

Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 31-40

Posted by **Admink**, 184 Views, Released on July 8, 2024

Chapter 31 His Gentle Demeanor

It was from Ashley.

The fact that he picked up so promptly meant that this call was important to him. Regardless of time and location, he would've answered it immediately. He didn't even care that 1, his legal wife, was next to him

"What's wrong? Don't cry." I had never heard him speak in such a gentle voice before, "Wait there. I'm coming over right now."

As he hung up, he pulled over at the side of the road and started to kick me off the vehicle. "Take a cab back, or I'll have someone pick you up instead. You just need to wait here for a bit."

"What's wrong?" I asked curiously.

"There's something I need to take care of," he answered irritably.

"Where are you heading? Take me with you. I have nothing better to do anyway." I refused to get out of the car.

I **thought** he'd refuse. To my surprise, he **turned** to look at me. There was a cruel glint of amusement in his eyes. "You really want to **tag** along?"

Ashley must've run into trouble and had asked for his help. If I **had** gone with him, I would've seen him rush in another woman's aid and get **jealous** over it.

He enjoyed upsetting me—it was the only way he could make me regret marrying him

"Sure," I replied briskly,

Without another word, Rowan pressed down on the accelerator and the **car sped** down the road.

At long last, the car came to a halt in front of a mall. By the time I stepped out to look around, he'd already marched inside. I followed closely behind as he made his way to the second floor. It was filled with all kinds of restaurants.

There seemed to be quite a huge commotion at a restaurant. I didn't enter with him and quietly stood watching from a distance.

About five minutes later, Rowan exited the restaurant with Ashley. **She** seemed like she was crying, and her eyes were bloodshot.

He reached out to caress her hair as if he was petting a lovable kitten. He even lowered **himself** ever so slightly to listen to her attentively.

He didn't bother to put up a front in public—
rumors were already spreading like wildfire anyway,

My heart suddenly felt empty. After forcefully suppressing my feelings, I snapped a photo with my phone before turning **to** leave. In the elevator ride down, **E** overheard a conversation about the incident.

In summary, Ashley was eating at the restaurant when she discovered insect **larvae** in the salmon. She offered feedback to the owner only to get into an argument with him instead. She even got herself locked up in the kitchen.

How Immature. Why would you need someone like Rowan to come all this way for trivial matters like this? The infuriating part was the fact **that** he was more than willing to put up with **this** behavior.

Upon exiting the mall, I got a cab home. On the way back I sent the photo I had taken to Ivan

I didn't receive his reply until I got home

"7" **was** all it said.

I didn't know why I sent it to him either. Was I looking for **sympathy**?

Just then, Natalie called

"Are you free tomorrow, Ivy? She **asked**."

"I am. Why?" I responded.

"Come to my dress fitting appointment with me," she chirped happily. "Kaden and I are tentatively getting engaged next weekend. We're planning to get married.

at the end of the year."

"Sure thing. Send me the address and I'll be there by 4.00 am?" **I** replied.

"Sweet!" She swiftly hung **up** before sending me the location of a bridal boutique.

I was feeling slightly **tired**. Rubbing my temples, I headed to the living room to get some rest.

Ella **and** another housekeeper were cleaning up the house. Upon noticing my return, they both greeted me.

I laid down on the sofa to get some shut-eye. My head was filled with the image of Rowan caressing Ashley's hair. I yearned for the same gentle demeanor for ten wars to no **avail**, yet it was single-handedly offered to Ashley by the man **himself**.

I opened my eyes and saw a woman wiping the coffee table "Can I ask you a question, Ella?"

"Of course, Mrs. Payne" she answered politely.

I pondered for a brief moment before asking, "I have a friend. She's still in university and has a very nice boyfriend around her own age.

"However, a married man has been pursuing her recently, and she seems somewhat swayed. Do you think she should choose her boyfriend or the latter? Ella exchanged glances with the other household staff before replying, "Her boyfriend, of course! You should never get involved with a married man!"

"What if the man is wealthier than her boyfriend and was **adamant** in pursuing her?" I stared at her.

"You'd still have to say no. It'd be terrible if you didn't; you'd be breasting up a family. Besides, what's so

She was slightly worked up. I could tell that she meant every word

The entire family was full of honorable people—how on earth did it all go to waste in the parious life?

o great

eat about a cheating!

Chapter 31 His Gertie Demeanor

That had to give it to Rowan. The man had managed to single-handedly **lead** the entire **family** astray.

The other household staff was also fuming. "**You** can't be a homewrecker. A homewrecker is a birchi no matter how pretty she is!!

Since my description matched Ashley's, Ella must've thought of her daughter. She just wasn't aware that a married man was currently pursuing her.

"May I know your friend's... age, Mrs. Payne?" she asked testingly.

I replied casually, "She's in her fourth year of university. She'll be graduating next year."

She looked visibly relieved upon hearing my answer.

"Alright then. Could you please prepare dinner, Ella?" I requested.

It was already evening. I just wanted to have something to eat and blank out on my bed.

I didn't know when I fell asleep on the sofa, but I didn't wake up until Rowan woke me.

"Ivory Sadler, get up!"

I **opened** my eyes groggily and was met with his stoic demeanor. He was holding the lipstick I left in his car.

Did they find it already?

He must've driven Ashley home after they left the mall. Otherwise, they wouldn't have found it this soon.

"**What's** wrong?" I faked oblivion. I sat up and rubbed my eyes.

"Did you leave this in my car on purpose?" He chuckled the lipstick at **me and** scoffed, "Weren't you waiting for me to divorce you? Didn't you say we were leading

cow lives? Is this some sort of joke to you?"

I gripped the lipstick in one hand and replied briskly.

1. ly. "What are **you** getting

are **you** getting so worked up for? It's just lipstick. It's not like I dropped a bottle of poison in the car.

He **stared** at me coldly. "Don't play dumb with me."

"**Oh.** Did the damsel in distress find it? Was she **jealous**?" I apologized absentmindedly. "I'm so sorry. I'll be extra careful next time."

“Keep your foul tactics away from her, or else.” He seemed to be concerned that I’d lay my hands on her.

I laughed bitterly. My calm facade was slipping off my face. “Don’t worry, I didn’t follow you into the restaurant. I didn’t see your little lover either.

“How am I supposed to do anything to her if I don’t even know who she is?”

He would’ve definitely done a remarkable job at keeping her out of harm’s way. Today’s incident wouldn’t have been found anywhere online either, or else her reputation would’ve been ruined.

Rowan turned and headed upstairs. Even the air around him was chilling.

Ashley had finally approached him for help unprompted. The pair’s relationship had improved ever so slightly, only for her to find another woman’s lipstick in his

car

It was a reminder **that** he was **a** married man. Subsequently, they were suddenly back where they started. Hence, it **was** no surprise that he was mad.

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Chapter **32** A Colorence

“Mos. Parte, domer’s ready.” Ella only approached me to offer a gentle reminder after Rowan’s departure.

Inodded and made toy way to the dining room

After diret, I took a shower and went to bed. I didn’t feel like doing amething else, I still had to accompany Natalie to the boutique tomorrow, so I needed ample

Then, I received a test from Paola. She’d sent me **a** list of **20** to bethal ingredients.

“Ivory, get someone to fetch an herbal sachet according to this list. Then, get town to drink twice **a** day for half a moth.” Hertext read.

I was suddenly wide awake. I texted her back and asked, “**What** is this for, Paula?”

**To strengthen Rowan’s body—the way I see it, his health must not be up to standards. At this rate, George and I will be old and gray before we get any clandchildren

I wanted to decline immediately. There was nothing wrong with Rowan, and he would never do as I say. However, after a moment of hesitation, I complied **anyway**.

