

CHOSEN 1771

Chapter 1771

Damon gently stroked her hair, nodding "Sure, whatever you say There's a lot to be happy about. For example, I'm the wealthiest, and our little ones will only grow up in the best emoronments, perfect in every way right?"

Thinking about their children's worry-free future, a bright light gradually ignited in Chloe's eyes. She was determined to love them dearly, very, very much. She wanted to watch them grow from infancy, providing them with the best genes, the best life, and the most abundant love.

Nothing was more important than their babies now.

it was evident that Chices emotions had genuinely shifted at this moment. Damon kissed the tip of her nose, feeling reassured, but there was still a hint of jealousy lingering in the end it was those two little rascals that mattered most

Elizabeth and the others didn't take long to rush over. When they returned to the hotel last night, they didn't find Damon and Chloe. They later learned that the couple had returned to P City overnight Upon seeing the overwhelming news on the Internet, they rushed back in a hurry.c2

Just as Damon finished comforting Chloe. Elizabeth stormed into the room. "Chloel"

As Damon stood up, he was nudged aside by Elizabeth She looked Chloe over from head to toe before placing her hand on Chloe's belly, her face filled with worry. "Are you alright?"

Chloe calmed down a warm feeling gradually emerging "I'm fine"

Elizabeth's eyes started reddening. Don't pretend to be strong for my sake. I don't care how resilient you were in the past, but now you're as fragile as porcelain, you understand? You're pregnant and vulnerable to mood swings. This isn't something you can just shrug off Do you know how many

pregnant women suffer from prenatal depression? Your priority now is to take care of yourself, you silly girl. What if something happened to you? How would I explain it to your mother? Of course, my grandchildren are also important

The daughter in law was important, and so were the grandchildren. She had to treat them equally

Elizabeth sobbed loudly, while Chloe patted her back gently, her voice filled with soothing tones, "I'm fine now. I'll take care of myself *

Despite Chloe's soothing words, Elizabeth continued to sob, complaining "Do you know how worried I've been lately? Could you please be more careful? You're such a handful daughter-in-law I'm nearly dying from the stress you've caused"

Her sobbing sounded heartbroken, as if she had suffered a great injustice Chloe continued to console her, "Im sorry. It's my fault. I won't be like this anymore, I'm sorry"

Damon was taken aback, wondering who was the pregnant one here? The woman he just comforted was now comforting someone else?

Eventually Elizabeth was comforted by Chloe and lay against her chest, hiccuping from her recent sobbing

Outside the villa. Royce offered Damon a cigarette. The two stood tall and silent for a long while before Damon finally broke the silence with a chilly voice. "Control your wife Who's the pregnant one here?"

Royce took a drag from his cigarette. "You should control your wife too. Don't make my wife upset and angry. If it weren't for her being your wife, do you think I'd let her off so easily?"

Damon's face visibly grew grim, "Why don't you control your father? Who do you think caused this situation?"

Royce tugged at the corner of his mouth, "You're quite capable yourself. Do you think you can control your father?"

Damon chuckled coldly took a casual drag from his cigarette, turned his head towards Royce and said, "Wanna try?"

Royce extinguished his cigarette and tossed it into a nearby trash can. He placed his hands in his pockets, turned his head to Damon, and said, "Let's go."

Damon did the same with his cigarette, "Let's go

The two men eyed each other for a few seconds before turning to head to the backyard for a spar But then, they heard Elizabeth's nasal voice from the doorway "Honey. Chloe's hungry She wants your chicken pie

Royce paused and turned to look at Elizabeth. Her eyes were still red. When she saw him looking, she grinned, "I recommended it to Chloe. I told her your cooking skills are top-notch Chloe admires you a lot

When Royce wasn't budging Elizabeth pursed her lips and added, "I kind of want some, too"

A helpless smile played on Royce's handsome face. Eventually, he turned around and headed inside, with Elizabeth following behind him, chuckling, "Honey, your cooking is delicious I miss your cooking."

"Mhm, I know"

"You're so good, honey On behalf of our daughter-in-law, thank you"

"Stop using her as an excuse

"Hehehe"

Well, Damon didn't even need to show up. With just a few words from a woman, his dad was under control. There was no challenge at all

He was about to go inside to accompany Chige, but remembering he just smoked, he stayed outside to let the smell of smoke dissipate

A few minutes later, a blue sedan slowly pulled up outside the mansion Damon squinted as a slender figure stepped out of the car

“Huh? Did you know I was coming and decided to greet me in advance?”

Damon frowned. “What are you doing here?*

Rose stepped up onto the porch, “Of course, I came to see my dear Chloe Mr. Damon, do you realize the consequences of making a pregnant woman upset?”

Rose passed by Damon and walked straight into the living room.

“Chloe”

“Rose”

Two excited voices sounded one after the other. Damon furrowed his brows, not looking pleased, but he still didn't go in. He stood at the entrance for over ten minutes until another car pulled up outside. Nathan got out of the car holding Anya, followed by Yulia.

Nathan “Well, look who's waiting for us. We're humbled by your welcome, bro

Any's Damon Are your wife's babes doing well?

Damon Hown Chian

As they entered the house, Chloe's surprise echoed through the room.

"Yulia? Anya"

"Hello, Chloe"

'Chloe. Hug

"Chloe, I'm still here, you know" Nathan protested, feeling ignored

Damon sighed Though he found none of them particularly endearing, as long as Chloe was happy, that was all that mattered to him. His emotional state was hardly important

However, it seemed everyone else agreed on that as well. His feelings weren't that important.

The afternoon slipped away as they chatted and laughed together.

At dinner time, Rose decided to sit next to Chloe, effectively taking Damon's place. The women and child at the table left no room for the men to contribute to the

conversation

With Anya around, there was never a dull moment in the house. Elizabeth naturally adored the child, finding her incredibly cute Anya's occasional hilarious remarks had everyone in fits of laughter.

Rose and Chise both expectant mothers, were overflowing with maternal affection Seeing Anya, they imagined their own babies being just as adorable.

The cheerful atmosphere persisted until late night, when everyone decided to stay

Rose Tm sleeping with Chloe tonight”

Damon’s face darkened. “Go back to your guest room.”

Rose scrunched up her face, “Why so mean? It’s not like you can do anything with Chloe now that she’s pregnant. Can’t you just let me sleep with her tonight?”

Damon’s expression left no room for argument. Chloe looked at him apologetically, “Maybe you could just

Before she could finish Damon’s gaze drilled into her His look clearly said, “Dare to finish that sentence”

Chloe shrunk back looking incredibly wronged

Upon seeing this. Elizabeth frowned. “What are you doing?! How can you be so mean to my daughter-in-law?! Don’t you know she’s pregnant? Now that you’ve got her, you think you can be a jerk?! You’re a scumbag!”

Damon grimaced Chloe quickly got up to calm him down. “Don’t say that Damon is really nice. He’s not...”

Elizabeth wouldn’t hear of it. “I don’t care Yelling at your wife, especially a pregnant one? If that’s not being a scumbag, what is?”

Damon’s face was now indescribably unpleasant.

Chloe patted Damon’s chest. “Don’t be mad. I think you’re great, really great.”

“Chloe stop pampering him. Men can’t be spoiled, you know? They’ll walk all over you. Tonight, you’re sleeping with Rose If not, I’ll join you”

At this point, the silent Royce finally put down his glass and stood up, lifting Elizabeth off the ground

“Hey what are you doing? I was just lecturing that brat! No, put me down. I want to sleep with Chloe and Rose tonight”

“Why are you butting in? You’ll just get in the way of their sisterly chat”

“Well, night”

Damon once again felt that his father was a cunning old fox.

“Anya wants to sleep with Chloe and Rose too Yulipop should join us.”

Nathan, casually reclining on the couch, raised an eyebrow at the excited Anya. “The bed’s too small. Can’t fit everyone.”

Anya pouted at Nathan’s comment Damon smirked, adding, “Anya’s small. She can squeeze in. But your Yulipop can’t.”

At this Yulia’s smile turned stiff, and she tensed up a bit.

Anya looked torn, thinking for a while before finally speaking Then Yulipop can sleep with big Nathan, and Anya will sleep with Rose and Chioe.”

Yulia didn’t expect Anya to switch sides so quickly. This little traitor

Anya. Rose and Chloe can’t sleep with kids now They’re carrying babies, and you might hurt them in your sleep”

Nathan interjected. Anya sleeps like an angel

Anya nodded vigorously, "Yeah, yeah, I'm a good girl."

Yulia "That's not okay Anya"

Anya's face fell, looking like she was about to cry Rose, sitting next to Anya, couldn't stand to see her upset and quickly hugged her it's alright. Anya, don't cry. You can sleep with me tonight'

With tears in her eyes, Anya looked at Yulia pitifully Yulia felt awkward but Nathan just nodded Since Rose said it's okay, you can stoep with her"

Anya clapped her hands in joy Rose shot Nathan a look and rolled her eyes. What a transparent scheme Nevertheless, shu reassured Yulia, "Dont worry, it'll be fine Think of it as a trial run for me as a mother'

At this point, it would be awkward if Yulia continued to refuse Finally, she relented, "You have to behave, Anya If you don't, I'll bring you back here

Anya nodded earnestly, clinging to Rose and refusing to let go.

Nathan put away his phone and got up from the couch, "It's getting late. Let's go to bed

The next moment. Yulia found her wrist grabbed and she was pulled up from the couch Chloe looked at her, causing Yulia to blush and tower her head

Watching Yulia and Nathan leave, Chloe smiled slightly, rather curious about their unique dynamic it seemed that Nathan was only like that around Ya But then again, someone with Yulias personality indeed needed a more assertive man.

Chloe, let's go Let's hang out in the room Rose pulled Anya to her feet

Without missing a beat, Damon wrapped his arms around her, preventing her from moving. Chloe was silent for a moment before looking up at him, and asked tentatively, "How about I go chat with Rose for a while, and come back to the room later. I want to have a heart-to-heart with Rose."

A dull headache began to form between Damon's brows as Chloe stared up at him with puppy dog eyes. Left with no choice, he was the one to back down. "Just for a bit, I'll wait for you."

Chloe nodded slightly. "Okay."

Yulia found herself being led upstairs by Nathan, her heart pounding as if it was about to leap out of her chest.

Chapter 1772

Yulia had just found out about Chloe's predicament earlier in the day when she had overheard some colleagues discussing it at work.

With all that had happened, she had to check on her. However, she had not expected Nathan to bring Anya to the office to see her. After hanging up the phone, she rushed downstairs, and then straight to where they were.

The Harper family had been strained due to the recent troubles with Nathan's older brother, and she couldn't help but wonder what was going on in his mind. She hadn't seen him recently, and only found out he had also attended the Global Economic Summit from a post on social media.

Just as these thoughts were swirling in her mind, the sound of a door opening disrupted her thoughts, followed by her being yanked into a room.

Nathan seemed to have no concept of gentle handling, his force matching his robust physique. As the door slammed shut behind him, Yulia stood by the entrance, her heart pounding in the quiet room now occupied by just the two of them.²

"When did you get back to P City?" she asked.

“Last night, Nathan replied. “I was too tired and just found a place to crash

Yulia nodded. “I saw that you were also at the Global Economic Summit

Before she could finish her sentence, she was abruptly pushed against the door once again. A gasp of surprise was stifled as Nathan’s lips descended onto hers.

I’ve missed you so much. You damn woman.”

His kisses were relentless, his lips entwining with hers, leaving no room for air. His urgency and ragged breaths sent a chill down Yulia’s spine.

Unable to move due to his strong hold on her she found herself drawn in by his masculine scent, slowly reaching up to hold onto his shoulders.

Their bodies pressed together, her soft curves and his hard muscles seeming to fit together perfectly. The clothes on Yulia’s body were ripped and disheveled, Nathan showing no patience as he quickly unbuttoned her shirt. His hold on her tightened, and with a growl, he lifted her up and threw her onto the bed.

Yulia hurriedly propped herself up, her hand on his shoulder, her lips vibrant and dewy red. “Wait. I haven’t freshened up.”

“Don’t care Fuck Nathan grumbled bending down to nuzzle her neck. “You smell good even without taking a shower”

His voice was filled with longing. These past few days had been torturous for him, and the thought of her face, her soft body, and her gentle scent had been driving him crazy This was a golden opportunity, and he was determined to make the most of it.

Yulia blushed at his words, but was helpless against his assertiveness

Chloe had brought Rose a set of pajamas and planned to bathe Anya. But when Anya saw the pajamas, she wanted one too and ran out of the room while Chloe and Rose weren't looking

However, once outside, she didn't know where Yulia's room was. She ran to the room at the end of the hallway and knocked on the door.

