

Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 71-90

Posted by **Admink**, 88 Views, Released on July 9, 2024

Chapter 71 Couple In the Snowy Courtyard

twas tuming to mush

When I mentioned Angie's possible porgnancy, she immediately volunteered to look into it, "Sure. I'll keep digging into Angle for the next few days and try to find away to get the negatives back"

Jean was bourd out of her mind. Her days were filled with eating, drinking, **and** sleeping . She often lamented that her brainw

Isquerend her handsand said, "Jean, thankyou."

No need to thank me. Let's go. I want to visit Hilary at the hospital." jeans quickly grabb ed herria anat pulled me along.

On the way, she stopped to pick up some nutritional supplements-

As we passed **Jonah's** zoom, we noticed Ashley standing at the door. Her blue down p ocket fit her perfectly, which complemented her pure and graceful drea Jean, sharp as e vet, recognized Addry from just her profile. She stopped and asked, "Hey, isn't that the mistressti

she **didn't** care about Ashley's true natine. To lay, anyone entangled with a married ma n was a mistress.

Upon frailing wi, Ashlerswiftly named her head. She smiled in our direction and then retr eated into the ward.

in appeared she was leeping, watch over Mom's ward. I wondered it town was inside wit h her.

*Pest. I need to tell you something." I pulled Jean to the end of the hallway and pickly re counted the recent events to bet

Then, Icautioned her, "Don't stand up for me. Inw what's going on. I'm just waiting for Rowan to divorce me."

Jean's mouth was agape, and his eyes widened in shock. It took her a moment to digest my words

Then, with a blend of astonishment and respect, she asked, "Are you saying he doesn't want in deter you?"

“Wow, that’s great! No wonder you’re so calm now!” Jean exclaimed. She looked like she had just hit the jackpot. When I had just been reborn, I **had** told my friends that I wanted a divorce from Rowan, but they hadn’t believed me.

Given my previous tendency to cling to him, they probably assumed he was the one who wanted a divorce and that I had refused. They would have never guessed that I had actually been the one who had initiated it and that he had refused.

Thanks to my heads-up, Jean didn’t pay much attention to Ashley. As we walked past **Jonah’s** ward, she simply rolled her eyes.

I slowed down to peek inside, and I saw Ashley staring at us as we walked by. As I approached Mom’s room, Rowan was already there.

Much to my surprise, Rowan was peeling an apple for Mom. The room was warm, so his jacket was draped over a chair, and he looked quite the gentleman in his

VEST

workshop!

When he saw Jean and I, he handed the peeled apple to Mom and said, “Hi, I’m off to work now,”

“Okay, I appreciate you stopping by with your busy schedule,” Mom replied with a smile as she accepted the apple.

“At the least, I **can** do,” he said as he grabbed his jacket. He glanced at me thoughtfully and added, “Call me if you need anything.”

I knew he was talking to me, but I didn’t respond. Instead, I avoided his gaze and busied myself with the supplements he had brought.

Rowan didn’t seem to mind my deliberate coldness. After he left, Jean quickly followed him to see if he would say anything to Ashley.

I had cautioned **Jean** against mentioning Ashley to Mom, who was **already** feeling low. If Mom found out about Ashley, it might push her over the edge.

Given Rowan’s **influence**, it should be easy for him to move Jonah and his family to a different hospital or ward. He would probably **make** arrangements in the next

few days.

Otherwise, it would be incredibly awkward to have his soon-to-be ex-mother-in-law and future father-in-law in neighboring rooms and his soon-to-be ex-wife and future wife constantly nipping into each other.

"Mom, how about hire a caregiver for you? That way, Jean and I can handle Angie." I sat by her bed and held her hand

"Sure. I've thought about it, and I still trust your dad," Mom replied with a deep sigh. "After a year of marriage, I can't let someone come between us easily."

Jacob nodded confidently, "Don't worry, Hilary, I'll help Ivy. We'll definitely get rid of that **bitch!**"

Mom didn't mind that I had told Jean about our troubles. Instead, she looked at me with gratitude. "Thank you, Jean"

Jean beamed. "There's no need to thank me. I love giving mistresses what they deserve,"

I noticed Asidry's

silhouette hastily disappearing from the doorway. I wasn't sure if she had overheard Jean's comment

After Jean left. It was just Mom and I in the room. We chatted for a while before **she** drifted off to sleep

Mom had probably managed to sleep for the past two nights. Now that Dad had visited and they had resolved their issues, she could finally rest soundly. The sun felt stuffy, so I went to the window and opened it just a crack. The cold air rushed in and cooled my flushed face. When I looked out, I **saw a** couple in the courtyard below

He hadn't returned in the office but was with Ashley instead. He hadn't let the hospital since leaving Mom's room. Had he been waiting for Ashley?

Emotions bubbled within me **as** I stared at them blankly. There was **a** bitter mix of irony and anger at being deceived.

He loved Ashley so much, why wouldn't he divorce me? **Why** did he say and do things he should

sobbed, Rowan looked up, as if sensing **my** gaze and quickly turned away when **a** caregiver entered and that I had recommended her

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“Call me immediately if my mom needs anything,” I said to the **caregiver** as I left my phone number and hurried out.

Then, I hired a private investigator to look into Angie’s **background**.

Although the personnel records **Dad** had gotten were detailed, they didn’t provide helpful information. Since Angle was from Curtino City, was married, and had a child, I **sent** someone to investigate there.

By the time I finished arranging everything, it was already evening.

The city lights reflected off the wet streets and snow, creating a bustling yet chilly atmosphere. I stood on the sidewalk, watching couples walk arm in arm, laughing and chatting happily.

Just then, Ivan called me. His deep voice came through the phone. “Where are you?”

“On the street,” I replied absent-mindedly.

There **was** a brief silence before he spoke **again**. “Send me your location.”

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location.”

Chapter 72 What Am I to You

I simply **replied**, “okay” Then, I ended the call and sent them my location

Ten minutes later, a sleek black Mercedes-Benz pulled up at the curb.

Ivan had never been one to prioritize material possessions. As a doctor, driving a flashy car to work every day didn’t seem fitting for him.

That being **said**, his charisma could still draw attention, even when he rode a shared bike

“Get in,” he said as he rolled down the window.

“Where are we going?” I asked curiously.

“We’re heading to your place to pick up Boba.”

Like a typical doting father, he always thought about his precious daughter, I rolled my eyes and got into the passenger seat.

Ivan glanced at me and reminded me, "Seatbelt,"

I silently fastened my seatbelt. The road was slippery because of the snow, so he drove slowly.

I stared out the window at the passing scenery. But my mind replayed the images of Rowan and Ashley in the snow earlier.

Then, Ivan broke the silence. "Ashley and Rowan wanted to change wards."

"Yeah, I know." I didn't want to talk about Rowan and Ashley right now, even though they were on my mind.

"I'm the lead surgeon for Jonah's operation," he informed me.

If he were a spy, he would be top-notch.

I pulled out my phone and transferred some money to him. When his phone pinged with the notification, he looked puzzled. "What's this for?"

I grinned wickedly. "Dr. Yuk, maybe you could oversee Jonah's surgery? Once it's **done**, I'll send you a nice chunk of change.

Just then, the traffic light turned red. Ivan quickly transferred the money back to me and shot me a stern look. "Stop watching those dramatic TV shows. What's gotten into you?"

"How did you know my inspiration came from **TV** shows? I was surprised by his insight.

"What else could it be?" Ivan looked at me like I **was a** fool.

I scoffed at him and ignored him.

When we arrived at Windmill Estate, Bobo greeted Ivan excitedly. She jumped into his arms and purred as she rubbed **against** him like a pampered child. The sound of other meows filled the living room.

The maids had taken excellent care of Bobo, and she looked healthy and energetic.

Ivancuddled Bobo affectionately and was about to say something to me when we heard footsteps on the stairs.

I was surprised **that** Rowan was at home. I didn't want to see him, so I excused myself from Ivan and headed upstairs alone.

I had no idea what they discussed downstairs. Since they were childhood **friends**, I **assumed** there wouldn't be any awkward silence.

In the spacious master bedroom, I tossed and turned in bed but couldn't fall asleep. I was troubled by thoughts of Rowan and Ashley and concerns about Angie's

scheme

Just then I received a text from Jean. "Ivy, Angie is taking the bait."

I was surprised and quickly replied, "So soon? How did you manage that?"

Jean responded with a smug emoji, followed by text. Hebe, I'll tell you in a couple of **days**. Wait to hear good news."

With that, she stopped replying. It seemed like she was planning something big and wanted to surprise me with **the** details later

I didn't press her for more information. Despite her impulsiveness, Jean was quite **sharp**.

I was curious about the private investigator's progress, so I checked my messages. There was nothing from the investigator, but I noticed a red **dot** indicating a blocked message

I tapped it and found seven or eight unread messages from **an** unknown member. Upon reading them, I realized they were from Royce

I was surprised he was still trying to contact me. The latest message was from this afternoon. After hesitating for a moment, I decided to **call** him

He answered almost immediately, "Hello? Is this Ms. Sader?" His voice was pleasant, warm, and refined.

"Yes I saw that you sent me several messages. Is there something you need?" I asked.

"No, it's nothing urgent. I noticed you'd had a few drinks that night and wanted to check if you got home safely.

"I sent a message to check on you, but you didn't reply. I was worried I might disturb you if I called. Royce sounded a bit awkward.

Lehocked and **said**, "Thanks for checking on me. I got home safely that night only just saw your texts today. **They** got blocked by my system." After **a** brief silence, Royce suddenly said with a mix of resignation **and** frustration, "I knew **this** would happen. I'll change my number tomorrow.

I didn't understand what he meant at first, so he explained that he used to work as **a** telemarketer. Its number had been flagged as spam due to all the telemarketing calls.

Even though he had contacted the phone carrier multiple times to get the spam designation moved, it kept getting flagged again soon after.

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Chapter 72 What Am I to You

I couldn't stifle a laugh at **Royce's** explanation. Then, he also laughed along.

Unbeknownst to me, Rowan had entered the room. Suddenly, he said, "Who are you chatting with? And what's so amusing about it?"

I quickly hung up the phone and shoved it under my pillow.

My actions only brightened his suspicion. His expression immediately darkened,

"**Is** it Benjamin again?" Rowan was already by the bed. He pulled back the covers and reached under the pillow to **grab** my phone.

"This is my personal affair." I grabbed his wrist. Under his half-rolled sleeve, I glimpsed his perfectly toned arm.

Rowan always appeared slender in clothes, **like** a walking mannequin, but without a shirt on, his physique revealed lean muscle.

It was risky to confront him physically, I knew I'd be at a **disadvantage** in a struggle.

As soon as I grasped his wrist, his demeanor turned icy. With **a** quick move, he tightened his grip around my wrist.

I instinctively raised my other hand to strike him. Ever since we had fought for half the night that day, I discovered that hitting him was **a** way to release my pent-**up** anger

However, Rowan swiftly caught my other hand, and I **was** completely pinned down.

"We agreed not to interfere in each other's personal lives. I'm warning you; if you dare hit me, I'll take you down with me!" I fearlessly met his cold, dark eyes while trying to remain calm.

"I don't hit women," he replied coldly.

It was true. Even in our most intense moments together, he had never laid a hand on me,

It had always been me, driven by anger, seeking him out, only **to** end up in tears and striking out. At most, he would push me away.

“Then, let go of me.” I twisted my wrist to free myself.

Rowan seemed to realize the **unfal** mess of **his** actions and released my hands.

Once freed, I sat up on the bed. I regained my composure, though my voice canted a hint of sadness “What am I to you? T

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Chapter 73 He Agreed to Divorce Me

Rowan stood by the bed with his hands in his pockets. The lamp illuminated his hands so me yet Indifferent face as he silly looked at me

After a prolonged silence, he finally replied, “I don’t know.”

Hilson expected response shocked me, and I suddenly burst into uncontrollable laughter . The sound reverberated in the bedrooms. Soon, tears welled up in my eyes, and my breathing became erratic.

I found his response absurd. Then, I wiped away my tears and looked up at him.

“I never expected such a response from you. Adminer, syrophant, nominal wife, pawn in a **marriage** alliance—out of all those roles, nor one crossed your mind?

I added bitterly, “Rowan, you’re unbelievably selfish. If you don’t love me, just let me go and pursue the woman you desire. With your states, what difference does my family’s support make?”

“I’ve **loved** you for a decade. How many more **decades does a** person have? It has been the best decade of my life.

“Even if your feelings for me have **soured**, grant me the dignity to leave after all these years, People hair hearts, but yours series like a tumor intent on poisoning

me

I grew more agitated. Ever since I had been reborn, I had been trying to strain myself. I longed to break free from this bleak marriage and escape the foment it brought me.

But I couldn’t leave, and everything seemed to be spiraling out of control. I felt like a complete failure.

In a sudden **surge** of anger, I grabbed a book from the bedside and led it at Rowan’s face. He didn’t dodge, but **his** expression darkened as if struggling to contain **his** own anger.

I then grabbed a pillow and started hitting him with all my might. "Bastard You're despicable! You've been worried about Jonah's illness these past few days, right?"

"You left me alone at your house for three or four days. Did you even remember to pick me up? **if** you care so much for Ashley, why waste my time? I want a divorce.

My outburst brought back memories of my past life, when I had desperately changed to **Rowan** and refused to entertain the idea of divorce.

"That's enough!" Rowan finally snapped..

He yanked the pillow from my hands and threw it on the floor. His eyes blazed with anger. "You want a divorce? Fine. I'll draft the papers

With that, **he** stunned out of the bedroom.

That I wanted a divorce, but his sudden agreement left me unexpectedly hollow old feelings of **doubt** began to creep back, **but** I fought hard to push them away **and**

Wasn't this the whole point of being reformed? To divorce on my own terms, to fulfill his wishes, and to liberate myself?

I took a deep breath. Then, **lay** back **in bed** and **tried** to clear my mind. After **all**, getting too emotional wouldn't benefit me **in** any way.

I was empty when I went to the **hospital**. I assumed Rowan **had** swiftly moved him to another ward, given that he was always prompt in

The next day, Jonah's ward was finally handling such matters,

Mom put her phone down when she saw me. "Ivy, you don't need to come here every **day**. There are caregivers around, **so** don't worry."

"No matter **what**, I still need to check on you because you're my mom." I sat down **and** held her hand. I wanted to broach the topic of my impending **divorce**, but I

wasn't sure where to start.

Mom smiled warmly and remarked, "**You're** such a caring daughter. If only you'd given me a grandchild, that would've been even better."

Her words made me hesitate. After my divorce from Rowan, who knew how long it would be before Mom could have **a** grandchild?

Besides, I feared my parents might try to dissuade me from ending the marriage

Despite their reservations about Rowan in the past and their belief that I was too accommodating, they might now hope I would tough it out.

After all, the elder generation often believed in dinking manages rather than ending them.

Thold back the words I had been about to say and replied vaguely, "Let nature take its course.

Mom persisted and said, "Your in-laws must be hoping you two have a child soon. You and Rowan are both the only children of your respective parents, so it can get a bit lonely

"I'd be nice if you could have two kids. If Paula and I get bored, we can each take care of **one**."

"Mom, are you treating grandchildren as a way to pass the **time**?" I chuckled awkwardly. Yet, I was surprised that she was also thinking about Pa

Mom grand mischievously. "Isn't that **what** grandchildren are for? When your grana was bored at home, used to send you over to bother her, and she loved it.

