

Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 161-170

Posted by **Admink**, 170

Chapters 161 Stealing Evidence

edmat the car window and saw van parked on the side of the road

"Why are we here? I couldn't help but ask.

"Discharge arrangements," Rowan replied curtly.

Was Ashley going to be discharged? I was a little confused. Did **that** mean she could undergo the surgery at Dalloria soon?

Since Rowan was here to handle Ashley's matters, there was no need for me to tag along. Cher got out of the car, I called Lee to pick me up at the hospital entrance.

"Aren't you going to follow him up?" **Ivan** asked me.

I watched Rowan's **figure** disappear into the hospital entrance **alone**, I could sense his intense anger. He deliberately ignored me and me.

"I don't make a habit of visiting love rivals. You should go on to work, I **replied**.

"After Ashley is discharged from here, she'll probably go to Dallecia for the second transplant. Rowan will likely accompany her," Ivan said. He shoved his hands in his pockets and casually chatted with me

That **already figured** that out, Rowan had promised me that after the surgery, he wouldn't stop me from seeking revenge on Ashley. I was waiting for that day to come.

"Yeah, I know. You **should** go to work now. Don't let me keep you," I waved at them with an indifferent smile.

Ivan hesitated. His clear eyes flashed briefly before dimming again. He nodded slightly and walked into the hospital

I waited

alone at the entrance for Lee to arrive. Before he came, though, I saw Ella and Janah approaching.

Jonah had been discharged, but he looked paler than before. The couple had serious looks on their faces. They exchanged a glance when they passed me, and their expressions were curious.

"Ms. Sader, what are you doing here? Ella took the initiative to greet me.

She had tried to contact me several times in recent days from an unknown number, but I had quickly hung **up** each time.

"Waiting for someone," I replied simply

Tila nodded. Suddenly, Jonah clutched his chest while looking uncomfortable. El quickly reached out to support him and called out to me. "Ms. Sadler, could you please help?

can't manage **him** alone!"

I hesitated for a moment before going over **to assist** Jonah

"Now and then, my heart will hurt. But it's nothing serious" Jonah sighed with relief and calmed down.

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"Thank you, Ms. Sadler," said her thanks before the two turned into the hospital. I didn't dwell on it and continued waiting for Lee at the entrance

When **the** car arrived, I got in. Lee looked surprised to see me in men's clothes, but he didn't ask. He **was** always quiet and reserved.

Once in the car, I closed my eyes to rest. Although that sleep last night, being **drunk** didn't make for good sleep **quality**. I woke up feeling tired in the morning. Soon, I dozed off

When Lee woke me up, I **found** myself at my doorstep. I reached for my phone in t

in my pocket to check the time, but it was gone!

"Weird. Where's my phone?" A **sense** of foreboding crept over me. I frantically searched under the seat, but my phone wasn't there

"Ms. Sadler, I haven't seen you with your phone since you got in the car," Lee informed me.

Suddenly, I remembered Ella **and Jonah**.

Could I have dropped my phone while helping Jonah? Or had it been **stolen**?

A terrible thought crossed my mind. Without hesitation, I told Lee to take me back to the hospital immediately. Ella and Jonah must have taken my phone!

Lee had heard the recording on my phone. She must have told Ashley, who would want to destroy my phone

It made sense.

When I rushed back to the hospital, Ashley had already been discharged half an hour ago. Ella and Jonah were where to be found.

"They've probably gone to the airport," Ivan told me. Noticing my urgency, he asked, "What's wrong thought you didn't visit your love rivals?"

Indeed didn't have that habit, but my phone was likely with Ashley now

"Can I borrow your phone? I need to make a call," Tasked Ivan

Without station, Ivan unlocked his phone and handed it to me. I dialed my own number and waited for it to connect.

The phone rang a few times before being disconnected. This confirmed my earlier suspicion. I just **had** expected Ella and punch to stop so low as to assist their daughter in **such** a shameful act

Didn't they realize who was truly in the wrong here?

I dialed Rowan's number. He answered though he was clearly unaware of what had transpired.

"Where's Ashley?" I asked. I was containing my anger as best as I could

"What's the matter? You can talk to me," Rowan's words were undoubtedly in defense of Ashley. Even if he didn't know why I was calling Ashley, he protected her first. He was **afraid** might upset his delicate darling

Ashley's soft and innocent voice came from beside him. "Mr. Pay, in Ivory looking for me?"

Rowan replied, "Yes. You can talk to her there's anything later".

"It's okay, we wait at the airport. Let me talk to Ivory now. Otherwise, I'll be word, Ashley replied softly

Now that she had taken my phone, she probably felt secure. Unfortunately for her, she had missed a stop. I had already sent the recording to Enoch and Benjamin.

My urgency now shifted from anger.

Chapter 162 Stealing Evidence

The actions of Ashley's family were utterly shameless!

Thung up the **phone** and called Chester. I asked him which airport Rowan and Ashley were departing from. Although he no longer **trusted** Ashley, he definitely knew the details.

As expected, Chester had the information. After confirming the airport, handed Ivan back his phone. "I'm done. Thanks."

han stopped me before I could leave. "I'm coming with you."

"Sure, that works," I replied firmly. If Ashley insisted on pushing her luck, **I had no** intention of holding back. If Rowan learned everything and still sought revenge **against** me, then so be it.

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way

to the airport, I uploaded the article Enoch had written for me and the backed-up recording files to the internet. I didn't know but he would eventually.

now if Rowan would see them immediately,

Upon arriving at the airport, I headed straight for the VIP lounge.

"Why are you here?" Rowan's expression turned sour the moment he saw me. He glanced at Ashley with **a** hint of concern in his eyes.

"Ivory came to see me off. Isn't that right?" Ashley was now brimming with confidence. A smile **was plastered** on her face. Ella, **Jonah**, Linda, **and** even Jasper were all by her side, making her the center of attention

Ella and Jonah avoided meeting my eyes

Ignoring Rowan, I walked right up to Ashley. "Where's my **phone**?"

"Ivory, what are you talking about? Why **ask** me for your phone? I don't understand" Ashley feigned innocence.

"You knew I had your information, so you orchestrated this whole thing with your parents to steal my **phone and** destroy the evidence, didn't you?" I confronted her directly, with a hint of threat in my tone. "You better give **it** back now, or you'll regret it."

It was **too** late for her to give it back, **but** I wanted to rattle Ashley a bit.

Rowan intervened by pulling me back slightly. His tone was stern. "Ivory, have you forgotten what you promised me?"

"Of course not, but I can't **do** it!" Rowan's defense of Ashley pushed me over the edge. My emotions were running high. "Rowan, you're really blind and foolish, She's playing you

like **a** fiddle"

My scathing words hit Rowan hard, and his face showed it. No one had ever dared to confront him like this.

"Ivory, are you out of your **mind**? **Linda** couldn't hold back and stepped forward **to scold** me. "You've been **divorced** from Rowan for so long, yet you're still causing trouble. Don't you feel ashamed?"

Not only did she scold me, **but she** even moved as if she wanted to physically lash out at me. However, Ivan was quicker and stepped in to stop her.

"What do you think you're doing**

"**Ivan, why are** you protecting her? **What** do you mean by this? Linda angrily questioned.

"It means exactly what you think it means. Don't even think about laying a hand on her in front of me," Ivan's voice was cold, and he was the only one standing by my side.

Rowan already had a dark expression, but seeing Ivan stand in front **of** me made the flames in his **eyes** surge even more.

Sensing the tense atmosphere, Ashley hurriedly intervened with a sorrowful look. "Everyone, **stop** arguing It's all my fault. After my surgery, I'll disappear forever and won't bother any of you again, okay?"

With tears welling up in her eyes, she looked deeply distressed.

Chapter 161 Revealing the True Colom

Blair heartbroken for Ashley and hurried to comfort her. I watched them coldly.

"Ashley, sometimes admitting your mistakes **and** apologizing can make things better. Otherwise, you'll only make people **despise** you. You could lose everything you have now
",

Jahley was taken aback as if startled by my words. But within seconds, she regained her innocent demeanor.

"Worry, I don't know **what** you're talking about understand that you dislike me because of Mr. Plyme. But rest assured, once I have the money, I'll pay him for all these expenses

"Nderitasove," she said.

"Not necessary" Rowan responded more quickly than did

Ah of surprise crossed Ashley's eyes, but she quickly concealed it

Rowan wouldn't care about such a small amount of money. He certainly wouldn't ask Ashley to pay him back.

Besides, we were already divorced, so there was no such thing as shared property. It was entirely up to him who he wanted to spend his money on and how much he wanted to

"Dowan!" Chester's voice suddenly broke in as he rushed in. He likely came in a hurry and was sweating profusely. He froze for a moment when he saw us all gathered there.

Behind him were Jess, Olivia, and Natalie.

Ashley smiled when she saw Chester "Chester you here to see me off?"

She would be heading to Dallockan for surgery. She thought he was here to see her off when she saw him arrive in a hurry.

But I didn't think so. Would Chester dare to bring Rowan to see Ashley off? Unless he was tired of living, he wouldn't want to provoke Rowan

"No, I have something to discuss with Rowan." Chester forced a smile and quickly approached Rowan. He whispered something we couldn't hear to him.

After Chester finished, Rowan's expression changed subtly. He lowered his paw and said, "Whatever it is, let's talk about it when we reach Dalorian"

Everything should have been arranged in Dalorian. Once Ashley arrived there, everything would be settled

"No, you need to look at this first" Chester insisted. He glanced at me, and his eyes were full of guilt

I could probably guess why Chester had rushed over, finally, he had no intention of seeing Ashley off so, he shouldn't be here.

However, he must have seen the message that sent out to expose Ashley, so he rushed over.

"Chester, what do you want **Mr. Payne to see?**" Ashley asked **something** was all. She **lost her smile** and asked nervously.

"Nothing we're boarding soon," Rowan reassured Ashley and ignored Chester

Ashley nodded cautiously. She then whispered, "Let's not stay here any longer. Let's

"Sure," Rowan replied.

As they were leaving Chester couldn't hold back any longer. He stopped Rowan, then took out his phone and played an audio file

"No, Ivory, Thewet white you were dead!"

"I think I might have feelings for Mr. Payne"

vary, please don't tell 'Prime, okay?"

twat Rowan who planted the seed of materialism in my heart, it was you!

My conversation with Ashley was playing loud and clear from the phone. This was recorded during her visit to me in the hospital after my kidnapping. She admitted to deliberately pretending not to hear my cries for help and mimed the actions of Rowan and the others.

