

Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 11-20

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Chapter 11 An impragation

I protested. "No, I won't I won't go back to WinchvillEstate! Open the door!"

He shot me a look and ignored my protests. The car soon sped any from my parents' home and headed to Windwill Estate.

Iglared at Rowan irritably. "Take me home. I left some things there!"

"Likewhat **be** asked calmly.

"My herbal sachets." I was really starting to get annoyed. Was it that hard for me to take a few herbal concoctions?

"What are you terminally?" He was a terrible conversationalist. I was no wonder **so** many people looked forward to him going bankrupt, especially the ones he'd stepped on to get to where he was

Isneered "Unfortunately, no. I'm just too skinny, so I want to do something about my stomach. I want to gain some weight and **make** myself look better"

Something seemed to occur to Rowen His icy expression darkened.

Chapter A Small World-

Chapter so A. Small Wodd

Tcouldn't help yawning after saying my plect. The alcohol was really getting to me, and sleeping was all I wanted to do.

I thought Rowan would just leave me to spend the night in the car, but when I woke up the following **day**, I was in my bed. This was his second time carrying me to my bedroom while I slept and it was getting a little ridiculous

My head pounded with a killer hangover. only felt slightly better after dragging myself to the bathroom for a shower and a change **of** clothes. Then, I started feeling hungry.

I thought Rowan wasn't at home,

headed downstairs in a skimpy nightgown without abra on to get some food. Halfway down the stairs, I saw a few people seated on the

couch. All of them looked up to stare at me.

Bown was among them. He **held** a few poker cards, and **his** expression turned thunderous **when** he saw my outfit

“Stop staring!” Chester Lawson pushed the head of another man down.

I ran back upstairs to change into something different while cursing Rowan in my heart. What had gotten into him recently? Why was he always at home now?

When I headed downstairs again after changing, the three men had already stopped their game. Instead, they were chatting.

Rowan **had a** few good friends. I knew them all, but we were barely more than acquaintances. One was Chester, one was **an** York, and one was Jasper Ford. All three of them were from affluent families, but I had strayed from the path of taking over the family business. He'd become a doctor instead

They all knew Rowan didn't like me, so none of them had considered me his wife, in my previous life, they'd even helped Rowan win **Ashley's** heart and I was the exception.

The three men watched **me** come down the stairs and head **into** the kitchen. They didn't say anything, I ignored them and started making some **bacon** and eggs. “Let's go,” Rowan said to the other two as he got up

Chester and Jasper nodded and left with him.

Soon, the sounds of cars being started rang out, I scared my food down and acted like I didn't even notice them leaving. After breakfast, I applied some light makeup before heading to the hospital. Today, I was going to get a medical checkup, after which I would pop in and visit Benjamin. I arrived at the hospital and waited for my turn. I went through all the tests with an **emphasis** on my breasts. Fortunately, I was fine for now. There was just some micro glandular adenocarcinoma detected on the medical report and I got ready to visit **Benjamin**.

“Your shift is over, right, Dr. York? Would you like to have lunch with me?” I'd just arrived at the inpatient department when I heard **a** nurse speaking daintily.

Ivan stood nearby in his white doctor's coat. His demeanor was gentlemanly, and his face was handsome. He actually stood out in **his** own right, even **among** Rowan and his friend circle

Everyone in that group was a pro at enjoying the good things in life, but Ivan had dedicated himself to the medical field. Generally, he would have a few drinks or play a few games with Rowan and the gang. He didn't seem to have ever played any games with any women.

Still, he'd later fallen hard for Ashley I walked past him, ignoring him completely as head to Benjamin's hospital room Unexpectedly, Ashley was there again.

"I just have some scratches on my leg, Ash. I don't have a broken am. I'm perfectly **capable** of feeding myself" The two of them were being lovey-dovey. Bejin was mumbling around an apple slice that Ashley had just fed him.

She laughed. "What are you unhappy about me treating you so well?"

"Of course not! I love You're the best, Ash!" Benjamin grinned. was evident she was the only person he could see

I cleared my throat, interrupting the sweetness. He was surprised. "Ms. Sadler, what are you doing here again?"

Ashley hurriedly stood up to give her seat to me "Hawawat, Ms. Sadler,"

I **looked** at her flawless complexion **and** realized she looked on prettier up close Suddenly, thought about Ivan, who'd just left. I grabbed Ashley and dragged her out of the room as quickly as I could

"What's wrong, Ms. Sadler" she asked in shock as she briskly walked down the corridor behind **me**.

Damn Why had I disappeared so quickly? I was a little disappointed. In my previous life, Rowan had met Ashley first, and Ivan had met her through Rowan

What if I went to meet Ashley first would things turn out differently? Would he fall for Ashley at first sight, just as Rowan **had**?

I sighed and smile faintly at Ashley "It was nothing, really. I wanted to introduce you to a doctor who's pretty good with his hands. I figured Benjamin could ask to see him when removing his stitches in the future."

"You're far too kind, Ms. Sadler. Benji's Injury really **isn't** that serious." Ashley smiled shyly. "Anyway, he's **a guy**, and he's not scared of a few injuries. He's already used to getting hurt because of his basketball games."

I nodded but swore to myself that I would bring Ashley to Ivan if I had the chance in the future. With Ashley around, I didn't have the **chance** to speak to Benjamin much. I stayed for **a few** minutes before leaving

On my way home, I dropped by the **pharmacy** again and bought a new batch of nutritional herbal sachets. After getting back to the **car**, I called Lee "Have you gotten me my household staff, Lee?"

“I’m bringing them to your ho

chouse as we speak, Mrs. Pajme,” he said.

Half an hour later, I arrived at Windwill Estate. Lee was a step ahead of me, and the household staff had already been assigned to their respective stations. They bustled around **and** did their jobs. Lee’s managements were perfect.

Seeing that I was back, Lee introduced me to the household staff. They all bowed their heads respectfully and said, “Good afternoon, Mas Pryme.”

I nodded and **handed** the herbal sachets to the woman who was the most **pleasing** to the eye. “Prepare this and bring it to me later.”

After that, I went to the living room to put my feet up. Shortly after, the woman brought the herbal concoction to me and said, “The herbal concoction is ready, Mrs. Payne.” I looked at the dark concoction and then at the woman’s face, asked kindly, “What’s your man?”

“Ella, Mrs. Prye. Ella Locke,” she said.

“Get it. Thanks, Ella smiled sweetly at her and waved a hand, “You can get back to work now.”

Chapter 101 A. Small World.

Ella nodded and turned to leave. I didn’t take my eyes off her back, though—she and Ashley were eerily similar, whether in terms of appearance or figure. Suddenly, I couldn’t help thinking about what a wonderful place the world was. Everything had been set up like dominions that could collapse at any time, I’d hit on a handsome guy who’d turned out to be Ashley’s boyfriend. Now, I’d hired a group of household staff, among which one was Ashley’s mother. I texted Lee and asked him to send me the details of all the household staff. Then, I focused on Ella’s information—people generally indicated their contacts

When I saw the name Ella had indicated, I couldn’t help smirking.

their spouses, as their emergency

Ella Locke and Jonah Bluefield were familiar names to me. In my previous life, I hadn’t managed to dig up much on Ashley Still, at least I’d gotten her parents’ names.

Chapter The Goddess of Endurance

This game was getting more interesting. I picked **up** the herbal concoction and elegantly took a sip. In the next second, the bitterness of it made **me** spit it out.

I don't know when Rowan returned, but he was standing in the tower when he saw me spit the concoction out. A clear trace of disgust flashed in his eyes, and he saidily, "**Don't** drink it if you can't handle it"

"It's none of your business." I wiped my mouth, finding him to be weird asked, "Why are you back again?"

He loosened bite, his actions rough but handsome. He sat across from me **and** answered indifferently, "This is my home, too. What's wrong with me being here?»

"ch, right." I nodded and continued drinking the herbal concoction, but it was just too bitter for me to handle. Despite being used to drinking black coffee without any sugar in it, I still couldn't stomach the concoction.

I spat it out again before I'd even allowed. This time, the trajectory of the liquid was far enough to get on Rowan's face and **shirt**. His expression immediately darkened as he glowered at me.

I couldn't speak from the bitterness of the concoction. The only thing I could bring myself to do **was** press a tissue to his eye when I saw the droplets on his eyelashes. He slapped my hand away, and I was stunned by the hatred in his eyes. A tamer bitterness spread through my heart. Still, I remained calm **and** threw the **tissue** onto the door." Sorry. **The** concoction was too bitter.

He didn't say anything. All he did was head upstairs to change his clothes. At that moment, Ella approached me. She quickly cleaned up the mess. It seemed to me that she was more hardworking and attentive than the others

Once she was done, I said a little tiredly, "You can get started on dinner now, **Ella**

She nodded and went to the kitchen to get busy. Meanwhile, I pinched my nose while gulping down the rest of the concoction. My body wouldn't get any better just by increasing the amount of food taken. That to my sides before I could gain weight.

