

Trapped in Love #Chapter 21 - Read Trapped in Love Chapter 21

Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Haven't You Learned Your Lesson?

+15 BONUS

Caroline's weariness was instantly evident as she retrieved her phone and saw her father's call.

Suppressing the pain in her ankle, she hurriedly left the kitchen to answer the call.

"Hello," Caroline's voice sounded dull.

"Why didn't you call me, Carol?" Bradley asked

Caroline replied, "You added my number to your blacklist because you were afraid someone would trace you through me. Did you forget?"

Bradley let out an awkward laugh. "Yes, I forgot. Never mind. Where are you now?"

"I'm working overtime," Caroline responded

Bradley commented, "Ah, working overtime is good. You can earn more. Carol, do you have any money now?"

Caroline tightened her grip on the glass in her hand. Did he care about nothing besides money? Had he forgotten so quickly that he left her alone at the casino the other day?

"I don't. I used all my money to repay your debt!" Caroline's voice turned harsh.

"Even if you have a few dollars, it's fine. Don't you have anything? Bradley grew anxious.

Bitterness welled up in her heart. “Dad, are you trying to push me to a desperate end? You never paid for Mom’s medical expenses, and I even repaid your debt. What more do you want?”

“Why are you saying that? I raised you. So what if I use some of your money?” Bradley retorted.

A brief sniff escaped her before she suppressed her emotions and explained, “I don’t have any money. Just wait until next month.”

“No!” He angrily interrupted. “I want the money now. If you don’t give it to me, you’re ungrateful!”

“Do you want to gamble again? Haven’t you learned your lesson from the other day?” Caroline trembled with anger.

“Show some respect. You’re talking to your father!” Bradley shouted. “Fine, you don’t want to give it to me? Then I’ll cause a scene at your workplace. Let’s see who will be embarrassed!”

“30 dollars!” Caroline’s voice trembled with fury. “That’s all I have right now.”

“Fine! It’s enough for me to get a meal. Transfer it to me now.”

After ending the call, Caroline weakly leaned her hand against the kitchen counter, tears streaming down her cheeks incessantly.

Why did she have such a father?

+15 BONUS

For consecutive days, Caroline hardly left her bedroom.

She was suffering from severe morning sickness and rapid weight loss due to the looming deadline for a competition draft.

Finally, she came up with an idea and completed her draft, allowing her to finally rest that day.

In the evening, she went downstairs to have dinner.

Coincidentally, Evan entered the house with determined strides.

Upon noticing her exhausted and pale appearance, his brows furrowed deeply.

Though they had only been apart for a few days, she had evidently subjected herself to such

torture.

Did she intentionally push herself to such limits in order to gain his sympathy?

Caroline averted her gaze from him indifferently and took a seat at the dining table.

As she laid eyes on the dishes, the overwhelming nausea forced her to rush towards the

washroom once again

Evan's mood darkened at the sight, wondering if she found him repulsive

Just then, Lily emerged from the kitchen with dishes in hand. Upon spotting Evan, she quickly approached him. "Mr. Jordan, you're back."

He loosened his tie. "Hasn't she been eating?"

Worry filled Lily's face. "Ms. Shenton has been burning the midnight oil lately. She has become noticeably slimmer, and her eating habits have become irregular."

"Burning the midnight oil?" Evan glanced towards the tightly shut washroom. "What has she been

working on?"

Lily gestured towards the discarded drafts on the table that she had yet to dispose of. "She has

-been sketching."

Evan casually picked up one of the discarded drafts and examined it.

'A fashion design draft? He fell into deep thought. Designing was not listed on her resume. When did she start learning it?'

While Evan was still perusing the drafts, Caroline emerged from the washroom. Her expression changed when she noticed that he was looking at her drafts, She rushed forward to snatch them

+15 BONUS

“Don’t look at those.”

Evan raised an eyebrow and shot her a sidelong glance.

