

# Marriage Beyond Redemption by Lesley Harte

## Chapter 31-40

### Chapter 31 Can You Feel Her Pain?

Nolan didn't say a word. He stood there with a sullen face, glaring at Peyton.

His Adam's apple moved. "I wish it had nothing to do with you. That day, you stayed in the cemetery for three hours. Tell me what you were doing there."

Peyton just felt it was very funny. "I told you I was visiting Grandma's grave. I have no one to talk to. Was it wrong for me to say something before her grave? That is a tombstone. How could I break it? Even if you want to frame me, show me the evidence."

"Take a good look. What's this?"

Nolan took out some photos of Peyton with a hammer in her hand. Peyton froze.

"An old man working in the cemetery dropped his tool, so I picked it up for him."

Peyton didn't know how someone had taken such a picture. She

anxiously explained, "I just said a few words at Paula's grave. It was fine when I left. Nolan, believe me. Why would I do that? What good would that do me?"

Seeing Peyton argue in a panic, Nolan only felt she was ridiculous. He lifted her chin with his slender fingers and pressed his fingertips against her lips. "Why are you lying with such a pretty mouth? Lucian has already admitted that he told you about Paula's grave and that you hired a private detective."

Knowing that nothing could be hidden from Nolan, Peyton admitted

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though I knew that Leilani was Paula, I went to Grandma's grave after just placing a bouquet in front of Paula's grave, not to mention that I... I am sick. I didn't have the strength to smash the scene like this!"

"Do you think I'll believe that? Paula lived as Leilani until her death. She had no enemies at all except for your family. Tell me who else would have destroyed her gravestone two years after she died."

"So you think I did that?"

"Yes, you resented the fact that I was cold to you for the past two years. You blamed me for not saving the baby and making your family go bankrupt. You hated me, and you hated Paula even more, who made your family like this. After learning of her identity, you vented your anger on her grave."

Peyton shook her head repeatedly. "No..."

Nolan stepped closer and continued, "You clearly made up your mind. to divorce me, but suddenly, you wanted to spend another month with me. What are you plotting? You want to take revenge for Kason, don't you?"

Peyton's tears rolled down. She felt that at this moment, she was unable to defend herself. She kept shaking her head. "No, I never thought that way."

However, Nolan wouldn't listen to any of her explanations. He pinched Peyton's jaw hard, his eyes flashing with disappointment.

"Peyton, you know how much I wish this had nothing to do with you. I've had people looking for evidence all day, trying to prove that you're innocent. All I've found is this. Today you made a trip to the psychiatric hospital, and then Caitlyn killed herself. What did you say

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to her! You think you can wake Kason up by getting back at others?"

He blamed it all on Peyton, who was at a loss for words.

Paula was Nolan's taboo, and ruing Paula's grave was a great insult to her and the Dalton family.

Nolan's fingers slid down and finally landed on Peyton's slender neck. He gradually tightened his grip.

"Peyton, you're being pampered like a princess. Do you have any idea how miserable Paula was? I have been to the village where she once lived. It is desolate and barren. Most people there starve. She was abducted and sold there. Since childhood, she had been locked in the woodshed. She used to be the little princess of the Dalton family, but she was enslaved there. She suffered for so many years and managed to come to Aelford City. Obviously, I would have found her if she had held on a little longer."

Peyton couldn't say anything because of his grip around her neck. Suffocating, she pushed Nolan with her hands. She kept crying, trying to drag him back to his senses.

Nolan, however, was lost in sad memories. "She was humiliated by Kason, that brute. She was strangled and stuffed into a box. How desperate she was! See, just like you are now. Can you just slightly feel her pain?"

"Let... go!" Peyton struggled, but to no avail.

Nolan's eyes were scarlet as if he were a beast that had lost his mind.

Peyton was out of breath. She knew she would be killed by him if it continued like this. She had to keep struggling.

"Peyton, I was clearly going to let you go. You asked for this."

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The look on Nolan's face was getting more and more paranoid. His eyes looked like they had lost focus. He said slowly, "Peyton, why don't we die together to accompany Paula? She must be scared alone there. Will it be less painful if we die?"

Hearing that, Peyton thought Nolan was completely crazy. While she was struggling, Nolan touched her wound that had been stitched up last night. The wound was ripped open, and blood dyed her white silk nightgown red.

The red stains calmed Nolan down. He released Peyton. Her body went limp. As Nolan tried to look at her wound, Peyton hastily backed up, staring at him with a wary look on her face.

Nolan stiffened and withdrew his hands, regaining his composure. He realized he had almost killed Peyton.

“Your arm...” he said in a hoarse voice.

Peyton, however, had gotten up from the floor, grabbed her down jacket from the couch, and left the Dalton’s mansion despite the cold wind.

The moment her neck was grasped by him, she really thought she was going to die. Only endless fear remained after she escaped death. She had never been so close to death. It turned out that she wasn’t as calm as she had expected.

She only wanted to flee!

Nolan looked down at his hands in a daze, thinking, “How could I do such a thing to Peyton?” The raging wind blowing in through the door brought him back to his senses for the time being.

Thinking of Peyton’s back as she left in a panic and the snow outside, Nolan hurriedly drove after her.

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Hearing the sound of a car coming from behind, Peyton quickly hid behind a tree. She watched Nolan leave until she was out of danger. She was still trembling with fear.

Shivering, she took out her cell phone and hesitantly dialed Kadence’s number. Her voice came. “Do you miss me?”

Peyton suppressed her sobs and swallowed. “Kadence, can you come pick me up?”

III

## Chapter 32 Can You Accompany

### Chapter 32 Can You Accompany Me Before My Death?

Peyton was certain that Nolan was devastated after his sister's death. Those two years made him more and more insane. Just now, he wanted to kill Peyton and die with her to accompany his sister.

Kadence hadn't come yet. Another light illuminated the landscape in the distance, and the car stopped not far from her.

With Nolan's intelligence, he must have quickly realized that she hadn't left yet, so he turned back. The door opened, and Nolan hurriedly got out of the car, looking around as if he was searching for something.

Soon, he was walking in Peyton's direction. Peyton huddled there, too afraid to move. Her fingers were tugging at the corners of her clothes.

Hearing Nolan's footsteps getting closer, Peyton held her breath in fear and closed her eyes.

Peyton wondered what Nolan would do when he found her, thinking, "Will he kill me to avenge Paula's death?"

Her beloved man was now a different person, and today, it was the first time she felt frightened by him. Her heart was beating extremely irregularly with the sound of his footsteps.

Peyton was scared.

The scary crunching sound of Nolan stepping on the snow was getting closer and closer.

Peyton's face went pale. With a hundred-year-old tree between them, Nolan stopped.

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After a few seconds, Peyton only heard the rustling sound of Nolan leaving. He hadn't noticed her. She was relieved at that moment.

But soon, she realized that she was surrounded by a few drops of bright red blood. They looked clear on the snow-covered ground, so how could he not have noticed her?

Peyton wondered what Nolan had been thinking when he paused for a few seconds. It was obvious that he had spared her.

Peyton carefully peeked out and watched Nolan's back as he left in the moonlight. She couldn't see the expression on his face. A mist hung around the man.

