

## Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 151-160

Posted by **Admink**, 158

### Chapter 151 Begging **Me to** Save Ashley

Linda's hatred for me truly ran deep.

**Ashley had** already fainted, and our top priority was **to** send her to the hospital. However, she was still obsessed with getting Rowan to teach me **a** lesson.

Her **expression** turned dark and sullen when she saw Rowan driving away without any intention of waiting for her.

Gritting her **teeth**, she seethed, "You've already harmed my sister once. Are you still trying to harm her **again**?"

"**I'm** really curious. How did you know Ashley had **received** your sister's heart?" I ignored her question and countered it with my **own**.

"**That's** none **of** your business!" she snapped.

"**Oh**, so you think she didn't recognize **you**?" I found it amusing. "Why are all **of** you so sure **that** Ashley's **so** naïve that she knows absolutely nothing?"

Linda cut me short in a fit of anger. "**Not** everyone is as vicious **as** you are!" With that, she left hurriedly.

Shortly after **that**, Jean, Chester, and the others came out of the restaurant.

"Where's Rowan?" they couldn't help but ask when they saw me standing alone by the entrance.

"He treated me to a meal only to come downstairs after picking up **a** call! Who does that when they're the host?" Lauren complained angrily.

I comforted her. "He had his reasons. Ashley fainted suddenly, so try to be understanding of the situation."

Linda must have called Rowan to tell him that Ashley was with me. That was the reason he came down.

Lauren's eyes widened. "What?"

Jasper was **a** little worried upon hearing my words. He was holding his car keys, and he was prepared to look for Rowan.

“Do

**you**

I want to go together and take a look at the situation?” he asked Chester.

Chester tightened his hold on Jean’s shoulder and acted indifferent. “No, thanks. I need to keep my family company. It’s not my place to worry about Ashley,” he replied.

Jasper gave him a strange look. He’d most likely realized Chester’s change of attitude toward Ashley.

Satisfied with his reply, Jean pinched Chester’s cheek.

“How upsetting,” Lauren sighed. Then, she said to us, “Let’s continue our meal upstairs. My friends are still there.”

“I won’t be going. I’m heading back home to sleep,” I replied.

“You should go ahead and eat, Lauren. I’m heading back too. Next time, I’ll treat you to a meal.” Jean clearly had a good impression of Lauren.

Lauren gave an ‘OK’ sign before she headed back to the private room.

Jasper had already driven off to find Rowan. So, the only ones left here were Jean, Chester, and me.

Jean praised me for doing a good job after hearing the whole story.

Chester found the loophole in it shortly after. “Ashley’s heart? How’s that related to Sophie?”

“Exactly. She just looks like Sophie, right?” Jean was also puzzled.

After that, Ashley would use the incident to ask Rowan about Sophie. Then, she would pretend to realize that she was a replacement.

**If** so, I could also tell it to the others first.

I told them that Sophie hadn’t died on the spot back then. Instead, she donated her heart a few days after she was rescued.

The recipient of her heart was Ashley.

Jean was stunned upon hearing that. “Holy shit...”

“So that’s the reason why Rowan and Linda cared so much about Sophie?” Chester was filled with shock. “Damn it! I’m his close friend, but I had no idea about this!”

“The question is, how did Rowan know that Ashley received Sophie’s heart?” Jean asked when she snapped out of her daze. “Did Ashley tell him?”

I shook

my head. “I don’t know the answer to that either. Ashley has always pretended that she didn’t know anything regarding Sophie. I doubt that she’ll willingly tell Rowan. “In fact, I think it’s most likely related to Linda.”

I really wanted to know the answer to a particular question. How had Ashley gotten in touch with the Clarks when she was only 15 years old back then?

In most cases, hospitals wouldn’t disclose the donor’s information, nor would they allow the recipient to meet them.

So how did Rowan know about Ashley’s heart? Was it really Linda who told him?

If so, then how did Linda recognize Ashley? When did she tell Rowan?

These questions were interconnected so subtly that it left me feeling puzzled.

I drove back home after parting ways with them.

After reaching home, I received a voice message from Jean, “Ivy, I still told Chester to go to the hospital. At the very least, he can act as an informant and gather some information!” “You’re treating him as a spy?” Amused, I replied with another voice message. I was in a great mood after I caused Ashley to faint from anger.

Jean answered with a snicker, “I love gossip.”

It turned out that Chester was quite suited to be an informant. The next day, he relayed some news he heard in the hospital to me through Jean. Ashley started crying when she woke up. After that, she demanded Rowan to explain about Sophie only to faint again once he had finished speaking.

Ella and Jonah had **also** visited the hospital as they begged Rowan to let Ashley off the hook.

They had no idea that their daughter had gone to great lengths so she could cling to him

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“Remember the questions we had yesterday, Ivy? Chester managed **to get a** few answers from Rowan!” Jean exclaimed.

“Remember how you and Linda met Rowan after the two of you returned to the country for a business trip? Linda found out about the matter between him and Ashley **later** on. “She recognized Ashley as the recipient of Sophie’s heart and told Rowan about it. Before that, he only knew that Ashley had a heart condition,” she said.

**It was** just as I had guessed.

But how did Linda recognize Ashley? And how did Ashley know about Sophie? These two questions still remained unclear.

I planned to look **into** the matter. However, **it wasn’t** for Rowan’s sake. I just wanted **to** take **a** closer look at Ashley’s true **colors**.

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**I was still** chatting **with** Jean when Natalie sent **a text over**. “Ivy, has Ashley been resuscitated **again**? There was news from Alton University saying that the date for her return to the campus **had** been delayed **for** unknown reasons.”

I replied, “**Yes**, that’s right.”

Benjamin had also **texted** me to talk about the matter. He’d been keeping an eye on things ever since he said he would help me.

I replied to these messages one by one.

Suddenly, an unknown number called me. I only realized it was Jasper after picking up **the** call.

“Can we meet up, Ivy?” he asked.

“Meet **up**? Why?” I was a little puzzled.

“It’s about something important.” There was a hint of awkwardness in his voice. “Won’t you do me a favor? Please?”

Initially, I didn’t want to help. But suddenly, I heard someone in the background hovering by the phone. Her voice echoed briefly. After that, I heard Ella’s anxious voice.

“Ms. Sadler, you blocked my phone number. I couldn’t contact you. Can we meet up and talk? Please save Ashley!”

Pausing for a moment, I replied gently, “There’s no need for you to seek me out about Ashley’s matters, Ella. I can’t help her, nor would I possibly want to,”

“I’m begging you, Ms. Sadler. My husband just had his surgery, but he’s fallen sick because of her incident.

“I have to take care of two patients on my own. Won’t you show me some sympathy?” Ella choked out.

Indeed, Ella was quite innocent. After all, the person who’d committed those wrongdoings was her daughter, not her.

“There’s no need for us to meet, Ella. You can just say it over the phone,” I replied indifferently.

Ella held Jasper’s phone as she went on and talked. Basically, she hoped I could talk some sense into Rowan so he would let Ashley off the hook.

Ashley wouldn’t be able to bear the emotional turmoil. Her heart couldn’t take it.

I probed Ella slightly when she was done. “Ella, do you know who donated their heart to Ashley?”

“No, I don’t. I remember someone once looked for her, but I’m not sure if they were the donor’s family...” Ella choked back her sobs.

“She was still so young back then. They said they wanted to take her out to play, but I refused. After that, they gave Ash a gift and took a photo with her before leaving.” “How old were they? Was it a man or woman?” I asked.

“It was a woman in her forties,” Ella answered. “Why are you asking all these questions, Ms. Sadler? Would they be able to help Ashley?” she asked.

I had already gotten a rough idea after listening to Ella’s reply.

The middle-aged woman was most likely Sophie’s mother. She couldn’t bear the grief of losing her daughter, so she found Ashley.

There was a high chance that Linda had recognized Ashley through that photograph.

But there was still one thing I hadn't figured out. How did Ashley recognize Linda? She should have only seen her mother.

"I can't help her, Ella," I answered. "Have you ever considered that she's staying by Rowan's side of her own accord? Maybe she doesn't need your so-called help at all." "What?" Ella was taken aback.

I hung up. There was no need for me to say anything further.

Since Ashley won't be returning to Alton University any time soon, I decided to take a few days off and enjoy life.

I still couldn't give up on my plans to gain weight. The doctor told me it would be hard for me to conceive in the future. However, that didn't mean it was impossible for me to get pregnant. What if a miracle occurred once I took care of my health?

I had planned to become a single mother for the rest of my life once I gave birth. However, I miscarried.

Even so, I had no plans to give up on my marriage and childbirth because of Rowan.

Even if I didn't have him, I still had Mom and Dad.

I should still cheer up even if it was for their sake. That way, I would be able to face whatever life threw at me optimistically.

My good mood would've probably lasted longer if I hadn't received **a call** from Linda.

"What would it take for you to not harm Ashley **again**?" Linda's question almost caused me to laugh out loud.

"It'll **all** be solved if you make her disappear from my sight forever." I was currently sunbathing in the courtyard.

