THE DIVORCE PRESCRIPTION

"I'm here."

Chapter 141

celine entered the backstage area. As per her instructions to Jaines, it **had** already been cleared out. She was completely alone.

She sat in front of the vanity and begantving her long, silky black hair into a low ponytail, revealing her slender, san-like neck

|_ Then, she applied a light, refmed layer of makeup. A final touch of lipstick brought the look together.

Cel, we rarely wore makeup, as her natural features were already pure, delicate, and almost ethereal, But now, with just a subtle enhancement, her **beauty** seemed scherworld.

From outside, Jusses's voice echoed through the lecture ball. "Good morning, everyone.

Celine rose from her seat and walked to the stage curtain, lifting **a** comer to peekout. Her paze swept across the massive hall.

Evert seat in the thousand—**capacity** auditorium was filled, a sea of faces buzzing with anticipation Cameras clicked and whimed incessantly, several television

lations broadcasting the event live

At the podium stood James, speaking into the microphone. "Good morning, everyone. Today, **we** are gathered here to welcome

The crowd erupted as one. "Dr. Cl"

janes smiled. "That's night's an incredible or to have Dr. Chere at Yochine University to deliver this lecture

celme's eyes scanned the crowd. Adam sat in the front row, dead center in the main section. His tall, elegant frame exuded an effortless authority, and his cold, chiseled features betravedno emotion

To Adam's lettere Carly and Tracy, to his

right at the university's vice principal and head **of** academics. No matter where Adam went, he was always the center of attention, always in the spotlight.

James's voice cang with excitement. "And now, let's welcome Dr.Cto the stage!"

It was time for Celine to step into the **spotlight**.

For three years, she had been gone. For three years, her title had been Mrs.

Alvarez But today, she was reclaiming her identity-DL.C

She couldn't help but imagine Adam's reaction when he saw her. And Carly's.

And Tracy's. And Melody's

I would be a sight to remember.

Celinat prepared to make her entrance. She was ready.

But before she could take **a** step, a sudden sharp pain exploded at the back of her neck The blow came Last, a blunt object striking her from behind.

Her vision blurred, and before she could react, everything went black as her body crumpled to the floor.

Adam sat in the center seat as Carly leaned in close, her voice bubbling with excitement. "Adam, we're **finally** going to see Dr. Cl"

The curtain began to draw back slowly. **Adam's** gare followed, but the stage was empty. There was no Dr.C

Apple of confusion spread through the auditorum.

"What's going on? Where's Dr.C" Tracy raclaimed,

James, standing stiffly at the podium, froze indisbelief. Just moments age, Dr. Chad confirmed **via**

a message that she was backstage. How could she simply

"Everyone, please pemain calm." James attempted, his **voice** strained **as** he struggled to regain control of the crowd

But his words did little to stem the chaos. Munnus rose Into panicked whispers, and the audience buzzed with speculation.

Amid the commotion, Adam's **phone** lit up. He glanced at the screen–it was Hailey

Lacuring himself, he stood and walked brisky out of the lecture hall. The moment be answered, Hailey's panicked voice cut through the line.

"Adam! Something's wrong, Celine's in trouble!"

Judan's features darkened instantly, hits thin lips pressing into a line. "What happened to her this time

"I just sa Gelite! the was **hurled** out [Taken away! I couldn't catch up to the car, but it was Elijah's men, Elijah has taken her!"

What? Bijala had takenlos f

Not long ago, she had baducted by that scumbag Larry. And **now**, she **was** in the clutches of the notorious playbay, Elljah.

How many (Beni dom she have chasing after her?

Awwar of frustration, agitened Adam's chest. Trouble send to follow line like **a** shadow, dragging him into chaos time and time again.

"Ade, you'd better find Celine Bay! I swear, Elijah seems very interested inher you don't act quickly, she might get stolen from under your nose." Hailey She had seen Celine being loured intoile carandan't wasted a secoal before calling Adam, desperate to win him.

Adam didn't respond Ending the call, he slipped the phone back into la pocket just as Len approached him.

"Mr. Alvarez, should we lock down the pads like we did last time?"

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Adam's expression was cold **and** razor–sharp. "Elijah's car plates are untouchable in Merrity. Locking down the roads won't w work intime."

"Then what's the plan, Mr. Alvarez?" Leo asked..

Without a word, Adain pulled out his phone and dialed a mumber-Elijah's father, Hendy.

A też family and the Zander family shared long-standing tirs, and by custom, Adam was expected to address Henry as "Uncle Henry",

Annected almost instantly, and Henry's voice came through "Adam? What an unexpected call. What's the occasion?"

