

Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 41-50

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Chapter 41 Sending Gifts Again

“Having a backup or two is better than nothing.” Jeanshared her **wisdom**.

olivia

sighed. “I’m swamped with work Where would find time for backups? I’m **lucky I haven’t had a** heart attack dealing with those **idiots at** the office.”

I put on my eye mask and tested while listening to their chatter, drifting off to sleep.

After **landing**, we took a seaplane to the island. The view from above was stunning.

“Wow, it’s so beautiful!” **Natalie exclaimed** excitedly as we **arrived at our** overwater vill a, **admiring** the breathtaking views of the turquoise sea and **sky**, “**I’ve** decided, **Kaden and I will** have our honeymoon here!”

“The Diving Queen is coming! Jean stripped down to her bilan and dove into the private outdoor pool.

Olivia and Natalie soon joined her, splashing around happily.

I relaxed on a lounge chair, checking my phone. Benjamin had transferred the 8,000 dollars back to me. After a moment’s hesitation, I accepted it. I didn’t need the money, but I respected his pride and didn’t want to seem dismissive.

Benjamin sent me a smiley **face**. “Ms. Sadles, Ill pay back the rest as soon as I can.”

I replied, “No rush”

Speaking of which, Ashley still owed **me** 2,000 dollars. I guessed she couldn’t pay me back anytime soon since Rowan **had** disrupted her part-time job. But I didn’t

“Ly, come down and join us! We’ll go eat later!” Natalie waved at me from the pool,

I got up and took off my coat, I didn’t go into the **pool**, but I went to the waterslide 1 slid **into** the water with joy. I swam **around** the pool and felt much better.

We hadn’t spent time together like this since graduating from college. I got married early and focused on my love life, so I turned down invitations from **my**

I made up my mind to make the most of this trip. I wanted to enjoy the fun and food, putting aside all the love–hate relationships back home.

We initially planned to stay for three or four days, but we got carried away and ended up extending our stay. We even traveled to the neighboring country for a quick tour

Jean expressed her desire to visit a **quaint** little town, so we decided to fly to the other side of the world on a whim. After touring the fairytale–like towns, we reluctantly booked our flights back home

This unplanned adventure was a welcome change for me, as we spent half a month simply enjoying ourselves. My skin had become several shades darker, which I felt was quite healthy.

“Mrs. Payne, you’re back!” Ella was happy to see me return.

“Ella, call the other maids over. I brought gifts for all of you,” I said with a smile.

Ella was **surprised and** quickly **gathered** the maids. I gave **each a** silk scarf **and a** bottle of perfume. Each gift **was** worth about 2,000 dollars.

“Thank you, Mrs. Payne!” They were thrilled and thanked me repeatedly

I smiled and went upstairs to take a shower and change my clothes. After that, I informed Lee to pick me up from Windwill Estate as I needed to make a trip to Curtino City.

Alton City and Curtino City were neighboring cities, but the drive still took several hours, Lee drove carefully while I rested in the back seat.

As we passed the outskirts of Alton City, I told Lee to stop the **car**. “Pull over here”

Not far away was the old neighborhood where Ashley lived. A crowd had gathered, shouting and waving banners with **slogans** like “Stop Greedy Developer” and “We **Won’t** Move!”.

I calculated the timing. In my previous life, **Rowan** started the factory’s redevelopment **and land** acquisition about six months after purchasing Ashley.

It seemed that some events were happening sooner than this time.

I glanced at the chemical factory gates in the distance. Behind that door, there was **an** **one**–thousand–square–foot factory that **once** put Alton City on the map. It supported many workers, including t

he surrounding economy, transforming a once-barren area into a bustling suburban zone.

Only Rowan dared to take on such a project. I turned my gaze away. "Let's go."

The car continued on its way. By the time evening rolled around, I arrived at my in-laws' house,

"Ivory? You didn't tell me you were coming!" **Paula**, wearing her reading glasses, was surprised and seemed delighted to see me.

*I suddenly felt like dropping by to see you and George. Is George still at work?" Amaid took the gifts I brought, except for a blue box that I chose **to** hold myself.

"He hasn't come home yet. He has a dinner meeting and will be back late. Have you eaten? Wait here. I'll get the cook to **prepare a** meal." Paula got up and went toward the kitchen

I sat on the sofa, admiring **the** vintage decor. My in-laws favored this traditional style, which **exuded** understated luxury.

Amaid brought me **a** cup of tea and respectfully **said**, "Mrs Payne, please have some tea."

I smiled and took a sip from the cup.

After a few minutes, Paula returned. She asked, "Why didn't Rowan come back with you?"

"No," I replied with a

"He's probably busy. I've been abroad **for** the past half month, having fun with some friends. I lost track of time **and** forgot to contact Rowan,"

Chapter 41 Sending Gifts Again

"I don't think you forgot. It's more like Rowan doesn't appreciate what he **has!**" Paula said with a hint of frustration.

I could never understand how such lovely people like my in-laws could produce a scumbag like Rowan!

I didn't respond to **Paula's** comment. There was no need to speak ill of Rowan in front of her. Instead, I handed her the blue box. "I bought this while I was abroad. I **hope** you like it."

Paula opened the box, and her eyes immediately lit up. She picked up the diamond necklace. It was exquisite and finely crafted, with a pendant featuring a detailed angel. The necklace was of high value.

Paula, a seasoned collector of fine jewelry, could instantly tell the quality of this piece.

"Ivory, is this necklace for **me**?" Paula asked, her eyes filled with delight.

"Yes, when I saw this necklace, I knew you would love it. So, I bought it as an early birthday gift for you," I said sincerely, trying to win Paula's favor.

"You're so thoughtful. It must have cost you a lot. Rowan knows I love jewelry but has never given me anything like this?" Paula sighed, seemingly a bit disappointed in her son's lack of attention to detail.

For my dad's birthday, Rowan **gave** him a bottle of wine that was just as expensive as the necklace.

Rowan was someone who weighed the pros and cons carefully. He knew his mother would always support him, regardless of whether or not he gave her gifts. However, his father-in-law was different, especially since he was in a position to help Rowan out. It was crucial to maintain a good relationship with him.

This diamond necklace brought Paula and me closer. We chatted pleasantly. I had never spent **such** close, one-on-one time with her before, let alone having such an enjoyable conversation.

Chapter 9: Hit The Wall On The Head

In the evening, when George returned from his business dinner and saw me there, he greeted me warmly. After we exchanged a few pleasantries, he **quickly** got down to business.

"Ivory, have you thought about working at the company?" George asked.

I was surprised by his question. George immediately went on to explain his thinking.

It turned out that George was pushing Rowan to

start the redevelopment of the chemical factory soon. He had heard that Rowan was pursuing another woman and thought that keeping Rowan busier might help.

The demolition and redevelopment of the chemical factory was a big project that required cooperation with government departments. Once it started, Rowan would have less **time** for an affair.

But that wasn't all. My in-laws believed I should work at Payne Corporation, preferably in the head office, to work alongside Rowan. They thought this would deter any woman who might try to get close to Rowan.

However, the reality was **that** Rowan was the unfaithful one. Besides, I had no work experience and my dream was to become a cellist.

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In my **past** life, my in-laws were fair and righteous but never this biased toward me. The emerald bangles and diamond necklace I gifted seemed to have worked

wonders.

"Very, we know you're not interested in business. If you were, you could join your family's company. There's no need to join Payne Corporation. But we both hope that you and Rowan can grow old together without external factors mining your marriage. Take your time and think **about** it. There's no rush to answer," Paula said gently.

I felt very touched. I worried that in the end, it wouldn't be Rowan couldn't leave, but my in-laws

"Alright. I'll think it over and give you an answer." I nodded.

After chatting for a while, it was getting late, so I went upstairs

to bed.

bed.

This was Rowan's room, which became our bedrooms after we got married. However, we **rarely** came back here and seldom slept together.

Rowan's room **was large**, with a private bathroom, a closet, a balcony, and even a gaming room. It had some things from his school days, including a photo album filled with pictures of him and his friends. Among them, **the** person who appeared the most was van

After flipping through the album for a while, I felt a bit melancholy and put it **back** where I found it. Rowan, who had been handsome since childhood, wouldn't end up with me in the end. The more I looked, the more it annoyed me.

With the warm hospitality of my in-laws and my own intention to get closer to them, I **stayed** at the Payne residence for four

r days before returning to Alton City. Before Elett, Paula packed the trunk of my car with tree-range chickens and ducks, as well as vegetables and fruits she had grown herself. She had a well-tended vegetable garden and poultry farm in her backyard. I took quite a lot with me this time.

“Lee, drive safely, Ivory, let me law when you get home,” Paula reminded me.

“okay, **Mom**, I’ll head back now.” I nodded.

“Don’t worry!” Lee assured her seriously. “I’ll drive carefully!”

With Paula watching from the driveway, Lee **started** the car and drove away. We should be home by lunchtime, but I wasn’t sure if Ella **had** prepared anything since she didn’t know when I would be back

After a nap on the way back, I heard Lee **saying**, “Mrs Payne, we’ve arrived.”

I rubbed my eyes, stretched my arms out, and instructed, “Bring everything from the trunk inside.”

With that, I got out of the car first. Several gardeners were trimming the plants in the **yard**. They greeted me, **and** among them was Ella. She quickly came over Mrs. Payne, you’re backd I’ll go and prepare lunch right away!”

“Wait **a** minute, Ella,” I stopped her “My mother-in-law gave me some chickens. You can make a stew with the vegetables.”

“Okay, Mrs. Payne,” Ella took one of the chickens from Lee and went to prepare it

Looking at the remaining two chickens and two ducks, I wasn’t sure what to do. I instructed the **maid** to set up an area in the backyard for them. I couldn’t waste Paula’s thoughtful gift.

Ella made a chicken stew with mushrooms. The creamy soup glistened in the porcelain bowl, with a thin layer of oil floating on top. Chunks of chicken and white mushrooms mixed together perfectly. The aroma of chicken was enhanced by the subtle, fresh scent of the mushrooms, making the dish look incredibly appetizing.

I ladled a bowl of soup, blew on it, and sipped it. “Ella, this is delicious! Your daughter’s so lucky to have your cooling every **day!**” I said sincerely.

“My daughter has always been a picky eater. I’ve spent a lot of effort making sure she eats well, but she’s still skinny. She wants to look pretty, but doesn’t eat much. So, she can’t **gain** weight,” Ella said with loving eyes.

Ashley was indeed quite thin but much healthier looking than ME.

I smiled and said, “Being slim is good. Girls look prettier when they’re slim. Then they don’t have trouble finding boyfriends”

As we were chatting, Iwan appeared in the **living** room. He seemed a bit surprised to see me, then walked over and sat down. “Did you have lunch?”

Although I hadn’t told Rowan my itinerary, Jean posted daily updates on social media, complete with location tags, so Rowan must have seen them.

Drinking my soup, I replied slowly, “Yes, I had a great lunch, I ate well, slept well, and feel good every day.”

Iwan gave a barely audible nod. He rolled up his sleeves, revealing his strong forearms, then served me a bowl of soup. After tasting it, his expression softened slightly.

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Chapter 42 The Nat On The Hear

“Good, **isn’t** it?” I asked softly.

“Yes,” Rowan replied.

I added, “It’s made from the chickens your mom raised herself. It’s really delicious.”

Rowan looked at me, a hint of confusion **in his** eyes. “My mom came here?”

I shook my **head**. “No, I visited your parents and spent a few days there. She packed my trunk with chickens, ducks, and vegetables. Some are now in the **garden**.”

Rowan’s expression grew complicated, his eyes flashing with a hint of mockery, “Why the sudden visit?”

“I was bored,” I said, lowering my head to continue drinking my soup.

I couldn’t let Rowan see my ulterior motives. In my previous life, I loved him so much that I lost my mind, **treating** him as the center of my universe while neglecting the important people around him.

“So, you’re trying to turn 5% into 7% or 10% in the future?” Rowan hit the nail on the head.

His words startled me, causing me to choke on my soup and cough violently. Hearing me choke, Ella rushed back into the dining room and patted my back.

My goal was indeed to create obstacles for Rowan’s pursuit of Ashley. If I wanted a divorce in the future, my in-laws would strongly oppose it. If Rowan wanted me

to initiate the divorce or agree to one, I could use the opportunity to make demands, which he would likely agree to.

However, it wasn’t a must-do. It was just a casual, minor goal. But I never expected Rowan to guess it so easily. It made me feel panicked.

As I calmly calmed down, I noticed Rowan still watching me intently. I waved my hand, signaling for Ella to leave.

When Rowan and I were the only ones left in the living room, I answered calmly, “You’re overthinking it. Payne Corporation is so big. The shares you gave me

oughter me to live comfortably for the rest of my life.”

“Libat 10 Towan asked, then went back to eating,

stayed silent and continued eating. It seemed that saying those things revealed my true intentions.

After that, I headed to the music room to play the cello.

My thoughts drifted to how far Rowan might have gotten with Ashley over the past month. With the chemical factory project starting, Ashley would soon need Rowan’s help.

My distracted mind caused me to miss several notes. I had to stop playing to calm myself. Luckily, Rowan had gone to the office after lunch, so by the time I went downstairs again, he was already gone.

I heaved a deep sigh of relief as my entire body sank into the soft sofa, closing my eyes for a moment of rest. My mind was preoccupied with a myriad of fragmented memories, many of which were comparisons between previous life and my current one.

Before I knew it, I drifted into a deep sleep on the couch. When Ella woke me up for dinner, it was already dark outside,

My head felt heavy, and I had little to no appetite. I ate a few bites and was about to go upstairs **to** rest when Benjamin called me.

“Ms. Saller, do you have time now? Can we meet?” Brolin’s voice sounded different as if he was suppressing anger and trying to stay **calm**

“I do. Where are you?” I asked.

“I’m at the north gate of Windwill Estate,” Benjamin replied, surprising me.

E—
I quickly changed my shoes and drove **to** the north gate, I saw Benjamin standing by the roadside, looking around for me. At first, **he** didn’t recognize me because I **was** in a different car.

I pulled up beside him and rolled down the window. “Benjamin, get in. We can talk about whatever is bothering you,”

H

Benjamin looked surprised, his gaze scanning the car before settling back on me. Instead of envy, his expression showed discomfort.

He nodded and got into the car. I asked, “What’s going on

Benjamin took out his phone and quickly said, “Ms. Sadler, I paid back the 2,000 dollars I showed you. Thank you.”

I was surprised. “How did you know?”

“She told me everything. She took the part-time job at Vinestone Hotel to pay you back, but someone deliberately made her lose that job,” Benjamin said, looking downcast.

“Was she fired?” I asked, feigning ignorance,

“No.” Benjamin raked his fingers through his hair in frustration. “It’s the **man** I told you about. Ash promised to cut ties with him, but they’re still in contact. He must be wealthy and powerful. Ash says she can’t avoid him **but** refuses to tell me who he is!”

My heart sank “How did you find **out**?”

