

## Desperation 191

### Chapter 191

In a moment, Ashley felt like her feet were nailed to the ground, standing still without moving.

She did some math in her head. If Valentin had liked someone for over a decade, that meant he had had feelings for her since

his school days.

That was a long time.

Ashley couldn't quite describe how she felt. She was initially starving, but now she didn't even feel like eating.

On one hand, she wanted to figure out who Valentin liked.

On the other hand, with Valentin's qualities, she thought if he had liked a girl for over ten years and she hadn't reciprocated,

maybe she was just not seeing his worth.

But Joseph's tone was full of melancholy and wistfulness, not sounding like he was joking.

It seemed Valentin did have someone he'd liked for over ten years and hadn't won over.

Ashley had hoped to hear more from Joseph, but he only said that one thing before shifting the topic away from Valentin's secret

crush.

Ashley was almost frantic. 'How can you just stop talking in the middle of a story? It's so frustrating!'

Just then, Jaden finished eating and stood up from his seat. Turning around, he saw Ashley in the restaurant and waved her

over. "Are you here to eat? Come and join us!"

With Jaden's gesture, Joseph also noticed Ashley and glanced behind her. "Where's Valentin? Didn't he come with you?"

"He's handling a work call," Ashley replied.

"That's fine. Valentin will probably join us soon. Ashley, let me tell you, today's breakfast is exceptionally delicious! I suspect they

might have changed the chef. You must try it! It's so much better than yesterday's!"

But Ashley was in no mood to eat because she was curious. She walked over and sat down at the table, hesitated for a couple of

seconds, and then couldn't help but ask, "Joseph, you were saying..."

Joseph was very enthusiastic, even helping Ashley with pouring water. He stopped when he heard her start to speak and eagerly

asked, "What?"

Jaden also looked over at her.

Under their curious eyes, Ashley suddenly felt it might be better to ask Valentin himself about this.

She thought, 'Yeah, I should just ask him directly.'

"It's okay," Ashley said nonchalantly as she stood up. "You and eat. I'm going back to find Valentin."

After saying this, she turned and left the hotel restaurant.

guys go ahead

Joseph, looking completely confused, scratched his head. 'Why did she leave without eating breakfast?'

'What did she want to ask me just now?'

Back in her room, Ashley saw Valentin still on the phone, speaking in business jargon.

Seeing her return, Valentin raised his eyebrows in surprise and asked with his eyes, 'Weren't you hungry? Why didn't you have

breakfast?'

Ashley took out her phone, typed a note, and showed him the screen.

[I have something to ask you.]

After reading it, Valentin glanced at Ashley, nodded slightly, and sped up his work report on the phone.

Ashley sat on the bed, observing Valentin, who was standing by the window on the phone.

He wore a clean, white shirt with the sleeves rolled up to his elbows, revealing his well-defined forearms. His skin, with its visible

blue veins, somehow looked irresistibly sexy.

The morning sunlight streaming through the window made him look more graceful and poised.

Ashley's gaze wandered over him from head to toe, involuntarily resting on Valentin's stunningly handsome face.

From his perfectly shaped eyebrows to his straight nose, her gaze finally settled on his thin lips that moved as he spoke.

She had to admit, his lips were beautiful. They were not too thin and had a pale red color.

They looked so kissable.

Ashley's mind uncontrollably drifted to the times they had kissed.

Valentin might look cool and aloof, but his lips felt soft and desirable...

Snapping back to reality, Ashley realized what she was thinking, and her cheeks flushed, turning as red and warm as sun-baked

roses..

She slapped herself on the face in frustration.

"What am I thinking!!" she scolded herself.

Still on the phone, Valentin caught a glimpse of Ashley slapping herself and hesitated for a moment, then couldn't help but

chuckle softly.

His chuckling, with his eyes lowered, was incredibly charming.

Ashley's cheeks burned even hotter, and she gave him an annoyed glare.

It was more of a soft look than a glare, without any real threat behind it.

Valentin's subordinate on the other end of the phone heard the sudden laughter and stopped talking, confused. 'What

happened? Was there something funny about the report, or did I say something wrong?'

This made the subordinate very nervous.

Valentin gave a few instructions and quickly hung up the phone, walking over to her.

Looking at Ashley sitting on the bed, he bent down, his back forming an attractive line, and looked at her with a smile in his

eyes..

He raised a hand and gently touched her forehead with the back of his cold hand, teasing her.

"Come on, let me see, have you gone crazy? Why are you hitting yourself?"

Ashley felt shy.

She leaned her head back to avoid his hand. "You're the crazy one!" she retorted.

Valentin's eyebrows lifted almost imperceptibly, his voice casual and

playful. "So, what are you thinking about? Why are you hitting yourself?"

"I hit myself because I want to. I hit myself when I'm happy, and I hit myself when I'm not. It's none of your business!" Ashley

retorted stubbornly.

"Oh, is that so?" Valentin drew out his words, slowly standing up straight his gaze lowered but fixed on her. "Maybe next time,

someone else should do the hitting."

"Someone else? You want me to hit you?" Ashley asked suspiciously.

Valentin's eyes sparkled with a hint of a smile, his deep, magnetic voice more captivating than ever. "I can't just stand by and

watch you hit yourself. Since I'm your husband, I'll have to take it for you."

Ashley blushed even more.

She thought, "Even if you're willing, I wouldn't do it. I'm not into domestic violence! Why say you're my husband..."

Remembering something earlier, Ashley scratched her head, stood up, and cleared her throat. "Valentin, I have something to ask

you."

He glanced down at the time and, pulling her along, suggested. "Aren't you hungry? Let's talk over food."

Ashley wasn't really hungry anymore, but she nodded.

"Sure. It's about what I heard Joseph saying at the restaurant earlier..."

Just as Ashley started to speak, Valentin opened the door. They ran into Bryce and Miranda in the hallway as they were about to

leave the room.

Bryce stopped in his tracks, first checking the room number to confirm it was indeed Ashley's, then a look of utter disbelief

crossed his face as he stared, speechless, at Valentin coming out of Ashley's room early in the morning.

Under what circumstances would a man come out of a woman's room in the early morning? What exactly was their relationship?

Miranda was stunned, her eyes wide and mouth agape.

She couldn't believe what she was seeing.

Valentin had rushed over from his country yesterday to rescue Ashley from Andrew, which Miranda found odd enough. Even a

devoted fan

wouldn't go to such lengths for their idol.

And now, early in the morning, she saw Valentin coming out of Ashley's room...

Did they spend the night together?

Miranda shivered.

Could she be right?

After everything Valentin had done for Ashley, could it be that he had ulterior motives?

"Ashley, you and Mr. Kingsley..."

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Ashley pressed her forehead, feeling a headache. This is bad. I can't explain this,' she thought.

She knew that no one would easily believe if she said Valentin was just there to chat or discuss work.

While Ashley was stressed, Valentin looked calm and collected, as usual. He even seemed to want everyone to know about his

relationship with Ashley.

He confidently walked Ashley out of the room in an eerie silence, closing the door slowly and gracefully, showing off his

elegance.

Then, he turned to Miranda and Bryce, who were still stunned in the hallway.

Since they were Ashley's friends, his tone was indifferent but not too distant. "Is there something else?"

Miranda, recovering from her shock, glanced cautiously at Valentin and swallowed nervously before turning to Ashley with a mix

of surprise and concern. "Ashley, you and Mr. Kingsley..."

