

Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 21-30

Posted by **Admink**, 201 Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 21 I'm Braver

ranteeds in for something," lied.

When I finally arrived at Vinestone Hotel's parking lot, Benjamin was covered in bruises. Three or four beely mea with gold chains and cigarettes laughed derisively when they saw the, Cue asked, "Is this your burlap, punk? **A** woman?"

Another said lecherously, "Don't tell me you asked her to come to sleep with us to make up for what you've done]"

Approached Benjamin and helped him up. His face was black and blue from the men's punches, and I alinos couldn't recognize him. He looked terrible.

"I was working part-time here as a valet, and 1 accidentally scratched their car, I said I could pay them for the repairs, but they asked for ten thousand dollars. 1 don't have that much money-
"heesplained in a low voice.

"Where's the ca? Let me see it," I said.

He pointed at a white Volkswagen Tiguan that was pailed nearby. **Was** that it? The car cost to thousand dollars at most, yet they'd asked Benjamin to pay them ten thousand dollars for a **time** ratch Did they take him for a fool?

"What do you say, little lady? Have you thought about how you're going to pay us back?"

Benjamin straightened up at their words and pointed a bloody finger at them. "Watch your mouths, assholes. If you want to lay a finger on her, you're gonna have to do it over my dead body!"

I was surprised. Were versity students all so manly? I thought he would only **hide** behind me and pitifully wait for me to resolve the issue after calling me for help.

His **manliness** pissed the beefy men off, I stood before him and looked at them coldly. "Give me thane minutes.

Then, I **made** a call. This was Vinestone Hotel's territory, and hemjamin had been working part-time for them. The hotel's person in charge was the one who had to step up to resolve this, but no one was around

“My are wecalling for more backup? We’re considered infamous in Alton City, chick. Why don’t you ask **around** and see how many people have heard of me, Larry

“If you ask ten people to come here, I’ll get a hundred. Believe me— I’m capable of doing that! The beetlest man sounded confident, but it was too bad I’d primarily never heard of **him**

He and his buddies were **just** society’s trash. I hung up and smiled at

Less than three minutes b hour, Ms. Saded?”

later, Vinestone Hotel’s general manager appeared

therefore

When he saw me, he smiled and said politely, “What brings you here at this

“A friend of mine was working part– time at your hotel, and he’s been beaten up by these bastards. Do you know how you should **handle** the situation?” I asked, my

“What? How dare anyone bully a friend of yours! The general manager immediately turned to Larry and **his** gang. “Are you the ones who did at?

They were stunned. Vinestone Hotel was a five– star hotel and one of the largest and grandest in Alton City. They knew very well they couldn’t afford to offend the hotel’s management

we in to someone mot

to someone more powerful than them Sometimes, power was a useful thing. No matter how stubborn and arrogant a person was, they had no choice but to give Larry and the others, who’d been so obnoxious just moments ago, respectfully apologized to me and compensated Benjamin for his medical bill. They didn’t even know who 1 was the general manager’s oppressive air was enough to rate them.

They were about to leave whent said, “Holdit.”

I turned to Benjamin “**do** and give them each a slap.

Ms. Sadler.” He was taken aback. A trace of **fear** and hesitation flashed in his bloodied and swollen eyes, the probably thought it was good enough that they’d compensated him–getting back at them hadn’t occurred to him at all.

“What are you so scared of?” I grabbed him and pushed him toward Larry and his men. “Watch and learn!”

I slapped Larry hard before doing the same to the other two men. Their eyes were filled with fury as they glared at **me**, but they didn’t dare retaliate.

“Fuck off.” My palm was numb from the slaps. I impatiently told them to get **lost**.

Silence soon descended upon the parking lot. The hotel’s general manager invited me into the hotel for a cup of tea, but I turned him down because I wasn’t interested in having tea with a stranger in the middle **of** the night.

Meanwhile, **Benjamin** was thoroughly shocked. He seemed to have become dazed from the moment I’d started slapping Larry.

“C’mon, I’ll take you to the hospital,” I held his hand naturally and pulled **him** out of the parking lot, where my car was.

“I can head there myself, Ms. Sadier!” he **said** anxiously

“Out the crap.” I purposely **glared** at him. On the way to the hospital, I chatted with him, finding out that he’d picked up another part-time job to **cam a** bit more money for his fees before the semester started. His father had fallen a couple of days ago and had been hospitalized.

He’d chosen **to** call me for help because his instinct told him I could help. Suddenly, I could understand why Ashley had gradually fallen for Rowan. Who wouldn’t be moved by someone who could resolve issues one had thought were impossible to handle with just a few words?

No one could choose the life they’d been given, but they could choose to take a few shortcuts

After staying by Benjamin’s **side as** his wounds were tended to, I dragged myself home, feeling exhausted. It really wasn’t a great idea to stay up late.

2/3

Rowan Lay on his side on the bed. After a quick shower, I snuggled under the covers and got ready to drift off.

Suddenly, he asked a little hoarsely, “Did you have fun?”

I opened my eyes just after shutting them. “Did I **wake** you up? Stick it out for a couple more days. This won’t **happen again** once your parents leave.”

“Don’t challenge my patience, Ivory.” Rowan’s words were enough to show he was in a bad mood.

“What have I done **to** you now?” I was exhausted and didn’t have the energy for guessing games.

“How dare you go partying with my parents here? Do you have a death wish?” He turned to face me, his eyes burning with rage.

I stared at him for a few seconds before a wave of diffidence washed over me. Had he found out that I hadn’t gone out with Jean?

Honestly, his anger made sense. He’d never been one to restrain himself from worldly pleasures, yet he’d been forced to **hold** himself back recently. Yet I’d boldly gone out to **stand** up for Benjamin and even stayed by his side while at the hospital.

“Look, I’ll add that to the list. No sharing anything on social media, and no going out while your parents are here. I’ll be more careful next time,” I concluded.

After that, I shut my eyes, wanting to sleep. But Rowan seemed to be possessed by something— he flipped over and hovered over me, his arms on either side of my **head**. I could see the outline of his muscles **as** he supported himself, and his good looks only amplified the impact of his actions.

I was immediately awake. I could feel something hard and hot pressing against me.

“Have you been drugged, Rowan?” I recalled the last time he’d done something like this. The slightest hint of arousal that had formed in me quickly disappeared. Are you sure you know who I **am**?”

He wasn’t some innocent young man who’d stayed chaste his whole life. Why else would he have gotten embroiled in so many scandals?

The fire **in his** eyes seemed to change in nature. He tugged the strap of my nightgown down.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter **22** There’s Nothing Between Us

katew I had to look like a mess with my clothes in **disarray** Rowan didn’t seem to care about that, though. I held a hand to his chest, my eyes cold. “Are you testing

My words seemed to be like a bucket of cold water over his head. They extinguished most of the flames burning in his eyes, and he stared at me for a while before settling back down on his side of the bed. It happened so quickly and stonically that it was as if I'd imagined what had just **happened**.

I silently hamed my back to him, feeling sorrowful, once upon a time, I'd thought of seducing Rowan and fantasized **about** having lods with **him**. Lite would be simple and happy. Now, my only wish was that he would divorce me soon so we could **go** our separate ways,

Thanks to the fact that I'd only slept in the wee hours of the morning, I only woke up at noon the following day. It was then that I realized I had several unread

One was from Paula, telling me that she and George **had** returned to Cunting City to deal with something. One was from **Natalie**, who'd asked whether I was interested in performing **in** a conceit.

There was also one from an unknown number. I didn't know who the sender was, but the contents of the message stoned me. It was a photo of me pulling Benjamin out of the parking lot last **night**. The angle at which it had been taken made us look like a couple, but Benjamin looked pitiful, covered in wounds. I pondered the matter and racked my brains for all the possibilities. Had the paparazzi caught me? Or had Larry and his men had accomplices who'd secretly snapped me?

