

## Divorced Me 911

### Chapter 911

Maria let out a short laugh, almost as if she had just heard the most absurd joke.

Fawn frowned. "What's so funny?"

Maria took a sip of her coffee, then said calmly, "Miss Powell, you've misunderstood. I didn't stop him from doing anything-it was his decision."

"That's impossible!" Fawn didn't believe her. "If you hadn't said something, he wouldn't have refused so decisively!"

Tears began streaming down Fawn's face, her expression filled with frustration. "You ruined it for us! Now I have to marry that old man! He's nearly sixty, and I'm only twenty-three! Why should I marry him? Don't you worry about karma for what you've done?" Maria raised an eyebrow at her, a bit surprised by the outburst. "Miss Powell, am I your parents? Am I the one forcing you into that marriage?"

Fawn bit her lip. "If you hadn't said anything to Sidney, he would've agreed!"

Maria's eyes grew cold. "You're only thinking about yourself. You believe marrying him would solve your problems, but have you thought about him at all? Do you know what kind of people your parents are? If you marry him, they won't just let him go. What do you think will happen to him then?"

Fawn was stunned into silence.

She used to believe her parents cared for her, but after they arranged her marriage to a man nearly sixty years old, she realized that she wasn't as important to them as she thought. If she married Sidney, her parents would see him as an obstacle to their plans, and they wouldn't spare him either...

"But..." Fawn tried to argue.

Maria cut her off. "There are other ways to escape this situation than marriage. If you're willing to give up your wealth and go abroad, your parents won't be able to force you onto that man's bed. The question is, do you have the resolve?" Fawn remained silent, her gaze dropping to her cup.

Maria took another sip of her coffee and stared out the window, her mind drifting. After a long pause, she added, "If you make up your mind, I can help you disappear. For three years, your parents won't be able to find you." Fawn didn't respond, lowering her eyes as she sipped her coffee.

Maria stood up to leave. As she stepped out of the café, the warm air hit her, and just then, her phone rang.

She pulled it out, surprised to see Sidney's name on the screen.

"Hello?" she answered, a hint of curiosity in her voice.

Sidney's clear voice came through. "Is now a good time to meet?"

"Sure, but I'm not particularly keen on seeing you," Maria said lazily, her tone indifferent.

Sidney was taken aback.

"What's with her?" he thought.

Wasn't she the one constantly chasing after him? Why the sudden change?

"I want to talk about the studio," Sidney finally said.

He'd heard she was planning to transfer ownership of it, and I

interested in taking it over.

Maria instantly understood his intention.

Getting into her car, a sly smile crept across her lips. "Alright, come over to my place tonight."

Before he could respond, she hung up.

Sidney stared at his phone, momentarily speechless.

Later that evening, after a long day at the studio, Maria stepped out of the elevator to find Sidney waiting nearby, arms crossed, his head lowered in thought.

The sound of her footsteps made him look up.

Maria

of alked toward him slowly, her

Dold and unrestrained as she took in his appearance

Chapter 912

Maria's gaze lingered on Sidney like someone eyeing their favorite toy.

His expression grew colder as he looked at her and asked, "Can we talk now?"

"Here?" Maria smirked, "I'm not really fond of standing in doorways. It's exhausting." Sidney remained silent, unmoving.

With a casual smile, Maria unlocked the door with her fingerprint and stepped inside. Sidney followed her in, and as the lights gradually brightened, Maria stopped, her back to him.

Sidney stood near the entrance, quietly watching her.

Without turning around, Maria spoke. "Miss Powell came to see me today. She wanted to know why I stopped you two from getting married."

She chuckled, finally turning to face him. "Sidney, you didn't handle things well. Now I've got this mess, and she's blaming me for everything. I'm not exactly pleased what do you suggest we do about that?" Sidney frowned, his tone apologetic. "I didn't know she would go to you. I'm sorry."

Maria raised an eyebrow. "Why are you apologizing?"

"I'm apologizing on her behalf," Sidney replied.

"Oh?" Maria's brow lifted. "And what are you to her, that you feel the need to apologize on her behalf?"

