Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 111-120

Posted by Admink, 238

Chapter 111 11 Wasn't His Baby

Rowan said indifferently. "Thelped her, but it doesn't mean we must stay together. Is the re a problem?"

"None at all. We're divorced, so **I can't** be bothered with **what** you do. It doesn't matter i f you financed her studies overseas, stayed with her, or **even** married her. It has nothing to do with me."

I suddenly became annoyed. After scolding him, I went back to my car and continued m y way back.

When I reached the crossroads near my apartment, I finally let out a sigh of relief after n oticing Rowan's car was no longer following me..

When I reached home, I placed the takeout on the table, Jean had inched her **way** clos er. She seemed like she liked the smell of the turkey and took a huge whiff of it. Howeve r, she puked it out the moment it entered her mouth.

Natalie parted jean's back. "Poor Jean."

I was about to tell Jean about bumping into Rowan when I heard some noise from the b alcony. I turned and saw a drone flying in with a paper bag hanging underneath.

What in the world? I was scared out of my wits.

Natalie and Jean exchanged glances. The three of **us** were stunned. Surprisingly, Ches ter's voice came from the drone. "My tigress, take a look at the balcony

Jean was angry and thought it was ridiculous when she heard him and wanted to tear th e drone apart. I stopped her and took the bag down. To her surprise, there were two por tions of harkeys in the bag.

Was it the food Bowan bought earlier?

I couldn't take it anymore. "Jean, did you tell Chester you were craving for turkey?"

"Yes." Jean already blew her top. "However, I didn't goddamn expect him to buy me foo d! Shit!"

Natalie didn't even expect it to happen, let alone Jean, Would a playboy like Chester not know how to be romantic?

Chapter

You Will Never Win Against Rowan

Je held two portions of the food and rushed to the balcony. She was about to lash our w hen she realized something strange in the sky.

Natalie **and** followed after her. Welifted our hearts and noticed the night sky tied with dr ones. A red rose decked with lights hang below each of them. The drones were arrange d in the shape of **a beart**

Everyone from the nearby buildings propped their heads out to see what was happening .

I stayed on the third floor have a hill view of the community's garden below my balcony. Tugging **the** corner of Jean's clothes, **Tacked**, "Isn't that chester?

Jean peeked her head out and looked down As expected, Chester, **dressed** in a suit an d te, **looked** up at her with a big bouquet of flowers

"Tigress, marry me!" Chester came prepared. When he met **Jean's** eyes, he fell to the ground on one knee

Rowan, **Ivan**, and Jasper's shadows were masked among the greenery not far away. T hey were his best friends and came to witness their friend's proposal.

Jean's heart had been uneasy the past few days. She was worried about what would ha ppen if chester didn't want to take responsibility,

shenever thought Chester would be such a huge gentleman to flyover and propose

Jean covered her mouth as her eyes watered. She quickly went downstairs, and **Natalie** and I followed behind her.

"I'm sorry, my tigress, for hastly proposing to you. I'm unfamiliar with the area here, so **c ouldn't** give an extravagant proposal Don't worry. If you agree to marry me, I will give y ou the best wedding anyone could **ask** for when we get home!" Chest knelt on the grou nd, he was sincere

1 thought Jean would make **things** hand for Chester. I never expected her to smile at **hi m**, snatch the ring box, and wear the ring herself.

She looked at the damond on her finger and asked, "How many carats is that?".

"It's nine karats, signifying our unity forever Chester was smiling like fool

"Great. What did your parents say?" pemasked

Chester patted his chost.

"Don't worry. My parents **are** happy. They said not to waste time with unscrupulous wo men and marry me. Only you can **chain** me down!" Hew proud to have a strict wife.

I couldn't help but smile. I was comforted and envious of the smell of love in the air. I had never had anyone declare their love to me

so boldly before. I didn't even **have** an engagement party when I got married and just tie d the kat

1 instinctively glanced at Rowan, and my heart was filled with an inexplicable sense of d isappointment. He had never given me what I had always wanted.

I wonder what he thought as he witnessed his best friend's proposal.

Was it thinking about how he did **not** propose to me or how he could do it better when h e proposed to Ashley?

It **was** probably the latter i suppressed the regret in my heart as I thought of a picture of Jean and Chester hugging with my phone.

After the drones landed, Chester and jean trent upstairs Rowan and the rest followed aft er them. Mycory home, with two **bedrooms** and one hall, was immediately filled **with** pe ople

"Come, have a seat I was warmly entertaining the guests as a hostess, putting aside my grudges.

Rowan and Ivan sat **on** the sofa while Jasper was on a chair, Jean and Cher were oppo site him, holding **hands**.

After serving tea to them, I went to the kitchen to wash some fr

I was focused on washing as the water flowed I wasn't sure when an entered the kitche n. He asked suddenly, "Why didn't you tell me you left the country?

1 burned the tap off and looked at pom

A **hint** of disappointment lingered in his eyes as they searched for answers. "Don't you t rust me

"It's not that I thought it would be heartwrenching to say goodbye, so I didn't shghtly guilty. Ivan was kind to me and helped me tremendously. However, I decided to keep my kase from him. Plus, Thad yet to return his messages and calls recently

"**Do** you have any idea **how** many times **l've** been to your apartment looking for you? Y ou never returned any of my messages **or** calls. Did you do this on purpose? A sudden chill llowed through his body as van spoke. He seemed mad

I was confused. "Why did you look for? There are more important things waiting for you! !

Ivan asked, "What these things?"

"Do you know that Ashley has left overseas to study? even bumped into her here. Rowa n probably accompanied her here." I reminded Ivan, "You will never win **against** Rowan if you connue this way"

Rowan's voice coldly interrupted as before ran was about to answer. "What competition is he supposed to win against me?

My kitchen was small. It felt stuffy with two tall and broad men in here.

"Nothing. I don't have enough fruit, so don't make this a competition. I carried the freshly washed truits and showed them to Rowan, hing through my teeth.

Ivan glanced at me intensely. "Okay, I guit"||

Then, herircled Roman and sat in the living room

"It's time to eat fruits, told Rowan, my tone distant.

In the living room, Jean and lister decided to fly home first thing in the morning. Then, th ey would start selecting a date and org the wedding.

I munched on my apple. I felt surreal looked at how happy Jean was. The playglot the fo ur of us was about to have a shotgun wedding with a playboy. Was this couple ready to throw in their towels in the game!

Jasper was emotional when he noticed his best **friend** was about to get married. He was touched.