She suddenly had a feeling that maybe this was his silent goodbye.

When Kadence picked her up, Peyton was covered in snow, with some blood on her clothes. Kadence was scared to the point of squealing, "Did Nolan do this? I'll teach this bastard a lesson! Does he think he can do anything just because he is wealthy? He cheated on you and even beat you. I'll contact the gossip magazines tomorrow and publicize all his crimes!"

Peyton gave a wry smile and stopped Kadence, who was about to pry the bumper off the car to smash Nolan's door.

"Take me to the hospital first. This has nothing to do with him. He doesn't know I'm sick."

"Sick? What have you got?" Kadence asked.

"It's a long story. I'll tell you slowly when I have time."

By the time Kadence rushed Peyton to the hospital to get her wound treated and went back, it was after midnight.

Back at Peyton's apartment, Kadence sat across from her with a stern

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face. "Tell me what you're hiding from me! How did you get that injury on your arm?"

"Kadence, be prepared for what I'm about to say."

Kadence casually lit a cigarette with a haughty look. "What? Don't underestimate me. What kind of big event have I not experienced? Just say it. I won't be scared."

"I won't live long."

Kadence froze as she heard this. Then Peyton continued, "I have stomach cancer."

Kadence was stunned for a few seconds, choking and coughing. When she recovered herself, she hurriedly put the cigarette out. She cried from the coughing.

She was so panicked that she accidentally knocked over the glass on the table, spilling water all over it.

Kadence hurriedly drew out a tissue and wiped the table. However, she wiped it so hard that everything on the table was pushed to the floor.

A bottle of stomach medicine that hadn't been capped yet collapsed on the table. A few pills were scattered on the ground, and the white bottle cap swirled around on the ground.

Kadence muttered, "I'm so stupid. I'm so young, but I can't hear clearly. I just actually heard you say that you have stomach cancer. I must have gone crazy because of that bastard..."

Peyton pressed the back of Kadence's hand and gently said, "Kadence, face reality."

Kadence stopped moving and raised her teary eyes. "You're joking, aren't you?"

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However, Peyton's eyes were serious. "You know I never joke. I cut my hair short because I had to undergo chemotherapy."

The tears in Kadence's eyes slid down. She grabbed Peyton's hand and still couldn't believe it. "It's a misdiagnosis, right? It must be a

misdiagnosis! You're so young and strong. How could you possibly get this disease?"

Peyton helped Kadence sit down and told her what had happened.

Kadence's face was full of tears. She had always felt that cancer was far away from them. When such a thing happened to her best friend, Kadence felt it was like a dream.

"Don't worry. Modern medicine is very advanced. You just need to cooperate with the doctors. You will be fine."

Kadence wiped her tears with the back of her hand. "I'm sorry. I didn't even know about all these things. I'll accompany you for chemotherapy in the future. I'm rich now, so I can take a year off. I'll be around you until you're cured."

Peyton just gently shook her head and looked out the window with empty eyes. "Go to see the aurora borealis with me..."

"Okay. When you get better, not to mention the aurora borealis, I'll get all the stars in the sky for you if you want."

"Someone also said he would get stars for me back then."

Kadence was annoyed. "You love—  
struck idiot! He doesn't want you anymore. Why are you still thinking about him? If

I were you, I'd defeat the disease and find a dozen boyfriends to piss him off."

"Kadence, he's not to blame for this. He's sick."

"He has stomach cancer too? I hope it's terminal. Stand him a while

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longer. After he dies, all the property will be yours!”

Peyton was amused by her. “Come here. I’ll tell you slowly.”

That night, the two slept on the same bed. Peyton told Kadence everything.

Her voice was very nice, just like a comforting breeze on a summer evening.

Kadence was silent for

a moment after listening. “So he blamed you for his sister’s death? And he cheated on you in order to get back at you? What a jerk!”

Yet Peyton said, “I can understand his love for his sister and sense of guilt. If such things happened to me, I wouldn’t be able to keep calm. He is more agonized than we imagined.”

“Peytie, this cannot justify what he did. You are love-struck. Since he plans to let you go, just divorce him, take the compensation, and go far

away.”

“Kadence, have you let go of your feelings for Ruben Caldwell?”

Kadence was silent.

She had loved Ruben for so many years. It was not easy for her to forget him.

“I need time. Time can heal all the wounds. Just like it can swallow solemn vows and pledges. There is no unforgettable love in this world.”

Peyton murmured, “But I don’t have enough time.”

“Don’t give up on the treatment.”

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“Kadence, do you know what chemotherapy feels like? It feels like someone has drained me of everything inside my body. I ached all over and had no stren

gth, like an invalid. That's just the first phase. As it goes further, the drugs will penetrate into my bone marrow. It will be excruciatingly painful.

"My father is in a coma in the hospital. My mother has long since remarried. The only man I love dearly is in love with another woman. Now there is nothing in this world that I am attached to. Kadence, can you accompany me before my death?"

### Chapter 33 The Dead **Won't** Betray You

Kadence was a medical student and knew the side effects of

chemotherapy very well. She understood Peyton's decision. A lot of people didn't die from cancer but from the side effects of

chemotherapy. It was too painful.

Kadence couldn't be so selfish as to let Peyton suffer. Maybe it would only make Peyton die sooner.

Kadence wrapped her arms around Peyton's waist from behind, crying silently.

"Okay, I'll stay with you."

Kadence's tears soaked Peyton's pajamas. "You must have been in a lot of pain at that time, right? I'm sorry. I didn't know anything about it."

"I've been better the past two days. Kadence, thank you. I didn't want to die alone. Originally, I wanted Nolan to stay with me, and now that it has come to this, he and I probably won't meet again."

Hearing about Nolan, Kadence was furious. "Peytie, you said that his sister's grave had been ruined and that someone had photographed you carrying a hammer. Do you think someone set you up?"

"It can't be anyone other than Helena." Peyton was well aware of that. Nolan had just agreed to stay with Peyton for another month, and then this happened. Surely, Helena had something to do with it.

"You know it's her. Then why are you so calm?"

“Since last year, Helena has used a lot of methods to force me and Nolan to divorce. To be honest, these methods are not clever. Nolan

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can see through these little tricks, but he always takes Helena’s side. In the beginning, I argued with him, but later, I found out that what mattered was not the truth but his preference.”

Kadence saw Peyton demoralized and continued to rouse her fighting spirit. “But this time is different. If it’s true that she destroyed Paula’s grave, don’t let her off even if you have to divorce.”

“Kadence, the problem between Nolan and I isn’t Helena, but his sister’s death. We can’t be reconciled except by bringing her back to life. Even if we could do that, we wouldn’t be able to get back together.”

“I understand, but Peytie, don’t let him hurt you at will just because of your family’s fault. His sister’s death shouldn’t be a reason for him to cheat on you. He is unfaithful and unrighteous! He gave up you and the baby in your belly to save Helena! I admit that Nolan did treat you well in the past, but you can’t dwell on the past.”