Ashley knew what Miranda was thinking just by her look.

She was thinking about the unspoken rules of the industry.

"Don't jump to conclusions! It's not what you think! It's not..." Ashley started to explain her relationship with Valentin.

She wanted to clear up the misunderstanding, especially since Valentin had just come out of her room early in the morning. She

couldn't let Miranda think it was something scandalous.

But halfway through, Ashley remembered that Valentin had been in love with someone else for over ten years and never got

together with them.

Revealing her marriage to Valentin might not be a good idea then.

And then there was the matter of their divorce....

Since he was in love with someone else, divorcing seemed necessary.

Ashley was lost in her thoughts and brought to reality by Valentin's deep and cold voice. "Unspoken rules?"

His voice was filled with a chill, scaring Miranda a bit.

Valentin's attitude towards Ashley was so different from that of others. He was playing double standards.

Ashley quickly tugged on Valentin's clothes.

Valentin looked down at her, then took her hand as if no one

there. Looking at Miranda and Bryce, he emphasized each

"We're married."

Ashley was shocked.

At that moment, Miranda's eyes widened in disbelief, completely stunned.

She couldn't believe her ears.

Married?

Bryce was equally shocked and looked back and forth between Ashley and Valentin, finally settling on Ashley with a more

serious look. "Ashley, you..."

"Ah!" Miranda snapped back to reality, about to scream excitedly.

Ashley quickly let go of Valentin and dashed over to Miranda, covering her mouth. "Calm down."

Miranda looked up with big, sad eyes, wondering how she could possibly calm down.

It wasn't a secret affair.

It wasn't a boyfriend-girlfriend thing.

They were married!

They had already tied the knot!

Her best friend had secretly married a top-notch tycoon! Who could stay calm knowing that?!

While comforting Miranda, Ashley glanced at Bryce. Thankfully, he seemed composed, looking down, lost in thought.

I'm sorry for keeping this from you," Ashley said, full of remorse.

Miranda shook her head quickly, grabbed Ashley's hand away from her  
er 192

uth, and said. "Don't be sorry sshdey, potally get it. It's normal for  
to keep it a secret!

r saying that. Miranda toob Ashidry's hand again and covered her own uth, blinking her big,  
innoccerervesather.

anda's cute and clueless loos was simiy to adorable,

ley couldn't help but laugh. loosing naturanda tenderly, a

st giving her a hug.

ntin watched this scene. puzzicd.

Fianced at his hand, which Ashley had decor and felt ignored, and bat Ashley hugging Miranda closely...

she just leave him to hug another woman?

au close to Ashley. Miranda suddenly felt a rendaan doomy stare and redly stepped out of Ashley's  
embrace.

ley actually hadn't had enough of the hug.

ertement didn't die down for Miranda, even during breakfast. Ivone went to the hotel restaurant  
together.

recand Lester were also at the restaurant. Joseph and hidden had

cd came, but bored, they still sat there bickering.

megat decided to sit down together for breakfast.

moda's curiosity was at its peak. She clearly had many questions for  
dn't dare to ask recklessly in front of Valentin.

utetit helpless, glanced towards Bryce, who was calm and y me warhout making a sound.

lly, Miracan couldn't hold back anymore. She cleverly found an send what pero Ashley, arent we going  
back to our country this.

moon

cobay come souvenirs nearby Will you come with

lets

by could hann wiedt answering some of Miranda's questions. wouldnt be idées relax, bo Nize nodded.  
"Okay"

had wanted to satenbout the person he liked but decided to amti after they tastecathopping.

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tall, shopping wouldn't take too long.

dnbreakfast. Ashley pulled Valentin aside and inenconcret that she dibus 500 souvenirs nearby with  
Miranda...

attooweever, was worried. Til go with you. He insisted d

cv was 13 statafanditus, and he didn't feel comfortable te

his is comt vavay from the hotel.

once did deplovco nodygards around, ensuring Andrew thy whisk Astley away again. But if she left the  
hotel, her saf

integranteed.

e decided to my with her to keep an eye on her and reel at ease.ne

was started it for a moment before realizing what he was word and waved one and dismissively. Don't  
worry. Based on what à

abom Andrew completely sure he won't come looking for the e

itin narrowed his eyes sightly. You know him that well?

y didn't respond.

ked again, histone.coreraomoious Ashley, do you understand me

as him:

y was even more speechinless.



hought. How did we end up talking about this?

wanting to argue or make a fuss a hour going out and causing others rry. Ashley gave in. Alright, if you that worried, I won't go

out."

that's right! Ashley suddenly brightnond up. Il just go directly to ndat room and talk to hert

all, Miranda just wanted to ask here on questions, and it didn't gr where they talked.

you go back to your mom. Im out to re Mivanandat

ey said and tumed to run on to mu Miandade

itin was left behind, felt ignored, and was an alto is for words.

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So, Ashley went to Miranda's room.

She told Miranda that Valentin was worried about her leaving the hotel, so they wouldn't buy souvenirs. If there were anything to

discuss, they would do it in the room.

Miranda's eyes lit up when she heard this. "Wow, Mr. Kingsley is so concerned about you! He's really thoughtful!" she exclaimed.

Ashley didn't know what to say.

Miranda said, a bit embarrassed, "I never thought of that!"

Quickly, she pulled Ashley to sit beside her on the bed, her cheeks slightly red with excitement.

"Seriously, I was too excited to

eat breakfast. I never imagined I'd have the chance to sit at the same table with Mr. Kingsley. It's all thanks to you, Ashley!"

Ashley found her words were so funny. "It's just a meal."

"But it's different. It's not just any meal when it's with Valentin!"

Valentin was a noble tycoon with power and influence. Most people wouldn't even get a chance to see him!

Unable to hide her excitement and curiosity, Miranda asked, "Ashley, when did you and Mr. Kingsley get married?"

"Almost a year now."

“Wow, that long!”

In her heart, Ashley thought, ‘Actually, agreement.

s almost time for our divorce

“When did you guys meet?” Miranda’s imagination was running wild, already picturing a romantic drama.

Ashley briefly answered, “We knew each other as kids, but then we were apart for a while. We reunited a year ago.”

Miranda’s eyes lit up again. “You’re childhood sweethearts! That’s so meant to be!”

Ashley’s eyes lit up with a small smile, finding the term “childhood sweethearts” much nicer than Jaden’s childhood fiance” label.

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da suddenly figured something out. “Now i retinat’s why Mr.

sley bid on your bracelet at the charity dinner randaid he was your

fan. The truth is, he’s your husband!’

blinked. “You could say that.

lsy! I think you and Mr. Kingsley are a perfect match.my

bat everything You’re so well-suited”

wees from the compliment, touching her eyelid sace

Mccailly, he has...

pussc., thinking wasnt right to talk about Valentins personl

behind his back

ecided tonasit him later and get the whole story.

ida quackboccame a huge fan of Ashley and Valentin’s love story asons. Before they knew it an hour and a half had

all who woolide excited about hearing a real-life romantic up rlosch

chatting foron chart half hour. Miranda reluctantly sent Ashley lshould teep you coo long. Mr. Kingsley is probably waiting usty

y was speechless..

