

# **After Divorce, She Becomes the Billionaire Heiress ( Sylvia and Cyril ) Chapter 31-40**

Released on April 23, 2024

## Chapter 31 Wishing Them Happiness

Sylvia was shocked when she heard this. She thought about it carefully and realized it was a possibility.

However...

“I don’t think it could be her. Karina has always looked down on me. Over the years, she has been secretly scheming behind my back. Of course she wouldn’t want me to have any connection with Cyril. As bad as this is for her, there’s no way she would expose this herself. If my identity got out, the public outrage towards her would be even worse.”

Now Sylvia was the biggest victim. As soon as her identity was exposed, there would be indiscriminate attacks on Cyril and Karina online.

Especially Karina. She would likely get the worst of it.

Even though they had never met in person before, they had clashed numerous times over the years.

Every confrontation made Sylvia realize how much Karina cared about her own status. If possible, Karina absolutely did not want anyone knowing about her relationship with Cyril.

So there’s no way she would have exposed this herself. It’s more likely it came from Cyril’s side. But would Cyril really expose his own identity?

“Then who could it be? It can’t be Cyril right? You two are divorced already. Dragging you into this would make things even worse for him. He’s not stupid. Why would he do something like this?”

“You’re right. Neither Cyril nor Karina would have done this. That only leaves one person.”

Sylvia finally realized who the most likely person was to have orchestrated all this. Julie didn’t know who Sylvia meant, but she was curious since Sylvia seemed to have figured it

out.

“Let’s wait until we find evidence before saying anything more. I think the guys will get to the bottom of this soon.”

Sylvia just smiled without explaining further. This didn’t really affect her anymore. No one could find her if she didn’t take a stance or appear herself. But the impact of this on both Cyril and Karina would be huge.

What Sylvia didn’t expect was that the truth would come out so quickly.

After taking a day off, Sylvia went back to work as usual.

Her work efficiency had been pretty good lately. Everyone could see her capabilities. They realized Sylvia was quite competent, so some higher-ups took a liking to her and discreetly looked into her background, discovering she was the eldest daughter of the Ivan family.

That morning when Sylvia was about to enter the company building blocked her way.

a group of reporters

At first Sylvia didn’t think much of it, since reporters would come every day to interview her brother Bruce when he arrived at work. So she assumed they were here for him.

“Excuse me, are you Cyril’s ex–wife? We discovered some information about you online recently and wanted to interview you.”

Sylvia was shocked. She didn’t expect these people were here for her. Had her connection with Cyril already been exposed so quickly?

She hadn’t had a chance to check the online news that morning. It seemed things were worse than she imagined.

“What do you

want?”

Sylvia didn’t intend to give an interview, but she realized if she turned them away today, the reporters would just keep staking out the office entrance for her. She had finally made some progress at work. If those stubborn executives found out, they might try to undermine her. again.

The reporters were relieved when they saw how cooperative Sylvia was being. To be honest, they were quite surprised when they learned she worked at the Ivan family’s company.

The online information made it seem like Sylvia was a nobody who married into a wealthy family and didn't have any skills. But that didn't appear to be the case now.

The Ivan family's company wasn't so easy to get into. You needed top grades, abilities, and to be exceptional in every area.

Basically everyone in this company was extremely capable.

"We received information that you were married to Cyril for three years. Is that correct?"

Sylvia smiled and nodded slightly. The reporters were thrilled it was true and continued questioning enthusiastically.

"So regarding the online rumors of a scandalous relationship between your ex-husband and actress Karina, were you aware or unaware?"

Sylvia carefully considered whether she qualified as aware or unaware.

Seeing she couldn't answer, the reporters perked up. Her silence seemed to confirm things. But was she acquiescing or was she kept completely in the dark?

"So since you can't answer that question, can we assume that Karen was part of the reason you and Cyril divorced?" the reporter asked pointedly.

Sylvia let out a short laugh. "You all should go into detective work instead of entertainment reporting."

So it really was because of Karen. The rumors of her being the other woman were true.

"Do you have anything you'd like to say to the two of them?" Another reporter piped up. His colleagues looked at him incredulously. What kind of loaded question was that? Talk about an awkward situation.

Sylvia was also surprised they'd ask her something like that. She paused for a moment before responding simply, "I guess if you're forcing me, I can only wish them happiness. They should stay committed to each other and stop causing harm."

That was Sylvia's true thoughts. She shouldered past the reporters and headed into her office building to start her workday.

The footage of Sylvia's interview spread rapidly online. Seeing her words, public disdain towards Karen grew even stronger. To think that she could actually do something like this.

