

## Reborn as his Ms Right Chapter 91-100

Posted by **Admink**, 30 Views, Released on July 10, 2024

### Chapter 91 File for Divorce

After finishing the lab stew, I felt warm all over. And Benjamin was very chatty, livening up the atmosphere.

Afterward, I drove to Phoenix Park -the largest park in Alton City.

There was an expansive artificial lake. In summer, it was adorned with blooming lotuses, During winter, the lake froze over, and birds would perch on the ice. Tourists would **buy bread**, crumble it, and toss it down for them to peck at

Benjamin also bought two loaves of bread. He handed one to me. "Ms. Sadler, let's feed them together"

"Sure here open the bread, crumbled it, and threw it onto the lake. Several birds fluttered over to feast, **creating a lively** scene.

After feeding the birds, we strolled around the park. I rarely came out for a walk Despite the cold weather, I enjoyed myself.

Eventually, we reached the foot of Emerald Hill. The stone steps were rather clean. The hikers had trodden away the snow on them.

When we were hiking, Benjamin suddenly brought up Ashley. "I heard she brought **a gay** home to meet her parents, but it **wasn't** your husband."

How ironic. I paused to catch my breath. "I know. Rowan went to see her later, and happened to be at her house."

"**You** were there? Benjamin looked surprised

I told him casually, "Yeah, her mom used to work at my **house**, she **was** nice and got me some herbal remedies. I went there to pick them up."

Benjamin nodded silently, and we continued hiking. By the time we reached the summit, I was drenched in sweat. After I took off my **coat**, the chilly wind felt so

refreshing

I looked down at the snowy landscape of Emerald Hill, It was indeed beautiful. Alton City at the foot of the hill looked like a winter wonderland, glistening in the crisp sunlight.

“Ms. Sadler, let me take a few pictures for you.” Benjamin set down his backpack and handed biscuit to me.

He suggested, “How about I take a few photos of you holding it?”

Leaning against the railing. I took Biscuit from him and smiled. “Sure. Let’s do it.”

Benjamin was skilled at taking photos. I’d seen his photos of Ashley **on** his Instagram story.

After snapping about a dozen shots, he said, “Alright, have a look.”

I walked over and began carefully picking out nice photos, not looking up until someone stood before us.

Ivan appeared before me out of nowhere. A group of his colleagues were behind him, discreetly looking at us.

“Ivan, what are you doing here?” I was utterly surprised.

“We’re hiking **for** our **year**—end team building.” **Ivan** didn’t look at me. **His** gaze fixed on Benjamin, “Why are you with Ashley’s ex again?”

He was becoming more **and** more nude. What was wrong **with** him?

Benjamin’s expression **also** changed slightly. He looked at **van** with hostility. Young people had big ego, and they couldn’t handle sarcastic remarks

I **looked** at Ivan in annoyance. “Benjamin and Tare friends. It’s normal for us to go hiking together. He broke up with Ashley a while ago. **You** don’t have **to** address.

him like that.”

continued. “Let me introduce him to **you again**. His name is Benjamin Colt.”

Ivan didn’t react much to my **displeasure and asked** me a question in return. “Have you divorced **Rowan**?”

This matter really got to me. Since Benjamin knew the situation, I didn’t need to hide anything.

Therefore, I immediately vented, “Why are you **asking** me about this? I’ve drafted the divorce agreement three or **four** times, but he won’t sign it. I’ve asked you to talk some sense into him **about** divorcing me. Why don’t you go and talk to him?”

Benjamin looked at me in surprise again. He probably didn't expect me to be so open with him there.

Thinking back to how furious Rowan looked when he rushed to Ashley's house, I realized I didn't have any feelings for him anymore.

Seeing my reaction, Benjamin quickly comforted me. "Ivory, don't be upset. It's not good for you."

"I'm not upset. I just think that this guy is unreasonable. Why does he always pick on me? He's clearly **taking** sides!" I intentionally said it so Ivan could hear.

Rowan was the one at fault. Why did he keep criticizing me?

Ivan's gaze slightly darkened. I could tell he was angry from his expression, even though it wasn't very obvious.

At that moment, a woman called **out**, "Dr. York"

Ivan turned to look. A young woman **in** a matching jacket walked over. Her gaze filled with admiration as she looked at Ivan.

I had spent a few days in the hospital. Therefore, I recognized her. She was **a** nurse and had given me an injection,

The nurse said sweetly, "Everyone is ready for the barbecue. Let's **go**

"Uh-huh," Ivan replied coldly. He then turned and walked away.

Looking at their treating figures, Benjamin suddenly said, "Ms. Sadler, you need to be careful with **him**."

I looked at him in confusion.

He **said** seriously, "Based on my **intuition as a** man, he might be trying to steal you away."

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I couldn't help laughing. Like Jean **and** the others, Benjamin had a big misunderstanding of Ivan.

Benjamin asked awkwardly, "**What** are you laughing at?"

I explained, "Nothing. Benjamin, I'd believe **it** more if **you** told me that **Ivan** was interested in Ashley. You understand?"

I patted his arm and said, "Let's go. Let's check out what's at the summit"

Benjamin and I looked around and realized there wasn't much up here besides the nice views.

Ivan and his **group** were well-prepared. They huddled around a barbeque in the cold wind, preparing food. I was surprised that he'd join the team-building event.

A bunch of pretty girls surrounded **Ivan**. He seemed very popular among them. Unfortunately, he was oblivious to their attention.

I wasn't in the mood anymore and casually told Benjamin, "Let's go back down."

Benjamin nodded and obediently followed me down the hill.

It was late at night when we reached the foot of the hill. Before we parted ways, I **could** tell Benjamin **had** something to say.

However, I was in no mood to add to my worries. Before he could speak I drove away.

Through the rearview mirror, I saw him **standing** motionlessly by the roadside. Guilt surged through me again. I thought it was best not to give him false hopes

- anymore.

I'd decided to file for divorce from Rowan!

with this thought in **mind**, I immediately told Jean and the others my decision when I got home. They were thrilled. Olivia even recommended a lawyer who

specialized in divorce cases.

Under the lawyer's guidance, I began preparing for the lawsuit. Two days later, I submitted the petition to the court. If things went smoothly, they'd notify Rowan in seven days

Regardless of his response, I had made up my mind. I must **divorce** him. I'd handle my parents and in-laws when it came up.

Jean was so excited after she heard that I had filed the petition. She came to my house in the middle of the night and asked, "Is that true? Does it mean my brother will have a chance?!!"

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Chapter 92 Paula Stood up for Me

I tapped Jean's head. "Nope. I've told you I have no romantic feelings for your brother. Stop **trying** to pull something \*

Jean covered her head and said unhappily, "How can you know you have no feelings for him if you haven't **tried** him?"

**given him a** chance? Ivy, trust me. My brother is a

She added, "If you date him and he dares to mistreat you or cheat on you, I'll make sure he gets what's coming to him!"

James was **indeed a** good guy. He was **outstanding** in terms of his family background, appearance, and personality,

If I could take my feelings, I'd give him a chance. But I couldn't bring myself **to do** it.

It might affect my friendship with Jean if things got ambiguous and we broke up eventually. It was her elder brother, after all. I didn't want to risk it unless I was

I quickly changed the subject, "Jean, don't **worry** about me, I've had one marriage, but you don't even have a boyfriend yet. You should worry about yourself what kind of guy do you like? How about a typically **dependable** guy? I can have my dad look around for you!