*I accidentally saw their messages. I was so angry I forgot to note his phone number. Otherwise, I would have found out who he is!” Benjamin replied. Poor Benjamin, even if he found out, what could he do? Rowan was beyond his reach.

It seemed Benjamin and Ashley had fought **again**. He rushed over to pay off her debt, afraid that she might compromise with Rowan for money.

“**You** have to believe in Ashley, She’s not that kind of girl. If the man you mentioned is wealthy and powerful, **he’s** probably forcing his way into her life. What’s important now is not to fight with her. You need to **trust** her and understand her. If you don’t, you might push her into that man’s arms. Do you understand?” I advised Benjamin earnestly.

Benjamin stayed silent. He was probably **not** in the mood to listen. When someone was angry, prason often flew out of the window.

I drove to a nearby bar, intending to help **Benjamin** drown his sorrows. He drank silently, one glass after another. I didn’t say much, just drank less and kept myself more restrained than him.

Suddenly, I saw a familiar face. It was Haden, hand in hand with a young woman. He was with a couple of men, laughing and chatting as they found a spot to sit.

My brows furrowed, and I took out my phone to record a video:

A minute later, I tagged Natalie in our gals’ group chat. “Nat, I see Kaden out drinking.”

A few minutes later, Natalie replied, “I was just putting a face mask **on** Kaden is working late. If it’s just one meeting you for a drink, maybe. Are Jean and Liv

ENIT

Jean quickly sent a video of herself in a vibrant bar, “Ladies, I’m already out. Symphonica has two new hotties. I’m here for so

some eye candy!”

Olivia posted a picture of her cluttered desk, which made me feel sick, **and** replied, “It isn’t my family’s business, I would’ve quit already!”

With little interest in their idle chatter, I urged Natalie. “You come on over here.”

Then, I sent her my location.

Natalie replied with a yawning emoji. “Nah, I go out drinking, my face mask will be wasted. I need to have glowing skin for the wedding at the end of the year.

I was a bit shed. What in the world was going on?

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Chapter 43 (in

In my past life, Natalie and Kaden **had** a smooth path **to** marriage with no such drama. If I didn't know Benjamin, I wouldn't be here drinking with him and wouldn't have caught Kaden cheating.

Natalie and Kaden had always seemed like one of the happiest couples to me, even though I felt they might face issues due to their different backgrounds. However, in **my** past life, they were still together until I died, breaking through the class barriers.

I hesitated should I send the video to Natalie?

While I was still unsure what to do, Kaden and the woman interacted more intimately. She leaned on his shoulder, and they looked like a loving couple.

I discreetly **took** a few more photos. Even if I didn't send them to Natalie now, I could show her later.

Meanwhile, Benjamin had drunk too much and started to retch. I didn't want him to vomit on me, so I **tried** to help him to the restroom, but he was heavy.

Before I could even stand up, I fell back down, landing directly on Benjamin and causing him to let out a muffled groan of pain.

I really had a headache and struggled to get up. I intended to call a waiter for help, but another hand reached out to support Benjamin.

It was Ivan. Seeing him made me feel like I was hallucinating.

Why did Ivan always shove up i

when I was with Benjamin, just like Ashley always called Rowan when we were together?

"Well, he drank too much." I said awkwardly.

"Alright, let's talk in the car." Ivan responded nonchalantly.

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Chapter 4 Awakened

I followed behind Ivan and Benjamin and then got into Ivan's car. Benjamin and I sat in the back, with me trying to keep him steady.

Ian asked, "Do you know his address?"

I shook my head. "No Idea Let's just find a nearby hotel for him to rest in."

"Alright," Ivan responded, then drove to the nearest hotel. I felt a sense of unease throughout the ride, almost **as** if I were the one caught in an affair.

At the hotel, Ivan **used** his identification card to book a room for Benjamin.

After setting Benjamin in, I let out a deep sigh of relief. Then, I turned to Ivan and said, "Driver, could you please take me back to the bar? I left my car there"

"I'll just take you home. You've had too many drinks. It's not safe to drive," Ivan suggested, glancing at me with his **usual** stoic expression. He was actually quite handsome, Why didn't he like to smile?

No wonder he and Rowan were close friends. Both of them loved to keep a stern face

But **Ivan** was right. Driving after drinking wasn't a good idea. Instead of calling Lee to come pick me up, it was better to accept the ride and have Lee fetch my car in the morning

I responded gratefully, "Thank **you** so much!!"

As I got back into Ivan's **car**, I sat **in** the passenger seat. His driving was smooth, and I almost dozed off.

"Why did you go drinking with him?" Tansoddenly asked, jolting me into full awareness,

"He called me, saying he had a fight with his girlfriend, **and** asked me to meet him," I replied, rubbing my tired eyes.

"Do you think that was appropriate?" Ivan asked, a hint of disapproval in his tone.

I laughed. "What's inappropriate about it? My husband is pursuing his girlfriend, and I'm consoling him. Seems fair."

This clearly hit a nerve with **Ivan**. He abruptly pulled over, looking at me sternly. "Iworry, what happened to you? You used to love Rowan so much. I admired that about you. Now what? Are you so set on revenge that you'll drag yourself down too?"

I was stunned. Ivan had admired my devotion to Rowan?

Well, considering he had never been in a relationship, he probably saw my **decade**-long unrequited love as something quite remarkable.

“I told you, instead of trying to convince me, you should persuade Rowan to divorce me immediately. I won’t take a single cent from him. One more second of hesitation, and I’ll eat my hat!” I was getting agitated. Ivan had no idea what I had been through in my past life. It could stir up my deepest anger.

But it wasn’t enough. My fury wouldn’t subside, so I continued to vent like a machine gun, “you think my meeting Benjamin is inappropriate, but what about us spending time alone again and again? **And** you helped me hide things from Rowan. Is that appropriate?”

If we were to nitpick what **was** appropriate and what wasn’t, there would be no perfect person in this world.

Sure enough, Ivan’s expression grew colder. His dark eyes seemed to freeze over, clearly showing **his** anger.

Fueled by the alcohol, my courage surged, and my voice grew louder. “So what if you’re mad? We have to judge things by what’s right and wrong. I’m still his wife when the other woman shows up. Rowan was the one who did wrong first. You can’t blame me for being unfaithful later!”

“**what** am I blaming you for?” Ivan asked, visibly annoyed.

“You blame me for getting close to Benjamin. You blame me for no longer being Rowan’s doormat, Rowan has so many women out there. Does he really need me to be just another one? What? Does his family need a talking lapdog granted, letting out all the pent-up emotions I had been holding **back**”

Ivan was the only person who loved all my secrets, except for the part about me having a second life. In my **past** life, he was my ally, and he was still my ally in this

life. Our connection was strong.

Ivan was clearly angry with me. He took a deep breath, trying to calm himself, and said, “I’m not blaming you for any of this. If you’ve decided to divorce Rowan, I **think** it’s a good thing. But **you** need to be aware of who Rowan is

“If he finds out you’ve known Benjamin all along, and that you also know Ashley, and have been manipulating them, do you think he’ll let you go **easily**? If you want to leave him, don’t create problems for yourself in the future. Understand?”

This was the first time **Ivan** had said so much to me in one go. He looked at me with a mix of frustration and concern.

I paused, realizing he had a point. If I wanted to divorce Rowan, all the traps I was setting could barbed wire on me later if Rowan discovered them. I had been so focused **on** making Rowan's **pussult** of Ashley difficult that I forgot I was also creating pitfalls for myself.

"Have you really let go of Rowan, or are you still not clear about your own feelings? Are you doing all this to ensure a smooth divorce, or are you looking for reasons to keep **entangling** yourself with him? Ivan's words hit me hard, making me feel both hurt and ashamed.

I was silent, finding it difficult to answer those questions.

"I don't **want** to stay entangled, but Benjamin is the only person who makes me feel balanced. What should I do? I looked at Ivan, feeling lost.

For ten years, I had lost myself in my obsession with Rowan. Even in this new life, I struggled to find my footing. **Maybe** only after the divorce could I truly regain my sense of self

"Find something to do, keep **yourself** busy," **Ivan** suggested..

His advice reminded me of George's offer. Maybe I should consider working at Payne **Corporation**. It would give me something to focus on. If I divorced Rowan and got the shares, I would be better equipped to manage them.

I nodded thoughtfully, Ivan continued driving toward Windwill Estate.

When we arrived, I sincerely thanked Ivan and watched him leave before turning to go inside.

"Ah!" I barely took a few steps when Rowan suddenly appeared **out** of nowhere, nearly giving me a heart attack. I let out a startled scream

Rowan was dressed **in a black** shirt with his burgundy tie loosened, and his jacket hanging off his elbow. He smelled strongly of alcohol. He was staring at me with a distant expression

I expected him to question why Ivan had brought me home, but he said nothing and turned **toward** the house.

I followed him, watching his tall, broad back. His physique had grown more solid and attractive with age, making me long to hug him and feel his warmth, a wish that never came true.

If not for Ella's potent herbal concoction, Rowan and I would have remained completely platonic until the divorce.

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Chapter 45 Will You Blame Me

As we entered the house, Rowan instructed Ella to prepare a hangover remedy, Laided, "Ella, make some extra forme

"Yes, Mr. Payor," la replied respectfully

Kewan pulled of
histic and threw it on the couch, leaning **back** and closing his eyes to rest

My gaze dried from his jawline to his throat, until finally settling on his neck. Against the black collar of his shirt, his smooth skin stood out, and noted a love

bite on **his** neck

Was it from Ashley? No, that couldn't be. If Ashley had left that mark, it would mean she was starting to accept him. Howan would be over the moon, not retuning

home.

Imst have been from another woman, I reasoned internally,

This wasn't the first time something like this had happened. Although many times it was just for fun and didn't go all the way, it still made me uncomfortable. **had** grown accustomed to it, but worried whether Ashley could accept this lifestyle inthe future.

Then again, Rowan would likely choose to refuse casual **flings** for her sake. I mocked myself internally, wondering how I could be in unlucky. I hadn't even bern able to coax some kind of commitment from **him** in ten years.

"Forget it, I don't need the hangover remedy anymore," muttered in frustration and went upstairs,

As I was about **to** change clothes and take a shower, Rowan walked in

"What are you doing here?" rashed, shocked.

He didn't answer, just closed the **door** and locked **it**, then approached me 1 felt noeasy, sensing something was off.

Rowan was not just drunk. He seemed to be burning with desine **as** well.

He leaned down and kissed me slowly. His gaze was intense. I tried to push **him** away, but his hand tightened around my waist, making it impossible to escape.

My heart was racing, and I could hardly speak as I exclaimed angrily, "Row, what are you doing?" "Someone put something in my drink, Ivory..." Rowan's voice was low and **restrained**, almost a whisper. He leaned in, bringing his face close to mine as it touched **me**. "I'll be done soon."

He **then** picked me up and laid me on the bed. My mind went blank, unable to process what was happening.

Just as Rowan was undressing me completely, I heard Ella's hesitant voice from outside the door, "Mrs. **Payne** are you **asleep**? The hangover remedy is ready Rowan and I froze. Suddenly, I made up my mind **and** wrapped **my** legs around his strong, muscular waist. Rowan's expression changed, becoming even more

A soft man escaped **my** lips. Then, I heard Ella's footsteps retreating away from the door.

"Rowan." I clung to the last shred of my sanity and asked, "Will you blame me?"

"For what?" Rowan kissed the corner of my mouth

your future mother-in-law witness our display of affection and for putting obstacles in the way of your **pursuit** of true love.

For letting **your**

I silently answered **in** my head **but** said nothing aloud. Instead, I deliberately lifted my head to touch his throat. This was a trick I had learned from Jean but had never had the chance to use until now.

A few seconds later, I had to admit Jean was a genius!

After a night **of passion**, I felt like my bones were falling apart. His promise to be done soon" was **a** load of bull!

He gave me a knowing smile."

As I hobbled down the stairs, using my sore waist, I saw that Ella had already laid out breakfast. She noticed my awkward walk, and g

Mrs Payne, please have some breakfast. I made oatmeal for you."

“Where’s Rowan jacked while drinking the oatmeal.

“Mr. Payne it for the **company** early. He didn’t have breakfast,” Ella replied.

“Alright.” I nodded

Rowan was always **busy** with company matters. Any free time he had was spent at meetings or with **Chester and** the others. Rumors about him **always** seemed to find their way out through any gap they **could**.

Just as finished breakfast, Benjamin called. I glanced at Ella before answering, “What’s up?”

“Ms. Sadler, I’m sorry about **last** night. I drank too much. How much was the room? I’ll transfer it to you,” Benjamin **said**.

“It’s fine. How are you feeling?” asked softly,

“I feel **a bit** better

now, I’ve come to realize that if Ash truly likes me and hasn’t changed her mind, she’ll continue to choose me. I need **to** trust her. **I’ll** do my best in **this** relationship and leave the outcome to fate,” Benjamin’s voice sounded more at ease.

It seemed he took my advice to heart. I felt relieved, “That’s good to hear, I have some things to take care of. Talk to you later”

After hanging up, I went upstairs **to change** clothes and get ready to go **out**. I headed to talk to Natalie.

Recently, Natalie hadn’t been looking for gigs or competitions. She was busy preparing for the wedding at the end of the year. Kaden was still working, so she was juggling most of the arrangements.

The house was already renovated but needed furnishings and decorations. Planning the wedding details was tedious, but everything should be ready by the end of

Chapter 45 Will You Blame Me

12/2

“Ivy, do you want some ravioli? Kaden made some last night. It’s delicious!” Natalie happily offered when I arrived at her place.

“No, thanks. Nat, has Kaden gone to work?” I asked, looking around.

This was the apartment Natalie and Kaden rented together. It was about a modest **size** with two bedrooms and a living room. Compared to her family's large **villa**, it was quite small.

Despite its size, Natalie had decorated the **place** warmly, showing her dedication to the relationship.

As a man, **Kaden** must have felt insecure, which was evident from the **way** he reacted when choosing the wedding dress.

good life for me.”

Natalie brought over a plate of fruit, smiling as she **said**, “Yes, he said he didn't want to rely on my family and wanted to work hard to provide a good

What a hypocrite! I silently cursed Kaden a thousand times for being a fake **good** man who secretly took other women to a bar.

“Nat, do you like celery? I asked subtly.

“No, I don't” Natalie shook her head.

“How about spinach?” I asked again.

Natalie shook her head again. She had never liked green vegetables

After listing a few more greens, she suddenly laughed, “Ivy, why are you asking **this** out of the blue? I never liked vegetables, but I guess I'll have to force myself to

eat them now.”

I was puzzled. “**Why?**”

A gentle expression crossed Natalie's face as she touched her belly. “I haven't had the chance to tell you yet, but I'm pregnant. Just a month and a half along.”

“What?” I nearly jumped up, my face turning unpleasant. “You're pregnant? Didn't you **plan** to wait until after the wedding?”

“This child is a gift from God. I'll accept and care for it with all my **heart**,” Natalie said, lost in her dreams of the future. “I haven't told Kaden yet. When he finds out, he'll be so happy. We'll be a happy family of three!”

