

## Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 61-70

Posted by **Admink**, 96 Views, Released on July 9, 2024

### Chapter 61 Getting Hit **On**

After ice cream,

Jean still wasn't satisfied. As usual, she persuaded **Natalie**, Olivia, and I to join her at the bar

She declared she wouldn't marry in the future and asserted **that** bars and nightclubs were her second home,

"seriously, it's just men, right? Look at all these guys," she said, shaking her hot glass and gesturing toward the different men at the bar.

If I had Jean's attitude toward men **and** was dismissive of them, I wouldn't have suffered from insomnia and nightmares last night.

I had dreamt of the day I had married Rowan, except in the dream, my **face** had been replaced with Ashley's

been

Rowan had seemed nothing like his typically cold and distant self. Instead, he had shown unexpected tenderness toward "me" in the dream; his eyes had been overflowing **with** affection

If that hadn't been a nightmare, what had it been? Just thinking about it still made me feel uncomfortable

"y, the dance you performed at the bar last time was so . How about doing it again tonight?" Natalie said, bursting **into** laughter.

"Yeah, wasn't Rowan the one who took you away in the end?" Jean asked, her eyes gleaming.

"Men can be so frustrating. They often fail to appreciate what they have until it's gone, but then they get upset if someone else shows interest," she added.

Olivia had a different view. "Isn't that girl Rowan's chasing a university student? She looked so innocent," she said. "Isn't that whole girl-next-door thing popular these days? I think she's just that type."

After Rowan and I had left that night, our friends had still been at the bar. I had no idea **what had** happened next with Ashley, except that she had called and texted

Bowan

\*Innocent, my ass! Her behavior is outrageous. Jean sneered. "She's involved with a married man! She didn't set boundaries **and even** followed him to the bar. She's clearly a bitch."

"Don't put it that way," I said, taking a sip of my drink and sighing. "You know what kind of person Rowan is. Ashley is just an **ordinary** college girl. **How** could she resist him given his status?"

Ivy, how can you defend a mistress like this? Whether she was forced or

Jean set her glass **down** abruptly and grabbed my face, her eyes widening in surprise. "Ivy, willing, **it's** immoral!"

"Exactly. We should be kind to ourselves and hold others accountable, Olivia added.

I chuckled at their banter because they had no idea how I truly felt at that moment.

try to alter any potential outcomes. Otherwise, it might **lead** to **breast** cancer and

I didn't want to dwell on the predetermined outcome, become too entangled, or try to. an early death form

As we **drank** and **chatted**, a familiar voice behind us said, "What would you like to drink? It's on me."

We **turned** simultaneously **and** saw Chester. He was dressed flamboyantly and was flirting with a woman at the **bar** in that deep voice **of** his.

"You should have a **drink** with me!" she said flirtatiously, clearly skilled in the art of flirting.

"If you get drunk, I won't be responsible." Chester continued to flirt, completely unaware of our presence.

"If I get drunk, could you arrange a place for me to sleep? The woman giggled playfully. The two of them were lost in **each** other and prepared to enjoy their time together

Just then, Jean couldn't hold back any longer. "Chester Lawson, you're already out partying?" she shouted

“Weren’t you just in the hospital for erectile dysfunction? Didn’t the doctor tell you to abstain for three months?”

Chester nearly dropped his glass when he **heard** her shout. He looked around angrily for the culprit, but his expression morphed into one of shock when he saw Jean.

Upon hearing Jean’s words, the woman who had been flirting with Chester looked at him with suspicion and disdain. After a quick glance at his crotch, she snorted and walked away.

Natalie, Olivia, and I couldn’t help but laugh, Jean was being really mischievous.

Although Chester was shocked, he walked over to us **since** he cared **about** his dignity. He pointed at Jean **and** angrily said, “Tigress, stop spreading rumors and tarnishing my reputation!”

“Chester, do you remember I said I’d slap you every time I see you in the future? Jean said as she stood up. Even though she was shorter than Chester, she still had an intimidating presence.

Chester stepped back, stuttering, “W–Why would you **hit** me? we have no grudges—”

Chester quickly covered his head

as Jean raised her hand, seemingly ready to hit him. “Try and hit me if you dare! Don’t think I won’t hit a woman, I’ll ask my dad to find Jeremy **and** arrange=”

He stopped speaking abruptly when he realized he had said something wrong

As expected, Jean’s expression changed drastically. She grabbed Chester’s collar and said, “You bastard! You’re the one **who asked** your dad to **introduce** me to **that** baldie!”

“Who told **you to hit** me last time? Chester said, trying to stand up for himself

“It’s because you deserve to be hit, you little jerk!” Jean exclaimed furiously, landing blows on Chester from all sides.

Feeling scared, Chester ran away, Jasper appeared at the right moment to stand up for him.

this time. My heart sank at the

Since Chester and **Jasper** were both in Alton City, it became clear that Rowan and Ashley had gone on a trip to another city **alone** the realization

## Chapter 61 Getting

### Hit On

“Ms. **Dane**, our lovely Jean, please calm down! Chester is still young and often speaks without thinking,” Jasper **said**, acting as a peacemaker. “Let’s not argue with him

“Damn it! If Ivy **makes** her dad introduce you to a 150–pound widow as a potential wife, what would you do?” Jean questioned Jasper. She had her hands on her hips. Jasper glanced at me, and it seemed like he was imagining the scenario. Then, he immediately declared that he would sewer ties with me!

Jean pointed behind **Jasper** and said, “Move aside. I’ll send him to bell **today**.”

As Jasper moved aside, Chester found himself unprotected and quickly fled—Jean chased after him without hesitation, starting a game of cat and mouse in the bustling bar.

Jean returned after **half** an hour, looking relieved and rejuvenated.

I had seen enough drama, so I went to the washroom

When I came out, a man intercepted me. His glasses made him look sophisticated. He politely asked, “Hi, mind if I join you for a drink? I couldn’t help but notice you earlier.”

I was initially inclined to refuse, but for some reason, I found his voice and demeanor comforting. Since he seemed to be around my age, I thought having a chat and a drink might be nice.

Sure,” I smiled faintly and sat down with him at a nearby table.

After noticing the situation, Jean threw me a flirtatious glance and gestured for me to go for it

I withdrew my gaze as the man introduced himself. “I’m Royce Jacobson, and you?”

“You **can** call me Sadler,” I replied, not wanting to tell a stranger my full name.

“Ms. Sadler, it’s **a** pleasure to meet you,” Royce said, smiling warmly.

We **drank** as we talked. There **was** often little to discuss between strangers, especially in situations where successful flirtation often led to romance. However, Royce was polite and didn’t say anything that made me uncomfortable.

Suddenly, **he asked**, “Are you single?”

I was stunned. At that moment, I wondered what Rowan **was** doing. **Was** he shopping with Ashley, or were they already in bed together?

Chapter **da** Conversations with Benjamin

Tinterrupted my thoughts and replied mysteriously, "How about you take a guess?"

Royer adjusted his glasses and smiled. "I won't guess, but i hope you're single so I have a chance

Was this guy trying to pursue me? I didn't quite believe it. I figured he was like any other guy just being friendly before he became flirty

I finished my drink in one go and stood up. "Let's not talk about this anymore, Mr. **Jacob son**. Goodbye."

