

Hearing that, Catherine didn't respond with anything else. She understood that resistance would only anger him.

After preparing the bath and making sure that the temperature was just right for him, she returned to the study and knocked on his door.

"Mr. Walker, the bath is ready."

Ryan stood up and unbuttoned his shirt as he

walked.

"Help me out!"

"Okay," she answered with a flushed face and went to the wardrobe to get him a change of clothes.

She looked pretty submissive from the outside, but Ryan assumed that she was extremely unwilling to serve him in her heart. Well, since she was the one who volunteered to be his maid, he would satisfy her wish.

When Catherine entered the bathroom, Ryan was already in the bathtub.

With his eyes closed, he seemed to enjoy being surrounded by the warm water. Hearing footsteps approaching, he requested softly, "Give me a shoulder massage."

In the past, Catherine had used to give him

massages all the time. Kevin told her that When men were weary and tired, they loved women to give them massages.

Back then, she had regarded Ryan as her future husband. Even if he wasn't the man she loved, she respected him. Therefore, she always held onto the slightest glimmer of hope and was gentle when giving him a massage.

This time, she reached out her hand reluctantly and massaged his back gently, but in her heart, she was enduring the pain.

Ryan could feel that the taste of her cooking wasn't as good as before, and even the way she message him had also changed. It seemed that he couldn't force her to love him. Without saying a word, he shut his eyes as if he had fallen asleep.

Chapter 28 I'm So Bored

The silence in the bathroom made Catherine realize how she hadn't enjoyed peace and tranquil for a long time. Unconsciously, her movements on his shoulders slowed down.

Just then, her phone rang at an inappropriate time.

It immediately broke the silent and cozy atmosphere in the bathroom. Looking at the caller ID, Catherine hurriedly picked up the phone.

Jas' cheerful voice immediately came from the other side of the line.

"Catherine, I'm back! I even brought you a present! Tomorrow's Ryan's father's birthday, so I'll have to be home all day for the celebration. Let's meet the day after tomorrow, okay?"

"Okay!"

Catherine replied in guilt while glancing at Ryan, who had already opened his eyes.

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"Of course I miss you!"

While she was on the phone, Catherine noticed that Ryan was looking at her like a hungry wolf, so she quickly turned around and continued her conversation with Jasmine.

"I'm so bored. My husband's not home today. I have nothing to do," she complained.

With a loud splash, Ryan stepped out of the bathtub because he was displeased for not being able to see her beautiful face.

Turning around, Catherine saw him pouncing on her.

"What's that sound?"

"Oh! I'm gonna take a shower! Got to go. Bye.!" By the time she hung up, Ryan was already hugging her from behind.

Catherine was shocked by his sudden action, so she ended the call in a panic.

"Cath..." Jasmine wanted to say something but was cut off abruptly.

"What are you doing?! Let me go! Ah!"

"It hurts!"

Hearing her screams, Ryan loosened his grip on her. Only then did he realize she was in an

uncomfortable posture.

A trace of guilt flashed through his eyes, but his expression changed in an instant. He then pulled her into his embrace right away.

Before Catherine could realize what just happened, she was already lying in the bathtub with Ryan.

He couldn't take it anymore. He couldn't wait any longer.

All of a sudden, a loud bang came from the anti-theft door right before he was going to do something to her.

"Coming!" Catherine shouted.

She wasn't willing to make out with him, so the moment the loud banging noise came from the door, Catherine took it as a chance to escape from him.

"Stay here! I'll go answer the door!" Was she out of her mind? If a man was at the door and saw her current disheveled state, wouldn't they think of her in a sexual way?

Ryan got out of the bathtub with brows furrowed together.

Grabbing a towel and tying it around his waist, he strode out of the door.

Catherine took advantage of that moment and got out of the bathtub. Taking off her drenched clothes, she picked up a towel and started wiping herself dry.

When Ryan came back, she was just about to sneak back to the bedroom.

"Where are you going?" he questioned with a long face.

"Away from you! If I don't run, won't I be giving you the chance to do whatever you want to me?" she thought.

"I don't feel comfortable in wet clothes," she explained.

