

# Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 121-130

Posted by **Admink**, 225

## Chap 121 A Drunken Kiss

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Later that attemoon at work, Linda, soded  
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Tomanet ilent, focusing on my tasks.

“Theard you pursued Bowie Jor five years before marrying him. Why are you so quick to  
divorce **him** tour Lists asked

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rk hours now I’d prefer not to discess my personal lite

Linda’s repemuoni hardened, her gave numing iry she didn’t say another word to me aft  
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After work, I inopped by the impert.

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ated lights in the stairwell were fummoning Frlimbed

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ridly puded merlover barreamed, and alright Dickerndback işle

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on his breath, suggesting he had been drinking

My heart continued to pound firmnely and I was stil reeling from these are inre recogniz  
ed him, lengrily swing my bag of fesitatham, shouting, "Howwan, are you insane?**you** :

Rowan didy immutan Epeatedly streik hun with the leg untila burst open, sending fruit  
y rambling down the **stars**. With the fruits scattered, Traved my hand, prised to strike

In show an unused may wrist post before Terudd swing

pated, my anger boding over as I tried to lash out with tiny t

He remained sânt, his amour gaze coming tonigh me Then, heefturtlessly send any oth  
er hand, **presing** me against the wall and securing my arms above my head, cansed an  
d completely restrened I was helpless to resist

I was a deeply humiliating position, and bouldering fare aflame with both anger and sha  
me

"Are you out of your mind' on bother Ashley if you're drunk, not me?" I stepped, squirmi  
ng my body as I tried is free myself from dali gr

"Weed, I only think of you be this when I've had a few," Rowan  
said, unexpectedly smiling. His wire was slightly golf, the scent of alcohol hanging hony  
on his been the next instant, his lips boldly met mine

The left meeting and breathless, my legs yet so familiar. With my slender hold, I felt utterly useful. Already weak from hunger

her skipping dinner, my legs newly perched out at his and then advance

Hissing

quickly taught me, wrapping around my waist and **lifting** me slightly. I felt like I was on tiptoes. As he held me, my hands finally broke. I tried to push him away, but he led at his neck firmly

Rowan granted in pain, his skin now bearing down angry red scars.

"Let me go! This is self!" I shouted. As he loosened his grip, I thought to regain my composure and warned, "I'll call the power"

Powen touched his scratched neck, inspecting the blood on his fingertips with a frown, "by, are you part wild after something"

"That dropped wildcat in me, you'd be the merchant after my tale," I shot back, soothed my tousled hair and taking a breath, "Rowan, Ashley? We're forced, yet here you are, telling me you **miss** me. How absurd!"

you think this in a to

At that moment, the motion—activated light flickered off again, plunging in into darkness only your heavy breathing filled the void, out of the darkness, how it surfaced, "I **never** wanted to be here"

"Don't string me along if you **don't** love me Rowan, I've given you a decade to fall in love with me, but it never happened, did it? I questioned My heart pounded with **lingering**

Posted by **Admink**, 220

Chapter 122 A Drunken Kiss

**four**, its **rhythm** loud in my throat, refusing to calm.

"I did ask for time to sort things out with Ashley. It's you who stopped trusting me," Rowan responded.

"You won't resolve anything, Rowan You always think too highly of yourself. It's not that you're incapable of love. It's just that your heart belongs to Sophie and Ashley. You can never ignore them or fully return my feelings

"I don't want to cause a scene and run what we've had for the past decade. Find your peace, and allow me to find mine," I said.

The **sadness** I had managed to suppress returned quietly. Those had been the best ten years of my life. How could I possibly reflect on them now without feeling anything?

### Chapter 133 An Impulsive Brawl

Bowen and I stood facing off in a tense standoff when suddenly, a figure appeared at the top of the stairs. It was James.

Sponges hurried down and delivered a forceful punch to Rowan's face.

"You scoundrel!" he shouted angrily.

The scattered fruit and my tousled hair must have presented a chaotic scene to anyone who stumbled upon it.

Unexpectedly, Rowan refrained from retaliating. He collapsed **heavily** to the ground, touching the bleeding earner of his lip before getting backup.

Ignoring James completely, Rowan fixed his gaze on me and said, "I won't retaliate since he hit me on your behalf."

I managed to smile and asked, "Why bother?"

Rowan's hair was **tousled** slightly, partially covering one eye. His emotions were understandable as he said, "Youence slow catches you off **guard** and deepens over time. I'm **wanting** to understand what you meant.!!"

Still seething, James shot back sharply, "Who are you trying to disgust with that sentimental crap? Keep your romantic nonsense for your girl, alright? Be a man and own up to your choices!"

It was only then that Rowan turned his gaze toward James, his eyes cold and distant.

"What are you doing here? Are you staying at her place?" Rowan **asked as** he pointed in my direction, his expression growing more threatening.

James began, "Yeah, and **what** I am? You

I could tell James was trying to provoke Rowan on my behalf. **They** were men and surely understood how possessive men could be.

But I intervened. “**He’s** only staying here temporarily. You should head back there’s nothing more. Your duties back at your company in the country must be calling you. Don’t

Then, I took James by the arm and led **him quickly** up to the third floor, back to my apartment, and closed the door behind

“**Are** you still hung up on him, ky?” James added. His eyes reflected disappointment as he sank into a chair.

“It’s not about being hung up on him. We’re divorced, and it just wants to avoid unnecessary drama: I’d blame **if** anyone got hurt,” I replied, rubbing my temples, which were throbbing with pain.

If Rowan lost his temper, things could run by, and I wanted no part of it. As irritation simmered **within** me, a strong, fishy smell wafted over me, making me gag. Rushed to the

bathroom

Moments later, James’ voice, tinged with contempt, came through the door. “y, are you okay? ”

“L. I’m fine—  
“I choked out before throwing up once I’d settled, I managed to rise and opened the door, asking. “James, did you cook **fish**?”

His face fell as he nodded in response. “I made seafood chowder. Does the smell bother you?”

James lingered close by, watching me intently as I washed my **hands**. Eventually, he questioned, “y, are you pregnant?”

Since Jean had made everything so complicated, living together only increased the chances of others meddling in my pregnancy.

Ten minutes later, James and I **sat** in silence on **the couch**, his **brow** furrowed in deep concern for what felt like an eternity.

Finally, he **asked**, “Do you intend to raise this child alone? Are you not going to tell Rowan

“I want the child, but not the marriage.” I sighed heavily, “Please, James, promise me **you** won’t breathe a word of this to anyone, including Jean. She’s married to Chester now, and I can’t let Rowan find out.”

"No way!" James burst out, clearly grated. Heaped to his feet, stomped to the door, and stored out.

Shocked, I hurried after him. To my astonishment, Rowan hadn't left. He lingered downstairs, casually smoking beside his car

As I **went** down the stairs, I saw mes charge at Rowan and **land a** powerful punch to his toe. The raw **intensity** of his **rage** caught me off and

"**Are** you aching for a fight? Rowan yelled, soothing with fury. His cigarette lay **abandoned** on the ground as he followed up with a brutal kick med at James.

James' voice thundered through the air. "Who do you think you are, hurting her like this? Just because she loved **you**? She loved **you** for a decade, and even after the divorce, **you're** still tormenting her, you damn jerk"

He took the blow without so much **as a** blink. Regaining his balance, he lunged forward and down by the collar, roaring. "I should never **have been afraid** to crash your

wedding and steal her away from you

Rowan forcefully shook off James' grip, his anger **barely** contained. "Do you think crashing the wedding would have changed anything? She didn't choose you then, and she won't choose you now. Damn it

I was overwhelmed by the scaling chaos. The two men were locked **in a** brawl, and I hesitated to step in as I had done before, especially now with a child to protect. Any harm to **us** could have disastrous consequences.

"Then why didn't you appreciate her? Do you even realize that she "James nearly revealed the secret

I gathered my courage and dashed forward, wrapping my arms around James' waist. "I don't love him anymore. I really don't!"

A weighty silence settled over **us** the **instant** the words left my lips, James **glanced** down at me, his eyes reflecting empathy mingled with lingering resentment. Meanwhile, Rowan

had a surprisingly calm expression as **it** he had foreseen my **words**..

, just go!" I said firmly, avoiding his glare

As Bowen climbed into his car, I heard the door slam shut behind me, its force carrying the weight of his simmering anger.

Moments later, James broke the silence. “**He’s** gone.”

“Promise me this stays behind,” **I said**, casing my hand on his waist.

Downplaying the impulsive moment, I added perily, “you don’t want me getting **involved** with him because of our child, keep this **under** wraps. Don’t let anyone know!”

## Chapter 122 An impulsive Brawl

James paced with frustration with hands on his hips before agreeing. “Fine,”

Feeling a rush **of** relief, I smiled. “Good. Let’s get back inside. It’s late, **and** I’ve got work tomorrow.”

With that, I headed upstairs ahead of James. The night had left me emotionally drained. My thoughts drifted to Rowan’s intense and unrestrained kiss earlier.

It felt like I was the love he’d missed his chance with. But earlier that day, he’d gifted a car to Ashley, letting her leap into his arms and wrap her arms around his waist.

I realized that his mixed emotions toward me stemmed from my sudden withdrawal of love, our divorce, and his difficulty in accepting that I was no longer under his control. He **had** mistaken possessiveness for genuine affection toward me

Finding comfort in these thoughts, I eventually fell asleep as dawn **approached**

The following day, I showed up at work with heavy **bags** under my eyes. Charles took notice of my weary look **and** summoned me into his office.

“Rough night?” he asked.

“Something came up last night, and I stayed up longer than I should have,” I confessed truthfully.

Charles shook his head resignedly. “Try not to stay up late. Anyway, there’s something I need to discuss with you. Linda has requested a transfer to the marketing department, so she’ll be handing off her duties in business development to you,

“You’ll be stepping into her role. How do you feel about that? Do you think you’re up for it?”

Linda naturally held a higher position and earned a higher salary than mine.

“What made her decide to move to the marketing department all of a sudden?” I asked, surprised.

“She’s keen on diving into online marketing. **She’s** been deeply involved in **managing** distribution channels, but she’s grown tired of it and feels it’s time for a new challenge,” Charles explained.

I couldn’t shake the sense that there was more to Linda’s choice. I suspected she wanted to be nearer to Ashley, the young woman who bore such a striking resemblance to her younger sister.

apter 173. The Mistress

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 123 The Mistress Revealed

After talking with Charles, I decided to shoulder some of Linda’s duties. They were manageable **and** offered valuable **experience**.

Olven my pregnancy, was careful not to overt myself, so I didn’t take on all of her workload.

With these additional responsibilities, my schedule filled quickly, and time flew by. Two days later, James announced he had secured a new place to live.

Before departing, James regarded me earnestly and said, “If you’re comfortable, I could pay rent and stay here a bit longer wouldn’t **be ideal for** you to be alone during your pregnancy without someone around to take care of you.”

“James, don’t worry. I’m handling things fine. **Besides**, your new place is **close** by, right? If I need anything, I’ll reach out to you without hesitation,” I responded

His concern touched me, but hoped he would eventually let go of me. I was already pregnant, and understood he might not be comfortable with the **idea of** becoming a father to my child.

James sighed in response but didn’t create any trouble for me as he left, carrying only a few simple bags

I had to admit that **having** someone else around made the apartment feel livelier. Now that James was gone, the quiet emptiness of the room only amplified my sense of loneliness.

It wasn’t so much that I missed him specifically. It was the pregnancy hormones. They intensified all my emotions, turning each feeling, whether joy or sadness, into something overwhelming. I composed myself, took a shower, and went to bed to work to concentrate on and a life to lead



Fortunately, I didn't encounter Rowan over the next few days. I wasn't sure if he had turned to home country or was staying with Ashley

As the weekend approached, our business development department circulated a very listing various entertainment activities. Each employer was asked to vote for their preferred option. The activity with the most votes would become our weekend team-building event

To my surprise, our department head invited **Linda** to join us. It was a fitting, development department and had maintained positive relationships with everyone.

Considering she had been one of the original members of our branch's business

Ashley walked closely beside **Linda**, greeting me with her usual polite tone whenever our paths crossed, "Ivory"

Her voice grated on me, so I chose to remain silent.

"Brother, you don't have to be **so** distant with her. She's actually **quite** nice." Linda defended Alley. Her defence drew curious glances from our colleagues, highlighting my negative attitude toward **Ashley**.

key **as** a replacement for her late sister, Sophie.

I was taken aback by how quickly Linda bonded with Ashley. Linda probably saw **Ashley**

Ashley bit her lip and reassured Linda, "It's alright, Linda. Ivory might just be worn out from work and feeling down. I get it"

Linda seemed to comment with Ashley's brief display of empathy, though I couldn't quite grasp **by**.

After joining in a few activities at the villa party organized by the business development department, I slipped away in a terrace for a moment of solitude,

Linda quietly materialized beside me as if out of thin air. "Do you truly despise Ashley that much?"

"Are we supposed to be **inseparable** pals? That's **back**, finding her question **absurd**."

"Back then, Sophie loathed you just as intensely." Linda brought up Sophie **again**. "In the end, she gave up her life. Ashley **reminds** me of her, though she's female. Sometimes I wonder if **things** would've been different had Sophie been more like Ashley."

That explained why Linda seemed **so** contented earlier.

“Quit bringing this up to me. I’ve already told you, I had no invent with Sophie. I don’t even know her,” I said, **sinking** into the recliner **and** staring at the nearby scenery I continued, “You should tell Ashley she’s simply taking over Sophie’s position **and** explain how important Sophie was to Rowan

Linda frowned disapprovingly at my detector. She spoke **coldly**, “I mentioned she reminds me of my late sister, but I won’t **burden** her with Sophie and Rowan’s past. I’m not as wicked as you are.”

“Me, wicked?” I was genuinely baffled “Am I to accept the baseless actions simply because of someone I’ve never even met? should know jump in the river as penance for learning about Sophie’s first?”

Linda glared at me with spite.

Frustrated, I rose to my feet and poised at her. **Linda Clark**, stood closely. I’m not the one who caused the rift between Sophie and Roman, but Ashley was the mistress who interfered in my relationship with Rowan.

\*Spare **the** tocking fairy tale of true love! if you see Ashley as your new Sophie, then go ahead and look after her. I’m even willing to divorce Rowan and let Ashley take my place. That’s the most generous offer I can make Don’t push me into **doing** something she’s not ready to **handle!**”

**As** I finished speaking, I noticed Ashley and several colleagues from the business development department standing at the terrace door with drinks in hand, frozen in surprise. Ashley’s face was a mix of shock, hurt, and embarrassment, her tears deliberately exposing her vulnerability.

they appeared completely word.

All my colleagues had heard me. While we usually conversed in hush, they understood Etherian as well Now, Ashley abruptly turned and dashed away, Confronted, Linda wanted to follow her but **first** turned to me with a question. “Do you really **have** to do **that**? You and Rowan both divorced now! What’s the point of singling her out?”

With **that**, Linda hurried after Ashley.

Ily, “You see that? Ashley snatches my ex-husband, and I’m expected to be thankful. Otherwise, I’m painted as

Espered, took a drink from a colleague's hand, and mocked casually, awicked person. How ridiculous."

