## **Chapter 26 What on Earth is This?**

Self-harm?

Cathy pursed her lips. "No."

She was listening to entertainment news with a facial mask on.

and Willow.

As the nominees of the Academy Awards, it was natural that there were a lot of news about Xavier

Although she was uncomfortable with the amount of traction Xavier was gaining, she had no feelings for him anymore. He was just another celebrity in this city, and she was just another stranger.

Adrian's jealousy drew his dark brows together. "You can't let him go, can you?"

Before she could complete her sentence, Adrian strode towards her, grabbed her wrist, and

Cathy blinked at him. "What do you mean?"

"What are you doing?"

Cathy began to struggle when she saw him taking her out of the house. "Where are you taking me?"

dragged her downstairs.

She was still dressed in her rabbit-themed pajamas and had a facial mask on!

Adrian was silent all the way, even when he deposited her in the car.

He started the car engine.

simple woman, Mr. Bolton."

consummate their marriage?

mounted on the wall with a remote controller.

A real-time surveillance camera feed filled the monitor.

Adrian caressed the dull ache between his eyebrows.

dried-up facial mask.

Adrian silently stared straight ahead as he stomped on the accelerator, taking them to a five-star hotel in Ryzan.

She ripped the facial mask off only to realize that she had no trash can in the car to discard the

"Get down."

Adrian gripped the steering wheel tightly. His eyes as cold as glacier.

Scrunching it up in her hand with frustration, she asked, "What are you doing?"

Did he take her out late at night in her pajamas...? So that he could consummate their marriage? With this thought in her mind, Cathy crossed her hands across her chest in alarm. "I'm not a

Adrian glanced at her condescendingly. "If I wanted to dishonor you, I could've done it at home since you sleep in my bed every night. I don't need to make such a great effort."

"Get out." Adrian mumbled coldly, making Cathy bite her lower lip in frustration. The only thing she could do was to get out obediently.

As soon as she got out, Adrian gripped her arm and began to rush up the stairs to a room.

His comment silenced Cathy – his reasoning was sound, but why are they here if it was not to

After entering the room, Adrian sat down on the sofa elegantly. Then, he switched on the monitor

From the furniture in the room, they looked like they were in one of the rooms in the same hotel.

Cathy stared at Xavier and Willow through the surveillance camera. "What..."

Xavier and Willow were seated on a sofa, listening meekly as a man berated them.

"They're next door."

"I'm giving you a chance since you find it difficult to leave him in your past. You can beat him up or scream at him until he returns what he owed you."

She ground her teeth and waggled her hands. "No, I don't want to do that."

Adrian squinted at her. "Do you mean you hope to get back with that man?"

Doesn't she want to make him pay?

The room was so cold, it could freeze water.

would never get back together with him."

Yawning, she took a seat at the edge of the sofa.

Adrian frowned. "Arius said that you're unhappy."

Which part of this scenario was him taking care of her?

Was this his way of taking care of ladies?

This was exhausting.

Adrian's reply stunned Cathy.

Cathy gaped – Is this the reason he took her out this late at night?

"I'd advise you against that." Adrian's gaze was cold and dangerous, but Cathy was staring at him slack-jawed.

When did she indicate that she wanted to get back together with Xavier?

After finding out that he had been stepping out on her with Willow for five years, her encounters with Xavier had been revolting.

Adrian glanced at her, but the corners of his lips lifted with joy. "That's good to hear." Cathy stared at him silently for a moment, but soon felt drowsiness creeping up on her.

Cathy pressed her lips together. "Don't worry. Even if he knelt before me with tears in his eyes, I

"Mr. Bolton, did you drag me out in the middle of the night in my pajamas to settle his misunderstanding?"

"Is that the reason you thought of bringing me here? So that I could make Xavier pay his debt?"

He thought that it would be a good idea to beat up her ex-boyfriend because she was unhappy!

She did not know whether to laugh or to cry as she watched this dignified man before her.

Adrian thought for a moment. "He asked me to take care of you."

She sighed, then asked cheerfully, "I'm curious, Mr. Bolton. How did you pursue Arius and Abner's mother if this was the way you took care of people?"

He observed her face for a moment, before uttering, "I did not pursue her."

Adrian's status and good looks meant that he never had to pursue anyone.

Adrian's face fell at the mention of Abner and Arius' mother.

Cathy frowned, then realization dawned on her.

Ladies would line up to the ends of the world to marry him if it were not for the terrible rumors about him corrupting people's minds.

She bit her lip nervously. Although it was inappropriate, she could not bury the curiosity bubbling

"In a fire." Adrian closed his eyes, as if blocking away the memory of her death. "I vowed never

He never thought there would be a woman who did not fear the rumors, and passed Abner and

"She's dead." Adrian spat out the words like they were abrasive to his tongue before turning away. Cathy's heart thundered.

"I never pursued neither coaxed her. I owe her so much."

Cathy bit her lip. "What happened—"

"I'm sorry."

up in her mind.

"How did she die?"

to marry after she died."

Arius' tests to marry him.

could be.

It was the first time Cathy heard Adrian bringing up about her.

According to the butler, Adrian never married Abner and Arius' mother.

"But..."

However, whenever he thought of Arius and Abner... "You and the children are destined to meet."

Cathy smiled. "I think the same too."

Could this be destiny?

"Xavier..."

departed.

"Yes." Adrian agreed quietly.

She lost her child after the accident five years ago.

Cathy was beyond his expectation.

She met Abner and Arius five years later with their destinies so tightly wound around each other.

Cathy suddenly felt like words meant nothing anymore as both of them sat silently enjoying each

If it were not for Cathy, he would not know how talkative Arius was and how obedient Abner

other's presence. Their breaths were the only thing they could hear.

A moan pierced their peace. Cathy jerked her head up only to realize that the man who was berating Xavier and Willow had

Meanwhile, Willow and Xavier were engaged in conjugal combat on the sofa. With the moans and pants filling the air, Cathy felt her face growing warm with embarrassment.

She looked up to observe Adrian's expression, but even before she could see his face, Adrian stood up to switch off the monitor.

Despite their strange posture, they entered the lift.

Grabbing her by the base of her neck, he steered her out of the room.

Cathy was uncomfortable and tried her best to wrestle out of the death grip.

"Stop moving. If you don't want me to do anything inappropriate, stop moving." Adrian warned huskily, silencing Cathy.