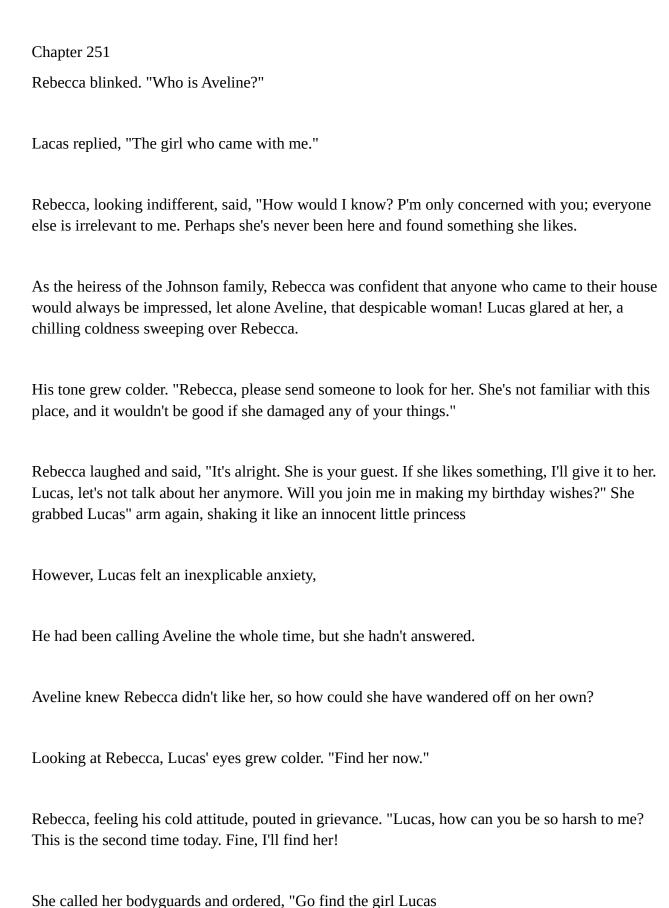
Divorced Me 251



brought. Bring her back immediately"

Annoyed, she muttered, "So frustrating. Why did she wander off? She's ruining my birthday."

Lucas' expression remained stern as he continued to make a call.

Rebecca glanced at his handsome, sharp features, a hint of infatuation in her eyes. "Lucas, will you join me in making my birthday wishes? I've already dispatched people to search for her. They'll bring her back once they locate her. There's no point in waiting here."

Lucas' expression was cold, but he didn't refuse her. He walked with her towards the massive cake tower.

However, he still sent a message to Maria, asking her to check the surveillance at the Johnson family villa.

Maria said, "I feel like slacking off."

Lucas replied, "You can feel all you want but get working immediately!

He put away his phone and accompanied Rebecca to the garden, where the massive cake tower was adorned with lights, looking very beautiful. Rebecca, beaming with joy, dragged Lucas over. She stood beneath it, clasped her hands together, and began making a wish.

Just then, Lucas' phone rang. It was a surveillance video clip from Maria. Upon seeing its contents, his expression immediately darkened.

Rebecca was still making her wish when, in the next second, Lucas forcefully grabbed her wrist, causing her so much pain she nearly screamed. "Rebecca, where did you take Aveline?" Lucas demanded.

His dark, ominous eyes were filled with a chilling intensity as he stared coldly at Rebecca as if he would tear her to pieces the next

moment.

Rebecca's face turned pale. "Lucas, you're hurting me. Let go." $\,$

Instead of letting go, Lucas tightened his grip on her wrist. "Tell me, where is Aveline?"

Chapter 252

Tears welled up in Rebecca's eyes from the pain.

When she met Lucas' icy gaze, she shrank back in fear and said, "I... I don't know where she went, Lucas. You're really hurting me!"

Lucas, emanating a chilling aura, showed her the surveillance video on his phone. The footage, discovered by Maria, revealed Aveline being brought to Rebecca, who then said something before the bodyguards. carried Aveline away.

However, there was no further footage showing where they took her.

Rebecca widened her eyes. "I... I..."

Lucas grabbed a nearby wine glass and smashed it, then pointed the broken edge at her face. "Tell me, where is Aveline?"

Seeing his fierce expression, Rebecca's face turned pale with fear. "I'll tell you, I'll tell you, just let go of me..."

Lucas looked terrifying!