Mycolleagues' mactions were completely diverse. I wondered what those few male colleagues, obviously charmed by Ashley's appearance, were contemplating. Frasily strolled away, unconcerned about hulling officechatter. After all, Ashley ended up looking worse, not me.

Themenwapped upon a

se note the so the friction between Ashley mul myself. After leaving the villa, I made a beeline lot my can, eager to return here

## Chapter 123 The Mistress Revealed

Just then, Rowan's vehicle pulled up nearby. He emerged from the car, his expression unreadable. Surprisingly, he hadn't departed the country. He must have been with Ashley this whole time.

Linda walked by me, holding Ashley's hand, and paused before Rowan. Their conversation was out of my earshot, and soon after, Ashley began to dab at her tears

Life was full of surprises. Linda had long held a grudge against Rowan. Could she be considering a reconciliation with Rowan because of Ashley?

Linda's concerned expression was that **of an** older sister entrusting a beloved younger sibling to someone else's care

As Rowan

listened, his eyes suddenly locked onto mine. I cursed my perfect eyesight, which allowed me to read his shifting emotions so clearly even from such a distance.

His face shifted from disinterest to annoyance, then softened into empathy, which weighed heavily on me

I slid into my car, ignoring them completely, and drove off without a backward glance.

When I got home, my phone rang. I was anticipating Rowan's call to defend his "innocent girlfriend, but to my surprise, Ivan's name appeared on the screen instead.

I picked up **the** phone, and Ivan's voice came through: "Benjamin's been trying to reach you. Did you block him?"

"Yeah, I did. Why's he reaching out to me? Lasked, sinking into the couch and closing my eyes to get some rest

I blocked Benjamin when I went abroad. At first, I had sought emotional support through him, but I realized it wouldn't be right to entangle him in a misguided relationship at his young age. So, I ended up blocking all his contacts.

## Chapter No Feelings for Ashley

"absolutely just disappear after using him like that? Despite his words, his smile lingered in his tone

I couldn't detect any hint of him fading me **cruel** from what he said

"It's part," he said with a sigh, resting on him for emotional support that as we got closer, it was as if he was really a good person. I couldn't **keep** using him. Blocking him was

"Well, that's certainly one way to show you've got a conscience," Ivan remarked, amused by my words. Then, he asked, "What should I tell him if he asks about you

Did Benjamin actually go to Ivan's hospital to ask about me? I was surprised by how much he cared about me.

Feeling even more guilty, I hesitated for a moment before replying. "Just inform him that after my divorce from Rowan, I relocated overseas for work. I won't be back for at **least** two years. He can reach out to your work—re-

He took a moment before asking. "He'll come to me for work—relocate since he is in the medical field?"

"He's not but you can help him with other work—related challenges, right? Dr. York, doctors like you are known for compassion, please, **show** him some kindness"

My attempt to pull—trip him left him speechless. He was likely pondering how his compassionate nature **as** a doctor could translate into helping someone with their career

He said, think of it as doing good. If you help him, consider it a debt owed you." He then added. I didn't plan on leaving that debt unpaid.

"And how do you plan to repay me?" he fullasked.

He suggested. Reflecting on the **day's** events, I reconsidered and added, "Then again, maybe not. Dr. York, **Ashley** can be quite tricky, Choosing can have lasting consequences. I'd advise that Rowan take that risk."

"What if I help you out with Ashley?" he asked.

Ivan's beam laughter echoed through the phone. He seemed genuinely amused

I'll tent, uncertain whether he was mocking me. If Ivan were to fall for Ashley, I would intervene again. I would step back and respect his choices, no matter the outcome.

"Them, I've always wondered. Who told you had a thing for Ashley? And why are you **so** convinced I'd be into her?" asked.

"Didn't you have feelings for her?" I questioned

Deep down, I sensed something was off about Ivan in this time. Yet, another part of me held onto the belief that he would eventually develop feelings for Ashley, although it might be much later than in my past life

"I don't have feelings for her," Ivan stated.

I was shocked "Remember when you mentioned being drawn to someone you could pursue because of her situation? Wasn't that Ashley?"

Ivan's face turned serious all of a sudden "Why does it have to be Ashley? Why couldn't it be you?"

My mind went blank as if a lightning bolt had just struck inside my head was momentarily stunned What on earth did I want?

"Situating "he was entering to was because no divorce with Rowan hadn't been finalized back then?"

Suddenly. I recalled Jean's words. She had mentioned that he was being in a yard. At the time, it confused me, but I held onto the belief that everything would

(of my previous life, with Ivan finally dragging feelings for Ashley.

It completely reshaped the storyline of relationships **after** my brother's torrent of questions flooded my mind, leaving me speechless.

"Surprised" Ivan laughed. "I was just giving an example, Ashley isn't the only woman around Why should I be fixated on her? There are plenty of women whose situations **would**

My heart drained. I breathed a sigh and replied, "You surprised me.

Yet, beneath my surprise, I couldn't shake the feeling that we had sewed my unease and I found his words to resonate with me

Ashley going forward She's herself, and I'm me. I'm not interested in her," Iwa sad with a sigh.

Thân some trouble. At the same time, Tabo understood that this supposed amniscience had its limitations. Many drians were Land **avoid** projecting futer expectations on him in the present

"Alright. I'en sorry I misunderstood you" Tadsch

at make nice you take care of yourself and keep **an** eye on your diet," Ivas advised.

for a bit, Thung up Right after tha i message hom the hospital came upon my phone.

in was for my upcoming pratal appointment. After checking the date, Indard almost a month had passed since my checkup Time had slipped away without me even anting

The

checkup procedure was

i was distinct from what it was like in my home country began a calize this compared to what je had told me about.

Around two mendia into my pregnancy, Funderwent blood tests for Down syndrome screening and discovered the baby's gender. It was a girl. My next appointme nt was

scheduled for a detailed ultrasound scan.

Ish of let, knowing it was a girl I'd been worried sick about having a boylike that jerk van would have delen mei

"Sweetheart, you've got to toughen up and take after me, your mom!" Imunmured, pretly rubbing my abdunum. I was naturally slender and way in the early stages of pregnancy, so my abdomen esined that mough that on one would suspect I was expecting whmidersand up.

The doctor also mentioned my health condition and emphasized the need to carebelly s anch my nutrition intakes great my body from becoming too trall, which could malnutritio n for the **baby**.

With that in mind, I humed to the kitchen to perper **a** simple yet nourishing dinner for my sell.

I had just finished dinner when Jean's **video** call came in. She was at the Lowson **resid ence**, lounging on the couch like **a** queen while Chester fed her nuts.

**Jean pushed** Chester's hand away and turned to me. "Ing, did you hear? Roman's jumped onto **that** Stomland project."

"When did that happen?" I asked.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 124 No Feelings for Ashley

"It must've been around the time when Ashley went overseas. Now, he's managing Duo Chemicals from afar. That son-of-a-bitch's really bending over backward for that temptress!" Jean cursed.

I figured Chester had filled Jean in on the gossip. Smiling, I replied casually, "It doesn't bother me. We're divorced, so his choices are his own now. Actually, I bumped into him earlier today."

"**What** happened?" Jean asked, keen for more details.

in our group chat"

I hadn't gotten around to telling Jean **and** the others about Sophie and Linda yet. After a brief pause, I said, "I'll tell you all in on the details **in** our Once our call ended, I swiftly composed a lengthy message detailing Sophie and Linda, then sent it **to** our group chat.

The chat exploded with activity immediately. Despite our small group of four, the rapid-fire responses made it feel as bustling as a crowded group,

Jean's voice message came first. "This is so fucking dramatic! I never knew about Sophie. Even Ashley was just filling in for her. Then, what about you, by? Have you been an emotional punching bag for five years?"

## Chapter 125 Bleeding

Olivia and Natalie finally couldn't hold back their thoughts any longer, either

Olivia: "vy, divorcing him was **the** right call. Rowan is completely out of line. You didn't even **know** Sophie when she agreed to marry him, so why are you taking all the blame ?

Natalie: "Exactly. How **can they** be so selfish? You're a victim in all of this, too!

Jean: "And what was her name again? Linda, right? What the hell is her problem, spouting all that? I would have pulled her hair out if she had been there. No doubt!"

As I scrolled through the countless messages, I couldn't help but feel disheartened. Rowan never mentioned Sophie to me. Back then, he only **urged** me to turn down Robert's proposal

With Robert's **health** deteriorating, there was no hesitation, **and** because I didn't refuse, I ended up marrying Rowan. If I **made a mistake**, it was agreeing to marry him despite knowing he had no action for me.

That night, the group chat buzzed with activity and the others were curious on my behalf, talking about confronting Sean, but intervened.

The more we entertained the idea of retaliation, the more complicated **things** would become. It seemed wiser to leave things be as they were.

Right then, my biggest concern was how long Rowan planned to stay in his home country. I was eager for him to finish his work and return to our home country soon. As my pregnancy progressed concealing my growing belly was becoming more challenging by the day

The next day at work, I received a text from Linda "Let's talk after work"

"Embed up I texted back and brushed it **off**

To my surprise, Linda blocked my car at the company entrance after work left me with no choice but to get out and confront her.

trying cause trouble. I just want you to lay off Ashley. She's a part-time streamer in the marketing department, **and** you're in business development. Your patha hardly crossed, so there's no reason for this hostility." **Linda** said, her tone laced with self-righteousness.

Why are you defending her? **tasked** calmly.

"Her like a little sister. That's all," Linda replied, as expected.

I couldn't help but be amused. "So, because you believe Rowan still pines for Sophie, and Ashley reminds you of her, you're okay with Ashley being around him as a replacement, huh?"

Was it Linda and Sophie's strong sisterly bond that deserved admiration, or was Ashley's captivating presence that warranted **praise**?

Linda was about to respond when Ashley emerged from the company building.

Ashley's eyes were red, and her small, pale face looked distraught. Upon spotting me, a flicker of hatred crossed her eyes but was swiftly replaced by distress.



"Ivory, I resigned today, I won't be coming here to bother you anymore," she **said** sorrowfully

"Ash, why did you resign? No, **you** can't leave! This isn't your fault?" Linda protested

"Now everyone thinks I'm the one who wrecked Ivory's marriage. How can I possibly keep working here? Linda, thanks for having my back through all of this love you **a** meal," Ashley said, dabbing at her eyes. She arched a hauntingly beautiful smile.

Linda looked at me, silently urging me to speak up

Steered at Ashley's words, "You're not quitting because you're worried about bothering me. It's because you can't handle the gossip, right?"

hory, 1-"Ashley began, her eyes welling up with tears

"Enough, Ashley: You know what you've done. I'm done arguing about this. I wish you **and** Rowan **a** happily ever after I snapped. I was starving and eager to get home for some

As I finished my words, I caught Ashley's expression **shift**, her **eyes** staring past me looking over my shoulder, I spotted Rowan looming behind her, his features twisted in anger. He probably had heard my "well-wishes" just moments before

"What has she done? Tell me Rowan demanded stay, I could sense the simmering anger beneath his composed demeanor

Ashley looked at me with unease.

When I was abducted, she ignored my cries for help and instead tried to distract me and the others. When I was going through a **divorce** with Rowan, she encouraged me to pursue new happiness and expedite the divorce proceedings without his knowledge

Sheen arranged for Benjamin to visit me in the hospital, making it perfectly for him to run in to town. She deliberately used Ella's perfume, a gift from me, in Rowan's car to mark her presence she sent me apology messages and shared her location, threatening to commit suicide.

I meticulously recorded **all** her manipulations on my phone. I intended to expose everything when the time was right.

Breaking my silence, Ashley grew flustered and blurted out, "**Mr.** Payne, I—there's been a misunderstanding with Henry. She didn't mean it when she called me a mistress last time. I've **caused quite** a mess for her, so I've decided to resign today."

Without warning. Ashley stepped forward, grabbed my **hand**, and attempted to slap her face with it. “Lacted disgracefully, Ivory. Go ahead, hit mel deserve!”

Her actions took me by surprise Linda quickly intervened, grabbing my hand to prevent me from actually slapping Ashley

Reacting instinctively, I pulled my hand back, but in the commination, Ashley lost her **balance** and **stumbled**

“Ashley!” kowan exclaimed, rushing over to help her up.

Linda’s patience stapped, and she showed me hand, I fell to the ground, feeling asharp pain shoot through my lower abdomen. I cradled my belly, my complexion paling

With Rowan’s assistance, Ashley regained her balance and kept up the façade of coming to my defense. “Don’t blame hory, **please**. She didn’t mean any harm. I just lost my footing.”

It warmth spreading from my lower body, and lought through the **pain** to say, “**Now**, I think I’m **having** my period. You know how frail my body is. **Please**, take me to the

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 125 Reeding

Just then, Ashley let out a cry of pain. She hunched over and rolled up her pant leg, revealing a swollen, red ankle that was probably sprained.

My heart sank. It was clear **that** Ashley didn’t want Rowan to take me to the hospital. Normally, I might have ignored such issues, but now, with a child on the way, I almost divudged everything to force Rowan to make his own decision.

Yet, fear held me back. What if revealing my pregnancy didn’t influence Rowan? Would it only make me appear more pitiable and embarrassed? I dreaded the thought of my child being mocked and becoming a child unwanted by her father.

I struggled to rise, a jolt of fear coursing through me as my hand brushed the bloodstain on my dress. I supported my body as I moved toward my car, intending to drive to the hospital alone.

Suddenly, I heard Ashley cry in frustration and urgency, “Rocan”

Before I could turn, someone effortlessly lifted me off the ground.

“I’ll get you to the hospital,” Rowan declared, holding me in his arms. His strong, gracefully moving jawline was aesthetically pleasing to the eye as he spoke.

Not far behind us, Ashley fell silent. She probably couldn't believe that Rowan **had** prioritized helping me

Rowan helped me into the passenger seat and buckled my seatbelt **in** silence before speeding toward the closest hospital. Ashley's figure **shrank** until she was just a speck through the window.

"I might stain your car," I murmured apologetically.

Rowan's brow furrowed deeply. He couldn't help but glance at me as he said, "Your health is more important than the car. You're an adult. Why aren't you taking better care of yourself?"

I was too exhausted to respond, my mind consumed with concern for the baby's well-being

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 126 Prenatal care

When I **arched** at the hospital, I was promptly taken to the gynecology department for an evaluation, leaving Ronan sitting in the lobby

I briefly described my situation to the doctor, who then ran a series of tests. The results were disheartening

She recommended that I be hospitalized temporarily for prenatal care. I felt utterly devastated and completely drained.

"Is the man outside your husband? **Should** he be informed about your **condition**? You

"No, he's **just a friend** let him know if I need his help. **Thank you.**" I replied wearily,

done to take care of you," the doctor said.

Once I had settled into my ward, Rowan approached my bedside with a concerned look. He asked, "What's going on?" I tried asking the doctor, but she wouldn't tell me anything."

I had asked the doctor to keep my condition private, and she honored my wish for confidentiality.

Rowan looked **genuinely** worried. **Besides**, he had left Ashley behind to bring me to the hospital earlier.

I struggled with whether to disclose the truth and allow him the chance to decide could keep the baby, I wouldn't withhold the opportunity for him to visit in the future.

"Rowan, I—"I began, but his phone ring, interrupting me.