Kadence continued patiently, “Peytie, people can only live once. Even if his sister’s death really has something to do with your dad, it has nothing to do with you. Don’t rush to confess your guilt. You asked if I had let go of my feelings for Ruben. What I can tell you is that one day, I will. No matter whether you have one day or one month left, you have to live for yourself.”

“Live for myself...”

Something that had been troubling Ruben suddenly disappeared.

That night Peyton still slept uneasily, dreaming of Nolan turning into a demon and gripping her neck whenever she fell asleep.

She woke up several times. The last time she woke up, it was just getting light

Peyton sat up straight and blankly touched her neck. Even though she

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couldn't grow old with Nolan, she didn't want him to hate her.

Looking at Kadence, who was sleeping well beside her, Peyton quietly washed up and tiptoed out of the room.

Snow covered the whole city. It looked extraordinarily beautiful. Even the sea became calm, freely stretching its huge body in the sunshine.

A few unidentified seabirds flew by against the cold wind, and ships whistled in the distance.

The world was still wonderful. It didn't change because of anyone's death.

Peyton made a decision.

She sent a message to Nolan, and this time, both of them showed up.

When Nolan saw her, she was wrapped up in a white down coat, a furry hat, and snow boots.

He couldn't help but think, "Has she ever been so afraid of cold before?"

His gaze fell on her neck. Her skin was so delicate and fair that others could easily leave marks on it.

Peyton had a thick knitted scarf around her neck. She stood under the snow-covered pines, as pure as an elf

Nolan was actually concerned about her arm, wondering, "Is she okay after bleeding profusely last night?"

But all he could say was, "Let's go."

They didn't mention anything about the past. With all the paperwork prepared, they soon got a divorce.

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Peyton did not say a word to him from the beginning. She took the divorce decree and turned to leave without any hesitation. Nolan couldn't help but ask, "What are your plans for the future?"

Peyton didn't look back. "None of your business, Mr. Dalton."

A piece of snow on the tree branch fell on her shoulder. Nolan subconsciously reached out his hand to brush it away, his fingers pausing in mid-air.

What qualifications did he have to touch her now?

Nolan let Peyton go because he wanted to put an end to this matter.

Looking at the brilliant sunshine, Nolan thought of the day when they got married. It was also a lovely day. She was wearing a white dress. and a bright smile that day.

"I hope we won't come back to this place again."

"We won't."

"Then what if you betray me?"

"You can kill me. The dead won't betray you." The serious look on Nolan's face scared Peyton at that time.

Unexpectedly, it had only been three years since he said those words.

Peyton could feel his gaze falling on her, but she didn't look back, walking further on the snow.

She told herself over and over again not to make the parting so embarrassing.

Once she thought that they might never meet again and that from now on, she had no relationship with this man at all, she was indescribably

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sad.

Just after Peyton walked a few steps, she heard Helena's excited voice from behind. "Nolan, congratulations. You finally got what you wanted."

Peyton thought, "What he wanted?"

She smiled self-mockingly, thinking, "That's right. If I hadn't been holding on for a year, we would have gotten divorced on the seventh day after I lost our child."

Nolan didn't answer. Helena continued, "I have all the documents ready. Let's go in and get the marriage license now."

Peyton didn't hear Nolan's reply. Helena's words made Peyton unable to breathe.

Kadence held Peyton's shaky body and asked softly, "Are you okay?"

"Yes."

Kadence glanced at the two people in the distance. Helena was talking to herself with a happy face. Nolan kept his head down. The shade of the trees made it impossible to see the expression on his face.

"What a bastard and a bitch!" Kadence snorted, reaching out to wipe tears off Peyton's face. "It's not worth crying over scum like that."

Peyton forced herself to look up at Kadence and smile, "I know. I just can't help it."

"Fool, you need to understand one thing. Relying on others is like committing suicide. He can protect you, and he can also hurt you. I haven't seen that confident Peyton for a long time. You should be shining in your world."

Peyton gave Nolan one last look and rolled up the window.

Nolan read her last look as a farewell.

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## Chapter 34 Visit My Tomb

The days after the divorce were not as hard as Peyton had thought. Kadence stayed at home with Peyton for a few days and cooked different meals to nourish her body. Peyton gradually looked better.

The side effects of chemotherapy on Peyton were getting smaller and smaller. Although she couldn't return to her former state, at least she wouldn't pass out frequently.

The wound on her arm was scabbing again. Her hair fell more slowly. Everything seemed to be getting better.

Kadence was happy for Peyton. After all, Peyton had been sleeping next to her for the past few days rather than curling up in the crib. Kadence was confident that Peyton would slowly go through this.

Seeing that Peyton had recovered well, Kadence suggested. "Bruce will throw a reunion party. Anyway, there is nothing to do. Let's go together."

"I..." Peyton was just about to refuse when Kadence interrupted her.

"Most of our old classmates have successful careers. Don't you want to find a better doctor? Maybe the bigwigs among our classmates know some good doctors.

"Besides, you say every day that you don't have much time left. So you shouldn't waste time at home. It's good to go out and have a look around."

Seeing the embarrassment on Peyton's face, Kadence immediately understood what she was thinking. Once upon a time, Peyton was not only a rich kid but also a promising student in her mentor's eyes.

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Compared to her old classmates, the current Peyton had no

achievements. The Schmitt family went bankrupt, and she didn't even finish her studies.

"You're too thin—skinned. I gave up being a doctor and became the best house salesperson. I'm not ashamed. What are you afraid of? At least, you have 160 million dollars. Oh, that scum also gave you the Dalton Group's shares, right?"

There were a lot of terms in the divorce agreement. Nolan was generous. Although Peyton did not get half of his property, she could never use up the money he gave her. Just the annual dividends from the Dalton Group were tens of millions of dollars, not to mention the real estate.

Whether it was to compensate Peyton or make a clean break, at least in this regard, Nolan was not scum.

Peyton really could not refuse Kadence's request.

Looking at the online news of Nolan's engagement party in a month, Peyton felt Kadence was right. No matter how long she could live, it was time for her to move on.

"OK."

"That's more like it. So many people had crushes on you back then. Maybe there is a handsome guy who's still infatuated with you. Be good to yourself. You need to enjoy yourself while you're young.

Peyton thought seriously for a moment and asked, "Will Melvin Jensen come?"

"Of course, but Melvin... Although he's nice, he's not good-looking. Is there something wrong with your taste after you were tortured by that scumbag?"

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Peyton shook her head. "No. It's just that I've heard that he inherited his father's career after graduation and that he is doing well in the funeral industry, so I



think that since we are old classmates, I can ask him to keep a good spot for me, right?"

Peyton spoke in a very calm tone, but Kadence felt heartbroken. "Don't say such unlucky words."

Peyton took her hand and said gently, "Kadence, this is the truth. You have to try to accept it. Everyone will die."

The sadness returned. Kadence cursed angrily, "Then how come Helena, that home wrecker, is living happily?"

"This is fate. Probably my baby misses me too much. Don't feel bad. Just think of it as a race. I will finish it first. Take your time."

To dispel the sadness, Peyton teased, "After I die, come to visit my tomb often. Tell me about the latest TV dramas, movies, fashion, hot songs, and gossip. Otherwise, I'll feel bored and out of date."