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

Chapter 46 Feeling Toward Her

Seeing Natalie so happy, I found all the words stuck in my throat and couldn't say anything. After a long moment, I managed to squeeze out a word and exclaimed, "congratulations!!"

"Ivy, will you accompany i

for my prenatal case checkup in a few days? I haven't been in the hospital since I found out I was pregnant.

"I heard that one needs to register for a record and all that," Natalie stammered excitedly about her pregnancy. But my mind washed with images of Kaden Baunting bad-lection for another woman.

If old Natalie the truth now, there would only be two outcomes. First, she'd be furious and heartbroken, choosing to have an abortion and break up with Kaden. Second, she'd choose to forgive Kaden, whether for the sake of their relationship or the baby.

Either way, it would cause Natalie great pain.

"**Alright.** Just let me know the day before," My thoughts were in a fumble, I agreed absentmindedly and got up to leave. Take care and rest well. I owe something to do and need to bear first."

Natalie pouted unhappily **and** exclaimed, "No way! You just

there ten minutes pol-

"Nat, don't tell Kaden about the pregnancy yet. Let's plan to get together and make it special, okay?" suggested it after thinking for a moment,

Natalie didn't suspect anything and immediately agreed, "Sure. I'll set the time and let you guys know."

I gestured to show I was with it and quickly left Natalie's house.

Back in my car, I sat for a while before I finally calmed down. Jean, Olivia, and Natalie were all the sisters to me. In my heart, they were like family, **and** couldn't bear the thought of anyone hurting them

Just as I was about to leave, I saw Kaden's Chevrolet pull up not far away. He got out and was holding a white bag, he looked a bit rushed. "Kaden!" I called out. Kaden looked surprised to see me initially. Then, he came over to greet me, "Ivy, did you come to see my Nat?"

Raden actually had a decent demeanor, His family background wasn't as good as Natalie's but he looked quite compatible with her, with a refined and proper

appearance.

"Yes. Weren't you at work? Why are you back?" asked

"It's almost noon. I'm worried Nat would be too lazy to cook for herself. Plus, takeout at healthy. So, I came back to make her some food. Would you like to join us? Faden lifted the bag in his hand and **said**, "I've got beef and clams."

I was speechless as I looked at Kaden's smiling face. He didn't seem fake at all, and he was indeed very **good** to Natalie. But how could a man **like** this be two- timing?

I couldn't describe how I felt. Forcing a smile, I shook my head. "Maybe next time. I have something to do. Bye"

"Alright." Kaden waved at me..

I drove away, beginning to doubt if true love existed in this world. Even with Rowan, I once firmly believed that Ashley was his **true** love, **but** I died too early in my previous **life** to see the end of their story

What happened after they got together? A year, two years, or three years? What about decades later? **Could** Rowan's love for Ashley **last** a lifetime? Was it possible to start off deeply in love only to gradually lose those feelings?

In the end, they just become distant with conficts like most couples.

With these chaotic thoughts, I drove aimlessly through the streets. Eventually, I found myself at the Serendipitycaté

Ashley no longer worked part-time here, so coming here was meaningless but I still entered and ordered a black coffee.

Holding the warm cup, I quietly gazed at the bustling street outside. My mind replayed the events that had happened since my rebirth. Everything seemed as expected yet gradually beyond control.

Just then, a black Bentley sped up and stopped outside the caté. Rowan got out, and we exchanged glances. He let his driver leave and walked into the cafe "One black coffee," Rowan ordered as he passed the counter.

Black coffee was Rowan's favorite. From the time I knew him until now, he **had** never changed his preference. Whether studying or working, black coffee was **great** for staying awake.

"Why are you here drinking coffee?" Rowan sat down opposite me. Today, he wore a gray turtleneck sweater under a long black coat. With his model-like figure, his visuals were jaw-dropping.

From the moment he walked in, the few young female staff had been glancing over here. Some of them even took photos with their phones.

"Just passing by and felt like having a cup," I answered casually,

Rowan smiled, just then, his black coffee was served. We sat silently, drinking our coffee.

"If I hadn't met you, I probably wouldn't have liked drinking this bitter and dark stuff, Tid suddenly as my heart tilted with emotion

"Hnum? Rowan seemed to be waiting for me to continue.

"Before I met you, I liked sweets and lattes. **Later**, I found out you liked black coffee, so I tried it too, I always thought that sharing the same taste would bring us closer and give us more to talk about." I reminisced about those pure and **passionate** days, smiling.

"Leven copied your style, trying to make myself more compatible with you!

Rowan's eyes remained calm, seemingly unmoved

I sighed and continued, "Ten years. It took me ten years to realize one thing—you can't force someone to love you..

Chapters Feeling Toward Her

2/2

"Do you regret it? For the first time, Rowan spoke so calmly to **me**. He continued, "If you had chosen someone else, you wouldn't **have** wasted these ten years." "Why would I regret it?" I replied serenely. "**Liking** you allowed me to experience joy, longing, and the feeling that the whole world was beautiful because of someone. In the end, I also learned to let go. Isn't **that** worth it?"

A sudden thought struck me, and I added, "When you're pursuing that university student, don't you feel the same way? The feeling of loving someone?"

The previously harmonious atmosphere was broken by my untactful question. Rowan's gaze turned colder as he answered, "No."

That answer was unexpected. I pondered for a few seconds but then realized it might not be the right time yet. As the one directly involved, Rowan probably didn't **realize** his true feelings for her as I did.

"Oh, okay." I changed the **topic**. "By the **way**, your dad suggested I work at the company. I think it's a good idea. Can you find me a position?"

"At Payne Corporation?" Rowan frowned.

"Yes, What's the matter? Can't I?" I asked deliberately. Regardless of whether it was feasible, I didn't care. I just thought Ivan made a good point about finding something to do.

"What position do you want?" Surprisingly, Rowan didn't reject the **idea** outright but asked me instead.

I thought for a moment. "Anything but a low-level, menial position. I want to learn something."

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Chapter 47 Scumbag

Rowan considered for a moment and gave a response. "I'll think about it."

Thinking about it was better than a tight rejection, I nodded and said, "okay."

After finishing our coffee, Rowan suggested climbing back with me since his car had been driven back of course, I had no objections.

To my surprise, we actually chatted a bit on the way. It was mostly about how I was an ass-kisser in the past. I openly made fun of myself, and Rowan didn't ignore me like he used to.

As we arrived at Windwill Estate, I marveled, "I never thought there would be a day when our relationship would improve."

"**Anything** is possible in life," Rowan replied **calmly**.

That was true. I mean—I'd been reborn.

The maids were visibly surprised and curious to see me and Rowan return together. I instructed Ella to prepare lunch. Then, I lounged in the living room thinking about Maral's situation.

Should I tell Natalie the **truth**? It was a tough decision. My gaze fell on Rowan, and I hesitated before asking, "Rowan, can you ask me something?"

"Go ahead," he said while flipping through a finance magazine without looking up.

"Let's say you love me deeply, and we have a great relationship. But we're not married yet. Then one **day**, I find out you cheated on me, and I'm pregnant. If I forgive you, do you think you'd change for **good** out of guilt and for the sake of the child?" I asked.

I couldn't say I had a friend who faced that situation. Because Natalie really was my friend, and it would be too easy to guess, only by putting it on myself would Rowan not think much about it.

After all, I used to **ask** him silly hypothetical questions. **And** he would always leave me on read, yet I persisted happily..

Rowan frowned. His tone was **serious as** he asked, "Are you pregnant?"

I was startled. Why did he think of that? Did he really believe it? I quickly explained, "No. I just watched a TV show with this plot and it stuck with me. I wanted to know what men thought about it."

"Did you take birth control?" He ignored my question and pressed on. We'd done it twice — both without any protection. Maybe neither of us thought anything bad would happen, so there were no precautions at home.

Tomplint, "Don't worry, I took it. And you should know that it's impossible for me to be pregnant so soon."

"Oh." Only then did his expression relax, **and** he answered my question. "No. If a man truly loves a woman, he wouldn't cheat."

My heart sank instantly. An abortion would cause Natalie harm. Plus, Kaden's betrayal would break her heart. Thinking about it **made** my heart ache terribly.

I **had** to find **a** way to tell Natalie, and I couldn't delay. The longer the pregnancy, the harder it would be to handle.

I took out my phone and contacted Jean and Olivia, inviting them to my house. They both agreed and came over for dinner.

Just then, Rowan's phone rang, Judging by his expression, it had to be Ashley.

"Okay. I'll be right there." Sure enough, his tone became gentle as soon as he answered, Whatever Ashley said made **him** get up hurriedly to leave.

"Rowan, are you not staying for lunch? I called after him.

"Got something to take care of," he said as he wore his shoes and left without looking back

I was stunned, then smiled bitterly. Why did even bother? Why try to keep him here? But still, I felt a bit down. Losing time after time would hurt anyone.

After lunch, i went upstairs to rest. When I woke up, it was already dark outside. **Jean and Olla** were already in the living room waiting for me.

"Ivy, how can you sleep so much? Are you turning into a pig?"

asked me while eating fruit. "Does such a thin pig exist?"

I yawned and replied with **a laugh**, then walked over and sat **down**.

Olivia **asked**, feeling somewhat puzzled, "Why didn't you invite Nat today?"

I sighed. "I asked you over to talk about Nat. Let me show you something." I pulled out the photos and videos of Kaden **being** intimate with another girl. I showed it to Jean and Olivia

After watching, Jean rolled up her sleeves and rushed to the kitchen. "Where's the knife? I'm gonna kill that scumbag right now!" she exclaimed.

Olivia was also furious. Her face turned pale **as** she cursed, "How **dare** that Harriet guy cheat with his condition, Nat is settling for less!

"Don't get worked up first. Our priority isn't to take revenge on **Kaden**," I **said** as I quickly stopped Jean

"What's more important than **that**? Dog up his family's graves?" Jean actually found a knife **Walling** down the streets like this, she'd be mistaken for a terrorist by the police.

Exhorted deeply and said, "Nat. is pregnant."

The light fell to the ground—ean was stunned.

Three minutes later, the three of us **sat** back on the couch, discussing what to do next. Pregnancy was a big deal. We feared that Natalie might endure the pain for the child's

ake of that she might breakup nationally. If so, the abortion would be harmful to her body.

Either way, it was a tough situation.

“We can’t waste time. It’s better tout now than later. The longer we drag it, the hose it will hurt her,” Olivia said, her face serious.

“We dield. It’s better to tell her sooner. Even if she’s a hopeless romantic and doesn’t want to be friends with me anymore, Lomn’t walshlet *be*

be deceived

“If we slon’t tell het now, she might thoil out the frith after the child’s bom he will blame us when that time comes,” fear agreed with Olivia.

Tactually thought the same, but needed jean and tlivia in helpommince Natalie.

Suddenly, Jean’s face dakened even more. She hesitateil befour saylang, “Even if Kaden didn’t cheat, I don’t acire with Nat being with him. The day they got engaged 1 lett bet our **you** guys. Then, I met Kaden’s patruts downstairs in the hotel.

“**What** they said was really... disgusting”

“What did they say?” Lasked.

wedding. But they

“They said **how amazing** and successful **their** son was because he inanied a **rich** woman initially, they were ueluctant to give her even a small wedding. But they **endured** it hinking the bride’s Lamily would provide imone in the futine.

“They even mentioned that Nat’s **biggest** flaw was having a younger brother, begiven to **Kaden**,” Jean said through gritted teeth

that most of the family assets would go to bin, otherwise, it would’ve

I was furious too. Kaden himself was cheating, and his parents were just parasites. Poor Natalie was so sincere. She was always

Calways praising Kafen in front of us

If I hadn’t been rebommand met Benjamin, I wouldn’t have gone to the bar. That was when Linet Kaden and discovered his deceitful nature in my previous life, after my death, Natalie’s mattlage with him nust’ve been miserable.

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

Chapter 48 Ectopic Pregnancy

We needed to find a way to expose Kaden's true nature to Natale. The longer we delayed, the worse it would be.

"Let's just tell her directly. It will be devastating at first, but it's better than being deceived indefinitely," Jean said boldly, as she always did. Even if it meant losing their friendship, she was determined to do it

After thinking it over, it seemed like the best approach. Olivia and I exchanged glances, silently serving.

We spent a long time discussing Natalie's situation. It wasn't until midnight that Jean and Olivia left. Since I slept a lot in the afternoon, I was wide awake and decided to watch a movie.

As I watched, I remembered the phone call from Ashley to Rowan earlier that day. On a whim, I opened Instagram and looked at Benjamin's Instagram story.

Although Ashley and I were friends, I didn't have her Instagram ID—only Benjamin's. They kept up with their situation through his updates. Benjamin loved posting about Ashley, flaunting her to the world.

Benjamin's profile picture had changed. It was initially a picture of him and Ashley. But now, it was a photo of a basketball star with the caption, "I wasn't good enough" besides that, he hadn't posted anything new in days.

I couldn't **help** but sigh. Their pure campus love had fallen apart under the pressure of the harsh realities of the world.

I sent Benjamin a message. "Benjamin, are you still awake?"

After a long time, he replied, "Yes"

I asked, "How's it going with **you** and Ashley? Why did you **change** your profile picture?"

Benjamin replied quickly this time. "Ms. Sadler, we broken"

H

This was no different from my previous life. **Even** with my interference, I couldn't slow **down** their breakup. It seemed that no outsider could **stop** two people from falling in or out of love.

Ashley probably called Rowan today for comfort. Or perhaps it was about her neighborhood's demolition project. I couldn't think of any other reason

I started to comfort Benjamin and arranged to meet him for a meal **in** the coming days. He agreed and then said he was going to sleep.

ished him, "Good night." And Benjamin replied, "Good night, Ms. Sadler,"

Starting **that** night, Rowan didn't come home for a week I didn't ask or think too much about it. I was **focused** on solving Natalie's issue with Jean **and** Olivia

We feared that Natalie might be swayed by Kaden after knowing the truth. After all, he had always treated her well, and their relationship was strong. If Raden admitted **his** mistake **and** asked for forgiveness, Natalie might accept it..

sa, Jean found an excuse to bring Natalie to her place where Olivia and I were waiting

"What are you guys up to?" Natalie looked puzzled as she saw us surrounding her with **serious** faces.

"Nat, you know that there are plenty of fish in the **sea**, right?" Jean started.

Natalie was baffled, "Of course, but what are you trying to say?"

I said, "Nat. We're your best friends **and** are like sisters. Do you trust us? No matter what happens, we'll always support you

Olive nodded. "Yes, we would never hurt you."

Natalie's expression changed as she realized something bad was about to **happen**. But she forced a smile and said, "What **are** you talking about? of course, I know

It's not me. You're my closest friends."

Jean and I exchanged glances. I took out my phone, opened the video, and showed it to Natalie. She watched intently as her face turned pale.

"Nat.. "I felt a pang of guilt, The truth was ugly, shattering her dreams of a happy marriage.

