THE DIVORCE PRESCRIPTION

The Divorce Prescription Chapter 131

James was lett speechless.

Who was Celine calling lames?

Which James?

No, that was lames! name, but she shouldn't address him like that

James had something to say, but Celine glanced at everyone before turning to leave.

Hailey laughed softly, glanced at James, and quickly followed Celine, "Celine, wait for me!"

Tracy and Melody were both shoclad "Mr. Lambert, what did Celine just call you? Sise actually called you by your first name! Has she lost her mind?

Both Tracy and Melody were stunned

.

tatues didn't say anything. This was already the second time.

nie couldn't understand why Celine could call him by his first name so casually, Wasn't the supposed to show respect to **her** professor? Did she even understand concept of reverence?

Only his mentor, Dr. C, **could** call him by his first namet Also, did she say she was trusting James to handle things?

Adam watched Celine's retreating figure with a slight frown. She was truly fearless, even daring to call his uncle by his first name.

At that moment, Leo stepped forward to remind him, "Mr. Alvarez, you have a dinner reservation with Ms. Tate at 7:00 pm. The table has been reserved. We shoul head back"

Now that the for had been brolumn, he was talding Carly our for a romantic dinner that sight.

Adam looked at James. "When does Dr. C's lecture start

Jatari replied, "Tomorrow moming."

In that case, Adam decided to come early tomorrow **to** find out who this mysterious Dr. Creally was.

Celine and Hailey weir walking toward the women's dormitory. Halley was still la almost died Laughing

Celine didn't see anything wrong with calling him james.

was still laughing. "Celine, you actually dared to call Mr. Lambert by his first name!!

At that moment, star stopped in her tracks as the noticed a familiar figure ahead.

intne folur to see the two days. Don't you miss the?"

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At that moment, Halley stepped forward and sweetly called out, "Grandma, hello."

Mary looked at Halley in surprise. "Allie?"

"What, Allie? Grandma, I'm Halley, Celine's roommate and good friend. Celine is well-behaved at school, and we all like her a lot." Halley winked at Mary, hoping

wouldn't **reveal** her true identity.

Inediately understood. "Alright, alright, then I can rest easy,"

line tell so happy. She looped her arm through Mary's and said, "Grandma, **you're** rarely out. Let me take you out to have some fun.

Mar, beamed with joy. "That sounds wonderful! I do love going out."

-line and Halley took Mary to the street, and they passed by a bubble tea shop.

Halley suppested, "Celine, let's get a cap of bubble tea. They've just launched **a** new drink that's really delicious"

celine nodded. "Alright."

Mary asked, "Celine, Hailey, do you drink bubble tea?"

Celine knew that elders often forbade younger generations from drinking things like bubble tea in wealthy families. She quickly explained, "Grandma, actually, drinking bobble **tea**

occasionally doesn't harm your health-

"Can you buy me a cup too? I'd like to try it." Mary suddenly said.

Celine was taken aback. She saw Mary leaning on the counter of the bubble tea shop, her eyes gleaming with excitement. "I'll have the toasted brown sugar bubble milk tea. It looks so delicious!"

Celine and Hadley exchanged a glance, and both smiled. Having a fashionable, lively elder in the family made everything feel so much more cheerful. Celine waved her hand "Miss, please get my grandmother a roasted brown sugar bubble milkteal"

Inside the six-star restaurant, the restaurant manager approached to greet them. "Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Tate, this way please."

Adam had brought Cadly to a candlelight dinner.

ly wore a delicate, form-fitting sleeveless dress, ading womanly charm.

Adam looked distinguished in a black suit, tall and elegant, while Carly worr

They made the perfect couple.

The restaurant was filled with the sound of soft plane, setting a romantic atmosphere.

They were seated by the window, and the restaurant manager pulled **a** chair for Carly. She smiled gently and **said**, "Adam, I heard that Celine got into **a** fight on rumpus Inday?"

Adam's face showed irritation and impatience at the mention of this. "Let's not talk about her tonight."

He didn't want to bring up Celine.

Although they hadn't been able to use the fight as an excuse to expel Celine from Yochine University, Carly felt that Adam's indifferent and impatient attitude toward Celine had made it all worth it.

"Alright, I won't mention "Carly raised her wine glass. "Adam"

Adam didn't want to mention Celine because it made him uneasy. He picked up his wine glass, ready to toast Carly.