"Let's go and have ankemalto celebrate our deynst Mr. Lawson's successful proposal" h e suggested

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Posted by Admink, ?

Chapter 112 You Will Never Win AustRowan

"Sure, dinner's on me. Ivan and Jasper rushed here with me and hadn't eaten dinner." C hester had suddenly matured.

He added, "Also, Rowan, I've **given** you the heavy responsibility of organizing may prop osal **at** such short notice. I will be eternally grateful for easything you've arranged for me , have to buy von danner!"

Jean looked at me. Her eyes indicated she had something to say, but she stopped **herself**

I had been friends with her for years, so I knew that look

Rowan knew how to be romantic, but he had never shown me this side of him, and I felt somewhat miserable about it.

"okur, let's go!" Chester stood up with Jean in her arms.

No one else had any objections.

I was the only one who didn't want to go. However, the lady of the night was my best fri end. It wouldn't look good if I didn't go to the dinner. Once Jean and Jasper married, 1 w ould interact with Rowan and the rest more often.1 could never avoid interacting with th em, so I might as well try getting used to it.

There were a bunch of people and two cars. I drove Natalie, Jasper, and Ivan in my car.

Rowan had Jean and Chester in his.

When we reached the five-

star hotel, Chester booked the bigger private room. Once everyone was seated, we ord ered a lot of food.

As we waited for the food to **be** served, everyone was conversing. Then, Rowan's phon e rang, and I glanced at him.

"okay, I'll come and get you."

I was unsure what was said on the phone. All I saw was Rowan standing **up** and walkin g out.

Posted by Admink, 237

Chapter 113 Am Pregnant Too

hwn and the rest glanced at me after Rowandelt.

I own was on the phone with Ashley, it meant that his ex– wife would be dining at the same table with Ashley, his current partner

Jean couldn't hold it in. He immediately got up "Forget it. Let's not have this meal anym ore!"

"I okay, Del's eat." I was afraid Jean's emotional outburst would affect the baby

Chester hurriedly caressed her baby. "Don't worry, baby. Mom is **not** angry at you,.okay !"

Jen slapped Chester's head. "The moment I think about how good friends you are with **Rowan**, I don't feel like marrying you anymore!"

Poor Chester caressed his head, afraid to say a word.

"Jean, you're pregnant. Don't get too worked up." I reminded Jew

As the atmosphere stiffened, the private room door opened.

Rowan escorted a man into the private room, and they were having **a** pleasant conversa tion. They seemed clse, but I didn't

recognize the **man**. "Clarence Lewisham? ivan recognized the man, and he exclamed in surprise,

"It's been a long time, im!"Clarence was muchly **the** same age as own. He looked refine d and elegant, smiling and greeting Ivan.

As they spoke, Rowan and dece took their sets

I couldn't comprehend what was going on. I thought Rowan had gone to get Ashley, bu t I didn't expect him to return with a min

Clarence sat opposite me. I glanced **at** him more **closely** and thought I had seen him fr om somewhere. After racking my brain, I finally remembered seeing this man in Rowan' s photo album.

Rowan had important pictures of his childhood in his photo album. He had photo with lv an and a

daboy around his age.

It was a group photo taken during his high school graduation. The young **man** in the pict ure seemed about the same height as Chernce

I had over seen Chrence before in my previous life, nor had noticed him in the photo

"Clarence!" Chester and Jasper knew Crnce too. They had probably met before.

Clarence smiled and greeted them. Eventually, his game fell on me. "Are you owan's wif e!"

1 was taken aback. Then, I looked at Rowan, **signaling** lum to explain.

This was strange. How did Clarence know I was Rowan's wife? However, he seemed o blivious that we were divorced.

"We are divered," Rowan casually explained.

The atmosphere turned awkward.

Clarence was taken aback and immediately apologized, "I'm sorry."

"It's alright." I shook my head.

Pan glanced at me, then Rowan. Eventually, the lowered his gaze I was **unsure** of what he was thinking

The meal was lively. Rowan and the rest were in high spirits upon Clarence's arrival

From their conversation, I only knew that Clarence, Rowan, and van were childhood pla ymates. However, Clarence was different from the-

he was George's driver's son Clarence and Rowan's statuses were worlds apart, but **Cl arence** appeared talkative. Plus, he was personable and well–

dressed. He seemed to be doing pretty well for himsel After graduating high school, Ro wan and ham went to **a** local university Clarence, on the other hand, enrolled in **a** univer sity abroad Hence, he separated from them for years. "How's Uncle Samson?" Rowan a sked

"He." Clarence laughed dryly "Passed away from cancer last year."

Rowan and **an** exchanged glances, hewy looks on their faces.

1stently be **my** meal while listening to their conversation.

Ivan said, "I'm sorry for your loss. Why didn't you tell? We should have paid out respect s to Uncle Samson,"

Clarence was open-

minded about it. "We can't bring him back, so it wasn't necessary to trouble others."

Clarence had a point. liked his perspective on it.

While eating some fish filet, I suddenly **sniffed** a foul smell My stomach started chuming badly, and I was consumed by the desire to vomit.

Icmddn't swallow the fish filet in my mouth, and it was lodged in my throat.

1 got up and quickly **rushed** to the bathroom.

Ivomited profusely in the cubicle. Ivomited every food I had earer.

My throat felt prickly, It **must** have been the acid reflux

After a while, I went to wash my hands and face I looked **at** the pale complexion in the mirror, and doubt grem

Could it be a stomach problem or something else?

Jean and I were different in our physical condition. My period hadn't been on time the p ast few years, so I never thought missing my period the past two months was a big deal

This thought shook me. Howan and had slept together **a** couple of times. The last time was after 1 was hospitalized when Kaden kidnapped me

Edn't feed well tire day and rushed to the hospital to get myself checked, so I forgot to t ake my birth control.

Posted by Admink, ?

Chapter 114 Business Trip Back Home

The next day was Jean's wedding. She was very busy, and Natalie, Olivia, and 1 helpe d her out as much as we could.

Naturally, many prominent figures were invited to Jean and Chester's wedding, and it w as **held** at an estate in Alton City: She originally wanted a grand castle wedding abroad, but her physical condition didn't allow for such a trip.

After a full schedule, I felt quite Bred **and** unusually sleepy.

After taking photos with her, I sneaked into a room to rest Unexpectedly, I was hit by the smell of smoke as soon as I entered, making me cough several times.