“okay, but I’m not sure if he’d drink it though

Paula responded with a huge x’ emoji before following up with a test. “Don’t worry— All you need to do is get the sachet. I’ll handle the rest.

”

The next day,

I sent Ella to fetch the herbal sachet. Upon seeing the list of ingredients, she asked in a shocked manner, “Are you feeling well, Mrs. Payne?” I laughed while shaking my **head**. “No, Paula asked me to get **this** for Rowan. She said she’d like to have grandchildren sometime soon”

I didn’t bother keeping anything from her. This way, she’d think of the unfortunate fest when Rowan and Ashley were being lovey dovey in the future. “A relative of mine is actually an experienced medical herbalist. He has a remedy that’s been proven to work. Would you like me to ask him for it, Mrs. Payne?” she offered kindheartedly.

“Really? That be great, thank you.” **exclaimed** in lake surprise.
“If everything goes well, I’ll even give you a raise!”

“No need to be so formal with me, Max **Payne**. I’ll make a trip down today.” Ella was slightly embarrassed. “Day, responded. “I still have plans for today so I’ll be heading out. I don’t **think** I’ll be back in time for lunch.”

Afterwards, I made my way to Luxe Bridal Boutique **and** arrived at 8:00 **am** sharp.

Natalie **had** already been waiting. Upon noticing my **arrival**, she gave me a wave. “Ivy, over here!”

she could’ve easily opted for **a** more luxurious brand

After we entered the shop, a salesperson fetched us **each a** glass of water and prepared some snacks.

The store wasn’t too big, and the prices were average. With someone of Natalie’s status however, she told me Kaden wasn’t able to afford those dresses, and he didn’t want to use her money either. So, they decided to shop at **a** more affordable

boutique.

“This way to the fitting room, Ms. Reed,” said the saleswoman.

Natalie got up to try on some dresses. In the meantime, I started wandering aimlessly around the store. The sight of so many beautiful gowns made me feel slightly upset.

or a lot to a woman. Yet on the day that I was selecting one, Rowan felt nothing but contempt toward me.

A wedding dress meant a lot to a

just as I was thinking about my upsetting past, the door to the boutique opened. Ashley walked in with two other girls. The trio was happily chatting away. Their voices were cheerful and bright

“Tory?” Ashley eyes widened at the sight of me. She looked surprised and overjoyed. “What a coincidence! What **are** you doing here?”

At **the** same moment, Natalie came out of the fitting room. “How’s this, Ivy?”

was wearing **a** maroon, embroidered gown. It looked sophisticated and beautiful, but the color was slightly too dark

[contemplated for a brief moment before saying, “Is there a brighter one? This one feels a bit old-fashioned”

“Yes, there is,” the saleswoman promptly replied. “**Please** come with me, **Ms.** Reed, I’ll show you the other designs.”

Natalie nodded and followed suit.

I only turned to reply to Ashley after that. “I’m accompanying my friend to her dress fitting. What about you?”

The two other girls seemed about her age. The three of them had their arms linked and seemed very close.

“Our drama club wants to put on a show. My **character** needs to wear a wedding dress, so I asked my roommates to come pick one out with me. We’re looking to rent one,” she replied with a smile.

1. e. Go look around then,” I **said** gently.

They went to look around while I took a seat on the couch. I was flipping through a bridal magazine while **glancing** at her from the corner of my eye.

A while later, they started asking **a** salesperson for the rental price.

After being **told** it was a thousand dollars per day, the trio exchanged looks of disbelief.

Would it be possible to get it for cheaper?" Ashley asked sheepishly. "We need it for around two days. I promise we won't soil it or damage it!"

*Please help us out, miss. We're students and we need it for a play. Our club hands aren't enough to cover the rental costs," another girl pleaded.

Chapter 12 A Coincidence

The saleswoman was put in a difficult position. She wasn't the owner of the **store**, so she didn't have the authority to make the decision. She could only politely ask them to pick out a cheaper alternative.

However, Ashley adored the dress and was hesitant to look for another.

I watched as they reluctantly returned **the** dress and got up to walkover, "just take it, Ashley. I'll get the bill."

"Oh no, Ivory!" she swiftly **shook** her head in disapproval. "We'll just go get a cheaper dress!"

lips curved up as I

"Just take this one if you like it—you'll regret it if you settle for something else. Some things won't change once you set your eyes on it." My friend offered her some profound advice.

This applied to significant others as well. Once you manage to find your one true love, everyone else would end up feeling like a second option.

I disregarded her protests and paid for it. Then, I had the staff wrap the dress up and handed it to her. "You can just pay me back when your club has enough funds."

Her roommates were stunned by my generosity **as** well. They promptly began thanking me.

Ashley's face turned red, and her tear-filled eyes were brimming with gratitude. "Thank you, Ivory. I'll make sure to pay you back," she said softly.

"It's just loose change. No worries." My smile deepened.

After the girls left, Natalie had finally picked out a dress that she liked. It **was** a bright red, sleeveless dress that stretched to

her calves. It accentuated her figure and even **had** an embroidered hem. **The** only draw back **was** that the quality of the dress looked to be below average.

Natalie took a spin in front of the mirror. “**What** do you think? I quite like this one!”

“Not **bad**. The color suits you very well!” I complimented her.

“We’ll take this one then!” She decided before asking me to take a picture for Kaden

Two minutes later, she smiled blissfully. Then, she told the saleswoman in a cheery tone, “Please wrap this up for me, thank y

kyou.”

After the dress—
fitting concluded, she wanted to treat me to a meal. I picked a **llican** restaurant—the same one Ashley had trouble with.

When our food was served, Natalie’s face fell. She stared at the sushi and asked, “Why did you think of coming here, Ivy? I feel like the ingredients aren’t that fresh

You couldn’t ask an affordable restaurant to produce Michelin—
star quality food. I was curious though. Would Rowan ever **accompany** Ashley to eateries like this in the future? He couldn’t possibly turn **her** into an upper—class overnight.

“The business here seemed busy, so I just wanted to give them a try.” I took a bite of the sushi. It actually didn’t taste that

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Chapter 33 What Concoction Did You Give Me

I didn’t mean to look down on Natalie in any way. The majority of the public led regular lives. I was simply lucky that my family had somewhat successful careers. Because of that, my financial status was slightly better than others.

I really wanted to experience her lifestyle though. I wanted to see what her job was like or what she liked to eat. I also wanted to try to dress like her

“Hey, it’s **actually** not bad!” Natalie’s initial complaints **dissipated** after she started digging in. She finished an enticing plate of sushi with glee before ordering another plate of chicken wings.

She told me if she were to become pregnant soon after the wedding, she’d choose to become a stay-at-home wife. As for her dream of becoming a singer, she’d probably have to give it up.

“If you weren’t so adamant about making it on your own, you could’ve just asked your family to fund your dreams. You would’ve been a trending artist in no time.” I laughed.

“What’s **the** point in that? I don’t want to start something while knowing exactly how it’s going

to tumout.” She pouted.

I almost choked as she said that Her words had hit a bit too close to home

Why was i still pulling stunts every now and then when Rowan **was** destined to and up with Ashley? It was stupid of me to behave like this.

After **our** meal, we went on another shopping spree. We ended up returning home with shopping bags of all sizes.

Thad Lee come to pick me up. The Panamera was still being serviced, so he drove a black Lincoln today.

Latuffed everything into the back seat before talding **a** seat in the passenger’s seat. “Let’s go **home!**”

Ella was extremely attentive to my request. By the time I got home, she’d already had ten batches of herbal sachets neatly laid out on the table.

“You’re meant to take half a sachet two times per day, I’ll be in **charge** of preparing the concoction!” She offered enthusiastically.

“That would be great. Thank you, Ella. Let me pay you back for the expenses. I tookout my purse.