Sidney's frown deepened. "Isn't that why you brought it up? To hold me accountable?"

This woman-her moods changed so unpredictably.

Maria stared at him quietly for a moment before speaking again. "I don't need your apology. You and she have nothing to do with each other. If anyone's involved with you, it's me."

Sidney's lips tightened into a thin line. "I'm here to discuss the studio. You're planning to transfer it, and I'm interested in taking it over. What's your price?"

Maria looked at him with curiosity. "Why do you want to take over my studio?"

Sidney replied, "I want to start my own business and create something of greater value."

"Do you like me?" Maria asked, her question completely out of left field, her eyes fixed intently on him.

Sidney froze for a moment, then

quickly responded, "You're overthinking it. I only had the idea after knowing you want to transfer the studio."

Maria took a step closer, standing right in front of him. "There are plenty of other businesses up for

sale Why are you so set on mine?"

She reached out and grabbed his collar, pulling him closer. "Admit it, you like me."

With that, she stood on her tiptoes, leaning in to kiss him.

But Sidney firmly gripped her shoulders, stopping her from getting any closer. "Maria, we're here to talk business." Maria blinked, her gaze locked on his lips, soft and pale pink-she knew how they felt, and she liked them.

"I am talking business."

Sidney gave her a cold stare. "Is this how you handle business with everyone?"

Maria laughed softly, her eyes gleaming with amusement. "Are you jealous?" Sidney frowned. "What?"

Jealous? Over her? That made no sense.

Maria released her hold on him, a pleased smile playing on her lips. "Still think you don't like me? You're jealous." Sidney sighed, lowering his eyes for a moment before asking, "So, how much are you selling the studio for?"

Maria held up her hand, showing him a number.

"Six hundred thousand dollars?" Sidney guessed.

"Mhm." Maria nodded. "That's my lowest price. The studio may be small now, but it has a stable client base and is growing. It's only a matter of time before it turns into something much bigger."

Sidney fell silent, thinking it over.

Six hundred thousand dollars... there was no way he had that kind of money.

"But..." Maria suddenly shifted her tone, her eyes back on him with a mischievous glint.

Chapter 913

"But what?" Sidney asked, still puzzled.

carefree life."

Maria sank into the couch, her slender body relaxed as she gazed at Sidney. "Miss Powell's suggestion actually gave me an idea. If you and I got married, the studio would become shared property. You wouldn't have to pay a cent to run it, and I could take off and live my Sidney stared at her, utterly bewildered. "Marriage?"

"That's right." Maria nodded, resting her chin on her hand and giving him a playful wink. "What do you think? Interested?"

Without a word, Sidney turned and headed for the door.

This was insane.

First Fawn, now Maria-was every woman in his life losing their mind?

"I'm telling you, if you walk away now, this opportunity won't come around again. I'm being reasonable today, but who knows about tomorrow?" Maria called after him, her tone teasing but calm.

His only response was the sound of the door closing behind him.

"Tsk..." Maria muttered to herself.

He had his principle, huh?

Men with that kind of integrity were hard to come by these days.

She tilted her head back, staring at the ceiling, a deep sense of melancholy washing over her.

Was it worth it to keep chasing someone who didn't love her?

In the beginning, it seemed like a fun game.

But as time went on, it started to feel... hollow.

Why make things difficult for herself?

She was supposed to be free-spirited, living life on her own terms.

With that thought, Maria stood up, took a long shower, and went to bed.

The next day, several people came by to inquire about the studio's transfer.

Maria spent the whole day talking with potential buyers, exhausted by the end of it, but still hadn't made a deal. Most of the interested parties were fresh graduates looking to start a business. They all thought her asking price was too high and wanted to buy it for less. Maria, looking exhausted, stepped out of the building and spotted Sidney standing nearby, his eyes already fixed on her.

Was he... waiting for her?

A bit puzzled, she walked over, tossing her car keys into his hands before slipping into the passenger seat without a word. Sidney got in, started the engine, and drove off.

"Are you hungry?" he asked after a while.

Too tired to speak much, Maria mumbled, "Take me home."