Seeing my reaction, Royce immediately stood up as well. He asked anxiously, "Cant ha ve your contact number? I'll show you how sincere a

sincerity didn't count for much. I had sincerely loved Rowan for ten years, but the outco me was still the same.

Sill, I gave Royce in contact number. If Rowan could take his beloved out to play, why **c ouldn't I find** a man to pass the time with?

After giving Royce my number, I went to find jean and the others. They were done **having fun** too, so we all beaded hom e separately.

Lee was waiting for me in the cold wind outside the bar.

se get **in**. I grabbed his hand and said seriously, "Lee, don't

Every time I drank, I needed **him** to pick me up. He respectfully opened the car door for me **and** helped me get worry; I'll give you a raise next year!"

Regardless **of** everything, Lee never complained about my orders.

**Lee** froze for a moment, and a hint of something crossed **his face** before he gently rele ased my hand. He then quickly got into the **driver's** seat **and** drove me back to Windwill Estate

As I passed by that snowman on the way home, I silently stated at it for a few seconds b efore plucking its eyes out

“Both you and Rowan are blind,” I muttered. I **was** no worse than Ashley, except that I wasn’t as young **as her**.

As soon as I got home, I heard Bobo calling out with soft meows, and it instantly lifted my **mood**.

I found her playing with a ball of yarn in her **car** bed and picked her up for a cuddle. After a while, I took a selfie with Bobo and uploaded a post.

Later, I took **a** shower and went to bed. Just before I fell asleep, I saw that Benjamin had sent me a few messages. There was **also a** photo of an orange cat. It was chubby and adorable.

Benjamin texted, “Ivory, do you **like** cats too?”

I replied, “I’m okay with them. I’ve been looding after a friend’s cat for a while, and I find her quite cute. Is that orange cat yours?”

Benjamin texted back, “I found Biscuit at school, **and** I decided to keep him since no one wanted him. He’s very well-behaved, just a bit too chubby from eating.” After that, he sent me **a** short video of Discule trying to jump onto a chair but falling because he was too chubby. I laughed uncontrollably when I saw how silly and

cute Bisont was.

We chatted for a while, mostly about cats. Benjamin must have seen my post and thought I really liked cats. Hence, he seemed to have found a topic to talk **to** me

I was aware of **that** slightly forced feeling because I used to deliberately seek out Rowan for **a** chat and attempt to find topics that I thought would interest him.

In the end, Benjamin transferred the remaining money he owed me all at once and said, “Thank you, Ivory. Let me treat you to a meal next time.”

responded, “Sure, how about tomorrow? I need to take Bobe for a bath **and** deworming treatment. You can bring Biscuit along ton

Benjamin replied promptly, “okay!”

After I put my phone down, hugged my pillow and let my mind wander before falling asleep. Nothing was more important **than** sleep, and I couldn’t overwork myself.

The next day, I sent the address of a nearby pet store and the time to Benjamin.

When I arrived at the store, he was already waiting there. He wore a thin black jacket over a turtleneck sweater. He also had a pet carrier backpack on his back, which housed Biscuit.

“Ivory!” Benjamin greeted me with a wide, beaming smile.

“Let’s go inside quickly. It’s cold **out** here,” I said, holding a clear pet cage in one hand and hugging my clothes tightly with the other.

I marveled at how good it must be to be young, **given** how unaffected Benjamin seemed by the cold despite his light attire.

After we entered the pet store, the staff took care of everything for Bobo. Meanwhile, Benjamin and I sat on the couch and played with Biscuit.

Biscuit was lively but struggled with his bulk. He often attempted to jump but failed. He circled around to my right side, seemingly ready to leap onto my shoulder.

Startled, I instinctively leaned away and pressed against Benjamin’s chest. He stiffened briefly, then blushed.

Once I realized what I had done, I smiled at **him** instead of immediately moving away. I only straightened up after Biscuit had left. “**He’s** a bit naughty. Did he scare you?” Benjamin asked, avoiding eye contact. His eyes followed **Biscuit**, and he sounded nervous, “No, he’s quite cute. I want to buy him a hair clip!” I exclaimed, struck by an idea.

I got up and selected a pink hair clip for cats. Benjamin gently caught Biscuit, and I carefully placed the hair clip next to his ear.

Biscuit was quite cooperative and proudly strutted around with the hair clip. He even showed off in front of Bobo and teased her with his paws. Bobo was being groomed at that moment, so she grumbled in annoyance at Biscuit.

Chapter 62 Comissions with Benjamin

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Chapter 62 Comissions with Benjamin

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“Biscuit!” Benjamin quickly **called** out and rushed to intervene.

Meanwhile, I took out my phone and captured this funny moment. I sent it to Ivan with a message saying, "Isn't this chubby orange cat hilarious? Bobo is almost furious with him, hahaha."

Since Ivan didn't reply, I figured he was probably busy and didn't bother with him.

After spending an hour or two playing around in the pet store, Benjamin and I left together,

"Weren't you going to treat me to a meal? How **about now**?" I asked as I walked toward the car and placed Bobo in the backseat.

Benjamin's gaze lingered on my car, unable to hide the envy and longing in his eyes.

Upon hearing my words, he quickly nodded. "Okay."

"Get in the **car** then," **I said**, smiling at him.

Since I was **aware** of Benjamin's financial situation, I opted for **an** affordable buffet restaurant.

Later, I called Lee to come and drive back to Windwill Estate with Bobo and Biscuit. Otherwise, the two little ones would have been uncomfortable being cooped up.

The restaurant was quite crowded, and Benjamin dashed around, getting various dishes he thought were delicious for me.

Watching his considerate behavior, I couldn't help but feel a pang of regret **for** him once again.

Honestly, he was quite good-looking. Aside from being hardworking and optimistic, he could be considered a campus heartthrob at school.

If Rowan hadn't intervened, he and Ashley might have had a happy future together.

A girl who seemed to be **around** 18 or 19 years old shyly approached Benjamin and said, "Hello, my friend said you're handsome. Can I have your number?" Benjamin glanced at me subconsciously.

The girl immediately looked embarrassedly at me. "**I'm** sorry, is this your girlfriend? Sorry for bothering you!"

After saying that, she awkwardly ran away, Benjamin looked embarrassed; it seemed like he wanted to explain but was hesitating.



“Ah, it looks like the romance is over.” I sighed

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## Chapter 63 Chockding Up on Me

Renmin calmly said, “I don’t need romance’

“Why? Are you planning to stay single forever because of heartbreak? tasked, while eating lamb stew

“No, it’s just..” Benjamin paused, then smiled without finishing **his** sentence. Instead, he preled a few shrimps and placed them in my bowl, “Ivory, you’re too thin. You should eat more.”

I didn’t want to stay this thin either, but for some reason, my etorts to gain weight never went smoothly.

Since I had been rebom, I had only managed to gain three or four pounds, and sometimes I even lost it again

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It could have been becse Ella had been fired too soon. If she had been around to cook for me longer, I might have gained enough weight to reach triple digits and achieved a curvier Figure.

Benjamin was much **ye**

inger than me, **so** after we chatted for a while, I could sense his immaturity.

For example, he had a naive tendency to see things in black and white, I didn’t argue with him. Instead, I agreed with him a few times, and he smiled happily, seemingly pleased that I shared his views.

After finishing the buffet, Benjamin and I left the restaurant. Since Lee had already driven the car back, I had to take a taxi home.