Dad and Rowan were considered well-known in Alton City, but I'd always kept a low profile, especially after marrying Rowan. Even Jean and the others **had** tried and **failed** to invite me out most of the time. Why would I have attracted the paparazzi?

I genuinely couldn't think of anyone, so I called the number. The call was rejected almost as soon as it connected. I had no choice but to send them a text. "Could I know who you are? Can you tell me your name?"

If that photo were to get out, the general public would definitely get me and Benjamin wrong despite there being nothing between us. I only wanted to keep a low profile and work as a handsome guy; I didn't want to make headlines.

Soon, the sender replied, "**Ivan** Yock"

I almost had **an** aneurysm. Had he been at the parking lot last night? How dare he secretly take photos of me and Benjamin!

He'd suspected something was up between me and Benjamin when the latter had been hospitalized—now, it seemed nothing would clear our names

I texted, "I am the person in the photo, but you must've gotten the wrong idea. How about treat you to a meal and tell you exactly what happened?"

Ivan didn't reply. It was as if his number **had** suddenly become an empty number. I impatiently called him again, but this time, he answered the **call** "Just let me know the time and place."

He agreed so readily that it was as if he'd been waiting for me to buy him a meal.

"Fine, then." Thung up and ultimately decided to meet him at Vinestone Hotel. He'd gotten me wrong there, so I would unravel the misunderstanding there.

He replied with an affirmative answer

I spent the rest of the day feeling a little arduous. At 7:00 pm, I changed and headed to Poney Hall at Vinestone Hotel. It was the most expensive restaurant there, and I ordered a total of **18** dishes. I refused to believe that the food **wouldn't** be enough **to** convince him of my innocence.

This is the surveillance **footage** you've asked for, Ms. Sadler" The hotel's general manager appeared before me again and respectfully gave me a USB drive. A copy of the parking lot's surveillance footage from last night was saved inside

"Thanks" I smiled faintly.

After a while, Ivan **finally** showed up. He wore a coffee-colored shirt, which accentuated his elegant, **aloof** air. He sat across from me and said bluntly, "You can start explaining now."

"Don't be in such a rush. We can talk while eating." I smiled, trying to seem composed

"What's going on between **you and** Benjamin Colt?" He didn't seem to understand me. Instead of going along with my tempo, he decided to get right into **a** sharp Interrogation

I answered coolly, "We're friends, and we got to know each other after the accident. I know his girlfriend, **too!**"

Ivan's gaze changed slightly. "He has a girlfriend"

Trodded. Ashley wouldn't be his girlfriend for much longer, though. Ivan would try to steal her from Rowan, too.

I looked at him and thought about Rowan's good **looks**. They were both handsome and outstanding in their own right, so they could have any woman they wanted. Yet they would later fall **out** over a peculiar woman. I couldn't even imagine it

“**Look** at this!” Seeing that van had fallen into thought, I plugged the USB drive into my phone and showed him the surveillance footage, feeling confident. “From **this angle**, you can see all my interactions with Benjamin since my arrival at the parking lot.

“You can even hear **everything** I said. There’s nothing between us!” For now, anyway. Who knew whether anything would happen in the future?

From Ivan’s angle, probably couldn’t see me and Benjamin facing off against Larry and his men. It looked **more** like he’d handedly snapped a photo when he saw me holding Benjamin’s hand and dragging him away.

He took my phone and watched the video seriously. I leaned forward slightly to scrutinize the change in his expression, when he saw me **slap** Larry and the others, he raised an eyebrow slightly as a trace of amusement **flashed in** his eyes. He returned the phone to me **and** said, “You’re pretty bold.”

“Heh. We can’t just sit back and allow people to push **us around**, can we? I’m Rowan Payne’s wife, after all, and my dad is someone important. I chuckled tucked my phone away.

Chapter 22

1. Dare & Nadung Between Us

2/2

“Does Rowan know about Benjamin?” **he asked**. In other **words**, **he** was worried that I’d already cheated on Rowan.

In the past, I’d **only** known that Rowan and Ivan had grown up together and were the best of friends. But because I hadn’t gotten to know anyone in their circle. I had no **idea** just how close they were.

Now, I knew the answer. Ivan was more worried **about** Rowan’s marriage than anyone else. Still, despite being such good friends with each other, he and Rowan had still fallen out over Ashley and become sworn enemies. It was a pity, really.

I shook my head. “No, he doesn’t. It’s not like Benjamin’s an important friend. It doesn’t really matter whether Rowan knows.”

Ivan sipped his water without saying anything. I didn’t know whether he’d actually believed me, but he didn’t say anything else to me after that. In fact, **he** left after only tasting two of the 15 dishes I’d ordered.

“**What** a waste,” I muttered as I watched the rest of the dishes being served. I summoned a server and had him pack the food up so I could take them home. Then, I left.

On my way **back** to Windwill Estate, I suddenly recalled **an** address— it was the one Ella had indicated in her details. She and her family were all locals of Alton City. and their home was located at the border of Alton City and Curtino City.

It was still under Alton City's jurisdiction, but the place was far less developed than the rest of the city. The property prices were much **more** affordable there, too.

Ashley's family was slightly better off than Benjamin's. Benjamin's home was in a small town outside of the city.

Since Paula and George had returned to Curtino City, Rowan would be unrestrained. He would definitely think of ways to get close to Ashley. It was as easy as pie for him to find out her information, so he would've gotten her address long ago.

Ashley didn't have any part-time work now, but the semester had yet to start. I was guessing that she'd gone home to relax a little.

With that thought in mind, I turned the car around and drove to Ashley's neighborhood.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 23 The Way to Someone's Heart

It was a rundown neighborhood in Alton City's suburbs. There was an abandoned factory nearby, and the apartments built there had been meant as dormitories for

Janab had been assigned an apartment there because he'd worked at the factory. Ten years ago, the factory had gone bankrupt, and Pay Corporation had acquired it. It had been left alone since then, though. Once there were plans for the factory, the dormitories would be demolished.

Entrepreneurs were all bloodworkers, and someone like Rowan, who was destined for the business world, was better at schemes and trickery than anyone else. The compensation he'd offer for the demolition would be the exact amount required by law—firm wouldn't offer cent more

No one would've expected him to turn into a good samallan for Ashley's sake, though. As the neighborhood's representative for the negotiation with Rowan, Janab had expected there to be arguments during the meeting,

This surprise, Rowan had been polite and accommodating. He'd even amended the compensation amounts and ensured every family had been compensated far more than the statutory amount!

It had exasperated yet moved Ashley. The exasperation came because Howan had made all of it happen in the first place. Yet she'd also been moved because he'd been willing to go to such lengths for her

I sat in the car and looked up at the twinkling lights of the apartments. I fell deep into thought. In my previous life, I'd noticed that Rowan had changed the competition amount, so I'd asked Dad to check on it for me.

That was why I knew a bit about what had happened, but at the time, that no ideal had all been because of a woman

Now that I thought about it, he'd been chasing after her for about half a year at that point. To think six months was enough to make him go crazy.

I didn't know which unit belonged to Ashley and her family, so I slowly circled the neighborhood. There weren't any guards or protective walls, so it was quite convenient for me to **move** around.

After circling the neighborhood once, I spotted a familiar Begal Rowan, who was dressed in black, leaned against the hood of the car, his long legs crossed casually, his head was lowered slightly as he lit a cigarette.

An expensive car, a handsome man, a dark night, and a cigarette. All these elements came together to form a scene out of a movie. I put myself in Ashley's shoes and considered the situation.

Rowan was an arrogant man who'd chased after me like crazy, and he'd spent a fortune on me, resolving issues that couldn't resolve. I was all he could see, and there wasn't anything particularly special about me aside from my good looks

Suddenly, I could understand it. If I were in Ashley's shoes, I wouldn't be able to resist Rowan, too! She was naive, but she wasn't dumb.