We chatted about trivial matters in the hospital ward before the conversation and to Angie. Mami approved of my decision to hire a private investigator

After all, dealing with someone like Angle required me to employ unconventional methods

I didn't leave the hospital until no

By then, the elevator lobby was packed with people grabbing lunch. Despite the crowd, I managed to squeeze into the farthest corner of the elevator due to my slim

Chapter 73 He Agreed to Divorce Me

After descending two floors, I heard a familiar voice,

"Dr. York, thank you for taking care of my dad during the surgery these days. If you're free, I'd like to treat you to a meal."

Ashley and Ivan were standing just a few people ahead of me. She was deeply engrossed in conversing with **him** and didn't notice me in the corner.

In contrast, Ivan immediately spotted me and acknowledged my presence with a glance. "I'm just doing my job. You don't have to thank me." His cool voice echoed in the elevator.

“you’re the most responsible and attentive doctor I’ve ever met. I really want to express my gratitude.”

Ashley and Ivan stood close to each other. She tilted her head slightly as she spoke and looked at him intently.

“No need. Besides, the person you should be thanking probably isn’t me,” **Ivan** replied indifferently.

I pondered why Ashley’s charms hadn’t swayed Ivan. **Why** had he chosen to maintain such straightforwardness and principle?

Soon, the elevator reached the ground floor after several stops, Ashley left with the crowd and headed toward the cafeteria to grab lunch

But Ivan and I remained in the elevator as it descended to the basement parking.

With just the two of us in the elevator, he broke the silence when we reached the basement. “Lost in thought? Not getting off?”

I snapped out of my reverie and realized that he had been holding the door button for me. “Thanks.” I quickly expressed my gratitude and stepped out of the elevator, with Ivan following behind.

As I was about to get into my car, he unexpectedly appeared next to me with an invitation. “Want to join us for lunch? Chester and Jasper have already made reservations at a restaurant with great food. “

It was peculiar that he had chosen to invite me instead of asking Ashley to join him, especially since I hardly knew Chester **and Jasper**.

In their eyes, **I** was the obstacle in Rowan’s pursuit of happiness, and it was my family’s fault for arranging the marriage.

I didn’t want to go, so I declined his invitation.

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I didn’t want to go, so I declined his invitation.

Chapter 74 Ashley’s Transformation

“I have a question for you,” Ivan asked earnestly just as I was about to leave.

“What is it was puzzled by the sudden intensity in his voice.

“Do you think I’ll ever fall in love with Ashley?” Ivan looked at me strangely, and a chill ran down my spine.

Could it be possible that he had also been reborn?

upon Ashley and not to

Seeing my bewildered expression, Ivan explained, “Remember that time you got drunk and started gambling in my car? You told me to give up competing with Rowan always wondered if there was more to what you said that night.”

I was taken **aback**. It seemed I had intentionally revealed details **from** my previous life when I had been intoxicated.

He sighed with relief and then smiled. “That’s just nonsense. You and Rowan have been best friends since childhood.

“How could both of you fall for Ashley? Given your bond, even if you both loved the same woman,

friendship would prevail, right?”

Bullshit! Last time, **both** of them had almost been at each other’s throats, like rival alpha males vying for dominance in the animal kingdom.

Ivan smirked slightly. Perhaps,” he said.

With that, he got into his car and drove off. Battled, I stood still in the parking lot for quite some time

What did he mean by “perhaps? **Could** it be that Ivan had already fallen for Ashley but was trying to hold back?

Regardless, their love triangle was their own mess. I was about to divorce Rowan and leave this drama to become an observer

I wondered when Rowan would send over the divorce agreement. I waited for two days straight, and I hadn’t received them. I even went to his office and learned he hadn’t been there for the past few **days**.

I wondered if he was at the hospital with Jonah. So, I **made** another **trip** to the hospital

After finding out which ward **Jonah** was in, I headed there.

Jonah was deep, and Ashley was on the phone when I arrived,

When she saw me, he whispered into her phone, “understand. Thanks for helping with my dad’s surgery. I’ll figure out how to pay back the coo thousand dollars.

it was **Rowan** on the other end of the line. Since he wasn’t at the hospital, I decided to leave.

“Ivory” Ashley called out as she dashed out of the ward

“What’s up?” I forced a smile as she caught up to me.

As she approached, I caught a familiar whiff of perfume. It was **the** one I had given to Ella

The lingering scent on Rowan or in his car often signaled they hadn’t been apart for long understood Ashley’s use of the perfume I had given Ella as her subtle way of provoking me

Ashley ran her fingers through the hair by her ears. Her face had a delicate pink glow that accentuated her beauty. Her large, captivating eyes shimmered with a misty allure

“I borrowed 400 **thousand** dollars from Mr. Payne for my dad’s heart surgery. I didn’t want to keep it from you,” she said **earnestly**. “I promise I’ll repay it.”

“He won’t ask you to.” lifted my Lana **Marlos**’ handbag and shook it. “And I don’t expect you to pay me. It’s less than what this handbag costs. Consider it a gesture of landness’

Ashley’s expression changed slightly. Her eyes briefly flickered to the handbag with a hint of jealousy

I was surprised by this reaction. Ashley had never shown jealousy before, not even when I had flaunted my wealth in the past.

During her time with Benjamin, her actions had always exuded youthful innocence.

but she quickly regained her composure. “Even if it’s just **a** meal for you guys, I should repay. A debt is a debt, Ivory. Goodbye.” Then, she returned to the ward to

take care of Jonah

I stared at her in silence for a few seconds. Had Rowan still not disclosed or impending divorce to her?

He seemed ready to acknowledge their relationship publicly, so what importance did a small sum of money have? He probably wouldn't **accept** it even if she insisted on repaying it.

Either way, it was their business, so I shouldn't dwell on it too much

After leaving the hospital, I headed straight to Philip Dawson's office. He was the private investigator who had gone to Curtina City and unearthed some leads. "Here's here." He handed me a stack of documents and photos. She has a husband and a son, but they're estranged. They've been separated for years, and it seems like they're heading **for a divorce**"

"Do you have a way to contact her husband?" looked at the man in the photos—he had a short stature and a scared face with a cigarette dangling from his lips. He didn't look like someone to be taken lightly

H

"I do. I tried reaching **out** to him, but he's quite naive. Apparently, he doesn't care much about his wife's involvement with another man." Philip shrugged. Dealing with this couple seemed challenging. Typically, a man would be enraged upon discovering he had been cuckolded and would punish his wife **So**, I needed to find **a** way to meet this man and get him to handle Angle.

After parting ways with M, I went. During the drive, my phone buzzed with several messages. I glanced at them and saw Jean's WhatsApp messages.

Chapter **24** Ashley's Transformation

I pulled over and clicked on her chat. "I've finally exposed that bitch. She wasn't pregnant at all."

Attached were several photos with personal details about Angle, her **marriage**, and a medical report. The report clearly stated that she wasn't pregnant.

I immediately called Jean. "You're amazing. How did you manage to get that report?"

"That bitch didn't just trick your dad. She's actively using multiple dating sites. I created a profile posing **as** a wealthy widower, and she took the bait," **Jean** boasted proudly. "It worked like a **charm**."

"Why did she trust **you** so easily?" I **was surprised**.

"She loves money. I flashed my wealth and showered her with gift cards right after we exchanged numbers. She started calling me 'dear' and all that crap. It almost **made** me sick." Jean scoffed.

She continued, "I feel like my phone needs a shower now."

Her words cracked me up. "You're a lifesaver. Pick any phone you want; it's on me."

Jeandidn't hesitate. "I've already picked one," she said before ending the call.

I had planned to head home at first. But now, I returned to the hospital to share the news with Mom.

As expected, Mom was overjoyed. Her faith in **Dad**, which had been wavering, strengthened once more. "r

"That woman w going to fall for it."

was clearly out to f

to frame your dad! I wasn't

"Yeah, Dad wouldn't do something like **that**," I replied. I was relieved that Angie wasn't pregnant. It should weaken her leverage significantly.

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Chapter 75 Truth or Dare

After chatting with Mom, I finally left the hospital on the way out, I tested bad about the news.

at **me** anymore.

He promptly called me, and his voice was filled with relief. "**Ivy**, I've been framed. I didn't do anything wrong. Now your mom won't be mad at m

"Dad, we also need to deal with those photos," I reminded him.

it wasn't just about appeasing Mom's anger. If we didn't recover those negatives, they could pose a serious threat. Even if he was innocent, those photos would be difficult to disprove

"I know. I'm during something out," Dad replied calmly.

"pad, try not to stress too much. There's **always** a solution," I **said**, trying to reassure him before ending the call

When I returned to **Windmill** Estate, it was already dinnertime. After eating a few bites, headed upstairs for a relaxing bath

I must have dozed off in the bathtub knowingly. I might **have** slept even longer if the water hadn't started cooling down.

It was late into the night, but I wasn't sleepy. I put on my nightgown and went out onto the balcony, where I could see the front gate with just a turn of my head. 1

sed to enjoy gazing out from here to check if Rowan had returned.

Once I received the divorce agreement, I would move out from Windmill Estate. The place held too many painful memories for me.

Staying here post-divorce would only prolong my suffering, it seemed best to leave it for **Rowan** to reminisce alone. Given his indifference toward me, I doubt he would feel any sorrow at my **absence**.

I stood **until** the biting cold wind drove me back to my room.

As tossed and turned in bed, Jean called me. She invited me enthusiastically, "Ivy, come out and play. It's Christmas Eve, and there are so many **cute** guys **out**. My head's spinning from all the eye candy."

"I'm staying in. I've just finished bathing, **and** I'm ready to sleep. I declined since my bed was the perfect destination on such a chilly night

"Well, how about tomorrow night then? There's a Christmas drag show at Symphonica with male models who **have** killer bodies. You'd regret missing it for Life." Jean exaggerated.

I couldn't resist her persuasive invitation for the second time, so I relented and said, "play"

On Christmas **day**, Jean called me **non-stop**, even while I was **driving**, she was worried I might have **an** accident, and **my** phone blew up with her messages

At Symphonica's entrance, two handsome men dressed as Santa **Claus** were distributing Christmas gifts. They had a box filled with prize tickets that guests could pick to exchange for a gift

Jean **snagged** a lipstick, Olivia picked a bottle of perfume, and Natalie got a phone case. What was my turn, I looked at the prize ticket and wished I could throw it

"**A...condom?**" unmatched my prize ticket and burst out laughing "Ivy, good luck!"

Olivia and Natalie burst into laughter as well.

I gazed at them and stuffed the price ticket into my coat pocket. I had no intention to redeem it.

But Jean had other plans. She grabbed it from my pocket, sprinted to exchange it for a box of condoms, and then stuffed it back into my pocket with a wink

“Why refuse it? You might not need it, but I could find **a use** for it,”

“Fine.” Frelented.

Symphonica **was** abuzz with activity. **The** nightclub was filled with handsome men and beautiful women. Some were there to unwind, while others were eager for a

shot **at** romance.

Jean’s **striking** appearance turned heads, though **she** didn’t find anyone who piqued her interest.

Olivia was interested in someone but inadvertently scared them off by talking about his career. **On** the contrary, Natale remained indiferent

to the men around

her.

Suddenly, Jean received a text and enthusiastically shered Olivia and me upstairs “My friend just texted that there are some hotties worth checking out upstairs.”

款

The atmosphere in the private room upstairs was lively, and there were around a dozen people.

When I spotted Rowan and Ivan, my Initial instinct was to leave, However, considering the pending divorce agreement I hadn’t received, I reconsidered.

Jean rolled her eyes the moment she saw Rowan “Oh, It’s you guys. What a waste of my time. I shouldn’t have bothered coming”

Her friend, clunsey Clayton, quickly chimed in, “Wait! Do you know them?”

“Yes, I do.” **Jean** pointed at Rowan, peper, and Chester in turn. “These three are nothing but **scumbags**.”

Rowan was seated beside a **woman** who was leaning intimately against him. He looked at me. Dressed **sharply** in a black shirt and meticulously knotted burgundy tie, he embodied the concept of “smoldering looks!!”

However, beneath **his** polished **appearance** lay a demeanor far from restrained—instead, he seemed more like a beast.

His expression grew grim at Jean’s words. Ivan was there too, but she hadn’t included him in her list of scumbags.

“What did you say, “Tigress?” Chester shouted angrily. “**who** invited her?”

Chansey **shrank** back and murmured, “L... I did..”

Chapter 75 Truth or Dare

Jean strode toward him. She casually patted his cheek and flashed a sly smile, “Well, well, look who’s here. Still nursing wounds from our last bout, little **rascal**? Ready for round two?”

Chester, who was a few years younger than her, appeared somewhat intimidated. He might have instinctively sought Jasper’s support if it hadn’t been for the woman beside him.

“Alright, everyone. **Let’s** not make a big deal out of it. We’re all here to have fun today, so let’s just enjoy ourselves,” Jasper tried to defuse the tension. True to form, he was always there to back up his buddy, Chester,

“He’s got a point, Jean, We’re about to start truth or dare. Do you want to **join** us?” Chansey chimed in swiftly. After all, she was the one who had invited us over.

I didn’t know Chansey **well**, but she knew that I was tied to Rowan. She probably hadn’t expected to see me here with Jean today.

I glanced at Fran, who met my gaze. Her eyes silently sought my opinion.

Since Rowan was around, if I declined to participate, Jean would stay with me and **leave**. While Jean and Chansey were acquaintances, **Jean** and I **shared** a sister-like bond.

“Count me in,” I replied enthusiastically.

“Awesome, let’s go over the rules.” Jean guided me **to a** seat, and Olivia and **Natalie** joined us promptly.

Chansey gestured toward a **stack** of drinks on the table. “The rules are simple. Spin the wheel, Whoever it lands on picks someone for truth or **dare**. If you decline both, you have to take a drink.”

It was a straightforward **and** promisingly fun game.

Chester was already eager to begin

The table had a built-in spinner that lit up when activated. There **was a** silver needle that would spin rapidly with the press of a nearby red button and stop randomly to point at someone.

Everyone gathered around, and our eyes were fixed on the spinner.

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

Chapter 76 The Showdown

Chester pressed the start button, and the spinner **began** to whirl. It landed on the young woman seated next to him, I didn't recognize her, but she had **probably** been invited by Chansey

“I go first!” She **raised** her hand eagerly. Then, she scanned the room before deciding whom to pick

Jasper was the unlucky one selected first, and he chose **a dare**.

*Approach a guy you don't know and tell **him**, “Your lips are really sexy,”

Jasper's face twisted **into an** expression of sheer dread, which made everyone burst into **laughter**. It was akin to challenging a macho **man** to jump off **a** cliff.

He glared at the woman and muttered through clenched teeth, “Time. **Il drinkd**” with that, he downed a glass of liquor in one gulp.

After his turn, Jasper pressed the button to spin the spinner again. This time, it landed on Ivan, who was dressed in a white sweater. He opted for **truth**.

Jasper grinned mischievously. “**Hey, Ivan**, are you really still **a** virgin?”

All eyes turned curiously toward Ivan. He was **a** rarity in the group. I had never seen him with a **woman**, **and** he was seemingly detached from worldly desires.

Yet, appearances could be deceiving; nobody knew if he had ever been intimate with any one.