“No need, Mrs. Payne. I didn’t even compensate **you for** accidentally breaking your skin care product the other day. I hope this makes up for it.” She dismissed my money with a **wave**.

I offered her some words of gratitude but didn’t insist further.

Thad no idea what **Paula did**, but Rowan came home that night. He chucked his jacket to the **side** as he entered. He looked Incredibly annoyed.

Ignored him and are my dinnerin silence.

After he went upstairs, Ella brought me the herbal concoction she had prepared. “DoI bring this up, Mrs. Payme?”

I wiped the corners of my mouth elegantly before replying, "I'll do it."

Subsequently, I took the bowl upstairs to the guest room. He must've **still** been showering. There was a faint sound of running water coming from the bathroom.

His phone was on the table. When the screen lit up, I went over to take a peek

It was a stock market notification. His wallpaper in the background, however, was a picture of a girl's back. She was wearing a baby blue dress and had her hair **in** a ponytail. She was positively radiant under the sun.

I recognized her as Ashley from the very first **glance**. It was almost like I had a crush on her too.

When the screen turned dark, I tapped on it so I could continue looking at the picture. I only averted my gaze when the sound of running water ceased and the door opened.

"What are you doing here?" Rowan asked coldly upon seeing me

His **hair** was wet, and there were a few strands **that** had fallen over his eyes. He looked refreshed. It was as though he had become a few years younger. His black pajamas draped over his body, and you could clearly see the outline of his muscles.

I was almost jealous of Ashley!

"Drink this." I pushed the herbal concoction toward him.

"No," he refused irritably.

"Why are you home then?" I was exasperated. "Wasn't it because your parents added you to take the concoction?"

I must've been right. There was an imitated look on his **face** as he reached for the bowl. Then, he downed its contents in one gulp.....

I was genuinely impressed. He **was** better **at** toughing things out than I was

After **he** was done, he handed me the bowl. "**You** can go now."

I took it from him and left without any hesitation

I went downstairs to **put** the bowl in the **kitchen**, only to find Ella **waiting**. Her expression looked strange.

"Did Mr. Payne finish it?" she asked with a smile in her voice.

“Yeah” I nodded.

“That’s good. You should also burry up and head to bed soon—
It’s getting pretty late,” she reminded me thoughtfully

It was only 8:30 pm though.

I didn’t have anything
else to do, so I might as well have tumed in earlier Hence, I went upstairs to take a bath

After washing up, I lay on my bed and scrolled through my phone, Tenjamin uploaded a
new post this attemoon. It was a picture of him drenched in sweat. This

Chute du Whut Concoction Did You Give Me

basketball shirt was partially lifted up, and you could see his defined abs.

Judging from the background, he must’ve taken it when he was playing basketball. You
could vaguely make out Ashley’s figure at the back as well.

It must be nice to be young. His physique looked great. I liked the post without hesitatio
n.

I was a virgin in a five–year marriage. In the quiet of the
night, it was only natural for me to be stirred by Benjamin’s selfie.

At that very moment, the door to my room burst open and gave **me** a fright.

“What are you doing? **Rowan** stood in the doorway. His voice sounded odd.

Rowan stared at me for a moment before his p

gaze became hot.

I thought he’d mock me before taking his leave as he usually did, but things were not go
in

not going as expected.

He pressed his lips firmly against mine and immediately found it difficult to breathe.

I showed him away. “Are you ill? Why is your body piping hot?”

He was practically buming. 1
suspected the scalding temperature had damaged his brain. That’s why he **was** behavin

g in such an uncontrollable manner. His voice was caspy as he spoke, "That would depend on what concoction you gave me.

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Chapter **34** Take Her Away

Were the effects of the concoction supposed to lock in so quickly?

My head was a mess **as** I pressed a hand against **his** chest.

His answers on either side of my shoulders, locking me in place. Even as looked **at** him from such an unflattering angle, he still looked devilishly handsome

"You should go take a cold shower, Rowen!" I was oddly calm

I was significantly attracted to him, and I'd geamed for him for years. However, I didn't want to get involved with him when we were about to be divorced soon. He probably still had some sense left in him. His eyes flashed with anger. "I already did. What other ideas do you have?"

"I could get you a hooker?" I blurted.

"I don't think I can wait that long. "Then, he turned into a last-filled predator.

I couldn't do anything against him. I didn't dare to exert too much force **into** resisting for fear of breaking my scrawny arms.

On the other hand, Rowan was simply going through the side effects of the herbal concoction. He **didn't** care for any foreplay, he just needed to get it out of his system.

Right after he thrust into me, he suddenly stopped moving. His eyebrows knitted together and his expression was laced with disbelief.

"**You're**...avirgin?" He seemed surprised.

I didn't respond. It was my very first experience, but I wasn't feeling any pleasure at all, instead, all I felt was pain.

'**Are** you planning to have with me or not?' I barked imitably. "If you're not going to, then piss off!!!"

He undrewed his brows and abruptly planted a gentle peck on my lips. There was even a tinge of happiness in **his** gaze.

1will

People said that most men had a virginity complex. Even if they didn't love the woman, they'd feel extremely accomplished if they happened to take her virginity. It'd even feel as though they've staked their claim,

Rowan Payne was probably that type of man. As he **was tossing** me around, he grumbled, "I thought you actually cheated on me."

"Thaw some morals, unlike you," I snapped.

"Those jurors and scandals were made **up**—did you not know that?" He was covered in sweat. The smell of raging hormones in the air was overbearing

Of course, I knew. After **all**, they were only photographed sharing meals, watching movies, as well as going to bars and hotels. There weren't any pictures of him and the other women in bed together.

However, that wasn't allowed either. I still became **jealous** and wanted to teach those gossip-spreading bitches a lesson

We'd been married for five years, and we'd never shared meals. We never went to movies, bars, or hotels together either. If I couldn't have any of that, why should they?

After a short nap, he even started clarifying **his** past scandals to me. I was shocked by his power over men.

Rowan **was** already fit in the first place. With the aid of the concoction, he kept going the entire night. Naturally, I didn't manage to get much sleep either

When **the sun** started rising, I was already extremely tired. I couldn't even keep my eyes open.

He pinched my arm before pinching my thigh as well. "You're too skinny," he said in satisfaction.

Ignoring **his** words, I milled over

Lonely woke up at four in the afternoon. My **brain** was mushy from sleeping for so long. I also woke up feeling incredibly sore. I promptly hopped into the shower

After I was done, I realized that Rowan wasn't in the room.

When did he leave?

I supposed it was better this way. Only managing to sleep together after five **years** of marriage was awkward and embarrassing

“You’re up, Mrs. Payne?” Ella finished dinner preparations and smiled as she saw “Did you sleep well yesterday? Mr. Payne left for the office this afternoon. He told me not to wake **you**

I dragged my son legs to the dining table. Then, I sat **down** to eat before replying, “I slept fine, Ella, the medication your relative gave. It was quite effective.”

I didn’t know what she would’ve thought of this in the future. She practically gave her future son-in-law an aphrodisiac that led to his first night with his begal **wife**.

I’ll were her, I would have regretted it like crazy

Rowan’s pursuit of Ashley had probably gotten more difficult. Plus, after being a witness to so much of our married life, she’d probably have disapproved of their

relationship evermore.

“All beware the same, Mrs. Payne. As long as you can keep their interest in bed, they’ll remain loyal to you “

I can’t believe she’d started talking to **me** about how to keep a husband!

“That makes sense, but Rowan is not the type of or you can tame. Maybe in the future, there will be a woman he remains dedicated to despite her lack of efforts,”

She replied, “Don’t say that, Max Payne What is this talk about another girl? Have some confidence in yourself. “Mr. Bague can’t be matched up with post any girl. You two are a match made in heaven” she contented r

Chapter 34

Take Her Away

I **cast** her another look. That “any girl” she was referring to was her own daughter.