Ashley froze, and her face turned pale instantly, she looked panicked as she rushed to grab Chester's phone.

I stopped **in** and stopped her, "Don't rush. It's not over yet."

Rowan was originally indifferent. As the audio played, his expression had become extremely angry,

He was genuinely worried when he came to find me. He couldn't have **imagined** Ashley to **be** so malicious. She not only wished for my death but also tried to keep him from finding out.

His hands slowly clenched, and the bulging in the back of his hands clearly indicated his anger.

"Keep playing it!" Rowan spoke up

His voice was cold and tinged with a hint of danger. His attitude had drastically changed

Uland Jonah snapped out of their shock. They were not expecting that I still had backup
s even though they **had** stakes my phone. They nahed over to snatch the phone back

Tranblocked them and prevented them from getting near Chester.

The autocontinued to **play**. The second clip was from when I was hospitalized in Storman
d for ring to prevent a miscarriage. Ashley pushed me off the bed

"Ivry Mr. Payne loves me. I won't **punih** myhappiness. Are you trying to see the baby?

Your sweet dream of **using** the child as leverage in shattered now!"

Even the best actors couldn't
replicate the mice and cruelty in her voice Speightly as she was discussing something w
onderf

Hi, my heart ached.

Jean always knew had some recordings of Ashley but she didn't know they were so del
ed. She was serious that **she wanted** to cash up and beat Ashley to death.

Chester's face **was** pale. The insed to genuinely see Ashley as a good girl but now his p
erception of her had lily been shattered.

He stopped Jean and said, "Honey, don't be agated. Think about the baby

otherwir, he world't have stopped her.

"Ashley, how dare you keep pretending? You tried to kill Ivy, and you killed her baby!" N
atalie shouted angrily,

"Rowan, Is this the true love you see? Are **you** blind? Olivia **yelled**, pointing at Rowan,

Rowan didn't retort, nor did he look at Ashley. Instead, he looked at me.

Jasper was stunned and lost in **thought** about the recording. He looked at Ashley, who
seemed utterly distraught, and asked in disbelief, "Ashley, did you really **do** those things
?

"No, I didn't!" Ashley tried to deny it.

"The recordings are fake. I never said those things or did those things. I'm calling the police to clear my name."

"Go ahead. I've already spread this everywhere. You can try to sue me," I reminded her coldly

"No!" Ashley was terrified. She immediately threw herself at Rowan and cried pitifully.

"Mr. Payme, don't you believe me? **Give** me some time to prove my innocence. Don't let her spread the recordings.

"Help me stop her"

Rowan **looked** down at Ashley clutching his hand, then at her tearful face. Finally, he forcefully pried her hands off

Ashley wanted to keep pleading. But in the next second, **a hand** suddenly grabbed her by the **throat**.

Rowan's fury was palpable. He seemed like he might kill her at any second.

Ella and Jonah were petrified They rushed over to grab Rowan's hand and struggled to free Ashley from his grip,

"Ro—
Rowan..." Ashley nearly suffocated. After catching her breath, she looked at Rowan with disbelief.

She couldn't believe Rowan would want to strangle her. He was still defending her just a few minutes ago.

"Mr. Panel" Ella burst into tears. She knelt on the ground to plead for mercy.

"It was just a moment of confusion for our Ash. She didn't mean it."

"You loved her so much before. You should know **her** true nature. Please forgive her!!

"Ella, your daughter tried to kill me, and she was the murderer of my unborn child. Shouldn't you be slapping her right now to teach her a lesson?

"Instead, you are begging for mercy relying on Rowan's affection for her. Did you think you could live peacefully after stealing my phone? I found it so ridiculous.

Ella and Jonah seemed to have high morals, but they never took action to correct Ashley. They even supported her wrongdoings.

After all, whether in my previous or current life, they always defended Ashley.

Ella looked at me in a **daze**. She suddenly realized I was the one she should plead with.

She dragged Ashley over and grabbed my hand. She positioned my hand by Ashley's face.

"Ms. Sadler, it's all **Ash's** fault. Just slap her. She has a heart condition, that's why her father and I always do what she says

"We fear that she can't withstand the stimulation and something will happen. Now it has turned out like this. There is nothing we can do to compensate you, so just beat her to death."

Jonah couldn't accept this. He quickly stopped Ella.

He turned to question Rowan. "Mr. Payne, weren't you the one who started pursuing my daughter? Why did you do that if you already had a **wife**?

Ashley stood in front of me. Her expression was gloomy, and she looked at me with hatred. I had torn off her prettiest mask, and now she must wish she could bear me apart

"Enough!" Rowan lost his patience. He was enraged, and his eyes were red. He radiated a terrifying aura.

"Ashley, if it weren't for Sophie's heart, I would have severed all ties with you when I sent you abroad for your studies. You know exactly why I kept helping you and protecting you. Now you even dare **to** harm my child?"

Of course, Ashley knew about this, but she had always refused to acknowledge it.

She never admitted it publicly as she feared that the rumors of Rowan's favoritism would turn **into a** joke. People would see that Rowan was only using **her** as a substitute

I guessed she must have seen the media reports about me, the infamous ex-wife. From marriage to divorce, I was pitied and ridiculed behind my back.

Ella and Jonah were utterly confused as they were learning these truths for the first time.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 162 **Reap** What One Had Sown

"Wsh who is Saphir?" Jonah asked.

"She was the owner of the heart now in Ashley's chest, the first woman Rowan loved," explained. "Your daughter has known about this for a long time and even met the Clarks. Didn't you know?"

Ella shook her head blankly.

"No, I didn't know only remember that someone had visited her at home in the year of her surgery. They left after chatting for awhile and **taking** a picture with her,"

"That was likely Sophie's mother," **I said**. Tek a bit of sympathy for Ella. Her only daughter had kept many things from her.

"Stop

Ashby suddenly covered her ears and screamed, "Are you trying to drive me to death? **Fine**, Eldie now!"

Ashley frantically dumped the contents of her handbag onto the floor. She picked up an eyebrow razor and aimed it at her wrist.

She burst **into** team and looked at Rowan

"Howarth, they say hroty loved you deeply for ten years, but what about Sophie? You've let her down!"

"And me, ever since first heard your name, believe we were destined to meet. I studied hard to get into Alton University and stayed in Alion City. I truly believe in our fate."

I did the math Ashley was about fifteen or sixteen when she received the heart **transplant**, just at the age when romantic feelings began to bloom.

In her accusations, I uncovered another mystery, it turned out that the gift Sophie's mother gave to Ashley was a photo album and diary. They contained all the memories of Sophie.

The album contained the photos of the Clarks sisters. So, she had indeed recognized Linda all along.

Linda listened to all her accusations **in a de** She always believed Ashley was an innocent girl who knew nothing about them.

Rowan remained indifferent when **he** saw Ashley crying hysterically. He hated being played, yet he was deceived by Ashley again and again.

"Rowan, help me one last time. Can you do something **to** salvage the tweets ivory posted?" Ashley pleaded as she was still worried about her reputation.

“Get lost” Bowan responded mercilessly. His cold eyes were filled with disgust

He wamed Ashley, “**from** now on, I don’t want **to see** you again. You and your family are to leave Alton City immediately **and** never show up **again!**”

Ashley’s Lips trembled as she looked at Rowan in horror. She stumbled and seemed unable to accept this reality.

Rowan’s last warning meant that she would lose all his support for her studies and surgery. Her family would have to leave their familie environment and start over comeshere

Ella’s and Jonah’s foers were broen. Yet, they were more concerned **about** Ashley’s **safety**. While she was distracted, Jonah immediately rushed forward, snatched the razor, and

Ashley was desperate. She immediately humed to pooper and grabbed his hand.

“Jasper, can you help me, please? I come from abemble background, and I’ve worked so hard to get here.

“You’ve always been encouraging me. Can’t you help me now?

*Ashley....” He felt a hint of sympathy when he saw Ashley crying miserably. However, he reganed his clarity in the next second

He pushed her **hand** away and said, “You’ve gone too far. You lied to me and too many others.”

Ashley was in despair after being rejected by Jaspen. The atmosphere honed tense and parkw.cd

Suddenly, Ashley grabbed a perfume **boodle** and hurled at me.

Af people were around me, but they had been keeping a safe distance after the earlier conflict was momentarily stunned as I watched the pertime bottle fly toward me.

Rowan reached first Hedeshed over and deflected the bottle with his arm it hit his am with a dull thud and fell to the ground.

He was visibly injured, likely from the sharp edge of the bottle lond quickly soaked through his sleeve.

“Rowan!“!

Chester was shocked and yelled **at** Ella and Jonah,
““Take her away! **What** are you trying to accomplish? **Murder?**”

Ella and Jonah were terrified too. It was considered a **lenient** punishment already for Rowan to ask them to leave Ahan City. He could have easily made them vanish.

They immediately dragged Ashley out of the lounge.

While Chester and Jasper checked on Rowan's injury, I watched **from** a distance. Rowan glanced up, and our eyes met in silence.

It felt like all the misunderstandings had finally been cleared up. We had finally seen hope after all the dark moments. But we both knew that some things, once missed, could never be recovered.

Our relationship was like a battlefield. After the war ended, the smoke cleared, and only in and devastation were left.

I parsed my lips and quickly drove away from the airport alone.

Not long after, I saw a car frantically trying to flag down a car, with Ashley collapsed on the ground. She seemed unconscious, and Jonah was performing CPR on her. I didn't stop. I sped away. My mind was filled with the memory of my parents crying beside my hospital bed when I was diagnosed with terminal cancer in my previous life. The despair and pain they felt had finally been meted out to Ashley's family.

This incident led to a dire outcome for Ashley.

Altani University immediately withdrew all its donations and canceled enrollment.

Friends and family who had defended and confidently busted her, now claimed that they were deceived. They called them blind.

Chapter 162: Reap What One Has Sown

There was also an unexpected twist from Benjamin.

He had initially wanted to help me, but acted first. After exposing Ashley, he posted some screenshots online, claiming to be her ex-

-boyfriend.

It turned out that he had taken some photos of Ashley's chat history with Rowan. This **chat** history had proven that Ashley was the one initiating the affair.

This was like adding fuel to the fire. Ashley immediately became the target of public outrage online. She was even dubbed the "Ultimate Mistress."

Rowan was also criticized for being a playboy. However, given his history of **scandals**, people were already **used** to it. The backlash wasn't as severe.

It was such a pity that Ashley had been in the ICU and was unaware of the current **uproar**.

