

Divorced Me 1031

Chapter 1031

Aaron held her hand and led her directly out of the room upstairs.

Meanwhile, inside the room, Nathalie had someone forcibly separate the two entangled people. Ernest looked utterly disheveled, still trying to grab onto Lila and continue.

Lila, now slightly regaining her senses, realized the situation. She let out a piercing scream, wrapped herself in the blanket, and cried out in distress.

"How could this happen? Why did it turn out like this? Why am I here? Mom, wasn't that bitch Selena supposed to be in this room? Why is it me? Why me!"

The sensation in her body was undeniable, and seeing Ernest in his dazed state, she could already imagine how wild things had been between them. Worse yet, many people had witnessed it!

This scene was supposed to fall on Selena!

What went wrong?

Nathalie hugged her, trying to calm her down, "Don't get worked up, Lila. You can't afford to get upset right now. It's okay, mom's here with you. I'll take care of this."

But Lila was inconsolable, sobbing uncontrollably. She knew her life was ruined! She could never be with Aaron again!

Kendrick coldly remarked, "Look at the mess you've made! This situation better have a perfect solution, or else leave the country and never come back!"

With that, Kendrick turned and left, his reputation utterly destroyed today!

If it had been a minor incident, he might have turned a blind eye. But now, it had escalated to the point where the entire city knew about it, and the Fletcher family had become the biggest joke!

This mother and daughter duo were utterly useless! Nathalie was startled, her face paling. She had dared to act because she had Kendrick's support. But now, without his backing, she couldn't continue targeting Selena!

Her mind was in chaos, and the only solution she could think of now was marriage.

Lila had to marry Ernest to minimize the damage from this incident.

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At the banquet, the crowd wore mixed expressions, gathering in small groups to discuss the events that had just unfolded. Aaron left the Fletcher estate, taking Selena with him.

Once they got into the car, he held her hand tightly, a hint of guilt on his face. "Selena, I'm sorry. I came too late."

He had been held up by the situation, which put Selena in such a dangerous position. It was all his fault.

Selena reassured him, "I'm fine, aren't I? Don't blame yourself. Besides, after everything that happened, we should be able to enjoy some peace for a while."

Nathalie and Lila had failed in their

schemes once again, and they

for now. Otherwise, the scandals surrounding the Fletcher family would only continue to spread, something no one in the family wanted.

Aaron kissed her forehead and pulled her into his arms. "This will never happen again."

"Yes, I believe you."

Selena leaned against his chest, listening to his strong, steady heartbeat, feeling completely safe.

This time, Nathalie had gone too far,

and Aaron wouldn't show mercy

again

loining forces with the Tudor

high-society gathering, leaving Lila too embarrassed to even step outside.

Chapter 1032

To mitigate the impact of the incident, the Fletcher family arranged a marriage with the Skyler family, setting the wedding date for just one month later, a rather hasty decision. Aaron officially became the head of the Fletcher family, and despite any grievances Nathalie might have had, she didn't dare voice them, keeping her frustration to herself. Selena, on the other hand, finally had some leisure time. With Aaron busier than ever, she felt bored and decided to visit Aveline in Larbor City.

Aveline's belly had grown quite large, and with just a month left until her due date, her feet had started swelling, looking puffy and rounded like little pillows.

Seeing her condition, Selena couldn't help but remark, "Pregnancy looks so tough. I'm starting to get a little scared."

Aveline glanced at her. "Are you planning to get pregnant?"

As far as she remembered, Selena had never mentioned such plans.

Selena nodded, then shared the idea she had previously about arranging a marriage between their children.

After hearing it, Aveline found it amusing.

"You're not even pregnant, and you're already thinking that far ahead?" she laughed. "Besides, Aaron's right. What if we both have children of the same gender? How are we going to arrange a marriage?"