After I was done with my meal, I went upstairs to **clear** my head by playing the cello, I was fully immersed in the activity until my phone started ringing

It was from Ivan.

I picked up, slightly confused, and asked, “Dr. World?”

“I’m at Willow Garden. Come over right now.” He went straight to the point.

“What for?” I was slightly puzzled.

Willow Garden was a recreational club for the elites of Alton City to unwind and relax. It was extremely high-class, and they would even check your net worth when you signed up for a membership card.

If my memory served, Rowan was also one of the club’s **major** shareholders. If **he** had any business meetings with clients, he would bring them there to unwind.

Ivan, Chester, and Jasper were all frequent guests. However, I had never been there before. Hence, it was strange for **Ivan** to ask me to do so out of the blue.

He hung up without any further explanation.

This guy was exactly like **Rowan—they had a** lack for annoying people!

Despite everything, Ivan would never have asked to meet up if there wasn’t something going on. So, I got ready **in a** flash and left the house.

Half an hour later, I was brought to a room filled with a handful of people.

I caught sight of Jean immediately. She looked incredibly tired up. Her hands were on her waist and she was fuming.

In front of her, Chester was trembling as he hid behind Jasper.

Ivan pointed at **Jean and** said, “Your friend beat someone up. Take her home with you.

My confusion peaked. “What’s going on?”

“Hey! You little shit. Play that recording **again.**” She pointed at Chester and ordered.

Chester was a sad and pitiful man. He was the Lloyd family’s youngest son. Growing up in a sheltered environment, he didn’t have much exposure to the outside world. So, Jean was currently scaring him to death.

“I don’t want to...” He uttered the most damned thing with the smallest voice.

She immediately rushed forward to beat him up.

I immediately held her back. “Calm down, What on earth happened?*

Jean took a deep breath and recomposed herself before telling me the entire story.

eto Rowan on how to get

It turned out that she was getting a facial spa at Willow Garden when she ended up running into Chester. He was sending a voice message to with younger women.

“Rowan didn’t come? My attention had been redirected.

“He was slightly busy at the office, so he sat this one out,” Jasper replied.

He then turned to look at Chester sympathetically, “How about you get on your lovers and beg for her forgiveness? I don’t want to get beaten up either,”

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Chapter 35 Let’s Go Together

Jean **was** a very good fighter. If Chester and Jasper insisted on not hitting women, they would’ve probably been half-beaten to death.

lined to hold her back. “There’s no point arguing further, Jean. Let’s just go”

She scoffed before shooting Chester a glare. “You’d better watch **out**, Chester Lawson! If I ever catch you again, I’ll make you pay for your actions!”

Touched by her actions, I proceeded to foot the bill for the rest of her spending

jean **was a** party animal and often stayed up late, but she was also equally obsessed with skincare. I told her that a proper sleep schedule would guarantee her good skin, but she only **laughed** in response

“Sometimes, messed up hormones make our skin condition worse. We’re already approaching our gos, Ivory! Our life is Important!”

Yesterday’s incident replayed in my head and my face grew hot

She had a point. On my way out today, my mood was actually better than usual

*I met a semi-

famous celebrity recently, and he’s **so** hot. I heard he has a few projects coming up, so he’ll probably blow up in the future. Do you want me to introduce you to him? When I fell silent, she’d started playing matchmaker on her own again

“I’m still married, you know,” I reminded her with a sigh

“Isn’t a divorce bound to happen sooner or later? You might as well get **a** backup before then!” She exclaimed nonchalantly.

I knew it was just a matter of time, but I had my **standards**. Benjamin was a great example. A man with his status would balance things out perfectly. If not, I'd rather not cause myself any trouble.

"Right, Natalie **asked** to go on a spontaneous holiday after her engagement this weekend, Liv and I had already said yes—are you going?" she asked **again**.

"Where to?"

"The Mandan Islands, tentatively. Sonny Islands doesn't sound too bad either. We're just going for couple of days to unwind,"

Jean **was** quite keen on a vacation. She immediately followed up with a warning. "Since you never went on a honeymoon with Rowan, think of **this as a** form of compensation for yourself!"

I was slightly convinced. Who wouldn't enjoy a nice trip with her closest friends?

A little more time to pursue Ashley in a proper

Besides, after the incident that **shouldn't** have taken place, I'd like to get away for a while. This would've also offered him ample (

With his capabilities, three days should've been more than enough time,

"okay then!" agreed swiftly.

After our discussions about the trip, **Jean** tried to get me to go bar-hopping with her. I checked the time and gave her a flat rejection—it was time for me to go home and sleep. The all-nighter yesterday was already detrimental to my health. I needed to take care of my body.

Upon leaving **Willow** Garden,

I grumbled about my rejection **as** she got into her car. After she left, I also made my way toward my own vehicle.

That's just got into the driver's seat when a hand reached out to hold the **door** open

It **was** sudden. "We need to talk."

"You scared me!" I patted my chest in shock. "Get in—let's talk in the car"

He hopped **in** without another word. Once he was seated, he immediately cut to the chase. "The picture that you sent me the other day—did you take that?!"

That was days ago. Why **was** he only **asking** about it now?

"Yeah," I admitted. "I saw it with my own eyes and took it **myself**. Why do you ask?"

"Why did you send it to me?" He turned to look at me.

!!...No reason. I just wanted to show you." I gave him a brief response after a moment of contemplation.

"Show me what?" He asked lightly.

"I wanted to

to show you your good friend's interactions with his one true love is that answer good enough for you?" At times, talking to him felt suffocating. He was as blunt as Rowan, but his **demeanor** was even more solemn than the latter

When I worked with him in my past life, he was completely devoted to Ashley. He didn't have the mood to **talk** about other topics, so I never felt the way I currently did. He felt like **a** professor, while I was a guilty student.

However, my answer **was** actually genuine. In the future, Iren would end up falling in love with Ashley. I **just** wanted to show him how her relationship with Rowan was progressing.

His gaze shifted slightly. He was looking at me like I'd lost my mind. Subsequently, he left without another word.

Once he got out of the car, I stepped on the **gas and** sped off. I checked my rearview mirror only to find him in the **same** spot, staring after me

In the following days, I was relatively occupied. I needed to help **Natalla** pick a venue and finalize the details of her engagement party. As I was the only one who was **married**, she claimed that I had some form of experience on the matter,

What experience did I have? I didn't even have an engagement party. I just skipped straight to the marriage part.

In the end, she **chose** to host her party at the Vinestone Hotel. She hired a wedding **planner** to handle the preparations. Should the event go well, she even promised dinner invitations to the wedding

The night before Matalle's engagement, Rowan got home I was having dinner,

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He seemed a bit tired. After carelessly undoing his tie, he chucked it on the sofa and fetched himself a **glass** of water.

I watched him as he ate. How strange. **Was** it that tiring to chase after Ashley these **days**?

"Good evening, Mr. Payne," one of the household staff members greeted him.

He cast her a brief glance and didn't respond. Then, he headed straight to the dining table and took a seat. Upon noticing this, **Ella** promptly laid down an extra set of cutlery.

I continued my meal without lifting my head. It felt awkward. Rowan and I should've kept our distance until we had gotten divorced. Now **that** we've been in bed with each other, it felt weird to even see him around.

He didn't even get to eat before his phone started ringing. It was his father.

"I heard the meeting with **Taylor** Group

went well?" George's voice rang out **from** the other end.

"We signed the contract. Everything went well," The call was on speakerphone. Rowan answered as he ate.

"That's great news. **You** must be exhausted from your business trip. Get some rest." George sounded extremely happy. He **gave** Rowan a few compliments and told him to rest up before hanging up the phone.

