

The Divorce Prescription Chapter 301

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Hailey froze as Ewan grabbed her arm. “What do you mean by that?”

Ewan looked at Declan before turning back to Hailey. What’s your relationship with him?

Hailey laughed bitterly and yanked her arm free. “Ewan, we already called off the engagement. What right do you have to question me? Don’t forget, your girlfriend now is Melody!”

Melody had just caught up. Hailey was chasing after Declan, and Ewan was after her. This was the first time he had done something like this. Melody’s eyes filled with disbelief as she looked at Ewan, but he didn’t spare a glance at her.

His focus remained on Hailey while his expression was twisted with anger. “Don’t change the subject. I’m asking you about when you and Declan got together. Wore you cheating on me?”

Cheating?

Ewan had flirted with Melody and tore her heart into pieces. **That** night, **she** had fled in despair, only to encounter a nightmare in the pouring rain. If not for Declan, she might not even be alive now.

“Ewan, I don’t owe you any explanation. And let me make this clear. I don’t like you anymore!” Hailey said icily.

“Then who do you like? Him?” Ewan’s eyes burned with fury as they landed on Declan.

Hailey wanted to say something, but Declan turned on **his** heel and started walking **away**

“Declan, wait!” Hailey called out, wanting to follow him.

However, Ewan stepped in front of Declan, blocking his path. “Who said you could leave?”

Declan stopped. He had stayed silent the entire time, exuding a bearing of indifference as though the situation had nothing to do with him. Now, he **raised** his eyes, meeting Ewan’s glare with icy detachment. “Move!” Ewan said coldly

Ewan clenched his fist tightly. As the son of the Shaw family, nobody dared to talk to him like that.

He despised Declan.

Declan was nothing but a dark horse who had stolen the spotlight during the college entrance exams. While Ewan was at the top of his class, had a private team of top tutors, and was expected to be the district's top scorer, Declan emerged as the surprise champion

He even heard that Declan had spent the day before the exam working on a construction site. How could someone from such a humble background outshine him?

"Declan, you think you're so great? How about we settle this with a basketball match? Or are you too scared to face me?"

Ewan had challenged Declan to a basketball match. The students were losing their minds and began to chatter excitedly.

"Wow, the two biggest heartthrobs of Yorhinn University are about to have a showdown!"

"All because of Hailey? They're going to fight over her!"

"Don't forget, today's supposed to be about **Melody!**"

"Honestly, though. Hailey's way prettier than Melody now that her birthmark is gone.

Melody hadn't anticipated the situation spiraling like this. Ewan **was** challenging Declan over Hailey?

Her gaze drifted to Hailey's delicate, heart-shaped face, her flawless skin glowing. Her nails dug into her palms as jealousy coursed through her.

How could the ugly duckling transform into someone so breathtaking?

She grabbed Ewan's arm. "Ewan, stop it. Let's go. I'm not feeling well.

Ewan shook her off without a glance. His eyes stayed locked on Declan: "What's the matter, Declan? Afraid **you'd** lose?"

Declan was confident in his basketball skills, certain he would crush Ewan in front of Hailey. However, he didn't even flinch. "I don't have time for **your** games. Go play with someone else," he said flatly and walked away.

Ewan stood there, stunned into silence. How could Declan ignore him just like that?

"Ewan, who do you think you are, demanding a match whenever you feel like it?" Halley snapped. "Declan, I'm sorry for dragging you into this, Please, wait for me!" she said and hurried after Declan.

Furlous, Ewan grabbed a basketball from the side and hurled it with all his strength at Declan's back.

“Declan, look out!” Hailey shouted in alarm.

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The basketball soared toward Declan, speeding through the air. It seemed certain to hit his back. However, just before it did, Declan reached out and caught the ball effortlessly in his hand.

Turning to face the provocation from Ewan, Declan took off, charging straight toward the basketball hoop. He was accepting the **challenge!**

The heartthrobs of Yorhine University were in a basketball match. The crowd went silent as they held their breath.