"That's why I gave up on the idea," Selena said. "He lectured me, saying we shouldn't interfere with our future children's relationships. If something went wrong, I'd be the one to blame." Aveline nodded. "Aaron's absolutely right."

Just then, the door opened, and Lucas walked in. He was tall and slender, dressed in a dark gray shirt and black slacks. His handsome face and deep, dark eyes were full of tenderness as they landed on Aveline. "Have some strawberries."

Lucas placed a bowl of freshly washed strawberries next to Aveline, gave her a familiar kiss on the cheek, and then sat beside her, gently massaging her legs.

Selena glanced at him, quickly looked away, and after a moment, glanced again before averting her gaze once more.

Without even lifting his eyelids, Lucas said calmly, "If you've got something to say, just say it."

"Ahem!"

Selena cleared her throat and said, "Braden is a great bodyguard. Why don't you give him to me?" "Dream on."

Lucas scoffed, rejecting her outright.

Selena paused for a moment before saying, "How about we ask Braden? See who he'd rather follow?"

trained him myself. He doesn't have the privilege to make that choice."

Selena rolled her eyes dramatically. "You're such a jerk."

Lucas responded, "You don't even have the decency to ask nicely, and you still expect me to give him to you? Wishful thinking."

So, he obediently got up and left, though as he reached the door, he cast a frosty glance at Selena.

Selena wasn't one to back down, glaring right back at him.

Hmph, she definitely could glare better than him! Jerk!

Chapter 1033

Aveline said, "Braden is probably not interested."

"Huh? Why?" Selena asked, confusion spreading across her face.

Aveline explained, "Baron, Braden, and Maria all have a special bond with Lucas. No matter what, they wouldn't betray him."

She paused for a moment, her thoughts drifting to Brian, the man who had always seen it as his duty to protect Lucas. She wondered how he was faring now.

Selena shrugged. "Alright, I suppose. He's helped me a lot recently, and if it weren't for him, I wouldn't have handled everything so smoothly."

Aveline replied, "It's all over now. Taking him with you wouldn't really serve any purpose."

"True," Selena agreed, nodding as she let go of the subject.

She ended up staying in Larbor City for a month.

One night, Aveline suddenly went into labor. The family rushed to action-though there was some initial chaos, they quickly regained control. Drivers got the car ready, calls to the hospital were made, and everything unfolded smoothly. At the hospital, Lucas held Aveline's hand tightly, watching her sweat through the pain. His eyes were full of deep concern.

"I'm going to be fine," Aveline said with a faint smile, trying to hold back the pain.

Lucas muttered, "This is my fault. No more kids after this."

"Agreed," Aveline nodded.

She was soon wheeled into the delivery room, leaving Lucas, Selena, Gavin, Gernard, and Wilfried waiting anxiously outside. The tension was palpable as all eyes stayed fixed on the delivery room door. After hours of labor and intense pain, Aveline successfully delivered twins.

"A boy and a girl!" the nurse announced as she brought the babies out to the waiting family. Lucas didn't even glance at the babies, his eyes fixed on the nurse as he asked, "How's

my

wife?"

The nurse reassured him, "Don't worry, Mr. Tudor, Mrs. Tudor is fine, but it will be a little while before she can come out." Selena was the first to hold the babies, frozen stiff, barely daring to move.

"Oh my God, they're so ugly!" she exclaimed, looking at the wrinkled, red newborns.

Gavin frowned at her. "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

Then, his gaze fell on the babies, and he too went silent.

always look like that. Don't be so

surprised. With my sister and

brother-in-law's good looks, these two will definitely grow into

stunners!"

Wilfried came over, gently taking the babies. "Come on, let Grandpa have a look at you two."

Selena glanced at Lucas, noticing that he was still staring intently at the delivery room, not sparing a single glance at the babies.

"Hey, those are your kids with Ave. Aren't you going to take a look?"

Lucas' voice was hoarse as he replied, "I just want to see her right now."

Selena fell silent. It was one of the

Aveline, exhausted, simply whispered, "I'm here."