I was relatively surprised. He **was** on a business trip? I'd thought he was spending time with Ashley.

He felt my eyes on him and looked up. There **was** a shred of indifference in his eyes. "**Why are** you staring at me?"

"**No** reason." I lowered my head once again.

He continued, "Natalie invited me to her engagement party as well. Let's just go together."

I couldn't help but stare at him again. "**You** want to go?"

Our social circles **had always** been mutually exclusive. Everyone was more or less in the same social class, so we were all acquainted with each other. However, one had rarely interacted with the other.

Natalie **had** probably extended an invitation to him because her parents asked her **to**. It was all a part of networking. They might end up working together in future business endeavors, after all. An **invite** must be sent regardless.

I didn't expect him to attend though. He didn't in the previous life. He only **asked** someone to bring a gift in his stead.

"Is there a problem? It looked like I didn't want him there, so he seemed to be upset with my reaction.

"No problem at all!" I shook my head before getting up. "I'm done with dinner. I'll go **was** h up and head to bed."

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

Chapter 36 She's Different

After a refreshing shower, I **was** going through my skincare routine when Rowan barged into the room.

How odd. Why had he been barging into my room so often since my rebirth?

He walked toward my dressing table. Then, he **casually** leaned against the table and asked in a calm voice, "why don't you want me **at** the engagement **party**?"

His legs were so long, they surpassed the height of my desk

"I never said that. You're being too sensitive," I replied resignedly.

"sit because Ivan will be there?" He **narrowed his eyes**, and his eyebrows knitted together. Whenever he had **this** expression on his face, it meant that his **mood** was rapidly getting worse.

My head was starting to hurt. What was he talking about? So what if Evan was going?

"What are you trying to say, Rowan? Just tell me. **When** have we ever beaten around the bush with each other?" I **tapped** on my face mask to help it adhere to my face. Then, I took out a massaging device to improve absorption,

You can do as you please with other men, but it can't be someone I'm close to Rowan's demeanor was cold **and his voice grew deeper. "I've told you that—or have you forgotten so soon?!"

I was frustrated and speechless. "Who told you that I'm involved with hwan?"

He **stared at** me without a response.

"Was It Chester?" I took a guess.

He already had his suspicions when I asked Ivan to get me some intimate **products**. On top of that, Chester must've told **him about** the **incident at** Willow Garden.

Rowan had always been an emotionally reserved man. Anything remotely out-of-the-ordinary would've caught his attention. Despite being relatively young, he **was just** as cunning as the veterans in the business world. In fact, he might even be a better businessman than most of them.

Previously, aside from our appearances and our names, Ivan and I knew nothing about each other.

"Explain" He straightened himself and casually placed his hands in his pockets. **Then**, he stared down at me condescendingly.

"What is there to explain? We barely know each other." I couldn't care to offer him **an** explanation.

"How does he have your number then?" He was very displeased with my dismissive attitude. A glint of fury flashed across **his** handsome face,

"Don't test my patience, Ivory!" he snapped.

I was taken **aback** by his abrupt outburst. I lifted my head **and** stared at him. "Are you trying to **pick** a fight, Rowan? Let me make this clear—Ivan was the one who contacted me first. Why **don't** you go ask him instead?"

I for it before, but he never gave it to me.

He was the one who sent me the photo with Benjamin. If not, I wouldn't even have his number in the first place. I'd asked for it.

Rowan immediately picked up his phone to make the call.

That didn't seem like **a** good idea. Ivan York was **also a** tricky man. What if he had sent Rowan the picture of me and Benjamin halfway through his questioning? How was I supposed

posed to explain that? Since Rowan probably knew who Ashley's boyfriend was, he would've realized that I was acquainted with him too.

I didn't want to lose my advantage so soon. I wasn't planning on saying anything until his relationship with Ashley had improved further.

"Rowan!" I yelled after him. Then, I took off my face mask and rushed over to take his phone from him. "How could you do this? Why would I sleep with you if I was involved with Ivan?"

He seemed to be stunned speechless by my response. As his arm was lifted upward, I couldn't manage to reach **his** phone at all.

"What's stopping you from sleeping with both of us at the same time?" he spat emotionally. "Who knows what happened while I was away on my business trip." Despite being relatively open-minded about sexual relationships, I couldn't stand his tale of accusations.

I was just about to offer a retort when the call connected.

"Hello?" Tran's voice rang out.

I told Ivan, "Sorry, I called **you** on accident."

I was angry and frustrated. Tears began uncontrollably welling up in my eyes. I felt incredibly dejected. Rowan's eyes were on me as he picked up the phone. Upon realizing that I was in tears, he froze. Then, he talked. After he ended the call, I felt relieved. Then, I climbed under the blankets on my bed. I didn't want to talk to him. He remained silent. I heard him walk toward the bathroom before the sound of running water followed shortly after. **He** couldn't be thinking of spending the night here. My head was all over the place. If I were being honest, I didn't want **to** share a bed with him. It could complicate things, and I was afraid it would weaken my resolve.

Countless netizens were joking about wanting to help his mistress with postpartum recovery. Although it was **all** just talk, I actually felt like sleeping with him was a win for the woman instead. His body was in great shape, and he was extremely good-looking. It was easy to feel attracted to him.

I had a crush on him for ten years. After being reborn, I'd come to my senses. However, he **had** to treat me with the same indifference as he did in my previous life. Otherwise, I was afraid I might end up giving in.

A moment later, my worries came true—Rowan actually lay down next to me.

"Are you asleep, Roman?" asked unprompted.

“No. What’s wrong?” He asked calmly.

Chuptele She’s Different

“I just wanted to talk to you.” I turned to face him. He was lying on his back with one hand cushioning his head. His eyes were shut.

I was slightly swayed by his flawless side profile, but reason kept me in check.

He hummed in response and waited for me to continue.

I thought about it briefly before asking, “Have you been **pursuing** a young woman recently?”

He opened his eyes and tilted his **head** slightly **toward** me. His gaze was unreadable.”

“What are you trying to say?”

“Nothing. I just overheard your conversation with your friends the other day. I only wanted to know if you’re serious about this girl, or is she like the women you’ve been with?” I asked inquisitively. I’ve already made peace with the matter.

“**She’s** different.” His answer was brief, but it felt genuine.

I paused as his gaze softened. He **was** probably thinking of Ashley.

“Doesn’t she have a boyfriend, though? I followed up with another question.

His expression immediately soured. “Not if they breakup.” He scoffed.

How uncouth.

I felt sorry for Benjamin for a brief moment. I wonder if he has had issues with Ashley during this time period.

“That is true. I hope everything goes well for you,” I said dryly. **Then**, I turned away from him once **again** and tried to sleep.

I was contemplating if I should contact Benjamin more frequently after this. This was the perfect chance for me to be there for him. If Rowan and Ashley’s relationship were to improve, it would’ve only been **fair** for ours to do the same.

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

Chapter 37 Your Husband and His Scandals

The night passed peacefully.

After **our** conversation last night, Rowan hadn't said a single word to me.

When the alarm went off, I woke up groggily only to find that he was already up. He donned a suit and was currently adjusting his tie.

He was quite relentless. He was very driven and incredibly self-**disciplined**. I hardly catch him sleeping in. He always got things done in the shortest amount of time possible.

He eyed him. He had a relatively large frame but had refined facial features. On top of being tall, his shoulders were broader than most as well. He was incredibly fit as well. Although his clothes made him look lean, he actually had a **muscular physique**.

He was chistic.

"What are you staring at me for? Shouldn't you hurry up and get **changed**?" He shot me a glance after adjusting his tie.

"Right." I slipped into the closet and picked out a white, off-the-shoulder dress. The dress had a fitted bodice but the ends were flared. It was elegant but not too extravagant.

