

Divorced Me 951

Chapter 951

Sidney pressed his lips together, his gaze fixed on Maria's face, waiting for her reaction.

Maria glanced at Herman, meeting his gentle, smiling eyes, which were now softly watching her.

His gaze was focused and tender, giving her a feeling of reliability and safety, even though they hadn't known each other for long. He seemed like the perfect boyfriend material-suitable for a well-bred girl. But she considered herself trouble, someone unsuitable.

"Thank you." Maria reached out, taking the coat from him with a smile.

Herman draped the coat over her shoulders and said warmly, "It's getting a bit windy, don't catch a cold."

His kindness was thoughtful and attentive.

Sidney observed everything in silence.

Maria took a sip of water before turning to Sidney, "I'll consider what you said. You should head back for now."

The light in Sidney's eyes dimmed little by little, and he lowered his gaze, resembling a sad puppy that hadn't been comforted or encouraged. If he had ears, they would probably be drooping right now. It was strangely pitiful.

Maria found it amusing, but she held back from laughing.

Sidney turned to leave, his steps slow, as if waiting for something.

"What do you want for dinner?"

"Can I have spicy chicken?"

"I'm afraid not. Your stomach isn't fully healed yet."

What he got instead was the sound of the two behind him chatting, so naturally, so intimately, as if they were the closest people in the world.

Sidney's mood sank, mixed with a bitter ache-complex, inexplicable, and deeply saddening.

He couldn't help but wonder, what did he feel when he first found out Aveline had gotten married? He couldn't remember.

He had no impression at all.

Now, all he could think about was Maria, wanting her by his side.

Herman gazed at Maria's beautiful face and suddenly asked, "Maria, what do you think of me?"

The person who had just appeared gave him an unprecedented sense of urgency. He had originally

planned to take his time, but clearly, that was no longer an option

Maria raised her eyebrows slightly at his words and, after staring at his handsome features, suddenly said, "Herman do you know? Timing is everything. If the first one appears, no matter how exceptional the second one is, it may all be in vain."

Herman's expression froze for a moment before he slowly smiled and said, "Alright, I understand. Do you want to go back and rest?" "Sure."

Maria nodded. She liked speaking with someone who understood things clearly.

Back in the hospital room, she closed her eyes to rest, still able sense a gaze lingering on her for a long time. Eventually, she fell asleep, and the feeling faded away.

When she woke up again, Herman was gone, and even his belongings had disappeared from the room. Maria was surprised.

Just then, the door to the room opened, and Tiana walked in.

"My brother must have lost his mind! He actually agreed to go on a blind date with my mom's arrangement!"

The moment Tiana walked in, she couldn't help but vent her frustration.

Seeing Maria's drowsy expression, she asked, "By the way, did you say something to him?"

Maria replied, "What could I have said to him?"

Tiana sat down next to her, hesitated for a long time, and finally asked, "Do you really not like my brother?" Maria sighed softly and said, "Your brother is wonderful, but we're not the same kind of people."

Chapter 952

"Sigh..." Tiana let out a long breath, realizing that Maria truly didn't have feelings for her brother.

She had hoped that Maria could become her sister-in-law. There was a sense of disappointment and regret, even if just a little.

Seeing Tiana's frowning face, Maria said helplessly, "What's this? Just because I can't be your sister-in-law doesn't mean we can't still be friends, right?"

"Of course, we're still friends!" Tiana responded immediately. "I just wanted to strengthen the bond between us. But if that's not possible, it won't affect our relationship!"

"Then stop sighing. I feel fine, and I don't want to stay in the hospital anymore," Maria said.

Tiana nodded, "Then you should get another checkup. If everything's clear, you can be discharged."

"Alright."

After another thorough examination, her recovery was going well, and the doctor recommended that she continue her rest at home. That afternoon, Maria completed the discharge procedures. Herman didn't show up. He had been scheduled for two blind dates-one in the morning and one in the afternoon-so he was quite busy.

Tiana handled all of Maria's discharge arrangements.

Once home, Maria felt noticeably more relaxed.

"It's always more comfortable being home," she remarked.