Ryan's brow furrowed, his voice filled with disappointment and reluctance. "Miranda, why let Ashley affect our relationship?"

sister,

Miranda held the phone emotionlessly and said, "Ashley is your and you mistreat her. I can't believe you'd be any better to me, a

stranger."

Ryan was taken aback and tried to justify himself. "Yes, Ashley is my sister, but look what she did to the Ramos family. Our

family is in ruins because of her! My mom has been sick and hospitalized, Frankie's whereabouts are unknown, Jeremy and

Matthew are hardly home, Jessica was forced out of the entertainment industry, and only my dad struggles to keep the crumbling

Ramos Group afloat. It's all Ashley's fault!"

"Don't twist the truth! It was you who hurt Ashley first. She was only defending herself!"

Miranda was trembling with anger. "Just look at Jessica. How many times has she harmed Ashley? Frankie and Bertha made up

lies to slander Ashley, trying to get her jailed. All these things are known all over the internet. Which one of them is not true? Did

Ashley ever do anything wrong to you all before she left the Ramos family? Wasn't she good enough for you?"

Before leaving the Ramos family...

Ryan remembered how, before Ashley left, she was like a dignity-less person, desperately trying to please them, seeking a bit of

affection.

Ashley knew he liked racing cars, so she stayed up all night to make a car model for him. He didn't even glance at it and

smashed it on the floor.

He later found out Ashley was allergic to mangoes and deliberately made her eat them, wanting to see her ugly allergic reaction.

At first, Ashley refused, but he sternly told her that he would ignore her forever if she didn't eat.

Hearing this, Ashley immediately stuffed the mango into her mouth. He even threatened her, saying a few bites weren't enough.

She had to eat all five mangoes.

Her allergy made her entire body break out in itchy, swollen rashes, and she was almost unconscious. He laughed loudly at her

miserable state.

Enduring her allergic discomfort, Ashley cautiously asked if he would accept another racing car model she'd make by staying up

late again. Of course, he refused and pushed her away, walking off.

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Remembering these past events, Ryan frowned. "Ashley is my sister. It's only right toon her to be good to me. Isn't it normal for

sisters to be nice to their bodies?"

Miranda found this absurd. "And you're her brother. Why don't you treat her well?"

1. Ruanasut à loss for words.

Mind closed droves. I just comforted you a little whe your right leezand maht never race again, and you're so nice Ashley has

done soo much for the Ramos family. Why don't you

It's different Ramses reddened. "When I discovered I couldn't race again. I was stom,west and most desperate. Your comfort and

that apple you gave 150 much 10 me!"

Why didn't you care when Ashley comforted you after your injury?" Miranda sharply questioned.

Ryan frowned more doranty Lalley comforted him and even offered to find a doctor for his summery

The best doctor in the wood.

But what kind of doctor could disbandi

He thought she was just boasting 100 get the attention of the Ramos family.

He didn't believe Ashley could findd doooor and angrily kicked her out of his room, saying her face made him sisichandoo stay

out of his sight.

Later, a top world-renowned surgeon aialiveused to operate on his ice, then suddenly agreed.

It must have been for the sake of the Ramos mity

de should be grateful to the Ramos fumiy toonsshley

handa. Ashley didn't help me at all. She is FREE

Because Ryan could finish, Miranda didn't want to hang up with a click

Staring at the disconnected call. Ryan was so angry he wanted a smash

He felt that it was all because of Ashley, the evil luck charm, that Miranda thought so little of him. He would never forgive Ashley

in his life!

Ashley returned to her room and saw Valentin sitting on the balcony chair, resting with his eyes closed.

His long eyelashes trembled slightly as she approached, and he opened his eyes, revealing a fleeting brilliance.

"Are you sleeping?" Ashley walked up to him.

"No." Valentin replied calmly, "You don't understand me, not even knowing if I'm asleep."

"Don't be unreasonable."

Valentin lifted his gaze, silently looking at her.

Ashley stood in front of him, their eyes meeting. Her delicate features seemed like a painting. "I've wanted to ask you something,

and now is a good time."

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"What happened?" Valentin remembered. She'd said she had something to ask him since breakfast and hadn't had the time to

do so until now.

"Sit down first." Valentin pulled her to sit down in the wicker chair next to him.

A silver coffee pot sat on the glass round table, rising in a curling mist that gave off the aroma of coffee.

Valentin leaned over and picked up the silver coffee pot, pouring her coffee with a pleasing elegance and nobility from his bones.

Not having the mood to admire his elegance at the moment, Ashley said directly, "I hear you have had a crush on someone for

over ten years."

Instantly, Valentin stopped pouring coffee.

The scene was deathly quiet.

It took several seconds before his eyelashes fluttered lightly. Putting the coffee pot down, he looked up at her and said in a deep

voice, "Where did you hear that?"

"I heard about it from Joseph when I went to the diner this morning." Ashley blinked. "I was sneaking over to try to scare him from

behind when I happened to hear him tell Jaden that you have a crush on someone for over ten years and haven't been able to

pursue her."

Valentin fell silent.

Ashley didn't notice her subconsciously pinching her dress. "Is Joseph telling the truth or not?"

She thought, 'He's liked that person for over ten years. Such a long time.'

Valentin looked at her silently, as if he had only been looking at her for a few seconds and as if he had looked at her for as long

as a century.

Finally, he admitted, "It's true."

Ashley's eyelashes fluttered twice at his words, like butterfly wings fluttering in panic. She said slowly, "Oh."

a

Standing up suddenly, Valentin walked over to her and squatted down on one knee, his sight at her level.

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looked at her, his eyes unusually shades force you know i have a

sh on someone, you've been doing what you m this morning until now. Doesn't that botoc:

entin thought. Isn't she jealous at all!

should have been doing

so at all?"

Hey's pupils quivered, and she lowered deres eveAserer two se

looked up at him and said honestly. I was limery 15 m rheard what joseph said. I ran back to ask you wionoure reprised than

anything else. I didn't believe it you li

can you not go after her? Then, since you like someone  
used to get divorced soon. Let's just get divorced where we can  
IRS.  
and

Emryn almost laughed in irritation, thinking. She's so decisive

Best didn't frown. If you have someone you like, why waste you  
to your conjugal duties with me before?"

She'd been looking at her without a word for a long time before she'd  
watching the show since you

were a bit

she nodded decisively. "Yes."

she looked puzzled and thought, 'How did the conversation end up watching the snow?

with the recent weather, neither in the country nor Manditus.

And, where they were now, had snowed

Emryn looked at her suddenly's snowing in Osakin. Begian. Why don't you take the return today and just go there?

Emryn was stunned.

Emryn in Begian was known as the show country. When she was a child, she saw this place in a book and  
she'd pointed it out to

Valentin, saying that they would go to see the snow in the region. But she had a feeling  
that their childhood promise

was

kept.

Emryn thought. Why is he suddenly here now? A pre-divorce

Emryn scratched her head, feeling it was appropriate?"

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Emryn said, "Didn't we agree when we were kids that we would go there?"

Emryn's heart clenched slightly as she heard his confusion. "Why do you suddenly think wrong?"

and

of their childhood, and want to go now? Is there  
tin looked at her without roving it deep eyes that swirle  
f faintly visible ripples.

ought. Since it's come to this. Ill tell her I lite!

mg his answer. Ashley blinked in contusioroot knowing what he ed to do. Since he was really up to  
somecama..see nodded and

said

Alright let's go together."

pened that joseph came to find them this image.

on as he walked in the door, he shouted in any way. My dear rin and Ashley, what are you doing? It's  
time for head to the

prot up and walked over. "We're not reaming horaes van We're me to Begian temporarily

h was so excited when he heard about it that he came comrad ad

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When they reached the front of the snow lodge, Jackson said a few more flattering words and left  
sensibly.