Getting married would only constrain

When I brought up her love life, she **became** flustered. She avoided my gaze. "Forget it. I'm all about living in the moment. Getting my wild, free soul"

Suddenly, her phone rang. After checking who was calling her, she looked uneasy.

She quickly excused herself to answer the call. Then, she returned and **said**, "**y**, I made **plans** to grab drinks with someone. I need to go!"

I advised with resignation, "Don't drink too much."

"okay!" Jean grabbed her bag and quickly left

After she left, I went upstairs to continue packing, before the court hearing, I wanted to move out of my home in Windwill Estate to **show** my

my determination.

I had too many clothes and jewelry, lining up five suitcases. Then, I went to the music room to take my cello and some sheet music.

While searching through the sheet music, I found a long-forgotten wooden box. I opened it, and there was a composition that I wrote myself. It was all about my feelings for Rowan. Leagerly wanted to play it for him back then, but he rejected me.

There was also a transparent glass jar with colorful paper **stars** inside. I had stayed up and folded them for Rowan. Also, I'd written his name on each paper.

There **was** a preserved rose at the bottom of the box. That was the only flower Rowan **had** ever given to me. It was before our marriage. George and **Paula** had brought him to my house to celebrate my birthday

Paula asked him what gift he had prepared for me. He hadn't prepared anything. So, he placed a decorative rose from the thoughtless gift, but I'd preserved it and kept it all these years.

and handed it to me. It was a

I closed the wooden box and put it back. Then, I continued looking for the sheet music. I found a half-knitted scarf, a partially seamed pillow, a faded red bracelet...

Back then, I had a secret crush on Rowan. My feelings for him were just as real as Ashley's. I had made efforts to win his heart, too.

with a sigh, I returned everything to its place and didn't want to take anything with me. Then, I packed my things bet by hit

The next morning, I had the household staff help me load the luggage into the car. Then, I drove to another property under my **name**.

It was a studio apartment that I bought before college. I used to live there during my college days, but it'd been a while since I last stayed there

All the furniture and appliances in the apartment were covered with dust sheets. However, there was still a lingering smell of dust. Of course, I didn't clean it myself. I **hired** a cleaning service instead.

When the cleaning **staff** arrived, I asked them to clean up the apartment as soon as possible. There were the people in total, and they worked efficiently

Three hours later, the apartment was sparkling clean. I went to the bedroom to unpack **my** clothes, just as I finished unpacking, my phone rang loudly. It was a call

from Bowen

Did he already know I had filed for divorce this fast?

Answered the phone **in** confusion. Rowan's cold voice came **through** the phone, "tory, are you messing with me?"

"What do you mean? You got the notification already?" I was impressed with the court's efficiency.

Rowan **said** through gritted teeth, "Stop **playing** dumb) If anything happens to Ashley, you won't get away with it!"

I wondered what would happen to Ashley. I had filed for divorce, and she could soon go out with Rowan openly.

Rowan hung up already, leaving me **In a daze**. Thankfully, Jean suddenly called me and explained excitedly, "Big news! **Ivy**, wala found out

**out** about the mistress as she **had** gone to see her?"

My eyes widened at her words. What was going on?

**and**

**Jean** continued, "I heard that Paula tracked down Ashley with just one earring. After they met up, Ashley left in tears. Now Rowan can't reach her, and he's afraid to visit her. He's worried that her parents might find out about their relationship, **and** she might fall apart."

Didn't Rowan go upstairs to see Ashley and her parents **that day**?

I recalled Paula finding an earring in the front passenger seat of Rowan's **car** on her birthday. She actually found out about Ashley because **of an** earring— Was this the power of a wealthy socialite?

Strangely, I found it quite satisfying. We should pave the way for Rowan **and** Ashley since they were in love. In my previous life, they had been together for a **year** before confronting me. But in this life, we reached that stage within a few months, saving a lot of time.

\*1 one. But Jean, how did you know about these things?" I was curious

Grupser 52 Paula Stood up for Me

"Uh... I heard it from someone else. Anyway, just be careful. Rowan likes to get his own way. Don't let him get back at you. I suggest you quickly seek protection from Paula!"

After giving some advice, Jean hung up



After my prismsion, Badehose to inspect my decision. Ebreathed a sigh of orliet Surr e nnuigh, making the right request at the right time was crucial to getting the

It taaskord for a divorce before Bonwanand Joshley's relationship came to light, our par ents work'e tied to talkine out of 11.

Link was on my side. I had just filed fi divorce. And before the word got out, their relation ship was exposed.

After ending the **call**, I hesitated for a moment before calling wanback

ivan sounded a bit wonted "Who are you? Did you kouw Pada talked to Ashley!

Picking at my food, I said casually, "How Howan called me and said it anything happene d to Ashley, I wouldn't have it easy either. Did you also think that Trakt

Ivan was Rowan's good friend. He **would** naturally take Rowan's side. After all, they saw me as a bitter woman willing to do anything to win Row an's beaut.

**Ivan** responded quickly, "**No**, it wasn'i you."

I was surprised. "Do you believe me?

"**Yeah** You want a divnice, tight? Telling Panlabeloceland would be asking for trouilile."

"I didn't expect you to believe me, Thanks." Helt abit relieved.

\*What aer you going to do?" he asked.

I told him that I had already Bed for diver. There was a bilet silence on the other rul. I then heard a rustling i se, it sounded like he was colling over in bed.

He asked, "Really?"

Ishackled, "Of course, Rowan should get the court notice in a few days. Since you're his best Intend, he'll definely tell you, But this might be bad news for you."

Chce I'd divored Howan, Rowan could be with Ashley in threpen. It would be harder toc hean to pursue liri.

Ivansaid lazily, "It's not bad news. It's actually good Good luck with the divorce."

"Are you in bed?" Echanged the topic.

Ivan answered meaningfully, "Yeah, Prodi today. As you know, I'm single and have no one to date. I don't have anything to do, either?"

I sensed the deep loneliness in his tone. I was burning with curiosity. "You should probably tell her. Is there anyone you're interested in?"

**Ivan** wasn't the type of person who shared his feelings. Therefore, I braved myself for him to hang out with me. To my surprise, he did.

"Yes, there is," he replied softly.

What was about to play out?

"Then go for her!" I felt inexplicably excited, as if I were fighting over a

Ivan replied calmly, "it won't work out."

His answer confirmed my suspicion that the woman he liked was Ashley. He couldn't push the betrayal of Rowan.

After gathering my thoughts, I spoke to him from the heart, "Why won't it work out? As long as she's not married, you still **have** a chance. But if you don't try, you'll miss out. Don't you want to marry the woman you love? Do you want to see someone else?"

Since I was about to divorce Rowan and he thought that, I complained to Paula, I decided to play the villain to be honest.

My words probably resonated with **ivan**. He fell silent for a long time again. Eventually, he said with a laugh, "You're right. I understand."

I encouraged **him** sincerely, "**for** it!"

After hanging up, I felt much better. **But** I still didn't want to return Rowan's call. So, I went straight to take a nap to **refresh** myself.

I woke up groggily in the evening. Then, I grabbed my phone from under the pillow and checked it.

Out of curiosity, I tapped Ashley's Instagram profile to see if she had posted anything new. Unexpectedly, I found that she had blocked me.

It seemed that Paula had said some harsh words to her. Otherwise, why would Ashley block me, too? She would've only blocked Rowan, just as I was wondering what Paula had said to her, I noticed Ashley had sent me a friend request again.

After accepted her request, she sent me a long message.

