

## Divorced Me 981

### Chapter 981

Gorden and Tracy exchanged a glance.

Now that their true intentions had been exposed, there was no need to keep pretending.

Gorden's expression hardened as he spoke bluntly, "Since you already know, it's simple-you, as the older sister, should help your brother. Give us sixty thousand dollars to pay his debt, and we won't make a fuss about you not taking care of us." Maria burst out laughing as if she'd just heard the punchline of a great joke. She turned to Sidney, "Isn't this hilarious? They abandoned me at an orphanage because I was a girl, and now they come crawling back asking for money." Sidney's face grew cold as he listened. He hadn't known about Maria's past, and hearing it now left him angry on her behalf.

After a moment's pause, he said, "We can call the police. You can report them for abandonment."

Maria blinked in surprise. "Why didn't I think of that? Let's do it."

"Alright," Sidney responded, pulling out his phone and swiftly calling the police.

Gorden hadn't expected things to take this turn. Not only did Maria refuse to give them any money, but now she was going to call the cops on them!

"Ungrateful wretch!" Gorden spat angrily, rolling up his sleeves like he was ready to fight. "I should've drowned you the moment you were born. You've done nothing but bring me bad luck!"

Tracy quickly stepped in to stop him. "Gorden, stop it! What are you saying? That's our eldest daughter! Don't be rash. Let's talk this through."

She turned to Maria, her face full of false concern. "Mary, apologize to your father. He's just upset. He doesn't really mean it."

Maria watched them, unimpressed. "What a shame you two didn't end up in show business. You'd make quite the duo."

One played the bad cop, the other the good cop, all in a pathetic attempt to win her over.

But their plan had failed.

At that moment, the security team arrived and quickly restrained Gorden and Tracy.

"How did you even get in here? You're coming with us!" one of the guards said as they dragged the two away.

Meanwhile, Sidney completed the call with the police, reporting the incident.

In the underground parking lot, a heavy silence filled the air.

Maria lowered her gaze, her face devoid of any visible emotion.

Sidney gently took her hand and said, "Maria, don't be afraid. I'll always be by your side."

He thought she might be feeling upset, given the situation with her parents. But Maria shook her head and replied, "It doesn't matter. They're just strangers to me."

"Let's go," she continued. "The police will be here soon." "Alright." Sidney nodded.

As expected, the police arrived quickly. When Maria made it clear she intended to press charges, the arrogance Gorden and Tracy had shown earlier quickly vanished.

They suddenly realized the gravity of the situation—they could actually go to jail! No! If they were imprisoned, what would happen to Gorden's son? He wouldn't survive!

Panicked, Tracy fell to her knees, pleading with Maria, even banging her head on the ground. "Mary, we were wrong. We shouldn't have come after you. Please, don't press charges. We'll leave right now and never bother you again, I swear."

"No," Maria said firmly, her tone light but resolute. "You broke the law. You should be held accountable."

Without hesitation, she contacted her lawyer to handle everything.

After they left the police station, the sky was completely dark.

Sidney had stayed by her side the entire time and then said, "Would you like to go meet my mom?"

Maria blinked in surprise, feeling an unexpected wave of nerves.

Meeting the mother-in-law!

Historically, the relationship between a wife and her mother-in-law had always been a delicate one, full of potential for trouble if not handled carefully.

Chapter 982

"Now?" Maria asked, her voice betraying a hint of nervousness.

Sidney raised an eyebrow in surprise.

She was nervous?

Seeing her reaction brought a sudden sense of excitement to his heart. "You've met my mom before. You know she's a kind person. She'll treat you really well."

"I know." Maria nodded.

She was well aware that Ruth was warm and gentle, always smiling when they spoke. She enjoyed talking with her and always felt a comforting warmth in her presence, though she couldn't quite put it into words. But that was then.

Now, things were different.

Her role had changed, and with it came new anxieties.

"I think I need to prepare myself," Maria admitted.

Sidney nodded with understanding. "That's fine. We're not in a rush. We have plenty of time."