Ashley looked around, curious and marveling at everything here.

A thick layer of snow had gathered on top of the igloo like a fluffy mass  
of cream.

Ashley went inside the igloo with Valentin. It was constructed similarly to the room they normally stayed  
in and was warmed by

heating equipment and a burning fireplace that occasionally made a slight rattling sound as the wood  
burned.

There was a wall of large floor-to-ceiling windows, and the snowy world outside could be seen through  
the transparent glass. Not

far from the cedar forest, the elk lowered their heads for food. It was as beautiful and dreamy as a fairy  
tale world.

The table in the room was prepared with various well-cooked delicacies, giving off a tantalizing aroma of  
food.

There were also fresh roses in a vase on one side, their petals dripping with crystal clear dew as if they  
hadn't been picked long



ago. The whole  
room was warm.

“Are you hungry?” Valentin asked as he watched Ashley walk here and there, never quieting down, and couldn’t help but pull her.

“No.” Ashley shook her head. She wanted to go out now to lighten her mood. “What about you? Do you want to eat now?”

Valentin raised an eyebrow with doubt.

Ashley said, “Let’s go out if you don’t want to eat.”

Valentin glanced at her clothes and turned to bring over a white down jacket with two cute bunny ears on the hood. “It’s cold

outside. Change before you go out.”

Ashley nodded and changed her clothes. She looked like a round, white rabbit and scampered out with hops and bounds.

Shaking his head helplessly, Valentin chuckled as he lowered his head and hurriedly followed.

There was a big ski slope in this resort, and Ashley saw it when she came. over just now. She hadn’t skied in a long time and  
was very interested.

After putting on her gear, she skied out skillfully on her own without any guidance from her instructor.

Valentin knew she could ski and was good at it, so he wasn’t worried about her falling.

Ashley skied smoothly and unobstructed to the finish line and better

Preparing to take a break and wait for Valentin to come over, Ashley suddenly saw a man skiing ahead of her, crashing

uncontrollably in her direction.

Ashley tapped the ground with her ski pole and then avoided it lightly.

The man didn’t control his direction well and fell over, even splitting his legs coquettishly.

Ashley was about to say something when the man got up and cursed in pain, “Why did you just move?  
It’s because of you that I  
fell.”

Ashley was confused and thought, ‘It was obviously you who fell down and almost hit me, okay?’

The man felt it was embarrassing to fall in public, so he cursed and made trouble.

The tourists watching nearby could hardly stand it anymore.

Jackson, who was patrolling nearby, heard the argument and immediately rushed over. "What's going on? Why are you all arguing?"

The man knew Jackson. "Jackson, you're just in time!" Smiling insidiously, he pointed at Ashley and said, "Look, it's her blocking there that made me suddenly fall while skiing."

Jackson looked in the direction of the man's finger, and he saw a beautiful face the next second.

He thought, 'Isn't this Ms. Ramos?'

Jackson immediately looked around, thinking, 'Huh? Where is Mr. Kingsley? Mr. Kingsley doesn't seem to be nearby.'

That man was still scolding.

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tourist in the crowd couldn't stand it. "Obviously, you didn't control the reaction well. What does that have to do with that lady? If

you want to take the blame, just blame yourself for not skiing well.

The man immediately gave a menacing look.

this time. Ashley came over with a smile in her beautiful eye "Hello.

Jackson.

Jackson hurriedly smiled. "Hello. Miss Ramos."

Jackson, do you know the other? The man was confused.

Jackson was speechless and reprimanded

You're the one who almost

1. Ramos. Hurry up and apologize to Ms. Ramos."

Jackson!" The man was unconvinced

suddenly realized that Jackson looked very respectful and scared of the young lady. He couldn't help but yell in exasperation. Why

are you afraid of her?

Jackson, unable to stand it and thinking this name was incredibly stupid, raised his voice and yelled. This is the feeble proprietor of

our resort!"

thought. Of course. I have to be afraid of her. The whole resort was

developed because of her.

The man stared as if struck by lightning, thinking "Fremate proprietor?"

Jackson immediately called the nearby security guard and shared the anecdote in despair.

Then Jackson smiled apologetically at Ashley, Ms. Ramoslimi so sorry that he just bumped into you."

They don't care that much. "It's okay.

It was such a cold day, but Jackson was sweating on us for chivalry. He

so his hand to wipe away the sweat

i

When the male proprietor met this kind of thing that the tourists play at the resort. This is a serious mistake. Comp

Hirytale stared at it, telling Jackson about his own intentions to Brian and the next place to have fun when Valentine came over.

Security patrol was laying the entire resort. Ashley was a little tree that

cure

in a

eternity.

His time, snowflakes were falling in this sky again.

When almost finished playing, they turned the igloo.

Ashley suddenly thought she hadn't added snowman when walking to

igloo.

thought, It can't be missed.

They ran to the door of the igloo and found snowman right in the thick pile of snow.

Ashley ran away after doing the bad thing.

The two long bunny ears on the hood jumped up and down as she ran.

Valentin was caught off guard and was hit by a snowball. He touched his tongue against his face and watched her flee with a

smile. "Ashley, your dare to hit me, and you are so scared that you run away?"

Ashley ran to a safe distance before stopping. "I'm not running away. I'm taking a walk."

Valentin thought, "Taking a walk... Good.'

He waved to her. "Come back. I don't care."

"Really?" Ashley was cautious.

He nodded.

Ashley didn't go back. Instead, she wisely ran back to the igloo.

Valentin chuckled and shook his head with an expression of indescribable indulgence.

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The two went back to the igloo. The room was the right temperature, so they didn't feel cold. Ashley took off her down jacket with

bunny ears.

It was already evening, and orange lights lit up outside.

One could see through the large floor-to-ceiling windows that snowflakes were falling under the orange light, which was a unique

feeling.

Ashley was watching intently when she suddenly received messages from Joseph.

[Ashley, are you having a good time?]

Isn't it fun there?]

[You guys didn't even take me with you. I'm going to get angry! You'll never coax me out of it.]

Ashley was speechless for a while.

Raising her phone, she took a photo of the snowy scene and sent it to him.

Joseph cried even louder after reading it. [Oh, it's so beautiful. I want to go there, too! You and Valentin just left me behind so ruthlessly!]

Ashley replied: [I'll bring you here next time.]

Joseph was still sad. [Oh, don't think you can coax me like this. A

wounded heart is not easily repaired. I have principles, too, and I'm really, angry this time.]

Ashley said: [Well, in that case, I won't bring you next time either.]

Joseph was stunned.

He was so angry that he typed faster. [Are you still my favorite Ashley?]

Ashley replied decisively: [No.]

Joseph immediately retorted: [No! You are my favorite Ashley, and will always be! No one can replace it!]

Ashley was speechless.

Joseph asked: [Wait a minute, where is Valentin? Why don't I see him?]

Ashley replied: [He is preparing dinner aside.]

Joseph said: [Hey, Valentin is awesome. Ashley, you're so lucky. I won't disturb you anymore. How sensible I am!]