I didn't care whether she lived or died. Without Rowan's help, her surgery was likely off the table. Sometimes, it was not just about the money, but also about connections.

"The comments are spot on. Perfect! just amazing!" Jean clicked her tongue and laughed as she read the harsh comments about Ashley during a gathering.

"Don't laugh too hard. Be careful with those two little ones in your belly," Natalie reminded her. Jean was pregnant with twins. She already had a noticeable baby bump.

A pregnant woman shouldn't get too excited even if they were overjoyed.

Jean touched her bed,

"It's okay. My babies are as strong as me. They won't have any issues just because I laughed. But Ivy, has Rowan contacted you these days?"

I shook my head while sipping my juice. It **had** been more than half a month since Ashley's incident. Rowan hadn't contacted **me**, and I hadn't sought him out either.

At that moment, Jean's phone rang. It was a call from Chester.

"What? That's **none of** our business. Don't you dare try to help!!

Chester said something that made Jean furious instantly.

After hanging up, she angrily **told us**, "Ashley's parents had an accident, **and** now they need money. Can you believe she actually asked Chester for a loan?"

I was shocked. What happened to Ella and Jonah?

Jean **didn't** ask for too many details since she didn't care about Ashley's family.

She only knew that Ella and Jonah were in a severe car accident and were now in the ICU. They required a huge sum of money **daily**. Ashley's own condition was unstable. So, how was she taking care of them?

Borrowing money seemed to be the only option left.

I didn't dwell on this since Ashley's **family** situation was none of my concern. What surprised me was that she would even consider asking me for a loan.

When I received her **call**, I was genuinely shocked. How could she have the audacity to ask me for **a loan**?

“Sorry, I can’t help you,” I replied and was about to hang up.

“Ivory, how can you be so ruthless? You’ve already ruined my chances for surgery in Da lloria, and now my parents are in trouble. You’re not short of money, are you?”

Ashley angrily accused me while taking the moral high ground.

“You reap what you sow. Get it?” I wasn’t angry. I was just stating **a** simple truth.

Ashley’s tone was filled with resentment. “Just you wait! one day, I’ll be better off than you. You’ll regret **this!**”

“Okay, I’ll be waiting.” I said and hung up immediately.

Spin to Claim Your Surprise Reward

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Play

Chapter 163 The **Purult** of Healing

Although

some sympathy for **Ella** and Jonah, I also thought that their puffing was **a** ficting retribution For Ashley’s actions.

Still, I didn’t expect Ashley to **have** so many tricks up here. When she couldn’t borrow any money from me, she came up with another plan

Tw as about to sleep when received a call from Benjamin

“Ivory, are you sleep?” His tone was hesitant. He was not his usual cheerful self.

I was still thinking of a good **day** to get a manicure before bed and couldn’t **sleep**. “No, I’m still up What’s going on

“thighs trying to contact me these days, and I’m at my **wit’s end**, sa..” Benjamin’s voice trailed off.

what does she want from you asked directly, though I had **a** pretty good guess.

Benjamin might be the one who had **exposed** Ashley's chat history about her being the one initiating the contact with war

That now that she was at the end of her rope, this soft-hearted and upright ex-boyfriend might really be the one of few people she could turn to for **help**.

Benjamin sighed and stumbled over his words. "Well, her parents are still in the X and **need a** lot of money. She said she had none else to borrow from and asked if I could land hersome. 1-1"

"just tell me what you're thinking. It's okay. I won't blame you, no matter what decision you make," Treplied **gently**.

"Ivory, agreed to lend her some money, but it's not enough. I want to ask you for some help. **It's** okay if you refuse.

"You can call me salt-hearted hutt was the one who broke up with her first, and we did share some good times

"Her parents have **always** been kind to me." Benjamin explained a lot, but it all boiled down to him feeling sorry for her.

The feud between Ashley and me didn't really involve Benjamin. He was dragged into this mess because of me. I could understand that if he was feeling sorry for Ashley and her

If anyone else asked me for money, I would definitely refuse, but I couldn't refuse him. If lending him this money could minimize his guilt toward Ashley, then I'd consider it as my compensation to him.

He interrupted him, "How much do you need? Just tell me

"The hundred thousand," Benjamin took a **deep** breath before **saying** the amount

To me, it wasn't **a** lot. But to him, it was **a** significant amount. That was why he said it so solemnly

I didn't hesitate, "okay, give me the account number, and it'll be there tomorrow."

"oh!" Benjamin was overwhelmed

"Wouldn't you blame me? I feel so conflicted that I've hurt her, and now I can't stop myself from wanting to help her."

"Benjamin, you weren't adding inch to **her** injury. You just sealed the truth." I sighed. Gays' thoughts were simple and pure

"Besides, you're helping her not because you still love her, but because you feel guilty that her parents were kind **to you**, right?"

Benjamin was very happy **that** I understood. "Right, right, Ivory, trust me, have no feelings for her anymore. Thank you for understanding me!"

I didn't need Benjamin's gratitude. My actions were just to ease my own sense of guilt

Otherwise, to be honest, compared to the turmoil in Ashley's family, I was more concerned about my own health. Considered young though I wasn't in my prime **anymore**. So, I planned to seek medical advice everywhere **to cure** my infertility

I **intended to** ask Tran for help since he was a doctor. He had connections with various medical professionals in his circle. Maybe he knew some obstetricians who were good at treating infertility and could help me

that, I visited several **major** hospitals alone, whether in Alton City or other places. I tried anything could whenever there was a glimmer of hope. But each time, I was

But **before** disappointed.

When I was completely disheartened, I **could** only regard this as my last straw. Maybe **he** could find me a more skilled doctor.

Dr. York, do you have time for dinner tonight? I need a favor." In the end, I **finally** called him.

"Yes," Ivan replied so promptly, and he didn't even **ask** what the two was

I knew he was busy, so ended the call without **any** further talk. I immediately arranged for a sumptuous dinner at Vinestone Hotel and went there early to wait for him.

Our appointment was for pm, but Ivan didn't arrive until 30pm

"Sorry, I got delayed by a complicated surgery. How long have you been waiting?"

Ivan sat across from me. He probably came in a hurry as there was sweat on his forehead and nose.

I quickly shook my head and said, "I just arrived not long ago, **saving** lives **is** more important, **and** a bit of delay is nothing. Have some first

"You're so understanding today. Why?" van asked with a smile after taking a sip of water.

"**Come** on. When am I not understanding?" responded with a playful smile.

Ivan chuckled lightly and did not argue with me. I signaled the waiter to start serving the dishes.

As the delicious food was brought to the table, he looked at me curiously.

"Another big dinner. What's the occasion? The marriage is over, so don't tell me you want me to help you reconcile with Rowan"

I was drinking water at that moment. His words almost made me spit my water **all** over the dishes.

Lacked back just in time. Otherwise, Ivan wouldn't be able to eat a single bite

"Dr. **York**, do you think I'm such an old person?" I wiped the remaining water from my lips and asked in disbelief.

We always wondered who Aguil would be a shamelessly persistent with Aman. Even though she knew she clearly didn't like her, she insisted on making Han and

Chapter 163 The Pursuit of Healing

Healing

ended **up** living like a widow."

Ivan's serious expression **indicated** that he wasn't joking.

My heart skipped a beat. It turned out my pursuit of Rowan had been twisted into a mentalness in others' minds.

But it was fine as I had already come to my senses. Hadn't I divorced him?

"You're right. I also think there was something wrong with me back then. So, why did you try to talk me out of divorcing Rowan?" I threw the question back at him.

Ivan gently stroked **the** cup. There was some unclear emotion in his gaze.

"What did you want to talk to me about? You look so serious" In the end, he skipped my question and changed the subject.

"Dr. York, we know each other pretty well now, don't we?" I forced a sincere smile.

"You're the only one who knows about my infertility. Can you do me a favor?"

"Go on," Ivan replied

"Can you help me find a doctor who can treat my condition? Even though I'm divorced, I still want to be a mother someday."

I sighed. I felt melancholy when I imagined being alone and childless in my future.

I genuinely loved children. If I **had** my own, I would cherish and love them even more.

tan frowned and stared at me. "Are you planning to face this alone?"

What else could I do? I didn't want this matter to be widely known. It concerned my dignity **as a woman.**

There was a difference between choosing not to have children and being unable to have them.

"Yes, you promised me you wouldn't tell anyone." I nodded and asked again, "You really won't tell anyone, right?"

"I won't. I can swear on my life." Iran's gaze deepened.

"Don't you trust me? What are you worried about?"

Of course, I was worried. But apart from what he did for Ashley in my previous life, Ivan was considered a trustworthy man even though he was from a wealthy family.

I shook my head and smiled sincerely "Why wouldn't I trust you? If I didn't trust you, why would I even dare to ask for your help?"

Ivan raised an eyebrow. He asked in a doubt, "Really?"

"Really. So, can you help me? It doesn't matter if it works out or not.

"Just do what you can," I said earnestly. Right now, nothing was more important than taking care of my health.

"Okay, I promise I will, but I can't guarantee the results." Ivan prepared me mentally, in case my expectations were too high

I understood. As long as there was a glimmer of hope, it gave me something to look forward to

Ivan nodded and confirmed his promise.

I was so happy that I kept serving dishes to Ivan. I almost wanted to stack all the dishes on his plate.

Ivan didn't refuse for a long time. Eventually, he finally stopped me. "Enough. I don't eat that much."

I licked my tongue. "Dr. York, you really know how to live a healthy lifestyle. You're tall and fair even with such a small appetite. I'm impressed."

gave him a jumbled heap of praises.

"If you can't think of anything nice to say, just save it and eat." Ivan's expression changed slightly as he looked slightly irritated. Tobe obediently shut up. After all, not speaking with your **mouth** full was a good habit.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 164 The Fleeting Olimpo of Profile

After dinner, as I was getting ready to go back and rest. I was about to get into my car when he **called** out to me "vory, have you considered telling Rowan about this? **He's** party responsible too, and **it's** tough to face **it alone**"

"**It's** fine No matter how tough it gets, could be any harder than the past ten years I've endured?" I replied calmly.

I thought I could handle **this** setback after having experienced despair, resentment, and death.

"Alright, go home and get an early night. I'll let you know if there's any news." Ivan smiled and got into his car. He left before me.

I drove back home and found my mom sitting in the living room. It seemed like **she** was **wiping** away tears.

When she saw **coming** back, she quickly **pretended** she **hadn't** been crying and opened a smile, "**Why** are you back so **late**?"