In an instant, Karen and Cyril were thrown into the public hot seat again. Meanwhile, Cyril was urgently investigating who was behind leaking all this. Eventually the trail led

back to his own sister, Bonnie. Cyril felt his blood pressure rising in anger. What was his foolish

sister up

to?

Right on the heels of that discovery, Cyril saw Sylvia's interview. He was utterly shocked. He knew clearly that Karen had never interfered with their marriage. So why did Sylvia still think it was her? What was going on here?

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## Chapter 32 Publicity Crisis

Cyril wasn't foolish. He knew clearly that with things having escalated to this degree, Karen must be involved somehow. If she wasn't, Sylvia would never say things like that.

He felt utterly exhausted in this moment. Between his sister and Karen, the two kept causing all kinds of unpredictable trouble for him. It was giving him a pounding headache. Things were not supposed to spiral out of control like this.

He had to get to the bottom of what exactly happened over the course of his marriage to Sylvia. Whether it was his sister, Karen, or even his mother Michelle, what roles did they play?

As for Sylvia, after finishing up with the reporters she headed straight into the office building. The moment she stepped inside, she noticed her coworkers giving her strange looks.

She didn't even need to guess – they must have heard about this morning's fiasco. With the reporters camped outside the doors all morning, of course word spread about her inside. Unexpectedly, her identity was now exposed to them all.

"There you are! Do you know what's been happening? People are gossiping about you. Saying it's suspicious you still have a job here after your divorce," Juliet said, grabbing Sylvia's arm and pulling her to the break room.

"They're even suggesting you must have an inappropriate relationship with your ex-husband. Otherwise how could you still be working at his family's company?"

Sylvia couldn't help but laugh after hearing Juliet's update. "I figured they'd talk behind my back. But I didn't realize they'd come up with such interesting theories. Anyway, what are you doing here?"

At that question, Juliet's smile also faded. She snorted in irritation. "What do think?"

you Since you went back to inherit the family business, my dad doesn't want me fooling around anymore. He's making me join the company too to 'learn'."

"I don't know anything though! So he arranged for me to intern with you. He secretly met with your brother a few days ago and settled it all. Then he informed me this morning and sent me straight here."

Sylvia saw this as a perfect opportunity. "That works out great! You can stay by my side and learn a lot. With me around, there will be less pressure than if you were under my brother.

## Chapter 32 Publicity Crisis

Don't worry, you're the only successor for your family's company anyway."

Juliet understood that reasoning all too well. "I know, I know. So here I am, obediently showing up. For this period I'll be your assistant, learning along the way.

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"Oh right, when I saw your brother earlier he said to send you straight to the conference room when you arrive. We better hurry, it's almost time."

Glancing at her watch, Juliet grabbed Sylvia's hand and rushed them up to the meeting. The two girls slipped in just in time, with Sylvia entirely unaware there was even a scheduled morning meeting.

"Causing such a major publicity crisis for the company, yet sauntering in late. You two really are something else. Especially you, Sylvia. Do you not take this seriously at all?" The words came from Ingrid, an employee seated below Bruce.

Ingrid was also a company shareholder who harbored an intense crush on Bruce. Sylvia knew about it even before her own marriage. Ingrid adored Bruce and therefore refused to accept Sylvia staying by his side through illegitimate means.

In her view, Bruce deserved someone better. She wouldn't stand to see him snatched away. Ingrid would even privately try to sabotage Bruce and Sylvia's relationship.

To Ingrid, Bruce was the one who should be inheriting the company, not Sylvia. If Ingrid wasn't a shareholder, Bruce wouldn't spare her a second glance. Dealing with her endless pestering over the years had brought Bruce endless headaches.

"Did I cause any publicity crisis for the company? All they know is that I work here. But as far as I can tell, no damaging connections to the company were leaked online. If that

counts as a publicity crisis, I may need to relearn the definition,” Sylvia smoothly retorted.

“If I remember correctly, it was you who created a huge scandal three years ago which embarrassed the company and cost us nearly 30 million dollars in damages. Have you paid that money back yet?”

Sylvia would not back down to this woman’s needling. Her every intention lately has been to

cause trouble.

Ingrid instantly froze up at those sharp words, her expression growing stormy as she glowered at Sylvia. No one expected she would know so many company secrets. Clearly Sylvia had an unusually close bond with Bruce.

Seeing his little sister effortlessly prevail, Bruce also relaxed. He wasn’t worried either, fully aware that current public opinion was on Sylvia’s side.