After finishing the concoction, I headed upstairs to the music room unzipped the bag and pulled out my cello, which hadn't touched in ages. Then, I started playing it. The low, elegant notes of the instrument reverberated around the room.

I was caught up in the music and my memories, so I didn't notice when Rowan pushed the door open. He said itably, "You're so noisy."

I was already about to stop playing, but his words pissed me off in my previous life, I'd tucked my beloved cello away and allowed it to gather dust because he'd thought it was too noisy. In hindsight, it was no wonder Jean and the others **had** said I was brainless.

I pulled the bow across the strings, deliberately making an ear-piercing noise. It made Rowan scowl.

I elegantly put the bow down and said calmly, "Let's get divorced, then. We'll live separately after that, and I won't disturb you even **if** we were to play the karpis

"We can live separately without getting a divorce," **he said** caustically.

"What are you doing back, then? I didn't wrap my head around it. Had something at home attracted him back? Couldn't be me, could it?"

It seemed like Rowan just couldn't get used to me being so sharp-tongued. His expression grew stormier at my words. Knowing him, he should have just left and hit someone up for a booty call. But he suppressed his rage and asked, "You seem to want me **to stay** away, for real. Have you found a new lover already?"

Could it be that he kept coming back because he suspected I was having an affair? Did he want to catch me in bed with

I widened my eyes at him. "Is there anything wrong with that? You said it'd be okay as long as I didn't **share** it online, right?" "How dare you cheat on me!" he snarled.

"We're in an age of gender equality. Why can't I do the things you've been doing this whole time?"

While we were in the middle of an argument when Ella cautiously said, "Mr. Payne, Mrs. Payne, dinner is ready."

I pushed Rowan aside and headed downstairs for dinner. I no longer wanted to **torment** myself over him

someone

Ella was a pretty good cook. The dishes she prepared were delicious, and I had second helpings of each out of the corner of my eye, I saw Rowan **come** downstairs **and** leave the

house.

I smiled and complimented Ella "Everything tastes amazing, Ella, Your husband and kids are lucky to have you"

She looked a little embarrassed. "These are just simple dishes, Mrs. Payne. You're flattering **me**."

I shook my head. “No, I’m not. They really are delicious. Haven’t your family members ever told you that

“My daughter loves my cooking, too. She always tells me to open a restaurant of my own. Honestly, she’s just too naive.” E Ashley

Ella’s eyes sparkled with love when she talked about

My smile faded a little. “There’s nothing wrong with that idea. Sometimes, when you’re in luck, it’s really easy for your dreams to come true,

In my previous life, before I died, I wanted to see Rowan one last time. Mom came and told me he’d gone to the opening ceremony of his future mother-in-law’s restaurant and didn’t have the time for me. He’d invested in the restaurant, of course. It had probably been one of the **grandest** in Alton **Cry**

“My family’s just a regular old family. We’re not that lucky, Mus. Payne,” Ella said respectfully and humbly.

“You can’t stop luck when it comes what if your daughter ends up marrying a good husband? I wanted to badly to tell her that she didn’t need to be so humble in half month, an opportunity to make her and her family members shoot to the sky would come.

I held myself back, though. I left the dining table when the awkward smile on Ella’s face . I had to admit that the Bluefields weren’t bad people

In my previous life, Ashley’s parents had been vehemently against her being with Rowan. She’d gotten involved with a married man when she was still in university—it would be so humiliating if people were to hear about it.

But Ella and Jonah had gradually been moved by Rowan’s persistence. They’d chosen to **accept** him as their own. Yet they **hadn’t** thought about the pain and torment, as Rowan’s

had gone through

I lay in bed and got comfortable after taking a bath. Her my usual, I played with my phone for a while **and** happened to come across an article about Rowan living it up in a night club, Chester and a few beautiful women were with him.

Rowan caught the paparazzi’s attention wherever he went—his status and identity didn’t allow him to keep a low profile, after all. Even if he were to just show a simple meal by the

Chapter 11 The Goddess of Endurance

roadside, it would become a trending topic. As his wife, I would also be mentioned in the comments.

“Damn, his wife’s really good at enduring these things. I’m gonna call her the Goddess of Endurance from now on!”

“Well, I be were my husband, I’d be more than willing to serve his mistresses and grovel at their feet.”

“Could you be any more of a disgrace to women? You wouldn’t be able to handle the humiliation if something like that were to happen to you. Let me bear the burden for you!”

“You’re all so immoral Rowan Payne has been involved in countless scandals since getting married. He’s so promiscuous”

“These paparazzi aren’t that great at photography. They can never capture key moments.”

Certain people pitied me, certain people envied me, and certain people mocked me, I laughed all the comments off

I was about to fall asleep when Natale called me, chasing all my drowsiness away. She said urgently, “Hurry up and get over here, vy! Something bad has happened!”

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Chapter 12 A Kiss

I was taken aback. “Mad” wong? Don’t panic.”

“**Jean** and Rowan are almost about to get a fight Hurry up and come over, I’ve already sent you the address. Hurry!” Natalie hung up after that

I was stunned. Why had he gotten into a fight with Rowan? No matter how bad-tempered Rowan was, he wouldn’t resort to hitting a woman, would he?

I didn’t have time to ponder the matter. I quickly threw something on before leaving the house When I arrived at the bar, Jean and Rowan had already been persuaded to move to private room. Oodense, with both their identities, they would make headlines.

Seeing

that I’d arrived, Natalie quickly pulled me to sit beside Jean, Jean **was** still mad, and she kept glaring at how as if there **was a** world of grudges between them.

Hewan wasn't exactly **calm**, either. He sat on the other side of the room and exuded fury. Even Chester, who sat beside him, looked like a terrified larkey. He glanced at Rowan, then at me.

"Sorry about this, Ivory. I think your friend might

misunderstood something I was the one who invited those women along; it has nothing to do with Rowan Chester was

four years younger than Rowan. **This** was his first time speaking to me in such a respectful tone

"Yeah, right. That woman's breasts were practically pressed to your precious Rowan's face. How can you have nothing to do with her?" Jean barked while pointing at him.

Chester was almost in tears. This was his first time facing off against someone as fierce as Joan, and he was terrified

Rowan swept a cold glare before fixing it on me. He seemed to be waiting for me to say something. I pretended not to notice his look and tried to appease her. "It's fine, Jean. **You** must've gotten the wrong idea Chester must've invited those women; Rowan's Testosterone's that bad."

Anyone who wanted to know would think **that** Jean was the one whose **husband** had descended on her **Silence** descended upon the room

She and Natalie exchanged a look before turning to me in shock. "We you serious, hey?)"

They knew that I was preparing to divorce Rowan, but bet they hadn't expected me to be able to be so calm now. I was the calmest person in the room. Even an **couldn't** stop herself from telling them off, but she could not unfazed despite **loving** him **for** so many years

"Of course. Now, get up, and let's go. We can have a few drinks before heading home. I'll treat you guys." Jean held Natalie's hands and pulled them up without sparing Rowan a glance

we were leading

"Rowan, they're leaving, Ivory-

Chester was obviously stunned. He daily pointed out to Rowan that we were

"Stop making it sound like she means anything. She **doesn't** deserve it." Rowan's icy voice was filled with rage. I heard words just as the door **shut** behind us, and my heart picked. It hurt a little, but I could handle it. Since I wasn't deserving, I would leave him in Ashley's hands. After finding some empty seats, Jean, Natalie, and I sat down for some

drinks. Natalie had just returned to Alan City **today** after wrapping up here, so Jean had invited her out for drinks. Coincidentally, they'd run into Rowan drinking with a friend

The alcohol went to Jean's head, and she'd stormed over to Rowan to tell him on my behalf. I bet that she would've been beaten black and blue if not for the fact that she was a

Jean asked, "**Have** you really let Rows go, by?"

I nodded. This was something I was sure of

"Alright, then. I admire your pluck, letting go of a decade-long love just like that?" she held up her **glass** and downed its contents

"You're the **true** heroine here! Natalie toasted me.

We were just starting to enjoy **ourselves** when Alan's boyfriend called her to check upon her. Her **love** life was the smoothest among the **four** of us her boyfriend was about our age, and they'd already met each other's parents. They were close to marriage now.

Natalie immediately got up and bid us goodnight. "He's waiting at home for me to feed him, so I've gotta go

"Eck Don't tell me you're gonna go home and feed him some milk or something!" Jean barked.

"You're such a pervert!" Natalie laughed and left

Once she was gone, I sent the bill. Then, Alan and I headed home, too

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When I arrived at Windwill Estate, I smelled the stench of liquor and decided to take another shower before bed. As soon as I entered the bathroom, I was greeted by a cloud of steam mingled with the fragrance of the shower gel

As I walked out of the cloud with his torso bare. A black towel was wrapped around his waist, showing off his toned and muscular body. It was flawless

At first I thought he was an apparition as he appeared before me I couldn't stop myself from scanning his body.