Watching the scene, Selena suddenly felt a lump in her throat and quickly turned away, not wanting to look any longer.

Chapter 1034

At first, the twin really did look quite wrinkly and not very cute, but as time passed, they started to fill out and became more and more beautiful.

The baby boy had a calm demeanor, rarely crying or fussing. He spent most of his time either eating or sleeping, with large, dark eyes like black grapes, a high nose, a tiny mouth, and chubby, round cheeks full of baby fat. The baby girl, on the other hand, was much more lively and prone to fussing, expressing her displeasure whenever things didn't go her way. She cried the most between the two.

The baby boy was born first, and the girl was the younger sister. Every time, the sister seemed determined to make her brother cry, but she never succeeded. Once fed, she would calm down.

"Have you thought of any names for them yet?" Selena asked, looking at Aveline, who was slowly recovering, while playfully toying with the little ones in the stroller.

Aveline replied, "We've chosen some temporary nicknames, but we haven't settled on their full names yet."

She pointed to the boy. "This is Pax," and then to the girl, "And this is Joy."

Selena nodded, "Pax and Joy-so fitting. 'Peace and joy throughout the years.' I love it." She gently pinched Joy's tiny cheek. "Joy, I like you so much. How about you come home with me? Let your godmother take you, okay?" Yes, Selena had officially claimed them as her godson and goddaughter.

"You're dreaming," Lucas said as he walked in, his voice cool. "If you want a kid, have your own."

Selena pouted. "You're so stingy. You won't even let me have one child."

Lucas, amused, let out a soft laugh. "Alright, then let me ask you for all the shares in Fletcher Enterprises. Would you give them to me?"

Selena nodded eagerly. "Of course! I'm very generous."

Aveline laughed from the side. "She doesn't manage Fletcher Enterprises. Her words don't count."

Selena glared at her. "Why are you ruining my plans?"

Aveline smiled. "I have to stop you, or you'll take Joy away from me."

Selena huffed playfully. "Fine, I'll just have my own kids. I don't need yours!"

"What are you talking about having?" Aaron walked in with a gift box, smiling as he asked.

Lucas answered dryly, "She said she's going to have kids with

someone else because she's

satisfied with your genes."

Selena's eyes widened. "Hey, how can you just make things up like that?" Aaron chuckled. "He loves to stir up trouble. My wife loves me the most." Selena quickly nodded. "Exactly, I love you the most!"

Lucas, expressionless, walked straight over to Aveline's side, his attitude clearly saying: "You're not the only one with a wife."

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Gavin then entered, holding a red sheet of paper. "Dad thought of a few names. See if you like any of them."

Lucas took the paper and handed it to Aveline.

She unfolded the paper, reading through the names one by one. Her gaze finally settled on two Ethan Tudor and Emma Tudor. Lucas looked at her. "Do you like these?"

strengthened the bond between the Cooper and Tudor families.

Maria, Sidney, and Zachary were among the many attendees.

Aveline stayed with the twins and did not appear in public, leaving the event in the capable hands of Gavin and Gernard.

Chapter 1035

Maria looked at the two little ones, absolutely delighted, and then turned to Aveline. "I've got some happy news to share as well."

Selena guessed, "You're pregnant?"

Maria nodded. "That's right."

Selena gave her a thumbs-up. "Wow, that was fast! You said it and made it happen."

Maria smiled. "I couldn't fall too far behind. I need to make sure my kid has the best opportunities and chances, right?"

With their babies close in age to Ethan and Emma, Maria thought it would be perfect for them to grow up together, maybe even become childhood sweethearts.

She looked at Selena and asked, "Weren't you eager at first too? Why haven't you made any moves yet?"

Selena sighed. "I'm not sure. Honestly, I'm a little scared."

Maria reassured her, "Take your time, no rush."