He glanced at the caller ID and decided to answer the call. From the short conversation, I gathered it was Linda on the line, and I pieced together the gist of their discussion.

"How did it get this serious? I'll be there right away! Alright, I get it," Rowan said.

My doubts instantly solidified Rowan **had** brought me to the hospital solely out of obligation. How had I let myself be swayed so easily?

Luckily, I didn't utter a word. Otherwise, I might have been accused of **using** my pregnancy to manipulate Rowan for my gain.

After hanging up, Rowan looked at me with uncertainty. Before he could say anything, I reassured him with a smile and said, "Go ahead. Bringing me here was more than enough."

"She's badly sprained her ankle. I should go check on her," Rowan said as if feeling the need to explain.

"There's no need for explanations. You're free to leave," I replied calmly with a smile,

I didn't want to show any of my pain and anxiety before him right now. The baby was ours, but if I decided to keep it, I understood I'd be managing everything alone.

Rowan's expression briefly tensed **before** he turned and walked away. As I watched the ward **door** close behind him, I struggled to calm myself for a long while.

After a while, I **asked** the doctor to arrange a caregiver to look after me over the next few days. Next, I called Charles to request some time off.

Worried, **he** insisted on visiting me at the hospital. I provided him with the address and suggested he become the following day.

Later that night, while scrolling through my phone by the bed, I stumbled upon a post from Ashley, it was posted about five hours earlier—probably around when Rowan had taken me to the hospital.

She had shared a photo of her sprained ankle with a caption. "What hurts more than my ankle is my **heart**."

It was truly heartbreaking that the man she believed loved her deeply could walk away when she was injured, choosing instead to **take** his ex-wife to the hospital. Yet, she had it

I'd been left behind countless times in the past Rowan always chose her without hesitation

In my past life, **before** I was diagnosed with breast cancer, frequently felt unwell. On one occasion, when I was enduring intense chest pain and drenching sweats, I asked Rowan to take me to the hospital. Yet, Ashley called to share her pregnancy news, and Rowan hurried to her side without hesitation.

When I passed away, it was ironically the peak of the happiness. The Paynes had embraced Ashley, who was expecting **a child**, and Rowan had earned Jonah's respect. Together, they had even launched a grand hotel.

I never expected **to** cause Ashley to face a setback during my lifetime. On a whim, I liked Ashley's post. Whether my action had an impact or not, she deleted it the next day.

When Charles came to visit, he was surprised "hy, what's going on? Why are you suddenly hospitalized? And why in the OB-GYN ward?"

I sighed resignedly and said, "My health **has** been delicate, especially with gynecological problems. The doctor cautioned that it might affect my ability to have children in the future without proper treatment. It frightened me so much that I checked myself into the hospital immediately"

I decided to keep my pregnancy a secret from my family.

How thin you are now."

Charles sighed deeply in response. "Rowan's the reason you've turned it this way. I remember how healthy you were when we were younger, nothing like how

"That's all in the past. I can only blame **myself** for being such a hopeless romantic," I replied with a wistful smile.

"Good thing you never had kids together. It made your divorce smooth and simple, no messy complications or harm to a child," Charles commented as **he** opened the insulated container he'd brought. Inside was a comforting, creamy beetroot soup.

T remained silent.

"live it a try. Margaret whipped it up," he urged.

I cautiously stop and began sipping **the soup** directly from the container.

Charles' words struck a chord of doubt within **me**. **Had I made** a mistake in deciding to have this child purely out of my desires? I understood that a child needed more than just material provisions. They also needed a father's love, something I couldn't offer

Moreover, I couldn't rid myself of the dread that the Faynes would undermine my child and interfere in my life. Even if Ashley eventually had a child for the Paynes, there was no guarantee they wouldn't interfere with mine

Lost in these thoughts, I heard footsteps approaching the door. I was Rowan who came in. **Startled, Lasked**, "Why are you here?"

Why are you expecting? Ron's disapproval was evident in his expression as he asked, "James?"

Certain **not**. I would rather hire a caregiver than depend on James for support. I wasn't so shameless as to burden him while carrying Rowan's child, nor did I want to take advantage of **James'** feelings for me

"Didn't Ashley hurt pretty badly? You should be looking after her before you break her heart again, I couldn't resist mocking him

I didn't need to be polite to Ashley anymore. [could mock her, ignore her, and occasionally need her whenever I wanted. It felt fucking awesome

"Do you get a kick out of mocking her?" Rowan didn't seem angry. Instead, he took a seat nearby and offered a half-smile. "Why aren't you being her supportive friend like you used to?"

"Why bother pretending now that everything's out there?" I stared icily at Rowan.

"Is that why you spread the **word** that she was the cause of our divorce?" Rowan asked.

I responded dramatically, "Yes, I made sure everyone heard. I waited until our colleagues were around and publicly accused Ashley of being the mistress. I wanted her to feel **utterly** humiliated. Are you satisfied now?"

Rowan nodded in response. "Yes."

"Then, hurry and let Ashley know you've stood up for her. Stop bothering me. I need to focus on staying healthy, and keeping a positive mood is crucial," I said, mindful of my doctor's advice to avoid stress.

Ignoring my sarcasm, **Rowan** asked solemnly, "How long will you be in the hospital? What's wrong?"

"Obviously, it's a serious matter concerning starting a family with my future husband. Right now, I'm focusing on staying healthy and looking forward to a joyful marriage," I replied indifferently,

Chapter 127 Derisce News Release

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 127 Divorce News Release

Rowan's expression soured whenever I broached the topic of remarriage. Yet he couldn't argue when faced with the divorce certificate **had**

"Anyone special caught your eye he asked.

I licked my tongue and responded calmly, "Aren't there plenty of potential partners out there? You remember how I had my fair share of admirers when I was chasing after you

chose to stick with you."

Rowan locked eyes with me, his dark eyes swirling with unreadable emotions. After a moment of silence, he asked, "How could we have such a **calm** conversation now? I've been wondering if **you changed** suddenly or over time. My gut tells me it was **sudden** but I can't figure out what triggered it."

It all abruptly changed because that died once. Considering the **depth** of my feelings for Rowan, my sudden emotional distance must have been baffling to him, even as we now engaged in this **calm** conversation. These changes were only possible because I had found inner peace.

Bow always thought he'd be the one initiating the divorce, with me clinging desperately to our relationship and unwilling to face reality.

"**What's** the big deal? Weren't you instantly smitten with Ashley the moment you **saw her**? Sometimes, things just happen in the blink of an eye. Who knows?" I replied casually "Is that so?" Rowan asked, his skepticism evident. "Isn't it **because** you've found someone new?"

I lay on the bed studying **him**. "Why does it matter to you I've found someone else?"

Rowan was taken aback. He seemed to recognize the jealousy in his own words. Heese nt, his thoughts now unreadable to me

“Isn’t it always the case that what we can’t have and lose becomes the most desirable? Please, don’t come looking for me anymore. I don’t want to come between you and Ashley. I genuinely wish happiness for both of you.” With these words, I turned away from Rowan and lapsed into silence.

Howan should understand my meaning. He was simply unwilling to accept it Moreover, sincerely hoped for their happiness. Perhaps then, they’d be too busy to interfere in my

Diven **that** Rowan **and I** had mutual friends, it was unavoidable that our paths would cross after divorce. Even so, we could simply maintain a minimal level of acquaintance “If that’s truly what you want. I’ll respect your choice” Rowan’s voice reached me, followed by the sound of him getting up and walking away.

I didn’t turn to look. Instead, I kept my eyes **closed**, concentrating on resting and pretending he had never been there.

Three days later, I received news from back home. Rowan had gone public with our divorce through the media

**He’d** held off on it, probably conflicted between Ashley **and** me. I figured that was his way of closing the chapter with me

jean and the others were already aware of my divorce, didn’t come surprise to them, Yet, the **online** comment in my home country was quick to start mocking me

“Is the Goddess of Endurance losing her edge?”

Rowan divorced his wife for that college girl, didn’t he?

“Ugh, what a couple of cheaters.”

“Mr. Payne must really be seething with Ashley. He never left his wife despite all those scandals in the past. By the way, isn’t his ex-wife going after some of his assets?”

“I heard her family is quite wealthy too.”

After reading through the comments for a while, I turned off my phone. A decade-long chapter of my life had become fodder for gossip among strangers,

Many comments criticized Ashley I wondered if Ella would stumble upon these and once again disapprove of Ashley and Rowan’s relationship..



I hoped that would be the end of, but things didn't go as expected Paula's call took me by surprise ground her first try, but when she called again, finally picked up "Ivory, heard you were at the hospital what happened?" Paula's voice held a touch of worry:

"Panda, I'm alright. I hesitated briefly, then continued, "My body's weak right now, so I need some time in the hospital to recover

I was still experiencing some bleeding, and the doctor suggested staying until it stopped and the baby was stable.

Paula prosed, seeming unused to the coldness in my voice. After collecting herself, she advised, "Take care of yourself. You're already so slender. Make sure you're eating enough." "Tenderstand, Paula Take care of yourself, too, I responded politely

Paula sighed. "Ivory, it's my family that owes you an apology Rowan told me that the divorce was supposed to be temporary because he cared about your health and **didn't** want to see you unhappy. He hoped for a reconciliation eventually, but now it seems impossible."

I suddenly realized why his family hadn't reacted to our divorce. They had known his intentions all along fell silent, unsure of how to respond.

"But I'll never accept that!" Paula exclaimed, her emotions arising "Even if she **ends** up carrying Rowan's child someday, never acknowledge their child. She shouldn't even think she could become part of the Payne family. That's never going to happen!"

I was taken aback by Paula's intense animosity toward Ashley, to the point where she would reject her future grandchild. Hadn't she always longed for grandchild?

Then, it dawned on me—

Paula's words were probably fueled by anger, 11 Ashley were **to** get pregnant, Paula might not have it in her to be so harsh toward her.

I pursed my lips and gently advised, "**Paula**, if Rowan and Ashley are genuinely in love, it's best to let them follow their hearts. A loving family brings nothing but blessings." In my previous life, I'd tearfully begged Paula to help me keep Rowan, but she couldn't.

\*Genuinely in love? Ashley couldn't possibly mean that sincerely. Regardless, I won't accept her. If the **Payne** family is to welcome a daughter-in-law, it will be you and one who "Ivory stated

Her voice resonated with sincerity and agitation, yet it failed to move me. Perhaps **she** genuinely saw me as a potential daughter-in—

Ins, but I couldn't ignore her role in what happened with Sophie After a few more words wereaschanged, Tended the call.

Howan must have been the one to into Paula about my hospitalization. No anneke from our home country could have knowl

Thadn't told jean and the others because I didn't want to burden them. Yet, Thadowlock ed semurane **who always** managed to appear unexpectedly.

On the fourth **day** after Rowan annouced or divorce, Ashley showed up at the door of m y ward and called out, "Ivory""

## Chapter 127 Divorce News Release

Her foot appeared almost healed, though she still had a slight up, Carrying a bunch of bl e hydrangeas, she placed them by the head of my bed as she approached.

"Mr. Payne mentioned you were very ill and ended up in the hospital, so I thought I'd sto p by to see how you're doing," Ashley said. Her hair was styled elegantly, half-up and hall- down, framing her lovely foreheal

Her expression was calm as she asked, "Ivory, are you feeling any better?"

1 looked at her without expression and didn't bother replying. How.m had already made our divorce known, so she was probably here to revel in her triumph.

Ashley **had** concerns about me, feeling Insecure because Rowan's devotion to her see med less steadfast. Thus, she felt compelled to show off to boost her self-assurance,

"He said keeping your spirits up is crucial for your recovery," Ashley continued, "But it w as **insensitive** of him to share such news now. I'm sorry. I know he meant well for my s ake."

Inearly laughed at the absurdity. Playing along with Ashley, I sat up and flung the bouquet in her direction.

"You know I can't afford to be **upset** right now, **yet** you bring me flowers with such a ne gative connotation. How considerate of you."

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 128

### A Love Confession

Ashley was hit by the bouquet, causing her head to snap to the side and leaving a faint scratch on her cheek

Instinctively, she raised her hand to shield her face, staring at me in disbelief. It was the first time that confronted

physically. Until then, I'd only mocked her verbally.

"Ivory, I only stopped by to check on you because I was concerned. I had no idea what the flowers meant," Ashley exclaimed, tears pooling in her eyes. Even if she didn't realize it, wouldn't the florist have been aware? She had always employed these potty tactics to provoke me.

"Erich with the drama detour out of my sight, now! I warn you coldly, "Or I'll have someone escort you out."

Ashley walked away with tears streaming down her face, clearly wounded.

Italy. This seemed a minor incident, but Naralle **sent** me a video that night.

The **video** showed me hurling the bouquet at Ashley in my ward and ordering her to **get** out of my sight. I had been edited into a short clip lasting only a few seconds, featuring just one **on** out of my sight, now

Ashley's vulnerable expression stirred empathy from those who cherished her appearance. It sparked a wave of support from her former classmates and friends, who still saw her as the gentle and kind soul they remembered.

Despite her situation as a mistress, they believed she had been pushed into it with no other choice and couldn't care less about these things. Whether Ashley shared the video with Rowan or sympathy didn't concern me.

I was surprised that Rowan never came to see me, nor did he seek revenge for Ashley after the incident where I threw the bouquet at her.

I cherished the peace and solitude, focusing on my prenatal care in the hospital until the bleeding stopped. After undergoing a series of tests, I was discharged.

Before I left, the doctor advised me, "Ms. Sadler, your health isn't at its best. Remember to get plenty of rest, eat balanced meals, avoid strenuous activities, and take care of your emotional well-being"

I heeded the doctor's advice seriously and began pondering work matters when I returned home from between continuing to work and prioritizing the birth of my child. Continuing to work posed a risk to my pregnancy, but resigning seemed the unthinkable option.

As I wrestled with this dilemma, the doorbell rang

"man" exclaimed My jaw nearly dropped when I saw him outside the door

He was dressed in a brown trench coat, his dark hair neatly trimmed, looking well-rested and sharp, yet there was still a hint of aloofness in his demeanor. What grabbed my attention the most was that he was holding a leather briefcase.

"You've lost even more weight? van critiqued me as soon as he saw me. **Are** you not eating properly? you'll end up malnourished and sick if you keep losing weight like this."

"h, what brings you here?" Tasked, still taken aback

"Werk assignment," Ivan answered casually. "I'll probably have to work at a hospital here for over six months."

Before I could respond, he entered the living room and placed his suitcase beside the couch. "Ivan, I need to ask you for a favor"

After opening the door, I asked with confusion, "What kind of favor?"

"The hospital's accommodation isn't ready yet. Is it alright if I stay here for a while? Ivan asked.

That so many questions "Stay here? Why not with Rowan? He's close by, ain't he? And there's Clarence, too."

"That let them know I'm here yet," Ivan replied casually

The situation was becoming intriguing van seemed closer to me than to Owen and the others.

I couldn't shake the memory of how saying he felt nothing for Ashley before. He had even asked me once why the one he couldn't chase couldn't be me. **Was** it possible...

My heart sank. This was the last thing I needed. I thought I had escaped Rowan's labyrinth. Was I now stepping into Ivan's den?

