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With downcast eyes, Asher glanced at his watch emotionlessly. "Mr. Iverson, I know my sister. She
would never spend the night at a man's house. She never once did. Yet, last night, she stayed at yours.
You owe me an explanation."
"You won't let her spend the night out, but you supported her secret marriage. You let her marry a jerk
without being acknowledged and let her go through hell at her in-laws' home for three years behind
your father's back." Christopher sat across from Asher with a smile.
Asher's breath hitched as he pursed his lips. "It's not the same thing. Don't try to turn it against us.
Bella married Justin because she once loved him so much. She made that choice herself. As her
brother, I
respect her wishes, even though I disapprove of them. But you're
different, Mr. Iverson."
Christopher tensed his jawline, and his expression was no longer
calm.

"I know Bella doesn't feel the same way about you. Your pushiness on the matter will only annoy Bella and make me see you in a different light." Aggression was reflected in Asher's eyes.

Christopher pushed his gold-rimmed glasses up and smiled faintly.

He swallowed hard to fight back the fury.

"I only invited Bella here last night. My mother and I wanted to see her, and we had a pleasant dinner together. Justin later called Bella, and God knows what he said, because Bella passed out from rage."

Christopher was livid just thinking of last night's incident.

Asher scowled.

He could tell the man was not lying, but Asher would not put all his faith in Christopher's words.

"Even so, it is not right for you to keep Bella at your place for the night without informing us. Bella is the apple of my father's eye, and she is precious to me too. Bella might not mind what happened last night, but I won't let it slide."

Asher slowly rose to his feet and walked along the hallway to the entrance, looking intimidating. "Mr. Iverson, our parents are close, and you may have feelings for Bella, but I should make things clear for you on behalf of my father. You can be friends with Bella, but I am against you getting involved with her

romantically. My father won't approve of it either. You'll never be associated with my family." The words, though not hurtful, were humiliating. In other words, Christopher could forget ever marrying or dating Bella. As Asher made his way out, Christopher said with a smile, "Mr. Thompson, Bella will marry me one day, and I look forward to the day you attend our wedding." "You must be dreaming to think Bella will marry you." Asher scoffed and waltzed out the door. The moment the door was closed, Christopher's smile froze. "When have I ever needed your approval to do anything? What a joke." Just then, Christopher's phone rang. It was his secretary calling. "Mr. Iverson, I have two things to report to you. First, Ms. Zoe Hoffman just returned from abroad." Christopher curled his lips. "And the other thing?" "You asked me to investigate Justin's medical history. I have not gotten the specifics, but Justin was

badly injured last month and was treated at Deux Hospital. He was discharged two days later."
"I don't need to know the specifics. It's enough for me to know that he was badly injured." The man
raised his brow with intrigue.
"What do you plan to do now, Mr. Iverson?" His secretary asked cautiously.
"I want him dead," Christopher said menacingly.
The secretary sighed and lamented, "We are not in our territory. Otherwise, you would have killed
Justin a long time ago."
"It's fine. He'll die in my hands sooner or later. I have patience." Chapter 612
Ryan's private jet descended at Savrow Airport in the middle of the
night.
Zoe, with her vibrant brown curls cascading down her back and a luxurious fur coat draped around her,
stepped down from the staircase and entered a fancy car.
Since the knockoff incident with Bethany, Ryan banned Zoe from leaving the house and confiscated
her phone. That way, Zoe could not contact her friends who might lead her astray.