Maria let out a small sigh of relief.

When they got home, the day's events had left her feeling drained. After a relaxing shower, she lay down, her mind swirling with a mix of thoughts.

Sidney climbed into bed, wrapping his arms around her. His breath was warm as he kissed her cheek, slowly moving to the corner of her lips, tracing every inch. As their breathing grew heavier, the tension between them thickened...

The next day, Maria received a call from Desmond.

"Maria, congratulations on your wedding! Wishing you a happy marriage. I've got something to give you-it's from Mr. Tudor," Desmond said with a smile.

Maria was puzzled. "What is it?"

"Where are you? I'll come find you and hand it over in person," Desmond offered.

They arranged to meet at a café. When Maria arrived, Desmond was already there, smiling as he handed her a brown envelope.

Maria took it and, upon opening it, her expression shifted to one of shock.

"What is this?" she asked, startled.

Desmond nodded, smiling. "It's Mr. Tudor's wedding gift to you."

Maria was both stunned and impressed by the extravagant gesture-clearly, wealthy people never held back!

Lucas' wedding gift was nothing short of astonishing a property transfer for a villa!

And not just any villa, but one located in the most sought-after area of Cloudflare City, where every inch of land was worth its weight in gold.

The neighborhood boasted 70% greenery, with ample space between each villa, ensuring privacy and top-notch security.

Originally, Maria and Sidney had been planning to buy a place for themselves, but now there was no need. Their wedding home had arrived, courtesy of Lucas.

"Mr. Tudor really went all out," Maria remarked, tucking the property deed and documents away.

Desmond smiled and said, "He holds you in high regard, which is why he gave such a generous gift. By the way, when are you planning your wedding ceremony?" "I haven't really thought about it yet. We'll take our time," Maria replied.

Desmond nodded. "I was kind of hoping Braden would make a move first, but he's such a closed book. Now that you're married, he's feeling the pressure."

"Wait, what?" Maria blinked in surprise. "Braden likes me?"

Desmond nodded. "Yeah, didn't you know?"

Maria shook her head. "I honestly had no idea."

She pictured Braden's quiet, reserved demeanor. There had been no indication he had any feelings for her. She hadn't noticed a thing.

Desmond waved it off. "Doesn't matter now. Anyway, congrats on your wedding again. I've got to run, but we'll catch up soon."

Maria smiled. "Sure, I'll treat you all to a meal sometime."

"Sounds good."

As Desmond left, Maria sat alone at

the café, stirring her coffee absentmindedly while glancing at the brown envelope. Her mood was bright-things were falling into place beautifully.

She decided she'd enhance the security system at Tudor Group's

network as a way to show her

gratitude. After all, with a boss as

generous as Lucas, it was only right for her to give her best in return!

Chapter 983

That evening, when Sidney came home, Maria shared the news with him. Sidney was stunned!

After all, there had been some tension between him and Lucas in the past, especially due to the somewhat complicated relationship he had with Aveline. Sidney never expected Lucas to give them such a generous wedding gift-it was completely unexpected. But Maria was thrilled. "It's a gift from the boss; we have to accept it. Are you off tomorrow? Let's go check out the house."

If they liked it, they could move in right away.

If not, they could always sell it and find something else.

"Sure," Sidney agreed, pushing aside his mixed thoughts.

That night, neither of them got much rest.

By the time they left the house the next day, it was nearly noon.

When they arrived at the gated villa community, the security measures were extremely strict. The guards required registration, and they even needed to input their identity information.

Maria appreciated this level of security.

Sitting in the car, she suggested, "What if they install a facial recognition system? Only registered owners would be allowed in and out. It'd be much more convenient, and no one else would get through." The guard liked her idea and promised to pass it on to the management.

Once their information was registered, they were granted access.

The villa's location was prime, right in the heart of the community, with expansive grounds surrounding it.

Maria fell in love with it at first sight.

"I love it here. Let's make this our home," she said, turning to Sidney.

"Whatever you want." Sidney nodded in agreement.