"Then wear your pajamas!"

Huh? Catherine was a little taken aback by his reaction. Even though it did sound a little unconvincing, she dared not overthink. Almost instantly, she dashed out the door.

In the past, regardless of whether she admitted it or not, she had actually enjoyed having sex with him.

But why was she so delighted now that he didn't want to have sex with her?

"Wear the prettiest nightgown and wait for me in

bed!" he added.

Catherine had thought that he had let her go, but her heart immediately fell into a pit of distress when he uttered the last sentence.

Standing in front of the wardrobe, she picked an old-fashioned nightgown and held it in her hand. She refused to do as he wished. If he picked her on and said that she was intentionally going against him, she would retort that she liked this dress best. Everyone had his or her own taste anyway.

After removing her towel, she quickly changed into a pajamas before returning to the bedroom.

The feeling of waiting to be tortured was awful. She just hoped that he would end it quickly and go home.

Catherine assumed that he would follow her into the bedroom soon after, so she lay in bed, waiting

← Chapter 28 I'm So Bored

for his arrival, but suddenly, she heard the sound of the door opening and closing with a loud thud.

What? Did he just leave? What a b*st*rd! He was planning to leave but he still made her wait for him? How could he be so evil and shameless?

Chapter 29 Prepare Some Tonics

Catherine couldn't believe that he had left. She thought maybe he was just pretending to leave again and was trying to trick her, so she got up and opened the bathroom door to take a look. The clothes he had taken off were lying on the ground, waiting for her to wash them.

He wasn't in the study either. It seemed that he had really left this time. Perhaps he had gone home, and that was exactly what she was looking forward to. Ignoring the inexplicable trace of disappointment in her heart, she lay back down on the bed and picked up her book.

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The next day was Old Mr. Walker's 80th birthday.

Old Mr. Walker was never a fan of large crowds. Therefore, he didn't invite any esteemed guests nor friends. He didn't even invite close relatives to the celebration. Only his family members gathered around for a reunion dinner.

On this day, everyone in the Walker family wore a smile. The more Old Mr. Walker aged, the more he looked like a child. He was amiable and could get along with everyone, so even the servants liked him.

Since Old Mrs. Walker spent a lot of effort preparing for his birthday the day before, she fell a little sick at night due to overwork. Ryan's phone was turned off, and Luca couldn't reach him. Thus, he chose to bang loudly on Ryan's apartment door.

After tricking Catherine, Ryan quickly changed into fresh clothes and rushed back to Old Manor.

and Jasmine have only been married for a month. Isn't it still too soon?" Leonardo was quick to defend his brother and sister-in-law because he needed to build trust with them if he wanted to have Catherine.

"You don't understand a thing, do you? Don't you know it's a trend among young people to get pregnant before getting married these days?" Old Mrs. Walker gave him a light slap on the arm because he was blocking her view of Jasmine's belly.

"Is your period on time?" Jasmine's face burned and turned crimson. Never did she expect Old Mrs. Walker to be so straightforward.

"Grandma, Jas is shy. You're too straightforward. We're working hard on it!" Ryan stood beside his wife, not wanting her to be embarrassed.

"Okay, hurry up, alright? If you can't conceive,

come and stay here. I'll take care of you!" She was persistent.

"Take care of her? Aren't you just going to feed her tonic every day, Grandma?" Lily Walker, the only daughter in the Walker family, butted in and joined the conversation.

"You little rascal! How can you say something so ridiculous at such a young age? But this idea isn't bad. Robert... Where's Robert?"

"I'm here, Grandma," Robert Walker was talking to Old Mr. Walker when he heard his grandmother calling him. He then rushed over with a smile.

"Go and prepare some tonics for Ryan and Jasmine. Get the strong ones. Now go," she instructed Robert and then turned to Ryan and Jasmine, saying, "Stay with us tonight, okay?"

Jasmine looked at Ryan with flushed cheeks due

to embarrassment.

"Grandma, I have something to do tonight. Can we come back another day?" Ryan asked softly.