Natalie stood up suddenly **and** looked at us with her mouth open. Before she could speak, she stammered, Jean quickly caught Natalie **and** exclaimed, "Nari"

Half an hour later, I drove while Jean and Olivia held Natalie in the back seat. We hurried to the hospital without delay. After a long wait, the **doctor** told **us** that Natalie had a slight rupture from an ectopic pregnancy. The baby couldn't be saved or it would endanger her life.

Jean contacted Natalie's parents to rush to the hospital. They **then** signed for the surgery as Jean explained the whole situation.

"That Bastard"" Nicholas **Reed** shouted as his hands trembled with anger.

"Nat must not marry him!" Emily Johnson exclaimed. Her eyes were red with anger **and** sorrow **as** she cried.

I held her **hand and** comforted her. "Emily, Nat and Kaden haven't registered **their** marriage yet. **There's** still **time**. This ectopic pregnancy is a blessing **in** disguise,

swing her from a worse fate.

"Don't worry. We'll handle this and make sure you're satisfied. But please don't confront Kaden for now." Letting him off **so** easily would be too hard.

Nicholas agreed to our request. When Natalie was wheeled out of surgery, we crowded around to see how she was doing

Her face was pale with her eyes closed. She was still unresponsive. The doctor said the anesthesia hadn't worn off yet, but she would wake up soon.

I asked Jean and Olivia to accompany Emily home to make some chicken soup. Then, I reassured Nicholas he could go to work without worry. Meanwhile, I stayed by Natalie's side, waiting for her to wake up

"Nal, are you awake?" A while later, Natalie woke up. I quickly poured her **a** cup of **warm** water **and** said, "Here; drink some water."

Natalie looked at me. She looked tired. I thought **she** might blame me for exposing **Kaden's** affair to Jean and the others, making her embarrassed. But she weakly took my hand and **said**, "try, thank you. Otherwise, I would've continued being deceived"

I was taken aback and felt like crying at that moment. I put down the cup and held her hand, comforting her, "Nat, just get through this phase, and everything **will**

Chapter 48 Ectopic Pregnancy

be better Kaden doesn't deserve!

see you."

Pain flickered in Natalie's eyes, but she nodded. "I know. I just don't understand why he did it. **Wasn't** I good enough?"

"You're great; he's just trash. Nat, even your baby is trying to get you out of this hellish situation. You must stay alert." I squeezed her arm firmly.

Natalie touched her stomach with the other hand as a tear rolled down her cheek. "Yes. Maybe the baby knew that I might endure this situation if it came into this world. So, it chose to leave me

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

Chapter 49 Personal Secretary

I was relieved by Natalie's rationality and clarity. But I also felt immense heartache, comforting words seemed inadequate. The only thing I **could** do was ma

vs make Kaden pay for his actions

After a moment of silence, Natalie spoke up. "Aight. Since he betrayed me, **Thave** no lingering affection. Ivy, tell me what to do, and TUDO it. We both discussed

in the hospital ward for **a** while. Meanwhile, Eleamed more detailed information about Kaden

He came from a moderately well-off family in a small village. However, his diligence in his studies allowed him to attend a good university. After graduating, he entered his current company and was likely to be promoted soon.

For Kaden, his current p

job was crucial for survival in Alton City. Lesing it meant he might not find **a be**

better o

coppportunity.

Katalie also mentioned that Kaden's parents were in their early 50s and no longer worked. They celled on the money he sent home. Despite this, Natalie didn't hold it against him. She **didn't** lack money herself and saw no problem supporting her future in-laws.

Just as we finished our conversation, Jeany and the others returned.

"Mom!" Tears streamed down Natalie's face when she saw her mother. Emily rushed over with her eyes full of concern

I pulled Jean **and Olivia** out of the ward. I told them about Natalie's reaction and Haden's situation. I had a rough plan in mind, but I needed Rowan's **help**.

After returning from the hospital, I called Rowan. "Rowan, can you do **me** a favor? I **asked** directly.

I asked Rowan to arrange for the HR department of his company to send Kaden a job invitation email. It should include extremely generous conditions, essentially trying to make Kaden resign. As for Natalie, I advised her to find an excuse to avoid seeing Kaden for a while.

Rowan didn't know what I was **up** to and flatly refused. After all, not just anyone could enter the Payne Corporation.

I threatened him shamelessly. "If you don't agree, I'll tell your parents about your pursuit of a college girl."

"Ivory Sadler. How dare you." Rowan's indifferent tone turned angry.

"Just tell me if you agree or not. If you don't, I'll tell them now." I **didn't** care about anything else anymore. I **was** determined to seek revenge for Natalie.

"Wait until I get back" Then, Rowan hung up.

Half an hour later, he returned. Surprisingly, he came back to discuss this matter with me face to face. As soon as he entered, he asked, "Why do you insist on placing Kaden in the Payne Corporation?"

"**What** makes you think I want **him** in the Payne Corporation? I just need you to send the invitation email to prompt him to resign from his current job," I replied.

Rowan **raised** an eyebrow. "What trick are you playing now?"

Natalie had already decided to break up with Kaden, **and I needed** Rowan's help. So, I told Rowan the truth.

After hearing me out, he squinted and asked, "So, the TV plot you mentioned involved Natalie?"

"What **TV** plot? This is real!" I mimed imitably, "If it weren't for the Payne Corporation being more attractive, I would've gone straight to my parents for help."

Although Kaden was a piece of trash, he was very **stable** and pragmatic in his career. He wouldn't change jobs easily. So, the company used to lure him had to be strong enough to shake him. Besides, the Payne Corporation **had** several sectors, **and** there was indeed a position that suited Kaden.

Rowan pondered for a moment **and agreed**, “Olay.”

This guy wasn't entirely heartless. I flashed a huge smile and said, “Alright. And you don't have to worry. Whether you're pursuing a college girl or a widow, I

won't tell your parents.”

“Shut up.” Rowan glared at me.

Thept quiet since my goal **had** been achieved. After a simple meal, I went upstairs to re
st

Rowan didn't **stay long** at **home**. Since he had the time, he went to see Ashley. She ha
d just broken up with Benjamin, malding it the best time for Rowan to pursue

Not long after he left, I received a message from him. “Report to the company's Hit depa
rtment tomorrow.”

After getting back to my senses, I suddenly remembered mentioning to him that I wante
d to work at Payne Corporation. I didn't expect him to actually arrange it. though. What
position did he have in mind forme?

But since Rowan helped me out, I didn't mind. The next day, I went straight to Payne Co
rporation for duty.

The relationship between Rowan and me wasn't public in the company, but people were
n't fools. Anyone who searched Rowan's information would've seen ate pictures of us to
gether. There weren't many but they existed.

So, the H department was very courteous **to** me. They served me **tea and** guided me th
rough filling out the employment forms. After that, they led me to **Rowan's**

office.

I never thought that the position Rowan arranged for me was to be his personal secretar
y. At that time, Rowan was in a meeting room. So,
I sat at the secretary's desk and flipped through the secretary's manual.

Just them, Natalie called and said, “**Ivy**, Fayne Corporation really sent a job invitation e
mail to Kaden. **He** just messaged me about it.”

“Great. This is
just the first step. We must make him lose both power **and** money.” I was satisfied with
Rowan's prompt action.

“Yes. By the way, I'm at home now.come over when you have time, Natalie invited me.

“Alright. I’m working at Payne Corporation now. You’ll never guess what my job is..” Before I finished, Rowan appeared beside me. He looked down at me with displeasure. I glanced up at him and silently hung up

Chapter 49 Personal Secretary.

It was working hours, and I shouldn’t be chattering on the phone.

“I’ll give you a week to familiarize yourself with the job, Is that enough?” Seeing that I was sensible, Rowan didn’t deliberately make things difficult for me. Instead, he returned to his seat and handed me a cup. “**You** don’t need a week to **learn** how to make coffee.”

“I said the job you gave me shouldn’t be mental tasks like running errands. And now you ask me to make coffee for you?” I was a little annoyed.

“Do you know how much you can learn by working alongside the boss?” Rowan **said**, sounding quite reasonable.

I chuckled, walked over, **took** the cup, and muttered intentionally, “Why not **ask** your college girl to learn? She needs it more than I do.”

Rowan’s face darkened whenever I mentioned Ashley. In his extremely displeased gaze, I went cheerfully to make a cup of coffee and brought it back to him.

As soon as I sat back **down**, I received a message from an unknown number. “Ivory, it’s Ashley, Can we meet?”

How did Ashley know my number? I frowned and replied, “Okay. I’ll see you after work”

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Chapter 50 She Knows

The new job felt refreshing, especially since I could face Rowan all day. I wondered what made him assign me this position.

Suddenly, Paula messaged me, asking. “Ivory, has Rowan arranged a job for you? What position? Can you see him every **day**?”

Seeing these **the** questions in succession, I realized the reason. It was definitely my in-laws pressuring him. No wonder Rowan would give himself trouble.

I replied, “Paula, I’m now working as Rowan’s personal secretary in the president’s office.”

Paula then responded with a thumbs-up emoji.

At the end of the workday, I packed up my things and texted Ashley to give me the address, I could go over now. Meanwhile, Rowan wasn't planning to leave yet, saying, "I'm working overtime. You can go home first."

"Alright," said and quickly left. I really didn't want to work overtime

Ashley soon replied, agreeing to meet at Serendipity eadé

I drove straight there and quickly arrived at the destination. However, Ashley had already arrived and was waiting for me.

She wore a white cardigan over a brown limited tank top. The outfit revealed her slender neck and collarbones, Hershey hair draped over her shoulders, giving her an innocent and charming look.

Ashley looked youthful and had large, dark eyes. Resting her chin in her palm, she gazed out the window in deep thought.

She was so beautiful. I couldn't help but admire her. As time **passed**, increasingly felt that she and Rowan went quite a match—at **least** in terms of looks

"Ivory!" **Seeing** me, Ashley snapped out of her thoughts **and** exclaimed while waving with a smile

I walked over, adjusted my black trench coat, and sat opposite her with a gentle **smile**. "Ashley, why did you suddenly want to meet me?"

Ashley took out her phone and blushed a little "very, can I have your **bank** account number? I want to repay the 2000 dollars to you

I **was** surprised. "Didn't Benjamin repay it for you? You didn't know?"

Ashley looked equally astonished as she shook her **head**.

"I didn't know. We broke up." Her eyes reddened **a bit** after saying this. But she quickly composed herself, forcing **a** smile. Ivory, let me repay you. Then you can return it to him."

I opened my bank's QR code for her to pay. Then I asked, "What happened? You two were so good together. Why did you breakup?"

Ashley lowered her head and didn't answer. Soon, my phone chimed with her 2000-dollar transfer

After transferring the money, Ashley stood up and said, "Ivory, **thank** you, I'll **head** back to school now." It seemed that she met with me just to repay the money. Watching her leave the caté, I sighed and got up to go. Just then, I realized I had left my car keys **in**

ide, so **thad** to go back. As I pushed the **door** open, there were two girls at the counter. Their backs turned to me as they gossiped while deaning the equipment.

“Who would’ve thought that she **and** Ashley were so close? They even met up for a cha t?”

“That woman used to come here for cotice often. She looked really familiar ”

“Maybe Ashley thinks that her husband’s handsome. That’s why Ashley’s trying to get cl ose to her. The girlslaughed.

“Ashley’s not that kind of person. You’re crazy.”

“Only she didn’t like the photo you posted, though. She must’ve seen **it**.”

1 caught a key plece of information Ashley saw Rowant

1 walked in. Upon seeing me retom, the two girls stopped gossiping, 1 acted nonchalant ly and left again.

Back in the car, I pieced together their conversation. I had been to this cate with Rowan once. Likely, one of those guts took our picture and posted it on their

Instagram **story**

Ashley used to work part– time here, so she must’ve seen it. Naturally, she knew **about** my relationship with Rowa n Which meant she already know that I was Rowan’s wife during **our** conversation just now.

A subtle feeling grew in me. Ashley knew that I was Rowan’s wife, **and** Rowan was purs uing her. So, why did she pretend not to know? **Did** she tell Rowan? I guessed not. Oth erwise, Rowan **would** have wamed me to stay away.

Ashley probably didn’t tell Benjamin either, since Benjamin and I knew each other. More over, she wouldn’t know that I was already aware of Rowan pursuing her This scenario felt like a typical dr ama. The mistress thought that the wife lew nothing. **Then**, the mistress arranged a cas ual meeting to chat **as if** nothing was wiring. In reality, she was secretly observing and p robing.

My mind was in a mess, on impulse, I called Ivan Dr. Yock, are you free?”

“For what?” **Ivan** asked **coldly**.

To discuss my condition,” 1 ed.

There was a brief silence on the other end. “Where?”

I thought **for** a moment and said, “I haven’t had dinner yet. I’m craving steak, garlic butter shrimp, mushroom soup, mashed potatoes. Before I could finish,

I was about to call again when he sent me a location—Laminous Heights. Although it wasn’t a five-star hotel, their food was outstanding. I had been there many

I headed over to Laminous Heights and found a spacious VIP room. His hair was slightly damp, emitting a faint fragrance. It **was as if** he had just washed

his hair and it didn’t blow dry yet..

Chapter 10 She Knows

2/2

“Order,” he **said** as soon as I sat down, throwing the menu in front of me. A gust of wind tousled my hair as the menu landed on the table.

“Just order whatever **you** want. Why be so polite?” I said while flipping through the menu.

“I don’t have anything specific I **want** to eat,” Ivan replied. True to his profession, he didn’t seem tempted by outside food.

I complimented him, “You **really know** how to **maintain** your health. You’ll definitely live to be a hundred.”

Ivan remained indifferent to my praise and even remarked, “**With** your malnutrition, it’ll be a miracle if you reach 40,”

I was speechless. He really was a charming speaker.

After we ordered, I couldn’t wait to tell Ivan about Ashley. After listening, he said, “So, she knows your identity now. But she pretends not to and doesn’t know that you know?”

“Yes. It’s awkward for **Rowan**. He doesn’t know that I know Ashley. He also had no idea that **Ashley** knew I was his wife,” I sighed.

“She must have feelings for Rowan. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have broken up with Benjamin and met you knowing your identity.” Ivan looked at me and continued, “Since she knows, what do you plan to **do?**”

I rolled my eyes. "I'll do nothing. If she doesn't tell Rowan, I won't either. Let's see who can hold out longer."

Ashley's recent actions made me doubt whether she was truly as innocent and naive as I imagined. We were friends, and I had witnessed her relationship with Benjamin.

and genuinely felt sorry.

ine Rowan a If she were genuinely innocent, she would've been upfront. She'd tell me s he'd stop seeing Instead, she met me as if nothing had happened and informed me of h er breakup with Benjamin.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 9, 2024

Chapter 51 Foolish Man

Ivan glanced at me with slight displeasure when he realized I wasn't planning to confront Rowan. It was the look a teacher gave a failing student

I shrugged. I **had** invited Ivan out just so I could confide in someone and sort out my thoughts. I didn't want to be lectured

At that moment, the dishes arrived. "Let's eat. Remember to eat more." I immediately urged Ivan to eat while starting to eat myself without saying a word.