Selena got up and left the room, heading outside for some fresh air. Seeing Aveline go through the struggles of pregnancy and the dangers of childbirth genuinely frightened her. On top of that, she worried she wouldn't be a good mother. She wandered into the garden, a bit of melancholy settling in her expression.

"What are you thinking about?"

A familiar voice sounded behind her. She turned around and saw Gavin approaching. He was dressed in a sleek black suit, exuding an air of calm and restraint. His handsome face and deep, unreadable eyes made it hard to guess his thoughts. "Nothing much, just admiring the flowers," Selena replied.

Gavin remarked, "You seem troubled. I almost thought you were planning a divorce."

Selena looked at him, shocked and incredulous, not expecting such a comment from him.

Gavin glanced at her stunned expression but remained emotionless, saying nothing further as he turned and walked away.

Selena was left completely unsettled.

"Tsk, tsk, already married, and yet you've still got the heir of the Cooper family wrapped around your finger. Impressive," a voice called out, instantly recognizable to Selena.

That familiar tone made her expression darken.

She turned to see Jolie standing not far away, looking at her with a sly smile.

"What are you doing here?" Selena asked, her face cold.

Jolie Quin walked over, her tone light, "The Quim family has business dealings with the Coopers, so I got

on invitation too

changed? Every time you see me, it's like I'm your mortal enemy. I recall correctly, we're sisters, aren't we?"

Selena stared at her, the coldness in her gaze intensifying as she looked at Jolie's face, one that bore some resemblance to her own. Deep inside, emotions she thought she

Kindness her entire life.

From childhood to adulthood, everything good was handed to Jolie, while she could only watch from the shadows, full of envy.

And now, after distancing herself from them, why were they still showing up in her life? Why were they still trying to get close to her?

It was nothing short of ironic.

"Stay away from me. You wouldn't want my bad luck to rub off on you," Selena said coldly, turning to leave.

"Hey!" Jolie called after her. "What's wrong with you? Cursing yourself? Since when have I ever been scared of you?"

Selena pressed her lips together, not replying, and walked away.

She didn't want to see anyone from the Quin family, not even Jolie, who had never treated her maliciously. She wanted nothing to do with them.

Chapter 1036

Jolie watched Selena's retreating figure and shook her head in frustration.

What could she do? Selena's emotional wounds ran deep, and no matter what Jolie tried, it seemed impossible to bridge the gap between them.

Returning to the party, she glanced around at the crowd of men and women mingling with champagne flutes in hand, but her mind wasn't on the event. She casually picked up a glass of champagne from a passing waiter and sipped it slowly. What she didn't notice was a man standing across the room, watching her. As she drank, his eyes darkened, and he licked his lips suggestively.

After finishing about half the glass, Jolie started feeling strange. Her body was growing weak, her skin hot and feverish, and a strange itchiness spread through her veins.

Her brows furrowed in confusion. What was happening?

She headed toward the restroom, but as she rounded a corner, her legs gave out, and she had to grab the wall for support to keep from collapsing.

"Did someone drug me?" she murmured, her face paling.

This was the Cooper family's event-how could someone dare to pull such a stunt here? Who would do this to her?

Biting down on her tongue to stay alert, Jolie tried to think clearly. Her purse, with her phone, was back in the lounge. She needed to get it and leave immediately, but in her current state, she wasn't sure she could make it that far. Stumbling into the restroom, she turned on the faucet and

splashed cold water on her face. The icy water helped sharpen her focus for a moment, but the heat inside her body didn't subside.

"You're in the wrong restroom," a deep, steady voice said from behind her, calm but utterly devoid of warmth.

Jolie gripped the sink tightly, her head bowed as she struggled to steady herself against the overwhelming heat coursing through her body.

"I-I'll leave in a second," she managed to say, doing her best to ignore the rich, soothing voice behind her.

Gavin stood there, watching the disheveled woman before him. Her face was wet, her expression strained, clearly from splashing herself with cold water moments ago.