But the next second, he froze

Though the gleaming glass of the floor-to-ceiling window, he saw something outside.

Across the street, there **was** a bubble tea shop. An elderly lady took a large sip of roasted brown sugar bubble milktea, putting her cheels as it she had discovered something truly antazing.

Adam narrowed litseyes. Wasn't that his grandmother?

just as he thought that, the elderly lady walked away, disappearing from his view

Adam quiddy dismissed the thought. It couldn't be Mary

Mary was et Alvarez Residence and hadn't left the hose years. The won in the shop wasn't dressed like his grandmother, and there was no luxury cat picking her ir. Most tanpurtardly, Mary had carver drunk milk tea

"Adam, Adam, what's wrong H

things. It was probably **because** Celine had been messing with his mind much lately that he was starting

Adam sapped back to reality. He must luve been seeing thing

He clinked his glass willicaly's. "It's nothing"

Outside, Celine had escorted Mary away from the bubble tea shop, and soon, the ture of them stopped at a place. Zrm Foot Spa!

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Chapter 133

Mary looked at the large sign trading Zen Foot Sp

Spa

She then took another sip of her milktra andreously asked, "Celine, what kind of place is this?"

celine raised an eyebrow playfully, smilling. "Wise people avoid love dramas and relax with a massage. Grandma, Halley, I'm treating you both to a **foot** massage!".

them walked in confidently. The shop owner immediately greeted them with enthusiasm

1. "Ma'am, we'd like thure male therapists. Please send us your tallest, most handsome, top male therapistle

The hop yner responded cheerfully, "Sue, VITS, please follow me,

At the high-end rest amant, Adam and Carly enjoyed I dinner in the romantic glow of candlelight, accompanied by the soft melodies of a piano.

just then, Adam's phone vibrated, signaling an incoming call. It was from Alvarez Residence.

Adams answered, and Alfred's panicked voice came though. "Mr. Alvarez, something bad has happened!"

Addam's face stiffened, and his expression tumed cold. "What happened?=

"Mi. Alvarez, Mrs. Alvarez Senior is missing!"

"What When did she go missing?"

"Ma. Alvarra, I went out for a while this attemoon, and when I returned, she **was** gone. Also, these past few days, Mrs. Alvarez Senior has been asking a lot about Mrs. Alvarez—whether she's doing well at school and if anyone **is** bullying her. Could Mrs. **Alvarez** Senior have gone to find her?"

Adam's mind sacrd. He suddenly thought of something and looked at the bubble tea shop across the street through the window. It was very close to Yorhine University.

The elderly lady drinking bubble tea just now wasn't anyone else-she was his grandmother

Adam hung up the phone and immediately stood up.

Carly looked confused "Adam, what happened?"

He pursed his lips together "Something's happened to my grandmother. I won't be able to stay with you tonight. **You** should head home

Without another wood, Adam tumed and left,

The romantic candlelit dinner was ruined, and Carly felt a little upset. Was Mary doing this on purpose?

She had thought that now that she and Adam had broken the ice, they could deepen their relationship. But every time they tried to have a **private** moment, someone always internated

Yesterday, it was Allie, and today, it was Mary!

2

Soon, Adam arrived at the entrance of Zen Foot Spa

Lea softened his voice as he reported, "Mr. Alvarez, we found out that Mrs. Alvarez... brought Mrs. Alvarez Senior and Ms Hailey her Adam glared up at the large sign that read, "Zeu Foot Spa".

"What are t they dog bege?" he asked.

Adam poised an eyelnow. "Why are you hesitating?".

people avoid love dramas audielax with a massage."

Les wiped the cold sweat from his forehead "Wise **pr** Aden Frozr for a moment. So, Celine brougla Mary and Allie hete for foot massages? The Land

Adam quickly stepped into dla spa

eowner warmly greeted in "Hey, handsome. Are you here for a **foot** massage?"

Agroped well named bodyguard naled in, locking the shop owner to the alde. Adam walked in with Lea. Each step he took in his shaip, tailored black trousers leli a powerful, steady ate, menjenzing everyone acudial

The wedddounded has completely hone their male therapist by milles. He was a handsome!

The bodybustseedla door to VIP khoan goyard Hepped aside Adam entered and saw the thire people inside.