Maria leaned over and kissed him on the cheek before exploring every corner of the villa, already imagining how to furnish each room. She didn't miss a single detail. The whole day felt like a dream.

By evening, on their way back, Sidney said, "I told my mom about us. She's really happy."

Maria gripped her seatbelt, her nerves returning. "Really?"

Sidney nodded. "Yeah, she's thrilled. She said she's just glad someone was finally willing to marry her son."

Maria couldn't help but laugh at Sidney's joke, her nerves easing considerably.

"Let's go see her now," Maria suggested.

Sidney looked at her with a hint of surprise. "You're ready?"

Maria nodded. "Yes, I'm ready. We'll have to meet eventually, so why not now?"

A smile tugged at the corners of Sidney's lips, his eyes brightening. "Alright."

On the way, Maria picked up a few gifts, and they headed straight to the hospital.

When they pushed open the door to the hospital room, they were surprised to find Diana already there.

Ruth, on the other hand, beamed with happiness the moment she saw Sidney and Maria walk in together, her face lighting up with a radiant smile.

"Sidney, Maria, come here!" she called out, clearly overjoyed.

Maria, feeling slightly nervous, greeted her, "Hello, Madam Ruth."

Ruth immediately frowned, "Madam? What Madam? Call me Mom!"

She then pulled out a small gift card,

placing it in Maria's hands before

giving Sidney a playful look. "This boy is impossible-didn't even give me a heads-up! He surprised me like this. Maria, this is just a little something from me. You have to accept it."

Maria quickly tried to refuse, "No, I really can't accept this."

But Ruth firmly held her hands in



place, insisting, "You can and you

will! If you don't take it, I won't feel right calling you my

daughter-in-law."

Hearing that, Maria had no choice but to accept the gift card and finally said, "Mom."

"Yes!" Ruth responded with sheer delight, holding Maria's hand tightly as they chatted away.

Meanwhile, in the neighboring room, Diana was watching the whole scene unfold, her eyes burning with jealousy. Sidney had married that woman!

He had pursued her but never taken responsibility, and now he was with someone else. The anger inside her simmered, and she was filled with thoughts of revenge.

Chapter 984

Diana left the hospital and went to a small shop across from the hospital entrance. She ordered a plate of pasta but barely touched it.

As the sky darkened, Sidney and Maria finally emerged after spending almost two hours inside.

Seeing them, Diana immediately stood up, ready to move at any moment. Her eyes, filled with jealousy, turned red as she stared at Sidney and Maria. The way she looked at Sidney was filled with bitterness and pain. That man was truly despicable! It seemed like Sidney said something to Maria before walking off into the distance.

Diana's eyes lit up at the sight and she quickly ran over, grabbing Maria's hand and pulling her in the opposite direction.

Caught off guard, Maria stumbled slightly, nearly falling.

Seeing who it was, Maria furrowed her brows and forcefully yanked her hand free.

"What are you doing?"

Diana looked at her. "I have something to tell you about Sidney. Do you want to hear it?"

Maria replied, "Then just say it. Why are you pulling me?"

Diana said, "I don't want to see him!"

Maria noticed the resentment in Diana's eyes toward Sidney. She remembered how hostile Diana had been to her before. How did her attitude change so quickly?

Maria shook her head. "I'm not going with you. If you want to talk, talk. If not, then forget it."

With that, she turned around, intending to follow Sidney.

"He's just a scumbag!" Diana shouted desperately behind her.

Maria's steps faltered for a moment as she turned to look at her.

Under the streetlight, her eyes were dark, almost impenetrable.

Diana stepped closer, staring intently at her. "Do you know why I know him? Because he approached me first. He even helped me with some problems at work. The last time we met at the vineyard, it was him who offered to help!"

As she spoke, a hint of sadness appeared in her eyes. After a brief pause, she continued, "I'm not an easy girl only approached him because he gave me signals. I don't know when the two of you got together, but I'll give you a piece of advice-he's not a good guy. He's fickle, a complete scumbag!"