Ashley was speechless once again.

Valentin walked over at that moment, strong and graceful. He tilted his head to indicate the direction of the table. "Would you like

something to

eat?"

Ashley was hungry, so she walked to the dining table and sat down. The table was full of her favorite food.

So, she accidentally overstuffed herself.

Ashley paced back and forth in the room remorsefully and turned to look at Valentin. "By the way, you said you came to see the

snow today because you had something to do. What's the matter?"

Without answering, Valentin walked toward her and asked, "Are you still stuffed?"

Ashley was embarrassed. "No, I'm better now. The main reason is that the dinner just now was so delicious."

So, she accidentally overstuffed.

Valentin raised his eyebrows slightly and said in a funny way, "It would be bad if you are uncomfortable."

Ashley wasn't uncomfortable. After walking, she walked over to the couch in front of the floor-to-ceiling windows and sat down,

quietly enjoying the snowy scene outside.

Valentin sat down in front of the floor-to-ceiling window with her.

Seeing a bouquet of roses in the vase beside him, he raised his hand and stroked it twice.

Ashley turned to see this quiet and beautiful scene. Valentin was caressing the delicate roses, blending into a picture of great

beauty.

After looking at it for a while, Ashley asked casually, "Do you like this flower very much?"

He looked like he loved it.

Valentin shook his head slightly and said in a somewhat lower voice, "No, I'm a little nervous."

"Nervous?" Ashley was surprised, thinking his nervousness was too subtle to see. She asked, "What are you nervous about?"

Valentin raised his eyes to look at her, with a faint emotion she couldn't understand floating in his unfathomable eyes.

His eyes looked like an abyss, seeming to absorb Ashley's soul into it.

Ashley couldn't help but stare at him. After a while, she lowered her eyes and said inaudibly, "Actually... I have been wondering

today who the person you like is and why you didn't successfully pursue her..."

She had thought long but hadn't figured out who it was that he had been liking since he was a student.

Of course, she and Valentin were not in the same grade. As they grew older, their relationship was not as close as it had been

when they were children, and it became increasingly awkward. They would even argue. And maybe he liked a girl in his class,

she just didn't know

Ashley couldn't help but slow down her breathing and asked softly, "Will you continue to pursue her in the future?"

He looked at her seriously and intently. "Yes."

Ashley curled her fingers and nodded slightly before turning to look at the snowy scene outside the window.

The snow seemed to be falling more heavily.

A gust of wind blew, and snowflakes flew all over the sky.

This pre-divorce trip would be a very impressive one for Ashley.

Valentin looked at Ashley's delicate side face and said gently, "Do you like  
no snow very  
much?"

The snowflakes outside the window seemed to fly into her eyes and melt into water. She nodded. "Yes."

He asked, "Do you know what I like?"

Hearing his words, Ashley withdrew her gaze and looked towards him with her beautiful eyes. Her  
inadvertently furrowed brows  
had an indescribable flavor.

She thought, 'What does he like? It seems that he has never shown any obvious preferences since  
childhood.'

Ashley frantically thought about what he liked to watch or eat. With what she knew about him, she  
could still say it if she wanted  
to.

Suddenly, a shadow shrouded her eyes.

Valentin came closer and clasped her waist with his warm palms. He held her waist tightly as if he  
wanted to control her.

Ashley was stunned, and her eyes widened slightly. The thoughts in her mind suddenly broke apart.  
She could no longer think about what he liked.

Immediately afterward, she felt a pain on her lips.

Valentin kissed her hard.

He rubbed and kissed her moist and red lips, and the voice that overflowed from his throat was husky  
and sexy as hell, like an

ambiguous blow to Ashley's heart one by one.

"You." Valentin said, "Ashley, I like you."

## Chapter 197

The fireplace in the igloo was burning, snow was falling outside the window, and elk were walking in the pine forest not far away.

It was a forest wonderland-like place.

And Ashley heard Valentin say he liked her at such a place.

Her pupils shrank violently, and her mind went blank. Her hands and feet were frozen, not knowing what reaction to give.

Until a moment later, Valentin's magnetic voice slowly brought her consciousness back.

Valentin's voice was soft and affectionate, like the whisper between lovers, but with a hint of astringency.

"I know that you always reject suitors decisively. What's more, you hated me so much when you were a child.

"You heard that I have someone I've liked for many years. In order to cover this up and prevent you from rejecting me, I can just

name someone to get over it.

"But I don't want you to misunderstand."

Speaking of this, he paused momentarily and looked at her deeply as if all the beautiful scenes in the world were not as good as

hers.

He continued, "Ashley, it's just you. The only person I've liked for so many years is you."

Ashley's eyelashes blinked unconsciously.

"Valentin, you..."

Ashley stuttered for a moment, and her mind seemed to be filled with a  
it out.

bunch of tangled white clouds. She couldn't figure

She thought, 'I'm the one Valentin has liked for over ten years. Valentin liked me a long time ago.

'He and I were close at first when we were kids. But when we grew up, we often fell out and sometimes quarreled. How could he

possibly like me?

"Especially when we fell out, Valentin blocked me in my room when he heard me say I liked Kevin, my classmate. His eyes were



shocking, and he asked me if I was out of my mind to like Kevin. Wait a moment!’

Ashley then reacted, thinking. ‘Was he jealous?’

Shocked, Ashley recalled it carefully.

In the beginning, she and Valentin were very close. They had been engaged since they were kids by both of their grandfathers.

Then, when they got a little older and realized what the betrothal meant, the more she looked at Valentin, the more awkward she

became.

After that, Ashley didn’t want to get too close to Valentin, preferring to find other friends of her age to play with. That was when

the two started to fall out and even quarrel.

Valentin’s attitude towards her was especially gloomy and unpredictable when he saw her playing with the neighbor’s children.

Ashley thought Valentin was deliberately targeting her at that time.

It turned out that...

“Have you been jealous?”

It completely upended what Ashley had always known, blinking her moist eyes blankly at him.

Valentin did not deny it. “Yes.”

He didn’t know at that time what he’d done wrong to be alienated from Ashley suddenly.

Ashley even said she hated him, yet she smiled brightly at someone else.

Valentin’s heart seemed to be ripped apart with anger and jealousy when he heard Ashley say she liked Kevin.

Yet, he couldn’t change the fact that Ashley hated him

Ashley kept shaking her head and hurriedly explained, “No! I never liked Kevin. I thought the engagement was weird and I

wanted to end it with you, so I purposely made up an excuse..

Ashley was saying when she was suddenly taken into Valentin’s arms with force.

He was so hard that he seemed to be hugging his world

Ashley then realized that Valentin had carried her to sit on his lap at some point, and she was nestled in his arms.

Blinking, Ashley moved uncomfortably twice to find a comfortable position in his lap.

She poked his chest with her finger. "Are you blind? How could you like me?"

Valentin said helplessly, "Don't talk about yourself like that."

Ashley said, "For the confession you just made, I...

"Stop saying if you want to reject me." Valentin put his arm around her waist and stroked the delicate skin of her cheek with his

other hand.

Quite shocked, Ashley thought, 'I can't even say that?'

Ashley gritted her teeth and said, "You're being unreasonable! You'll get beaten up like this. Forget it. I won't bully you for now. I'll

tell you seriously. I'll consider your confession."