Ivan seemed to have no appetite whenever he was with me. He always left without eating anything, leaving me alone to face a table full of scrumptious food. What

After packing up the leftover, I drove home. I had Ella take it to feed the chickens and ducks in the garden.

Ella was indeed skilled at raising them. The chickens and ducks I had brought back from Pola's had grown **plump and** healthy.

I thought of Ivan's **words** about how it would be a miracle if I made it to 40 years of age

Then, I called the cause of my death in my previous life. Immediately, I instructed Ella, "Ella, let's make roast duck tomorrow,

Ella nodded. "Yes, Mrs. **Payne**."

I noticed that Ella's complexion wasn't quite right; she seemed somewhat worried.

Did she know about Ashley's breakup? or was it because of the sudden demolition of the chemical plant? I didn't ask her; instead, I went to bathe and rest.

Before sleeping, I contacted Natalie. I learned from her that Kaden was indeed wavering now. After all, Payne Corporation offered excellent treatment and had a large platform. The future prospects were limitless.

Encourage him more. Let him **resign and** proceed as we discussed before,” I replied to Natalie while applying a false mask.

“**Alright**. But why did Payne Corporation send Kaden the job offer mail? Did **Rowan** help?” Natalie **asked curiously**.

Yes. He suddenly became a good Samaritan, I casually replied.

Natalie was shocked. She knew how indifferent **Rowan** had been to me before. For him to agree to help me, let alone say a few words, could be considered a miracle.

Perhaps it was because I didn't cling to him as much after he had been reborn. He probably **saw** me more like a normal person **now**.

I had been a fool in my past life.

After chatting for a while, **Natalie and** I hung up since we both had to work the next day. So, we had to rest early.

Fortunately, being a secretary **wasn't** too exhausting. Rowan didn't make things difficult for me at work, which was great.

His clear distinction between work and private matters **made me** determined to work well. I soon became an outstanding secretary.

During this period, I also learned that Kaden had chosen to resign and join Payne Corporation. He had been assigned **to** the project department.

“Ivy, **Baden said** he wants to celebrate his new job at Payne Corporation. He asked me to **have** dinner with him. What should I do?” Natalie called me, sounding **annoyed**. She now hated **Kaden** to the bone.

She now hated **him** as deeply as she had loved him before. If they met, she might not be able to **maintain** her disguise.

I encouraged Natalie to meet up **with Kaden**, though, “Meet him. Tell him you're pregnant. His family has been urging you two to have a child because he's the only son. They must be eager for **grandchildren**.”

“When you tell him, he'll surely see it as a double blessing and be even more delighted.”

I thought of sending Kaden to heaven first, then **dragging him** to hell. I hadn't expected that this move would expose Natalie to the Harriets' despicable nature again.

Three days later, Natalie contacted me again. Her voice was filled with **restrained** anger and a hint of restrained crying. She said, "Ivy, do you know what Britney **and** Romans?"

"They said now that I'm **meaning hischild**, I'm part of their family. Whether in life or death, I belong to them.

"They even suggested we forget about the wedding gifts. If we ever ask for anything, it will just end up going back to their family.

"They also asked my parents to prepare a house for the child as a gift to welcome their grandchild. It's so disgusting, I didn't know they were all such despicable people."

I felt nauseous when I heard that. It seemed like the Harriets thought it was a done deal now that Natalie was pregnant. So, they didn't see the need to pretend

anymore.

"Don't get mad. Let them dream on. I comforted Natalie and continued, "This will only make the more uncomfortable in the future."

"Yes, Timow. That's why I endured it. I **also told** Britney that my dad **has** already bought us a house and a cat. After we get married, we'll add his name to the registry. When the child is born, we'll buy another house for her and Roman. That way, they could stay here to help take **care** of the child," Natalie told me, laughed and praised, "Awesome."

back

Even in such a provocative situation, Natalie had been able to hold back and paint a bigger picture for the Harriets. She was **amazing!**

After chatting for a while, we hung up and agreed to end this **plan** in two days.

to join Payne

I never expected Kaden to contact me before I could approach him. He thanked me in every possible way, **saying** he couldn't have been able to Corporation without me. Although Natalie had **directly** told him, he still understood that.

Kaden was very savvy **at** social interactions. However, he was a dark-hearted person.

"Don't say that Payne Corporation must have seen you abates and extended an offer to you just focus on your work.

Chapter 51 Foolish Man

You're on probation right now. As long as you don't make any serious mistakes, you'll definitely be made a permanent employee," I reassured him.

But inwardly, I thought about how he was about to get his lesson!

"Okay, Ivory, **Thanks** for the encouragement. I'll definitely work hard. I'll treat you to dinner later," said Kaden.

After I hung up, I saw Rowan come in. He glanced at me, and I met his eyes fearlessly. "It's lunch break now, not working hours. Is it too much to make a personal

"Start the car now. We're going to Duo Chemicals later." Rowan ignored me and **took a** document from the table.

Duo Chemicals was the chemical **plant** near Ashley's house. I was surprised, Was Rowan taking me there?

What if Ashley saw me? Who knew if she was diligently studying at school every day?

Rowan **didn't know** that **Ashley** already knew my identity. That was why he dared to take me along. Even if she saw me, he could explain that I was his secretary-

What a foolish man! I sighed inwardly and went to the parking lot.

After a few minutes, Rowan got into the **car** and sat in the **back** seat. He instructed me **calmly**, "Let's go."

1

stepped on the accelerator, and **his** body leaned **forward** slightly **due** to the inertia. In the rearview mirror, his face looked unpleasant. "Can you drive?"

"Yes, Mr. Payne. **I can.**" I sat up straight **with** a serious face. "Don't worry I'll get you to your destination safely."

"Ivory Sadler, I really think you should get your head examined at a psychiatric hospital." Rowan's extraordinarily handsome face revealed his disdain.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 9, 2024

Chapter 52 Beaten

By the time Rowan and I arrived at Dus **Chemicals**, a crowd had gathered at the entrance. Most of them were middle-aged men in their 40s and 50s. They seemed to be passionately discussing something.

As Rowan's car pulled up, the crowd turned to look at us

Thada bad feeling and **stopped** the car to ask Rowan, "What are we here for?!"

"Negotiation," Rowan replied calmly and confidently. It was as if the angry men outside weren't there to confront him

Seeing that Rowan was about to get out of the car, I protested. "I'm not going. If you want to go, go by yourself."

What a joke. If an argument broke out, **harm** could easily befall me given my fragile disposition.

You have to come even if you don't want to. Don't forget that you're my secretary now. Should I go tell my mom about your work attitude?" Bowan retorted mercilessly.

Wow, couldn't believe Rowan **was** using Paula to threaten me. I had no choice but to compromise.

After all, Paula was the one who pressured **me** to work at Payne Corporation as Rowan's personal secretary. If she found **out** about my poor work attitude, her – Impression of me would likely worsen.

I gritted my teeth. "Fine. I'll go." After getting out of the car, I followed Rowan toward the group of angry men.

"Are you Mr. Payne, the president of Payne Corporation? The leader was a man in his late 40s. Jonah Bluefield – Ashley's dad. He was slightly overweight and had a beer belly, giving him a somewhat unkempt appearance.

"Yes. I'm here to discuss the compensation for the demolition today, Can you represent everyone and discuss it with me, Mr. Bluefield?" Rowan remained polite and even **used** honorifics.

The power of love was something else. It turned the once-arrogant prince into someone respectful and humble in front of his future father-in-law,

Jonah was clearly taken **aback** by Rowan's unexpectedly courteous demeanor. After glancing at the others, he nodded. "Alright"

I knew Rowan would offer a settlement that **satisfied** Junah. Ashley must have approached Rowan about this

He was a shrewd businessman. He would have probably explained to Ashley that **demolition** matters were handled by others and that he had been fully informed.

Then, he had personally **stepped in** to resolve the **issue**. It would give Ashley the impression that he was compromising for her sake

Demolition compensation was crucial, and Rowan wouldn't overlook. Only someone as naïve as Ashley would believe otherwise.

I followed Rowan and Jonah **back** to the car. As soon as I got in, I found another excuse to get out again. I didn't want to hear their conversation or witness Rowan compromising for his love

Before the end of my **past** life, I had also begged Rowan to spare the Sadlers. But he had refused me. Now that I compared both situations, it was a devastating

defeat

I waited quietly for over half an hour, Jonah got out of the car alone, looking uneasy. After a glance at me, he left. However, Rowan remained in the car.

What happened? Wasn't he supposed to be happy? I was puzzled.

As Jonah rejoined the group and said a few words, they became agitated again, I shook my head and turned to go back to the car.

The next moment, I saw Rowan quickly get **out** of the car and shout apologetically, "Ivory"

Before I could react, I felt a **heavy** blow to the back of **my head**. I touched my head and felt warm blood sticking to my hand.

H

I stared at the blood on my palm and muttered to Rowan, "Blood."

Then, I blacked out and collapsed on the ground.

I didn't know what happened afterward. When I woke up, I was in the hospital. Mom was by my bedside, looking very worried. She only relaxed when she saw me awake and asked, "Ivy, are you okay?"

“Mom?” My vision gradually became clearer. My voice was weak as I asked, “What are **you** doing here?”

“We’re in the hospital. You were injured. What was Rowan thinking? Why did he take you to such a dangerous place?”

Someone hit you on the back of the head with a stick, **causing** a moderate concussion and bleeding. Luckily, there’s no bleeding in your brain. else.” Mom blamed Rowan as she spoke.

I touched my head, which was wrapped in thick bandages. **Suddenly**, I froze. “Mom, did they shave my **hair**?”

Mom paused, then scolded me lightly. “You’re worried about your looks at a time like this?”

“to, how can face people with my hair shaved?” I replied with a wry smile.

“Don’t worry. They only showed the part where you were injured. It will cover later,” Mom reassured me

Seeing that I was still conscious of my looks, she felt relieved. To her, I didn’t seem to have memory loss or cognitive impairment.

I sighed in relief and then asked, “Where’s Rowan?”

don’t blame Rowan for this. During the negotiation with Jonah, he hadn’t **forced** me to get out of the car. It was my decision. it had stayed in the car obediently, no one would have **hit** me with a stick

Plus, when I had been attacked, Rowan had rushed out of the car with a would look That had surprised me.

Mom landed near an apple, preening it as she replied, “He’s handling the hospital admission procedures for you.”

Chapter 52 Boaten

2/21

As she finished speaking, Rowan returned. Seeing that I was awake, he seemed relieved **and** asked, “How are you feeling?”

“Great. I still remember who you are,” I answered.

“Good, Rest well. I’ll go **to** the office first. If you feel uncomfortable, call the doctor. Rowan placed the fruits he had brought on my bedside table, greeted Mom briefly, and left.

Mom responded reluctantly. She was clearly in a bad mood.

I knew Rowan mustn’t **have** explained much to Mom. So, I recounted the whole incident to her in detail and added, “Don’t blame him for this. He did his best.” “Just look at you. You’re defending Rowan again. Didn’t you say you’d moved on? It doesn’t seem like it,” Mom **had** missed the point.

“Mom, I need to be fair. Just because I’ve moved on from my feelings for him doesn’t **mean** I should badmouth him for no reason, right?” I chuckled, feeling helpless. “That would be too unethical.”

Mom huffed and handed me the peeled apple. I ate the apple while continuing, “**What** about Dad? You didn’t tell him about my injury, did you?”

“Your dad’s on a business trip. I haven’t told him yet. If he finds out, he’ll definitely ask Rowan **for** an explanation,” Mom replied

She continued, “But I never expected Rowan would agree to let you work at Payne Corporation. Ivy, you should work well with him and learn as much as you **can**. It’ll be useful when you return to our company in the future.”

Mom’s words amused me. I laughed and said, “**Mom**, are you treating me like a corporate spy or something?—

Mom laughed too. “It doesn’t matter. You and Rowan are a married couple. Both companies are the same to you.

“But your dad and I only **have** you. We **hope** you’ll take over the company **in** the future. If you really don’t want to, we’ll have to rely on the board of trustees to handle it

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 9, 2024

Chapter 53 Rowan Overcame Me

“Mom, don’t worry. **What** if it becomes a business prodigy in the future?” I didn’t know if I was comforting Mom or **myself**

Anyway. Mom laughed at my words. “No matter what you decide, your dad and I support you. You’re our only child. Just make sure you’re happy.

Had I been out of my mind in the previous life? I had such great parents **and** a good financial situation too. Why had I clung to Rowan so stubbornly only to end up

Hit hadn't been to the fact that I couldn't move my head too much right now, I would have given **Mom** a big hug.

Altering ζ with me for a while, Mom said she would go **home** and make buffalo wings I was really craving it, so I quickly agreed.

After she left. Tean, Olivia, and Natalie cashed over. Seeing my head wrapped in gauze, they pitied me, "try, how are you? Does your head still hurt?"

"Who the hell hit you? I'll give him a taste of his own medicine!"

"When can you get discharged from the hospital?"

Listening to the three of them chatter, I felt really happy. I had a group of people who loved and cared for me. Although I was injured, that made me think of how beautiful life really was.

"I'm fine. It was just a concussion I'm working at Payne Corporation now. I went with Rowan to negotiate the compensation for the demolition of the residential area **near** Dow Chemicals.

"It seemed like the representative and Rowan couldn't come to an agreement. So, someone took it out on me," explained.

Jean placed some nutritional supplements in the cabinet **and** started to complain. "Damn it. Es Rowan suppressing you?"

"You used to be his number one ass-kisser. Now that you're not clinging to him, you still ended up in his company. Then, you went with him and got a concussion. I think you should divorce him as soon as you can."

Olivia also agreed empathetically. "Yes, I heard that if two people's astrological signs clash, one will overpower the other, Rowan's **astrological** sign must be quite

"Rowan does have a strong astrological sign." I sighed, then quickly asked Natalie, "Nat, why are you **here**? Did you go to Payne Corporation?"

She shook her head. "I didn't **go**. let my mom go instead."

I was initially stunned, then immediately showed admiration for Natalie. That was a bit more!

We had really planned for Natalie to go over to Payne Corporation and cause a scene. She would use the evidence I had filmed to accuse Raden of cheating. This could have had a very negative

impact on the company. Then, Rowan would dismiss Kaden during his probationary period, leaving Kaden with nothing. But it was even better that Natalie had let Emily handle it.

Natalie said indignantly, "After my mom went and caused a scene, Raden had the nerve to call me and say a bunch of stuff."

"What did he say? How did you respond?" asked curiously,

"He said he was wrong and **hoped** I could forgive him. What a scumbag!" Natalie exclaimed.

"Then, I told him that I love him very much and was willing to forgive him. I even said I **have** a bit of personal savings. That way, I could go back **to** his hometown with him.

"But I said my parents had vowed to disown me **it didn't** break up with him, so I had no choice."

As soon as Natalie finished speaking, the three of us burst into laughter. That little **brain** of hers was really sharp. In his way, Kaden wouldn't even have a reason to make a scene.

In the future, his standards for finding **a** girlfriend would also be quite high. Where else could he find another woman who was rich and loved him?