Diana's eyes filled with resentment toward Sidney.

If he hadn't given her any signals, how could she have imagined a

future with him? It was all his fault! A mandike him didn't deserve happiness!

"Are you done?" Maria asked lightly, noticing that Diana had stopped speaking.

Diana replied, "Yes, I'm done. Don't you believe me?"

Maria said calmly, "That's all in the past. I don't care."

"You..." Diana was stunned by her response.

She didn't care? How could she not care that the man she married was a scumbag?

Diana couldn't understand.

"What are you two talking about?" Sidney returned just then, carrying a small cake Maria's favorite, mango-flavored. Diana shot him a vicious glare before turning to Maria, "Anyway, I've said everything I needed to. Think about it."

With that, she spun around and walked away.

Sidney frowned and asked, "What did she say to you?"

Maria replied, "She badmouthed you."

She reached out, taking the cake and lighting up as she saw the pieces of mango inside.

Sidney pressed his lips together and then said, "I barely know her."

Chapter 985

"Oh? Is that so? But she said it was because you gave her signals, which is why she approached you," Maria remarked as she carried the small cake towards the car. Hearing this, Sidney immediately tensed up.

His sharp eyes fixed on her as he explained, "Maria, I swear I never gave her any signals. The only reason I met her was through my mom. I made it clear I wasn't interested in her. Later, we only stayed in contact because she introduced me to a client. I didn't want to owe her, so I did her a small favor-nothing more."

The time they had run into each other at the restaurant was right after Diana had introduced him to a client, and he had treated her to a meal as thanks.

Back then, Maria had been with Herman.

At that time, Sidney hadn't yet figured out his feelings.

Seeing her with such a handsome and accomplished man, he had felt irritated and something else he hadn't fully understood. He had only known that it bothered him, but he hadn't thought too deeply about why.

Later, when he realized how he truly felt about her, he regretted not walking over then. Maybe if he had, they wouldn't have gone through so many twists and turns.

Sidney's explanation was earnest, and his eyes were clear, without a hint of guilt or hesitation.

Maria noticed and smiled a little more.

"I told her I didn't care."

Sidney froze, his breath catching in his throat. The tension he had felt when she was questioning him was nothing compared to the pain he felt now.

It was as if a large hand was squeezing his heart, making it hard to breathe.

She didn't care that meant there was no place for him in her heart. If she cared about him at all, she wouldn't be indifferent.

He cared a lot about Herman, for example.

The moment Herman appeared, Sidney felt a strong sense of unease.

Sidney took a deep breath and said, "As long as you're not bothered, that's all that matters. Let's go home."

It's fine.

They had just gotten married. Their lives would become more intertwined over time, and he believed that one day, he would have a place in her heart. "Alright," she agreed.

Maria didn't notice the shift in Sidney's emotions.

Diana's appearance and the things she said hadn't stirred any waves in her heart.

She only found Sidney's eagerness to explain rather endearing.

He seemed so afraid she would mind, that she'd be jealous.

How could that be? That was all in the past.

Even if something had happened, she wouldn't care.

When they got home, Maria enjoyed the cake, lounging on the couch like a lazy cat, too comfortable to move.

Sidney walked over and said, "The bath is ready. Want to take a bath?"

"Yes."

Maria nodded and was about to get up when Sidney suddenly leaned down and scooped her into his arms, carrying her toward the bathroom.

As he walked, he kissed her

forehead, nose, cheeks, and lips

His breath lingered along the way, their touch growing increasingly intimate.

Maria wrapped her arms around his neck, responding to him.

The water in the bathtub was warm, and as Maria sank into it, some of her exhaustion melted away.

But then Sidney's heated body

pressed against hers, moving and

brushing against her, making her

keenly aware of every change in him.

The water rippled as she struggled to hold onto the edge of the tub, but she had no strength left, and she was slipping.

A strong hand gripped her waist, turning her around so she was now seated on his abdomen.

"Mm..."

Maria couldn't hold back and let out a soft moan.