He actually wanted to disfigure her for that despicable woman!

Rebecca couldn't help but hate Aveline even more.

Lucas coldly released her hand, his icy gaze fixed on her.

Suddenly, Rebecca saw Reynold and immediately started crying, running into his arms. "Dad, Lucas is so mean to me!"

Rebecca had never suffered such grievances before. Reynold patted her shoulder, his face darkening as he looked at Lucas. Lucas, what are you doing?" Lucas silently showed him the video, Seeing the footage, Reynold's face grew even darker. He immediately instructed the butler, "Find this young lady at once!" The butler replied, "Yes, sir." He promptly ordered people to search the villa and courtyard. Lucas said, "Why go to such trouble? Just ask her." Rebecca's eyes flickered. By now, Aveline had surely been devoured by those mastiffs. Even if she hadn't been eaten by them, she must have been severely injured. She just needed to stall for a bit longer until that wretch was dead for good. "I don't know, I really don't know..." Rebecca cried, shaking her head, her face pale. Reynold said, "Lucas, I've already sent people to look for her. Rebecca is scared enough; don't target her anymore.

He patted her shoulder and said, "Rebecca, you've gone too far this time. Go to your room and reflect on your actions. Don't come out until I give permission."

still want to protect her?"

Reynold paused, sensing Rebecca's tension.

Lucas' face grew even colder. "Mr. Reynold, she's the one who took Aveline away. Are you sure you



Just then, Lucas heard the faint sound of dogs barking. His eyes narrowed, and he dashed toward the noise.
Aveline was awakened by a dog licking her.
She opened her eyes to see a furry face, the dog's tongue continuously licking her arm, the wet sensation filling her with disgust and terror.
It was a mastiff!
Her face turned pale with fear, and she lay rigidly on the ground, not daring to move a muscle. Rebecca was truly vicious, throwing her into a place with mastiffs, clearly intending for them to devour her. Aveline stared at the mastiff, her heart pounding in her throat, terrified that it might bite her at any moment.
Her breathing grew tense, and then the mastiff bared its teeth!
Her face instantly drained of color. The will to survive made her leap. up and run frantically in one direction.
"Bark!"
The mastiff's fierce growl echoed behind her!
Aveline trembled with fear as she ran desperately, but ahead of her was a wall!
She was so done for!
Her heart sank, and a wave of deathly fear engulfed her.
Reaching the wall, she spotted a stick on the ground. She grabbed it. and turned to face the mastiff, swinging it desperately.

The stick landed heavily on the mastiff, causing it to yelp and retreat a couple of steps, but its gaze on Aveline became even more menacing.

Aveline gripped the stick tightly, not taking her eyes off the mastiff, nervously swallowing.

What should she do now?

This area was meant for the mastiffs, and it was unlikely anyone would come here often. Rebecca wanted her dead, so no one else would be allowed near. Her only hope was for Lucas to realize she was missing as soon as possible. That way, she might have a chance of survival.

The mastiff paced back and forth, its massive form menacingly eyeing her, then suddenly it leapt at her!

"Ah!" Aveline screamed, wildly swinging the stick.

"Bang!"

At that moment, a dull thud sounded. Aveline opened her eyes to see a tall figure tackling the mastiff. The mastiff bit down on his arm!

"Lucas!" Aveline's voice trembled as she watched the man wrestle with the mastiff, her heart racing.

Someone nearby fired tranquilizer darts at the mastiff, hitting it five times before it finally collapsed. Lucas' left arm was bleeding heavily, but he ignored it and rushed to her. "Are you okay? Are you hurt?" Aveline stared at him in a daze, his clothes covered in blood, the sight. searing her eyes.

"Aveline?" Lucas, seeing her lack of response, grew anxious and touched her face with his uninjured hand. "I'm fine. You're injured. We need to go to the hospital."

Chapter 254

Aveline finally snapped out of her shock and hurried to help him up.

However, having been so terrified earlier, her legs nearly gave out now that she had calmed down.