As I lay on the rocking chair, I snacked on dried plums leisurely.

"But shouldn't you be the one who disappears instead?" she sneered.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## **Chapter 152 You're the Mistress**

Just then, I heard the sound **of a** car at **the** entrance. Standing up, I walked over to take a look.

Once again, Rowan's car had appeared in front of my doorstep.

**Wasn't** he supposed to be in the hospital taking care of Ashley? What was he doing here?

Rowan got out of **the** car. He **seemed** somewhat surprised **to see** me staring at him from the doorway. He walked toward me.

I gestured **for** him **to** be quiet.

Rowan raised his eyebrows slightly. There was a hint **of** confusion in his eyes, but he remained silent.

I continued to question Linda, "Why should I be the one who disappears? I may have divorced Rowan, but I still used to be his legitimate wife. Wouldn't that make Ashley the mistress?"

Rowan's expression changed upon hearing my words. In the past, he had already told me to stop calling Ashley a mistress.

And now, I was addressing her as such to someone else right in front of him. He must be feeling a little displeased.

Linda couldn't stand it anymore. What **a** strange person. She must have regarded Ashley as Sophie, so she couldn't allow anymore **to** slander her sister.

"You're the mistress, Ivory Sadler! You should've been the one who died! If you hadn't married Rowan back then, would Sophie have ended her life by jumping into the river?" Linda shouted agitatedly.

"And now, you're targeting Ashley by making things difficult for her! If anything happens to her, you should just die!

"An eye for an eye. You should pay for their lives with your own!" she seethed.

"**For** the last time, Linda, I had no idea about Sophie when I married Rowan!" I fixed my gaze on Rowan as I replied coldly.

"So what? Even if you didn't know about Sophie, couldn't you feel that Rowan doesn't love you? I heard he refused to marry you back then, but only accepted reluctantly because of his grandfather's illness.

"The two of you wouldn't have gotten married if you hadn't been so shameless. That way, Sophie wouldn't have lost hope!" she shouted furiously.

She sure knew a lot of details.

Rowan's face darkened. Reaching out, he took away my phone before I could reply.

“Sophie’s matter had nothing to do with Ivory. You can blame me for not rejecting the marriage back then, and you can also blame Sophie for being too extreme. But either way, stop harassing Ivory. Understood?” he warned Linda sternly.

I looked at him in surprise. That was Sophie’s only sister he was warning. After all, the Clarks only had two daughters.

As expected, Linda was furious. “Do you know what you’re saying, Rowan? Why are you at Ivory’s place? Ashley is still in the hospital! How could you leave her there by herself?”

It seemed like Rowan couldn’t be bothered to listen further. He hung up and blocked her phone number in front of me.

I watched his actions. I didn’t get what he was doing here.

Initially, I thought he came here to settle scores with me. After all, I was the one who told Ashley about Sophie and caused her to faint.

But judging from his attitude toward Linda just now, he didn’t look like he was here to hold me accountable.

I’d let Rowan overhear Linda’s words on purpose because I wanted to see how he would still defend the two women.

“What are you doing here?” I took my phone back and gazed at him indifferently through the iron gate.

“Chester told me something. So, I came over to verify it with you.” Lowering his gaze, he looked at me as he spoke calmly.

He acted as if he hadn’t just given someone a stern warning.

“What is it? Ask away,” I replied casually.

I didn’t expect Chester to be so impatient.

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He’d told Rowan what Ashley had said on the day Jean went to find her. But his intentions were probably to prevent Rowan from being deceived by Ashley’s innocent facade.

Rowan was also there at the time, however, he didn’t hear what Ashley said.

“Is it true?” he asked.



“Why would you ask me when you’re doubting even Chester?” I asked in response. “What if I told you it was true? That’s not all. Ashley already knew about Sophie a long time ago.

“She’s also acquainted with Sophie’s mother, and she’s well aware of Linda’s identity. But she’s just pretending not to know. Would you believe me?”

A cold look flashed past his eyes. “Why would she pretend not to know? How would that benefit her?”

“What good do you think it would’ve brought me if I pretended not to know anything about Sophie when we were getting married?” I mocked.

“Most people always find excuses for themselves when they’ve done something wrong. Why would she acknowledge the fact that she’s just a replacement?”

Rowan pursed his lips tightly. He fixed his dark gaze on me. It seemed like he was trying to discern if I was lying.

I knew he wouldn’t believe it, but I just found it amusing. Why did he come all the way here to find me?

There were some things I didn’t want to tell him. But I’d naturally tell everyone on the day Ashley returned to Alton University.

I didn’t care whether he believed it or not, so long as the others did.

Just then, Mom came out to look for me. She looked as though she’d seen a ghost when she saw Rowan.

Mom quickly came over and dragged me back without saying a word to him.

Rowan drove away a few minutes after we returned home.

“Ivy, why did he come over to see you? Don’t meet up with him. If your dad was home, he would definitely chase him away with a broom!” Mom reproached me slightly.

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“**He** came **over** on his **own**. **I’m** not sure why.” I shook my head. “But **don’t** worry, Mom. He just came to ask me something. Nothing else happened.”

Mom **stared** at me **suspiciously**. “Really?”

I quickly **swore**, “**It’s** true. Once **my** health gets **better**, I’ll get ready to travel abroad and do some sightseeing. Who knows? Maybe I’ll bring you back a foreign son-in-law!”

Mom chuckled. “**Why are** you still such a hopeless romantic? You’ve already been hurt by Rowan, yet you’re still thinking about marriage?”

“**Don’t** you have **any** intentions **of** staying single for the **rest of** your life?” she asked.

“No, I don’t. I’m not letting one bad apple ruin the bunch for me!” I replied.

She patted my arm out of relief. I knew Mom and Dad didn’t want me to be single forever.

I didn’t know if Rowan would think over my words once he returned. However, I didn’t think there was much use even if he believed me.

After all, Ashley only pretended that she didn’t know anything about Sophie.

What was the big deal? She was just an innocent woman who occasionally had some selfish thoughts.

Jean would report Ashley’s condition to me daily, which was all brought back after an honest inspection by Chester.

Ashley lay in the hospital bed for a week before she made a slight recovery.

Everyone was afraid that something would happen to her. She was treated like a fragile doll. A bunch of people fussed over her.

Rowan hired a caretaker for her, while Linda, Ella, and Jonah took turns accompanying her. It was rumored that Joy, who was abroad, would be coming back as well. She was one of Ashley’s die-hard fans.

However, I didn’t expect Ivan to return even faster.

I didn’t know how he managed to finish his work early and return from abroad. So, I was very surprised when I saw him at the hospital.

As usual, he was dressed in a white coat as he towered above everyone else. His back was straight, and his piercing cold gaze paused when it landed on me.

“Dr. York, you’re back!” A nurse popped up as she greeted him shyly.

"Yes, I'm back." There was a calm look on his face. He gave a simple reply before walking toward me.

Taking a look at the form in my hand, he asked, "What's wrong? Do you feel unwell?"

I shook my head quickly. "It's not me. I'm here to accompany my mom for a checkup. Remember how she had some issues with her heart? She should have regular checkups." Mom was currently getting an electrocardiogram. I was just waiting for her here.

"When did you return? Why didn't I know about this?" I asked.

"I just came back yesterday. By the time I did, it was already very late. I was worried that I would interrupt your rest," he replied as he gazed at me.

I nodded. That was considerate of him.

"Do Rowan and the others know you're back?" I asked again.

"I'm not sure. I haven't told them. Speaking of Rowan and you..." Ivan furrowed his eyebrows slightly before relaxing. "How are things between the two of you?"

I smiled. "What could happen between us? I doubt we'd even have crossed paths again if Ashley wasn't so keen on approaching me all the time."

Ashley was a little dumb in that aspect. She insisted on drawing attention to prove that she'd bested me. But in the end, her actions had repeatedly pushed Rowan to my side.

It seemed like Ivan still wanted to chat with me. However, someone else had called him away before he could.

Gazing at his receding figure, I couldn't help but feel that something was slightly amiss.

Rowan and Ivan had been friends for so many years. I would've been filled with guilt if their relationship became strained because of me.

Just then, Mom had also completed her checkup. She was all smiles when she came out. "It's all good. There were no issues," she said. Holding her hand, I smiled and replied, "That's good. Let's keep up the good spirits!"

We were just about to leave when we bumped into Lauren by the hospital's entrance. Her

eyes lit up when she saw me, and she strode over. "Hello, Hilary!" She greeted Mom. Then, she asked, "Hilary, could I borrow Ivy for a while?"

"What's wrong?" I asked in confusion.

Lauren dragged me to the side before whispering, "Let me ask you something, Ivy. Do you know if Ashley's in this hospital?"

Surprised, I asked, "Why are you looking for her?"

She pouted. "I want to meet her. I haven't met her face-to-face before. What's so good about Ashley? Why does Rowan care so much about her?"

I fell silent. Lauren had no idea about Sophie.