H

“Ivory, I’m sorry, Nothing happened between Rowan and me. He’s helped me a lot, so I see him **as** a good final. Maybe i wasi’t raclul rough and gær you the wing impression

“I’ve thought a lot the past few days and reflected on myself. I’m ashamed of myself. My parents probably don’t lasow about this yet. It they find out, they’ll definitely be devastated.

“, I’ve decided to disappear and stop causing trodde for you all. Please don’t blame my penis. Thank you.

e also setit me a location. It was the dock where I was kikappeil last flame. I felt asense of alain. Was Audley trying to

I was possible. She’d never suffered soch humiliation before. Also, she was young and i mpulsive,

Even though I didn’t like her, I never wanted her to die. Besides, I was divoring own was trying to get himbark

Timmediately called Rowan, but he hung up on me. After that, his phone remained tume d off the whole time. I had no idea what was going on.

The next day, Ivan told me that Ashley tried to kill herself at the dock last night. Rowan had stopped her, and they were at the hospital now.

I fell silent for a moment. “Okay, I got it. Thanks for telling me.

“He’ll blame you for it. Are you going to be okay?” **Ivan** asked casually.

I joked, “Does it matter? He might as well hit me, and I could use it to divorce him.”

Ivan chuckled at my joke. “Good idea.”

I hung up after a brief chat. Now, I was waiting for Rowant to come after me. However, I didn’t receive his call in the next few days. He seemed to have forgotten my

existence.

Meanwhile

industry.

news spread like wildfire. Rowan **had** been involved in scandals with **many** female celebrities. Hence, he was quite popular in the entertainment

Unlike his previous scandals with female celebrities, he **was** having a controversial affair **with** a college girl this time. Even the news headlines were dripping with romance. “Playboy Falls for College Girl, **Real-Life Cinderella Story Unfolds!**”

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## Chapter 94 Show DI

There were many titles, and I didn't bother to read them thoroughly. I just skimmed through the content and then scrolled through the comments.

“desh, she brings disgrace on us college girls. How can a mistress become Cinderella?”

“she's quite portly. If she didn't go after married men, she could **find** some other eligible bachelors.”

“It's a handsome, rich, and loyal president pursued me, I'd probably fall for him too. Women like successful men. PS. My parents **are** still around. I have a boyfriend, but we're not married. He never cheats on me. I'm **just** talking about the darker side of human nature. Don't bash me!”

“**Who** is town's wife? Why does she not **say** anything every time he's involved in a scandal? How can she tolerate this?”

Some people criticized Ashley, and some understood her. There were people who stood up for me, too. Some people even claimed to be friends with Rowan and me, spreading rumors about us.

Overwhelmed by the comments, I **eventually** closed the page. I never thought this matter would become a hot topic.

A few days ago, the topic had yet to get any buzz. But Dad still sits on the Internet. Today, it was **trending**. My friends and relatives probably had already seen it.

It was mainly because Ashley tried to kill herself last night, and Rowan jumped into the water to save her. Someone recorded **it** and posted it online, sparking the

As expected, my girls' group chat was flooded with texts

Jean: “Rowan's such a jerk! How **dare** he jump into the sea to save the mistress?”

Jean “ivy, you must proceed with your divorce **Lawsuit** and divorce him! He's so heartless!”

Natalie “You’ve tiled for divorce? How come I didn’t know about it?”

**Olivia** “Good job. Don’t let him get away with cheating”

Natalie: “I’m just wondering about the coincidence, someone conveniently recorded Rowan saving Ashley. I’m not trying to sound conspiratorial. Is Ashley behind this?”

Jean: “**Yes! Paula met** the mistress **a** few days ago. She used this tactic to prove to Paula that Rowan was madly in love with her and willing to risk his life for her.”

I watched them spamming **the chat** but **didn’t** know how to reply. Eventually, I put down the phone **in** silence.

After a while, Iran called and asked, “vy, will you go to the hospital?||||

Treplied, “No.”

Jean was Indignant. “Good. Don’t go there. Apparently, Rowan’s at the hospital keeping Ashley **company**. He’s taking great **care** of her. Don’t go **these** and make yourself feel bad, just divorce him, and you’ll be free!”

“Who told you that? Ivan?”

“No, I heard it from someone else.” Jean sounded a bit evasive. Then, she yelled again, “But seriously, if you let yourself be treated like that again, I’ll look down **on** you!”

Over the **years**, I’d been excessively compromising myself. I was pathetic.

It was understandable that **jean** and the others were worried about me. Natalie was more decisive than me. She ended things with Kaden very quietly. **I had** to learn from her!

Treplied firmly, “okay. I won’t.”

Jean hung up the phone after chatting with me for awhile.

I moved out from Windwill Estate several days ago. Rowan probably didn’t know yet. He probably wasn’t aware that I’d filed **for** divorce. Apparently, he also had no idea that I’d moved to this apartment.

[bet he’d been trying **to** win Ashley back for the past few **days**. He was **about** to win her heart, so giving up now would be a waste

At night, I felt unusually lonely **in** the apartment alone. I tended to overthink. Therefore, I went on a drive to clear my mind.

While I was driving, I received a call from James, Jean must’ve given him my number.

“What you doing?” His voice was deep and gentle

Enjoying the night view, I deose aimlessly **and** replied, “I just driving around,”

fames had probably seen the news, too. However, he didn’t come right out and ask me. Instead, he approached me subtly, “Why are you driving around alone? Are you feeling down?”

I felt absolutely miserable even though everything fell into place perfectly. Fate seemed to have played a part inending my relationship with Rowan

I was about to start a whole new life that was completely different from my previous one. Nevertheless, I felt annoyed.

Igrumbled, “Yeah”

James suggested, “**Do** you **want** to go to an open–air concert? There’s one at the Waterfront Square. We **can** still make it.”

Peeling at loose ends, I readily agreed. **Half** an hour later, I met James at Waterfront Square. It was an open–air concert, **and** chilly winds were blowing. However, everyone was **in high** spirits,

Under the illuminated fountain, the young musicians of a school band held their instruments and began their performance. Most of the audience were y people. Some people were talking about the band members. They were from Alton University.

were **young**

Namowing my eyes, I recognized a young woman among them. I’d seen her when I accompanied Ashley to a bridal boutique to rent a wedding dress.

Chapter

Show off

She seemed to notice me, too. For some reason, her gaze tured hostile. She even expressed her hostility through her cello by playing some high notes. As a result, The conductor gave her a disapproving glare.

Without realizing it, James and I stood in the cold wind for a long time until the performance ended. I took out my phone to check the time and realized **Rowan had** called me twice. Obviously, I missed his calls.

“I need to **make** a call, I told James and walked aside to call Rowan

Rowan picked up quickly, but he didn't say anything.

“**Why** did you call me? I asked.

After a brief silence, Ashley's voice came through. “Ivory, it's me.”

I fell silent this time.

“Rowan's been taking care of me for the past few days. You should ask him to go back. He won't listen to me. I know this isn't right. I'm **afraid** that people might misunderstand me **again**.” Her voice was barely audible.

I retorted, “if you're afraid of misunderstandings, you shouldn't **have** informed **Rowan** and me when you tried to kill yourself. You shouldn't have arranged for someone **to** secretly record you at the dock, either. That way, no one would misunderstand you. Am I right?”

Ashley was rendered speechless by my words.

I continued calmly, “If you're intentionally trying to show off Rowan's love and obsession for you, you have nothing to worry about. I've already filed for divorce. He'll probably receive the notice in a day or two.