Ewan immediately blocked Declan’s path, trying to snatch the ball away from him. However, with a quick feint, Declan skillfully dodged Ewan’s attempt. Ewan lunged again, but this time, Declan jumped. He held the ball close to his chest while his black T-**shirt** rode up slightly, revealing his lean waist and toned abs. With a sharp movement, he dunked the ball into the hoop with one hand.

It was swift and clean. Just like that, he had beaten Ewan.

Wow!

The girls in the crowd couldn’t contain themselves.

“Declan is so hot.”

“Ewan’s been the captain of the basketball team, but it seems like he was only leading because Declan never played.”

“Declan is literally on fire!”

Declan landed smoothly, his chest rising and falling as he caught his breath from the exertion. He grabbed his black jacket from the floor and started walking away without a second glance.

Hailey stood rooted to the spot, watching his retreating figure. He was so powerful. Whether in a fight or on the court, there **was** strength in every movement. She couldn’t help but feel a little awestruck. She was afraid but at the same time, she couldn’t look away.

Like the other female students, it was her first time seeing Declan play basketball. Her heart raced with excitement, thumping in her chest. “Declan, wait for me!” Hailey called out as she hurried after him.

Ewan remained frozen where he stood, still in shock. He hadn't expected to be beaten by Declan. The moves he pulled just now had left him feeling powerless, as though he was facing a true adversary. He had been thoroughly outplayed.

"Ewan, it's just one game. It doesn't mean anything. Don't overthink it," Melody **said** softly, trying to comfort him.

Ewan's face had darkened. Without a word, he pushed Melody to the side and stormed off. Melody stumbled back from the force of his push, barely keeping her balance as she almost fell.

Just then, a clear voice rang out. "Melody, are you alright?"

Melody looked up, and there was Celine, watching her with an amused expression. Not just Celine. Many other students were now looking at her, whispering and pointing.

She had gone from the center of attention to just another side character in Hailey's drama. What was supposed to be a grand public confession had turned into a joke.

Melody had always been the queen bee at Yorhine University, but this was the first time she had faced such public humiliation. Her **eyes** welled up with frustration, and she couldn't hold it any longer. She ran off, her eyes red

"Melody!" Carly called after her.

What had happened? How had everything turned out this way?

Carly glared at Celine, her anger boiling over. "Celine, this is all your fault. Why do you always have to go against me?"

She raised her hand to slap Celine, but before she could make contact, a large, strong hand shot out and grabbed her wrist.

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Carly looked up, and a handsome, distinguished face filled her vision. Adam had arrived!

She froze. What was he doing here? "A. Adam, why are you here?"

Adam looked at Carly with a cold, impassive gaze without saying a word.

Celnege slyalle "Carly, I called Mr. Alvarez here."

What? Carly was stunned. She never expected that Celine would call Adam in advance.

Celine stepped up to Carly, her clear eyes shining with a subtle, almost mocking smile. “You and Melody planned a big show today, so of course, I had to bring Mr. Alvarez to watch! You knew Ewan was Halley’s fiancé, yet you encouraged Melody to seduce him and hurt Hailey.

“Not only that, but today, Ewan publicly confessed to Haley. And you had the audacity to twist the truth, trying to make everyone believe that Hailey isn’t good enough for Ewan, calling her ugly.

“Carly, you and Melody are both malicious and deceitful. It would be a shame if Mr. Alvarez didn’t see this for himself!” Celine’s words were firm, like sharp knives curing into Carly’s face, leaving her pale and speechless.

Carly hadn’t expected Celine to have this ace up her sleeve. It was clear that Adam had been watching everything from the start. Hailey was, after all, his beloved cousin, his Albe

Carly panicked and looked at Adam. “It’s not what you think it is. Adam, please let me explain.”

Adam’s gaze was as cold and deep as a troon lake. He roughly flung Carly’s wrist away, causing her to take a step back, clearly startled.

At that moment, Celine’s sharp and clear eyes fell on Adam’s handsome face. “Mr. Alvarez” Adammed his gaze to Coline.

Celine met it without hesitation, her words deliberate and icy, “Mr. Alvarez, please keep your woman in check. If she ever crosses me again, and don’t take care of it, I’ll be happy to teach her a lesson myself.”