Honestly, sounded pitiful to my own ears. We'd been married for five years, but this was my first time seeing **him** so naked. After a

few seconds of silence, I said, "This is my bathroom"

I'd taken the master bedroom after our marriage. When Rowan was home, he would generally sleep in one of the guest bedrooms or even his study. The bathroom we were in at the moment was the master bedroom's ensuite.

"Do you have a problem with me being here? He draped his hair, his bone calm

Not really. I'm not losing out on anything, seeing as you have **such** a great body" I was telling the truth. Even if Rowan were broke, he could use this body of his to make any woman want to be his sugar mommy. Any woman would fall for him

He glared at me indifferently before taking a few steps closer. That was no choke but to **back** away.

The stems in the room had gradually disappeared, Rowan was close that I could see the shape of his chest muscles—they were perfectly toned. That, coupled with his collarbones, made me wonder what it would be like to touch him.

I had to control myself....

"Alright, I need to crash. You can now lead me to the bathroom, making way for him to love the bathroom

In the next second, he grabbed me, placing a hand behind my head. He pulled me up **on** my tiptoes and down to kiss me without even batting an eye. The intense moment

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Chapter 12 A KISS

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I was so stunned that I froze. I didn't know what to do. When he noticed my lack of reaction, he deepened the kiss. There was no doubt he was an expert kisser, **but** I had no experience in this whatsoever. He led the kiss.

Men generally had higher body temperatures than women. That, coupled with the fact that I couldn't really breathe, soon made me break out into a sweat. The amorosity in the atmosphere thickened

Maybe I could just give in to him. I wouldn't be losing out if I could make my dream from my previous life come true in this life. Rowan hadn't exactly kept his dick in his pants before meeting Ashley, so it made perfect sense for him to sleep with me at least once. I was his legal wife, after all

When that thought formed in my mind, I shut my eyes obligingly. Things were about to spiral out of control when Rowan suddenly stopped. He released me, and the arousal in his eyes immediately disappeared

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Chapter13 Catch Bed-Handed

I stared at Rowan dazedly. He sneered and said, "So, it was all just an act."

"What?" I was confused

we just putting on an act

"You said you didn't love me anymore, right?" He raised an eyebrow and reached out to graze his finger against the core of my lips. "It looks like you were in front of your friends. Have you switched to playing hard to get now, Tory?"

Of course, so he'd been testing me, and he'd used **such a** humiliating way, too. My rationality speedily returned, and I put on the shirt I'd already taken a hallway, trying to stay calm. "Was that really necessary?" I looked up at Rowan. I couldn't help finding myself pitiful yet laughable. "I'm not—and I won't—play hard to get with you, Rowan. You're just not used to **me** being **so** cold now.

"It's like how you'd be a little upset when a loyal dog suddenly stops following you and wagging its tail. You'll get used to it over time."

"Are you a dog?" he asked meaningfully. He seemed impendous to my pitiful situation.

"Don't you already know that?" I tugged my loosened collar tight and lowered my head.

Rowan wasn't a naive young man—how could he be me of my feelings for him? Besides, I'd told him how much I loved him countless times in the past. He'd **just** never thought anything of them. Too many women loved him. The only thing different about me was that I'd gotten the chance to marry him.

He snorted, seemingly pleased with the reaction he'd gotten. His mood suddenly improved greatly. "Go **ahead** and shower."

After that, he turned and left. I quickly shut the **door** behind him and ran to the mirror. When I saw how red my face was, I wanted nothing more than to slap **myself**.

How could he be so pathetic? Rowan had only teased **me** a little, but I'd almost fallen into his trap. I used three minutes to think about the past, finally calming myself down. Then, I quickly showered **so** I could head back to bed.

Rowan was leaving. I could hear the engine revving downstairs. I stood by the window and watched his car disappear into the night, feeling

He probably wouldn't return anytime soon. What had happened tonight was enough to reassure him that I was still very much taken with him. He could continue exploiting my feelings for him.

To make myself feel better in the shortest time possible, I had Lee take me to the **hospital** once I woke up the following day. I even changed into a form-fitting champagne-colored dress, going for an elegant, look

I couldn't imitate Ashley's cute perkiness, and Benjamin had probably seen more than enough of her style. I didn't need to compete with her.

When I arrived at the hospital, I placed a bouquet by Benjamin's bed and asked gently, "Does your leg feel any better, Benjamin?"

He'd **been** gaming. When he saw me arrive, he put his phone away. "Much better, Ms. Sadler. The doctor says that can be discharged tomorrow. I'll just need to return in about a week to get the stitches removed."

"That's good." I sat down and tucked my hair behind my ear. "Isn't your girlfriend here to see you today?"

"She's working. We're both working part-time to try to lighten our family's burdens." **Benjamin** looked pretty good when he smiled. There was a sense of cheesiness and light heartedness that only a young man could have.

I nodded and continued chatting with him. After a while, I checked my phone and said, "**Oh**, man. Why has my phone ran out of battery **already**?—

*t have a charger here, Ms. Sadler. Benjamin pointed at the bedside drawer I opened it and pulled out the charger.

The socket was on the other side of the bed, and I deliberately leaned over Benjamin to teach in Myss was basically right above him. Anyone who saw us would find our positions amusing,

When

I sat down again, Benjamin's face was bright red. He didn't **dare** look me in the eye. I couldn't help thinking how innocent he was.

Just then, I noticed someone standing at the door. I turned to see Ivan staring at me with a meaningful look. When had he arrived? Had he seen me plugging in the charger? Had he noticed my blatant seduction of Benjamin? Now, that would be awkward

I forced out a smile **and** asked, "What are you doing here, Mr. York?"

"I'm **working** someone else's shift" he approached Benjamin and checked his wound. He gave some simple instructions while I watched, feeling rather diffident.

Ivan was somewhat special to me. In my previous life, the only time we'd really interacted with each other was when we worked together to take Rowan down. Before that, **we'd** only been acquaintances. He'd never done anything to harm me, and he'd even helped to treat me later on in the hospital.

"Come outside with **me** for a while." He glanced at me.

"Okay" I stood **up**, reeling helplessly.

Ivan led me to his office. **None** of the other doctors were around, so he **sat** at **his** desk and flipped through patient records. He didn't even look up as he **asked**, "How have you and Rowan been getting along lately?"

He had nice, thick hair that was parted sideways. From where I stood, I could see his tall nose. I said vaguely, "Same as always."

"Ivan's" voice was calm and distant,

"All marriages are like that. That's why certain people chase excitement. They eventually have to pay a price for their actions, though." Ivan's voice was just like his personality.

I frowned "Why don't you go tell Rowan that?"

"I tried. He refused to listen." He shut his record book, finally looking up at me

"I'm not gonna listen, either." I didn't even notice that my voice carried a hint of coquettishness.

Ivan's eyes glinted a little, seemingly surprised by my sudden change in tone.

quickly switched back to my usual tone. Torre good friends with him, so you should know better than me the things he's done over the years. I've kept my silence and toed the line this whole time that's more than he deserves.

"The young man **you** saw earlier is someone accidentally knocked into with my car. That's why I came to visit his. I don't mean anything else by

I'd changed my attitude toward Rowan so thoroughly because I wanted **a** divorce, That didn't mean I wanted to thoroughly lose my composure in **front of** everyone else, **though**. I did still want to have a normal life after the divorce.

Chapter 13 Catch Red Handed

Ivan gave me a pointed look, seemingly not believing me. Just then, the other doctors returned to the office. He looked away and wowed a hand. "Tine He'll be discharged. tomorrow, so he's fine now."

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the worst case scenario, and it was what

Why **was** it more stressful talking to him than talking to Rower? With the latter, **old** through cation to the wind. After all, divorce was the worst case

wanted.

But with Ivan, I couldn't help feeling like I'd been caught red-handed. It was as if he'd discovered me doing something shameful.

After leaving Ivan's office, I thought about returning to Benjamin's hospital room to continue expressing my concern. I wanted to amp up the maturity and seduction I'd displayed earlier, but something occurred to me. I stopped and hurried back in Ivan's office

"Dr. York!" I sat down before him and lowered my voice, saying, "How about we have a meal together? I do have a few things troubling they have to do with me and onwar want to talk to you about them."

As it. What I really wanted to do was to make **van** meet Ashley before Rowan did

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Chapter 14 Advise Him to Get a Divorce

Ivan was a little surprised as he looked at me. He and I had never even really spoken to each other in the **past**, let alone eat together. When we met each other, we basically didn't even utter greetings. We would just exchange looks

But this had to do with his good friend's marriage, and he knew how intricately linked the Sadler and Payne families were. After some thought, he **said**, "Alright. Let's meet tonight, then I have time tonight."

"Sure! I know **of** a coffee house with fantastic coffee, and the location's really condy **and** cozy—it's perfect for achat. Here, why don't we exchange number? I'll send you the location. Le enthusiastically pulled out my phone to take down Ivan's number.