I supposed she also thought Ashley was Rowan's true love, just like how I did in my past life. In fact, even her actions mirrored mine. Lauren wanted to find Ashley to see her true colors.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 153 **Photos of Benjamin and Me**

"Say something, Ivy!" Lauren nudged **my** arm.

"Lauren, I suggest **for** you to give up on Rowan and return **to** Grandor City," I advised her out of goodwill.

Her **eyes** widened. "That **won't** do. I **won't** give up until I meet Ashley!"

I knew which hospital Ashley was in. But if I told Lauren, she would definitely rush there to meet Ashley.

If anything happened then, she would be the one taking the blame.

Lauren was **just** one **of** Rowan's pursuers, and she didn't have any malicious intentions. I didn't want her **to get** into trouble.

**So**, I had no choice but **to** tell her that I had no idea where Ashley was. Then, I bid her goodbye and drove Mom home.

**However**, I had underestimated Lauren's determination to look for trouble.

Somehow, she'd found the location of the hospital Ashley was located in and rushed there. Her actions had successfully infuriated Rowan.

That **was** what Jean had told me.

“Chester’s in the hospital now. I’m planning to head over too. Lauren’s a good-hearted woman, but there’s no way she can win against Ashley!” Jean said worriedly at the other end of the phone.

“**You’re** quite far along in your pregnancy. Just stay at home.” I sighed. “It’s best that I go by myself. I’ll find a way to convince Lauren to return home.”

“You’d better not. Rowan’s there as well,” she replied.

“Lauren’s dad is on good terms with mine, so it wouldn’t make sense if I don’t go. You should get some rest.” I rushed to the hospital at night after ending the call.

AND

It was extremely crowded in Ashley’s hospital ward at the moment.

Ashley lay on the bed with her eyes red. Meanwhile, Lauren stood beside her with an angry look on her face. She was glaring at Ashley furiously.

Chester quickly came over when he saw me. “Quick, Ivy, talk some sense into Rowan! He lost his temper when Lauren came over to find Ashley,” he whispered.

Rowan and Nathen Sampson had been collaborating for three years.

The fact that he was berating the Sampson family’s young lady, Lauren, for Ashley’s sake made it clear that she held a significant weight in his heart.

My heart sank. Then why did he ask me all those questions before? Was it all a hoax?

I wasn’t dumb enough to hope that he would give up on Ashley. Although I no longer held any expectations for him, I still found it somewhat laughable when his words didn’t match his actions.

“Why did you tell Ms. Sampson that I was in this hospital, Ivory? You were aware of my current condition...” Ashley stared at me teary-eyed and questioned me.

Rowan furrowed his eyebrows. “Ashley!” he warned.

He stared at her coldly with a piercing gaze. There was a hint of irritation and impatience on his face.

Shocked, a tear fell from Ashley’s eye. She couldn’t believe that Rowan would be so harsh toward her.

Ignoring

the two of them, I walked over and grabbed Lauren's hand. "Let's go. You should return to Grandor City tonight."

"Get your facts straight, Ashley. Ivy wasn't the one who told me your location. You're just spouting nonsense so you can hurl mud at someone else, aren't you? "Does Rowan like you for your bitchy attitude?" Lauren shouted furiously. She was unwilling to leave.

Feeling overwhelmed, Ashley

began to cry. "That's not what I meant. You were the one who said you asked Ivory. So I thought she was the one who told you..."

"I said Ivy didn't tell me. You're taking my words out of context!" Lauren was an outspoken person just like Jean.

She seethed in a fit of anger, "I thought you were a smart guy, Rowan. I can't believe you like this type of woman. You're so stupid! My feelings for you are in vain!"

With that, Lauren pulled at me as we headed outside.

"I-I..." Ashley panted heavily. She seemed to be having difficulty breathing.

Out of the corner of my eye, I could see that Rowan was about to follow us out.

However, it was clear that there was something wrong with Ashley's condition, so he had no choice but to stay.

Lauren looked dejected once we were in the elevator.

I knew that she would become disillusioned once she made a trip to the hospital. With her straightforward personality, there was no way she was a match for Ashley.

Besides, Rowan didn't like Lauren at all. So why would he side with her?

"Why did you lose, Ivy?" Lauren asked me in the car before she returned to Grandor City.

"What was he thinking? Jean was right. Ashley's a pretentious bitch! You should never be left alone with her!"

"It's fine if you give up on Rowan. There's plenty of fish in the sea. Why must you choose a scumbag instead?" I smiled as I stood by the car door.

She cast a strange glance behind me. "The scumbag's here, Ivy." There was a hint of awkwardness in her voice.

I looked back to see Rowan standing there with a cold expression on his face. Clearly, he'd heard me calling him a scumbag.

I waved calmly at Lauren. "You should head back quickly. Remember to drive safely at night."

Lauren nodded as she glared at Rowan. Then, she stepped on the gas and speeded away.

The way she let it all go and moved on was truly impressive.

If only I had half of her carefreeness back then! That way, I wouldn't have ended up with Rowan, nor would any of these incidents occur now.

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"In your heart, am I just a scumbag?" There was an edge to his voice.

"Why do you care what I think of you as long as Ashley thinks you're the best?" I mocked.

"Face it, Rowan. Ashley's important to you, and it's not just because she's Sophie's replacement. Please stop saying strange stuff to me in the future."

With that, I turned around to leave only for Rowan to grab me by the wrist as he dragged me forcibly to his car.

Furious, I tried to open the car door to get out only to realize it was locked. My wrist was slightly sore when I moved it.

"What are you doing?" I questioned angrily.

"Explain yourself. What is this?" he asked coldly as he took out a few photos.

I couldn't help but be surprised when I took the photos to have a look.

I'd met Benjamin once when I came back to pay my respects on All Souls' Day. We had a meal together, and he gave me a hug before departing. I didn't expect it to be caught on

camera.

From the photos' angle, we looked like a close couple.

I was utterly puzzled. "Where did you get these photos from?"

"Can you explain why you were hugging him? Didn't you say the two of you were just friends?" There was an angry expression on his face. He made it seem like I had cheated on

him.

"Since you were able to get your hands on these photos, you should also know when they were taken.

"We had already divorced by then. You have no right to ask about the matters between Benjamin and me," I replied calmly. Then, I tried to open the door again. "Open the door. Let me out of the car!" I snapped.

Rowan seemed to be furious. I was just about to get out when he unlocked the car, but he leaned over and closed the door quickly.

Upon seeing that, I also lost my temper. Once again, I decided to unleash my infamous move by biting him.

I could hear him inhale sharply when my teeth sank vengefully into his skin through the thin fabric. It looked like it hurt.

Now that I thought about it, I'd left a lot of scars on his body. There were marks where I'd bitten, scratched, and hit him. Unfortunately, Rowan was an asshole. He was asking for it.

I released him when the taste of blood filled my mouth. My bite had drawn blood from his left forearm. There were even some bloodstains on his sleeve. "Ivory Sadler!" Rowan cursed angrily when he pulled his sleeve up to take a look. "Damn it! How many times have you bitten me? Are you a child?"

I pulled out a piece of tissue calmly as I wiped my mouth clean. "I'll call your parents if you still won't open the door."

Rowan's face had turned red from anger. But in the end, he still opened the car door.

He would definitely get an earful if I complained to his parents. It was likely that even Ashley would be involved in the matter.

I immediately contacted Enoch once I returned to my car. I wanted him to investigate the person who had taken the photos of Benjamin and me.

It was definitely the work of a professional paparazzo.



Enoch had a good reputation in the industry, so he would be able to find some information about it.

“Alright. I’ll let you once I’ve found out,” he replied.

Placing my phone down, I glanced at Rowan’s car through the windshield. He still hadn’t gotten out of the car.

I believed that Rowan had fallen in love with me. Otherwise, given his personality, there was no way he would pester me.

He had even split the assets and the stocks of Payne Corporation under his name and given them to me.

However, it was too late.

If I hadn’t experienced the heart-wrenching pain from my past life, if he hadn’t wavered because of Ashley—then I might have turned back.

To put it more bluntly, if my child had lived, I would’ve let go of my resentment over time. That wasn’t all. I would’ve even let the child acknowledge Rowan as his father. But there were no ifs.

Our relationship was ill-fated in every way. We shouldn’t get entangled any further.

In a few more days, it would be Mom’s 50th birthday. So, I decided to set aside the matters in my hands for now and focus on arranging a birthday banquet for her. Needless to say, Jean and the others would definitely come. As for the other guests, they would be finalized by Mom and me.

I added Ivan to the list. I considered him one of my close friends now, and I was quite willing to invite him.

The Paynes family was the most prominent figure in the business circle. Once, the Paynes and the Sadlers had been in-laws. But now, **they** were more like enemies. Mom disregarded the Paynes. After the guest list was finalized, it was handed over **to** someone else **to** customize the invitation cards.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 154 A **Photo** of **Me** Dancing

The atmosphere **was** very lively on the day of Mom's birthday. I sat in a corner with Jean, Natalie, and Olivia. We ate and chatted.