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### Chapter 33 Promotion

“Alright, I’ve called you here today not to listen to your petty arguments, but because Sylvia has made considerable progress lately. I’ve decided to give her a promotion and have her spearhead a project independently. Does anyone have objections?” Bruce tapped the table lightly, redirecting the conversation to the real purpose of this meeting.

He had wanted to give Sylvia a promotion for awhile now, just waiting for the right timing. With her successfully completing a recent project, Bruce felt now was the moment to give her more responsibility and develop her capabilities. For most employees, such a big meeting wouldn’t be needed. But Sylvia was different – as a future heir, Bruce had to get some nominal support from key stakeholders, meaningless as that was.

Ingrid was quick to voice dissent. “I disagree. She’s just a lowly assistant. If all assistants started getting big projects instead of doing their jobs, we wouldn’t need assistants at all!”

The others stayed silent, rolling their eyes internally. Clearly Ingrid didn’t comprehend Sylvia’s special status if Bruce was going through this much trouble for a mere promotion meeting. As businesspeople, what mattered was making money, not who exactly led what project. And they had faith Bruce wouldn’t let the company tank.

“I support Bruce’s decision,” someone echoed..

“Well if you’re having her lead a project, I assume you already decided which one Bruce?” another asked. Knowing Bruce, everything would be meticulously planned already before informing them.

“Yes, I have a project in mind...” Bruce went on to outline handing Sylvia a VP-level temporary role to tackle ongoing challenges with a South City development. Success there would lead to a permanent VP promotion.

Stunned silence followed. They hadn’t expected Bruce to give such a senior position. But South City did require that level of authority.

“You really trust her to handle something so complex?” Ingrid fumed, envy written all over

her face.

Bruce just stared coldly back without answering. Why should he justify anything to Ingrid?

If he didn’t believe in Sylvia, no one would.

As Bruce continued dressing down Ingrid, everyone else stayed mum...realizing again how uniquely high Sylvia ranked for Bruce. The meeting ended shortly after with Ingrid storming off while others shrugged, only caring about profit rather than who specifically was VP.

### Chapter 33 Promotion

Afterwards, Sylvia and Julie gleefully went to decorate her new VP office, laughing over Ingrid’s dramatics. For them, the office felt like a second home where they could come and go freely based on Bruce’s favor.

Yet Ingrid soon arrogantly blocked their way, threatening Sylvia’s role and credentials. Sylvia calmly retorted Julie was her new assistant, perfectly reasonable for a VP. Unable to find faults, a seething Ingrid stormed off again. The girls chuckled, anticipating Ingrid would now pester Bruce instead.

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Chapter 34 If she can do that, so can I!

send me, I'll "Why do I have to go? You're the one who caused this whole mess. If you become the target!" Julie refused. This had nothing to do with her and she didn't want Ingrid getting the wrong idea.

"At this point, she thinks we're in it together anyway so it doesn't matter who goes. And I'm giving you an opportunity here," Sylvia said with a wink, hinting for Julie to use it as a chance to impress Bruce.

Julie flushed red, wondering how much Sylvia knew. But reading her friend's expression, there was clearly more happening behind the scenes. "Fine, I'll head over now. You get to deal with all this on your own!"

Sylvia rolled her eyes as Julie rushed off eagerly, leaving her to arrange the office alone. She almost wished she could witness Julie confronting Ingrid too.

By the time Julie arrived, Ingrid was already inside Bruce's office. Bruce had expected she'd come bother him after that ridiculous meeting. "If this is about Sylvia's promotion, don't waste your breath because it's not changing," he said, not even glancing up from his work.

"You called that meeting claiming to respect us shareholders, then ignored my input! Don't you care what people will say about you favoring her?" Ingrid argued.

Bruce finally put down his pen to scrutinize Ingrid. "Frankly the gossip doesn't bother me if it stays outside this office. But tell me – are you

– are you speaking as a shareholder worried about the company or out of your personal interest in me?"

Ingrid scrambled for words under his piercing gaze before insisting it was all for Bruce's sake and the company's best interests.

Bruce scoffed. "Let's not pretend there's anything between us beyond profit incentives. That's the only metric in business."

Visibly upset, Ingrid changed tactics. "Why her specifically? I can match her contributions. You know I'll always support you, even without monetary gain!"

Bruce was stunned into silence. As if he would ever choose an outsider over family! But before he could respond, Ingrid started removing her clothes, first the jacket then her

blouse underneath.

Bruce froze in dismay. Did she seriously think Sylvia used her body to get ahead? Just then, a knock preceded the door swinging open. Julie walked in, then stopped short at the sight of a half-naked Ingrid.