"Miss, are you alright?" Gavin asked,

his tone neutral but with a hint of concern. After all, this was the Cooper family's event, and any

trouble here would reflect poorly on

them. Despite not wanting to get involved, he couldn't ignore the situation.

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"I told you, I'm leaving in a minute. Can you just stop bothering me?" Jolie snapped, feeling the man's voice was, both irritating and distractingly pleasant. She had already spoken so harshly- why

wouldn't he just leave her alone? If

he kept talking, she might lose

control.

Gavin's brow furrowed, but he decided not to interfere further. Without another word, he turned and left the restroom.

Jolie exhaled sharply, feeling a wave of relief. She splashed more cold water on her face, managing to regain a bit of clarity before stepping out.

But to her dismay, a man was waiting not far from the restroom, like a predator lying in wait.

"Jolie, what's wrong? Are you feeling unwell? How about I take you to see a doctor?" the man said as he approached, wrapping an arm around her waist. His hand wandered, clearly not respectful. "Get off me!" Jolie shouted, recognizing him immediately. He was one of her persistent admirers, someone she had repeatedly turned down, yet he never took no for an answer.

The fact that he had conveniently appeared at this moment made her suspicious-had he been the one to drug her?

Instead of backing off, the man tightened his hold, gazing at her flushed, angry face. To him, she looked both alluring and vulnerable, her resistance only making him more eager.

"Jolie, you're not yourself right now.

I'll take you to a doctor. Don't worry, I

won't leave you like this," he said, ignoring her protests as he tried to

lead her out, holding her against her will

Chapter 1037

"Let... let me go!" Jolie struggled with all her might, but the drugs were quickly sapping her strength, leaving her powerless to break free.

The man, too impatient to care, ignored her pleas and began dragging her toward the back exit.

"Hey! She told you to let her go. Are you deaf?" A sharp voice suddenly cut through the air.

The man froze, startled, and looked up to see a girl standing not far away.

"Who the hell are you? This has nothing to do with you. Get lost!" He snapped, not recognizing Selena, his tone turning nasty.

Selena's expression grew colder as she took in Jolie's disheveled state. Without hesitation, she stepped forward and slapped the man hard across the face, then yanked Jolie away from him. "Letting yourself fall into the hands of this scum? Where's your fight?" Selena said sharply.

Jolie's blurry consciousness flickered at the sound of her familiar voice. When she realized it was Selena, her tensed body finally relaxed, leaning heavily into her for support.

"Take me... to the hospital..." Jolie's breath was hot, and her body burned with fever.

"Damn it, you hit me? Do you even know who I am? Do you know my connections with the Cooper family?" The man, clutching his face, glared at Selena and started toward her, his anger boiling over. Selena quickly took a couple of steps back, on guard, but before the man could lunge at her, Braden suddenly appeared, grabbing the man's arm in a painful twist.

"Do you know who she is?" he said coldly. "I'd love to hear what kind of connection you think you have with the Cooper family to act so boldly here."

With that, Braden dragged the man toward the main hall, the man crying out in pain, now fully realizing he had messed with the wrong people. "I-I'm sorry! Let me go! I won't do it again!"

Braden ignored his pleas and handed him off to the Cooper family's butler before turning and walking away without another word.

Selena didn't even have a chance to thank him before he disappeared. She sighed in mild exasperation, then looked down at Jolie, who was still slumped against her.

"Hey, you alright?" Selena asked, her voice sharp but her concern evident.

Jolie didn't respond, her body growing limp in Selena's arms.

"Such a hassle," Selena muttered under her breath, slipping Jolie's arm over her shoulder as she struggled to support her. With effort, she began guiding Jolie toward the exit.

As Selena rounded the corner, she spotted Gavin not far ahead. She immediately called out, "Gavin!"

Hearing his name, Gavin turned to look in her direction.

"Come quick!" Selena waved him over, her voice urgent.