Chapter 986

Sidney leaned back against the bathtub, his abdominal muscles tense.

Both of them were drenched, water dripping from their bodies.

He held her waist firmly, his Adam's apple bobbing as he spoke.

"Maria, do you like this?"

Maria, exhausted, rested her head on his chest, her ears filled with the strong rhythm of his heartbeat. For some reason, her own heartbeat quickened.

"I do," she whispered.

Sidney asked again, "Do you prefer it faster or slower?"

Maria's face flushed a deep red. She lifted her head to look at him, meeting his intense eyes, which were focused on her, waiting for her response. He hadn't made any further move, just holding her in suspense, and it was driving her crazy. Maria said, "Sidney, when did you become so mischievous?"

Sidney's expression remained calm. "I'm not. I'm just asking for your opinion."

Still unmoving, the water in the tub gradually stilled.

Maria couldn't handle the tension any longer. Propping her hands on his shoulders, she straightened up, causing the water to ripple immediately, spilling over the edge of the tub and onto the floor.

Sidney's throat tightened as he nearly lost control.

Meeting her mischievous, triumphant gaze, he took a deep breath and reclaimed the initiative.

"You didn't answer, so I'll do it my way."

Before Maria could respond, her voice broke into fragments.

She felt like a small boat on the ocean, tossed by fierce winds and towering waves. Thrown up and down repeatedly, her mind completely surrendered to the sensation.

The bathroom, filled with steam, resembled a misty, dreamlike paradise.

Sidney held her tightly, kissing her flushed cheeks, feeling her tremble in his arms. His gaze was filled with emotion.

"Maria, one day, you'll have a place for me in your heart," he silently vowed.

...

Learning of

mother Sidney's marriage, his

mother was in excellent spirits, and her condition stabilized. She began insisting on being discharged from the hospital.

After days of repeated calls from Ruth, Sidney had no choice but to visit the hospital. After arranging full body check-up for her and confirming there were no issues, he went ahead and completed the discharge procedures.

Maria came along to help.

Ruth didn't have much to pack, just a few pieces of clothing, and they arranged for a car to pick her up.

However, Ruth insisted on returning to her rented apartment.

Maria hesitated. "The living conditions there aren't great, and it's too far for us to visit you regularly. Why don't you come live with us?" Ruth waved her hand dismissively. "No, no. I've been away for too long, I need to go back and check on the place."

Sidney agreed, "Alright, we'll go back and take a look."

Maria still looked a bit troubled.



Sidney added, "We'll move her into the villa area soon."

With that, Maria nodded. "Alright."

The apartment was small and run-down, a basic two-bedroom with a layout visible from the front door.

Ruth sighed. "It's still nice to be home. After being in the hospital for so long, I felt like I was withering away."

Sidney said, "Mom, the landlord is planning to rent this place out again. You can't stay here."

"What?" His mother's eyes widened in shock.

She immediately swung her hand to smack him.

"You ungrateful boy! How could you end the lease? We've lived here for so many years, I'm attached to this place!"

Sidney let her hit him, and when

finished, he calmly said, "We've prepared a new home. You'll live with us in the house we bought for the marriage."

Chapter 987

Ruth froze for a moment. "Move into your wedding house? How can I do that? You two should live your own life as a couple. I won't be living with you."

Maria stepped forward, gently taking her hand. "Mom, you have to live with us. We're always so busy, and we end up cutting corners on everything. We need you to keep us in line." Ruth's focus shifted. "Yes, you young people work too hard, not taking care of yourselves properly. That's no good."

Maria smiled. "Exactly, so you need to stay with us and keep an eye on us. Don't worry, the house is big enough you could play soccer inside if you wanted!"

Ruth laughed. "At my age? Playing soccer?"

Sidney chimed in, "Mom, Maria is personally inviting you. If you refuse, you'll be hurting her feelings. Are you not happy with your daughter-in-law?"

Ruth gave Sidney a light smack. "You rascal, what nonsense! I'm very happy with Maria! Don't try to stir up trouble between us."