Unsure what to make of this, Julie first closed the door again. But shouldn't she intervene instead of leaving? Steeling herself, Julie marched back in and slapped Ingrid hard across the face for her audacity.

Shocked by the sharp sting, Ingrid reacted angrily until Bruce inserted himself between the women. "Enough! I won't tolerate violence in my office. Ingrid, get out! Julie, what did you want?"

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## Chapter 35 Get Clarity

As Ingrid geared up to retaliate, Bruce stepped forward to intervene.

"Why are you stopping me when she just hit me!" Ingrid shouted at Bruce. "She's just an assistant daring to attack me!"

Bruce showed no reaction, simply shoving Ingrid back and positioning Julie behind him.

"You deserved it after your behavior here. If those slaps don't knock some sense into you, perhaps I should help the lesson sink in too," Bruce threatened coldly.

Seeing Bruce genuinely angry for once, Ingrid bit her tongue and left with one last glare at Julie.

"Did Sylvia send you?" Bruce asked Julie.

"Yeah, she figured Ingrid would come trash talk her so asked me to run interference. Turns out I arrived just in time before things got worse!" Julie replied, still furious about Ingrid's audacity.

She also felt a pang of sadness realizing Bruce still saw her only platonically like a sister. Why couldn't their relationship progress closer? Putting herself out there with unrequited emotions would be too awkward.

"Your timing was perfect, thanks for the help. I'm sure we've seen the last of Ingrid for awhile at least. You and Sylvia better get to work now," Bruce dismissed.

Julie opened her mouth to finally confess her true feelings, but Bruce had already brushed her off. Crestfallen, she simply nodded and took her leave, glancing back to see Bruce nonchalantly continuing his tasks as if utterly unaffected by what just transpired.

After she had gone, Bruce put down his pen and pressed his fingers to his temple wondering how situations had deteriorated to this point.

Later after work, Sylvia worried over meeting her estranged friend Kelly again. “Are you sure she wants to see me? I thought she wanted nothing more to do with me ever.”

Losing touch after Kelly declared their friendship over if Sylvia foolishly married Cyril had stung deeply. Now that she had woken up, Sylvia desperately hoped it wasn't too late.

“Instead of fretting uselessly now, why didn't you just listen back when Kelly and all of us warned how toxic Cyril was?” Julie pointed out.

Sylvia winced, acknowledging she had been too love-blind at the time to consider consequences. How deeply she regretted that now after the fallout.

## Chapter 35 Get Clarity

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“The past doesn't matter. I just hope Kelly will truly talk to me again,” Sylvia worried.

“Well I wouldn't have arranged this if Kelly hadn't reached out herself. She wants to check if you've gained sanity back. If so, you remain friends. If not, you're through for good.”

Sylvia exhaled in relief. Back then she never cared about preserving friendships. My how perception changed.

They soon arrived at their old haunt, the Tonight club. Kelly was already inside nursing a drink in an oversized white suit giving her an androgynous look accentuated by her short blonde hair. With her boylish style and dominant energy, it was easy to mistake Kelly for a handsome young man at first glance.

So you showing up means you've wised up? Then take a seat. Otherwise don't bother entering again if I have to explain twice,” Kelly stated, putting out her cigarette.

Sylvia quickly nodded. “I absolutely have gotten clarity. No more wasting time on losers!”

Grinning widely, Sylvia rushed over to tightly embrace Kelly, who slowly smiled back signaling acceptance of Sylvia's returned sensibilities.

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## Chapter 36 No drunk, No fun

Sylvia rushed to embrace Kelly, who quickly pushed her away in irritation.

“Don’t get so clingy with me. When you got married, I warned you plenty which you ignored. before cutting me off. Now you just waltz back expecting things to be fine?” Kelly said, still upset over losing touch after working hard to stop Sylvia’s reckless wedding.

Sylvia had blocked them all out, secretly getting her certificate before informing anyone afterwards. The utter betrayal had cut deeply.

Sylvia winced, fully acknowledging her faults back then. “You’re completely right. I was too blind and stubborn, and I’m so sorry I hurt you. Yell at me, criticize me all you want – I totally deserve it and won’t argue back.”

Kelly studied Sylvia, then glanced over at Julie. Clearly Sylvia was here to reconcile relationships, but was it genuine?

“Are you truly repentant, or just pretending so we makeup? Even if you’re over Cyril now, I can’t excuse you severing our bond for him before,” Kelly said bluntly. After years of no contact, she had still been shocked hearing about Sylvia’s divorce.