Ceilte, Mary, and Halley were comfortably lying on the couch, their heel belag pampered by the tall and handsome male therapists who were giving them toot Celine smiled and asked, "Giulia, is the foot massage manfortable?"

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Mary took another leistinely sip of her milktes, sighing incontentiment. "This is simply divine," she said with

As she spoke, bet attention suited to the young, handsome therapist standing before her. "How old ar

"I'm 15," the therapist replied politely.

satisfied stille,

She asked curiously

ry duckled, her eyes twinkling with amusement. "No wonder men still adore 18-yearolds, even when they're to. Turns out even an o-year-old grandina

rupted in the room.

1. "tailey couldn't contain themselves, their laughter eclosing through the com, blending with Mary's carefree chuckles.

Leo had planned to step in to remind celine about the cument situation, but hearing the cheerful commotion, he hesitated. Kuking his head, he quietly backed away.

Forget it Everyone had their own blessings Celine would just have to handle this herself.

Meanwhile, Adam stood frozen in the doorway, veins lobbing on his forehead. The scene before him was unimaginable. His grandmother, sitting there with milk tea in hand, thoroughly enjoying herself with a foot massagel

A dark, oppressive anger surged through his chest, rising to his temples. Its bloodshot eyes

What was she thinking? Had she completely lost her **mind**? This was outright rebellion!

the root of all this chaos.

He had been so sure their story was over, convinced he was on the verge of starting a new chapter with Carly. But no, Celine had managed to insert herself into his lite apam, fuming everything upside down.

Bisssfully unaware of the storm brewing outside,

e, Celine continued relaxing on the **sofa**. Her delicate feet rested in the hands of a tall, handsome therapist, who skillfully kneaded them.

Perhaps it felt too good, her toes twitched adorably, their playful movements exuding a lively charm.

Adam's mouth twitched in disbelief. Standing there with his hands on his lips, he let out an incredulous **laugh**.

Back in the women's dormitory, he had once grabbed those same soft little feet, only for her to yank them away in a panic, hiding them under her skin. **What** a hypocrite.

At that momer, Hailey noticed him standing at the doorway. She bolted upright in shock and stammered, "Mr. Alvarez?"

Mary, still mid-sip of her milktea, froze in shock "Adam?"

Celine, however, remained oblivious, lounging comfortably with an eye mask over her face. "Adam? No way he'd show up here. He's probably at a fancy restaurant at this hour, having a candlelit dinner with Carly."

The next second, the eye mask was yanked off her face, and an unmistakable aristocratic profile loomed above her.

I was the devil himself.

Celine gasped as if she had just seen a ghost.

Adam glared down at her, his expression dark and menacing. Though gritted teeth, he roared, "Put your shoes on and get out here. Now!-

Celine scrambled to obry, stumbling out of the room. In no time, she, Mary, and Halley stood in a row in the corridor, their heads bowed like high school students caught misterhaving

Adam's sharp, steely gaze swept over them, making the air around them suffocating. "Who's idea was this?" **h**

Without fursitation, Mary and Itailey both painted directly at Celine.

Celine Weilell sprechess. What utter betrayal

he demanded coldly.

Hailey cleared fart that awkwardly. "Mr. Alvarez, I just remembered that i have homework to finish. I'll head back to school now Without waiting for a response, she slipped away

Mary quickly followed suit. "Adam, it's late. I need to go home now. Leo, take me back."

in an list and, the corridor emptied, leaving only Adain an

Celine looked up at Idm with wide, innocent eyes, his expression as dark as a brewington, "Mr. Alvarez, I'll be on my way to

Before she could move, his strong land clamped around her slender wilt. His voler, cold and menacing, rumbled in her eat. "Okl I say you contaid leave?"

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Chapore 135

ven het permission to leave

Celine tried to free her delicate wrist, but Adam's long, commanding fingers gripped her tightly, dragging her along without mercy.

tane vo delne? Let go of me Where are you talon

swrie long and umelding, forcing Celine to stumble awkwardly as the struggled to keep up. He marched her out of the spa and shoved her into his Rolls-

tom, drving off without a word

later, the cat pulled up in front of the Alvarez Group Adam pulled her out of the car and into the building without missing a beat

Tonight, the tech department employees were working late to meet a deadline. Some had just been about to grab a cotter when they noticed their overbearing Cro imalling in dragging a breathtakingly beautiful womun

| traces of sleepiness vanished instantly: "Good evening, Mr Alvarez"

Adam didn t spare them a glance, pulling Celine straight toward his office

tech department buzzed with excitement once the office door shut behind them.

our CEO w Witte? Oh my god, she's like an angel!"

nemployed a photo of Celine and shared it in the company's real chat group. The group exploded with chatter.

same woman who got into a fight at university and had Mr. Alvarez called in during an important meeting?"

orgeous — more beautiful than Carly."

that's why she's the wife, and carly is Carly."