He would then always remember how good Natalie had been to him, but he hadn't cherished it. Thus, he had lost everything.

Jean Olivia, and Natalie stayed with me for a long time before leaving. I was bored **and** picked up **a** mobile game to play. But I got increasingly frustrated because the later stages were too difficult.

"This is so annoying!" After falling 13 times, I exclaimed and raised my phone, wanting to smash it.

"Is the phone bothering you?" Ivan's figure appeared at the door. He had **a** white coat **and** a mask on, which only revealed a pair of beautiful eyes and eyebrows. He looked cool and handsome.

Half of my anger dissipated when I saw him. I calmly put my phone away and said, "No. I'm just stretching."

Ivan gave a light snort. He obviously didn't believe me.

He then walked in and glanced at the pile of nutritional supplements on the cabinet. He flipped through them. There was ginseng, honey, cordyceps, **and** goji

When **van** saw the vodka, he frowned. "Jean gave you

these?

Besides her, I really couldn't think of anyone else who would send supplements along with vodka

I hadn't checked what the supplements were; in fact, I didn't dare to **turn** my head too much. So, I nodded vaguely **and** said, "Yes. It was her"

Ivan silently picked up the gift box and asked, "How did you get injured?"

I explained the incident involving my injury for the third time. But I gave more details to Ivan. I mentioned that Ashley lived near Duo Chemicals. Plus, I told him that Farah was the one who had negotiated with Rowan

"Do you think Rowan went to negotiate in person today because Ashley approached him?" asked Ivan

Chapter 59 Hewan Overcome

2/2

"Yes. Don't you think so?" I retorted. "Don't you think this is a great opportunity for **Rowan** to win Ashley over? He set the trap and broke the deadlock himself. If I were Ashley, I would be mesmerized."

That was true. If I were Ashley, I wouldn't be able to resist a wealthy and handsome man—a man who spent money on me, **would** die for me, and would divorce his

wife for me.

As long **as** I was still sane, I would definitely **agree**.

Every time Ivan saw me being **so** understanding toward Rowan, a hint of doubt flickered in his eyes. But it quickly disappeared.

"You're not Ashley."

He suddenly bent down and poked the gauze on my head with his finger. "Not bad. You look so thin and look like you have malnutrition. I didn't expect you to withstand a beating," he said with admiration.

I didn't understand what he meant.

"Since it's a moderate concussion, most people would have common symptoms. Symptoms like dizziness, nausea, and retrograde amnesia. More severe cases would even include temporary hemiplegia or convulsions. You just passed out for a while," Ivan explained.

I was speechless. So, he had come to see if I was that miserable?

Just as we were chatting, Rowan suddenly came **in** again. When he saw Ivan chatting with me at my bedside, he looked displeased.

"You're here," Seeing Rowan, Ivan calmly greeted **him**. "I'll leave first."

"Okay," Rowan replied indifferently, then put the food in his hand down. "What did you talk about? Your heart condition?"

My mind went blank. "Is there something wrong with my heart?"

Rowan's face immediately darkened, and he looked at me sternly. "Is **your** heart really okay?"

Oh, no. My heart skipped a beat. Ivan must have told Rowan about my heart condition to cover up our previous interactions.

"**It's** alright. It's just that I didn't rest well before and occasionally felt some pain in my chest. I thought it might be a heart issue. **I even** asked Dr. York about it several times." I quickly fabricated a lie.

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Chapter 54 I Know Everything

Rowan smirked coldly. "Oh, really? How come I never knew you had such health issues **before**?"

Suddenly, I gained confidence and looked disdainfully at Rowan. "Come on, **it's** not like you really knew me before."

Fortunately, I was able to **smoothly** divert the topic. I remembered the scoundrel who hit me on the head with a stick and asked, "Did you report the person who attacked me to the police?"

"I did. He's currently at the police station. Rowan opened the lunchbox, revealing fragrant black pepper chicken chop. "Ella made this at home."

”

No wonder it smelled **familiar**. I took the lunch box and started eating. **As I** was eating, Rowan said softly, “I’ve dismissed Ella She’ll be **leaving** toKEOW.”

My eyes widened, and I nearly dropped my fork out of surprise. But I managed to keep calm and avoid turning my head to prevent worsening my injuries. I asked, “Why?”

“The person who attacked you today is Niel Bluefield. He’s Ella’s brother-in-law. It’s not appropriate for her to stay here any longer,” Rowan explained **in a calm**.

Tone:

But my heart trembled upon hearing this. Did Rowan know that Ella was Ashley’s mom?

He must have investigated Niel. So, it was likely that he had also looked into **Ashley’s family** situation and easily found out who

I had planned to keep Ella **at** home for a while longer. But now that **Rowan had done t his**, I guess that wasn’t **going** to happen anymore.

“Oh, I see.” After calming down, I **continued** to eat.

While eating, I stole glances at Rowan. **He** knew that Ella was a man I had hired. Didn’t he suspect that I actually knew Ashley?

Rowan sat aside and replied to various messages on **his** phone without stopping, I thought about how Mom’s battle wings should be almost ready.

So, I said to Rowan, “Thanks for bringing me food today. You look busy. You should leave first.”

“Alright.” Rowan got up **gracefully** and left.

I rolled my eyes. If he was **so** eager to **leave**, why had he bothered to bring me food in the first **place**?

Right after he left, Mom came back. Even though I was already half full, **couldn’t** resist the temptation of the buffalo wings. So, I mustered the courage to eat

more.

Mom wanted to stay overnight with me, **but** I refused. It was just that I wasn’t allowed to move my head too much, but I could still move my limbs very well.

Since I repeatedly declined Mom's offer, she had no choice but to go home and rest,

Meanwhile, I got ready to sleep as soon as the nurse finished her round and injections, Just as I was drifting to sleep, my phone rang. Thankfully, I was in a single room, so it didn't disturb others too much.

I **didn't** check the caller ID and lazily answered, "Hello? Who's this?"

"Ivory, it's me." Ashley's soft and besitant voice came through "Are you asleep?"

I immediately became more alert. "Oh, it's you, Ashley. I hadn't managed to fall asleep, What's up?"

"I heard that my uncle injured you today and that you're hospitalized. I'm here to apologize on his behalf. I'm sorry." Ashley's tone was sincere, and I could tell she genuinely meant her apology.

I smiled and replied, "So that was your uncle? What a coincidence. I was **just** there for work today and didn't expect this to happen."

not dismissed

Ashley replied, "Yes. It seems that fate wants us to be together. I only found out today that my mom used to work **as a** maid at your house. But... she got

It seemed like Ashley knew quite **a** bit.

I felt disappointed. I didn't hear the words I wanted to hear. **Ashley** knew that Niri had wounded me and that Ella had been working **as** a maid at my house.

Didn't that mean that she should also know that Rowan was my **husband**?

"I went to **Duo** Chemicals with Rowan. Altward, Ella was dismissed by him."

"That's because my husband dismissed her. I'm sorry. After all that happened today, he was angry," I said with **a** slight smile.

Upon hearing that, Ashley fell silent **for** a moment. When she spoke again, she **sounded** awkward. "I know, Ivory. Please rest well,"

"okay" I hung up the phone.

love and hatred I'd

I didn't **sleep** well that **night**. It was probably due to my head injury. I also kept having fragmented dreams . They were mostly about the love experienced in my previous life,

When I wake up the next morning, it felt like my condition **had** worsened.

The phone showed that it was 8:30am.

I thought Mom would be the first person I would see. But unexpectedly, Rowan had come to see me again

He placed a box of crackers and chicken soup beside me. Then, he opened the lunch box and gave it to me.

I was utterly confused and **didn't** understand what he was doing.

"Rowan, what are you doing?" I took the chicken **soup**, puzzled, and asked, "Aren't things busy at work? Or have you already won over the college girl?"

If this continued, the media would soon report that he had retired and returned to his family.

Rowan glared at me sternly, I pretended not to notice **and** lowered my head to drink the soup

Chapter 541 know Everything

"Ivory." He pulled up a chair and sat beside me. He calmly asked, "You've known about her for a long time and knew that Ella is her mom, right?"

I paused while drinking the soup. Well, at least now I knew. Since that was the case, I figured we should be open and honest. After all, my ultimate goal wasn't to save this marriage.

time ago. I just felt it was mean

meaningless **to say** it **out** loud. Would **you** have given up on Ashley if I **had** told

I wiped my mouth and calmly replied, "Yes. I knew a long time ago, didn't I?"

Rowan stared at me silently.

"You remember Serendipity? She worked part-time there. I met her there while having coffee.

“I won’t hide it from you. I also know her boyfriend and have had meals with him. He treated her well. But now, they’ve broken up because of you.

“As for Ella, I didn’t find her on purpose. The domestic staffing agency just happened to recommend her to me. I only found out that she was Ashley’s mom during a casual conversation,” I explained calmly.

When Rowan heard me mention Benjamin, his face darkened.

I didn’t tear him, though. Instead, I bravely asked him, “Why are you only questioning me? Ashley knows about our relationship. But she still invited me to meet up and talk about her breakup.

“Yet, she didn’t mention anything about you pursuing her.

Why don’t you go ask her?”

As soon as I finished speaking, Rowan smirked. It looked like a smile, but I found it more terrifying than when his face darkened. He asked calmly, “Am I being played by you two?”

hip with Rowan,

I knew he was pursuing Ashley and that Ella was her mother. I had even gone out to eat with Benjamin. Meanwhile, Ashley had known my relationship but she had still invited me out.

Given Rowan’s patience level, he **was sure** to be mad.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 9, 2024

Chapter 55 Showdown

2

“Come on. You’re making it sound so serious. How could I dare mess with you?”

I explained, “When Ella came to work as a maid at my home, you probably didn’t even know Ashley yet. I’m not a prophet, after all. I can’t predict the future.”

Rowan’s expression softened a bit, and he fell silent.

od, the oppressive feeling

His silence seemed to drain the atmosphere in the room as well. He always exuded a strong presence, especially when he was in a bad mood; would **feel** more intense..

Talso remained silent. Now that I had pretty much laid everything out, saying more would seem redundant.

Tinally, Rowan stood up. "From now on, don't have any contact with her. Don't investigate her or approach her. Just pretend none of this ever happened."

"How can we pretend it didn't happen?" retorted.

My tone turned cold as I looked **at him** indifferently, "What have you taken me for all this **time**? A fool or antic? You expect me to pretend that things that hurt me never happened. Do you think **that's** possible?"

"So, what do you want?" Rowan stood by the bedside and looked down at me. He **looked** like a god. Meanwhile, I was the devout follower who had worshiped **him** for ben years.

I asked sarcastically, "Rowan, are you planning to make concessions in the Duo Chemicals project for her? Is that why you went to negotiate personally? I even got hurt in the process."

"Yes," Rowan was straightforward enough. He never beat around the bush when hurting others.

"You know everything now. Ashley and I know each other, and she knows that I'm your wife. Let's just get divorced. We can part ways amicably. I'll give her this position **without** any sentiment." I brought up the topic of divorce again

In my previous life, Rowan had confronted me about the divorce after pursuing Ashley for about a year. Now that many things had **changed**, he might **propose** divorce earlier,

Olivia had been right. Rowan was my nemesis. I needed to stay away from disaster and move toward **a** better life.

Rowan's demeanor became cold almost immediately. I almost had the illusion that he was standing in the middle of snow and ice. Even his eyes seemed like icy snows piercing into me.

At that moment, Ivan appeared at the door of the wand. He frowned as he looked at me **and** Rowan with a complicated expression

Rowan also noticed **Evan's** presence and said to me gloomily, "Don't even think about it until I bring it up myself

with that, he turned and left. As he passed Iven, he stopped and said, "There's a gathering tonight. Let's have a drink together."

“Sure, just text me the address.” Ivan nodded.

They were both similar in height, and both were very striking men, Seeing them **stand** together was a pleasant sight.

After Rowan left, I joked with Ivan, “Dr. York, you still don’t have a girlfriend. You’re not gay, right? Why don’t you help me pursue Rowan? Then, you could help me break him and Ashley up. I’ll give you a gift and money as thanks.”

Ivan shot a glare at me, and I immediately setup

Transat at the spot where Rowan had been sitting a while ago **and** asked calmly, “Did you confront him?”

“Yes. He investigated Jonah and Niel Duo Chemicals because of the Incident at Du Chemicals. He then found out that the maid at my house, Ella, is **Jonah’s** wife, which means that she’s Ashley’s mom.

I sighed. “It’s a pity he didn’t agree to the divorce ”

“If he’s just playing with Ashley, would you forgive him?” Ivan scrutinized me

I burst into laughter. “Do you think I’m a saint? Besides, do you think he’s just playing with Ashley?”

Fran remained silent. He was lost in thought.

I was also puzzled. Why hadn’t Ivan fallen for Ashley yet? A minute later, I understood.

Without any contact, how **could** a man fall in love with a woman? Ivan hadn’t met **Ashley in** person, chatted with her, or had a meal together. Hence, he **hadn’t had** the opportunity to fall for her.

I needed to find a way for them to meet.

Just then, Ivan received a call and went back to work. Meanwhile, I lay in bed, racking my brain. What suitable **reason** could there be to get Ivan to meet Ashley **and** gradually take an interest in her?

Once Rowan had a rival, he would become more possessive of Ashley—especially if the rival was his childhood friend. Maybe then he would agree to **divorce** me.

During my hospital stay, thought **about** this countless times.

On the day I was discharged, Ivan met with me and told me something. He said that Rowan had introduced Ashley to a few of his close friends, including Ivan.

I knew exactly what that meant. I had been married to Rowan for five years. Yet, he had never taken me to meet his friends like this.

H

“p!” I nodded calmly.

“Not even a bit sad?” I raised an eyebrow

“The most useless emotion is sadness.” I patted Ivan’s arm heartily. “Thank you. I’ll treat you to a meal next time.”

Chapter 5

55 Showdown

After saying that, I went to the car, where Mom was waiting for me.

sadness, anger, sorrow, and **pain** had been the emotions I had felt the most in **my** past life. I’d had enough and was now at peace. My tears had never managed to change any facts, after all.

Mom looked out the car window at Ivan and asked, “What did Dr. York say to you?”

“Nothing much. He just congratulated me on getting discharged.”

I hugged Mom’s arm and rested my

head on her shoulder. I instructed Lee, “Lee, take us back to Windwill Estate.”

“**Yes**, Ms. Sadler,” Lee replied, and the car left the hospital

Back at Windwill Estate, I invited Mom to stay for lunch. But she insisted on going home to eat, saying **Dad was also** coming home today.

I teased, “Mom, you and **Dad** have been together for so long. How are **you** still so attached?”

“When he used to come home from business trips, you weren’t this anxious. Are you remembering your youthful romance?”

A smile flitted across Mom’s face as she pretended to scold me. “You cheeky girl. How dare you joke about your dad and I?”

"I'm not. Alright, I'll have Lee take you home." I raised my hand to blockatom's playful slap and laughed.

After Lee took Mom home, I sat in the living room and got lost in my thoughts.