Kadence smiled, "Then I have to watch a lot of TV dramas and movies, listen to new songs, pay attention to fashion and gossip. Well, this is heavy work."

Peyton narrowed her eyes and chuckled, "You're so sweet."

Because of the reunion party, Peyton dressed carefully. She had short hair and matured a lot. When she was not smiling, she looked noble and elegant.

In Kadence's words, even if Peyton didn't talk and just stood there, she was so charming.

On the way to the hotel, Kadence asked, "Peyton, what are your plans for the next few days? Do you want to travel around the world? Anyway, we don't lack time or money now."

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Peyton supported her head with one hand, looking at the scenery flashing by outside the car. She then said in a calm mood, "I want to set up a charitable foundation. There are a lot of patients in this world who are suffering from terminal illnesses, just like me. And I also want to help the village children who can't go to school."

Kadence couldn't say anything, only feeling sorrowful. Peyton had a huge amount of money. She could save a lot of people, but she couldn't save herself. Peyton didn't blame others for her misfortune, and she was willing to help strangers.

"Peytie, you..."

Peyton smiled softly, "Just think of it as atonement for my father's sins."

"Peytie, one can tell whether someone is kind or evil at most times. I think that your dad is a good person. Have you ever thought that the evidence is fake?"

"I didn't believe my dad would do something like that either until I saw the evidence. Nolan didn't want that outcome any more than I did. He would have disproved it if there had been the slightest possibility, but in the end, even he accepted it. The evidence is unlikely to be fake."

"Could it be that he plotted this to cheat on you?"

Peyton smiled even more resignedly, "Kadence, he's Nolan. Do you think he'd take so much trouble for a divorce?"

"Fair enough." Kadence sighed, "Even though there is hard evidence, I feel there is something wrong."

"I have the same feeling. My dad was recovering well before. I was ready to discharge him from the hospital after a while. How did he have a heart attack? And after I went to visit Caitlyn, she jumped off the building that day. I only went to the cemetery once and was

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photographed. I don't believe all these were coincidences."

Soon, Peyton's expression returned to normal. "Then I figured it out. I can't deny it just because I can't accept reality. The day my dad had a heart attack, I went to check the visiting list. No one else had come. Maybe my dad was stimulated by my family's bankruptcy. As for Caitlyn's matter, it was just a coincide

nce. Helena must be related to what happened in the cemetery. Her goal was to force me to divorce. Nolan. Now that she has gotten her way, she won't make trouble for me anymore."

Kadence wrinkled her brow. "That's not necessarily true, Peytie. You have to be careful and wary. Some people are evil, and some things might be schemes. Nothing is impossible."

Peyton looked at the distant scenery and muttered, "If there is really someone behind all this, that will be terrifying. What a huge trap!"

### **Chapter 35** Who Is As Rich As Him?

They hadn't reunited for years and were excited.

Kadence was a social butterfly. Talkative, she could have a nice chat with anyone else. However, people were surprised to see Peyton.

Some people surrounded her and asked, "Peyton, did you get married? Come on. How could you not invite us? Do you think we may embarrass you?"

Before Peyton could answer, another piercing female voice sounded. "I don't think so. She is the one who may embarrass us! Maybe she hid somewhere because her family went bankrupt."

It was Grace Logan, who used to be on bad terms with Peyton. At that time, the Logan family was not as rich as the Schmitt family. And Peyton always outshone Grace.

Grace was born into a rich family. She was pretty. But when compared with Peyton, she would be overshadowed. So she believed that it was Peyton's fault

Now, the Schmitt family had gone bankrupt. Peyton finally showed up after disappearing for a long time. Of course, Grace would not miss the chance to laugh at Peyton.

Bruce Morris, their monitor, hurried to say, "Grace, don't say that. Things change. You shouldn't laugh at her pain. We haven't seen each other for a long time. Forget about that."

Grace rolled her eyes. Since she respected Bruce, she stopped. “OK. I won’t talk about that again. But I do think she is thick–skinned. She’s been hiding for all these years. But she came back for the project!”

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“Project? Isn’t this a reunion?” Peyton was confused.

“You’re just pretending, right? We all came here for the project of ForeverLena Hospital.”

Suddenly, Peyton felt that she had been wasting her life and knew nothing over the past year.

Bruce explained kindly, “ForeverLena Hospital has been the biggest project in the past two years. It cost 600 million dollars.”

Grace snorted, “Their goal is to build a top–class international hospital. They have the best doctors and equipment. Doctors here are well–paid compared with other hospitals too. It’s a good chance, and Bruce is a nice person. He is generous enough to share it with us.”

Other people discussed it excitedly too. As long as they can work here, their salaries will be three times higher. But the threshold was high. It would be easier if they had someone’s help.

Peyton understood at once. Bruce was from a famous family that was good at traditional medicine. His family might be a shareholder of the hospital. And Bruce probably wanted to find some good doctors.

Students in their class used to be top students. There were many good doctors. Although it was a reunion, there were personal interests involved.

Kadence must have been distracted by her broken relationship and didn’t know the purpose of the reunion. She just took Peyton here to have fun.

Kadence was happily talking about real estate with others already. However, unlike Kadence, Peyton only felt embarrassed in this case. But Bruce was nice as before. He didn't look down on her because her family went bankrupt. Instead, he greeted her mildly.

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"If you want, ForeverLena Hospital welcomes talented doctors like you."

Peyton smiled bitterly, "Stop joking. I didn't even finish my studies..."

Bruce was confused. "No. Although you suspended your studies, you did get your degree."

Peyton was surprised. "Bruce, it must be a mistake, right?"

"Of course not. I delivered everyone's diploma. But it was your family who took yours. Didn't you get it?"

Peyton took a tumble at once. She thought that Nolan must have got her diploma in some way.

At that time, she was still pregnant. And their relationship got worse. Peyton believed that Nolan didn't tell her because he didn't care much about it.

Peyton smiled, "Yes, I did."

"I haven't heard from you in the past two years. Have you been studying abroad? We're friends. Feel free to contact me if you need help. It'll be an honor to have you as our doctor."

In people's eyes, Peyton was still a promising young doctor. Recalling the past years, Peyton realized what a big mistake she had made.

"Sorry. I'm not sure. And I think I should go now. I..."

Grace was complacent. "Yeah. I heard that you got married. Have you been a housewife these years? If so, **you** shouldn't be here. Otherwise, you may displease our guest."

Bruce glanced at her. Since the Logan's family needed to rely on him, Grace didn't dare to offend him. As for Bruce, he was well-educated

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and decent, so he was nice to everyone.

"It's OK. We haven't seen each other for a long time. There is still a long way to go. Apart from the people in our class, I also invited some great doctors. You don't need to be nervous. You can just make more friends here."

In this case, Peyton had to stay. Luckily, other people were not hostile to her. Some chatted with her.

As Peyton looked at them, she recalled her free college life. She used to be as confident and brilliant as they did in medicine.

She lowered her head to look at her palm, wondering, "Since when have I become so obedient and low-spirited?"

"Did I get anything except for pain from marriage?"

Listening to them, Peyton suddenly got the key message that the founder of the hospital would come tonight.