"Rowan?" was surprised to see him standing by the window. What was he doing here?

Rowan seemed equally surprised to see me. "Why aren't you with Jean?"

Tcovered my nose. The bout of coughing earlier **had** made my stomach upset. I didn't d are to **speak** and just frowned.

After a few seconds, I couldn't hold it anymore. Seeing a bathroom in the room, I rushed in and started vomiting

Because I entered in a hurry, I didn't lock the door. When Rowan came in and saw me t hrowing up, he frowned. "What's wrong? Is your stomach upset?"

"Yes.."Twiped my mouth and replied **casually**, "I didn't sleep well last night, and I skipp ed breakfast. I think I ate too much just now, so my stomach can't take it." Right after sp eaking, I felt another surge in my throat. 1 vomited again until I was exhausted.

Chapter 115 He Wants to Stone Me

Chapters He Wants to Starve Me

As I was vomiting to the point where my stomach started to cramp, a hand landed on m y back and patted me gently.

Lendured the discomfort and **humed** to lock up on wore astern– expression **with** a hint of worry **in** his eyes. "Feeling better? I can take you to the hospit al

"It's fine. 1 have some stomach issues I just need to buy some medicine," refused with a wave **of** my hand

If we went to the hospital, my pregnancy would definitely be discovered. It would **be a** pr oblem if Rowan found out.

When I was in Stormland, I found some time to go to the hospital for **a** checkup. Indeed, I was nevely two months pregnant. Since Thad taken some medications, the **doctor** sai d it was uncertain whether the letos was affected

I couldn't make a decision to have an abortion or not, so hesitated and dragged in

П

"If you have stomach issues, you should go dora thorough checkup. Medication should be combined with treatment." Seeing me stand up, was grabbed my arm, intending to ta ke me away

"I've already seen **a** doctor. There's no need to go again!" I broke free from his grand re plied wearily, "came to this room to find a place to rest. I'm going to sleep for a while."

This room seemed **to be a** lounge. There was a small sofa bed, so I walked over and la y down. My eyes closed instantly. I was too tired to keep them open

Perhaps because I was pregnant, I was quite tited. Even though I knew Bossan was ne arby, I didn't have the energy to care and quickly fell asleep.

I't know how long I slept. When woke up, it was dark outside, and adim yellow light was on in the room

"You're awake?" Rowan was still there. He was sitting on achair, facing me

"What time is it? is the wedding over? [was shocked. Had overslept? Hadn't Jean and th e others come looking for me?

Rowan locked at the watch on his wrist. "It's 9:30pm"

Isprang up in contsion talept from the aliemnon until night?

Rowan then said, "Jean and the others came looking for you, but I told them to go first, and I would send you back later"

"How did I sleep for so long rubbed my temples.

"Have you been too tired lately?" asked Rowan.

"Maybe. But you didn't have to stay here with me," Iplied indifferently. "This might cause a misunderstanding."

In Roman's dark eyes, the reflected light was hazy, **and I couldn't** read the emotions in them.

"Do you think it would be more appropriate for Ivan to stay here?" he asked.

He seemed to be hung up on ban. Leouldn't tell if it was because of Ashley or me

I **didn't** want to say too much to him. Linda was waiting for me at the hotel, and we had to law for another city early in the morning to meet the negotiating partner.

In the past two days, **aside** from going home once, had been busy with Jean's wedding. Thadn't had a chance to start work yet. Fortunately, the timing matched up, and I just n ded to be there by the next mome

"Tas leaving" Lopened the **door** and walked out.

Outside, **the** spring chill was freezing, especially since the estate was on ahilbop and th e night wind was strong. I was only wearing a thin bridesmaid dress, and the wind made

At that moment, my phone rang-it was a "hey, are you awake?t

"Yes. I'm heading to the hotel," tanswered, **shivering in** the cold wind.

asked Chesterto and you back, but he said you wouldn't wake up. So, Rowan stayed th ere to wait **until you** wake up. I'll send someone to pick you up now." **Jean** said.

I wouldn't wake up?

Rowan came over and stood beside me. I glanced at him suspiciously, then replied to J ean, "Jean, don't trouble yourself. I'll just take Rowan's car down the hill

It was Jean's big day, and didn't want to trouble her.

We chatted for a while until Jean suddenly **started** retching on the other **end and** had to quickly hang up.

A warm coat

was draped over my shoulders, chickding my exposed skin from the **frigid** cold. It felt ni ce.

"Let's **ga."" Having** taken off his coat, Rowan was nour in a formal gray shirt and black tie. He abeys wore formal **attire** to such event s, rarely any other styles.

"Aren't you cold?" asked as Dollowed behind him

"No," herpted simply

We then fell in silence with nothing to say. As we passed by the aisle jean walked down earlier, 1 sew people still busy cleaning up the wedding site.

Arriving at Rowan's car, I wanted to take off the coat, but he stopped me. "keep it on. I d on't need it"

Thinking of the ättle one in my belly, I didn't refuse. I put his coat back on, not waiting to catch a col

Hallway through the drive, my stomach suddenly started rumbling

Thadn't eaten anything all attemoon and night. The hunger was so intense, unlike anything **that** experienced before.

Tuldn't stand it. "Rowan, find a restaurant and drop me att I'll eat something then go bac k myself."

Town glanced at my stomach and then took me to a restaurant

When I saw the upscale, high-class restaurant, i was reluctant to get out of the car. "I don't want to eat here. I want to eat storet food."

Linally understood Jean's previous cravings. It was as if there was an ordering machine in my mind with dishes popping up one aber another. I wanted to cat this and that

foow craved the prony, **salty** food from the street stalls. (didn't care about nutritional bal ance or cleanliness; I just wanted to eat it.

L Chapter 115 He Wants to Starec Mu.

Posted by Admink, ?

Chapter 115 He Wants to Starec Mu.

"You have stomach issues but want to eat street food?" Rowan disapproved.

*Mind your own business!" My hunger made me irritable, and I snapped, "If you won't ta ke me, I'll take a cab!"

I tried to open the car door, but Rowan locked it.

Enraged, I shouted at him, "Are you trying to starve me to death? We're already divorce d. Why do you care what I eat? Open the door, you maniac!"

I had asked the doctor about my mood swings before. I was told that hormonal changes could make pregnant women emotionally unstable, so this wasn't my f

If I didn't get to eat what I craved soon, I'd burst into tears,

Seemingly shocked by my reaction, Rowan sighed. "Is it worth crying over a meal?"