*I was out having dinner with friends. Mom, what's wrong?"

I walked **over**, sat down, **and** held her **arms**. My **heart** ached when I saw her slightly reddened eyes.

At first, my mom didn't **want** to talk about it. After my persistent questioning, she grasped my hand and looked at me in sorrow.

"Ivy, I just feel sorry for you, Thinking about the life you've had these past few years and my poor grandchild who didn't even get a chance to see the world **just** breaks my heart.."

My eyes welled up upon hearing my mom's words. The painful emotions I had been trying to suppress surged forth

How could I not miss the baby I'd **lost**? Especially when I now Jean's belly growing larger, how could I not feel envious?

But **what's** done was done. All I could do now was to find a way to treat my body, even if there was just a slim chance of getting pregnant

"Mom, don't be sad. It's a good thing that things between Howan and me have completely ended, right? held back my emotions and comforted my mother

"Yes, hey, you should never see him again. The price you paid for him was too high," my mother berated me

Tagreed without hesitation "kivy, I won't interact with him anymore. Mom, don't worry, please go rest, okay?"

It was getting late, and my **mom** went to sleep under my urging. On the other hand, I had some red wine to help me sleep. I was really restless and couldn't fall asleep.

The next morning, our groupchat was bustling

Jean mentioned everyone and said, "Girls, do you want to go to a concert? It's that popular orchestra, and they have a performance in Albon. Shall we go **and** cultivate our tastes?"

Natalie "Sigh, my music dream is shattered"

Olivia "When and where is? Do we have tickets? I need to check if I have to work."

Jean "Tomorrow night at the Symphonic Hall. The tickets are not a problem. Chester has already prepared them for one for each of us, just say if you're in!"

Natalie "Yes, yes, yes! I'm absolutely going!"

Treplied: "Court me in. Send me the details!"

Jean "okay, I'm going to bring my life ones and cultivate their taste. I'll let them feel the harm of music **Haha!**"

Soon, I received the details from Jean. The concert was **the** next night

30pm in the main hall of Symphonie Hall The tickets were quite expensive and hard to come by.

Since I had nothing else to do, going to a concert seemed like a good way to color.

The next evening I drove to pick up Jean and Natalie, Olivia, the workaholic, had an important meeting **and** couldn't make it

It was **almost** 8:00 pm we arrived at Symphonic Hall **Jean's** belly was a bit bigger, but she still **walked** very fast. Natalie and I repeatedly asked her to slow down, but **she** wouldn't listen.

"Och Suddenly, Jean was bumped by someone and let out a cry

"Sorry." The woman who had bumped into her was about my age, and she was dressed very **elegantly**. Her eyes were particularly peering, and when she looked at us, I felt inexplicably uncomfortable

"Da'am, don't you watch where you're going?" Jean was a bit annoyed. After all, she was pregnant, and it was clear that the woman had bumped into her because she was looking at her phone.

"Sorry, I was in a hurry to meet a friend. If you're feeling unwell, you can go to the hospital for a check-up. I'll cover the expenses."

The woman was not humble **at** all she was a bit arrogant. Her eyes were icy although she was smiling.

Jean didn't pay much attention to this, **nor** did she notice the woman's strange expression. She simply waved it off **and** said, "It's alright. Forget it. She then told **Natalie** to keep walking as we still needed to find our seats.

The woman didn't say anything. However, when she glanced at me, her gaze stopped and lingered for a moment

I didn't think much of it and followed Jean and Natalie into the concert hall. We then found our seats and settled down. The row was a **VIP** section with excellent views **and sound**, along with some fruits and snacks

As the orchestra came on stage, I noticed two people sitting at far from us.

One of them I recognized was a government official from Alon City I had met once at a dinner with my father. The other was the middle-aged **woman** who had bumped into

She was smiling and whispering something to the official. They seemed to be well-acquainted. The woman must have a significant background, but why did I feel like I had never seen her before?

The performance began, and I tried to focus on the music. But for some reason, I—always felt like someone was **watching** occasionally looked around but couldn't find the source of this unsettling feeling.

This eerie feeling made me somewhat distracted throughout the concert. I was unable to fully enjoy the performance.

Beside my numb bottom, everything else was great!" She rubbed her numb butt **and** couldn't stop praising the content.

Shir and
Natalie chatted happily, but I wasn't in the mood. My gaze wandered around from time to time.

Chapter 161 The Heeting Glimpse of a Profile

When we followed the crowd leaving the concert hall, it was already getting late. But the night in Alton was always lively, especially in the city center where it was bustling with neon lights and heavy traffic.

Jean had developed a habit of eating supper due to her pregnancy. She would be hungry if she didn't have any food now.

She insisted that we accompany her, but for some reason, I felt somersy and had no appetite. In the end, Natalie accompanied her to look for food nearby.

I decided to head home. As soon as I got into my car, I sensed something was wrong. I got out and checked, only to find that my car tire had been deliberately punctured and was deflating.

Not far away, two hooligans were eyeing me suspiciously. They looked like they were sizing me up with ill intentions.

"Sure, Mas. Elsiein. Next time, it's on me. You must come."

#

At that moment, I heard a voice nearby. I turned to see the middle-aged woman bidding farewell to her companion.

Sensing my gaze, she also glanced at me. Helt...she seemed to know me.

But after just one glance, she got into a black Lincoln and **drove** away.

oked like

The rear window of the Lincoln was half–open, and there seemed to be a woman sitting **inside**, I could only make out part of her face, but the glimpse shocked me. It looked like Ashley!

Hadn't she already disappeared

A few days after I let the money to Benjamin, he informed me that Ella and Jonah didn't make it despite the doctors' efforts. I didn't pay much attention **to** the situation since it no longer concerned me.

When this crossed my mind, I couldn't help but give Benjamin **a** call. He was **still** up.

"Benjamin, you mentioned before that after Ella and Jonah died. Where did Ashley go? Tell me **again**." I got straight to the point

"I don't know either. She entrusted me to handle her parents' **funeral**, but I didn't agree.

"I just went to the hospital to **have a** look. Someone **in** the hospital told me that a woman **took** her away." Benjamin asked me in doubt, "vory, why are you asking about this suddenly?"

I felt depressed **as I** watched the departing Lincoln. Could the woman who took Ashley away be the same woman from earlier? What was their relationship?

"It's nothing. Just curious **suddenly**." I didn't feel like explaining further and ended the call quickly.

I couldn't help but continue to speculate. I was lost in thought and didn't notice anyone approaching me until it was too late. The two hooligans were already less than six feet

www.

Although the area was b

was bustling, the

te entrance **of** Symphonic Hall was relatively deserted at this hour. I wasn't quite sure about their intentions.

"Ivory" At that moment, I heard Rowan's voice behind me. I turned to see him standing not far away. He was **watching** me

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 1651 Wanted You to Stay Away From Me

It was the first time we had seen each other since the incident at the airport. During this period, Rowan had neither contacted me nor showed up

I did expect him to show up here at this time. He didn't seem like someone who would come to a **concert**, especially since he used to find my cell playing annoying

When they saw Rowan, the two hooligans who had been approaching me exchanged a glance. They seemed disappointed. Then they walked away.

I had a hunch that there weren't just **random** hooligans looking to harass me. It was very likely they had something to **do** with my attire

But for now, the immediate danger was over, I had no intention of speaking much with Rowan, so I ignored him and prepared to call Lee to pick me up and deal with my tire issue

"Are you deliberately ignoring me?" At a height of six feet two, Rowan stood in front of me. He made it impossible to ignore **him**.

"Lee, come over to the Symphonie Hall. My car has a flat tire."

I finished my call before looking up at Rowan. "What do you want?" After what happened with **Ashley**, I thought there was nothing more to say between us.

Rowan frowned and said, "You don't need to be so distant with me"

"Then what kind of attitude do you expect from me? To act as if nothing has happened, and continue being a loyal dog?"

I admitted I was a bit agitated at the moment. That was also in part due to Rowan's incomprehensible actions.

I had lost my child, and he now knew what Ashley had done. Our relationship was beyond repair. The best way was to cease contact and not disturb each other

"I can make it up to you. I'll do anything you want," Rowan **said** with a hint of apology. "I apologize for the mistakes I made."

"I apologize, we wouldn't need the police." I never imagined I would be quoting this classic line to Rowan

Not all **wounds** could be erased with a simple 'sorry,' like

my lost child, who would never come back.

Rowan's lips moved, but before he could respond, I continued, "I want you **to stay** away **from** me. **Can you** do that?"

"No **I can't**," Rowan answered bluntly and directly. "I tried, but it seems can't"

"Rowan, don't forget that you have always been the one who **pushed** me away. You destroyed my feelings for you

"What's the point of saying this now? Do you really think that since Ashley had disappeared, the chasm between us will just vanish too

I found quite ridiculous. "Don't tell me you've fallen in love with me now?"

Rowan pursed his lips and looked at me profoundly. He **didn't** answer that question.

I knew he couldn't have fallen in love with me. At most, he noticed my change and developed a slight interest.

I loved him for ten years. Anyone would have a hard time accepting the fact that had stopped loving him

The atmosphere cooled **down**. Neither spoke, and we stood at the entrance like statues.

Lee eventually drew up, and I was ready to leave, but Rowan grabbed my hand and said, "Yes, I **might** really be in love with you. I admit it. Can you give me a chance to prove it?"

I turned my head and **looked** at him as if I had seen a ghost

"Rowan, it has been ten years, **and** how you say you love me? Don't you find it ridiculous?" I shook off his hand with a sneer.

Lee saw this and heard my reply. He immediately stepped in front of me, and said angrily, "Mr. Rome, please show Ms. Sadler some respect!"

Rowan **angrily glanced at** Lee, then looked back at me, I calmly met his gaze

"Rowan, we're divorced. If **you** keep harassing me, Tean—call the police"

Rowan snorted coldly. He was **full** of disdain. He had **always** been like this. If you had backed down when he was being reasonable, he would continue upholding a good tempera

ment But if you went against him, he would show his true colors. He was domineering and self-centered

it was a common flaw of all wealthy heirs. If anyone thought they were gentlemanly, gentle, tolerant, and polite, it was likely because nothing had happened yet to **provoke** them into showing their **true** nature.

With

Rowan's powerful background, his life had always been smooth sailing other than a bit of bemess in his marriage, everything and everyone else had always p

He couldn't tolerate my current attitude toward him even though I was his ex-wife whom he never valued or accepted.

"**Ms.** Sadler, let's go," Lee said to me.