“It’s snowing again,” I said, watching the falling snowflakes with delight. I reached out to catch a few **and** observed their shapes closely.

Benjamin had his **hands in** his jacket pockets, **and** his breath was visible in the cold air. He asked, “Ivory, do you like lattes?”

He had double eyelids, big eyes, and long eyelashes. Some people said that university students’ eyes seemed to carry a hint of innocence, which seemed to suit him

THM

used to love drinking lattes when I had been in university, but I **had** gradually stopped after I had gotten married

But in this weather, it seemed nice to have a hot cup of latte. I nodded, and Benjamin immediately ran to a nearby coffee shop. He patiently waited in line since the shop was busy.

At that moment, my phone vibrated. I rubbed **my** hands together to warm them and took out my phone. It was a call from Rowan.

“Hello?” I answered the call, snitting slightly before speaking.

“Where are you?” Rowan’s voice sounded icy.

“I’m at... Elm Street What’s wrong? I glanced around before asking him

“Who are you with?” Rowan asked directly,

I **was** a little confused about what **this** had to do with him. If **this** was about our previous agreement, Benjamin wasn’t even considered his friend

I directly asked him back. “Where are you?”

After a brief silence, Rowan replied, “Don’t you know?”

“Who are you with?” I pressed further.

“I came with Ashley, but now I’m alone in the hotel,” Rowan **quickly clarified**.

This left me speechless. I was unable to respond **as** held the phone **pressed** to my ear

After a while, I finally spoke again. “Did you call to check on me? Why suspect me?” I asked. “You’re out enjoying yourself with your lover. I haven’t questioned you, and yet you’re accusing **me!**”

Teamed online that we **should** turn the tables instead of reasoning when confronted.

As expected, Rowan was left speechless by my response.

After taking a deep breath, which was **clearly** audible through the phone, he **said**, “You’ve gone from helping van take care of his cat to taking both his cat and Ashley’s ex to the pet store. **Ivory**, you **really** know how to play.”

“How do you know? I blurted out. It made sense for him to know that I was **taking** care of Bobo. After all, I had posted about it on my Instagram story, so he must have recognized Hobo,

But how had he found out that I was with Benjamin?”

At that moment, my phone pinged with a **WhatsApp** notification, and I quickly glanced at it

**Ivan had** sent a message that read,

“I was with Rowan when you sent me the video, and he saw it.” I was amused by the perfect timing and situation. Brilliant!

“Ivory, here’s your caramel latte. The classle flavor is good Benjamin exclaimed cheerfully as he hurried over with the latte.

Upon hearing Benjamin’s voice, Rowan immediately said, “You better wait for me.” He then ended the call.

I wondered **what** I was supposed to wait for. In the end, I decided to enjoy my latte first. Given **how** drastically Rowan’s attitude changed every **time**, there **was no** telling why Rowan was angry this time.

“Thank you!” said, smiling brightly at Benjamin

“You’re welcome,” Benjamin said, his face looking a bit red. I wasn’t sure if it was from the cold or because he was shy. He then softly complimented me, “You look really pretty today.”

I was delighted. After all, any woman would like to be complimented on her appearance. The latte tasted even sweeter after I heard the compliment. Chatting and walking in the snow with a young man while drinking latte was a new experience for me.

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Chapter 64 hecking Up an Me

Although many guys had pursued me in university, they **had** all backed off upon **learning that** my ultimate goal was Rowan

Consequently, it had only been natural that I had never experienced many romantic gestures, and the ones I had attempted to pull off for Rowan had been consistently ignored by him.

After finishing the latte, I called a **taxi** and took Benjamin back to Windwill Estate **so** he could pickup Biscuit.

“Why are you **just** standing there? Come in!” When we arrived at Windwill Estate, Benjamin looked hesitant to enter.

When I urged him to come in, he slipped on a pair of slippers and stepped into the spacious, luxurious living room.

The renovation costs for the mansion alone went into the millions. Although I was accustomed to it, Benjamin looked visibly uneasy.

I wondered if Ashley felt this way too, given that such wealth wasn't hers by birth. Instead, she got to experience it thanks to Rowan, who provided her with a

shortcut to success.

In fact, I hadn't earned this wealth either. I was simply fortunate to have been born into this life.

When Biscuit saw Benjamin, he let out an excited meow and clumsily jumped onto Benjamin's lap.

Bobo followed and rubbed against my leg, so I quickly picked her up.

While petting Biscuit, Benjamin asked, “Ivory, are you home alone?”

shome.

He probably wanted to know if Rowan, the man who had stolen his girlfriend from **him**—the man he couldn't compete with—was!

“Yeah, he's probably on a business trip with your ex-girlfriend,” I said frankly. Since Benjamin already knew about it, I figured there was no need to hide it. His face darkened **briefly** when I mentioned Ashley. After all, she was someone he had truly loved.

“Do you want to **stay** for dinner?” I asked, inviting him.

Benjamin shook his **head**, “No, I need to get back to campus.”

“Oh.” I nodded.

“Winter break is coming up. Next semester, I'll be starting an internship. I might end up with more free time, or I could be even busier,” Benjamin explained. Treplied as usual, “Alright. If **you** need help finding an internship, just let me know. I'll help if I can.”

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I knew he still didn't want a divorce and that it wasn't because he loved me.

After weighing the pros and cons, he felt that Ashley wasn't yet a strong enough reason to give up the benefits of our alliance.

"Okay," I nodded, sensing how Rowan was holding back. If I kept talking, things might escalate, so I decided to go along with his pace. If he wasn't in a hurry for a divorce, then I wouldn't rush either.

Whenever he came to bother me, bringing up divorce seemed like a good trick.

The bed and

and played with my phone.

I breathed **a sigh** of relief when Rowan went to take a shower. After changing into pajamas, I lay on t

An hour ago, Ashley had uploaded **a** post. It was a selfie as she rehearsed for a show, but her expression seemed sad.

I assumed she **wasn't** in a good mood since Rowan had returned home. As I scrolled down, she suddenly messaged me, "**Ivory**, has Mr. Payne returned home?"

I was surprised that she **was** actually asking me about Rowan.

I replied, "He's home and taking a shower now."

She was silent for a few minutes before responding. That's good. He's really a **good** man. It's his mother's birthday tomorrow, so he rushed **back**."

I was confused about why Ashley felt like she could discuss these topics **with** me. She hadn't even clarified her current relationship with Rowan, yet she was still discussing such private matters,

After thinking for a minute, I realized Ashley must have known that I **was** already aware of everything. She might have felt there was no need for a formal confrontation between the wife and the mistress.

I quickly typed and replied, "Well, **he's a** devoted son."

Ashley responded, "Ivory, you're quite the charmer. I heard you and Benji went to the pet store today."

I wondered how she knew about this. Could it be that when I had sent the video to Ivan, it hadn't just been Rowan there but also Ashley? But he hadn't told me anything.

Before I could gather my thoughts on how to respond, Ashley dropped another bombshell.

"I've **always** sensed that Benji treats you differently, which is why I broke up with him. Now that I think about it, my decision was right."

## Chapter 65 Giving In

I could sense that Benjamin was treating **me** differently.

Perhaps young men's hearts were more **easily** stung, and they were also more prone to taking things seriously.