To complicate matters further, Ivan and Rowan were good friends. Getting involved with Ivan would inevitably invite Rowan back into my life.

Considering all this, I firmly declined Ivan "No way. You'll need to stay at a hotel"

"Because of Rowan, Ivan seemed to understand the situation well"

"He's part of the reason, but mostly it just feels awkward for us to be alone together," I said, shaking my head

James' short stay in my place inadvertently led to him finding out about my pregnancy. I fretted over what might come to light with Ivan staying here. With his medical expertise, he could easily spot anything amiss within **a day**.

Ivan smiled wryly and asked. "How about join you for dinner tonight? hope **that's** not too forward of me. I'll head to the hotel right after

But I shouldn't turn down his request and reluctantly agreed. As I gathered ingredients from the fridge and started cooking, Ivan stepped in and took them from my hands to handle this

His voice carried a hint of fatigue that made me take no notice.

"Let **me**

my voice, "Ivan, are you running a fever? Your

I briefly felt his hand, which was surprisingly warm. Looking at Ivan's back as he washed vegetables, a hint of concern crept into my mind as his hands felt warm."

"I'm fine," **Ivan** replied briskly.

I approached him while nagging as if I were a worried mother. "Have an infrared thermometer. Why don't you check yourself? You're a doctor, and you were lecturing me about not taking care of myself lately. Don't neglect your health like I do. What if you faint from a fever?"

As I spoke, I reached out to feel Ivan's forehead. As my hand hovered near his forehead, he swiftly caught my wrist, fixing an unreadable gaze at me. I pulled away, **realizing** I had

passed by crossed **a** line. At **that moment**, a bit of **menace** flickered in his eyes.

Suddenly, he asked, "Why does James get to stay at your place and not me?"

"Who **told** you that?" I was caught off guard.

Chapter 128 A Love Confession

Since when did Jean become the gossip hub?

I pulled my wrist from Ivan's grip, awkwardly explaining, "Jean was just messing around. James was only here for a few days."

"Are you completely over Rowan now? Do you still have any thoughts of revenge? Iran's question startled me.

Contusion swirled in my mind as I asked, "What exactly are you implying? You do realize we're divorced, right?"

"I do, but if you're still holding onto any bitterness, I could be helpful to you." Ivan's words took an unexpected turn.

I stared at Ivan with wide **eyes**, feeling utterly speechless.

He frowned. "Is it so hard to understand? Whatever you used Benjamin for, you could use me for the same purpose. I should be more effective than him."

"Stop!" I burst out suddenly, my heart pounding. "Ivan, are you out of your mind with this fever? Aren't you and Rowan best friends? Do you even hear how ridiculous you sound?" Ivan simply grinned "Falling for you in the first place was already ridiculous "

## Chapter 129 Did she Discover My Pregnancy

I remembered the doctor telling me to control my **emotions** and avoid feeling is to protect the baby. **So**, after hearing Ivan's words, I took a deep breath

"Ivan, I'll pretend I didn't hear what you just said. I'm certain you have a fever. Please **go and** lie down on the couch and get some medicine." After saying that, I turned around and left immediately. I drove to a nearby pharmacy to purchase cold and fever medicine,

\*Ms. Sadler! Just **as** I was about to leave, Clarence came out from behind a medicine display rack. He was holding a few boxes of hangover pills

"Mr Lewisham," Clarence greeted politely

"What coincidence! Do you live nearby? Clarence asked with a gentle smile,

I nodded. "Yes. How about you? Why **are you** here?"

Clarence's personality was different from Rowan's and Ivan's. He was talkative **and** could easily chat with anyone, whether they were close to each other or not

He replied, "It's a long story. Didn't Rowan invest in a project here? It's the project of the company

be a party nearby tonight. So came to the pharmacy to buy some medicine in advance!

working for now. He and I are considered partners now. There happens to

“ch, I see. That’s great. Anyway, I have something else to do at home, so I’ll head back first” I smiled and bid goodbye.

“**Alright.** Bye.” Demceward.

visited the pharmacy and discovered that my car was completely encircled. Both the front and back parking spaces were occupied by other cars.

Moreover, there was an illegally parked car attended most to mine. To me matters worse, the owner of the illegally parked car didn’t even leave a contact number.

Just when I **was** feeling upset, I saw Clarence come out from the pharmacy and stride toward a car across the road. As he entered the car, he rolled down the window, and that was when I noticed Rowan in the driver’s seat.

A certain intensity filled or when Rowan swiveled, but he quickly composed himself. After saying something to Clarence, the car started and drove off. I remained in place, waiting for the **legally** parked driver to show up

Three minutes later, Rowan’s car returned and stopped a little in front of me. Rowan stepped out of the car

He was wearing a white shirt and black trousers. It was simple yet charming. His hair was neatly slicked back, showcasing his captivating eyes and accentuating his **flawless** and subtly rugged facial features.

He glanced at the illegally parked car, then at me “Are you in a rush to go home?”

“Hmm, I stepped with a hint of difference.

“I’ll send you back,” Rowan said after a pause,

I was indeed eager to return, but declined Rowan’s offer

“No, thank you. I just take it back.” Injected him. Then, I waited for a bit by the roadside.

“Are you having a **cold**?” Rowan wasn’t upset when I rejected him. Instead, he glanced at the medicine in my hand.

I couldn’t fathom why he was concerned about this, so I simply shook my head. “No,”

Rowan's eyes darkened instantly. "Is anyone else **in** the family sick? Hoe James moved out yer?

At **that** moment at pulled up in front of me without answering Rowan, I get into the taxi then, I provided my address, and wesped off.

Not long after, we approached an intersection. While waiting for the red light, i glimpsed Rowan getting into his car via the rearviewminor.

Subsequently, his car pulled **alongside** me, and we both waited for the light to change. I didn't look at him, but as soon as the light turned green, our cats went seperate ways.

When I arrived home, ivan had already prepared some simple dishes. He was sitting on the couch, sipping wit

As **soon** as be noticed my return, he set aside the glass and exclaimed, "Heelsomuch b etter now."

"Take the medicine and read the instructions yourself!TM 1 said as I impatiently stuffed t he medicine into haun's hands.

Ivan didn't mind **my** irritation. He calmly **opened** **the** medicine box, read the instructions, and took the medicine. Meanwhile, I served two plates of pasta 1 **handed** one to ban and began beat

I shared my encounter with Rowan **and** Clarence with Ivan. He didn't react much and even give me some mout. "Eat more"

"Take the medicine Once you feel better, go stay in a hotel." I el a little down after meeting Rowan. It felt like a sign from God that engaging with either of them would lead to compleations with the other

Iwan nodded. "Okay, Is it raming notside?

"**Yes**, it's raining" Thumed my head to look through the balcony.

"I didn't have time to buy a car when larrived here. I'll walk to the roadside in the rain with a high lever while carrying a **suitcase** and hailing **a radi**,"

**van** said calmly.

His words instantly painted **a** vivid picture in my mind. I look a bite of my greens and asked puzzledly. "Why don't you tell Bowan and the others? He can come pick you **up**."

Ivansdown his utensils and inquired, "What should **say** to him? Should I tell him that i went abroad to pursue his ex-wife?"



Inearly choked on a mouthful of greens.

Issed to find van somewhat uninteresting and slower to express emotions compared to own. His Back of directness was abe hindering him in the **pursuit** of love.

But now, I couldn't help but feel as this meds were like bombs, causing chaos and destruction in my mind

After coughing a few times and taking **a sip** of water, 1gland at hon. "Ahem, In, please stop talking nonsense. There's absolutely no possibility between **us!**"

**Ivan** gazed at me intently. "**Anything** is possible, Don't reject me **so** soon"

**Of** course, Thalia decline, I was perse!

Tran my hand through my hair in frustration, then stood up and said, "Let's take care of the dishes tomorrow. I'm heading to bed. **You** can sleep in the second bedroom night, You should start looking for a hotel fisting bomorrow morning!

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 129 Did She Discover My Pregnancy

Afterward, I entered my room, completely oblivious to the sly smile that spread across Ivan's lips.

The following day, I had to return to work, so I woke up early.

Ivan had impeccably made the bed in the second bedroom, and the dishes on the dining table were washed. It seemed that he should have lett.

Texhaled a sigh of relief and proceeded to the company I couldn't decide if I should quit my job, so I had to go to work as scheduled.

When I just started working. Charles approached me **and** told me about Ashley. At first, the marketing department **was resistant** to **Ashley's** resignation. However, Charles was displeased after he learned about her identity

He intervened and urged the department director to approve Ashley's resignation. **Since** it **was just a** part-time role, the process was straightforward. I had no objections.

After I finished work, I went to the parking lot to drive home. When I opened the car door, I felt like vomiting. Thus, I had to run to the parking lot's bathroom to vomit.

As soon as I came out, I saw Ashley and Joy standing there with strange looks on their faces. Joy was about to speak when Ashley immediately pulled her away.

I frowned and wondered if she had seen me vomit just now. It concerned me that Ashley might suspect that I was pregnant. She was sensitive, and women's intuition was usually more accurate than men's in such situations.

## Chapter 130 Neighbors

After returning home from work, I still felt a little uneasy. However, I couldn't **ask** Ashley directly.

At that moment, Mom called me. She was already aware that Ashley had arrived in Stockholm because Charles had informed her.

"What's her intention? Is she deliberately bothering you? You've already divorced Rowan, so what else **does** she want? Mom was furious.

Implied irritably, "She came here to pursue her studies abroad and happened to get a part-time job Charles' company. Some incidents occurred, and she had decided to resign.

"Did Rowan go there as well? Mom's guess was correct.

I agreed silently. This truly pissed my mom off. She believed Rowan and Ashley were bullying me. She wanted to call Rowan, but I prevented her from doing so.

"Atom, there's no need for you to worry about these matters. I can manage them on my own. You and Dad should focus on taking care of yourselves, especially you. Please, try not to get too emotional, right? I expressed my concern because I feared that my mom getting **upset** could negatively impact her health.

My mom understood me well. No matter what she said, it didn't make a difference. In the **end**, I had to face and handle things myself, so she stopped bothering me.

Luckily, nothing else happened afterward. I enjoyed a peaceful life for the next few days without any disturbances. My **morning** sickness also started to get better. The doctor said that most people's morning sickness improved after the first two to three months.

Yet, I was worried about my growing belly. I could keep it a secret for now, but it would be hard in two to three months.

Excuse me

It was early in the morning on the weekend as I headed out to run an errand. As I stepped outside, I noticed a moving company transporting furniture upstairs, and the door directly across from mine was wide open.

My neighborhood was classified as a mid-range area. It was not particularly desirable. However, fortunately, it was close to my workplace and Uncle **Alvin's** house. Thus, Charles secured it for me.

The apartment across from me had been unoccupied before, and it should be rented out nine.

I didn't pay much attention to it, and after a quick glance, I took the elevator downstairs. When I returned from running errands, the door across was closed. I assumed they had finished moving in.

Just as I was about to close the door, Clarence emerged from the elevator, looking surprised. "Ms. Sadler? Do you live here too?"

I looked at him in utter astonishment. "Are you the one who's moving in front of my apartment?"

Clarence grinned and responded, "Yes. **To** be more precise, it's **our** own and me. This location is conveniently close to my workplace, which is why we've decided to rent it.

I was taken aback. Had Rowan just moved in across my apartment? Was he truly not living with Ashley?

Clarence asked in a condescending tone, "What's wrong? It appears to me that you're not very welcoming toward **us** as your new neighbors. Do you feel uncomfortable living close to Rowan after the divorce?"

Of course, the situation was awkward. I even suspected that Rowan moved **here** just to make me uncomfortable. If Ashley knew we were neighbors, she would be jealous. What was he thinking?

Noticing my silence, Clarence let out a sigh. "It seems he has truly hurt you."

"It's all over. I hope you enjoy your stay," said with a smile. Then, he closed the **door**.

Although Clarence and Rowan lived across from me, I had never seen Rowan. Every time I went to and from work, I only saw Clarence coming and going. And that was just fine by me.

He was moving out of here soon.

Thad no interest in meeting Rowan. Plus, if everything went as planned, I would be moving out of

“Back from work, Ms. Sadler? Clarence always greeted me first whenever he saw me, **and** he **was** always enthusiastic..

“**Hmm.**” Inodded.

Clarence said with a smile, “Do you know that van has come over? So we’re hosting a party tonight and you’re welcome to join us.”

How could possibly attend it? intentionally steered clear of both Rowan and Ivan

“No, I’m feeling a bit tired today and I plan to go to bed early “I declined

**Clarence didn’t** insist. “Alright then, have **a** good rest”

Around 4:10 pm, I heard loud voices outside that sounded like **a** conversation among several people. I checked through the peephole **and** saw a lively gathering happening across. Rowan, Han, Ashley, and Joy were present, along with a few unfamiliar men and women.

Rowan seemed to sense that I was watching through the peephole. He turned his head sharply,

**w**, staring at my **door** with an intense gaze, I quickly averted my eyes **and** sat back on the couch.

Gradually, the noise from the other side subsided, indicating that the door must have been closed. Finally, I could rest undisturbed. After washing up, I was ready for bed.

**Suddenly**, the doorbell rang. Startled, I quickly made my way to the door, only to **find** a blonde woman standing outside.

I asked her in a hush, “What’s the matter

The blonde woman asked sheepishly, “Excuse me, do you have any salad dressing at home? We’re preparing a salad, but we don’t have any **dressing**”

**I glanced** at the open door opposite and caught a glimpse of people walking in the living room. Not wanting to be spotted by Rowan and the others, I calmly rejected the **blonde** woman, “I’m sorry, I don’t have any salad dressing.”

The blonde woman left feeling disappointed. She later spoke with the people inside.

Shortly after, **Clarence** and she emerged, accompanied by joy. The three of them entered the elevator and went downstairs. They should be gone to buy salad dressing

I was a little irritated. I felt like a wanted criminal and didn't dare to leave the apartment for fear of being discovered

I returned to the bedroom and lay down. I closed my eyes and relaxed. Thanks to the baby in my belly, I fell asleep easily.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 130 **Neighbor**

Suddenly, I was awakened by a thunderous roar. I groggily glanced out of my bedroom window and saw flashes of lightning, along with strong winds.

I woke up and felt nervous. I checked my phone and saw that it was already 3:30 am.

I heard a loud noise in the living room, like something falling. I got up and went to check. As the balcony door was not closed, I was worried something might have blown in.

There was nothing out of the ordinary in the living room except for the fact that the rack on the balcony where I hang my socks had been blown down.

As the rain began to drift into the living room, I wanted to close the balcony **door**. Yet, at the critical moment, the door refused to budge.

2/2

Another thunderclap resounded, and I let out a scream of fright, feeling my heartbeat quicken. I was most afraid of this kind of weather. During such moments, I longed to cocoon myself, seeking solace and safety,

"Ivory" Rowan called out loudly from outside, his voice unaffected by the loud thunder.

I struggled to calm myself down before **rushing** to open the door, desperate for Rowan's help to close the balcony door.

Upon opening the door, lightning crackled, startling me. I instinctively covered my ears, but Rowan immediately embraced me, soothingly patting my back.