Caroline quickly fabricated a lie. “I was bored, so I learned it online to pass the time. Otherwise, I would have been extremely bored since I can’t go out.”

Evan fell silent for a moment. “Accompany me to an auction tomorrow.”

Caroline was taken aback by the request. In the past, when she accompanied him to auctions, she had to drink wine on his behalf. But now that she was pregnant, she couldn’t consume alcohol. Hence, she tried declining. “I’m experiencing discomfort in my stomach, so I can’t have wine.”

Displeasure instantly marred his handsome face. “That’s not my concern.”

Lowering her gaze, Caroline inquired, “Why don’t you ask Ms. Love to accompany you?”

He sat down at the dining table and picked up a fork gracefully. ‘It’s not suitable for her to attend such events.’

A bitter laughter escaped her lips.

Auctions were often associated with social interactions, and scenes like these often had

individuals with questionable intentions. It didn’t surprise her that he wouldn’t want his beloved woman to be exposed to such people.

Unable to refuse him, she reluctantly agreed.

It was the sad truth, that in his eyes, she was insignificant.

On Saturday afternoon, Evan arranged for a stylist to assist Caroline in getting ready.

Caroline possessed delicate facial features and exuded a classical charm.

With just a touch of makeup from the artist, her allure surpassed that of others.

Her gown was a black, shoulder-baring dress with a high slit, lending a mysterious aura to her already charming and flawless figure.

Once she had changed her attire, she approached Evan

However, his eyes darkened upon a single glance. "Put on a different dress."

Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Who Are You Trying to Seduce?

Who did she intend to reveal her cleavage to? Evan thought sourly.

Caroline was left speechless by Evan's remark.

She had always worn such gowns in the past, so why was he prohibiting it now?

Unwilling to argue, she changed into a white long gown with a deep back V, hoping it would meet his approval.

However, Evan's expression grew even more somber when he saw it.

The most alluring feature of her body was her back, slim and upright with two captivating shoulder blades that never failed to awaken his most primal desires in the bedroom.

Those should be reserved for his eyes only. However, now, she wanted to display them to the world Who was she trying to seduce?

With a somber face, Evan walked toward a row of dresses.

After examining two options, he selected a conservative, pink, long dress that perfectly

complemented her temperament. novelbin

Once she changed into the chosen dress, none of her alluring body parts were exposed. Satisfied,

he accompanied her as they left and got into the car. Once inside, he handed her a shoe box.

Caroline looked at him in shock. "Is this for me?"

Evan glanced at her. "If not for you, then for whom? Reuben, perhaps?"

Reuben, who was driving, remained speechless.

Caroline accepted the shoe box and opened it, revealing a pair of round-toe silver shoes with low

heels.

Instinctively, she glanced at her still-healing ankle and felt a warmth spread through her.

Who knew he had remembered her leg injury.

At the Grand Sunny Hotel, as Evan and Caroline entered the hall, several people approached Evan.

"Mr. Jordan, how are you?"

"Mr. Jordan, I see you're interested in today's auction as well!"

With more people surrounding them, Caroline instinctively took a step back.

14

+15 BONUS

Though she was accustomed to such situations, things were different now. She was concerned.

about someone accidentally bumping into her belly.

Releasing her grip on Evan's arm, she said, "I need to use the restroom."

Evan nodded, and she walked away.

“Is that Caroline Shenton?”

A group of young women gathered and began gossiping while observing Caroline’s departure.

“Yes, that’s her. I’ve heard she’s quite well–off. She became the principal secretary shortly after joining MK.”

“Well, officially she’s a secretary, but let’s be real, she’s just a mistress!”

“Yulia, you’ve had a crush on Evan for ages. Why don’t you go and confront that woman?”

After a few comments, the attention shifted to Yuliana Xander, who was sitting among them.

Envy filled Yuliana’s face as she stared at Caroline’s retreating figure.