Tiana handed her a glass of warm water. "I've got some work to take care of at the office this afternoon, so I won't stay with you. Rest well and call me if you need anything." "Mm, okay." Maria nodded.

Tiana soon left, and the room fell into a peaceful quiet.

Maria sat on the couch, hugging a pillow close to her chest. Her mind couldn't help but drift to the things Sidney had said.

A playful smile slowly appeared on her face.

Just then, her phone buzzed. She glanced at it-it was a message from Aveline.

"Selena's wedding is coming up. Want to come?"

Thinking about the bright and lively girl, Maria replied, "Sure, just send me the time and place."

"I'll do that," Aveline responded.

Selena's wedding was set for two

weeks later in Cloudflare City, at a seven-star hotel owned by the Fletcher Group. Maria checked. Selena's social media posts, but surprisingly, she hadn't posted anything recently.

What was going on?

Selena was the type to post several updates a day, especially with a wedding approaching, so this silence felt unusual.

Just as Maria was thinking about it, a message from Sidney came through, "You've been discharged?"

"Why didn't you tell me?" he added quickly.

Maria stared at his name but chose not to respond. She put her phone down and went to her bedroom to rest.

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Time passed quickly, and in the blink of an eye, two weeks flew by.

Aveline's pregnancy was now quite

evident, her belly round and

prominent. She had gained a little weight, but instead of looking bloated, it gave her a more graceful and refined appearance. Her beautiful features had softened, and her gaze was now filled with a gentle warmth as she looked at others.

Lucas supported her as they walked out of the airport, when from a distance, Selena came running over, only to stop abruptly right in front of them.

"My dear! You didn't look like this on video, but now that I see you in person, your belly is huge! Could it be twins?" Selena stared at Aveline's belly, her face full of amazement. Aveline smiled and said, "You're right, it's twins!"

Selena covered her mouth, trying to

hold back the urge to scream. Her eyes sparkled with excitement, and even her hands trembled slightly. After a long moment, she finally asked, "Twins? Once they're born, can you give one of them to me?"

Chapter 953

Aveline blinked in surprise. "What?"

Before Selena could say anything else, she felt a chill in the air beside her. Her excitement faded slightly as she glanced at the man next to her, his face cold.

She huffed softly and linked arms with Aveline, starting to walk away. "Just give me one of them. I don't want to go through pregnancy."

Lucas's voice came from behind, cold and mocking. "Is it that you don't want to, or that Aaron can't?"

Selena spun around, glaring at Lucas. "Shut up! No one here wants to hear you speak! I'm her best friend, and if you keep annoying me, I'll make sure Aveline dumps you and have your son call you 'uncle'!" Lucas's handsome face darkened immediately.

Aveline, watching from the side, sighed helplessly. These two always seemed to be at each other's throats, and once they started, there was no stopping them.

"I'm a little tired. Let's go back," Aveline said.

"Alright, let's go. Come to my place," Selena quickly replied.

"We're heading home," Lucas said, his tone icy. "Do you want us to go to your place and watch you and Aaron argue about not being able to have kids?"

"You-!" Selena started.

Aveline turned to Lucas, her gaze soft but firm. "Lucas."

Her delicate face didn't hold much of a threat, but her glance was enough to stop him from saying anything further.

Turning back to Selena, Aveline said gently, "I'm going back to Maple Garden. I'm more used to staying there."

"That works," Selena said with a grin. "I live just downstairs from you, so it's basically the same as coming to my place."

Aaron had a property at Maple Garden too, right below Lucas's. Selena had eventually moved in there, figuring it'd be convenient when Aveline came back-they'd be just a floor apart, able to see each other whenever they wanted. Aveline nodded. "Alright."

Lucas gave Selena a dark look before pulling out his phone and opening WhatsApp. He quickly sent a message to Aaron.

"Your wife is trying to steal my daughter," Lucas wrote.

Aaron replied, "I'm all for it! Great idea!"

"She says you're not capable. That's why she can't be a mother," Lucas texted back.

Aaron hesitated before responding, "She actually said that?"

Lucas sent another message, "I have no reason to lie to you."

