

# **After Divorce, She Becomes the Billionaire Heiress**

## **( Sylvia and Cyril ) Chapter 21-30**

Released on April 21, 2024

Chapter 21 Want to Meet Her

Hearing Caroline invoke Sylvia left Cyril frowning in distaste. He disliked her sullyng Sylvia's name, feeling it a disparaging insult.

Especially now realizing how much Caroline had deceived him over the years, directly causing so many fights with Sylvia too.

"Enough. You never spoke ill before so I blindly thought you innocent. Keep trying to frame Sylvia and consider the consequences if you can withstand the backlash. I've provided your final way out. Don't let it become your downfall instead."

Ending the call abruptly, Cyril knew further discussion was useless. Meanwhile at the hospital, Caroline flung her phone violently down in frustrated despair.

Cyril claimed he was offering her a way out yet clearly his actions were shoving her onto an inescapable path towards destruction! And he dared insist Sylvia played no part in this? If so, why was he overreacting so extremely?

It had to be Sylvia orchestrating everything to remove her rival! With Caroline gone, Sylvia probably aimed to reclaim her position as Cyril's wife!

What a joke! After Cyril had willingly fought with Sylvia countless times for her sake before and moved heaven and earth selflessly on Caroline's behalf, how could Sylvia endure their closeness? The hatred in Caroline's eyes intensified. If Sylvia wanted to ruthlessly drive her into a corner like this, Caroline refused to let her get away with it! Just wait! She would find a way to retaliate against Sylvia no matter what!

At his company, Cyril's intense workload recently brought back painful old stomach issues that Sylvia used to help manage through regular meal reminders and preparing food for him occasionally. With their divorce however, no one now prompted him to eat anymore and he frequently neglected meals altogether, especially busy shielding Caroline from backlash recently.

His employees were overworked too, often missing meals in their haste as well. One morning, Cyril finally felt the consequences when his stomach started cramping badly mid-meeting, leaving his brows tightly furrowed in discomfort, unable to speak.

Hurrying in and noticing his painful clutch over his abdomen, Assistant Barry instantly understood the cause when he noted the lunch hour had long passed. If even he with a

lesser workload hadn't managed more than some quick bread earlier, Cyril surely ate nothing.

Barry had tried calling reminders without response, occupied with Caroline's scandal. Their former diligence in this matter highlighted the new neglect.

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Wracked with guilt, Barry quickly offered to grab antacids though a thorough search found none in the office. Then he remembered who used to prepare them.

"Any medicine yet?" Cyril demanded through gritted teeth. Shaking his head apologies, Barry elaborated Sylvia's past attentiveness as the reason before Cyril interrupted furiously.

"So she's your boss instead of you being my assistant? If you can't handle such basic tasks, why do I waste vast sums paying your salary?"

Stunned by the unexpected connection to Sylvia, Cyril desperately yearned to see her now. To demand explanations why she initiated divorce over Caroline's irrelevance to her. Hadn't they agreed Caroline posed no threat to her status?

Mortified over failing his duties, Barry self-blamed the entire escalation. If he had stayed properly attentive, this would have never happened. Insisting on taking Cyril to the hospital immediately, Barry had to support his struggling boss weakened by pain.

In the car, Barry reviewed workplace divisions and realized Cyril's personal needs had slowly transferred under Sylvia's purview the past years. With her managing that area, Barry's own workload had lightened considerably. Her hyper vigilance lowered his own attentiveness until he took it for granted. Too late did he recognize that was still his primary responsibility, regardless of her initiative. Habits once formed became difficult to break after all.

Well understanding that now, Barry knew he had to refocus on fulfilling his duties going forward, no matter Sylvia's involvement. Else what purpose did he serve Cyril?

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## Chapter 22 A lot things she did

After a half day at the hospital neglecting work, Cyril considered returning to office later but fatigue forced him home to rest first, planning to go in early tomorrow clearing today's unfinished business.

Lying in bed, Cyril contemplated how much Sylvia had done for him daily this past decade. With her meticulous management, his life progressed smoothly whether for meals, sleep or overall wellness. He couldn't deny that her presence gave him great comforts and conveniences, never worrying about medications or falling ill with her diligence.

Remembering their past intimacy left his chest tight with pain however. He understood with Sylvia determined on divorce, no chance remained of reversing her choice.

Forcing himself not to dwell on it anymore this night, Cyril managed a full rest and returned to work early next morning, his overflowing schedule even more packed with yesterday's unfinished tasks.

Around 10 AM, Barry informed him that their appointed client had arrived. Greetings were warm as both quickly became engrossed in discussions until Partner Yearling glanced around curiously mid-conversation. When Cyril inquired if he was searching for something, Yearling explained his surprise at not seeing Sylvia present as promised every visit to personally ensure their collaborations proceeded smoothly from her capable orchestrations behind the scenes.