Even Rowan observed **him** with keen interest.

I anticipated Ivan would choose to drink, but after a momentary pause, he nodded and said, "Yes"

His answer sparked an uproar. Several women immediately fixed their angry gazes on **him**. Their eyes gleamed like those of predators, and they seemed ready to pounce on this catch.

My suspicions about him were confirmed. Ivan was indeed inexperienced in matters of romance.

The spinner spun again. It gradually slowed down until it pointed at me. With a **sigh**, I met his eyes and said, "Truth"

"Are **you** interested in any other man besides Rowan?" Ivan asked

The room, which had been lively just moments before, fell silent.

Rowan's gaze landed on me. His deep, **dark** eyes gave **away** no emotion, but I could feel the pressure. It was like there was a beast inside him, ready to pounce on

if I gave the wrong answer.

I couldn't believe Ivan, someone who stood out from the crowd, **had** asked such an outrageous question.

I hesitated momentarily before asking, "Can I change to dare?"

"Sure," Ivan said with a faint smile. "Pick any man here, except Rowan, and I am."

What the hell? Had Ivan lost his mind today? I felt like he had a personal vendetta against me.

Rowan stayed quiet, yet **his** presence unsettled everyone in the room. His gaze locked with Ivan's, and I detected a tense exchange between them. Were they already at odds over Ashley?

Why involve me in their conflict? I had just been given a fresh start and wanted no part in their drama

After a few seconds of silence, I downed my drink in one gulp. The burning liquid seared down my throat and settled warmly in my stomach. I grimaced and stuck

out my tongue.

Chester urged us to proceed with the game. The spinner whirled for several more rounds. Everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Jean's ruthlessness was evident in her consistent choice of Chester whenever she had the **chance**. His puppy-like expression of **frustration** almost brought him to

When Chansey chose me, I **had already** consumed three or four drinks. The liquor was strong, and if I **hadn't** bit up some tolerance, I might have been passed out on the floor.

"Take whatever you have in your pocket and give it **to** Jasper to use," Chansey said with a smile. For some reason, I sensed a hint of hostility in her tone.

It wasn't the first time this **trick** had been played. Women often carry lipstick, perfume, **or** foundation in their pockets. **Sharing** them with another guy can be seen as a playful and suggestive gesture.

Like Chester, who had been dolled up by other women under Jean's direction earlier, complete with fiery red lips and bold brows. At that instant, he looked like a character from a wild comedy

"I'm going to drink 1 was about to take another sip.

"**This** is boring. We've only called on you four **times**, and each time you just drink, What's the fun in that?" Chansey complained.

Jean shot her a look and said, "**What's** wrong with that? The rule is if you can't do the dare, you drink "

Olivia and Natalie chimed in, "**She's** right. It's not like **you** have to pick truth or dare every time. Ivy, if you don't want to do the dare, just drink"

1 could feel the imitation mounting among some people. I acknowledged that simply drinking every time **was** kind of lame.

With only a box of condoms in my pocket and my phone on the table, I decided to **make** a bold move. I slapped the box of condoms **on** the table. The black packaging glinted under the light.

Upon seeing it, Jasper's face burned pale, and he swiftly glanced at Rowan. He clasped his hands and implored Chansey, "Please, just let her have a drink. Do you

want me to

Charry looked equally shocked and blurted out, "Why did you bring a box of tax to the nightclub?"

I smiled faintly. "To make water balloon for you. Happy now?"

Chapter 16 The Showdown

I knew her interest in Rowan was the reason she kept singling me out. Eventhough she knew Jean and I were close, she'd had no qualms about inviting Jean to join Rowan and his friends.

Chansey appeared indifferent to whether I discovered her actions. Every glance she had directed at me had brimmed with malice from the moment I had arrived.

"Must you be so obstinate? I expected you to have lipstick or something in your pocket, but this? Fine, I won't play this game anymore!" Chansey felt unjustly treated.

"Chansey, stop it!" **Jean** snapped and pointed at her. "Don't you know what tvy and Rowan's relationship is? Pull this stunt again and consider our friendship over."

As tensions escalated, Rowan angrily **interjected**, "That's **enough!**"

The noise in the room subsided slightly. Ivan glanced at Rowan and then **at** me. **He** looked puzzled

Feeling a bit tipsy from the alcohol and still reeling from the recent argument with Rowan, I was itching for retaliation.

So, I grabbed the Durax, ripped it open, and retrieved a condom. Then, I handed it to Jasper. "Do you need this?"

Jasper rubbed his forehead and slumped onto the couch. "My head is pounding

"Ivory, knock it off," Rowan wamed icily, **and** he grabbed my wrist.

"Let me go!" I slurred as I stared at his strikingly handsome face, where frostiness **creased** his brow as he glared at me.

A drunken spectacle was about to unfold. I wrestled my wrist from Rowan's grasp and aimed the condom right at his nose. "I finally won something, **and** you won't let me use it?"

"Do you know how rare these things are? Everyone else gets perfume, Lipstick, and earrings, and I get a box of condoms."

(Has Dit on My Dil

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

Chapter 77 Rowan Has Dirt on My Dad

From how I acted, anyone who didn't know would think I **had** hit the jackpot. My mind felt like a flickering light bulb with faulty wiring.

Rowan's face appeared before me in a blurry, double vision. I glanced around and noticed everyone in the room also like ghostly shadows, distorted and blurry. **Ivy**, come on. Let me take you home. "Oria rushed to support me.

I was probably the most intoxicated among the group because, while others had chosen truth or dare, that stuck to drinking.

Natalie was also worried I would continue causing a scene with Rowan. So, she joined Olivia to flank me on both sides like bodyguards. "try, let's go home."

I staggered away from them and stumbled toward Jasper. "Well the dare isn't finished yet..." Even though I was drunk, I was determined to embarrass

Jasper looked at me like I was a ghost. He wished he could disappear into thin air. At that moment, he clung to Chester, who held him tightly like **they were** inseparable twins.

Seeing this, Ivan stood up and stopped me by grabbing my arm. "Let's go home and get some rest," he said softly,

"Why are you so mean, ho?" I tried to give him a wide-eyed glare.

I continued, "You were targeting me during the game earlier. Tomorrow, I'll report you at the **hospital** for mistreating patients. Then, you won't be a doctor anymore. You'll just be stuck coming to the family business.."

"Sure, Ivan looked resigned yet slightly amused.

"Quackdoctor Quack doctor!" I yelled and slipped into the familiar role of the drunken fool

In the past, when Rowan hadn't come home, I used to often drink alone. Sometimes, I had **drunk** too much and had occasionally caused a scene. However, it had usually **ended** with me rambling on without anyone paying much attention to me.

Just as I was about to continue disparaging Ivan, I **suddenly** felt myself losing **balance**. A strong arm swiftly encircled my waist and hoisted me onto a shoulder. The world spun around me and intensified my dizziness to the point where I felt nauseous and **nearly** threw up.

Bowan's hand moved from my waist to my **thigh** to keep me from slipping off his shoulder. He cautioned, "If you even think about throwing up on me,

It's over for

Everyone observed Rowan's actions with a range of expressions, particularly cheer and **Jasper**, who looked on with their mouths agape in surprise. I was dangling upside down. My vision was blurry as I glanced at them before being led out of the private room in a swaying motion by Rowan. They were probably wondering why Rowan would whisk me away like this. After all, I was merely a woman he had married out of convenience. Tean had once quipped that if I ever hang myself at home, Rowan might mistake it for me swinging on a swing.

So, but his earlier anger **and** possessiveness hadn't been directed at me

As I descended the stairs, I noticed the private room door open, and Ivan stepped out. His gaze was fixed on Rowan and me

I had hoped to reach Rowan's car without incident, but someone intercepted him halfway there

A sleazy voice piped up, "Hey, boo, is this your date for the night? Looks good. I've got one, too, Want to **trade?**

This was why women shouldn't get drunk alone outside. Who knew when some scumbag would try to take advantage? Unfortunately for that guy, he had picked a fight with Rowan.

I felt a sudden impact and then heard Rowan curse, "**you** fucking done

The next thing I knew, I was deposited on a nearby couch. I struggled **to** open **my eyes** and take in the scene

Rowan was furious. He grabbed the other man, who was already on the ground, by the collar and delivered a barrage of punches. Amidst the chaos, I could hear the sickening impact of fists meeting flesh

Someone was sent to get the manager of Symphonica, who had initially planned to intervene in the fight.

However, upon seeing Rowan's face, the manager wisely decided not to interfere

Loomach. He stood beside me and

he quietly instructed the waiter, "Call"

The waiter rushed to make the call. The man on the floor was now covered in blood and **was** hardly recognizable,

I feared Rowan might kill him. Leven tried to speak up, but ended up throwing up instead.

My retching caught Rowan's attention. He gave the manager a cold stare "Tell **your** boss to handle **this**,"

"Yes, of course." The manager nodded hastily,

Rowan strode over to the couch. He scooped me **up in bridal** style in full view of everyone before suitably leaving Symphonic. By the time we reached the car, Thad already drifted off to sleep in his seat.

Thad assumed Rowan would take me back to Wall Estate. But when I woke up, I noticed that the surroundings were unfamiliar.

It certainly wasn't a hotel room. Where was I?

I looked around the room and out onto the balcony. In the distance, the river shimmered under the moonlight, framed by a dense grove blanketed in white snow, which created a tranquil scene.

This place seemed familiar.

It was Foresta Apex,

the most opulent apartment building in Alcon City, and it was owned by Rowan.

Why had he chosen to bring me here now? In the past, I wouldn't have been able to come here even if I had wanted to, yet he had brought me here willingly now. What amused me the most was that he had arranged for Ashley to stay here in my previous life. This had been their secret love nest, where their affair had officially

Chapter 77 Howan Has Dirt on My Dad

started.

I recalled how difficult it **had** been back then to locate Ashley, only to be chased away by Rowan's guard.

AL

r that

moment, a strange quietness surrounded me. I exited the bedroom and meticulously searched the entire apartment, yet I couldn't find **Rowan**.

I noticed there were photographs on the living room table. As I approached and looked at them, my face turned pale.

Then, I heard the living room door open. Rowan stood there, gazing at me with a calm expression. "You're awake?"

"What is this? I picked up the photos in a state of agitation. "Where did you get **these**? You're worthless!"

The photos in my hand were of Dad and Angle in bed together,

In this life, Rowan had managed to acquire some dirt on my dad. With our divorce proceedings already underway, if he chose to use these photos to threaten me into agreeing to unfavorable terms, I might have no choice but to comply.

"Of course, **I have** my own ways to get it. Why?" He closed the door and tossed his car keys aside before calmly settling onto the couch and fixing "Why **are** you doing this?" asked through clenched teeth "What has my family done to deserve this from you?"

his gaze on me

In my previous life, I had been able to understand why he'd had reasons to interfere with my family, considering how stubbornly I had resisted divorcing him. But now, we were on good terms and divorcing amicably. There was no justification for him to target my family secretly.

Rowan frowned, and his gaze turned sharp. "Are you still drunk?"

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

Chapter 78 Almost Strangled to Death

I recalled the sad past and my parents' pitiful state. Overwhelmed with grief, I couldn't stop crying. I had always felt like it was my fault; their greatest mistake was giving birth to a hopeless romantic like me.

It was as if I had lost the ability to speak. I stood with the photo in hand and continued to cry, unable to articulate words.

It was the first time since I had been reborn that had **cried** so sorrowfully in front of Rowan

He approached me and passed momentarily before cupping my face with **his** palms. He lightly wiped my tears away with his thumb

He sighed **and** asked, "Why are you crying?"

"You asked for a divorce, and I agreed to it!" I said, choking up.

1. p. "What else do you want? You can **give** me less money. You don't.. you **don't have** to hurt my parents! They're still your in-laws!"

"You asked for the divorce," Rowan said, correcting me annoyedly. "I've never asked for a divorce, but you've mentioned it many times!"

"I asked for a divorce because I knew you wanted it!"

I looked **at** Rowan and asked, "Don't you love Ashley? Don't you plan to have a future with her? If we get a divorce soon, we'll be spared an ugly ending."

Rowan **gazed at** me with his captivating dark eyes. His eyes were cold, **in fact**, there was never a hint of warmth in them.

He claimed that he didn't want a divorce, yet he had never denied **his** feelings for Ashley.

"Enough. You don't have to threaten me with the photographs, I won't take anything from you; my parents can support me anyway," I said,

As Rowan remained silent, I felt the same heart-wrenching pain. Not wanting to stay any longer, I grabbed my jacket and prepared to leave the

As I put my shoes on by the **door**, I glanced at Rowan, who was still standing in the living room.

don't have to worry about

In a raspy voice, I said, "Give me the photographs when you hand me the divorce papers, **That** way, you won't have to worry about it."

I thought I would consider it a deal

After hurriedly leaving Foresta Apex, I called Lee to pick me up. Half an hour later, I was on the way to Windwill Estate.

“Mrs. Payne, you’re dressed **in such** thin clothes. What if you get a cold?” Lee asked considerably.

“I’m fine,” I said, sniffing. I was warm in the car, but my hands and feet were cold, and my heart was colder.

After I got home, I quickly took a hot shower to warm my body up. Afterward, I checked the unread **messages and missed** calls on my phone.

In the group chat **with** my friends, Jean had tagged me and said, “Tvy, is Rowan in love with you? He just catted you away like that!”

Olivia replied, “It’s wild. I never thought I’d see that.”

Natalie simply sent a few stickers to express how jaw-dropping it was

Jean said, “Teut Chansey, that bitch, off, she laww about your relationship with Rowan but still invited me along! Was she trying to disgust me or you? Fuck, I almost fought with her.”

Olivia replied, “She’s not a **good** person. You shouldn’t hang out with her.”

Jean responded, “Of course, I ended things with her

Jean continued, “Hey, Ivy! Where are you? Did Rowan take you home?”

Following that were more messages as the trio gossiped until 2:00 am

with me.

Reading the messages gave me a headache, and I chuckled at how they had speculated whether Rowan had fallen in love w

I sent a message to Jean to tell her that Rowan had gotten a photograph of Dad.

Benjamin had also messaged me. He said, “Merry Christmas, Ivory! Would you like to **hang out?**”

Ten minutes later, he sent another message that said, “I guess you’re busy. Have fun.”

Ivan had also sent me a message. **It read**, “Text me when you’re awake,”

But I didn’t want to text him. He had kept targeting me for no reason during the game. I was annoyed, and I

also began to wonder if he really was the **land**, goody- two-shoes **thad** imagined him to be.

But it was impossible. He indeed had the potential to go crazy. Otherwise, he wouldn't have fought Rowan until the end of my past life.

Inerthat Jean must be still sleeping, so I went downstairs for breakfast. Halfway through my meal, I got a call from Jean.

She ranted angrily, "What the fuck? Rowan is so evil! He refused to get a divorce when you wanted to. Did he **plan** to find something against you before filing for divorce? Rich people sure are **good at** scherning!"

It seemed that pran had the same thoughts as me.

"I guess," **I said** calmly as t sipped on the soup. "**Jean**, come with me to Curtino City to morrow. I'm going to talk to Angie's husband or son."

"Sure," Jean agreed immediately.

H

The next day, I got Lee to drive me to **Jean's** house. Once I picked her up, we headed t o Curtino City,

Angle's husband, Pelix Lannister, owned **an auto** repair shop, but he was addicted to g ambling, **so** the shop was rarely open for business.