"Alright," he replied, and didn't say anything further.

Maria dozed off during the drive.

When she awoke, the sky had

darkened and the car had stopped outside her building. Blinking sleepily, she turned to see Sidney, his eyes closed, resting as well.

For a moment, she quietly watched him, then unfastened her seatbelt and leaned closer.

She tapped his nose gently.

When his eyes opened, she swiftly climbed onto his lap, straddling him.

Sidney froze but didn't move.

"What are you doing?" he asked, his voice calm despite the situation.

Maria was practically pressed up against him, her hands resting on his shoulders as she smiled mischievously. "Why'd you come looking for me again? Didn't you storm off last night?"

"No manners at all," she thought, a little amused.

Sidney looked at her, his tone steady. "I wanted to ask if there were any other conditions."

Maria tilted her head in thought. "Hmm, either six hundred thousand dollars, or... marry me."

Sidney pulled out a bank card and handed it to her. "There's three hundred thousand dollars in this."

"What's this for?" Maria glanced at the card, then back at him, her eyes narrowing playfully. "I told you-it's six hundred thousand dollars."

"Three hundred thousand dollars,"

Sidney explained. "I'll invest in the studio. I'll take the majority stake, and you can do whatever you want. You won't have to deal with the business, just collect your share of the profits."

Maria looked at the card, then back at Sidney, considering his offer with a smile that hinted at a new game.

Chapter 914

"Mmm..." Maria sat on Sidney's lap, genuinely contemplating his offer, though she certainly wasn't sitting still. Her soft hands wandered, occasionally brushing against his chest muscles, then his abs. Her legs were no better-tightening and loosening, shifting against him in a teasing rhythm.

Sidney's throat tightened, and with a sudden grip on her waist, his voice came out hoarse. "Can you stop moving?"

Maria shook her head, a playful glint in her eyes. "Nope."

Without warning, she leaned in and kissed him.

This time, Sidney didn't pull away he couldn't. Her lips were soft, full of temptation, and her cool hands slid under his shirt, exploring his toned muscles.

Every inch of Sidney's body tensed, his Adam's apple bobbing as he swallowed hard. Suddenly, he took control, cupping the back of her head and deepening the kiss.

A flash of triumph passed through Maria's eyes as she let him take the lead, enjoying the way he kissed her back.

The car was soon filled with the sound of heavy breathing, the air thick with desire.

When the kiss finally broke, both of them were left panting, their breaths mingling in the small, heated space.

Maria leaned against his chest, her ear pressed to the frantic beat of his heart. She smiled wickedly and whispered, "Sidney, you're hard."

Sidney closed his eyes, his voice thick with frustration. "Maria, you're asking for trouble."

She giggled softly. "Then let me get into trouble... with you."

The night grew darker, and the world outside was quiet.

The car rocked gently, punctuated by soft gasps and moans that broke the silence. Thankfully, the area was secluded, far from prying eyes. Whether it was intentional or not, Sidney had parked in a spot where they wouldn't be disturbed.

When it was all over, Maria was spent, resting limply against his chest, her skin damp with sweat. "Carry me upstairs. I need a shower." Sidney's breathing was heavy, a flicker of satisfaction glinting in his eyes.

Without saying a word, he wrapped her in his jacket, opened the car door, and stepped out.

Just as he set foot outside, he caught something in the corner of his eye. Turning his head, he froze.

Standing not far away was Fawn, her face pale with shock as she stared at them, wide-eyed and speechless. Sidney frowned, his voice calm but firm. "Miss Powell."

What was she doing here? Was she following him? Was she investigating them?

Maria peeked out from beneath the jacket, her sleepy eyes locking onto Fawn. She smiled mischievously. "Out so late, Miss Powell? Were you looking for me?"

Her eyes twinkled with teasing, still hazy from their earlier encounter.

Fawn bit her lip, turned sharply, and walked away.

She had hired someone to follow Sidney after he refused her proposal, only to be informed that he was spending time with Maria, and the two had been inside a car together for a long time.

When she realized she was nearby, she couldn't help but want answers, to confront him and ask why he rejected her.