Maria added, "Yes, don't try to cause trouble. Mom will definitely live with us."

Sidney smiled as he watched the two of them getting along so well.

With that settled, the wedding house had already been cleaned, and by the afternoon, they were driving Ruth over.

Upon seeing the enormous villa, Ruth was completely stunned.

"This... is your wedding house?"

"Yes," Maria nodded. "We'll be living here from now on."

Ruth was so shocked she couldn't speak for a moment.

She had struggled her whole life and had never seen such wealth before. She believed Sidney had the potential, but not yet-his career was still in its early stages! Grabbing Sidney's hand, Ruth's palm felt cold.

Sidney patted her hand, signaling her not to worry.

Just then, Maria's phone rang, and she stepped aside to take the call.

Ruth immediately whispered, "What's going on? How did this wedding house come about?"

Sidney explained, "It's a wedding gift from Maria's boss. Her boss is Aveline's husband."

Ruth's eyes widened in shock. "Miss Young's husband is that wealthy?"

Sidney replied, "It's not just her husband. Aveline herself is also the daughter of the Cooper family. Did you forget?"

"Oh, right, that's true." Ruth nodded, still struggling to wrap her mind around everything. It all felt surreal.

Sidney added, "Mom, don't feel any burden, Just settle in here comfortably. Maria and I will work hard and one day we'll buy a big house like this ourselves."

Ruth remained silent, her eyes shifting to Maria.

Suddenly, her eyes welled up with tears.

"You brat, you better treat Maria well. If you dare mistreat her, you'll have me to answer to!"

Sidney nodded. "Don't worry. I love her too much to ever do that."

"Come on, let's go inside and take a look," Ruth said, gathering herself. Sidney agreed, and they slowly walked into the house together.

Meanwhile, Maria answered a call from Selena.

Selena's voice sounded heavy with sadness. confessed everything and just like you said, it was like a ticking time bomb. Now it's blown up. Aaron hasn't spoken to me in three days."

Maria frowned slightly. "It's better you confessed than having him find out on his own. Try to soothe him a bit. Men are usually soft-hearted. He'll forgive you."

Selena sniffled. "I really brought this on myself."

## Chapter 988

Selena and Aaron's wedding was grand, even though they had already registered their marriage months ago. But with this ceremony, it felt as though they had truly become husband and wife. Before the wedding, Aaron took care of most of his business matters, planning to take Selena on a honeymoon afterward. They had chosen destinations abroad-first to F Country and then to T Country. However, by the third day, Selena couldn't hold it in any longer.

That morning, she woke up, gazing at Aaron's handsome face.

Suddenly, she spoke with unusual seriousness, "I need to confess something."

Aaron was half-leaning against the headboard.

Hearing this, he smiled slightly but teased her, "Why do you sound so serious? Did you do something wrong?"

Selena playfully punched him but then, feeling guilty, coughed lightly before saying, "Do you remember Snow?"

The smile on Aaron's lips faded a little. He looked at her intently. "She's in the past. Besides, I never even met her. Are you jealous?"

"It's not that."

Selena hesitated for a moment before summoning the courage to look him in the eye. "I'm Snow."

"What?"

Aaron was stunned for a second, thinking he must have misheard her.

Selena pulled out her phone, quickly logged into her alternate account, and showed it to him. "I'm Snow."

Aaron glanced at her phone, noticing the nickname she had saved for him.

"Foolish Aaron."

Aaron was speechless.

He took her phone, opening the chat window and scrolling through their conversation history.

It was as if a bucket of cold water had been poured over him, extinguishing all the warmth and excitement in his heart.

Selena anxiously watched his expression, noticing his face growing darker and her own heart sinking with it.

She grabbed his arm and said, "I'm sorry, I should have told you sooner. Aaron, please don't be angry, okay?"

Aaron tossed her phone back and let out a bitter laugh. "Snow? Selena? Were you playing me for a fool?"

With that, he got out of bed and went straight into the bathroom.