I wondered what Ella's situation was now. Did she know about Ashley's breakup with **Benjamin**? Did she realize Rowan was pursuing Ashley?

Thinking too much made my head hurt, so I went upstairs to rest without having lunch

Due to my **injury**, Rowan had given me half a **month's** medical leave

After 1 wa

was discharged, I stayed at Windwill Estate to recuperate. I only met up with Jean and the others occasionally. Other than that, I didn't have other plans.

The demolition issue with the Dup Chemicals project **was** resolved smoothly during this period.

In the end, Rowan had paid the concessions. It was exactly like what **had** happened in my previous life. I assumed his relationship with Ashley had progressed

significantly.

Meanwhile, **Ivan** hadn't contacted me recently either. I had offered to treat him to a meal, but he had declined. He had said he was too busy with work

It was probably because Rowan had introduced Ashley to him multiple times. He must **have** found her charming and fallen for her. Thus, he didn't have time to listen to my complaints anymore

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 9, 2024

Chapter 56 No Dcomfort

Neither Down Ivancarie destined to be withome.

It wasonly due toffe butterfly effect God ang rebirth that Pillad some unexpectedl teractions with them. Now that everything wasback on track, Feould only

dearly winter, the stud grew colder. Weappeilin a white wont roat, Esat by the window and watched the falling leaves outside

My phone buzzed, prandud tagged everyone in our close **fiends'** group, saying, "oach, **i t's** sowing! Today's the first snow of

olida sent a trying face emoji. "I want to go, but the company is holding a celebration in ample of days. I'm stark as the organizer"

Jean: "Is your dad Treating **you** like a daughter or a labores to protes i 1o.

Natalie: "Hang in these. You love to work hand to become a strong woman. Then, you can take care of the theme of us while we enjoy life. We're rooting for you." pran: "Nat and ivy, let's go out. We could hit the bar and see if there are any handsome guys. If there are, we could invite some to play an escape room gare. Then, we could have a hoge party and go home to sleep satisfied. It's a perfect plan!"

Jean's plansounded good, and I was tempted. Staying; home alone was boring anyway, so I replied, "I'm in. Send me the address. I'll head out right away! Natalie sow this and replied, "Tinini too!"

host then, a small snowflake landed on the window. It quickly melted away, I really was snowing. I grabbed a beige scat, Once I was wrapped up, headed our to the bar.

Assous Intered the bar, the temperating shot up, Natalie arrived at the same time, and we found Jean already chatting with some handsome guys.

"Why are you two dressed so warmly Take off your clothesquicidy. There's going to be a dance—
off later. The girls who dance on stage can get a free bottle of red wise. The one with the most cheers gets a hat—
year discount on drinks!" Jean was excitedly trying to pull off our clothes.

Not far away, there was a brightly lit stage. These were a few women dancing to the music, and they were surrounded by a noisy, hyped-up crowd

Scanning the surroundings, I spotted a familiar face—Benjamin,

It had been a while since I had last contacted or seen him. After his **breakup**, he seemed to have lost some weight and had a more desolate air about him.

He seemed to be working part-time at various bars. I understood this; after all, such places had lenient management and better pay.

When he saw me, Benjamin was stunned for a few seconds before walking over. "Ivory"

"You work part-time here? Lasked.

"Yes. I'm looking **for** a proper job next semester when i start

Estart my internship.” Benjamin smiled slightly

Jean had a good memory and recognized him. “Isn’t he the handsome guy you hit on at Symphonica?”

I quickly pinched Jean “What are you talking about? He’s still a student.”

Jean hurriedly covered her mouth. I turned **back** to Benjamin and said, “If you need any help, feel free to ask me. You should get back to work”

Ivory, can we talk for a moment?” Benjamin’s eyes made me feel uneasy, but agreed.

We stepped outside the bar. Snowflakes were falling, **creating** a thin white layer on the ground.

Benjamin’s nose was red from the cold. After taking a deep breath, he said, “Ivory, I know everything ”

was **puzzled**.

Your husband is the one pursuing Ashley.”

Benjamin lowered his head and continued, “You must’ve known that, given your status. It’s impossible that you haven’t investigated it. I just can’t understand. Don’t you love your husband?”

“How **can** you be **so** indifferent when you know what he’s done? Didn’t it bother you to have dinner with me and Ashley?” Benjamin asked. His voice was filled with

confusion.

Benjamin was quite som

sart, I suddenly **and** answered, “What’s there to be bothered about? I have money to **spend**, and my husband doesn’t come home. Isn’t that the most comfortable life for a modern woman?”

“Really?” Benjamin was silent for a few seconds, then continued, “I contacted Ashley recently. She

She hasn’t fully accepted your husband yet.

“But they’ve openly talked about many things

Things, including you. I didn't expect her to become a mistress." Trubbed my palms. The thin turtleneck sweater wore couldn't keep out the cold. If I stayed out any longer, I felt like I would catch a cold.

sniffed and **said**, "People change. You'll get used to it, Benjamin in heading back in, It's too cold."

"Alright," Benjamin nodded and went back idle with me. He resumed his work while I found Natalie.

Jean was on stage, wearing a black strappy dress with a dark red rose in her mouth. She **was** dancing passionately to the music. The crowd cheered as they

casually threw roses onto the stage.

The or

one who collected the most roses would be the night's favorite.

Natalie mulled and asked me, "Ivy, why don't you go up and dance?"

"No way. I'd just embarrass myself" (waved her off

"Pomposaille. Remember that you joined a dance club **back** in university. I watched you dance, and it was beautiful." Natalie encouraged me

"Live it a try. Who knows? You might attract some young guys. Isn't dating young guys the trend now?"

Chapter Discomfort

I was about to refuse again when I noticed a few people entering the bar.

Leading the group was Chester, followed by Ivan and Jasper chatting side by side. Then, Rowan and **Ashley** walked in.

Why were they here? My heart skipped a beat as I watched them go upstairs to sit. Their spot **had** a perfect view of the stage below.

Rowan and Ashley sat together. Meanwhile, Ivan, Chester, and Jasper sat on the other side. If Benjamin saw this, he would probably faint from anger.

"Wow! The lady who just danced was amazing. Are there any other ladies who **want** to show off their moves?" someone called out loudly.

Ashley was wearing a pink sweater, but she looked somewhat nervous and restrained. When **Rowan** poured her a drink, she shook her head.

Rowan was wearing a black turtleneck sweater. He had already taken off his coat and placed it on the side. He said something to Ashley that made her smile.

Why was my vision so good? I could see every uncomfortable detail clearly, making my heart ache.

I turned to the bar, ordered a bottle of wine, and drank **half** of it in one go. Fueled by the restlessness in my chest, I walked toward the stage.

Ashley was his pure and untouchable **true** love. Meanwhile, I was just garbage he had gotten used to.

As I stepped onto the stage, whistles and cheers erupted around me. I took a deep breath, looking at the eager **faces** below, and waited for the music to start.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 9, 2024

Chapter 57 I'm the Mistress

It had been a long time since I had danced. When the music started, my body felt stiff. Fortunately, the alcohol soon took over. I became bolder and more relaxed, allowing me to follow the rhythm.

Someone threw a rose at me, and I picked it up. Amid the cheers, I rolled up the hem of my sweater and tucked it **into** my bra, revealing my slim, white waist. Then, I tucked the rose into the waistband of my Jeans.

The vibrant red of the rose against my pale skin was tantalizing, causing an uproar among the men

I found this feeling of being the center **of** attention thrilling

With the alcohol fueling within me, I prepared to roll up my sweater even further. That startled Jean and the others, who rushed toward me in panic. Suddenly, all the lights went out, plunging everything into darkness.

I stopped, and a shadow appeared before me. He cursed through gritted teeth and said, "Fuck, Ivory. Are you tired of **living**?"

It was Rowan. The power outage must have been his doing—
Hadn't Ashley been by his side? Hadn't she tried to stop him when she had seen hi

had seen him rush down to stop

“Rowan heard Ashley’s voice coming from the crowd. Someone turned on their phone flashlight. But instead of shining it on the stage, they pointed it toward the call. I was left in darkness

Rowan grabbed my arm, seething with anger. Upon hearing Ashley’s voice, he instinctively responded, “I..”

I stood on tiptoe and hooked an arm **around** Rowan’s neck. I kissed him, making **him** swallow all the words he wanted to say.

He tried to push me away. But under the influence of alcohol, I boldly guided his hand to my body.

If someone shone a flashlight over, they would witness this **passionate** scene.

Instead of pushing me away, Rowan pulled me closer, deepening the kiss,

“Rowan, can we **go** home? I whispered.

“Okay.” Rowan’s voice was hoarse. He lifted me off the stage. Amidst the chaotic and dim flashlight beams, we left the bar and hurried back to Windwill Estate. Once we were in the bedroom, the passion ignited.

But Rowan’s phone rang—

Ashley was calling. His last bit of rationality urged him to answer, but I didn’t let him. “no way, this feels like we’re having an affair. She’s the rightful wife calling to check in.”

you know your place? Rowan spoke through gritted teeth as his jaw tensed with anger. “How dare you dance like that in a bar? You’ve sure got some nerve.” “Weren’t you drinking with someone else too?” My head was spinning. Seeing that **Rowan** didn’t answer the call, I let go of his hand. I laid my head on his chest and closed my eyes. “We’re just the same.”

Rowan gripped my waist. His chest vibrated as he spoke, “Same, my ass. If hadn’t cut the power, were you planning to strip?”

I couldn’t help but laugh. “Didn’t you say no man would be interested in my body? Why are you **so** anxious?”

Rowan didn’t respond, but his eyes were filled with desire. His Adam’s apple bobbed **as** he lowered his head to kiss me fiercely.

The phone rang again. But this time, it wasn’t a call for Rowan from Ashley, instead, **Ivan** was calling me.

Just as i was about to answer, Rowan grabbed my phone and tossed it aside. He pulled the covers over us and continued our passionate encounter

The next morning, I felt sore all over. Turning my head, I saw **that** Rowan was still asleep beside me. He **hadn't** left early for **work** like he usually did.

It was strange. Despite being his lawful wife, I felt a sense of unease after our intimacy. I was constantly worried about how **Ashley** would react and whether **she** would confront Rowan.

But on the bright side, wasn't this what I **had** wanted? I had wanted to disrupt their peace, hadn't I? I considered myself the mistress and Ashley the legitimate wife. Our roles were reversed.

I was lost in thought as I stared at Rowan's sleeping face. Just then, his phone rang again. It was Ashley.

On a whim, I answered the call. There was a long silence on the other end, and I remained silent **too**.

Ashley seemed to be struggling with her pride. Though she hadn't fully accepted Rowan, she was acting out of reluctance and dissatisfaction

When the call finally connected, she didn't know what to **say**.

That had been through this myself in my past life, that I had frantically called and texted Rowan, not knowing why I had been so persistent. His indifference had **driven** me to the brink of madness.

Suddenly, Rowan stirred. His long lashes fluttered before he slowly opened his **eyes**. "You're awake?"

Startled, I quickly hung up the phone and hastily replied, "**Yes**, I'm **awake**. I'll go take a shower." "With that, I got to the bathroom.

That. I got out of bed

of bed, grabbed some

of some clothes, and headed to

I looked

at my reflections in the mirror. I was covered in **mud**. I wondered if Rowan had retrained himself from being with Ashley, Why had he seemed so insatiable and shown no restraint?

After my shower, I returned to the bedroom. I wanted to ask Rowan if he wanted to wash up, but the bed was empty.

He was already gone. He had probably seen Ashley's barrage of messages and regained his composure.

His precious little princess was finally jealous.

Chapter 37 I'm the tiff

Just then, a maid came upstairs. She informed me, "Ms. Sadler, Ella is here. She says she wants to see you."

Why would Ella want to see me? Had she found out that Rowan was pursuing Ashley?

I quickly went downstairs. Sure enough, Ella was waiting in the living room. Seeing me, she stood up nervously. "Ms. Sadler."

"Ella, why are you here? I only found out about Rowan dismissing you after the incident. Otherwise, I wouldn't have let you go."

I walked over, holding her hand as **we** sat back down on the couch. At her feet were some vegetables and fruits in **plastic** bags.

"Ms. Sadler, I never imagined Mr. Payne was the president in charge of the thermochemicals project," Ella said uneasily.

"After learning that Niel injured you, I felt too ashamed to **stay**, I had to come see you and apologize on Niel's behalf."

With that, she lifted the plastic bags and continued, "Ms. Sadler, these are some vegetables and fruits from my garden. Please accept them if you **don't** mind."

Posted by **Admink**, 0 Views, Released on July 9, 2024

Chapter 58 Build a Snowman with Me

I took the bag. Although the fruits and vegetables didn't look as good as those sold in the market, they were clean and fresh, which I was perfectly fine with.

Leven admired Ella and Jonah. One worked as a maid, and the other grew vegetables at home for **self**-sufficiency.

"Thank you, **Ella**. You **didn't** **know** about this, so it's not your fault. Don't worry about it," said reassuringly.

“know, Mrs. Payne. You’re kind–
hearted. Niel has always been impulsive and **caused** trouble in the past, and this time is
no different. As his sister–in–law, **all** he can do is apologize on his behalf.” Ella **sighed**.

It seemed like
she didn’t know about Rowan and Ashley. If she had, she wouldn’t **have** only mentioned
Niel

Ella chatted with me for a while. I invited her to stay for a meal, but she declined.

Before she left, I casually asked, “Ella, do you know any young women in their early
10s?

have a friend who is really nice, but he can’t seem to find a girlfriend. He asked me to **in**
troduce him **to** some people, but I don’t know anyone!”

“Max Payne, if you don’t know a suitable candidate, how could I?” she said, waving her **h**
and dismissively,

“Isn’t your daughter a student at university?” asked.

“At that age, she must have many friends. If she doesn’t have a boyfriend, I would really
like to introduce my friend to her. He’s really nice,” I said regretfully. Ella **hesitated** for a
few seconds, then shook her head. “My daughter broke up with her boyfriend, but I **hea**
rd someone is pursuing her now. However, she **isn’t** willing to tell us who it is.”

I was surprised that Ashley had actually taken the initiative to disclose some information
to her family. Being such a well–
behaved young woman, wasn’t **she** afraid of upsetting her parents?

I wasn’t sure if **she** had told her family or if Rowan had forcefully shown up in front of Ella
and Jonah in my previous

So, my interest in the topic grew, **and I asked**, “Really? Ella, your daughter must be out
standing, and the man pursuing her must be excellent too. Don’t worry

about

w **can** I not worry? Mrs. Payne, when you **have** children, you’ll understand. Ella sighed y
et again

“How

“Parents are always concerned about their children, especially their daughters. I’m afraid
she’ll choose the wrong person,” Ella said with a frown, which made me laugh.

Ella was startled and looked at me curiously, confused about why I had laughed.

I **quickly** concealed it, saying, "I'm just laughing at your worries. Ella, you're very righteous and kind, so your daughter must be too."

I reassured her, saying, "Birds of a feather flock together. I'm sure the man she likes will also be excellent."