Lucas caught her just in time. "Are you alright? Can you walk?" Aveline shook her head. "I'm fine, really. But your hand... it's covered in blood." Lucas replied, "It's nothing. Don't worry." But Aveline couldn't help worrying. It was a mastiff; what if Lucas suffered from broken bones? Reynold rushed over, his face dark with anger. "Get rid of that beast immediately!" "Yes, sir," the butler responded, quickly ordering the mastiff to be taken away. Reynold turned to Lucas. "Lucas, I'll take you to the hospital. Your wound needs to be treated." Lucas said nothing, his eyes fixed on Aveline. Aveline, having regained her composure, helped him out of the villa and into the car. Given that the incident happened at the Johnson. family home, Reynold naturally followed them to the hospital. Only after seeing the doctor treat Lucas' wound and administer at vaccine did Aveline finally relax. Lucas sat shirtless, and despite the gruesome bite wound on his arm, his expression remained unchanged. His gaze fell on Aveline's worried, pale face, and suddenly, the tension that had been building up inside. him dissipated. "Don't let the wound get wet, and change the dressing according to the instructions," the doctor advised before leaving. Aveline asked, "Does it hurt?" Lucas' eyes locked onto hers. Moving his lips slightly, he said, "Yes, it hurts."

Aveline's heart tightened. Recalling the earlier scene, she broke into a cold sweat. "Are you crazy? Why would you charge in and confront a mastiff? What if you couldn't handle it?" Aveline sniffled, unable to hold back her words.

Lucas' deep voice, tinged with a bit of hoarseness, responded, "It was instinct."

Aveline was stunned into silence.

"What kind of instinct?" Aveline wondered. "The instinct to rush in. without thinking when you see me in danger?"

Suddenly, Aveline couldn't hold back her tears. They streamed down her cheeks, unchecked. She turned away, not wanting him to see her crying.

Seeing her like this, Lucas panicked. He hurriedly grabbed her hand and asked, "What's wrong? Why are you crying?"

Aveline sniffled, trying to suppress her emotions. "It's nothing. Let's just go back."

Lucas gazed at her, trying to discern any other emotions on her face, but there was nothing. A flicker of disappointment crossed his eyes.

"We can't leave yet," he said in a deep voice.

Aveline, puzzled, asked, "What else do you need to do?"

on."

Lucas handed her his shirt. "Help me put this on.

Aveline obediently helped him dress, then they stepped outside where Reynold was waiting.

Seeing them, Reynold said, "I'm just glad you're alright. This whole incident was Rebecca's fault. I've spoiled her too much, and she went too far. Lucas, rest assured, I'll punish her severely, so she won't dare to do anything like this again!"

Lucas looked at him coldly. "I'll go back with you. She hasn't apologized yet."

Reynold's expression faltered, his gaze growing deeper as he looked at Lucas. "Lucas, are you really going to pursue this matter to the end? Have you forgotten what happened back then?"

Chapter 255

The warmth had faded from his demeanor, replaced by a sense of seriousness and oppression.

Lucas' strikingly handsome face remained emotionless as he coldly said, "Of course I remember. If it weren't for that incident, Mr. Reynold, you wouldn't have walked away unscathed from what had happened."

Reynold's expression darkened instantly. Lucas was using past events to threaten him, just as he had tried to remind Lucas of them.

Impressive, indeed!

Reynold took a deep breath and said, "Lucas, this matter is my fault for failing to discipline my daughter properly. I apologize to you and Miss Aveline. I have a diamond mine under my name. I'll arrange for its transfer to you tomorrow. Will that suffice?"

He was willing to embarrass himself and even give up a diamond mine to protect Rebecca from punishment, showing just how much he pampered his daughter. Rebecca's arrogance and unruliness stemmed from her father's unrestrained indulgence.