Valentin suddenly let out a chuckle.

Ashley didn't know why. "Why are you laughing?"

Valentin moved closer, touching his forehead to hers. The position was so intimate that they could feel each other's breath. "I'm

glad you didn't reject me outright."

It was a much better outcome than he had expected.

In every possibility Valentin envisioned, Ashley would not hesitate to reject his confession.

Ashley's heart trembled, and she said softly, "You're happy with that? Then you're asking too little."

"Ashley, if you don't want me to ask for so little, agree to my pursuit. Well?"

"Let me think about it"

It was so sudden that her mind was still cluttered with thoughts even how.

She had always thought she and Valentin were rivals as children, but she had never expected him to suddenly confess his

feeling saving

that he had been silently fond of her for many years.

How could she not be touched?

But it was really sudden and unexpected.

She didn't want to treat his love of more than ten years in a hazy manner.

As such, she wanted to think about it to treat him properly and see her true heart...

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They returned home the next day.

No sooner had they returned to Kingsley Villa than they saw Joseph waiting in the living room with great interest.

Ashley was still a little tired from her day of fun yesterday. After greeting Joseph, she was ready to go upstairs and rest.

Just walking up the stairs, she turned to Valentin and asked, "Did you bring back that little snowman?"

"Here. I've been holding it for you." Valentin handed her the little snowman doll in his hand.

It was a little souvenir from the igloo resort. Ashley thought it was pretty cute and brought it back.

Seeing that she liked it, Jackson immediately brought all the snowman dolls of various sizes and models to her, saying that he

wanted to present her with a whole set.

Ashley was speechless then.

She only took two cute ones.

Handing one of them to Joseph, Ashley said, "This one is for you, and the other is for me and Valentin."

Joseph instantly took it joyfully, thinking, "This little snowman is so cute!"

And the little snowman Ashley gave him was special, with two little pink blushes on its face. He loved pink the best!

"Wow! Ashley, you remembered that I like pink. I'm so impressed!"

Joseph was so moved that he wanted to shed tears. But

looked

up, he realized that Ashley wasn't even listening to him. Instead, she tiptoed up to Valentin's ear. Not knowing what she

whispered to Valentin, Valentin smiled with his eyes lowered, and Ashley even poked Valentin's waist affectionately.

It looked like a scene of a young couple.

Joseph fell silent, thinking, 'Is anyone listening to me?

'And there are no words that I can't hear. I'm not a child. I can listen to what a child can't.

Ashley finished whispering to Valentin and ignored Joseph before heading upstairs to rest.

Joseph asked, "Valentin, what did Ashley say to you?"

"Nothing."

Joseph thought, 'Great. Valentin really favors Ashley!

Joseph narrowed his eyes and rubbed his chin, approaching Valentin. smartly. "Valentin, something is wrong with you and

Ashley."

Glancing at him slowly, Valentin walked over to sit on the couch and said honestly, "I confessed to her."

Joseph's eyes immediately widened at that. "And? Did Ashley say yes?"

Valentin did not answer immediately.

"Tell me, Valentin." Joseph was extremely anxious.

"She said think about it."

"Think about it..." Lost in thought, Joseph took two steps back and forth in the living room and suddenly walked over to Valentin,

saying with a serious look, "Valentin, I'm very experienced with things like relationships, seriously."

Valentin nodded slightly, signaling him to continue.

Joseph analyzed seriously. "In my experience, if a girl likes you and you confess to her, she will definitely say yes on the spot.

The fact that she says she'll think about it means she doesn't like you that much. And there's a big chance that she'll reject you

after thinking about it..."

Before Joseph could finish speaking, he felt Valentin's fr

aze and

immediately changed his words.

“Of course, I just saw that Ashley has gotten a lot more intimate with you, so the chances of her agreeing to your confession are high!”

Though he heard what he wanted to hear, Valentin looked nervous, pondering what Joseph had just said.

Joseph had just said, “It means she doesn’t like you that much. And there’s a big chance that she’ll reject you after thinking about it...”

Valentin thought, And the divorce agreement between me and Ashley is about to expire!

## Chapter 198

Valentin suddenly stood up from the couch.

Joseph was almost startled. “Valentin, what are you doing?”

Valentin said, “Goodbye.”

Joseph was confused.

He thought, ‘When did I say I’m leaving? I still want to eat here.

However, the next second, Valentin had turned to walk upstairs. ruthlessly.

At this time, Ashley had just finished taking a shower and was drying her hair. Valentin knocked on the door and came in. He

naturally took the hair dryer from her hand and skillfully helped her dry her hair.

Valentin’s fingers were running through her blonde hair and massaging gently.

Ashley’s eyes narrowed in comfort.

After drying her hair, Ashley casually asked, “Why are you up here?”

As soon as she finished speaking, Valentin reached out and hugged her, resting and rubbing his chin on the top of her soft and

fragrant hair. “Come and rest with you.”

Ashley blinked. “Yeah, you really should get some rest. You’re too busy every day.”

He released her and looked down at her, raising his eyebrows lightly, his casual voice transmitting pleasure. “Baby, you’re caring

about me?”

Ashley lifted her chin arrogantly. "For the sake of you taking me out for fun, I'll reluctantly care about you!"

Valentin chuckled, with a particular kind of sexiness. "Then, to repay your concern, I'll take a nap with you."

He opened his arms and said in a lazy tone, "Come on. Help me undress." Ashley was speechless.

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She thought, 'Is this his way of repaying?'

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Ryan went to the hospital to visit Bertha.

Bertha was sitting on the hospital bed. Her complexion seemed better, but she still couldn't be discharged from the hospital.

Jessica and Charlie were here to accompany her, and Evan was still dealing with the mess of the Ramos Group.

"Mom," Ryan asked with a frown as he sat in a chair next to the bed, peeling an apple with a fruit knife. "When I injured my right

leg earlier, our family found a top international surgeon. That doctor didn't agree to operate on me at first, so why did he

suddenly agree?"

"Ryan, why do you suddenly ask this?" Bertha was puzzled.

"I just thought of this problem accidentally. Mom, please tell me."

"There is no reason. The Ramos family hadn't fallen from grace at that time. That doctor would surely agree to treat you for the

sake of the Ramos family."

Ryan, however, frowned and thought, If for the sake of the Ramos family, why didn't he agree to operate on my leg in the first

place?'

He suddenly thought it was wrong, so he came to the hospital today to ask Bertha.

At this time, Charlie asked in a faint voice, "Ryan, did your leg injury recur? Why are you asking this suddenly?"

"No, Charlie. Don't worry." Ryan shook his head.

“Ryan, I’m glad you’re okay!” Jessica poured a glass of water and brought it over, “Ryan, the Ramos family is like this because of

me. You mustn’t have another incident.”

Ryan felt uncomfortable. “Jessica, stop talking nonsense. What does the Ramos family falling from grace have to do with you?”

“Ashley targeted the Ramos family so much because of me. If...” Jessica’s eyes reddened, and tears instantly welled up.

It was very heartbreaking for Ryan to see her cry. “Jessica, stop bullshitting. It’s clearly Ashley’s fault. She’s the one who doesn’t

know right from wrong and could hit her family so hard.”

Glancing at Ryan and then at Jessica, Charlie didn’t say anything.