All **of a** sudden, I felt a bit guilty, I worried if Benjamin's feelings for me were growing

To be honest, I couldn't give him the response he wanted because I didn't fancy someone who won youthful and **overly** affectionate

I just wanted to use him to balance my inner turmoil. If he was willing to play along with me and pass the time, maybe I could consider it. However, I could never accept it if his feelings were sincere.

**Dressed** in a black bathrobe, Rowan returned from his shower as my mind was in turmoil and lost in thought. There were subtle muscular contours on his chest, giving him a firm and attractive appearance.

I averted my gaze and slipped my phone under the pillow, pretending to be asleep.

After **a** while, I felt the set mattress sink down as Rowan laid beside me. He had a pleasant scent of mixed body wash and shampoo, which I liked.

"Why aren't you sleeping in the guest room now? I **asked** out of nowhere as I laid with my back to him.

"The master bedroom **is** also partially mine, Rowan replied coldly.

"Why are you using my bathroom, body wash, and shampoo?" I turned over and stared at him. "Didn't you say you disliked that scent before?"

This was why the questions could **get** tricky

the woman started to overthink

Even at such close proximity, **Rowan's** face remained flawless. His furrowed brows were perfectly **curved**. He turned to look at me and said, "Ivory, do you hear what you're saying:

After we stared **at** each other for a while, I felt somewhat deflated under his gaze. I turned over again to continue sleeping. "Forget it; I'm not one to hold grudges"

The next moment, his hand grabbed my shoulder, forcefully **turning** me back over. He nearly pinched my skin while doing so

"Ouch, Rowan, **what** are you doing? I cried out in pain, and tears welled up in my eyes.

A burning desire flickered in Rowan's eyes. He scanned my face, his gaze lingering on my lips.

Just as I sensed that something was amiss, he abruptly bit my lips, silencing the words I wanted to say.

He kissed me until I was short of breath. Suddenly, my lips stung, and Rowan released me. There was a trace **of** blood at the corner of his lips, which he casually wiped away.

"Do you have rabies, Rowan Farne? \* I exclaimed, touching my lips **and** feeling blood, I immediately became furious and tried to hit him.

However, my hand was caught, and I couldn't move.

Rowan finally covered my injured lips again. Before a string of curses could escape my lips, I was silenced again.

Finally, I was covered in sweat, and Rowan **had** already removed **his** bathrobe. **Beads** of sweat rolled down his toned back

He got up from the bed and glanced at the messy quilt and pillows. He went to the **balcony** shirtless and **smoked a** cigarette under the falling snow in the cold wind

I smoothed my hair, which was damp with sweat, and took a breath before cursing him. "Thee you freeze to death, you **bastard!**"

Today, I felt great. Even with my skeleton-like **figure**, I had managed to fend off Rowan's advances. There wasn't a spot of skin left untouched on my body, but at least had kept my dignity intact.

Finally, yet there was a faint smile on his lips. "Come on, let's

At that moment, Rowan finished his cigarette and turned to close the door. His eyes held a hint of cruelty, continue,” he **said**

“Continue? You jecki Go to hell!” I grabbed a pillow and threw it at Rowan

He caught it effortlessly and let it drop to the floor. Closing the distance to the bed in just a few strides, he leaned over and grabbed me, preventing me from continuing to throw things.

“Why didn’t know you like to curse so much?”  
Rowan asked with that, he left merchance to resist

Three minutes later, I silently admitted that I gave in

I was supposed to avoid staying up late, but whenever Rowan’s wild side surfaced, I couldn’t maintain a healthy routine of sleeping **early and** waking up early,

Unfortunately, the next day was Paula’s birthday. Despite how worn out my body was, I forced myself to get up.

As I sat at the dressing table after showering, I was startled by my reflection in the mirror.

My pale face featured **dark** circles under lifeless eyes. My neck bore hickeys and bruises, resembling the aftermath of sustained abuse and violence.

Rowan pushed the door **open** and entered. He was impeccably dressed **as always**, exuding **an** air of elegance and refinement.

As I looked at myself, I realized it was better not to bother comparing

“Go change into your clothes, and we’ll leave after breakfast,” he instructed.

Rowan was the type who seemed completely unaffected, as though the wild antics of the previous night hadn’t been his doing at all. He had effortlessly returned to his usual demeanor.

I didn’t feel like engaging with him, so I got up and went to find **something** to wear in the closet

George and Paula preferred an elegant **and** dignified daughter-in-law. To be on the safe **side**, I opted for a white coat paired with an apricot turtleneck vest and pants. It was **a** simple yet refined choice that covered the unsightly marks on my neck.

Chapter 65 Giving in



I meticulously applied makeup to conceal my fatigue and enhance my complexion.

I grabbed the birthday present I had prepared earlier and headed downstairs. Rowan was already seated at the table and was enjoying his breakfast

Upon noticing me, a household staff member promptly brought over a steaming plate of food.

After breakfast, Rowan and I left together. As we passed by the snowman, he asked, “Why did you only put a nose on it and not any eyes?”

“I did put them on, but I wasn’t in a good mood, so I picked them off,” I replied with annoyance.

My legs felt a bit sore. Meanwhile, Rowan seemed so energetic, which liked me for some reason. Impulsively, I pulled the carrot nose out again and tossed it into the snow, shooting him a **glare**.

Rowan didn’t react to my gesture. In the past, he might have thought I was trying to get his attention again and found it annoying.

However, this time, he calmly picked up the carrot and reattached it to the snowman.

Outside, the champagne Mulsanne was blanketed in thick snow. Deciding it was too much trouble to clean off, Rowan called over the driver to handle it and drove out the Cullinan from the underground garage.

After I had endured waiting in the chilly, snowy weather, the car finally pulled up beside me. I opened the passenger door and got in. Then, we headed off to Paula’s house

As we passed by Duo Chemicals once more, I noticed that the old employee housing complex where Ashley lived had been demolished.

Dust filled the air, and the constant digging and rumbling noises echoed throughout the site.

I wondered where Ashley and the others were living now. I remembered Ella’s invitation to dinner at her house and made a mental note to visit when I had the time.

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Chapter 66 Encouraging Parenthood

Although I was curious, I didn’t ask Rowan because he wouldn’t tell me any..

I **didn't** know when I fell into a deep sleep. I hadn't slept well last night, and now I just wanted to catch up on rest.

When I woke up, I wasn't in the car but on a bed. As I looked around, I realized that I was in Rowan's room.

I couldn't remember how I had reached the bed.

At that moment, Rowan came in. "Have you had enough **sleep**? If so, come down to eat. My mom and the others are waiting for you."

"I'll get up right away!" I replied, feeling somewhat embarrassed.

After that, Rowan left the room.

At that moment, my phone rang. It was Moin calling to remind me that today was Paula's birthday. She had already conveyed her wishes and told me to make sure Paula had a happy day.

Normally, the parents would simply exchange messages or gift cards on their birthdays, while the younger generation handled giving the gifts.

I agreed right away, not daring to tell Moin that Paula and the others were waiting downstairs for me to eat.

After hanging up, I hurried downstairs. As soon as I reached the dining room, I felt like I wanted to disappear.

Besides Rowan, George, and Paula, all of Rowan's relatives were there, filling the large round dining table.

Everyone looked at me as I entered the room.

I had never seen all of his close relatives together like this before, except on our wedding day.

"Come here, Ivory!" Paula waved **wannily** at me. She was wearing an elegant red dress.