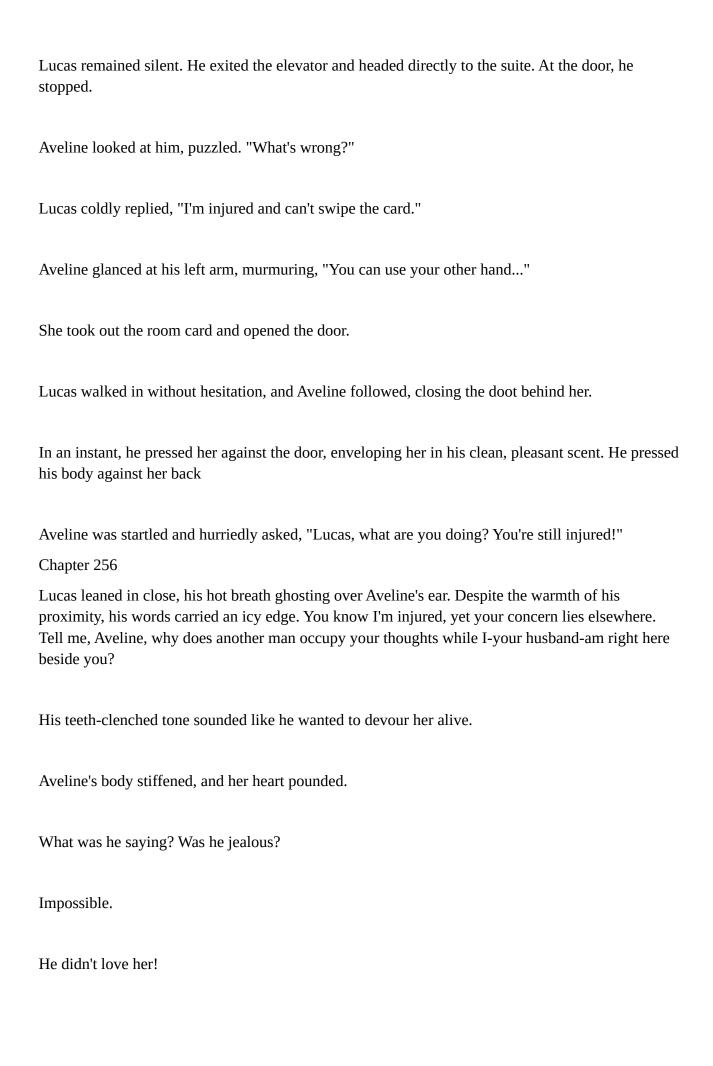
"Reynold's offer was sincere, leaving Lucas with no reason to refuse," Aveline thought.

Lucas glanced at Reynold and spoke calmly, "Mr. Reynold, considering your efforts, I won't press this further. Ensure such incidents do not repeat in the future. How many more diamond mines are you willing to offer?"

Reynold was visibly displeased but restrained himself, saying, "Rest assured, I'll properly discipline that unruly girl when I get back."

Lucas responded, "I'm tired. I'll head back to the hotel." Reynold replied, "Take care on your way." They left the hospital separately. sitting in the car, Aveline remained silent. Though she had anticipated this outcome, a faint sadness still lingered in her heart. What was her life worth in the face of profit? Seeing her silence, Lucas' eyes darkened. "Aveline, I'm in pain." Aveline's eyelids trembled slightly. "Then talk less and rest more." Lucas frowned and fell silent. Why was she reacting this way? She hadn't been like this with Zachary! The frustration that had finally dissipated began to resurface, darkening his handsome face. At Celestial Heights. Lucas got out of the car and walked straight inside. Aveline watched his back, recalling that the matter with Zachary was still unresolved. She quickly followed him. As they entered the elevator, she spoke up, "Lucas, can we put the issue with Zachary behind us now?" As soon as she finished speaking, the coldness around him intensified, enveloping the elevator in a chilling atmosphere.

Aveline sensed it and looked at him in confusion. What was wrong with him now?



How could he be jealous?

Aveline thought Lucas might be irritated because she kept mentioning another man after he had done so much to save her.

Aveline's eyelashes fluttered, and she said, "I... I'll stop mentioning him. Please don't be upset. It's not good for your recovery." Her tone softened noticeably.

Lucas wasn't planning to let her off so easily, but hearing her gentle voice, his anger dissipated instantly.

He stared at her profile, her fluttering lashes.

Suddenly, he kissed her ear, feeling her body shudder violently before stepping back and letting her go. Lucas said coldly, "During this period, you'll stay and take care of me. I'll let him go when I get better." Aveline exhaled a breath of relief. "Alright."

She didn't dare say anything more, afraid he and a

Besides, he did get injured saving he she should take care of him.

Lucas' expression softened with the Pension in his brow easing He commanded, "Undress me,"

Aveline stopped forward, reached out to help him remove his clothes, and set them aside without doing anything more,

Lucas raised an eyebrow, "Shirt too, row it all away,"

He sustained the injury while wearing that outfit in the kennel, so keeping it was out of the question.

"Alright."

Aveline walked over and reached to unbutton his shirt.

As she stood directly before him, her petite frame belled a newfound composure. The panic and fear that had earlier gripped her had now given way to a serious, determined demeanor. She unbuttoned each button, and as his firm chest gradually revealed itself in front of her, she couldn't help but stop moving.