Cyril listened dumbfounded as Yearling effusively praised Sylvia's astounding abilities: despite her beauty belying a weak constitution – she exceeded most men professionally. Given opportunities, her achievements would easily outstrip anyone present.

Increasingly, Cyril noticed how much of his success had Sylvia's inputs though he had credited himself fully before for the wins. Repeated revelations of her silent contributions emerged that Cyril had utterly failed appreciating when they were together.

Envious, Yearling joked about the rarity of such a superb employee and wondered if Cyril might share where he found Sylvia.

"She wasn't my employee. She was my wife." The words almost left unthinkingly until Cyril caught himself last minute. "My ex-wife rather. We divorced recently. I was unaware she aided you previously so have only gratitude that you informed me. Please notify me if you wish to withdraw our partnership in light of hearing she brokered it covertly. I understand reluctance with her detachment now..."

If Sylvia's involvement had been crucial, her estrangement surely jeopardized retention. But

Yearling simply laughed. Cyril underestimated himself too much it seemed plus Sylvia's contributions, while initially prompting the deal, mattered less than Cyril's actual talents

presence. which Yearling respected sufficiently to sustain collaboration regardless of her Still, learning his mysterious facilitator had been Cyril's wife astonished Yearling.

They were businessmen first however. Mutual profits mattered over everything else. No worthy chance was ever lightly discarded.

Cyril stewed in troubled thoughts, wondering what else Sylvia had done for him without his knowledge. Clearly far more than he ever recognized, still seeing her as no more than a decorative accessory awaiting his returns at home dutifully. That she might possess such astounding capabilities had simply never occurred to him before.

Finalizing follow-up contracts easily, Yearling hesitated while departing, meeting Cyril's eyes squarely. "If your divorce with Sylvia is genuinely final without reconciliation hopes, I wish to court her. She is an extremely remarkable woman warranting utmost respects."

His sincere words slammed Cyril like a physical blow. This near stranger clearly appreciated Sylvia's merits already while Cyril's treatment of her their whole marriage had been less than decent at best. Remorse and regret churned violently inside but he had no grounds for objections.

"Even if I did want her back someday, it wouldn't be presently. Mutual sincerity would be mandatory for any restarts." Cyril managed to reply evenly.

Pleased, Yearling smiled. "I feared lingering attachments still on your side potentially but that seems clearly not an issue anymore. Very well. I will proceed with formal courtship efforts towards Sylvia from now on then."

Departing amiably afterwards, Yearling left Cyril standing numbly at the elevators,

emotions still roiling chaotically from today's repeated shocks. Beside him, Barry similarly wondered about his boss' thoughts following such an explosive meeting. For both men, seismic shifts had definitely occurred.

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Chapter 23 Discuss about her

"Did she... actually do a lot for me all these years?" Cyril eventually asked quietly.

Unsure how to reply, Barry hesitated briefly. "Well, managing your daily affairs like meals, medications etc, Mrs Tan shouldered most of that. Just indirectly, informing me instead of directly interacting."

"Why didn't you ever notify me then?" Cyril turned to Barry demandingly. What explained Sylvia doing so much without his knowledge?

Facing Cyril's intimidating stare, Barry felt utterly wronged. Many times he had nearly spoken out before Cyril's forbidding expressions halted him whenever Sylvia's name even crossed his lips.

“I did try bringing it up occasionally but you would scold me not to ever mention Mrs Tan.”

Cyril fell silent, acknowledging the accuracy. He had explicitly barred such discussions previously.

“I see.” Remorse flooded Cyril realizing his willful blindness had presumed Sylvia acted from self-interest rather than pure devotion out of love for him.

Approaching his staff chatting animatedly, Cyril paused outside the room hearing Sylvia mentioned and signaled Barry to listen with him.

“We haven’t seen the Missus lately. Last visit, she brought treats and reminded us sternly to make meals a priority for the boss yet we failed completely fulfilling her entrustment this time.” One woman sighed.

“The boss looked awfully unwell yesterday too. Hopefully the Missus drops by again soon or at least calls to check on him.” Another worried. “She always knows how to handle

everything.”

Unease gripped Barry, this being the second accidental Sylvia mentioning today that normally roused Cyril’s temper. Yet his impassive reaction now left Barry confused whether anger simmered silently underneath or if sentiments towards her had shifted.

He still lacked clarity on their divorce but Cyril initiating separation was implausible. Perhaps they reconciled? But the odd peace upon hearing Sylvia discussed signaled deeper complications ahead.

Cyril soon departed the area expressionlessly. “No more off topic chats during work hours. Violations mean overtime until fully caught up.”