Inodded and got into the car without looking back. As for where Howan would go next, I didn't care

After returning home, I asked tee to contact the towing company to tow my car for a tire change **and a** comprehensive inspection, just to be safe.

Jean and lead just returned home as well

s pene his way.

Jean send me a text message: "oh my goodness, by, I just got home and Chester told me that Rowan also attended the concert tonight. Luckily, we didn't run into him, or it would have been a disaster!"

replied: "did **run** into him, just after you left."

Jean: "This is unbelievable Chester said Rowan was there to support business partner's daughter. Now that Ashley is gone, could his next target be that girl=

I didn't **know**, and I don't know who would dare next, as long as he didn't disturb my peaceful

At first, I wanted to talk in more about the middle-aged woman who **had** bumped into her and the brief glimpse I caught of the woman in the back of the black Lincoln. But since she was pregnant now, I didn't want to worry her, let it go.

Just after finishing my chat with Jean, I got a call from her. She sounded exhausted. "Are you free the day after tomorrow?"

“Yes,

surally free ry day. What’s up? Did you just finish work?

I glanced at the time, it was almost midnight.

paccompany me to a blind date on that day?” of sounded strained as the mentioned the blind date.

“Alduddar” [was shocked.

Chapter 1651 Wanted You to Stay Away From Me

How could the Iron Lady be willing to go on a blind date? **Had** she **finally** given in to her family’s pressure?

“Yeah. When I got home, my dad suddenly told me that if I don’t find a suitable man to marry soon, he will give the project I’ve been working on to someone else.

“I’m starting to doubt if I’m his only biological daughter!” Olivia lamented, “I’m so done with this!”

It was the first time **Olivia** had asked me to accompany her on a blind date. Of course, I agreed immediately.

Since my main task now was to rest and recuperate while waiting for **han** to find me a top gynecologist, Thad nothing else to do. Accompanying Olivia was a way to pass the time.

On the evening of the **blind date**, Tarrived at Triumph Tower in Alton as promised. It was righty—eight stories high, with a scenic restaurant on the top floor. The restaurant was perfect for couples or spouses to dine and enjoy the city’s night view.

Olivia’s blind date would be held here. She was waiting for me in a business suit, with minimal makeup. I could see how much she despised this blind date.

I knew she would do so, so I also dressed very simply and went out without makeup,

Olivia’s date was the second son of Elite Group, Luke. He was mixed—race **and** had an Eralian mother.

However, theard he didn’t inherit his mother’s beauty and looked very average. He rarely handled company affairs and was seldom in the news.

The blind date location was chosen by Luke, and he had been waiting for us there.

“Damn it! How is this guy ‘average’?” Olma was shocked upon seeing Luke from a distance.

She quickly covered her face with her bag. “Ivy, I’m going to touch up my makeup. Go greet him for me so he doesn’t think I’m late.

Indeed, people did judge others by their appearance. As I watched Olivia slip into the restroom, I was feeling both funny and helpless.

I walked over to greet Luke. “Hi, are you Luke? I’m Olivia’s friend, Ivory Sadler. She’ll be here soon.”

“Hi, Ms. Sadler.” Luke smiled at me.

He looked like a typical Italian man with masculine facial features. He had a beard which did not look untidy at all. Instead, it added to his masculine charm.

I sat across from Luke, As we were strangers, our conversation was polite and distant. Eventually, we turned to our phones at the same time.

Suddenly, an angry woman’s voice broke the peaceful atmosphere “Howan! You’re too much!”

I subconsciously looked in the direction of the voice. A woman not far away stood up and splashed the glass of red wine toward the man sitting across from her. Rowan let the wine splash onto his face. His handsome face looked cold and gloomy. His face was wet, and the red wine dripped from his defined jawline

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 166 Choundless Jealousy

His eyes shifted, and he caught sight of me in an instant. His eyes, which were initially indifferent, flickered with surprise at seeing me.

I quickly looked away and pretended like I hadn’t noticed anything

“Isn’t that Toowan, the president of Payne Corporation? Your ex-husband Luke asked

He might not care much for **his** own company, but he sure loved gossip

At that moment, the woman opposite Rowan stormed off angrily. He **stood** up, **pulled** out a chair, grabbed **a napkin**, **and** wiped the red wine from his face before walking towards

Luke **glanced** at me, then back at Rowan.

"What are you doing here, Luke? Rowan stopped beside our table and looked at Luke

People in this circle might not be **close**, but they all knew each other

"I'm on a blind date," Luke **replied** politely.

Rowan's expression turned gloomy as he finally looked at me. "Has the second son of the Satchel family come in such a pass that you have to resort to blind dates?"

"It's mainly because my Emily is pressuring me." Luke smiled faintly

"Desperate?" Rowan sneered and gave me another meaningful look.

I owned up to his words, Was he being me?

Luke didn't explain that he wasn't on a blind date with me, and I remained silent. Rowan was naturally domineering and overbearing. Seeing his ex-wife on a date with another man must have been hard to swallow.

Rowan's aura humed even colder when he realized I wasn't responding to him. The atmosphere turned chilly as he **turned and** left.

Soon, Olivia returned with fresh and glamorous makeup. Her femininity instantly skyrocketed. The moment Luke saw her, his **eyes** visibly brightened. I sensed the potential chemistry between them, so I **quickly** made an excuse to leave

I took the elevator straight down to the **building's** garage. As I reached my car, Rowan emerged from a shadowy corner

I quickly opened

the car door to get in, but Rowan blocked me. He looked displeased and asked me, "Date the date go well? Why are you leaving so early?"

"Rowan, you seem to enjoy meddling in my personal affairs. Do you think it's necessary! I gave up getting to the car and **responded** calmly.

"Of course. Shouldn't I care about how my ex-wife is doing? Our circles are the same, so we can't avoid meeting. After all, we once shared a bed. It's perfectly normal to ask," he replied mockingly

“Oh, so you do remember I’m your ex–wife? Then please act like a proper ex–**husband**, “I retorted

The underground parking lot was dimly lit. Although we were standing close, stil couldn’t see his expression clearly. I could only feel the cold aura **from** him intensifying.

I didn’t want to prolong this standoff and said, “Alright, stop blocking, and let me get into my car!

+

Rowan stood still ikea wall fie showed no intention **of** ghing uy had to repeat myself. “Mr . Payne, please move aside.”

Of course, my words had no effect. Rowan not only didn’t step aside hor also closed my car done again.

I **owned** and sad, “Howan, didn’t make myself clear a few days ago?

“Everything is over. We’ve moved on. Why are you still provoking me?”

“Jeans that you have aboyriend. Is It Lake?ted like Rowan didn’tunderstand what I was saying. **He** started to question me

1 seriously wondered about Rowan’s mental state at this point. Why would say somethi ng like that?

Buton was indeed a little troublemaker. She was good at making up stories, especially a bout friends

where did this boyfriend of mine come from? I wished I could move un so quickly

“You have neither the right nor the position to ask me such questions,” Implied with a di stant smile, Just as Twas about **to say** something more, Rowan pulled me into his arms . His strong arms locked me tightly in his embrace. **I smelled** a familiar yet distant scent of comingled with **a** faint fragrance. For a moment, I was **dazed**

In the next second, regained my senses and tried to push **Rowan** say.

“Get in the car Someone’s taking a photo of us” Rowan’s **deep** voice whispered in my e ar. “You wouldn’t want to be seen with me, your ex–husband, would you

1 surrendered. But I instinctively wanted to turn around and look at the photographer. R oman gressed my head down immediately and sounded resigned. “Are you trying to ma ke sure they get **clear** shot of your face?

Twos speechless.

He shielded me close to his chest with one hand and opened the car door with the other . "Get in"

I got **in** swiftly and hastily put on a cap and sunglasses. I then prepared to close the door and the MALT.

Rowan gripped the car door tightly. "Move over, I'll drive "

"I can drive myself," replied coldly.

** you don't let me drive, you face the consequences. Rowan's domineering nature hadn't changed much. He was still **adept** at threats.

"by tomorrow morning, you'll see new about us rekindling our old romance in the garage . if your parents see that, you're done for

H

At that moment, I wished I could kill him with state because he was right. My biggest fear was my parents Finding out **about** this

Now that Ashley **had** disappeared and everyone knew about her past actions of the media were to report **that** Rowan realized I was the one for **him** after the indent, and we got back together, many people would believe

After a instant, I reluctantly moved to the passenger seat. **Row** got in smoothly."

We were off

Chapter the Groundless Jealousy

2/2

After leaving the garage, the route became increasingly familiar. I felt annoyed and asked, "Where are we going? Windwill Estate?"

"Yes," Rowan replied. "I'll head back to Windwill Estate first, then you can drive back."

I turned to look out the window and said nothing more.

When we arrived at Windwill Estate, the villa wasn't completely dark as I had expected. Instead, it was **brightly** lit. A maid came out to open the door.

I took a closer look and recognized the maid. She was the one I **had** hired before. I was **surprised** that Rowan hadn't dismissed her.

The maid tactfully left after seeing that Rowan had no intention of getting out.

"Aren't you getting out?" I couldn't help but urge

I turned to look at him, **and** he was staring at me too. The atmosphere in the car grew tense.

"You **haven't** answered my question yet. Have you found a new boyfriend? so quickly?

Rowan finally spoke, **but** his words were filled with groundless jealousy.

"Don't dwell on that. I'm single now. Whether I have one boyfriend or eighteen, it's none of your business, okay?"

I was really speechless. However, I didn't want to tell him the truth after seeing how much he cared about this.

Rowan's expression turned grim.

I continued, "Rowan, Alton City isn't **that** big or that small. My parents and I are rooted here. It's unrealistic for me to move away to avoid you. We'll inevitably run into each other.

"I just hope we can stay out of each other's way and take care of ourselves. Besides, weren't you just on a blind date?

"I'm not interested in those women" Rowan unfastened his seatbelt. He said coldly. "Don't **associate** me with anyone."

"Oh, then I hope **you'll** find your true love soon." Seeing that he was **about** to get out of the car, I also unfastened my seatbelt and prepared to switch to the driver's seat,

Rowan got **out** of the car without a word. His expression was icy. Even his shadow radiated coldness.

It seemed that he didn't like what I said, but that was my intention. I didn't want to waste my time on this anymore.

Through the car window, I glanced at the villa that had been my home for five years, I could almost see myself foolishly waiting for my husband's return. She was the fool who believed time revealed a person's heart

I couldn't help but laugh at myself. Then, I drove home without looking back.