I added, “Instead of provoking me, you should think about **how** to make his family accept you.”

**With** that, I hung up the phone.

In my previous life, Ashley wasn't exposed like this, Rowan protected her very well. George and Paula thought she was a naive young woman that Rowan persistently pursued. Therefore, they found it easy to accept her

But that **was not** the case for this life. I was closer to Paula in this life. Ashley had also shown her true colors. Therefore, it would be challenging for her to marry into the Payne family,

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Chapter 95 Rowan Came Over

I hung up the phone and looked for James. At the same time, Ashley's friend passed before me and deliberately hopped to my shoulder.

I didn't let her get away with it drabbing her arm, I said coldly, “Hey, watch where **you're** going! You should apologize!”

Just as I finished speaking, a friend from her **band** came over and called, "Joy!"

Jay glanced at her approaching friend and forcefully shook off my hand. "Old hag, why are you holding me?"

She should be around the same age as Ashley, but she addressed me as "old hag."

It was clear what she was implying.

"What's wrong?" her friend asked.

Jay directly pinned the blame on me. "This old hag was the one who made Ashley try to kill herself."

Instantly, her friend also looked **at** me with a hostile gaze.

Why would she try to take her own life if she hadn't done anything wrong? Your school?

I felt angry and amused at the same time. I made Ashley try! Didn't teach you common sense? Have you no shame?

Joy **was** fuming. "Ash has been rejecting your husband **all** along! Your husband is **the** one pestering her. Why don't you blame him? Besides, everyone knows your marriage is just for show. It's just a marriage of convenience."

She added, "An old hag like you who can't get a man's love must have a twisted mind. Am I right?"

Not far away, James seemed to notice our conflict and walked over. He stood beside me. "**What's** going on?"

Joy looked at James and was visibly stunned for **a** moment. Young women of her age were always **easily** attracted to handsome **guys**. During now, I noticed the occasional glances at James **while** staring at me.

In the midst of the crowd, she might've assumed that James and I were strangers.

; the performance just

I said with a smile, "These two here are standing up for their friend. You also know her sister is the one who has been trending with Rowan on the Internet lately," || James' expression subtly changed. His gaze also darkened. He grabbed my hand. "Birds **of a** feather flock together. Why bother with them?"

His words infuriated joy. She blocked our ways and asked boldly, "Hey, handsome, Have you ever heard the saying "love is **blind**? The unloved one is the real mistress!"

She looked at me and continued, "Ash is innocent. Your husband swept her off her feet. Why are you picking on her?"

I was genuinely amazed. They were completely brainwashed. Initially, I thought Ashley's one-sided story deceived them, and they didn't know the truth. But it appeared that they liked the ideal Ashley and Rowan bring together.

In **that** case, I must destroy them.

I clapped my hands. "Yeah, you're right. Actually, I left the same way before. So, I'd filed for divorce to let them be together. However, I've changed my mind after seeing how worked up you are. I'll withdraw the lawsuit tomorrow."

After I finished speaking, Joy's face twisted in mixed emotions. She exchanged a glance with her friend and shattered, "I—if you have the guts, don't withdraw the"

I said with a **smirk**, "Tsk, when **your** good friend Ashley finds out, she'll think you two are idiots, won't she? she was about to get what she wanted, but you two ruined everything for her."

Joy panicked. "No, you can't withdraw the lawsuit"

I ignored her and turned to walk away. She tried to grab me, but I pushed her away without hesitation. Losing her balance, she fell to the ground. She looked angry but didn't dare to do anything to me.

I snapped at Joy, "Let me tell you something. If you dare to touch me again, I'll find a way to make your life miserable. Why did **you** think Rowan married me? It's because my family background is better than yours, you naive idiots. You should blame Ashley's family,"

Joy stared at me in frustration and anger. However, she didn't dare to **say** anything more. Her friend helped her up, and they left dejectedly

James frowned. "Are you going to withdraw the **lawsuit**?"

Jean was a big mouth and must've told James about my divorce lawsuit

"Yes. I want to keep Ashley labeled as a mistress for a little longer. Otherwise, I can't reach this injustice"

That was exactly my thought. Evenber friends dated to talk nonsense to me. Why should I divorce Howan so easily and let them have their ways?

**James** seemed to have something to say, but he held back. Eventually, I smiled gently and said, "Alright, I support you."

After walking around for a while, James and I parted ways. I went straight back to my apartment.

The next **day**, I withdrew the lawsuit immediately. Hommert, Rowan still found out somehow.

He called me. His voice was cold and deep, "Where are you?"

Lying on the couch with a facial mask, I munched on fruit and asked in a mulled yolge, "What's the matter?"

Rowan asked, "Did you file for divorce?"

I replied, "'Yeah. You refused to sign the divorce agreement, didn't you? Alas, the video of you saving Ashley, I was about to give up **and** let you two br together. But last night, I ran into two of her friends. They made me change my inbud."

Rowan didn't say anything, semingly waiting for me to continue.

I continued, "ller friends said I was the mistress. They told me that love is blind, **and** Ashley was feet. Imade her try in kill herself. You see, I've become **a**

Chaper 18 Rowan Came ther

scapegoat. I should at least do something to live up to their accusations. So, I withdrew the lawsuit. Surprise!"

Rowan breathed heavily. It seemed he was pissed off. However, I wasn't **sure** if it was because I filed for divorce or withdrew the lawsuit.

I thought he was about to lose his temper, Suprisingly, he said calmly, "I shouldn't have blamed you for my mom meeting Ashley. I've looked into it and realized it had nothing to do with you."

Hell speechless.

He added, "I'm at Windwill Estate, Come over. We need to talk. Or give me your location, and I'll come to your place."

After listening to **him**, I immediately hang up. I didn't want to talk **to him!** But I underestimated Rowan. Finding me was no challenge if he could find Ashley just in time to save her

to start cooking and had ordered some ingredients to be delivered. Thinking it **was** the delivery guy, I opened

At around 6:00 pm, he rang my doorbell, I was about to start cooking the door without checking, the camera,

Quickly shut the door as soon as I saw Rowan.

However, he was faster. He blocked the door with his hand. His face darkened **as** he dragged me into the living room.

He forced me to sit on the couch and demanded, "Tell me, why did you file for divorce?"

Rowan probably hadn't been sleeping well the past few days. I could see the slight **dark** circles under his eyes, which made him look really mad.

Rowan countered confidently, "I withdrew the lawsuit, didn't I?"

Rowan languished in frustration. "Don't try to bullshit

Posted by **Admink**, 17 Views, Released on July 10, 2024

me,

Chapter **96** Jealousy

I snorted and ignored him.

Rowan wandered around my apartment and said, "You have everything here. You're so stubborn."

With that, he took **off** his coat and tossed it on a chair. Then, he sat across from me.

**I asked**, "What do **you** want to talk about?"

Rowan asked me in return, "What do you think? My family won't agree to our divorce."

Of course, I knew that. But it was unusual for Rowan to **worry** about what others thought. He was so stubborn that he wouldn't listen to anyone. **Instead**, he'd only try to use out how to solve the problems.

His insane behaviors from his last life remained engraved **in** my mind. Of course, **Ivan and I** were insane too. It all revolved around Ashley

For some reason, I felt he didn't like Ashley **as** much as he did in his past life. Ivan also gave me the same impression.

I looked into his eyes. "Rowan, you're not willing to **stand** up against your family for Ashley? Do you want her to be labeled as a mistress forever?"