Perhaps Ashley's future actions might make Ella question whether Ashley was truly her daughter, especially since I had complimented her

In fact, I had found Ella's worries amusing. What could she do even if she feared Ashley would choose the wrong person or oppose the relationship?

After all, Rowan's wealth and sincerity would win her over in the **end**.

I believed financial power played a significant role. Ella and Jonah would oppose it resolutely if Ashley decided to marry an ordinary man who was willing to divorce his wife to be with her.

"Mrs. Payar, you're flattering me!" Ella said, feeling a little embarrassed.

"By the way, always hear you talk about your daughter. I'm curious about her can you show me a photo?" I asked, triggering interest

Ella took out her phone **and** showed me a family photo. After glancing at it, I pretended to be surprised and exclaimed, "Ella, so your daughter is Ashley!" Ella was also surprised and asked, "Mr. Payne, do you know my daughter?"

She had never told me her daughter's name before this.

I nodded and replied, "Yes, I went to grab a coffee at the coffee shop where she worked. Later, I accidentally bumped into her boyfriend at the hospital, and gradually, we all got to know each **other**."

Ella smiled widely, clearly delighted. "What a coincidence! Ash is lucky to know a friend like you, Mrs. Payne!"

"Ella, I'll treat you and Ashley to a **meal** together if we get the chance!" I said enthusiastically.

"How could I let you pay? If you don't mind, you can come over to my house for a home-cooked meal" Ella replied.

“Great! I’ll come in a few days. Don’t judge me for being a freeloader!” I replied eagerly. I **was** looking forward to visiting their home, knowing it would be Rowan’s future in-laws house.

ella readily agreed, and so far, I could tell that she genuinely liked me.

After Ella left, my smile faded. It felt like this world was a dream

I stayed at home for the entire day. Rowan informed me to take a break until the

I wasn’t short of money, but I was moved by his gesture.

the new year with continued salary since it was close to the end of the year

the

In the evening, it started snowing again. The heavy snowfall blanketed the world in white, transforming it into a winter wonderland.

Rowan pushed open the door with snow covering **him** as the cold wind blew past him. He took off his coat at the door, where a maid quickly brushed off and took it away.

Chapter Budda Snowman with M

After changing into slippers, he entered the house. As he sat down next to me, I noticed a familiar perfume fragrance on him.

It had brought back

a bottle of perfume for Ella and the others from my trip, and it had the same scent. I occasionally noticed it on other household staff too, so I **was** familiar with it.

Rowan usually didn’t like

like wearing perfume and didn’t pay attention to such things, so he didn’t notice the new scent on himself.

I assumed he had just returned from

Ashley’s place, so Ella must have given the perfume to Ashley.

Had Ella not told Ashley that it was from me? Seeing how Ashley had even sprayed the perfume to meet Rowan, it made me wonder if she was comfortable using it.

“Is dinner not ready yet?” Rowan glanced **toward** the dining room.

“Almost. Why didn’t you eat outside?” I asked while holding the freshly baked bread pudding and gently blowing on it to cool it down.

It was more typical of him to be out socializing or eating together with Ashley than returning home for dinner.

Rowan glanced at me with a neutral expression as he replied, "I didn't want to eat outside,"

"oh," I replied, nodding as I clumsily scooped up the pudding.

Rowan seemed to be watching me, but whenever I looked at him, he **would lower** his head to glance at his phone.

After a while, a household staff member informed me that dinner **was** ready. I slowly walked to the dining room, where Rowan **sat** opposite me, and we ate our meal in silence.

"Are you going out tonight?" I asked, breaking the silence after dinner.

"No, why?" Rowan replied, looking up at me.

"Build a snowman with me" I said, smiling at him.

"Paula's birthday is coming up. If you build a snowman with me, I'll come home with you and put on a show to make her happy."

Rowan's expression turned serious as he asked, "Ivory, where did you learn to threaten people?"

I thought to myself, "Didn't I learn this from you?"

In my previous life, Rowan had used various tactics to push me to get a divorce. What I was asking now was nothing compared to that.

However, I remained calm on the surface and replied, "Does it need to be learned? Just tell me if you're going to do it or not!"

This could be considered one of my obsessions. I **had once** come across a photo on **Ivan's** phone of a snowman Rowan and Ashley had built, showing off their romantic time together.

Of course, that was in my **previous** life. This time, I had to stay ahead of Ashley

It wasn't just for the sake of pride, it meant that even if Rowan and I ended up getting divorced, I would feel satisfied and content.

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Chapter 59 An Unexpected Kindness

“Childish,” Rowan spat out coldly. He then donned the black down jacket and topped it with a matching beanie before walking out.

I followed him **out** and wrapped a scarf tightly around my neck. Then, I started rolling snowballs on the ground

The snow was really cold, and my hands quickly turned red. A household staff member brought me **gloves**, which I put on before continuing to roll more snowballs.

Meanwhile, Rowan stood silently beside me.

“I want **you** to build a snowman with me, not just watch from the **sidelines**,” I said unhappily.

“Do you still think you’re three years old?” Rowan asked imitably, “You’re so grown up, but you’re still behaving childishly by building snowmen

Damn it! Had he talked this much when he had built snowmen with Ashley in my previous life? Feeling annoyed, I picked up a snowball and threw it at him without hesitation.

Rowan brushed off the snow where the snowball **had** hit him and then picked up some snow to throw back at me with

me without flinching

We started a snowball fight, but Rowan was stronger **and** more accurate. He hit me every time, while I constantly missed in my flustered state,

Unwilling to accept defeat, I aimed a snowball **at** Rowan’s head just as he bent down to gather more snow he let out a muffled grunt and glared up. angrily, “Ivory Sadler”

“Hit me if you dare!” I taunted, curling my finger **at** him with a triumphant smile.

Rowan picked up a snowball almost the size of a **basketball** and held it over his head, ready for revenge

Seizing the moment, I rushed into his arms and hugged his waist tightly. Looking up at him, I said, “Go ahead, hit me to death so you can marry Ashley!”

As snowflakes fell on my face and eyelashes, they also dusted the ends **of** Rowan’s hair. He looked down at me, and his eyes were strikingly beautiful.

The atmosphere felt tense as Rowan and I locked gazes

Even though I had loved **him** for ten **years** and had sex with him several times, it was the first time we had shared such a playful and light-hearted moment,

I didn't know if intentionally wanted to get ahead of Ashley or if I just wanted **to** use it as an excuse to compensate for myself.

"Cheater," Rowan said as he awkwardly averted his gaze. He threw the snowball to the ground, and I tactfully let go of him.

Rowan went back to the house, leaving me in a trance in the snow. After a while, I decided to continue building the snowman but soon gave **up**.

shouting

It was freezing all over, and it was only after a hot bath that I began to feel alive again. As I lay in bed, I opened my phone's surveillance system and found the footage of me and Rowan's snowball fight.

In the dim light, white snow fell around us. I was dressed in a white sweater and a black scarf, holding onto **Rowan's** waist as I **looked up** at **him**. He held a **snowball** above his **head** and lowered his **head** to meet my gaze.

If I hadn't died before, I would have been completely enchanted by this utterly beautiful and romantic scene

I wondered what he had been thinking at that moment. Had he wished that Ashley had been in his arms instead?

I couldn't help but take a screenshot and set it as my lockscreen wallpaper.

I didn't know when I finally fell into a deep sleep. I even missed Ivan's call. I only realized it the next day and called him back immediately.

"I need your help," Ivan said

"What kind of help?" asked lazily, still half-asleep.

"Let's talk in person." Ivan set a meeting place and time assertively, then hung up on me.

Bewildered, I scratched my head **and** got up to open the curtains. As I peered outside, the thick snow on the balcony railing glistened in the sunlight

Rowan must be out of his mind **to** want to meet in this weather. What if I got into an accident on the slippery roads?

Just as was wondering about it, I suddenly noticed a beautiful snowman on the lawn downstairs. Overjoyed, I quickly changed my clothes and hurried downstairs.

“Did you build this snowman?” I asked the maid who was clearing the snow,

“Mrs. Payne, Mr. **Payne** built it,” replied the maid.

My heart skipped a beat. I couldn’t articulate what I was feeling. Rowan’s sudden kindness toward me made me feel like I had been joining lucky draws for ten years only to win **a** consolation prize one **day**.

He must have cursed me for being childish while he had been building!

I smiled and buried to the kitchen to fetch two blackbeans and a carrot. After I returned to the snowman, I gave it eyes and a nose before draping my scarf around

its neck

“**Good** boy,” I said as patted the snowman’s head. I then happily went back to have breakfast before calling Lee to take me **to** meet Ivan

Ivan lived alone in a high–end apartment located near the hospital

It was my first time going over to his place. I thought someone as cold as him would have **a** minimalistic, black and white home, especially given that it suited his

To my surprise, his place had wooden floors and warm yellow walls that created a cozy atmosphere. There was **also a** faint fragrance in the air when I walked **into**

“Make yourself comfortable,” Ivani said as he chapped a suitcase into the living room, then made me a cup of hot tea and brought out a plate of golden baked cookies.

Chiater Fi An Unexpected kindness

“I baked these. You can try some

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Then, he called out, and a beautiful Ragdoll cat bounded out in response. The **car’s** fluffy tail dragged on the ground **as** she meekly meowed and then jumped up into his arms.

As he stroked her, he said, “I’ll be going **on** an exchange program for about half a month. I need you to take Bobo home and look after her for me.”

I almost dropped the coole I had picked up when I realized that he had called me over t
o take care of his cat.

“I can’t do it!” I replied as I nodded my head.

“She’s very well–
behaved. You just have to feed her and play with her every day,” Ivan said as he walked
over and placed Bobo **in** my arms without another **word**

Bobo snuggled against me, she really did seem very well–behaved.

Ivan took out another box filled with cat food and toys. “Let’s go, I’ll walk you downstairs,
” **he** said.

I had suddenly been entrusted with the responsibility, so I had no choice but to take Bo
bo and **go** downstairs with Ivan.

Ivan drove to the hospital while I got into my car with Bobo. Lee then drove me back to
Windwill Estate.

I had to admit that pets were excellent companions. I enjoyed having Bobo around, **and**
she quickly adapted to **my** house within a day. While I practiced cello in the **music** room
, **she lounged** healde me as my audience.

I couldn’t help but take a beautiful picture of Bobo and post it on my Instagram:

am story. A

After I posted it, I saw Ashley’s latest post.

Since she had followed me, she hadn’t posted anything. The stories were only visible fo
r 24 hours, and she didn’t arcuve them or add them to highlights.

The post was a photo of a hand catching snowflakes. The caption read, “Is there somet
hing special about me in your heart?”

Haww Those lyrics well, it was from a song I had once loved. The next line went, “I’m ju
st afraid you’ll never see, I’m always by your side.”

I used to think that this song
perfectly captured my feelings for Rowan Was Ashley using it now to express her feelin
gs for Rowan?

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Chapter 60 I Don’t **Understand** Him Anymore.

I **had a** feeling that Ashley had fallen for Rowan.

Things were moving along much faster than it had in my **previous** life. **was** it because I had intervened?

I initially wanted to like it, but then I got worried that Rowan might **find** out. If he **saw** my reaction and thought I had malicious intentions, it could cause trouble

for me.

be together. After putting my phone down, I settled Bobo a

and went to my room to sleep. Before I could drift

It didn't matter anyway since they were destined to be

off, **Ivan** rang me. It was a video **call**

I hesitated for a moment before I answered the call. The screen showed a hotel room and **Ivan** sitting in a rattan chair, drinking coffee,

He asked, "How's Bobo? Is she behaving? **Can** you **handle** her?!"

I had never expected Ivan to have such a caring side. He acted like a father toward Bobo, his well-behaved daughter.

Besides, **his** questions **made** me feel like we were an old married couple discussing whether it was easy to look after our child.

"She's **fine and** very well-behaved. She even goes to the toilet by herself," I replied lazily, then rolled over and laid on my stomach.

"That's **good**. If it's convenient, **take** her to the pet store for a bath **and** deworming **treatment** in the next couple of days," Ivan casually instructed through the video call

"Do you think I'm your nanny?" I glared at Ivan, trying to appear as fierce as possible. "I'm not going. You think I won't put your car up for sale online?"

Ivan laughed. Both he and **Rowan** seemed **aloof** when they didn't smile, but when they did, their smiles were very warm.

Luckily, I had seen many handsome guys before, so I wasn't easily swayed. After briefly admiring Ivan's good **looks**, I regained my composure. "What's so funny? I will really sell your cat."

“Try it,” Ivan said, seeming to look down on me a bit.

I rolled my eyes at **him and said**, “Hang up. I want to sleep!”

“There’s something I need to tell you,” Ivan said, becoming slightly more serious “Rowan and Ashley are also here. I heard Ashley tagged along with the university’s band for a performance here.”

After a few seconds of silence, I replied, “okay, I got it.”

After that, I ended the video call. I turned over **and** stared blankly at the dazzling crystal chandelier on the ceiling.

I found that Rowan was becoming more and more hard to read. In my previous life, **I had** understood him better because he had loved Ashley passionately. However, I was confused now because he seemed to like Ashley, but he had also changed his attitude toward me

to another city. Two nights ago, he had been affectionate, and then he had also helped me build a snowman **like I** had wanted. Yet, today, he had taken Ashley. When Ashley had posted the photo on her Instagram story, Rowan must have been beside her. I suddenly understood that Ashley had posted it specifically for me

to **see**.

I should have known whether Ashley was special to

Rowan or not.

I didn’t sleep well that night.

When I woke up the next day, my dark circles were pronounced. The household staff couldn’t help but express their concern when they saw me. I just waved my hand, not feeling like saying anything.

The snowman outside was still standing in the cold wind. Its scarf had been blown off and now lay on the **ground**. I went out to put the scarf back on it and touched the snowman’s nose with a wry smile on my face.

Just as I was feeling down, I got a call from Jean.

“by, my **dad** is acting insane!” Her voice rang loudly in my ears.

“What?” **I said**, startled.

“He wants me to go on a blind date!” she exclaimed. Jean, who was known as a playgirl, couldn’t accept the idea of blind dates.

Frustrated, she vented to me, saying, “There are so many eligible bachelors now. If I get married, how many of them will be heartbroken? Some might even do something to harm society.”

Helplessly covering my forehead, I realized Jean was strongly against marriage, she preferred dating over getting married.

However, the pressure from her family was likely overwhelming for her, especially given her age. She might not be able to withstand it much longer.

“You just have to go through the motions and take a look, like you did before,” I reassured Jean, who was fuming.

Jean exclaimed, “I’m not going. That guy is a baldie I could even see my reflection on his head,”

Tal most laughed out loud. Jean certainly had a talent for being sharp-tongued.

“Let’s meet up! I’m craving ice cream to cool down!” Jean suggested.

“Alright. Where do you want to go?” I asked.

“Sweet Scoops. See you in half an hour. Jean gave an address and hung up.

I went back to my room to grab my bag before leaving.

On

Chapter 61 Getting Hit **On**