But what she saw when she arrived the car rocking-confirmed her worst suspicions.

At first, she wanted to leave, but something stopped her.

She needed to know if it was really him.

And it was.

When the car door opened and she saw Sidney carrying Maria out, her heart sank.

What was he playing at? He had told her before that he despised Maria's persistence, yet here he was, engaging with her in the most

intimate way.

Fawn couldn't accept it.

Sidney was nothing but a hypocrite!

As Fawn's figure disappeared into the distance, Maria turned to Sidney with a playful grin. "She ran off. Are you going to chase after her?"

Sidney looked down at her, his expression unreadable. "And leave you here?"

Maria closed her eyes with a sigh. "I'm too tired to move."

Sidney remained silent for a moment, then without another word, lifted her in his arms and carried her inside.

## Chapter 915

Sidney glanced down at Maria in his arms.

Her eyes were closed, and a soft blush still colored her cheeks, her expression one of complete satisfaction.

The hint of seduction lingered in the curve of her lips, which were now swollen from their earlier kiss.

His breath deepened as he recalled what had just happened in the car. Tightening his hold on her, he strode purposefully toward the apartment building. Maria remained still, enjoying the warmth of his embrace.

The corners of her lips tugged upward in a subtle smile.

When they reached her door, Sidney said, "Unlock the door."

Maria, half-asleep, lazily lifted her hand from under the jacket and pressed her fingerprint to the lock.

The door clicked open.

Sidney shook his head with a trace of amusement. "Still too weak to do anything?"

Maria nestled closer into his chest, murmuring, "Mmhmm."

"Not even enough strength to open the door?" Sidney asked, his tone teasing.

She chuckled softly. "Maybe just enough for that."

She reached out and pushed the door open, and Sidney carried her inside.

He set her down gently on the bed and turned to leave.

But Maria quickly hooked her arms around his neck, pulling him back, and even leaned in to press a soft kiss to the corner of his lips.

"I'll think about your offer," she whispered, her voice playful yet serious.

Sidney stared at her for a long moment before finally asking, "Can I go now?"

Maria gazed into his eyes, studying him, before reluctantly releasing her hold. "I'm hungry."

Sidney didn't respond, simply walking out of the bedroom and closing the door behind him.

Maria closed her eyes again. He probably didn't have the patience for her anymore. He'd likely left by now.

Such a cold, heartless man.

Just as she was drifting off, the door creaked open again. Sidney stood in the doorway, his voice calm. "Get up. Dinner's ready."

"Huh?" Maria blinked, sitting up and staring at him in surprise. "You didn't leave?"

Sidney's smooth voice replied, "Weren't you hungry?"

Maria laughed brightly at his reaction and stood up. "I need to take a shower first. Want to join me?"

Sidney's only response was to quietly close the door behind him, ignoring her playful offer.

Her mood lifted as she headed for the bathroom.

When Maria emerged, feeling refreshed, she was surprised to see Sidney still there, sitting on the couch, scrolling through his phone. Without looking up, he said, "I sent you the detailed business plan. Check your email when you get the chance."

"Alright," Maria agreed easily.

She took a seat at the dining table,

her eyes widening as she saw the meal laid out in front of her-three dishes and a soup, all perfectly.

plated. One meat dish and the net

vegetable dishes, and everything looked delicious.

She glanced up at Sidney, who was walking over, and asked, "Did you make all of this?" "Yeah," Sidney replied simply, taking his seat and beginning to eat.

It struck her he had waited for her to finish her shower so they could eat together. That small realization stirred something unfamiliar and bittersweet in her chest, a

tation

she couldn't quite place but found

herself liking.

"I didn't know you could cook," Maria remarked, picking up her utensils and tasting the food. Her eyes widened further in surprise at how good it was. This man really was a hidden gem.

Sidney, his voice calm as always, said, "I grew up in an ordinary family. I learned to cook when I was a teenager."

With his mother frequently ill, he had taken on the household responsibilities early on. Cooking had been one of the most basic things he had to master. Maria looked at him with a touch of admiration. "Not bad."