I was so angry that I wanted to blurt out that I was pregnant, subsequently ruining his and Ashley's newly mended relationship.

I didn't believe Ashley would sit still if she leaned about it.

However, my senses told me that doing so would bring trouble for myself. My newly acq uired life would revert to its original **state**.

y fault

Seeing my unstable mood, Rowan had no choice but to drive me to a night market. The array of flavorful aromas made me feel like I was in paradise, Timmediately got out of the car

and wandered around.

Rowan followed behind me, watching me sweep through various food stalls with his bro w tightly furrowed.

Chapter 116 Deciding to Have the Child

Chapter 116 Deciding to Have the Child

Alter indulging in junk food for half an hour, I was finallyfull

"Well, if you're not busy, could you drop me off at the hotel? My stomach was round and fall, and was too lazy to hail a cab

Since Rowan was still around, I shamelessly asked him.

nowan didn't say anything. He just turned around and walked toward the ear

I quickly allowed

"Has my mom contacted you recently? Rowan suddenly asked halfway through the driv e.

"No."We're divorced. I don't think she'd be contacting me anymore," replied **absent**mindedly, concentrating on the scenery outside.

Suddenly, if tabit uneasy and turned to place **at** Row "Rowan, were the doce papers you sent to me take?

He didn't want **the** divorce in the first **place**, and coupled **with** his **parents**' **opposition**, **he** might **have** used **this** method to stabilize both me **and** his family.

Rowan glanced at me sideways, his eyes cold **and** slightly mocking. "**Are** you so afraid **of me** not letting you po?"

"You're delaying my chances of finding my next man I blurted out

The car **came** to **a sudden hair** by the **roadside**, causing my body to lunch forward due to the inertia

bowan's temper flared up again, **and** he fiercely commanded, "Ortout and walk back yo urself!"

We were not far from the hotel I looked outside and got out of the car without hesitation, Walking back to the hotel was **a good** opportunity to exercise during **my pregnancy**. I should thank Bown for this!

Back **at** the hotel, after taking a shower, I decided that I wanted to have the child and rai se him on any ows

With Rowan's bad temper, it was better not to let it affect mychild.

I didn't want to give up my first child. Lcould give him a gand he; it would just lack a bit o f fatherly love.

Early the next morning, I woke up to the sound of my alarm. Aller quickly changing cloth es and applying light makeup, I met up with Linda Wethen headed to Grander City with her driving the **car**.

it took about sight to nine hours to get to Grandor City becar. By the time we actived, it was nearly **four** in the afternoon.

The channel partner had contacted me and had already booked a hotel for us. They **pla nned** to host **a** welcome dinner for **Linda** and me in the evening to discuss the upcomin g

collaboration.

Before that, Linda and I found a hotel to rest.

Linda was around my age and wasn't from Storland. She had completed her studies loc ally before working abroad.

Coincidentally, she had attended university in Alton City. So, during the two days I atten ded

Jean's wedding, the revisited some old places and even went to pay respects to an old t riend

ivory, you and Mr. Sadler are relatives, right? Linda lay on the bed "noticed your close r elationship

Ididn't hide it. "yes, he's my cousă."

Linda **smiled**. "I thought you might be related since you share the same surname and b ear some resemblance. Are **you** single?"

Noone in the company new about my affairs in the country except for Charles. Linda **nat urally didn't** know about my divorce, either.

Uh, I'm sort of single deflected **and** changed the topic. "What about you? You seems to **be single too.**"

"I'm an advocate of not getting married Linda **said** and laughed.

"You're so outstanding. I'm sure there are plenty of guys chasing after you. Why don't y ou want to get married?" couldn't help but open my eyes and burn to look at Linda on th e neighboring bed. "Have you been hurt before?"

Lands was silent for a while. When **she** spoke again, there was a hint of resentment in her voice. "**Men** are no **good**. They **can** say they love you but still change their minds. T hey can even say they love you while they marry someone else.""

Her words made me think of Rowan and left me speechless.

Our conversation ended there. Linda seemed to recall something unpleasant and turned over without saying another word. I closed my eyes again and tell into a deep sleep

When evening fell, Linda woke me up. Yawning, we headed to the hotel arranged by the channel partner.

The contact person sent by the channel partner was Hrent Mccoy, **man** in his forties. He was very enthusiastic and ordered a table bull of seafood.

The first dish garlic shrimp, made me nauseous at first sight. The smell alone made my stomach upset.

Namesh let, seafood salad, and seafood chowder. Each dish that was served made me feel worse.

Finally, midway through the discussion, Texcused myself to the washroom. Since **I barely** ate anything, I couldn't even vomit anything.

When I came out of the washroom, I felt dizzy andwerk

I supported myself **against** the wall and slowly made my way back to the private room. Suddenly, theard someone call me from behind. "Ivory?"

I turned around and saw han

He strode toward me and supported me "Have you been drinking?

"No, I just have a stomachache," I replied.

"pidn't you have a full body checkup before? Why didn't you treat your stomach issues? Ivan asked sternly. 1 shank mylimat. "U's arching seckus, Jane gastritis. Sometimes, I feel **nauseous**. Why are you here?"

tvan explained that he was in Girandor City with some ser professors from the hospital **f or a** three–**day** medical exchange program. It was only the test day.

Posted by Admink, ?

Chapter 116 Deciding to Have the Chill

As we chatted, I reached the door of the private room. "Alright, I'm here to discuss work with my colleague. Thanks for your help.""

"Go ahead." han let go of my arm.

I opened the door and entered. Linda, sitting opposite the door, glanced over, and her e xpression suddenly changed.

I instinctively looked back van was staring at Linda with an indescribable look.

Did they know each other?t immediately grew suspicious,

From the looks of it, they not only knew each other but had an unpleasant history.

I let **go**, closing the door and cutting off their view of each other.

from then on, I noticed that Linda was absent– minded. I handled most of the detailed discussions. Due to some disagreements betwee n both parties, we didn't sign the contract after dinner.

"Ms. Sadler, Linda, let's discuss it further when we go back. I believe **our** companies ar e very compatible and sincere. Hopefully, we can overcome these minor issues together !" Brent said before leaving.

"Alright. Thank you for your hospitality tonight, Mr. McCoy!" I replied.

After parting ways, Linda and I returned to the hotel to rest. On the way back, she seem ed preoccupied, I felt like she wanted to ask me something but was holding back.