Chapter 78 Almost

ost Strangled to Death

2/2

When we got there, the auto repair shop was closed,

I **looked around** and walked **into** the grocery **store** across the street. I bought many thi ngs. **Then**, at the cashier, I struck up a conversation with the owner.

"Sir, why isn't the auto repair shop across the street open? I **wanted** to get my **car** chec ked."

"Oh, you should go elsewhere, miss. They will most likely stay closed until the end of th e **year**," the owner said cynically.

"Why? Bad **business**? This is a good location, though," **Jean** replied.

“The owner of that auto repair shop is a gambler. He must be winning a lot lately. He’s been at the casino every day!” said the **man**.

After finding out where the casino was located, Jean and I headed over there.

As expected, Felix was gambling. Just as I was about to ask him to come outside, a woman appeared not too far from us.

She looked like she had been assaulted. She had a cut at the corner of her eye that was bleeding, and her lips were bruised.

Like a ghost, she glared at me from **afar**.

Jean tugged on my arm and said, “Fuck, isn’t that Angie? Why is she here?”

“Ivory Sadler,” Angie said. She approached me and gave me a wry smile “Why are you here? Are you here to mock me?”

“What do you mean?” I asked in confusion.

“Stop pretending! Didn’t you clear Felix’s debts and tell him to capture me?” Angie snarled, glaring at me with resentment.

“Did you know? I was so close. I was so close to filing for divorce with him. **It’s** all your fault! You ruined me!”

As Angie finished talking, she pounced on me and strangled me. In that instant, I felt suffocated.

Everyone in the **casino** came outside because of the commotion Felix was among them.

“You mad woman, let her go! **Jean** shouted as she hit Angie with her bag, trying to get the latter off me. But Angie seemed to be in a trance and refused to let go of

Just then, Felix rushed over and locked Angie away, I could finally breathe **again**.

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

Chapter 79 Something Weird About Royce

ent! Felix cursed.

“Ton soll sight now Do you want to die? Get lost! You’re an embarrassment

Angie couldn't get up. The people at the casino simply watched on as if they were used to it. I was terrified, so I hurriedly left with **Jean**.

Lee was waiting **in** the car. Upon noticing something amiss with my expression, he immediately asked concernedly, "Mrs. Payne, are you feeling unwell?"

"It's fine. Let's go back to Alton City," I replied as I touched my neck.

Jean leaned in to check it out. Frowning she said, "Your neck is bruised. She's brutal!"

but my mind was on something else. "What did she mean?" I asked. "Who bribed Felix?"

I have no idea Felix is a gambler, so he must be in a lot of debt. Someone must've repaid his debts on the condition that he take Angie home. I knew if you have to fight fire with fire. "**Jean** said.

"But who could it be?" I asked, still rather confused. "The private investigator I hired tried to speak to Felix, too. But Felix didn't seem to care about Angie's affair. "Now that I think about it, they might have planned this all along— Angie hooked up with rich men to find money to repay Felix's debts, but she also wanted to use the opportunity to divorce Felix."

Jean pondered for a while and her eyes gradually grew wider. "It can't be Rowan, right? Did you see the photographs he had?"

My heart sank. I murmured, "Was that how he got those photographs?!"

I figured that Rowan **had** his hands on the only copy of the photographs.

I knew him well. Since he had paid for them, he would want to maximize his benefits. He wouldn't have wanted **the** photographs unless they were the only copies. All I needed to do was sign the divorce papers, and I would get the photographs.

It was dark when we arrived in Alton City, so Jean and I found a place to eat. During the meal, she cursed Rowan a dozen times.

"After you get divorced, I'll introduce you to some handsome men. There are many fish in the sea, so you shouldn't settle for him!" Jean said, consoling me, "I doubt his relationship with Ashley will last. He'll regret it."

I sighed inwardly, for a moment, I almost wanted to tell Jean that I had been reborn. I **about** it.

"That doesn't concern me anymore," said

But it sounded bizarre, and I wasn't sure what would happen if Rowan heard

I tried to calm myself down as late dessert. I continued, "But member what you promised about introducing me to handsome men

"Sure. I promise!" I said confidently.

After the meal, I got Lee to drop pean off at home before we turned to Windwill Estate Shortly after I got home, I received a call from an unknown number.

I answered the call, only to hear Royce's voice.

"Finally! It got through. My previous number got barred again."

Upon hearing how defeated he sounded, I felt laughing.

"Ms. Sadler, can I invite you out for a meal? Royce asked directly

"I just ate," I answered

"I'll take you out for a movie, then," he said persistently.

I rarely went to the cinema to watch movies. When I had been in university, had occasionally joined Jean and the others to watch movies. The rest of the time, I watched movies in the underground home theatre we had at home.

Yet, for **over 10** years, I had imagined shopping, watching movies, and having candlelight dinners with Rowan. Even the simplest things became special when you

with someone you liked.

Unfortunately, I had never experienced any of it.

I hesitated for a while before giving in "Sure. Which cinema?"

After I got the address, he drove me to the shopping mall. The cinema was located on its fifth floor.

Royce was already waiting. He **was** dressed elegantly, and he wore a pair of glasses. He was carrying two lattes **and a** tub of popcorn.

When he saw me, he smiled. "Over here, Ms. **Sadler**"

I walked over and Royce handed me a latte. He said, "I stazelnut-flavored. I'm **not** sure if you like it; if you don't, I'll buy another one."

I shook my head **and said**, "It's fine. Like hazelnut."

Royce had picked a romantic comedy movie, which had no objections to. When the movie started, we sat down in our seats.

He whispered, "**Enjoy** the latte while it's hot."

"okay" I answered. Then, I took a sip of the latte.

The movie was good, and it was quite funny. I had expected myself to fall asleep, but I ended up laughing so **hard** that I teared up.

My phone was on silent, so I only saw missed calls from Rowan after I left the cinema. I called him back, but the line was busy.

I didn't **pay** much attention to it and left the shopping mall to get supper with Royce.

Chapter 79 Something **Weird** About Royce

"I know of a steakhouse that has good steak. They also have wine. Do you drink?" Royce asked,

"Yeah, but I have a low tolerance," I said. It would be awkward if I acted up after getting drunk.

The wind was howling outside, but the streets were still bustling. The steakhouse Royce had mentioned was on the next street. The two of us walked there in the cold.

During the entire walk, Royce kept trying to make conversation, and I simply answered his questions.

He was good at making conversation; he could find topics that I was interested in, and he was being a gentleman.

At the steakhouse, we continued chatting over steak and wine. Royce wasn't like Benjamin. He was more mature, **and** we had more shared interests.

I disliked owing people favors. With the excuse of using the bathroom, I went to the counter to pay.

When Royce noticed it, he rushed over with his phone in hand and **said**, "I'll get the bill!"

I caught a glimpse of his screen, and I couldn't help but frown.

“Now, let’s get you home,” Royce said after paying for the meal. His car was parked nearby.

“It’s fine. A friend of mine was eating nearby, and he’s going to pick me up,” I said, rejecting Royce.

“It’s okay. You don’t have to trouble someone else. I can take you home,” Royce said sincerely. “Ms. Sadler, do you believe in love at first sight?”

I smiled and said, “I do, but I also believe that people have ulterior motives.”

When I **had** caught a glimpse of Royce’s phone screen, I had seen that his last contact was Kaden Harriet.

There were many people with the same first name, but I doubt the “Kaden Harriet he knew was a random stranger

I recalled **what** Natalie had once told me. Raden believed that I was responsible for their breakup, and she had warned me to watch out for **his** retaliation. I had been careless.

I had expected Kaden to retaliate with a personal attack, but I had never expected him to find a friend to approach me. I had no idea what their motive **was**.

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

Chapter 80 Murmuring His Name

“Muller, did I do something wrong? Why did you suddenly become so cold?” Royce asked innocently

I didn’t answer him. I glanced at the time my phone; it was 11:00 pm, and there weren’t many people on the streets. Howan called me again. I answered the call, but just as I was about to speak, Royce grasped my wrist tightly. Unlike his gentle demeanor before, he said angrily, “come with me!”

It seemed rather deserted.

I was surprised; hadn’t expected Royce to change so suddenly, this grip was tight, and he dragged me toward the car

There were some passersby, but no one dared to intervene. I had never encountered such a situation, and I felt very confused. Suddenly, I remembered the call, **and** I screamed for help

Nove pushed me into the car and snatched my phone from my hand.

“Dehave yourself!”

Kaden was stoking in the driver’s seat. He turned around to glance at me and quirked a sinister smile. “Surprise, Ivory.”

“What do you want, Kaden?” tsaldining to sound calm

“Bitch, you made me lose my job, and Natalie booke up with me. You made me lose ev everything! I can’t **just** accept my fate and not teach you a lesson.

Thave nothing to lose. Tonight, I’ll make sure you repay tentimes more than what I’ve lo st!”

Kadentored the cigarette out the window and drove off. After a long drive, the car stopp ed at a pier. Kaden and Royer dragged me to a container. Before I could even stand pro perly, I was slapped in the face. I felt a burning sensation on my cheeks, **and** I felt dizzy, too.

Rove brought a chair. As Kaden tied me to the chair, he kept cursing at me.

You now be two choices,” Kaden said, holding up two fingers.

“Chalce number one— transfer five billion dollars to me **as** compensation. Choice number two— we’ll rape you, then kill you and throw you into the ocean.”

I wondered why I hadn’t realized howell Kaden max.

“Kaden, you dated Natalie for a long time, and she treated you well. Since you betrayed her, shouldn’t you let her go? You were the one at fault, why are you blaming it on me?” asked, staring at Kaden.

“Who are you to meddle with my business?”

Triggered by my woods, Raden suddenly lacked me. **I landed** on the ground, hitting the back of my head. It hurt tremendously.

H

Royce had no grudges against me, and he had probably done it for the money. **So**, he stopped Raden and said, “Forget it. We should focus on taking her mone y, his life. Hurry.”

They helped **me** up, and Karen pointed my phone at me. After they unlocked my phone with facial recognition, they opened the banlang application and set the amount for the wire transfer. They prompted me to tell them my password.

1. e. "Every transfer is limited to so thousand dollars. You will

"I can't transfer so much at once. There are limits," I said, trying to endure the pain and buying time. have to make separate transfer."

I was lying to Kaden, who had no idea what the transfer limit for my bank account was

Besides, Kaden wasn't wealthy, **so** he wouldn't be familiar with the transfer limits of account like mine. To no surprise, he changed the **transfer** amount to 50 thousand dollars. He repeated the process of transferring the money.

"Send me some, too," **Royer** said **in** envy

The duo began to focus entransfering the funds. They would occasionally accidentally lock the screen and then get me to unlock the phone again. Every second that they wasted felt like hope to me

I stared intently at the entrance of the container ty heart **was** pounding, and Ixilently ununsed **an**

Fame Down

The last phone call from him was my only hope. Kaden was out of his mind; even if he got the money, he would probably still harm me

Suddenly, Theard Ashley's voice from outside.

"Ivory?hory?" she spoke softly, and it seemed intentional

"I'm **over** here!"

that moment of grasping hope, I responded as loudly as possible. Kaden and Royce were surprised by the sudden situation. They hurriedly covered my mouth.

The footsteps outside gradually got closer and stopped just outside the door. I teared up, hoping that somebody would kick the door open in the next second.

But to my surprise, the footsteps paused for a moment before uning off, I could hear **As hley** speak from a distance.

"Mr. Payne, Dr. Ivan, there's nobody here."

Ifrom in slick, What the hell was Ashley saying?

“**Search** elsewhere! Why are you just standing **the** Rowan snarled.

I wanted to speak, but my mouth was covered tight. It was hard to breathe, let alone try to make a sound.

I felt like I was seeing my tire of hope slowly die in the dark

Chapter 80 Murmuring His Name

Suddenly, a sharp ringtone went off. Panicking, Kaden took his phone out of **his** pocket and hung up the call.

He cursed, “**Fock!**”

Seizing the opportunity, I screamed, “**Rowan!**”

Royce angrily slapped me. I couldn't hold out any longer, and my **lips** felt like they were tearing **apart**.

Just as the two were about to silence me with a cloth, a loud crash came from the entrance of the container.

The lock had been destroyed; Rowan had kicked the door open and paused for a moment by the entrance. When he saw me, he became furious.

He rushed inside with the steel pipe he had used to break the locks. Meanwhile, Kaden had turned pale from fear.

Before Kaden could hold me hostage, Rowan **beat** him down with the steel pipe.

Ivan came in after Rowan. When he saw the state **that I was in**, **anger** crept into **his** usually emotionless face.

Ivan grabbed Royce by his collar with one hand and took his glasses off with another. After putting his glasses away, Ivan landed a hard punch on Royce.

Ashley screamed at the bloody scene. She desperately backed **away**, seemingly afraid of getting blood on her clothes.

Jasper and Chester arrived, too. They were both dumbfounded by the situation.

Ashley ran to hide behind Jasper and grabbed him by the shirt. She was frightened and looked pitiful.

Chester was more tactful. He turned to the men who had come with him and ordered, “Get them!”

Over a dozen men rushed inside, taking over from Rowan and Ivan to continue beating Raden and Royce up

Rowan untied me from the **chair**. I wanted to thank him, but my **head** ached so much that I passed out as I tried to speak.

I don’t know what happened after, but I woke up in a hospital bed. I looked up and realized I had been put on an IV **drip**.

Natalie sat by my bed with teary eyes. When she saw that I had woken up, she began to bawl while holding my hand. “I’m so sorry, Ivy, Kaden **took** revenge on you because of me. I’m sorry...”

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 81 Eyeing a Friend’s Wife

I felt diery, but I was also fully unscious Natalie looked very quilly, so tried to console her

it’s not your fault, it’s Kaden’s fault. I doen ergeet telling you about him cheating. That a **sshole** doesn’t deserve you.”

Natalie cried even furdur.

Just then, Jean and Clivia entered the ward with a fruit **basket**. The two saw me and hurriedly asked, “Ivy, do you still feel any discomfort Does your head still hurt?”

“Are you hungry? I’ll get you some food.”

“Are you **cold**? I’ll turn up the air conditioner. You mustn’t catch a cold!”

I lightly shook my head and said, “I’m not hongryer cold. I just feel a little diazy

Jean et bad for

dumb, will you?”

She said, “Poor hy, you’ve **had** such had lack over the past two months. It’s the second time you’ve sustained a head injury! You won’t become

I joked, “It’s time even if do. **You can** take bums looking afterne.”

As we chatted, **Lou** out about **what** had happened.

Since Kaden **had** a grudge against me, he had gotten Royce to approach me. He **had asked** Royce to kidnap **and** ask for a ransom.

Their initial goal had been to get the money, drown me in the ocean, and then flee from the country.

They hadn't expected Rowan's phone call to provide me a chance for survival. When Rowan had heard my cry for help, he had located me by my phone and come to

Natalie said, "When he couldn't find **you**, he contacted me to get in touch with Kaden. But when he called, Kaden **rejected** the call."

She wiped her tears with a napkin, and she looked furious.

"I didn't expect Kaden to be so selfish and cruel and blame someone else for his wrongdoings. Roman and Britney came to beg for my mercy! How shameless

of them!"

"Mercy my ass" Jean said with disgust "An asshole like him should just not be in prison.