Sidney showed no reaction, continuing to eat in his usual composed manner, his eyes never meeting hers.

Maria didn't mind his aloofness. She was enjoying the moment too much. The meal was good, and the quiet simplicity of it all felt strangely comforting.

Suddenly, she had the urge to capture it.

Pulling out her phone, she held it up and said, "Sidney, look at me."

Without thinking, Sidney glanced up, and Maria quickly snapped the picture, capturing the moment in a single frame.

Chapter 916

In the photo, Maria's elegant smile lit up the frame, her eyes fixed on the camera with effortless grace, while Sidney's gaze rested on her, clear and steady, tinged with curiosity. His sharp, clean-cut features only added to the charm of the moment, creating a sense of intimacy in the captured image.

Sidney noticed the picture but didn't protest-at this point, he was indifferent to what she did. Their relationship was complicated enough as it was. Maria, on the other hand, was thrilled with the photo.

She immediately set it as her lock screen and posted it on her social media.

Within minutes, she received a flood of likes and comments, but she ignored them for the time being.

Putting her phone aside, she rested her chin on her hand and gazed at Sidney.

"You said you were hungry," Sidney commented in his usual calm tone.

Without missing a beat, Maria replied, "Haven't you heard of the saying 'feast for the eyes'?"

Sidney paused mid-bite, casting a cool glance her way. "If you're not hungry, I'll pack this up and take it with me. Saves me from cooking tomorrow." Maria laughed at his dry response and picked up her utensils to start eating.

Though she claimed to be hungry, she didn't eat much, and after one plate of pasta, she set her fork down.

Sidney, having finished his meal, was already clearing the table.

Watching him, Maria quietly slipped away to the living room and sat on the sofa. She pulled out her phone and opened the email Sidney had sent her.

He had clearly prepared well in advance. The business plan was thorough, outlining both the strengths and weaknesses of the studio in a detailed, straightforward manner. Maria was engrossed in reading when she realized Sidney had joined her on the couch.

"Finished reading?" he asked when she looked up.

She put her phone down, an amused expression on her face. "Sidney, are you planning something?"

Sidney blinked, taken aback. "What?"

Maria smiled slyly. "Tonight, you didn't reject me. Was that all part of your plan to get what you wanted?"

Sidney's brows furrowed at the accusation. "I didn't think that way."

As Maria leaned in closer, her fragrance surrounded Sidney, drifting to his nose.

she asked, her voice

"So, teasing. "Why didn't you?

soft

thought you hated

I you

If he disliked her so much, why had he accepted her invitation tonight?

Perhaps he was just playing along-after all, he was still a man, and no man could abstain forever, right?

Under her intense gaze, Sidney's

composed face flickered with

awkwardness. He avoided her eyes, standing abruptly. "It's late. I should go. Let me know once you've made a decision." en

Without waiting for a response, he left in a hurry.

Huh? What was that?

Maria stared after him, puzzled by his sudden reaction.

She pulled out her phone and sent him a message.

"Why are you running?"

But there was no reply as if he had blocked out her message completely.

For a while, she just stared at the lock screen with their photo, a slow smile spreading across her face.

That strange feeling in her chest caught her off guard, but she couldn't help enjoying it.

Maybe giving up her previous plans and trying to get along with him wasn't such a bad idea after all.

She

bedrup and headed to the she was about to settle out

ready to call it a night. But

just

her phone rang.

The screen showed an unfamiliar number, and Maria immediately hung up.

No way she was answering a random call-it could be a scammer or worse. But then a text came through.

"Mary, it's Mom. Why didn't you pick up?"

Chapter 917

"Huh?" Maria looked at the text message, finding it almost laughable. Mary? Her mother?

She had grown up in an orphanage and was later handpicked and trained by Lucas. There was a time when she had searched for her biological parents, but the technology back then wasn't advanced enough to find them. After some time, she gave up.

Now, out of nowhere, someone claimed to be her mother?

Maria stared at the message for a moment, deep in thought, before getting up and heading into another room.