"It's just thunder. There's nothing to be afraid of "

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 12, 2024

### Chapter 13 They Are Not in a Relationship

As it was during working hours, Linda **didn't dare** to **continue** arguing with me. However, she appeared upset all afternoon.

After work, I drove back home. As I drove out of the company entrance, I spotted a familiar red BMW. Ashley had just stepped out of the car, looking **vibrant** in her stylish outfit and polka-dot beret.

She perfectly complemented the red BMW. I couldn't help but wonder why she was at the company entrance, but I decided not to dwell on it too much.

After returning to my neighborhood, I took the elevator upstairs as usual, just as the doors were about to close, a **hand** swiftly reached in and stopped them slowly, the doors opened again, **and** Rowan stepped in with a cold expression. He glanced at me once, and from then on, we never made eye contact again.

Rowan was carrying groceries, and it was the first time I had seen him doing so. He seemed like a responsible family man. As the elevator doors closed, it suddenly shook violently. I gripped the handrail to steady **myself**, my heart racing.

"The elevator is out of order." Rowan attempted to press the open button, but there was no response.

"Out of order? Try contacting the property management." I was speechless.

Shortly after, the voice of the property management staff was heard in the elevator. He informed us not to panic, as there was a problem with the elevator. They had already called the maintenance staff to address it.

Then, the elevator fell silent, leaving Rowan and me speechless. The stillness was abruptly interrupted by the growling sound of my stomach.

Normally, I would have been eating at this hour. The baby growing inside me seemed to have a big appetite. Rowan shot me a glance, and averted my eyes in embarrassment.

Then, my stomach let out another growl of protest.

"Are you very hungry?" Rowan asked, crouching down to open the bag on the ground. Among the ingredients, there were also some apples and bread.

He handed me a piece of bread, "Full your stomach first."

I **nodded**, took the bread, and **began** to eat. I finished the small palm-sized bread **in** just two or three

bites.

With each bite, my hunger seemed to grow even stronger. I found **myself unable** to **resist glancing** at the bag once more. I **was** starting to feel a bit desperate because of how hungry I was.

Rowan appeared surprised that I could suddenly eat so much, considering I used to have a small appetite. He picked up the bag and opened it in front of me. "The only available edibles are a bit of bread and some apples. Help yourself to whatever you'd like"

I ate the apples without thinking, even if they were unwashed. When I finished eating, there were only three apples left. In addition, I had also eaten all the bread.

"Have you ever visited the hospital to check your **stomach**?" he asked **with** a worried **look**. He didn't **care** about the **bread** and **apples**.

I wiped the corners of my mouth and reassured him, "I did. It's **just** a mild case of gastritis. Nothing to worry about."

"Hmm." Rowan felt slightly more relieved.

The maintenance personnel took a bit longer than expected to arrive. Half an hour later, I heard voices coming from above. It seemed like the issue might be in that direction. However, halfway through the repair, the elevator shook again suddenly, causing me to lose my balance and crash into the wall.

"Watch out!" Rowan held me immediately, and I was pulled into his arms by the force of the movement. The familiar scent of tobacco **and** a subtle fragrance intertwined and enveloped my senses.

During my pregnancy, my sense of smell was heightened. Certain smells, like cigarettes, made me feel sick. But the tobacco smell on Rowan's clothes was light and pleasant, making me feel comfortable.

I suspected that I **did** not feel sick as the baby could distinguish this smell was coming from his father. If I had worked so **hard** to raise **my** child, only to have them wanting to get close to Rowan, it would break my heart.

"Thank you." I expressed my **gratitude** politely once I had regained my balance.

"Hmm." Rowan let go of my hand and seemed undazed.

There was a weak signal in the elevator, so I decided to sit down and pass the time by playing with my phone. Right then, Rowan's phone started ringing. He glanced at me and picked up the **call**

Due to the noise of the repair work and conversation above us, Rowan switched on the speaker. Thus, I could also hear the voice on the other end of the line.

Ashley asked sweetly, "Mr. Payne, Joy and I made lamb stew, Linda's coming. Are you, Ivan, Clarence and the others coming to eat?"

When I heard the words "lamb stew," my stomach growled loudly once more. I touched my belly and muttered to the baby inwardly, "You can't eat the mistress's lamb stew, naughty lad,"

"I won't be going over today," Rowan's voice **sounded less** gentle than before.

"Ah, okay. In that case, I'll eat with Joy and Linda. Just make sure you don't forget to eat," Ashley said with a touch of disappointment but still reminded him gently.

Rowan replied, "Alright. Don't

worry."

After ending the call, I looked at Rowan and asked, "Do you not cherish it anymore once you own it?"

Rowan removed **his** coat and commanded, "Get up."

I stood up, feeling puzzled. He spread his coat where I had just sat and gestured for me to sit down again. I doubted if this kind and gentleman was truly Rowan.

"How can I truly cherish something that I've never possessed?" Rowan answered my question after I sat down again.

I was quite curious about the relationship between Rowan and Ashley in my past life, but I didn't know much and ended up falling terribly. If I hadn't told me the details in the end, I **would** have known nothing until I died.

"Aren't you two in a relationship?" I was extremely surprised.

"No," Rowan replied firmly.

I was left speechless. How could they not be in a relationship?

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 12, 2024



## Chapter 132 They **Are** Not in a Relationship

I witnessed him falling in love with Ashley at first sight and saw the text messages he sent to her. I even witnessed him pressuring her to quit her job and end the relationship. It was hard to deny what truly unfolded

After awhile, I continued to ask, "Why? Don't you like her?"

Rowan suddenly chuckled and asked, "Why do you seem so certain that I was the one who pursued her first?"

**Wasn't** that the case? In my past life, Dan mentioned to me that it was Rowan who pursued Ashley. Even after my rebirth, I had seen the message he sent to Ashley.

"If nothing happened between her and **me**, will you remarry me?" Rowan asked without waiting for my response.

"No way," I replied without thinking. I didn't care about what happened between him and Ashley, I only knew that what I saw had deeply hurt me.

Rowan smacked and remained silent just then, the elevator doors opened. I stood up, handed him back his coat, and walked out. Rowan and I turned away from each other and opened the door to go home.

When I closed the door, I felt overwhelmed. I kept thinking about what Rowan said.

If he didn't pursue Ashley first, what sign of interest did Ashley give **him**?

Rowan fell **in** love with her at first sight and then forcefully took her. Could it be that it was all a charade?

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 12, 2024

## Chapter 133 She Is the Hunter

In the evening, I shared Rowan's words in our group chat of four. Jean and the others quickly transformed into Sherlock Holmes, delving into the situation to analyse it for me

Jen texted, "Ivy, didn't you see Rowan asking someone for **Ashley's** contact information ? Don't that mean he was the one using her?"

Natale disagreed. "That's not necessarily true. Asking for someone's number doesn't mean you have to pursue him. I believe that even though Rowan is a scumbag he wouldn't cheat on Ivy.

Jean cursed, "Damn it! What are those two doing? It's giving me a headache

Olinda tested, "Anyway, in my opinion, Ashley is definitely not a simple person

Jean **replied**, "I completely agree. It's often the seemingly harmless people who **are** the most scheming, Ivy, now that you're divorced, please don't worry about it. It's better to avoid meeting **Ashley** and Roman again. They always bring trouble to you."

While reading the lists, I thought about Ivan and wondered if he was aware of something. So, I decided to call him. He answered my **call** promptly

"When are you free? I want to ask you something." Tasked

"I'm available now. Let's meet and talk?" He told me what these were

grabbed the car key again and left the apartment. "Wright, come to you. I suppose it's not a comment for you to come to my place either. Where are you?"

Half an hour later, I met him at the restaurant. My mind was filled with questions, and I was eager to discuss them with him, hoped he could provide answers and clear up my doubts right away

"Ivan, has Rowan ever told you how he started pursuing Ashley?" asked directly.

Ivan's expression appeared complex "What's the matter? Why are you bringing this up all of a sudden?"

I lowered my head and took a sip of water. "**I'm just** curious. Did Bowen tell you about it?"

Ivan pondered a moment and **shook** his head. "Not exactly."

Ivan didn't seem to know either. He noticed my distress and asked deathly, "Did Rowan say anything to you?"

In the past, I used to think **that** Ivan would also develop feelings for Ashley **so** I could confide in him about Rowan and Ashley. However, things had changed and now he was clearly interested in me. I didn't want to share too many details about Rowan with him now.

I still shook my head. "No, it's just a question that suddenly crossed my mind."

Although I said otherwise, I was actually still quite curious.

At that moment, my phone vibrated. It was a message from Jean. "Damn, I discovered some unknown secrets from!"

I was surprised and replied quickly, "**What's** it

Jeanned to call me, but I declined because he was sitting in routed masked Joan to send messages instead.

**Soon**, jeansen asenes of messages. “Didn’t **that bastard** chester help Rowan with vario us idea of parsing Ashley? So he knows most about their relationship What Ashley did truly amazed me. Impressive!”

Upon reading an’s text, I finally understood what Bown meant by what he said in the elevator. He did ask for Ashley’s contact number because he thought she looked like Sophie at first sight

However, it was not Rowan who contacted Ashley first Instead, it was Ashley. She got Rowan’s member from a certain person in chiefs.

Shemessaged Rowan to ask why he had requested her contact information, and that was how they started contacting each other from this point

Jean **serta** final **message**.

“Incredible. A good hunter always hunts in the form of prey, Chester only provided me with these details. I asked about **Rowan’s** specific method at pursuing Ashley, but he refused to tell me by to interrogate him to extract more information alert you promptly if there are any updates.”

He went into silence and switched off the screen. Yet, in that very instant my heart was in turmoil.

The initial situation when Rowan and Ashley first met in their previous life, and this current life should have remained unchanged.

Therefore, in their previous life, it was an Ashley who took the initiative to reach out to Rowan. However, due to my reincarnation, things took a different turn after their paths crossed.

In my past life, despite Ashley taking the initiative to approach Rowan, it was Rowan who fell deeply in love with her. Her determined efforts proved successful

However, in this present life, Rowan had undergone significant transformations as a result of changes within me. Consequently, love had not existed until this very moment.

“What are you thinking **about**?” Ivan inquired gently, noticing my prolonged silence

**He** gazed at me with unusually gentle eyes, and as I looked at his charming face, a surge of sympathy washed over my heart.

It seemed to understand how he fell in love with Ashley in his past life. It was very likely that Ashley made up a story about being forced by Bowen and went from not being able to stand seeing her suffer to feeling distressed about her experience and eventually fell in love with her.

Heance spoke to me about Ashley. According to him, Ashley was portrayed **as a vulnerable**, defenseless, and pitiful girl, completely subjected to Rowan's control. Moreover, Ashley strongly resembled Sophie. How could Ivan not **care** about her?

Most of the information **That** about the story of Rowan and Ashley came from Ivan, **leading me** to subconsciously believe that Rowan was **forcing** her. It was truly outrageous.

That had been deceived by Ashley for two lifetimes, and I couldn't understand why Rowan had never clarified it to me. Ashley's exceptional skill in manipulation truly opened my eyes.

I pursed my **lips and asked**, "I'm curious about what kind of person Ashley is. Do you think **she** was truly forced into submission by Bowen? Did she know both **Rowan's** and my identity from the start?"

That was truly terrifying, sending chills down my spine. After I was reincarnated, I went to **the** cafe to collect

Did she already recognize me? And when **she** saw me and Rowan at the conference, she must have been pretending not to notice our relationship.

Later, when she **and I** were in the car on our way to have dinner with Benjamin, she sent a text message to Rowan. When she received Rowan's reply while we were at dinner, she

| Chapter 139 She's the Hunter

seemed to deliberately display discomfort and anxiety.

Was it meant for me to notice? She was truly something

Ivan replied calmly, "I'm not sure, but she's definitely not a simple person. At first, I didn't really care about these matters. But after hearing you all about her, I deliberately started observing her. She's good at acting,"

I unwittingly changed Ivan's perception of Ashley. Otherwise, she might have remained a fragile and innocent woman in his eyes. With a striking resemblance to Sophie, she effortlessly captivated two outstanding men.

She purposely made Ivan feel sympathetic toward her and fell in love with her, probably to strengthen her relationship with Rowan Competition colding tumeuse pressure to men, I was truly impressed. If I had half of Ashley's strategic thinking, I wouldn't have failed to **win** over Rowan's heart in those ten years.

I didn't want to say anything else and didn't feel like eating either. I stood up and smiled bitterly, "There's no denying the outshone me. Alright, I'm heading back now."

I'll go with

you." Ivan stood up as well.

"You're coming with me?" Tasked, bewildered.

"Yeah. I didn't drive here. Can *you* please drive me back first, it's not too much trouble?" Ivan asked politely.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 12, 2024

## Chapter 134 Food Delivery

"Alright. Let's **go**." It was my initiative to meet him, so it made sense for me to the him back

vanlived in dormitory apartment arranged by the hospital was not very far from where I rented, but it still took me half an **hour to** drive there.

He was almost few words, and we didn't communicate much during our journey. I was feeling somewhat down, so I chose to remain silent.

When we reached the first floor of the apartment, instead of going upstairs right away, he asked me, "very, if Rowan and **Ashley's** relationship is not what you think, what would you do? Would you consider reconciling with Bower

This question was quite similar to what Roman had asked, and my answer remains unchanged. No. There are too many painful memories. Bring with him will only deepen my pain."

Ivan smiled. "Yeah, it's true, But if there are truly many misunderstanding), and you want to reconcile with him in the end, I'll support you."

"Will you support me was taken aback.

Didn't he like me?' why did he encourage me to return to my former partner?

Ivan smiled **and**

said, "Yes, but before that, I'll continue to pursue you **until** you're certain of your feelings"

After saying that, he unbuckled **his** seat belt and got out of the car. Ivan waved to me through the car window. I left feeling somewhat conflicted and was still very puzzled even after I reached home. I wondered if Ivan was so perceptive

In his past life, he showed no mercy toward Rowan to be together with Ashley. Their 20 to 30 years of friendship were destroyed. Yet, he showed no signs of giving up. But he changed, and wasn't Ashley. I realized to be the cause of such a sister conflict

But people

I did not sleep well, filled with tangled thoughts and a flood **of** uncontrollable ideas. Consequently, I felt the need to take the next day off, as I simply couldn't **handle** it any longer

Charles was exceptionally accommodating. He knew that I came here solely for experience, and had notions of staying for an extended period. Therefore, his primary concern was my well-being.

He even offered to send me food when he learned about my leave. However, I declined because I didn't want to take advantage of his kindness

consequently..

While being alone at home, I opted **for** simpler meals. In the morning, I **prepared** a bowl **of** oatmeal, boiled two eggs, and drank milk, **ensuring** the baby in my **belly** had a well-

balanced diet

After eating, I went to sleep and didn't feel like moving or going out. Suddenly, I heard my phone ringing. I was half asleep and answered it without checking the caller ID. "Who's that? What's up?"

"Clarence noticed that you didn't leave for work this morning. He also didn't see you return home after finishing work. What's happening? Rowan's surroundings were a bit **noisy**, because he was outdoors, but his voice came through crystal clear

I suddenly woke up. I glanced at the time on my phone and the sky outside the window. To my surprise, it was already night!

"I'm taking a day off **and** resting at home today. Please stop, my dear little horse from sleeping too long. My **throat** felt inflamed and slightly sore.