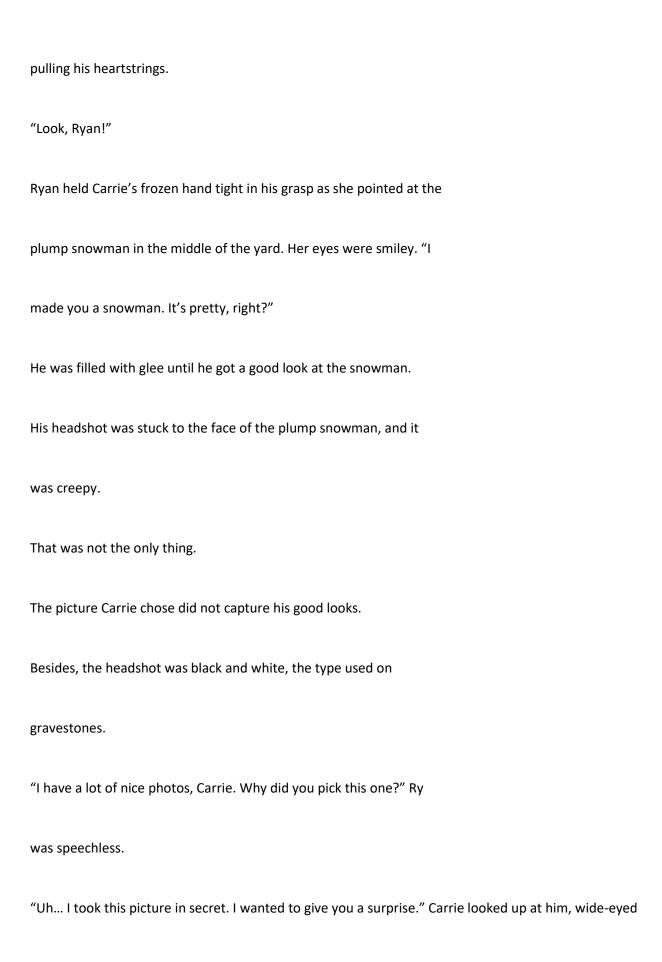
Later, she made a huge fuss and starved herself. Feeling bad for Zoe, Claire persuaded her son to lift the ban and send Zoe to Inalia instead for some soul-searching. Now that it was winter, Ryan begrudgingly let Zoe return to Savrow Zoe had spent way too much time in Inalia, but Ryan never once visited her. That was cruel of him. "Where's Ryan? Why didn't he pick me up from the airport?" Zoe threw a tantrum in front of Ryan's bodyguard, Adam. She k kicking the back of the front passenger seat, where Adam sat. Adam had watched Zoe grow up. Although he was Ryan's confidante, he had also worked for Zoe for a long time. Adam looked at Zoe tenderly and was coy about Ryan's whereabouts. "Mr. Hoffman has been busy lately." "He's changed. I don't mean anything to him anymore." Zoe pounded the back of the seat in tears. "He

would always pick me up, no matter how busy he was before. This time around, he didn't even call me



woman home before." "Mr. Hoffman didn't bring her back to the Hoffmans' residence. He kept her in one of his many properties." Zoe felt her world crumbling. "Where exactly? Take me there now. yersspprivate residence was nestled amid the affluence of Savrow's filssidel its white walls and green top a testament to wealth. Mihouobinthe house was not as grand as the Hoffmans residence, the area wwws mouet and serene with stunning views. It was a perfect place QUAMMORelax. van had stayed with Carme during her recovery in the past few days. roppang hits work and social engagements to keep her company for Corne's sake. he retired from playing the field and changed aspain's oporo of Ryan, I made you agit Come and take a look."

Carrie, dressed in a reef boodle with a white fluffy lining, smiled jleefully as she tookRwards hand and dragged him to the backyard (asmin stared at the bees molt face, finding that Carrie resembled the ittle red riding hood. iven a wornan like her was taskendo dente, much less Ryan. Slow down. We have not cheerce the snow from the path. I don vant you to fall." The man's we were filled with tenderness. tyan cared for Carrie so much during the past few days that he ha ot let her feet touch the ground. Het onted her around the villa, except when she had to use the bathropom He realized what it meant to spoil someone t was a blanket of white in the backyard: Tadlash greenery covered in snow was a beautiful sight. Carrie was like a blossoming flower in the winter wonderland, capturing Ryan's entire attention and