Adam's grip on the phone tightened, his tone cutting like steel. "Your son just kidnapped someone who belongs to me. Think carefully, Does he have any private villas in the suburbs?—

Meanwhile, in a private villa on the outskirts of the city, Celine's eyelids fluttered open. She quickly became aware of her surroundings—a luxurious, oversized bed beneath her and the omate decor that adomed the **space**.

Where was she?

Her pulse quickened as she shot upright, her **body** taut with **alam**.

"Celine, you're awake?" A **man's** voice pierced the silence. Her head snapped in the direction of the voice, her eyes locking onto Elijah.

Her pupils narrowed instinctively "Elijah? What are you trying to

do?

past moments ago, she had been preparing to step **back** into the **spotlight** as Dr. C, but now Elijah had dragged her her.

Elijah smirked. "What do you think I'm trying to do? The other day, you humiliated me and beat me so badly in front of everyone. Don't you think **it's** time even

the score

forthis

Elijah was a man unaccustomed to disgrace. The humiliation she'd dealt him still burned, and he wasn't the type to forgive. He had been waiting for opportunity to make her pay.

Celine's hand inched subtly toward her waist, her instincts licking in. But as her fingers brushed the fabric of her dress, her expression faltered.

Earlier, while changing backstage, she had chosen a sleeveless white dress. She hadn't thought to bring her silver needles or her medicinal powders.

Elijah suddenly eased himself down onto the edge of the bed beside her. "Celine, I'll give you two options. First, you kneel and apologize to me. Second..." His gaze lingered on her face, taking in her delicate features. With makeup, Celine looked **radiant** and breathtaking, enough to stir **his** heart.

Celine instinctively shifted back, putting as much distance as the bed allowed between them. "And the second option?" she asked.

Elijah's lips curved **into a** sly smile. "Second, you become my girlfriend. If you agree, I'll forget what happened that day. Your little 'win' can just be chalked up t lovers' spal

He dated **to** ask her to be his girlfriend again.

*I will never be your girlfriend," she declared firmly, her tone resolute.

to

have any idea how many women would kill for the chance

Elijah's expression hardened instantly. "Celine, don't act like you don't know what's good for you. Do you ha to be my girlfriend?

Celine didn't bother answering. Without another word, she climbed off the bed and darted toward the door, But she didn't make it far.

Elijah grabbed her arm in one swift motion and shoved her down onto the bed. "Celine, if I can't **have** your heart... then I'll just take your body instead." Pissing her down beneath him, Elijah began tearing at her clothes.

"No! Let me go!" Celle seamed, struggling with all her might. Her nails raked across **his** neck, leaving a deep, **bloody** scratch.

Her deisance seemed t

to turl him further, his blood boiling with exhilaration. With a sharp glare, he raised his hand and **struck** her hard across the lace. Celine's vision blamed as the **slap** rattled her senses. The metallic tang of **blood** pealed in lige mouth, a thin trail dripping from the comer of her lips.

Elijahtore läs shirt over his head in a heartbeat and unbuckled his bell with the same urgency. The **pale** glow of her flawless skin, the delicate **curve** of her bare arms, and the long, slender liner of herlegsset les pulse hammeding.

"Damn it," he thought. He'd been with plenty of women, but something about celine was different. She **was** exquisite and inesistible.

without hesitation, he grabbed the hem of her diess and posted it upward. "Celine, I really like you just be mine already," he murmured. Celine's scream tore through the room, sharp and unrelenting.

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Celine was truly terthed. Like any girl facing such a violation, she couldn't keep calm—she was shaking uncontrollably,

"Let me go! Det øtt me! Ah!" she screamed, her voice saw with desperation as she struggled to think of a way to fight back

Suddenly, the door burst open with a thunderous bang, kicked in with enough force to cattle the walls.

stand into the room, his movements sharp and deliberate. Without hesitation, he seized Elijah and tore him off Celine. Then, Adam's tist came crashing

Thigh hit the floor, but Adam didn't stop. A second punch landed, then a third, each one hander than the last

the time Adum stepped, Elijah's face was a mask of blood.

adam__Adam_" celine's voice trembled as she called his name.

Adam dropped Elijah, and tumed toward her. She had sat up on the bed, but her entire body quaked with fear.

A vivid red handprint matted her right cheek, and the swollen skin was a stark contrast against **her pale** complexion. Her dress was bunched up high, exposing her Irge, mottled with angry red marks where thijsh had grabbed her

she looked like someone who had been ruthlessly violated

The image of Elijah on top of her, the one he'd walked in on just moments ago, Dashed across **Adam's** mind again, and his veins throbbed with rage. Hetookarped breath, his voice low as he said, "Did he touch you?"

celine's wide, tear-filed eyes tumed to him. "No he didn't

"Are you sure? Let me see," Adam demanded, his tone sharp.