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With that, she turned and walked away, deliberately brushing past him as her shoulder made contact with his. The move was a warning, a challenge. Adam stood tall and still, his long legs planted firmly in place, but he couldn’t help but chuckde at the provocation

Once Celine was gone, Carly immediately grabbed his slave “Adam, please let me explain”

“What’s left to explain? I saw everything!” Adam’s eyes were full of disappointment as he glared at Carly.

pus get married? Is this your definition of being

“You knew Halley was Allie, yet you and Melody still went ahead with It Is this how you intended to help friends with All-?”

He had spent so many days with Carly and even considered marrying her. He wanted her to befriend Hailey, but Carly had let him down.

His harsh words made Carly panic. "I do want to be friends with Allie, but you saw what happened. She kicked me out of the Lambert residence, She doesn't like me. She only acknowledges Celine as her cousin-in-law."

"So, this is your excuse for hurting others?" Adam responded coldly.

Carly froze. "1..."

Adam curled his lips into a thin, mocking smile. "Carly, you've changed. I barely know you anymore." With that, he turned on his heel and walked away. Carly stayed rooted to the spot. She hadn't changed, she was always like t

this!

He had always believed she was the girl from the cave all those years ago. He had always thought she was Celine! However, she wasn't.

Carly gritted her teeth. That damned Celine! Today, Celine had played her. She had turned the tables and called Adam to deliver the fatal blow.

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Carly had always been dismissive of Celine, but now she was starting to realize just how clever Celine was. She needed to come up with a plan to deal with her. Picking up her phone, she made a call to Sonia.

Celine returned to the dormitory, and Hailey was already there. "Hailey, did you manage to catch up with Declan?"

Hailey sighed. "Nope. He completely ignored me."

Celine smirked. "Looks like Declan isn't that easy to win over."

"Celine! Who said I was trying to chase him? You're just teasing me now!" Hailey's face turned red.

Celine chuckled but decided to drop the subject.

Suddenly, Hailey grabbed Celine's arm. "Celine, tell me the truth. How did the birthmark on my face disappear? I've been thinking about it. Yesterday, you gave me a really bitter pill to eat. Don't lie to me. It has to be because of that pill, right?"

Celine opened her mouth to say something when a **knock** sounded at the door. Who could that be?

Hailey quickly went to open the door, revealing a tall, elegant figure standing there. It was Adarn.

“Mr. Alvarez, what are you doing here? I haven’t had the chance to find you yet. You’d better be careful of Carly. That girl is **vicious** and scheming! If it weren’t for Celine, she would’ve ruined me!” Halley said indignantly.

Adam looked at Halley’s small, delicate lace. The birthmark was gone. Without it, Halley looked as soft and radiant as a luminous pearl. This was his

cousin

He had been in the **car** yesterday when he saw Celine casually swipe her hand across Hailey’s face, erasing the **mark**. No one **was** more stunned than he

was

James hadn’t returned yet, but when he did, the entire Lambert family would be in for a shock. For years, the Lamberts had spared no effort in trying to find a way to remove the birthmark, but nothing had ever worked. Yet now, it was completely gone.

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Adam pressed his lips into a thin line **and** asked, “How did yo

d your birthmark disappear?”

Celine wanted to stop Halley from speaking, but she blurted out, “It’s **because** Celine gave me this really bitter pill to eat.”

Celine was speechless. She silently cursed herself for not preparing a consistent story with Hailey beforehand.

The next second, she saw Adam lift his eyes. Those sharp, hawk-like eyes were locked onto her. His gaze was calm yet piercing, as if peeling back layers to see straight through her.

“Hailey, could you step outside for a minute?” he asked in a low voice.

Hailey nodded. “Okay.”

Once Hailey left, Adam stepped into the dorm room and closed the door behind him. His **steady** strides carried him closer to Celine, **and with** his Imposing presence, it felt as if the entire room was now cloaked in his shadow.

“Where did you get that pill?”

Celine tilted her face up to meet his gaze. “I’m not telling **you.**”

Adam was taken aback.

It was clear Celine didn’t want to talk to him. Without another word, she turned on her heel and was ready to leave. However, before she could take a step forward, Adam grabbed her arm, stopping her in her tracks.