Damon thinking it was Chloe coming back, answered the door only to find no one there.

"Damon, I'm here"

A tender voice made Damon lower his head. When he saw the little one at his feet, he furrowed his brows slightly, his voice turning cold. "What are you doing here?"

Anya was a little scared of him, but she still clung to his leg, looking up at him with wide shining eyes.

"I want to find Yulipop. I want pretty pajamas too."

Damon raised an eyebrow, looking down at Anya.

Such a tiny thing He wondered if his daughter would be like this.

He pursed his lips, suppressing his thoughts, and after watching her for a while, he suddenly bent down and picked her up. His face was expressionless, his aura overwhelming Anya, although she obediently clung to his shoulders, was a little stiff

Damon raised an eyebrow. "I'll take you to your mom sister"

Anya nodded happily. "Yes, to find Yulipop Yulipop will definitely have pretty pajamas for me."

Just as Nathan had managed to unbutton Yulia's jeans, his face turning dark. "Can't you just wear a skirt?"

Yulia bet her lip shyly. "It's cold"

Nathan clicked his tongue impatiently. "Then those women on the street.

Yulia looked at him, and Nathan paused, "Are they all crazy? Wearing skirts in this weather just to show off?!"

Yulia wasn't sure whether to be happy or angry

Just as he was about to feast on the woman he had been longing for, there was a knock at the door.

Yulia quickly pulled up the blanket and buried herself in it

Nathan watched as the warm woman he was just holding slipped away cursing under his breath 'Damn it! Who is it?

Who would dare to knock on the door at this time! Didn't they know it was dangerous to disturb a man and a woman alone in a room?

"Open the door"

Damon's cold voice came through the door, causing Nathan to roll his eyes "Motherfucker, this must be intentional revenge"

"Nathan, Nathan, it's Anya Open the door"

Anya's voice rang out, causing Yulia to sit up in bed, hurriedly picking up her clothes from the floor and putting them on.

Nathan walked over to the door and opened it, seeing Damon holding Anya in his arms, his face as sour as could be, his tone even more so. What do you want?"

Damon gave him a brief glance His belt was missing and his shirt had two buttons undone, his hand resting on the door frame, the crumpled shirt making him look em more disheveled

Nathan went to great lengths to distract Anya, hastily taking the woman away, and now with this attitude, it was clear that things didn't go as planned

Grinning he uncharacteristically handed the girl over to Nathan with a contented mood. "She wants to sleep in her pajamas. Have Yulia find her some

fiathan's mouth twitched, "Where would we have her pajamas?"

Damon raised an eyebrow "Are you asking me?"

Nathan gritted his teeth, Tm asking myself"

"After she's dressed, remember to take her over to Rose. If they can't find her, they might go knocking on doors. Don't worry them too much."

Anya, with her chubby little arms around Nathan's neck, stared at him with wide, innocent eyes. She patted the exposed skin on Nathan's neck and asked, "Nathan, aren't you

cold?

Nathan pursed his lips, turned, and went straight into the room.

Damon smiled to himself, feeling a sense of satisfaction it was about time Nathan experienced the frustration of being interrupted

When Nathan entered the room with Anya, Yulia was already fully dressed, though her face was still flustered. Seeing that it was only Nathan carrying Anya, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Nathan said coldly. "She insists on sleeping in pajamas

"We have some Elizabeth prepared them for Anya Yulia nodded, turned around, and began searching in the closet

Nathan sat on the bed with Anya, tapping her head lightly Why the fuss about pajamas? It's more comfortable to sleep naked, you know?"

Anya pouted, "But Rose and Chloe have beautiful pajamas, and I'm a girl, so of course, I need to be pretty"

At this point, Yulia had found the pajamas She took Anya from Nathan, her face glowing with a gentle and soft smile. "Right, Anya is always pretty Look, this is the fluffy pink kitty pajamas grandma prepared for you. Isn't it beautiful?

Anya nodded, extending her arms to let Yulia help her get undressed "It's beautiful. Grandma has great taste"

Yulia's smile deepened.

Nathan simply lay down on the bed, propping his head with his hand as he watched the two

Yulia's movements were natural and skilled, and her face always had a calm and gentle expression when dealing with Anya

This woman, despite her stiff and humorless work persona, was entirely different at home She was gentle, especially when held in his arms.

Everything about her was enticing, even her slightly swollen, glossy lips from their earlier encounter, and her wrinkled shirt. The hastily buttoned garment was not as neat as usual, revealing her delicate collarbones, which drew his gaze as she helped Anya change

Nathan swallowed hard, feeling the heat rising again.

“All done Yulia, focused on Anya, didn’t notice Nathan’s reaction. Seeing Anya in her new pajamas, looking pink and adorable, Yulia’s smile became even brighter “Very pretty”

Anya jumped off the bed and stood in front of the full-length mirror in the room, twisting her little body to check out her new look, looking exceptionally happy

Nathan raised an eyebrow, suddenly sprang up from the bed, and picked up Anya “Let’s go find Chloe and Rose.”

“Stop pulling me The pajamas wont be pretty anymore.” Anya protested, squirming in his hold

“Such a fuss” Despite his complaint, Nathan carried Anya towards the door

Nathan’s rough handling of children was something Yulia had gotten used to. The reason she was silent now was that she had already talked to him several times about this matter, but he hadn’t changed Later, when it seemed that Anya was okay with it, she let him be

He should know his limits

As soon as Nathan stepped out the door with Anya, he saw Rose and Chloe in the hallway. Seeing him with Anya, their worried expressions relaxed

Nathan set Anya down, watching as the two women hurried over

“Cant the two of you keep an eye on one child? When you have your kids, could you handle them? Maybe you should hire a few more nannies to help otherwise, you might actually lose the children”

Rose and Chloe were left speechless by Nathan's reprimand. Indeed, Anya had just been in the room and then suddenly she was gone.

This was at home. What if they were outside? They didn't even dare to think about it.

Nathan crossed his arms, "You're both about to be mothers, get a grip. You think being a mom is easy? There's a lot to learn. You've got a few months. Better start learning." Rose frowned at Nathan, giving him a hard stare. "You sound like an old woman, always nagging. Are you frustrated because your desires aren't met? Yulia, Yulia!"

She suddenly shouted, and Yulia came running. "What's wrong, Rose?"

Rose gestured towards Nathan, "This guy's frustrated. You need to take care of him."

Caught off guard, Yulia glanced at Nathan and blushed.

Chloe rubbed her temples in exasperation. Frustrated? Taking care of him? What had Rose been through to make her so bold?

As Yulia, at a loss for words, blushed, Chloe pulled Rose away. "Let's go back to our room, wash up and rest."

Anya looked up at Nathan, with a worried expression on her face. "Nathan, are you sick? If so,

I can stay and take care of you."

Nathan quickly grabbed Yulia's hand, pulling her into the room. "No need, you go sleep with them. Your sister can take care of me just fine."

With a sense of urgency, he closed the door behind them. Only then did Nathan breathe a sigh of relief.

Anya was like a ticking time bomb

Across the table, Yulia couldn't help but chuckle at Nathan's tense demeanor in her presence, Nathan always exuded a fearless and domineering aura. So, it was quite a shock to see him rattled by a single sentence from Anya

Her laughter inevitably grated on Nathan's nerves Swiftly his strong hand clasped her waist, pulling her into his embrace He leaned in close he warm, demanding breath pressing down on her. "Laughing at me. huh?

A blush crept up on Yulias cheeks "Yeah."

Nathan paused for a moment, "You've grown bold, haven't you?

Yulia shot him a teasing glance. "It's you who..

Before she could finish her sentence, she found herself being lifted up. Seconds later, she was tossed onto the bed

"Tm not here for your amusement. Tonight, you'll make it up to me"

Yulia's eyes sparkled as she watched the man bearing down on her. She was no fool. From the beginning of the evening, she knew she couldn't escape a wild night with him.

Chapter 1773

While Yulia was energetically treating Nathan, Damon sat alone on his bed, freshly washed and scrolling through emails on his tablet. Compared to the lively scene next door, it was a rather lonely sight

Meanwhile, Chloe and Rose had just given Anya a bath and were now laying on their bed, playing with her and chatting

“Actually, Nathan is right. Being a mother is not an easy task. We do need to learn more about how to be a good mother” Rose said, her slender fingers gently stroking Anya’s soft baby face. Her eyes were filled with warmth

Chloe nodded in agreement. “Yes, indeed”

“So” Rose sighed and looked at Chloe. All our attention should now be on our babies. Nothing else matters, not now, not in the future “c2

Chloe’s gaze remained on Anya as she spoke, she then smiled and said, I understand, you don’t need to nag me like Nathan does”

Rose glanced at her feeling a bit annoyed “You are aware of how much you’ve been worrying us, right? You’re pregnant now, and you are the future mother of two children. You’re not the same person you used to be Can you be more careful?”

Chloe conceded. “Alright, alright I won’t be so careless again.”

Rose gave her a look, “You, my dear, need to be watched from all angles.”

“What about you? Chloe suddenly shifted the topic to Rose, ‘Dont forget that you’re also pregnant, and yet you’re still going to the office every day”

Rose’s hand, which had been gently stroking Anya’s face, paused. She adjusted her position and stared at the ornament hanging on the wall opposite, murmuring “Being at home alone is worse than being at the office. There are lots of people there and once I get busy I don’t feel much of anything”

When she was alone at home, even if there was nothing wrong she would make something out of it

Chloe felt a pang in her heart, “Have you and Morrison really not had a serious talk?”

Rose shook her head and chuckled lightly, "About what? We're married, and he agreed to have the child. Maybe he thinks that he's made a huge concession. What else should I expect from him? I can't push too hard."

"What do you mean push too hard? Chloe frowned, her changing expression causing Anya to look a little scared

"Children don't just come along when you want them to. Would we be in this situation if it wasn't for his recklessness? Since he decided to be responsible at first, he should take responsibility until the end. You're pregnant now, and he's the father of the child. Has he thought about how he's going to face this child in the future?"

Rose's eyes flickered slightly, a hint of pain flashed across her face "Forget it, that's his problem Right now, I just want to focus on having the baby if I force him to stay with me, the stress might kill me before the baby is even born. It's better this way, and I can focus all my energy on the baby. I can start learning how to be a good mother now, and when the baby is born, I'll do my best to be a good mom. Maybe over time, I'll see things more clearly"

Chloe was silent for a moment. She looked at Rose, her eyes filled with sympathy and sadness, even though she tried to hide it. "Rose. I really regret letting you marry Morrison

Rose shrugged, pretending to be nonchalant, "I don't. Chloe, every woman meets a few jerks in her life and gets blinded by love at some point. I've had my fair share Morrison is a jerk, but I am blinded by love. I know that once you miss out on something in life, it's gone forever. He was my youthful obsession, or maybe my obsession for the first half of my life So I don't regret it. At least I had him"

"What about your future?"

"My future? Maybe I'll change my mind. If not, I'll just live with you."

Chloe smirked. "Sounds good, let's do that"

Rose smiled, "I bet your husband would have me killed"

Chloe smirked again, "He won't"

But whether he would do something else, she didn't know

"Look at you, your face lights up every time we talk about him Rose teased, "But I'm glad you're happy. You deserve a better man, and Damon is indeed the ideal man. But i have to say he really keeps surprising everyone. From a self-proclaimed kept man to the founder of a top international company. Wow. You really do have the best man in the world, Chloe"

Chice's smile deepened, "I was also shocked when I first found out"

"That's why it's great to be your friend. Now I'm friends with a super-rich woman. Remember to help me out when I need it."

"No problem"

Anya laid between them, watching Rose and then Chloe, having a great time. She couldn't understand or joining in their conversation, so she had to entertain herself Seeing their slightly round bellies, she curiously touched Chloe's

Chloe noticed this and looked down at her

"Nathan told me that you have two cute babies in your tummy. When will they come out to play with Anya?"

Chloe looked at Anya's careful demeanor and laughed, stroking her little head gently, she said, 'in about six months"

Anya nodded. "Then you must be very careful Don't hurt the babies"

Chloe couldn't help but laugh, "I will "

Anya then turned to Rose. "What about you, Aunt Rose? When will your baby come out?"

"Just like Chloe"

Anya clapped her hands happily. "Then I'll be their big sister I'll protect them."

Rose touched her cheek, 'Anya, you're wonderful

"Hee hee"

Anya then laid down again, having had a long conversation with Chloe and Rose, she gradually fell asleep

At half past nine, while Rose and Chice were still deep in their conversation, there was a knock on the door The conversation between the two abruptly ended as Rose

raised an eyebrow Seems like your Mr. Harper can't handle loneliness Such a clingy man"

Chloe blushed slightly glanced at her, and gently rose from the bed, "You should get some sleep too Don't let Anya accidentally press against you

"Don't worry Get going. If you linger any longer, I'm genuinely worried that Mr. Harper might secretly plot against me.