"Not, I'm so glad you got out of the relationship in time. Otherwise, it would've been too late if you'd discovered his true colors after marrying him **and** having kids.

Natalie nodded and said, "You're right!"

As we chatted, Iran came into the ward. Considering how he had beaten Royce up for my sake, it evened out how he had been so mean to me when we had played truth or dare.

So, I greeted him politely, "Hi, Dr. York"

Ivan didn't greet me. Instead, he asked, "Do you feel dizzy? Did you wake up after waking up? Do you remember what happened before you passed out?" I answered all his questions accordingly.

After asking **about** my condition, he said **plainly**, "You have an intracranial hemorrhage, but no surgery is needed for now.

"With treatment, the hemorrhage will be resolved gradually. Just go through all the treatment in the hospital."

"Okay," I said I planned to obey the doctors' instructions, I would leave it up to the professionals.

Before he left, he looked at me meaningfully, but I wasn't sure what that look meant

Jean came to me and gave me a meaningful smile. She whispered, "Ivy, Ivan can't be in love with you, right? Is he eyeing his friend's wife?"

I quickly covered Jean's mouth, just outside the door, Ivan paused. It seemed like he had heard **what** Jean had said. Then, he left.

Olivia was tactful enough **to** close the door afterward.

"y, didn't Rowan carry you away on Christmas night?" Natalie said, smiling mysteriously. "Did you bump into a pervert when you left? And did Rowan **beat** him

"How do you know about that?" I asked in surprise.

"Because Ivan beat him up again, **and** he's still hospitalized. Didn't you know about it?"

Natalie **had** stopped crying, and she was now interested in the gossip "After the both of you left, the party ended.

"When we went downstairs, we saw people crowding around a man who had gotten beaten up pretty badly. After Ivan asked the manager about what **had** happened he beat the pervert up again."

I wondered why Ivan did that. Had he fallen in love with two women at the same time, just as Rowan had?

Je chuckled and said, "Wow, you've been on a hot streak lately! Rowan is treating you differently, and even somebody as icy as Ivan is giving you special treatment. How exciting!"

"Exciting, my ass!" I said, glancing at Jean as she became more outrageous

I knew that Ivan's true love was Ashley, he hadn't fallen for her yet, but it was only a matter of time. It would be very narcissistic of me to assume that he would all in love with me,

Also, I wasn't Ashley. I **didn't** have the heart to watch two men, whom I had **grown up** with, get into a feud because of me

Chapter 81 Eyeing a Friend's Wife

I couldn't tell my friends about how Ivan would fight with Rowan over Ashley in the future. I could **only** correct their assumptions for now.

The four of us chatted **for a** long time in the hospital ward. Then, Olivia received a work call, so she had to get back to work

Hence, I told Jean and Natalie to go home and assured them that they didn't have to stay with me.

"But I insist!" Natalie said. She felt guilty, and she refused to leave.

"Olivia's got work, but Nat **and I have** nothing to do. So, we can take turns to stay with you **on** alternate days," **Jean** said coolly.

She continued, "I haven't told your parents about your injuries. You can decide if you want to tell them. I'm busy today because I have to teach a young boy a lesson, so I'll be **back** tomorrow.

Then, Jean left too. Natalie was confused.

"Does Jean have **a** younger brother? Doesn't she only have an older sister and brother?"

"I think it's **a** younger love interest!" I chuckled.

"Oh, I **forgot** that she was a playgirl! Natalie said, slapping herself on the forehead.

Time passed quickly with **Natalie** around. I called Mom to tell her that Angle's issue had been settled, but I didn't tell her **that** I had gotten injured and was hospitalized.

Since Mom had a weak **heart** and was also hospitalized, I decided not to scare her.

Even when the sky had turned dark, Rowan hadn't come to visit me at the hospital. Natalie told me that after Rowan had brought me to the hospital, he had left to **deal** with Kaden

My heart raced **when** I recalled how he had rushed into the container to rescue me. **But** at the thought of how Ashley **had** appeared behind him, I calmed down again. Rowan must have taken Ashley to meet his good friends, like **Ivan**.

Also, I **was** certain that Ashley had heard my cries for help, yet she had acted dumb and tried to lead them elsewhere. That alone was something that I could never forget

Seemingly innocent and harmless people were often more terrifying when they committed evil

After dinner, Natalie reluctantly went home after I coerced her to **leave**. I told her to visit only during the day. After all, I would be asleep at night, so she didn't need to stay.

After Natalie left, I scrolled through my phone but gradually dozed off.

As I slept, I felt somebody sit by my bed. I tried to open my eyes, but I couldn't fight off the drowsiness.

At midnight, I **woke** up from the thirst and opened my eyes to see Rowan seated by the bed, staring at me.

"Oh my god!" I exclaimed in shock. It felt like my heart had stopped for a moment.

"Why are you up?" Rowan asked with a smile. He spoke in an unfamiliar, gentle tone.

"I'm thirsty," I said honestly.

Rowan got up, picked up the glass, and poured me a glass of warm water. "Drink up."

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 82 Misunderstanding Rowan

Surprised, I said, "I need water."

He changed his previous gentle tone and said firmly, "Since you're here, you should stay in bed. Why push yourself so hard?"

I wondered how getting a glass of water meant I was pushing myself too hard.

As I drank from the **glass**, I thought Rowan wasn't actually so cold. Instead, he was gentle and patient, but it was something that he would only show the woman he loved.

I thought Ashley was really lucky to get to experience Rowan's love every day. She was the chosen one.

"What happened with Kaden?" I asked after finishing my water.

"He's **been** detained by the police. He'll be sentenced once all the procedures are completed. He's bound to get life imprisonment," Rowan **said** plainly. "Also, Roce confessed his

plan to kidnap you."

"I see," I said, nodding, "Good, then."

Rowan scotced and said, "What's good?".

I was taken aback Wasn't it good that the bad guys had been arrested? I really couldn't figure Rowan out.

Rowan contimed, "Was it good that you gave your musher to a man you met at the bar? de was it good that you went out ona movie and steak date with him?"

I was baffled, it hadn't been vengeful and tried to seek.comfort from someone else, Roy ce's **plan** wouldn't have worked.

Rowan asked again, "Why **are** you silent?!"

After another moment of silence, I asked, "Rowan, are mou jealous?"

stor me, and we had agreed to date around as long as none of my

1 could sense that How was jealous, but I didn't know why he was jealous. He didn't ha ve feelings t partners were his friends

My question seemed to have embarrassed Rowall

He suddenly stood up and said icily, "You're thinking it. 1 just thought it was embarrassi ng, so I'll silence the media Otherwise, everyone will know that you had an affair and go t lidnapped."

Rowan had finally voiced his true thoughts

th another man and also gotten

For someone like **him**, it would be a blow to his reputation if people found out that his wi fe had gone on a movie and dimer date with kidnapped.

"okay," I said.

Thad gotten used to his cold woods, but this time, I decided to repay his saving grace.

"You can bring the divorce papers to me soon. To repay you for saving me this time, I w on't take any of your assets. I value my life more."

As someone who had died before, I valued lite the most.

"By the way, are those photographs the sole copies? You can bring them along, too," I a dded.

Suddenly, Rowan took out those photographs and, for no reason, angrily threw them on my bed. They were scattered everywhere..

With a dark expression, he turned around and left.

I was confused: What did he mean by this? He had given me the photographs, but where were the divorce papers?

I hurriedly picked up the photographs and got them organized, counted, and they were all here.

I thought Rowan **hadn't** given me the divorce papers because he needed to make amendments. After all, I had just said that I wouldn't take any of his assets. After I put the photographs away, I finally felt relieved. Dad's issue was resolved, and I could divorce Rowan. I no longer needed to be the woeful Mrs. Payne; I could freely be Mader

When Dad found out that the issue had been resolved, he asked to meet me. But I hurriedly rejected the idea.

Over the phone.

I didn't want Dad to know that I had gotten kidnapped and injured. I gave him a random excuse and insisted on spalding over

Dad said happily, "hey, I've finally been proven innocent. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to **explain** myself

"Dad, you should hire a man to be your secretary or assistant

"Otherwise, if someone defames you when you're **near** retirement, your years of hard work will be negated overnight. It's not worth it," said, giving me advice as I ate the deals that Jean had prepared for me.

"I've learned my lesson. By the way, Ivy, you should invite Rowan over for a meal. I'd like to thank him," Dad said.

"Thank him?"

1. me. After all, I was the one who had sacrificed my marriage in exchange for the photographs. But, of course, Dad had no

posed. I thought **Dad** should be thanking me. After a

bad sigh and said, "I was prejudiced against **him**, and I always thought that he didn't care about you, your mother, **or** me. But after this incident, I realized that he's not too bad."

As I listened, I got more confused. “Dad, what are you saying?”

Chapter 52 Misunderstanding Rowan

Dad told me about how Angie was from Curtino City, and my in-laws were based there, too. They had **many** connections, so **Dad** asked George for help.

George **had** entrusted the matter to **Rowan**, who **had** frequently traveled to Curtino City to resolve the issue.

But this whole time, I’d had no idea about **everything** that had happened. I had even misunderstood Rowan and thought that he had been trying to force me to divorce him without **taking any** of his assets.

I dropped the fruits. My mind went blank as I went on an emotional rollercoaster,

Jean asked **softly**, “What’s wrong?”

“Anyway, **don’t** forget to invite Rowan over for a meal one of these days. I must thank him personally,” Dad said, then hung up.

It took me a while to snap back to my senses

Jean thought I was suffering from some side effects from the blow to my **head**. So, she was about to press the bell to call the doctors and nurses.

I stopped her and said, “Jean, I think I may have misunderstood Rowan. What do I do?”

After I told Jean what **had** happened, she fell silent. She was probably as surprised as I was.

After a while, she asked, “Where are the photographs?”

I took the photographs out from under my pillow. “They’re here...”

The two of us sat in a long silence. If Ivan **hadn’t** come to **do** his rounds, we **would** have continued to sit in silence. As he walked in, I quickly put the photographs **away**.

“How **do** you feel today? Do you still feel dizzy?” Ivan asked.

I answered him, but I kept thinking of how Rowan had left after throwing the photographs at me two nights ago.

Jean had never seen something **as** absurd as this either. She had witnessed how that chased after Rowan for ten years. From **Jean's** perspective, Rowan treated me as though I were his enemy.

She got up and said, "I'll get things combed out outside.

_____ "Comb what?" Ivan **asked**.

He had his hands in the pockets of his doctor's coat. He also **had a** mask on, and only his eyes were visible. The mask muffled his voice, but it si

"Comb... her hair, I guess? Her hair is messy, I said, ruffling my **hair**. "I need to comb mine, too.

"Are you getting a divorce?"

Ivan was always good at making the most impact with the shortest statements.

I stared at him blankly and asked, "How did you know? Did Rowan tell you?"

Ivan shrugged. "Yeah, he did. It was the night you got kidnapped. Ashley was there too."

Before, I had thought that I had misunderstood Rowan, and I had felt guilty. But now, Ivan's words made those feelings disappear.

I thought Rowan must have wanted **a** divorce, Otherwise, why would he have told **Ivan** and the others?

Rowan was **a** man of his word. He wouldn't say things easily, since he had told them, he must be determined to get divorced.

I lowered my gaze and said, "Yeah, we're getting a divorce. As **a** token of appreciation for rescuing me, I decided not to take any of his assets. "

Ivan said happily, "Congratulations."

"You're congratulating my divorce?" I said, rolling my eyes at him. "Congratulate me when I get remarried."

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 83 She Said She Was in Love

Ivan raised his brows at my statement. Then, he said, “You should be careful before your remarriage, then. Don’t injure your head and become dumb

I said under my breath. “That’s none of your business.”

BUT I WASN’T sure if Ivan heard me.

Anurse hurriedly called ran away. After he left, Jean returned, having combed through her thoughts.

Jean said excitedly, “**hy, does** that mean you’re the biggest winner in this love game?”

“No, we’re still getting a divorce.” I continued calmly, “Towan has already told Ivan and the rest about our divorce. He told Ashley, too.”

Jean’s smile froze. “What?”

Though I was a player and was considerably experienced in dating, she was also confused by how tight Rowan and I were.

One of us **was** being unusual by offering help, and the other was guiltily asking for advice on what to do. Jean **had** thought it was a sign that we would make up.

But Jean being Jean, recovered from her brief shock **and** became even more excited.

“That’s right! You should get a divorce! A woman shouldn’t be so lowly. He hurt you for ten years; you can’t just forgive him after seeing a little bit of kindness from him, just get a divorce and let him regret his decisions?”

I was speechless, Jean was being very funny. Once Rowan and I **got** a divorce, not only would he not regret his decisions, but he would even have his happy ending with Ashley.

Ashley was the key reason why Rowan had agreed to a divorce.

“Well, that’s enough. You’re overthinking things. Hurry and get me food. I want the lasagna from the cafeteria it was pretty good,” I joked, urging Jean.

“You don’t want food from a five-star hotel, but you went lasagna from the cafeteria? Look at you!”

Jean poked fun at how I didn’t know how to appreciate good things, but she rushed off to the cafeteria. After all, it was lunchtime and she would have to wait in line!

Once I was left alone, the smile on my face gradually faded. I felt disappointed.

I got up and walked over to the window. I stared out at the snowy landscape. Downstairs, some of the hospital staff were putting up decorations for the new year. The mood looked great.

Tomorrow would be the new year, but I would have to spend **it** in the hospital. I felt pitiful. Just as I **was** spacing out, I heard footsteps behind me. I thought Jean had returned.

I said, “Do you have plans for the new year? If you don’t, why don’t you spend **it** with me?”

But there were no answers. I turned around in confusion, only to see Ashley looking awkward.

She had light makeup on, which made her look very preppy. She also seemed a little guilty.

Ashley was dressed in a long-down jacket with a ribbon blouse she also had a pair of white, long boots **on**

At first glance, I could tell that she was wearing better quality clothes than before. They must be expensive, but I couldn’t identify their brands.

She seemed more mature and composed today.

Ivory, do you feel better? Ashley asked slyly.

“What **do** you think?” I said coldly.

After the kidnapping incident, my impression of her had taken a turn for the worse. I got back in bed and scrolled through my phone; **I didn’t** want to entertain her.

Ashley sat down on the chair by the bed. She didn’t dare to **look** at me, but she couldn’t help but steal glances at me.

Frowning, I put my phone away and asked, “What do you want?”

“Nothing. I’m just worried about your health,” Ashley answered softly, biting her lips.

“You wanted me to die. Why are you worried about me?” I asked, pretending to be surprised.

In that instant, **Ashley** turned pale. She shook her head. “No, Ivory. I didn’t want you to die!!”

Refuted coldly, “is that so? Then, tell me. At the container by the dock, you heard my cries for help, but you pretended not to hear me. **You** even told Rowan and the others that I wasn’t there.

Later, when Rowan searched in that direction, he even heard Kaden’s phone ring. So why didn’t you hear my desperate cry for help?”

Ashley looked embarrassed by the rapid-fire list of questions

She murmured, “Ivory, I’m not that kind of person. You know me, don’t you? I just didn’t hear you then; my hearing is rather poor.”

“You’re a vocal major, and you have poor hearing?”

I felt like Ashley was underestimating my intelligence

“Ashley, why have you become like this? Rowan must’ve told you that I’m ready to **divorce** him. What’s the rush?”