Forced to a halt, Celine frowned and started to struggle. “Mr. Alvarez, let go of me! Show so the

respect, or I won’t go easy on you!”

Her warning had barely left her lips when Adam suddenly tightened his grip and pulled her directly into his chest.

Celine looked up only to see the faintest hint of amusement on his face. He let out a low, mocking chuckle as he gazed down at her. “You talk a big game. First, you say you’ll teach my woman a **lesson** Now, you’re threatening me? Celine, you really think you’re something, don’t you?”

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After their divorce, she always acted fierce and fiery before him, **like** a little kitten **baring** its **claws**. She **had** scratched his heart. It wasn’t painful but

Now that Celine was in his chest, she was instantly surrounded by his clean, refreshing masculine scent. Struggling harder, she yelled, “Let go of me!”

Adam simply gave her a shove, sending her sprawling onto the bed. Her slender back pressed into the soft mattress. Just as she tried to sit up, his presence loomed over her **again**.

He was already on one knee, propped on her bed, his hands bracketing her sides. His expression carried an amused smirk as he looked down at her. “So, Celine, just how impressive are you?”

He was clearly mocking her. Anger flushed her delicate face a rosy hue as she glared **at** him. “Being impressive isn’t something you **say**

, it’s something you show. And soon, you’ll see how capable I am!”

Her fiery defiance only piqued his interest further. His fingers reached out, pinching her delicate chin. “Celine, who are you really?”

He was growing suspicious. There **was** something about her, like layers of secrets that he couldn’t unravel

His grip on her chin hurt, and she shoved his hand and snapped back, “I’m someone you’ll never have!”

The light in Adam’s eyes darkened, his sharp brows arching slightly. “Weren’t you mine once?”

Celine glared at him. That won’t happen again.”

The **tension** between them shifted, charged with unspoken intimacy. His thoughts wandered, unbidden, to the last time they were on this very bed where they had slept together.

The night before their divorce, the sound of footsteps echoed through the dormitory corridors. She had sat on him while biting her lip, her flushed face glowing with embarrassment. She had been so nervous, so unbearably sensitive.

The memory hit him hard. Now, with her lying beneath him again, Adam felt a tightening in his throat. Quickly, he released her **and** stood up,

The sheets were different now. They were no longer the pink **heart** pattern from that night, replaced instead with a floral design.

Celine sat up. “Mr. Alvarez, you should leave. No matter what it is, I won’t tell you’

Adam looked at her for a moment before turning and walking out of the dorm room.

As he left, Celine’s phone chimed. A message from Samuel appeared in their group chat, tagging both her and Adam. “Pinnacle of Academic Symposium

is happening tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing our senior and junior duo debut together. Congratulations!”

Celine stared at the direction Adam had gone. She wouldn’t say anything because they would be seeing each other again soon enough,

Just then, her phone buzzed. It was a call from Sonia. Whenever she called, it **was** never for anything good. Sure enough, Celine could guess what this was about. Carly must have gone crying to her after things hadn’t gone her way.

Celine answered the call. Sonia's tone was harsh and commanding. "Celine, come back to Tate Manor tonight"

Celine's lips curved into a smile, "Of course. I'll be there on time."

Later that evening, Celine arrived at Tate Manor. The house was bustling. Even the extended family members were present.

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It seemed like tonight was yet another trap laid for her.

Sonia looked at Celine. "Celine, you're here. Come, I want to introduce you to someone. This is Simon Wilde,"

Sonia brought Simon out. Celine glances at him briefly,

Simon had a simple, honest look, with a pair of glasses perched on his nose. At least he appeared neat.

"Simon is a teacher at a high school in the countryside. He's got a stable job, I brought him here to meet you. Once you two get married, you can move to the countryside and live with him," Sonia **said**.

She finally understood Sonia's intentions that night. It was an arranged matchmaking session, one meant to send her packing off to the countryside.

Simon gave her a shy smile, clearly not expecting someone as beautiful as her. "Ms. Celine, it's nice to meet you."

A burst of laughter suddenly rang out. "Grandma, what are you all talking about?"

Celine looked up to see **Carly**. She didn't come alone. Adam was there too, and her arm was hooked around his.