"I heard that it was funded by the Dalton Group. Mr. Dalton did this to please his fiancée."

"He has been famous as a cold man. I didn't expect him to love her so much. He even named the hospital for her."

Peyton's face changed as she heard that. But she still had hope. "Mr. Dalton? Which Mr. Dalton?"

"Peyton, are you OK? A man who has hundreds of millions of dollars in Aelford City! Nolan, of course! Who is as rich as him?"

No one found that Peyton pulled her clothes hard with a pale face.

She told him that she wanted to build a large hospital to help more people.

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But she didn't know when he got started. She only knew that it was named Forever Lena Hospital.

How ironic!

Peyton got up in a hurry. She pulled the tablecloth by accident and knocked over the wine bottle. She had red wine all over her body.

Peyton was too hurried to deal with that. "Bruce, I got something to do now..."

Bruce wiped her clothes with tissues subconsciously. Just then, the door was opened. Nolan and Helena stood there.

His cold eyes fell on Bruce's hand.

**92** 28%

Chapter 36 **Not** Important

What a coincidence.

Peyton didn't know why she was so unlucky. Every time she was embarrassed, she would come across him.

The Morris family and the Chase family were close. It was the Chase family that asked the Morris family to invest in the hospital. And Bruce wanted to introduce some excellent doctors to Helena. So there was a reunion.

No one expected Nolan to come with Helena. His appearance made everything different. Everyone greeted him at once.

But as a gentleman, Bruce didn't leave Peyton alone. Instead, he gave her tissues thoughtfully. And their fingers touched by accident.

The room was warm. Under Peyton's down jacket was a white knit dress. She didn't try to show her curves. But her dress couldn't hide her nice curves at all.

Peyton lowered her head slightly, revealing her thin and fair neck from behind. It made her look adorable.

Nolan noticed that there were no marks on her neck. It was like love. One day, he would be over her.

But when Bruce grabbed her wrist, Nolan realized that he hadn't let it go as he thought. His black eyes fixed on Bruce's hand.

Bruce sensed a cold gaze and raised his head. He found that Grace was greeting Nolan. Bruce wondered if he had made a mistake.-

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Bruce greeted Nolan naturally, "Didn't expect you to come here, Mr. Dalton. It's our honor to have you here. Helena, this is Peyton, the

genius I mentioned to you. Peyton, this is Mr. Dalton. You must know him. And this is..."

Peyton was no longer so gentle. She looked colder. "I know. She is Mr. Dalton's fiancée."

How ridiculous! She thought that she would not meet him again. To her surprise, she came across him so soon.

Bruce patted his head. "Silly me. Mr. Dalton and Helena's story has been in the news recently. Everyone knows it."

"Everyone knows that Helena is Mr. Dalton's fiancée. Does anyone know his ex-wife?" A female voice came closer. It was Kadence, who just sold a house at the party.

Kadence was straightforward and pretty. She had her pink hair in a bun and walked in on high heels.

Her hostile words shocked everyone on site.

"Kadence, don't talk nonsense. He doesn't have an ex-wife!"



“Yeah. Mr. Dalton loves Ms. Chase a lot.”

Kadence was determined to take her best friend’s revenge. So she walked to Nolan fearlessly and said with hatred in her eyes, “Mr. Dalton loves his fiancé e. What about his ex? He abandoned her and...”

Nolan interrupted her, giving her no chance to finish her words. “Not important .”

Then he walked past them. Other people were surprised that Nolan had an ex — wife. But obviously, Nolan didn’t want to talk about this. Only Kadence had the guts to offend him.

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People walked away with Nolan. No one noticed Peyton’s face. Only Kadence , who stood next to her, noticed that her body shook.

Peyton didn’t expect Nolan to be so heartless. He despised their relationship li ke that.

Peyton clenched her fists. It turned out that in his eyes, what she cherished w as not important.

Kadence wanted to embarrass Helena. But she didn’t expect Nolan to be such a cold bastard.

Kadence looked at Peyton apologetically. She knew that according to the agre ement between Nolan and Peyton, Nolan and Peyton’s relationship should be a secret.

“Peytie, are you OK? Do you want me to send you back?”

If they stayed here, Nolan would have more chances to mock them. And Hele na would be prouder.

Kadence didn’t want to admit it, but based on Nolan’s response, he was appar ently partial to Helena.

In a relationship, the one not favored was like a loser in the game. Nolan's words hurt Peyton all the time. And Peyton couldn't take it anymore.

Peyton wanted to leave at first. But she changed her mind and didn't. choose to leave. Instead, she said calmly to Kadence, "You have a backup dress, right? Let's go to the bathroom. I want to get changed. The party hasn't begun yet. It's impolite to leave now."

Kadence was surprised that Peyton didn't run away!

Even in the bathroom, Kadence was still complaining. "Did you see his face? I was pissed! I wanted to punch his face. What a bastard!"

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Peyton smiled helplessly, "Come on.

"Peytie, are you sure you want to stay and see them? After all, you still care about him. You'll feel uncomfortable."

"Didn't you tell me that I'd let it go one day? And he made a mistake. Why should I chicken out?"

Peyton took a bag from Kadence and went to the dressing room. "You are right. I must live my life for myself."

But Peyton didn't expect Kadence to buy her such a colorful and sexy dress. It set off her nice shape.

Even Kadence took a swallow. "Now I know cups do make a difference. You look amazing in this dress!"

She put some lipstick on Peyton's lips. The dress might be over-sexy for others. But it suited Peyton very well. She looked sexy but pure.

"Let's go."

Peyton walked in on high heels. Her short hair made her look more capable.

When she came in, people all looked at her. Grace snorted in jealousy. "This is too much, isn't it?"

A familiar and mild voice sounded. "Peyton."

It was Alwyn Russell, who stood next to Bruce. Peyton was surprised that he came here too.

Like Bruce, Alwyn was from a family that was involved in medicine. It made sense that Bruce invited Alwyn. Alwyn waved at Peyton. "Here."

Alwyn knew Peyton's relationship with Nolan. She knew that Alwyn

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did this to help her. If she turned him down, Alwyn would be embarrassed.

So she walked to Alwyn under Nolan's angry gaze.

Peyton sat next to Alwyn. It had been a long time since he met her. Alwyn was relieved when he found that she looked well.

Other people were trying to flatter Nolan when Alwyn focused on Peyton. He kept serving her nutritious food.

Peyton was busy eating and didn't notice Nolan's gaze.

Alwyn cared about Peyton so much that Bruce felt strange. "Alwyn, I've never seen you be so nice to a girl. Did you..."

Zane

Brandon asked in curiosity as he ate, "It's said that Peyton suspended her studies to get married. Did you get married with Alwyn?"

All people all looked at Peyton at once.

"Bam."

Peyton saw Nolan put down his fork and look at her from the corner of her eye.

86 87%

## Chapter 37 My Husband Is Dead

People loved gossiping. Back then, Peyton gave up on her career and got married secretly. Her husband had been a secret over the past years.

Alwyn was always aloof, but he was nice to her. Naturally, people were curious.

Even though Nolan didn't speak, the atmosphere was getting more and more oppressive.