She had witnessed it herself just moments ago.

Caroline was holding onto Evan’s arm as they entered the hall. Did she consider herself that

important?

Yuliana picked up a glass of wine from the table and stood up. “Let’s go and confront that

shameless woman!” 1

The three ladies grew excited and followed Yuliana towards the restroom.

On the other hand, Caroline didn’t really need to use the restroom; she simply desired a quiet and

secluded spot to sit.

However, the moment she stepped out, she collided with a woman who unexpectedly appeared

from a corner.

Instinctively, she shielded her belly and looked at the woman before her in shock. The woman's gown was mostly stained with red wine.

The woman still held a glass of wine in her hand.

The ladies next to her shrieked in surprise.

Caroline was prepared to apologize, but the woman's face contorted with anger as she lashed out, "Are you f*cking blind?"

Attempting to apologize, Caroline began, "I'm sorry..."

+15 BONUS

Before she could finish speaking, one of the ladies suddenly screamed, secretary who who's Evan's mistress."

Ulia, she's Caroline. The

Watching their poor acting skills, Caroline gradually composed herself. They had deliberately

sought her out.

Feeling a surge of anger, Yuliana smashed her glass on the floor. "Pay for my dress!"

Caroline gazed at her coldly. "Fine..."

"What's that? Can you afford it?"

"Perhaps she can. After all, she has Mr. Jordan on her side."

"How disgusting! Yuliana, why don't we tear off her dress since your dress is ruined? That way,

she won't dare to partake in the auction."

"Absolutely! She's probably here to make Evan buy her things anyway. We can't let her get away

with it!" 1

Coldly staring at those individuals who were throwing baseless accusations, Caroline asked, ”

Since you all know that I’m with Mr. Jordan, wouldn’t humiliating me cause humiliation to him as

well?”

Hearing this, Yuliana’s face reddened. “Shut up! You have no right to mention him. I see you’re itching to be taught a lesson!”

As she raised her hand to slap Caroline, she suddenly heard a rebuke.

“Yulia, stop!”

Instantly, Yuliana’s expression changed. Before she could retract her hand, a man arrived and

stood in front of her, his handsome face filled with seriousness.

“Why were you bullying her?”

Deep indignation and reluctance swirled within Yuliana’s heart. “Neil, she’s Caroline! The one who

seduced Evan.”

“Yulia, why would you say such vulgar things?”

After reprimanding Yuliana, he turned his attention to Caroline. However, as he glanced at her, his

shocked gaze became fixed on her face.

The woman before him bore a striking resemblance to his late mother.

Caroline, perplexed by his gaze, looked back at him. Suppressing his emotions, he spoke politely, Ms. Shenton, I apologize for my cousin’s rudeness.”

+15 BONUS

He then retrieved a business card from his pocket and handed it to her. "This is my business card. If you ever need assistance in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out. Consider it my apology.

Caroline examined the business card in her hand.

Neil Xander. He belonged to the Xander family, one of the five aristocratic families in Angelbay

City.

Both the Xander and Jordan families were close friends and business partners. The patriarchs of

the two families had shared a strong friendship as well.

Caroline had heard about Neil during her years of working for Evan, but they had never met.

Unexpectedly, he was so friendly.

Chapter 23

Chapter 23 They Look So Similar

Caroline kept his business card and graciously replied, "Mr. Xander, thank you for your assistance.

I'll take my leave now."

Neil couldn't tear his gaze away from Caroline until she had left.

They... they just look too alike..." He couldn't help thinking to himself

"Neil!" Yuliana's voice suddenly interrupted his thoughts.

Noticing that he was still fixated on Caroline's departure, Yuliana quickly grew dissatisfied. "Neil, why are you still staring at that vixen?"

Neil furrowed his brow upon hearing her use such vulgar words. "Seriously, can't you behave like

a noble young lady?"

“Do you have feelings for that woman? Why are you defending her?” Yuliana refuted..