He glanced at it before handing me a **piece** of paper and a pen. "No, thanks. Just write the name of the place here."

What the hell was wrong with him? Did he **live** on a tree or something? I gave him an incredulous look before writing Serendipity's address on the paper.

"See you at 8:30 pm, then." I cheerily put the pen down before leaving, feeling happy. He wouldn't see me there, of course Ashley was the one he would meet

The thought of this kept me excited for the rest of the day. I looked forward to the moment Ivan and Ashley **met**, and I decided to head there in disguise so I **could** witness such a historical moment.

It was no wonder Rowan and Ivan were buddies—they'd even fallen for the same woman. I just didn't know whether Ivan had fallen for Ashley at first sight or whether he'd developed feelings for her after spending time with her. If it hadn't been love at first sight, I would be in for disappointment tonight.

I changed into a loose, black shirt and pants. I even got myself a wig. When it was around 8:00 pm, I headed to Serendipity. Instead of heading inside, I gazed inside through the floor-to-ceiling windows. Sure enough, **Ivan** was already seated in a corner. In fact, it was the one I'd always gone for

He wore a simple white T-shirt, and his hair fell carelessly over his forehead. He looked younger **than** he usually did, and his demeanor was cold and reserved. He sat there quietly while sipping on **his** coffee. He wasn't even looking at his phone.

Where was Ashley? I looked **at** the counter, trying to search for her figure. I failed to find her despite looking around for quite a while, and my perverse behavior caught Ivan's att

ention. He stood up when he saw me and left the coffee house. I wanted to run but thought it would be inappropriate.

“Are you blind, lory? This was the first thing van “politely said to me when he came out.

“You’re a doctor, aren’t you? **Can’t** you be a little less harsh?” took off the wig, feeling frustrated. It had been sweltering with that thing on.

“You invited me **here** for a chat, yet you stood out here **in a wig** without going inside. What are you playing at? He frowned at me.

Isald defiantly, “I’m here, aren’t I? I was just trying to see whether you were inside.”

He didn’t waste his breath on me. Instead, he pushed open the **door** and ordered, “Go in.”

I stomped inside reluctantly, the wig in hand. As I walked past **the** counter, I looked around again. Ashley wasn’t around. I asked one of the staff, “Where’s Ashley?”

“Today’s her off day!” she answered.

My face fell, and my excitement was extinguished. I trudged over to van’s table and sat down, ordering a black coffee as I usually did. Then, I sipped it silently.

Ivan looked at me. “Didn’t you **say** you wanted to talk to me about you **and** Rowan?”

I shrugged. “I changed my mind. Look, how about just treat you **to** a cup of coffee? You can drink it up and head home to get some rest.

As soon as the words were out of my mouth, I sensed the frostiness he exuded. His gaze was sharp, too. He could **give Rowan a** run for his money. He growled, “Did you play me?”

“No, I just suddenly felt like there’s nothing much to say about my relationship with Rowan. All of you know I’ve harbored a one-sided love **for him** for years, right? But he doesn’t like me.

Γ

“He didn’t like me in the past, he doesn’t like me now, and he won’t like me in the future. What’s there to talk about? I muttered. “If you really want to help me, go convince him to get a divorce!”

Ivan stared at me, seemingly trying to determine whether I was telling the truth. My heart trembled a little from his appraisal. I picked up my coffee and pretended to take a sip.

After a while, he finally said, “You two are in a political manage. It’s not as simple and straightforward **as a** guler marriage— I don’t think you need me to tell **you** that. Before anything important happens, you guys are stuck together. Rowan won’t agree to a divorce.”

“You know him pretty well, don’t you? That’s what he said, too.” I sighed. “I suppose yo u guys are brothers for life.”

He didn’t say anything, merely sipping his coffee. I didn’t want to talk to him **anymore**— Ashley wasn’t around, and was merely a supporting role. I didn’t need to have too much to do with a show’s leading characters

After three minutes of silently drinking our coffees, I got up to settle the bill. Ivan stood u p and stopped me like a perfect gentleman, “I’ll get it.”

“Alright, **then**.” I didn’t turn him down. The money meant nothing to him, anyway

Ashe paid, I **took** the opportunity to slip out of the coffee house and drive off. I was tumi ng at a crossroads when I saw him leave the coffee house in the rearview mito. He star ed in the direction my car was headed.

I shook my head and sighed. I looked like Ivan was destined to always be a step behind Rowan. I’d tried to help him twice, but both attempts had failed.

Whatever was linking

Rowan’s **and** Ashley’s faces had to be made of steel. I felt like continuing to force Ivan i nto the equation would just be a waste of time. I’d be better off kicking up my feet and w aiting it out. There were just more days, anyway, I could wait for that long

As I’d expected, Rowan didn’t return home for the next week. We were back to how we were before this—we didn’t communicate or see each other

I was pleased by the freedom and **that I had time** to do what I wanted to do, when Benj amin was discharged, I picked him up at the hospital and even treated him and Ashdry t o a

Chapter 14 Advise Him to Get a Diverce

Then, I **focused** on practicing the cello. I had to hone the skills I’d abandoned for the pa st few years. At the same time, I had my herbal concoctions three times **a** day. Those, c oupled with Ella’s cooking, made me gain **a** pound or two.

“Have you been taking a special elixir or something, Ivy? Look at how rosy and spirited you loold” Jean pluched my face when we met up.

“I’ve been having herbal concoctions for my health and taking **more** meals. Looks like my weight-gaining plan is working,” I said happily.

“Damn it!” Natalie exclaimed. “We’re all clamoring about losing weight, yet here you are, drinking herbal concoctions to gain weight!”

Olivia swatted her. “Oh, come on. You should be satisfied with what you’ve got—you’ve only gained weight because of your love!”

Natalie’s boyfriend **was a** great cook and had fed her well over the years. She wiggled her head snugly and said, “Jealous, aren’t **we**? This is the good thing about

getting someone whose family background isn’t as **good** as yours!”

Even though her boyfriend didn’t come from as good a family **as** she did, he made up for it by being a great guy. He didn’t look half-bad, and he was level-headed and gentle. That’s why Natalie’s family hadn’t objected.

Suddenly, I thought of something. “Nat, bring me with you if you come across any suitable gigs for me.”

It **was** so boring being at home all the time. I wanted **to** work on my career!!

↳

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 15 A Visit From the In-Laws

“What? Are **you** interested in that?” Natalie asked in surprise.

“If there’s a suitable opportunity, why not? What else can I do? I’d thought about starting **from** the bottom at my family’s company, but it wasn’t something I was interested in. Mom and Dad were still in good health, so they didn’t need me there yet. I wanted to take the opportunity to revisit my **dream**.”

She **slapped** her thigh. “I’ve wanted to say this for the longest time—you used to be Alton University’s cello queen, it was **such a** waste for you to be nothing but a housewife! Don’t you worry. If I come across any classical music festivals or concerts, I’ll definitely recommend you to the organizers.”

I saluted her. “Thanks doesn’t cover it, so I’ll pay for everyone’s drinks tonight. Don’t hold back!”

When we were

were done, we returned to our respective homes. I called Lee and told him to come drive me home. I'd just hung up when I heard a familiar voice. "Ms

I turned to see Benjamin. "W

"What are you doing here?"

"I have a part-time job nearby here, **and** I've just gotten off work. Have you been drinking, Ms. Sadler? He could probably smell the liquor on me.

He held a hand to my forehead and **nodded**, feeling a little dizzy. The alcohol was getting to me, and my brain felt like it had short-circuited. "Can you drive, **Benjamie?**

"Yeah. I can drive you home if it's convenient for you.

Oh, what a good deed he was. I threw the car keys at **him** and called Eric, telling him not to come.

"Is this your car, Ms. Sadler? A trace of surprise and envy flashed in Benjamin's eyes when he saw my black Porsche Panamera. It looked like men would always harbor desires for expensive cars, no matter their age.

I said, "Yeah, it is. You **can** turn on the sat **nav** and set it to Windwill Estate. That's where I live."

"Windwill Estate?" He was taken aback. He should've heard about how excitedly priced the houses there were

"Why are you still standing there? God, my head's spinning." I leaned closer to him when I noticed **his** astonishment. I rested my weak body against him—it seemed like an innocuous action one would do after getting drunk, but it was also very amorous.

Benjamin snapped back to his senses and realized I was too close to him. He **quickly** steadied me, his face turning red. "Be careful that you don't fall, Ms. Sadler."

It looked like he and Ashley were both the type who wouldn't compromise on their beliefs for money. He knew he'd met a rich woman, yet he could still remain lucid.

I continued with my drunken act and started laughing. "You're so considerate, Benjamin. **Your** girlfriend should be really happy with you, right? she's not like me..."

“My marriage is a failure, and I’m so poor that money is all I have left. Do you see **this** car? It’s the plainest one among all the cars I have at home. If you like it, you can have it!

If Rowan could give other women cars **and** houses, I could, too. It **made** me **feel so** much better about the **imbalance** in our **situations**.