She didn't seem upset about the delay. An empty seat next to her **had** been reserved for me, and Rowan was seated beside it.

**His** aunts also led **at me**, though we usually didn't interact much and weren't very familiar with each other.

I quickly gained my composure and greeted all the elders with a smile. They were all **norable** figures in the **business** world

In my previous life, Rowan had mined my family with the help of these relatives.

However, I didn't resent them. After all, they weren't the ones who had forced Rowan to divorce me and marry Ashley. Instead, Rowan was the one who had forced them to **help**.

Blood was thicker than water. Rowan and **had** no children, so **anyone** would choose to help their relative

I wasn't stupid enough to hold grudges for past events. After all, I knew I couldn't change them. If were to act against them now, it would only make them dislike me and be wary of me

They each responded to my greetings. Then, I told Paula that the gilt was still in the car. "To get

"Rowan took it **out** for you, and I've already put it on! Paula said with a smile, turning around to show me

Her hair was pinned up with a hairpin adorned with gemstone beads, each laced with a fragrance that released a faint scent when she moved

Even though the hairpin **wasn't as** valuable as the emerald she had, Paula liked it enough to wear it right away.

"Paula, it looks great! It matches your dress perfectly!" I complimented her sincerely.

Paula beamed with joy. "You have great taste!" she exclaimed. "I love everything you bring for me. Come, take a seat and eat."

**Inodded and** quickly took my seat.

After that, **Paula** instructed the household staff to serve the food. A 6-course meal was quickly served, featuring a variety of colorful, aromatic delicacies. With my goal to gain weight in mind, I ate heartily and occasionally served **Paula** more food as we chatted. I also asked about George's health **and** reminded him to

schedule his annual checkup.

As the other elders chatted, I joined in appropriately whenever the conversation touched on topics I understood.

Sitting beside me, Rowan said very little during the whole time,

After the meal, George and Paula joined their relatives **in** the living room to discuss business, while the household started cleaned up.

One of Rowan's aunts **played** with her grandson and suggested to Paula, "Rowan and Ivory should have a

each child too."

She explained that having a grandchild at **home** would keep Paula entertained, especially since George was busy,

**Paula** immediately looked at me, then turned to Rowan with a reproachful gaze. "I'd love a grandchild, but Rowan isn't doing his part. He's been better lately, with fewer scandals, but he used to be a me"

I almost choked on my water, while Rowan looked displeased. He probably didn't understand what he had done wrong. Despite the scandals, he hadn't fathered any legitimate children.

George agreed, "Exactly Ivory has been waiting at home for him for five years. If he's new home, how can they have a **ch**

child?

"Rowan, don't you want to have a child at **this** age?" his aunt asked.

Before Rowan could answer, his uncle chimed in, "Look at your cousin and his wife. The second child is almost due. If they hadn't gone to a checkup today. They'd be here on."

His aunt added, "Yes, **you're** an only child. Are you satisfied about nothing else?"

Chapter on Encouraging Parenthood

She went on, "Your cousin, Cameron, is already dating. He's planning to marry right after graduation and start a family. We've met his girlfriend, and she's lovely,"

Oh, my. Cameron is dating?" Paula immediately **showed** interest in the topic, and everyone eagerly joined the discussion.

Feeling annoyed by everyone's criticism, Rowan stepped outside to get some fresh air.

I also followed him outside to cool off a bit. Even **though** I was just wearing a thin sweater, I was startled to feel a bit warm because the living room heated.

was well-

We **didn't** speak **and** were each **lost** in our thoughts as we looked out at the snowy yard. Rowan lit a cigarette and smoked alone with his **back** to me.

Soon, I started feeling cold and decided **to** go back inside. At **that** moment, his phone rang, and I had a strong feeling it was **a** call from Ashley.

Rowan never hid his calls with Ashley from me. However, I didn't want to listen in case I became annoyed, and Paula noticed that something was wrong.

I quickly went back inside and closed the door to block out the sound.

**"Ivory**, come here, Paula called me **and** then **headed** upstairs.

I followed her **upstairs**, wondering what she wanted to say.

Upon reaching upstairs, she took my hand and asked in a lowered voice, "Ivory, did you get the prescription I gave you from the pharmacy, and did **Rowan** take it?"

The prescription was added to a potency medicine. Afterward, I had

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asked Ella to buy several more doses from her relatives. When Rowan had taken **it**, it had worked very well

Chapter 67 Quirky Ivan

"Paula, he did Rowan drank it, replied, trying to avoid blushing by keeping those explicit images out of my mind.

Paula was very skeptical and asked, "Really?"

Sedinctly explained the process of getting, changing, and taking the medicine to hrs. ensured every detail was accurate to reassure her

I simply omitted the wild nights with Rowan.

"That's good. If he keeps taking **it** for a while, you'll surely have a big, healthy **baby** boy!" **Paula** exclaimed, smiling. Then, she suddenly added, "A chubby baby girl would be even better!"

Sometimes I found Paula really adorable and thoughtful. She always considered everyone's feelings and feared that she might hurt mine.

Everything had been bizarre since I **had** been reborn

I had come to see Ashley as genuinely beautiful and pure, and Paula as truly kind and lovely. Chad even found the warm side of the loot Ivan. Additionally, Rowan had changed a lot too.

it of control.

At this rate, I wondered if things might **spiral** out

“Ivory, don’t feel pressured. Let nature take its course with the baby,” Paula advised gently.

“George **and** occasionally mention our desire for grandkids, **but** we didn’t mean to pressure you,” she explained.

She had noticed my thoughtful expression **and** had assumed that I might be feeling pressured about the **baby**.

I shook my head repeatedly. “**Paula**, I’ve never felt pressured. In fact, I’m looking forward to having a baby soon.

What I

had said **wasn’t** the truth. I knew I couldn’t have a child with Rowan, or I might be stuck in that hopeless marriage,

A child who had a father who thought of another woman wouldn’t be happy either.

Ashley could fulfill my in-

laws wish for a grandchild after I did Rowan. As I thought of that, I decided there was no need to rush

After **Paula** and I chatted for a while, we went downstairs. Rowan **was** already back in the living room and was playing with his little nephew.

He lifted the two-year-

old onto his shoulders and held his hands to simulate Dying. The child’s adorable laughter echoed as they dashed back and forth

I spaced out for a moment, imagining Rowan with his own child. He seemed to genuinely enjoy being around kids, and he would likely be a caring father in the future

However, he would never be the father of my child

“Come on, Jac’s go shopping!” Paula pulled me and a few of Rowan’s aunts to join her

As for the little nephew, he was left **in** the care of the men at home.

I volunteered to drive. I sat in the front passenger seat, while the other aunts sat in the back since we were one seat short, one of the aunts drove her own car behind us.

The five of us set off together. Along the way, Paula chatted with the aunts. Suddenly, she noticed something and bent down to pick it up from under the seat.

I glanced at it from the corner of my eye and saw that it was an earring.

It looked delicate, with a transparent teardrop-shaped pendant on a simple metal hoop, yet it appeared inexpensive.

Paula looked at the earring, then at my ears. Today, I'm wearing Fleurette diamond studs worth about a thousand dollars, which were completely different in quality from that earring.

She didn't say anything as she put the earring in her bag. Since we were in Rowan's car, she naturally grasped what was going on.