Peyton put down the fork and wiped her lips elegantly. "Are you really curious?"

"Yeah. Peyton, don't beat around the bush. I really want to know whom you married!"

"Yeah. Me too."

Peyton looked around and put on a beautiful smile.

"The man whom I married secretly..." Her gaze paused when she looked at Nolan.

His handsome face was still expressionless. No one could tell what was in his mind. But he slowly rubbed his left hand with his right index finger and thumb.

After living with him for years, Peyton knew that it was a sign of danger. He didn't want her to mention him.

Peyton ignored the pain in her heart with a smile. "Well, I'd better call him my ex-husband."

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Suddenly, Helena, who had been quiet, asked, "Who is your ex-husband?"

Helena said nothing more. Apparently, she was waiting for a drama.

Peyton said, "Ms. Chase, I think you do know, right?"

Before Helena could react, Bruce said in surprise, "Peyton, you got divorced?"

"Yeah. I'm divorced. To be specific, I lost my husband. My husband died a while ago."

Facing the oppressive atmosphere, Kadence raised the wine glass and drank wine. But when she heard Peyton's words, she couldn't help spitting the wine out. It took her a lot of effort to suppress her smile.

Kadence wiped the wine off a man's face and tried to suppress her smile. "Sorry. I just thought of something bad. I promise that her ex-husband is dead. He died miserably."

Then people started asking questions. "Well, no offense. But we are so curious. Peyton, what happened to him?"

"He..." Peyton glanced at Nolan, who looked displeased.

Peyton thought, "We're divorced. Why should I be afraid of him? I'll never forget about the pain he brought me over the past year."

Peyton continued, "It's not good to talk about this. But you are my friends. I think I can tell you. He is..."

Kadence knew that Peyton was too kind enough to be mean, so she interrupted Peyton and said, "He deserved it. At first, he loved Peytie. But soon he got tired of her and had an affair. Well, you know, some girls are bitchy. They just flood to rich men and don't care if they're married..."

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Helena put down the fork with a bang and snapped, "Enough!"

"Ms. Chase, I'm not talking about you. Why are you so mad?" asked Kadence.

Only then did Helena realize that she was tricked by Kadence. If she argued with Kadence, people would realize that Kadence was talking about her and that Peyton was Nolan's ex.

Helena knew that she couldn't admit it.

She softened up at once and glared at Kadence significantly. "I'm not mad. I just think it's inappropriate to talk about this now.

Kadence didn't care. She was even more aggressive. "Come on. That bitch didn't think it was inappropriate to hook up with a married man. Why should I worry about that? Ms. Chase, you do have pity on that woman. Do you have the same experience as the other woman?"

"Ms. Fletcher" Nolan's displeased voice sounded. And his black eyes looked horrible.

Kadence controlled herself a bit. "Well. Ms. Chase has a rich fiancé. Of course, she won't do that. She will only stick to you."

It was so obvious that everyone could tell Kadence hated Helena and she was mocking Helena.

But Bruce was sensitive. He thought, "Why did a big shot like Mr. Dalton know Kadence's surname?"

Peyton was impressed by Kadence's boldness. Kadence even dared to mock Nolan.

Peyton knew Nolan well. He wouldn't let anyone hurt the one who he cared about.

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So Peyton quickly changed the topic. "Anyway, it's over. He's dead. Stop asking. A man who betrayed his marriage isn't important."

Peyton ended the topic easily, and people stopped asking. Kadence even wanted to applaud her. What a smart response!

Zane was slow. He asked, "So Peyton is single now. Is Alwyn asking you out?"

It was a tricky question.

Zane was as stupid as before. He always asked stupid questions.

But if it could annoy Nolan, Peyton would be very happy.

Peyton thought it would be a party held to introduce more outstanding doctors. But now, people were gossiping about her marriage.

It seemed that everyone was curious about her relationship. After all, she used to be the hottest girl in college. Many boys wanted to ask her out. But she suspended her studies. So everyone wanted to know about the man she loved.

Helena suppressed her anger and glanced at Nolan calmly.

She was confused and didn't know what was on his mind. He was absolutely cold to Peyton. But sometimes, she felt that he still cared about Peyton.

Nolan picked up the fork to get some food slowly as if it had nothing to do with him. He ate the meat.

Just as Peyton wanted to deny that Alwyn was asking her out, Alwyn smiled and said, "She is pretty. Naturally, men like her. If I have her as my girl, I'll cherish her and care about her. I'll never hurt her. It was a great loss for her ex-husband to lose her."

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Nolan paused as he held the fork. Peyton was shocked too. She had told Alwyn to keep a distance from her. But he still said that in front of Nolan!

"Alwyn..." Peyton was worried. She wanted to explain it but didn't know how to. She thought, "Why would such things happen?"

Alwyn seemed to have expected her words. He looked at her mildly. "Peyton, since you are single now, can I ask you out?"

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### Chapter 38 Best Way to **Forget** Your Ex

Alwyn was challenging Nolan by saying that, which made Peyton so nervous. She knew how jealous Nolan could be.

Even though they had divorced, Nolan would not like to see Peyton having a happy life, just as he said.

Alwyn said that in public. He would be humiliated if Peyton refused him. Everyone would laugh at him.

Peyton was in a dilemma, not knowing what she could do.

Kadence understood Peyton's situation, so she helped Peyton out. "Of course! The best way to forget one's ex is either time or new love. You're handsome, Alwyn. You and Peyton should go dating more. Peyton was hurt by her ex-boyfriend. Maybe you could cure her."

Kadence was match-making Peyton and Alwyn. Peyton stopped her. "Kadence!"

Kadence ignored her warnings. She was thinking about taking revenge on Nolan.

"Don't be shy. You are single now. Are you going to die alone? I believe Alwyn won't treat you like that bastard. Hey, Alwyn. Are you free these days? Peytie and I are going to visit North City. Two girls. are not safe outside..."

"It's my honor to protect you." Alwyn looked at Peyton with eyes full of admiration.

Kadence took a glance at Nolan's ashen face. She was delighted.

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Nolan said nothing, but his coldness reminded people of his existence.

Bruce interrupted to change the topic. "I'm so glad to see Peyton can be happy again. It's a rare opportunity today that we can get together. Even Mr. Dalton was here, and Helena too. I should really toast you. I wish you a happy life!"

Helena was delighted to hear that. She raised her glass and was ready to drink. But she noticed that Nolan was as cold as ice, not moving his glass at all.

Nolan wouldn't take a toast randomly. Helena had to explain to the others that Nolan couldn't drink because of his illness. The others got the hint, so no one dared to say anything.

Although Nolan didn't drink, he still greeted everyone at the party.

Grace never liked Peyton. Peyton was in the spotlight just now, which made Grace hate her more.

"Peyton, you think you're still Miss Schmitt? Don't stand there still. Greet Mr. and Mrs. Dalton!"

When she heard "Mrs. Dalton", her eyes had a distant faraway look. She set her look at Nolan and Helena. One of them was wearing black and the other white. They looked like a perfect match.

Nolan would never take Peyton to parties, and he would show up at Peyton's parties.