I always felt that the nights in Alton City were livelier than the days. As I stared at the red light at **an** intersection, a memory I shouldn't be thinking about surfaced in my mind. It made me increasingly restless.

I looked around and hoped the night scenery would distract me.

Suddenly, I saw a familiar figure walking through the crowd. I frowned.

Wasn't that **Linda**?

Since Ashley's disappearance, Linda had also vanished from sight. Why was she still in **Alton** City?

I stared at the figure until the honking **behind** me snapped me back to reality. The light had turned green. I quickly drove off.

I kept telling myself that it didn't matter if Ashley or Linda appeared. It was all over.

Despite this, I couldn't control myself but felt uneasy. It worsened when I thought of the side profile that resembled Ashley in the Lincoln that day, and also the mysterious woman, who **stared** at me twice.

Back home, I immediately researched all the prominent businesswomen in Alton City. I screened for a female with 'Einstein' as her last name and about fifty years old. Nothing showed up

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 167 Ashley Was Back

This seemed quite strange. My intuition told me she had to have some background and couldn't be completely unknown.

Then it occurred to me to contact Olivia a workaholic who spent her days socializing and researching other companies. If a woman with a notable background appeared in Alton she would likely hate it.

I immediately sent a message to live "How did the blind date go?"

A minute later, I received a call from Ma

Let me know when you have a moment. I need to ask you something"

"wow, hy, Loke incredibly handsome! I could drool over him! Ola made no elect to hide her admiration for Luke

"No wonder I wasn't interested in other men bedre hums out he's my type. I've decided, it's him, and I want to date him!"

You sound smitten. That's real" I was genuinely happy for Olivia Finding a man that piqued her interest wasn't easy for her

"I'm on my way home now. Are you home yet?" alitamkedne

"Yep. I have a question **for** you. Do you know if anyone new showed up **in** Alton City recently? Perhaps **a** woman in her fifties with the last name Einstein?"

Olivia thought for a while. "I don't recall anyone. Do you want me to check when I get home?"

"Sue. Let me know if you find out anything," replied.

Then I went to pour myself a glass of wine to help sleep. Just as finished, Ola called again. She was much faster than expected

"hey, someone like that did show up needy. Hermanis Alice Channing, and she was known as Mrs.

Einstein. She just returned from abroad, and her husband is the vice president of Mise Group overseas,

"It seems she came back to invest and start **a** company. Do you know her? Ia asked.

"No, I don't. It's just saw her once when I went to the root with Jean and Natalie.

"She was sitting and chatting with one of my dad's colleagues, and I was curious." The explanation **was** partly free, with a slight mission.

oliv didn't think much about chatted with me for a bit and then went to take a shower.

On the other hand, I found it even harder to sleep. Alice's background turned out to be quite significant

If the person in the back of the Lincoln was indeed Ashley, then how did she know Alice

I would return as long as she was alive

My mind was in turned was that I cared about **Ashley's** return to Albon City I could already guess that she wouldn't give up and would

I just felt that if she came back with a backer, it would cause more trouble. I was tired of dealing with it.

This insur kept me awake all night. I didn't fall asleep until around 5:30am, At 10:30 am, I received a call from ban

"Hello?" I mumbled, still half-asleep "Whos th

There was amement **of** silence on the other end before has clear voice came through. "Don't tell me you're still sleeping"

"Oh, Ivan. Yes, **as** sleeping What's up?" My eyes could barely open, and my speech was indistinct.

Suddenly, I remembered asking him to find me an obstetrician **and** immediately wake up.

"Fm up, I'm up! I just took a nap as I felt sleepy this morning."

Doctors probably had some peculiar quirks, ko being health-conscious themselves **and** demanding the same hom others. They might also dislike un healthy lifestyles.

I found how to have this tendency

"Are you free this afternoon? I've arranged **an** appointment with a senior obstetrician for you. You can go and take a look!

Jan was indeed a man of his word. He found me an obstetrician **as** promised

My heart leaped in excitement. "Yes, I'm free. Which hospital and which docto

"I've sent all the details to you. Are you sure you just dazed off? Ivan was skeptical

"I sent it to you around 8:00 am."

A man of this word could be a bit pedantic gue adry laugh and said, "Let me check the message first!

After hanging up, I quickly checked my whatsapp, hean had not only sent me a message **but** also called me. I hadn't picked up the call.

That was completely pointless.

Once confirmed the time, location, and the doctor's **name**, **I got** up and took a quick shower. After changing my clothes, I **went** downstairs to eat.

My parents weren't home; they were probably busy with their own things. However, my mom was so thoughtful **as she** prepared breakfast for me. I only needed to heat it up in the

Since there was still some time before afternoon, I decided to look up information about Alice. With her full name, I managed to find some detail, mainly from foreign sources. What I discovered made my heart sink.

Alice had remarried **and** her husband was Ebner **Einstein**, the vice president of Microsoft. At her age, it was impossible for the couple to have children, so she adopted a goddaughter. This had made the news. Her goddaughter was Ashley.

Seeing their one and only photo together in the news felt surreal.

Ashley was indeed a resilient cockroach. Despite being in a dead-end situation, she managed to survive and even elevate her status **to a so-called** wealthy heiress through Alice. Even though she was adopted, Alice done on her very much. The media reported that on the day of adoption, Ashley lived in a **and a** jewel set worth million dollars.

At this point, I was almost certain that the woman in the back of the Lincoln was Ashley. Feeling down, I cloned the webpage. I couldn't connect to content Ashley, **so** I could only face what came (any way).

Around 1:00 pm, I went to the hospital where I told me about. After a series of examinations, the results were disheartening. They almost made me **despair**.

Chapter 367 Ashley Was **Back**

"Ms. Sadler, the changes are really slim."

This sentence left me sitting in the corridor, dazed and unable to regain my senses for a long time.

"Mom, I told you I'm fine! You **don't** have to worry about this!" At this moment, I suddenly heard **a** familiar sweet voice, with a spoiled tone.

I turned around and saw Ashley holding Alice's hand. They stopped a short distance away.

Ashley had lost some weight since the last time I saw her, but she still looked pure and innocent. Her clothes had changed from affordable brands to luxury brands, which enhanced her beauty.

Alice looked at me, then at Ashley, with a smile that made people uncomfortable for no reason. "Ash, what's the matter? Do you know this lady?"

"Mom, she's my friend. Before **I** met you, she took care of me a lot!" Ashley emphasized the words "took care."

"Is that **so**? Then you should properly thank her now that you're back, **okay**?" Alice's words **had a deeper meaning**

I folded my examination results and stuffed them into my bag. I was already in a bad mood. Even though I was shocked and annoyed by Ashley's appearance, I didn't want to say a word.

I wasn't God, I couldn't control her freedom.

So I chose to turn a blind eye and got up to leave, but Ashley caught up with me. Her perfume was familiar. It was the same one that had given **Ella as** a gift, which she then gave to Ashley.

I really couldn't understand her behavior. I didn't know why she still used the same perfume until this **day**.

"Does it smell good?" Ashley **raised** her hand while elegantly showing her beautiful, slender, **and** fair fingers

"I didn't expect that the perfume you gave to my mom and those maids would smell so nice. I bought several bottles at

at the counter the other day. I like this scent, though it's a bit expensive."

I looked **at** her expressionlessly. **That no** intention of replying to her **as** well.

Ashley seemed dissatisfied with my reaction. She said again, "Ivory, why don't you say something? Are you too happy to see me?"

"Please get out of my way. Your bark is worse **than** your bite" I brushed past Ashley and continued walking

"I thought our meeting would be more interesting when I came back transformed. I didn't expect it to be so dull," Ashley said in dissatisfaction.

I glanced back at her and wanted to say something. But when my gaze landed on her again, I suddenly didn't want to say anything. I didn't want to waste my breath.

After leaving the hospital, I sat in the car for a while. I held the examination reports and I looked at them repeatedly. I was unable to describe my feelings. While I was lost in thoughts, Ivan called and asked, "How did it go?"

His concern surprised me, but I couldn't pretend that everything was fine. "Not good. There's probably no hope."

There was a long silence on the other end until I heard someone call him. "Dr. York"

Ivan then whispered to me, "If you're free tomorrow night, let's **have** dinner together. My treat"

Chapter 166 Aren't You Divorced

Before I could respond, I had already hanging up that wanted to tell him about Ashley's return, but he was busy at work. So, I decided to wait until our **dinner** the next evening.

I drove aimlessly around the city, not wanting to go home. Memories urged, and suddenly felt very **sad**

In my previous life, I had breast cancer. In this **life**, though I was alive, I might never become a mother.

Unknowingly, I found myself see Duo Chemicals. The sky was getting darker. The old residential **building** where the Bluefield lived had been **demolished**.

The place looked desolate in the night. Everything had changed.

Why did I come here? As I stared into the night, my thoughts wandered **far**. If it were according to the development in my previous life, Ella and Jonah would still be alive and doing

It was all too late now. They were both **made** and ruined by Ashley.

I sighed deeply, about to leave, when a group of men approached the construction site. The leading man had a shaved head and was dressed in a garish jacket. Despite being in his forties, he dressed like a **vulgar** teenager.

His fleshy face looked fierce, and a group of rough-looking young men followed him. They were clearly up to no good.

I checked the time, it was already past 10:00pm. What were they doing at the Payne Corporation's construction?

Suddenly, the group stopped near my car. I had burned off the **engine**, and the window **was** only slightly opened **for** ventilation. Before they noticed me, I hunched down to avoid being seen.

“Alex, when you go in, smash things up. Tell them those bastards ballied your brother, and we won’t love without compensation!” The middle-aged man instructed.

“Sureching, Mr. Locke, I’ll give an award—worthy performance!” The man called Alex replied.

These gangsters were surely brave enough to mess with the Payne Family’s project

“Damn it, the Payne family is a tough nut to crack. I haven’t gotten a penny from them yet. It’s **an** insult to my reputation.

“Let’s go in you see, calling the police, such their phones!” Kaviarspat and cursed.

After they **moved away**, I straightened up frowning at the construction shed not far from IT.

After hesitating for a moment, I called the police and tested Jean to find Cheats, Chester would definitely alert own

Det that didn’t call the police, something bad might happen tonight. The few workers on duty would definitely not be able to fight off **a large** group of gangsters.

Jean **called** soon after. **After** briefly explained the **situation**, she said, “Otis, and Chester is already contacting lowany, get out of there. It’s not safe”

“Okay, I’m leaving now.” Torrtanly had no intention of staying longer. came here only because I was upset and had acted on impulse.