The room was soundproof, and the computer equipment was state-of-the-art. She powered up her computer and quickly began tracking the number. Her fingers danced across the keyboard, and soon enough, the screen was filled with the information she had been looking for.

She clicked through the data, stopping at a photo of a family of three. The man appeared humble, and the woman looked tired and worn out, but her features hinted at a once-beautiful face. It wasn't hard to imagine that she had been quite the beauty in her younger years. Between them stood a boy, glaring at the camera with arrogance. While the parents were dressed modestly, the boy was decked out in designer clothes and expensive sneakers. His hair was neatly styled, and he had the overfed look of a child with more than enough to eat.

"Tsk..."

Maria continued scrolling through the family's records, piecing together their story.

They were a rural family from Arthur Town, living off the land. They had two children, but there was no information about the first one just a record of the woman giving birth at a hospital.

"Tsk..."

As their son grew older, the family's financial situation took a turn for the worse. By the time he was fifteen, the boy had become addicted to online gambling, sinking the family into heavy debt. They sold their house and land to cover some of the losses, but the son continued gambling and amassed more debt.

So, now that they were out of options, they had decided to come looking for their first child? But how had they even found her?

Was this really her family?

Maria shut down the computer, deciding not to bother with it for the time being.

Even if these people were indeed her biological parents, she had no intention of acknowledging them. And they had better stay away from her-because if they didn't, she wouldn't hesitate to deal with them harshly.

on

...

Two days later, Maria finally went to the studio and gave Sidney a call.

By the time she arrived, Sidney was already there, dressed in a crisp white shirt and black trousers. His short hair was neatly styled, and his clean-cut face bore its usual calm expression. When she walked in, his gaze lingered on her briefly before he looked away.

Maria, wearing sunglasses, stepped inside and took them off with a smile. "You're early."

Sidney nodded slightly. "Have you made a decision?"

Maria sat down, thinking for a

moment before replying, "I'll give you thirty percent of the shares, but you'll have full control over the studio's operations. Whatever direction you take it in, the decisions are yours to make."

Sidney frowned at her words. "Maria, are you just looking for an employee?"

He would be handling most of the responsibilities but only receiving thirty percent of the profits, while she would remain the boss-hands-off, but still in charge.

It was a clever move on her part.

Maria nodded. "You could look at it that way. Sidney, I know you're capable, but I'm still taking on a certain amount of risk here, am I not? It may not be entirely fair, but that's my offer."

Chapter 918

She appeared carefree and audacious.

Maria's demeanor was the perfect mix of frustratingly playful yet deeply disarming. As she lounged lazily in her chair, Sidney watched her in silence, contemplating his next move. Finally, he broke the silence. "I want forty percent."

"No," Maria replied casually, but her tone left no room for negotiation. "Thirty percent."

Sidney sighed deeply, feeling the weight of her unwavering decision.

Maria, noticing his frustration, flashed a teasing smile. "Or, we can go back to my original offer- you marry me, and it all becomes our shared property. No need to split anything." Sidney's response was swift. "Let's just sign the contract."

Maria raised an eyebrow, amused.

Clearly, marriage wasn't on his agenda.

"Tsk..."

Was he a fool for passing up such a convenient offer?

She called the legal team, quickly preparing the contract.

Once everything was in place, both of them signed, making Sidney an official partner and operator of the studio.

With the papers signed, Maria's playful grin returned.

She grabbed his collar, tugging him down so he had to bend over, catching him off guard.

"What are you doing?" Sidney frowned, confused by her sudden move.

She leaned in and gave him a quick kiss. "Here's to a successful partnership."

Letting go of his collar, she stood up and walked out, leaving Sidney behind in a daze.

Sidney stood there, rubbing his temples. He couldn't help but feel like he had been played, but the contract was signed, and his mind was already focused on his next steps. The studio was just a stepping stone, after all.

...

With the studio matter resolved, Maria shifted her attention to her bigger plans. She still intended to take that much-needed trip she'd been dreaming about.

But just as she was starting to plan her escape, her phone rang a client calling to schedule a meeting for that evening to discuss business matters.

Maria smiled faintly. "Sidney's in charge of the studio now. If there's anything you need, feel free to reach out to him."