“No, no. You’re drunk, Ms. Sadler. Let me take you home.” Benjamin shook his head and helped me into the car.

He was a cautious driver who drove very slowly. He was probably afraid he wouldn’t be able to pay me back if he scratched the car.

I shot my eyes and rested in the passenger seat, **occasionally** opening my eyes to see where we were. After a while, Benjamin said, “We’ve arrived at Windwill Estate, M. Sadler. **Which** house is yours?”

“A-05,” I answered with my eyes still shut.

He keyed in the address into the sat nav before taking me right to my doorstep. When he parked the car, I pulled out a stack of cash from my wallet and handed it to him. “Take this. It’s your fee for **driving** me home and also a tip”

He was taken aback. Then, he hurriedly returned the money to me. “You don’t need to pay me, Ms. Sadler. I was just doing you a small favor, it wasn’t a business

deal or anything.”

“Take it. It’s gonna be really troublesome for you to hail a cab at this hour, so you can just drive this car back. Call me tomorrow—I have my driver pick it up from you.” I unbuckled my seatbelt and got out, heading into the house without giving **him** the chance to say anything.

Once inside the house, I woke Ella up and had her prepare a hangover remedy for me. She didn’t complain about being woken in the slightest. Instead, she hurried to the kitchen and got busy.

In about two or three days, Rowan would be attending the business forum. It was getting closer and closer to the day that he would meet his true love, it was also getting closer to the day that I’d be free.

thin the living

After a while, I **heard** the sound **of a car** pulling up outside. Shortly after, Rowan showed up before me. He glanced at me—

I was lying on the couch in room like a corpse. He sat on the other side of the room, also reeking of liquor. It looked like he wasn't any better than me.

"The remedy is ready, Mrs. Payne Ella placed a mug before me. Then, she greeted Rowan politely. "You're back, Mr. Payne,"

He glanced at her coldly without saying anything. He sat up and grinned at him "you've been drinking, too, right? Here, you can have this hangover remedy first. Ella, get me another cup."

She nodded and headed to the kitchen

"I don't need it." Rowan didn't even bother touching the mug.

I couldn't help feeling a little gleeful at that. His future mother-in-law had made that hangover remedy, he would have a fun time sucking up to her in the future

for the sake of winning Ashley's heart. He thought he was being dismissive of a maid, but she would be his mother-in-law in the future.

Ella came out with another mug. I told her, "I woke up from her sleep to make this hangover remedy. You'd be too rude not to even **take a sip**."

Bella hurriedly said, "**I'm** only doing my job, Mr. and Mrs. Payne. It's no trouble at all."

Chapter 15 & Visit from the in London

"He just doesn't have any manners, and he has a horrible temper. Don't mind him, Ella," I said gently. Instead, I was just making Rowan look bad in front of Ella

He would eventually fall madly in love **with** Ashley, wouldn't he? I was just amping up the difficulty of his journey to win her heart.

"Of course I won't! Mrs. Payne, you're thinking too lightly of me!" Ella **was** already starting to panic,

"Alright, alright. You can go rest now." I waved a hand. After she left, I took a mug of the hangover remedy. Then, I headed upstairs to shower. Rowan went to the guest bedroom to rest as usual.

I'd just finished my shower when I saw Rowan sitting on the bed in the master bedroom. He was in **his pajamas**. I frowned. "What are you doing in my room?"

He looked impatient. "My parents are here. They're taking the guest room tonight."

I was shocked and battled. In my previous life, Rowan's parents had been desperate for me and him to have kids. Despite that, they'd never come to Windwill Estate to watch us. **What** were they doing here now?

"Wait, they're here? All of a sudden?" I was caught off guard.

"Is it really **that** sudden?" He sneered. "You know exactly what you said to Ivan."

So, that was why he'd returned tonight—to face his parents. I swore it hadn't even occurred to me that Ivan would tell on me and even make my parents-in-law show up. Damn this stupid butterfly effect.

"I didn't say anything to him. I just told him to persuade you into getting a divorce." I wasn't going to take the blame for this. "How was I to know that he would tell your parents about this?"

"How long more are you gonna keep this up?" Rowan was very annoyed now. His tone was harsh.

I signed it, and it was

was clearly

I didn't answer him. Instead, I pulled open a drawer and took out a divorce agreement that I had drafted some time ago. I'd already indicated that I didn't want a cent from Rowan. All I wanted was a divorce.

I handed it to him and started applying a mask. "Go ahead and sign it. Then, you'll know whether I'm playing hard to get."

The atmosphere instantly froze over. I saw from the dressing table's mirror how **Rowan's** expression became uglier with every second. He was about to rip the divorce agreement to shreds when someone locked on the door.

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Chapter 16 An Amazing Mother-In-Law

My mother-in-law, Paula Carter, asked from outside the room, "Bowman, Ivory, are you two asleep yet?"

Rowan immediately stated the divorce agreement under the sheets before opening the door. "Why are you up late, Main?"

Your mom and I wanted to check whether you two were still awake," **Paula** said. Oh, gonna sleep soon. That saw that the lights went on "Paula!" I took off the mask and padded

over to the door, portering to be a lovely couple with Rowan. "We were just about to sleep,"

linked with Rowan and leaned against his shoulder sweetly. He glanced at me surreptitiously without saying anything.

"Yes, you should. It's getting late. George is attending a business conference in a few days, so we made a last-minute trip to Alton City. We'll stay until then. Instead of going to a hotel," Paula said with a smile. George Payne was my father-in-law.

Rowan smiled widely. "That'd be great! It's been ages since I last saw you and George. I'll take you two out for nice meals over the next few days. Take this opportunity to

Sure, sure. Now, you two should head to bed. Don't let us affect your sleep" Paula said and left after telling me and Rowan a few more things.

N

There was one thing I'd gotten wrong throughout my previous life - I'd thought Rowan was someone who did whatever he wanted and rarely cared about what his family thought. That's why I'd focused on **him**, thinking that no one else in the Payne **family** mattered as long as he were to fall for me.

Later, when I saw how he **had** gone to such lengths to win his family's acknowledgment and blessings for Ashley's **sake**, I realized how much his family meant to

him

If I'd been good terms with **Paula** and George, or if I'd gotten pregnant, there was a chance I wouldn't have lost so badly

I shut the door and sighed in relief. Then, Rowan **and** I stared at each other. I started thinking about a problem. "Are you going to take the couch or the bed?"

He lay on the bed and said indifferently, "What's there to think about? Do you think anything can happen if we sleep in the same bed?"

Instead of saying that he was great at stabbing with his words. Instead of arguing with him, I lay down on the other side of the bed. "Fine, then."

This was our second time sleeping in the same bed since marrying. The first had been on our wedding night, and he hadn't touched me then either.

We lay with our backs to each other. It was as if the other party didn't exist. After awhile, I asked, "Could you give me your number or something?" Rowan didn't answer. I turned

d to look at the **back** of his head. Had he already fallen asleep? I added, "I want to give him a shelling,"

"I've already done it," he said lily.

Fine, then I shut my eyes and tried to go to sleep, just then, thunderclapped outside the window. It looked like a storm was coming

After a particularly loud clap of thunder, I grabbed the blanket and pulled it over my head. But even the rolling **thunder** couldn't drown out Rowan's icy snarl.

I poked my head out and looked **at** him, I explained in a small voice, "Sorry, I'm scared of thunder."

"What the hell does that have to do with me? He'd never cared about my well-being. He tugged the blanket back over him,

Another deafening clap of thunder rang out. I instinctively shot into Rowan's arms like an arrow leaving a bow. Divorce was still a long way away—it was more important for me to make it through this first.

He stiffened, seemingly finding this hard to stomach. Well, who would be happy holding a skeleton in bed **on** a stormy night? Even I felt my bones were too sharp. Rowan pried my arms off him, his expression ugly. "Don't touch me, okay?"

"Don't take my blanket, then" I feigned composure, suppressing the bitterness and humiliation inside.

Hecked the blanket onto me and **got** out of bed. He grabbed another blanket and slept on the floor instead.

I wrapped the blanket around myself and fixed my gaze on him. In my mind, I imagined his future life with Ashley. If she were **afraid** of thunder, I bet he would want nothing more than to hold her in **his** arms and become one with her.

That night, I dreamed about my previous life again. The despair and torment I'd felt then were etched into my

When I woke up the following morning, Rowan was already gone. I changed and headed downstairs. Ella was cooking while the other maids were cleaning the house. Paula was trimming the plants in the **garden** that had been thoroughly tormented by the storm last **night**, and George was stretching

"Ups early, **Paula**, George?" I stepped outside to greet them

"We can't sleep much at this age. We'd be better off getting up and exercising a little, Paula said with a smile.

I walked over to her and naturally linked arms with her, ignoring the surprised look she gave me, I **said**, "I have a friend who owns a jewelry shop, **Paula**. Sometime ago, she brought in an emerald bangle that looks absolutely stunning.