"Nothing's more important than have a baby!" exclaimed Old Mrs. Walker. "Yes, she's right. Don't think you young people can fool us by saying that you want freedom without having a child. Both of you must stay here tonight!" Old Mr. Walker was rarely serious, especially in the past few years, so when she gave the order, both of them didn't dare to resist.

Chapter 30 | Remember Everything

"Miss Burton, Mrs. Green just called to inform you that she has prepared some tonics tonight." Isaac suddenly came forward and said softly.

"I'll call your mother later to inform her about your stay. Listen to your grandfather today. It's his birthday," insisted Old Mrs. Walker. After Ryan and Jasmine exchanged glances, they immediately agreed to her request.

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As Ryan didn't come back all night, Catherine couldn't sleep well. She kept having the same dream all night.

In her dream, she was desperately running from

Southside Villas to the hillside.

She then saw a man and woman entangling with each other on the hillside. The woman seemed to be her, but she wasn't sure. Catherine wanted to see the man's face clearly, but no matter how hard she tried, she failed.

After waking up, she realized how pathetic her life was, whether it was in her dreams or in reality.

Ryan said that her father lacked business management skills, so the problem that had happened in his company two years ago arose again.

The last time she went home, her parents seemed fine. Perhaps they didn't want to make her worry. For that reason, she had to grow strong. Otherwise, she would be under Ryan's control forever.

At dawn, Catherine got up and turned on the computer. When she was at college, she chose to major in fashion design because of her interest.

However, she started to regret not having majored in business management. If she had taken up the relevant courses, she might have been able to help her father in his business after graduation.

Wanting to get a master degree in business management, she was going to prepare for the entrance examinations in January next year. There were a few months left till January, so Catherine was certain that it should be enough for her to start the preparations.

When the bookstore opened early in the morning, Catherine went to get the books based on the information and research she had done online.

Bringing the books home, she immediately started reading. She graduated last year and worked as an assistant in a company for a short period of time,

but was forced to quit her job after she got into the contract with Ryan.

When Maria came back from her leave that morning, she made lunch for Catherine.

Catherine kept on reading during lunch and the rest of the day because she was determined to get the best result in the exams.

At four in the afternoon, Catherine packed her books and went home early. She knew that her mother liked to prepare everything by herself, but she was also worried that she might overwork, so she decided to go home earlier and help out a little.

Wanting to give her mother a surprise, she opened the door in the gentlest way possible and snuck into the kitchen. Her mother was indeed there.

When she went closer, she realized that her father

was also in the kitchen with her. The old couple was talking to each other softly.

"Is he really coming back?" her mother asked.

"Yes!"

"Don't let Cath see him. Did you tell Mr. Johnston?"

"Don't worry, I told him already. It's been so long. I'm sure even if Cath sees him..."

"No way! We absolutely can't let her see him. Have you forgotten that Cath almost lost her life?"

"What if she remembers? When the time comes... Cath?" When her father saw Catherine outside the door, his mother's face instantly fell. The shovel in her hand fell to the ground with a loud thud.

"Mom, Dad, what is it that you're afraid I'll remember?" Catherine looked at her father and questioned him.

Today, she wanted to get an answer from them. She didn't want to be kept in the dark anymore.

"No. It's nothing. Why are you alone? Where's Luca?"

"Dad, don't hide it from me. Mom won't react like this if it's nothing."

Her mother, Winnie Moss, quickly regained her composure. She picked up the shovel from the ground with a smile and explained, "Silly girl, why are you standing there without making a sound. You've scared me. Is Luca not coming?"

"He'll be here soon."

"Come and try this dish. See if it suits Luca's

taste." Winnie pulled Catherine by the hand and urged.

"Mom, please, tell me. To be honest, I've remembered everything."

"You do?" the old couple asked in unison. They were extremely nervous and terrified, but just then, Winnie realized that she might have been lying to them. If she really remembered it all, she wouldn't pester them for answers.

"What did you remember? Come and taste the food," Winnie smiled lovingly and lowered her head to scoop the food into her daughter's mouth. They were trying to avoid the topic. Catherine knew the things they wasn't willing to tell them must have been unpleasant, so her parents chose to hide it because they felt sorry for her.