But the client on the other end

wasn't having it. "I've been dealing with you, from the start. This Sidney guy doesn't know anything about our project. Why would I talk to him?"

Maria thought for a moment, realizing the client had a point. "Alright, see you tonight."

She knew it would take time to transition everything over to Sidney.

A gradual handover would be best.

That evening, at a quiet restaurant, Maria met with the client. They discussed the remaining issues, and by the end of the meeting, she handed over Sidney's contact information. After sharing a glass of wine, they went their separate ways.

Maria stepped outside the restaurant, feeling a strange warmth spreading through her body. She found a bench nearby and sat down, letting the cool evening breeze wash over her.

Across from the restaurant was a

peaceful river, and the scenery was beautiful, but something was wrong. The heat in her body intensified, and an unfamiliar tingling sensation started creeping through her making her feel weak.

Confused, she rubbed her temples.

Was she having an allergic reaction?

Just as she tried to gather her thoughts, a car pulled up in front of her. Two men stepped out and, without a word, grabbed her, pulling her toward the car. "What are you doing?" Maria asked, stunned.

She tried to struggle, but her body felt weak, her limbs like jelly-no strength left to fight back. Before she could comprehend what was happening, the car door slammed shut behind her. Maria's instincts kicked in, her pulse racing. "Who are you? Where are you taking me?" But her voice was soft, barely intimidating in her dazed state.

The men said nothing.

The car was eerily quiet.

Panicking, Maria pinched her thigh hard, using the sharp pain to keep herself awake. Without drawing attention she subtly pressed a hidden button on her phone. The screen didn't light up, but an emergency signal had been sent.

Chapter 919

Desmond immediately received Maria's message.

All of them had a special distress program written by Maria on their phones-one press, and their location would be synced instantly.

At that moment, Desmond was at the airport.

He frowned as he read the distress message.

Maria was in trouble!

But he had to fly abroad right away-Lucas had just assigned him a task that needed to be completed as soon as possible!

After a brief moment of thought, something came to him, and he dialed a number.

"Hello?" A clear, pleasant male voice answered.

Desmond said, "Hello, Mr. Troy, I'm Mr. Tudor's assistant, Desmond Blake. We've met before."

Sidney briefly recalled and quickly remembered him, then asked curiously, "Mr. Blake, what can I do for you?"

Desmond responded, "I'm sending you a location. You need to go there and find Maria. Something has happened to her. I'm too far away to make it."

Sidney frowned. "What happened to her?"

Desmond replied, "I don't know. Just go quickly."

After saying that, he hung up and sent the location to Sidney.

He didn't even question whether Sidney would actually go.

After all, Maria and Sidney had both attended Lucas and Aveline's engagement event together before. He suspected their relationship wasn't simple.

The boarding announcement rang, and Desmond pocketed his phone, heading towards the security checkpoint.

..

Sidney stared at the moving location on his screen, not making any moves.

If something had really happened to Maria, as the second-largest shareholder of the studio, he would inherit it entirely. With no restrictions, he could finally spread his wings. The dim glow of the computer screen cast shadows across his chiseled features, his eyes as dark and deep as obsidian.

...

By the time the car stopped, Maria was already drained of energy.

Two men were dragging her into the hotel, her vision blurred, and she couldn't help but think to herself, "Desmond, that unreliable fool... it's been so long, and he still hasn't shown up... When I get through this, I'll definitely report him to the boss! He's getting his bonus docked!"

The carpet in the hotel corridor absorbed sound well, and their footsteps made no noise. The sound of a card swiping echoed, and a door opened.

Maria was thrown onto a soft, luxurious bed.

Her consciousness was on the verge of collapsing.

The two men exchanged a glance before turning to leave.

Her body burned with the

intensifying sensation inside her, and she twisted in discomfort, desperately craving

something-anything-to ease the torment. Her mouth was parched, and her body felt as though it was engulfed in flames.

She had no idea how much time had passed when she heard footsteps.

A man entered, and upon seeing the enchanting figure on the bed, his eyes lit up.