She felt an urge to reach out.

As his well-defined abs came into view, she hesitated once more,

How did he maintain such an impressive physique despite his demanding schedule?

"Enjoying the view?" His deep, resonant voice broke her reverie.

Aveline nodded. "It's... quite impressive."

Lucas scoffed softly, "You're not shy at all, are you?"

Aveline feigned calmness as she took off his shirt. "I've seen every part of you, why would I be shy?"

Lucas' gaze darkened abruptly. "Is that so? Then take off my pants too.

Aveline's breath hitched. "You can use your other hand,"

Lucas replied, "Taking off pants requires bending, which will affect my wound."

He looked at her with subtle amusement, observing as a delicate flush gradually suffused her fair complexion. The sight caused the corners of his mouth to lift imperceptibly. Aveline hesitated for a moment.

Lucas said, "Haven't you seen it all? What's there to be shy about?"

Aveline was speechless.

Could she take back her words?
But, meeting his teasing gaze, she pressed her lips together and stepped forward, reaching to unbuckle his belt.
As her fingers touched the cold belt buckle, her fingertips trembled.
While she had maintained her composure when unbuttoning his shirt, she now found her calm facade crumbling, and her breathing grew
erratic.
Lucas stared at her, his gaze growing darker, his throat tightening. He suddenly grasped her chin and kissed her.
Chapter 257
Aveline was startled and quickly dodged. "Lucas, behave yourself."
Lucas gazed at her intently without saying a word.
Aveline took a deep breath, pulled out the belt, and then removed his
trousers
At the last moment, she turned around abruptly. "I just remembered 1 haven't packed my things. I'll go do that now."
As she spoke, she was about to leave.
Lucas asked, "What things do you need to pack?"
Without turning back, Aveline replied, "Clothes. I haven't washed the clothes I changed out of. I'll go wash them."

She swiftly withdrew her hand from his grasp and retreated into the guest bedroom.

Lucas' breath deepened as he glanced down, then headed towards the master bedroom.

Leaning against the door, Aveline covered her face with her hands, trying to calm herself down. She had almost lost control and gave in to her desire! Recalling the sight of his gradually aroused state, Aveline felt a rush of heat. She quickly went to the bathroom and splashed her face with cold

water.

When she came out, Lucas was already in a bathrobe, sitting on the sofa.

Having changed out of her gown and into her own clothes, she said, "I'll head back now and come over tomorrow."

Lucas frowned. "Go back? Who will take care of me then?"

Aveline replied, "You only hurt your left hand; you can still manage."

Lucas stared at her. "And how did my left hand get injured?"

Aveline fell silent.

After hesitating, she said, "I need to return to my hotel to check out and gather my belongings. My luggage is still there."

Upon hearing this, Lucas' cold expression softened a bit. He nodded. and said, "Go ahead."

Aveline turned and left as if a beast was chasing her.

Lucas took out his phone and called Desmond. "Send a couple of people to follow her and ensure her safety."

Desmond replied, "Understood."

Aveline returned to the hotel, quickly packed her luggage, and sat on the sofa. The sudden turn of events left her feeling unsettled. She came to Arthur Town to get away from him, so how did they end up staying in the same hotel?

It really felt like fate was playing tricks on her!

At that moment, her phone rang. She looked at the caller ID and saw it was Zachary calling.

"Hello?"

Zachary's gentle voice came through, "Aveline, are you okay?"

Aveline replied, "I'm fine, but your matter might take a little more time."

Zachary said, "If it's too difficult, just forget it. I don't want to trouble you."

Aveline paused and said, "It's okay. I need to stay here for a few days anyway. Besides, he's my husband, not a wild beast. As long as I explain clearly, it'll be fine."