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As the stunned team shuddered in dismay, Barry quickly added: “Boss is aware of what was said. Refrain from ever bringing up...that person...before him. Understood?”

“Why?!” One protested. “We used to get scolded but he had no issues this time. They’re still married anyway so what’s the harm in casual mentions? Things seem different lately...”

“If you wish to remain employed here, mind yourself and stop that line of talk.” Barry interrupted sternly. “There are certain taboos before the boss. Everyone clear on that?”

Sullen acknowledgment followed under Barry's warning gaze. No further chances remained pushing boundaries still evidently in place somehow. Unease settled around the subdued group anxious they had angered Cyril unknowingly and might face repercussions later.

In his office meanwhile, Cyril ruminated over how even his employees discussed Sylvia freely. Before he could reconsider, he had dialed Sylvia impulsively despite knowing her unlikelihood to answer and surely enough, got redirected to voicemail. Trying messaging next, a red exclamation icon indicated likely blocking.

Since initiating their divorce, interacting with Sylvia hadn't even crossed Cyril's mind, presuming she would contact him eventually herself. But clearly she never intended any reconciliatory communications, immediately cutting all accessible channels.

The reality of her resolve struck Cyril profoundly. Marriage had lacked meaning initially yet now severance felt devastating. He smiled bitterly at himself for taking her presence for granted, convinced of her unconditional constancy by his side. Only in loss did the truth emerge of his own delusional hubris.

Setting aside his phone to focus on work and distract himself, Cyril had just regained momentum when Caroline phoned unexpectedly.

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Chapter 24 Who find the reporter?

When Brooke got the call from Karina, Cyril went straight to the hospital without hesitation. 1

When he arrived, he found the hospital swarming with people, especially around Karina's room. There were constant streams of patients and medical staff rubbernecking.

Seeing this, Cyril's eyebrows furrowed tightly. He hadn't paid good money for these people to show up and gawk.

"What are you all doing here? Don't you have work to do?" he said sternly.

The crowd that had been eagerly spectating suddenly heard Cyril's voice and jumped in fright. They quickly made up excuses to leave, not wanting to stick around now that Cyril was unhappy with them.

Once the area was cleared out, Cyril entered Karina's room, only to be shocked again.

The room was extremely messy, with everything not nailed down strewn across the floor. Things had clearly been swept off surfaces and cabinets.

Cyril looked around, not knowing what had happened. He didn't see any nurses around, which bothered him. He was paying good money – he expected better service.

As he walked further into the room, he suddenly heard sobbing coming from a corner. He went over to see Karina sitting on the floor, knees pulled tight to her chest, head buried as

she cried.

“What happened?” Cyril asked gently, crouching down to be at her eye level.

“Some reporters showed up this morning. I don't know how they found out I was here, but they just barged in! Wouldn't listen when people tried to stop them. They started bombarding me with questions about those online rumors, asking if they were true, if I was going to quit showbiz, just awful prying questions. They wanted me to have a breakdown! Can you believe it?” Karina looked at Cyril pitifully.

“I didn't know what to do so I started throwing things at them. That finally scared them off.

In truth, the mess in the room wasn't entirely from scaring off reporters. After they had left, Karina had lashed out in anger and frustration. She had caused quite the disruptive scene, yelling and sweeping things off of surfaces. She had frightened away the nurses.

Hearing all this, Cyril's expression darkened. How did those reporters even get in?

“What exactly did you say to them?” he asked.

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Karina shook her head emphatically. Right now he was her only hope. She wouldn't dare do anything without his guidance.

“I didn't tell them anything today. Don't worry. But I'm so scared. I don't know who I pissed off for them to come after me like this. I'm already in the hospital! Why can't they leave those online rumors alone? Even if I deny everything, some people won't believe me. What do I do?”

Karina's fear was genuine. She was terrified that if the truth of her misdeeds came out, she'd

be ruined.



Any chance with Cyril would vanish. She might even become a disgraced laughingstock, undoing all her years of maneuvering.

“I’ll take care of this, don’t worry. Do you have any enemies in the industry?” Cyril asked.

Whoever was behind this was likely a rival of hers. But Cyril didn’t know enough about her competitors.

Karina thought for a moment before shaking her head. “It can’t be them. They wouldn’t dare cross me like this, I’d crush them in retaliation. It must be Sylvia! She’s the only one who hates me enough!”

Karina strategically shifted blame onto Sylvia. She needed a scapegoat, and Sylvia was perfect, given Cyril’s history with her. Of course she’d be furious over losing him to Karina!

And even if Sylvia was innocent, Karina had to pin it on her. Sylvia still held a special place. with Cyril. For Karina to secure her future with him, Sylvia needed to be taken down a notch.

Seeing Cyril’s expression shift at the mention of Sylvia’s name, Karina hid her satisfaction. Sylvia was still no match for her. Just a few choice words could turn Cyril against her.