1

pointed out Ashley’s **hidden**, dark intentions. It seemed like she couldn’t accept the fact that she had done **such a** temilying thing, too.

She cried, “I’m sorry, Ivory 1 must’ve been out of my mind. I.. I think I’m in love with Mr. Payne!!

I had **or** things to criticize her about, but after hearing her words, I couldn’t **say a** thing.

Choked up, Ashley continued, “I know... now I shouldn’t have fallen in love with him. But **he’s** always inserting him into my life. Somehow, I got used to **having**

him around.

“I started to feel like I’m not good enough for him, and **I** can’t compare to you. That was why I suddenly became so blinded and committed such an **act**. I’m sorry, Ivory, Can you not tell Rowan about it?”

If 1 told Rowan about it, he might not be able to accept **that** his dream lover had become so jealous and evil.

I thought that **was** pathetic.

“Ashley, be honest with me. Did you get used to having him **around**, or are you just enjoying how he spends on you?”

"I know it's easy to learn **to** live curiously, while it's difficult to learn to be frugal, I can tell what you're thinking just by looking at your outfit now,

"**Rowan** paid for your father's surgery and the compensation for the demolition of your house, You're just used to the convenience that money and power are giving you, isn't it?"

"No!" Ashley said

Sive became worked up, unable to tolerate me mistaking her feelings for ulterior motives.

Teary-eyed, she said, "That's not it's not just for the money. I really fell in love with him as a person!

"Also, Ivory, it wasn't Rowan who made me materialistic. It was you, Ashley added, gazing at me with sad yet determined eyes.

"You were the one who showed me what it meant to live luxuriously, I looked up all the clothes **and** accessories you wear. They're all expensive.

You also lent me money for the wedding gown rental. You didn't know me, but you lent it to me so easily and weren't in a rush for me to repay you.

Benjamin also told me about your cat Everything you had were things **that i** had never known of before or desired."

I was shocked. I hadn't expected that was the reason Ashley had fallen for **Rowan** Had I distorted **an** innocent girl's soul with the power of money? But honestly, I lead purposefully shown off. **In** my last life; Ashley's appearance had ruined my family.

In this **life**, **I** could bless her and Rowan, but I still feel like it was unfair. And so, That intentionally done some things,

"**You can** leave now," I said, not wanting to waste more time talking to Ashley.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 84 A Working GUE

Seeing that I was ignoring her, Ashley got up **and** held her hand in front of her, looking very grumpy and reluctant:

"Iway, **Banan** said you didn't want to take any of his money despite the diver

“you shouldn’t be so silly. You spent **ten** years of your youth with her, and you deserve some compensation. After all, the most valuable thing about a woman is her youth”

Then, Ashley turned around and left.

I was mad. She was the mistress, yet she had come to tell the **soon** In be divorced wife not to select any at her husband’s assets, I wonder if Ashley was being thoughtful

Also, could believe that Ashley knew I loved her for ten years

I bet Ashley must have been proud and pitied me. That one-sidedly loved her for ten years, yet that couldn’t compare to the mere months of her existence. So, she must know how good she was to her.

Rowan had probably told her about it, right? At that thought, I tried to deep breathe to calm myself down

After all, it wasn’t the first time I had become the butt of the joke. It wouldn’t matter even if Ashley mocked me again, but I wouldn’t control my temper, things could get ugly.

I decided to tolerate her until I got divorced. Then, I would travel the world, and time would beat everything.

“Here comes out lasagna” Teas said, happily returning with the food

When she noticed my dated expression, she frowned and asked, “What’s wrong?”

I quirked a smile and said, “Listen to this”

Why the

Then, I took at my phone and played the audio recording from before. After she heard the sensation, she couldn’t contain her anger, flushed red, she cursed, “Fuck, that little bitch. She’s so evil! Did she i

try to bill you? No way! I have to give her two big slaps. I’m serious!”

“Don’t go, man,” I said, shaking my head. “You don’t even know she’s gone. How are you going to chase after her?”

“Isn’t she a music major at Alton University? I’ll put up a banner and hire people to badmouth her with megaphones. If she doesn’t end up dipping out, that’s **on me!**” Jean snarled.

“Rowan and I are getting divorced soon. Why bother dealing with Ashley?”

I continued, “just wait until I’m divorced. We must pick a good time to take our revenge.”

Jean **paused**. Then, she asked, “Are you superstitious, Ivy? What **do** you consider a **good** time?”

I joked. “For example, when they’re getting married. It’s a good wedding gift.”

des to side

Jean’s eyes immediately lit up at the **idea**. She **gave** me a thumbs-up and said, “You’re right. We can’t just let Rowan listen to this alone. What if he decides to with her? That would defeat its purpose.”

“we should pick a time and place to play this for everyone to hear, I’m sure she wouldn’t have the courage to meet anyone after that,”

“**Yeah** Since Rowan is willing to divorce me for her, that means they will most likely get divorced. Let’s not be hasty,” I said, consoling, Jean

By the time we finished dinner, the sky was turning dark, so I asked Jean to go home,

The room fell into silence. I could only **occasionally** hear the footsteps of the busy nurses outside.

As I lay in bed and quietly scrolled through **Instagram**, I saw numerous posts of people who were waiting to countdown to the new year. They all looked happy.

I eventually fell asleep, but I was awakened by the fireworks at midnight...

grand festival, and many

by lovers would countdown

Every new year, Alton **City** would organize a New Year’s countdown firework party at Waterfront Square. It was a great way to celebrate the new year together at the **event**.

In the past, I had wished that Rowan would go with me, but he **had** never complied with my wishes.

After getting woken up, I lost the urge to sleep. My intuition made me open Ashley’s Instagram profile. To no surprise, her latest story featured the fireworks at Waterfront Square.

She had also posted a selfie of herself beaming. Behind her, there was a man—it was Chester.

Considering the time and place, if Chester was present, Rowan must have also been there, too.

But Ashley must have been too shy to **include** Rowan in the picture, so she had captured Chester to represent him.

As long as Rowan wasn't **divorced**, Ashley didn't have the right to be public about their relationship. Like a detective, I zoomed in and out of the picture, trying to

find him in the background.

Suddenly, somebody appeared at the door.

"Are you struggling to fall asleep? Ivan asked.

"I woke up," I said, putting my phone away. "Are you on the night shift?"

"Yeah. Do you want to see the works on the rooftop?" he asked.

I didn't want to go, but I felt bored. So, I got up and put on a jacket.

Chapter 84 A **Wedding**

2/2

"Let's go."

Ivan and I walked across the long hallway. When we passed the nurses' station, a nurse asked in surprise, "Huh? Dr. York, did you swap shifts with Dr. Gordon?"

I paused. Then, I turned to look at Ivan.

He answered, "Yeah, William's down with a bad cold."

I continued following Ivan. **We** took the stairs and arrived at the hospital rooftop. We were swept by a chilling breeze, and I shuddered in the cold.

In the distance, fireworks continued to illuminate the night sky. The sight of the fireworks helped to keep the cold at bay.

Just then, my phone pinged. Mom had transferred 52 thousand dollars to me. She had sent a message that read, "Happy New Year, my dear daughter!"

The gesture from Mom relieved me of my depressed feelings. I happily accepted the transfer and replied to her message with a heart sticker.

I said, "Happy New **Year**, Mom and Dad!"

"Are you texting Rowan?" Ivan asked when he noticed that I was smiling happily.

"Do you think that's possible?" I said, putting my phone away.

I took **a** deep breath of the cold **air** and said, "My mom gave me some money, and I'm just happy about that."

Ivan took off his mask and put it in **his** pocket. He smiled and said, "I didn't know you love money."

I replied, "Who doesn't love money?"

He nodded, then switched the topic. "By the way, Jonah's **surgery y**

's surgery yesterday ended well. He should be discharged from the hospital soon."

In the past, I had been curious about Ashley's family. But lately, I felt annoyed when I **h** **ear**d about them. I wondered if Ashley had posted that selfie knowing that I could see it.

"That's none of my business. You should tell Rowan about it, he put a lot of effort into it," I said plainly.

"Ashley will notify him. I'm not needed to do **that**," Ivan said, letting out a sigh.

Suddenly, he walked to a corner of the rooftop. When he returned, he came back with **a** bunch of **sparklers**.

"Do you want to play with these?"

"Where did you find them?" I asked in surprise.

"Every year for New **Year's**, the hospital leaves some sparklers on the rooftop. It's so **th** **at** people working the night shift can celebrate the new year, too." **Ivan** took out a lighter and said, "Let's light them together"

I hadn't played with sparklers in ages. Ivan handed **me** two sparklers, and then he used one hand to block out the wind while he lit the sparklers with the other hand. Accompanied by a small, sizzling sound, the sparklers bloomed with **a** beautiful light. Ivan stuck another sparkler close to mine to light it up. Then, we started waving the sparklers around like three-**year**-olds.

If I had known that Rowan was peeping at us from the door, I wouldn't have made a wish with the sparklers, nor would I have shouted, "Die,

I hadn't known better then

By the time **Ivan** and I were done with the sparklers, an hour had passed. I'd had fun, and I happily thanked him. Then, I **went** back to bed. I had a head injury, after all I needed more sleep.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 85 Being a Narcissist Again

I was discharged from the hospital a few days after the new year

Since I was bored in the hospital and had recovered well, I got discharged early.

After Lee drove me back to **Windwill** Estate, the maids prepared a scrumptious lunch for me. I indulged in the food, and I felt energized after the meal. Suddenly, Benjamin called me.

He said, "Ms. Sadler, how are you? Are you okay? When I went to the hospital, they told me that you'd gotten discharged!"

"How did you know that I was in the hospital, Benjamin? I was surprised. I had never posted about it on Instagram.

Benjamin went silent for **a few** moments before saying, "Ashley told me about it this morning "

I wondered why Ashley had told Benjamin about my injury. Then, I remembered how she had told me that Benjamin

I understood Ashley's intentions. Did she want Benjamin and I **to** develop our relationship further?

Just then, Rowan called me too. So, I quickly ended the call with Benjamin and answered Rowan's call

He questioned, "Why didn't you tell me that you got discharged from the hospital?"

"Were you at the hospital? **Tasked.**

"**What** else?" Rowan said, sounding angry. "What a waste of my

Benjamin treated me differently

I came to a realization. I figured **Ashley** must have known that Rowan was headed to the hospital today, **so** she had told Benjamin about me- That way, Rowan and Benjamin would bump into each other at the hospital.

But she hadn't expected me to get discharged from the hospital. Thadn't known that Ashley was this **kind** of person she had begun to scheme.

Rowan hung up, and I didn't bother to call him back

During winter, the nights were longer than days. By **5:00** pm, the sky was dark, and I slept all afternoon. After getting up, I put on a jacket **and** walked to the snowman **that** was standing outside.

The snowman looked a little disfigured. Because of the occasional heavy snow, the snowman had become very plump and out of shape.

"Mrs. Pomme,

It's too cold outside. You should go inside to get warm," **a** maid reminded me

"I'm dressed warmly," I said, smiling "You can go cook. I'm not hungry, so anything is fine."

After **the maid** had gone inside, backed away to look at the entire estate, which seemed like a castle.

In the past, had perceived it as a home that Rowan and I shared. But now, it seemed more like **a giant cage**—one that I had willingly trapped myself in for five

WATS

Over the past five years, I'd had nothing else to **do** aside from thinking about Rowan **and** waiting for him.

Jean had the hobby of meeting handsome men, and Natalie had been working hard to become a singer. Meanwhile, Olivia was a career woman.

But I had become mentally drained after gave up on Rowan; I had nothing to do.

I thought of planning our things **to** do after the divorce. I wondered if I should continue pursuing music or work at my parents' company.

But all in all, I wouldn't go back to being a personal secretary at Payne Corporation

I was so lost in thought that I didn't realize it when Rowan came to stand behind me.

After letting out a deep sigh, I turned around to go back, When I caught a glimpse of Rowan, I yelped in surprise

Patting my chest, I said, "What a scare. Are you a ghost, Rowan?"

"What were you doing that you got so frightened?" Rowan asked.

He had his **hands** in the pockets of his coat. He donned a black-and-white checkered scarf; it looked like it was handmade, **and** it looked good on him.

I didn't answer his question. Instead, I pointed at the scarf. "That's nice. Did Ashley make that?"

I had seen that scarf in **my** previous life, but it had appeared much later. Ivan had told me that Ashley had knitted the scarf for Rowan, and Rowan treasured it greatly.

Rowan raised his brows, seemingly acknowledging it. He waited for me to continue.

"It looks warm. Can I borrow?"

I immediately reached out to him to remove the **scarf**. I had expected him to reject me, but to my surprise, he bent over cooperatively.

As he bent over, we got a lot **closer**. I stopped and stared at his face. I couldn't imagine that I had loved this man for ten years, **but** it was time for me to let go. The look in Rowan's eyes changed, too. **He** looked at me questionably.

He asked, "Do you still want it?"

I hastened my movements and took the scarf down. Then, I randomly wrapped it around my neck, Perhaps because it was made out of love, but the scarf **was** indeed

very warm.

Chapter 5 Being a Narcissist Again

"If Ashley finds out, she'll be mad, I said, rubbing my chin against the scarf. "**She's** finally warming up to you. Don't waste all your past all our past efforts."

"She's not stingy," Rowan answered nonchalantly.

It was as if Ashley **was** the woman who trusted him and understood him the most.

I sighed. I wished he could listen to the recording, and I wished to tell him how Ashley **was** the reason why Benjamin had visited me at the hospital today.

But since we were nearing divorce, there was no need for me to do that. After all, it would only delay the divorce process. The effects of the recording wouldn't be maximized either.

It started to feel as if spikes were growing out of the scarf; I felt uncomfortable. **I removed** it and returned it to Rowan.

"Thanks, that's enough."

Then, I turned around to **go back** inside. Rowan followed behind with the scarf.

Unlike the cold outside, it **was** very warm inside the house, even the floors. I tossed my jacket aside, and Rowan did the same.

"Did you bring the divorce papers?" I sat on the couch with **a** cup of hot **tea**. I gazed at Rowan, who sat across from me.

"No."

"Rowan said.

I was surprised at his answer. "Why isn't it ready?" I asked, feeling confused. "I don't want a single cent from you, and we don't have to split the assets. Shouldn't it be simple?"

Rowan frowned **and asked**, "Are you in a hurry to get a divorce?"

That was a familiar question!

In my previous life, I had asked Rowan the same question. He had answered that he had to give Ashley a legitimate title and not keep her as his unnamed mistress. I was in a daze. It felt as if some scenes **in** both lives had overlapped, and even our roles had been swapped.

"What's the point of not getting a **divorce**?" I said, snapping back to my senses.

"We've been pretending to be a couple for five **years**. Isn't that enough? Now that you've found someone that you actually like and I'm willing to let go of our past, **isn't** this good news?"

"Rowan, what's wrong with you? wi

Why are you hesitating? Is it **really** just because you're reluctant to let go of that small profit you gain from my family?"

My questions made Rowan's expression change. I **saw** how he clenched his fists, and his nerves popped from his strong grip.

I had **a** strong inclination, and it pushed me to continue asking,

"It can't be that you've fallen in love with me, right?"

"Ivory Sadler!" Rowan shouted impatiently. "Can you stop being such a narcissist?"