Holland Rowan's line of sight determined which unit was Ashley's. Only an apartment on the first and fifth floors still had lights on in that **block**

I called Rowan. He answered the call, sounding as cold as he always did, "What do you want

"Nothing. I just wanted to see whether you would answer the phone." I looked at him through **the** window

As expected, he hung up without another word. It was actually quite surprising he'd answered. He was staring lovingly at another woman's apartment a

and thinking about how he was going to win her heart, yet he still **had** the patience to **answer** a call from his crentful wife.

lamented that for a while before leaving

Back at home, the household staff had just finished cleaning up the place. Ella was wrapping things **up** and seemingly waiting for me. When she saw me, she said a little nervously, "Max Payne..

I placed the food I'd brought back on the table. "What's up?"

She looked at me nervously, looking guilty. "I was cleaning your bedroom today when I accidentally broke a bottle of your skincare. Can you tell me how **much** it cost so I can **pay** you back?"

"Which one was it? Lasked.

she hurriedly pulled out a scrunched-up ball of paper and opened it up to show me the glass shards. It was a boner from Jan nyBrown and cost about 900 dollar. **Ella's** salary would take a huge hit if she were to pay me back

I didn't know how to describe the way I felt when i saw the guilty look on her face. She was nothing but an ordinary woman, yet she would be Rowan's mother-in-

low in the future.

Now, she worked hard to eam ameager sum net in the Tatuce, she would become part of the upper crust, and only because she'd given birth to a pretty daughter My family, on the other hand, had been in polities for there generations, Rowan's family had been in business for three generations. The facture and status we **had** now had been built over the years.

"Torget it. I've already used more than half the bottle, anyway. Just be careful in the future. I felt inexplicably tired. I thought about how Rowan had silently stared at Ashley's apartment earlier and couldn't help feeling lile the whole thing was so sumal

Ella thanked me profusely with a mixture of gratitude **and** guilt. I didn't say anything as I headed upstairs to rest. After showering, I lay on the bed and played with my phone with a mask on Just then, the door oprued. It was Rowan.

"**Your** parents have left. **You** don't need to put on **an** act anymore.

Hinaualed tone

TKnow. He grabbed his pajamas from the wardrobe and left without another look **back**

It looked like I'd been overthinking again. I sighed and took off the mask, getting ready to go to sleep. I was half asleep when Natalie woke me up with a phonecall, and I answered it grumpily. "What's up, Nat?"

"I asked you about a concert, remember? We need a cellist. Are you up for it?" she asked body

Chapter 23 The Way to **Someone's** Heart

2/2

Only then **did** I remember her text about it. The sleepiness **was** jolted out of me, **and** I exclaimed, "Of course!"

I would do it even if they didn't pay me. Making money wasn't my goal—I wanted to enhance myself and take a shot at achieving an old dream.

Natalie said cheerily, "Alright, then. I'll send you the time and location later. Don't be late!"

"Got it"

"

I said.

she texted me shortly after hanging up. The concert would be held in three days at Alton University's concert **hall**. That was also the first day of the new semester,

The concert was actually **organized** by Alton University, and only alumni of the university's music faculty could participate in it.

It was intended as a welcome gift for the freshmen of the music faculty—the university hoped the freshmen would learn to appreciate the charm of music after enjoying the performances by the alumni. It would be a great start to their university life.

I hadn't returned to Alton University since graduation. My life had revolved around Rowan, so it hadn't even occurred to me to make a trip back there or to make some donations.

I supposed this could also be considered a new beginning for me. It was quite exciting

To prevent humiliating my alma mater, I started a three-day intensive practice session. Rowan wouldn't be home, so I could **stay** up late and play the cello for as long as I wanted. I practically lived in the music room.

I was completely caught up in the music, and the three days passed quickly. With every tune I played, I thought about my past, which seemed to enrich the melodies.

The night before the concert, I took a comfortable bath before calling Benjamin. It was rather noisy on his end; he seemed to be in a bar. He cried, "Ms. Sadler!"

"Where are you, Benjamin?" I asked, **sounding** reproachful. "Tomorrow's the start of the semester. Why are you at a bar?"

The deafening music drowned out his voice, and I could only vaguely hear him say, "I'm working, Ms. Sadler. I can't hear you, so I'm gonna hang up!"

I hung up **on him** and chose to text him. "Don't you have enough to pay for your fees yet? Didn't those men compensate you for your medical bills? Didn't you use the money?"

His reply c

ame relatively quickly. "There wasn't enough to pay for my **dad's** hospital bill, so I transferred the money to him."

I didn't waste my time and breath. I transferred 20 **thousand** dollars to him.

I knew the way to someone's heart. Besides, I had Rowan setting an example for me.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 24 A Coincidental Meeting

"You're a student, so studying is what you **need** to focus on. What will you do if you fail a subject and can't graduate?" I lay on the bed, my mind perfectly clear. Listen to me, okay? Alton University is a good university, so stop wasting your time on endless part-time jobs.

"Focus on your education, and you'll have a bright future ahead of you. You can repay me once you graduate and get a ph

"L" Deemed to be a little chodup

Suddenly, I felt a little guilty. I wondered whether it was too mean of me to manipulate someone as kind and innocent as he was. He thought it was being nice, but I

Someone with Benjamin's family background had to work harder than ever else to get in to Alton University and sunstar in tekithinship with Ashley, I had in admit that I gemminel y adulted somente as resilient and indeprødent as he wai

HALtun City Setting aside

"That's the end of this subject, okay? Let me know if you ever need sooney think of it as me sponsoring you. You only need in repay me after poor en graduated and priten a jo b. If you really feel bad about it, work hnder so you can pay me back with interest," Tuit

The money want nothing to one. It would

Benjamin had probably in out of options

ine feel better, and it would also help Benjamin. It was killing teen lands withoone stone

berwise, he wouldn't still be working part-time the right before the sequester started.

Alter hanging up, I saw that fergaminhad accepted the money. He texted me, writing, "T hanks, Ma Nadler, I swear Fillerpay per brother format)

I didn't reply to him. I thew my pline aside and went to bed.

I woke up bright and early the following day and got dessed twee an elegant white dress and applied some light makeup to make myself better. Then, I grabbed cello and had tr e tale me to Altonstadiversity.

I couldn't help feeling nostalgic when I was back on campus and looking amond at the y oudtitul

it it had just happened yesterday.

Elenght about my freshman phar

At the time, I'd been overjoyed at the thought of finally beling in the same untruty as law an Wedd be narrity mates from that moment, d'es super excited.

I headed to the concert hall, following the path in my menasies waa

descending rows of seats led to the stage in the middle

einamies it wasa place every music major would prudy. The bul

There were a total of 52 alumni who'd come forthe concert, We were perfomung The Blue Danube Waltz's

The seats **had** already been set up onstage, and we took our seats after some quick arrangements. We didn't rehearse or practice together — i

to whether we could work well with each other.

Still, each of us had graduated from Alton University. Even after years of being out in society, we were still capable musicians. We wouldn't have done otherwise..

As the first strings of the melody rang out, I sank into the enthusiasm and warmth of the music, allowing myself to relax.

More and more students stopped to watch, and we grew more excited. We played a few more classic pieces, only stopping at around noon.

Thunderous applause rang out, making me feel proud. I swept a gaze over the crowd and saw Benjamin standing there, his eyes bright as he watched. When he saw the notice him, he waved shyly yet affectionately.

I nodded at him with a smile and approached him after everyone dispersed. "Benjamin."

"I didn't know you could play the cello, Ms. Sadler. You were amazing!" He **didn't** hold back in his praise.

"Well, it's what I learned in university. I swung the cello over my bag and walked with him while chatting. The environment made me feel like I became SEVEN years younger—it was as if I were back in my childhood days.

"I think any woman who's involved in music is charming. Benjamin's injuries had generally faded, save for a few small bruises by the corners of his eyes and he wore a T-shirt and shorts and was so youthful.

I couldn't help feeling pleased at **his** words. Had he fallen for me already?"