Finally, after we returned to the hotel room and I finished showering, Linda asked me, "I vory, do you know Ivan?"

"Yes, why? Do you know him too?" I sat down and asked in return.

"Are you close? Linda asked again.

"We're just ordinary trends." I wondered if Linds and Iven had been **in** a relationship bef ore,

But I thought that Ivan had never had a girlfriend. Even Sophie, whom he had a crush o n, ended up with Rowan. Seeing Linda's gloomy face, I felt uneasy. "Linda, why do you **ask**? Is there something between you and him?"

Chapter 17 Someone Thinks I'm Annoying

Linda looked at me for a few seconds, then squeezed out a smile, "No, It's nothing

thought it was a coincidence. I used to know him too, but not well."

Ididn't probe further and simply responded with a smile, "Yes, **it's** such a small world. T hose who are label will always meet."

Lindastecedor awhile before getting up to take shower.

Ilyen my bed, holding myphone. I wanted to ank van about it but then felt there was no

So, I contacted Chocles to report on some of the tees from the cooperation talk earlier. After some discussion, Thad achter kea of the situation.

Justas Eww about to fall asleep, Linda came out from her shower and quietly lay down on the bed beside me.

The next morning, I woke up hungry. The hotel offered breakfast, so I quickly got up and went to the restaurant on the second floor.

Unexpectedly, Ivan was also there. He was sitting with a man in his fifties or sixties **with a** praying beard, Thely a prodessor from his hospital.

Iran was eating a sandwich when he spotted nie, his gaze followed.

On my table were four eggs, **a** glass of milk, pancakes, two sandwiches, wailles, **and** a bowl of oatmeal

He seemed a bit surprised. He said something to his professor, then walked over and s at across fromme.

"Why are you eating so much?" asked as he looked at the breakfast spread

"I want to try everything" tsaid while peeling

At just over two months pregnant, I'was as **hungry as a** wolf. Staybel was carrying a littl e foodie in my belly?

Ivan took an egg and peeled it for me. Soon, two round, white epes were placed on my plate.

Late the eggs and slurped on the oatmeal, occasionally taking a hite of the **pancakes**. A t the same time, I was craving something salty and spicy pondered where to go for lunc hto satisfy my cravings.

"What's your colleague's name?" Ivan's question interrupted my meal.

Tlooked at him and replied, "Linda"

Ivan frowned. "Where's she from?"

"same as me," I answered "She has a longterm residence visa and just works over there."

"What's her ball name?" Tran was very curious about Linda's identite

twas sure that the relationship between the two of them was more than just acquaintanc es.

Ibit into a sandwich, answering nonchalantly, "I don't know. I haven't been in this compa ny long Everyone at work **calls** her Linda and never asks her full name"

Ivan didn't say more and just watched me devour my beddast. Finally, I borped and patt ed my round belly 1 felt very satisfied.

Test up and to hean, "I'm done rating, Bye"

"You shouldn't overest if you

have stomach. If you get hungry easily after eating a lot, you should go to the hospital fo r checkup. It might not be just a gastrointestinal problem Hyperthyroidism or diabetes ca n cause similar symptoms," han ached.

1scratched my head Wan'theacadiologist? Why was heconcerned with digestive issues ?

But he was looking out for **me**, **so** inadded. "Okay. Thank you for the reminder, Dr. York "

i was **about** to leave when van called out again, Rowan is also in Grandar Cry Didn't he contact you?

What was Bowen doing here? And why would he contact me?

Ishook myhead, "I don't know. He didn't come with me."

Although had just seen Rowan the day before, Thadn't paid attention to his whereabouts today

han's expression was subtle. Finally, he smiled. "Mmm. Gast"

Terved and left. As soon as I reached my room, Dad called He asked, "**vy**, and you **on a** abusiness trip in Grandor City?"

"Tomorrow is Mr. Sampson's 60th birthday was supposed to attend, but I have lastminute work and can't make it. Your mom can't get out of work for the next two days eit her. So, you'll go on my behalf tomorrow." Dad called to delegate **task**

Who was Mr. Sampson? Thad no idea

Dad gren me an address before hanging up

I was puzzled. I was on a business trip, and now had to attend birthday party

However, Bent probably wouldn't contact me in the next couple of days since he neede d to communicate with his company. So that time to attend the party on Dead's behalf.

Linda was already up, and I told her my plans for the next day. She nodded and said, "o kay. I'll contact you if there's any work"

"Okay," replied.

Linda needed the car, so the next day, I took a **las** to Mystic Hotel, where Mr. Sampson' s party was held.

He was a long time business partner of Dad's, but wasn't familiar with him since hadn't been involved in the company's afbies before

Dad said he had already sent a gift and some money, so i just needed to show **up**, say a few words of wishes, and join the celebration.

The older generation still valued these connections.

At the hotel, I reported any idently, but without an invitation, Thad to call Dad to contact Mr. Sampson's prople.

bad didn't perkup therall Hewas probably busy.

Chapter 117 Someone Thanks I'm Annoying

Posted by Admink, ?

Chapter 117 Someone Thanks I'm Annoying

"Ivory."

"Rowan's voice suddenly rang out, I turned to see him walking toward me

lout that Rowan came to Grandor City to attend the birthday party.

"nowan?" I was surprised, then immediately remembered Ivan's words from the day bef ore. It turned out

Rowan took out his invitation and handed it to the guard, saying "We're together."

I awlowardly explained, "I'm here on behalf of my dad. He and my mom couldn't make it, but they didn't give me the invitation.

Rowan nodded. "Mmm. Let's go in."

Mr. Sampson, or Nathen Sampson, was a notable figure in Grandor City. Many people had come for his 60th birthday, and uninvited guests weren't allowed.

At this moment, he was chatting and laughing with a few people. Sering Rowan and 1, h e came over with a warm smile. "Mr. Payne, you're here."

Then, he looked at me. "Isn't this... Sam's lovely daughter? She doesn't show up often. Luckily, I've seen her photo. What a beautiful young lady!"

I flashed a polite smile and replied, "Thank you for the compliment, Mr. Sampson. My da d wanted to come and have **a** drink with you, but he had last– minute work. You know, serving the country, he can't be **careless**. I hope you understa nd."

"Oh, I understand. Sam sent me some money, and I told him that was enough," Mr. Sa mpson joked

It was clear he was quite close with both Dad and Rowan.

As we chatted, I learned that Rowan met Mr. Sampson through Dad and had been work ing together with him for about three years.