“I’ll get to the bottom of this. But don’t go making baseless accusations. I warned you. For now, just rest. I’ll handle the investigation,” Cyril said firmly.

Karina was a little disappointed she hadn’t achieved her goal, but at least Cyril was willing to deal with the mess for her. As for Sylvia...that could come later.

“I’m sorry,

I shouldn’t have speculated. I just don’t know who else could hate me enough besides Sylvia. You should still investigate though, for both our sakes,” Karina said weakly, seeing Cyril’s expression soften slightly.

But he still couldn’t believe Sylvia was behind this. Yet she did seem to have the strongest motive.

Cyril only stayed about half an hour, getting the full story before leaving.

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Once he was gone, Karina’s expression shifted. She took out her phone, hesitating whether to make a certain call.



She knew that call could ruin her reputation, but it could also drag Sylvia down too. It was a double-edged sword that could wound them both. She had to consider carefully.

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Chapter 25 So stupid

After the divorce from Cyril was finalized, Sylvia vanished without a trace.

Of course, she didn't literally vanish. Cyril simply had no idea where she went or who she was in contact with. He didn't even know if she moved back in with her parents after the split.

Sitting in his office, Cyril was plagued by doubts. After all these years of marriage, how little did he truly know about his wife?

He was ignorant about where Sylvia lived, who her close friends were after the divorce, everything. With her having blocked him on everything, contacting her was impossible.

Cyril had wanted to confront her, to ask why she would do this. But he couldn't even find her. He felt utterly frustrated.

He had never felt so thwarted, not even when starting his business, which had gone smoothly. Yet his biggest failure was with Sylvia.

Out of options, Cyril set his staff to keep investigating Sylvia's whereabouts. But it was as if she had vanished after the divorce. There was no trace of her coming and goings, who she

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met with nothing. Finding anything concrete was proving impossible.

Cyril was incredibly irritated.

"Sir, we've tried, but there's little to go on. The mistress' outings were very limited during your marriage. Mostly just the mansion, the family estate, and trips to the supermarket. We checked there too, but she hasn't been seen on security footage lately," his secretary said apologetically.

"That's all you could find? No clues on who she met with or other contact info?" Cyril asked grimly.

So the most exciting place his wife in her late 20s went was the grocery store, buying household necessities and produce, he thought bitterly. It painted a certain picture of their

domestic life.

“No other contacts unfortunately. But we did find an old email address from a supermarket survey she filled out. It may still be active if you want to try messaging,” the secretary offered helpfully.

Cyril took the email address. It was something at least. Better than nothing.

After dismissing his secretary, Cyril composed a message to Sylvia’s email, hoping she

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would respond. If she didn’t use it anymore or ignored it, there was no telling when he’d hear from her again.

Luckily a reply came swiftly, but Cyril’s expression soured instantly upon reading it.

All Sylvia had written was: Foolish.

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Cyril’s face darkened. He had simply wanted to ask if she was responsible. Yet she chose to mock him instead. That stung.

Soon Sylvia sent him a large compressed file of documents, fulfilling her divorce promise to hand over everything she had on him.

Her next message stated that this would enable him to destroy Karina if he wished. There

were ways.

The contents differed vastly from the online rumors. Sylvia’s dossier was far more detailed

and exhaustive.

It was even more comprehensive than the mystery email from before.

Cyril wondered what the discrepancy meant, but before he could unravel it, Sylvia blocked him, cutting off contact completely. She was done.

With this new information, Cyril paid another visit to Karina’s hospital room, now tidied up. To his surprise, he found his brother Bonnie there with her.

“Bro...” Bonnie stood up nervously. He had kept a low profile since their fight at home. Cyril couldn't be bothered to ask why he was there. He had been lost in thought the whole ride

over about what to do.

Sylvia had damning evidence against Karina yet hadn't used it to ruin her. But the online rumors were unverifiable. Sylvia's dossier however could definitely end Karina.

“I received some items. Those online rumors about you

at you tell me honestly, are they true or false? If true, I'll handle it. If false, apologize publicly,” said Cyril.

For old times' sake, he would help Karina one last time. After this, they were done.

Karina panicked internally, wondering why Cyril was suddenly asking about this. Had he discovered something?

“Of course they're false!” she answered without hesitation. Cyril's expression instantly darkened.

“Yet now you refuse to tell me the truth? Makes me wonder what else you've lied about over the years,” he said coldly.

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The more he thought about it, the more he wondered if anything she had told him was actually real.

Seeing Cyril's reaction, Karina was utterly lost. Why was he acting this way? Did he already know everything and was simply done protecting her?

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Chapter 26 Stranger? Sister?