In the next second, he proved me wrong: "**Ash** is a music major, too she's in voice performance, though, not instrumental performance."

That **meant** Ashley and Natalie had majored in the same field. Was Ashley aiming to become a singer in the future?

I sighed to myself. It looked like Benjamin was well and truly in love with Ashley. It'd be hard for me to steal him from her. But on my own, Ashley, my chance welcome. After all, I just wanted to feel better about myself. I was actually looking for love.

"Beng!" Ashley apprated before us, also wating white dress. The youth and exuberance she exulest made her serin much more innocent and untainted than t

She didn't suspect a thing w n she saw me with hemjamin, Dithe contrary, the pected m e luppy: "What are you doing here, a sadies!

Thappened to nonintø Bergamin atter aperformance at the concert lull

someone that there was an anting performance the earlier. Were you one of the perfum es, Maler?'stonadi was busy with m artier Leóssed the performance – Addey's face tell. It waveeddent she was geminely disappointed.

trace of meinandernemingled with fatigue Bashed in Ashley's eyes, and her smile beca me a little torced. "I put my phonse on silent mode, sa

apte 21 & Con –

"The start of the semester is always the busiest period. Should we have lunch together? I'll treat you **gives**." I simbed at them.

Ashley shook her head. "Thanks for the offer, Ms. Sadler, but I need to clean up now do rmitory later. I'll just settle for something in the cafeteria. What about you,

He would follow her wherever she went, of course. This was in spite of me lending him 20 thousand **dollars** last night.

He said. "I'll join you. Ash and I will treat you to a ineal when we have the chance, Ms. S adler"

Alright, then I get going "I didn't force them. I nodded and tumed to leave

Lee was waiting for me. I got into the car and said, "Let's go. "

As the car drove down Alton University's wide path, I couldn't help recalling the scenes of me secretly running after Rowan every day. I kept thinking of reasons to create accid ental encounters with him

Suddenly, a silver Lexus drove past me. It my eyes hadn't been playing tricks on me, th at was Rowan's side profile I'd caught in the car.

Why was he suddenly in Alton University with a different car? The Lexus **was** much mor e low profile compared to his other cars.

The only explanation I could come up with was that he'd come to see Ashley and didn't want to attract too much attention.

It was no wonder Ashley had looked so awkward and tired earlier. I bet Rowan hadn't stopped harassing her. Anyone would initially be uncomfortable with someone pursuing them so forcefully, let alone Ashley, who already had a boyfriend

I didn't know whether Rowan had seen the earlier, but I supposed he wouldn't have had the time **to** notice the things around him when he was so focused on Ashley.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 25 Sudden Fame

Back in Windwill Estate, it was lunchtime. Ella greeted me respectfully as I came back.

Looking at the delicious feast before me, the thought of Rowan and Ashley made me lose my appetite. I went upstairs without eating

"Mrs. Payrie, are you feeling unwell? Do you need me to call a doctor over?" Ella asked as she followed me.

Instead. I had forgiven her for shattering the skincare products. Since then, she'd treated me more caringly than ever. I might have truly favored her **as a** maid if **she** weren't Ashley's mother

1. "No. I just don't feel like eating. You **can have** lunch with other maids," I answered impatiently, lying on my bed.

Bella didn't dare say another word **as** she quietly left the room.

In a mess of unfinished thoughts, I fell asleep. It wasn't for long and the girls taking a break blowing up my phone, I would've slept till the next **day**.

Her loud voice was filled with excitement. "Oh my god! Alton University's cello queen is back in action!"

"Huh?" I was still in a haze after my sleep and had no clue about what she was saying

"I've sent you the link. Go and take a look right now. Quick!" She hung up right after. Browsing my missed calls, I realized I didn't pick up Olivia's **and** Natalie's calls.

Jean's message popped up on my WhatsApp. **Squinting** my eyes, I clicked on the link. It **was** a video of the recital in Alton University's concert hall today, I was sitting in the leftmost **corner**.

the person filming was my secret admirer

I didn't know who took the video. The camera kept focusing on me. It was as if the per

Many netizens complimented me, saying I was an "elegant beauty" or "the former queen of Alton University's music faculty". Flattered by the comments, I wasn't sleepy anymore

Who didn't like getting compliments? This was my

first time enjoying this feeling.

Since I was young, I've gotten many compliments. However, they were mostly because of who Dad **was**. On **the** other hand, being favored by many for my charm

jeantimed her call correctly. Right after I had finished watching the video, she called again. "How was it? Who would've thought? Now you're suddenly famous, hahaha..."

"It was truly

truly unexpected

I was on cloud nine. "I guess I'm as

155 I'm as charming as ever!"

"Of course! You were just so smitten by Rowan back then. So many people were after you, and you chose to be his ass-kisser. To **this** day, Jean still felt indignant when she brought this matter up.

The past is 100 painful to look back on. I've gotten over it now, haven't I? Thinking **about** the **past** u

upsetted

"If you've gotten over it, then let's go for a drink. Um free anyway. I might as well package you into a huge influencer!" Jean began to fantasize about the future. Then, the four of us will form a band. Natalie will be the lead singer and we'll be in charge of instruments. Perfect!"

ut the future now,

where are you? Let's

I felt that Jean had such unrealistic fantasies because she had too much time on her **hands**. I replied, "Let's not bother about get lunch together instead of drinking."

I had been starving for the whole day. My journey to gaining weight had to **go on**.

Jean agreed without hesitation. "Sure, I know a café that serves good tea. The dishes there are better

than what I've had in those live-star hotels. I'll send you the

After receiving the café's address, I got changed and headed out.

Unexpectedly, I met Dad at the café's entrance. He was chatting with a few friends. It seemed that they had just finished their meal.

"Dad" Trained out

Why, why are you here?" He was shocked when he saw me. His friends looked over.

One of his friends had a sharp eye and recognized me. He immediately said, "Sam, was your daughter the beauty playing the cello at Aston University today? She's

Dad may **have** seen the video **as** well. He seemed proud, but his tone was composed. "Bah, **viral**? That's literally her major! It's been years since she played it!"

"years? But still with such remarkable skills? Sam, your daughter is truly amazing!"

"With such good looks **too**! One could easily tell she's born rich"

Listening to the flattery, I felt delighted but ashamed. How could I seem "born rich" when I looked like a corporate elite?

Just then, Jean called and rushed me. I said, "Dad, my friends are waiting for me. I'll head inside first!"

"Go ahead, I'm heading back to He waved me off.

I nodded and entered the café. Suddenly, I thought of telling him about my return in two days.

When I turned around, I saw a woman in her 20s getting **out** of Dad's car. She stood right under the streetlamp where lighting was sufficient. She wore a black-**and**-white sheath dress with a large round neckline. Her look had a mix of toughness and feminine charm. She bowed to Dad respectfully.

He told her something, then **got** in the back seat while she started the car.

Didn't he have a male chauffeur? Why was it a woman now?

That **some** questions in **mind**. An uncomfortable feeling washed over me

Olivia had just arrived. She saw me **spacing** out at the entrance, “**by**, what are **you** doing here? Being **an** usher?” she asked jokingly while patting my shoulder.

“Waiting for you! I’m your usher Aren’t you **touched?**” coming to my senses, I smiled as I took her **ann**. “Let’s go, Jean is rushing me!”

Olivia and I headed to our reserved private room, chatting along the way. As I opened the door, the sweet aroma of tea wafted over us. Hidden **speakers** in the corner of the room played classical piano instrumentals. The atmosphere was truly relaxing.

not

Olivia was posing with a teacup, while Natalie helped take photos of her jeans then **uploaded** these photos to Instagram for her rebounds to drool over.

I used to think that Jean was a huge idiot who didn’t know the essence of love. Now, I gradually felt that she was the epitome of being sober-minded.

“Ivy, Liv, you’re here. “Seeing our arrival, Jean stopped posing seductively and sat upright. She giggled as she waved at us. “Have a seat! I’ve already ordered the dishes. Trust me, it’s delicious!”