"Looks like Mrs. Alvarez's causing trouble again. Did you see the look on Mr. Alvarez's face? He's probably about to give her a serious scolding."

shipping them so hard I've fainted from it!"

e the CEO's attice, Adam shoved Celine inside and slammed the door behind them. He tore off dangerous energy

ture off his tie with rough, almost violent motions, radiating raw

"Celine, explain yourself

lane hesitated, guils flashing through her. She didn't know why someone who should've been having a candlelit dinner with Carly had caught her red-handed. When she stayed silent, Adam stepped closer, his imposing figure towering over ber. His breath was heavy, and his eyes narrowed into a cold smile as he spoke "Was it you who took and out for bubble tea?"

He began listing her supposed wrongdoings.

• immediately denied it. "No, we didn't have any bubble tea!

Sering ber lie so blatantly, Adam's broad chest rose and tell with barely contained rage.

"Did you or did you not take Grandma for a foot massage?"

I really underestimated you. Is there anything you won't do? It's

bad enough that you can't behave, but now you've dragged Grandma and Hailey into this

Juan's unus shout made Celine's shoulders tremble, but she lifted her chindefiantly, her voice steady despite the fear.

thy are you yelling at me! I haven't said a word about you and Carly, so what's wrong with me going for a foot massage? How daje tak back?

Adam's eyes darketed as he showed her backward

surface of the window. Before she could recover, his tall, powerful frame pressed against her, trapping her

elitar a strodes backcollided with the cold, unyielding si Between tom and the glass

Thera, Adana's large, strong nght hand closed around her slendereck, hasgar locked our he

or het face with a mix of rage and disbehet "Celine, you must have a

The air around her seemed to grow thinner, and she saved at histone go of me."

Adia's eyes lingoed onter angeli, doll

face, still taw withsage How she disrupts let him

emotions, and **show** no temorse)

His pria prouatred form ka

Kas he prally going to strangle her!

> pressed against her cold, this ones

Celiowe didn't want to die in desperate me, the stood on her tiptors, Iraning forward her soft lips p Adam froge, bas tall framar going digid

Celine's lip lingered against his for a moment before adue parted then slightly, knigg him gently. Her lips traced the sheep contours of his **mouth**, Adam couldn't remember the last time they based Alle bow was that bet kiss rare sent **a** numbing heat coursing through his retire body.

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Adam panted brivily, his weight pressing down entirely on celine.

Dammit His body seemed to remember ber

He hadn't even touched Carly. Most men would crave a butle romance or passion at his age, but he'd always been indifferent to such things. It never felt like

neting he was missing.

he met Celine. Especially that stormy night when she helped him. That night, she let him taste something he'd never experienced before.

time he came into contact with her, that feeling resufaced, stirring him in ways he couldn't control.

loosed on betalender neck, and celine sucked in big gulps of fresh air.

washer. She pressed her hands against his strong, chiseled chest, trying to shove him off. "Adam, let **go** of mel

Adam's sharpieves glinted, catching a faint, erre tinge of red.

Bracing his hands against the floor-to-ceiling window behind her, he lowered his intense gaze onto **her**. "Still gonna say you didn't drink bubble tea?" He could already taste the sweet tevor lingering in her mouth.

Celine instantly damped a hand over her lips.

"nubble teas are all artificial sweeteners. They're bad for you

wadays, bubble teas are handmade. It's not as cheap or unhealthy as you think. Drinking one tonight won't rain Grandma's health," she cut him off.

Her lips still camed that sweetness, with the faintest trace of creamy milk. He wasn't sure if it was because the bubble **tea** had been artisanal or if she just naturally tasted that sweet,

There was something about her an energy so vibrant **and** youthful that Carly, with all her carefully crafted elegance, simply couldn't match. Adam said nothing more. His gaze swept downward, lingering on her lips-shiny and soft from the **kiss**-and then back up **to** meet her ever What was that look?