Chloe got off her bed, wished her goodnight, and then exited the room.

As soon as the door opened, a strong wave of resentment hit her. Damon's handsome face was clouded with discontent. I've finished dealing with all the recent emails"

"Prit" The door hadn't fully closed yet, and Rose, who was inside the room, couldn't help but laugh out loud hearing Damon's unexpected remark.

His complaint was simply hilarious Just because Chloe spent a bit more time with her he was acting like this? He was indeed very clingy

Hearing Rose's laughter, Damon's face darkened even further Chloe quickly closed the room door and snuggled into his arms, holding onto his arm. She whispered. "I'm

tired

Damon looked down at her, "You get tired whenever you see me?"

Chloe grinned "It's getting late"

Damon, while leading her back to their room, still sounded melancholic, "So, you know"

"Next time it won't happen"

Damon didn't reply What else could he say? At least he could cuddle with her at night, which was a blessing

Rose was simply a pain

Chloe physically confronted a few people at the airport, and with Damon's subsequent assertive and domineering actions, things started to calm down on the internet Although the trending topics remained the comments improved significantly. A few stubborn ones got their IDs blocked by the official website Since it was a real-mama authentication system, once an account got blocked, the user lost the privilege to apply for a new one

Despite several complaints, none were addressed. Even though it tarnished the website's reputation and even created unnecessary troubles, compared to the complaints and dissatisfaction from the people, the website admins didn't want to offend Chloe and Damon

Every time a trending topic related to them appeared, the admins got scared. The immense traffic forced them to mobilize their entire workforce to conduct strict reviews. Whenever a negative comment appeared, they got more nervous than anybody else

The online environment seemed peaceful. Many people supported Chloe's emphasis on curbing internet violence, and even praised her actions.

Some had previously accused Chloe of how she treated the elderly, and now she was taking such drastic measures to curb online violence. Nobody ever thought about why she did so, or why she targeted only specific individuals, or maybe she too, was once a victim of online violence.

But later when someone pointed out, it indeed made the entire internet quite down for a while.

Just when everything seemed to wrap up and everyone was quietly waiting for the follow-ups, a piece of news online instantly stirred up the gradually calming atmosphere.

Chloe, after getting a good sleep, went downstairs and found that everyone in the living room seemed a bit off. She asked with a puzzled look, "What happened?"

Rose glanced at her with a strange look, then quickly returned to normal, "You're awake?"

Elizabeth signaled the maid, "Prepare breakfast, now."

Everyone was acting normal as if what happened earlier was her illusion. What could have possibly happened early in the morning?

Curious, she finished her breakfast and returned to the living room. Yulia had to go to the office, so she left early. Nathan, unusually, went to send her off.

Elizabeth asked Anya to stay.

Chloe took out her phone, not knowing what to do next, when Rose suggested, 'Chloe, let's play a game.'

Chloe gave her a look and nodded, downloading the game Rose wanted to play from the App Store.

Even though Anya was in the living room, the atmosphere was still gloomy Finally, unable to bear it any longer, she asked, "What exactly happened?"

Rose looked helplessly at Elizabeth before finally saying "It's Granny Alyssa'

Chloe's face hardened. "What happened to her?"

Rose took a deep breath, "Granny Alyssa held a press conference early in the morning revealing the divorce papers she filed against Grandpa Presley"

Chloe was taken aback

Elizabeth was silent with a serious look on her face. Finally, she unlocked her phone, opened a random website, and without a doubt, the trending news was about Alyssa's press conference

The press conference was held right at the entrance of the Harper Group's headquarters

In the video Alyssa and housekeeper Hannah were seen

"I have discussed this with Presley and I have given him a day to deal with this matter Clearly, he did not take my words seriously. We both have reached our limit and taking this step is indeed laughable But to him, one more joke doesn't matter

"I know you all are curious about why I decided to divorce him Yes. I can no longer tolerate his recent behaviors in fact a wound was planted in my heart thirty years ago when he forcefully interfered in my eldest son's relationship for the sake of the Harper family, which almost cost me my grandson.

“His authoritative actions made me realize that there might not be any real feelings between us. Although I'm old now I was once a woman full of dreams and expectations towards life I thought I married love, but thirty years ago, I understood that it was just my wishful thinking. This man named Prestry Stema, never had the feelings a man should have for a woman for me

“But we've been married for decades, and we even have grandchildren Since he no longer insisted on his position madhway I just let it go. Unexpectedly, even after thirty years, he still hasn't changed, interfering in our grandsons relationship again

“For the sake of the Harper family, he even drove his grandson out of the family, and even ridiculed him on an international platform in front of the whole world. He claimed he'd never really banish my grandson from the Harper family He wanted to keep his dignity and to keep the Harper name untarnished: However his actions were a laughing

stock

“If he doesn't mind the humiliation, what's one more incident to him?

“He's stepped on my last nerve too many times I've given him chances, but he's probably too proud to think I should be asking anything of him in this matter: ”

Alyssa paused, her gaze piercing straight into the camera lens her expression coldly indifferent “But I'm sorry to disappoint you Since you don't take my words to heart suppose this will get your attention” I hope you see this news, hurry back and get the paperwork done There's no room for negotiation want nothing more from me in this lifetime *

Chapter 1774

Having said all this, the reporters had no need for further questions.

Alyssa detailed every bit of the reasons for the divorce.

Seeds were sown thirty years ago. Little did she know that three decades later, Presley would not only repeat his tricks but amplify them.

Thinking about Presley's recent actions, they were indeed erratic. Some had spoken about Presley, that he had tarnished his lifelong reputation and prestige in his twilight

years

Everyone knew about the Harper family, an internationally renowned business empire with immeasurable wealth. People had admired how wise and capable the heads of the Harper family were, leading the family to where it stood now c2

Mentioning the Harpers now connoted an imposing power that few dared to challenge, though they were not the force they once were. And with his current actions, if asked who was the worst head of the Harper Group, everyone would undoubtedly point fingers at Presley. It was sad how he lost all his principles in his old age

Chloe saw this news, and her emotions were complex

Alyssa wanted a divorce? This was something she had never anticipated

There was once, due to Alyssa's marriage to Presley, some residual reverence in her heart for him. If Alyssa chose him, then there must be something about him that was attractive at least enough to make her willingly marry him

She wasn't praising him, but she didn't want to deny Alyssa.

From the beginning her attitude towards Presley was purely objective, never assessing his character, out of respect for Alyssa

Everyone had their own thoughts and principles, but she never thought that the differences between her grandparents would be so vast, that things had come to this point

Presley always cared about his reputation, but now, in his seventies, he was dumped.

The fact that they had come to this after more than seventy years together, spending a lifetime as a couple, must have something to do with Chloe.

How could her feelings not be complex?

Chloe looked up at Elizabeth, "Is Alyssa really."

"Yes, putting up with Presley until now, she must be really tolerant. If it were me, I would never endure him for over thirty years. Of course, if it weren't for Presley giving up his stubbornness, and me giving birth to Damon, Alyssa probably wouldn't have persevered until now. And just like you are now, back then, even though I almost lost my child and was the victim, I was still worried that the two of them would reach an irreparable point because of me. Full of guilt, I said a few good words. I don't know how much impact my words had, but I advise you not to take any stance on this matter. She understands life better than any of us, and she doesn't need us to make decisions

for her"

Chloe pursed her lips, agreeing with Elizabeth's words.

Yes. This was Alyssa's decision to make, and none of them had the right to interfere

After all these years, Chloe thought, it was time for her to deal with her relationship with Presley properly, regardless of the outcome.

There was really no room for her to step in

Presley was still in H City, leaving Robin in charge of the Global Economic Summit, while he locked himself in the hotel. He wasn't ignoring Alyssa's call from the night before, he was just afraid to face some things

When everything had settled down, he finally realized what he had done. It suddenly reminded him of the reason Alyssa almost divorced him thirty years ago.

From the day he took over the Harper family, he felt that nothing or no one was more important than the family

Alyssa seemed to understand him and always respected his decisions. Even when it came to raising their son, no matter how much hardship they went through, she would support him silently, even while her heart ached for them

She was strong enough to help him pave the way for their children's future and patient enough to watch them bear burdens that most would find unbearable

But he forgot that she was a living, breathing person. A person with limits.

Only when Royce's feelings were affected thirty years ago did he realize that her limit was their children's happiness. No one could dare to infringe on that

No matter how strict or harsh the family upbringing was, she could accept it. The children were Harpers, but to her, they were just her children.

Those were the words she had shouted at him back then. That confrontation was probably the most tense and angry moment of their lives

He had compromised then, probably because her attitude had shaken him. But this time, he felt things were different. On the one hand, the situation was different, and on the other hand, he had compromised once before. This time, he shouldn't be the one to back down again

Especially since he was doing this not just for the Harpers, but for Damon's sake as well

But he never expected things to go this far

Divorce in his twilight years, he can't afford to be this embarrassed

So he had been hiding in H4 City, fearing that she would bring up the divorce if he returned

He understood her temper well enough For years, she had moved out of Hong Kong, and their relationship had been problematic. Now, he had followed her from Hong Kong to P City, always hoping that one day she would come to her senses and return home

But

He closed his eyes The past events made him feel exhausted

After a long silence, the door of the room was abruptly opened Robin walked in with a grim expression, looking at Presley, and said, 'Father

Presley's brows knit together in consternation. "What's got you all worked up? What's happened?"

Robin's expression was grave "It's Mom. She held a press conference in P City. She has sued you'

Presley's face turned achen "A press conference?

"Yes" Robin replied, handing his phone to Presley

After watching the entire press conference. Presley's hand trembled uncontrollably as he gripped the phone. His face was contorted with anger "She actually actually

Robin rubbed his throbbing forehead "This situation has a significant impact on the Harper family, and everyone else. Dad, do you want to go see Mom now?"

Presley's face darkened, but he remained silent.

Robin continued, "If you don't step in, Mom's anger might not subside if this drags on, there might not be a chance to salvage it."

"Enough, enough! Leave me alone! Presley suddenly roared, his deep voice filled with anger and gravity

Robin abruptly closed his mouth, his already grim face turning even more somber. He left the room, leaving his father alone.

Standing outside, he let out a cold, bitter laugh. All of this was a joke, his father's predicament, and his own situation.

He had worked so hard for everything only for it all to be dismissed as worthless. He had strived so relentlessly, only to be treated with disrespect.

If Royce had been in his shoes, would their father have spoken to him in the same way?

No.

Even if his brother defied him, Presley wouldn't have treated him the same way.

Where had he gone wrong? He had taken pains to consider his father in every decision he made, but in the end, he had not won his father's trust or respect.

What was he hanging onto? Perhaps no matter how well he did, his father would never see it.

Presley sat alone in the room, overlooking the bustling street outside, with a stern face and furrowed brows.

The outside temperature wasn't particularly high, but the sunlight was abundant. Through the thick tempered glass, it turned into warmth, shining on him.

However, his hands, resting on his knees were shaking uncontrollably. He seemed to be unaware, his gaze still fixed outside.

If he didn't go back now, there wouldn't be a chance to salvage the situation? If he did go back now, would there be?

Upon receiving this news, he was incredibly angry

He had spent his life ensuring the Harper Group was prosperous. He hadn't achieved any great feats, but he also hadn't made any grave mistakes. At the very least, he hadn't ruined the Harper family

He had spent half his life in the corporate battlefield, only to lose all the dignity he had accumulated over the years.

His favorite son, and his favorite grandson, both defied him. In the end, even his wife, who had never understood him, added fuel to the fire. In his twilight years, she had made a mockery of him.

She was actually getting divorced? What a joke

Everyone was defying him. Everyone wanted to make his life difficult

He closed his eyes tightly. He seemed calm, but his body was still shaking

Elizabeth and her companions eventually decided to go to Granny Harper's residence. Given the gravity of the situation, they couldn't pretend they didn't know anything

Granny Harper greeted them calmly. She even seemed delighted to see Rose.

Elizabeth brought along some fruits and headed into the kitchen to prepare a fruit platter. She threw a glance at Hannah, the housekeeper.

Hannah later joined her in the kitchen. As Elizabeth peeled the fruits, she said, "Granny Harper seems fine. In fact, she seems a bit too composed

Hannah washed her hands and joined in to help. She sighed as she replied, "Regardless of what her intentions are, this is a serious matter They've been together for decades How could she not feel anything?"