Carrie blinked. "Erm... Ryan, your head fell..." Ryan clenched his fists. In the mood for playtime, Millionaire kicked the snowball back and forth. Carrie exclaimed, "Wow! Millionaire is kicking your head like a ball." Ryan clenched his teeth and yelled, shaking the snow off the branches. "Millionaire, how dare you kick your dad's head! I'm to disown you!" Millionaire must have gotten the message because it turned to Carm with pleading eyes and whimpered. "No! Don't punish Millionaire!" Carrie nestled up to Ryan for once, dangling his arm. "I'll make you another one. Hang on." Overwhelmed by a tingling sensation, the man stared at her with affection. "Millionaire, if your mom didn't plead your case, you would



"Hahaha, that tickles! Stop it, Millionaire." Carrie fell to the ground, and they started rolling around in the snow.

Ryan watched the heartwarming scene and stared at Carrie lovingly.

He thought he could never have such a mundane yet happy life

It never occurred to him that Carrie would be the one to give it

He had what other men had, too.

"Mr. Hoffman, Millionaire is a biter and only listens to you. I didn't

expect Millionaire to get along well with Ms. Carrie," Yasmin

approached and said with a gratifying smile.

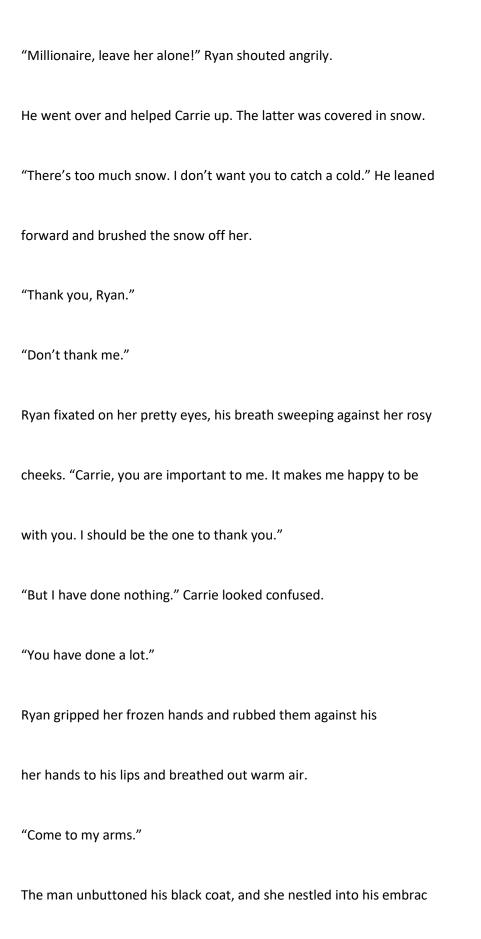
"Millionaire's a perv."

Yasmin thought to herself, 'Well, the pet takes after the owner.'

Ryan was jealous of Millionaire pouncing on Carrie and was tempted

to disown the dog.

Damn it. He had stooped so low to be jealous of a dog.