He quickly added, "Buddy, you need to prove yourself. Letting a woman say you're not capable is humiliating."

Aaron's only reply was a long pause, "..."

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At Maple Garden, Aveline had been more tired than usual lately. As soon as she returned home, she

sleepy and quickly head!!

to the

bedroom for a nap.

Selena had no choice but to head back to her own place.

With only three days left until the wedding, she found herself with a bit of free time. However, Aaron had been swamped with all the Fletcher family matters, and only came home late in the evenings. But today, to her surprise, he came home much earlier than usual.

When Selena walked in and saw him sitting on the sofa, she raised her eyebrows in surprise. "You're home so early today. Did you finish everything already?"

Aaron's gaze was dark as he stared at her intensely. "Come here." "What's wrong?" she asked, walking over and sitting in his lap naturally.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and gave him a quick kiss on the lips.

But Aaron's expression remained cold, and unlike before, his arms didn't embrace her. Instead, he looked at her with a dangerous gleam in his eyes. Selena, always carefree and oblivious, hadn't yet sensed the tension building.

"Did you have fun seeing Aveline today?" Aaron asked, his voice low.

"Of course!" Selena's eyes lit up. "You should've seen her her belly is huge! She's having twins! Hehe, I even joked about stealing one of them!"

Chapter 954

Aaron's eyes darkened even more at her words, a dangerous glint flickering.

"You want kids?" he asked quietly.

Selena blinked her large eyes innocently. "Don't you? Aveline's having two at once! She's amazing. We could just take one, right?"

Suddenly, she felt his arm tighten around her waist, and she gasped, instinctively straightening her back. "Aaron, what are you doing?"

His hand gripped her waist, and though his lips curved in a faint smile, there was a trace of menace in his gaze. "Why would we need someone else's child? Can't we have our own?"

It took a moment for Selena to realize something was off with Aaron today.

Hesitantly, she asked, "What's gotten into you?"

Aaron gave a cold laugh, his eyes narrowing. "I heard you've been telling others I'm not... capable."

"I never said that!" Selena shot back immediately. "I know perfectly well that you are. Why would I ever say such a thing?"

But Aaron didn't seem convinced.

Without warning, he stood up and scooped her into his arms, heading toward the bedroom.

"Selena, it seems I've been neglecting you these past few days, and it's made you unhappy. Let's fix that. And from now on, there will be no birth control in this house. If you like kids so much, we'll have our own. As many as you want." Selena panicked, her voice rising as she begged, "I really didn't say anything! Aaron, don't be crazy! Let me explain-one is enough, I swear!"

Her pleas fell on deaf ears.

By the end, her cries had softened into quiet whimpers as Aaron relentlessly exhausted her. In the haze of exhaustion, a sudden thought flashed through her mind. Damn it!

She'd been tricked by Lucas again!

They were sworn enemies now.

The next day.

The wedding gown had arrived.

Selena sent Aveline a message, asking her to come over.

Maria had also come by.

The stunning gown was displayed in the center of the living room-its snow-white train adorned with pearls and diamonds, exuding an air of luxury and elegance. Aveline, sitting on the sofa while snacking on fruit, said, "Try it on for us."

Maria added, "Has Mr. Fletcher seen it yet?"

Selena shook her head. "No, the design was custom-made, and I went for the fitting alone. I didn't want him to come with me I want it to be a surprise."

Maria smiled warmly and nodded. "You'll look stunning in it. Mr. Fletcher won't be able to take his eyes off you."

Selena lifted her chin proudly. "Well, what can I say? Born with beauty like mine, it's only natural I could topple nations."

Maria and Aveline exchanged a glance, both breaking into laughter at her playful arrogance.

The gown was enormous and

putting it on was no easy task. Maria helped her, but even with the two of them working together, it still took

nearly half an hour to get it right.

When the door finally opened, Aveline looked up, and the sight of Selena in her wedding dress stopped her mid-bite. She was breathtaking.

Selena looked like an angel who had

descended to earth, glowing with an

aura of purity and grace. Her elegance and beauty flowed effortlessly, exuding a regal charm

that left Aveline speechless.