The next morning, news of gangsters making trouble at the construction

of Duo Chemicals made the headline. Luckily, the police arrived in time to prevent any potential

escaped unscathed.

The troublemakers were led by Xavier Lock, a regular at the police station. Each time small fry world take the **fall** while. Although he was **gang** healer, he had a notoriously bad temper and often hurt small companies. Their monetar was sending gangsters to pretend to apply for jobs **and** then make trouble under some pretext to extort money, many small companies in Alton City had fallen for such louteks

Although the Payne Corporation didn't have to fear such gangsters, dealing with them would still be troublesome. This was considered a small feat for me, though I didn't expect them to know. I doubted the Payne Corporation would even care who had called the police.

Around 5:00 pm, I received a message from Ivan "Room, Sungward Café." After replying with an "okay," I took a bath and changed my clothes. I also put up some light makeup. Lined at Songwerd Gate at 6:50 pm I ordered a pot of me and waited for Ivan while sipping mimosas. Around 8:00 pm someone opened the door of the private room.

The people who entered weren't but **lowan**, chistes, and Jasper. Chester widened his eyes when he saw me "oh, it's really booked!"

The waiter following them apologized, "Gentlemen, we aren't lying, The Holy Room was booked by a gentleman at 1:00 pm this afternoon."

Jasper pointed at me, "Is shaman?"

They smelled of alcohol, **probably** just finished socializing, and came for some beer to sober up.

"I'm not sure about that either, the waiter replied awkwardly

At that moment her voice rang out "What's going on here?"

Rowan and **the** others turned around, but **was** standing not far behind them, looking calm as usual.

Rowan's pose **shifted** between me and Jean. He then let out an uncomfortable laugh. "Oh, you booked this place?"

"Yes" but he didn't deny it and glanced at me.

"Why is she here? Explain." Rowan pointed at me.

The calmer he was, the more dangerous he was. This was a sign of Rowan having a bad mood.

The atmosphere suddenly became uneasy, Chester and Jasper exchanged looks but were **at a** loss for words. They could only remain silent.

Ivan signaled for the waiter to leave first thought he was going to explain. With his intelligence, lying would be every

Trabected, he said, "Aren't you divorced?" I was about choked when I heard this reply.

Other than me, Chester and Jasper were also tuned, their jaws dropping.

"What do you mean? Howen replied coldly.

"Although we're friends, I don't need to explain to you when I meet anyone. Besides, ivory is no longer your wife," he stated clearly and calmly. Twisted he was a bit worse. At least, it would've been easier for me.

Hast wanted to discuss my diagnosis and the counter with Ashley with him. I never wanted to become the center of a drama

Chapter 168 Aiant You Dissoned

If I were a bystander to Ivan's words and actions, I would applaud Ivan. Unfortunately, I **wasn't** a bystander; I was under the gaze of our men with four different expressions, and the psychological pressure was intense

Rowan looked at me sharply as if his gaze could cut through the air. Ivan remained calm, Chester was shocked, and Jasper looked confused. I could almost see question marks above Jasper's head.

"I've been experiencing some heart issues, so I asked Dr. York for advice," Tieluctantly made an excuse.

Though I was divorced from Howan, I knew his personality well enough to avoid trouble.

"Why not just go to a hospital?" Rowan asked coldly.

My rebellious streak kicked in. "Rowan, you have no right to control me. Whether I see a doctor at a hospital or privately, it's my choice,"

"Hey, calm down, everyone. We're all friends. Let's talk it out."

Chester quickly jumped out to mediate as he saw Ivan's face lining colder.

"shut up!"

"Shut up!" Rowan **and** I shouted simultaneously, I was already in a bad mood from the terrible examination results and the reappearance of someone I disliked the most.

I **was** hoping to feel better by venting to Ivan, Chester immediately clamped his mouth shut. He shrunk back to make himself less noticeable.

I grabbed my bag and told them, "There are too many annoying people here. Let's go. We'll find a quiet place to talk"

Ivan **nodded** and disregarded Bowan's words. As we were about to leave, Towan's voice stopped us. "Ivan, are you really going to turn against me **for** a woman?"

His eyes were filled with coldness **and** anger. Ivan paused expressionlessly and replied, "No, as long as you remember that you've divorced Ivory, our relationship shouldn't be

His words implied that Rowan should stop interfering with my life.

The extension was palpable. I didn't want to stay another second there. So, I went down stairs and left directly without even caring what they wanted to do.

As I was getting into my car, Ivan followed. "Let's talk in the car."

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 168 **Childish** Bragging

"Ewan, you didn't have to fight Rowan for me" I was in a bad mood and spoke somewhat rashly, "Don't you think you're complicating matters again excuse earlier."

for me? You could simply made

"We've done nothing wrong. Why should have led?" on retorted. The two of us stood motionless beside the car. I looked disdainful, while he seemed normal. I could not help but ponder if there was truly nothing going on. However, something didn't feel right to me.

suddenly drew closer to me. The faint detergent scent from his clothes smelled very nice.

was locked onto him do you think we aren't being transparent enough? Is that why you feel ashamed?

His

I was shocked and immediately shook my head in denial then could not hold back his laughter. "No worries. Sometimes, I wish you would feel guilty."

I wasn't feeling guilty now. Instead, I was dumbfounded. That's how he was trying to imply

"Today is not a good day to chat take my leave first. Let's talk some other time" My nations were in a mess, and I had no clue what to say.

After speaking. I quickly got into the car and Ivan was stranded there. Lucky for me, he did not get into the car as well otherwise, I'd suffocate to death.

I drove back home **in** a terrible mood. Meanwhile, Mom and Dad were not asleep yet. The two were talking about the gangsters that have been stirring up chaos for Pare Corporation and Duo Chemical.

Upon seeing me setum, Mam asked tentatively first, “y, where did you **go**?”

“**You** did not speak to Rowan, did you?” Dad was more upfront about it.

Until today, they kept reminding me not to involve myself with Rowan in any way immediately denied, “No. You two don’t have to worry”

Mom and Dad exchanged **a** look. They seemed eager to say more, but went upstairs first to rest.

As the night was still young, I was unable to sleep. I tossed and turned on the bed for a long time, but my mind was still racing. It went on for some time before I finally **drowsy**

fell asleep.

It was early in the morning when Dad woke me up. “hey, you need to attend an art exhibition in my place. My old friend is the organizer and is considered an excellent artist. I’m unable to attend due to a meeting.”

I opened my eyes drowsy, as if I was just dreaming. But I still answered, “Oh, sure.”

“You must be there at 10:30am! It’s at the Crescent Gallery. I’ve let **the** congratulatory gifts **on** the table. Remember to bring them along” Dad hurriedly explained before leaving

I got out of bed in a daze. The sleepiness left my mind blank, but I was more refreshed after washing myself.

I put on light makeup and changed into a simple white top and black skirt. Then, I took Dad’s congratulatory gifts and left the house.

By then, it was already 9:30am. I even had to drive there.

While Crescent Gallery was not far from my home, there were many twists and turns to get there. Even walking there took some time.

By the time I arrived at the art exhibition, it was about to start, I didn’t know much about paintings. Even my appreciation level was just about average, thanks to Dad’s influence.

I stood at a corner **and** began to earnestly admire an oil painting called “Winter Wonderland”, then, suddenly heard Linda’s voice.

“Dakota Jennings’s artworks are becoming more valuable. Some of his masterpieces are quite hard to buy. If I could buy a suitable piece for my mom, she would really love it!

I was startled and hurried back to see Linda and Ashley holding hands while chatting happily. Upon noticing me, they stopped.

Linda’s expression darkened as he had just seen her metal enery. In contrast, Ashley looked at me calmly **as** she arched an eyebrow. Unlike Linda’s animosity, she had a look of contempt and disdain.

I just met her two days ago at the hospital. Thus, it wasn’t much of a surprise. But today, Ashley seemed like a different person.

She looked more feminine with large waves in her hair. Her fair and clear face was covered with heavy makeup, making her seem more glamorous. She also wore highly branded clothes and jewelry that were hard to miss, **making** her seem like a superstar

I had no idea why she changed her style. But I was very certain that I wasn’t interested in meeting Ashley.

Besides, she was really audacious. Rowan had asked her to get out of Abon City, yet **she did** not seem to take **him** seriously.

“Ivory, fancy keeps bringing us together, don’t you think?” Ashley spoke first with a slight lift in her brow. She even sounded prideful

“**Ash**, why bother greeting people **like her**? She’s not worth your time” Linda replied, her eyes as she spoke rudely toward me

I smirked sarcastically before looking away to continue admiring the paintings **ahead**. Ashley did change her appearance. But it was hard for one to change their personality, even

as the environment evolved

Just like how she appeared like a **wealthy** young lady, her pettiness and inferiority complex did not go away.

Ivory, I thought Rowan would get together with you after sending me away. I never expected that he would still be single.

“I’m here for him. Besides, we are equals now. You shouldn’t be able to bully anymore, don’t you think?”

Ashley actually stood between me and **the** painting. "Do you know **what** my current identity is? I didn't disclose it properly at the hospital the other day"

"**I smirked** before asking, "So, what's your new identity?"

"Ebner Einstein, the vice president of the Mise Group overseas, is my godfather. The woman you saw at the hospital is my godmother.

"Thanks to her, was able to have my angry dome and managed to stay alive. This **time**, I came back to the country with my godmother

"will make Rowan fall in love with me again and regret his initial decision," Ashley declared. The unwillingness in her eyes was rather **intense**.

It wasn't bad to imagine how embarrassed she was when she revealed her true colors.

"My godmother had thought two billion dollars worth of investment funds this time. Did you know how jealous the people were in Alton City? I vary, I am the worse than you ATT

So, my press was rather and

Canale I predicted proudly at Ashley, who seemed to become more agitated as she spoke.

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 169 Chidah Bragging

"Ashley, you went as far as tertiary education. Don't tell me you never lessened to use your brain."

Ashley's expression turned disdainful. The fury in her eyes began to surface.

I calmly continued to explain, "If you thought Rowan abandoned you because I have a better family background than you do, and it has nothing to do with all the disgusting things you've **done**, then I'm very impressed with your level of intelligence."

"It wasn't for your interference, why would I have to resort to such tactics?" Ashley's logic continued to wow me.

It didn't matter when. She always wanted to show off whenever **she** saw me. From the start, she never seemed to have given up on one matter, which was to prove that she was better than me and would always beat me.