She'd only kissed him out of desperation, a deeting attempt to escape his grasp. It hadn't meant anything.

But now was he thinking about kissing her again?

The way for looked at her–God, it was so captivating. His magnetic charm was simply part of him, effortless and inescapable.

suddenly cooched down, slipping out from under his arm and quickly retreating a few steps, putting as much distance as **she** could between them.

The moment she backed away, the ambiguous atmosphere between them dissolved like smoke

Adam straightened up, brushing off the moment as it regaining his composure were effortless.

"Mr Alvarez, you've lectured me enough. If there's nothing else, I'll head **back** to campus now, Celine said.

His reply was swift. "I haven't given you permission to leave."

Before she could respond, a knock at the door broke the silence, Leo entered, balancing a **stack** of papers in his hands. "Mr. Alvarez, here are the five test packets you asked for "

Trst packets)

Without hesitation, Adam took the stack and unceremoniously tossed it into Celine's arms. "From now on, you're going to take your studies seriously. You're Tutashing all **five** of these tonigla."

The weight of the pages landed against her chest, and she caught them awkwardly, staring at him in utter disbelief. **Was** he serious?

Wash out of has anned? Did he even tedize was she was!

hy tomorrow, she was going to make lum a joke, a story everyone would laugh at over lunch.

Burmadghd loaught, she had no way of fighting back.

Within-orberoption, Celine grudgingly sat down. The scratch of her pen filled the silence **as** she began working

Mam, on the other hand, had already dismissed her from his thoughts. He returned to his lock black leather office chait and began reviewing documents. About passed durid, the city skyl gleamed under the blanket of tight.

When Adam finally glanced up, his gaze settled **on** Celior-and froze. She had slumped over the desk, sound asleejt.

She'd fallen asleep again?

Adan walked over to her, and when he looked down at the test packets scattered in front of her, he froze.

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All time test packets were finishe

al them up, flipping, through the pages quickly. The neat, delicate handwriting was

was unmistakably cellor's Every anweer was

had completed five test parkets inamfiour, and alls

a had perfect sens

he pull that oft?

tion – 'ouded Adam's mind as his pare shifted to Celine, still sound asleep at the **desk.** Then, his voice cut through the silence, "Leo."

Mans is latet, the office dont opened, and Leastepped inside "Mi Alvarez, what can balo for you?

Adam's true tommed sharp. "Leo, I didn't expect you to do something like this right under my nose.

urm blinked, caught completely off guard. "Mr. Alvaser, what did I do?"

adam clammed the test packets onto the desk, "You let Celine cheat by giving her the answers!"

Leo froze, his mind racing. Then his thoughts practically screamed, "What?" Mr. Alvarez, I didn't do anything!

Bot Adam wasn't interested in heating an explanation. To him, explanations were just excuses.

Their was no way Celine, with her cument ability, could have completed five perfect test packets in an hour unless Leo had handed her the answers.

#douth's salary docked. Don't let this happen again. Now get out," Adam sald cuntly.

Lee stood there, utterly dundifounded

With a sigh of defeat and slumped shoulders, Leo left the office, thinking bitterly, "Why me? What did even do?

Adam had planned to wake celine up and give her a thorough lecture, but the sight of her sleeping so peacefully gave him pause.

Realizing how late it had gotten, he had no choice but to scoop her up lito lids arms.

Carrying her into his private lounge, he made his way to the bed. He'd been staying there the past few days

Carefully, be laid Celine down on the bed, tucking her in. He intended to leave immediately. But just as he tumed to go, her arms suddenly wrapped around his neck, With surprising strength, she pulled him down onto the bed with her. And for the **second** time in just a few days, the two of them ended up in bed together.

Celine wriggled into his arms. Her delicate hunds clung tightly to his neck **as** she smuggled **closer**, finding a comfortable spot against him before slipping back into

deep, untroubled sleep.

Adam lay their stadfly, his entire body tense. Even after days apart, she was still as clingy as ever

Clinging to him rightly, not letting go

Adam tried to pry her hands off him "Orline, let go. We can't sleep together like this"

Carly had made it clear that he wasn't allowed to share a bed with her. But Celine didn't respond.