After receiving Sylvia's information, Cyril realized Karina had been deceiving him all along. He felt like a fool for continuing to help her until now – this would be the last time. After he resolved this latest incident, they were done.

“I'll help you one last time. When this is over, move abroad. You'll fare better overseas with your career not entirely ruined yet. We'll cut contact after that. I won't aid you anymore, Cyril said dispassionately before turning to Bonnie.

Bonnie tensed up immediately. Was his brother going to deal with him next after finishing with Karina?

“I’ve been good lately, bro! Haven’t done anything,” Bonnie said nervously.

“Then why are you here?” Cyril asked, staring at him intently. Bonnie had no reply. From his expression, Cyril could tell Bonnie likely had some far-fetched ideas again.

“Come with me,” Cyril said, motioning Bonnie to follow him out. Bonnie dared not disobey.

Outside the hospital, Cyril lit a cigarette while Bonnie obediently stood by, not daring to speak seeing his brother smoke. But after some time, Bonnie couldn’t resist asking softly:

“Is it true you and Sylvia divorced and she wanted money from us? She wouldn’t really try to scam our family, would she?”

Cyril glanced at him. “What did you see her take?”

“Knowing her type, she must’ve ransacked the house for valuables and demanded shares too. It is marital assets after all. You didn’t actually give her anything, did you bro? She’s vicious and scheming, who knows what she’d try to swindle out of us!” Bonnie said accusingly.

When Cyril had married Sylvia, Bonnie had only interacted with her for three days before leaving for studies abroad. He hadn’t seen her since returning until now.

Yet despite only three days together, Bonnie was full of terrible opinions about Sylvia. Cyril was shocked by his animosity.

He looked incredulously at his sister, so foreign to him. From a mere three days, she could make such hateful allegations? What had she said about others behind their backs then?

“Why aren’t you saying anything, bro? Am I wrong about Sylvia? She’s no good! All her tricks to marry you, even drugging you! Best you divorced so she can’t keep envying what’s ours. She should stay where she belongs!” Bonnie said haughtily.

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Bonnie’s sense of superiority and disdainful attitude alarmed Cyril further. It was through sheer effort that their family now enjoyed better lives after his business success. But it seemed that had only inflated his family’s egos immeasurably.

And Cyril had thought his focus on work had made him neglect his family, so he indulged their wants. Now he realized that had been a mistake.

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“Let me make something clear, Bonnie. If I hadn’t founded my company successfully, you think you could stand here saying all this? Where is this arrogance coming from? We’re no different than anyone else. The only difference is your brother achieved more, that’s all. What makes you better than others?”

Bonnie was spoiled, performed poorly in school, and refused hard work, just wanting to stay home in leisure. He now harbored vast unwarranted superiority, feeling others less fortunate deserved it, while he deserved his easy lifestyle. He even haughtily disparaged

Sylvia.

Seeing no repentance from Bonnie, just defiant entitlement, Cyril grew incensed and slapped him hard across the face.

Staggering back with a stunned look, Bonnie clutched his cheek. Cyril had never struck him before! Just for saying a few negative things about Sylvia? Why?

“Seems like being abroad spoiled you. Forgot all propriety! Whether divorced or not, Sylvia was your sister-in-law. You’ve no business maligning her, even privately. I’m very disappointed in you, Bonnie. I won’t dig into why you were with Karina, but I warn you – if you’re up to anything, I’ll handle both of you together,” Cyril said coldly before leaving in his car, not waiting for Bonnie’s reaction.

Standing alone, cheek stinging, Bonnie stared after Cyril in disbelief. Only when the car fully disappeared did Bonnie stamp his foot furiously.

This was all because of Sylvia! Before her, Cyril doted on him, giving him anything he wanted, especially after getting rich.

Yet now, just for some unworthy woman, his brother would strike him? Outrage welled up in Bonnie. Sylvia would pay for this. 1

He glanced back resentfully at Karina’s room too. Well, at least Sylvia was cleaner than that unworthy woman. But neither deserved their lifestyle in his eyes.

Chapter 27 He looks down on you

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Chapter 27 He looks down on you

After the last email exchange where Sylvia had blocked him, Cyril lost all contact with her. He had no idea what she was up to or how to reach her at all.

Meanwhile, the exposing rumors about Karina only intensified, with more sordid details dug up.

Cyril knew this information would inevitably come out and be scrutinized for veracity. While falsehoods could potentially be buried, the truth would always surface eventually.

Having expected this situation, Cyril didn't intend to intervene much. Businessman that he was, he understood what actions benefitted him and which didn't. Clearly aiding Karina brought him no advantage here, so he had no reason to keep getting involved. Still, he had promised her some assistance.

The news coverage was scathing enough that Cyril had Karina issue a public apology under his name, stating she would reflect seriously on past misdeeds and not repeat them.