Elizabeth placed the peeled fruits aside, her lips pressed into a thin line. "Hannah, if you were in my shoes, or Chloe's, what role do you think we should play? They say you should encourage reconciliation, not separation. Should we do that?"

Hannah paused before sighing and shaking her head "Granny Harper seems determined. Once she makes a decision, it's almost impossible to change her mind."

Elizabeth nodded thoughtfully A shadow of worry clouded her face As she arranged the fruit platter and brought it out, Rose and Chloe were chatting with Granny Harper The atmosphere was pleasant, but the conversation had nothing to do with the press conference. Not a word was mentioned.

"Ah, I cant wait for my two great grandchildren to be born. I wish I could live for a few more decades, so I could watch them grow up, fall in love, get married, and give me great-great-grandchildren"

Chloe gave a light laugh "You will, Granny. You'll have to help us take care of them"

Granny Harper laughed joyfully. "Of course They're my great-grandchildren. If I don't look after them, who will?"

Rose handed Granny Harper a slice of apple "Granny. No, my son's future great grandmother in law, have some

"Ah, you think you can win over my precious great-granddaughter with just an apple?"

"If you don't eat it, she will still be ours Dont waste it

Granny Harper popped the fruit into her mouth, huffing, "You're the craftiest

"Hehe, for my son's future happiness, see how hard I work as a mother?"

"Just you with your glib tongue"

Chloe picked up a grape and ate it

They all had lunch together Until the end, no one mentioned anything about the situation.

In the car, the cheerful atmosphere they had maintained in front of Granny Harper was gone replaced with a heavy silence

"Judging by Granny Harper's demeanor, she seems fine. Rose remarked She could understand how Granny Harper felt it was probably not far from her own feelings

All of Granny Harper's hopes were now on her great grandkids, just like Rose As long as her child was born, nothing else was more important.

Men, she had had them Life continued as usual But children were the most profound band

Elizabeth gazed out the car window, letting out a deep sigh She's decided to put an end to this decades long companionship herself. She's not as nonchalant about it she appears," Elizabeth said

Chloe remained silent

Elizabeth paused and turned to look at her "Dont you have any thoughts on this?

Chloe forced a smile. "My opinion doesn't really matter now, does it?

Elizabeth raised her eyebrows It's always easier to encourage unity than separation. But you, today and even later, don't seem to want to interfere in this matter"

"If Grandma has made up her mind, she won't be easily swayed by a few words from us. She's been with Presley for a lifetime. Unless she's pushed to the limit, she wouldn't have made such a choice today Moreover, she has left no room for retreat in this matter, not even for him."

By making the divorce a public affair, she was clearly determined to get a result

What was left was to see who, between her and Presley, was more adamant

Considering Presley's macho character, out of pride, he might agree in a fit of anger, right?

Chapter 1775

There was no room for negotiation

Presley returned the next day, bombarded by reporters at the airport.

The divorce of the elderly couple had apparently overshadowed the gossip at the Global Economic Summit

Presley, with a stern face and not uttering a word, managed to leave the airport and headed straight for Alyssa's villa.

The living room was filled with a tense atmosphere until Presley walked in c2

After a long silence, it was Presley who broke it "What the hell do you mean?" he asked.

Alyssa pressed her lips together. Didn't you understand the news?

"Alyssa" Presley shouted angrily. "Do you have any idea how torturous and embarrassing that I have been this whole time? Are you trying to stir the pot at this point?"

Alyssa laughed coldly "After all these years, I'm grateful I didn't have a heart attack because of you. But now you don't have the chance or the right to yell at me you're suffering. I've known you all my life, but have you ever considered how torturous it is to be with you?"

Presley's expression froze

"Are you just expecting others to consider you? You're the most tired, tormented, and innocent person in this whole world, and everyone else is wrong. Everyone should revolve around you, and anyone with their own thoughts and opinions is defiant

"Presley think back on the past decades and ask yourself, when have you ever considered others? When have you really listened to others opinions?

"Have you ever tried to empathize and understand others? Have you ever reflected on yourself when lying alone in bed in the middle of the night?

"I dont think so, because anyone who has cared a bit wouldn't indulge in living their own way like you have done until now

"Everyone has their own life, and you only have your own. Why do you insist on controlling others' lives? What pleasure does it bring you to have so many lives at your disposal?

"I was too young back then, and I didn't see the real you, I blindly believed in love. As long as everything felt right, I was ready to go down this path with you But I'm not a fool. It was only after I had children and grandchildren, that I realized how selfish my blindness was. The events that led us to this point today, my blind trust and indulgence in you, have now implicated them

"I've always convinced myself to never regret, but Presley, you've made it impossible for me to deceive myself. You, as you are now, have negated the nearly sixty years spent with you."

Alyssa paused, her usually kind or indifferent face now filled with bitter sadness. She was subtly shaking, slowly closing her eyes. Her face, marked by the years, was clearly reddened around her eyes.

Presley's cold eyes flickered at the sight of her, his lips moved, but he said nothing.

"Presley, some people don't even have sixty years."

Alyssa slowly opened her eyes, the red veins in her eyes prominent. "I've spent my entire life tied to you, and what have you given me in the end? You've ruined my life. I don't want to be with you anymore, so

in the remaining years of my life, I must sever this mistaken life with you. Let's end it here, Presley, and please, for once, let go and leave me alone."

Presley watched her silently, and after a long moment, he slowly stood up. His movements were shaky and unsteady. "I disagree."

Alyssa looked up at him standing, her gaze cold and sharp.

"Is that it? You're still selfishly unwilling to let me go? Afraid of losing your dignity? But whether or not we divorce, you've already lost your dignity."

Presley shook his head, "No, no, you don't understand." He slowly turned and staggered towards the door, his movements filled with panic.

"Sir" Hannah, standing by, didn't know what to do as there was no resolution to the day's events. She watched Presley, only managing to call out to him softly.

Presley, however, didn't stop.

Hannah stood between the living room and the door, indecisive and helpless

Alyssa sat quietly on the couch, her expression once again calm and indifferent. She looked as if she was drained of energy, sitting there, with fatigue written all over her

“Madam Hannah hesitated, then spoke, ‘I believe Mr. Presley still cares about you. Even now, he hasn’t agreed to part with you.’”

Alyssa stood up, her voice cold, “Who knows what he’s really thinking? Perhaps he feels embarrassed that there won’t be anyone to be buried with him a hundred years from now. Anyway, he’s now a loser in life, so he wants to at least die with a bit of dignity. Besides these reasons, I really can’t understand what he’s aiming for

Presley, who was already at the door, stiffened at these words. Apart from these, she really couldn’t understand why he was still holding on? In her heart, was he really that worthless?

In the end, he returned to the Harper family residence. Regardless of what she thought his reasons were, he would never agree to this divorce, even if it killed him.

Damon and Royce seemed unaffected by the day’s events, showing no extra emotion

That night, Chloe couldn’t help but ask him. “You saw the news, right? Don’t you have anything to say?”

Damon, after his evening routine, wrapped her in the blanket, “What is there to say? It’s their business. What can I do about it?”

Chloe raised an eyebrow “Just going to leave it alone?”

Damon looked at her flatly, “You have the energy to worry about others?”

Chloe pursed her lips, “It’s not just anyone’

“These things are out of our hands. The conflict between them has been building for decades, longer than we’ve been alive. We don’t know what’s going on between them, so let’s not interfere blindly. You don’t understand right from wrong as well as they do, okay?”

Chloe turned to look at him, her eyes filled with admiration “You’re so smart, you make so much sense

Damon raised an eyebrow. “Only realizing this now?”

“Of course not. You’ve always been smart. I’m just deeply impressed today I’m giving you credit.”

Damon’s eyes twinkled with amusement as he studied her intently. “So...”

Chloe shifted her gaze, ‘So can I spend the night with Ro...

“No”

Chloe I didn’t even finish my sentence

Damon chuckled, pulling her closer into his embrace, “Do you really think I don’t know what you’re plotting?”

Chloe sighed, retrieving her phone from under the covers and sent a direct message to her friend Rose (Mission failed Goodnight]

Rose: [The founder of the worlds top corporation sure is a clingy one]

Chloe silently slid her phone back under the covers

The next second. Damon had her phone in his hand. Planning to sneak out and sleep with her, were you?”

Chloe knew she was caught red handed and buried her face in his chest without a word “So tired”

Damon sighed, planting a soft kiss on her forehead, a silent gesture of indulgence

Chloe, nestled in his chest, slowly opened her eyes, blinking softly as she wrapped her arms around his waist

His tolerance and indulgence toward her filled her heart with gratitude. The best man in the world was hers. She had never imagined that she would one day find such love given her tumultuous past. She felt as though all her luck had accumulated in meeting him.

“Thank you for your unwavering determination and persistence. You’ve made me the happiest woman in the world.”

Chloe’s words echoed from his chest, causing Damon to pause, ‘Don’t make me sound so noble. I was just selfishly wanting you’

Chloe smiled, snuggling into his chest. This domineering man. She was so overwhelmed, and she couldn’t even utter a word of thanks.

Presley had been cooped up at home, avoiding the relentless press and avoiding any encounter with Alyssa.

He declined any opportunity to meet with Alyssa, not wanting to engage in any discussions with her.

Robin had been busy tackling issues within the company. The revelation of Obsidian Group’s founder had resulted in immense pressure from various parties on the Harper

Group

Projects were stalled problems arose, and the shift in attitude from their partners was palpable. Every little issue seemed to come one after the other

If the revelation of Damon's identity had initially shown him what it meant to have the Harper Group 'comered, he now understood the full impact of that statement. Previous attacks on the Harper family by Obsidian Group were merely child's play. Now, without lifting a finger, they were slowly pushing the Harper family into a comer

Several corporations seeking to curry favor with Obsidian Group were piling on the pressure. The constant barrage of seemingly minor attacks was gradually wearing them down their cumulative effect not to be underestimated

Robin reported to his father daily regarding the company's affairs. However, his father, usually so invested in the Harper family business, seemed uninterested. He would sit in silence, deep in thought

"Father, the company's situation is far from ideal"

"You're in charge now How the company operates is up to you. You don't need to report everything to me. What, if I'm not around one day are you going to bury the company with me?"

Robins routine report to his father was met with a surprising response

Presley, who had always prioritized the Harper Group, seemed ready to let go. The sudden change in his father was startling. His mother's actions had truly shaken him to

the core

Presley's avoidance did not resolve the situation. A court summons a week later forced him to confront the issue he had been avoiding for so long

In the end, he went to see Alyssa himself

They sat in the same spots as they had a few days ago

in just a few days, Presley seemed to have aged significantly His face was haggard his body noticeably thinner His cheekbones were more pronounced, a stark contrast to

his previous appearance

Alyssa glanced at him, tightened her lips, picked up her glass of water, took a sip, and looked away

Time seemed to stretch on in the living room with Alyssa showing no intention of speaking fast

Presley observed the elderly woman in front of him, his voice steady and calm “You said there’s no room for negotiation. But what if I insist on negotiating” Alyssa, from the moment i married you. I never considered divorce”

Alyssa scoffed, her eyes cold “So that’s why you’ve been so arrogant all these years, thinking I would never leave you, that I would be stuck with you for life? What do you want to negotiate? Everyone’s laughing at our predicament. Whether we divorce or not, its humiliating You can’t salvage your reputation, Instead of having me by your side. reminding you of this disgrace, it’s better to let me go and spare yourself the disgust of seeing me

Presley tightened his lips. “Why do you insist on provoking me with your words? Im well aware of our current situation, just as you are. You act as though I’m enjoying this Despite the embarrassment, I choose not to divorce. Moreover, this isnt something you can decide alone”

“Alone? You’re talking about making decisions together? Ask yourself, do you have any right to say that? Presley, your attitude, and every word you utter, is a slap in your own face Doesn’t it hurt?

I don’t have the right. But what can I say that would convince you? So much has happened recently, I know how I’m perceived Your attitude suggests that you think m enjoying this situation. You make it seem as though I’m reveling in this disgrace Alyssa you cannot deny that every single action I took was with good intentions for the sake of the Harper family and Damon Why can’t any of you understand?”

Alyssa slowly lifted her eyes to look at him, a laugh of helplessness and sarcasm escaping her lips. "Understand? Can you say that there wasn't a single trace of your stubborn pride leading to this outcome?"

Presley's lips twitched, but no words came out for a moment.