Caroline quickly returned to Evan’s side to avoid further unnecessary trouble.

When she took her seat beside him, he looked at her pale face with suspicion.

“Are you feeling

unwell?”

Caroline made an excuse. “I just feel a bit suffocated.”

Hearing that, Evan glanced away and said, “Let me know if you find something you like later.”

However, she had no interest in the extravagant items, so she simply remained silent.

A few minutes later, the host took the stage to announce the start of the auction for the evening.

As the first item was presented on stage, Evan’s phone vibrated. He retrieved it and saw that it was

a call from Daniella. He quickly answered it.

“Evan, where are you? Please, save me. Save me now!”

Daniella’s terrified voice echoed from the other end of the phone, audible even to Caroline, who

was sitting beside him.

Frowning, Evan asked with a somber expression, “What’s the matter? What’s happened?”

“Someone is stalking me, Evan. I’m really scared...”

Evan jolted up from his seat. “Send me your location. Don’t hang up. I’ll be there immediately!”

Then, he turned to Caroline and ordered, “Let’s go!”

1/2

Caroline was left speechless.

Why did she have to accompany them in their lovey–dovey act?

+15 BONUS

As Evan made his way to Daniella’s location, Daniella’s panicked sobs permeated the air through.

his phone’s speaker. The atmosphere in the car grew increasingly stifling, casting a gloomy and

frustrated mood over everyone present.

Caroline tilted her head and caught a glimpse of the deep worry etched on Evan’s face. A sharp

pang of heartache surged through her, prompting her to close her eyes and lean against the car

window for a moment of respite.

After more than ten minutes, the car came to a stop at the mouth of an alley. Caroline opened her

eyes and saw Daniella squatting on the ground outside the car, trembling uncontrollably. Evan

stepped out of the car and approached her with determined strides.

Seeing him, Daniella threw herself into his arms and wept inconsolably.

“Evan, I was so scared. I

thought I would never see you again.” 1

His body stiffened, but he still reached out to touch the crown of her head, offering comfort.

You’re safe now. I’m here.”

Meanwhile, Reuben glanced at Caroline through the rearview mirror and let out a soft sigh. After

contemplating for a moment, he decided to speak up. “Ms. Shenton, would you like something to

drink?”

“No, thank you,” Caroline replied, her gaze fixed on the two figures embracing outside the car. Her

voice betrayed no trace of emotion.

Reuben was momentarily speechless. ‘Providing comfort is such a difficult task...’

Soon, Evan held Daniella’s hand and led her into the alley. Caroline quietly averted her gaze,

lowering her head as the sight of them disappeared from view. Bitterness washed over her as she

placed her hand on her flat belly. Should she tell Evan about her pregnancy?

After half an hour, Evan instructed Reuben to escort Caroline home in a cab, while leaving the car

behind.

As Caroline and Reuben made their way back to Villa Rosa in the cab, Caroline observed the night view whizzing past them and spoke up gently, “Reuben, can you do me a favor?”

After a brief silence, he inquired, “What do you need?”

Caroline responded, “I’d like to spend some time with my mom at the hospital.”

+15 BONUS

Knowing that it had been a while since her last visit, Reuben couldn’t bring himself to refuse. He asked the driver to stop the cab at the hospital entrance.

It was a cold December night. Apart from her gown, Caroline had only a fur shawl to keep her

warm. Clutching the shawl tightly against her chest, she sniffed from the cold as she made her

way to the ward

The night was still young, and Katie was awake when Caroline arrived. With a smile on her face,

Caroline entered the ward as she held the hem of her gown. "Hi, Mom."

Katie was taken aback to see Caroline arrive at such a late hour dressed in that manner. She

immediately exclaimed, "Come here Carol, have a seat. Why did you come dressed like that? Are

you cold? Have you eaten dinner?"