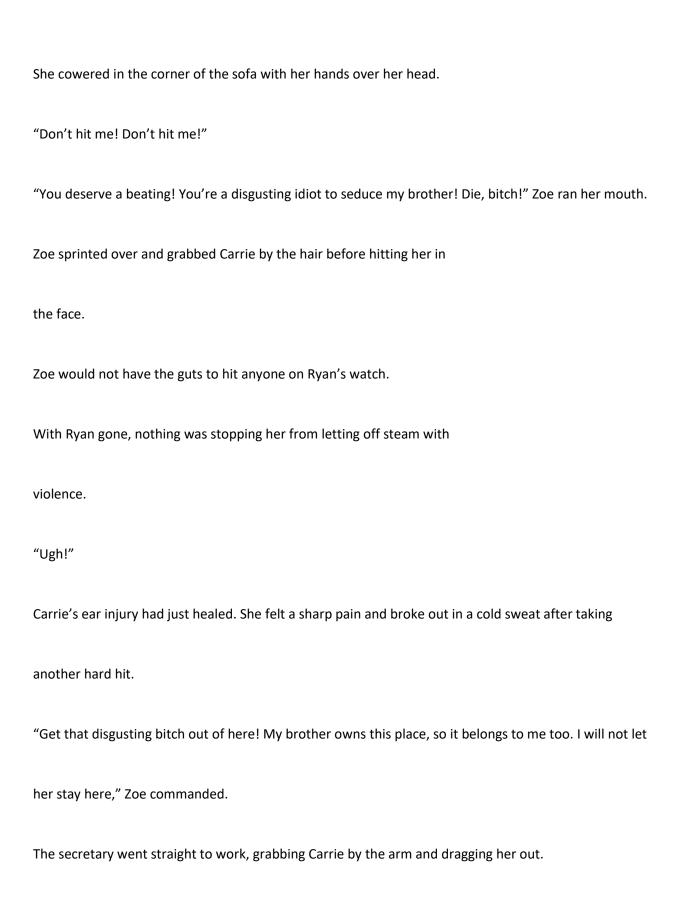
"lan did not give me the specifics. He said that Mr. Salvador is focused on his recovery at his private
villa, and no one knows about it. lan couldn't stand it and contacted me in secret. He hopes you can
visit him."
"I got it. Bring the car around, Yasmin. We'll leave now."
Not wanting Carrie to worry, Ryan did not say a word about Justin's injury to her. He simply told her that
he had business to take care of and might not be home tonight. Carrie should go ahead and go to bed.
at the usual time.
"I'll wait for you to come home. I'll sleep when you're back." Carrie
walked him to the door.
Though she did not make her feelings known, her reluctance was
written all over her face.
Chapte
Feeling warm and cozy inside, Ryan smiled at her and instructed the helper, Fiona. "Take good care of
Ms. Salvador."