"That little girl wasn't lying to me. She really is a beauty!"

The man grew excited, approaching the bed while starting to undress.

"Don't worry, sweetheart, I'll take good care of you!"

Maria felt someone getting closer. She forced her eyes open but could only make out a blur of light and shadow. However, the voice was unfamiliar-an oily, disgusting voice of an older man.

"Damn it..."

Someone was using this kind of trick against her.

A hand crawled up her thigh, and she immediately felt nauseous, like slimy insects were crawling over her skin.

"Don't touch me, or else..." Maria said through gritted teeth.

"Or else what?" the man sneered as

his hand continued to slide up her thigh, his gaze fixed lustfully on her chest. "Sweetheart, you look so uncomfortable. I'm just being nice, helping you out. Don't bite the hand that feeds you!"

Chapter 920

How disgusting!

Maria's whole body recoiled in disgust, but she was utterly powerless to move.

What could she do?

Was this really how it would end for her today?

She forced her eyes open, glaring at the man. Though her vision was blurred, her gaze was sharp and cold, like a blade dipped in poison, cutting through the air with chilling menace. The man froze for a moment.

That look... it felt murderous.

But so what?

Once she was under him, she'd be begging for more soon enough.

Unfazed by the warning in her eyes, the man reached out and began to undo her clothes.

"Ding-dong!"

Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

The man hesitated. Who would come at this time?

"Who's there?"

He was visibly annoyed, just about to get what he wanted, and now interrupted.

There was no response.

He walked to the door and glanced through the peephole but saw nothing.

What was going on?

He turned to walk back, but the doorbell rang again.

It had to be someone playing a prank.

He decided he'd give them a warning, or they'd ruin everything!

Yanking open the door, he was about to shout when a fist came flying at him. Before he could react, it landed squarely on his face.

Stunned, he looked up to see a young man step inside, eyes cold and unrelenting.

"You dare hit me?" the man snarled, seething with rage.

Sidney strode into the room, his expression darkening further as he saw Maria lying on the bed.

His voice was icy, "Either you get out now, or I call the police and report you for attempted sexual assault. They'll find drugs in her system, and this story won't end well for you."

The man's face contorted. He clearly wasn't willing to risk his reputation for a woman.

He spat on the floor. "You'll regret this!"

After spitting those words, the man grabbed his jacket and left.

Sidney walked to the bed, looking down at Maria. "Maria, can you hear me?"

That voice... it sounded so familiar.

"Sid...Sidney?" she murmured weakly, her voice soft and delicate, making every muscle in his body tense.

Sidney responded with a nod. "Yes, it's me. I'm taking you to the hospital."

As he spoke, he reached out, lifting her into his arms and heading toward the door.

But as soon as Maria realized it was him, she stopped holding back the overwhelming desire coursing through her veins. Her hands, now roaming over his body, pulled him closer with kisses and touches.

Sidney hadn't even made it to the door before he was forced to a halt.

"Maria, calm down," he said through gritted teeth, trying to keep control of his voice.

But Maria, entirely consumed by the effects of the drug, was far beyond reason or restraint.

Sidney closed his eyes for a moment, then turned back.

Instead of leaving, he gently set her down on the bed.

"Mmm..."

With the source of her comfort suddenly gone, Maria whimpered softly, her body writhing, desperately tugging at her clothes.

Sidney propped himself on either

side of her, watching her helplessly

struggle. After a lingering moment,

he finally lowered himself and

pressed his lips to hers.

She responded like a fish gasping for water, clinging to him, greedily taking in everything he gave.

One by one, their clothes fell to the carpet, the bed a mess, their breaths tangled together.

Sidney grasped her legs, her entire body flushed with a rosy glow, his heated breath skimming across her skin, leaving trails of fire in its wake. "No... I can't..." Maria whimpered, trying to pull away, but he grabbed her waist, pulling her back forcefully, her body bouncing slightly with the motion. His voice was hoarse. "The drug hasn't worn off yet. Don't run."

Her soft moans quickly dissolved into broken gasps, and at that moment, it was impossible to tell whether it was the drug or pure desire taking over.