He felt the weight in his chest eased slightly when Celine said Elijah hudn't touched her, but the anger inside him still burned hot,

His flats curled, itching to land a few more punches on Elijah

to **leave**. Take me away from here

But before he could move, Celine wrapped her arms tightly around him. "Adam, stop. Mease I just want to leave. Tak Elah lay sprawled on the carpet, **his** face smeared with blood, his dull, unfocused eyes staring into nothingness. If **Adam** didn't stop now, something irreversible would happen.

With a sharp inhale, Adam forced himself to hold back

He took off his black coat and carefully draped it over Celine, wrapping her completely in **its** protective weight. Then, without a word, he scooped her form into his annis and camned her out

Half an hour later, the sleek Rolls-Royce Phantom pulled into the driveway of Westwood Villa,

Adem stepped out, still cradling Celine, and **strode** directly to the master bedroom. Inside the en suite bedroom, he gently **placed** her in the spacious bathtub, Reaching over, he turned on the hot water, letting it flow into the tub

Celine's body was icy cold, her pale skin drained of life. It wasn't until the warm water began to wrap around her like a soothing balm that a faint flush returned to

Adam's deep, cuming voice broke the silence. "You put on makeup? -

still slightly damp at

Celine looked **up** at him. His sleeves rolled up to arveal **his**

strong forearms and the **gleams** of an expensive watch, his tailored black trousers still

The soft clumpati glow of the bathroom lighting cast him in a **striking contrast**, every inch of him exuding the quiet power of a man who was always in control. Batluses told a different story They burd with pestraford anger and a trace of mockery. "Lipstick too?"

elite opened her mouth, her voice barely above a winsper. "L'

Adam's hands dropped to his hips **as** he stared at her, frustration sharpening his words like a blade. "Dr, was giving a lecture **today**. Every single student wi pving to be their Why did **you dress** up like **this?** Who do you think Hijah **would** target if not you?

teline stayed silent. Hermind was still praling, her heart shaken by the weight of what had just happened. As her thoughts settled, a surge of injustice use within

Her eyes reddened, l-un-pooling stil they spilled over, large droplets standing down her cheeks.

Sebepantorry

Adam froze, **and has** tall true wed rigid "Hey, Cell. Why are youerying Don't think you can a few tears and expect this to be over." Her tears fell, heedless of his words.

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Celine's teams kept talling, one after another, splashing softly into the bathwater

"All you ever do is yell at me! what's in wrong about me wearing makeup? What's so wrong about putting on lipstick? Carly wears makeup and lipstick every single dy, and you never yell at heil

were the one kidnapped, you'd probably be holding her, comforting her, calling her your baby! But you... you just hate me! Why do you hate me so much?" avoids broken apart into choked cries. She was trembling now, her delicate shoulders shaking with each unsteady breath.

-and-rimmed eyes, flushed nose, and skin glistening with tears – looked impossibly fragile, as though she were made of water, dissolving into the steams that poured from berryes

Adam's expression shifted at once. Without hesitation, he knelt on me see beside the tub. "Celine, stop crying

Do wasn'tuned to seeing her cry. In fact, he could count on me hand the number of times he'd ever seen her like this.

time had been in her sleep, when she dated out, begging her mother not to leave

This was the second time, and it was because of him. He had made her cry

Tearson her face. "Carly wears makeup and lipstick, yes, but you're not like her."

Adam reached out, his large hand gently brushing away the te

zee was naturally delicate and ethereal, her fair **skins** and soft features so striking that even the faintest touch of makeup made her stand out all the more Espersally the lipstickit painted her lips in a vibrant, tempting red, like a perfectly ripened peach, irresistibly inviting, as though daring anyone to take a bite. Carly could wear lipstick and makeup without timing the slightest trouble.

But Celine? The moment she did, trouble always seemed to follow.

She and Carly were not the same.

No matter how gently he tried to wipe her tears, they only fell faster,

Her Large, watery eyes locked onto him, blazing through the tears with a defiant,

almost childlike fury. ""You're just based! Carly is perfect at everything, **and** I'm just temible at everything!"

Adam had never comforted a crying girl before, and now he felt completely out of his depth. Why were there so many **tears**?

He softened his tone, **his** deep, magnetic voice dropping low and husky **as** he tried to apologize. "Celine, **stop** crying. I'm sorry, okay? I shouldn't have you is that better?"

But the tears didn't stop. They kept streaming down her face,

Adam, why do you hate me so much the thought echoed in Celine's mind. She leaned forward and in **a** sudden burst of frustration, gently bit down on his strong

it wasn't hard, not enough to cause him pain.