Jessica cried and threw herself in front of Bertha’s hospital bed. “Mom, you’d better let me leave the Ramos family! If I leave the

Ramos family, maybe Ashley will calm down and won’t target the Ramos family... After all, it’s all my fault. I shouldn’t be greedy

for your love.”

“Silly girl, stop talking nonsense!” Bertha hurriedly held Jessica’s hand. “The Ramos family’s current downfall is all because of

Ashley, that vermin! I wish I never had her as a daughter! Jessica, don’t ever say anything about leaving the Ramos family again.

Are you trying to break my heart?”

“But Mom...”

“Jessica, I will never allow you to leave the Ramos family either!” Ryan put down the apple he was peeling and held Jessica’s

shoulders. “You’ll always be a member of the Ramos family. If Ashley dares to bully you in the future, I’ll break her legs!”

“Ryan... Jessica burst into tears.

“Alright, stop crying, my silly sister...”

Ryan transferred another 20 thousand dollars to Jessica for her allowance. Seeing her finally break into laughter, he was upset.

He thought, ‘The Ramos family was never so frugal before we fell from grace. I gave Jessica a million dollars at a time for

allowance. Now I'm... It's all Ashley's fault.

After leaving the hospital, Ryan made a phone call to Ashley and found out that he had been blocked. He was so angry that he

had nowhere to vent his anger.

After calming down, Ryan searched the Internet for the doctor who operated on him. To his surprise, he found out that the doctor

was currently giving a seminar in Kilos City.

The doctor's name was Nell Pound.

Ryan inquired about the hotel Nell was staying at and drove there immediately.

But he didn't know the room number Nell was staying in, and the hotel receptionist wouldn't disclose it freely.

Ryan had to wait outside the hotel. Finally, in the evening, he waited for Nell to come out of the hotel and immediately walked

over. "Hello, Mr. Pound! I'm Ryan. You operated on my right leg before!"

Nell was deeply impressed with the name Ryan and looked him up and down several times. "Your leg injury recurred?"

"No, I came over today because I had a question for you!"

"What's the question?"

Ryan took a deep breath and said seriously, "When I injured my right leg, you were initially reluctant to operate on me but then

suddenly agreed. Why is that?"

## Chapter 199

Nell's expression momentarily changed because of Ryan's question.

He still remembered Ryan. Though he refused to be Ryan's orthopedic surgeon at first, he finally operated on Ryan for a leg

injury.

If Ava, precisely Ashley, hadn't begged him to treat Ryan, he would have agreed.

Nell's nephew was a race car driver, but he had never won one race against Ashley. To help his nephew to win the

championship, he made a deal with Ashley.



He promised that as long as she agreed to give up her racing career, he would do her a favor and operate on Ryan.

Thinking of Ryan, she immediately agreed, which surprised Nell.

To help Ryan back on the track, she gave up what she loved and announced her retirement from motor racing at the height of her career.

For Nell, the deal with her was something unethical that couldn't be known by the public.

However, as the primary beneficiary of the deal, Ryan had the right to know the truth.

"Don't you know why I agreed to operate on you?" Nell, who looked a little overweight, asked with glistening eyes.

Ryan shook repeatedly. In fact, he had never thought about it before. He took it for granted that Nell agreed to treat him because

he was one of the Ramos family.

After the operation, Ryan thanked Evan and Bertha for what they had done to him. And he was more grateful to Jessica than

Ashley, his real

sister.

He hated Ashley so much that he didn't want to see her face at all. Every time she came to visit him, Ryan drove her out of his

ward without a single glance at her.

"In order to treat your leg, your family begged me several times. Finally, I agreed to operate on you," Nell lied.

"I have a seminar to attend to, and I'm running out of

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oo

Nell left in a panic.

He had to keep the deal with Ashley secret, because he didn't want it to tarnish his reputation..

Before long, Nell saw a tall man not far away.

The man leaned leisurely against the car, as if he was waiting

Nell immediately recognized him. He was Lester, the second master of the Pliskin family. It was acknowledged that the Plisk was

one of the four big families.

“Mr. Pliskin, what are you...” Nell quickly went to greet him.

Lightly glancing at him, Lester said straightforwardly, “The secret deal between you and Ava...”

Nell froze in shock, wondering why Lester knew about it.

After a moment of thought, he calmed down. It wasn't difficult for Lester to find it out. After all, the Pliskin family powerful, and

Lester was a man who was capable of anything.

was

Staring at him, Lester continued in a cold tone, “I need you to tell the public about the deal you made with Ashley.”

“I...” Nell was torn. “This deal is between Ava and I. I can't make it public.”

“Are you sure?” Lester looked at him with a smile.

Lester's steely smile sent shivers down his spine. Nell was so scared that he could barely stand on his feet. Though Lester came

across as a gentleman, he actually was a ruthless man who couldn't afford to be messed with.

Nell stuttered in fear, “O-Okay, I'll do as you say.”

“Hey, it hurts. Be gentle.” At Kingsley Villa, Ashley lay lazily on the bed. Sitting beside her, Valentin gave her a massage, with his

fingers tracing all the way down her back.

Lying like a sleepy cat, she complained about his bad massage skills in a sweet tone,

“How about this?” He did it more gently.

hapter 199

That's more like it.” Ashley felt so relaxed that she didn't even want to open her eyes.

Suddenly, her phone rang. Pullan's name showed up on the caller's I.D.

She answered the phone.

Before she retired from motor racing, Pullan formed the tea and he was the team manager.

‘Hello, Ashley,’ he said gracefully. Pullan sounded younger than actual age. “I hope I'm not disturbing you, do I?”

'Of course not.'

ber,

"Great." He continued with a laugh, "Actually, Kerston's 60th anniversary is in a couple of days. They want to invite Ava, the

Racing Legend, to their anniversary celebration."

Kerston was the world's top race car manufacturer. Most race car drivers were big fans of this brand.

Given that it was the most influential race car brand, a race car produced by Kerston was worth at least 500 thousand dollars.

"Ashley, Jason Miller, the president of Kerston, called me the other day. He said he wanted to invite Ava, the Racing Legend, to

the anniversary celebration, where you can make your public appearances as the spokesperson for Kerston."

However, Ashley wasn't feeling up to it, saying, "Thanks, but no."

Pullan quickly said, "If you agree to be the spokesperson as the Racing Legend, they'll pay you 10 million dollars in return."

She still wasn't interested. "I'm not short of money now."

"I know, Ashley, but hear me out." Pullan paused for seconds and continued in a melancholy tone, "Many people thought that

Ava had passed away. Although there were rumors that Ava was alive not long ago, you didn't make any announcement. The

public was so disappointed,"

Ashley was speechless.

Seriously? I'm not dead yet!' she thought.

"Fine, you got me. She had a little frown between the

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versary. cctacoration?"

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take up your time. See you then.

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hapter 199

inching her cheek slightly. "Do you want me to keep massaging you?" he sked.

Thinking of how great she felt when he massaged her, Ashley gave in and inswared with a nod, "Yes!"

He took a swallow and chuckled, "Good girl."

Ashley was wordless.

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On the day of Kerston's 60th anniversary celebration, Ashley took a look at the date before going out. Today was the third. She

couldn't put her finger on it, but she felt like it was a special day.

She thought about it carefully.

It hit her that her divorce agreement with Valentin would expire in ten days.

Her heart skipped a beat. Given that she was in a rush, blinking, she left hurriedly.