Sylvia sighed heavily. How awful she had been to make her own friends distrust her sincerity now. “I swear I really mean it this time. The divorce papers prove Cyril is out of my life for good!”

Kelly hesitated, still skeptical.

Julie spoke up. “It’s true I saw the documents myself. And given the public nature of the Karen situation, no way Sylvia would still tolerate Cyril.”

Kelly relented with understanding. As proud women, Sylvia staying with Cyril despite another blatant affair would be impossible to abide.

“I thought you had woken up, but turns out you just reached your limit,” Kelly said, unable to keep some bitterness from seeping out. After relentlessly trying to sway Sylvia before, it stung that another woman succeeded with ease it seemed.

“Please don’t say that! I know I majorly messed up, but I sincerely regret it now. Please just give me one more chance,” Sylvia pleaded, hugging Kelly again.

Kelly felt her resistance softening. She wouldn’t have reached out otherwise if reconciliation. was impossible.

“Just once! Pull crap like that again and we’re permanently through. Good men are plentiful

– we can find you off again.

Sylvia gazed at Kelly gratefully.

Eager to lighten the mood, Julie piped up suggesting they celebrate Sylvia's freedom with endless drinks and eye candy company. Sylvia laughed while Julie quickly backtracked on her eagerness, insisting she held no special interest in Bruce whatsoever despite her transparent behavior suggesting otherwise. The three friends shared amusement over Julie's antics before wholeheartedly embarking on a night of carefree revelry.

Chapter 36 No drunk, No fun

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– we can find you ten times better guys actually caring for you,” Kelly stated, pushing sylvia off again.

Sylvia gazed at Kelly gratefully.

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Released on April 24, 2024

Chapter 37 I'm here for Sylvia

Julie huffed, knowing denial was pointless with how obvious she had become. But still friends teasing her so bluntly for a crush was over the line!

her

“I don't want to play anymore if you're going to be so mean. I'll drink by myself then,” she declared dramatically without actually budging from her seat. The hilarious bluff just made Sylvia and Kelly laugh harder.

Jokes aside, a years-long bond allowed lighthearted ribbing. And while eager to ogle the eye candy, Julie now felt too self-conscious with the others clued in. Sylvia and Kelly kept needling her, amusement growing.

The second round of drinks arrived, momentarily distracting them. Glancing outside, Sylvia's eyes met a familiar face passing by. Jonathan paused to greet her, but Sylvia looked away instantly, body language closed-off.

Surprised by the frigid brush-off after their friendly history, Jonathan figured Sylvia's temper remained foul after the Cyril fiasco. Still, they should at least be cordial acquaintances able to exchange pleasantries.

Just then, Jonathan noticed Sylvia leaning flirtily on another man, seeming extremely intimate. Shocked, could messy breakups with both Cyril and Sylvia stem from them not being exclusive after all?

Unsure what was happening but wanting photographic proof, Jonathan stealthily pulled out his phone when the server next exited the room. Snapping a few quick pictures despite forgetting to disable his flash, Jonathan ducked away just in time before Sylvia noticed.

Safely back in his own room, Jonathan examined the images with satisfaction. They clearly showed Sylvia cozied up without platonically with that unknown guy. Grinning, Jonathan sent them off to Cyril straightaway.

"Some ex-wife you got there, already cuddling new men right after your split. Makes me wonder whose fault the divorce really was- maybe you both weren't so faithful, eh?" Jonathan mocked, eager to see Cyril's reaction.

The flash alerted Sylvia and Kelly someone was photographing them. Checking the hall only to find it empty, they brushed it off without worry whoever it was would gain nothing from the harmless images.

Meanwhile Julie, oblivious to the incident, just whined at them to keep drinking. The three friends continued their night of laughter and bonding late into the night before preparing to depart.

### Chapter 37 I'm here for Sylvia

Right as they stepped out, none other than Cyril stormed up furiously. Kelly bristled, ready to ignore. to unleash years

of pent-up violent urges at this infuriating man. But Sylvia choc Cyril completely, insisting they just leave.

Unwilling to be brushed off, Cyril aggressively grabbed Sylvia's arm to confront her privately. Sylvia shook him off in disgust.

"What the hell is wrong with you? If you have issues, go get help!" she snapped.

Seeing Sylvia carefreely posing with another man so soon after their split had sparked jealous outrage in Cyril. He knew nothing about her social circles, having ignored them when married.

Confused why he even cared post-divorce, Cyril had still impulsively rushed over upon getting Jonathan's pictures, unsure what he aimed to achieve.