Bitterness overwhelmed Caroline as she heard her mother's concern. She simply rested her head on

Katie's legs and concealed her red eyes. "I'm not cold, and I've already eaten. Sorry for not

seeing you as much recently. I've been busy lately."

Katie lovingly caressed Caroline's long hair. "If you're tired, you should take a break and rest."

However, Caroline shook her head. "I'm not tired." She was simply mentally exhausted. Falling in

love with a man who loved another woman took its toll on her. She had hoped she could forget

about him, but witnessing Evan tightly embrace Daniella filled her with heart-wrenching grief.

"Katie!" 1

Caroline thought she could quietly lie beside her mother for a while. However, to her surprise, she

heard her father's roar.

Chapter 24

Chapter 24 He's Beyond Reason

+15 BONUS

Caroline looked up and spotted Bradley stumbling into the ward. His face was flushed from

alcohol.

Upon seeing Caroline, Bradley immediately wore a wide smile 'Carol, there you are!'

However, Katie glared at him fiercely and spoke with anger, "What are you doing here? Leave!"

Caroline quickly stood up and tried to calm her mother. "Mom, please calm down. You shouldn't

get upset after your surgery,"

Bradley pouted. "I'll leave if you give me some money." novelbin

Caroline looked at her father in disbelief. "Dad! Mom is still recovering. She can't give you any

money!"

He glared at Caroline. "Your mom used your money to rest comfortably in the hospital. But what about me? We don't even have a home now, I've been sleeping on the streets. Do you even

understand what situation I'm in right now?"

Realizing he had misspoken, he abruptly fell silent. However, both Caroline and Katie had heard

his words.

Pale-faced, Katie pointed at Bradley. “What did you say? What happened to our house? What did you do with it?”

Bradley seemed ready to confront everything. I used it to pay off my debts.”

Katie exclaimed, “How could you do something so despicable!”

He retorted, “It’s not your money!”

Caroline felt numb as she watched them argue. Her mind went blank.

Three years... She had been shouldering her father’s debt for three years.

All she wanted was to ensure that her mother would have a place to live in the future, but now it

was all gone.

Her body began to tremble uncontrollably.

“Why?” she whispered.

Amidst their argument, Bradley looked at her in frustration. “What?”

“Why do you always neglect Mom and me? You only care about yourself,” she questioned.

He replied, “If I didn’t care, why would I sell the house? I just wanted to repay the debt.”

1/3

+15 BONUS

“Repay the debt...” Caroline laughed bitterly. “Haven’t I helped you repay your debts? Have you ever kept track of how much I’ve been paying for you over the years?”

“Carol!”

Suddenly, Katie turned around, her eyes red. "Stop giving him a single penny from today onward!

He won't care about us because he's not... Mmph..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Bradley forcefully covered her mouth and shouted, "What the hell did you say? Did I allow you to speak? Don't forget what you promised me back then!"

Caroline immediately rushed forward to free Katie from Bradley's grip. "Let go of Mom!"

He shoved Caroline away and glared fiercely at her. "And you! If you don't give me any money from

now on, I'll make your mom suffer!"

Unable to overpower Bradley, who was stronger than her, Caroline quickly took out her phone and

transferred 40 dollars to him.

There! I've given you the money. Can you let go of Mom now?" Caroline's anxiety was evident, and

tears threatened to fall. 1

As Bradley heard his phone chime, he released Katie

Straightening his clothes, he left the ward with a satisfied expression.

Caroline hurriedly approached her mother. "Mom, how are you feeling?"

Tears streamed down Katie's cheeks as she said, "Carol, I've wronged you. I'm useless."

Caroline felt a deep sorrow for her mother and embraced her. "Mom, it's okay. The most important

thing is that you're safe."

After comforting Katie, Caroline took a seat and pondered the situation. Eventually, she asked, Mom, what were you going to say about Dad?"

Katie avoided eye contact. "He's beyond reason."