Adam sighed, his sharp, handsome features softening with a trace of helplessness and frustration Soon, sleepiness began to creep in, tugging at **his** resistance. He gave up Besting his hand Higlely on lier delicate shoulder, he pulled her closer into bisams and closed his eyes.

Just then, his plane lit upo

• nightstand. The screen glowed with Carly's name It was her calling

But Adam had put his phone on silent earlier. The call went unanswered, inging again and again in vain until the screen dimmed back into darkness

The next meeting, Adam stitted, bis eyes slowly fluttering open

A wann, boneless weight was still nestled to his

Celior hadn't woken up yet.

Adams slutted his gaze to the clock on the wall. It was almost i ne atti

De rarely slegat this late. Normally, he was up by \mathbf{six} slaapt whenever slept with Celine beside him, his sleep quality improved so much so that he always

Carefully, be mined to slips at fin

hut ther

Aether. He needed to get up and start hladay.

The tried to pull away, Celine clung tighter to lam, ben anus wapping **tour** timmdy arousal linn. Adain glanced down at her fair, delicate lace, still relaxed in sleep "Celine, I need to get up and go to work"

tin respromise, be hurled lærfærdeeper into hdwchest. She wiggled slightly and let out a sleepy, muffled widimper.

It was a spoiled, alost petulant – The kind of girlidi protest that felt like a dawn out "No" sweet, Leasing, and utterly disarming.

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Adan sank back into bed teram

moment, his Adam's apple rolling lazily. He hadn't realized before just how coquettish Celine could be.

When she used that soft, teasing tone with him, he could feel the muscles in his lean waist righten instinctively.

But he really had to get up

tuv, Adam pulled his arm free from her grasp and climbed out of bed. He headed into the bathroom and turned on the cold water to clear his head. A moment Dare Emerged refreshed, dressed sharply in a black shirt and matching blacktrousers.

e stepped into his office, he froze.

wady there. She turned to tace him, bet red lips carving into a smile "Adain, don't tell me you just woke up."

It was already 8:00 am, and Carly was here. She had never seen Adam sleep in so late.

Adam paused momentarily, dearly caught off guard by her early **arrival**:

post then, Leo rushed into the room. "Mr. Alvarez, I just stepped out to check with the Marketing Department. I didn't realize Ms. Tate had already arrived. Leo law full well that Adam and Celine had spent the night in the private lounge. Celine was probably still in there, asleep on the bed. And now Carly was here. This was bad

What if the two women ended up in a fight over Adam? Screaming, hair-pulling, chaos?

Leo didn't even dare glance at Adam's face.

Carly, however, didn't miss a beat. Her sharp instincts kicked in immediately as her eyes narrowed, "What's going on? Am I not allowed to drop by unannounced?" Her gaze shifted toward Adam's private lounge. "Adam, you don't have a woman hidden in your lounge, do **you**

? Afraid I'll find out?"

Before anyone could stop her, she started walking toward the door.

Adam's tall, broad frame moved swiftly in block her path

"Adam, why won't you let me in? I called you many times last night, and you didn't answer. And now, this morning, you're waking up late. Did you sleep with someone else?" Carly snapped.

Adam frowned ever so slightly at her accusations. His thin lips parted **as** he responded, his deep, magnetic voice calm and steady, betraying no emotion. "Carly, leave

He told her to leave? Why should she leave?

Carly wasn't going anywhere until she found out exactly who the woman in the lounge was. Without hesitation, she shoved Adam aside with surprising force and reached for the lounge door

"This is it. It's over. We're done for," Lea thought, panicking silently,

Carly stormed into the lounge, but the moment she stepped inside, she froze

Adam followed her in, his sharp gaze immediately darting to the bed. The sheets were rumpled, but it was empty.

Celine was gone. The bed that had held her only minutes earlier was now completely vacant.

The lounge was empty. Not a soul in sight.

Leo, standing just outside, was equally battled. "Where did Mrs. Alvarez go?" he wondered.

But with the immediate crisis seemingly averted, Leo **sprang** into action, eager **to** diffuse the tension. His **tone** was **smooth** and professional "Ms. Tate, you've misunderstood Mr. Alvarez He worked late last night, and with an early meeting this morning.