'How many years have you lived? Not enough? So much so that you insist your progeny must live in accordance with your plans? Alyssa rose to her feet, her voice icy. "I don't want to hear your so called reasons and difficulties i dont want to understand, and I don't get it. You have too many reasons, and we can't reach the heights and perspectives you do. It's me who can't match up to you So, don't compromise and try to be with someone as ignorant and selfish as me. Even if you keeping talking today. it won't change my decision Now, get out

Chapter 1776

"You!" Presley's face darkened instantly feeling provoked and ready to lash out, but a frigid gaze from Alyssa silenced him

Yes, he couldn't. He was here to make amends, not to argue Closing his eyes, he took a deep breath before speaking again, "What do you want me to so that you will stop this?"

Alyssa's patience was wearing thin, "Are you deaf or just stupid that you can't understand what I'm saying?"

Presley's face twitched uncontrollably, his hand gripping his walking cane shaking.

How should i

Alyssa could probably guess that Presley was maching his limit. From the moment he showed up again, she knew that her previous words hadet convinced him to let her go.c2

Today she had tried both kindness, and harshness. If he still insisted on holding on, then he had only himself to blame. Moreover, the wasn't intentionally trying to provokue

him This was the truth

“Presley. I’ve made it very clear. Do you think I left any room for us

Alyssa emphasized again, then laughed coldly. “Or perhaps you’re just embarrassed about the divorce since it was my idea. Should I clarify to the press that I never wanted a divorce, but you insisted, and I was merely complying with your wishes? After all, you seem to enjoy kicking people out. You’ve kicked out your son, daughter in law and even your grandson. Am I the only one left? That’s fine. I don’t mind. Kick me out too. It’ll make you feel better!

She struggled to her feet leaning heavily on her legs. The divorce is inevitable. As for the details, you can decide As long as we divorce, I don’t care how it happens

Presley looked at Alyssa, surprise flickering in his eyes. “You

“Are you referring to my legs? Yes, I’ve been working hard to recover for the sake of my two future great-grandchildren. Even though it’s painful, I need to get better so I can take care of them for a few more years. That’s what grandparents should be doing. But you wouldn’t understand. In your eyes, only the Harper family matters

Presley’s gaze lingered on Alyssa’s legs. Hearing her words, he slowly looked up at her

“You said two

Alyssa gave him a mocking smile. “Who’s been keeping it from you?”

Presley was silent, recalling the times when Damon and Chloe had mentioned their children in front of him. From the time he went to see them before the Global Economic Summit and overheard their argument about naming the children at the restaurant, there were hints

His face lit up at the thought, but then quickly darkened again.

Two great-grandchildren

However. Alyssa watched his changing expressions, her face growing colder again, "I don't want to see you now. Please leave immediately You better give me the divorce agreement voluntarily Otherwise, when the court hearing comes, and we're declared divorced in front of all the media, won't that be more embarrassing for you?"

"Do you really want to take this step? Presley asked solemnly

"Do you think I've been talking shit all this time?"

Presley was taken aback by her crude language, but it only confirmed Alyssa's determination. There was no turning back.

He slowly stood up, closed his eyes, and let out a long sigh. After a while, he opened his eyes, stared Alyssa for a long time, and left the mansion silently.

Alyssa didn't know what he was thinking, but she had a feeling that Presley could no longer find a reason to continue fighting

Hannah looked at Alyssa helplessly. "Madam, after all these years, why do you insist on this? Mr. Presley rarely admits his mistakes."

After many years of serving Alyssa, she knew that Presley still cared for her. Every few weeks, he would send over daily necessities, exotic items, and things that Alyssa

Alyssa never said anything, but Hannah knew that she understood. He still loved her, but he just didn't know how to express it

Hannah too had experienced countless arguments and disagreements with her husband. They had even considered divorce, but after calming down, they felt it was unnecessary Especially since they had children. They didn't want to cause psychological trauma or raise them in a single parent family, they

considered their children wellbeing. This mindset may not be correct in today's society, but which mother wouldn't want to consider their children's best interest?

If Alyssa hadn't been warned about the impact of her divorce on her son and daughter in law there wouldn't be the situation they were in now, thirty years later

All these years, she could've continued living her life, waiting for her beloved great-grandchildren's arrival. This could also be a happy life

Alyssa shook her head If I don't do this, he'll never realize how many things he has done wrong in his life and how outrageous his mistakes are

"But there's no need to actually go through with the divorce

"No. I need to tell him that his actions are unforgivable and he has no chance to regret them if I forgive him in the end, or not Hannah, he's made unforgivable mistakes Why should I forgive him?"

own, he might still thank

has à mat

Hannah was stunned Yes, why should one forgive unforgivable mistakes?

Sometimes, there was no clear right or wrong in the world and no simple choices Many things contained great contradictions, making choices difficult

In the following days, Alyssa didn't receive any divorce agreement from Presley But the court hearing was approaching

Chloe never thought that the matter would. really wind up in court

Presley stubbornly resisted divorcing Alyssa, dragging the process on for much longer than expected. With his fiery temperament, Chace had assured he'd be infatuated with her, yet he seemed to have no concern for his public image and was willing to take things to court.

On their way to the courthouse Chloe asked Damon, "What on earth is Presley thinking? Does he not want to divorce, or is there something on Alyssa that he's after?"

Damon pursed his lips. "I'm not sure. But when Grandma first moved out, she looked nothing like her?"

Chloe raised an eyebrow lazily, leaning into him as she pondered. "So what is he up to? For a man who values his reputation, why would he let things escalate to this?"

Damon's thin lips tightened and he flicked her forehead with a finger. "Can't you just relax and enjoy the ride? Must you always be worrying?"

Chloe covered her slightly aching forehead, feigning anger at him. "You're so heartless!"

Damon smirked. "Yep. Daddy has to be tough!"

Chloe pouted. "So you're trying to turn me into a clueless princess, so you can kick me out one day?"

1/2

Damon frowned. "I think you need to be taught a lesson."

Chloe sat up straight, distancing herself from him, as she cradled her own belly, a pained look on her face. "Don't worry, babies. Even if one day he really kicks us out. I'll take you with me, and find you a new daddy!"

Damon's expression darkened, his long legs striding across Chloe's folded ones, swiftly pulling her back into his arms.

Chloe sat steadily in his embrace, her hands instinctively clutching onto his shirt. Before she could let out a gasp, his lips were on hers.

“How dare you!”

Chloe bit her own lip, casting him a reproachful glance.

“If you dare think about this again, I’ll skin you alive

Nate, sitting up front, was nearly driven mad by their lovey–dovey banter. There was no one in the world quite like these two

Chloe couldn’t help but smirk. “So aggressive! Regardless, if you ever bully me, I’ll do just that”

Damon chuckled “Just wait until these two little rascals come out. Then I’ll show you..

Chloe’s cheeks turned red. This man, his words were too explicit. Burying her face in his chest, she bit her lip and fell silent

Always pushing her luck, she had lost count of how many times she had been bested by him in a war of words. She had sworn not to compete with him verbally, but she couldn’t help herself

Damon, the victor, looked at the shy woman hiding in his arms, feeling particularly good.

They quickly arrived at the courthouse. As soon as they stepped out of the car, they were surrounded by reporters.

The questions were all about the divorce of the two elders Damon and Chloe, previously laughing and joking in the car, now wore poker faces, keeping a tight grip on their emotions as they moved forward.

At this moment, one was the unreachable, cold and indifferent CEO of Obsidian Corporation The other was the intelligent and strong-willed CEO of Starlight International

Although Chloe was pregnant, she still exuded an air of cold strength. Their cool demeanor made them a surprisingly perfect pair. Many were curious about the relationship dynamics of such dispassionate people. Little did they know, these two cold, high-profile individuals were just moments ago caught up

in sweet nothings and playful banter. The strong-willed woman was blushing and hiding in the mans arms.

If these people knew the truth, they'd be flabbergasted, to say the least.

Nate had arranged for bodyguards to protect them at all times. They continued forward and before long, another car pulled up to the courthouse Damon and Chloe,

standing on the steps of the courthouse, looked over

Out stepped Elizabeth and Alyssa.

The reporters hesitated, before finally giving up on Damon and Chloe and swarming Alyssa and Elizabeth instead.

"Thank you all for your concern about this matter. Being here today is not something I wanted, but I have no choice. My stance is firm. As for what will unfold today and what the outcome will be, I cannot predict. Please be patient. There will be a resolution" Alyssa's words were light but clear, and many reporters' questions were silenced

by her dismissive tone

"Alyssa, have you two talked privately? Or has Presley been absent all along?"

"We've spoken"

“So, he doesn’t want a divorce? Or is there a dispute over assets between the two of you?”

Elizabeth coldly smirked, “If he’s concerned about assets, I’m willing to leave with nothing”

Everyone could hear the determination in Alyssa’s words.

Chloe, standing in front of Damon, suddenly thought of something and asked, “What have you been busy with these past few days?”

Damon raised an eyebrow surprised by Chloe’s sudden question “Why do you ask?”

Chloe smirked, ‘I asked Azriel. You haven’t been dealing with the company’s affairs these past few days, but you’ve been visibly busy”

At her words, Damon furrowed his brows, casting a sidelong glance at her “When did you get his contact information?”

Chloe’s eyes flickered, landing on Alyssa in the distance. ‘I forgot.”

With bodyguards leading the way. Elizabeth and Alyssa joined them, and Chloe gave the two women a smile. They all entered the courthouse together

In the waiting room, Alyssa looked tense, her face a bit unsightly

Everyone kept their silence Decisions always involved struggle and conflict. After decades together, to reach this point was emotionally challenging

The atmosphere in the room was tense it was only when court was in session that Alyssa stood, her expression blank, and left the room.

In the courtroom, the two elderly people sat facing each other

Normally in divorce cases, there was an initial attempt at reconciliation, to avoid taking the final step if at all possible, especially considering the advanced age of the couple

However, Alyssa cut off these conciliations decisively. "You all can save your breath. I'm sitting here, and i have no intention of backing out. Today, I'm here to get a divorce. Whatever demands he has, tell

me. If he's concerned about the property issue, then he need not worry. I can walk away with nothing but the clothes on my back. Any other conditions, I can agree to, as long as he agrees to divorce me

Chapter 1777

Presley sat there expressionless, but upon hearing Alyssa's words, his expression couldn't help but change slightly.

Her relentless determination to divorce him, no matter what, made him look like an awful person

The judge's mediation hadn't gone smoothly Looking at the divorce papers Alyssa presented, he didn't have any excuses to favor Presley

Alyssa's lawyer voiced her wishes clearly Citing irreconcilable differences, years of accumulated resentment, and the need for her future health, he proposed a divorce. He pointed out several of Presley's flaws to justify the divorce

After the lawyer had said everything and expressed the hope that Presley would agree to the divorce, everyone turned their gaze toward Presley c2

"Mr. Presley, do you have anything to say about the points we've just listed?"

Presley responded indifferently. "No" All the accusations against him were true, and he couldn't deny them.

“Then, do you have any reasons why you can’t divorce your wife, Ms Alyssa

Presley spoke again, just as nonchalantly, “No”

Chloe raised an eyebrow, everything was proceeding too smoothly. She had thought Presley would have a solid reason to resist the divorce, but she didn’t expect it to go so smoothly

“So, are you both certain about getting a divorce today”

Presley closed his eyes tightly, took a deep breath, then slowly nodded, “Yes”

Alyssa sat across from him, her eyes flickering slightly at his words.

A few seconds later, a small smile spread across her face. She didn’t say anything more. This outcome was enough for her

Chloe, sitting in the audience, raised her eyebrow again. Presley hadn’t offered any defense from start to finish. The whole process had taken only about ten minutes. If there were no objections, why had he even bothered to bring the matter to court?

With his domineering and highly vain nature, she found it hard to guess his intentions in the current situation.

Damon watched her, leaning back in her chair, pensively staring at Presley. He couldn’t help but smirk.

This woman just can’t stay still for a moment. Other women would eagerly look for a well-off man to marry, aiming for a lifetime of comfort as a pampered lady of a wealthy household, indulging in a life of luxury and leisure.

But here she was, with a super wealthy man right by her side, not to mention the fact that she was carrying two little ones in her belly. He urged her every day to simply enjoy a life of luxury and leisure, but she just wouldn't listen

Just what had he done in his past life to end up with such a unique woman?

Chloe, deep in thought, felt Damon's gaze and turned to give him a smile, then turned her attention back to Presley, continuing to unravel the mysteries in her mind

Damon felt a pang of jealousy This woman was too easily distracted

Just as he was starting to frown, Presley spoke again, I agree to the divorce, but I have one request"

Alyssa looked at him coldly. "Let's hear it."

'I hope I can visit you occasionally to see my two great-grandchildren"

Hearing this, most people's gaze turned to Chloe. The two great grandchildren he mentioned must be the twins she was carrying

No matter how unreasonable Presley could be, he still had the right to see his great-grandchildren. There was no need to make it a request

However, Chloe chuckled softly at his words. He was still the same old man, too proud to admit defeat, but willing to use Alyssa to achieve his goals.