"Ashley, **if** you're truly rich now, why don't you go to the hospital and visit the neurosurgeon or a psychiatrist?" Themed to walk away. I couldn't be bothered to continue talking.

with her.

"Ivory, you still look down on me until now, don't you?" Ashley furiously held me back. I looked away, pushed her aside, and continued walking forward

Ashley tugged **at** my hand. The congratulatory gifts fell from my **hands** onto the ground with abang.

She even tried to grab my hand, but I lifted my hand to block her. Yet she fell to the floor right away as if used brute strength.

Linda quickly went forward to **help** her to stand. Then, she began lecturing me, "**twory**, are you out of your mind? Why did you push her?"

I squatted down to pick up the gifts. When I got up, I saw Iwan standing not far away, looking at me

"Sorry, I didn't do it on purpose." The scene we **caused** had drawn others' attention. Thus, Ashley stopped being angry and apologized instead.

I stood up and couldn't help but laugh. "Ashley, don't you know there are cameras everywhere in this kind of place? Why are you acting so innocent?"

Upon hearing the word "cameras", Ashley unconsciously looked around before her gaze landed on Ivan. Ivan just kept staring at me. I began to feel guilty

I dared not to give yesterday's matter much thought. I was hoping to keep a distance during this time. Thus, we could reconsider the matter.

I never expected to run into him here today. Luck was not on my side. Perhaps I should pretend I did not see him

With this thought in mind, I took the congratulatory gifts with me and turned to leave. I was ready to meet Dakota and pass him the gifts so I could leave.

After all, I had run into Ashley and Ivan at the same time. That was a big sign for me not to remain here any longer

"Ivory!" Ivan's tone was not very loud. **But** I had heard him clearly. He caught up with me within a few steps and walked next to me.

"Ah? Dr. York, are you here to see the art exhibition as well? I must have missed you. So, why aren't you at work?"

Since I could not avoid him, I might as well **go** along with the flow. I put on a bright smile and greeted him

Ivan noticed my fake smile and seemed speechless for a moment. Yet he spoke plainly and exposed my lie right away”

seem

Posted by **Admink**, ?

Chapter 170 Leave With Ivan

NP.

had no idea why Ivan could not go along with my lie, I already said I must have missed him. Yet he had tembamme.

“of course not my did not see you! I continued smiling shamelessly, “My dad **and** Uncle Dakota are old friends. I was in a hurry to pass the gifts to **him** and did not notice my windings

“Ell go with you I happened to drop by to buy a painting for my father. Ivan raised an eyebrow and no longer continued to expose me, but I still felt embarrassed.

There was nothing else could say. After all, Ivan did not condess last night. It won't right of me to reject him because I was overtaking. No, I could only nod, “Sure.”

The art exhibition was held across two floor, van and chatted while admiring paintings. In truth, I had no idea what to talk about.

Exler, I wanted to talk about Ashley, but things grew awkward Thus, it wasn't convenient for me to talk about it. However, I realized that he understood art quite well and explained a lot about its history to me.

Dakota was on the second floor. As **an** and I were about to head upstairs, we spotted Rowan coming down the stairs.

The man behind him was his assistant, whom I had met with a few times. The assistant held a wrapped painting in his arms.

Tabould not have promised Dad to come here to enhance my appreciation for it. Not only did not do that, but kept running into awkward situations.

Yesterday, the incident at the **case** indicated that Rowan's and Ivan's friendship was starting to crack at the se

Time, whether it was for Ashley or for me, their friendship in every life seemed destined to be ruined. Even if it **weren't for** me, it would probably be for some other woman.

"Let's give way." I looked up at him with a calm expression. Then, he looked away and put his arm **around** my waist, leading me to the side.

Rowan's icy gaze took in Ivan's movements. After going down a few more steps, he stopped beside me. His eyes were as cold as the Arctic iceberg and seemed entranced. "In the past, I truly had no idea so many men loved you," Rowan said sarcastically.

"It's too late now," **Ivan** retorted in an unfriendly manner while smirking

It really felt like I was about to faint. Only one night had passed. Yet their friendship seemed to have reached its breaking point

I thought hard about what **I could** do to mitigate the situation. But Ashley had to pop up and cheerfully **say**, "Rowan!"

She stood at the bottom of the stairs, gazing up at him. Her eyes were **led** with happiness.

She truly was so determined to have him. Even after their fight, she still wanted him back

It was a shame that Rowan no longer had the same interest he once did. At first, his cold **eyes** were filled with shock when he spotted Ashley. The next second, he browned out and did not respond

His cold demeanor made Ashley pale. Even the joy in her eyes seemed to fade away.

I wasn't interested to see what would unfold between them **Ivan** what had in mind and held my waist as we walked upstairs together. "Let's go

Thumbed in response. But I had already gone up **one** step before Rowan grabbed my hand. As he tugged at me, I almost fell out of Ivan's embrace

Thankfully, he held his arm. Thus, I was able to maintain my balance. He warned "Rowan, let go of her!"

"Ivory," Rowan said while staring into my eyes, but he didn't say anything more intentionally pretended not to notice his gaze. Instead, I wrenched my wrist. "Rowan, don't forget who you are. You must be mindful of your words and actions whenever you're in public. Don't let people gossip."

I wrenched my

hand again, forcefully trying to free my **hand** from Rowan's grip. Seeing how I did not hesitate, he finally released my hand. In that second, I saw loneliness in his eyes.

saw a flash of

"Rowan, Lonce said they would end up together. Why didn't you believe me?" Ailley resentfully looked at Rowan.

Then, the **continued**, "Now, you **should** understand that Ivory is no longer the same woman who loves you wholeheartedly."

Rowan's voice was cold and terrifying "shut up!"

A crowd began to gather around. I did not want to be the topic of the gossip. Thus, he and I hurried up stakes.

At that moment, Dakota was upstairs, talking to a few of his friends. When his portrait landed **on** me, he was stunned for a few moments and could not recognize me.

However, he did recognize Ivan "Ivan, you're here on behalf of your father to support?"

"Uncle Dakota, my dad is interested in one of your paintings **and** asked me to buy it. He said the price does not matter as long as you are willing to part with it, Ivan explained with a polite **and** gentle smile.

Dakota laughed, "As long as I host an art exhibition, your **dad** would ask me to part with my artwork. Does he think I'm not aware that he's trying to support me?"

You can just take whichever painting he wants. I'm just happy that your father thinks **so** highly of me," Dakota replied with a smile.

Tom began to chat with him for a while before going with him to retrieve the painting. After wrapping up the painting, Dakota looked at me **again**.

"**oh, this** young lady looks amazing! she your girlfriend?"

Tom immediately answered, "Uncle Dakota, my name is Ivory Sadler. My father is—"

He had not finished speaking when Dakota cheerfully said, "So, you're Samuel's daughter! My, you've grown so much. I held you when you were young."

"I wasn't **in** the country for the past few years and couldn't meet **Samuel** as often. I never expected he would send you here. You're such **a** good daughter, and you look pretty!"

“Uncle **Dakota**, my dad initially asked me **to** bring a gift. But there was a little accident. I’ll bring it to you next time.” I said apologetically.

But Dakota took the gift from my hands and said, “is this the pot? It must be an inkwell. Your father always gifted me **an** inkwell, **knowing** that like it. It’s fine. I’m happy you brought a gift, even if it’s damaged.

At this moment, Ashley and Linda **also** came upstairs. Ashley **looked** terrible, and her eyes were slightly red.

I had no idea what happened between her **and** Rowan downstairs.

“Mr. Jennings, how much are you selling this ‘Winter Wonderland’ painting for? I wish to have it.” Ashley gave a smile. Although she looked terrible, she **sounded** firm, seeming to have lost her temper.

Chapter 170 Leave With them

ly paid for the painting and will

Dakota had no clue about the issues between Ashley and me. Instead, he replied in a friendly manner. “Apologies, young lady. Someone has already been here in a **few** days to pick it up.”

Thinking that I was the one who bought the painting, animosity filled Ashley’s pretty eyes as she glared at me.

“Mr. Jennings, my mother really admires your work, and it’s her birthday soon. Hence, I came here to buy ‘Winter Wonderland. I’m willing to pay however much you offer.”

Ashley truly **sounded** like a filial daughter. Dakota shook his head in pity.

“If you two are determined to get the ‘Winter Wonderland, you can speak with the buyer. He’s buying it as a gift to

for someone. Maybe he’s willing to exchange.”

“Where is she?” Linda also looked at me. The two clearly thought I was the buyer.

Dakota answered, “Rowan Payne of Payne Corporation. He just bought another painting. He’ll be back within five days to pick up the ‘Winter Wonderland. You should think of a

way to contact him.”

After learning that Rowan had paid for the painting. Ashley's eyes were filled with surprise and delight. She was elated to have a chance to speak with Rowan. To me, she was being stupid.

"Got it!" Ashley nodded before turning to **leave** with Linda.

From the moment she arrived until the moment she left, Ashley deliberately avoided looking at me. I could feel that her behavior was very different from when she had picked a fight with me of her own accord earlier.

"**Uncle** Dakota, I still have matters to attend to. I'll **take** my leave," I said as I was not in the mood.

"Sure. Ivan, you..." Dakota began.

"I'm with her," Ivan answered.

Dakota parted his shoulders with a smile. Then, he hospitably walked us out of the Crescent Gallery before going back.

"Did whatever I said yesterday scare you?" Ivan suddenly asked after reaching the car.

Such a foolish question. The fear in my heart had reached its peak. I had no interest in being the woman who ruined Rowan and Ivan's friendship.

"No. To me, men and women should keep their distance to avoid raising suspicion. After all, you still need to find a girlfriend," explained with a laugh.

Truthfully, I had always hoped that Ivan would find a girlfriend or a fiancée. Then, I would not have to concern myself with such sensitive questions. Besides, I could not wrap my head around the matter.

Since Ivan did not fall in love with Ashley, he should be finding another suitable match to get married as soon as possible. It seemed like his family was rather open-minded **and** had no intention of pressuring him.

"But I'm single. What suspicion are you trying to avoid?" Ivan looked down at me.

He and Rowan had similar height. Even in a crowd, I could pick them out with a glance immediately.

I would have to tilt my head upward to speak to them, which felt very pressuring to do so.

"What can I do? I'm a conservative woman. Dr. York, I need to hurry home for lunch. Bye, we'll chat next time!"

I could not handle his intense gaze anymore. Thus, I simply made up an excuse to open the car door and get in the car.

But Ivan sat in the passenger seat and said lightly, "I'll have lunch at your place as well. I can even conduct a follow-up for my patient."