Naturally, Chester also showed up. For some reason, his *good* friend, Jasper, had tagged along.

The two of them were chatting not far away when Olivia suddenly nudged me. "**Isn't** that Ivan?"

I couldn't help but be amazed when I looked over.

There was no doubt about it. Ivan's looks, stature, and bearing were outstanding among the crowd.

**However**, he rarely wore suits because of the nature of his work. He spent most of his time wearing his white coat, while he was more inclined toward casual and comfortable clothes **when** he was **free**.

The black suit he wore today was extremely eye-catching. Brimming with charisma, it was completely different from the cold bearing he had when he worked as a doctor. "Did you invite him, Ivy?" Jean asked.

"**Yes**, I did," I replied.

"**Doesn't** that mean Rowan was the only one who wasn't invited?" Natalie chimed in.

Jean gave Natalie a knock on the head. "Of course, he's not invited!"

Natalie smiled awkwardly when she realized what she'd just said. "I just thought it was unusual that he didn't attend, especially when Ivan, Chester, and Jasper had all gathered at the same place.

"Don't tell me Rowan's distanced himself from his friends because he's placed all his attention on Ashley?" she asked.

Jean rolled her eyes. "He's all hoes before bros!"

"He's such a strange guy." There was a puzzled look on Olivia's face. "Let's say he's an affectionate man. However, he loathed and distanced himself from Ivy for the longest time. "But if he wasn't affectionate, then why was he so fixated on Sophie's heart?" Olivia asked.

"He just doesn't like Ivy!" Jean replied bluntly. Then, she immediately comforted me when she realized she might have touched a sore spot.

“Don’t be sad, Ivy. You’ll definitely meet someone better after leaving him. He doesn’t deserve you.”

“What’s there for me to be upset about? I’ve already moved on,” I replied with a smile.

All of a sudden, Jean stood up after my words fell. Then, she stormed aggressively toward Chester.

It turned out that a woman had tried to hit on him. However, she left when she saw Jean coming over.

I was watching the show with the rest of them when I saw Ivan approaching out of the corner of my eye.

“Come on, Liv. Let’s take a breather outside!” Natalie stood up immediately when she saw Ivan approaching as she dragged Olivia away.

Just like Jean, the two of them were convinced that Ivan had feelings for me. They’d even banded together behind my back to convince me to accept him.

Not only would that infuriate Rowan, but I would also be able to get my hands on a good man.

Of course, I rejected that proposal heartlessly. I didn’t want to take advantage of his feelings. The nicer and more sincerely someone treated me, the less I wanted to take advantage of them.

“You look dashing today, Dr. York!” I gave him a thumbs-up as I complimented him sincerely.

Ivan sat beside me. “How dashing?” he smiled slightly and asked.

“You’re so handsome that more than half of the women here were sneaking glances at you. Haven’t you noticed it? How bad is your eyesight?” I teased.

Ivan looked around. Indeed, there were many young ladies here, and most of them were all socialites.

However, his expression didn’t change. He turned around and gazed at me. “What about you? Did you sneak a glance at me too?”

I avoided his gaze out of embarrassment. I did sneak a glance, but it wasn’t for the same reason as the other women. I only wanted to take a look at his popularity.

Even with such an attractive appearance, Ivan had only fallen for Ashley in my past life. After giving it some thought, I couldn't help but be impressed by Ashley.

Ashley had everything in her favor when it came to conquering both Rowan and Ivan. It wouldn't have been possible without Sophie's heart and her own means.

This time, Ivan finally didn't fall in love with Ashley. However, he was interested in me instead.

Although I felt slightly awkward, I felt a little vain about that too. His liking for me proved that I also had my charms.

"Given our relationship, it's not good for me to be sneaking glances at you, right?" I smiled as I replied.

"You're right." Ivan smirked. "You didn't invite Rowan?"

Come to think of it, my family still had some collaborations with the Paynes in business. But business wasn't like marriage—you couldn't divorce as you wished.

Both of the families would definitely suffer a loss if we'd cut ties in a fit of temper, and my family would've taken a worse blow.

Mom had deliberately provoked the Paynes by not inviting them. It would become a topic of gossip once the news spread to others.

"Why would I invite him?" I asked casually.

"Is there no chance for the two of you to reconcile at all?" He seemed to be probing me.

I replied seriously, "No. Haven't you heard about Sophie?"

Although I didn't tell Ivan, with Chester's big mouth, I was certain that he'd told Ivan in private.

Sophie's heart had been transplanted to Ashley. It was such a shocking piece of news.

Indeed, he knew. "I heard about it, but I never **expected** such a twist. I don't think Rowan truly likes Ashley. He just can't let go because of his guilt and remorse toward Sophie."

Chapter 154 A Photo of Me Dancing

“Is a heart that important?” I suddenly asked.

“You find **it** hard to understand, **don’t** you?” Ivan didn’t express any disdain. Instead, he started explaining it carefully to me.

\*\*Imagine if Rowan had died when you **were deeply** in love with him. After that, you discovered that his heart was in another man’s body. What would you do then?”

I listened silently. If I thought about it from that perspective, I could indeed understand Rowan’s current feelings.

If **none** of these things had happened between the two of us and we were still a loving couple, I would’ve been devastated if he died.

“**I think I** understand it a little **now**.” Nodding, I smiled. “But even so, I won’t look back. Fate truly works in mysterious ways.

“Back then, I’d already pursued Rowan for five years. However, he still fell in love with a person he just met not too long ago— Sophie. I’d sacrificed five more years of my life because **of** that. That’s more than enough,” I said.

Ivan’s eyes lit up as his smile grew wider. “That’s right. You’re still young, and there are plenty of choices left for you. You should start anew.”

I definitely intended to start my life anew. But before that, I needed to expose Ashley’s deceitful facade.

I originally wanted to tell Ivan my plans, but I held back.

I’d only told Benjamin about the specific plan. The more people knew about the matter, the more dangerous it would become.

Once Mom’s birthday banquet ended, Lee told me that there was a birthday gift from Rowan in the car. Rowan had stayed for a short while downstairs, but he didn’t come up. There was an exquisite gift box in the car. I picked it up first and felt its weight. It was very heavy.

Mom had a complex look on her face when she heard it was a gift from Rowan.

“We don’t want his gift. I’ll tell my men to return it to his company later!” Dad spoke up immediately. Mom and I had no objections to that.

After we reached home, Dad sent Lee to return Rowan's gift. Lee only returned after two hours.

"Ms. Sadler, Mr. Payne's not in his company. His assistant accepted it on his behalf and placed it in his office," Lee reported.

"Alright." I nodded, then asked casually, "Oh, that's right. Is your father feeling better now, Lee?"

"He's doing well. The rescue was timely and he's had a good recovery. If you hadn't allowed me to return earlier for Christmas and lent me your car, I'm afraid..." He was filled with gratitude.

I replied to him with a smile, "You should pay more attention to your parents' health."

"Yes, I will." He nodded.

A few days after Mom's birthday celebration, Jean told me that Ashley had been discharged from the hospital.

I was really impressed by her unyielding health. Delicate yet tenacious, she was just like an unkillable cockroach.

Ashley was unlike me. In my past life, I'd been diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer. It quickly worsened, and before long, I'd died.

It had been a while since I dreamed of my past life. But for the past two days, I was haunted by nightmares again. Each time, I would wake up with tears on my face and sweat covering my skin.

A sense of uneasiness crept into my heart, but I couldn't figure out why.

It wasn't until the photos of me and Benjamin hugging each other appeared on the Internet that I realized the uneasiness I felt was an omen.

That wasn't all. There was also a photo of me dancing at Symphonica. The hem of my shirt had rolled up in the photo, and part of my waist was revealed. I also looked intoxicated because I'd had a few drinks.

The photo looked a little blurry as if the person had zoomed in and taken the photo from upstairs. The angle was clearly taken from above.

My eyes twitched. In contrast, the photo of me dancing was more dangerous. It would definitely have a negative impact on Dad's work once it attracted public attention.

Just then, Enoch sent me a text. “Ms. Sadler, I’ve looked into the matter. The photos were indeed taken by a colleague. He admitted that he initially wanted to give it to you to extort

some money.

“Later on, he chose to make a deal with Rowan. All the photos are in Rowan’s hands.”

Was Rowan the one who released the news? Was it to retaliate against me and my parents?

Rowan wasn’t some kind of saint. A man who’d taken the lead of Payne Corporation at such a young age would never be soft-hearted. He’d already used all kinds of means against his opponents countless times before.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## **Chapter 155 Get Lost**

I didn’t want to reply to Enoch at the moment. I felt anxious and uneasy. My mind was blank.

If my parents saw this news, they would be furious. My mom had a weak heart and needed to avoid stress.

I dialed Rowan’s number while trying to stay calm.

But he didn’t answer.

When I called again, he hung up on me.

I was shocked and angry. I needed to find someone urgently to remove those news articles. The longer they stayed up, the more difficult it would be to manage the situation.

Initially, I shared the problem in the girls’ group chat. I asked Jean and the others to help come up with a solution.