Alyssa glanced at Chloe

Chloe gave a resigned smile. She couldn't refuse him in front of everyone, could she? Even if she wanted to, she wouldn't dare to risk the legal consequences. This was the court, after all, and she had no right to deny him his duties and responsibilities.

Alyssa ignored Presley's words and gave a cold laugh, "Even now, you're still using me for your own gains Typical of you. Do you really need to make such a request? You're happy to drive your own children and grandchildren away, thinking others will feel the same? Only you would believe that kicking someone out is a sign of power. But you're truly impressive, raising this issue in court if I refuse, will the court sentence me on the spot?"

Presley didn't react to Alyssa's intentional attack. He simply asked, "So you agree?"

Alyssa gave a cold laugh without giving a clear answer

However, Presley nodded and spoke again "After being married for so many years, I wouldn't let you leave empty handed. As for the compensation, I won't shortchange you." Alyssa glanced at him coldly. 'I don't need anything"

Presley gave her a long look, then turned to the lawyer.

The lawyer stood up, holding a file in his hand, and said, 'Ms. Alyssa, as divorce compensation, in addition to the old house in Hong Kong and the Harper's Mansion here, all other properties under Presley's name will be yours. Your savings will be split equally Moreover, Mr. Harper is unconditionally giving you 30% of the Harper Group's shares"

Everyone was stunned by this statement, not just Alyssa Despite the Harper Group's current reputation, it was still a significant player in the business world. Thirty percent of the shares was an astronomical figure.

He only kept two properties for himself and split the rest evenly with her. He even gave nearly all of the Harper Group to her

Decades of marriage, ending up in a courtroom in front of strangers as if they were tearing each other's faces off, its astonishing to have such a turnaround. Chloe was also surprised, and even more puzzled.

Hadrit Presley already given all his shares to Robin? So where did this current 30% stake come from? Contemplating this, she looked around and noticed that Robin was

nowhere to be seen

She furrowed her brow and a few seconds later, she turned to Damon and asked in a low voice, "What have you been up to these past few days?"

He'd deflected her question at the door earlier.

Damon looked at her as she continued, "Where's Robin? And how did Presley get hold of that thirty percent?"

Did Presley take it from him and Nathan, or did he reclaim it from Robin?

"Which question do you want me to answer first?"

Chloe glanced at him and said flatly. "The first one."

Damon moistened his lips, looked at Presley on the stage and said casually. "The reason for the plane crash that my parents should have been on was found recently, so we took the opportunity to settle it

Chloe paused, "Was it Robin?" She asked cautiously After all, Robin was Damon's uncle. If it wasn't him, it would be incredibly awkward

Gradually, Damon's expression darkened. 'He's been in touch with Ava so he must have known about your identity. That's why he tried to set me up with Wendy While Wendy had Ava, the adopted daughter of the Queen of Y Country, as a support, compared to this genuine royal princess, it was not much to be feared. Besides, he and Ava are allies. It doesn't hurt him if you were not recognized by the royal family, it even brings him the convenience that Ava can provide. But if you were recognized by the royal family my relationship with Wendy would inevitably be targeted and suppressed, which isn't a bad thing for him either

"He wants to have his cake and eat it too, all for the sake of gaining control over the Harper Group" Damon spoke softly, his gaze fixed on Presley in front as if discussing something mundane

Chloe didn't reply. She couldn't figure out Robin's thoughts, but she was surprised that he knew her real identity

"He's been helping Ava a lot. The incidents you've experienced were their joint efforts, including hiring online trolls to attack you, and even the reporter you scolded

recently

As Chloe listened, her expression grew darker. After a while, she let out a cold laugh. resorting to underhanded tactics I knew he had designs on the Harper family, but

to be a mature and respectable elder, but turns out to be a despicable man expect him to stoop so low. I must have overestimated his intelligence"

Damon remained silent, but a sense of coldness and anger began to rise faintly in Chloe's heart. So, the plane accident was his doing? When Elizabeth left in a rage followed by Royce, Presley was certainly displeased with them. So, he took their shares and gave them to Robin, right? Just for those shares, Robin even planned to harm his own brother and sister-in-law?"

She was a rational person. Despite her anger, she tried to keep her voice steady,

Since Damon said he'd settled some matters, and the shares were now back in the hands of Presley, something must have happened to Robin. The reason there were no rumors was probably because Damon deliberately suppressed the news.

Although she desperately wanted to expose all of Robin's actions, Damon chose to keep it quiet, which probably had its own

Damon's face was somber, but noticing Chloe's agitation, he took her hand in his. I'm sorry the outcome might not be

wx ans

expected”

Chloe’s anger gradually subsided at Damon’s unexpected apology. She looked at Alyssa in front of her, took a deep breath, and said calmly if it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t have known about all this. I was just a bit upset earlier. No matter how monstrous Robin’s actions were, he’s still her son. If she knew about everything he’s done, I cant imagine how disappointed she’d be if her health deteriorates due to this, it wouldn’t be worth it.”

Upon hearing her understanding words, Damon felt even more guilty and was completely honest with Chloe My cousin has been doing well in the military, and these years are critical for him. If Robin’s deeds were exposed, his reputation in the military would plummet, and he might even lose his job.

“No matter what Robin has done, I highly respect my cousin. Regardless of his future military rank, achievements, or how much glory he brings to the Harper family, he’s an irreplaceable soldier for the country. I’m being selfish in this regard”

Chloe nodded slightly, her fingers tightening around Damon’s hand. “You don’t have to feel guilty about this. I know how important this is Misfortune shouldn’t fall on the innocent Your cousin shouldn’t bear the consequences for Robin Grandma just said that everyone has their own life, and we only live once. No one should attempt to interfere, controlling others lives won’t bring true happiness. Right now, all I want is to spend the rest of my life peacefully with our children and you. I don’t want to meddle

in others lives anymore

Damon gently squeezed her hand, “We will”

Alyssa was equally surprised by Presley’s arrangement. She frowned at him and said coldly, “You’re giving me all these? At my age, you want me to manage a company? Isn’t the Harper Group your baby? What’s the meaning of giving me this, to make me pity you? It won’t work, because I’ve always

known that those who are pitiable must have done something hateful Don’t try to play innocent with me”

Presley sighed deeply and slowly rose from his seat, "Rest assured, I've set aside half of the property for myself, so it won't be so dire that you need to pity me. These things have long lost any meaning to me. Consider this as doing me a favor. How you handle it is entirely up to you. I no longer have the right to interfere with your decisions

He paused for a moment. 'Til let my lawyer handle the divorce proceedings, and I'll make sure you're satisfied. I'm tired, I'll leave first."

After saying this, he looked up at the judge above. The judge, coming back to focus, followed the procedure and concluded the trial that had lasted just a short twenty minutes or so

Alyssa remained seated her gaze following her husband's retreating figure. Her face was still taut, and finally, she rose from her seat with an icy air Elizabeth, who was behind her quickly stepped forward to support her

Chloe also slowly stood up. The confusion in her heart finally found an answer after Presley announced the divorce settlement

Chapter 1778

Presley seemed to have all the paperwork ready in advance. All the formalities were quickly and smoothly completed at the notary's office

When it came to the so called divorce settlement that Presley had left for Alyssa, she didn't utter a word simply accepting it all. it seemed like she didn't want to pass up on anything offered

Instead of heading straight to her mansion, she went directly to Greenfeld Village

Damon returned home with Chloe, with Rose following them. As soon as they stepped inside, Rose whisked Chrow into the kitchen

While ordering food from the chef Damon had specifically hired for Chlon. Rose was complimenting Damon on being a wonderful husband and how top notch the chafa culinary skills were c7

This lightened Damon's mood a bit, and the chef was cheerfully preparing delicious meals for the two expectant mothers

As Hannah wheeled Alyssa in everyone hurriedly moved to the living room.

"Granny

"Granny Alyssa

Granny Alvika smiled at them. "Were you in the kitchen?"

Rose nadded somewhat sheepishly. "Get a bit peckish)

"Ah, just tell the chef whatever you fancy rating' She smiled kindly, her voice full of warmth

Chloe just looked at her quietly, tightening her lips but not saying a word

When Damon entered the living room Granny Alyssa looked at him. "Come and sit"

At this point Rose found an excuse to sneak back into the kitchen, and Damon pulled Chloe to sit on the sofa

Granny Alyssa looked at Damon with a serious expression, "Did you really give up your shares in the Harper family business?

Damon responded calmly. "No"

"What about Nathan's?"

“Also no

With a sigh of relief, Granny Alyssa gestured to Hannah, who promptly handed her a file bag. She pulled a document from the bag and passed it directly to

Chloe sat next to him, her gaze steady and calm. Damon glanced at the document but didn't take it

Granny Alyssa placed the document on the coffee table. It seems you already know, so I won't say much. Take these 30% shares

Chloe forced a smile

How should she describe Presley? Did he not want to let go of Granny Alyssa? So he had been delaying things until now?

But he didn't offer any defense, directly agreeing to the divorce in court. Then, under everyone's gaze, he gave the grandmother a significant amount, including the Ha Group

It sounded generous, but in reality he was just using the divorce and Granny Alyssa to return the Harper family business to Damon in this way

He wouldn't yield to her, nor would he apologize to Damon. But he still handed the Harper family business to Damon according to the plan.

The Harper Group hadn't flourished under Robins management in fact it had been in decline, which showed that Robins business acumen wasn't outstanding

Damon's abilities were beyond question, especially as he was now the CEO of the Obsidian Group. If the Harper family business returned to him, what would its nature be like? It was hard for anyone to imagine

The Harper family business was more important to Presley than anything else. Even in the divorce, he had to ensure a solid future for the Harp

Perhaps she was overthinking Maybe she was making people out to be too enl

From another perspective Hobin was no longer capable of managing the Harper family business and Presley

business. Apart from returning it to Damon he really had no other choice

The Harper Tartily business was his life's work, the pride and symbol of the Harper family

collapse and it hadn't come to that point yet

He que cunning starting up all this trouble he was the one who forcibly took the company away, and now he wants to dump tha mesa just forget past grievances and do as he wishes?".

Granny Alyssa sufked res hes clever That's why he gave all these assets to me

At worst (1) in a law years less. but at least can leave something for my great grandchildr

you dont wark the

Even though she didn't approve

Presley a ways, she coulant deny the unguitaros of the Harper family Quane

a comfortable ide for her two below great grandchildren. A few years of hard work man abeziatry.

30% of the shares were enough

Damon pursed his lips his expression not too good Granny Alyssa (

Living a few years less? How could he let her live a few years less?

Although he didn't look happy he leaned back on the dute, not saying a

Alyssa on the other side looking at the document in front of

Chloe looked on particularly moved by Granny Alyssa's with being the but say to Granny Alyssa. Granny don't be upset"

Upon hearing this. Alyssa almost instantly inclined her head a smug air she shared and would be upset

Taken aback Chloe opened her mouth but didn't speak

ate glazed al

class Canon and cou

uvuka frxah has seridanus, Alyssa out her off. "Sure. You take a break

Facing Granny Alyssa's triumphant smile, she couldn't help but feel like she had walked into a trap. But from beginning to end, what did this harem have wanted to comfort granny, but ended up with this huge burden.

"Granny I've already let go of my own company."

"That's okay, I'll take care of it for you. After you have the babies, you can go back to work."

"No way!" Damon suddenly interjected, adamantly refusing the unappealing proposal

Alyssa glared at him sternly, "I was speaking to my granddaughter-in-law Since when did this become your business?"

Damon's face darkened, e's my wife I didn't marry her to clean up the mess of the Harper family"

"What mess cleaning? Loads of people would kill for this property. I'm giving it to your wife What's your problem?"

etter not_

"You

1. up. You don't want it, and you are stopping others from taking it? What do you think you're doing? Trying to be your grandfather?"

Damon was speechless

Chloe grimaced. Alyssa was acting so differently now compared to her earlier seriousness. She began to suspect that Alyssa's target had always been her

Seeing Chloe's puzzled and slightly disoriented look, Alyssa let out a sigh, her eyebrows furrowed, portraying a picture of disappointment Chloe my dear, do you really want your granny to manage the company? I want to live a few more years and take care of my great-grandchildren I'm getting old. I don't have many years left"

Chloe looked even more moved.

Alyssa continued. "I just want to leave my great-grandchildren something to remember me by. At least they will know how much I loved them. I know you're a kindhearted girl Can you help your old granny out?"