Many artists, celebrities, and top race car drivers were invited to Kerston's 60th anniversary celebration.

It was said that Ava would show up. Her hardcore fans couldn't wait to see her.

They were grateful that their idol was still alive.

No words could describe how excited they were.

## Chapter 200

At Kerston's 60th anniversary celebration, the magnificent banquet hall was packed.

Ashley looked pretty smart in a white suit, walking into the hall with Pullan.

she went in further and saw Lester, who wore a silver suit jacket black shirt. He stood out among the crowd, really attractive.

'Ashley.'

He handed his red wine glass to a waiter on the side and walked over with a smile on his face.

"I didn't expect you to be here," she said in surprise and joy.

It struck her that the Pliskin Group used to partner with Kerston, the world's top race car manufacturer.

It made sense that Kerston, as host, invited Lester to their 60th anniversary celebration.

"I'm not here by myself. Dr. Pound's with me," he replied with a smile.

She wondered, 'Dr. Pound?'

'A doctor with the last name 'Pound'?''

Nell's face popped into her mind.

It reminded her that to help Ryan return to the race track he loved, she made a deal with Nell, who promised to treat Ryan's leg

in return.

Outside the banquet hall at this time, Ryan, who was always seen in his racing wear, rarely wore a suit today. He cut his hair in a

crew cut and looked dashing.

He was a top race car driver who had won second place driving Kerston's

race car.

The good performance of a racing driver was also a good advertisement to promote race cars in a way. Naturally, Ryan was

invited to today's celebration.

"Jessica, follow me," he said.

Chapter 200

Ryan, I'd better not go in there." Jessica flinched, her eyes full of worries and fear. "What if people see me there and talk behind

my back?"

Ryan felt heartbroken when he heard this.

When Jessica was still the only daughter of the Ramos family, people had the utmost respect for her.

However, she now had lost everything and ended up a laughing

stock. He thought it was all Ashley's fault.

"Don't be afraid, Jessica. I'll be there for you. I won't let anyone pick o

you. What's more, the guests of this celebration are allowed to come with their family."

"Ryan, you're so considerate. I..."

She seemed moved, with tears in her eyes.

To win over the Ramos family, Jessica had been pretending to be innocent and vulnerable in front of them since she was a child.

While they were talking, Ryan suddenly saw Miranda walking over not far away.

Miranda, as an artist, was also invited to this celebration.

"Miranda!" He immediately went over to say hello.

She wore a champagne-colored dress. When she saw him, she froze for a few seconds. Frowning slightly, Miranda walked

straight toward the banquet hall without stopping.

“Miranda.” Ryan stretched out his hand to stop her, his eyes full of sadness. “Are you not going to talk to me anymore?”

“It’s up to you.”

She was as sad as Ryan. After all, she used to fall hard for him. However, seeing his face now tore her heart.

If he wasn’t Ashley’s brother, she and Ryan would...

However, it was what it was.

“Miranda, I’ve been looking for you for two years. Is Ashley more important to you than I am?”

les,” she answered without hesitation.

When she first met Ashley, they were both candidates in a dance ompetition. Miranda almost fell before going on stage. It was

Ashley who helped her.

She still remembered that not long ago, she casually said that sad her eye on an expensive dress designed by Attelia, which was

wor

million dollars. She couldn’t afford to buy it, but Ashley broug dress as a gift.

Miranda wouldn’t give up the friendship between her and Ashley be of Ryan.

“Miranda...” He said with a gloomy face, “I want us to get back together. What exactly do you want me to do?”

She took a deep breath and replied, “Unless you apologize to Ashley. I need you to promise me that you will never wrong her

and treat her badly.”

“No way!” he interrupted angrily. “Why should I apologize to her? She’s an ingrate. She had failed the Ramos family and me.

She’s the one who should apologize!”

“You...” Miranda looked pissed.

She thought Ryan was ridiculous.

Miranda couldn’t be bothered to reason with him, so she ignored him and directly walked toward the banquet hall.

“Ryan, is she...” Jessica didn’t know what was going on in the first place.

She was curious about why Ryan would know Miranda. She pondered, 'Doesn't he know that Miranda is a friend of that bitch?

'And Ryan seems to love Miranda very much...

"You know that, Ryan? You two look perfect for each other," she teased deliberately.

Ryan was pleased to hear that. "Well said, Jessica. You're indeed my sweet sister. You're right. Miranda and I are meant to be

together. I'll marry her one day

She bit her bottom lip and looked at him with innocent eyes. "Will I get left out after you get married? What if you only cares

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bandon me? I'm so scared."

That's not going to happen." He gently patted her on the head and continued, "Jessica, you're my only sister. Of course, I care

for you. My wife will treat you

about. You'll always Same way as I do. You have nothing to worry

about. You'll always be loved by both of us."

Thank you, Ryan. I'm so grateful that I'm your sister."

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Inside the banquet hall, when Ashley was chatting casually with Pullan, Miranda walked toward her. She greeted Ashley with a

sweet smile.

Generally speaking, Bryce, as one of the most popular artists, would be invited to today's celebration. However, he had to shoot

a commercial, so he couldn't come.

Miranda gave Ashley a hug happily.

Noticing Lester on the side, she smiled shyly, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Pliskin."

Nodding, he answered in a less serious demeanor, "Nice to meet you too."



Except for well-known racing drivers, there were many celebrities and artists. Therefore, the hall was packed with reporters, who were busy taking pictures.

Some of them saw Ashley and Pullan chatting like old friends. They began to whisper.

“It’s so weird. I had a thing for motor racing before, so I knew Mr. Lawrence used to form a team with Ava. How come Ashley

knows Mr. Lawrence? I mean, they’re from two different worlds.”

“Haven’t you heard that she’s a friend of Mr. Lawrence, and she’s a racing driver?”

“Seriously? You’d gotta be kidding me!

“The racing game between her and Ryan was held in Manditus, Yaloria. Didn’t you see it on the news? I got the video of the

match. Check it out!”

Rather than a formal competition, it was more or less a private bet. Thus, there weren’t too many details about the game on the

news.

Even some big fans of racing knew nothing about it people read the news.

As soon as they heard that there was a video of the racing game, other reporters immediately gathered around to watch it.

In the video, Ryan was in the lead at the beginning. However, Ashley passed him with a stunning and skillful drifting. On one

hand, she seemed to give Ryan opportunities to pass her. On the other hand, Ryan wasn’t able to overtake her no matter how

hard he tried.

“Unbelievable! I didn’t expect her driving skills to be so extraordinary.” A reporter widened his eyes in astonishment. “The drifting

and the oversteering are awesome! I’m going to worship her.”

“It’s thrilling! I’m starting to have a thing for motor racing.”

“Wait a minute. Her drifting...” An experienced sports reporter suddenly frowned in confusion.

That’s

wrong with this drift? It was perfect. She’s even better than a professional racing driver.”

The sports reporter explained, "I've studied each racing competition of Ava's. I know better than anyone what Ava's racing style

was like. Her drifting reminds me of Ava. No. Her drifting is as same as Ava's!"

"What? Are you sure?"

He replayed the video, watched it carefully, and confirmed in a deep voice, "I'm definitely sure."

The other reporter next to him swallowed in disbelief. "In other words... Is Ashley Ava? Have we mistaken the Racing Legend for

a man?"