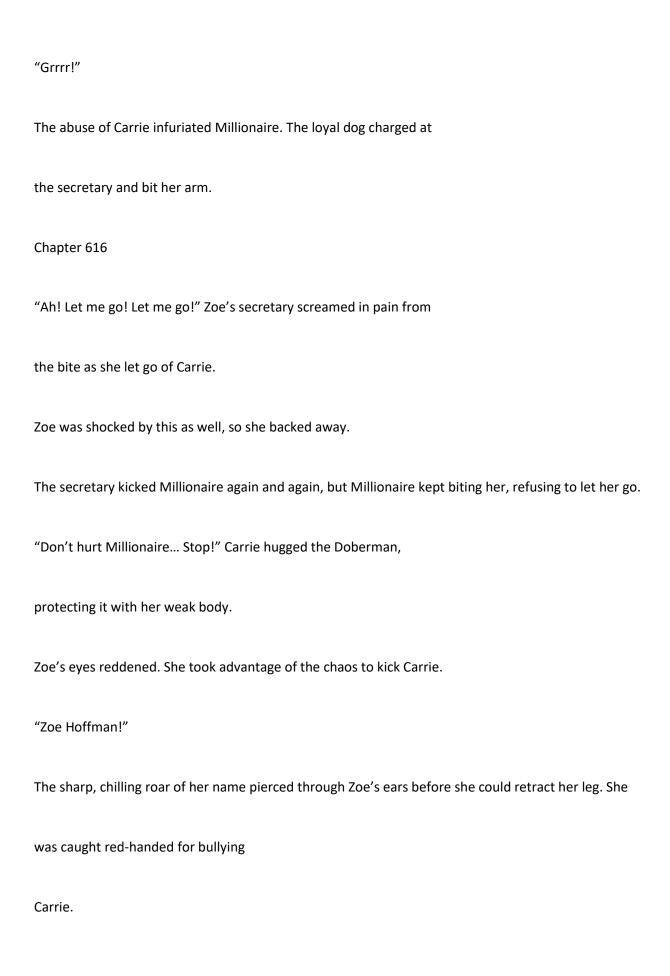








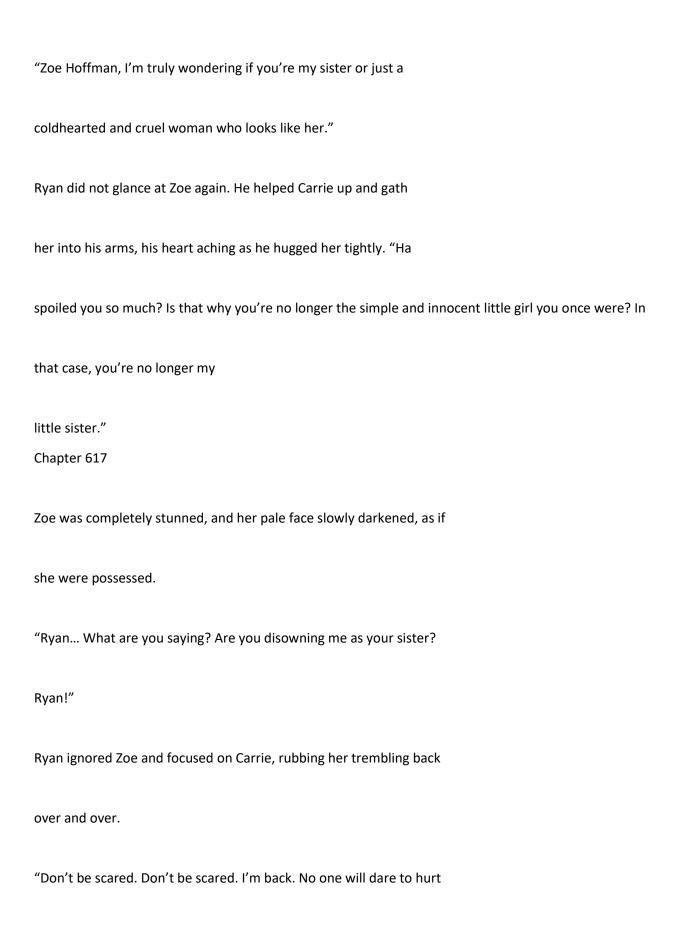




Zoe looked back stiffly. Her trembling heart almost leaped out of her chest, and she nearly choked in
shock.
"R-Ryan…"
She saw Ryan standing there, glaring at her with rage. His handso face was shrouded in gloom and
fury.
His chest was heaving as anger surged in his eyes.
Carrie did not know Ryan had arrived. She was still hugging
Millionaire tightly with her eyes closed. Her trembling body curled up
pitifully.
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The secretary's vision went black for a moment. She forgot about the pain in her arm due to the shock
and fear.
Who could have foreseen Ryan would return so soon?
"Zoe Hoffman, did you hit Carrie?" Ryan's eyes widened when he saw Carrie's red and swollen cheek
as he advanced closer to the poor girl.

Zoe shuddered fiercely.
She had never seen her brother look like that before. It was extremely
terrifying.
Since things had gotten to this point, there was nothing Zoe could say to defend herself. Besides, Ryan
had doted on Zoe so much since she
was young.
No matter how much Ryan liked Carrie, he would not do anything drastic to Zoe because of Carrie,
right? His family had always come
first.
"Yeah, I hit her! You're too much, Ryan! You've disappointed and hurt me so much!" Zoe yelled back at
Ryan.
Zoe's tears streamed down her face as she cried and continued
sent me to Inalia and left me alone for so long. You didn't even me once! It turns out that you were
spending time with this bitch he