Yet Sylvia's open hostility provoked his simmering temper even more. How dare she act like he was a stranger and flaunt her intimacy with other men right in front of him! Did she think so little of him now?

"Who's that guy? Did you leave me for him? I told you there was nothing between Karen and I that should threaten your status. But you were the unfaithful one all along!" Cyril accused angrily.

— you have zero say Sylvia just laughed coldly. "Let me make this crystal clear personal life now. Who I associate with is none of your business!"

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Chapter 38 Targeted

Sylvie would usually try to explain her relationship with Kelly to Cyril, but now that they were over and she was so disappointed in Cyril, she didn't even want to bother.

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Cyril and Sylvie no longer had any relationship, yet he came over demanding answers from her. There had never been an ounce of trust between them in their marriage the lack of trust had been their biggest issue all along.

Sylvie's reaction cut Cyril deeply. Furious that she was being so uncooperative and refused to explain what was going on, Cyril hadn't expected this from Sylvie at all.

"Wow, so you don't think you owe me any explanation huh? Tell me then, what role does he play in our marriage? Did he cause our divorce? What do you get out of being with him instead of me?"

"And what did I get out of being with you? You were always obsessed with Carina, causing problems in our marriage, never taking it seriously. Why should I take you seriously?"

Sylvie laughed bitterly. What nerve did he have interrogating her like this, when he was the one who had messed up their marriage?

"You can't even handle your own issues, so don't come pestering me. Have you dealt with the Carina situation? You keep grilling me but never look at your own problems. Why did we get a divorce in the first place? Do you have no self-awareness?"

Sylvie shoved Cyril angrily after her retort. She walked over to Kelly, deliberately putting her arm around Kelly's waist as they headed out.

Kelly and Juliette glanced back at Cyril as they left, enjoying his stormy expression after being put in his place. It was too amusing seeing Sylvie's ex-husband so worked up.

"Well well, look who can get Cyril all riled up. Now I really believe you've moved on. But why did he come looking for you anyway? Was it because of me?"

Kelly asked Sylvie as they walked away.

Sylvie nodded. "That photo must have been taken by Jonathan. He sent it to Cyril, who thought you were the third party in our marriage. That's why he came demanding if I divorced him for you."

"How laughable. Cyril was the only one who had an affair in your marriage, yet he tries to blame everything on you."

Upon hearing this, Juliette rolled her eyes. Whether Kelly was male or female wasn't the

#### Chapter 38 Targeted

issue Cyril's attitude was infuriating. He never examined his own faults first when

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problems occurred, only seeking to assign blame onto others.

Sylvie sighed in agreement. "That's why I didn't bother with him. He can't even resolve the Carina situation himself yet still wants to harass me. We're already divorced, why does he think I still owe him anything?"

The three women vented about Cyril as they got into their respective cars and headed home.

cause even mor But Sylvie had no idea that Jonathan giving those photos to Cyril would trouble. The next morning, she had just woken up when her phone blew up with calls from

Bruce.

"You awake? What's with those online rumors about you? Is someone intentionally targeting you?"

Still groggy, Sylvie had no idea what Bruce was talking about and struggled to grasp

situation.

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“How much did you three drink last night? I’m asking about those online posts claiming you were intimately close with another man. They’re saying it was an affair, and that’s why Cyril divorced you. Public opinion has completely turned against you now.”

Initially, many people sympathized with Sylvie over the divorce. But after this rumor emerged, instead of sympathizing, public sentiment was that Sylvie had gone overboard.

Finally coming to her senses, Sylvie hastily checked the posts on her other phone. Reading through them, she couldn’t help but laugh bitterly.

She had really underestimated Jonathan. To think he would share those photos online and claim she was improperly involved with another man, insinuating it had gone on for a long time, even during her marriage.

It was practically stating outright that she and Kelly had an inappropriate relationship, leading to her divorce from Cyril. The implications were clear, even if worded tactfully.

“Only we know Kelly is a woman, but whoever leaked those photos

but whoever leaked those photos was definitely trying to target you. Who did you manage to upset? Do you need me to help resolve this?”

“No need. It’s not as bad as you think. I can handle it myself.”

If it was someone else, Sylvie might be more concerned. But since it’s Kelly, she doesn’t care. Kelly is a real woman after all, she just dresses more androgynous. Those people have no credibility in attacking her with this.

“So what’s your plan?”

Chapter 38 Targeted

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“I’ll let this simmer for now. That way the eventual twist will have more impact.”

Bruce laughed ambiguously upon hearing Sylvie’s scheme. He didn’t expect his sister to be so cunning, wanting to stoke the flames for a while before putting them out.

