Nine Months Pregnant I left my husband

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I hid behind a pillar, watching Daniel. He

had been too busy with work to attend a single prenatal check-

up with me during my entire pregnancy. Yet here he was, running around the hospital, r egistering, picking up medication, and gently helping another woman in and out like the perfect husband.

At that moment, I realized it wasn't that he was too busy. He didn't want to make an effort for the wife he'd been married to for seven

years.

In the bustling hospital lobby, Daniel held the woman

close, reminding her, "The doctor said you should eat less tonight and try to stay active. In the early stages of pregnancy, digestion can be tricky, so let's follow the advice this time, okay?"

"Aww, fine, I got it!" she replied, pouting playfully. But it's your fault! You bought way too many dumplings."

"Alright,

alright, I'll take the blame," he said with a smile. "It's my fault. for making my sweetheart eat too much, okay?"

"That's better." She smirked. "Fine, I'll forgive you... this time."

As I watched them, they bantered like a real couple, close and inseparable, while I stood under the hospital's harsh fluorescent

lights, feeling like an intruder in my own life. I was invisible to them. With a heavy heart, I held my belly and slowly shuffled out of the hospital. Outside, the scene was no less cruel. The rain had started. The cold autumn wind

blew against me, and the rain felt like it was trying to drown the world in its chill. Through the mist, I watched as Daniel draped his coat over her, shielding her from the rain and gently helping her into the front passenger seat.

The woman smiled up at him, grabbing his tie and pulling him in for a kiss. My husband cupped her face and kissed her deeply right there in the rain. When they finally pulled a part, he tapped her nose playfully, and she tugged on his tie again, biting his lip hard.

To my surprise, instead of getting upset, he just smiled like he was

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thrilled. Then, he got into the car. As the car was about to pull away, the woman rolled down the window, locking eyes with me.

She gave me a smug, taunting look and said, "Olivia, you've lost."

I smiled and shook my head. A strange calm washed over me. "It's okay, Olivia."

Then, I whispered to myself, "He's just a man, nothing more."

As the car turned the corner, I waved. "Daniel, I don't want you anymore. You're hers."

In that decisive moment, standing under the hospital awning, I calmly sent all the eviden ce I had gathered to my mentor, a well–

known divorce lawyer. I was going to secure the best future for my child, no matter what

By the time I finished, the rain had already soaked the hem of my dress. Oddly enough, I barely noticed. Just as I put my phone away, it

rang.

It was Mom.

"Olivia, I made some soup for you and brought it to the house. Where are you and Dann y? Why aren't you home?" Her voice was filled with warmth and concern.

Before I could respond, she continued, "Oh, that Danny. You're this far along, and he's still taking you out? You really need to be careful right

now."

Hearing my mom's voice felt like a blow, like opening a floodgate I had been trying so h ard to keep closed. All the pain I had been holding in grew into an overwhelming weight, pressing down on my chest. I bit down hard on my lip, fighting back the sob rising in my throat. The pain of suppressing it sent a shiver through my entire body.

"Mom, don't worry," I said, forcing a smile even though she couldn't

see me.

"We're just out having dinner." I swallowed hard, trying to keep my voice steady. "Oh, we're being careful. Danny's right here with me."

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I had to keep it together. I couldn't let my mom hear me cry. I wouldn't.

"It's raining, Mom. Drive home safely, okay? Text me when you get there."

I hung up quickly before my voice could betray me. Once the call ended, I took a deep b reath and tried to hold everything in, but no matter how hard I tried, the tears finally spilled over. I cried quietly, my body trembling under the weight of it all.

There I stood, a heavily pregnant woman, belly aching, surrounded by strangers coming and going from the hospital. And in that cold, indifferent world, I cried until I had no more tears left in me.

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