Caroline lowered her gaze. Was that all there was to it? If that were the case, why did he suddenly

attack Katie earlier?

However, seeing her mother's exhausted appearance, Caroline decided not to inquire further.

When Caroline returned to Villa Rosa, Evan was already there. His suspicion grew when he noticed.

she was still wearing her gown. "Where did you go?" he asked.

She replied honestly, "I stopped by to see my mother."

+15 BONUS

Just then, his phone rang, and he walked away to answer it. "Got it. Ask them to put it under

Daniella's name..."

As she watched his retreating figure, a sense of solemnity filled her eyes.

Was he buying a house for Daniella?

With a gloomy expression, she looked down. Of course, he would feel obligated to provide a better living situation for the woman he loved. They would eventually marry, so there was no need for

her to be jealous.

Evan would never be hers.

She wiped away her tears and returned to her room, where she dug out the contract she had signed with Evan years ago. It stipulated that he would provide her with a house and 2,800,000

dollars, é

Clicking on her chat log with Scott, she composed a message. [Doctor Wilson, given my Mom's

current situation, when can she be discharged from the hospital?]

Scott promptly replied, [Your mother is resilient and recovering well. She should be discharged in

less than a month.]

Less than a month....

Caroline stared at the contract and clenched it tightly in her hand.

Once her mother's treatment was complete, she would take her mother and leave Anglebay City. They would find a fresh start in a place where they were unknown.

There, she would give birth to her child and begin anew.

Two days later, on a Wednesday night, Caroline had made up her mind to approach Evan in his study and discuss the contract.

She opened the door and entered the room. Noticing that Evan was engrossed in his work with his head lowered, she positioned herself at the side and patiently waited.

Sensing her presence, Evan glanced up and locked eyes with her, inquiring, "What's the matter?"

Chapter 25

Chapter 25 You Deserve It, Don't You?

Under Evan's watchful gaze, Caroline struggled with conflicting emotions.

She couldn't bring herself to ask Evan for an advance payment using her mother and child as a

pretext. She felt responsible for her mother's care and she wanted to keep the child, so it didn't

seem right to ask for money from someone else.

Furthermore, she couldn't guarantee that Evan wouldn't become suspicious.

As a result, she made a feeble excuse. "I suddenly forgot what I wanted to say. I'll let you know

—

when I remember. Then, she hurriedly left the study.

Sensing something was not right with Caroline, Evan furrowed his brow and decided to call

Reuben

The following day, when Caroline woke up, she received a notification on her phone informing her

that she had received 280,000 dollars. Additionally, she received a message from Reuben that said

[Ms. Shenton, Mr. Jordan has given you a house. The address is...]

Stunned, she was at a loss for words. She hadn't mentioned anything about it, yet Evan had given

her money and a house. Immediately, she got out of bed and coincidentally bumped into Evan as

he emerged from his bedroom.

Before she could utter a word, Evan interjected, "Pack your things. We're going on a business trip.

this afternoon."

Consequently, all the words she had intended to say were shelved. "How long will the business trip last?"

"It won't be long. If you want to see your mother before then, I'll have Reuben drive you there." Evan's eyes grew distant as he spoke. "But don't attempt anything foolish."

Caroline was speechless. She had actually planned to visit the hospital for a pregnancy check-up.

She needed to obtain some documents from the hospital. novelbin

Setting aside those thoughts, she whispered, “The money and the house...”

“You deserve it, don’t you?” Evan’s words left Caroline at a loss for words.

Why did his statement leave her feeling unsettled?

After breakfast, Caroline hurried to the hospital with Reuben.

She met her mother briefly before fabricating an excuse about feeling unwell and made her way

to the gynecology department.

+15 BONUS

After a two-hour wait, she obtained the necessary documents and underwent a prenatal ultrasound, receiving reassurance about the baby’s health, However, she was advised not to exert herself during

the first three months to avoid miscarriage and was prescribed calcium and vitamin B tablets. t

Caroline noticed the bottles of medicine were labeled with images of pregnant women. So as not

to arouse any suspicion, she decided to purchase other substitute medications.