"She **needed** some money for an emergency, and it hit me—you like collecting emerald bangles, right? So, I bought it, and I'll be **picking** it up soon. I can pass it to you once I get it"

Paula was an avid collector of various **emerald** bangles. She even had a special storage room for them at home. I'd deliberately bought this one to suck up to **her and** bring us closer.

It wasn't because I wanted to win Rowan back, though I **just—nastily**, I should say wanted to make his **and** Ashley's journey a little tougher. It would be a tiny bit of revenge on my part

Sure enough, Paula's eyes lit up. "**An** emerald bangle? I'd love to see it once you bring it back! I'll buy it from you if I like it!"

"Now, now. What's the talk about buying anything? I'll give it to you once I bring it back," said sweetly.

I did indeed have an emerald bangle—Mom had bought it for me a couple of years ago, **and** it **had** cost a fortune. If it could make Paula like me more and pick on

Babbey in the future. I felt it was worth the money.

"I know you just want to give me something, but I can't let you spend that money for nothing. I have to **give** you back the amount you paid," she said lovingly while petting my hand

I shook my head. "Don't say that, Paula. Rowan and I can't be by your and George's side all the time, so money is all we can use to compensate for that. As long as you two are happy and healthy, spending all the money in the world would be worth it."

I never said

Paula and Deurge exchanged a look, probably baffled by my sudden change in attitude. Rowan and I had already been married for five years, but I'd never

Deoige stopped his stretching and straightened his sleeves. "The thought is more than enough, Ivory. Paula and I don't ask for much we just want to have a randchild son. You and Howan need to work harder on that!"

Pasia seemed to remember something at his words. She pulled me aside and asked a little awkwardly, "Have you **and** Rowan gotten checked at the hospital before, Penry 14 as that boat tuled but body with all that pomense he gets **up to?**"

My heart trembled. It was my first time noticing

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these thines and not in

Chapter 17 I'm Behind It

"pe't worry, Paola Rowan and the both potten checked at the hospital, and we've time. We just haven't had kids yet because he's too busy to be at home most of the time. "I said that to adres that I was moved he Tanla's consern. It was too had I wouldn't be her daughter in law for much longer.

"George and I see him on those tabloids all the time, and we've told **him** all too many times to count. Still, you have to keep a close watch on him since you're his

keww that it would't be possible, and I also knew he would soon fall in love with someone else hat when saw the eamest look inler eyes, I nodded. "Okay." After chaffing for a while longes, we had breakfast together Taula and George also told me about Rowan leaving the house bright and early didn't take it to heat

Heft the hoose attei beraktas headed to the hospital to give van a good talking—to. I caught his right after he fished his sounds and returned to his office, I baned my teeth at him and asked. "Do you have a few minutes to spare, Th. York?"

e point. There wasn't a hint of a smile on his face.

ot have the nerve to face me because you feel diffident, night? I sat beside him **and** started reprimanding him. " asked you to persuade nowan into a

Pada and Georgieve to Windwill Estate.

"When have you ries behind. Dr. York I never would've expected you to be someone who would advocate for people to star in loveless marriages"

lat me and said calmly. "They asked me how you and Rowan were doing, so I told them you wanted a divorce.

God. He made me want to look like a huge ass! Had he sacrificed his EQ to get his good looks? There were plenty of problems between me and Rowan, yet he'd just had to pick the fact that I wanted a divorce to talk about, what would **Paula** and George think of me?

I slapped a hand to the forehead in frustration. Just then, she came to call him away, leaving me alone in the office. I saw his mug on the desk and rummaged through my bag to find a tube of lipstick. I threw it inside.

He could die from lipstick poisoning something, for all I cared. I continued cursing him in my heart as I left the hospital.

I was unemployed and didn't have where to go. I stalled around for a while before heading home. Coincidentally, it was time for lunch, and I could smell the

food wafting out from the kitchen

and his parents were sitting in the living room. I didn't know what they were talking about, but the atmosphere seemed rather tense. Paula only broke when she saw me. "You're back, Ivory"

I nodded and waited

for her. As soon as I did, she held my hand and glared at Rowan, "Your father and I have already made ourselves clear, Rowan. If you get

worried, don't tell anyone you're my son

"Paula Gempe, what is that shocked expression for:

(marriage, Ivory. **Rowan** has been completely responsible over the years, getting involved with different women at work or the only one who can stand him. Paula sighed. "Give him another chance, okay? George and I will help you monitor him, too. George that andous post because Ivan had told them that I wanted a divorce? I'd never sensed them thinking so highly of me or even liking me that

When Hormon had brought Ashley to the Payne residence to meet them, he'd already made up his mind to divorce me. Nothing Paula and George had said had

changed his mind. His face was pale and eyes frosty. I bet he thought I'd planned this whole thing. Even if I'd already shown him the divorce agreement last night,

he had played along with "Trust him," I said understandingly.

understandingly.

er in him — men ate

od woman, bury. It's good that you trust Rowan, but we've seen how he's treated you over the years. Don't be so nice to

prally huge jerka, some "Exactly. The nocer you are to them, the more they take you for granted. They only want things that they can't get or have already lost." Pasla agreed

i was moved and amused by how they were teaching me to restrain Rowan. It was too hard he looked positively monstrous. I nodded obediently and said, "I get it

Thanks, ginn

lat ber and said, "Your cooking is TH

ted meaningfully. "Ella's a great cook-

and two pounds from her cooking. You should have mute of her cooking if you have the chance in

"I'll be beating home in a role at days. When will have the chance to have more it's good that you've gained weight, though. You're far too skorery. You can put enman pounds, mat

hearted to the dining room with the an she spoke,

Twanted to trill

he would most definitely have more chances in the

11 wasn't every day (we got to sit down for a mee (as a family, Int Rowan's attitude was colder than mual still, the atmosphere **wasn't** too bad as I chatted and

laughed with George and Paula

Suddenly, Ron's phone pinged. He glan

before giving me an odd look. I didn't understand it but didn't bother asking.

It was only when we'd dispersed for a break after lunch that he came to me in the bedroom. He showed me a photo. "Did you do this?"

han had sent him a photo and a text that sod, "Ivory did this."

In the photo, a lipstick tube was soaking in a mug of tea. **There** was something very odd about the image.

Chapter 17 Im Behind it.

I admitted to my actions. “Yeah. It’s his own fault for telling on me to your parents.”

“Have you been possessed lately, Ivory?” Rowan put his phone away and appraised me with narrowed eyes. “What exactly are **you** up to?”

In the **past**, I’d had almost zero interactions with his friends. We just didn’t get along. Yet now, I’d thrown lipstick into Ivan’s mug!

I explained calmly, “I haven’t been possessed. I’ve just seen the light. I’ve already wasted ten years of my youth and love on you, Rowan. Since there’s no chance of you falling for me or reciprocating my feelings, I’ll just live my own life. What’s wrong with that? I don’t want to force myself like I used to anymore.”

“You think it’s **so** difficult to **have** feelings for me, huh? Why didn’t you give up earlier, then?” Rowan’s gaze was icy.

‘I can give up whenever I want!’ I was starting to get mad.

For a second, the tension was palpable. Rowan stared at me for ages, seemingly finding me to be **a** complete stranger. We remained like that until he turned and left. I sighed in relief and sat on the bed. For some reason, my heart felt empty.

Rowan left the house in the afternoon. As soon as he **was** gone, I went out, too. I went to Serendipity.

Ashley was there every time I went, yet she’d been absent the night I’d asked Ivan to meet me there. It was an odd twist of fate.

“Black coffee again, Ms. Sadler?” Ashley always had her hair up in a ponytail when she was at work. **It gave** her a refreshing, light-hearted vibe, and it seemed she **was** nice **to** all customers. She **always** had **a** sweet smile on

“**No**, not today. Do you have anything sweeter to recommend?” I asked with a slight smile.

“Sure! A cappuccino or a macchiato would be a **good** choice. You can savor the sweetness after taking a sip—it’ll make you feel like you’re in love,” she said cheerily.

I thought about it and ordered a macchiato.

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Chapter 18 First Meeting

The man hial was sweet, but it did make me feel like I was in love. It only made me realize

how liked my sal blackcoffee and howly won a pret as the macchiato, I looked at her occasionally while thinking about how she and How would meet lii twodays

Altoncity's business Team would start at 9:30 am. Asanusher, Ashley would be waiting at the entrance for the guests to arrive. Rowan would see her as soon as he entered the vance, andCupid's show and arrow would do its work.

an start tomorrow. It pays quite well.“ookle

“Ashley, **do** you want to take on any other part-time jobs? I can introduce you to a tutoring job that you can start tomorrow. It p opportunity to ask Ashley this when she cleared a table beside me.

She smiled at me gratefully but turned me down. “Thanks for **the** offer, Ms. Sadler, but my classes are starting in a few days. I'll need to head back to can put once I'm done with an ushering job in two days.”