**Paula** preferred high-end local brands with a classic aesthetic over foreign luxury brands. The aunts, similarly inclined in their preferences, also favored classic and mature styles. Therefore, I accompanied them to some local **brand** stores.

I sat on the couch, sipped coffee, and admired the models **as** they came out one by one.

They were younger than Paula but possessed a similar stature and classic beauty. They dressed in dignified outfits, leaving Paula and the aunts to make **their**

**"That** one, bring it over Paula exclaimed.

she had spotted a white coat with a matching white fox collar. It looked incredibly comfortable, was adorned with crystal round buttons, and featured an **elastic** waist. The coat exuded an elegant and slightly regal feel.

I thought she wanted it for herself, but she handed it to me to try on. "You'll look great in this!" she said.

I didn't refuse and immediately took off my coat. Then, I **put** on the one Paula **liked**

The white coat complemented my complexion and accentuated my features, while the cinched waist highlighted my figure. I was amazed i

\*Keep wearing that; you look beautiful,” Paula said, looking me up and down with a beaming smile

“Thank you, Paula,” I said, smiling sweetly.

**ΠΕ**

by the reflection I saw in

After that, Paula and the aunts continued shopping at other stores. While they shopped, I snapped a cure selfie and posted it with the caption, “Taula bought me this coat. How do you like it? I’m loving!”

I definitely liked it, but I wondered how Ashley would react upon seeing it

Chapter 67 Quirky Ivan

**2/2**

Unexpectedly, the first comment came from Ivan. “Not bad, Where’s my Bobo?”

I replied, “Don’t worry, she’s being taken care of well at home.”

Ivan replied, “That’s good. Don’t let her eat too much. **She can** be a bit gluttonous.”

I replied **with** an “okay” gesture.

Then, Ivan asked, “Where’s Rowan?–

Looking at the increasingly long comment thread, I opened a chat box with Ivan and texted, “Do we have to chat in the comments?”

If Rowan saw it, that lunatic would definitely cause trouble for me again. He might even accuse me of seducing his friend!

Ivan texted back, “What’s the difference?”

I laughed sarcastically and replied, “**What’s** the difference between showering at home and showering on the street?”

Ivan didn’t reply afterward, and when I checked **again**, his comments were gone,

“Ivory, let’s go home. We’re tired of shopping.” Paula said, finally satisfied with her loot

Okay, I replied as I put away my phone, Taking the bags from Paula, I followed them out.



It **was** already dark by the time we got home..

I hadn't shopped like this in a long time. With Jean and the others, we carefully walked more than a few steps because we typically headed straight to our destination for food, drinks, and fun.

Therefore, my legs were sore, and I was ready to shower and go to bed.

Just as I was about to drift off, I **heard** Rowan talking on the phone. His voice was low yet gentle **as** he said, "It's okay, I'll handle it." Afterward, I heard the sound of the door opening

I suddenly woke up and rushed to the balcony. As I looked down, I saw Rowan's **car's** lights on. Then, it disappeared into the snowy night.

George and Paula probably didn't know that Rowan had left in the middle of the night since he hadn't made any noise.

Soon after, **my** phone buzzed with a message from him. "I need to go back for something. Stay here for a couple of days, and I'll come get you."

**Based** on his tone during the call, I deduced that it **had** something to do with Ashley,

Looking at that text, I had mixed feelings.

If I were to say that he **was** as heartless as he had been in my previous life, there was still the fact that he had bothered to text me

However, if I were to say **that** he **had** developed feelings for me, I still had to consider how he **was** so attentive to another woman in the middle of the night

As I was lost in thought, Benjamin messaged me. "That coat looked great."

Suddenly, my **mood** lifted a bit, and I replied, "Haha, thanks for the compliment"

Benjamin responded, "It's not just a compliment. It truly looked great. Truly, do you realize how beautiful you are?"

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

Chapter 68 Family Emergency

I didn't reply when

Benjamin's message. Instead, I opened the front camera on my phone and looked at myself. I thought, "Yes, **I'm** pretty attractive,"

whether it was my natural looks or upbringing, had never felt **inadequate**. My Insecurities only surfaced around Rowan; his lack of love made me doubt myself.

A few minutes later, I replied, "I'm a goddess. Thank you for the compliment."

Benjamin responded with a **laughing** emoji, which made me smile. We chatted for a while before I finally succumbed to drowsiness

and fell asleep.

The following day, the sound of Paula molding on the door woke me up.

"What's the matter?" answered groggily

"Is Rowan in there? His car is gone, and he isn't answering his phone," she asked loudly,

I checked my phone and it was almost 9:00 am. Rowan should be back in Allen City by now, but he hadn't told George and **Paula**

lyawned and got out of **bed**. After wearing a robe, opened the door to find Paula standing there.

"He **had** to cashback to Duo Chemicals last night because of agent matter." I fabricated an excuse for him.

"**Oh**, that's why he didn't **pick** up the phone," Pala replied. She seemed suspicious.

**Despite** that, she accepted my **explanation** and added, "Okay. Come down for breakfast. You don't want to start your day on an empty stomach."

"Sure. I'll come down after change," I responded.

Once **she** headed downstairs, I closed the door **and** messaged Rowan about our conversation. After getting dressed, I went down for breakfast

Rowan's relatives had left the night before, and George had already gone to work. So, it was just Paula, a few household staff, and me at home.

As Paula and I chatted over a warm breakfast of oatmeal and toast, the morning felt pleasantly calm and relaxed.

Rowan replied to my message with a curt "Got it". There was no acknowledgment or thanks, which I found a red flag, and I decided not to reply

After breakfast, Paula reassured me, saying, "It Rowan ever mistreats you or crosses a line, you must tell me. Don't worry, I won't let him get away with it."

Even though she had opposed his relationship with Ashley in my previous life, she had never expressed such sentiments **in my** previous life. She had just subtly reminded how of our families' interests.

Italized how navel had been. Rowan and I had been brought together because of an arrangement by our families

George and Paula were pleased with me as their daughter-in-law. If I had been more astute **and** tried to win them over, they would have supported me and eased the tensions in my rocky relationship with Rowan

In my previous life, I had failed to understand that. Thad thought that gaining Rowan's favor meant gaining acceptance from his entire family,

Since I had neglected numuring a strong connection with Paula and George, their resistance to Ashley **had** only been temporary, **and** they hadn't held out for long-

I reassured Faula, saying, "He's been treating me much better lately, so please don't worry. I'm really sorry for causing you **and** George so much trouble." \*Nonsense! The one causing trouble is Rowan, not you." Paula **quickly** corrected me "When we encouraged you two to marry, we chose you because you're different from other women."

Het response took me back

**Paula** sighed and continued, "Rowan has always been quite the charmer with women As grew alder, our commonly deepened.

'He had many admirers, including those from respectable families. **But** you were the only one who stood by his side for five years without wavering. George and I noticed **that** and felt Rowan was fortunate to have married you

I stared at Paula, ure of how to respond.

She gently squeezed my hand and smiled. "We chose you as **our** daughter-in-law because we genuinely **like** you, not for any other reason. Do you understand?" "Paula.." "Overwhelmed with emotion, I choked up. I could only nod in response. "I understand."

If only had realized this sooner in my previous life, my relationship with the Paynes might **have** turned out differently.

I had spent year trying to win over Rowan, hoping he would open up to me, but he had remained distant.