Reuben drove Caroline to the airport at one o’clock in the afternoon. As she arrived at the entrance

of the VIP lounge, she heard the sound of Daniella’s laughter. Unexpectedly, Evan had brought Daniella along for the business trip.

Suppressing her emotions, she entered the lounge.

To her surprise, Paige, her best friend, was also present, aside from Evan and Daniella.

Paige was looking disdainfully at Daniella.

Upon hearing the noise at the door, Daniella turned around and greeted Caroline with a smile.

“Caroline, there you are. Come and sit. Paige chipped in with joy, patting the seat beside her.

Caroline nodded and made her way over to sit beside Paige.

Noticing Caroline had completely ignored her, Daniella expressed disappointment. “It seems that

Ms. Shenton doesn’t like me.”

When Paige heard it, she couldn’t help but mutter under her breath, “How pretentious!”

Paige then shifted her attention to Caroline. “Why haven’t you been coming to the company

lately? How are the design drafts coming along?”

Caroline responded in a perfunctory manner, “I’ve been busy with something else. My design draft

is almost ready.”

Paige’s eyes lit up. “I know how talented you are. You’ll definitely pass the first round of the

competition.”

Feeling helpless, Caroline asked, “Are you two going on a business trip to Florencia City as well?”

Paige explained, “Yes, there’s a seminar at the fashion department of our subsidiary there. Mr.

Jordan asked me to take that pretentious b*tch along so she can learn from them.”

Caroline inquired, “What’s with the sudden name–calling?”

Paige gritted her teeth. “I’ll tell you when we arrive in Florencia City.”

In the evening, when Caroline, Paige, and the others arrived in Florencia City, their rooms were located on the eleventh floor, while Evan had a suite on the twelfth floor.

As Caroline and Paige walked toward their rooms, Daniella suddenly snorted and laughed behind

them.

“Ms. Shenton, it appears that Evan doesn’t care much for you.”

Chapter 26

Chapter 26 You Look Like a Clown

Paige turned around, glaring at Daniella. “What did you say? You better watch your tongue!”

Daniella responded to Paige’s glare with a disdainful glance, not taking her seriously at all.

She then walked over to Caroline while smiling sweetly and said, “Evan couldn’t stand that I was

living in a shabby place before this, so he bought me a house. I’m certain that he and I will

become a couple soon.”

Caroline chuckled and retorted, “So, you two aren’t a couple yet, huh?”

“Pfft…” Daniella’s smile froze as Paige burst into laughter.

“We’ll become a couple soon enough. In any case, I’m still getting much better treatment than you. “Daniella mocked Caroline.

“Hmm, he bought me a house too,” Caroline replied indifferently before turning away and opening the door.

Confusion replaced the smile on Daniella’s face. Meanwhile, Paige couldn’t contain her laughter. She patted Daniella’s shoulders and clicking her tongue. “Stop making a fool of yourself. You look like a clown.”

As Daniella watched Caroline and Paige enter their room, a sense of ruthlessness filled her eyes. once again. She had gone to great lengths to secure a house, yet Caroline, a mistress, effortlessly obtained one.

Gnashing her teeth, Daniella walked into her own room and took out her phone to make a call. “Hi, I need your help...”

In Caroline’s room, Paige wasted no time in criticizing Daniella’s behavior as soon as she sat down. Caroline, feeling quite sleepy, listened while Paige remained energized.

“So, Carol, what’s the deal between you and Evan now?” Paige asked eagerly.

Caroline rubbed her eyes. “It’s still the same.”

Paige probed further, “What? Hasn’t he found his long-lost love? Why isn’t he willing to let you go?”

Caroline shook her head in response, unsure of the answer herself.

Narrowing her eyes, Paige leaned closer to Caroline. “Is Mr. Jordan in love with you?”