Judanti didn't say anything. It biting him would stop her tears, so be it. He'd let her

After a moment, Celine released him. She sniffled, her red nose twitching slightly as she looked up at him. "Did it hurt?"

Adam washi't sure how other men might feel **about**

having a girlfriend lilar her- Timadly ask if you were hurt.

a girl who would bite you out of frustration, **only** to feel guilty

I guilty afterward and

He didu i know about other men, but he kuw this. At that moment, his heart **felt** like it was on the verge of melting

in **trurka**, Adani had always **known** that Celiur was trying to endure bin. And, if he was honest with himself, he didn't mind.

Hier way of getting under his skin, her quiet provocations – be found himself drawn to them, unable to prstst

Julama's dark, nuteise pare locked onto hers, and be shook his head. "No, it didn't bunt,"

line bugged her sleiades amis around lanell and winspried, "I want to take a bath. Leave.

Bark in the bedcouin, Lead, is expession **serious**. "Mr. Alvarra, Mr. Z

Zander is here. He knows the situation has gotten out of hand, and now that he's heard.

Arlan's face pedained cold, and an tips parted as he replied calmly, "Have dan wait for me in the study."

dr-one study, Henry and inde, Victoria, Mein aliady rated Hemy's eyes were watchful **as** they met Adam's.

"Atam, Hasir, B

'Henry said. "Ite was reckless **and** completely outline to lay a hand on someone under your protection. I sincerely.

"hot Elijahs is the only sound the Zandey family. He's my lyric. You've always called in Uhule Henry, and there's along-standing friendship between the Alvarez Tatuly and the Zander Family I'm asking you, matamur, to let insy son go."

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Adam stood tall by the floor-to-ceiling window, his imposing figure silhouetted against the night. His cold, obsidian eyes held a dangerous edge, Indifferent menacing. "Do you think an apology is enough to settle this? Go home."

Victoria's eyes brimmed with tears, desperation softening her voice. "Adam, l'in begging you. Your Uncle

mile has only one son. Please, let Elijah go, I promise we'll discipline him properly in the future."

Her

n's expression didn't waver. Histone **was** sharp and devoid of any warmth. "Leo, see them out."

Henry and I held you when you were a baby! The Zander

esitation, Leo stepped forward and gestured toward the door. "Mr. Zander, Mrs. Zander, this way, please."

"star dackened, frustration flickering in his eyes. "Adam, are you going to be this heartless? All this, for Celine? I've looked into her, she's just some country bump-on and a failing student.

Is she worth it? Are you willing to destroy the relationship between the Alvarez family and f amilies into enemies?

Adam didn't even flinch Instead, his cold gaze shifted to Leo.

Zander family over someone like her? Are you prepared to tumour

Leo responded immediately, his voice calm but firm. "Mr. Zander, Mrs. **Zander**, would you prefer to leave on your o

Henry's composare shattered completely. "You-Fine, we'll leave on our own!"

He grabbed Victoria's arm, and the two stormed out of Westwood Villa.

Fon your own, or shall I arrange for someone to escort you

Outside, Henry's frustration erupted like a volcano. "That Adam! He has no regard **for** our relationship, no respect at all! He's completely ruthless. **Infuriating!**" Victoria tugged at Henry's sleeve, her tone urgent. "Honey, Elijah is still in **Adam's** hands. If he **doesn't** let him go, what are we going to **do**

? Elijah is our only son. It anything happens to him, the Zander family will have no held You have to think **of a** way to save **him**.""

Henry was furious, but he understood there was no simple way to deal with **Adam**. After all, it had been **Elijah** who was in the wrong from

If things escalated further, mending the situation would be next to impossible.

the st

start

Ter Adam's unyielding, icon-hearted demeanor left them with **no** options. He had dismissed them coldly, without a hint of consideration.

When Henry found himself at a dead end, an idea suddenly struck him. "I've got irl We can ask someone for help!"

Victoria's eyes lit up with hope. "Who? Who could help us?"

Henry uttered a single name. "Carly."

Victoria seized the idea **like a** lifeline. "Yes, **Carly**! We can go to her. **Carly** is **Adam's** favorite. If she says a **word** to him, Adam will definitely let Elijah go!"

Half an hour later, Henry:

ry and Victoria arrived at Tate Manor, bearing an array of high-end luxury gifts,

"Ms. Tate, here's the latest designer handbag, along with some bracelets and other accessories. We hope you'll like them."

The Zander family's visit was greeted with great fandare. Hayden, Lucy, and Carly welcomed them into the sitting **room**

After all, the Zanders were a prominent family in high society, closely tied to the Influential **Alvarez** family. Typically, the Tates wouldn't have dreamed of associating with them.