She once asked why, and Nolan told her the more he hid her, the safer she would be.

Peyton didn't know what enemy he had, and she didn't care about the title. She was satisfied as long as Nolan loved her.

But now when Peyton thought of that, she realized how naive she was.

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That was all Nolan's excuses. How come a man wouldn't introduce his love to the world?

Maybe Nolan was just paving the way for the arrival of Helena. Enemies and revenge were just his excuses for cheating.

Nolan was sitting not far from Peyton, but she felt him so strange. Even the memory was blurred,

Most men were born playboys. Peyton was too naive to believe she was lucky to meet a good man.

Peyton took the wine and said, "You're right. I should toast them."

And then, two hands came from two sides. They were Alwyn's and Kadence's. "No, you can't drink that."

Peyton looked at Kadence with a pleading look. "Just a little. It's alright."

Seeing the determination in Peyton's eyes, Kadence released the grip.

Peyton poured herself a glass of red wine. Alwyn wanted to stop her, but he didn't say it. He watched Peyton walk step by step in front of Nolan and Helena. She held the glass and said with a smile. "To you, Mr. Dalton and Ms. Chase. I wish you all the best. Congratulations. Excuse me if I can't come to your engagement party."

Peyton poured herself a full glass of wine. She began to drink without looking at them.

Nolan knew how much she could drink. One glass of wine was enough to make her wasted.

Helena stood up and raised her glass, smiling, "Thank you. Nolan and I will have a happy life with your blessing."

Helena poured herself a full glass of wine too and began to drink. "Enough!"

Two voices sounded up at the same time. It was Alwyn and Nolan.

Alwyn took the glass from Peyton's hands. There was still a half left. He said to Nolan, "Peyton has problems with her stomach. I'll finish the rest for her."

Nolan finally spoke up. A significant smile curved from his lips. "Who are you to finish the wine for her?"

Everyone felt the coldness in Nolan's tone. But they thought Nolan only didn't like people drinking for others, so they look at Alwyn with embarrassment.

Alwyn looked normal and said with a clear voice. "My relationship with Peyton has nothing to do with you. Don't you think so?"

Nolan took a look at Alwyn. Alwyn was standing and Nolan was sitting, but Nolan's calm and confident aura overshadowed everything. Even if there were not many expressions on his face, a casual glance would make people stressed.

Nolan chuckled and raised his glass. He said significantly, "Look, a tough guy in the Russell family."

What Nolan said made the others get lost. Was he complimenting Alwyn? But Nolan's smile was so spooky.

Then Nolan added, "I wonder if you can survive this winter."

Now everyone realized Nolan was threatening Alwyn. Nolan was as moody as rumor said. Alwyn just offered to drink for Peyton, and Nolan threatened to destroy his family. What a ruthless man!

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Alwyn was born into a wealthy family. Everyone in Aelford City needed to respect him and address him as Mr. Russell, except one person.

It was Nolan. Among all the wealthy families, the Dalton family was the most respected one. Nolan usually kept a low profile. But when he got mad, he would destroy his enemy for good.

Bruce knew Nolan wasn't kidding. He hurriedly spoke, "Mr. Dalton, I believe Dr. Russell means well."

Nolan rubbed the glass with his fingers and sneered. "Alwyn, you are not worthy to drink for Peyton. Sit back, and I can give you one more chance. I can pretend nothing happens!"

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### Chapter 39 Can You Be **Nice** to **Her**?

Helena looked at the side of Nolan's face. Nolan didn't

### Chapter 39 Can You Be **Nice** to **Her**?

Helena looked at the side of Nolan's face. Nolan didn't want to make his relationship with Peyton public, not to mention that they had

divorced. Why did Nolan get so angry when Alwyn offered to drink for Peyton?

Helena stared at Peyton with evil eyes. Peyton could still tug at Nolan's heart strings.

Alwyn was put in an awkward position. It was silent in the whole room. No one had the nerve to annoy Nolan.

Alwyn knew what Nolan meant. Nolan wanted to get Alwyn scared off and quit the game. So, he wouldn't pursue Peyton.

Alwyn would stop if he were someone else. But Alwyn's mind was full of Peyton's smiles. He had fallen in love with Peyton the moment he set eyes on her.

She was so beautiful and bright at that time.

Unfortunately, Alwyn was busy studying and preparing for programs abroad, so he had to bury his admiration in his heart. However, when he came back from abroad, he found out that she had dropped out of school and got married. When he saw her again, she no longer had the brightness.

She was more like a withering tree, with no nutrition.

He waited till Peyton got divorced so that he could accompany her, even for a little while.

Alwyn grew up following the rules. It was the first time he followed

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his heart. Alwyn didn't care for Nolan's threat. He looked so pure and determined.

"I don't think it's up to you. Mr. Dalton, your fiancée was at your side. I think you should take care of Ms. Chase rather than Peyton. I will protect Peyton no matter what. I will never hurt her like her ex-husband."

And then, he gulped down the wine and put the glass on the table with a loud bang. He held Peyton's hand and said, "It's late now. I will send Peyton home. Excuse us."

Kadence was thrilled. She wanted to applaud Alwyn.

Peyton knew what Alwyn did would make things worse. If she left the party with Alwyn, his family would be ruined by Nolan.

She wanted to stay, but Alwyn was stronger than her. He pulled Peyton away easily.

She looked at Alwyn worriedly. "Alwyn..."

Alwyn looked at her gently and gestured for her to stop saying.

Peyton failed to see Nolan's expression, but she could imagine his face. She said to Alwyn, "You shouldn't fight against him. You can't afford to annoy him. You're just lucky in that car accident. You know I will

never..."

Alwyn took up the other hand. He looked so gentle. "I know. And I know what I'm doing. Nolan is moody, but he is not a tyrant. He won't hurt my family. I'm ready for the consequences when I said that."

Furrowing, Peyton wanted to explain that Nolan was way more ruthless than people thought.

In the past, Nolan would get crazy when it was about Peyton. Once a

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senior stopped Peyton in the hallway and express his admiration. When he was rejected, he wanted to use force.

The next day, she heard that boy fell off a roof when he was drunk.

The boy's family blamed Peyton for it and made a scene at school. Someone even slapped Peyton.

After several days, this family's house was on fire. All the family members were dead.

First of all, Peyton thought it was a coincidence. Later, she happened to find Nolan putting some white powder in the pot. She was curious and Nolan told her it was bone ashes.

Only then did she know the boy's family members' bodies were made ashes by Nolan.

Nolan was ruthless. He was a 100% tyrant.

His sister passed away. But he just made the Schmitt family go bankrupt. Peyton should be grateful that her family were still alive.

But Alwyn wouldn't be that lucky. Peyton shook her head, "No, Alwyn. You shouldn't get involved."

Peyton left her coat at the party. Alwyn took off his jacket and put it on her shoulders. He put his hands on Peyton's shoulders.

"Peyton, I know he hurt you so much. I don't wish you to say yes to me. I just want to take care of you for the rest of the time. Please give me a chance. Let me be your friend."

Peyton felt so disturbed. The nicer Alwyn was to her, the sooner she should reject him..

"Alwyn, you don't know that Nolan..."