Alyssa's voice and expression were full of pleading Chloe felt a pang in her heart. She turned to look at Damon and whispered "Damon

Damon glanced at the cunning old lady, his face growing even more stern. After a long while, he finally said, "Do as you wish"

Alyssa's face lit up as she looked at Chloe with even more anticipation.

Chloe was silent for a moment, then continued. "Or Damon, you could take over. After I give birth, I'll take over the company"

Damon snorted. "This is your business. Don't involve me. If you want the shares, keep them. I don't want them"

Chloe looked troubled. After a while, she clenched her teeth and said, "Fine, I'll take them for now. Once the babies are born, transfer them immediately"

Alyssa's face lit up. "Good, let's do that."

Chloe fell silent. Even though she knew it was a trap, she jumped in willingly. It was not something you saw every day

But then again, any normal woman would probably jump at the chance.

You've got to admit Alyssa was cunning Giving Chloe the shares was probably no different than giving them to Damon

Once the deal was done, Damon immediately took Chloe upstairs.

Hannah sighed on the side, "Easier said than done. Once the babies are born, what mother would have the heart to focus on work?"

Alyssa smirked, "That's her problem. I don't believe that he could just sit back and watch his wife suffer."

Hannah finally got it So this was Alyssa's plan

No wonder Damon was so against Chloe taking over the company. He must have thought of this. He didn't want his wife to work in the first place. He was probably putting up with her running Starlight international, but now with the Harper Group added to it, he probably wouldn't stand it.

If he couldn't stand it, he would naturally have to manage the company himself. And if Chloe played up a bit, acted all cute and helpless, things might be easier

Understanding this Hannah smiled, "You're the clever one, ma'am"

Alyssa scoffed, "When it comes to cunning, no one can beat Presley"

He surely had already considered some possible unexpected events. He probably knew that the outcome would be satisfactory to him, that was why he gave her the shares. He said it was compensation, but in the end, it was all for the Harper family

Hannah simply sighed in the end. Since they had divorced, she couldn't bring up Presley casually. Bringing him up would only bring regret and sadness,

Their decades-long marriage had become a thing of the past.

Alyssa clearly didn't want to dwell on it. After a pause, she asked, "Where's Robin? He was always so eager to prove himself, but this time he gave up the shares so easily. That doesn't sound like him at all

Hannah shook her head, "I'm not sure. He didn't show up at court today Maybe, he feels partly responsible for what happened between you and the old master. And he feels guilty"

Alyssa shook her head. "That boy, always overthinking things. The tension between his father and me started a long time ago. It's our problem, not his"

She sighed. "In the end it's all because of the Royce family issues it's all about Royce and Damon, and I've neglected Robin. He's not young anymore. Now that his parents are divorced he must have felt embarrassed Being a child of a divorced family at his age"

Hannah nodded. "Yes, ma'am Rotan has a habit of keeping things to himself. He's had it tough all these years. I wonder how he's feeling now that he's given up fighting"

Alyssa nodded. "Go check on him Buy some groceries on your way He came to see me recently, I noticed he's been eating tighter meals. I am still healthy. I'll cook him something he likes"

Hannah smiled and nodded, "You're so thoughtful, ma'am. I didn't even notice that"

"After all, he's my son. Of course I care about him"

"Then I'll go and tell the driver to get ready"

"Sure"

Alyssa smiled, stretching out to massage her legs "Don't screw up when I finally step into the kitchen"

Elizabeth had another discussion with Royce about how to handle the relationship with the two old people. When she returned, she happened to see Alyssa massaging her

own leg She stepped forward to take over. "Mom, these things can't be rushed. The more you rush, the more it backfires."

"Relax, I'm not in a rush. I'm going to check on Robin in a bit. I bet he's feeling low now. I'll cook him a meal to cheer him up a bit."

Royce narrowed his eyes

“You’re going to cook? Elizabeth asked in surprise

“Yeah, that’s right. To please someone, you’ve got to be sincere.”

Elizabeth laughed, “I’m so jealous.”

“Hmph Alyssa grunted in mock anger, “Aren’t you eating enough?”

“No matter how much I eat, it’s never enough”

“Off you go. You’re the master of sweet talk.

Elizabeth retorted. “I’m just telling the truth.”

Just then, Hannah came over and said, “Ma’am, the car’s ready”

Elizabeth got up, but Royce said, “It’s been a while since I had a meal with him. Let’s accompany you

Alyssa thought for a moment and agreed

Elizabeth wasn’t sure why Royce had suddenly decided to join them, but she didn’t give it much thought. After all, they were brothers, and eating together as a family was perfectly normal.

Robin had his own villa in P City. Presley wasn’t in a great mood and probably preferred to be alone. Without a doubt, Robin would be at home now

When Alyssa and the others arrived, Robin was taken by surprise. When he went out to greet them, his expression stiffened upon seeing Royce and Elizabeth. He stood there unsure of how to face the two of them.

Chapter 1779

Alyssa cast a doubtful glance at them, "What's up with you two? Strangers now?"

Robin snapped back to reality, forcing an awkward smile, "Mother, what brings you here?"

"What? I can't see my own son now?"

Robin pursed his lips. "I'm happy to see you, mother"

Alyssa sighed inwardly. Her son could sometimes be too serious, not the type to handle jokes well. "Tve finally managed to divorce. Came over to celebrate with a meal "c2

Robin took a moment, glancing at the expressionless Royce, then back at his mother's demeanor from start to finish. She seemed oblivious to the recent happenings. He relaxed a little upon realizing this, quickly saying, "I'll have the cooks prepare something right away."

"No need I'll cook today and prepare the dishes you used to love"

Robin looked surprised, unable to believe what his mother just said. "No, no need

"Don't worry I won't make it too spicy I guess with age, tastes change the most

"But your health.

"I know my limits "Hannah gave him a reassuring nod and guided Alyssa inside

Robin stood there looking at Royce, lips moving but no words forming

Royce merely held Elizabeth close, giving him an indifferent look before entering the house.

Robin stood outside for a moment longer before following them in His wife had grown accustomed to life in Hong Kong and had returned there after just a few days here He had been busy with work and had been living alone. The villa was large but simply furnished. Most of his time was spent at Harper's Mansion Sometimes he even stayed overnight at the office so the house rarely felt lively

Alyssa looked around, feeling a pang of sympathy Elizabeth was also surprised by his living conditions

Though Robin always kept his concerns to himself, his intentions were not hard to figure out. Since he had the intention to fight for the Harper family it was surprising to see him leading such a simple life

"What are you thinking? You are a Harper after all. Why live so frugally? Alyssa was displeased with his current state, "We work hard to earn money so we can enjoy life You're at an age where you should be enjoying life. We spend the first half of our lives working for ourselves, the second half for our kids. Your kids are doing great, your life should be fulfilled. You need to let go of whatever's troubling you"

Alyssa was blunt, but her words were somewhat subtle. He was a man after all, and she worried that being too harsh might hurt his pride

Robin merely nodded. "You're right, Mother As long as the kids are happy I should be content"

"Glad you understand it's not too late"

The living room fell silent for a moment. Not just Alyssa, even Elizabeth sensed the unusual atmosphere "What's wrong? Why the long face now? Is something bothering you?"

Robin shook his head. "No."

Alyssa was a bit upset. Even if there was, you probably wouldn't tell me. I'll head to the kitchen. You two brothers should catch up."

Robin tightened his lips. "Take care, Mother"

Elizabeth was still puzzled, but she followed Alyssa to the kitchen to help

Royce sat on the sofa Robin sat in a chair beside him, brewed the coffee and pushed the cup in front of Royce Royce's expression was indifferent as he picked up the teacup and took a sip.

"Im sorry for everything it was a while before Robin spoke.

Royce didn't respond The atmosphere in the room was frosty

After a few minutes, Royce finished his tea. He stood up and said, "Let's go for a walk."

Robin put down his cup and followed silently

They walked along the covered walkway towards a garden, surrounded by several small buildings.

"Have you sorted everything out? Royce asked

"There's nothing to sort out. I don't want to make a scene.

"You're not going to handle it, then? Have you thought about what you're going to tell our mother? And your wife, your son, how will you explain to them? Do you really think disappearing without a trace is a good solution? Or do you think that since you're going to jail, it doesn't matter what happens to them?"

"Of course not Robin was silent for a moment before he finally said, "I'll tell them I'm going on a business trip, expanding the Harper family's market. A few years should suffice When when Mother passes, I'll tell my wife"

"After Mother passes Royce muttered

They reached the park, surrounded by neatly arranged pines and cypresses. Even in the harsh winter, they were lush and green.

Robin nodded. "From now on, please take care of Father and Mother You and Elizabeth should settle down. And I hope you and Damon can keep this from Travis He's at a crucial stage of his life I don't want to ruin his life's efforts."

Royce stopped abruptly, turning to look at him with icy gazes "You realize what you've done could ruin your son's life?"

Robin kept silent. Suddenly, he felt a punch to his face, causing him to stumble and finally fall to the ground.

He looked up at Royce. He had never seen his brother, who always kept his emotions in check, so angry

His anger was palpable, it was more than just being irate. The cold emanating from him was almost lethal

"I'm sorry"

Royce stepped towards him, grabbing his collar and pulling him up before landing another punch in his stomach. Tell me, what exactly have you done? And think about whether your apology deserves a response"

A punch to Robins gut had him crumpling in pain, his face contorted in a grimace with a thin trail of blood trickling from the corner of his mouth. His eyes were rimmed red

the pained expression on his face unmistakable

"I'm sorry"

"Smack!"

Another punch landed on his stomach, "Why can't you just talk to me about your grievances? You want control of the company? I can relinquish it. You want to prove yourself? I could give you opportunities! But do you really need to resort to such underhanded tactics? You even got involved with the royal family of country and that's quite a feat! Just for the sake of the company you disregarded the lives of others. Even towards me, you showed no mercy

"Robin! Who am I to you? Hmm? We share the same blood. Do you realize that? What the hell is going on in your head? For the

atrocious actions?

few shares, you've resorted to such

"Have you ever thought about the consequences when everything comes to light? How are Mom and Dad supposed to live with this? You asked me to take care of them. Do you think you have the right to say these words ""

Robin closed his eyes tightly "Other than I'm sorry I have nothing else to say Royce, I'm sorry"

Robin was punched to the ground once again.

I'm only hiding this for the sake of our parents and Travis Letting him take the blame for your misdeeds ruining the life he built from scratch, it's simply not worth it You almost destroyed your own son's life for your own selfish desires Robin, you truly deserve to die Royce said furiously, coldly standing there and straightening his clothes

Robin wiped the blood from his mouth and slowly rose from the ground, clutching his stomach

Both men fell silent with Royce leaving first after straightening his clothes

Robin remained standing gathering his bearings for a moment before following Royce with a slight stumble

When they returned to the living room, Elizabeth was standing there. Seeing Royce, she stepped forward clearly displeased. "Where have you guys been?) just prepared some snacks, and when I turned around, you were nowhere to be found"

Before she could finish, Elizabeth's gaze fell on Robin who had just come in. Even though most of Royce's punches landed on Robin's stomach, the first punch had landed on his face. At the moment, half of Robin's face was visibly bruised and swollen

She glanced at Royce her eyes asking what had happened. In their family, only Royce would dare to lay a hand on Robin, However, Royce simply took her arm and led her away his face taut and his expression clearly not good

Robin asked a maid for some ice before heading back to his bedroom alone. He sat by the bed, silently applying the ice to his face. His gaze was fixed on a certain spot. unblinking, his mind seemingly blank. It was hard to tell what he was thinking

It wasn't until a maid knocked on his door to tell him dinner was ready that he rose opened the door, and went downstairs

Although the swelling on his face had subsided, it hadn't completely disappeared. The bruised area was still quite noticeable

Alyssa immediately noticed the wound on his face. She glanced at Royce but didn't say anything. Instead she picked up some of Robin's favourite food and put it on a plate "Here, try this I made it with less salt. As we age, we should eat less salt. Eating light is good."

When it came to her own son, Alyssa couldn't help but nag a little. After all, they weren't young anymore, and she sincerely hoped that they would all live long

Robin took a bite

“How is it Alyssa asked expectantly

Robin nodded. ‘Its delicious*

Alyssa beamed in relief. Then eat more.

in no time his plate was overflowing with food

He had lived for so many years, and he knew that no excuse could justify an emotional outburst at that moment. As he stuffed his mouth with the food that he loved, swallowed down the lump of regret gratitude, guilt, and reluctance that surged up his throat

All the things that truly mattered in life were right in front of him, bringing him a sense of happiness far greater than owning the Harper family fortune.

And he had lost it all From then on, he would never have it again.