Carly's eyes sparked **as** she took in the luxurious gifts. It wasn't that she **particularly** cared for them-being with Adam meant she already had access to the latest, limited-edition items from top brands, often delivered to her before they **even** at the market,

She had grown used to extravagance.

What truly delighted her was the significance of this **visit**. The illustrious Zander family, so powerful and prestigious, had humbled themselves to seek her tavot. That was **a** symbol of her rising influence and insportance.

In the tight – lil, exclusive world of the elite, connections were everything. If Carly hoped to marry Adam one day, she would need to cement alliances **with** Karuilies Jalur the Zanders to strengthen her social standing-

le always knew how to position herself strategically in Adan's world

Carly soiled. "I love them. Thank you, Mr. Zander, Mrs. Zander. You really didn't have to go to a much trouble."

Henry didn't waste time and **got** straight **to** the point. "Ms. Tate, I'll be honest with you. We're here because we need your help."

Lucy, who had been usually quiet since Hayden had slapped her in front of the police station, had brewed coffer for the **guests** herselt. Startled, she blinked and asked curiously, "s Zander, Mrs. Zander, what could Carly punably help you with?"

Victoria jumped in to explain. "Today, my son Elijah kidnapped Celine M. Alvarez went to rescue her, and we he's captured Elijah. He's refusing **to** release **him** and is determined is punish hian to appease Cellor "

Carly's expression changed instantly.

So that was why Adaim belt Dr. C's lecture such a hurry. He **had** gone to save Celinel

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How many tinies had this happened already!

The last time Celine was kidnapped by Larry, It was Adam who had rushed to save her Hadn't he also gone as far as capturing Elijah, all for Celine sake?

Given the close ties between the Alvarez and Zander families, **was** Celine truly worth Adam going to such lengths?

inched her lists at the thought

hed to Carly with a pleading expression. "Ms. Tate, everyone knows you're Mr. Alvarez's favorite. A single word from you carries more weight than a

tom ammone else. If you could just say something to Mr. Alvarez, he'd surely release my soft

Carly, Hayden, and Lucy exchanged laowing smiles, their expressions filled with satisfaction.

Curly's ruby lips curled into a smirk. "So that's what this **is** about? It's **a** minor issue. Fine, I'll speak to Adam right away

Thank you, Ms. Tatel We'll eagerly wait for your good news," Henry replied.

Carly walked off to find Adam.

Hayden chuckled. "Mr. **Zander**, Mrs. Zander, you didn't need to come all this way for such a small matter. Rest assured, Adam dotes on Carly so much. It just a matter of het saving the word."

Lisey added with a smile, "Mr. Elijah has so many great qualities, and countless girls are drawn to him. It must've been Celine who seduced him, cacing mat Come, let'shave some tea

stop complimenting. "Mr. Tate, Mrs. Tate, yOU

The Imat of them sipped tea, their conversation lively and full of **praise**. Henry and Victoria couldn't st a wonderful daughter."

Hayden and Lucy beamed with pride. Carly was their crowning achievement.

At Westwood Villa.

Celine had just finished her shower when **a** maid respectfully brought in **a** tray of ice. "Mrs. Alvarez, Mr. Alvarez asked me to bring this for you to reduce the welling on your face

He had even instructed the maid to bring her ice,

Celine's heart softened. Whenever she faced danger, he was always there for her.

"Where is be?" she asked.

"Mr. Alvarez is in the study."

"I'll go find lam," Celine said

Celine stepped out of her room, intending to thank Adam in person. But her **footsteps** halted abruptly when she saw Carly

Carly was here

The two women crossed **paths** in the hallway.

Carly's gaze swept over the red, swollen handprint on Celine's face before giving her a haughty once over. "I heard Elijah kidnapped you. How do you plan to deal

Celine's eyes remained cold and composed as she looked at Carly. "He broke the **law**, so of course, he'll face the legal consequences."

Carly let out a **mocking** laugh. She stepped closer, her fiery red lips curving into a smirk. "Then you're going **to** be disappointed. Mr. Zander and Mrs. Zander came To begine. All it takes **is** a word from **me**, and Adam will let Elijah go. If you don't believe ine, wait by the door and listen for yourself."

Celine's long lasties quivered.

Carly lifted les chin and walked away, her confidence radiating. Bul de paused, as it recalling something amusing, **and** tumed back with a playful smile way, wrie you just coming out of the master **bedroom**? The bed influere is so soft. I love sleeping on "

Celine fioze, bei body stiffening at Carly's words

eliar, ate posiatiways standing in the shadows, envying everything thave? jealous that I have a **mother**, that I have Adam? Sometimes, I thank you're truly i

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After speaking, Carly strode into the study, her crystal heels clicking sharply against the floor.