Olivia and I took a seat at the table. “Sure, we trust you!”

The table fitted the four of us perfectly. The hostess wore an elegant **dress** and had her **hair** in a neat bun.

I ordered an Earl Grey, a type of black tea on the sweeter side. The hostess brewed it before us while explaining the price, place of origin, and traits of the tea. It was truly pleasing to watch.

Our food was served when we were drinking tea. Indeed, every dish was delicious.

As the waiter opened and closed the door, I caught a quick glimpse of Rowan and Ivan passing by.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 26 Proving Rowan

Were they having a meal at this café too? I **was** curious, but I got over that thought immediately. What they were doing here was none of my business, Everyone would have to go their separate ways in the future.

to get married! =

While eating, Natalie suddenly announced the good news. “By the way, girls, I have something to announce, Kaden and I have decided to

Almost choking on my pasta, I started coughing

Jean and Olivia widened their eyes in shock. “Oh my god, are you sure? Marriage is the tomb of love!

“Well, it is a tomb for others, but not for Kaden and me! Marriage is the castle of love for us.” Natalie had a lot of faith in Kaden, Judging by their looks, they were a match made in heaven. Interns of family backgrounds, the Harlets couldn’t compare to the Reeds. Hence, he wouldn’t dare to tear her **improperly** too.

“Men are unreliable, **Nat**. Don’t get blinded by love!” **jean** worded the most. She grabbed onto Natalie’s shoulder with all her might. “Wake up! Why don’t you think about it for another six months first?”

Natalie **didn’t** get angry because she knew we meant well. Smiling, she gently smacked **jean’s** hand away, “deez, you guys are just thinking **of** marriage so horribly. I’ll make you all believe in **love again!**”

Jean wanted to continue persuading her. As I shot her **a** look, she took the hint and shut up. Though we were best friends, it wasn’t right to interfere too much.

After our meal, we drank tea to refresh our palate. “I’m going to the washroom,” I **said** while standing up I was feeling unwell in my lower abdomen. Leaving our private room, I made my way to my right. When I passed by a door, I overheard Chester’s voice. “Rowan, you’ve met your soulmate!”

I paused in my tracks and continued to listen.

Jasper gloated, “What **a** shame that she’s ignoring you. I guess your charm doesn’t work every time.”

“She’s already taken. Just give up! There’s still plenty of fish in the sea

“She’s just a college girl. They’re everywhere!”

This was exactly what bad company meant. When one went **astray**, not only wouldn’t they stop him, but they would also help him

I understood too. In the eyes of Chester **and** his trends, I was never considered Rowan’s wife. By default, they had acknowledged him to be a married bachelor.

At that moment, I heard Ivan’s voice, serious and icy. “What about Ivory? your marriage with her is protected by law.”

Suddenly, I felt that I had gone too far by putting lipstick in his themes back then.

The room went silent. A moment later, Rowan lazily said, "True love? Total **dogshit**. I **w**
as just messing around. Haven't you heard of it? You always want what you **can't** have."
"

I didn't know what he said after that. As the pain became increasingly intense, I had to rush to the washroom

My period had come back after two months. That was unexpected

I guessed it was because I ate well, slept well, and had herbal concoctions. As my anemia **improved**, my menstrual cycle was back to normal too.

Tugging the back of my skirt, I realized the period blood had stained it

After thinking for a minute, I called Rowan. He declined it!

He wouldn't even spare one minute to even give me a half-hearted response. He'd rather chat with his friends about how to pursue Ashley. My period **made** me more irritable than ever so I stomped over to the private room where he was and shoved the door open

Everyone **was stunned** at my appearance, especially Chester who had been chattering excitedly just now. He started stuttering

Rowan sat directly opposite the door. Dressed in a black polo shirt, he looked sophisticated and mature. His smile faded immediately upon seeing me, turning into a scowl.

"Why are you here?" He furrowed **his** eyebrows.

I ignored him and **waved** at Ivan sheepishly. "Dr. York, I have a favor to ask. Can you help me?"

Ivan exchanged looks with Rowan, obviously unwilling to comply. He eventually gave in after my foxy gaze lingered on him. Rowan gave us both a strange look.

After leaving the room, Ivan asked, "What is it?"

"Help me buy something." I gave a smile that I thought looked sweet. I could've asked Jean and the others for help, but I just didn't want to

"Buy what Ivan was confused.

"Lower **your head**." I stood on my tiptoes. As he followed my orders, Ivan quickly said, "Pass and a slizi!"

Ivan's expression changed, He probably didn't understand why I asked him for help in this kind of matter.

He rejected, "No way!"

"If you can join Rowan's discussion on how to chase girls, can't you help his poor wife **buy** some **pads**? You're a doctor; can't you at least have some morals?" started criticizing him.

Ivan's gaze **became** even more complex. In Rowan's circle of friends, Ivan was the only one with **his values still** intact. Although he had done some wild things to win Ashley over, he was single at that time. Pursuing women was normal

He was way braver than Rowan—the latter was a madman who knew no boundaries.

Sure enough, Ivan didn't say another word. Pusing his lips, he lamed and headed towards the stairway.

I stood and watched at the doorway. I sent a text to reassure Jean and the others.

Chapter 26 Provoking Rowan

2/2

While waiting, the private room's door opened again. Rowan stepped out and saw me all alone. He asked, "Where's Ivan?"

I pointed towards the **stairway**, "There."

Holding a black bag, Ivan slightly blushed. His six-foot figure exuded a hint of embarrassment.

He handed the bag to me, his tone unnatural. "Take it!"

Ignoring Rowan's presence, I happily **took** the bag and shyly thanked Ivan "Thank you, Dr. Yord I'll treat you to a meal next time."

"Wait, what's this? Rowan grabbed my wrist. I couldn't walk away.

His gaze was intense as he stared at the **bag** in my hands.

I felt pleasant. Didn't Rowan have double standards? Wasn't he scared of letting people know I was unfaithful to him? I might as well have pissed him off.

I let him snatch the bag and open it. His expression worsened

“You **goddamn**...” As a trashy person, Rowan always **had** a bad temper. “You made Ivan buy these kinds of things for you?”

“Oh, what’s wrong? Is it illegal to have him buy **pads** for me? I pretended to be confused.

“And this too!” Rowan was close to hurling the pink underwear at my face. His face darkened as his anger surged.

Ivan gazed at me, contemplating something.

I had never expected Ivan to be such an attentive **and** thoughtful person. I only needed pads and a skirt, but he also considered that my underwear **was** stained too. As such a handsome, rich, and caring man with boundaries, how did he lose to Rowan in his previous life?

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 27 Breaking Up

“You guys continue. I’ll go back tint, Rowan wanted Ivan, beliving his anger in. He then dragged me away.

Notionless, hungared at me. He had probably figured out my motive.

Bewan dragged me as we walked towardn’t keep up with his **steps** and almost tripped.

“Are **you** out of your mind, Bowan? Could you at least let me get changed in the washroom?” I scolded him angrily.

He fully remembered why I had let Ivan buy the pads. Scowling, he brought me to the washroom. “Go **and** change, quick!”

Trotated my wrist. He **was** undeniably violent, almost bruising me with his grip.

Ashley had about the same weight as me. **Could** she bear him?

I couldn’t help but imagine Rowan and Ashley in bed. Rowan must’ve forced himself on her at first. After Ashley eventually fell for him, their lovemaking then

became intimate.

I must’ve been crazy to think of these inappropriate scenes, swiftly changing my clothes, I got rid **of** those obscene thoughts and left the washroom.

Rowan glanced at me. “Let’s go.” He seemed to be less angry.

After texting the girls' group chat, I headed back with Rowan. I wanted to see what else he would tell me.

Yer, he was silent like a statue throughout our journey.

When we got home, Rowan entered the study alone. I went to take **a bath** and prepared to call it a day.