I was fortunate that my in-laws had acknowledged my efforts **and** warmly embraced me. With Paula's genuine affection, I feel comfortable sharing the same roof with her.

Three **days** had passed, and I wondered when Rowan would **come** to pick me up, as he had promised

On the contrary, van would message me daily to see if I had returned home. He **was** worried that my maids weren't **talang** proper care of Bobs

I snapped and responded to his text, "Do you think my maids will abuse your cat?"

He responded, "No, I just **think you** took better **care** of her."

I rolled my eyes at his absurdity and sent him a "goodbye" emoji before tossing my phone aside.

Just as I was lounging on the couch, Mom called me. So, I answered cheerfully, "Hey, Mom, did you miss me?"

## Chapter 60 Family Emergency

There was a brief silence before I heard her trying **to** hold back tears. "Ivy, you need to come home."

My heart raced with a sudden sense of dread. "What's the matter, Mom? Are you crying? What happened? Where's Dad?"

"Just come home. We'll be waiting for your return," she replied tersely, ending the call without answering my questions.

I didn't call her back to probe further. Instead, I quickly approached Paula and asked her to arrange a driver to take me back to Alton City,

She asked why I was in such a hurry. I promptly explained I had a pressing family emergency that demanded my immediate departure.

Without pressing further, Paula quickly arranged for a car to take me back to Alton City. Just before I left, she reassured me. "Call me if you need anything."

"okay. I'm leaving now." I nodded as I got into the **car**,

After a few hours on the road, I finally reached home and saw Mom and **Dad** sitting in the living room. The atmosphere was thick with tension, **and** intermittent sobs echoed through the room

A disordered **stack** of photos on the coffee table caught my eye. As I drew closer and glanced at them, my expression changed.

Among them was a photo showing Dad and a woman in a compromising situation inside a hotel room. They were lying under a blanket in bed with their bare upper bodies exposed.

Dad's expression darkened at that moment, and he sat rigidly in his chair.

Mom wiped away her tears and said through clenched teeth, "Now that Ivy is **back**, you should tell her."

"Dad, what happened? I **was** stunned. Mom and Dad had always appeared to be the ideal couple. Hence, the thought of Dad cheating had never crossed my mind. Their relationship had been my model of love. It had shaped my belief that I could win Rowan's heart and achieve my own happily ever after with him.

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

## Chapter 69 The Bitch Is Pregnant

Dad looked visibly distressed. He seldom smoked, yet now he couldn't seem to put his cigarette down. When I asked him what had happened, he glanced at Mom. Mom wiped her tears and bittedly, "He's been having an affair with that flirty secretary of his "

As I picked up a photo and examined it closely, I instantly recognized the woman-

I had seen her before when I had gone to a cafe with Jean. We had unexpectedly bumped into Dad and his secretary,

and then, I had wondered why he had a new secretary, especially since his previous one had been a man.

But I had trusted Dad and hadn't thought that he was the type to fool around. That was why I **hadn't** mentioned it to Mom.

"Don't be too hard on him, Mom. You know Dad's character. In nearly 30 years, there have probably been countless attempts to tempt him with women, given in. This might just be a misunderstanding." I sat beside Mom and gently patted her.

but he's never

"**I've** been framed!" Dad finally blurted out. He was visibly agitated and added, "I was completely drunk. There's no way anything happened between me and that woman."

Throughout his career, he had been meticulous and apprehensive about making mistakes. With his retirement approaching, he was determined not to risk everything he had worked so hard to achieve.

Mom nestled into my arms and cried.

My heart sank, and I frowned. "Dad, I need you to investigate this woman and find out who she is," I urged him.

\*I already did. I have her personnel file right here. Her name **is** Angie Earst, and **she's** from Curtin City. She's married with one child, but the child doesn't live with

He paused to take another drag from his cigarette. His appearance had suddenly aged, and he looked exhausted.

He continued, "However, there's no usable information."

I memorized Angie's name:

Despite Dad's troubles, Angie hadn't yet made their affair public, so he went to work. Eventually, it was just Mom and me at home.

[resolved to meet with Angie and ascertain her intentions. If she wanted money, I would propose a settlement to temporarily alleviate the situation while strategized on how to address the matter.

Suddenly, memories from my previous life flooded my mind and anchored me in place.

During that time in my past life, I had been so consumed by the idea of winning over Rowan that had been oblivious to the turmoil brewing at my parents' house. I vaguely recalled how Mom and Dad had been in a Cold War phase.

Eventually, Rowan **used** damaging information about Dad's scandalous affair to bring down my family. The scandal had been publicized, with photos splashed across the media

Back then, my focus had solely been on breaking up Rowan and Ashley, which had caused me to overlook the unfolding events.

But as I looked at these photos, they struck a chord of familiarity. It felt as though fate was rearranging the pieces once again. So, I quickly gathered all the photos and hurriedly stuffed them into my bag.

I knew Angie also likely possessed the negatives that I had to collect all of them and put an end to this.

Otherwise, if someone else **had** such information in their **hands**, it would pose a

I am ongoing i

Whether it was Rowan or someone else, others would also seek to undermine Dad.

Mom, you have Angie's contact information? I want to meet her, Tasha said calmly  
threat to my family

"yes, I have it come with you!" Mom wiped her tears. Her face was filled with resentment.

"you should stay home and rest. I'll go alone." I didn't want her to become more upset by confronting Angie.

But Mom was coming along. It was about her years of marriage, and she wouldn't be at ease until she confronted that bitch.

Perhaps I had inherited my stubbornness from her. I had also gone out of my way to find Ashley in my previous life, but Rowan had **always** outsmarted me.

I nodded. "Okay. We'll go together"

Mom passed me the phone number. If Angie **didn't** answer when **Mom** called, I would try calling using my phone.

After a few rings, Angie picked up. "Hello. **Who's** calling?"

"I'm Sampel Sandler's daughter. We need to talk," I said bluntly.

Angie hesitated before responding. "Okay"

I was surprised that she had agreed.

After arranging a meeting time and place, I hung up and told Mom, "get some rest. We'll meet her tomorrow. She might be trying to extort money from Dad."

Mom was worried, but she still nodded.

I spent the entire **day** at home with Mom and tried **to** cheer her up. Dad tumbed home in the evening, and we had a quiet dinner together before **heading** to bed.

**Mom** chose not to share a bed with Dad, so she slept in my room. We stayed up talking late into the night. But I could tell she hadn't slept from her repeated sighs as I drifted off

Chapter The Bitch is Pregnant

The following day, we met Angle at a café, as planned.

Angle looked surprisingly pretty and had a great figure. She even looked younger than Mom. Upon seeing us, she said nothing but smiled smugly.

"Let's not beat around the bush. I saw those photos are fake. What exactly do you **want**? I was repulsed by Angle and got straight to the point

"Ms. Sadler, if you think those photos are fake, you can have them checked to see if they've been edited," Angie replied calmly.

Mom, who was typically composed and mindful of social etiquette, had been holding back her emotions.

But when she recalled that Dad, **whom** she had loved for 30 years, had been involved with Angie, she couldn't contain herself any longer.

**Suddenly**, she rose from **her** seat, reached across the narrow table, and slapped Angle

Angie's head jerked to the side from the force of the blow. She immediately covered her stinging cheek and glared venomously at Mom.