Sonia's expression lit up instantly. "Mr. Alvarez, Carly, you're just in time. We were introducing Celine to her date. This is Simon." As she spoke, she nudged Simon forward, pushing him to stand closer to Celine.

Tracy had been in a good mood lately. She was brimming with arrogance and smirked as she chimed in, "Celine, Simon is a high school teacher with government-backed position and a college degree. He's cultured and educated!"

"Now, look at yourself. You dropped out of school at 16 with no degree and no job. He's way out of your league. Grandma has been working hard to arrange your marriage."

Lucy was there too. She smiled and said, “Celine, I think **Simon** is a great match. You should agree to this marriage. Opportunities like this don’t come often.”

Carly smiled **as** she glanced up at Adam. “Adam, don’t **you think** Celine and Simon make a great pair?”

Adam’s gaze landed squarely on Celine. The contrast couldn’t have been starker, Simon stood there with his modest and plain appearance, while Celine looked like a vibrant, delicate flower. Something about this sight made his lips press into a thin line.

Sonia turned to Simon. “Mr. Wilde, what do you think of Celine??”

Simon, like most men, couldn’t help but be captivated by Celine’s beauty. He considered himself a practical man who valued character **over** looks when choosing a wife, but at this moment, her elegance left him awestruck. Even if Celine had no degree and no job, he didn’t care.

Simon looked at Celine and said earnestly, “I think Ms. Celine is wonderful I be in Mercity for two more days. I was lucky enough to receive an invitation to the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium this year.

“Ms. Celine, could we spend some time together and get to know each other? I’d love to take you to the forum.

At the mention of the forum, Tracy’s eyes sparkled with excitement. She turned to Adam and **asked** eagerly. “Mr. Alvarez, is it true? They’re saying the Haffard genius girl will be presenting alongside **you** this year?”

Lately, nothing had been more talked about in Mercity than this so-called Hallard genius girl. Even Sonia, who rarely left the house, had heard of her. Lucy and Hazel had also overheard the city’s prestigious women mentioning her in passing. The genius girl was a **sensation**.

Though Carly and Tracy were both considered exceptional women, even their accomplishments seemed to pale in comparison to this genius girl. In the face of such intellectual prowess and extraordinary achievements, the Tate family’s daughters were utterly overshadowed.

Sonia exclaimed, “I heard the Hallard genius girl was just like you, Mr. Alvarez. She skipped grades and earned two master’s degrees by the age of 16! She PVITI set a second record.”

Lucy could hardly believe it. “Is there really a girl this Impressive? Someone who can rival Mr. Alvarez?”

Hazel scoffed, “I’ve already secured invitations for our whole family to attend the forum. We can go there together in two days. I’m dying to see what this genius girl looks like. Who knows, maybe she looks extraordinary too!”

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Sonia and the extended family members had already secured their invitations to the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium. They were all eager to witness this genius girl for themselves. They couldn’t imagine what kind of person she was or what made her so extraordinary.

Carly, still clinging to **Adam’s** arm, couldn’t stop the surge of jealousy that consumed her whenever the genius girl was mentioned.

couldn’t stop

She had become the talk of Mercy, stealing all the attention. Everyone was buzzing about her upcoming debut alongside Adam.

Carly was determined to see for herself at the forum in two days.

Meanwhile, Celine stood quietly on the side, her clear and bright eyes scanning the room. She observed the people around her with an expression that was half amused, half indifferent. The entire situation struck her as absurd, and a faint smile ruffled at her lips.

However, just as quickly as her smile appeared, she felt a piercing gaze on her. Looking up, she met Adam’s cold, sharp eyes. He had been watching her all along. Flustered, she immediately looked away.

Lucy brought the topic back on track. “Celine, Mr. Wilde has made his feelings clear. You should go on a few dates with him in the next couple of days and get to know each other. If all goes well, we can finalize the wedding arrangements soon.”

Celine turned her gaze to Lucy, her so-called mother, who seemed desperate to marry her off. It was as though she couldn’t wait to pair her with Simon and send them off to clear the path for Carly.

Looking at Simon, Celine **said**

, “Mr. Wilde, I’m sorry. But there’s no chance of anything happening between us. You don’t need to waste your time on me.