Celine stood frozen in place, stiff and unmoving.

*1think you're truly pitiful - so unloved "

The words echoed in her ears, growing louder as they reverberated through her mind.

rew Carly looked down on her. To Carly, she was forever unloved, a shadow lurking in the background, constantly coveting her mother and her Adam, Carly

stabbed at her chest, its ache mingling with the bitter Irony. Locy and Adam had originally belonged to her.

She stared at the tightly closed door of the study. If Carly asked Adam, would he release Elijah?

uly had told her to stand by the door and listen, but Celine couldn't summon the courage. She didn't dare to bear.

The warmth that had briefly filled her heart earlier was cooling, bit by bit. She should never have placed any hope **in** Adarn. Without hope, there's no disappointment, no further hurt

The maid approached with an ice pack. "Mrs. Alvarez, you should apply this to your tace"

celine shook her head lightly, "It's not necessary," she replied, her voice hollow,

Inside the study, Adam sat in his leather chali, reviewing documents Carly walked over **to him** and began massaging his shoulders.

"Adam, I heard you had Elijah detained," she said softly.

Adam looked up from the papers, his

sharp gaze piercing, "Hency came to see you?"

His eyes were so perceptive that nothing could escape him..

Carly admitted it openly, "yes. Adam, you should release him. The Alvarez and Zander families have a long-standing relationship, both socially and in business. Are you really going to breakties over someone like celine? She's not worth it"

She was not worth it. Everyone kept saying the same thing.

Adam pushed Carly's hands off his shoulders, **his** cold **gaze fixed** on her "Carly, you're a woman too. I didn't expect you to say something like that."

Carly **froze**, caught off guard, and tried to explain. "Bat Celine wasn't even hurt, was she?

Adam's mood darkened further, his presence radiating cold, oppressive energy. "I'm not releasing him. Go home."

arly was stunned. She had spoken up, yet Adam refused her. He wouldn't let Elijah go.

Adam, Mr. and Mrs. Zander came to me personally. I already promised them you'd let him go. If you refuse, how am I supposed to face them?"

Adamn caut her a chilly glance. "That's your problem. **No** one told you to make promises on my behalf."

Carly's face turned pale. She had come here full of confidence, convinced, like everyone else, that a single word from her would sway him. Instead, Adam had rejected her without hesitation.

"Leo," Adam called out.

The door opened immediately, and

Leo stepped **inside**. "Mr. Alvarez

Adam's gaze returned to his documents. iis voice was cold and detached. "Escort Ma. Tate **out**."

Leo turned to Carly. "Ms. Tate, this way, please."

Carly was trembling with anger. **Who** would have thought she would be treated no differently from Iteary, both of them unceremoniously thrown out?

the stormed toward the door, her heels clicking sharply, but suddenly stopped mid-step as if struck by a thought. Her lips tightened, and she spun **back** toward

"Adam, are **you** refusing to let Elijah because he lost a woman or because the womens celle?"

Adarn glanced at her, Ins voler laced with impatience, "Get out."

Those two words ignited Carly's fury. Me reached out and showed a **vase** of the **desk**, sending it crashing to the floor. With a loud crash, the vase stuttered into countless plerei, sciening shards arms the floor.

Tids the first time they had fought so tirarely over Cellie.

In the end, **Carly** left. The study's atmosphere tumed **icy**, suppressive that **no** one dared approach Adımı.

Unable to focus on lds work any longer, Adin stood up and headed to the master bedioni.

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The bedroom was empty, with no sign of anyone.

The bathroom door **was** shut. Adam stood at the doorway and called softly, "Celine, are you still in there?"

There was no response. No one answered him.

Adam raised his hand to knock, but the bathroom door opened on its own.

He paused and stepped inside. The **large** bathtub was empty, Celine **had** vanished. Where could she have gone?

Adamwalked back out. At that moment, the **maid** entered the room "Mr. Alvarez, Mrs. Alvarez has already left."

she left? Just like that, she was gone?

Adam's eyes fell on the untouched ice pack "she didn't use the ice for her face?"

"No, Mrs Alvarez said she didn't need it."

A note was pinned under the lamp on the bedside table. Adam reached out with his long fingers and picked it up. The note contained just two words-Thank you. She left quietly, leaving only those two simple words behind.

Adam placed his hands on his hips and let out **a** humorless laugh, clearly exasperated.