"Aaron!"

Selena's face paled. She wanted to say something, but he had already shut the door quickly, making it clear he didn't want to talk.

It's over... The bomb had really gone off.

What now?

Selena sat on the bed, feeling lost and anxious. A few moments later, the bathroom door opened, and Aaron stepped out, his body still damp from the shower. "Aaron, you..."

Selena called out, getting out of bed and wanting to talk to him.

But with his long legs and quick strides, Aaron left the room in just a few steps, and she couldn't catch up.

He was really angry!

Selena stood still, staring at the doorway, her heart aching, and her eyes stung with the urge to cry.

Feeling lost, she immediately called Maria, asking what she should do.

After hanging up, she felt even more helpless.

She didn't know how to comfort someone.

Most of her time had been spent with Aveline, and her relationshipz with Lucas had always been full of bickering whenever they crossed paths. She had never really been in a serious relationship before.

When she created that alternate

account back then, it was because

she couldn't stand Aaron. He had truly been infuriating at the

time he'd go to any lengths for Lucas. en

He had put her through so much, even using compensation as a threat.

Of course, she had to get something out of him in return.

Who could have predicted that they would end up falling in love and getting married?

If she had known back then, she never would have done it.

But unfortunately, there was no point in regretting now.

They were staying on an island, the villa right by the sea. The bedroom faced the ocean, and every morning when they woke up, they could see the vast, blue expanse. It felt like her soul was being cleansed.

But now, it felt like her soul was being torn apart.

Chapter 989

Aaron had left, and Selena had no idea where he'd gone.

She wasn't familiar with the area or the island's language-it wasn't one she knew.

Sitting by the enormous floor-to-ceiling window, she hugged her knees, feeling lost and helpless.

She pulled out her phone, thinking about contacting Aveline, but it was the middle of the night back in their country. Aveline was pregnant and definitely asleep. Selena didn't want to disturb her. What could she do? Who could help her?

Without being able to find Aaron, she couldn't even attempt to apologize.

Biting her lip, she unlocked her phone and stared at the transactions from "Foolish Aaron" she had saved over time. After tallying them up, she transferred all the money back to him.

Selena wrote, "I've returned all the money. Please don't be mad anymore, okay?"

The message was sent, but it was like throwing a stone into the ocean-no response.

"Sigh..."

Even paying him back didn't work. What was she supposed to do now?

On the other side of the island, Aaron sat at the edge of a cliff, looking at the message on his phone. His lips twitched in frustration.

She actually thought that paying him back would settle everything!

No, wait! Did she think he was angry because she owed him money?

This woman!

Aaron felt a strange mix of amusement and anger. After the initial burst of frustration, he sighed deeply in exasperation.

He began thinking about their past.

Every time "Snow" reached out to him, it had been after he'd put Selena in a difficult spot. She was quick to retaliate-never one to hold a grudge for long.

The thought made him smile.

The sea breeze swept across him, clearing away the irritation in his mind. Although he wasn't mad anymore, he wasn't about to forgive her so easily either. She needed to understand the seriousness of her actions!

...

Around noon, Aaron finally returned.

Hearing the door, Selena

immediately stood up. But she had



been sitting too long, and her legs

were numb. In her rush, she lost her balance and twisted her ankle, falling straight to the floor

"Ouch!" she yelped, immediately clutching her ankle as a sharp pain shot through her. Aaron heard the noise.

At first, he thought it was just one of her tricks and didn't plan to pay attention. But concern got the better of him, and he walked over to check. As soon as he saw her, the cold expression on his face crumbled.

Rushing over, he knelt beside her, inspecting her ankle. "What happened?"

"My legs went numb, and I lost my balance. I think I twisted my ankle... it really hurts," Selena said pitifully, her eyes already welling up with tears.

It wasn't an act-she was genuinely in pain.

Aaron gently pressed on her ankle, and she winced, pulling back instinctively as tears rolled down her cheeks.

At that moment, it felt like something tightened around Aaron's heart, making it hard for him to breathe.