Her words hung in the air, leaving everyone stunned.

Sonia was the first to speak with a voice of disapproval. “Celine, are you out of your mind? How dare you reject Mr. Wilde?”

Tracy chimed in. “Celine, Mr. Wilde is offering to take you to the forum. Do you think you can get in on your own?”

“Celine, Mr. Wilde doesn’t mind that you have no degree or job, yet **you** still think you’re too good for him?” Lucy chastised.

Even Carly thought Celine was ungrateful. Simon was a decent match. He was a college graduate with a teaching job. If not for Celine’s good looks, someone like Simon wouldn’t even look at her twice.

As the room filled with accusations, Celine could sense the **genuine** disdain in their voices. They truly believed she was lucky to **have** someone like **Simon** take an interest in her.

A faint smile played on her lips as she **responded**, “**Thank** you all for your concern. But... I already have a

boyfriend!” Her declaration stunned the room into silence.

“Celine, since when did **you** have a boyfriend?”

“Celine, who’s your boyfriend?”

Carly couldn’t stay still. She didn’t know what p games Celine was playing and said mockingly, “Celine, I know you’re aiming high. You don’t want to marry a teacher. You want to marry someone rich, right?”

Turning to Adam, she added with a sly smile, “Adam, you’re surrounded by CEOs and wealthy businessmen. Why don’t you introduce one of them to

Adam’s gaze remained fixed on Celine. They hadn’t been divorced for long. Did she really have a new boyfriend already?

Celine met Carly’s mocking gaze, then turned her attention to Adam’s distinguished face. She still remembered his offer at the roadside inn to introduce her to someone rich. “There’s no need to trouble Mr. Alvarez. My boyfriend **is** already very wealthy!”

Wealthy?

Tracy was the first to laugh. “Celine, what kind of wealthy man would be interested in you? Don’t tell me it’s some old, ugly sugar daddy!”

Celine clasped her hands behind her back and fluttered her eyelashes playfully. “My boyfriend is not only rich, but he’s also incredibly handsome. The kind who turns heads whenever he goes.”

Her gaze flicked to Adam before continuing “He’s even as impressive as Mr. Alvarez

The way her eyes glimmered, as though she truly had someone extraordinary in her life, made **Adam’s** expression darkened.

The Tate family erupted into laughter, none of them believed her. Sonia said, “Celine, stop bragging. Who would believe you have such a boyfriend?” Lucy added, “Celine, stop making a fool of yourself.”

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Celine arched an elegant brow, her thoughts drifting to a message on her phone. It was from Perry. “Celine, I’ll be arriving in Mercity in two days.” Perry was coming to town. So, she hadn’t been lying.

“I’ve got something to do. I’ll excuse myself.” Celine turned on her heel and walked away.

The room emptied **as** soon as she left. “That Celine is such a compulsive liar! Making up a rich, handsome boyfriend just to save her pride?”

“She should look in the mirror. Rich men aren’t fools. **Why** would anyone like her?”

Carly clung to Adam’s arm, sneering, “Adam, it looks like divorcing Celine really hit her hard. Now, she’s dreaming of finding someone as rich as you.” Adam’s deep eyes remained fixed on the doorway where Carly had disappeared with an unreadable expression on his face.

Celine left Tate Manor and decided to head back to the dormitory. She stood on the side of the road, trying to hail a cab. The area was quiet, and cabs were scarce. She waited for what felt like **ages**

with no luck.

Then, a honk broke the silence. Celine turned her head to see a sleek Rolls-Royce Phantom pulled up beside her, its polished exterior gleaming under the streetlights. It was Adam’s car.

The luxurious vehicle rolled to a stop, and the driver’s window slid down, revealing Adam’s refined, aristocratic features. His dark eyes locked onto hers. “Hailing a **cab**?”

“Yes, Mr. Alvarez,” Celine replied.

“This isn’t a good spot to **catch one**. Get in. I’ll give you a ride.” Adam offered.

He wanted to give her a ride?

Celine hesitated. She didn’t particularly want to get in his car, but it was late, and who knew when she would manage to flag down a cab?

After weighing her options, she decided to swallow her pride. “Thank you, Mr. Alvarez.”