A kork at the door booke the moment. A department manager entered, holding a neatly **stacked** pile ut documents. "Mr. Alvarez, these are the papers requiring.

your signature "

Carly's fiery doubts began to cool. Petups she had been overthinking things.

How could Adam possibly love someone else behind her back Her own insecurities, bet fear of losing him, had made her jump **to** conclusions. E

A **pang** of guilt swept over her as she turned her gaze to Adam Hertone suttened, tinged with regret. "Adams, I'm sorry. I'll leave you to handle your work." Without waiting for a reply, Caity tuned and left the rou

Ariam's sharp eyes followed be retreating figure until she disappeared though the doorway. Then without a word, he stepped **further** into the lounge.

No. That was impossible. She couldn't have simply walked out on brown without being see is

Adam's plescing gaze swept across the **room**, scanning every comer with precision. And then his eyes landed on the wardrobe.

The doors were closed, perfectly still. But someiling about them felt off, it was as if someone might be hilding Inside.

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adam reached out and i

I opened the wardrobe door, and there she was

Celine was curled up in the comer of the wardrobe, her small body buddied tightly, her long, silky black hair cascading around be

When the door wring open, her sleepy, dee-like eyes still hary from post waking upnapped up to meet his, startled, like a frightened fawn caught in the

ut moment, she looked so pititul, se vulnerable. She was like a sectet mistress someone might keep hidden away, forced in flee the bed and hide in a closet ven the wite barċevin munnowncod.

Adam frowned "Why are you hiding in the wardrobe?

celine blinked, bet thoughts still scattered from sleep. She had woken suddenly

she had been sleeping on his bed in the lounge

of Carly's voter outside. As her surroundings registered, she realized

She couldn't even remember how she got there. The last thing she remembered was dozing off at the desk.

That when Carly stemmed in, clearly on the warpathi, celine had panicked and instinctively hidden in the wardrobe.

Lisoking sp at Adam now, she asked, "1s Carly gone?

Celime tilted her head slightly, a faint, playful smile curving her lips. "When I saw Carly coming in, I hid on my own. Mr. Alvarez, wasn't I good this time?" Adam's expression didn't change, but his thoughts flickered darkly. "Good? When it matters, you're never good," he thought to himself.

Without a word, Celine began climbing out of the wardrobe. But **she** had been crouched in the confined space for so long that her legs had gone completely numb The minment she stepped out, her lasers buckled, and she wobbled forward, about to collapse onto the carpet.

Adam's hand shot out with lightning speed, his long, strong fingers closing around her slender am. He steadied her effortlessly before she could hit the ground, Celine bent one knee slightly, wincing as she tried to shake the pins and needles out of her leg. "Thank you, Mr. Alvarez,

" she murmured.

Adam's gaze stayed on her. She reached up, brushing a lock of hair behind her show-white **ear**, the delicate curve of her profile catching the light.

His lips pressed into a thin line before he finally spoke, **his** voice low and measured. "Next time something like this happens, if the man hasn't told you to hide. there's no need for you to hide. Got it?"

Celine's long lashes fluttered slightly at his words.

Did he think she wanted to hide? She was the real wife? Carly was the mistress here, not her.

And yet, crouching in that wardrobe, feeling pathetic and ridiculous, had left her shaken.

"I was afraid Carly would hit me," she muttered

Adam let out a low, sarcastic laugh. "You think you can't beat her?"

The memory of Celine pining Elijah to the ground and beating him senseless was still vivid in his mind. The idea that she couldn't handle **Carly**? That was hard to

Celine caused her gaze to meet las: "I can beat Carly, but I'm afraid you'll take her side."

Adam Trope, her words catching hish off guard.

She was afraid of Carly. She was afraid of lim siding with Carly.

Crline's atrady paze stayed on his handsome face. After a beat of silence, she asked seriously, "I one day carly **and** I really got into a fight, who would you help? Adarn looked at her but didn't say a word.

His silence was as good as an awer - he would side with Cady

Carly, bús favorite, the oor he'd given so much power and confidence that she could walk around like she owned the place.

Gelite dowdy but family pulled her an from lus grasp.

iin his haul, Adam let his ann fall to his side

Celine fruword diglatly, bei voice laced with confusion. "Me Alvarez, why was I sleeping in your lounge?»