Just after finished driving my hair, Rowan came in. Fouldn't tell what kind of gaze he held, **but** it upset me.

avory Sadler, let's talk," he calmly said. I nodded.

After ten minutes, I concluded what Rowan meant.

Besides not getting in the way of each other, there was an additional requirement, I coul dn't mess around with his close Inends. As discussed previously, I couldn't post on Insta gramer let our parents know. En total, there were thure rules **to** follow.

"Rowan, why don't you just divorce me?" I asked miserably

"We don't have a reason to **divorce**," he said before leaving

I had a feeling that **his** words were related to Ashley.

He probably wanted to make promises to me so that he **could** pursue **Ashley** undisturb ed. He wouldn't expect himself to be so madly in love in the future.

From that day on Rowan never

wan never returned to Windwill Estate for over half a month. It **was** as if he just disappe ared.

Tiesumed the widowed life I once had. But this time, Thad a few more maids with me.

one afternoon, I overheard Ella making a **phone** call "Both of you arends anymore. If th ere are any problems, face them like adults. There's no use quarteling or giving each ot her the silent treatment." She was hiding under the staircase, speaking quietly..

I stood at the stairway, focusing on her words.

Benjamin is a good man who treats you well too. Your dad and are at ease when you two are together. No matter what happens, co mmunicate properly. Got it?" It seems that Ella was rather satisfied with Benjamin

Did Ashley and Benjamin quarrel? Rowan must've put in a lot of effort while he was **gone**. Or **else**, how would he make such a **loving** couple get into

Into a light?

I didn't want to meddle anymore. I'd just do nothing until Rowan filed for divorce. When the time came, all I had to do was happily sign the papers.

With these thoughts in mind, I turned to head **upstairs**.

"Mrs. Payne, **can** I take half a day off?" Ella stopped me and sheepishly said, "Something happened at home. I'll have to go back and deal with it. You can deduct my

That had no choice but to stop in my tracks. Turning around, I gazed concerningly at Ella from high above. "What happened, Ella? I'll give you a lift. I was planning to head out too

"That's too much trouble, Mrs. Payne. You don't have to **do** that, I'll just take a taxi..." Ella was stunned

"**It's** hard to take a taxi near Windwill Estate. It's alright give me ten minutes. I'll get changed and come down," I replied softly.

After ten minutes, I left Windwill Estate with Ella. I pretended to ask her for her house **address**, then headed for our **destination**.

With my subtle probing throughout the journey, Ella told me a lot about Ashley and **Benjamin**. Well, she still didn't know why they fought this time, even though **she** was Ashley's mother. There must have been some unspeakable reasons

When we almost reached the neighborhood, I saw Benjamin sitting near the roadside flower bed. He looked forlorn

"Mrs. Payne, I can't thank you enough. If you don't mind, you can come in and have coffee!" Ella **said** gratefully.

"You're welcome. Don't you have matters to deal with? I shall not **add** to your troubles. Hurry up **and** go!" I replied with a smile

Ella thanked **me** again before pushing upstairs. I quickly headed towards where Benjamin was just now. Thank god he was still there moping

Straightening out my clothes, I lowered the car window and greeted **him**. "Benjamin, what are you doing here?"

“Ms. Sadler!” Benjamin was startled upon seeing me.

“It’s so sunny. Get in, I’ll take you wherever you want to go!” I said decisively.

“No, Ms. Sadler, I want to be alone.” He shook his head. He looked lethargic as if he didn’t sleep well.

I **got** down and dragged him towards my car. “You don’t have to be alone under the sun. Let’s go and have a

Benjamin didn’t refuse and took the passenger seat obediently. I **had** him wrapped around my finger.

After half an hour, I brought Benjamin to Symphonica. I got ourselves a private room.

drink”

“Here Whatever upsets you, just sing them all away!” I exclaimed while handing a microphone to Benjamin.

With the microphone in hand, he suddenly burst into tears. I was caught off guard since this **was** my first time seeing **a** man crying in front of me.

“Ms. Sadler, Ash is breaking up with me. What do I do.” Benjamin was choked up

Breaking up? I **was** confused. In my past life, when I knew about Ashley’s existence, Rowan had pestered her for over a year before Benjamin backed off. But, **wasn’t** he backing off too early now?

“**What’s** wrong? Tell me about it—maybe I can help you,” I said after calming down

“Yesterday, when we were out for a meal, I accidentally saw a text on her phone. It was a flirty text by some guy I didn’t know.

“I was pissed, and I argued with her. I demanded that she give me the guy’s contacts but she refused. She **said** that I didn’t trust her, and we should just break up...” Covering his eyes, he sounded devastated and anguished.

I calmly **asked**, “What did the text **say**?”

After a brief silence, he replied, “I want to see you. Can you give me a chance?”

That was the power of love—it **would** make even an arrogant man like Rowan say these humble words. If he had to say them to me, even casting spells wouldn’t work

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 28 Leaving the Marriage Empty-Handed

Rowan had never shown me proper respect, let alone humility

After the torture from my past life, I finally accepted the fact that I wasn't his soulmate.

But **Benjamin was** different—

he wasn't reborn. He wouldn't know why Ashley broke up with him impulsively.

He kept chugging beer, attempting to inebriate himself

sitting beside him, I gazed **at** him sympathetically. From an objective point of view, I wanted to advise him to break **up**. **That** way, he would prevent himself from being Rowan's target and ending up in worse circumstances.

But at the same time, I **was** slightly pissed off too—
how **could** Rowan break them up so quickly?

*Ms. Sadler, I'm really in **love** with her. I know my family isn't doing great and I don't deserve her. But I'll **work hard**..." Benjamin started rambling as he drank too much.

I nodded. "Yeah, I know."

of heart in the end?

"There were so **many** people after her, yet she chose me. I was so happy. I swore not to **let** her regret this. But, but, why did she have a change of heart? What do I do now? My heartbreak is killing me..." Benjamin whined **with** arddened eyes.

Poor guy. I stopped him from pouring **another** cup. "Don't be too **sad**. What if she didn't have a change of heart? If you think about it, the test **only** shows that someone is after her, but he's unsuccessful. Or else, why would he beg for a dance?"

h me so that I

Benjamin shook his head and smiled wryly. "It's different this time. She had encountered similar things in the past too. But she would be honest with me so didn't overthink."

"There must be some hardships that made it hard for her to tell you. How about this—I'll talk about it with her over a meal someday." I consoled him.

"Thank you, Ms. Sadler." Benjamin managed a smile.

"No need to **thank** me. We're **friends** after all! I patted his shoulder.

After a while, Benjamin was so drunk that he was knocked out. In an attempt to help him up, I almost fell

Luckily, Symphonica had a room booking service. I called **an** attendant over **and** asked him to bring Benjamin to a room I **had** booked upstairs. After helping him settle in, I prepared to leave.

Yet, his phone started ringing—it was Ashley. I had no choice but to pick it **up**..

“Benji, where **are** you?” Ashley sounded rather worried

“Ashley, It’s me. Benjamin’s at Symphonica now. You can come over **and** meet him,” I replied.

“Ms Sadler? Why are you.” Ashley **sounded confused**

I told her everything about how Benjamin and I met. After a brief silence, she said, “Actually, it’s all my fault. I’ve already blocked that man, I’ll change my number tomorrow!

sally girl. It would be useless even if you changed your identity, not to mention your number Rowan would always have his ways.

I tried sounding her out. “Ashley, who’s that man? What’s his name? Can you tell me?”

She hesitated. “Ms. Sadler, wait for me. I’ll talk about it when get there”

I patiently waited for Ashley’s arrival in silence. In the meantime, I tested Rowan to remind him that Dad’s birthday was coming in two **days**. As tradition, he would have to go back with me.

A moment later, Ashley arrived. Seeing Benjamin out cold, she **was** distressed. After I comforted her, she calmed down slightly **and said**, ‘ you who that man is. I can only tell you that Joe’s **a** married man. I don’t want anything to do with him.”