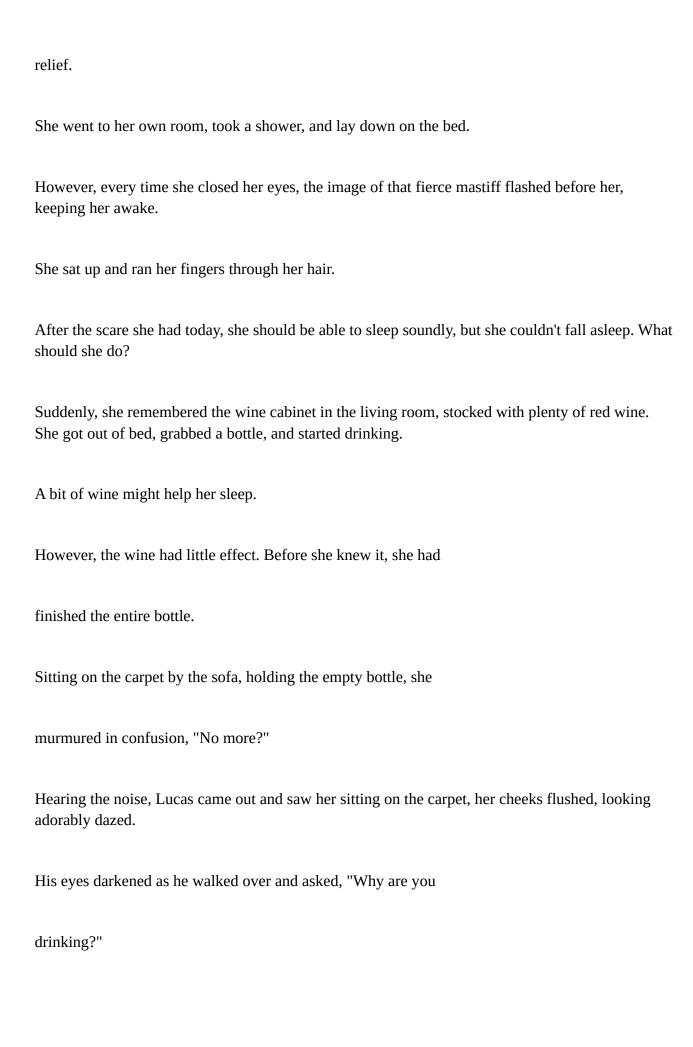
pipe gettin gied up ber mitcase went dialantaire Vie hofoed out at the loot and returned to Celestial Chapter 258

Upon entering the room, Aveline found Lucas seated at the desk, his demeanor cool and focused on the computer screen, deeply engrossed in his work.

Aveline paused for a moment, then took her suitcase to the guest bedroom before returning. "It's late. You should get some rest."

Lucas responded with a simple nod, closed his laptop, and headed towards the bedroom.

Watching him disappear into the bedroom, Aveline breathed a sigh of



He remembered how she acted when she drank before-soft and clingy, making him want to kiss and spoil her.

Seeing him, Aveline's eyes widened slightly. "Lu!"

Her voice was filled with delight as she tossed the bottle aside and rushed towards him.

But she stumbled over her own feet, tumbling forward!

Lucas quickly grabbed her, pulling her into his arms.

"Mm," he responded, his eyes growing even darker.

Aveline stared up at him, suddenly breaking into a silly smile. "Thank you for saving me. Otherwise, I would've been eaten by that mastiff." Lucas replied, "Just a verbal thank you?"

Aveline blinked her hazy eyes, her beautiful gaze glistening with a hint of moisture, looking innocent yet enticing.

Suddenly, a thought occurred to her. She wrapped her arms around his neck and planted a kiss on his cheek. "Does this suffice as a thank you?