After matching it with a pair of nude, **high-heeled** sandals, I went over to the dressing table to apply my makeup. Rowan had already left the bedroom.

It was Natalie's big day. I **didn't** need to look too fancy, so I opted for a light makeup look.

When I headed downstairs, Ella had already prepared breakfast. Rowan was already sitting on his coffee and munching on **some** eggs.

"Good morning, Mrs. **Payne**," she said in greeting.

"We'll be **at a** friend's engagement party today, Ella. We won't be back for lunch, so you don't need to prepare anything for us," I informed her as I took a seat.

"Yes, Mrs. Payne."

I was only partially done with my meal when Rowan had already finished his.

After wiping his mouth, he got up and said, "I **wait** for you in the car."

“Sure,” I replied. Teouldn’t help but **have** my doubts about his actions—we were even taking the same car.

Five minutes later, I hastily made my way to his car and we departed to Vinestone Hotel . The party wasn’t scheduled to start until noon. However, as Natalie’s close friend, I had to be there **at** an earlier time. With that being said, I had no idea why Rowan was acting so eager.

Jean and Olivia reached the venue around the same time as we did, Our routes were matching. We all had the same idea. This way, Natalie’s red dress would undoubtedly stand out.

At the sight of me and Rowan showing up together, Jean looked as if she’d seen a ghost. She looked **shocked** before her expression shifted into a mixture **of** confusion and disbelief.

Olivia was slightly more composed, but her eyes also widened dramatically.

“I’ll head up first then.” As soon as Rowan saw Jean, his demeanor turned slightly cold. They were barely acquainted with each other in the first place. After she questioned him at the **bar** and beat up Chester at Willow Garden, their relationship soured even more.

“Alright.” I nodded. The engagement party was held at an event hall on the eighth floor. He just needed to **head** straight up.

Immediately after he left, Jean **dashed** forward and violently shook me by my shoulders , “What are you doing, hy?”

Olivia even blurted out a foreign expression to express her disbelief

I was incredibly amused. After shaking off Jean’s hands, I explained, “The Reed Camilly invited Rowan too. We can’t possibly come in separate car when we’re still married right?”

If that happened and word got out to our parents, it would’ve been an incommence. We couldn’t have done so unless we were **being** open about our divorce

Tean scoffed. “You’d better not be seduced by his devilish looks,”

When Rowan got out of the vehicle, he looked absolutely stumming. Every person within the vicinity couldn’t help but stare at him...

When I first met the man at 17 years old, he was already incredibly attractive despite having just gone through puberty. Even as he stood before me then, his good looks were **out** of this world.

“Of course. Just keep reminding me,” I replied with a smile.

“you bet I will! Jean linked arms with me and Olivia before we collectively walked into the hotel lobby. Then, we took the elevator up to the hall.

An engagement party differed from a wedding reception. The scale of the event was smaller, and **there** were no particular formalities or ceremonies. It was basically just a reunion with friends, family members, **and** some important people.

There were eight tables in the hall. The hotel staff were busy with decorations. A celebratory message of Natalie and Kaden’s engagement was displayed on a huge

screen. Red hearts were scattered in the background.

“You’re here!” Upon noticing our arrival, Natalie, who was holding Kaden’s arm, approached us gleefully.

She was wearing the red dress that she picked out, and her hair was in an updo. She looked elegant **and** gorgeous.

Jean couldn’t help but sigh at the sight of how blissful she looked. “You reek of love!

“What’s stopping you from getting a boyfriend of your own?” Natalie tapped her ass cheekily. “With that figure of yours, men should be throwing themselves at your feet.

The latter tilted her head upwards in mock arrogance. “Those men aren’t **worthy**. Besides, why limit yourself to one single EVY?H

Haggled and I sat down in my seat. Upon scanning the room, I realized that quite a handful of the guests had already arrived. They weren’t just here for the

engagement, they were here to network, as well. Hell, they got to the venue a bit earlier so they had ample time to do so..

To my surprise, Ben, Chester, and Jasper were also present. They were currently seated with Rowan and were chatting away.

“Mi. Fayne. How wonderful to see you here today.” A woman in a black sequin dress had approached Rowan. She bent down next to him and flashed him a seductive smile. “It’s been a while since **we** last saw each other.

Rowan took one look at her before throwing

The woman

en, he asked quizzically, who are you?

tly stunned by his question.

“This is Wanda Holt, Rowan You even invested in her movie once! Chester explained hastily

How subtle of him. Wasn't she just another woman Rowan was involved in a scandal with?

At the mention of her name

he frowned at his race. He shot her a casual smile before responding, “oh. It has been a while.”

“We should have dinner sometime she couldn't hold her composure any longer. After flashing him a brief smile, she hurriedly excused herself

Jean was also watching the situation unfold. She shook her head and said, “Look at that husband of yours. I don't know how you put up with that for five long years. I would've thrown in the towel ages ago!”

“Yeah. So what if he looks handsome? He doesn't respect his manager at all!” Olivia agreed.

At the sound of our voices. Rowan looked our way. After a brief moment of eye contact, we both looked away simultaneously.

“That's enough. We shouldn't be talking about my problems on Nat's

engagement day.” I craned my neck and looked around. “Hey Nat, where are your parents and

Kaden was missing too.

She peered around to check. “My parents are giving my relatives a lift. Kaden's parents got here ages ago. They were here a while ago.

Where did they go? Let me go take a look”

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

“Go ahead.” I waved her off

Chapter 38 Drinking Alone

After Natalie left, Jean, Olivia, and I spent the next half an hour chatting. Then, we saw Kaden and his parents come in.

Kadenew we were close to Natalie, so he brought his parents over to **say** hi. “Ivory, Jean, Olivia, you’re here,” he said.

“**Of** course, we’re here. Nat’s engagement is a big **deal**,” ran replied.

I looked at Kaden’s parents. His **dad** greeted us with a smile, but his mom looked unhappy. It was strange to see a sour face on such a happy day,

Just then, Natalie came over with her parents

“Mr. and Mrs Reed.” Kaden greeted them, smiling at Natalie.

Natalie **led** back at him.

Jean, Olivia, and I also greeted them. We were familiar with Natalie’s parents, but it was our first time meeting Kaden’s parents.

Natalie had probably only met them a couple of times **at** most. We heard that they lived in their hometown, which was quite a distance **away**.

After exchanging greetings, Natalie and Kaden took their parents to chat, I sighed and said, “I have a feeling Natalie’s future mother-in-law won’t be easy to deal

Wil

“She looks mean

Nat will

will regret it,” Jean said.

Jean never supported Nat’s marriage because Kaden’s career wasn’t going well. Their wedding might not even be up to her **standards**. Jean couldn’t understand why Natalie **was** doing this.

Olivia reminded softly. “**This** is Nat’s engagement party. Say something nice.”

Jean and I exchanged a helpless look. Marriages that weren’t well-matched often had problems.

noon, the banquet began. Jean, Olivia, and I enjoyed our meal. Rowan and his group sat at another table. He didn’t come over to our table, but I didn’t mind **at all**.

After the **party**, Olivia rushed back to work, and Jean got **a** call from home asking her to **return** for something. I stayed a bit longer to chat with others **and said** goodbye to Natalie before leaving.

Before

left, I went to the bathroom. When I came out, I saw Rowan in the hallway with Ashley, who was in her Vinestone Hotel uniform.

“If you need money, **tell me**. This job isn’t right for you,” Rowan said, looking at Ashley.

I couldn’t bear him clearly, so I paid closer attention to the conversation.

“Mr. Payne, I’ve already turned you down. We’re from different worlds. We’re not **suitable**. I already have a boyfriend. Please don’t show up like this again,” Ashley replied, her voice as clear and pleasant as ever.