Besides

contacting the poster and the website to delete the post, I knew I had to make legal preparations. If they refused to remove the content, it would mean taking it to court. Surprisingly, the poster refused to delete the post.

I didn’t know who he was, but from our conversation, I could tell he wasn’t scared of me involving the police.

Soon, Jean called me. After I told her what happened, she asked, “Are you sure Rowan is the only one who has those photos?”

“Probably, but I’m not sure if he’s the one who posted them,” I replied with a frown.

“He must be trying to get back at you!” Jean said angrily. “It’s probably because of Ashley. He’s retaliating against you, Ivy. Should we find a hacker to handle those photos first?” “Okay, please take care of it. I’ll go talk to Rowan,” I said. I needed to confront Rowan to find out if he leaked the photos. If he did, he needed to resolve it, or the photos might resurface repeatedly.

I drove to Foresta Apex, thinking he might be there instead of Windwill Estate.

However, when I arrived, Rowan wasn’t there.

I rushed to Windwill Estate. I remembered Rowan didn’t like it much, so he probably wouldn’t stay there after our divorce.

The estate was brightly lit. The maids I had Lee hire were busying themselves tonight.

One of the maids exclaimed in surprise when she saw me. She said, “Mrs. Payne?”

Then she realized her mistake and quickly corrected herself. “Ms. Sadler, what brings you here?”

“I’m looking for Rowan. Is he here?” I asked.

“Mr. Payne isn’t here...” The maid’s expression was odd, and her tone was awkward. “Ms. Sadler, maybe you should try calling Mr. Payne.”

I glanced at the nearby villa. All the lights were on in the upstairs bedroom. If Rowan wasn’t there, then who was inside?

Driven by a strong feeling, I approached the villa.

“The Paynes are really wealthy. This living room is as big as our whole old house,” Jonah exclaimed in the living room.

“Jonah, do you really think moving here is a good idea?” Ella hesitated.

Jonah sat on the expensive custom couch I bought while consoling her. “It’s inevitable. Ash is stubborn to reject Mr. Payne’s money. We had to sell the new house we bought to cover her upcoming surgery costs. Where else can we live?”



Ella sighed, then turned and noticed me standing at the doorway. Her expression immediately shifted.

Jonah also noticed me and awkwardly stood up.

They were both here, which meant Ashley must be in the master bedroom upstairs.

“Ms. Sadler!” Ella called when she saw me heading upstairs.

I clenched my fists as I felt anger rise within me. Windwill Estate, this mansion, was the home gifted to Rowan and me by the Paynes and the Sadlers.

Every decoration and piece of furniture here was carefully chosen by me. This was my dream house. Rowan putting Ashley here was even worse than having her in Foresta Apex. Despite our divorce, I couldn’t allow Ashley to live in the place where I had spent five solid years.

Rowan could have sold it, left it empty, or renovated it before letting Ashley move in again.

I easily made my way to the master bedroom door. It was slightly ajar, letting warm yellow light spill out. I could hear Ashley’s voice coming through. “Joy, when you come back, you can visit Windwill Estate. There are plenty of rooms, so you won’t be left without a place to stay!”

Ella had quietly come up behind me. She looked embarrassed upon hearing Ashley’s words.

I pushed the door open forcefully. Ashley looked startled as she saw me, uttering, “Ivory...”

Looking at her face filled me with disgust. I swiftly closed the distance, grabbed her phone, and smashed it on the ground before slapping her. “Get out of my house now. Bring your parents with you!”

“Why did you hit her?!” Ella rushed over and shielded Ashley as she glared at me. “Ms. Sadler, Mr. Payne is busy today. He asked Mr. Ford to arrange for Ash to stay here. We didn’t

come here on our own.”

Ashley clutched her face as tears welled up in her eyes.

“Don’t waste your breath. Get out now, or don’t blame me for being rude!” I raised my voice. “Ella, you claim you don’t support your daughter being with Rowan, but have you ev

er truly opposed it? Now you and your husband are planning to ride on your daughter's coattails and live the high life?"

Ella was stunned. Her face turned pale.

Hearing my harsh words, Ashley wiped her tears and challenged me. "You and Mr. Payne are divorced. This villa isn't your home. Why **do** you think you can tell us to leave?"

I sneered and opened my handbag. I took out the property division agreement Rowan had given me. In front of Ashley and her parents, I signed it without hesitation. "Now half of this villa is mine. You can leave."

## Chapter 155 Get Lost

2/2

Ashley was stunned. She likely didn't expect me to sign the property division agreement under these circumstances.

Footsteps echoed in the stairwell. Jonah and Jasper appeared first, followed by Rowan.

**Jasper** immediately looked guilty when he saw me.

Rowan's **face** remained cold. His eyes were devoid of warmth as he glanced at Ashley and me.

Ashley looked helplessly at Rowan and said, "Mr. Payne, Jasper arranged for us to stay here, but Ivory came and hit me. She told us to get out, and..."

"How could you hit her? Rowan asked me to arrange for Ashley to stay here. If anyone's to blame, it's me!" Jasper protested angrily.

**Disgust** overwhelmed me as I listened to Ashley's crying and Jasper's accusations. Despite feeling sick, I entered the dressing room to find all the clothes and jewelry I had left behind scattered.

I grabbed a silk nightgown from the floor and threw it at Ashley, "You even wore my nightgown. Aren't you ashamed?"

Ashley's face turned pale and flushed. She bit her lip and stayed silent.

Glancing at the dressing table, I noticed many high-end skincare products and perfume bottles with their lids left open.

Ashley's touch was like some disgusting virus. She had infected all my belongings.

In front of everyone, I tossed all the skincare products and perfumes into the trash can and instructed the maid to dispose of them.

"Ivory, don't be so harsh. Ashley was just curious and wanted to try them out. She's never used them before!" Jasper couldn't bear to watch anymore.

Rowan stayed silent. He watched my every move with an unreadable expression.

"Ivory, I'm sorry," Ashley said. Her eyes were red.

"Ashley, no need to apologize. I brought you guys here. Blame me," Jasper said bluntly. "Rowan, aren't you going to say something? You and Ivory are already divorced."

Ashley looked at Rowan with anticipation. She waited for him to defend her.

Rowan naturally noticed the slap mark on Ashley's cheek. I had used at least eighty per cent of my strength for that slap.

"Why can't she stay here?" Rowan finally spoke. His words chilled me to the bone as soon as he uttered them.

"Are you serious? You know how carefully I decorated this place. It represents five years of effort and heart for me. Yet you let Ashley move in. You're disregarding what I once sacrificed." I sighed and bit back the bitterness and anger.

"Now that you've moved on from me, naturally, you've also moved on from our past emotions. People always have to look forward," Rowan said coldly. His tone was dismissive.

The man who recently bothered me seemed to have sorted things out over the past few days. His attitude toward me had clearly shifted.

Seeing Rowan side with her, Ashley immediately became confident and said, "Yeah, Ivory, people need to move forward. There's no point in you holding on anymore."

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 156 | Refused to Go Back

Holding on? Me? Ashley's skill at turning things around was impressive.

I felt calm as I watched Rowan protect Ashley. I *had* anticipated it.

However, I had lost **interest** in playing along with them.

I took out my phone and checked tonight's news. "Did you do this?" I asked Rowan.

Rowan's expression darkened as he read the content. His gaze sharply fell on Ashley. Just from that look, I knew who was responsible.

Ashley looked at Rowan innocently. "Mr. Payne, what's wrong? What happened?"

"Nothing," Rowan replied flatly.

"It was Ashley who **sent it**, right?" I felt a deep sadness. Ten years and a resurrection later, I still hadn't fully understood Rowan.

Rowan said, "She must have accidentally taken my phone and sent it. I'll handle it properly. It won't disturb your life."

**Before**, I couldn't even touch his phone. Now Ashley could freely access it, browse his albums, find those photos, and create a new account to smear me.

My mind reeled. I once thought Rowan had feelings for me.

"Are you sure it was an accident?" I stared into Rowan's eyes.

"**Yes**, I'm sure," Rowan answered after a pause.

Ashley spoke up defensively while looking hurt. "Ivory, you've misunderstood me. I never meant to hurt you. I don't understand why you..."

I couldn't bear it any longer. I raised my hand to slap her again.

What a drama queen.

Rowan stopped my hand before it could strike. His grip was firm, and resistance was futile. He looked at me coldly. "Ivory, you're the one who can't let go of the past. You're the one disturbing Ashley and me. Enough!"

Seeing this, Ashley's eyes showed a hint of delight.

She still tried to console me hypocritically by saying, "Ivory, I know I'm just a substitute. He's told me everything about Sophie. I'm self-aware, so I wouldn't do those things. I'm not qualified."

"Get lost!" I shouted angrily. In my past life, I had lost miserably to Ashley. Now she was here again, performing in front of me. After breaking free from Rowan's grasp, I pushed Ashley away.

Ashley almost fell, but Rowan swiftly caught her. She ended up crying in his arms.