"You look stunning!" Aveline said, her admiration genuine.

Selena let out a deep breath. "Damn, this waist is a bit tight. Looks like I'll need to watch my weight for the next couple of days."

Aveline and Maria both paused, speechless.

Whatever image of an angelic glow they had was instantly shattered.

Maria shook her head with a smile. "It's too late to have the designer make changes now, so watching your weight is your only option. I was planning to treat you to a feast tonight, too."

Chapter 955

Selena's face immediately fell, her lips pouting. "What kind of feast are we talking about?"

While loosening the ties at the back of her dress, Maria said, "Whatever feast it was, you're not eating it. Hold out for a few days, and I'll make it up to you."

Selena looked even more dejected. "Fine."

Aveline continued snacking on fruit and said, "Join me with some fruit instead."

After much effort, Selena finally managed to get out of the wedding dress. She then opened another box with a smile. "This is the traditional outfit I'll wear when Aaron comes to pick me up." Aveline stood up and walked over for a closer look, her eyes lighting up immediately. "It's beautiful!"

The vibrant white gown was adorned with intricate embroidery, each stitch exquisitely crafted with great attention to detail.

Even Maria couldn't help but be impressed. She quickly pulled out her phone and snapped a picture. "I'm posting this on social media."

Selena glanced at her with a playful look. "What, seeing the wedding gown made you want to get married too?"

Maria raised an eyebrow. "Can't I just like the outfit without wanting to get married?"

Selena's eyes gleamed mischievously. "Oh, if you like it so much, why don't you buy one and wear it around for fun?"

Maria turned to Aveline with a sudden idea. "How about we order that feast here and eat together?"

Aveline tried to hold back a laugh. "I'm in. I can eat anything now."

Selena let out a dramatic wail. "Maria, I was wrong! I take it back! Don't torture me like this!"

Maria chuckled softly and sent out the post.

Moments later, a notification popped up with a like.

Selena, sitting nearby, noticed the alert immediately.

"Wow, that was fast! Who liked it so quickly? Is that one of your admirers?" Selena asked, eyes full of curiosity.

Maria opened the notification and smiled slightly. "You know him."

"Wait, I know him?" Selena leaned in to look, and sure enough, she recognized the name and picture.

It was Sidney.

Of course, she knew him.

"Oh! What's going on between you two?" Selena immediately grinned mischievously. "I heard he invested in your studio and became the second boss. You two, are you...?"

As she spoke, her expression became even more suggestive.

Aveline, equally intrigued, chimed in. "So, how far have things progressed?"

Selena gasped, turning to Aveline. "Wait, you knew about this already?"

She rushed to Aveline's side, playfully accusing her. "You knew and didn't tell me?"

Aveline calmly popped a strawberry into her mouth and said, "You were busy with the wedding preparations, so I figured I'd spare you the distraction." Selena looked exasperated. "Missing out on first-hand gossip is killing me! Come on, spill it! What's going on with you two?"

Faced with their eager, curious eyes, Maria couldn't help but sigh. She sat down, knowing she couldn't escape their questions, and slowly began to explain.

As she spoke, Selena's eyes grew wider and wider, darting back and forth between Aveline and Maria.

When Maria finally finished, she spread her hands. "And that's where things stand for now."

Aveline nodded approvingly. "You're doing the right thing. You can't let your guard down just because he's showing interest. Give yourselves time to really understand each other's feelings. That's the

responsible way to approach the future."

Selena, however, raised her hand hesitantly, her voice quieter. "Wait wait... You two are basically the main characters here. Don't you have anything else to say about all this?"

Chapter 956

"Say what?" Aveline blinked, clearly confused as she looked at Selena.

Selena sighed and rubbed her forehead, feeling a bit exasperated. But maybe it wasn't the right moment to push the subject too far?

Before she could decide, Maria spoke up. "There's really nothing much to say. Sidney used to have feelings for Aveline, but she's always been in love with Lucas. Now, he's interested in me, although I suspect there might be other factors at play. But that's all in the past now."

Hearing this, Selena paused for a moment before nodding. "Alright, I guess I was reading too much into it."