"Have you not eaten yet?" Rowan asked again

“Hmm. I’ll get up **and** rat later,” I replied calmly before hanging up the phone

My stomach was growling, so had to resist the hunger and get up to prepare something to eat. However, when I opened the refrigerator, I discovered that there were no ingredients left.

There was nothing for me **to** eat. I grabbed an apple and started eating it, then promptly placed an online order for groceries.

While I waited for the groceries to arrive, I received a video call from Fran.

Her complexion was fair and rosy, and her eyes were bright and lively. It was obvious that she was

happy. It was clear that she had gained weight. Her face had gone from **and** to round, but happily married and living a truly fulfilling life.

Chester **used** to be a playboy. After marrying, he underwent a remarkable transformation and became very focused on his family. He started working diligently in a company, working from nine to five every day and then went straight home to be with Fran.

“Beat up Chester three times last night, and yet he refused to disclose the details about Rowan and Ashley. Should I confront him again tonight?” Jean said in a tone that valued friendship over love.

He immediately reassured her, “No, it’s not necessary. I don’t care anymore. Please don’t let his distress bother you. You’re still pregnant! If Chester reveals everything to you, Rowan will really not let him go. We need to give him some space.”

Jean’s discontent persisted as she exclaimed, “Damn it! I did it not just for **you** but for myself as well. I’m foolish! How could he possibly believe that Ashley was a

harmless

“He mentioned that even though she has questionable thoughts, she’s not mean at all. His words made me want **to** kill him. At worst, my child will lose a foolish father.” Talmost choked on the apple. After coughing for a while, she exclaimed helplessly, “Don’t react. Chester is your husband. You should know him well. He must have been tricked by Ashley’s appearance. Don’t hold him responsible.”

Jean was extremely furious. “Damen id Are all men chlimous? Can’t they distinguish between genuine women and bitches? They’re all **cunning and sly** when they’re doing business. But when it comes to bitches, they’re all blind.”

After scolding Chester for over ten minutes, Jean suddenly told me, "Ivy, forgot to mention that I'm pregnant with twins. Haha

I was utterly astonished. "Really? That's fantastic they are **opposite** sex twins, you have a boy and **ag**

"Yeah, Tabo hope for opposite-sex twins. But regardless of whether it's **a** boy or a girl, I'm delighted. How about having sons?

Then, if you and Bat have a **daughter** in the future, you can marry her to my son be their mother-in-law. I'll make sure to stand up for her if the bastard dares to treat your daughter poorly Jean said whimsically

Unconsciously, I found me touching my slightly protruding stomach. The bulge was minimal, perhaps even smaller than the stomachs of others after a meal

If I have a daughter in the future, let her decide whether she wants to get married. What are the benefits of marriage anyway?" **I asked** with **a** smile.

"Yes, I completely agree. It is up to our child to decide their **own marriage**." Jean agreed.

## Chapter 134 Fond Delivery

standing outside my place. He was

As we were chatting, the doorbell rang I quickly said goodbye to Jean, hung up, and hurried to open the door. To my surprise, Rowan was standing holding some packed meals, and a delightful aroma wafted toward me.

"You don't have to do this." I sighed.

"My mom instructed me to take good care of you while I'm here, or else she'll sever our mother-son relationship." Rowan walked straight into the living **room** and put the food

on the **table**

He should be extremely busy here. **Having** invested in the project, he was undoubtedly committed to handling it personally, ensuring that no resources were wasted. This was one of Rowan's remarkable qualities. He exhibited great stability and maturity in his work.



He would undoubtedly fulfill his obligations and excel at them. He had to oversee the work in his home country remotely while managing the project in person here. It was clear that he had very little time to spare

The scent of tomatoes, my keen sense of smell effortlessly detected the fishy odor.

Just as Rowan opened the food container, the aroma of fish stew wafted out. Despite the powerful scent. Despite my recent ease of morning sickness, I still found the fishy smell unpleasant.

Posted by **Admink**, 0 Views, Released on July 12, 2024

## Chapter 135 Stop Pretending

I felt, and could feel something rising from my stomach, but I fought hard to hold it back

Noticing **that** I didn't go over, Rowan called out to me again, "Come and eat. Aren't you hungry?"

I remained silent as I hurried to the bathroom. I struggled to **suppress** the sound, using the flesh to mask the noise of vomiting. The suffocating feeling overwhelmed me. Upon leaving the bathroom, I found Rowan waiting for me at the door.

"Are you having some kind of obsession? Why are you following me to the bathroom?" I felt quite flustered, so intentionally reprimanded **him**. Rowan's expression turned somber as he coldly responded, "You go ahead and I'm heading home."

## **loudly**

I eagerly awaited his departure, opting to remain silent. As soon as he vanished from my sight, I promptly disposed of the fish stew. The remaining dishes perfectly suited my palate, so I finished them instantly. After that, I cleaned up and went downstairs to discard the garbage.

"Handmade cookie! He must have touched. Suddenly, a voice sounded. As I turned around, I saw Ashley and Joy walking toward me, a minute. Ashley was also holding a beautiful container in her hand that seemed to be filled with snacks.

Joy was praising Ashley. However, they stopped talking when they spotted me. Ashley appeared genuinely shocked, it was as if she never expected to run into me here, especially considering that Rowan **now** lived here too.

I gazed at the two of them stoically and stepped into the elevator. After a moment's hesitation, Ashley followed suit. Joy rolled her eyes at me, while Ashley played complete expression. It seemed like Rowan would have some explaining to do later.

How unlucky why does she live here too?" Joy couldn't contain herself **and began** to grumble.

**Ashley** glanced at me, her thoughts unreadable.

Ashley's face lit up with a captivating mix of shock and awe **as** the elevator arrived at my floor. She appeared bewildered, staring at me blankly **as I** opened the door, stepped inside and closed it.

Joy sputtered, "Fuck Why is she living opposite Charmer's

I closed the door, shutting out her words. As for whether Ashley and Rowan would argue afterward, I couldn't be bothered.

What I didn't expect was to receive a message from Ashley after some time, Ivory, are you available to chat?"

I did not reply and directly blockaded. Ten minutes later, the doorbell **rang**. As I peered through **the** peephole, I was surprised to see Jaileystanding there couldn't comprehend how she dared to show up at my door.

Where was Rowan? Did he leave right after delivering food to me?

As I opened the door, Ashley gazed at me with a complex expression and asked, "hory, do you really hate me so much **now**?"

"Come in **and** close the door," instructed in differently, returning to the living room and sitting down.

Ashley closed the door silently and took a seat across from me. After a few moments of profound silence, Ashley's composure faltered and she was the first to break the peace." hey, can you please stay away from Rowan moving **forward**?"

was surprised. "Why?"

"Are you dined I'm with him now, but I sense that he still has feelings for you that he shouldn't. It's **unfair** to me," Ashley said, biting her lower lip, appearing very innocent.

I looked at her nonchalantly and replied, "How is it **unfair**?er said these things to you when you were a mistress. Nour that you're ready to be with him, you bring it up instead Don't you think it's disgusting?"

Ashley's face turned pale. "Ivory, not a mistress only started seeing Mr. **Payne** after you were disced!"

I confronted her **directly**, "Rowan told me you two weren't together at all **You** don't need to pretend in front of me. I already know that you were the one who reached out to Rowan **first**, Ashley

"You were sting in the car with me on our way to dinner with Benjamin, and yet you were secretly sending messages to a red man. Do you **have** any shame left?"

Ashley was startled and filled with disbelief at my words. She inquired anxiously, "Did Benjamin tell you about this?"

I was also quite shocked. Was she saying that Benjamin knew **about** all of this?

"What do you think?" I was being intentionally ambiguous.

Ashley was feeling quite irritated. "He's despicable! He promised not to tell anyone about this!"

I just recalled that Benjamin had read Ashley and Rowan's messages, so he must have been aware of it at the time. Benjamin truly went above and beyond for Ashley, and he never revealed it. **Otherwise**, Ashley's reputation **would** be even worse.

1. "I wasn't him. No one informed me

Inaturally wouldn't tell her that Chester was the one, yet I also wanted to ensure Benjamin in **wasn't** understood. Therefore, I explained, "about this covered it on my own.

"Did you snoop through **Mr. Payne's** phone? Ashley asked again.

Lancered "Don't stress over how I found out. I'm aware of almost everything you've **done**, so don't pretend in front of me anymore. **You** should be grateful that I'm willing to separate from Rowan. It's best for you to keep your distance from me and avoid causing problems for yourself. Also, I **have** some evidence Rowan will likely leave you once he sees

It **was** clear that Ashley was intimidated by me. **She** was determined not to lose Rowan. She probably didn't expect me to know so much. After **moment of** silence, she stood up and tried to leave

"When did you find out about **Rowan's** and my identity?" inquired.

Ashley stopped **and** turned to look at me. The smile on her face seemed **forced**. "Ivory, I reached out to Mr. Payne first because I found out he had requested my contact information

"I wanted to question him about it.

ever met him

belace, and I didn't know who you were. Anyway, the other mer to attend to. **Goodbye.**"

She left quirkily after speaking, but i didn't believe her. I wanted to find a way to check fo  
r myself. Then Inmoved Benjamin from the blacklist and planned to ask him i anything

## Chapter 135 Stop Pretending

Before texting him, I took a look at his Instagram. There had been no recent **updates** fo  
r a while. The most recent post was from the day he and 1 climbed Emerald Mountain, c  
onsisting of several photos.

of me holding Biscuit, although my face was not visible

I also noticed **that** he had changed his Whatsapp profile picture to a photo of me ho

I

was overwhelmed by gut, as if I **had** caused him **harm**. I felt too ashamed to approach  
him with more questions. I blocked him when nothing happened, and unblocked him wh  
en something **did happen**. It seemed unjust to treat him **in** such a manner.

Maybe I could consider other options. I sighed and decided to block Benjamin once agai  
n.

Just as I was about to block Benjamin, he texted, "Ivory, have you finally unblocked me?  
"

I was speechless

Benjamin continued testing, "**Why** d

ay did you block me? Did I do something wrong?"

Treplied, "No, Benjamin. You did nothing wrong. I accidentally blocked you I'm sorry."

Benjamin asked, "Are you free for a video call now? I want to see you. Dr. York said you  
went abroad. Are you abroad now?" went

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 12, 2024

## chapter 136 Battle of Buffalo Wings

initiated a video call, and Benjamin promptly answered. It had only been a few months since we last saw each other, yet the carefree boy had transformed into amature young man. He sported a cow-cut hairstyle and was dressed in a slightly may grire jacket.

He sheepishly touched his hair and said, “hvory, I just got back from work and my clothes are a bit dicty. I’m currently inteming **at a** construction site, living and eating with a group of rugged guys. So please excuse the mess

I promptly replied, “Why should I mind? **You** look quite handsome in your crow **cut**, clean and neat

Benjamin said cheerfully, “I also think it’s great Having long hair can be quite inconvenient when **it** comes to work. When I first arrived there, everyone commented on my trendy w hile and was dazzled by my appearance.”

nes back home, and I plan to

Touldn’t help but chuckle **at** his **words**. While we were **talking**, he inquired, “hey, when are you coming back? I’ve transfered a portion of my earnings

tomaside to take you out for a meal or buy you a small gift Bot I’m not able to afford anything too expensive at the moment.”

“Ne, you should save your money for yourself. You can use it to support your family or so it for your future wedding. In summary, it’s important to be mindful of your spending choices.” could’t help but feel both moved **and** slightly guy

“Don’t worry are some of my sublay every month. It’s just that the **internship** salary isn’t veryhigh,” replied Benjamin.

“Which company are you working for asked

“Samderd estate company. Currently, I’m working on construction sites, **and** I plan to gradually advance in the future,” **Benjamin** replied confidently.

He was consistente optimistic and brimming with hope for what lay ahead. I truly admired **his mentality**. If I were to return soon, the **only** possible time would be during All Souls’ Day, which was fast approaching

Hence, I promised Benjamin that we would have a meal together after my return. I was really eager to meet him in person and learn more about Ashley’s Issue

Benjamin was bursting with jos, exclaiming, forest! be waiting for you!”

“Alright, see you in two days.” replied gently

After ending the call, I **decided** to go out to get some fresh air. I **had** slept too long during the day, and now I couldn't sleep. It seemed that enemies also crossed paths. When I went downstairs, I bumped into Ashley **and** Joy again.

Their faces starkly showed signs of displeasure upon seeing me. Joy was sharp tongued **and** vicious. It was as if her words flowed uncontrollably, spreading negativity, "Ash, if we had that St. Payne wasn't here, we wouldn't have come. It's so unlucky that we confronted her twice. How terribly unlucky!"

Ashley came a fiery glare. We had already made our points clear moments ago, so her presence was unnecessary. Her **gaze** and expressions finally revealed the hostility of

I approached the pale with a subtle smile and asked, "y, isn't? Do you know that continuing to speak nonsense can actually harm Ash?"

"What did you say Joy asked arrogantly.

Ashley's expression changed as she realized what I meant. She didn't know what I had against her, so she had to be careful. She quickly stopped Joy and said, "Joy, stop talking!" Her tone was authoritative, with a much of irritation, but clearly had much more to tell me, but after Ashley's statement, she held it back and **just stared** at me.

I was pleased and commented, "Good job. You know your place!"

Ashley and Joy seemed angry, but they didn't dare to say anything.

At that moment, the elevator doors **opened, and** Clarence exited. "Ashley, Joy, let's go!"

When he saw me, he was stunned. "**Ms.** Sadler, why are you? |

Then he **looked** back and forth between Ashley and me, feeling awkward.

**The** presence of a friend's ex-wife and current wife in the same place made the situation even more comfortable. It was

as if all the key players had assembled under one roof.

Ashley maintained a calm facade. "Clarence, let's go. Mr. Payne is still waiting for? |

"Alright!" Clarence glanced at me once more. Then, the three of them left together. Ent

I followed slowly and drove away once I reached my car. If Ashley had understood the situation better and refrained from **disturbing** me, I might have considered stepping back . and allowing her and Rowan to carry on with their relationship.

However, if she continued to bother me like this, I might feel compelled to share the **inside** information learned today online, **along** with some past recordings. It could significantly damage her **reputation**

By that time, the Payne family would never accept a disgraced Cinderella

I drove through the city streets as the night brought prosperity to lie. The gentle warmth of the wind against my face was incredibly soothing

Upon arriving at the food market, I parked my car and instantly found myself surrounded by aromas wafting from the various food stalls. The food aromas stimulated my appetite

Without **hesitation**, I started eating. I was down to anything savory, aromatic, **and** sweet except for seafood. I was even craving for something sour and spicy

After indulging myself, I finally came across a buffalo wings stall. This small stall was popular, with only one serving remaining. I couldn't resist and blurted out, "**Sir, may** have

"Sir, I want the last serving of buffalo **wings!**" Joy exclaimed loudly and provocatively

I turned and noticed Ashley, Rowan, van, and Clarence standing behind Joy. When Rowan saw me, he looked slightly surprised. Maybe he was wondering why I was still hungry. The dinner he delivered to me was **enough** for me.

"But this lady ordered it first" The owner looked at me and spoke up for me kindly.