She moved to the rear of the car and reached for the backseat door handle when, with a soft beep, the central lock engaged. The doors clicked shut. Startled, Celine froze and looked at Adam

Inside the car, Adam rested one hand lazily on the steering wheel. His gaze met hers with a playful glint in his eyes. “Where’s that rich, handsome boyfriend of yours? Why isn’t he driving over to pick you up?”

Celine was too stunned to speak. It dawned on her then. He had no intention of letting her in the car. He was toying with her!

A smirk tugged at the corners of Adam’s lips while his gaze locked on Celine before giving her a good look, “Bragging about yourself like that and claiming you’ve got an incredible boyfriend. What a liar. You’re really something.”

He called her a liar.

Celine’s cheeks burned with embarrassment and anger. Her small fists clenched tightly at her sides. “How dare you...!”

Before she could finish, Adam stepped on the gas. The hourly **car** roared to life, speeding off with a sleek, confident grace.

Celine stood there, fuming. That man! He was insufferable. Completely and utterly despicable!

Through the rearview mirror, Adam caught a glimpse of her. She was stomping her feet in frustration, practically shaking with fury. His lips curled into a faint smile, and a low chuckle escaped him.

“Adum, just you wait!” Celine muttered under her breath

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The long-anticipated Pinnacle of Academic Symposium finally arrived. Everyone’s attention was on it.

Celine woke up early that day and dragged Hailey along with her. “Hailey, let’s go. I’ll take you somewhere fun.

“Celine, where are we going? Everyone’s heading to the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium today. I heard that Mr. Alvarez and the genius girl are making a joint appearance.” Hailey’s eyes sparkled, ready to gossip.

Celine curved her lips into a sly smile. “That’s exactly where we’re going.”

Hailey was stunned. What?

Half an hour later, the two arrived at the venue. The event was bustling with renowned academic elites from all walks of life. The lively atmosphere was almost electrifying

From a distance, Celine spotted a few familiar faces. Melody was among them, surrounded by classmates from Yorhine University.

The public confession from Ewan a few days ago had turned her into a laughingstock, but she had quickly leveraged her father’s connections to secure an invitation to this event

With her classmates tawning over her, Melody had regained her pride. Today, she carried herself with confidence, a smug smile never leaving her face. Celine **also** noticed other members of the Tate family like Sonia, Carly, Lucy, Tracy, Hazel, and the extended family members. **It** seemed like the whole family had come. Just as they had said, they were here to witness the genius girl’s glory.

Carly was the first to spot Celine. “Celine, what are you doing here?”

Tracy’s haughty gaze fell on Celine, brinuming with disdain. “This is the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium, Celine. You dropped out of school at 16. Are you here to embarrass the Tate family?”

Sonia’s tone was cold and stem. “Celine, leave now. This event is by invitation only. Do you even have one?”

Celine’s clear eyes calmly met their judgmental pazes. She shook her head. “No. I don’t have an invitation.”

Of course, she didn’t. The Tate family wasn’t surprised in the slightest, To them, it would’ve been strange if Celine **did** have an invitation.

Lucy chimed in. “Celine, then you’d better leave before security kicks you cut in front of everyone.”

Just then, Melody approached with her classmates, a muching grin plastered on her face. “Oh, isn’t this **our** campus legend, the Goddess of **Sleep**?

Her classmates immediately joined in on the ridicule. “The Goddess of Sleep’s actually awake and attending the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium? That’s hilarious!”

Melody looped one arm through Carly’s and the other through Tracy’s, grinning smugly. “Let me introduce you all. These are the Goddess of Sleep’s sisters. But unlike her, they’re accomplished

“Tracy here is a PhD graduate from the Ivy Plus Program, and Carly graduated from the Summit Scholars Program. Meanwhile, Celine is just the Goddess of Sleep!”

Tracy and Carly had always been praised for their stellar achievements, earning them the title of the Tate family’s twin jewels.

Melody’s classmates burst out laughing. “Celine, aren’t you even a little ashamed?”

“Yeah, Celine. Go back to sleep instead of embarrassing yourself here

The mockery was relentless, but Celine wasn’t **angry**. On the contrary, she smiled brightly at them.