The maid excused herself, leaving Adam alone in the spacious master bedroom. He leaned lazily **against** the desk and pulled out a pack of cigarettes. Placing on between his lips, be lit it with a flick of his lighter

His tall, broad shoulders slumped slightly as he exhaled **a** putt of smoke, allowing it to swirl and blur his sharp teatures. Adam rarely smoked, but his frustration. demanded the numbing comfort of nicotine.

A short while later, Leo appeared at the doorway. "Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Tate has returned home. As for Mr. Zander"

Adam tapped **his** cigarette into **the** ashtray, his gaze falling on the faint bite mark on his arm left by Celine.

Frowning, be knitted his brows and said, "It Henry calls again, tell him just one thing

Carly stepped into the living room of Tate Manor, where Henry and Victoria immediately stood to greet her. "Ms. Tate, where is my son? Did Mr. Alvarez agree to

release him?"

Hayden and Lucy glanced toward the **door**. "Carly, didn't you come back with Elijah?"

They had assumed Carly would return with Elijah. Seeing no

sign of him, they **stood** there, bewildered.

Carly glanced at the four eager faces. Hermood was sour, and her tone **sharp**. "Mr. Zander, Mrs. Zander, I'm sorry, but Adam refused to release him."

What? Henry, Victoria, Hayden, and Lucy froze in shock

Henry said, "What's going on, Ms. Tate? Aren't you supposed to be Mr. Alvarez's favorite? His so-called sweetheart?"

Victoria's face was filled with disappointment. "Henry, we clearly trusted the wrong person Favorite sweetheart? She **can't** even sway Mr. Alvarez. What a fraud." Hetty sureted. "Ms. Tate, you've wasted our time."

With that, Henry and Victoria hated to leave.

Hayden and Lury tried to stop them." Mr. Zander, Mrs. Zander, please wait.

Herry and Victoria stopped abruptly. "Take everything we brought with us," Henry ordered

The black-suited bodyguards immediately began removing the piles of luxury gifts stacked in the living room

"Mr. Zander! Mrs. Zander!" Hayden pandeked, practically jumping in place.

"Carly, what is going on here?" Lucy was equally incredulous. "Carly, you spoke to him yourself, and Adam still didn't agree to release him?"

Their earlier **arrogance** tumed into unbearable humiliation. Carly dug her fingealls into her palms in resentment.

"Celine. The game between us had ufficially begun," she thought.

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"That borts... Hailey, be gentle

celine had renumed from Westwood Villa to the women's dormitory. Halley was pressing an ice pack against her swollen face

Seeing Celine cry out in pain, Hailey cursed angrily. "That beast Elijah! How could be hurt you so badly? Where is he now? And why did you come back alone, Celine?

When Halley heard the knock at the door earlier, she opened it to find Celine standing there with a red, swollen handprint on her face. Celine's arms and legs were also covered in red mario from wheir she had been gripped. These were clear signs of violence.

It was late at night, and Celine had returned alone, battered and bruised.

Balley's heart ached as she wondered what **had** happened to Elijah. Earlier, Carly had gone to find Adam, so Halley assumed Elijah must have been released.

Celine's long lashes trembled as she reached out to embrace Halley's warm body. "Halley, my face hurts. I don't **want** to talk"

"Alright, I won't ask anymore. Just let me check where else you're hurt. We'll use more ointment, and tomorrow you'll be back to your beautiful self, Hailey said, tring to comfort her.

of the b

Under the dim, golden light of the hostel, the atmosphere felt warm and calm.

Thanks to Halley's care and the effect of the ointment, the swelling **on** Celine's face and the mark on her body had disappeared by the next day. Her sin returned to jen kostuni Talf and smooth appearance.

The two of them were heading to the cafeteria when Henry and Victoria suddenly appeared, blocking their path.

Hailey immediately went on guard. "What do you want?"

Henry and Victoria dropped to their knees in front of Celine with a **loud** thud.

Halley froze in shock "Celine, they're kneeling.."

Celine was equally surprised. She hadn't expected Henry and Victoria to kneel before her. **With** a frown, she asked, "What are you doing?"

Henry and Victoria looked utterly exhausted, their eyes filled with anxiety. Tears streamed down **Victoria's** face as she pleaded, "Celine, my son is a scoundrel. He wronged you tembly. We are kneeling to beg for your forgiveness. Please, just this **once**, ask Mr. Alvarez to release him."

Celine paused. "Adam hasn't released him yet?"

Henry shook his head, "No. Last night, we begged **Carly**. She spoke to Mr. Alvarez on our behalf, but he refused to let Elijah go. Mr. Alvarez said something "What did he say?" Celine asked.

"He said we were asking the wrong person. Instead of pleading with Carly, we should be pleading with you.

Did he really say that?