“Eat slowly Royce. Elizabeth, you too, slow down Don’t compete with your brother”

Elizabeth pouted” “Youre clearly favoring him it’s a rare occasion that you’re cooking and it’s so delicious. If we don’t seize the chance to eat more, wust we be

“Fine: You eat! If it’s not enough. I’ll cook more ”

Only then did Elizabeth smile happily. I help you later

Facing the current Elizabeth, Robin was still surprised He was starting to understand why his mother had been so protective of her

If his future daughter-in-law would be as sweet and cheerful as her he would also like her. He didn't blame his mother for paying more attention to her apud fugit, i wan natural but he never knew that in private, his sister in law had such a personality

The Elizabeth he had seen before seemed just like a regular, dignified upper class lady, reserved and seldom smiling.

Robin continued eating until the table was almost cleared Alyssa couldn't bear to watch anymore.
"You're a grown man. Cant you tell when you he you haven't eaten in ages

At her words. Ruben laughed. 'I might not be able to eat thus again in the fululu, su

Alyssa frowned. "What do you mean you won't be able to eat this in the future? (in noi dying anytina közn

"You misunderstood Mom Robin put down his chopsticks and wiped his mouth already in a few days Ill be heading to U Country to set up a

company the

Alyssa's face darkened and she put down her chopsticks Did all my naggin yourself? The Harper family is doing well as it is Are you guys trying to

camborsang. Im not very alegi (managing things, su tas aranged marything to expand the sou (at the Harper family buanssa. I might keep me busy for gate

deal ears? You're already of a

Robin took a deep breath, "Mom, I just I wanted to prove myself. Recently, the company has been facing numerous challenges under my leadership, leading to significant losses. The public doesnt think highly of me I just don't want to appear incompetent in trust of Tiama for fun, I I just dein through life without accomplishing anything Otherwise, i wouldn't have the nerve to face him as his father

Alyssa's expression softened. Travis isn't like that, you know? i don't know what you're always muling tower in your head

1 just hope you stay healthy mom Please take care of yourself

With just a few simple sentences, Alyssa couldn't help but feel a bit teary. She looked at Robin, and tears welled up in her eyes. "Do you think our divorce shamed you, and that's why you want to distance yourself from us?"

"No...

"Then why? Travis has his own life, and he's so accomplished. He wouldn't care about idle gossip. Even if your reputation isn't the best, you're still the head of the Harper Group. Those people have no right to judge you. Why do you always make things so hard for yourself? How many more years do you think I have? Can't you just stay by my side?"

Robin swallowed hard, his eyes stinging with unshed tears. 'Mom, I'm truly sorry"

Tears finally fell from Alyssa's eyes. "You all make me worry so much Can't you just stay?"

Robin stayed silent, but his brother Royce interjected, "Mom, Robin has his own life. What we see as fulfillment may not meet his standards. We shouldn't interfere too much in his life"

Alyssa didn't respond, just let the tears roll down her cheeks

Chapter 1780

When Grandma returned home, her mood was quite sour Chloe noticed and felt a twinge of curiosity, but with the day's events still fresh in her mind, she refrained from asking what was wrong If it was about the divorce, it was best not to probe

Alyssa chatted with everyone in the living room for a while but wasn't feeling well. She went into mom to rest

"What's wrong with Grandma? Didn't she go to Robin's place? Did Robin upset her?"

Elizabeth sighed deeply "More or less. Even though Robin has given up his shares, he still feels the need for some personal growth, so he applied to go to the U Country to help the Harper family expand their market. Who knows when we'll see him again. Grandma is not happy. She thinks at his age, he shouldn't be so busy around but should be home with her"

Upon hearing this Chloe furrowed her brows slightly. She glanced at Royce next to her and said softly. "Is that so? Well, if Robin's made his choice, there isn't much we can do. No one wants to live a mediocre life forever 'c2

Elizabeth nodded, "Exactly that's what he thinks too. He is stubborn just like his father"

Chloe smiled but didn't continue the conversation

Later, Royce accompanied Elizabeth upstairs, leaving Chloe alone in the living room. After a while, she checked the time, and saw that Rose was still asleep. She stood up. feeling a bit bored

The weather outside was lovely, the afternoon sun felt particularly warm and comforting She put on her coat and went outside for a stroll

Living in Greenfield Village for so long, she still hadn't explored the entire estate In fact, she didn't dare to venture too far out, fearing she might not have the energy to

return

Halfway there, she ran into Nate who was busy washing cars with a few others. Several high-end cars were parked nearby, undoubtedly the spare ones from the estate.

Chloe stood by, quietly watching them for a while.

The atmosphere among the men was more relaxed than usual, but the matters at hand were still being dealt with efficiently

Nate saw Chloe and quickly wiped his hands before running over “Maam

Chloe smiled, observing Nate as he took off his suit jacket, leaving only a shirt. He rolled up his sleeves, and there was a hint of sweat on his face. She couldn’t help but think that this man was full of vitality.

“Are you washing the cars?”

Nate nodded. “Yeah, these cars haven’t been used for a few days. I took them out for a spin with the guys and thought we’d give them a wash since the weather is nice’

Chloe nodded and changed the subject, “I don’t usually see you around when you’re free. It’s rare to see you with nothing to do.”

Nate chuckled awkwardly. “Well, I can’t always be busy. There were indeed a lot of things going on recently”

Chloe paused for a moment, then continued, “Nate, I didn’t see Robin in court today. Damon told me that some of the incidents I’ve experienced were orchestrated by Robin You knew all about this, didn’t you?”

Nate didn’t hesitate to nod, “Yes, I did.”

“Then you also knew about Robin relinquishing his thirty percent stake”

Nate looked a bit uneasy but nodded. “Madam What do you mean?”

Chloe could not help but laugh at his reaction, "Am I really that scary? I am just having a chat with you"

Nate scratched his head awkwardly. He knew Chloe's capabilities, a few words from her could leave someone speechless.

"Madam, how can you be scary?"

"Exactly" Chloe replied nonchalantly 'One thing I don't understand is why Robin decided to go to the U Country? Did he request it, was he forced, or did someone suggest

Nate exhaled in relief, "It's just an excuse He can't really leave the country"

Chloe raised her brow. "What do you mean?".

"Because of the plane crash and the other incidents, including the journalist who interviewed you at the airport. We caught the imposter journalist. Do you know he almost got killed that night? He led us to uncover a series of illegal activities by Mr Robin. Even though Rubin is part of the Harper family, he can't escape the law."

"Of course, the key point is that Mr. Damon won't let him off easily. If it weren't for Mr. Robin "Nate paused, his expression conflicted

Chloe looked at him, "What is it?"

Nate sighed, hesitated for a few seconds, and then said reluctantly. "Initially, Mr. Robin pleaded with Mr. Damon, asking him not to publicize the matter. Traves is in the military and is at a crucial point in his career Presley and Alyssa are also not getting any younger, and if they found out Mr. Robin attempted to kill his own brother, it might be too much for them"

"In the end. Mr. Damon, being the man he is, couldn't be entirely heartless. Travis is innocent, and who wouldn't want their grandparents to be healthy and live a long t Mr Damon agreed not to make the matter public"

Chloe pursed her lips slowly nodding. So you're telling me, Robin isn't going to the U Country, but he's been sentenced to prison?"

Nate nodded. Life imprisonment

A pang in Chloe's heart. She thought about how Alyssa had been upset just knowing Robin was going to the U Country, this news could completely break her

Life imprisonment

She took a deep breath. "Presley doesn't know about this, does he?"

Nate nodded. "Yes, it was Mr Robin himself who first proposed to return the shares. He didn't say anything else, and he's keeping it all a secret. So, ma'am.

"I know" Chloe accepted Nate's concerns Naturally, she knew keeping it a secret was the best choice.

Nate breathed a sigh of relief.

Chloe ended up visiting the alpaca alone.

Damon had hired someone to take care of it. Every time she visited it, it seemed like it had become a bit stronger than the last time. Its fur was clean and white, its head was neatly groomed, and it had a pair of big eyes with thick, black eyelashes. It always had a smiling face, looking cute no matter how you looked at it

She found it particularly funny that this was a gift from Damon when he was courting her. It was initially a joke, but he took it seriously and had Nate deliver it to the company Probably no one else in the world would give such a unique gift

She picked up a branch with green leaves on it from the side and fed it, watching it eat with grace and pride She stroked its chubby cheeks. "You should thank me You're probably the happiest alpaca in the world. Even some people don't live as comfy as you, you know"

The alpaca raised its neck slightly as if it was even more proud

Chloe chuckled, fed it some more, and as if remembering something, suddenly turned to the caretaker next to her, "Is it male or female?"

The caretaker quickly said. "Male"

Chloe nodded. Should we find it a mate

The caretaker paused somewhat amused, "Of course, that can be arranged"

Chloe chuckled took a deep breath, and turned back the way she came

Halfway there she saw Damon not far off. Upon seeing her, he strode towards her.

"Hey Chloe greeted him with a smile

Damon furrowed his brows. "Where have you been?"

Chloe pointed backwards, "To see the alpaca By the way. I have something to tell you"

"Forget it" Damon cut her off, 'Robin broke the law, that's undisputed I've made the biggest concession. He should be thankful I even acknowledge him as my uncle"

Chloe gaped at him, surprised, guessing Nate had tattled on her

That Nate, such a brown-noser Could they even have a pleasant chat in the future?

“I just wanted to tell you about finding a mate for the alpaca What does it have to do with Robin?”

This time, Damon was the one who paused “Finding a mate for the alpaca

Chloe nodded, looked at him for a few seconds, then suddenly chuckled ‘Did you think I was going to plead for Robin? Do you think I’m that kind?’”

I’m a lawful citizen, and this is a country of law. It’s natural to face consequences for breaking the law What’s more, what Robin did to me is not something I can forgive. At most, I feel sorry for Alyssa, but that’s a separate issue. My sympathy for her has nothing to do with whether Robin serves his sentence. He’s an adult who has ruined not only his own life but also the lives of many others. And he expects forgiveness? That’s impossible. I’m not some saint. I don’t have a halo to shine on the world.”

She patted Damon’s shoulder, ‘Sorry to disappoint you”

Damon glanced at her, “No need for apologies. Why the long speech?”

Chloe choked up

“Are you saying this for me or for yourself?”

Chloe was left speechless, her expression slightly stiff.

Damon took her hand, “You don’t need to feel guilty or try to comfort me. Everything you said is correct. Robin doesn’t need anyone else’s sympathy or forgiveness. If he chose to do it, he should bear the consequences. It’s his own business and has nothing to do with anyone else”

Chloe raised an eyebrow. “That’s exactly what I meant, why are you repeating my words?

Damon smirked, leading her back towards the villa “Happy wife, happy life”

Chloe grinned She rubbed her belly. “I think it’s getting bigger

Damon smiled. “Let me check when we get home”

With Rose by her side, Chloe had no chance to think about anything extra

Hannah probably comforted Alyssa a lot, and with Elizabeth and the other two by her side, she gradually got better

Everyone in the house knew about the Robin situation, but not many knew the details. And Damon, Chloe, and Royce were smart enough to keep certain things from

grandmother

The women had plenty to chat about, sometimes they’d play a round of poker while chatting.

The men usually became decorations in these scenarios. Sometimes when Royce and Damon had some free time and wanted to spend time with their wives, they found no opportunity The two would either smoke outside or stay in the study

The two of them had nothing to say so Damon filled him in on the development history of Obsidian Corporation, what he remembered and made up

Royce shared his experience managing the Harper family for those years, seventy percent of which was about his wife, Elizabeth

In just a few days, the father and son found themselves in the study, silent for a long time, feeling they had nothing to say

Royce 'Being with you is really boring'

Damon. Yes, we definitely are father and son

Apparently, after a few days, the two of them started to get on each other's nerves. The two exchanged glances

Two minutes later, they both looked away, sighing in unison, their faces full of snow

"How much can they possibly have to talk about?"

"I don't know"

Father and son exchanged a look, both feeling like they had encountered the most perplexing enigma in the history of mankind. What secrets did women harbor in their minds?

Occasionally, they attempted to join the women's 'gossip clubs,' but such attempts invariably resulted in confusion. Every discussion was about something different

The women were like walking encyclopedias, capable of engaging in deep conversation about anything, and they always seemed to know everything. This would inevitably plunge the men into a deep pool of self doubt.

By the time they managed to decipher their conversations in their own way, the women had already moved on to a new topic.

The two men heaved a sigh once again.

Finally, Royce said, I've been with your mom for thirty years, and I've never once been bored. How is it that after just a few days with you, I'm already feeling bored? You're still young. It might be a good idea to take a hard look at yourself and figure out what you're not doing right."