His large, rough palm wrapped around her slender waist. His grip was so tight that her fair skin had
turned red through her white dress.
Then he narrowed his eyes slightly and pressed his thin lips to her ear, his voice hoarse as he said
softly, "You're right. I'm not your brother I'm your man, Carrie."
Zoe's eyes widened with shock as she watched her brother give all his love to the girl she had bullied
since her school days. Zoe thought she could bully Carrie forever.
She felt like her heart had been dug out and her soul was going to be
ripped in half.
The pain was crippling. It hurt a hundred times more than when she
found out Justin loved Bella Thompson!
Ryan was the most important man in Zoe's life. She always thought that she would be able to live her
whole life capriciously as his
younger sister.
But no, she could feel herself losing the protection that was once
solely hers.

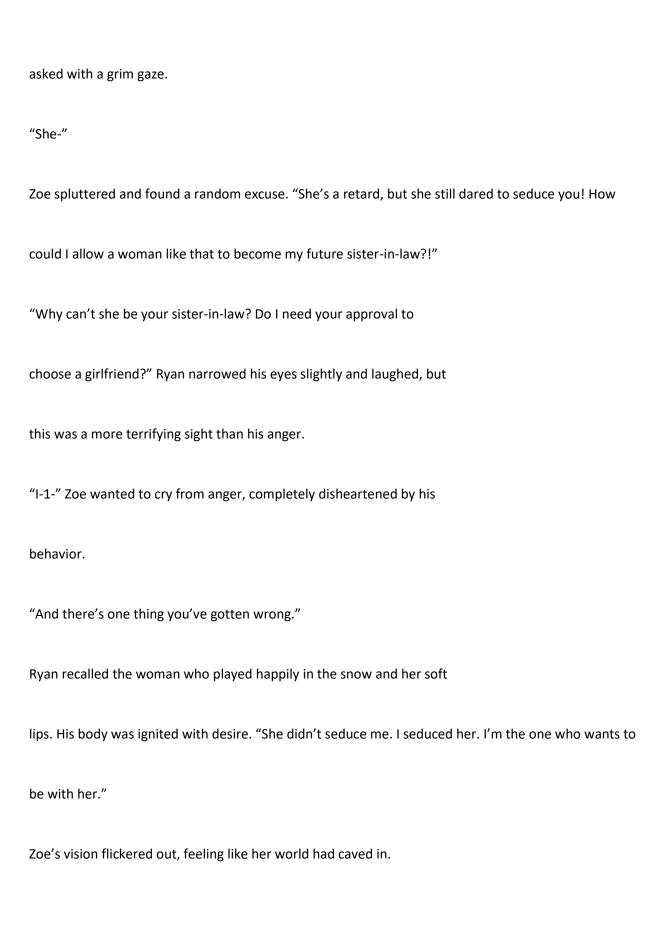




















"You're concerned about him?" Bella was slightly surprised. "How is that possible?!" Mila hurriedly explained, as if afraid of being tied to that man. "The medication he's been taking was developed by my family's pharmaceutical company. Of course, I have to ask how our test subject is doing. I'm concerned about the side effects of our company's medication." When Bella heard this, she pursed her lips. A gloom overwhelmed her. The drug that the Larsons had developed to treat internal organ injuries was actually still in its clinical trial stage and had not been officially launched yet. But for the sake of treating Justin's injuries, Bella could only take the risk and use it on Justin.. Otherwise, Justin's condition would have continued to deteriorate, which would have left permanent after-effects. "He seemed fine, like he didn't have any problems. But Aunt Mila, wwhat are the drug's side effects?" Mila shook her head and sighed. "I don't know. That's why I asked h how he was doing. But there are two things he has to pay extra a attention to while on the drug."