"How can you be so clumsy?" he scolded her, his voice low as he glared at her. Then he scooped her up and carefully placed her on the sofa before making a phone call.

Selena silently let her tears fall.

She wasn't the type to cry easily.

In fact, she was usually carefree, never letting much bother her.

But today, she felt terrible.

Aaron had been ignoring her, and it was eating away at her, making her restless and anxious. She wanted so badly to explain everything to him but feared he would stay angry.

Now, the physical pain seemed to break down the emotional walls she had been struggling to keep up. She felt fragile, unlike her usual self.

In the past, she had often seen Aveline go through this-feeling insecure and unsettled in love.

Now, it was happening to her too.

What should she do?

Had she really fallen so deeply under Aaron's spell?

Chapter 990

Aaron hung up the phone and turned around to see Selena staring at her pale, delicate ankle, tears falling steadily down her face as if she thought she was doomed to be crippled. Aaron sighed.

He walked over, gently pinching her cheek and lifting her face. "You'll be fine. Stop crying."

Selena sniffled, her eyes red from crying.

With her bright, expressive eyes now brimming with tears and her reddened nose, she looked utterly pitiful-like someone who had been harshly wronged.

Aaron felt his resolve crumbling in an instant.

All thoughts of staying firm or maintaining his principles disappeared as he leaned down and pressed his lips to hers.

"Mmph..."

Selena whimpered in surprise, trying to push him away.

But Aaron didn't prolong the kiss, simply giving her a deep, firm kiss before pulling back.

"No more crying," he ordered gruffly before she could speak.

Selena shrank back slightly. "Aaron, you're so mean."

Even when he kissed her, he was so rough, as if he wanted to devour her!

The unconscious hint of a pout in her voice was dangerous-it was pure temptation.

Aaron felt a heat rise within him, burning without an outlet.

Just then, the doorbell rang.

He forced down the fire inside and went to open the door.

It was the island's doctor.

The doctor was tall, with fair skin, blond hair, and striking blue eyes. He had a handsome face and a gaze that held a certain intensity when he looked at someone.

Dressed in a white coat, he exchanged a few words with Aaron before coming over to where Selena was seated.

"Hello, Mrs. Fletcher. You can call me Steve," the doctor said in slightly accented English, extending his hand toward Selena.

Selena shook his hand. "Hello, Dr. Steve."

But Steve, instead of a simple handshake, held her fingertips and kissed the back of her hand.

Startled, Selena instinctively looked over at Aaron, whose expression had turned noticeably dark. Steve began examining Selena's ankle.

After a short while, he said, "Mrs.

Fletcher's ankle is fine, just a

A bit of ointment will mildet.

trick."

swho

Aaron nodded. "Got it. You can go now."

Steve raised an eyebrow. "You're really just kicking me out? Not even offering me a meal?"

Aaron replied, "You came here for a medical visit. Why would I feed you? Didn't I pay you?"

Shaking his head, Steve chuckled. "Aaron, your personality is

Poor Mrs. Fletcher, being net

someone like you." Content to

Aaron's eyes narrowed dangerously. "Do I need to escort you out?"

with

Steve quickly turned and left, but not before giving Selena a playful wink as he closed the door behind him.

Selena blinked, momentarily speechless.

Steve had left behind the ointment, though it couldn't be applied until the evening.

The room fell into a brief silence.

"Aaron," Selena called out softly, lifting her gaze to him.

His expression had softened somewhat, though there was still a lingering coolness in his tone.  
"What is it?"

Selena's eyelashes fluttered as she said, "I'm hungry."

Aaron was speechless.

He clenched his jaw. Expecting her to say something heartfelt was clearly too much to ask!

Without a word, he headed straight into the kitchen.

Selena sat on the sofa, absentmindedly staring at her ankle, lost in thought.

What was going through his mind? Was he still angry? If he was, what should she do?

the

As she overthought every possibility, the aroma of food began to fill room, and her eyes lit up  
  
immediately.