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But many netizens found this inadequate the statement wasn't even made by Karina herself. Now hiding behind her agency, she expected this to just blow over? They kept demanding she make an in-person apology.

Karina pleaded with Cyril again. "If I do that and get banished abroad, my career here will be over! I worked so hard for what I have you'd just let it vanish easily?"

Cyril gazed at her impassively. He was finding Karina increasingly unrecognizable too.

Gradually Cyril realized the people he knew had transformed beyond his perception. It was as if Sylvia's presence had cloaked their behavior in normalcy before. With her gone, their façades had crumbled away.

He couldn't say if this revelation was good or bad. But knowing it took Sylvia's absence for their true nature to emerge left Cyril deeply disappointed in himself for not seeing through

them earlier.

He recalled Sylvia's past pleas about Karina constantly texting and taunting her, begging Cyril for an explanation and to make it stop, saying she wouldn't intervene between them, just wanting him to put family first.

But Cyril had ignored it entirely, even mocking Sylvia for meddling. How foolish he had been! Sylvia saw their truth long ago yet still strove to shelter his family. With her no longer around to cover for them, their ugliness was laid bare.

Cyril had been in a strange mood the past few days but work obligations continued. He was

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meeting a business associate at a restaurant when a luxury car pulled up.

The restaurant was known for excellent privacy, popular for sensitive discussions. Cyril casually glanced over, then did a double take—out stepped Sylvia, intimately clinging to

Bruce's arm!

They laughed together as Bruce regarded her with a doting smile that seemed out of character. Yet he treated Sylvia with great indulgence.

Why were they together again? Cyril had questions last time but now their closeness bothered him immensely. He knew Bruce's stature. If Sylvia got involved, she could be utterly ruined when his temper turned. After all, they had been family once. Cyril didn't want to see Sylvia throw her life away like this.

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way out.

Hurrying through his business, Cyril lingered by the entrance to catch Sylvia on her She and Bruce were in a private upstairs room. Booking it required significant status and fees Cyril couldn't match yet despite his success.

After waiting almost an hour downstairs, Sylvia finally emerged while talking on her phone, going to the front desk to retrieve a cake she had ordered. Cyril saw his chance.

Catching sight of him, Sylvia inwardly groaned. Why did she have to run into Cyril while trying to enjoy a nice dinner? She ignored him, moving to brush past back inside. But Cyril kept blocking her way no matter where she tried to slip by.

"What do you want? If you're aspiring to be a bouncer, take it up with the manager instead of obstructing me," Sylvia said irritably.

They hadn't had an amicable conversation in a long while. Dialogue between them tended to be fraught nowadays.

"I saw you arrive with Bruce. What's going on there?" Cyril asked.

Sylvia narrowed her eyes. "Who I dine with is none of your business. Don't interfere."



“He’s not right for you. You’ve no clue what Bruce is capable of. If he decides to torment you, you can’t win against him!”

“Oh, is this your way of saying he could never desire someone like me? Well, sorry to disappoint, but Bruce is very taken with me and makes it clear. If you have objections, take it up with him directly,” Sylvia said cuttingly.

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## Chapter 28 Mistress

Sylvia spoke with great confidence. “What joke? Bruce is my brother-in-law. Why wouldn’t he care for me?”

Besides, Cyril was meddling far too much. They were divorced with no relation now. On what grounds did he keep monitoring her actions? Who she dined with was none of his business,

Bruce or not.

Cyril was only trying to warn Sylvia against foolishly getting embroiled with Bruce. But she clearly didn’t appreciate his good intentions.

“I’ll say it again – we’re divorced. I’m nothing to you now. Leave me be!” Sylvia said derisively, shoving past him. She had to get back to her dinner, no time to waste chatting idly with Cyril.

If he had time to trail her dates, he could spend it accompanying his precious darling instead of bothering her!

Cyril was genuinely angry, but he had meant well. Since Sylvia remained unreceptive, he shouldn’t have wasted his breath. She would learn the truth eventually, one way or another.

Having accomplished his goal yet been rebuffed by Sylvia again, Cyril left in a fury, not inclined to linger any longer.

Back in the private room, Bruce noticed Sylvia seemed upset and asked what had happened.

“That man Cyril accosted me outside, can you believe it? He said you look down on me and I shouldn’t be with you. What business is it of his anymore?” Sylvia fumed as she recounted

the incident.

Bruce's brows furrowed. It seemed Cyril had too much free time lately to be harassing Sylvia

like this.

"Nevermind him. Don't let it ruin your appetite. Let's eat," Bruce said, redirecting the conversation. Sylvia was happy to stop talking about that annoying man.

Sylvia enjoyed a peaceful period focused between home and work. Occasionally she went out with Juliet for meals or shopping.