Rowan frowned. He was clearly unhappy with my choice of words. "She's not a mistress ."

I was confused. "Then who is she? We haven't divorced yet. What should call her? An angel?"

Rowan's face further darkened. In the past few **days**, he must've seen the news and the comments online. Most of them had a strong sense of morality, criticizing Ashley for meddling in our manage. Some of them even called her shameless.

Actually, netizens had criticized every woman who had a scandal with Rowan before. However, they were mostly celebrities and immune to gossip. Therefore, they could handle it.

It wasn't the case for Ashley. After all, it was her first time being blasted online

It was understandable that she might do something stupid. She wanted to prove her

innocence to **Paula**. And at the same time, she was truly overwhelmed by the criticism.

as a person. I thought you were cool and decisive. **Why** are you so hesitant about this matter? You should make up your mind,

I said, "Rowan, I **used to** admire you as a person. and everything will be sorted out.

"Your parents have only one son. Even if they don't accept Ashley, they'll eventually relent if you insist. They really want grandchildren, don't they? Make an effort

to get Ashley pregnant. I guarantee they'll accept her.

"I'll deal with my parents. Before my dad retires, he won't let personal matters

matter affect your project audits. **Don't** worry."

I spoke sincerely, hoping for a dignified end to our ten-year relationship. If Rowan agreed now, we could still divorce peacefully even though I had withdrawn the

However, Rowan's gaze

's gaze visibly darkened. My words seemed to infuriate him. Before I could continue, he suddenly shouted, "Enough!"

With my tongue

He asked, "Do you really want a divorce? You said you'd loved me for ten years. Can you

I nodded without hesitation "Yeah, I do. I can move on."

I **couldn't** bring myself to dwell on it. The more I did, the more reluctant I became really move on?

Rowan stood up abruptly. Before I realized it, he had already walked up to me. He lifted me up and kissed me passionately.

My heart raced immediately. I pushed **his** chest hard, but it was in vain. He was very strong, after all

How did the divorce discussion end up like **this**? I was furious. Therefore, I bit myself and bit him.

**Sure** enough, he let go of me. A trace of blood stained his lips.

"You bit me?" He wiped his lips with his hand. His fingertip was tinged with blood.

I also tasted a hint of blood in my mouth, but I shrugged it off. Brushing off the blood casually, I said, "You should behave yourself."

Rowan was angry. "You're the one who should behave yourself! You set off fireworks with Ivan on the hospital rooftop, hiked Emerald Hill with Benjamin, and went to an open-air concert with James. Is that appropriate

I was stunned. How did he know everything?

Rowan couldn't conceal the jealousy in his tone. But I remembered he said

"Rowan, you're not jealous, are **you**?" I asked.

didn't like me, making me feel like I was being delusional

He glared at me and didn't deny it this **time**. Frustrated, he said sarcastically, "Yeah, I'm jealous. Can **you** believe I'm jealous because you **go** out with other men? Isn't that ridiculous?"

I was shocked to the core at that moment. It was the first time he had been jealous of me in ten years.

He said bitterly,

"I originally wanted you to live a **lonely** life and torture you. I wanted to make you regret marrying me. But damn **it**, I've somehow started to fall for you. Otherwise, I could just divorce you without hesitation to be with **Ashley**."

I can answer alternately

Tears suddenly welled up in my eyes. It wasn't **because** he moved me or wanted to **repeat** the past mistake. Instead, it was because I usually had an affair. It was like a very strong attachment that I finally let go of

We both fell silent for a while. I said, "Rowan, go back, I'll think about what I really want, and you should think about what you really **want** too." "Alright." He walked over to the chair and grabbed **his** coat. Then, he turned to glance at me **and** left.

After he left, I burst into tears. I was letting out all my emotions until Dad gave me a call. "Ivy, come home tomorrow for lunch. Uncle Alvin is back."

I tried not to sound emotional. "Okay."

Uncle Alvin often stayed abroad managing his company, focusing on overseas markets. He only returned at **year's** end.

Uncle Alvin praised me when he saw me. "Ivy, you look even more beautiful. **Have** you gained a little weight? It suits you."

Upon seeing Uncle Alvin and his **family**, I happily ran over to hug them. "Uncle Alvin, you guys are back!"

Aunt Selena smiled and said, "Indeed. You look gorgeous!"

I replied cheekily, "I've always been this beautiful."

"Yeah, you've always been a beauty!" Aunt Selena agreed.

I asked curiously, "Why didn't Charles come back this year?"

Uncle **Alvin** answered, “We’ve established a new branch office this year. Year’s end is a busy time for the company, so he couldn’t make it.”

Dad chimed in with a sigh, “Betty’s interning at the company, right? She’s just graduated from college, but she seems as capable as Charles. Unlike my silly daughter here, she only wants to play the cello and fall in love. Look at her now...”

Uncle Alvin was aware of Rowan’s affair. He **said** seriously, “Ivy, you really need to think about your future. Your **parents** are getting older. Rowan doesn’t love you. So, you should **learn** how to **manage** a company. We can’t let Rowan take over our family’s business!”

Mom and Dad exchanged glances without saying anything. But I knew they felt the same way. Rowan’s affair with Ashley had caused them to give up on him.

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

## Chapter 97 Meeting Ashley

Uncle Alvin was right. Even though Mom and Dad were open-minded and didn’t force me to take over the family business, I shouldn’t be so selfish

Besides, it was unlikely that Rowan and I would divorce anytime soon. Instead of dwelling on meaningless emotions, I should change my life and move on,

I replied seriously, “I got it, Uncle Alvin.”

Uncle Alvin was relieved and suggested, “Charles is managing a branch office and needs some help. Why don’t you **go** abroad with me for some time and gain some experience? If you stay in the country, you’ll only get entangled with Rowan. But you can focus on your work if you go abroad.”

**Our** family businesses were similar in nature. My family business operated domestically, while my uncle’s business operated overseas. Working with my uncle would be a valuable experience.

Most importantly, I could step away from the complications involving Rowan and the others.

Mom **and** Dad looked at me hopefully. However, they didn’t say anything to pressure me. Mom had a heart condition, and Dad was about to retire. It would be **ungrateful** of me if I didn’t take up my own responsibilities.

“Alright, Uncle **Alvin**, **Aunt** Selena, I’ll go to Stomland with **you** after the New Year.” I didn’t ponder long and firmly agreed to their suggestion.

My answer made everyone happy, and we enjoyed a pleasant meal together.

After lunch, Uncle Alvin and his family left. They had their own property in Alton City. Also, they had someone to clean it regularly, so they didn't need to stay in

**As soon** as they left, Mom and Dad approached me and asked, “**y**, are you sure you want to work with Uncle Alvin?”

I held their hands and said, “Yesh Mom, Dad, I’ve **thought** it **through**. **Music** is indeed very important to me. It’s my true passion. But I’ve neglected it for years. There’s no need to start

over 1 can still play the cello in my **spare** time while **learning** business, right?”

Dad breathed a deep sigh of relief **and** silently squeezed my hand. Mom smiled with relief and said, “Alright. Your **dad and** I have talked **about** it. We won’t meddle in your relationship with Rowan. We’ll respect your decisions

“Mom, Dad, thank you” Tears brimmed in my eyes. I didn’t want **to cry**. Hence, I **leaned against** Mom’s shoulder and closed my eyes to calm my nerves.

We were less than a week from celebrating New Year. I decided not to return to my apartment. Instead, I planned to stay home for the holidays and then go abroad with Uncle Alvin and his family.