Jonah couldn't bear to see his daughter bullied. He rushed over and pushed me aside. His strength overwhelmed mine, so he nearly pushed me out of the room and into the hallway.

"Ivory!" Rowan's expression changed. He released Ashley and quickly came over to help me up.

Physically, I wasn't hurt much, but emotionally, my heart was in agony. I struggled to breathe.

I forcefully shook off Rowan's hand as tears streamed down my face.

Once I stood up, I noticed everyone surrounding me. Their eyes were filled with various emotions. Downstairs in the living room, several maids were looking up and trying to understand what had just happened.

I took out the property division agreement from my bag and asked Rowan, "Do you think this is enough compensation for me?"

"If it's not enough, I can add more," Rowan replied. His demeanor was now tinged with nervousness and concern.

Upon hearing his words, Ashley's expression subtly changed.

Even splitting half with me made her angry, as if it were her money. Taking more would be heart-wrenching for her.

I smirked and forcefully tore the agreement into shreds. Then I scattered the pieces on the floor.

At that moment, Ashley's lips curved upward. A fleeting but unmistakable joy appeared on her face.

She must have thought I didn't want these possessions anymore and that all the benefits would eventually be hers.

"Ivy!" Jean's anxious voice suddenly rang out from downstairs. Natalie, Olivia, and Chester, who was supporting Jean, were all rushing upstairs.

When Jean and the others arrived, I suddenly had support. They glared angrily at Rowan and Ashley and seemed ready to confront them.

Jasper looked puzzled upon seeing Chester on my side. "Chester, are you choosing love over friendship? You believe Ivory and don't see how she bullies Ashley?"

Chester glanced at me and firmly replied, "Rowan, Jasper, this time I trust Ivory. Ashley was pretending to be innocent. I see through her now."

"What?" Jasper struggled to understand.

Ashley tried to explain by saying, "Chester, what I said in the hospital room was just a slip of the tongue. I didn't mean it that way. I was feeling unwell and upset at the time, so.."

"You don't need to explain yourself to me, Ashley. The truth always comes to light," Chester interrupted, having seen through Ashley's facade of deceit.

Ashley bit her lip, and tears welled up in her eyes. Seeing this, Jasper felt even more heartbroken than Rowan. He quickly intervened by telling Chester, "Stop, she's still a patient. There's no need for this. There must be some misunderstanding."

Jonah and Ella rushed to support their daughter. They were worried she couldn't handle more stress.

Ella solemnly said to **me**, "Ms. Sadler, please stop provoking my daughter like this. It was our mistake to come here today. We had no other place to stay and followed Mr. Ford's arrangement. We didn't intend to take over your house. If you're not happy, just ask us to leave. There's no need to be so aggressive."

Ella's protective instinct for her daughter prompted her to speak urgently. After that, she signaled to Jonah. Together, they took Ashley and prepared to leave,

Chapter 130 I KETUSED to Go Back

2/2

I intended to resolve everything tonight without waiting for Ashley to leave for Alton University. I took out the recording and was prepared to expose Ashley's true colors to everyone.

Ashley seemed to sense trouble and abruptly came over to kneel in front of me. "Ivory, I'm sorry. I was mistaken. I shouldn't have fantasized about Mr. Payne, shouldn't have shown up here. It's all my fault. Please don't blame my parents. I'll disappear from your life. Just forgive me!"

She looked so pitiful and helpless that it evoked my sympathy.

Jean, who was unable to bear it due to pregnancy hormones, pointed at Ashley and said, "Enough. Stop pretending. I'm really gonna hit someone!"

Chester swiftly intervened to prevent Jean from losing her temper. He joined the others in comforting her. Despite my own anger, I knew I had to calm down and prioritize stabilizing Jean. It was important not to let this bitch provoke her any further.

However, Jean was like a lit fuse at that moment. She refused to budge no matter how Chester tried to stop her. He didn't dare to pull her forcefully. Meanwhile, Jonah and Ella stood anxiously in front of Ashley.

"Dad, Dad!" Jonah suddenly staggered and clutched his chest in pain. Ashley was shocked and rushed to support him.

Both the father and daughter had heart surgery before. Now, under stress, Jonah couldn't cope anymore.

Ella was also extremely nervous. "Jonah, what's wrong? You're scaring me! Mr. Payne, please take my husband to the hospital quickly!"

Ashley cried and hurried to Rowan. "Mr. Payne, please forget everything else for now, whether you believe me or not. This is urgent. Could you take my dad to the hospital first?" "Let's go!" Rowan was moved. He glanced at me but didn't ask further. Instead, he went to help Jonah downstairs. The recording I had prepared suddenly lost its most important listener and became meaningless.

Jasper glared at me,

then turned to Chester with disappointment and anger. His feelings about his friend were clear.

Chester stayed quiet. He carefully held Jean around the waist.

Silence filled the villa for a while. Even the downstairs maids, who seemed to be hiding, were afraid to make any noise.

I had to endure the pent-up anger in my chest. There was nowhere to release it.

"I'm fine, Jean. You all should go back first," I said weakly as I glanced around at the mess. I was exhausted.

"Ivy..." Jean was not one to hold back her emotions. She wanted to say more, but Olivia stepped forward and shook her head. Eventually, everyone left because what I needed most was to be alone for a while.

dun the **mace**

throw everything in the trash and then lay still on the bed feeling utterly drained.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## Chapter 157 **You've All Been Fooled**

I didn't **expect** to react so intensely when I saw Ashley's family move into Windwill Estate. It felt like something precious to me had been violated, and I couldn't control my anger and disgust.

**At this** moment, Rowan should be **at the** hospital handling Jonah's situation. He would never disregard Ashley, especially when it involved her father's health.

I closed my eyes, and **tears** inexplicably began soaking my pillow. In this agitated state, I fell asleep. When I woke up, I had a splitting headache. It felt like someone was beating a drum in my temples.

The *air* **was** heavy with the **scent of** perfume from the bottle I smashed last night. I coughed, pushed through my dizziness, and took a shower.

**As I** came out of the bathroom, my phone rang. It was Ivan.

"Ivory, where are **you**?" Ivan's voice was serious when the call connected.

"Windwill Estate. What's up?" I replied.

"Chester told me about last night. Are you okay?" His tone softened with concern.

I had calmed down considerably. "I'm fine. Ashley's dad might have a problem though; he has a heart condition. Is he at your hospital?"

Ivan paused before replying, "**Yes**, I'm treating him. That's why I asked Chester about it."  
""

"Well, take good care of him," I said. I didn't want anything bad to happen to Jonah, especially since they didn't even know what their daughter did.

I just want Ashley to face the consequences of her actions.

Ivan wanted to meet up, but I declined. Right now, I prefer to be alone. I still need to figure out how to explain that news to my parents and clear things up.

When I got home, my parents were waiting for me, having already seen the news.



My dad looked pale. "Ivory, explain. What's going on?"

"Ivy, what's going on?" My mom asked more calmly. She held my hand as we sat down on the couch.

After last night's argument, I felt down but had avoided telling my parents. I tried to calmly explain the whole story behind the news.

Their expressions softened as I explained that the photos with Benjamin were taken after our divorce; there was no affair involved.

The dancing photos were from a bar event where many girls performed on stage; nothing inappropriate happened.

Though my parents believed me, outsiders might not.

After consulting a lawyer, I sent a legal letter to the publisher and the website. The content was deleted about a day later, although some netizens likely saved the photos for gossip.

I didn't care anymore. Their deletion proved their guilt. My reputation was somewhat restored, as long as it didn't harm my parents significantly.

Three days later, Jean told me that Jonah's condition had stabilized, but Ashley was not doing well. Both father and daughter were in the hospital.

Despite Ashley's fragile heart, her resilience was remarkable. She was a persistent survivor who kept bouncing back.

"It's infuriating! They almost gave me a stroke!" Jean exclaimed angrily. "Ivy, why don't you expose her to the media now and let her have a heart attack that no one can save her from!"

"I've considered it. Don't get too upset, especially for the sake of your baby," I comforted Jean. She was pregnant and couldn't afford to be too emotional. Having lost a child myself, I didn't want her to face similar issues.

"I know. Don't worry about me. Just tell me what you need. I'll help however I can!" Jean remained fiercely loyal.

I knew Natalie and Olivia would support me without hesitation as well.

My parents and these friends were my main support right now.

After hanging up, I organized information about Ashley again. Doing this made me feel somewhat at ease, as it was my only tool to expose Ashley's true colors.

Unexpectedly, Ella reached out before I could act.

She called and asked to meet. Initially, I was reluctant, but after the unpleasant scene at Windmill Estate, it seemed best to clear things up and show her what her "obedient" daughter was really like.

We arranged to meet at a café where Ashley used to work. This place held significant meaning for me as it marked the beginning of my connection with Ashley in this lifetime. Ella appeared more worn out than usual; her graying hair and anxious demeanor were stark contrasts to her previous calm. When she spotted me, she immediately stood up. "Ms. Sadler, you're here."