After the party began, I ate a bit, but soon my stomach started to hurt. I got up and went to the washroom.

Alter vomiting, I stayed in the stall to use the toilet. This was when I heard a young woman's voice outside. "It's weird. I thought that Rowan and her were divorced? Why are they here together? S o annoying!"

"Laurie!" An older vroman's voice scolded. "Regardless of whether Mr. Payme and Ms. Sadler are divorced, you shouldn't talk like that. The Sadlers have worked with your **dad** for many years. Watch your words!"

Posted by Admink, ?

Chapter 18 Linda's Real Identity

The young woman seemed a bit unwilling "Mom, he's already divorced Can't like him?

"Who knows if it's true? Did you hear his announce it to the public? if he hasn't confirme d it himsell, take it with a grain of salt!"

"Hmph! He will admit it eventually"

After awhile, the mother and daughter left, and emerged from the stall.

That Laurie was Mr. Sampson's daughter, Lauren 5

Simpson.

I had met her before the party started. Mr. Sampson introduced us, and she couldn't sto p glancing at Rowan, but her actitude toward me was **still** good as she kept smiling whil e talking to me

I washed my hands at the sink, then returned to the banquet hall and continued eating.

After the meal, guests began to leave. I looked around for Mr. Sampson to say goodbye .

"y" Lauren suddenly appeared. She was in **her** mid– twenties. Although she dressed maturely, she still appeared young.

"Laurle" Ismiled faintly.

"Hey, where's Mr. Payne? Why isn't he with you? Lauren asked while handing **me** a gift box, which was quite heavy. "This is a return gift, İvy"

"Thank you." Holding the

gift box, I pretended to look around. "I don't **know** where Rowan is either. **You** can look for him. Help me tell Uncle Sampson that I have to leave first." "oh, okay." Lauren modd ed.

llett Majestic Hotel with the gift box, preparing to hall **at** by the roadside.

A black Bentley Arnage with an **Alton City** license plate stopped in front of me. The win dow rolled down halfway, and Rowan's gaze met mine. "I'll send you back." "okay," I qui ckly answered, then got in the passenger seat.

Technically, Ishould keep my distance from Bower But since I was pregnant with his chil d and knowing I'd be raising the child alone, I felt like I was somewhat on the losing end. What was the big deal in **a** car ride? He should be grateful that this was all 1 asked from him.

I don't know why, but Rowan had been nicer to me since our divorce. It seemed that hu man nature was inherently uncertain

But after this business trip, I would return to Starland and probably not return here for an other couple of years. I planned to work safely and have my child there.

Thoped Ashley would get pregnant soon so that even if the Payne family found out abo ut my child, they wouldn't try to take him away.

On the road, asked Rosan, "Why didn't you tell people we're divorced? Did you even tell Ashley?"

"I did." Rowan's side profile showed his high nose bridge and slightly parted thin lips. "B esides a few close ones, I didn't bother telling anyone."

Tremained sent. Just because he didn't say

it didn't mean that word wouldn't spread. otherwise, how could Lauren have found out about it? "That Lauren likes you," stated bluntly. "You and Ashley are in a long– distance relationship, aren't you worried about getting lonely? Rowan's face darkened. " Mind your own business."

"I don't have that many troublesome admicers," Imuttered,

Rowan let out a cold laugh, seemingly disagreeing with my words.

I out to me, "Ivory!"

At the hotel entrance, unbuckled my seatbelt and got out of the car. As I was heading in , Lindacalled o

I turned and saw her carrying some traits which she had probably just bought,

"What did you **buy**?" asked.

"Apples, some plums, and strawberries Want some?"

lwwed my **hand**, noticing out of the corner of my eye that Rowan hadn't let yet. Instead, he got out of the car, looking at Linda with the same expression as hem. When Linda sa w Rowan, her expression changed drastically, even more intensely than when she san

Her gaze was one of looking at a sworn enemy, filled with animosity.

My **heart** thumped, and I felt a sense of unease.

"Hello, D

Linda. Long time no see," Rowan spoke first, his voice soft

"Heh! Ivory, he's your friend too? noring Rowan, Linds asked me instead

1 hesitated, them honestly stated, "Not a friend. He's myex-husband."

At that moment, I felt Linda's hostility toward me. She looked at me, then at Rowan, ber expression cold.

Suddenly, she rushed to Rowan and slapped him hard across the face, I was stunned.

A hand mark appeared on Rowan's cheek. He didn't say a word. He just looked at Linda with a gloomy face.

"I've wanted to do that for a long time. Remember, I did it for my sister!" **Linda** was furio us. If she hadn't begged us in her suicide nate not to trouble you, I would've killed **you** b ack then!"

Tcaught the important word-sister.

Linda was **Sophie's sister**?

Rowan med to want to say something but ultimately remained silam. He **just** looked at me.

"When you married him, didn't you know he liked someone else? You guys caused the death of my only sister!" Linda criticized me

Hele surprisingly calm. It was as if my emotions had been nunibed by the many things h ad gone through.

Chapter 118 Linda's Real identity

Isaid, "I didn't know. Your sister's death has nothing to do with me. I didn't even know about her existence when I married

Rowan. If you want to settle scores, please find the right target. I'm tired and need to sle ep"

with that, I turned to leave. I had just gotten out of this sticlcy situation and did not want t o get back into it.

Linda seemed taken aback. Perhaps she hadn't expected that someone she saw as the main culprit to be so indiferent

e was. He answered, "Linda Clark Why?"

Back in my room, I chatted with Charles and asked him what Linda's full name was,

Treplied, "No reason. I'm just curious"

Over an hour later, Linda returned. Her eyes were red, and she was still visibly angry.

"I didn't expect the woman Rowan married to be you," she spoke first

"Haven't you been keeping tabs on him over the years?" **asked** indifferently.

Linda scoffed. "Keep tabs on him? Whenever I see him, I'm reminded of my poor sister. I'm afraid I won't be able to control myself and burn his whole family down!"

I could tell that Linda loved Sophie very much. But she shouldn't direct her hatred toward me I was a victim too.

Sophie had paid with her life, and so did 1. The only difference was that I had been rebo rn.

"Linda, Rowan and I are already divorced. I didn't even know about your sister until we were about to divorce. I hope you can be reasonable and not let personal **grudges affe ct** work," I said calmly.

Linda didn't say anything and just glared at me. After a long while, she **said**, "Rowan me t a woman who **looks a** lot like my sister, didn't **he**? Is that why he divorced you?"