After a few days of peace, Ella’s phone call disrupted my quiet life. She sounded nervous. “Sorry, can we meet to talk about my daughter and Mr. Payne?”

Her daughter **was** in the wrong. She naturally felt ashamed,

After a brief silence, I asked, “What do you want to talk about? Ashley admitted to me that she liked Rowan. And Rowan likes her, too. Why **don’t** we just let them find **a** way to get both families’ approval and be together?”

“I won’t let that happen! Over my dead body!” Ella **became** somewhat irritated.

She had witnessed how Rowan and I were together and even got us some herbal remedies to help with my pregnancy. Now, netizens were insulting Ashley online. As a mother, she naturally couldn’t accept it.

Her reaction was much more intense than in her previous life. I had been meticulously planning for this, **and** it finally paid off.

I **said** calmly, “Ella, we can’t force love. They’re in love. What can **we do**?”

Ella composed herself, and her voice became calmer. "We can't let that happen, Ivory. As soon as **Ashley** was discharged from the hospital, I've been grounding her until she completely cuts things off with Mr. Payne

She continued, "Ivory, **please** talk to Mr. Payne. He's married to an excellent wife like you. He should leave my daughter alone."

Ashley was grounded?

she meticulously faked a suicide to make Rowan worry about her and show **Faula** how important she was to him. At the end of the day, Ella grounded her after she was discharged from the hospital.

If I were Ashley, I would be furious as well.

Ella was sincere, and I knew she **wasn't a bad** person. Therefore, reluctantly agreed, "Alright, I'll try to talk to Rowan. But I can't promise he'll listen." "Okay Thank you, Ivory Ella hung up the phone.

I thought for a moment and then called Rowan. Then, I repeated what Ella had told me, asked, "So, what's your plan? Are you going to continue or give up?" Sensing the note of sarcasm in my voice, he replied coldly, "That's none of your business."

I snorted, "Hey, you're the one who doesn't want a divorce. Why are you so pissed off? Rowan, **hurry** up and find a way to cheer up your mistress. She's grounded, and you're still dragging out our divorce. She must be really angry."

Rowan retorted, "Ivory, your sharp tongue never fails to get to me, does it?"

Only now had I realized the advantages of being resilient. The careful planning was finally paying off, keeping my mind sharp and my words even sharper

I said casually, "Come on. I just wanted to give you some advice. After all, Ashley's young and immature. I'm worried she might do something stupid again. Anyway, it's your call. Finish going to get my beauty sleep now."

With that, I hung up and sprawled out on the couch.

When I was about to fall asleep, my phone rang again. It was an unknown number. I answered the phone and asked lazily, "Who is this?"

"Ivory, it's me, Call we meet? I'm waiting for you at Serendipity," Ashley's **usual** crisp and sweet voice sounded somewhat tense and **uneasy**

## Chapter 17 Meeting Ashley

Tasked curiously, "Aren't you supposed to be grounded?"

She whispered, "Come over and I'll explain it."

"Okay."

After hanging up the phone, I drove to Serendipity.

Ashley was **already** there waiting for me. The baristas at the counter looked at her from time to time. They probably **had** recognized her from the news. She **was** bolder than I thought to suggest we meet here.

Seeing me arrive, Ashley ordered a black coffee for me. She looked a bit pale and weak, smiling faintly, she said, "Ivory, I remember you always order **black** coffee here. Would you like something different this time?"

I sat across from her and got straight to the point. "No, thank you. Why do you want to meet?"

Biting her lip, Ashley held the coffee cup with both hands. She ran her fingers along the cup's rim, struggling to find her voice. After a while, she whispered, "Did your divorce case go through?"

I was a bit surprised that she wanted to meet up just to ask me this question

Her eyes were **deary**, however, she maintained her composure and looked directly into my eyes. "If you two are divorced, maybe my parents would be more accepting of me and Rowan

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

## Chapter 98 of Refusal to **Divorce**

She didn't speak and most looked at Ashley

Her face had paled, and her eyes did not squint like how they did when **first** met she was slightly flushed, not even the white wool coat could

But she trembled the cat, Latched up with red lipstick. These days, **Ducasm** a good mood **and** sleeping well, so I **looked** vibrant and energetic

King, Ashley and I had switched roles. She became a bumbling woman due to **be**, **and** became a restless, detached nutcracker.

ashley, why did you tell Rowan that Lasked Taula to look for you?" Emmally askestatter a long silener

"Ivory." Ashley was startled, coilt thashed in her eyes, and she avoided my paze:

I knew it she hatched man plans while hiding underneath a pittiu tacade,

Rowan was sue that thad omplained to Paula at last. It must be because Volley hinted a t it.

I was impossible tor Palato reach out to hochley and then call **Kowan to** tell him everyth ing that had happened

Taula's objective was to make Asliler hacken silently, not stir up trouble.

"Atter potting the blame on me, you disappened and threatened **to** commit suicide, 'she cause you wanted to convince others that I was wise, right? I'm the one who caused yo u so much hut that you can't contine living, so How am must hate une even mee

I sighed. "Bot you be still too **naive**, Rowan as you, but he's not stupul. Once he asks rala, he'll know the truth."

My wondensed Ashley to bunch. Thad probably hit the mark

tcomplained, Paula went to look for Ashley, and ashley toeatened to contenit suicide. In the end, Paula and **I were** the villains. It Rowan really liked her, he would hove ignored **Paula** and me to some time,

It was a pity, she was really native

Ashley was biting let lips sa hand that it almost bled. There was a hint of anger and jeal ousy in her eyes. She didn't seem to want to discuss this with me and was Just team on e question

"ory, I had no choice. If you do

him, all of this will die down. Chester told me that How on matted you because of benefit s. He has never loved you. A manage like this is tormenting Don't you agree?"

Chester. She said that names intimately. It seemed like she was really close to Rowan's good friends

She was pretending to be a person with morals and integrity. In Chester's eyes, as well as the eyes of his playboy tends, Ashley was indeed unique. Just the tact that Rowan lik ed **her** already proved that she had her charms.

In the past life, Ivan also loved Ashley to this reason.

"That's night Tilled for divorce." I stated at Ashley raludy but coldly. "But Tretracted it."

"Why?" Ashley shot op from her seat,

"You'll have to ask your good friend joy about this." I smirked at her.

Ashley called Toy without hesitation, and I listened lesely.

After the call was connected, Ashley asked, "joy, what did you say to ivory? Well Rowan 's wife on paper,"

As Ashley spoke, she even glanced at me.

Yes, wife on paper. I was just a manage tool that didn't have emotions. I vaguely heard j oy say, "old hag"

As Ashley listened, her expression darkened more and more. In the end, she couldn't h elp but blanse Joy. "Do you low what you did? You ruined everything for melit it weren't for you, the situation wouldn't have become so complicated!"

Seeing Ashley hang up, elegantly took a sip of coffee and asked, "Is the reason clear no w?"

Ashley's face was ashen. "Lapologize on her behalf, but Ivory, you don't need to retract your lawsuit because of a nobody. This c ouces your lifelong happiness. You've already wasted **so** many years on **a** man who do esn't love you. Do you want to continue wasting your time?

"You think can get divorced just by tiling it? Ashley was so foolishly innocent in some as pects.

"**What** do you mean?" Ashley didn't understand.

"How can someone educated ask something so stupid?" felt **a** bit disdainful of her. "Hav e you ever thought of why I led to d want to get a divorce with me!"