But that’s not a bad idea when people keep targeting you.



“Well if you already have a plan, I’ll leave you to it. But you should check in with Kelly’s family, see how they want to handle this.”

After all, this impacted Kelly too. No telling how her family feels...

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## Chapter 39 Scandal

Who knows how angry Kelly felt seeing those photos this morning. She couldn’t believe her relationship with Sylvie was being distorted like this.

What was that photographer thinking? You can clearly tell Kelly is a woman. Yet they take these misleading pictures to imply something inappropriate between them.

What inappropriate relationship? They’ve known each other for so long. If anyone has an inappropriate relationship, it’s Cyril with someone else. What does that have to do with her? “That jerk went too far insulting me like that. He must not be afraid of me teaching him a lesson!”

Sylvie didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. She knew Kelly could be dramatic but didn’t expect her to be this upset.

“Calm down, calm down. I just got a call from my brother. Do you want to deal with Cyril now or let this simmer more before we get back at them?”

Sylvie tried to pacify Kelly.

When Kelly first saw those photos she was ready to attack Cyril. Thankfully she had some self-control left and called Sylvie first. Hearing Sylvie’s suggestion helped ease her anger slightly since she wasn’t taking Cyril’s side.

“What’s your plan? Also, you know the photographer right? Please tell me you have dirt on

him.”

Sylvie chuckled. More than just dirt, she knew a lot about Jonathan.

“I know plenty.”

That short statement fully satisfied Kelly. If that was the case then she’ll wait for Sylvie’s counterattack.

“Fine. I expect a satisfactory answer from you. If not, don’t stop me from taking matters into my own hands.”

After they hung up, Sylvie mused over this wonderful gift from the heavens.. She’ll have to take full advantage and not rush to resolve this immediately.

She got ready and headed to work, though the rumors online were spreading too rapidly. All sorts of gossip about her was circulating.

The gossip grew increasingly outrageous from various sources. Though no one dared say

anything to Sylvie’s face, she chose to ignore the hearsay.

Julie came to work today too. Furious upon hearing the rumors, she tried to confront the gossipers several times only to be held back by Sylvie.

“Why aren’t you angry? What they’re saying is way out of line. You can’t just let this go!”

Julie was exasperated. She knew Sylvie was waiting for the right chance to strike back. But even so, she can’t just sit by watching her reputation get shredded, right?

Sylvie laughed wryly. Who said she was ignoring this? After the recent fermentation online, she’d been bombarded with relentless verbal abuse. Meanwhile Cyril hadn’t said a word, likely convinced that she was behind this whole fiasco.

That’s why Sylvie prepared a special gift for those two.

“Come with me.”

Sylvie grabbed Julie’s hand and walked into her office. As Vice President she had her own office now instead of sharing with Bruce. Plus there were some things she didn’t want Bruce knowing since she started this mess herself. Naturally she had to resolve it on her own.

Julie was still upset but also curious what Sylvie had in store. So she followed her into the office. Sylvie took out a file and handed it to Julie.

“Take a look.”

Julie flipped through a few pages before her eyes went wide. She didn’t think it was a big deal before but this was shocking. Way more interesting than the current gossip about Sylvie online. She couldn’t wait to see people’s reactions when Sylvie releases this.

“When do you plan on leaking this stuff?”

“I already did, half an hour ago.”

Upon hearing that, Julie immediately whipped out her phone. She had to see what was happening online...

After Sylvie leaked everything, Kelly immediately reacted to boost her response to the top trending posts, ensuring maximum visibility.

For a while, they saw just how promiscuous Jonathan was, cavorting with other women even the day before his wedding. And after he married, he continued frequenting shady establishments, abandoning his wife again and again. He even forced her to get an abortion at one point.

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secure I resources for her,

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and all kinds of things the leaked documents contained extensive details.

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Especially during his marriage, Cyril went on several “business trips” that turned out to be secret rendezvous with Karina instead. There were photos of them dining intimately like a pair of lovers, when he was supposed to be a married man.

After the document dump, Sylvie posted a photo of herself with Kelly and wrote:

“I’ve always believed people should have the freedom to choose whether to be a gorgeous girl or a handsome girl. If even that freedom gets labelled by others, then there must be some malice in their hearts...As for Mr. Jonathan secretly photographing us and spreading rumors without consent, Kelly and I have chosen not to pursue the matter this time. Consider this a mild warning. I hope Mr. Jonathan can mind his own business instead of

scrutinizing others – he’s no cleaner. I also ask Mr. Cyril to have himself. Rumors fade

before the wise any issue should be examined from one’s own conduct first before blaming others.”