Ashley’s eyes were reddened and puffy. She had probably been crying a lot these few days.

“How did you know he was married? Have you checked? Lasked.

“Ms. Sadler, I can’t tell

In my **past** life, I was curious whether Ashley knew who Rowan’s wife was and what she looked like. With his identity, it wouldn’t be **hard to look him up**.

But there were practically **no** photos of Rowan and me together. Besides, I kept a low profile **and stayed** out of the public eye. There were hardly any pictures of me

Wiping her tears, Ashley shook her head. "No, I'm never going to be with him. Why would I look **him** up? Besides..."

"What else?" I was starting to panic

"I didn't dare to look him up. Even if I didn't agree to be with him, I felt disgusted at being pestered by a married man, I know he has **a** wife. If I found out who **his** wife was, I'd feel even more guilty. I wouldn't be able to face it," Ashley spoke as tears streamed down her face.

I didn't expect this reason. She didn't **dare** to face it, just because **of** shame?

Was it because of shame too, that made her self-deading in the previous life?

I was silent for a long time before sighing. "Alright, **don't** regret any choices you make in the future."

left the **room** after that, leaving Ashley to look after Benjamin

Back home, I was shocked to see Rowan back. Ella was pouring tea for him

"Ella, where are you back?" I asked while taking my shoes off. "You can take half **a** day off until tomorrow morning."

Ella shook her head, "Mrs. Payne, it's alright. My family matters are settled."

Chapter 28 Leaving the Marriage Empty Handed

22/2

No wonder Ashley took the initiative to call Benjamin. Ella must have something to **do with** it.

Ella poured a cup of tea for me before leaving. There was only me and Rowan sitting across from each other in the living room. Sipping our tea, none of us spoke for a long time.

"**My dad's** birthday is in two days. Remember to get him a gift, I reminded him.

"My mom said

said that

you gave her a pair of bangles. Is this true?" Rowan asked back

“Yes. Doesn’t she like collecting bangles? I have a pair of emerald bangles that I rarely wore, so I gave it to her.” I replied emotionlessly.

Rowan’s gaze fixated on my face, seemingly searching for something. Crossing his legs, he leaned back on the sofa casually and draped **his** arms on the sides. He asked, “What are you up to? Sucking up to my mom?”

We gazed at each other. From what I remember, we have never held each other’s gaze for such a long time.

Gifting Paula a bangle was to please her. I wanted to make her more picky towards Ashley. Frequently helping Benjamin was to make me feel better. Getting close to Ivan was to piss Rowan off.

These were my little tricks. It didn’t matter if I failed, because I had never planned to turn the tides.

“Isn’t it normal for the daughter-in-law to **please** her mother-in-law? I didn’t feel guilty at all. “Rowan, you don’t have to worry about me playing **tricks**. Just know that if you want to divorce me now, I can sign the papers right away.”

“And

you **3%** of the stocks? Rowan shot me an icy look

“Still not worth it?” I asked eloquently.

He squinted his eyes. His gaze had something I couldn’t comprehend. After a moment of silence, he gave the usual answer, “Stop dreaming.”

Had this guy been thinking for ages, only to find out Ashley was still unworthy of the money? He had pestered her for over half a month and almost broke the couple up. It turned out he **hadn’t** made up his mind.

“What if I leave the marriage empty-handed?” I softly **asked**, gazing at him,

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 29 Telling Ivan

3% of Payne Corporation’s stocks was only tempting. However, I could still get by even if I left the company without taking any possessions. Better yet, I could save the future hassle and embrace a flourishing life.

“No.” Rowan’s simple answer truly shocked me.

“Haven’t you considered that my existence will stop you from pursuing your true love? I **couldn’t** help but remind him.

He should **have** noticed something when pursuing Ashley for so long, right? He had never put in so much effort for those starlets in the past.

His eyes were downcast—
I didn’t know what he was thinking. He simply replied, “It won’t.”

He was as stubborn as a mule. Being such a smart person, how could Rowan be so thick-headed in relationships?

Sighing, I did not want to continue the conversation anymore. I got up and **headed** upstairs to rest.

The next day, I received a text from Benjamin “Ms. Payne, I’m on good terms with Ashley again. Thanks for your advice. I’ll treat you **to a meal** next time!”

After thinking for a while, I didn’t reply to him. Instead, I was thinking that Rowan would be in a bad mood **again**.

After freshening up, I headed downstairs for **breakfast**. Rowan was **already** sitting on the sofa, looking **unhappy**.

“Ella, what are we having this morning? I ignored him **and headed straight to** the dining room

“Avocado toast. If you’d like, I’ll make scrambled eggs. It tastes better that way,” Ella replied while serving the toast. She **also** served me some coffee and sliced fruit.

I sat down and immediately dug in. A while later, **Rowan** took a seat opposite me. Ella also prepared the same becaldast for him.

While we were eating, Rowan’s phone buzzed. His face fell instantly after taking a look at it. Pushing away the barely eaten toast, he got up and left.

“**Don’t** forget that we’re going to my **house** tomorrow at **9:00 am**,” I reminded him.

Rowan ignored me as he headed toward the living room

That text just now was most probably from Ashley. The content must’ve made Rowan extremely uncomfortable, or else he wouldn’t have reacted **so** strongly

I took a look at Ella, who was cleaning up the kitchen. Did Ashley tell her that she was being pursued by a married man? That married man in question had just left.

“Ells, I’m going out. I won’t be back for lunch,” I told before heading out

Thad booked a full body check-up. Previously, the check-up I had wasn’t comprehensive as it mainly **focused on** my mammary glands.

Health was one’s greatest asset. I had to value it!

After half a day of hassle at the hospital, I was done with all the necessary check-ups. Before I left, I hesitated before heading to the department where Ivan belonged.

H

“Dr. Yock!” Seeing Ivan, I smiled enthusiastically

Sitting at his desk, he **was having** lunch. His brows furrowed at the sight of me.

*Eating here all alone?” I sat beside him and took a **look** at his meal. I complimented, “How simple and healthy! That’s good. I’ve always felt that you’re different from Rowan and his friends. They’re spoiled brats while you’re a distinguished gentleman!”

Ivan shot me a glance, his expression icy. “What are you up to again? Using me to provoke Rowan

Sure enough, he **saw** through me last time.

I took out my phone. “Let me show you something.”

I opened Benjamin’s Instagram profile. His profile picture was of him and Ashley together. Under the blue sky and white clouds, they held hands and smiled happily.

“Do you know this girl?” I asked, staring intensely at Ivan

Ivan stared at the photo for a few seconds. His **gaze** had a hint **of** strangeness, but it wasn’t the type that occurred during love at first sight.

“No, but I do know that her boyfriend is Benjamin.” It summed out that Ivan was focusing on him instead.

I was stunned. Although Ashley looked **more** lively in person, he would have her more or less moved **by her** photo. After all, in the **past** life, he was obsessed with Ashley just as much as Rowan did.

Was it possible that he **had** only fallen in love with Ashley when they interacted later on ?

I should've asked further **about** it when we worked together back then. Or else, I wouldn't have been so confused now.

"Right," I said, adjusting my mindset. "Did Rowan tell you that she's the girl that he's after?"

"I only know about her presence, not her details. Ivan's gaze intensified. "How did you know now?!"

Even if he had heard a sentence of two **back at** the cafe, he wouldn't know that much.

I replied, "Yesterday, they were going through a breakup and I gave them advice. The girl is Ashley, a **second**-year music student from Alton University,"

He wanted to continue asking. But he gave up after seeing other people coming back

I took the hint and got up I said, "Let's have dinner tonight. I can tell you lots of stuff."

"Alright. You pick the time and place," he simply replied.

When

I turned around and left, I heard his colleagues teasing him. "**Our** Dr. Yorkbas a girlfriend now? Having a date tonight?"

Chapter 29 telling han

2/2

I didn't catch how he answered them.

I ended up choosing Songward Café, which was the place that **Jean** brought us to last time. The atmosphere was perfect for two people to discuss matters.