Ashley trembled, but she quickly found a plausible excuse. "night, yes. I know he has a l ot o

divorce?t's because Rowan doesn't

of assets and it would be troublesome to divide **them**."

i was rendered speechless for a second. Did she think that Rowan disagreed with a divorce because it would be hard to **divide** his assets?

In the past life, he had also filed for divorce, but I had delayed it or disagreed with him using various excuses. Later, he was willing to give up a lot of shares just to get me to sign the divorce papers,

Ashley had never seen the Rowan from the past life who would **do** anything for her, so, of course, she would be clueable to file for divorce in the next six months. You should think of a way to get Rowan to agree to an amicable divorce." I didn't want to say more, so I stand up to pay and leave.

## Chapter 90 Refusal to Divorce

After returning to the car, I saw that Ashley was still in a daze in the café. After some **thought**, I decided to call Ivan.

"Dr. York, Ashley is at Serendipity. Do you want to pick her up?" I asked.

Ivan was silent for three seconds before saying, "What's that got to do with me?"

I was confused. Wasn't this a good chance for him to strike back as the second love interest? if it weren't because I wanted to create an opportunity for him and Ashley to be alone, I would have called Ella.

Previously, Ivan had confided in me. He indeed loved a woman but had met her at the wrong time, so he couldn't pursue her. Wasn't he talking about Ashley? "Ivan, I said that Ashley is alone at the cafe. She had been grounded by her parents and I don't know how she got out. She seems upset. Are you sure you don't want **to** accompany her? explained carefully,

"Call me when you're a

're upset. Bye" Ivan responded coldly and hung up.

I was at a loss for words. Did this man understand women? No wonder he couldn't get the girl. He deserved it!

**Since** Ivan didn't want the opportunity, I wouldn't bother anymore. I started my car and **drove** home.

I hoped that there wouldn't be any troubles in the next few days so that I **could** have a peaceful Christmas. After **that**, I would go abroad to pursue my career and return as a successful woman.

Perhaps God heard my prayers because, i

in the da

days leading up to New Year, everything was peaceful. That was until Rowan showed up at my door. In the past years, I always had to remind Rowan to spend New Year with **his** parents at Curtino City. The next day, we would visit my parents' place.

This year, I wasn't planning to go, but he showed up uninvited.

"Why are you here? I walked over and asked.

"My parents asked us to go home for New Year." Rowan's nose was slightly red from the cold, giving his usually domineering face a touch of vulnerability. less.

"**I** you want to see it that way. Now, your parents and my parents—in-law disagree. You and Rowan can do whatever you please, but let me tell you something.

"After retracting the lawsuit, I won't be

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Chapter **99** Seven Pictures

"I won't be going this year, Why don't you bring Ashley?" I put **both** my hands into my coat pocket. Feeling unperturbed, I gave the opportunity to Ashley.

**Rowan** tooted. There were mixed feelings in his eyes. Not only was there displeasure, but there was also a hint of restraint.

H

"We won't get a divorce, I'll deal with Ashley Honestly, **when** I heard this, I thought I was **hallucinating**. It sounded like he **was** saying that he had chosen me and **was** ready to give up Ashley.

How ridiculous! Was he going to give up on his true love just like that?

"Stop joking, Rowan, Don't make such meaningless promises. Actually, they don't even count as promises." **I** rejected him coldly.

Then, I turned around to go into the **house**, but Rowan grabbed my arm.

"Give me a chance." This was the first time he was using a pleading tone with me. In the past life, even when **he** wanted to divorce me, he never put aside his pride like this.

My heart raced. **Could** it be that Rowan had really fallen in love with me? Even if that were true, his love for me would never run as deep as the love he had for Ashley. He was supposed to give upon me.

Maybe Rowan **was** being possessed by **his** family, and right now, he didn't love Ashley to the point where he would go against the whole world for her. That was why he planned to continue using me to appease **his** family. This was the only reasonable explanation I could think of.

"No need to go back. Dad isn't home yet. If he comes back and sees you, he'll make your life hell." My rationality won in the **end**.

Speak of the devil! Dad had been out to deal with some urgent matters. Mom was cooking in the kitchen, so she didn't know that Rowan was there.

Upon spotting Rowan, Samuel's face suddenly darkened. As if Rowan was a jinx, he asked sternly, "Why are you here?"

"Samuel." Rowan still greeted him politely.

"Don't lean on me. You'll have a new father-in-law soon. You should greet **him** instead," Samuel replied. He didn't care about how Rowan would feel at all.

I was **afraid** that things would get ugly, so I quickly held Dad's arm. "**Dad**, Mom needs someone to help her in the kitchen, so hurry there. I'll take care of things here."

Dad had promised me that he wouldn't interfere in my issues with Rowan, so he went inside, albeit reluctantly.

"You saw it yourself. My family doesn't really like you, Rowan. Even if we don't get a divorce now, it won't end well. I **already** convinced my parents not to interfere in your matters. You should explain it to your family too," I said to Rowan calmly.

Rowan stared at me intently. "I don't plan on getting a divorce, so what's there to explain?"

"How much more of my time do you **want** to waste?" blurted. "How could you be so cruel? Even if I promised your grandfather to marry you and caused your parents to pressure you, you agreed to it! You also saw what you could gain from this marriage. What gives you the right to blame it all on **me**?"

Waves seemed to surge in Rowan's eyes, and his tone shifted. "Ivory, do you really not know what you made me

I was puzzled. "Freedom?"

"Heh," Rowan smirked. "Freedom, my ass"

That was an accurate statement. After we were married, he continued his carefree lifestyle and didn't restrain **himself**

To him, freedom was just a matter of choice. It wasn't that serious. Then, I really didn't know what else he could have lost

At that moment, my phone rang. It was Paula. Although my relationship with Rowan was strained, Paula had always sided with me. It wouldn't be nice to ignore her call.

I walked to the side to answer

to answer my phone. **Paula** asked, "Ivory, are you and Rowan coming back home for the New Year?!!"

"Paula, um. I don't think I'll come this year." I declined her invitation after some hesitation

Paula sighed. "You should come. I have something to tell you. Maybe then you'll understand why Rowan has been so stubborn all these years."

I turned to glance at Rowan, who was also staring **at** me. I had loved **him** for a decade, so I knew his lifestyle and what he liked or disliked. What could these be that I didn't know?

My curiosity was piqued, so I said, "Okay."

It would be good to know why Rowan had treated me coldly over the years before ending things.

After hanging up, I said to Rowan, "Let's go to your parents' place."

He said nothing and just turned to walk to the car.

I followed after **him**. I was about to get into the front passenger **seat**, but I changed my mind and went **to** sit in the back

The front passenger seat belonged to Ashley now. I didn't want to fight with her even if she wasn't there.

My action **made** Rowan's expression tuneven dailer, but he remained silent and started driving toward Cartina City.

On the way, I sent a message to my parents to tell them where I was going. Fortunately, they were understanding and just hoped I would ret

tetu soon.

With the cold weather and snow, along with the congested traffic **on** certain parts of our journey, we drove slowly. It usually took four hours to go to Custino City, but it took **six** t oday

When we arrived, it was already past lunchtime, we could only have diner together,

"Paula, George," Soring my in-lawn, greeted them warmly as uumal.

Chapter 99 Seven Pictures:

Honestly, after that incident with Ashley, I loved and telt closer to my in-laws even more. I was reluctant to let **someone** else have such wonderful in-laws after I got divorced.

"Ivory, you're here." **Paula** came up to take my hand and glared at Rowan reproachfully.