Halley, however, was livid. These people were going too far!

Pointing at Sonia and Lucy, she shouted, “What kind of family are you? You’re supposed to be Celine’s mother and grandmother, but you’re the one leading the charge to humiliate her! Are you even sure Celine is your real family?”

Celine was used to this treatment. She had long accepted that having a family like hers was no different from being an orphan

That sentence hit Sonia hard. Her **expression** flickered for a split second. Though Celine was indeed Aaron’s biological daughter, she had always favored **Carly**.

After all, Hayden had brought Carly back from the capital. Carly wasn’t even Hayden’s biological daughter. Her real dad held a status so lofty it couldn’t be put into words, Carly’s background was truly extraordinary.

Of course, this secret was buried deep within Sonia and Hayden’s hearts. It wasn’t something they would

ever reveal.

Sonia looked at Celine coldly and said, “Celine, don’t ever tell people I’m your grandmother, I don’t have a granddaughter like **you!**” Halley was stunned. She hadn’t expected Sonia to be so heartless, even saying something like that in public. Her fury boiled over. “What?”

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A small, soft hand pressed down on her arm, stopping her in her tracks. Celine stepped forward, her gaze steady as she looked at Sonia. “Are you saying **you** want to cut ties with me?”

Sonia replied without hesitation, her tone firm. “That’s right!”

Celine turned to look at Lucy, “And you, Mom? Do you feel the same way?”

The earlier accusation still echoed in Lucy’s mind. She had been **silently** observing Sonia, and her thoughts were crystal clear. A peculiar smirk tugged at the corner of Lucy’s lips.

When Celine’s question landed, she stepped behind Sonia, adopting a helpless expression. “Celine, you’re being unreasonable. I can only follow your grandmother’s wishes.”

Both Sonia and Lucy were ready to sever ties with her.

After her father passed away, these two were supposed to be her closest family, the people she could rely on. her own mother. Yet, time and time again, they shattered her understanding of what family was supposed to be Celine nodded. “Fine. Have it your way. From now on, I have nothing to do with the Tates.”

One was h

her grandmother. The other was

Sonia couldn’t have been more pleased. To her, a useless person like Celine was no better than garbage. She was someone to be discarded without a second thought. Especially someone who dropped out of school at 16.

Celine was nothing but a stain on the Tere family’s **name**.

Lucy and Carly exchanged knowing smiles.

Just then, a commotion rippled through the crowd. “Mr. Alvarez is here!”

Adam had arrived.

Celine lifted her gaze toward the scene unfolding ahead. The tightly packed crowd parted like waves, creating a clear path for him.

As one of the key figures of the day, Adam was **dressed** in a custom-tailored black suit. His sharp, aristocratic features were as striking as ever.

With a team of bodyguards leading the way and staff members trailing behind him like loyal subjects, he made his way forward with the poise of a king descending from his throne.

“This way, Mr. Alvarez ”

Adam’s steps were steady and unhurried.

Not far behind, another figure appeared. It was Benjamin, Mercity’s infamous little tyrant. Unlike his usual carefree style, he had gone all out that day. He even carried a large bouquet of red roses in his hands

Benjamin grinned, looking smug “Adam, my goddess is finally making her debut today. The moment she finishes her keynote speech, I’m going **on** stage to give her these roses.”

Adam’s expression remained as calm and **unreadable** as ever.

Carly stepped forward eagerly. “Adam.”

Adam stopped, turning his attention to her.

Carly smiled warmly. “Adam, look. Celine is here too.”

His gaze shifted, landing on Celine.

Benjamin interjected with a laugh. “Celine, what are you doing here? Don’t tell me you’re here to see my goddess too?”

Celine’s eyes darted **to** the bouquet in his hands. “Your goddess?”

Benjamin puffed up his chest with pride. “Of course! My goddess is Adam’s genius junior. I’m going to present her with these roses in a bit.”

Celine stared at him for a moment, her lips curling into an uncontrollable smile. Then, she let out a soft laugh.

Benjamin’s face darkened. “What’s so funny?”

Her eyes sparkled with amusement as she looked at him “Your goddess doesn’t like red roses.”