"Yes. What do you want to talk about?" I sat down opposite Ella. She hadn't ordered any drinks, so I ordered a black coffee for myself and an orange juice for her, along with some desserts. Just sitting and chatting felt uncomfortable.

Ella looked uneasy. Her gaze was fixed on the food. She seemed to have no appetite. She barely sipped the orange juice before speaking. "I came to apologize for my daughter. She's still young, hasn't even graduated from college, and doesn't understand social etiquette. If she's done anything wrong, I hope you can forgive her."

Her tone was humble, as if she expected I wasn't done with this yet.

I sometimes wondered if Ashley was adopted by Jonah and Ella. How could two mild-mannered people have such a cunning daughter?

"Ella, what did Ashley tell you? I'd like to hear it." I sipped my black coffee. It was as bitter as my life since being reborn, with only a little sweetness.

"She said..." Ella sighed. "Ms. Sadler, it was Mr. Payne who pursued her first. We're just ordinary people, and she's just an ordinary girl. She had no power against someone like

him.

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She didn't approach you to provoke you; she wanted to explain. She never intended to break up your marriage, and even after your divorce, she didn't plan to be with Mr. Payne because that would invite public scorn.

What a nice story. If Ashley truly didn't want to be with Rowan after my divorce, why did she agree to all of Rowan's arrangements?

I knew exactly what she was thinking. She fooled everyone while masking her true colors from view.

## Chapter 157 You've All Been Fooled

2/2

"Do you believe her?" I interrupted Ella.

"Of course, Ash is a good child. She's always been excellent, obedient, and well-behaved. No one has ever said anything bad about her. This time, she was dragged into your situation with Mr. Payne, and she's genuinely sorry!" Ella's eyes were sincere and not deceitful.

In her mind, her daughter was the victim.

Halfway through my coffee, I spoke again. "Ella, your daughter is quite the manipulator. She's deceived all of you. Do you understand?"

**Ella** was stunned. She looked at me in disbelief. "What do you mean? What do you mean she fooled all of us?"

"From the start, she approached Rowan first. She intended to harm me and deliberately caused my miscarriage. She has feelings for Rowan. Is that clear?" My eyes showed no emotion as I spoke to Ella. These facts no longer angered me.

Ella was shocked and accidentally knocked over her orange juice. The waiter hurried over to clean up, but she appeared lost.

After the staff left, she asked in a trembling voice, "Ms. Sadler, you need to take responsibility for your words. Ash hasn't finished her studies yet, and she'll marry someday. If her reputation suffers, can you take responsibility for that?"

"I can take responsibility for every word I say. But can Ashley take responsibility for her actions?"

Ella looked at me with disbelief. Her eyes were full of doubt.

I played the recording I had prepared for the media to Ella. She appeared shocked. She stood there in disbelief and looked like she'd been struck by lightning. A mother would easily recognize her daughter's voice, so she couldn't accuse me of fabricating Ashley's recordings.

“Ella, I’ll handle these matters with your daughter gradually. You and your husband are in the dark about everything. I’ve already been lenient by not holding your whole family responsible.

“Please don’t push me into actions I don’t want to take.” After saying that, I turned away from Ella, who had stiffened completely. I grabbed my bag, settled the bill, and left.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

## **Chapter 158 Threatened Me**

Ella surely told Ashley about this **incident** when she got home. Once Ashley knew I had this evidence against her, she would likely **try to intervene**. **If** she managed **to stop** me, I would need **to** admit defeat.

**I hadn’t** anticipated Rowan to defend Ashley **so** strongly.

When **I** decided **not to** wait for the supposed right moment and leaked that recording to the media, **I discovered** everyone became evasive. Upon hearing it involved Ashley, they promptly declined and treated it like a hot potato.

Even Enoch hesitated to handle **it** this time, although he did write a text about exposing Ashley for me.

He didn’t dare **to** intervene, but he disclosed some insider information. “Ms. Sadler, your ex-husband is incredibly influential. It seems he genuinely **cares** for Ashley. I’ve exposed **several** scandals involving him in **the** past, and he never bothered about them, but this time is different.”

Upon hearing this, **I** was instantly disheartened.

**Now** Ashley’s health was **not** good. Rowan was very afraid that I would do something to provoke her, and that was why he had blocked all media channels.

Having power was truly the ultimate advantage.

I hadn’t told Jean and the others about this. They couldn’t confront Rowan, and it would only add to their troubles.

Since leaking the information to the media wasn’t feasible, I’d handle this myself. It would just take longer to make an impact.

I didn’t believe Rowan could still use his power to threaten me, and I refused to give in.

"Ivory, can you help me quickly?" Chester's call came unexpectedly. His tone sounded urgent.

"What's wrong?" I was surprised because Chester usually didn't contact me. Among Rowan's friends, we were just acquaintances. If he wasn't with Jean, we would probably just be hi-bye friends.

Chester sounded worried. "I said the wrong thing and made Jean angry. Now she's not talking to me, and her phone is off. Can you help me find her?"

Even though Jean was pregnant, he still kept making mistakes. His intelligence was truly questionable.

Jean had always had a fiery temper. Now that she was pregnant, who knew what might happen if she got really angry?

Without further ado, I got the address and hurried over. I tried calling Jean on the way, but her phone was off.

When I arrived at the destination, Chester was already there. However, I didn't see any anxiety on his face; instead, I saw Rowan standing behind him.

"Um..." Chester nervously approached me. "I'm sorry. Rowan wanted to meet you, but he knew you wouldn't agree to see him right now, so..."

No wonder Jean sometimes felt like punching him. He really deserved it.

Facing my annoyance, Chester quietly retreated. His loyalty as a friend was commendable, but if Jean found out, he could be in trouble.

Rowan stood still and watched me silently. Despite the short distance of three or four meters between us, it felt like an immense gulf separated us.

"You've gone through all this trouble to see me, so what is it?" I finally spoke. I didn't want to waste time with him.

"Ashley's condition is very unstable at the moment. Whatever it is, it can wait until after her surgery in Dalloria," Rowan said. His words further chilled my heart. That was why he came. He was afraid I might provoke Ashley and endanger her life.

Rowan was truly insightful. Just as I was about to release the recording, he came to find me. Was this advice or a warning?

“Rowan, if Ashley pushed me off the bed and made me lose my child, what would you do to her?” I asked. I was ready to reveal everything to him.

Rowan frowned. “Where’s the evidence?”

“Answer me first How would you deal with her?” I pressed on, sensing that even if I disclosed everything to Rowan, he might still protect Ashley.

In the past, he went to extremes for Ashley. He did everything he could. So why wouldn’t he do something as insignificant as this?

So I never considered exposing Ashley to Rowan alone. I planned to make everything public when they were together, so Ashley would be impacted the most.

“I already told you. Wait until after her surgery,” Rowan said impatiently. It seemed like I was pressing him for an answer.

I was confused. Did he value Ashley or just her heart?

If it was for her heart, I could only commend his deep affection and loyalty toward Sophie.

“You have no right or authority to stop me. You can manipulate the media and public opinion with your power, but you can’t control me, can you?” I decided against letting Rowan hear the recording, to avoid any trouble.

“I don’t, but after all these years, you should know my character well,” Rowan said coldly. There was a dangerous hint to his voice. “Just give me a little more time. If you can’t wait, I’ll find a way to make you wait.”

“How?” My heart was anxious, eager to know what he would do.

“Some photos of your father. You probably wouldn’t want them to be leaked,” Rowan said after hesitating briefly.

At that moment, I was shocked. I thought the issue with my dad had been fully resolved. I had wondered if Rowan still had more photos. Were the ones he previously gave me all there were?

I never imagined my suspicions would come true. He was a highly calculative person. He always kept his options open to use whoever or whatever he could.

I thought he helped me before because he genuinely cared for me and wanted things to improve between

ween us. I even wavered. Now I realized it was just a joke. He could threaten me anytime by using people I care about as leverage.

“Rowan, you truly surprise me,” I finally said after a long pause. I looked at him with nothing but disappointment in my eyes.

What was I hoping for? He had hurt me repeatedly, yet I hadn’t learned to toughen up.

Rowan hesitated and frowned. I didn’t know what he intended to say, nor did I care to listen.

“If you release those photos, I don’t mind going down with you.” My words were filled with anger.

## Chapter 158 Threatened Me

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“In a month, I’ll take her to Dalloria.” Rowan sighed softly. “I’ll handle these issues then, alright?”

“I’ll handle it myself. There’s no need for you to intervene,” I replied coldly with a smirk. Then I turned and walked away without looking back.

Tears welled up in my eyes as I turned away. I was overwhelmed with sadness. I felt foolish for believing Rowan had feelings for me in this life. Just because of a few encounters and his gestures and words that were new to me, I had forgotten all the pain from the previous life.

If I could, I’d slap myself right now for being foolish. As the saying goes, “Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.”

...

**For** my dad’s sake, I couldn’t go ahead with the original plan and had to put it on hold for now.

Rowan’s one-month timeline sounded brief, but to me, it stretched on endlessly. I was engulfed in the anguish of losing my child and haunted by the uncertainty of future pregnancies. I was almost consumed by sadness.