Gavin noticed the person she was supporting and walked over, his brow furrowed. "What's going on?"

"She's been drugged," Selena explained quickly. "Take her to one of the guest rooms. I'll find a doctor." Before he could protest, Selena practically shoved Jolie into his arms.

Gavin instinctively tried to avoid the contact, but Jolie's limp form left him no choice but to catch her. He couldn't exactly let her collapse on the floor.

"She got into trouble at your house-you're responsible for her now," Selena added before sprinting off to find Gernard.

This was a delicate situation, and the last thing they needed was for it to become public knowledge.

Gavin's frown deepened, his muscles tensing as he held the soft, unresponsive girl in his arms.

"Hey, can you hear me?" His voice was firm, almost harsh, as he tried to get a response.

But Jolie didn't answer. Instead, the proximity to his masculine scent seemed to heighten the effect of the drug. Her body started to squirm involuntarily, and her hand drifted toward his chest.

In that instant, Gavin's expression darkened considerably.

Chapter 1038

"Stop moving," Gavin growled in a low voice.

But Jolie, completely under the control of the drugs, was acting purely on instinct, seeking out what her body craved most. She didn't register his words at all. Instead of stopping, she slipped her hand inside his shirt, feeling the hard muscles of his chest. "Mm..." Jolie let out a soft sound, whether from the satisfying feel of his muscles or because the touch of his skin intensified the drug's effects, it wasn't clear.

Gavin's breathing became heavier. He couldn't stay here any longer-this drugged and irrational woman could do anything at this point, and there was no telling what she'd attempt next.

Quickly surveying his surroundings, Gavin spotted a quieter route. Without hesitation, he carried Jolie out through the back door, re-entering the villa through another entrance. He headed upstairs and slipped into the nearest empty room, laying her down on the bed. Just as he moved to leave, Jolie, still hazy and half-conscious, sensed his departure. She grabbed hold of his hanging tie. Though weak, Gavin hadn't been expecting it, and her pull brought him down to her, their noses almost touching.

Gavin's expression darkened further, his brow furrowing as he looked down at her flushed face. His Adam's apple bobbed as he swallowed hard.

He was a man, after all-a normal man. And with a woman behaving like this, so provocatively, it was impossible not to feel something.

He'd always maintained control, keeping his distance from women. He was too focused on work and hadn't met anyone who truly stirred his desire.

Well, he had met one, but he had been too late. She was already married, and she loved her husband deeply.

His gaze drifted down to Jolie's face. Her delicate features were framed by perfectly applied makeup, her lips slightly parted like the petals of a flower, full and inviting. She looked parched, her tongue occasionally darting out to moisten her lips, the pink tip flashing. Though she bore a slight resemblance to Selena, Jolie's beauty was softer, less bold. Her striking features were highlighted by her captivating eyes, now glazed with a hazy mist of lust and need. Her lips shimmered with moisture, making them even more alluring. The scent of cedarwood, a smell she

liked, lingered in the air, and her senses drew her toward him. Without thinking, she leaned up and kissed him.

The moment their lips met, Gavin snapped back to reality, quickly pulling himself away, bracing himself on the bed to create distance between them.

"Why are you pulling away?" Jolie

mumbled, thinking she was so close to getting the relief she desperately needed. Her brows furrowed in.

frustration, a mix of dissonance

and vulnerability flashing across her face.

Jolie writhed in discomfort, her legs rubbing together as the drug's effects tormented her, leaving her desperate for relief. Gavin's dark eyes clouded with conflicting

emotions, but his sense of cope

still held firm. He quickly stood up, taking a few steps back, distancing himself from her. What she needed now was a doctor, not him.

He walked to the door, pulled out his phone, and dialed a number.

"Hello?"

"A woman's been drugged. How should I handle it?" Gavin's voice was cold and straight to the point.

On the other end, his friend chuckled. "Is she with you right now?"

"Yes," Gavin replied, his tone flat.