I was surprised. Yes, it was almost time for university classes to me. It looked like I was a step too late. If I'd asked Ashley about this a few days earlier, perhaps Tamally would've been able to prevent her from appearing before Rowan's eyes.

o stop them from meeting forever I could

I quickly moved past this, though. Knowing how Rowan's and Ashley's states were intertwined,

I wouldn't be able to stop ther prevent it this tine, but what about other times in the future?

“Oh, you're welcome. Il just uuddenly occurred to me.” I took another sip of my coffee and smiled. “Are you gonna quilt your job here, too?”

“Yeal, I won't have time to come over once classes start.” Ashley looked around, seemingly reluctant to part with the place. Then, she tumed back to me and

Helt a little awkward. It she low everything I knew, she'd probably get the hell away from me.

just then, more customers came. Ashley need off to attend to them, and I sighed in elit. I got up, settled the bill, and left. 1 probably wouldn't **drop** by

Serendipity anymore.

The wheels of destiny had already started turning. Watching everything that **was** about to happen from a spectator's point **of** view wasn't any **easier** for **me** than it had been in my previous life

Since the incident with Bron, I'd realized how strong the butterfly effect was I was sure

I

was sure there would be changes that I would have to face in the future.

Thanks to Paula and George bring around, Rowan came home for lunch and dinner every **day**. He would also share a bed with me. But compared to **his** calmness and composure, I became increasingly nervous. I asked, "What time are you going to the business forum tomorrow?"

"8:00 am" Rowan lay beside me in bed with **his** eyes shut.....

"Can **you bring** family members along?" I really wanted to witness his and Ashley's legendary meeting: After all, in my previous life, his love story with Ashley had been all the rage for a long time.

He turned to look at me, a hint of mockery in his eyes. "Family members? Are you talking about yourself?"

I blinked "Well, legally, that's what I am."

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Generally speaking, these business forums allowed guests to bring their spouses as assistants along. Many entrepreneur couples would go together, and with Dad's identity and status, it was perfectly fine for me to tag along

Rowan didn't seem to think that, though. He snorted. "You think quite highly of yourself, don't you?"

Rowan leaned onto my side and stared at his side profile. From the side, his features looked even more chiseled than usual, especially where his brow bone and nose bridge met. It was almost annoyingly flawless.

To think a handsome and wealthy man like himself **had** eventually fallen for a regular young woman. It was such a typical Cinderella story.

“if you don’t bring me along, till talk to George and ask him to let me tag along.” I **said**. This time, it was threatening

George would definitely wonder why Rowan wasn’t the var bringing me along. Then, he **would** suspect that Rowan treated me badly.

As expected, my threat worked. Rowan’s gaze was filled with venom as he glared at me, “Wake up at 8:00 am tomorrow. I **won’t** wait for you even if you’re just a

“Wright T’I be up at **7:30** am. I need to apply makeup.” I smiled happily at him.

I’d already considered things I needed to understand more about how Rowan and Ashley had gotten together. That **way, after our divorce**, I **could** write a book about their love story **and** use my identity as Rowan’s ex-wife to market it. I’m sure many people would be interested in it.

That gimmick alone would earn me a huge sum. It was a great deal.

The following morning, I woke on time and applied light makeup, alternating into a classy outfit, I left the house with Rowan

When we arrived at the venue, I looked at the imposing hall before me. The doors were wide open, and a few pretty ushers stood on both sides. Ashley was among them, and she stood out in her form-fitting dress, Rowan unbuckled his seatbelt and got out, evidently not noticing Ashley yet

I **said** to him, “You head inside first, I need to touch up my makeup!”

In my previous life, Ashley knew Rowan was **married** but had never met me or spoken to me. In this life, I felt it was better for her not to know about my relationship with Rowan. Not yet, anyway.

Rowan couldn’t care **less** about me. He got out of the car and left. Through the window, I watched him head to the entrance. Finally, he heaved before Ashley. His back was to me, so I couldn’t see the change in his expression.

All I noticed was an evident falter in his footsteps. He seemed to be appraising Ashley closely. The sight of it made my heart crash to the bottom of a pit, **it** hurt like hell, but it also made the dust settle.

Chapter 18 First Meeting

Of course, Rowan wouldn't do anything with so many people watching, no matter how talented he was with Ashley. It wasn't the right place and time, so he soon entered the venue.

I only got out of the car after watching him disappear into the hall. Ashley was surprised to see me but soon regained her composure. She greeted me softly. "Ms.

Sadler."

I smiled at her and headed inside to take my **seat** without saying anything. Rowan had **already** taken his seat in the front row, and the forum's organizer was beside him. They seemed to be discussing something.

My seat **was** beside Rowan's. When I headed **over** to take my **seat**, I heard the organizer saying, "Alright, I'll send her number to you later."

Then, he gave me an awkward look before hurrying off. I remarked, "**He's** a lot smarter than Pansy was."

Rowan turned to give me a look that was more disgusted than usual. It was probably because he didn't want to listen to my rattling when Ashley was all he could think about now.

But the more he didn't want to listen, the more I wanted to tell him. "Pansy didn't **recognize** me despite sitting beside me for so long, you know. She even said I **was** just to show."

"It's normal," he **said** coldly.

"Do you mean it's normal that **she's** not that smart or normal that I'm for show?" I asked curiously.

He didn't answer me. Instead, he stared at Ashley as she approached us. His eyes were brighter **than** I'd ever seen them.

I recognized that look—

I'd looked like that when I'd first met him. It was too **bad** Ashley's eyes were on me. She didn't spare Rowan a glance **at** all. It made me feel pretty good, actually.

Now, I was starting to believe she genuinely loved Benjamin and that she'd truly meant it when rejecting Rowan in my previous life. What else would explain why she didn't notice Rowan despite his burning gaze?

Chapter 19 Harboring Secrets

Ashley had come to distribute earphones. She placed my pair on the table before me and smiled at me. Then, she did the same to Rowan. Surprisingly, Rowan smiled back and even thanked her. This was already signaling how special she was to him.

Ashley glanced at him a second time, and a trace of awe flashed in her eyes. No matter how loyal and faithful a woman was to her relationship, she wouldn't be able to deny Rowan's handsomeness, she was the shy type, so a simple thank you from him was enough to make her blush.

Suddenly, I thought of something. Did she act like she didn't see him earlier because she was afraid she would be interested in him?

This short interruption quickly passed, and the forum officially started. It was mainly on the joint development of Alton City and Curtino City as well as their surrounding areas. The goal of the forum was to come up with an implementable plan for said development.

Alton City had grown rapidly in recent years, and most of its markets were close to saturation. They had to be expanded.

I didn't know much about these things. Listened to Dad, Rowan, and George mention a thing or two about this, but most of the time, I was caught up in my thoughts.

When the forum was over, Dad came to me, "What are you doing here, hy?"

"was bored at home, so I tapped along," I answered, but I knew I wasn't the entrepreneurial type, so forums like today's would be unbelievably boring for me. He was surprised I was there..

"You came with Rowan, didn't you?" He turned to look at Rowan, who was chatting with someone nearby. His actions conveyed his usual superiority, compared to other bigwigs in the industry, he was young, yet he'd already achieved such success.

I nodded. "Yeah."

"That's good. You're his wife, so you should attend more functions with him and solidify your status," Dad said seriously.

Just then, George approached us. "Long time no see, Sammel!*

"George! I think it's been close to half a year since we last saw each other!" They shook hands and started chatting.

I took the opportunity to slip away while looking around for Ashley. She was probably getting ready to leave after getting paid for the job,

I searched every corner of the hall, finally finding her at the back door. Sure enough, she'd already gotten her pay and **was** waiting for an Uber.

When she saw me, she said **happily**, "Hi, Ms. Sadler!"

"So, this is what you meant when you said you had **a** part-time job as an au-pair? She handed it over to her and started talking to her.

"Yep! This is my **last** job for the summer, and I'm gonna celebrate with Benji later! She asked enthusiastically, "Would you like to join **us**?!"

I nodded without even thinking about it. "I'd love to, but won't be in the **way** of your date?"

She blushed, "It's **not** an actual date- we're just eating together. It's perfectly fine to have you with us!"

All men liked women who blushed easily, huh? Ashley looked like an adorable little pink rose.

Since she didn't mind, I took the shameless route and tagged along with her. Benjamin was already waiting at the agreed kebab shop, and he was evidently flustered **when** he saw me. He hurriedly stood up. "Ms Sadler, Ash"

"I ran into Ms. Sadler at my part-time job today, so I invited her along for kababs. The meal's on me today! Ashley linked arms with me like we were the best of friends.

"Sorry for disturbing you and Ashley on your date, Benjamin" I smiled apologetically.

He shook his head vigorously. "**No**, no. It's fine! Hurry up and sit!"

Ashley **and** I sat on one side of the table while Benjamin sat across from us. We ordered the kebabs we wanted and waited for them to be served while waiting for the charcoal brazier to heat up. A grill **had** been placed above it, and there were plates before us.