She knew Maria wasn't the type to hold grudges.

Besides, Maria was Lucas' subordinate, and if she had any ill will toward Aveline, she wouldn't have been so dedicated to helping her.

Plus, Aveline really wasn't involved in any of it-it was Sidney who couldn't seem to make up his mind.

Aveline, realizing what Selena had been hinting at, smiled wryly. "You really are overthinking things. Sidney and I never had anything going on, not from the start."

Selena waved a hand dismissively. "Fine, fine, I thought I'd get to see some drama."

Maria raised an eyebrow. "You're really floating on air these days if you're hoping to see Aveline in a mess."

Selena laughed sheepishly. "Okay, my bad, my bad. So, about that food-should I get it delivered for us?"

Aveline smiled. "I am actually hungry."

Pregnancy certainly made her appetite unpredictable, but she had to be mindful of what she ate, for both her and the babies' sake.

Just then, Aveline's phone rang, and it was sitting right there on the table, visible to everyone.

Lucas' name flashed on the screen, and before Aveline could react, Selena quickly pressed the answer button and put it on speaker, grinning mischievously as she winked at Aveline.

"What's up?" Aveline asked.

Lucas' deep voice came through the speaker, smooth and rich. "I've made dinner. Come home and eat."

At his words, Aveline's eyes instantly brightened. Since her pregnancy, her tastes had become more particular, and Lucas had taken it upon himself to cook for her, trying out different dishes. She absolutely loved his cooking! Selena quickly grabbed Aveline's wrist and shook her head, signaling her to wait.

Aveline hesitated for a moment before saying, "Oh, I won't be coming back. I'm staying at Selena's tonight."

Hearing this, Selena grinned triumphantly.

There was a brief pause on the other end of the line before Lucas responded, "Alright. I'll come by later to pick you up." With that, he hung up the phone.

Selena immediately chimed in,

"Aveline, stay here tonight! We haven't seen each other in

and

there's so much I want to ages, a

about."

Aveline nodded with a smile. "Sure, I don't mind."

Selena's lips curled into a satisfied smile.

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Maria, watching from the side, raised an eyebrow slightly. She could see exactly what Selena was up to.

As night fell, the girls had all taken showers and gathered together, planning to spend the night catching up.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

Selena quickly turned to Aveline. "Quick, go to the bedroom and pretend you're asleep!" Aveline chuckled and nodded. "Alright."

She flashed a playful smile as she

headed to the bedroom, happy to play along with Selena's plan. She also wanted more time to relax with

her.

Once Aveline was out of sight, Selena walked over to open the door. Without letting Lucas in, she stood in the doorway and asked, "What do you want?"

Lucas, his expression cold and distant, stared at her with frosty eyes. "I'm here to pick up Aveline."

"You're too late," Selena replied, a smug look on her face. "She's already asleep."

At that, Lucas' brows furrowed deeply.

Chapter 957

The cold tension in the air began to spread, but Selena acted as if she didn't notice a thing.

"You should head home," she said casually. "I'm about to go to bed myself."

"Move," Lucas said suddenly, his voice low and commanding.

Selena let out a mocking laugh. "And who do you think you are? You tell me to move, and I'm supposed to just step aside?"

Lucas' expression darkened, his gaze cold as it locked onto her. But Selena wasn't intimidated in the slightest in fact, she boldly stared right back at him.

Lucas stayed quiet, his frustration evident. This was the kind of boldness that only family could get away with, pushing boundaries just because they could. Exhaling a heavy breath, he said, "I just want to see her for a moment. After that, I'll leave."

"Nope," Selena replied briskly, shutting the door in his face without hesitation.

Lucas closed his eyes for a brief moment, and when he reopened them, they were filled with icy resolve. Yet after standing there for a few seconds, he sighed in defeat and turned away. What was he going to do-break in and drag her out?

Besides, the wedding was just around the corner, and Aaron wasn't going to show up unannounced at a time like this. Even if he wanted to, the Fletcher family would never allow it. Lucas pulled out his phone and sent a message.

"Let's go for a drink."

Aaron replied, "I was just thinking the same."