"**What** were you trying to accomplish by getting my husband drunk and taking those photos?" **Mom** pointed accusingly at Angle. Her resolve was unwavering

In her heart, she knew Dad wouldn't do such a thing. Otherwise, she wouldn't have accused Angle of scheming to intoxicate him and capture compromising photos.

**Mom** just **couldn't** accept that **a man** she had trusted for 30 years would give another woman the chance to come between them.

Angle sported a red mark on her cheek, but her eyes shimmered with determination. She stood up suddenly, brushing off the **swelling** on her cheek, and appeared smugly satisfied.



“What do

o I want? I **want** you two to divorce. After all, I’m carrying your husband’s child.” With those words, she produced **a** medical report from her bag and tossed it onto the table. Then, she left.

Mom stiffened upon hearing that and stared silently at the document.

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Chapter **70** What a Small World

“Mom, these reports could be fake. Don’t trust Angle’s words.” I quickly stuffed the medical report into my bag

Mom nodded numbly. When she tried to get up, she fainted

After I rushed Mom to the hospital, she was swiftly taken to the emergency room. The doctor later informed me she had aneurysm

I inspected the bombshell Angle had dropped at the cafe earlier must have deeply distressed Mom.

Fortunately, Mom’s condition wasn’t so severe. **She** just needed **a few** days in the hospital **and** some follow-up care.

In the hospital ward, I sat alone and observed Mom as she slept on the bed. Quilt washed over me as I realized she had never disclosed the pain she had endured in my previous life.

That hadn’t been **a** supportive daughter. But fate had granted me an opportunity to set things right,

Soon, I drifted off to sleep but awoke to the voice next door.

A man shouted, “I don’t want to be **admitted** to the hospital or undergo surgery. You’re wasting money and worrying about nothing!”

The voice sounded familiar, but I was too lazy to get up and check. I simply rolled over and went back to sleep.

After freshening up the following day, I told Mom, “I’m going to get you some breakfast.”

As I passed by the adjacent room, I recognized **a** few faces. Ashley and Ella were gathered **around Jonah’s** bedside. They were engaging in a conversation

“Mrs. Payne!” Ella spotted me and approached me excitedly. “**What** brings you here? Are you feeling okay?”

“**Ella, you’re** not working with me anymore, so there’s no need for formalities, just call me Ivory.” I smiled faintly and glanced over **at** Ashley.

Ashley greeted me **with a** smile. “Ivory, I didn’t expect to see you here. It’s a surprise that my mom used to work for your family”

I smiled warmly. “It’s **a** small world, isn’t it? So, how’s your dad doing?”

Jonas seemed to recognize me as well. I was the unfortunate one who got lashed out by his brother with a stick. He looked slightly embarrassed and quickly looked away,

“He had a heart condition and required surgery.” Ashley turned to **look** at her father.

“Oh, that’s serious.” I was surprised, “Is there anything I can do to help?”

Ella **chimed in**, “You’re very kind, Ivory. Thank you for your offer. Ashley has already found a friend to assist us, so we’re okay now.”

I smirked internally as I finally pieced together why Jonas had hurried back a few rights ago

Ashley looked at me with a smile, but her eyes had lost their innocence.

I could tell she viewed me as her love rival. However, I didn’t mind because I was **already planning** to ask for a divorce.

“Alright, Ella, I’m **heading** out to grab breakfast for my mom. She also has a heart problem and is in the hospital.” After a brief greeting, I waved to her and left.

I stood silently in front of the elevator. As the doors slid open, I spotted Ivan inside.

He wore a white coat **and** wire-rimmed **glasses** that matched his usual cool demeanor. He was holding a medical chart in his hand.

He frowned **when** he saw me. “What are you doing **here?**”

I was surprised to see him, so I asked, “Why are you back so soon?”

“I finished my exchange program ahead of schedule.” Ivan stepped out of the elevator and stood before me. “What happened to **Hilary?**”

filled him in on Mom's heart condition. He nodded and said, "**Well**, patients with heart issues need to rest and manage their emotions carefully,"

"I know. Well, Dr. York, I'm sure you're busy." I glanced toward **Jonah's ward** involuntarily

I wondered when Ian had developed feelings for Ashley. They had met a few times, so I guessed he must be smitten by now.

Jonah had been hospitalized for surgery, and he was Ivan's patient. So, Ashley and Ivan would be spending a lot of time together. Love could quickly blossom in such circumstances.

But why did I feel so guilty? Had no good reason, Ivan, Why did I feel like I was pushing him into a romantic entanglement? Honestly, I just wanted to cause

trouble for Rowan.

I speaking with them. When he noticed me **at**

After I grabbed breakfast and returned, I **passed Jonah's** ward again. Unexpectedly, **Ivan** hadn't left and **was** still at the door, he glanced in my direction

I quickly turned and walked away.

Once Mom **had** finished her breakfast, Dad arrived. He was consumed by guilt for her to faint and end up in the hospital.

So, he berated himself upon entering her ward, He vehemently denied being involved with Angie and **insisted** that he had **been framed**

I quietly slipped out of the ward. After all, they needed to resolve their issues privately.

In the stairwell, I texted Bowen, "My mom's in the hospital"

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## 2.2

He replied promptly this time. "Send me the address."

I sighed. Rowan was preoccupied with arranging surgery for his mistress' father, offering them financial assistance, and visiting Mom at the hospital. Ironically, Jonah's and Mom's hospital wards were adjacent to each other.

“What are you doing here?” Ivan’s voice startled me from behind **as I** turned to see him at the stairwell door.

“Just taking a break,” I replied casually.

“Do you know Jonah’s surgery costs around 400 thousand dollars?” he asked.

**Why** should I be concerned about Jonah’s surgery expenses when he wasn’t even my father? So, I responded coldly, “Nope. And why should I care?”

Ivan **dared** to smile as he descended a few steps. Then, he leaned casually against the railing and said, “Half of the marital assets are yours.

In other words, **Rowan** was footing the bill. It was a child’s play for him. His devotion to Ashley meant he would do anything for her.

Soon, Ivan would experience firsthand how far that **kind** of crazed, **lovestruck** devotion could go.

“**And** I’m supposed to talk to Ashley and try to get the money back?” I asked.

“Yeah, that could work” Ivan **nodded**.

“Yeah, right!” I retorted. Then, I sat on the steps and muttered, “Duo Chemicals just got demolished, right? Why does Rowan need to shell out **money**?”

I knew the compensation from the demolition was enough for Jonah to be able to undergo several more operations.

“They used all the money to buy a new **house**,” Ivan explained.

I suddenly realized he hadn’t just been discussing Jonah’s situation earlier. He had been gathering information for me, and his actions touched me deeply.

I looked up at him and smiled. “Thanks for **clearing** that up.”

I was more concerned about Angie’s scheme than Rowan and Ashley’s affair. So, I asked Ivan to help me find a caregiver for Mom while I focused on dealing with Angie.

Ivan didn’t refuse. He just asked me to return Boba to him when I had time.

After leaving the **hospital**, I went to see my go-to advisor, **Jean**. She always **had** better ideas than I did.

Her expression turned serious after I told her about my dad’s matters. “That bitch wants to marry your dad and become your stepmother.”

“I thought she wanted money, but she dropped a pregnancy test on me.” I sighed. “**Now** I need a plan to get her to hand over the negatives **and** confirm if she’s really **pregnant**.”