It seemed that they had talked a lot earlier.

"She is part of the reason. But let me clarify one thing– I wanted the divorce, not Rowan," I answered

"He wouldn't dhrotce you for that woman? Linda seemed incredulous.

Perhaps she thought that since Sophie had paid with her life, she should be the biggest regret in Rowan's life. If Rowan wanted to divorce me for Ashley, a woman who had an uncanny resemblance to Sophie, it would prove that Sophie was still the one he loved most.

Posted by Admink, ?

Chapter 119 Not Depending Sealy on Rowan

Chapter Not Depending Solely on Rowan

"Yes, he wouldn't didn't think anything was wrong

Linda didn't say more, but she didn't speak to me much in the following days. Apart from necessary work conversations, she treated me as it was invisible

Fortunately, she could still separate her professional and personal lide to remain diligent in work. After successfully signing the contract, we headed back to Stomland. Charles and both Linda and me greatly, but couldn't feel happy. The thought of continuing to wor k alongside Linda made me feel uncomfortable

However, I wouldn't start a conflict unless it was absolutely unnecessary.

"Ivy, take this document to the **marketing** department. The company is planning to try o nline marketing Coordinate the new channel with the marketing team. It needs to be syn chronized both domestically and internationally," said Charles as he handed **me a** docu ment.

Inodded and took the document to the marketing department.

Upon arrival, I saw several young and beautiful women with exquisite makeup. After ask ing **a** colleague, lead they were online streamers hired by the marketing department.

Our company mainly focused on cosmetics production, not only with our own brand but also our sales channels, with nearly a hundred counters in Stormland, Charles and to ex pand our online presence.

This was the main objective of the branch

After handing

the document to the marketing manager, I was about to leave when I spotted a familiar f igure

Ashley was dressed in a chic suit, her once sleek black **hair** now styled is way curls, **ad ding a** touch of femininity. Her makeup was lighter compared to the other women, but h er far skin and debate textures gave her a natural beauty.

She saw me too and looked surprised

"Ivory." Ashley walked over and greeted me sadly

"Why are you here?" I found it hard to believe **and even** suspected that **she** might be in vestigating me **and trying to get** close to me.

"I saw that this company was hiring music streamers. Since I'm **a** music **major**, I though t I'd give it a try. It would be nice to earn

some living expenses while studying abroad." Ashley bit her lip, and her eyes sparkled a s **she** looked at me.

The company probably aimed to hire talented streamers, build their fan base, and then start promoting their products. This was quite a popular business model in the country.

Ismiled faintly. "You're quite hardworking. Has Rowan gone **bankrupt**, **so** you have to w ork so hard?!

At the mention of Rowan, Ashley's expression changed, and her eyes flickered. "I don't want him to think I rely on him for everything. He helped me a lot with my study abroad. T can't just depend on him for living expenses too

"**You** don't have to save him that bit of money" 1 penuinely felt sorry for Ashley's naive thinking that saving money for a man could prove her genuine intentions to be with him.

She **had** already gone through so much to be with Rowan Couldn't he be more magnani mous?

Ashley lowered her head.

"You should read up about **his** past. **Ching** cars **and** houses **is** standard for him. The bi t of money you saved him might end up being spent on other women in the end!" Ispoke Be an experienced **person**, patted Ashley's shoulder, then let without **looking** back.

I didn't care about Ashley's reaction to my words.

After a busy day, II was finally time to go home. **Fanished**, I was maly to hral **buck** to m y **car** when 1 1 Ashley on a small electric motorcycle at the **company's** entrance.

The one riding the motorcycle was her friend, **Joy**

Studying abroad with a

close friend, working hard together while thing a simple yet happy life, riding a motorcycl e together with the wind in their hair and smiles on their faces what a **youthful** and bea utiful scene.

Enduring my hunger, I snapped a photo and

this?

Ivan quickly replied, "What do you mean by th

I didn't **bother** stopping the car and headed home. After quickly ordering some takeout, replied to Ivan, "Howan sent Ashley to study abroad. You may have missed a move, but haven't you noticed that Ashley doesn't have a car? This is your chance!"

Ivan answered, "Go tell Rowan It has nothing to do with me."

Aslay on the couch staring at han's reply, I felt something was off. Was he still crazy ab out Aychley?

Three minutes later, Rowan called, startling me

ben tanswered, his tone was cold "You saw Ashley?"

"Yeah, she's working part-time as a streamer!" responded ambiguously,

"Rowan, you like a self-

reliant woman who works hard for themselves, don't you? Is you should give a home to a strong woman like her."

"Ivory, talk properly Rowan became angry.

"You called **me**," I replied irritably "Instead of talking nonsense with me, why don't you b uy your little woman acar I don't want to face the moral dilemma of whether to give her a ride when see her caught in the rain someday!"

How was so angry with me that he was silent for awhide finally, he said, "Alright, I will ri ght now!"

After hanging up, Lanarted, then immediately oped WhatsApp to bombard van with **messages**.

"Ivan, and you an idine? 1 keep creating chances for you. Have you taken even one? W hat happened to being brave and chasing ber? Do you understand a woman's heart? I' m done

yourpon to Rowan again, I'll flyback, go to your hospital, and sold you!!

In took awhile to respond but finally sent our words, "I'll wait for you"

Suddenly, felt that his loss in my past was not undered. If I were Ashley, I'd choose Ho wtoo

Just as Twas contemplating how to respond, the darebel rang

Chapter 119 Not Depending Solely on Rowan

2.2

Looking through the peephole, I was startled by the person outside.

Why was James here?

Reluctantly, Topened the door. "James, why are you.

"I came back here

to work Jean gave me your address and asked me to bring you these candies which sh e didn't manage to give you on her wedding day," James held up a beautifully wrapped box with **a** smile,

Jean didn't stop meddling even though she was pregnant. Despite her severe morning s ickness, she still had the energy to worry about me and her brother.

Not wanting to be rude, I said, "Thank you Come in and have a seat."

James looked a bit apologetic. "Am I disturbing you?"

"Not at all come in and sit!" I couldn't bear to say that James was a bother. I understood his feelings, but he had never crossed any lines, so I couldn't be too harsh.

My phone lit up with a text from Jean. "Ivy, when James came back last time, he sold hi s place there. He has to find a place to stay temporarily, so let him stay with you for a fe w days. You can't not help, or l'er!"

I was exasperated and replied, "How can a single man and woman live together?"