"Well, that makes it easy. You're the best cure she could ask for." Gavin's voice dropped a few degrees, turning sharper. "I'm not joking."

His friend, still amused, responded, "If the drug hasn't fully kicked in, you could try taking her to the hospital. But if it's already working... let's just say the only way to fix this is the old-fashioned way."

"Come on, Gavin, you've stayed away from women for so long. Maybe it's time to break that streak. Otherwise, your old man might start thinking you're part of his contact list."

Chapter 1039

Gavin said nothing and simply hung up the phone, his expression darkening by the second.

Behind him, Jolie's soft, pained whimpers filled the air. She was writhing on the bed, her delicate skin flushed a faint pink.

Gavin clenched his jaw, tugging at his tie. It had already loosened from when she'd pulled on it earlier, and with a rough yank, it came completely undone. Frustration simmered beneath his calm exterior.

Where was Selena? She was supposed to be finding help, but she still hadn't returned.

His frown deepened as he reached for the door, ready to leave.

"Please... help me..."

Her desperate voice, laced with a hint of a sob, echoed from behind him. The softness of it hit him like a lit match to his chest, sparking a heat he wasn't used to feeling.

"Please... I'll pay you... I won't take it for free..." Jolie's voice broke as tears streamed down her face. She was sobbing now, her words dripping with helplessness and shame, as if offering him money would somehow make her request more bearable. Gavin stood frozen for a moment, then unexpectedly, a small smile tugged at the corner of his lips. Was she seriously offering to pay him?

What did she think he was?

With a strange mix of emotions swirling inside him, he turned back and approached the bed, standing over her.

From above, he watched her squirm restlessly, her pale dress disheveled and tugged out of place, exposing a wide expanse of her flushed skin. She was still trying to tear at her clothes, sweat glistening on her forehead, her cheeks painted with a feverish red. The drug was clearly ravaging her, overtaking her body and mind.

Gavin's breathing grew heavier without him realizing it. Her face-so similar to Selena's-made the situation all the more disorienting.

Jolie was desperate, lost in the effects of the drug. Her reason had all but crumbled when suddenly, her lips were claimed in a fierce, unrelenting kiss.

The kiss wasn't tender or gentle-it was rough, almost consuming, as though the person on the other end was devouring her, demanding everything from her all at once.

It wasn't pleasant, not in the slightest. But Jolie didn't have time to protest, her body screaming for more, for something to finally soothe the unbearable heat within her.

In the haze of her blurred

consciousness, a sudden jolt of pain washed over Jolie, causing her body to tense and contract. She gasped for breath, her chest rising and

falling rapidly.

"Relax," a man's rough voice murmured close to her ear. But instead of calming her, her breathing grew more ragged, a soft whimper escaping her as everything spiraled into chaos.

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Meanwhile, Selena had found Gernard and quickly explained the situation. Gernard, taking it seriously, sent the family doctor with her to find Jolie.

But when they returned to the spot where they had left Jolie, the area was empty. Where had they gone?

Selena glanced around, frustration creeping in. The Cooper estate was vast, and unfamiliar to her, making it impossible to know where to start searching. She knew if they caused a scene by searching publicly, it would draw attention from the guests, something they couldn't afford.

Standing there, unsure of her next move, she decided to call Gavin. The first couple of calls went unanswered, but on her third attempt, the phone finally connected.

Before Gavin could say anything, Selena blurted, "Hey, Gavin, where are you? I've found the doctor."

Gavin's voice was husky and rough. "It's not necessary."

Then, without waiting for a response, he hung up.

"Hello? Hello?" Selena stared at the phone in disbelief.

What did he mean by "not necessary"?

Jolie had been in such bad shape, so how could he possibly not need the doctor? Had he already taken her to the hospital? That seemed like the only logical explanation for why she couldn't find them.

With that thought, Selena relaxed a little. Gavin was a reliable person. If Jolie was with him, she would be fine.