“I told you, I don’t take no for an answer,” Rowan’s voice turned cold. “I’ve given you many chances. Don’t test my patience.”

I shook my head. He would scare her.

Soon enough, Ashley’s voice trembled with fear. “What do you want? Allow I can’t mess with you, but I can’t in away!”

“Naive. Where do you think you can run to?” Rowan laughed, seemingly **amused** by her words, finding them entertaining

Ashley tried to speak, but Rowan cut her off, “You have one week to break up with him. If not, face the consequences.” With that, Rowan turned and walked away.

Ashley stood there, her shoulders heaving in silent sobs. I didn’t comfort her and left another way.

Downstairs, Rowan was already waiting in the car. I got in the car, maintaining my composure. “Let’s **go** home.”

My heart looked calm on the surface, but ripples were spreading beneath. I realized I wasn’t truly at peace. In my last life, I only saw Rowan’s crazy love for Ashley but never saw their little moments. Now, I’d seen some.

I couldn’t deny it, I felt a bit jealous, a familiar feeling of envy stirring inside me.

“Pull over. I have something to do. I’m not going **back**,” I suddenly said

“Where are you going?” Rowan asked.

“Let’s not get into each other’s private matters,” I replied coldly, unbuckling my seatbelt.

Rowan gave **me** a cold look, then pulled over. “Get out.”

I **got** out and walked onto the sidewalk without looking back Rowan's car sped away without hesitation

If it had been Ashley getting out in a huff, he wouldn't leave. No, he wouldn't even let her get out

I patted my head. Why **was I** comparing myself to Ashley? In Rowan's **heart**, I wasn't in the same league as her.

I hailed a cab and tiredly **said**, "Take me to the nearest bar."

Tem minutes later, I arrived at a bar. It was **quiet** in the afternoon I **found a** spot alone, ordered **a** few bottles, and drank by myself.

I **suddenly** remembered the handsome guy Jean introduced me to, I had refused to take his contact info, Now, I really needed someone to drink with, so I decided to call Jean and get his number.

"Ivory?" **just** as I picked up my phone, Benjamin appeared in front of me, wearing a bartender's uniform.

"Benjamin?" I was surprised. "Are you working here part-time?"

Benjamin smiled and nodded. "Yes, school's on break"

Chapter 3 Drinking Alone

I thought for a moment. Oh, it was semester break. As someone who neither worked nor went to school, I hadn't noticed.

No wonder Ashley was working at Vinestone Hotel too. The couple had taken up part-time jobs together.

I had to admit that Benjamin looked handsome in his black-and-white vest and shirt. He looked more like a man and less like a student, though **his** eyes were still **clear** and pure.

"Are **you** busy? If not, sit and have a drink with me." I pointed to the seat next to me.

"**It's** not busy now. The bar gets crowded in the evening." Benjamin sat down and glanced at the drinks. "Ivory, are you feeling down? Why are you drinking alone?" I poured him a drink and gave him a bitter smile. "Yeah, feeling down. I'm about to divorce my husband."

Benjamin was shocked. “Why?”

I looked at him and said playfully, “Guess.”

Benjamin **stayed** silent, probably afraid of guessing right and hurting me. Seeing his worried face, I felt a bit better. What a sweet guy, much better than Rowan “He fell for someone else. I’ll probably get a hefty sum in the divorce settlement and become a divorcee.”

I said with a smile, though it was a sad situation. “Ivory, you’re so great. How could he fall for someone else...” Benjamin seemed confused.

I sighed. “Some like expensive seafood, others prefer simple home-cooked meals. It’s normal.”

Benjamin tried to comfort me. “Ivory, he’ll regret it. One day he’ll see you’re the best.”

I couldn’t help but chuckle. I wanted to tell Benjamin that Rowan fell for **his** girlfriend. He wouldn’t regret it. He would love her more and more. Their love was

intense.

“Maybe. Who knows?” I raised my glass. “Let’s not talk about sad things. Let’s drink”

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

Chapter 39 Hard To Explain

Bergamini was **at** work, so he couldn’t drink much. I didn’t force him. We just chatted casually.

He said, “Ivory, remember when you lent me 20 thousand dollars? Well, I still **have** 8,000 of it left. Let me pay you back now. I’ll earn the rest from part-time jobs. My internship starts next semester. Once I find a good company, I should be able to pay you back quickly.”

“Your Internship is coming up?” I was surprised.

“yeah, I graduate next June. Ash will be a senior next year too.” Benjamin reflected on how quickly time **dies**. “Time goes by so quickly,”

I stayed silent. It felt like yesterday I was still in school, pretending to run into Rowan. Now, I was almost 30.

Just **then**, I saw three people approaching us. I immediately recognized Ivan, Chester, and Jasper were with him. Damn date. Why were they **also** at this bar?

“Benjamin, you should get back to work,” I quickly said.

“Sure, Ivory. If you need anything, just call me.” Benjamin got up and left.

Ivan watched Benjamin leave, then turned his gaze back to me.

Chester saw me and hesitated before deciding how to greet me. He and Jasper exchanged knowing glances, looking like two monkeys.

Chester and Jasper didn't know Benjamin, probably thinking I was calling the bartender over for a drink

Ivan **sat down** next to me, crossing **his long** legs casually, his sharp gaze examining me.

“Ivan, this spot isn't great. Let's **sit** over there,” Chester suggested, uneasy about sitting with me. He was the one who had given Rowan tips on pursuing Ashley

“you guys go ahead. I'll join you shortly,” Ivan replied coolly.

“Alright” Chester and Jasper quickly found the farthest table from me

I found it amusing. Did they think I would do something to them?

“Another coincidence?” Ivan said, referring to me and Benjamin sitting together.

“**Yeah**, it really is.” I didn't budge, meeting his gaze steadily.

“Where's Rowan?” Ivan glanced **around**, “I thought you left in his car?”

I shrugged. “I saw him run into his true love at the **hotel**. My mood was ruined, so I **got** out of his car and came here to drink. Then I into her boyfriend. Isn't that coincidence?”

Ivan's face lit up. “So, that girl Ashley was at Vinestone Hotel?”

I flashed a bright smile, “yes. Why? Are you interested in her?”

Ivan let out a mocking snicker. “No, you're overthinking ”

When would he be interested, then? I got tired of waiting

But I really had something to discuss with Ivan. I poured Ivan a glass of wine. After contemplating for a moment, I spoke, “Ivan, please don't tell anyone especially Rowan, that I know Ashley and Benjamin.”

I forgot to emphasize this last time. Rowan's phone call last night made me nervous. It wasn't time to reveal my cards yet. I didn't want things to spiral out of control.

“the asks why we’re close, how do I explain?” Ivan anticipated the issue. He knew town well,

well, aren’t you a doctor? What’s your specialty?” asked

“Cardiology,” Ivan answered

“Oh! Do, York, my stomach hurts. I might have gastritis. Please treat me!” I clutched my stomach, putting on

adran

dramatic act for a few seconds.

I saw Ivan’s usually calm face darken, like he was possessed by a demon. With a frown, he **said**, “Your illness isn’t in my field.”

“When Benjamin was in the hospital, it wasn’t a heart **issue** either, and you still helped him,” Largued. “Doctors save lives. How can you pick and choose patients? You lack medical ethics”

“Ivory, are you an idiot?” Ivan was speechless.

“If we don’t have a reason to meet, how will you explain to Rowan? Fine, I have stomach pain, you can’t treat that. But say I have an arrhythmia, and you treated me. You’re an **adult**, Can’t you tell a **white** lie? I was getting angry. I’ve clearly didn’t want to help me.

Chester and Jasper were watching. Emboldened by the **alcohol**, I got **up** and sat down next to Ivan, looping my arm through his.