Jean and the others frequently invited me out to help me relax.

"Ivy, what are you waiting for? Why the delay?" Jean asked repeatedly. She was concerned.

But I hesitated to tell her about Rowan's threat. I was genuinely worried about upsetting her during her pregnancy.

I took a sip of wine and chuckled lightly, "Didn't I say before? I'm waiting for the right moment."

"Is there really a better moment?" Natalie asked.

"Of course." I nodded.

They exchanged glances but refrained from commenting much on my decision. Given my current state, they were careful not to press me further. They were probably concerned about how I might handle it.

I had developed strong mental resilience. Having gone through what I needed to in my previous life, I was now less impulsive when facing difficulties.

Even those with the strongest mental resilience can falter at times. I shouldn't have overindulged in drinking, but now it seemed like I had no other way to relax.

As a result of this lack of control, I ended up drinking excessively and getting so drunk that I blacked out. Olivia and Natalie were always the ones who had to take me home afterward. Jean had stopped drinking, and Chester would pick her up after each gathering.

Barter 159 Overnight at Ivans Place

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 159 Overnight at Ivan's **Place**

"Blargh!"

As **the** burning sensation in my stomach surfaced, I couldn't hold back the urge **to** vomit. A bag appeared before **me** just in time, followed by Ivan's slightly deep voice, "**Don't** puke in **my car**."

I heaved into the bag without hesitating. **The** space began **to** smell, but I didn't care **at** the moment. After my stomach settled a **bit**, I tied up the bag and wiped my mouth with a piece **of tissue**. I turned **my head groggily** and looked at Ivan.

"How did I end up in your car?"



“Olivia asked me **to** pick you up,” Ivan said calmly as he drove. “Are you planning to destroy your body by drinking?”

“**Don’t** you already know? **I** can’t have children anymore. What’s the use of this body?” I chuckled bitterly. “Ivan, do you still consider me a complete woman?”

“Why wouldn’t you be? Do you need children to be complete? Who told you that?”

**We stopped at a** red light, and Ivan turned to look at me. There was a slight glint in his eyes. “You can find a man who doesn’t mind that about **you**, right?”

I sighed deeply. “Which man wouldn’t mind? But you promised me you wouldn’t tell anyone about this! You better keep your word, or I won’t let you off!”

Maybe it was **the** alcohol talking, but **I** sounded harsh. Despite knowing Ivan was the only person I could confide in about everything, **I** couldn’t help but threaten him.

I was sure this behavior was the aftermath of my drunkenness.

“What would you do?” Ivan asked again. Maybe it was due to the alcohol in my system, but I felt a gentle warmth in his gaze as he looked at me.

“I don’t know, but you’ll die a miserable death!” I replied casually, then closed my eyes to rest.

Ivan didn’t know the exact address of my home, and I had forgotten that. When I woke up, I found myself in his apartment.

Single men who kept themselves tidy were different. Ivan’s bedroom was exceptionally clean. There was no trace of a woman’s presence. There was no perfume in the air, only a faint scent **of** soap coming from the bedding.

I didn’t know about other men, like Rowan, for instance. Our interactions mainly took place at Windwill Estate. Apart from Ashley, he didn’t bring any other women back to the estate.

In my heart, though, I couldn’t help but feel Ivan was different. Despite his status and background, he chose a demanding and noble profession without relying much on his family’s influence. He didn’t go wild with his wealth and position. He truly was a good man.

I only hoped things wouldn’t end up as they did in my past life, when things between him and Rowan almost fell apart completely.

"Are you awake? Come have something to eat." As I stepped out of the bedroom, I heard Ivan's voice and Bobo's meow.

"How did I end up here?" My head was pounding a bit. But thankfully, I was still wearing the same clothes.

Otherwise, I would have another type of headache.

Bobo rubbed against my legs, and I bent down to pick him up. Then, he made a disgusted sound and struggled to jump down from my arms.

Ivan watched this scene and shrugged helplessly. "You should take a shower first. There's no one else here, **so** I couldn't help you change."

I smelled of alcohol and vomit, and it was truly unpleasant. Feeling awkward, I headed to the bathroom. Just as I finished showering, Ivan's voice came from outside again.

"I've got a change of clothes for you. They're on the sink outside."

"Okay, thank you!" I replied loudly, but I was puzzled.

Hadn't my parents tried to reach me last night?

Ivan's clothes were obviously too big for me, but it was better than wearing yesterday's dirty clothes. I tucked the hem into my pants and rolled up the sleeves before stepping out of the bathroom. The first thing I did was check my phone.

There were two missed calls from Mom and a text from Olivia that said, "Ivy, I told your mom you drank too much and stayed over at my place tonight."

I really admired Olivia. Sometimes, her actions matched what Jean would do. Before, they had quietly suspected whether Ivan had feelings for me. Now, she directly arranged for him to pick me up when I was drunk.

They were both equally bold. Also, it seemed like she wasn't afraid of me doing anything untoward while drunk.

"What's wrong?" Ivan asked when he saw me holding my phone motionlessly.

"Nothing. Thanks for picking me up last night. Sorry for the trouble," I put away my phone and thanked him politely. "You really are kind, just like how a doctor should be!"

Ivan glanced at me. "If it were anyone else, do you think I would have picked them up?"

What was he implying? It felt a bit ambiguous, and I felt frustrated. I didn't want Ivan to actually have any other feelings for me!

At that moment, I experienced what real awkwardness felt like.

"Uh, well, we're friends after all. If it were a stranger, you probably wouldn't have been so kind. I know that," I chuckled awkwardly and quickly changed the subject. "Dr. York, your cooking skills are really impressive! Did you make all of this?"

I walked over to the dining table and admired the delicious breakfast spread.

Ivan glanced at me and replied, "It was Bobo."

"Meow!" Bobo seemed to understand human speech as he echoed with a meow.

I felt like I had asked a redundant question. In the apartment, it was just Ivan, me, and a cat.

If he didn't make breakfast, who **else** could have done it?

In this slightly awkward atmosphere, I finished my breakfast. The food tasted good, but the air felt a bit tense.

Throughout the meal, I couldn't help but think of Ivan from my past life.

Why had he changed so much? How come he hadn't developed any feelings for Ashley yet?

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 160 Overnight at Ivan's Place

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If this continued on, I felt he might start to develop feelings for me. That would make the situation go a bit out of hand.

Just as the atmosphere remained subtly awkward, the doorbell rang. Ivan got up to answer it. I was almost done eating, so I followed him into the living room. I thought it was about time **for me to** leave.

"You're home?" Rowan's voice came through and momentarily stunned both Ivan and me.

Ivan glanced back at me, and I stared at the door in shock.

Why was Rowan here?

He must know where Ivan lived. Given their relationship, an occasional visit wasn't unusual. But I hadn't expected this confrontation among the three of us.

As soon as Rowan finished speaking, his cold black eyes locked onto me. His gaze shifted as he scanned the clothes I was wearing—Ivan's clothes.

"Why are you here?" Rowan spoke again. His tone was filled with a dangerous edge, and his gaze grew more intense.

"I just came for a meal," I replied. I felt no need to explain much to Rowan. Besides, I had already finished breakfast and planned to leave.

I turned to Ivan and said, "Dr. York, thank you for last night. I'll head back now."

"Okay, take care." Ivan remained calm. He seemed unfazed by Rowan discovering that his childhood friend and ex-wife were together.

I nodded. I initially wanted to leave them to their battlefield of emotions, but guilt nagged at my conscience.

Ivan had done nothing wrong, and nothing had happened between us. Olivia had just asked him to pick me up because I'd had too much to drink. I couldn't let Rowan misunderstand and burden Ivan with unnecessary pressure.

So I stopped and explained, "Rowan, nothing is going on between me and Ivan. Last night, I drank too much, and Olivia asked him to pick me up. Please don't misunderstand." My explanation seemed to fall on deaf ears. Instead of easing up, Rowan's expression darkened further. It showed signs of an impending storm.

"I didn't drive. Why don't you give me a ride?" I added.

"I'll take you," Ivan said. He turned to fetch his car keys upon hearing me.

But I stopped him. "It's okay. Let Rowan give me a ride. It's on his way."

With the way Rowan was, he couldn't accept any hint of ambiguity between Ivan and me. Even though Rowan and I were divorced, it was still a big deal because he and Ivan were close childhood friends.

I was genuinely concerned that this could lead to trouble for Ivan, so it was better to let Rowan leave first.

“Alright then. I’ll head to work,” Ivan took the car keys nonetheless and told Rowan, “It’s exactly as she said. If you don’t believe it, there’s nothing more we can do.”

Rowan’s face remained stern. His lips were tightly pursed. He didn’t say anything. He simply turned and walked away. I quickly followed him.

Once in Rowan’s car, the atmosphere grew tense. I decided not to explain any further and simply closed my eyes to rest.

I thought he would take me straight home. But when I opened my eyes, we were already at the hospital entrance—Ivan’s workplace.