That night, Ivan arrived on time.

I didn't go **back** home. Instead, I **napped** in the private room. When he arrived, I was still sleeping like a log on the armchair.

"Hey, wake up." Ivan patted my **face**.

I woke up, stretched, and gave him an apologetic smile. "Sorry, my sleeping position is weird."

He **gave** a small smirk and took a seat at the table. After the hostess came in and served us **tea**, I asked her to leave. **Ivan** and I then started our discussion.

I told Ivan everything from how I met Ashley at the café and bumped into Benjamin, to how we became friends. I sighed, “What a coincidence. I never thought that Rowan would fall in love with her.”

“So, what’s happening now is that you know about the relationship between Rowan, Ashley, and Benjamin. However, they don’t know about your identity?” Ivan concluded.

“Yes.” I nodded.

“Why don’t you make it clear?” Ivan asked, staring at me.

“Don’t you know Rowan?” I retorted. “So what if I make it clear? Will he give Ashley up for me? No. Even if I desperately stopped him or opposed him, I’ll never win his heart back

his new sweetheart?

He **had** never liked me. I couldn’t even be considered an ex—how do I compare with h

I spoke, I got emotional. The feeling of despair and resignation from my past life started to emerge.

Evan was shocked. After all, I have never been that upset about Rowan’s scandals in the **past**. Of course, he wouldn’t know what would happen in the future.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 30 Hitching a Ride

Even if I told Rowan, he’d still get things done in his own way. With his domineering nature, **he’d** stop at nothing **until** he claimed Ashley **as** his own

Telling Ashley about it wouldn’t change anything either. She might feel guilty and be too ashamed to face me. Then, she’d proceed to distance herself from Rowan even more. If that happened, his pursuit would only become more aggressive

On the other hand, breath Rowan. What good would one **out** of telling him?

I’ve thought about all my options, but they all led to the same conclusion.

“Why are you telling me this, then

Ivan asked again.

so you know that I'm not being kept in the dark. I'm willing to get a divorce, but Rowan isn't." Tiel

felt slightly pained. "I hope you'll stop convincing him otherwise,

and how much I liked Rowan best. He grew up with him and was naturally a witness to me ten-year-long crush seemed to be quite taken aback by my sudden words.

He asked with a quizzical expression

He fell silent for a long time. I didn't know what he was thinking about.

He didn't speak until the moment before we parted ways "I suppose it's better now that you've come to terms with it"

used to be too stubborn I thought that I could change his mind if I was persistent enough.

As someone who was observing from the sidelines, Ivan knew better than anyone that the marriage was one-sided.

way back. Then, I

The walk back home was the lightest I've ever felt in my life. It was about time someone else knew that I was over Rowan I hummed as I made my way had a bath and had a good night's sleep.

Had to attend my father's birthday celebration the next day, so I woke up rather early. After preparing my gift, I sent Rowan a text.

"Remember to drop by my parents' house today

In my past life, he didn't show up. I even made up some excuse for him by telling my parents he was occupied with work

It was possible that he wouldn't show up today either, but I wasn't going to make excuses for him anymore.

Happy birthday, Dad pulled my dad into an embrace as soon as I got to their house. Then, I planted a kiss on his cheek.

Watching from the sides, my mom laughed. "Why are you here so early? Have you had any breakfast?"

"Yes, I have—what do you think my household staff is for
Linking arms with my dad, I replied cheerfully and sat down on the **sofa**.

in that no one else was showing up at the **door**, he immediately grew upset. Why are you alone? Where's Rowan? Upon noticing

increasingly impudent!" His expression softened as he exclaimed, "He's becoming int

I smiled sheepishly and stayed silent.

With my father's status, there should've been many who would love to celebrate his birthday with **him** in person. However, he was a simple and honest man who didn't enjoy things like that.

Every year, he celebrated his birthdays with his family at home. As I was his only daughter, he would've appreciated it if Rowan could come along with me. It would've been wonderful that way

He didn't think that he wouldn't show up i

Just as my parents were beginning to complain about him, I caught a glimpse of a tall and **lean** figure in the doorway. He was even holding a gift.

I promptly clasped a hand over my father's mouth. "Rowan is here, Dad."

He swallowed the rest of his sentence. His expression was slightly awkward as he glanced toward the door.

Rowan's here. Why aren't **you** coming in? Mom asked as she came out of the kitchen. She looked quite happy upon seeing him.

"I just got her. Rowan smiled politely in response

He walked over and sat across from me **and** my dad. He donned a gray, striped vest and looked extremely handsome and sophisticated. "Happy birthday, Dad Here's a small token of my appreciation." He placed his gift on the table. It looked like a box of tea.

My dad was involved in politics. Hence, luxurious gifts would be inappropriate as they could soil his modest image.

He loved drinking tea. Rowan was quite smart—he hit right on the money.

My dad didn't think it was appropriate to unwrap the gift in Rowan's presence. He only laughed and said, "We're just glad that you're here. You didn't need to bring

"I'm usually so occupied with work that I rarely get the chance to birthday

pay the b

both of you a

u a visit as it is. How could I possibly show up empty-handed when it's your

Despite being aloof most of the time, Rowan was actually a decent conversationalist.

Besides, he shared common goals and interests with my **dad**. So, he wouldn't have acted on his emotions **or** tried to flaunt **his** authority here

Rowan was a businessman **through and through**. **Hence, when he was** willing to have **a falling** out with everyone because of Ashley, I was extremely shocked.

Chapter 30 retching a Ride

My dad dismissed his words with a wave. "It's alright. There's nothing wrong with a man who prioritizes his career."

2/2

in, I

I was very amused by the front they were both putting on. Their conversation was pleasant, and it would often circle back to work. Once I got bored of listening in decided to help my mother out in the ditchen.

Around noon, the entire table was filled with delectable dishes. We sat around the table making light conversation as we ate.

It felt like I was dreaming.

Soon after we were done with our meal, my dad received a call.

"Why the formalities? I really appreciate the thought, but I've already had lunch.."

"Alright, alright! I'll be there soon." We didn't know what the **call** was about, but he looked resigned and happy at the same time.

After

he hung up, he told us, "**That secretary** of mine found out it was my birthday and organized **a luncheon** with some people from my department. They're insisting that I go."

"You should go then. It's a nice gesture, my mom replied.

He nodded. "Right, **I'll** take my leave then Do stay for a while longer, **Rowan**."

"Sure, **Dad**," Rowan responded.

A few minutes after my dad's departure, Rowan began to take his leave. He **said** goodbye to my mom and claimed that he needed to make a trip to the office. Upon hearing this, I immediately followed after him and plopped myself on his passenger's seat.

"What are you doing?" he asked coldly.

would've been a **hassle** to get a cab.

"Give me a lift," I answered shamelessly as I buckled **my** seatbelt. **My** car had been sent for servicing. It would've

He pursed his lips and looked displeased. There was no way he wanted **to** drive me, but he couldn't possibly just leave me in front of my own house. In the end, he complied with my request and headed toward Windwill Estate first.

There was a faint scent of perfume in the vehicle. It was identical to Ashley's—**was** she in this seat earlier today?

Didn't she tell me she was going to distance herself from him? **Why** did they meet up again?

I felt extremely puzzled. Something felt off. Was she really cheating on Benjamin?

Based on her personality, she couldn't possibly have accepted Rowan's feelings this quickly— that was why he acted so crazy in the past. The more he couldn't get to her, the more he yearned for her. Then, he **gradually** fell in **love**.

I **took** out a lipstick from my bag and slipped it in between the gap at the side of my seat. Then, I reclined it a significant amount

If Ashley ever got in his car again, she'd definitely adjust the seat and come across the lipstick

"I'm going to take a nap." I shut my eyes and carelessly crossed my **legs** before trying to get some rest.

Rowan didn't respond. The car ride was silent until his phone rang. He shot me a look before picking up openly,