The two men were on the same page. They called Lance and headed straight to Club No. 9 for a night of drinking.

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Meanwhile, Selena walked back into the bedroom, grinning with satisfaction. She was just about to say something when she noticed Aveline's peaceful breathing, her eyes closed in deep sleep. Maria, sitting nearby, shrugged helplessly. "She fell asleep in under two minutes."

Selena sighed. "Well, I suppose that's what happens when you're pregnant."

If Aveline wasn't pregnant, Selena would have definitely kept her up chatting all night!

"But Maria's still here!" Selena's eyes lit up as she scooted over to Maria, grinning mischievously. "So, what are you planning to do next?"

Maria looked at her, puzzled. "What do you mean, planning?"

Selena's grin widened. "Are you going to give Sidney a chance, or are you not considering him at all?"

Maria thoughtfully touched her chin. "I'll give it a shot. He's kind of fun."

Selena's smile became even more suggestive. "And what exactly makes him so fun?"

Her curiosity was blatant, and her question straightforward. Maria glanced at her and responded, "Well, why don't you tell me about you and Aaron first?"

"Oh, I can tell you plenty!" Selena's

eyes sparkled with excitement, and she dove into the story, recounting every detail from how she met Aaron to their many complicated entanglements. en

"Wait a second..." Maria interrupted suddenly, catching onto something.

Selena looked at her, confused. "What's wrong?"

Maria raised an eyebrow. "Are you telling me that Aaron still doesn't know you messed with him using a fake account?"

A flicker of guilt crossed Selena's

face. "No he doesn't know. And I don't plan on telling him. I stopped using the fake account ages ago, so I figured it's all in the past now."

Maria shook her head. "I think you should come clean. This could end up being a ticking time bomb."

Selena grew a little nervous. "You really think so?"

"It depends on the person," Maria

said. "Some might think it's playful and harmless, but others could see it as a betrayal. It all depends on whether Aaron has a forgiving nature. If he decides to make a big deal out of it, you might find yourself in deep trouble."

Selena's worry deepened. "So... what do I do?"

Panic began to set in. She hadn't intended to confess, but Maria had a point-if it ever came out, it would explode like a bomb with serious consequences.

Maria suggested, "Maybe... wait until after the wedding to tell him? Right now, with the wedding so close, if you bring it up, who knows if the whole thing will still happen?"

Chapter 958

"Uh... yeah, that's true." Selena nodded, agreeing with Maria's reasoning.

Maria continued, "And you'll need to find the right moment to bring it up, to minimize the risk as much as possible."

Selena, now visibly nervous, stammered, "I-is it really that serious?"

Maria, looking completely serious, said, "Trust me, take this seriously."

"Got it," Selena muttered, running a hand through her hair in frustration.

Maria smiled slightly. "Get some sleep. You need to take care of yourself these next few days, so you'll be at your best for the wedding. You want to be the most stunning bride, don't you?" At the mention of the wedding, Selena's excitement dimmed.

Her mind kept spinning with thoughts of how Aaron would react if he found out she'd been pretending to be Snow this whole time.

What should she do? Would he be furious? Would he lose his temper?

This was such a mess!

If she'd known it would be this complicated, she would've confessed much sooner.

...

The night before the wedding.

After days of restless anxiety, Selena finally managed to calm herself. But almost immediately, she was overtaken by a new wave of nervous excitement-so much that she couldn't sleep at all. Tomorrow was her wedding day!

She paced back and forth in the room, unable to contain her energy. Aveline, watching her from the bed, let out a yawn. "Could you stop pacing? You're making me tired just looking at you." "Go to sleep if you're tired," Selena replied, waving her hand dismissively. "I can't. I'm too excited."

Aveline's eyelids were getting heavier by the second, but seeing Selena so jittery made her wonder if she'd be just as nervous when her own wedding day came.

Selena was getting married at Maple Garden, and the room was brimming with festive decorations-balloons, ribbons, and bright red celebratory symbols. The atmosphere was full of joy and anticipation for the big day ahead. Maria held up the bridesmaid dress, glanced at Aveline's growing belly, and couldn't help but laugh. "Tomorrow morning, as soon as you stand by the door, no one will dare barge in."