“If you don’t help me, I’ll sit on your lap right now. You won’t be able to explain that away, will you?”*

“Ivory, behave yourself!” Ivan angrily shook off my **hand** and stood up.

“We can just tell Rowan we’ve been secretly seeing each other. That’ll explain why we’re so close,” I said, my face burning from the alcohol “No ethics, no brains..

H

Ivan was clearly embarrassed and angry.

Angry, his cheeks reddening slightly **as** he glared at me for a moment, Realizing I was **drunk**, he turned and strode toward Chester and **Jasper**.

I slumped in my seat, feeling dizzy, I thought Ivan had left me, but a minute later, he came back. He grabbed my arm and helped me **out** of the bar.

I was too Hipsy to see Chester and Jasper's expressions, but they probably looked as shocked as Joan da when she saw me get out of Rowan's car

"ban, let me tell you.. "I me

, my mind drifting to memories from my past life. "Ashley isn't all that special. There are plenty of toch in, the sea

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Why are you so hung up on her? Look at me, I've moved on..."

These were the words I wanted to tell him before I died in my **past** life. Sacrificing so much for Ashley wasn't worth it.

Ivan wasn't like Roman. He was a good man and shouldn't have ended up the way he did because of a **plain** woman. Most importantly, he shouldn't **have** lost to

Ivan tamed to look at me, his eyes filled with complicated emotions, while I dozed off in the middle of my ramblings.

Little did I know that Iwan didn't **take** me back to Windwill Estate. Instead, he checked me into a hotel room. I only realized this the next morning when I awoke. My phone had a WhatsApp message from Fran. With one hand on my aching head, I rapped to open it.

Ivan tested me, "Come to the hospital and make an appointment with the cardiology department. Choose me."

[I was endused for a moment, then I agreed to help me keep this from Rowan. He even planned to go all out **with** the act.

I quickly replied "olay, I'm coming right now!"

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

Chapter 40 Try A Different Approach

Handled to the hospital and **got** an appointment with **Ivan**. After waiting in line for a long time, it was finally my turn

Ivan glanced at me and pointed to a nearby chair "sit for a while."

"Oh, okay." I obediently sat down while Ivan called in the next patient.

Ivan was serious at work. He wore a pair of gold-rimmed glasses, looking very intellectual

Listening to him talk with the parient, I became more convinced that a man like him didn't need to compete with Rowan for Ashley. He deserved a better woman. why **should** he be caught up in such a mess?

now

After about ten minutes, Ivan told me, "You can go now

I didn't **ask** questions and just left.

Then, I called Lee. Half an hour later, he came to pick me up from the hospital. Once I got in the **car**, he asked, "Mrs. Payne, are you feeling unwell!"

"My heart feels off," I replied casually.

"Did you get it checked?" Lee asked **again**.

"Probably just didn't rest well," I said, **evading** the question.

Lee nodded. "Mrs. **Payne**, you should take care and best more."

height was around 130 pounds. Even if I was a bit under,

I really did need to rest. Otherwise, the few pounds I gained might be lost again. My ideal weight for my height was should be over 100 pounds. Right now, I was only 90 pounds.

I sighed deeply, thinking that being underweight either meant had a flat chest or I was short

When I returned to Wandwill Estate, the first thing I did was ask Ella to make lunch. She looked a bit odd and quietly said, "Mrs. Payne, Mr. Payne is upstairs

"When did he come back?" I asked, surprised.

"He came back last night and asked why you weren't home. He **didn't** seem in a good mood," Ella replied.

"Okay, I got it," I waved her off and headed **upstairs**

um was filled with the

Rowan was working in the study. The desk was cluttered with documents, but he didn't mind. He could always find what he needed. The room smelled of smoke. He had a half-smoked cigarette in his hand.

The smoke made me cough Rowan looked at me from the documents, his gaze sharp and cold

“you remembered to come back?” Rowan asked coldly, stubbing out his cigarette.

“Why did you come back **last** night?” I was puzzled. Shouldn’t he be with Ashley?

“Where do you think I should **be**?” Rowan countered.

Anywhere but home seemed night. It was strange for him to stay here.

I shook my head. “I don’t know. You keep working. I’m going to take a shower and then we’ll eat.”

Before I could leave the study, Rowan spoke again, hint of jealousy in his voice, “Where did you sleep last night?”

His question made me feel guilty. Although nothing happened between Ivan **and me**, he did take me to a hotel when I was drunk and helped me keep some secrets from Rowan. We weren’t exactly innocent. At the very least, we were in the same **boat**.

At a hotel,” I mumbled.

“Alone?” Rowan’s eyes grew darker.

I nodded. Yes, I slept alone.

Rowan’s expression softened a bit. He went back to his work, ignoring me.

Sometimes I wondered if I was a saint sent to redeem Rowan. How **else** could I have endured everything for ten years?

After leaving the study, I quickly took a shower and went downstairs for dinner.

Rowan was already at the table, silently eating **his** meal. He didn’t wait for me.

I still wasn’t used to eating alone with him. The atmosphere was heavy and silent. We had nothing **to** say.

At that moment, Rowan’s phone rang. I glanced at it and couldn’t help but feel speechless.

Why **did** Ashley always call when Rowan and I were together? It hadn’t had a second life, I would **think** she had a surveillance camera on him. Ashley was speaking furiously on the phone. I could hear her voice but not the words.

Rowan pinched the bridge of his nose, his expression darkening “I told you, if you **need** money, **just** come to me. How much do you need? Tell me This took me back to my previous life when Rowan had asked me, “How much do **you** want to agree to a divorce? Tell me!”

The words were similar but had completely different meanings.

Ashley said something more and then hung up,

Rowan tossed his phone aside, clearly having lost his appetite. Ella **was** cleaning the table nearby, but I wasn't sure if she was paying attention to us.

“What did you do?” I asked curiously.

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“Eat your food,” Rowan snapped, glaring at me.

“Did you mess up her job?” I guessed, unfazed by his glare. “Is that why she called to complain and blame you?”

This was typical of Rowan. For a college girl like Ashley, he wouldn't **care** much about respect. That would come later if he truly tell **for** her and started caring from his heart.

Right now, he just saw Ashley as a rare trophy **he** couldn't get

Rowan's face darkened. “Do you want me to praise you for understanding me so well?”

There was no need for that. I forced a smile. “No, I just think your approach won't work I heard she's a top student at Alton University. Her **family might** not match yours, but she's better than most people in many ways. A girl like her has high self-esteem. She won't cling to you for money. Maybe you should try a different approach ”

“You seem eager for me to **win her** over,” Rowan said, his eyes narrowing

“I've told you before, I want a divorce. I mean it,” **I said**, looking him straight in **the** eye.

“Still 3%?” Rowan smiled.

“No, **5%**. “I held up five fingers, smiling brightly. “Deal?”

Rowan stared at me.” Though his smile didn't fade, **I could** sense his mockery. He turned away and continued eating a few more bites before getting up and leaving.

I muttered under my breath, wondering if he agreed or not.

After Rowan left, **Natalie's call** came through "Ivy, make sure you have everything ready today. We'll meet at the airport tomorrow. I've already bought **your** tickets."

"Okay, what time?" **I** asked.

"I sent it on WhatsApp. Check it, Natalie replied.

After hanging up the phone, I opened WhatsApp and checked the flight details. We had to be at the airport first thing in the morning.

A **little** getaway sounded good. After **finishing** my meal, I went upstairs to **pack** my things. I needed to get enough sleep that night because I **had** to wake up early

the next day.

I didn't tell Rowan or my parents about my trip to the Mardin Islands with Natalie and the others. The next morning, I went straight to the airport to meet them. After boarding and settling into her comfortable seat, Olivia prayed, "Oh, dear God, please bless me with a romantic encounter in the **Mardin** Islands."

Chapter 11 Sending (ets Again.