Free of Cyril's pestering, life was carefree. And under Bruce's wing at the company, Sylvia was learning the ropes despite some initial skepticism from others about her credentials. She knew she had to produce results to earn their respect.

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But barely a month had passed before shocking news broke – singer Karina had secretly been a rich man's mistress!

No name was given, but details clearly indicated Cyril. Netizens instantly unearthed old social media posts where Karina hinted at a wealthy, generous boyfriend, Cross-referencing details, the man matched Cyril exactly.

Just as Karina's prior scandals had barely subsided, this sparked an explosive revival plus embroiled Cyril.

As a rapidly rising entrepreneur, Cyril attracted much scrutiny. Many had been eager to partner with him. But such turmoil indicated instability and risk in affiliating with him. Several prospective deals were now paused until Cyril handled this situation.

Preoccupied with Karina's mess already, this added headache blindsided Cyril. His chief concern was whether Sylvia's identity might be exposed. Though likely untraceable as his ex

-wife.

Still, he had to quash rumors of Karina being a homewrecker immediately. Failure to promptly address this could ruin not just her but him too.

The news also reached his mother Michele. She promptly phoned Cyril demanding an explanation.

“What’s all this online about that woman ruining your marriage? I never cared for Sylvia but don’t like Karina either. If you had to pick one to help you, why her? Just look at the vitriol towards her now. However unrelated she may be, ongoing ties with her still jeopardize this family!”

Hearing his mother’s words, Cyril felt somewhat sickened. He had sensed her lack of

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warmth towards Sylvia long ago in Michele’s eyes, Sylvia brought no valuable background

or connections.

Cyril knew his mother was pragmatic, yet was still surprised at how readily she cut ties with Karina over this scandal.

“You welcomed Karina quite warmly into our home recently, Mother. No need for your concern anymore. I will handle this,” Cyril said curtly before hanging up.

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Chapter 29 Apologize

Michele worried after Cyril hung up, but didn’t dare act rashly for fear of worsening things for her son.

The situation was already bad enough. If not directly helping Cyril, she could still target Karina. This scandal was clearly the girl’s fault for inappropriate entanglements over the years. Now she had dragged down Michele’s son too. Unforgivable.

With no hesitation, Michele immediately called to berate Karina.

Karina had been anxious seeing the leaked information too. She hadn’t expected their ties to surface so publicly. While harboring her own agenda, she knew better than to openly

demonstrate designs on the still-married Cyril.

Yet now forced under intense scrutiny, her industry gossip had exploded into public contagion, reputation ruined.

In a panic, she tried contacting Cyril repeatedly but he didn’t answer. Did he plan to abandon her to take the fall alone? Surely he wouldn’t, given the past, Karina desperately hoped...

Unable to reach Cyril, she saw an incoming call from Michele and grew even more nervous. In a sense, they were cut from the same cloth, caring only about personal benefit. This call surely involved the scandal.

Karina rejected it, already expecting threats and curses for embroiling Cyril. Just then she noticed Cyril had posted a statement under his company's name.

It was simple – apologizing for the ongoing public distraction, stating they were swiftly investigating the rumor's origins. It also clarified his relationship with Karina was purely platonic friendship. During his marriage, Cyril fully respected his wife and bore no infidelity, hence Karina could not be considered a mistress.

But despite the prompt statement with seemingly solid explanation, most netizens entirely disbelieved it. If truly unrelated, why had Karina posted so many subtle hints about a rich lover for years? Surely implying special ties with Cyril!

Now people sympathized with the wronged wife, imagining her deep anguish...

Yet the supposedly devastated Sylvia was currently lounging with Juliette under the sunny skies without a care. With a rare day off, she had invited Juliette over to bask lazily instead of going out. They chatted casually while sunbathing.

“Oh my god!”

Chapter 29 Apologize

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Juliette suddenly bolted up, whipping off her sunglasses to stare incredulously at her phone screen which she swiped through rapidly.

Her dramatic reaction made Sylvia jump too before asking nervously what had happened.

“You won't believe what I just saw! Someone exposed evidence of Karina being a homewrecker! Now Cyril's embroiled too! He just released a statement denying everything but people are saying poor you!” Juliette reported excitedly.

Sylvia blinked. Was that all?

“Aren't you reacting at all? This involves you too! Everyone feels so bad for you,” Juliette said, surprised at Sylvia's calmness.

“That's their opinion. How does this concern me though? I'm divorced from Cyril so what use is sympathy from strangers? Can feelings change reality?” Sylvia replied neutrally.

Upon hearing the news, she had already processed the situation completely. So Karina's misdeeds were out along with Cyril's reputation. But she was already free of both, so why should it matter?