After posting this long tirade, Sylvie calmly logged off.

But her reveal was too shocking. By dropping it at the peak of the public frenzy towards her, then methodically backing it up with evidence, she completely turned the tables.

Kelly instantly re-posted it all, pairing the documents with photos of her evolution from long haired beauty to short haired handsome girl.

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She was effectively endorsing Sylvie's counterattack.

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When these statements came out, it shocked everyone. They didn't expect the truth to be like this had they misunderstood Sylvia?

In no time, public opinion turned against Jonathan. Everyone online was cursing out Jonathan and Cyril.

Although they didn't really understand how this related to Cyril, since Sylvia exposed it, it must have to do with him.

So even though Cyril didn't do anything, because of Jonathan's reckless actions, he was caught up in the online backlash too.

The most obvious impact was on both families' companies, which faced direct consequences. Seeing all this, Cyril felt an immense headache. He quickly reacted, apologizing online.

[Cyril: Regarding Ms. Sylvia's statements, parts of it are true. The fallout was due to my oversight, which led to the severe damage to Sylvia's reputation. I sincerely apologize here, and will learn from this incident and properly ask Jonathan to apologize.]

Cyril didn't deny what happened in the past. But in his view, he and Caroline had no other relationship. However, he knew that excessively explaining their relationship online wouldn't convince people.

Cyril was used to handling things perfectly, never leaving any handles. So he wouldn't keep explaining the past, as that could leave more negative impressions.

He figured Sylvia was furious he didn't stop Jonathan's misdeeds despite knowing about them. That's why she exposed everything. But he truly never expected Jonathan's private

escapades.

Although many still cursed Cyril after his apology, his timely response salvaged his

reputation somewhat. Plus, Cyril had solid business acumen, so combined with PR tactics, his side basically avoided further issues.

While Cyril was fine, things weren't good for Jonathan at all.

Seeing the online posts, Jonathan panicked. He admitted being scummy, keeping ties with certain women after marriage. But he never outright betrayed his marriage. Yet now his wife asked for divorce over this incident!

Theirs was a business marriage; divorce would damage both families. But his wife requested it without hesitation, indicating she found the situation completely unacceptable.

Since divorce was major, Jonathan expected her family would refuse. But not even 30 minutes after the news broke, they called saying they'd terminate all cooperative ventures and partnerships – the marriage was over!

Jonathan was dumbfounded that they actually wanted divorce. Furious that he never wanted marriage in the first place and now had no say in divorce either, he refused to agree no matter what.

His wife's side was even more nonchalant. Disagree all he wants, they'll just drag things out until the divorce finalized.

After this incident, Jonathan's family company was also greatly impacted, not to mention his own reputation lying in tatters. He became the target of public vitriol.

Everyone online hurled abuse at Jonathan, condemning him for bullying others with a mere photo and his past disrespect toward his wife.

With the photos leaked, Jonathan had a pounding headache. Family and media endlessly called demanding what he planned to do.

Left with no choice, Jonathan ran to Cyril. But apologizing was absolutely impossible.

"You don't want to bow your head. You didn't even verify that photo before releasing it and causing this huge mess. Now you don't want to apologize?" Cyril was shocked hearing Jonathan refuse to back down, still convinced he did nothing wrong.

saw it.

No matter how Cyril apologizing was Jonathan's only option now. Yet he clung stubbornly to the matter. What's more, given Sylvia's other evidence, were Jonathan him, he would never provoke Sylvia right now. He would sincerely apologize so the matter could pass, since they were indeed at fault first here.

Hearing Cyril say this, Jonathan stared in disbelief.

“What nonsense are you spewing?” Jonathon fumed. “Don’t you know I only did this for your sake? Did you see Sylvia gloating as if she’d gained some leverage over me? So what if I have to divorce? I couldn’t care less about this marriage anyway. And after all she’s put you through, you just apologize at the drop of a hat? Aren’t you selling yourself short? I’m telling you, give her an inch and she’ll take a mile. You absolutely cannot back down on this!”

Cyril rolled his eyes in exasperation. “Look, if you don’t want to apologize, fine. But don’t come crying to me. I just managed to smooth things over and now people will accuse us of scheming against Sylvia behind the scenes if you keep this up.”

“You’ve gone too far. So what if you divorce? You can’t stand to see her suffer a little? And

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now you want me to apologize? I’m telling you there’s no way I’ll apologize for this!” Jonathon was dead set on fighting Sylvia to the bitter end, not just for Cyril’s sake, but for his own as well.