B Bella hurriedly asked, "What is it?"
"The first is to not get injured again because the body needs to rest. AAnother thing is to avoid getting
angry and overly emotional. That wwould be harmful to his body and would even cause his health to
dedeteriorate further."
BBeila's breath hitched, and she frowned slightly.
AAt the thought of that pool of blood, her heart began to twinge with
parain. Chapter 620
ar Bella and Steven were all packed up they praepmed to head back Savrow with the medication Mila
gave Bellan.
1. are you in a rush? Aren't you going to eat first ?inefood's lbst Rendy." Celeste rushed over, still
wearing an apron.
Lomay Aunt Celeste. I'm in a rush to get back
ernativer halfway and held Celeste's small face ahhhenbands, bond to one side and then the other to
look at it."Aunnit celeste, ay infusay is coming soon. You should rest well for the nect wo toptt stoc

doing any housework. You should be going tochne spa beauty treatments, okay? You need to be the mpson rthday dimony dirt on earn this weekend!" ver. bactuallyatturally don't even want to celebrate it. I feel so tiredd ght of having teaving to socialize with so many people this Celeste sighet beghed helplessly. "I'm just doing this to make your making my dad mapdad happy. My dad is making you happy. of us want to calato celebrate your birthday for you." arning appeared in Beth in Bella's eyes. "Listen to me. You're not strain yourself anybranymore. it have many eyes and ears at bu don't listen to me they'ibrehey'll report it back to me. Then, I'll If that happens, I'll just enjoys enjoy the free food at your birthday won't give you a birthday only present. Hmph!" stood beside her, could nachat not help but smile fondly. Bella could not be cuter than when she pretended to be angry, because she would stick her nose in the

Celeste smiled gently and lightly pinched Bella's cheek. "What other birthday gift will be better than

air and pout.

having my family together?" Celeste grew up in an orphanage. While singing in a drama troupe, she was discovered by a talent scout and signed on to a talent agency. That was how she stumbled her way into the entertainment industry and became an actress. She came from a poor background and had a rough life. Compared to Wyatt Thompson's other wives, Celeste was not of noble birth, like Mila Larson. Neither was she like Sasha Jenkins, who had a terrifying mob boss father to back her up. Celeste always felt very insecure and unworthy of Wyatt, feeling even more undeserving of this family. She only wanted to live quietly, humbly, and in a low-profile manner. She did not wish for anything but to keep the simple and happy life she had now. She did not want to trouble anyone. Bella choked up a little when she heard this. Sigh, how she admired Wyatt.

Bella suddenly wanted to follow in her father's footsteps and have

multiple partners.
It was just a shame that there were lots of good women, but good
men were few and far between. She was afraid that her partners
would turn out to be trash.
"Bella."
A somewhat stern, baritone voice spoke.
Bella quickly looked back, only to see Asher walk down the white
marble stairs, wearing a black pastor's robe and holding a Bible in his
leeft hand.
"Wasiber."
Bella don't be in a rush to leave just yet. I have something I want to taktovou about in private."
In the tea room, Asher personally made a good cup of tea for his sister. The fragrance of the tea drifted
into the air and invigorated the
spirit

Bella propped leer chin on her hands as she watched her brother demonstratechist tea-making skills
with fascination. He was as elegant and charming as a prince.
It was hard to linaggine the kind of woman who could be wort
eldest brothers
"Bella, are you readyinterested in Christopher Iverson?" Asher g pushed the cup of teal towards Bella
and asked calmly.
"Huh?!" Bella was stunned by this sudden question and nearly dropped the cup of tea that istine had
just picked up.
"I'm asking you a serious question."
"No! No way in hell" Bella was resolute as she shook her head repeatedly.
"Then don't get too close to him from now on." Asher picked up his cup of tea and sipped on it
gracefully.
"Uh, he came looking for me first. I never approached him."
"So you're not accepting him, but you're not rejecting him either? Are you a player?" Asher mocked in a
warm tone.

"What do you mean, Asher? How am I being a player? And who says that about their own sister?!"
Bella flushed angrily.
"Bella, if you don't like him, you have to draw a clear line with him. The way you're acting is giving
Christopher Iverson the wrong impression that he has a chance with you."