Chapter 1040

vision was hazy, and she barely had the strength to speak.

As the effects of the drug finally began to fade, Jolie lay exhausted on the bed, her body drenched in sweat. Her skin, especially across her delicate shoulder blades, bore faint marks from their encounter and her breath ragged as it brushed against her own back. Her "I... I'm fine now... you can stop," she murmured, her voice weak and broken from the strain of what had just happened.

The madness of moments before still pulsed through her, the aftershocks of it lingering in her body. She never expected that grabbing a random man for help would lead to this, nor did she expect him to have such relentless stamina.

Yet, the man behind her didn't stop. He didn't respond either. His large hands remained firmly gripped around her slender waist as if he were trying to squeeze the very breath from her.

"Stop... I told you to stop, didn't you hear me?" Jolie's anxiety spiked as he continued. What was wrong with him? They'd agreed he was only helping her through the effects of the drug, nothing more. She was fine now-he should've stopped.

She tried to push him away, but between the lingering drug and her physical exhaustion, she barely had the strength to move. Her attempt at resistance melted into weakness, and she collapsed back onto the bed.

Desperately, she turned her head, trying to catch a glimpse of the man's face.

But before she could fully make him out, her mind clouded again, like a tidal wave crashing over her fragile grasp on reality, pulling her under.

This is ridiculous! He wouldn't stop, and he wouldn't speak. Did he plan to continue forever?

Her soft moans of frustration escaped against her will. She was far too tired to keep going. Drawing from some small amount of experience, she tensed her body in an attempt to change the dynamic. Instantly, his grip on her waist tightened painfully, eliciting a pained groan from her lips.

Then, finally, everything came to a halt.

The room fell into an almost eerie quiet, only their strained, heavy breaths breaking the silence.

Jolie squeezed her eyes shut for a moment, utterly drained. She didn't even have the energy to lift a finger, but she managed to shift her body, forcing herself to roll onto her back.

When she did, her gaze landed on the man lying beside her.

His short hair was damp with sweat, and his features, sharp and handsome, were shadowed with the remnants of their shared intensity.

His eyes were cast downward,

obscuring whatever emotions might

have lingered there. His shirt was still on, though disheveled, with only

a few buttons holding it together, the rest soaked through with sweat.

"It's you?" Jolie whispered, recognizing the man.

It was him the one who had once shown interest in Selena. He was the heir of the Cooper family, if she remembered correctly. Gavin.

The realization hit Jolie, and her brow furrowed in frustration.

"Damn it!"

Of all the men, she had to sleep with Selena's former admirer? How was she going to handle this?

Gavin, meanwhile, had composed himself.

Without a word, he got up from the bed and headed toward the bathroom, stripping off his shirt and casually tossing it onto the carpet. He remained silent the entire time.

Jolie let out a quiet laugh, shifting her gaze away as she tried to steady her breathing and recover from the aftershocks.

She couldn't deny it... despite the circumstances, he had been good. Very good.

The sound of running water eventually stopped, and Gavin re-emerged, a towel wrapped around his waist. His short hair was still wet, droplets of water clinging to his skin.

He hadn't bothered to dry himself off, and his toned physique-muscular but not overly bulky-was on full display. Faint red marks marred his chest and abs, evidence of their earlier encounter. Jolie blinked, then spoke up, "Thanks for earlier. What do you want as compensation?"

Even though she knew he was the heir of the Cooper family, wealthy beyond measure and wanting for nothing, she had promised to repay him. She intended to honor that, as long as his request wasn't

outrageous.

Gavin lifted his eyes, his sharp, dark gaze cutting through the air as he regarded her. He barely spared her more than a glance, his expression unreadable.

The blanket draped over her didn't

fully cover her, leaving her pale

swan-like neck and graceful collarbones exposed. There, along her skin, were the marks he had left during his loss of control...

reminders of what had just

transpired between them,