Ashley was excited when she learned I was an Alton University alumnus. She chattered to me about the university's happenings while Benjamin grilled the kebabs. He would **occasionally** give Ashley an adoring look and me a complicated look.

We were getting along **nicely** when Ashley's phone pinged. She picked it up and glanced at the text she'd received. I **stole** a look at it and saw the familiar number- it was from Rowan. As expected, he'd made his move

Ashley's expression shifted after she read **his** text. She seemed confused and surprised. Then, she put down her phone without replying.

"Who is it, Ash?" Benjamin asked with a smile.

"Oh, just some spam" She lowered her head and ate her kebab, sounding a little diffident.

I gave Benjamin a pitying look. He was still happily grilling, oblivious to the fact that a monster was teaching out its claws for his precious girlfriend.

I don't know what came over me, but I got up and said, "I need to use the ladies."

I went to the restroom and texted Benjamin. "Didn't you like the Panamera? Why didn't you drive it away the other day? You even left the key right **on** my doorstep. It's a good thing Windwall Estate has top-notch security and doesn't allow strangers in. Otherwise, the car would've been stolen."

After that, I touched up my makeup and tidied my hair before returning to my seat. Benjamin didn't dare to look at me anymore and focused on grilling. My actions were reminiscent of a sugar mommy who was desperate to have a sugarbaby.

the kebabs.

Meanwhile, Ashley was distracted. Rowan **had** called her when she hadn't replied **to** his text. It scared her, and she rejected the call, looking flustered. She huntedly replied to his text, but I couldn't see what she wrote.

pretended not to know what was happening and "kindly" reminded her, "You can **just** block whoever's harassing you, Ashley,"

"oh, uh, yeah. I know that." She put her phone face down on the table and nodded.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 19 Harboring Secrets

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I didn't know what Ashley wrote, but **Rowan** stopped harassing her. This was only a temporary reprieve from the storm, though. Once he had his eye on someone he would do anything in his power to get her.

The rest of the meal passed, with everyone harboring secrets in their hearts. After the meal, Benjamin suggested dropping Ashley and me off at home. I turned him down. "You can just drop Ashley off, Benjamin. I'll take a cab home."

"Well, alright, then. Stay safe, Ms. Sadler." He still couldn't bring himself to look me in the eye.

"Don't worry about a thing." I hailed a cab and watched as he and Ashley got in. Then, I called Lee and asked **him** to pick me up.

About 15 minutes

later, Lee **appeared**. I sighed at the sight of his stoic yet loyal face. "It'd be great if Rowan were at my beck and call like you are,

His eyes glinted. After a while, he asked, "Do you want me to contact Mr. Payne, ma'am?"

I pressed a hand to my forehead. "You're better off just driving. Don't say anything anymore."

He nodded and drove me back to Windwill Estate. I wondered whether Paula and George were still around. And was Rowan home?

Lee

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Chapter 20 Benjamin Asks for Help

ree were around, but not Rowan.

It was late when I got home, but the house was brightly lit. I had Lee leave after dropping me off, **Paula** and George.

"Ivacy, where's Rowan? Isn't he with you? Paula asked when she saw me one

"I ran into a friend after the storm, so went out for a **meal** with her, I thought Rowan had already come home." I looked surprised.

They were guessing correctly, he wouldn't be home tonight. Now that he had new prey, his heart was all on her

George looked thunderous. He and Paula had yet to return to Cantine City, but Rowan already had the nerve to spend the night outside. If they weren't around, wouldn't the house be nothing more than a hotel to him?

call him! If he doesn't answer, call his friends!" He waved a hand, looking furious.

Paula looked at me, and I pulled out my **phone** and handed it to her. I would be in for a shelling if I called Rowan, which wasn't what I wanted. I knew everything would be fine if I passed this to Paula—Rowan wouldn't date shout at her.

I didn't know any of his friends well, but I did have all of their numbers. Except Ivan's **Paula** scrolled through my contacts and started **making** calls. After about a minute, I heard Chester's voice ring out. "Rowan, it's Ivory!"

"I don't wanna talk to her! Rowan sounded impatient. Paula and George heard everything

The other people around him cheered and whooped. I knew they only thought of me **as an** unloved, abandoned wife.

Chester lowered his voice a little. "It's your mother..."

The cheering immediately disappeared. Then, Rowan came on the line "Mom?"

"Where are you? Why aren't you back for dinner? Do you **want** to overexert yourself at such a young age by drinking and **having** fun with those playboy friends of yours?" Paula was usually gentle and poised, but now, she was like a raging tigress.

"I'm just meeting up with a few friends. I'll be back soon," he said in exasperation.

"Ivory went out for a meal with her friend, too, but she's back now. I'll give you half an hour to get back here! Paula hung up angrily because she could hear women laughing on the other end of the line.

She gave me a complicated look "I'll teach him a lesson when he's back later, Ivory. He's ridiculous!"

I took the phone and nodded, feigning grievance.

Half an hour later, Rowan returned, looking resentful. I'd just finished dinner and was wiping my mouth when his death stare made a chill **run** down my spine. He was filled with resentment and anger, so he didn't need to eat anything. He threw his coat onto the couch before storming upstairs.

Paula and George didn't care whether he had dinner. They remained on the couch as they watched TV. I couldn't join them because I **couldn't** stand the show they were watching. I had no choice but to head upstairs.

Thrand the sound of water running in the bathroom. Rowan's phone had been fling onto the bed. I was a little tempted to check it. I wanted to know whether he'd contacted Ashley after I'd split up with her earlier. I picked it up but found that it needed a face scan to be unlocked

I was feeling regretful when a text came in I could see the first half of the message. It was probably a reply from Ashley. "I'm sorry, Mr. Payne, but already have a boyfriend. I heard that you're...."

I couldn't see the rest. The phone had **to** be unlocked

Suddenly, Rowan's voice rang out, and it was icy "What are you doing?"

He took the phone out of my hands and warned, "Don't touch my phone from now on!"

He looked down and unlocked it to read the message, after which his expression became uglier. A man like him could **have** any woman he wanted—all he had to **do** was hook a finger, and countless married women would immediately divorce their husbands to be with him. Yet Ashley had tuned him down.

His pride had suffered a bigger blow than ever before, and his charms had been challenged.

I deliberately asked, "Who is she?"

"It's none of your business." He **shot** me an irritated look.

wife. Am I right?" I didn't

"If I'm **guessing**, incorrectly, the rest of her **message** should be that she heard that you're married and hopes you'll remain faithful to your wife. In fact, I was proud of my intelligence. I knew what Ashley was like. She would definitely say something moral and ethical.

Rowan sat **on** the bed, "So?"

I pulled out a divorce agreement from the drawer. This time, I'd amended it a little **and** asked Rowan for 3% of Payne Corporation's stocks. He laughed mirthlessly after reading it. "Would the company's stocks? You're a gendy poor, Ivory *

Payne Corporation has many small investors most of them didn't even hold 3% of the company's stock

I hesitated to say anything. How was I going to indirectly tell him that he would only offer me more if he didn't give me 3% now? After all, in my previous life, he'd offered

of Page Corporation's stocks

"She doesn't like that you're married, right? All you **need** to do is spend a little money to divorce me. Then, you **can** go after her without anything holding you back!

"Do you think she's worth that? Rowan raised **an** eyebrow, looking rather mocking.

I was lost for words. Wasn't she? He'd later been willing to give up everything for her!

Perhaps he'd yet to realize how he really felt for her and thought she was just another conquest that he would grow sick of after having her. That was why he could do something like that

Chapter 20 Benjamin Asks for Help

I sighed and tore the divorce agreement before throwing it into the trash. It looked like I would have to prepare an agreement asking for 10% of Page Corporation's stocks sometime in the future.

Rowan watched me coldly. Then, I went to take a shower, feeling a little disappointed. When I was done, he was on the phone on the balcony. A cigarette dangled from his fingers, and the smell of nicotine wafted into the room, brought in by the night breeze. I couldn't help coughing

He turned to look at me before hanging up and throwing the cigarette onto the balcony. He stubbed it out with his shoe. "Couldn't you have thrown that into the trash? It's hard for Ella to clean, you know," I said while applying my skincare.

I was particularly reliant on Ella. I left my meals, the herbal concoctions, and the master bedroom's cleaning to her. Of course, she was also paid more than the others. She was very grateful to me for that.

"They were hired to do housework, weren't they?" Rowan snorted. "She doesn't have to be in this line if she thinks it's too tiring."

I shook my head. He would regret his words in the future. Just as he got into bed, my phone rang. Surprisingly, it was **a call** from Benjamin. As soon as I answered it, I heard him say in despair, "Help me, Ms. Sadler! Someone's beating me up!"

"Where are you?" I asked gravely.

"Vinstone Hotel's parking lot!" As soon as the words were out of his mouth, I heard muffled thumps and hits. He groaned from the blows, and the call cut off.

I immediately got changed and grabbed my car keys before turning to leave the room.

“Where are you going?” Rowan suddenly asked.