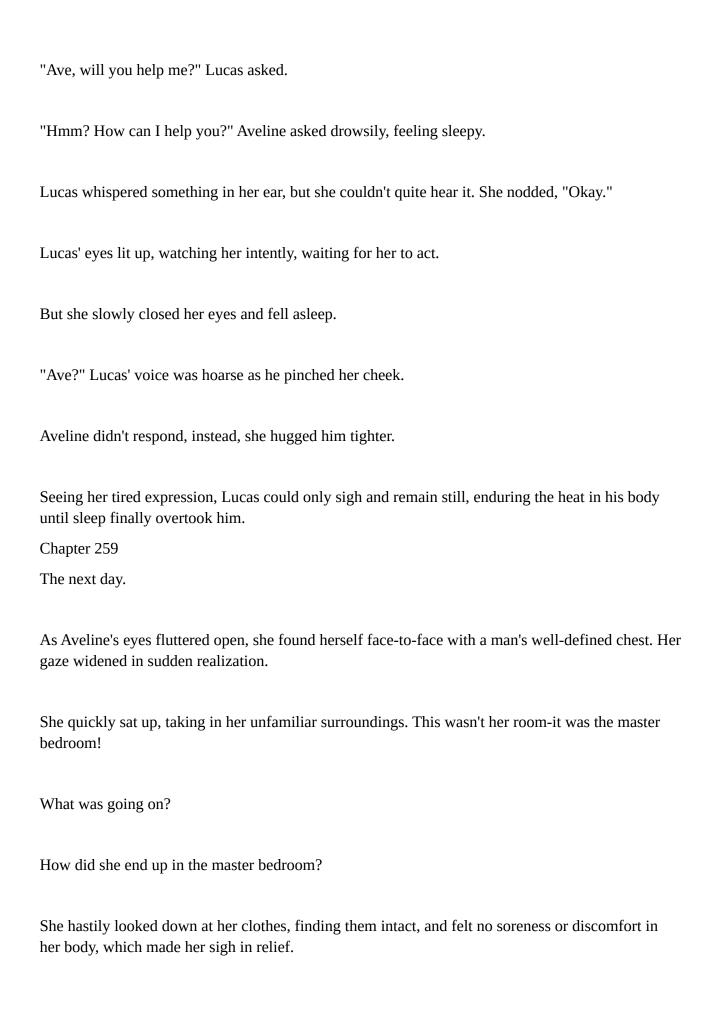
Lucas' breath deepened as he held her tighter.

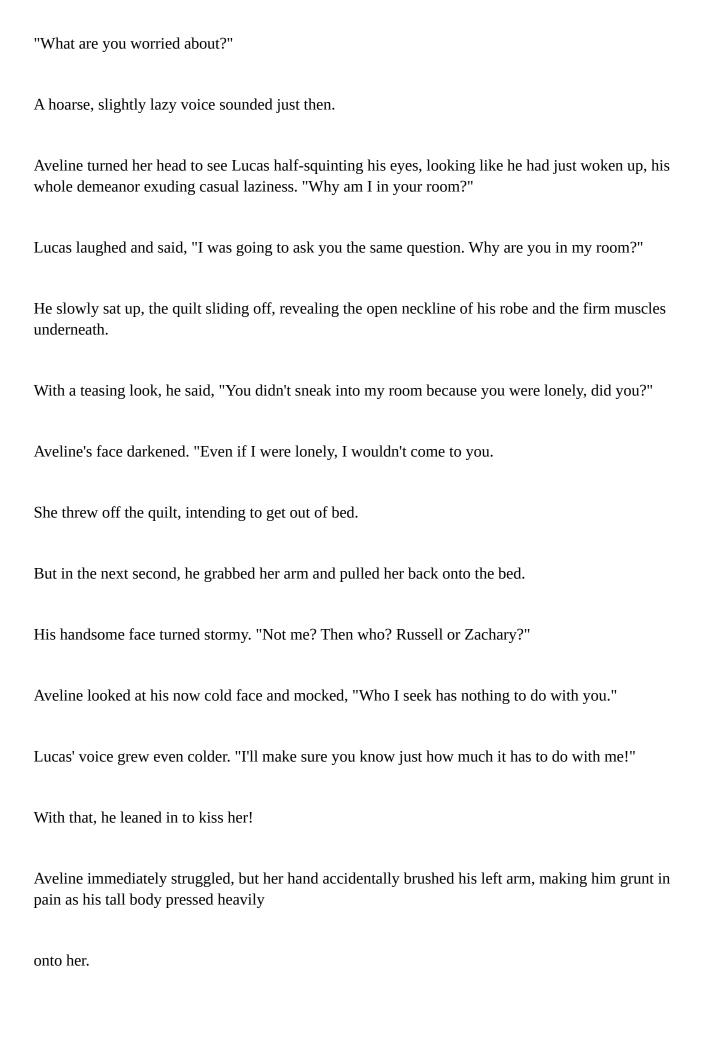
Hanging onto him, Aveline rubbed her face against his chest, looking very dependent. "Lu, I miss you so much. When are you coming back?" Lucas' expression paused. "I've been by your side all along." Aveline shook her head. "No, you went on a business trip. You haven't been with me."

Lucas held her and walked towards the master bedroom without answering her.

Aveline didn't resist and let him carry her to the bed.

She continued to cling to him, her soft body exuding a faint scent of wine, making him feel intoxicated.