I felt baffled, and my raging emotions **halted**.

I thought I must have been overthinking. It was something that hadn't been able to achieve in the past ten years. How was it possible for me to achieve it after just a few months in my new life?

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 86 Number-One Admirer

"My had. I thought you fell in love with me, hence the delay in getting **a** divorce. I guess not?" I said, smiling, I didn't feel the slightest bit awkward

Rowan's expression was cold; I couldn't tell how he was feeling, and he kept smoking.

I coughed from the smoke, so he got up to go outside. That was gentlemanly of him.

A minute later, I saw Rowan at **a call** and leave hurriedly after. Just then, my phone rang, it was a phone call from Jean.

"Hey, come over for dinner!" she said mysteriously. "There's someone unexpected here."

"Who asked.

"I'm not telling you. Hurry and come over. I sent you the location details! If you don't come over, I'll come pick you up!" Jean said excitedly, and then she hung up. I looked at the time, **and** it was almost dinnertime. I notified the maids that I wouldn't be eating at home and then drove out

Once I arrived at the location, I opened the door to the private room to find Olivia and Natalie present, too.

On the seat facing the **door** sat a man in his 30s; he had deep features, and he was a handsome man.

He was none other than Jean's brother, James Dane

When **James** saw me, he passed, then gazed at me gently. "It's been a while, Ivy."

"James, when did you return?" I asked, trying to hide my awkwardness and smiling brightly. Then, I sat down beside Jean

"I just arrived in the afternoon, Jean insisted on celebrating my return, so we all came out to have a meal together." James had a calm voice, **and** his demeanor was very different from Jean's

Jean's elder sister, Leslie Dane, was

James smiled and said,

was present, too. She laughed and said, "Jean's buying, but **you** can pay."

Olivia and I **didn't** have siblings, **and** Natalie had a little brother Jean was the happiest one; she had an elder brother and sister who **both** doted on her

Jean beamed brightly, she said, "James is generous. He wouldn't mind paying for the meal!"

As I drank water, I pretended to be on my phone. I tested Jean, "You did this on purpose, didn't you?"

Jean replied, "My brother's still single, and he still is as you. When I told **him** that you might be getting a divorce soon, he immediately transferred his work back to the country. Aren't you touched by that?"

I responded, "I'm not divorced yet! Also, even if I did, it would be my second marriage. How could you do that to your brother?"

Jean texted,

"What's the problem? so what is it's **your** second marriage? My brother's 31 years old; he's an old bachelor. He doesn't have any right to be picky!"

I was about to reply to Jean's text when James asked, "Ivy, why did you lose so much weight?"

After ten years of unrequited **love** and five years living like a widow, I had become depressed, it was only natural that I had lost weight.

"Maybe it's because I have a small appetite. I've been trying to gain weight," I said, "**and** I plan to hit the gym."

“Well, I’ve been going to the gym over the years. If you plan to go to the gym, I can be your personal trainer,” James joked. “I can give you a **20%** discount” When Jean heard that, she immediately shot me a look. She seemed very happy.

I nodded and said, “Sure.”

I felt awkward throughout the meal, even more so when James occasionally looked at me. His gaze was the same as before; he was bold and direct. Before Rowan and I had gotten married, James had been my number-one admirer.

We had met through Jean. Even though he had known that I was in love with Rowan, he had **never** given up and had tried his best to win my heart. But love couldn’t be forced; just as Rowan couldn’t accept me, couldn’t accept James.

At that time, everyone who had liked me had given up when they had found out that I liked Rowan. But James had been stubborn, he had refused to give up. After that graduated from university **and** married Rowan, James had sent me a wedding gift through Jean. **Then**, he had left to **work** abroad.

I felt embarrassed. I had repeatedly rejected James **for** Rowan, but now that we had met again, it happened to be getting a **divorce**.

At the **meal**, James went to pay the bill **at** the counter. Jean took the opportunity to me on.

“Ivy, you should consider my brother. You’re getting a divorce anyway. Now that you’ve experienced being with somebody you love, you should try being with somebody who loves you!”

“The problem is...I have zero interest in your brother, helpless against a stubborn matchmaker like Jean,

“There’s no **rush**. He’s waited for five years; it won’t hurt him to wait another year or two!” Jean said nonchalantly, sounding **as** if James were immortal and had all

the time to spare.

Leslie stood not too far away and looked at me with a smile. She knew about the past that I shared with James.

I avoided her eyes, but **Olivia** and Natalie surrounded me.

“That’s right, Ivy. James isn’t too bad. He’s good-looking, **too!**”

“Tutillaemember how passionate he was when he tried to win your heart. I respect that!”

Charter EL Number-One Admitter

They continued to chatter away around me, and that gave me a headache. I felt like I was being forced to get married

Thankfully, they stopped talking when James returned after settling the bill.

He **said** warmly, “It’s all done. Let’s go.”

Then, he **waved** the food packaging in his hand and said, “Ivy, I noticed you liked the **garlic** prawns. I ordered a portion for takeout; you can have it for supper.”

Jean beamed brightly, and her eyes were wide open with glee.

Just then, the elevator doors opened. I looked inside, **and** I paused.

It was Rowan, Ivan, Chester, and Jasper. Ashley was also with them, looking like the rose among the thorns

she had been smiling, but when she saw me, she became awkward. “Ivory.”

Ashley and Rowan stood **in** the middle. Ivan was on her left, while Jasper and Chester stood at the back on the right

Anyone could see that she was the closest to Rowan. They were standing shoulder-to-shoulder.

Meanwhile, Rowan’s gaze fell on James. He knew who James was.

“Ivy, who is that?” James asked softly, realizing that something wasn’t right.

“She’s Ashley Bluefield, a music major at Alton University. She’s like my junior,” I answered plainly.

Then, I took the food container from **James’** hands. “Thank you, James. I’ll enjoy the food.”

Rowan and the others had walked out of the elevator. I went into the elevator first, ignoring Rowan’s darkened expression

I said sweetly to James and the others, “James, **Jean**, come on in. Let’s go for karaoke; there’s nothing to do at home.”

Jeanloview that I had iron purpose. She glanced at Ashley and Rowan.

She said, "Yeah, let's go have some fun. Nobody's home, anyway. Somebody's getting lured away by a mistress, so why bother waiting at home? Come on, let's go!"

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 87 Don't Mess With Me

Ashley looked uneasy, and she didn't know where to look. She lowered her gaze and stared **at** her toes.

Truth be told, the innocent look of uneasiness that she displayed was very different from what she had done.

Rowan

noticed her awkwardness, I wasn't sure if he intentionally wanted to upset me or if he felt bad for her. But with everyone watching, he put his arm around her, giving her support.

"Rowan!" James said, obviously upset.

"James, I think **you've** become more handsome!" I said, interrupting James.

I clung to James' arm and praised him loudly. Natalie, who stood nearest to the elevator doors, repeatedly pressed the close button. Under Rowan's mordecous gaze, the door closed and separated us.

I was good at upsetting people, too.

When the doors closed, I let go of James. I felt a little embarrassed. "I'm sorry. I had to borrow your arm for a bit."

Leslie said, "Why are you sorry? He must be happy on the inside."

Jean was beaming, and his sisters exchanged meaningful looks.

"You're right. I was more than happy," James said **in a** jolding yet serious tone. "**You can** leave these things to me in the future,"

"You're very funny, James," I said, James simply smiled in response.

After the elevator doors opened, we left the hotel and went to the nearest karaoke establishment.

I sang, and I sang loudly, I let out all my frustrations through singing. Even though I was an Instrument major, I had a good voice. I wasn't a great singer, **but** I could carry a tune.

so she ordered a

Olivia told us that she once had a team-building event at this establishment. She had a membership and two cartons of beer under her name, so carton for us to share.

"Here, Ivy. You should sing this with James Jean **suddenly** said to me after handing the microphone to James

I looked at the screen, which said, "Marry Me."

Pohre

I'd had some drinks, and I didn't think too much. But halfway through singing, I noticed **that** Jean was on a call on my phone. I **couldn't** hear what she said, she hung up quickly.

Unlike how casual I was, James sang without any technique, but **his** voice was filled with emotions. He gazed at me with bright eyes, but I had to pretend like I didn't see him.

When the song finally ended, Jean handed me my place and whispered into my ear, "Rowan called. I answered it and said you're singing a **duet** with James **and** that you were too occupied for the call."

I was battled. Jean was signing me up **for** trouble

As expected, Rowan called a few minutes later, I wasn't sure what to talk to him about, so I hung up on him. To enjoy some peace, I turned off my phone and continued handling fun.

At midnight, I finally went home drunk

Lee was responsible and nice enough to help me into the living room before leaving. I stumbled **upstairs**. I **opened** the bedroom door only to be met with cigarette smoke, which made me cough

the room, Rowan was standing out there on **the**

The door to the balcony was open, and cold **air** blew into the room with the smell of cigarettes. With his back facing the balcony.

"Why are **you** smoking in my room? I grumbled as I opened the windows.

Rowan turned around to look at me. His gaze was **dark** and meaningful

I wasn't **sure** what he was up to. I thought he had no right to question me about how I'd had a meal and karaoke session with **James**. Rowan had been with Ashley, too!

Since Rowan **wanted** to smoke, I left him alone. I took my pajamas and went for a shower.

I disliked how I reeked of alcohol. Since I was **still** very **conscious**, I had to wash up before I went to bed. I wanted it to **be** quick, so I didn't take a bath. Instead, **i** took a quick shower.

After wiping myself dry, I put on my pajamas and got ready for bed.

Bull out on the balcony, and he was on the plane. When he heard my footsteps, he hung up.

I ignored him and went straight to bed.

"Why didn't James drop you home? Rowan asked. He stood by my bed, **and I** couldn't tell how he was feeling from the tone of his voice.

"Why didn't you sleep over at Ashley's?" **I** asked in response, keeping my eyes closed.

After a few moments of silence, **he** said, "I've never slept over at her **place**."

Hearing that, I opened my eyes and saw that Rowan was looking down at me.

His beautiful eyes **had** always gazed at me coldly. My friends had reached the conclusion that Rowan **could** gaze at anything lovingly, except me

Chapter 67 Dont Mess With Me

I was genuinely surprised.

"Why? Hasn't she accepted you?"

From what I know, she's broken up with Benjamin, and she asks you for all kinds of help. She also willingly met your friends and went out for meals with you.

"But you still haven't had sex with her?"

Rowan's expression changed.

"But I get it; she's not like other women," I said. "You

need to respect her. I get **that**."

Rowan's face fell. He said, "As if. You're just self-righteous."

I wasn't bring self-righteous. Rowan was the one who still hadn't understood what he wanted.

But that was between him and Ashley. I observed their story from a third-party perspective, but I didn't want to give him any spoilers.

Ituned around and said lazily, "Rowan, listen up. Even if you don't divorce me now, one day you'll wish I disappeared from your world.

"By then, I might not want a divorce anymore. I might ask for a lot of money, and you'll be mad."

In the next moment, I sensed a warm breath on the tip of my nose. When I opened my eyes, Rowan was seated by the bed and bent over to get close to me.

We were less than an inch apart, and our breaths were intertwined.

His gaze **was** neither angry nor cold. Instead, he was smiling at me doringly. "Is that so?"

Before I could answer, he kissed me.

I **was** weak from the alcohol; I tried to push him away, but he pinned me down, and I couldn't move.

Rowan had never been a gentle person. Whenever he sensed that I wanted to fight back, he would **pin** me down harder.

I felt a little disoriented from the kiss. When Rowan let me go, I got **back** to my senses and immediately slapped him.

But I was too weak, and the slap was soft, too.

"That was kind of weak," Rowan **joked**.

"If you're homy, go to Ashley. Don't mess with me!"

Thad no idea what Rowan was thinking. I refused to fall back into the traps of attraction so soon after removing myself from the emotional turmoil.

It could be addicting if it was done with an expert. Rowan was an expert, but I refused to become his prey.

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 88 Ivan's Abnormality

At the mention of Ashley, Rowan's urges seemed to Tade a little.

"**You** said Ashley isn't stingy, but no woman can be generous when it comes to love. That is, unless she doesn't actually love you," I said.

[continued, Trying to convince him, "Do you want her to be sad? What would she think if you had with me?"

His gaze began to change, and it seemed like he was seriously pondering over my words, just as I thought it could relax, he kissed me again. It was as if everything I had just said meant nothing

I wondered if I **had** been trying to discuss morality with an animal.

I wasn't sure how long we were at it, but my eyes couldn't stay open. As I dozed off, I said, "Let me sleep. I just got discharged from the hospital.."

The hand that had been going all over my body stopped. Rowan embraced me from behind. Before I drifted into sleep, I felt his **lips** kiss my shoulder.

As a result of having right after had been discharged from the hospital, I **had a** headache. But when I woke up, Rowan was no longer in the room.

Prioritizing my health, I skipped breakfast and told Lee to **take** me to the hospital for a check-up. Coincidentally, I was assigned to Ivan

"We **need** to take your blood pressure. Roll up your sleeve," Ivan said coldly as if he didn't love me

I hesitated, and then I removed my thick jacket, accidentally pulling my scarf off in the process. I hurriedly put it back on, but Ivan's gaze had changed. He was staring at my neck

Rowan had left various marks on **my** neck last night. It was quite a sight,

I rolled **my** sleeves up and put my arm on the table. I said awkwardly, "Here. You can take my readings

I wasn't sure if it was an illusion, but I felt Ivan's gaze **had** become even colder than before. He **picked** up the blood pressure cuff and held my wrist, adjusting **my** position

But he used **a** lot of force; it felt like he was going to break my hand.

We were silent as we went through everything. After Ivan got my blood pressure readings, he ruled out the possibility of me **having a headache** from high blood pressure

Then, he started to ask some questions coldly. He also wrote a list of tests that I needed, **and** he sent me off for the tests

It turned out that my injuries, which hadn't fully recovered, had been aggravated because I had drunk alcohol and hadn't gotten sufficient rest,

"very brave **of** y

you to drink right after getting discharged from the hospital yesterday, Ivan said.

He removed his mask, and his expression was cold. He had always looked approachable, and he looked even more intimidating now.

"A friend just got back, so I was too excited..." I felt a little guilty; that'd gone overboard last night

"James Dane?" Ivan asked. He knew about James, too.

I nodded in response.

Then, Ivan asked, "Did he **leave** those hickeys on you?"

I was shocked. I said, "wan, you shouldn't carelessly say things like that."

"It must be Rowan, then," Ivan concluded.

"I'm here for a check-up. Why are you concerned about that?" I felt very confused.

Ivan paused, realizing that it wasn't appropriate. He composed himself and continued, "Well, if you don't want to get admitted to the hospital again, get some

Test.

"You should abstain from cigarettes, alcohol, and nighttime, I'll prescribe you some medication; don't forget to take your pills **on** time.

Ten minutes later, I left the hospital after collecting my medication. Leedutifully drove me home.

When I got home, I didn't get out **of** the car immediately. Instead, I asked Lee, "Hey, Lee. You haven't been home for two years, tight?"

“**yes**, that’s right,” Lee answered immediately.

“You should visit your parents this year. I’ll give you **an** extra allowance; it’ll be your bonus for the year. You can go home tomorrow, and I’ll give you two weeks off,” I said.

But – Lee said, not sure what to do.