Juliette considered then conceded the point. The scandal truly didn't affect Sylvia anymore. They laughed over it together the downfalls of the rumored adulterers were amusing

karma.

"Fine, since you're unaffected, I'll let it go too. But still crazy stuff! Any guess who leaked this?" Juliette asked curiously.

Sylvia just shook her head. She didn't know nor care who did it. She was simply satisfied to see the culpable pair finally facing consequences.

As the central figure, Sylvia conversed lively with Juliette about Karina's behavior over the years, yet seemed oblivious to personally being involved still.

Karina had no one to blame but herself for today's events. When she had no true ties with

Cyril, it was unwise to coyly hint at a smitten, generous admirer for years, one who turned out to already have a wife. Truly a situation of Karina and Cyril's own making, Sylvia

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Chapter 30 Crisin

Happily dissecting the scandal, neither Sylvia nor Juliette noticed Bruce return home until he was standing behind them listening silently.

Hearing Sylvia mock Cyril as scum and recount Karina's suggestive posts over the years,

Bruce relaxed, having worried how the news might affect Sylvia and rushed back to check on her. Seeing her so at ease, he realized his unnecessary concern.

With Sylvia determined to move on from Cyril, she likely wouldn't dwell on matters related to him anymore.

Bruce had hesitated over leaking the mistress story, fearing Sylvia's reaction. But deeming it proper punishment for Cyril's words to her during their dinner run-in, Bruce had taken the risk, anonymously providing salacious hints without hard proof. For

scandals, evidence mattered less than insinuations expertly aimed where damage would occur.

Noticing Bruce, Juliette instantly adjusted her bearing into perfectly poised student before an authority figure. Only her brother could elicit such reflexive propriety from the usually boisterous girl.

Sylvia smiled wryly at Juliette's change in demeanor before greeting her brother, mentioning they were just discussing the news he probably saw.

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"Yes, it was my doing. Are you angry?" Bruce asked.

Sylvia's eyes widened in surprise. Why would she be mad? If anything, she felt gratified at the catharsis.

"Of course not! I'm delighted you helped me vent my frustrations, brother. Thank you," she said sincerely.

It dawned on Sylvia that Bruce had likely acted out of anger from Cyril accosting her at dinner. Her brother had stepped in when that man upset her yet again. Warm fondness for Bruce arose in Sylvia.

Noticing Juliette's discomfort at his presence, Bruce genially made his excuses to leave and allow the girls their privacy. Only once he disappeared from sight did Juliette exhale heavily, gazing lingeringly after him.

"You're practically mooning over my brother. I'll help play matchmaker if you actually like him," Sylvia teased.

Juliette flushed bright red. "Don't spout nonsense! Why would I like that boring man? I have zero interest!"

"Uh huh, sure. That's why you wrote him love letters in high school asking me to pass them along," Sylvia needled wickedly.

Mortified at the resurfaced childhood antics, Juliette protested, "Hey! I never bring up your past with Cyril either! Why poke at my history with your brother?"

Dejected, Juliette added, "Not that I'd stand a chance with him anyway. You've seen his reaction."

Despite her long-held affection, Bruce only regarded Juliette platonically as another little sister like Sylvia.

since you harbor Seeing an opportunity, Sylvia piped up supportively, “Don’t worry, feelings, I’ll help you out! I know my stoic brother seems dull on the surface but he’s actually pretty amusing and considerate once you know him better.”

“No need to sing his praises on my account. Having liked him for so long, I understand his personality fully already,” Juliette interjected wryly.

Sylvia conceded she did tend to go overboard championing her brother. Settling back down, Juliette checked her phone for more entertainment news but bolted upright again.

“Oh my god! Guess what else I found? News broke of your marriage to Cyril! They exposed your identity as his ex–wife! Haven’t traced you back to the Evans yet but still – what do we do?” Juliette asked frantically.

Hearing herself entangled now, Sylvia quickly sat up and grabbed her own phone to check. Why was she suddenly embroiled in this?

It turned out an unknown party had uncovered her brief marriage to Cyril after his denial. statement, even digging up old wedding pictures. Fortunately Sylvia’s true background had remained concealed, with only public–facing details exposed against her will.

Still, the unwelcome attention bothered Sylvia. Who would want aspects of private life randomly broadcasted?

“What is this? How did I get involved when it was Cyril’s and Karina’s mess? Your brother wouldn’t have leaked additional stuff. Can you analyze the photo angle to guess the source?” Juliette asked as she tried vainly to solve the mystery.

But even scrutinizing pictures from a wedding she hadn’t attended, Juliette couldn’t decipher the culprit’s identity. Too much time had passed for Sylvia to sparse guest list of unimportant acquaintances.

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A worrying thought occurred to Juliette then. “Do you think Karina dragged you into this to divert public fire?”