"Aveline, are you trying to kill your husband?" His gritted teeth sounded in her ear. Aveline stiffened, realizing she might have gone too far, and said, You shouldn't have misbehaved! Have you calmed down now?" Lucas didn't respond, continuing to press down on her heavily. He was like a mountain, too much for Aveline to bear. She pushed against his shoulder, "Get up, you're going to crush me." Lucas slowly got up, his lips brushing her face as he did. He stared at her, "I actually thought of crushing you." That way, she wouldn't irritate him anymore! "You're impossible," Aveline muttered, getting out of bed and leaving the master bedroom to freshen up in the guest room. Standing at the sink, she couldn't help but wonder how she ended up in his room. She remembered being unable to sleep last night and having some red wine. After that...she couldn't recall anything. Her expression darkened. She definitely needed to be more mindful about drinking in the future: it always seemed to lead to trouble! After washing up and changing clothes, she found Lucas still in his robe. His short hair was a bit messy, but he had already brushed his teeth and washed his face. She walked over and asked, "Do you want to wash your hair?" Lucas gave her a cool look. "What do you think?" Aveline pressed her lips together. Could this man never speak nicely?

She prepared the water and washed his hair, then dried it and took out his clothes. "Take off your robe, I'll help you get dressed." Lucas remained seated, unmoving. Aveline sighed. "Hey, don't push it!" Lucas said, "Think I'm pushing it? Then you can leave." Aveline was speechless. Chapter 260 She took several deep breaths to calm herself before walking over to him and tugging at the belt of his robe. Lucas watched her actions with a slight raise of his eyebrow. The next moment, he noticed a blush creeping up her fair face. A hint of amusement flickered in his eyes as he remained still, watching her intently. Aveline dressed him in a shirt first, followed by trousers. While threading the belt, she accidentally brushed against his private part. Lucas immediately grabbed her wrist, his voice low and questioning, Aveline, are you doing this on purpose?" Aveline was already blushing, but she forced herself to remain calm. If you can't control yourself, how is that my fault?"

Aveline's lashes fluttered as she fastened the belt buckle. When she finally finished, she turned away and exhaled a deep breath. "It's finally done," she thought.

Lucas stared at her for a long moment before releasing her hand. "Continue."

But the thought of having to take care of him like this for many days to come made her frown.
She felt overwhelmed!
Just then, there was a knock on the door.
Aveline walked over to open it. It was the room service staff with their breakfast. She stepped aside to let him in.
The waiter set the breakfast on the table and then left.
Without paying attention to Lucas, Aveline sat down and began to eat.
Lucas came out, saw the scene, and his gaze deepened. He pulled out. the chair next to her and sat down.
For a moment, the atmosphere between them was harmonious.
At Celestial Heights.
Lucas was very busy.
The main purpose of his visit to Arthur Town was for an on-site inspection. Encountering Aveline was a coincidence.
However, it turned out to be a beneficial one.
He sat at the table, reviewing documents with a dignified and indifferent expression.
Aveline, on the other hand, sat on the sofa, idly playing mobile games.
Lucas hadn't broken his left hand; it was just a flesh wound. With

proper care, it would heal quickly.	
Once Zachary's issue was resolved, she could leave Arthur Town.	
Once back in the city, Aveline contemplated having a serious discussion with divorce.	ı him about their
They had been caught in this entanglement for so long without any positive obetter to end it sooner, allowing each of them to pursue their own happiness together and both being miserable.	
Aveline realized this, and a sense of calm washed over her.	
"Pour me a glass of water."	
At that moment, Lucas' deep, pleasant voice rang out.	
Aveline put down her phone and got up to pour him a glass of water. Watchintently, she couldn't help but sav.	ng him work so
"You'	
injured. You should rest more."	
"Min," Lucas responded indifferently, clearly not taking her words seriously.	
Aveline didn't bother with him anymore. She sat back on the sofa and contin phone.	ued playing on her
Lucas glanced at her and saw her laughing foolishly at some mindless	
videos.	

He said coldly, "If you have nothing to do, come and work with me." Aveline replied, "I already resigned."

Lucas said, "But I haven't approved it yet. Right now, you're absent without leave and owe the company for losses." Aveline, looking unconcerned, said, "Oh, then go ahead and sue me.

Lucas' breath deepened, his patience thinning.

"You're from Arthur Town. You should know what the local specialties are. Go buy some for me."

Aveline retorted, "No."

Lucas, struggling to keep his temper in check, said, "Aveline, is this how you take care of someone?"