

Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 131-140

Posted by **Admink**, ?

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 took 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 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 **badn’t** told him 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**, 179

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 smirked 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**, ?

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.

I grabbed the car key again and left the apartment. "Wright, come to me. 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.”

Hell 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 ultimately 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 inusually gentle eyes, and as I looked at han's charming face, a surge of sympathy washed over my heart.

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

Thad 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 test message to Rowan. When she received Rowan's reply while we were at dinner, she

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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,"

1 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 adding immense 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 outcome. 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**, ?

Chapter 134 Food Delivery

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

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

He said a 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, "I know, 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. Being with him will only deepen my pain."

Ivan smiled. "Yeah, it's true. But if there are truly many misunderstandings, 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 was still very puzzled even after 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 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 more

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.mine" stop, my vale a little horse from sleeping too long. My **throat** felt inflamed and slightly see.

"Have you not eaten yet?" Rowan asked again

"Hmm. I'll get up **and** eat 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 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 waited for the groceries to arrive, I received a video call from fan.

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

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 family

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

immediately reassured her, "No, it's not necessary. I don't care anymore. Please don't let his distress 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 hating! 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, exclaimed helplessly, "Don't react. Chester is your husband. You should know him well. Hemint 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 disanguish between genuine women and bitches? They’re all **cunning and sly** when they’re doing business But when it comes to beches, they’re all bind”

Alter scolding Chester for over ten minutes, Jean suddenly told me, “Ivy, forgot to menti on that I’m pregnant with twins. Haha

I was unterly astonished. “ally? That’s fantastic they are **opposite** sex wins, you have a boy and **ag**

“Yeah, Tabo hope for opposite—sexwins. But regardless of whether it’s **a** boy or a girl, ribe delighted. How about having ons?

Then, if you and Bat have a **daughter** in the future, you can marry her to my son be thei r mother le law. I’ll make sure to stand up for her if the bastard dates to treat your daugh ter poorly Jean sald whimsically

Unconsciously, Hound me touching my slightly protruding stomach. The bulge was mini mal, perhaps even smaller than the stomachs of others after ameal

It 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

chanding outside my place. He was

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

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, in a moment. 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 Jailey standing 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 glared at me with a complex expression and asked, "holy, 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 dated 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 disbeled at my words. She inquired andously, "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 Instrated. "He's despicable! He promised not to tell anyone about this!"

I just recalled that Benjamin had read Ashley and nowan'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 youence 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** silmes, 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
believe, and I didn't know who you were. Anyway, the other man to attend to. **Goodbye.**"

She left quickly after speaking, but I didn't believe her. I wanted to find a way to check for myself. Then I moved Benjamin from the blacklist and planned to ask him anything

Chapter 135 Stop Pretending

Before texting him, I took a look at his Instagram. There had been no recent **updates** for a while. The most recent post was from the day he and I climbed Emerald Mountain, consisting 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 holding

I
was overwhelmed by guilt, 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 when 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 again.

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

I was speechless

Benjamin continued texting, "**Why** did

you block me? Did I do something wrong?"

I replied, "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?"

Posted by **Admink**, ?

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 a mature young man. He sported a crew-cut hairstyle and was dressed in a slightly more girly jacket.

He sheepishly touched his hair and said, "hvorv, I just got back from work and my clothes are a bit dicty. I'm currently interning **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 crew **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 hairstyle and was dazzled by my appearance."

ness back home, and I plan to

Wouldn't help but chuckle **at** his **words**. While we were **talking**, he inquired, "hey, when are you coming back? I've transferred a portion of my earnings

to make side to take you out for a meal or buy you a small gift But 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." couldn'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 very high," 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 consistently 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 joy, exclaiming, "forever! 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 stantly 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 comter ed her twice. How terribly unlock!”

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

I approached the pale with 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, pop 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!

Abbey 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 **locked** 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 recept 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 wait here, 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, 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 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 an** aide 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 **us** 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 good 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**, ?

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?"

Posted by **Admink**, ?

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. Chester 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 he 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 where 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, Dad 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**, ?

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 the car 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

Posted by **Admink**, ?

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.

He had 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 got 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 an IV 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.

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