Jean responded, "Isn't your place a two-

bedroom apartment? Don't worry, my brother won't stay for free. Let him do **the** laundry and cooking. **Once** he finds a place, he'll leave immediately!

Posted by Admink, ?

chapter 120 Car From Rowan

I found myself in adult position due to **pean's** move, James seemed to guess whom I w as charting with and what it was about

He kindly said, "by, don't feel bad. I have many friends here, or I can stay at a hotel Don 't listen to Jem."

James' words made me feel even more uncomfortable.

"It's fine, Jartes. It's just a **few** days! I have two roces here, so it's quite convenient," ans wered generously

"Then...sorry to trouble you, I should have a place sorted within three **days**." **James** loo ked at me with bright eyes.

Three days was fine. Jean's brother was like my brother.

The next day, I awoke to a delicious smell coming from the kitchen. I walked over and **s aw** as in an apron, busy preparing **breakfast**

"you're awake? quickly have your breakfast, then you can go to work" Sering me, Jame s took off the apron and walked over with two plates of bacon **and** eggs with sauteed mushrooms.

I usually bought my breakdast on the way to work as I couldn't get up early enough to c ook. That day, James blessed me with a homemade meal

"Thank you!" I practically inhaled the food.

After rating, Thurried to the office

Coincidentally, **I ran** to Ashley at the entrance as she was getting off the electric motorc ycle. Estepped on the **gas** pedal **and** sped past her.

Near

lunchtime, Ashley suddenly appeared at the entrance of my department and caught the attention of a few male colleagues.

"Ivory" Ashleycalled out to me sweetly while holding up a poetry big

My workspace was next to Linda's. When she heard Ashley's voice, she was momentari ly stunned. "Soph?

Ashley didn't know Linda and walked straight to me

looked at her coldly. "What is it?"

"Ivory, Theard from Mr. **Payne** that you've been having stomach issues recently, so I bo ught **you a** homemade lunchbox that I made myself. It's healthy and nutritious. Try II. A shley held out the bag with both hands.

Toked at the bag but didn't cake **It**.

Beside me, Linda realised that the woman was the sister but Bowen's new flame, Ashle y. **She** took the bag for me and said, "okay, thank you. You're Ashley, right**?**""

Her tone was unusually gende.

"Yes, I'm Ashley And you are? Ashley was sweet and warm to anyone she met.

"My name is Linda. I'm also from the business development department Linda extended her hand. "Mice to meet you, Ashley."

Ashley, flattered by the warm welcome, shook Linda's hand. She probably couldn't understand why Linda was being so kind to her.

Caught between them, I remained expressionless

Did Ashley not know she was a substitute? she thought she was special to Rowan Woul d she break down if she ever discovered that Rowan liked her because she resembled

As 1 pondered this question, Ashley's phone rang. She glanced at the caller ID **and** im mediately **looked at** me the Rowan calling.

It was just in time for lunch break, so I got up to leave. As for the lunchbox, whoever wa nted it could have it.

When I left the office, Rowan was at the entrance. His gaze **turned** cold when he saw m e.

"Mr. Payne!" Ashley's cheerful mice sounded behind me. I looked back and saw her ski pping toward Bow **Eke a** little deer.

Rowan's cold expression softened a little, as if he was deliberately **trying** to spite me. H e let her throw herself into **his and**, showing an enviable display **of** affection.

Linda also followed. Her expression was complicated when she some this seme.

When she met Rowan's gaze, it was filled with complexity.

"Ivy "Suddenly, Theard James voice. I looked over to see him not far away, holding a lunchbox in his **hand**. When he saw Rowan, **his** smile **slowly** fa ded.

Rowan's expression also instantly turned ky. Both men's eyes were filled with hostility.

Ashley, **nestled** in Rowan's arms, looked at fames and then at me. She spoke in a joyfu I tone, "vory, he chased you all the way here? When I saw him back home, my intuition t old me that he **liked** you. Such a devoted man is rare."

"Yes, you're right wherever she is, I'll be there

Thanks to pean's big mouth, james knew that Rowan and tre disced

He walked over and held my hand

My body stiffened at the intimate gesture, which I wasn't used to. But when I saw Ashley in Rowan's arms, I decided to hold James' hand even tighter.

"**Congratulations**, you guys. Actually.." Ashley looked up at Rowan, as if testing his rea ction, then continued, "Actually, I used to **think** Ivory likod **van**. **Ivan** seemed special to her

Rowan's face fell at Ashley's words. Mentioning Ivan and me was the worst possible thing.

Ivan was his best friend. They had grown up together. Previously, Bown had already be en suspicious of me **and** Ivan. Now that **Ashley** brought up the ambiguous relationship between James, Ivan and **me**, Rowan was even more imitaned

Even though we were divorced, he didn't like the idea of me being with his best friend. D elayed infidelity was still infidelity, after all.

Ashley was **good** at reading people. When she noticed the change in Rowan's mood, s he carefully clutched his sleeve and asked, "Did **I say** something **wrong?.**

Howan Igned her question. Instead, rasked, "Do you have a delver's license?"

"Yes, I prepared all the necessary documents before I came here. But I haven't driven **myself** siner getting my liemse," Ashley answered honestly.

Chapter 120 A Car From Rowan

"Mmm, that's fine. From now on, you **can** drive yourself to and from work. It's more convenient," Rowan said as he handed Ashley acarkey.

The brand– new red BMW parked by the roadside, estimated to be worth around a million dollars, was probably a gift for Ashley.

To Rowan, it was just an ordinary car. But to Ashley, **it** was the most valuable gift she **h ad** ever received. If she hadn't met Rowan, she probably would never buy a car like this in her

"No, no, no. This is too expensive!" Ashley was caught off guard and immediately stepp ed out of Rowan's embrace, handing the key back to him. "Tean take the bus or ride on my friend's electric motorcycle. It's very convenient!" Rowan frowned, seemingly displeased with Ashley's refusal.

I let go of James' hand, then took his arm and deliberately **said** in a coy tone, "Oh, James, your

ou wouldn't happen to be here to pick me up on an electric motorcycle too, right? I don't want to because I don't like the wind and sun."

James knew I was doing it on purpose. A doting smile flashed in his eyes as he played **along**. "Of course not. Let's go have the lunch I b rought in my car. How about that?"

"Yes, let's go!" I turned to leave...

I had barely taken two steps when Rowan followed and grabbed my arm. His eyes were **cold** and intense as he asked, "Are you really with him?""