Selena nodded enthusiastically. "Exactly! That's the effect I'm going for!"

Aveline, however, raised an eyebrow. "Are you sure you want me as your bridesmaid? I mean, I'm pregnant."

Traditionally, pregnant women weren't supposed to be bridesmaids.

Selena didn't care one bit. "Of course

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bridesmaid." Content below

you have to be my

What mattered most to her was Aveline, not superstitions.

Aveline smiled softly and nodded. "Alright then. I'll head to bed early and try to get up in time."
"Good idea, go rest," Selena said, watching her friend yawn all the way back to the bedroom.
Once Aveline was out of sight, Selena leaned back, her excitement bubbling over again.

"I can't believe it... I'm getting married tomorrow!"

Maria shook her head, amused. "Just a reminder, you're already married. Tomorrow's just the wedding." Selena waved her off. "Details, details. I'm still excited!"

Just then, there was a knock at the door.

"Huh? Who's coming by so late?" Selena looked puzzled.

"I'll check," Maria offered as she headed to the door.

Peering through the peephole, she saw the two Cooper brothers standing outside. She opened
door with a polite smile. "Mr. Gavin, Mr. Gernard."

Gavin gave her a lazy glance, barely lifting his eyes as a form of greeting.

Gernard, on the other hand, went straight to the point. "Where's Selena?"

"I'm here!" Selena called out, rushing over with a bright smile. "Hey brothers, what are you guys doing here?"

Gernard smiled. "You've been calling us

ers, haven't you? So

lines

naturally, we're here as your family to help send you off."

Selena beamed. "That's amazing! Come on in!"

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Maria stepped aside, allowing Gernard to enter first, followed by Gavin.

Gavin, hands casually in his pockets, glanced at Selena and asked, "Why aren't you asleep yet?"

Selena grinned. "I'm too excited! I'm getting married tomorrow, and I can't sleep."

Gavin snorted softly. "Ridiculous."

Selena pouted in response. "You'll eat those words, brother. When it's your turn to get married, you'll be too excited to sleep, too!"

Gavin scoffed at the idea, dismissing her words entirely. The thought of being too excited to sleep before a wedding? Impossible. Selena, not wanting to argue further, turned away and brought two glasses of water over to them.

"Where's Mr. Cooper?" she asked Gernard.

"Dad's abroad at an important meeting," Gernard explained. "He'll probably only make it back tomorrow."

Selena nodded understandingly. "If it's too rushed, he doesn't need to come. I don't want him to overexert himself."

Gernard smiled softly. "I'll let him know."

Selena was genuinely happy-her family had grown by two more brothers.

As time passed, the excitement eventually gave way to exhaustion.

By the middle of the night, Selena felt exhaustion creeping in. She glanced at the clock, realizing that morning was fast approaching and the bridal preparation would be arriving soon. Sleep wasn't really an option.

Maria noticed and said, "Go rest for a bit. I'll wake you when it's time."

Selena yawned, nodding. "Alright, thanks."

She managed to catch a short nap, barely an hour and a half, before being woken up. The makeup artist was already there, ready to start.

When Selena finally donned her

traditional wedding attire, the others couldn't help but stare in awe. The stunning embroidery and her regal aura left everyone mesmerized.

"You look beautiful," Gernard complimented sincerely.

Maria took out her phone, capturing the moment. "This is too gorgeous not to document!"

Gavin remained silent, his gaze fixed intently on Selena.

Noticing this, Gernard glanced at him and leaned in to whisper, "Stop overthinking it."

Gavin shot him a cool look. "You think you know me that well?"

Gernard shook his head. "No, but you know exactly what I'm getting at."

Gavin's expression remained distant as he turned his eyes back to Selena, continuing to watch her closely.

The preparations continued, and by the time Selena finished getting dressed, her hair styled and makeup applied, nearly an hour had passed.

Aveline emerged from her room, still

a bit groggy, but when she saw

Gavin and Gernard, her eyes

widened in surprise. "Brothers, when did you get here?"

Both men's expressions softened at the sight of her.