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Before she could say anything, she saw a black figure not far away, staring at them like death.

Nolan spoke to Peyton, "Come here."

Peyton found Nolan was even more possessive of her than before.

Alwyn pulled her behind him, looking at Nolan warily. "Mr. Dalton, you have divorced. Please don't hurt her anymore."

Nolan didn't answer him. He fixed his gloomy eyes on Peyton's jacket and repeated. "Take that off and come here."

He demanded like a master. If Alwyn was not here, she would turn right away and leave. But she thought of Nolan's threat at the party. She knew Nolan was capable of doing that.

Gritting her teeth, Peyton suppressed the humiliation and took off Alwyn's jacket.

"Alwyn, I told you to leave me alone."

Alwyn was confused. "But you have divorced!"

Peyton didn't respond. She stuffed the jacket into Alwyn's hands and turned away. "Alwyn, I don't deserve your love. Don't waste your time

on me."

Alwyn could see she was helpless. He grabbed Peyton's wrist. "I can help you."

"Lucian, cut his hands," Nolan said coldly.

A man walked from the dark. It was Lucian who was walking towards Alwyn.

Peyton broke free from Alwyn's hands and stopped Lucian. She said to

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Nolan. "If he was hurt, I will kill myself in front of you. Let him go. He has nothing to do with me."

Nolan pursed his lips and raised his chin slightly. Staring at her, Nolan wouldn't say anything.

Peyton had to walk to Nolan's side. Then a coat with Nolan's warmth was put on Peyton's shoulders, wrapping her tightly.

It was like her prison. The shadow would cloud her forever if he didn't step out.

Alwyn stood here listlessly. He said to Nolan, "Mr. Dalton, I don't know what you are thinking about, but Peyton..."

You should leave Peyton interrupted him.

Alwyn looked at them and added, "Anyway, just be nice to

hurt her anymore."

Nolan lifted Peyton's chin with one of his fingers, saying coldly, "Do you want to say anything about you?"

#### Chapter 40 What If I Really Die

After Alwyn left, Peyton broke free from Nolan's hands. She said faintly, "Nothing. I'm good."

Peyton had rested for a while, so she looked better than before. Nolan said in a low voice, "Alright, you are healthy all the time."

Peyton sneered to herself. She didn't bother to explain and took off his coat. "You can rest assured, Mr. Dalton. I will follow the protocol and won't marry other people."

The protocol was made by Nolan. Although Nolan gave her much wealth, she was not allowed to marry others.

If she did, she would give Nolan ten times the compensation.



That would be 2,000 million dollars.

She signed the protocol without hesitation because she knew there was little time for her.

The sick from the wine lurched in her stomach. The pain tortured her. She suppressed the painful look and wanted to leave.

But her wrists were grabbed by Nolan. It was exactly the part where Alwyn touched her.

“Mr. Dalton, your fiancée is waiting for you. Do you want everyone to know I’m your ex?”

He ignored her and said, “You should clean yourself.”

Peyton was speechless.

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She thought, “What’s wrong with him? We’ve already divorced. Why is he even more possessive?”

She was dragged into the elevator. Just as she was about to say something, the elevator stopped on the fifth floor and several drunk men went in.

Nolan furrowed and stepped back so that he could push her into a corner. His tall figure separated Peyton from the others.

Peyton looked at Nolan’s back, which was dressed neatly.

He was sometimes serious and sometimes crazy.

He was something of a contradiction.

Peyton felt more pain in her stomach. The pain pulled every nerve.

She wanted to find something to lean on, but she couldn't find such a place in an elevator where there were all mirrors. She couldn't let Nolan find out she was weak.

She was so close to Nolan's back. In the past, she could do anything on his back, but now she couldn't even touch it.

She counted and counted. The moments seemed very long to her.

Finally, the elevator arrived. The Dalton Group set its foot in many industries, including this hotel.

She took a glance when Nolan pressed the code. It was the same as the safe's code. The number was about her.

Before she figured out what Nolan was doing, she was dragged into the room.

He threw his coat on the floor and took her into the bathroom.

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Peyton suppressed the pain and looked at him. "Mr. Dalton, we've divorced. I don't need to be loyal to you. Excuse me. I need to go."

Nolan turned on the shower. Cold water poured down and landed right on her head.

"Nolan!"

Under the cold shower, Nolan cupped her face in his hands and looked at her in an obsessive way. "Peytie, I told you that you can't let other people touch you. I don't like it."

A cold finger moved down along her face. Peyton didn't want to argue with him. She knew he was ill.

He had three rules for Peyton when they were seeing each other. She couldn't betray him. She couldn't let the other touch her. And she couldn't leave him.

She knew it all along. His crazy possessiveness could drive him to kill people who hurt her.

And he would get jealous when she fell down at the sports meeting and a male monitor carried her to the clinic.

That was the first time she got to know Nolan's dark side. He only said "Clean yourself up" to her.

No matter how Peyton explained, he wouldn't listen to her. She was in the cold shower for the whole night.

Although Nolan had sickness, Peyton loved him so much. She even took years off school so that people wouldn't see her.

However, his possessiveness grew more after the divorce.

She had a stomachache. That was the side effect of the chemotherapy.

39 95%

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The room had no heat. With the cold water, Peyton hurt so much.

"Turn it off, please. Nolan, I'm cold."

Nolan pressed her against the cold wall. His smile sent chills through her body.

"Will you feel warmer if I hug you?"

"You're crazy!"

Peyton stretched out her hand and wanted to turn it off. But Nolan stopped her.

Grabbing her hand, Nolan raised her arm above her head, making her healthy figure more obvious.

Nolan's white shirt was wet too. She could even see his abs.

Nolan's body was hot and very close to Peyton's.

The vibe in the bathroom became sexual. Nolan tilted his head and said to her ears. "You're still my girl even after the divorce. Do you forget that?"

"Let me go. I told you there is nothing going on between Alwyn and I." Peyton didn't want to annoy him, so she had to explain.

He sneered, "Then why did you move into his apartment? Do you think you can seek help from the Russell family? Why don't we make a bet and see how many days the Russell family can survive?"

"My apartment is Alwyn's?" But Peyton had no time to think about it.

She could only punch him with her left hand to express her anger, although the punch was nothing to Nolan.

62.06%

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"Nolan, it was you who cheated on me, and it was you who asked for a divorce. And it was also you who got engaged with other people. Do you understand what divorce means? You can consult your lawyer. Why can't you just leave me alone?"

Peyton said in a broken voice. "What a tyrant you are! You have left my world, so why do you come back again and again? If you want to torture me by doing this, please kill me."

He kissed Peyton's lips. The shower water was mixed with his tears. His voice was cold. "I've given you the chance. You give it up. We just separate lawfully. You have to be under my control for the rest of my life." A

Peyton remembered after she was in the cold shower, Nolan asked her if she wanted to leave him.

He was a beast. He would only hurt her if she stayed beside him. He could send her away before he could still control himself.

"Do you remember your answer? You wrapped my waist with your arms and told me only death can do us apart and you won't leave me alone."

Peyton looked at his handsome face under the dim light, saying coldly, “What if I really die?”

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