Adani'a raporssion temained lard. "You tell asleep at the desk last night. When you woke up, your wandered into my lounge and shamelessly made yourseli

date gasped softly, her eyes widening in shock was that something she had done?

, last night did I sleep alone? on did I. derp with you?"

Her gaze, brimaning within

damanswered igaradious, betrayed hier groupe struggle to recall how stud clog to his resk and **suggled** into his arms. Adam, totiring her apparent atujaria, decided it was best to let it go. Alteralj, last night had been isothing more than an accident.

A mocking smark cursed his thin lips. "Celine, what exactly ste you bepling for? Did you think I'd sleep with you? I slept on the **couch."**

Celine lulent

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Geline hadis Lexpected anthing. She knew Adans would never sleep with her. Carly wouldn't allow it.

But did he really have no humiliate her like that?

"adini, do you hate me that much? Fine. I'll make sure you never have to see me again!"

ith it, she tumed en het heel and walked away.

che two parted onbad terms.

Adam's sharp textures hardened, his expression tuming icy as he stepped into his office and began working through urgent files.

It wasn't long before carle burst in. "Adam, when are we heading to Yothine University? Dr. Cis giving a lecture there today, and we'll finally get to see what she

Carly had a congenital bean condition, and **Dr.** C was her only hope

Twice before, Dr. Chad failed to appear at scheduled events, and today Carly could barely contain ber anticipation. The legendary doctor had finally arrived. "of course, hadn't forgotten about Dr. C. He **was** curious too. **Who** was this brilliant yet elusive doctor whose reputation seemed larger than life? signing the last document on his desk, Adam rose to his teet. "Let's go to Yoshine University."

Celine arived at Yothine University to find the campus alive with excitement. Everywhere she looked, **banners** fluttered in the **breeze**

, boldly declaring, "Welcome,

Television crews from several major Mercity **stations** had set up cameras, eager to capture the event and land an exclusive interview with the mysterious Dr. C. The lecture was already shaping up to be the most talked-about event of the year.

Celine glanced at her watch. It was almost time, and she needed to head backstage.

Before she could get fer, Tracy and Melody spotted her from across the crowd.

Tracy's sneer was instant. "Celine, what are you doing wandering around like this? Do you have any idea how important today is? Dr. C is here! We couldn't even sleep last night, we were so excited, and we'd been waiting here for hours. Are you trying to ruin everything and embarrass Yorhine University?"

Melody let out a sharp laugh, her mocking tone cutting through the air. "Oh, Tracy, why waste your time talking to her? Celine's probably planning to sleep through Dr. C's lecture anyway. Isn't that what she's best ar

Celine didn't feel like arguing. What would be the point?

Just then, Carly's voice rang out. "What are you all doing here!

Celine looked up, startled. Carly had arrived, and beside her stood a tall, striking figure–Adam.

Melody's face lit up instantly. "Adam! Carly! You're here too!" she greeted cheerfully.

Carly returned the smile, her tone warm. "Adam and I came to attend Dr. C's lecture."

Adam and Carly were here for the lecture too. It seemed everyone had gathered for Dr. C.

Alvarez,

The moment Adam appeared, Tracy's bright, striking eyes immediately locked onto him. She took the initiative to greet him. "Hello, Mr. Alva Adam gave her a curt nod, but **his** cold, detached gaze quickly shifted to Celine. Feeling the weight of his eyes, Celine turned her face away, refusing to meet his

Carly serious voice broke the silence. "What were you all talki

were you all talking about?"

Melody eagerly jumped in "Carly, we were just talking about Celine-"

But before she could finish, James's voor boomed fun inside the large lecture hall. "Dr. C **is** about to arrive. The lecture is starting. Everyone, please take your

They **quickly** said, "Let tot waste any more time on her. Let's go see Dr.C"

Carly cast **a** disdainful plate in Celine's **direction** before turning her attention to Adam Looping heran through his, she said, "Adam, let's go see Dr. C." Adam's expression didn't shift. His face remained unreadable as he began walking toward the lecture hall with Caly on **his** arm, **Tracy** and Melody trailing closely belnit

Celine was left alone bere they had gallated. The message **was** clear, they didn't think she was worth another second of their time.

She trained silent.

Her phone buzzed in berhand, and a WinsApp notification popped up. It was from James.

"Doctor, have you anived?"

Celine's lips curved into a faint sulle. She quickly **typed** back her reply,