Celine had assumed that once Carly intervened, Adam would release Elijah immediately. To her surprise, he hadn't, and he **had** even made that statement to Henry. "Celine, Elijah is the only heir of the Zander family We have spoiled him since childhood and failed to discipline him. That is why he hurt you. We are willing to compensate **you in** any way. Just name your terms."

"Celine, the Alvarez and Zander families luve been close for generations. If Mr. Alvarez is doing this for you, are you really willing to **let our** families tear each other apart

Henry and Victoria stayed on the knees, desperation clear in their voices

Geline looked at them calmly "Stand up. I'll call Adam and ask lúm to let Elijah go."

"but i don't wait to see Elijah again," Celine added, stating her colition

Henry quickly agreed. "As soon as Mr. Alvareleases him, we will take our son abroad. He won't ever appear in

Celine nodded. "Alrigle."

Henry and Victoria thanked her profusely before leaving

front of you again

Celine took out her phone and hesitated as she hovered over Adam's timber. Adam **had** truly surprised her. Wasn't Culy the woman he adored? How could he have refused her request?

The Divorce Prescription Chapter 150

Last night, she left without saying goodbye and didn't even thank him in person. E

Did he see the note she had carefully placed on the bedside table?

"Celine, what are you zoning out for? Humy up and call Mr. Alvarez! This time, he really stood up for you!" Hailey urged.

Celine dialed the number. The melodious ringtone rang once before someone answered in an unhurried manner. He answered the call but said nothing, leaving the pth "end silent.

Cetim slender fingers gripped the phone tightly as her heart began to race. She hesitated, unsure of what to say.

Then, his deep, magnetic voice came through. "If you're not going to talk, I'm hanging up."

He was about to end the call. As always, domineering and decisive.

Mr. Alvarez, wait! Just now, Mr. Zander and Mrs. Zander came to the school to see me. You **can** let Elijah gor

now." Celine quickly spoke up. "Okay," he replied curtly

Her long lashes fluttered. Gathering her courage, Celine said softly, "Mr. Alvarez, **thank** you."

She sincerely expressed her gratitude, hoping it might convey her feelings.

But all she got in return was a mocking chuckle. "Celine, is 'thank you' the only **way** you know how to express your gratitude?"

Celine clenched the phone tightly, feeling helpless under his sarcastic tone. She was at a loss for words.

At that moment, Hailey chudded beside her. "Celine, since Mr. Alvarez helped you this time, you should repay him properly." Hailey's eyes sparded with innocence, utterly oblivious to any deeper implication. To her, ""repay him"

was simply a gesture of gratitude. The phrase "repay him" echoed in Celine's ears, malding her cheeks burn. She had her own way of "repaying" Adam.

That time with Larry, he had saved her, and she had "**repaid**" him. This time, he had saved her again, and it seemed she would have to "repay" him once more. Celine didn't want to dwell on why he had rejected Carly. **She** didn't want to overthink it or get carried away. She preferred to treat his help **as a** transaction, where neither owed the other anything

Biting her rosy lower lip, Celine softly asked, "Mr. Alvarez, thank you for helping me. I want to repay you. Would you accept it?"

There was a pause on the other end of the line, followed by two short tones. He had already hung up, **leaving** only the sound of a busy tone in her ear.

Celine was speechless. She stood there, phone in hand, feeling utterly dumbfounded. She had just asked **Adam**

if he wanted her "repayment", and he had hung up

onber.

Her delicate, flawless face instantly turned crimson, flaring with both embarrassment and indignation. He didn't want it.

Fine. If he didn't want it, so be it. There was no need to act so smug about it. This was utterly humiliating-

Her thoughts were interrupted by a sudden commotion as **a** figure emerged ahead. Tracy had arrived.

A group of students surrounded Tracy, their faces filled with admiration. "**Tracy**, please sign an autograph **for** me!TM

"Tray, we want to be **as** amazing as you someday!"

Hailey leaned in and whispered, "Celine, since Elijah took you away yesterday, you probably missed what **happened** during the lecture

"Dr. C was burnt. As the crowd grew restless, Tracy, Dr.Cs **assistant**, stepped up to the podium and delivered the lecture instead. She did an excellent job, and **by** the end, the applause was overwhelming. Tracy became an instant sensation

"That's not all. I heard one of Tracy's academic thres was selected by the Museum of **Medical** Sciences. It's going to be officially displayed in their exhibit window tomorrow. That's a leage **honor**. right now, Tracy's riding the wave of tarne."

Celine glanced at Tracy. No wonder she seemed so radiant, her pride practically overflowing

In the absence of the lion, the fox seemed to have eagerly claimed the throne.