"She **hasn't** finished her words yet, has she Joy asked unhappily.

Sir, can you pack this for me

spoke softly to the boss, ignoring the group of people.

Joy suddenly turned to Rowan and asked, "Mr. Payne, Ash really wants to eat buffalo wings. The buffalo wings here are the best. There's only one serving left. Why don't you buy

Crapter 126 Battle of Buffalo Wings

for her?

I was baffled. How did Joy find the courage to talk to Rowan like that? Maybe she thought her best friend had started a relationship with a wealthy man, thus elevating her social **standing**. It was really **frustrating dealing** with people who lack self-**awareness**.

I glanced at Rowan and noticed Ashley doing the **same with** a glint of anticipation in her eyes. Although she was scheming, she still had a hint **of** naivety due to her upbringing. For example, she now pinned **her hopes** on grabbing a **serving of buffalo** wings to test Rowan's feelings for her.

Yet, looking back, I was once naive too. I desperately sought evidence to convince myself that I was special to Rowan

Rowan stood completely still, his gaze fixed on me, Ivan's expression revealed a hint **of** concern, perhaps wondering if there was an issue with my **physical well-being**. After all, he had caught me overeating several times.

Ashley's eyes gradually filled with disappointment and a hint of reluctance. At **that** moment, Clarence stepped in to smooth things over. "Let's find somewhere else to eat. Joy, you were the one who insisted on coming here. **You** must **know** where the best food is."

The buffalo wings stall owner had already packed the buffalo wings for me. I walked up to Ashley **and** placed them directly into her hand. She looked at me in surprise.

## Chapter 117 Too Many Coincidences

"I was still, but as I encountered a star dog on the road, I decided to buy some buffalo wings for it. Since I crave it so much, I'll treat you," I said sarcastically.

Ashley's face was already flushed, her eyes teary, and she couldn't help but bite her lips. Why did she love bringing her lips so much?

"Over!" Rowan called out to me. His voice laced with definite displeasure at my rather disagreeable remark.

Joy shouted, "Who do you think you are to call a dog?"

I burst into howl. "Did I say that? **You've** been clever

After expressing my thoughts, I named and left. I refused to let anyone dampen my good mood for eating.

I recalled the doctor's **advice** about how a mother's stable mood during pregnancy could positively influence her child's personality post-birth. Once finished my meal and drink, I headed home to shower and sleep.



Before going to bed, I received a message from “Do you still like having buffalo wings? bring them over to you”

He was really kind. I replied, “No, I’m good. Thank you!”

Ivan did not reply, so I peacefully fell asleep. The following day, I went to work as usual.

All Souls Day was approaching, and the company had already announced a holiday. Charles was a religious person who **held** all Souls’ Day in high regard. Thus, all employees of the company were **granted** a three-day break.

Uncle Alvin had also planned as to the cemeteries this year, so I turned with him. The day before the holiday, I packed my luggage and went to the airport with Uncle Alvin after work to travel back home overnight.

After several hours of flying, I landed safely. Before heading home, I contacted Lee, who now worked **as** **ad** **e** her for my dad. When he found out I was returning home, **he** readily agreed to pick me up at the airport in the middle of the night.

Lee was waiting for us outside the airport. When he saw Uncle Alvin and me, he greeted **as** warmly and promptly approached to assist us with our luggage “Mrs. Payne.”

“Call me Ms. Sadler from now on,”

“I said with **a** smile.

Lee was the driver we hired after Rowan and I got married. He always addressed me as “Mrs. Payne”. Now that Rowan and I were divorced, there was no longer any need for him to use that title when referring to me.

Lee nodded. “Alright, Ms. Sadler”

Then he politely greeted Uncle Alvin, “Hello, Mr. Sadler”

“Thank you” Uncle Alvin replied gently.

“My pleasure,” Lee said, putting our bags away **and** driving us home.

It was incredibly comforting to be back in the familiar surroundings of my home. My parents were **still** awake, eagerly awaiting my return along with Uncle Alvin.

I stepped forward and hugged my mother. “Mom, I miss you and Dad so much.”

My mom patted my shoulder and said, "We love you too. Have you and **Alvin** had dinner yet? I'll give you some food."

"I've eaten. Don't worry about it. We had our meal on the plane," I replied

My dad and Uncle Ahan were chatting. The atmosphere in the family was filled with harmony. After a while, we went to our rooms to sleep.

It was early in the morning, and I was exhausted. I slept until noon, and Mom didn't wake me up for breakfast. I got up and ate lunch directly,

"Is Rowan back?" Mom asked during the meal

"I don't know," I replied, shaking my head. I didn't ask him **at all**.

Dad was serious. "By the way, you shouldn't hang out with him anymore. He arranged for Ashley to study abroad and even went with her. Don't be foolish."

"Don't worry, Dad. I'm not a masochist," I implied.

"That's good. Don't underestimate yourself. Many people care about you." Dad **noded** in relief.

It was All Souls Day the following day. My grandparents passed away many years ago, and their graves were in a cemetery in Ahan City. Each year, we visited the cemetery to pay

our respects to them.

Mom was preparing for All Souls' Day when Jean called me, "Ivy, you're back home? Let's hang out!"

"Where do you want to go?" asked, feeling lazy as I lounged on the couch

Jean excitedly suggested, "Let's go out **for a** meal. I'll invite Nat and Lives well. I'll ask Chester to treat us. After all, he hasn't treated you to a meal yet."

I thought having a meal would be fine, but I made it clear to Jean in advance, "Alright. Let's have a cooked whole lamb

"Sure. Feel free to eat as much as you like. I'll ask him to find the very best one!" Jean **eagerly replied**.

After ending the phone call, Jean immediately tagged Natalie and Olivia in the group chat. When they learned that I **had** returned to Alben City, **they** were very excited and agreed without **hesitation**.

In the evening, Jean sent me the address of a farm restaurant. Upon arrival, I was warmly welcomed by **Jean**, Natalie, **and** Olivia, who were already seated with Chester and Jasper

Jean and the others were thrilled to see me and hugged me warmly, Eating me **like** a queen, Chester and Jasper seemed uncomfortable, likely due to our past unfriendly relationship

We roasted a whole lamb outdoors over a charcoal fire, giving it a great atmosphere. We put a slaughtered lamb on the rack, seasoned it, and then roasted it

Halfway through the roasting, Jean looked behind me in disbelief. Then, a look of disgust spread across her face. "Am I hallucinating? Is Ashley back too?"

Turned around, and there they were; Ashley and Rowan just a few days ago, we were arguing over buffalo **wings** at the food market. And now, was she coming here to fight over

I couldn't help but wonder if things were truly just a coincidence. It was bewildering how they seemed to appear wherever I went

Posted by **Admink**, 0 Views, Released on July 12, 2024

Chapter 137 100 Many LICKITIDES

2/29

Rowan, are you guys back home? Chester greeted them excitedly.

Rowan gazed at me intently, and I averted my eyes to focus on the roasted whole lamb,

Upon seeing them, Jean rolled her eyes.

Ashley replied on behalf of Rowan, "Yeah, we both came back for All Souls" Day I saw on your Instagram story that you were eating roasted whole lamb, so I **couldn't** resist joining in I didn't know Ivory was here either."

Chester looked at me guiltily. He **tagged** our location when he posted his Instagram story, and it caused a lot of trouble for me.

"Rowan, are you broke? Can't!

Can't you even afford a roasted whole Lamb? Why does she come and take advantage of us? **Jean's** temper grew even more volatile after she was pregnant.

Rowan probably didn't expect to meet us here. He glanced at Ashley and replied gloomily, "I'll pay the bill later."

"It's not about settling the bill I do not welcome you and Ashley, Jean emphasized loudly, giving Ashley an unwelcoming glare.

Ashley's expression changed immediately. **She** looked at Rowan pitifully, then at Chester **and Jasper**, she apologized softly, "I'm sorry, Jean. I have no idea Ivory is here..."

"**Jean**, I'm going to the bathroom." I stood up, dusting off the grass clippings from my pants, Without even glancing at Rowan and Ashley, I headed directly to the bathroom.

I felt like someone was watching me, but I didn't turn around. When I exited the bathroom and was about to wash my hands, I saw Rowan's reflection in the mirror. He looked at me with a slight frown and said, "I didn't know you were **here**. Otherwise, I wouldn't allow her to come over.

H

I washed my hands and replied casually, "Does it really matter? I don't understand why your girlfriend is so insecure. She always tries to show off in front of me and make sure I notice her. Do you **think** it's just a coincidence that I keep bumping into her?"

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## Chapter 138 Unspeakable Struggle

Rowan was not foolish. In fact, he was intelligent. However, he repeatedly failed to see the truth about Ashley,

The only explanation that made sense to me was that he was pretending to be ignorant. He had asked for time to handle Ashley's situation previously, but he persistently acted oblivious. I was relieved that I didn't trust him

There are things I know that you don't," said Rowan with a gloomy expression, as if there was an unsolvable problem troubling him.

I suddenly raised my voice and exclaimed, "Just tell me! If you **do**, maybe we can clear up all the misunderstandings."

Rowan's Lips parted, as if on the verge of speaking, but ultimately choosing to remain silent

I sneered. "Rowan, is this your plan to deal with Ashley? You met her at the conference, and she was the **one** who reached out to you first. You never mentioned it to me, and

no one else knows about it. Are you trying to protect her by taking the blame for seduction?

I added, "Even though I misunderstood your actions, believing that you were attracted to her and that you forced her into the breakup, that your love for her consumed you to the point of losing control, it seemed as if you were determined to do whatever it took. Then why did you pester me after we divorced? What are you thinking? Are you truly the person Lonce knew?"

I wondered if I could be reincarnated. Why couldn't Rowan be possessed by someone else's soul? Maybe he wasn't really Rowan but possessed by someone else's soul.

Rowan clenched his teeth, and I saw his jaw tighten. He seemed very upset. I was feeling the **same**. Had to endure seeing Ashley's pretentiousness while eating a whole roasted

**As** I was getting ready to leave after I wiped my hands, Ashley came over. She looked at Rowan and then at me with a complicated expression.

Here, what happened today has nothing to do with Mr. Payne. We're here because of my

I chose to stay silent and not engage in Ashley's unnecessary drama.

"Ashley misunderstood **and** thought I was blaming Rowan for this.

"Ashley went to the bathroom too. Did she go to look for you? Jean asked in a red tone after I came back.

"I don't know left when I saw her," answered casually.

At that moment, Chester approached and offered a heartfelt apology, "Ivory, I'm truly sorry I **shouldn't** have posted that on my Instagram story."

I glanced at Chester and suddenly remembered what Jean had said. So, I inquired, "Chester **and** Jasper, what are your thoughts on Ashley?"

The two exchanged glances, unsure of how to respond. If Chester said something incorrectly, Jean would probably **roast** him instead of the lamb.

In the end, Jasper commented, "She is simply a young lady who was blinded by love. She's totally **very loving**, cheerful, and enthusiastic toward everyone."

As soon as he finished speaking, Jean lunged at Jasper, aiming to hit him. However, Jasper immediately dodged her attack.

Chester was utterly shocked. He quickly embraced Jean and exclaimed, "Baby! Stay **calm**. Let's be cautious for the sake of our child"

Then, **he** scolded Jasper, "What on earth are you talking about? How dare you upset **jean** and my kid

With her **pregnant** badly, Jean pointed at Jasper and said furiously, "Jasper, you're lucky that the law exists!"

Jasper used to be quite afraid of Jean, having witnessed her brutality. Hence, he was somewhat packed at that moment.

"That's right Jean has sharp eyes. Ashley is indeed very scheming." Chester and to soothe Jean's emotions.

Coincidentally, Ashley had just returned. Upon hearing his words, her expression turned sullen. Chunter turned and saw Ashley **in** tears. He panicked and did not dare to **continue**.

"I know I shouldn't have **come** today." Ashley wiped away her tears, then turned **and** walked away quickly.

Chester signaled with his eyes to Rowan, who returned later. When Jean discovered this, she slapped Chester on the head, and he quickly became submissive. Rowan didn't question why and directly pursued Ashley.

"Rowan's love for Ashley is truly genuine!" Natalie said, with a touch of both sarcasm and admiration.

"Exactly. If that's the case, **why** pester Ivy again?" **Olivia**, visibly intrigued.

"Scumbag! Bah!" Jean cursed.

Chester couldn't bear to hear his good friend being scolded. He couldn't help but interrupt them, "Don't say that. Devin has his own struggle."

Since I couldn't obtain any specific information from Rowan, I decided to ask Chester, "oh, what's his issue? Why don't you tell me?"

**When** asked about the details, Chester fell silent, Jasper swiftly changed the subject. "Let's dig into the lamb. I think it's almost ready, and **it smells** absolutely delicious!"

He then grabbed a knife and skillfully sliced the lamb, placing it onto **plates** and serving each of us a generous portion.

The issue was brushed aside, and no one pursued it further. In the end, I was still unaware of Rowan's problems.

The lamb was delicious. A few of us ate and chatted until midnight, and then we all went home.

Early in **the** morning on All Souls Day, Mom woke me up. Then, my whole family, including Uncle Ahin, drove to the cemetery.

This was the only cemetery in **Alton** City, situated on the outskirts Rowan's grandparents were buried there, so it wasn't surprising for me to meet the Paynes.

**Four** of us visited the Payne family grave, **including** Rowan, his father, his uncle, and his cousin. Parla was not there as she visited her parents' graves every All Souls' Day.

Gege and my dad used to greet each other happily but no longer talked when they met. My dad took us away after seeing them.

When we met again after we finished and were about to leave, I was the first to address my parents, saying, "Samuel and Hilary, **it's** been such a long time since we last saw each other."

Ted snorted and ignored him while my mom mustered an awkward smile **and** instantly pulled me into the car. Outside the car window, Rowan's family appeared somewhat

embarrassed.

Thad was driving the car, complaining, "How dare he come and say hello to us? He should consider himself lucky that I didn't beat him up!"

Mom responded, "Forget it. As long as you and Roman stay clear of each other in the future, everything will be fine. He **just** greeted us out of courtesy, so let's not dwell on it."

"Copy, you must not be soft-hearted anymore. Remember this!" Dad was particularly worried about it.

## Chapter 138: Speakable Struggle

I never even dared to imagine their reaction if they were to find out about my pregnancy. I wondered if they would force me to have

an abortion.

As long as the child was present, Rowan and I would never be able to fully sever our connection. His familial bond with the child was unalterable.

I replied, "I know, Dad."

Even if I said so, I gradually understood the challenges that my child and I would encounter. It was highly probable that we would not receive a warm or loving reception but instead face opposition. Although I didn't plan to remarry in the future, I still wanted to have a child. It was one of my wishes

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 12, 2024

## Chapter 139 Accused of Being a Murderer

### Being a M

Jen called in with the latest update when I got home

Ashley was in the hospital!

As for why she was hospitalized, it won't clear yet.

"Is Rowan with her at the hospital?" Tasked

"Yeah. He's the one who took Ashley there." Then, Jean speculated, "How could someone so young suddenly end up in the hospital she **pregnant**?"

I was taken aback. It felt like my own secret had been exposed. Rowan had told me they had never slept together, so Ashley couldn't be pregnant.

