

When It All Fell Apart Chapter 09

After Ashton and Ruby were kicked out of the company by Will's security, they went quiet for several months.

I was originally surprised by how quiet those two had been and not stirring up any trouble. I had even prepared myself for a long, drawn-out battle with them until I heard that Ashton's company was in trouble and he was busy dealing with the mess.

Things did not seem to be going well for him, though. One day, Ruby went on a rampage, bombarding me with messages full of insults. She accused me of saying something to Ashton that made him take back the art studio and the house he had gifted her.

I did not reply to her. Instead, I immediately took a screenshot of her messages and posted it on social media.

"Is the independent studio that Ruby keeps bragging about bought by my husband? Instead of wasting time messaging me, maybe Ruby should think about getting Ashton to sign the divorce papers."

I had many mutual friends with Ruby, and she was the one who had them add me to stir up drama. Now with my post, those singing her praises could see the truth. It was her turn to face the consequences.

After posting it, I put my phone away and wrapped up for the day. It was my birthday, and Will had made a reservation at a restaurant to celebrate.

As I stepped out of the building, I unexpectedly ran into Ashton, whom I had not seen in months. He looked noticeably thinner, with dark circles under his eyes that spoke of sleepless nights. Even when I pretended not to notice him, he flashed a smile my way.

"Clara, it's your birthday today! I got you a gift. Do you want to grab dinner together?"

I raised an eyebrow at the sight of Ruby and my mother-in-law storming out of a taxi nearby, finding it amusing. "It looks like they don't want you joining me for dinner."

Ashton's face fell, and the furrow in his brow deepened.

His tone was a mix of frustration and fatigue as he said, "Ruby, can you go one day without stirring up trouble? And what's the deal with bringing my mom into this?"

Ruby, who was heavily pregnant—at least eight months along—was not yelling or screaming this time. Instead, she was hiding behind my mother-in-law, silently crying.

My mother-in-law wasted no time confronting Ashton and tried to lunge at me, but Ashton quickly held her back.

She yelled, "If it weren't for Ruby reaching out to me, I wouldn't have even known my grandson is about to be born! What kind of witchcraft has this useless witch cast on you? Why are you defending her?"

Her voice was loud, and it was clear she had long resented me, wishing nothing more than for her son to kick me aside.

I smirked, watching my mother-in-law throw a fit, feeling surprisingly relieved. In the past, whenever she insulted, belittled, or made things difficult for me, Ashton would always take her side, leaving me to endure her cruelty and back down. However, now that I did not care about Ashton anymore, I certainly did not care about that old hag.

"Mom! This is between Clara and me. You have no idea what you're talking about, so stay out of it, okay?" Ashton snapped.

My mother-in-law's face twisted in anger, and she dramatically began crying about wanting to end her life. "If I can't even hold my grandson, what's the point of living?"

The business district where the company was located was bustling, and with it being peak hours, plenty of people gathered to watch the spectacle unfold.

Ashton's face turned a mix of red and blue as he tried to pull his mother toward the car, but she was having none of it, flailing her arms and kicking her legs in protest. Ruby rushed over to help, and I instinctively took a few steps back.

Suddenly, I heard Ruby let out a yelp, and she stumbled backward right into the spot where I had just been standing. Thankfully, I had moved in time, or I could have been blamed for her fall given how chaotic everything was.

Without me there to cushion her fall, Ruby hit the ground hard. Her face twisted in pain as she clutched her stomach, calling out in distress.

Seeing the blood pooling between her legs, Ashton and his mother finally forgot their argument and hurriedly lifted her into the car to rush her to the hospital.