Rowan ignored it, took off his coat, and then went to sit on the sofa.

George snorted and looked away from Rowan. He also came to greet me. "Ivory, come take a seat here."

Paula and I went to sit down, after which she asked, "How long did it take for you to come here? Did you have anything to eat on the way? I asked the maid to save some food for you, just to fill your stomach before **dinner**."

"Alright." I nodded.

After the dishes were served, Rowan and I ate casually while my in-laws watched.

1. d. It felt a bit awkward.

"Eat more. You look like you need it." Paula added some food to my plate.

"Okay." I felt warm and flashed her a smile.

Rowan was eating with his head bowed, not saying a word nor looking at anyone.

After eating, he went upstairs alone. George said he wanted to deal with some work in the study, so only Paula and I were left in the living room. She said, "Ivory. wait for me."

After a few minutes, she came downstairs with a folder in her hand. Under my puzzled gaze, she opened the folder, took out a few photos, and handed them to me. Look at this ."

I took the photos and looked at them. I was shocked the next second.

There were a total of seven photos, each one more astonishing and unbelievable than the last. By the time I finished looking at them, I was in a complete daze.

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

## Chapter 100 His Real First Love

A young woman was in every photo. The first four photos were of her and Rowan together. They were in matching outfits and smiling sweetly underneath the cherry blossom tree, in front of a church, on top of a bridge filled with locks, and in a Ferris wheel ride.

The next two photos were filled with sadness. They were selfies of her crying, and there was blood on her hands.

The last photo was the most terrifying one— It was a coupe. Based on her pale and swollen skin and the weeds entangled around her wet body, she had probably died from drowning.

I only regained my senses after a few minutes, in a trembling voice, I asked, "Paula, who is she?"

"Have you seen anyone who looks like her?" Paula asked me a question instead.

I nodded, Yes, Ashley was her spitting image.

Paula put away the photos and sighed. "Ivory, her name was Sophie Clark Rowan loved her."

"What do you mean, Paula? What does this have to do with me?" I was starting to get a little astounded.

Through Paula, I learned that there were things about now that I didn't know about.

Back then, I was close to graduating and doing an internship with team and the others. That was the only time I had been away from Rowan for a long time. I was in another city, so I could only look for topics to chat about with him online every day.

I remembered vividly that Rowan had changed his profile picture on Instagram, something that he rarely did. The new picture was of a peach cartoon character. I had been worried for a long time, fearing that he had fallen for someone else.

It turned out that my instinct **was** right. Rowan had indeed met Sophie at that time. She was the first woman he really loved

It was different from all the other times he dated. He was very serious about Sophie, but his family opposed his relationship with her.

It just so happened that Rowan's grandfather was critically ill at that time, and his dying wish was to see Howanget married. So, after looking around for a suitable match, he decided that I was perfect.

When I knew that I was **going** to marry Rowan, I agreed without hesitation, which intensified the family's **opposition** to Sophie

"Paula, why didn't you tell me back then?" asked.

at because they hadn't been dating for long, they **would** break up after he agreed

"We were adamant on opposing Rowan and Sophie's relationship. We thought that to many you. Who knew that she\_\_\_\_"

There was a flicker of guilt and **regret in** her eyes

I finally knew why Rowan said so many **harsh** things to me on our wedding night, each word like a life stabbing my heart. He had also said that he would make me regret marrying him and suffer for eternity.

It **turned** out that the girl whom he loved **had** committed suicide by drowning in the river on the day we got married.

"Ivory" Panda's face **was** pale. "I know it was wrong to hide this from you. You **had** a right to know, but we were in a panic back then. And when she jumped into the river, you and Rowan had **already** wedded. It was too late."

"Paula" My heart sank, and my smile was bitter. "I got it."

After that, I got up and took my coat "Please get someone to send me home, I need some time to process this."

Paula sighed helplessly and **said**, Ivory, I'm telling you this because I'm hoping you'll reconsider Rowan. It **was** our ruthlessness back then that caused all this. Rowan **was** also a victim."

“**Okay.**” I didn’t want to say more and just nodded.

Soon, Paula got someone to send me back to Alton City. On the journey home, my mind was in turmoil as memories kept Bashing through my head.

So, Paula how Rowan treated me, yet she never told **me** what happened and allowed me to think that it was my fault..

So, Down had loved someone before me. Sophie was **his** real first love, while Ashley was just a substitute.

So, I was just clown, Before this, I didn’t have the slightest idea why Rowan kept hurting me. I turned out that I wasn’t even the second female lead in this **story** Rolled down the car window, Cold air blasted in and blew on my **face**, blowing away the tears that had just fallen from the corner of my eyes.

The driver asked, “Mrs. **Pape**, aren’t you cold? You might catch a cold,”

“**I’m** not.” Even though my temples were already throbbing due to the cold, I stubbornly said no. Perhaps I should let the cold wind blow away my foolishness and ignorance,

When I reached home, it **was** already dark outside. Mom **and** Dad were surprised to see me home so soon, but they immediately guessed that something must have happened at my in-laws place and that I was in a bad **mood**.

“Ivy, what’s wrong? Why are your eyes so red?” Mom asked worriedly.

“Nothing, George and Paula tried to persuade me to stay married to own. I was angry thinking about it, so I cried. I had already calmed down a lot and could even force a smile.

Baluard angrily, “How dare they? They should have disciplined their scumbag son a long time

separately from Rowan for two years, and then I can do anything, Lorplied

\*Dad, Mom, don’t worry. I’ll go to Torle Alves place after the New Year. I’ll live separately in “Are you sure?” Mom asked

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“Yes, I’m sure.” I didn’t **want** to be sidelined anymore. Moreover, this marriage was burdened by the loss of a life. It was all the more reason to get divorced.

Feeling relieved, Dad nodded, “Okay. We respect your decision.”

“Alright. Since you’re already back, let’s make meatballs together. You won’t overthink when you’re busy.” **Mom** pulled me into the kitchen and gave me some

tasks.

I accepted the tasks and worked diligently **as** her **assistant**. In the end, we made a table full of sumptuous food.

This was the first time in five years that I was celebrating New Year without Rowan. I would never celebrate the New Year with him anymore, so I needed to get used to it starting **today**.

I had a warm dinner with my parents. Mom suddenly lamented that she wished she had given birth to a second child. If she had, it would be much livelier now.

Dad felt the same way. He even started to advise me, “Ivy, after you and Rowan get divorced, you’ll find another good man. Take my advice and have more children. It would be livelier during the holidays.”

“So, I should have more children just to make the holidays livelier?” My cheeks were red after drinking about three glasses of alcohol.

“Of course. You have children so that the holidays will be livelier. Otherwise, why would we want a bunch of troublemakers?” Dad expressed his view directly. Mom and I exchanged glances, and then she chided **Dad** playfully. “Easy for you men to say. Try giving birth yourself! It’s risky to give birth. I don’t want my daughter to suffer twice!”

Dad thought what Mom said made sense. “Oh, that’s true. When your mom gave birth to you, she lost so much blood. I was terrified. At that time, I thought you would only bring us trouble and wanted to send **you** right back to heaven!”

“Why are you saying such things on the New Year? Apologize!” Mom was anxious and pointed at Dad with her cutlery.

Dad realized his mistake and apologized. I was amused by my parents and laughed heartily.

Hearing the sound of fireworks, I turned to look outside the window. The brilliant display in the sky was beautiful.

In a few days, we would be stepping into the new year. Staring at the fireworks, I prayed for a fresh start in my life.