"I don't know. Let's leave them be," replied

Jean agreed. "Yeah, forget about them. I'm going to stay fabulously single?"

After hanging up, I felt distracted, and an anxious feeling crept through me. I had a foreboding sense of unease, but couldn't tell why.

I would be flying to Stomland with my uncle tomorrow afternoon. I hoped nothing else chaotic would happen.

That night, Benjamin texted me.

"Ivory, I'm coming home to visit the graves got the ticket for this afternoon. How about in chat together tomorrow?"



“Sure Have a safe journey,” I replied

Thenext day, I met Benjamin at noon. He had yet to return things to his rented place and was carrying a bag.

He seemed abit awkward at first but loosened up after we chatted for a bit. We found a place in a mall to eat, and Benjamin gradually became more talkative. He even asked me about things abroad.

\*Benjamin, did you know Ashley also went to study in Stormland 1 suddenly asked.

Benjamin paused, then nodded. “I heard from a friend, but I don’t know the details. Thardly keep in touch with her.”

the other way around. Did

“Yeah, Rowan **funded** it, took a sip of water and continued,  
“theard something Interesting. **Initially, it** wasn’t Rowan who contacted Ashley first, but th you know about that?!

Upon hearing this, Benjamin’s expression changed slightly. His eyes betrayed a hint of guilt, but he stayed silent.

I wasn’t blaming him. In a way, he was quite loyal **and** honorable Despite their breakup, he didn’t slander ber.

he wasn’t this way.

v, he could have spilled everything he knew to the media during the time **Ashley was** being cyberbullied. That would definitely have made things much worse

**for** her.

Benjamin didn’t do that. H

He wasn’t the type to kick someone when they were down.

“Benjamin?” teasually repeated my question, “Did you hear what I said earlier? Did you know Ashley initiated contact with awan?”

Finally, Benjamin looked at me again. He was clearly conflicted

I stared back, my pse sharpening-

Eventually, he nodded. “Yeah, **new**.”

Benjamin had sent Ashley's messages to Rowan. He was devastated when he found out that his beloved girlfriend **had** actually in tuned contact with a married man!

Also, Ashley Rowan was married. Yet, she asked for his contact information from some one else.

It was ablatant signofiring

Benjamin knew Ashley had many admirers, and he had always been aware of it. He had always been able to control his feelings about it.

it was only when Rowan appeared that Benjamin's defenses were shattere

However, Benjamin still kept Ashley's secret and didn't say anything.

"Tasked her why she reached out to Rowan first Didn't she realize what the guy wanted ?"

Benjamin seemed more at peace when he brought this up, but there was still a trace of contusion in his eyes. "She said she was following her heart and liked him."

That left me speechless.

So it wasn't Rowan who fill for Ashley at first sight, but the other **way** around?

This conversation puzzled me a lot but abo clarified one thing

It was Ashley who started **this** whole love story.

Even if she hadn't made the first move, Rowan **had** already gotten her number and would have contacted her eventually. But the fact that she took the initiative **made a** big difference

It was like seeing a little bunny chased **by** a **big bad** wolf suddenly reveal its dos tail.

As we were about to part win and stood by the road. I could bill be was string glances at me from time to time.

ivory, are you leaving for Storland this afternoon?" he asked.

"Yes" I nodded.

He looked a bit reluctant and sad, but he faced a smile and sad, wish you a safe and smooth journey."

Tuled back. Suddenly, he opened his arms and hugged me tightly, quickly saying “miss you!”

Then help, grabbed his bag, and ran towards a bus stop without looking back.

I was still in shock when Benjamin got on abus. He sat by the window, looking back at me **until** the **bus** disappeared from view. Lepened my mouth to say something, but there

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## Chapter 140 Accused of Being a Murderer

Benjamin really was a sweet college kid. I hoped he could keep his **pure and** simple nature even after he **graduated** and entered the real world. Though, that was **probably** going to be tough.

What I didn't expect was that my meeting

ecting with Be

Benjamin would later cause a bit of a storm.

Late that night, my uncle and I rehamed safely to Storland, Charles came to pick **us** up. He dropped me off at my place first before driving my uncle home.

As I unlocked my door, I glanced across the **hall**. Rowan **wasn't** here yet. Given that Ashley was in such a bad state **she** needed hospitalization, he must be with her.

I didn't think too much about it. After freshening up, I went straight to bed.

The next morning at work, I learned about Ashley's situation from a furious Linds

“Ivory, you're so cruel!” Linda pointed a finger at me, her eyes bloodshot with anger. “If anything happens to Ashley, you'll go to he

“What's this about? What happened to her?” I frowned, confused by her outburst.

“Don't you know she has a heart condition? You kept agitating her, and now she's **in** the ICU, fighting for her life! Don't you feel responsible? Linda yelled.

**Our** colleagues exchanged uneasy glances, unsure how to intervene.

Ashley had a heart condition? That was news to me!

“What kind of heart condition? Tell me,” I asked calmly,

“**she**.” Linda seemed to remember something and hesitated for a few **seconds**. Then, she continued, “She has a severe congenital heart defect **and** can’t **handle** stress. You kept agitating her, so you’re basically a murderer!”

I kept my expression neutral. “I never knew she had a heart condition, and I never went out of my way to upset her. If you want to blame someone, blame her for always trying to make herself the center of attention around me.”

Linda was furious and screamed, “Ivory, are you even human? How can you be so ruthless? You’re so cruel!”

Ignoring her, I picked up my **phone** and sent **a** message to Benjamin. “Does Ashley have a heart **condition**?”

Benjamin replied quickly, “It’s a minor issue. She takes medication and can’t do strenuous activities, but she was fine when we were together.”

So, a minor heart condition. Nothing that should land her in the ICU.

I didn’t respond to Benjamin and went back to work

But Linda wouldn’t let it **go**. She suddenly grabbed my arm and shoved me with unexpected force.

She’s a bit heavier than me and stronger too. If Charles hadn’t shown up just then and pulled me behind him, she might **have** knocked me over.

“Linda!” Charles called out sharply, his tone full of warning. “We’re at work. What do you think you’re doing?”

Linda glared at me, “Mr. Sadler, your **cousin** caused Ashley to have a heart attack! Doesn’t she need to take responsibility?”

Charles seemed surprised by Linda’s closeness to Ashley. He glanced at me, then said coldly, “Wasn’t it Ashley who first caused Ivory’s divorce?”

Linda’s chest heaved, clearly struggling to accept what Charles said about Ashley. Suddenly, **she** tore off her work tag.

Given how long she had worked under Charles, it was clear how much she cared about Ashley to resign in a fit of anger.

But I didn’t understand—**was** it just because Ashley looked like her deceased sister?

“Go to the Human Resources Department and handle your resignation with them on your own.” Charles was also angry and didn’t seem interested in stopping her.

I felt a twinge of guilt. This mess started because of me. If I **hadn't** joined the company, Linda wouldn't have resigned.

Linda stormed out, and Charles called me into his office

"Charles, I'm sorry," I said, genuinely apologetic

"Linda was too impulsive in this matter. Physical altercations during work hours are unacceptable." Charles sighed. He rubbed his temples, looking weary.

"Is it really necessary for her to resign?" asked

that to admit that Linda was good at her job, and losing her would be a setback for the company.

Charles shook his head. "No. I'll talk to her. Ivory, you need to manage your workplace relationships better, okay?"

## Chapter 140 Fainting

After leaving Charles' office with a heavy heart, I couldn't focus all day. As soon as work ended, I rushed home. To my surprise, Ivan was waiting downstairs.

"Why are you here?" I asked in surprise.

"Oh, you know about Ashley's heart condition?" Ivan asked.

I nodded, "Yes, but I don't know the details"

"I do. Let's go upstairs and talk," he replied.

I immediately led him upstairs. As I unlocked my door, the door across the hall opened, and Cernice stepped out with a trash bag and **paused**, clearly surprised to see Ivan and me together.

"Ah, you and Ms. Sadler... Ivan trailed off and hesitated.

have something to do with her," Ivan replied smoothly.

I nodded to Clarence and then brought him inside, **closing** the door behind us.

Once seated on the sofa, I went straight to the point. "Ashley is in a hospital where a colleague of mine works. **He's a** cardiothoracic surgeon and mentioned Ashley's case to

I listened quietly

“Ashley has a congenital heart condition and needs a transplant it’s complicated. Once she’s stable, Rowan plans to take her to a hospital in another country, Dalloria. She might have to wait for a human heart transplant or possibly get an artificial heart.”

My mind was blank. The sudden revelation of Ashley’s severe heart condition felt surreal

How could this have come up out of nowhere?

Could this be Bowen’s hidden burden?

But no, **Ashley’s** heart disease wasn’t Rowan’s fault. He wasn’t responsible for it.

If he was doing this, it just meant he really cared about Ashley and didn’t want anything bad to happen to her.

Suddenly, a wave of darkness washed across me. My **vision** blurred, **and** Ivan’s voice seemed to come from far away.

“**Nory?** Are you okay?!”

Then, Loss of consciousness.

“She’s fourteen weeks pregnant, but it’s not going well. Her HCG levels are low, and the fetus is developing slowly. This fainting spell was likely due to fatigue and emotional stress.”

I slowly woke to the sound of voices and found myself in a pale pink hospital room with an IV in my hand, dripping slowly.

Rowan had sent away the doctor and now stood by my bedside. He silently watched me with his strikingly cold and beautiful eyes.

“Nan.” I spoke, my voice a bit hoarse.

“**Yeah,**” he responded softly. “**You’re** pregnant it’s Rowan’s, **right?**”

I was already in the hospital, and there was no way to hide it. So, I nodded.

“Why didn’t you tell him?” There was a hint of emotion on Rowan’s face. “You’re carrying his child while he’s with another woman. Are you that open-minded?”

I **smiled** bitterly. “I found out after the divorce. There was no need to **say** anything. I wanted this child but don’t want to be with Rowan anymore. It doesn’t conflict.”

Ivan grew angry. "If you don't want to be with him, why keep his child? Have you thought about what's best for yourself or the child? Achillin' toy! It's a lide. You'll be a single

"I know. I've thought it through. I won't regret it." Though I felt a pang of pain at my secret being exposed, I quickly regained my composure.

Tren took out his phone and showed me a photo: "Take a good **look**"

The picture showed two hands tightly clasped, one with a tattoo on the back.

The caption was heartwarming, "Mr. Payne, as long as I have you by my side, I have the courage to face anything"

There was no need to guess who had posted this.

it [www.Ashley](http://www.Ashley).

My heart winged, a dull ache settling in. Perhaps because, at this moment, my child's father was tenderly suspecting another woman.

"Her condition has improved today. **In** a couple of days, she'll be going to hospital in Dallas for the transplant surgery." Ivan put away his phone and asked, "Are you sure you want to face the challenges of pregnancy and childbirth alone?"

My hand clenched slowly, and my eyes pricked. It all like there was a heavy stone pressing on my chest, making it hard to breathe had been a long time since I had properly, so instinctively held back the tears.

My voice choked up as I said, "Did you ever think about what would happen if I **lost** this child? Could I still get pregnant?"

Ivan froze. There was shock in his eyes, then disbelief. "What?"

I had thought about getting an abortion before. **The** doctors had subtly warned me that, given my physical condition, it would be very difficult to conceive again if I lost **this child**. I would only get pregnant again if I was exceptionally lucky

"Thái might be the only child I'll have in my lifetime. I can't lose her. Took a deep breath, unable to control a tear slipping from the corner of my eye

In a moment then, he reached up to wipe away the **tears** from my eyes and sighed deeply.

Remembering that hospital stay, that incentive not to take more time off work. Thankfully, Charles convinced Linda to stay at the company, so I could avoid being let go for a while.

## ■ Chapter 140 Fainting

But Charles **didn't** understand why I needed to **be** hospitalized again. After his persistent questioning, I told him about the pregnancy and the threat of miscarrying

"No, this is something you have to tell your parents!" Charles insisted, refusing to keep it from them. He believed pregnancy was a significant matter, especially when it involved a child with one's ex-husband.

"I'll tell them myself, but not now," I replied immediately.

"Are you sure you'll do it? Charles asked.

"Yes," I affirmed.

He only relented after getting my agreement.

After hanging up, I closed my eyes wearily I was trying to figure out how to broach the subject with my parents. After spending some time in the hospital, my condition stabilized, and I was discharged.

I couldn't return to work right away. Charles urged me to rest properly and gave me a reminder.

"Ivory, you must find the right time to tell your family about the pregnancy. If you keep delaying, I'll tell them myself."

"Don't worry, I'll handle it myself, I replied **to Charles**.

Once Charles left, I went to my bedroom to lie down and rest. I felt physically and emotionally exhausted, even after my **hospital** stay. But for the sake of the child in my **belly**, I couldn't just lie there—I needed to take care of myself.

Summoning my energy, I went online to order some groceries. I planned to cook simple and nutritious meals for myself. When the groceries arrived and I went **to** answer the door, I was surprised to find not a delivery person but Ashley and Joy standing outside.

"Ivory, are these yours?"

Ashley's face looked pale. After not seeing her for a few days, she seemed to have lost weight

She gestured towards the bags Joy was holding, who dropped them to the ground with an annoyed look at me.



They were indeed my groceries. Perhaps Ashley had encountered the delivery person and brought them up herself. I **didn't** need such enthusiasm from her, especially since she was supposed to be in the hospital due to her heart condition.

I picked up the bags and was about to close the door.

"Not even a thank you? What, cat got your tongue?" Joy snapped at me, clearly irritated.

"Joy, Ivory just got out of the **hospital** and isn't feeling well. Don't rile her up," Ashley said. She made it sound as if she was being considerate of my health.

She knew about my hospitalization, but did she know about my pregnancy?

A nervous unease crept into my mind. However, Ashley quickly dispelled my **suspensions** with gentle advice. "Ivory, you're alone in a foreign country. Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Overworking yourself can harm your health."

"Ashley, you're too kind-hearted. Does someone like her really deserve your care? Joy muttered under her breath.

At **that** moment, the door opposite opened. Upon seeing Ashley and Joy with me, Clarence's face briefly flashed with surprise and a hint **of** awkwardness.

"Clarence" Joy eagerly greeted him, her face lighting up with joy **and** her voice suddenly becoming sweet.

She seemed **quite** affectionate towards Clarence,

The awkwardness on Clarence's face faded as he asked, "Why are you here? Ashley, weren't you hospitalized? Why

Ashley blushed shyly, "I'm feeling better. Originally, I was planning to go directly to Dallovia for surgery. But the test results showed my condition needs to be stabilized a bit more before I can do that. So, Rowan asked me to come over here with him because his recent work focus is here."

"He just wants you **to** be with him!" Joy interjected with a grin "You know how it is, it feels like an eternity when he doesn't see you. If you're not by his side, he'll suffer from love sickness!"

Joy glanced at me, clearly pleased with herself.

I wasn't sure what she was so smug about. I was the one who wanted to divorce, and it wasn't like Rowan had gotten together with her anyway. She was just a little follower

Ashley blushed even more, biting her lip without denying Joy's words.

Clarence turned to me and asked,  
"Ms. Badler, did you just come back today? I **heard** you were hospitalized. Are you unwell?"

Chapter 141 bleeding