In case he started to overthink, I hurriedly explained, “I’m not firing you. I said you have to come back in two weeks, didn’t I? You can **drive** this car home, but you have to pay for gas.”

After I finished, I got **out** of the car, giving Lee no chance to refute me

As the saying went, only real friends see you through tough times. In my previous life, Lee had stayed with me until the very end. Even though he hadn’t been of much help, he had dutifully fulfilled his role as my driver.

When I had been in the hospital, he had also taken care of me. The truth was, I knew he had feelings for me, but there was a large gap between us, and he never confessed his feelings to me.

If my memory served me right, Lee’s father would pass away this **year** from a stroke. Because they hadn’t **had a car** to take his father to the hospital, he hadn’t been

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Chapter 58: Abnormality

able to receive treatment

it in time.

Thought Lee could save **his** father.

Soon

after I finished dinner, **Dad** called me. He casually chatted with me for a while. Then, he asked, “Did you tell Rowan about coming over for a meal? Did you forget about it?”

I had indeed forgotten about it. “I’ll tell him soon. Dad, you know he’s busy at the end of the year,” I said, giving excuses.

“That’s why you have to do it soon. Let’s do it tomorrow. Bring him home tomorrow. It’s decided!”

Dad's attitude toward Rowan had taken a complete 180 degree turn. After all, Rowan had **saved** Dad's reputation

After Dad hung up, I stared at the phone, feeling unsure of what to do. After a few minutes of hesitation, I called Rowan.

Rowan picked up after a few rings, but it sounded noisy on his end. There were sounds of men playing games, so I assumed he was at a business dinner.

"Are you busy? If you're busy, I'll text you," I asked

1. **Go** on," said Rowan. His voice sounded **clear** even in the busy environment.

"Are you free tomorrow?" I decided to ask about his schedule.

Rowan paused, then answered, "I'm going to Duo Chemicals."

I knew he was busy. After moments of silence, I decided to give up.

"Okay. It's nothing, I was just asking."

Olay "Then, Rowan hung up.

I sighed. Considering the weird relationship that I had with Rowan, it would be awkward to invite him over for dinner.

Besides, if his relationship with Dad improved, it would be difficult for us after the **divorce**.

But I wasn't sure **how** to reject Dad. If I told him that Rowan **was** busy, Dad would think that I was giving excuses. It was just one meal, after all!

After some thought,

I suddenly recalled that Ivan had told me to get sufficient rest. I ended up falling asleep.

I wasn't sure when Rowan came home. But as I drifted in and out of sleep, I felt a pair of arms embrace me from behind. I woke up.

"Rowan?" **I asked.**

"Yeah," he said, sounding drowsy. "Go to sleep."

I listened to the sound of his breathing; it seemed like he had fallen asleep after saying that. It felt weird. We were in a position that made it feel like we were a loving couple, but Rowan and I were not that

His embrace was warm. I hesitated, but in the end, I snuggled closer.

Chapter By Hot Towan

Posted by **Admink**, ? Views, Released on July 10, 2024

Chapter 89 Not Rowan

That night, I had a good sleep. When I woke up, I was still in Rowan's embrace.

Rowan hadn't woken up yet, and I **carefully** got out of bed. His clothes were on the chair, and I picked them up for a whiff. As expected, it smelled like alcohol, Rowan must've had too many drinks last night.

Just then, my phone rang. It was a call from Dad. I went outside the bedroom to answer it

"hey, what time will you be coming with Rowan? We bought all the groceries. Your mom **said** she's cooking today!"

Dad sounded happy; he was looking forward to meeting Rowan.

"Dad, I think Rowan **and** I won't be coming today.."

I couldn't beat to continue. It was rare for Dad to look forward to **having** a meal with Rowan. But Rowan had to visit Duo Chemicals, where things were in full swing. He had to be there to monitor the project.

After hearing my words, **dad** got upset

"Why aren't you coming? Did you not talk to him about it? Or does he refuse to come over?"

When we first got married, Mom and Dad often invited us over for dinner, but Rowan always rejected them. He would only visit during their birthdays or festive

Over time, Mom and Dad knew what he meant, and they stopped inviting us. They also began to feel displeased toward Rowan.

I **was** just about to give the excuse of work when my phone was taken away. I turned around in shock to see **Rowan**, who had **already** gotten out of bed, holding my phone.

"We'll be there in a while, Samuel," he said to the phone, **and** Dad happily **ended** the call.

Rowan handed me the phone. Noticing how I was still in a daze, he raised an eyebrow. "Why are you **spacing out**?"

"Aren't you going to Duo Chemicals?" I asked, hurriedly taking my phone back

"**I can** go in the afternoon."

Rowan donned a green sweater, **accentuating** his broad shoulders, and he also wore a pair of black trousers. **His** outfit made him look very casual.

It was good that I could avoid getting questioned by Dad.

After treshening up, I changed clothes and went downstairs. Rowan drove us both to my parents' home.

When we **arrived**, Mom and Dad treated us with more affection than ever before. Their smiles never left their faces when they served Rowan **fruits** and tea.

Mom and Dad's decades of marriage were almost ruined, yet it was an incident that Dad could not investigate personally. Otherwise, the matter would have easily been discovered by other people. In that sense, Rowan did them a great favor.

I never expected to witness **such a** harmonious atmosphere between them, and it felt **good**.

When it was almost lunchtime, I received a call from Ella.

"Ivory, my relative who is a medical herbalist told me that he has a remedy to increase fertility. He has helped quite **a** number of us. Do you still need that remedy?" Ella was very friendly.

I stole a glance at Rowan, who was replying to text **messages**; I wasn't sure who **he** was texting.

"Sure," I said softly. "Why don't you help me buy some, and I'll collect them at your place **in a** few days. Is that okay?"

"No problem. Let me send you my address," Ella replied.

Soon, I received the address to Ashley's family home. Then, I closed the messaging app silently.

After lunch, Rowan told Mom and Dad about going to Duo Chemicals. They understood, so they didn't try to make him stay

I wanted to stay at my parents home and didn't leave with Rowan

After

Rowan left, Dad went to go fishing with his friends even though it was cold out, I stayed home to watch television shows with Mom.

"hy, it feels like Rowan's changed a little. Did your relationship improve?" Mom asked.

After thinking it over, I **replied**, "Morrer less."

We had a couple of times; I wondered if that meant our relationship had improved,

"Maybe he's starting to appreciate you. It's good, though. You've loved him **for so** many years, and you're finally seeing him returning your feelings," Mom said. She pitied me for my one-sided love.

With my head on her lap, I lay on the couch and watched the television. I chuckled and said, "Maybe."

I didn't want to tell Mom about Ashley, and I didn't want to tell her about what happened between Rowan and me

I wanted to wait until after the divorce.

As Mom nagged, I fell asleep. When I woke up, I was covered with a blanket, and Mom was organizing the **onions** she had planted.

Squinting to see better, I saw how the sunlight shone through the windows

Everything fell at peace.

Chapter 29 Not Frowan

I stayed with Morn and Dad for almost a week, and living at home was relaxing, Occasionally, I'd visit Mom's office. Even though she was a doting mother and loving wife at home, she was a strong career woman at work.

After getting a good rest, my health improved. I could feel that I was more energized.

On a day when the weather was good, I drove to the Bluefield residence to collect the herbal remedies. Ella likely had no idea that I was visiting. Otherwise, she would've come running.

When the door opened, I greeted her with a smile, "Hello, **Ella!**"

Ella **had an** apron on, and it seemed like she was cleaning the house. She **was** surprised to see me, but she smiled happily.

“Ivory! Come on in, come sit!”

She accepted the gifts that I brought with me, but she said shyly, “You didn’t have to bring any gifts.”

I walked into the living room. Their home was in an old residential neighborhood. Not only did it look old on the outside, but the interior designs were vintage, as well.

At first glance, they seemed to **be** living in a two-bedroom apartment. The **place was** about 860 square feet.

Ella kept the house very clean. She invited me to sit on the couch and served me a glass of water.

Jonah heard the commotion and came out of the bedroom. He said happily, “Is that Ash and her boyfriend?”

would be bringing her boyfriend home today. 1

When Jonah saw me, he paused. Then, he happily greeted me, “Oh, it’s you, Ms. **Sadler**. My daughter told us that she thought they **had** arrived.”

By Ashley’s boyfriend, I wondered if it meant she would be bringing Rowan home for a meal.

It was ironic. Rowan refused to sign the divorce papers, yet he would visit Ashley’s family as her boyfriend.

“Ivory, perhaps you can help look at the man. We heard that he’s almost in his 30s, and we think he’s a little old. But Ash is stubborn, so we can’t do anything either. We’ll see how it goes when she brings him home,” Ella said **as** she served a plate of freshly washed grapes.

I smiled and said, “Sure.”

I planned to give them a surprise **today**.

Ella, Jonah, and I chatted away, but my mind wandered elsewhere. I was paying attention to the door. After some time, I heard some footsteps, and then the door

swung open.

“They’re back!”

Jonah **was happy**. It didn’t seem like he minded the man’s age.

I **was nervous**, too. I stared at the opening door. **But** when Ashley and her boyfriend appeared, I paused.

A man was behind Ashley, and he was about 30 years old. He was dressed maturely, and he was rather **good**-looking

But he wasn’t Rowan.

“Ivory?”

Ashley was surprised to see

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Chapter 90 Playing Hard to Get

was surprised that Ashley showed up with a guy who wasn’t Rowan. However, I

, this guy wasn’t her boyfriend. He was just a guy pursuing her

Ashley sit down with him. Ella brought him some water. Meanwhile, Jonah sat across from him, scrutinizing him.

Jsat beside them in confusion.

After a while, Ashley said to me, “Ivory, I need to talk to you.

“okay “I got up and followed her to her bedroom.

Ashley closed the door and got straight to the point. “Ivory, you must be surprised that I didn’t show up with Howan, I just want to tell you that even though I have feelings for him, I can’t be **a mistress**.”

She added, “So, I made **things** clear with him and decided to give Kelvin a chance.”

The man outside was Kelvin Scott.

“**He’s** olury with that?” Tasked.

I felt something was off. How could Ashley stand up to Rowan? She wouldn’t have any luck with other men if he disagreed.

"I don't care if he agrees or not," Ashley said firmly, looking determined.

I couldn't tell what was wrong, but Ashley had indeed shown up with another man

After leaving the bedroom, I didn't want to stay any longer, Ella asked me to stay for dinner, but I declined. She handed me the bag of herbal remedies she'd **picked** up for me and instructed me on how to take it.

Standing on the side, Ashley asked, "Mom, what's that?="

Ella looked a bit embarrassed **and** replied, "I'm honoring your

I told Ashley frankly, "I asked Ella to get me some herbal remedies. Rowan and I haven't been able to have kids. Ella got me some of them before, and it worked well. But we still need to keep trying."

Since Ashley had **decided to cut** things off with Rowan, I expected her not to care about what I **said**. Unfortunately, I still caught a flash of shock **and** anger in her

"Goodbye." I smiled **again**, bidding farewell to them while holding a bag of herbal remedies. Then, I left

Just as my car left the building, Rowan's car appeared in my view. Seeing me, he suddenly turned and blocked my car

I rolled down the window. "Rowan, what are you doing?"

"Did you go to her place? Rowan had an ugly look. He was clearly in a bad mood.

"Ella brought me herbal remedies," I said expressionlessly. "I came to pick them up. Ashley brought a guy to meet her parents. Are you here to see her?"

Rowan got out of the car and lifted his head to glance at the building. He was brimming with anger.

Ashley was his woman, but she dared to bring another man home to meet her parents. Undoubtedly, the news had touched a nerve

Suddenly, it clicked—she was playing hard to get. What a clever move. Ashley must have sensed Rowan starting to **care** about me, so she came up with this tactic to force him to realize who he truly loved.

As soon as Rowan heard my words, he immediately turned and wanted to go upstairs. Given his temperament, he would confess everything to Ella and Jonah. And nothing would stop him whether they accepted it or **not**,

I felt a surge **of** anger and stopped him abruptly. "Rowan Have you thought this through? if you go up now, you'll meet Ashley's parents. It means your relationship with her will start to involve each other's families."

He halted and turned to look at me.

I looked at him calmly. "If you've decided to be with her, please let me go first. It's despicable for you to leave me hanging while starting **a** new life **with** your true

After saying that, I locked my car and left from the other side.

Back at Windwill Estate, I quickly redrafted a divorce agreement. If he still refused to sign it, then I'd have no choice but to file for divorce.

Even though I had drafted the divorce agreement, my heart was far from calm. I couldn't help but think about what would happen if Rowan barged into Ashley's house.

Ashley must be very pleased and proud that her tactic worked.

As I sat there feeling restless, I received a text message from Benjamin.

"ts. Sadler, we're about to start our break, I'll be buying a ticket to go home soon. Are you free? I want to treat

I replied without hesitation, "Sure, I'm free tomato,"

Benjamin was quick to respond. "What would you like to eat? We can stroll from the summit was stunning!

I replied with just one word, "Okay"

to treat you to a meal."

through Phoenix Park and lake across **Emerald Hill** afterward. I **heard** the snow view

Rowan didn't come home that night. It had been **a** long time since I had felt this anxious waiting for him. After my rebirth, I'd accepted out late and kept **my**

emotions in check

But now, it felt like I was back to the days before my rebirth, struggling to stay calm. As a result, I didn't sleep at all that night. The next day, I felt completely

Chapter 10: Having Hard to Get

drained.

To keep my promise to Benjamin, I forced myself to perk up. After freshening up and dressing nicely, I drove to the location he gave me.

"Ms. Sadler!" Benjamin was wearing a white short down jacket and gray jeans, looking as youthful as ever.

When I walked up to him, he asked worriedly, "What's wrong? Did you not sleep well? You don't look too good."

I forced a **smile**. "Yeah, I had a nightmare last night."

Benjamin was a student at a top university, and he quickly suggested, "Maybe you should try drinking warm milk before bed to help with bad dreams,"

I was feeling gloomy at first, but his suggestion instantly lifted my spirits. "Will it work?"

"Some things work if you believe in them. You can give it a try. Biscuit, **am** I right?" Benjamin turned and asked the cat on his **back**.

Only then did I notice that Benjamin brought his chubby orange cat. He was carrying it in a transparent carrier on his back. It meowed inside the carrier as if it agreed with Benjamin's words.

Give it a try."

I replied, "You're right. I'll **give**

I playfully teased Biscuit and glanced at the nearby Felorian restaurant. "Is this where you're taking me?"

"Yes. Do you like it? I've never tried Felorian food before." Benjamin looked a bit embarrassed.

His family wasn't well off. He worked **part**-time to pay for his tuition and living expenses, which was impressive. I understood that he wouldn't want to waste money on fancy meals.

I shook my head. "Not really. I've been craving lamb

b stew lately. Let me treat you

Benjamin immediately refused. "No way! I promised I would treat you. Finsist! You're not paying!"

"Fine, but I still prefer lamb stew." I didn't want Benjamin to overspend. We could just grab a quick bite

Besides, I didn't have much **of an** appetite, I only agreed to meet him to distract myself from diving too deep into After searching on his phone **for a** while, Benjamin found a place. "**This** place has good reviews. Let's give it a try." "Okay, let's go," I said without hesitation.

my thoughts at home.

Benjamin smiled happily. The pain and bitterness from his breakup were long gone from his gaze. It seemed like he could move on more quickly **than** I could.