"We arrived last night," Gavin replied. "How have you been? Feeling alright here?"

Aveline nodded. "I'm doing well. It's been comfortable."

Gernard added, "Good to hear. As long as you're not feeling unwell."

Maria came over with a set of clothes for Aveline. "Since you're awake, you should go change. The groom will arrive soon."

She handed the outfit to Aveline,

then pulled out two slips of paper and looked at Gernard and Gavin. "Alright, since you two are part of the family now, how about you set the challenges? I've already written out the tasks. You just need to choose one."

Gernard raised an eyebrow. "So, Aaron has to go through some hurdles before he can take Selena away?"

Maria nodded. "Exactly. That's the idea."

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Gernard casually pulled out one of the slips and said, "Let's see what tasks we've got here."

Unfolding the paper, he saw the words "sweet, sour, bitter, and spicy."

Looking puzzled, Gernard asked, "What does that mean?"

Maria explained, "As the name suggests, the groom has to experience all the flavors of life-sweet, sour, bitter, and spicy. No skipping any."

With that, she headed into the kitchen and returned a few moments later with a collection of ingredients. "I've got lemon juice for sour, sugar for sweet, bitter melon for bitter, and mustard for spicy." "This is great!" Gernard chuckled, clearly enjoying the idea.

"But I suggest swapping the vinegar for lemon juice-it'll be even more fun," he added.

Maria nodded in agreement. "That works."

Turning to Gavin, Gernard said, "There's one more task. Go ahead, open yours and see what it is."

Gavin, clearly less enthusiastic about the whole thing, reluctantly took the other slip of paper and opened it. It read: "Love toast."

Gernard peered over his shoulder, looking even more confused. "What's 'Love toast' supposed to be?"

Maria smiled. "The groom has to bite out the word 'love' or Selena's name on a slice of toast. If he manages that, he passes."

"Not bad, these challenges are getting creative!" Gernard laughed, already imagining Aaron struggling through it.

Gavin, however, remained indifferent. He placed the paper down and leaned back, closing his eyes to rest.

Soon after, Aveline came back, now fully dressed in her special maternity gown. The dress was loose but elegant, perfectly suited for her.

Now fully awake, Aveline asked curiously, "Do you need me for any of the games?"

Maria nodded. "You've got the final task-hiding the shoes. When the groom comes to get the bride, you'll hold onto one of her shoes. No one will dare try to take it from you. When the time's right, you can ask Aaron for a little something in exchange. No shoes for him unless he offers something up."

Without the shoes, the bride couldn't leave with the groom.

Aveline grinned. "Sounds fun."

"Wow, the bride looks stunning!" came an excited voice from the bedroom.

Everyone stood up and walked over, only to be greeted by the sight of Selena, the beautiful bride, sitting elegantly on the bed. Her intricate headpiece sat perfectly atop her head, and her makeup was refined and regal. Her posture was naturally straight, and her beauty left

everyone in awe.

Maria handed her a small box and smiled. "This is my wedding gift to you. It'll go perfectly with your outfit today."

Selena's eyes lit up with excitement. "Wow, thank you so much!"

She opened the box to find a beautiful pair of pearl earrings, intricately designed with fine detailing, perfectly complementing her wedding dress. She held them up, the earrings adding an elegant touch to her overall look.

"It's gorgeous," Aveline said with admiration, her eyes practically sparkling as she admired the earrings.

Seeing her reaction, Maria smiled. "Don't worry, I'll get you one for your wedding too."

"Deal!" Aveline nodded, clearly excited about the idea.

As dawn broke, a commotion started to rise outside, growing louder as it approached. "Quick! The groom is here!" someone shouted from outside.

Maria quickly turned to Gavin and

Gernard. Alright, you two are up

You've got the first and second challenges-make sure to give them a hard time!"

Then, she handed the shoe to Aveline. "And you're in charge of this! No one gets the bride without it!"

"Got it!" Aveline grinned.

The games for the groom had three rounds in total, and Maria was there to explain each one.

The front door opened, and soon the elevator doors slid open too. Aaron, dressed in a striking black suit, charged forward, leading the way.