Caroline immediately retorted, “That’s out of the question. He has cherished his first love for over ten years. He won’t fall for me.”

Paige elaborated, “That’s not certain. Men’s actions often reveal their true feelings. Hasn’t he ever

173

Caroline stated, “No, he won’t discuss it.”

Paige was left speechless, unsure of how to respond. novelbin

+15 BONUS

Caroline received a call from Reuben the next morning just as she had woken up. He informed her to be downstairs in ten minutes. Pushing the blanket aside, she quickly freshened up before heading downstairs.

Evan was already seated in the lobby waiting for her.

The morning sunlight illuminated him through the French window, creating a halo of light around him. He appeared noble and untouchable.

Caroline walked up to him, maintaining her usual calm tone. "Mr. Jordan."

He didn't even glance up at her, coldly responding. "Let's go."

Although Caroline was unsure of the reason for their trip to Florencia City, she didn't question it. She obediently entered the car with him, and he handed her a stack of documents.

"Take a look at this," he instructed.

Caroline accepted the documents and quickly skimmed through them. A frown formed on her forehead. "The profits stated in this contract don't match the amount reported to the headquarters,

Her expression turned solemn as she read further. "They altered the profits. I'm certain it was your relatives who had the audacity to do this right under your nose."

Admiration flickered in Evan's eyes. "You're sharp,

Caroline hadn't expected her guess to be so accurate. She was still unclear about Evan's family dynamics and his background. She knew the Jordan family wielded significant power and influence not only in Angelbay City but throughout the entire Euroasian market.

In the next moment, she looked up at Evan and asked with doubt, "So, did you come here to change the staff?"

Evan snorted and replied, "Do you think I came here for fun?"

Caroline fell silent. It seemed that he had brought her along to confront his relatives and make a statement.

Half an hour later, they arrived at the subsidiary company.

+15 BONUS

As they stepped out of the car, Caroline noticed a nervous young man and Stefan Jamison, the deputy manager, standing at the company's entrance.

When they spotted Evan's arrival, they quickly approached him.

The young man spoke subserviently, "Uncle Evan,

Evan nodded but didn't spare him a glance as he entered the company building with a cold

expression.

Caroline walked alongside Evan, stealing a sideways glance at the young man who bore a slight

resemblance to Evan.

She had read about him during their journey—this young man was Mark Jordan, the son of Evan's

brother. He was known for his recklessness and had a reputation for harassing the female secretaries in the department. 1

If it weren't for Stefan's hard work in supporting the company, it might have already shut down.

Once they reached the president's office, Caroline excused herself and headed toward the secretary's department. However, as she approached the door, she overheard hushed gossip

"Did Caroline become the principal secretary just because of her looks?"

"No, it's more than that. I heard she's having an affair with Mr. Jordan!"

"Of course, she's not capable enough. She must have used her body to secure that position. We

don't have to worry about her."

Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Please Reconsider Going

Caroline knocked expressionly on the glass, instantly capturing the attention of all the secretaries in the office. As they turned around and saw Caroline, they fell dead silent.

With a smile on her face, Caroline entered the office and addressed them, “Why did the conversation suddenly stop when I arrived? Shouldn’t I be included since I’m the one being talked about?”

The secretaries exchanged nervous glances.

Caroline held the documents in her hand as she approached the front table and shot them an icy gaze. “Perhaps you should dedicate your time to work rather than indulge in gossip about others.”

Placing the documents on the table, she continued, “Ms. Walker, as the head of the secretaries, you should set a better example instead of indulging in idle chat. Before you leave, kindly collect

this month’s salary from the finance department.”

Jane Walker widened her eyes and stood up abruptly. “Are you planning to fire me over this?”

Caroline chuckled and retorted, “Is this your only mistake? You have neglected to sort out and

report the document delivered by Flying Builders two days ago.”

Jane’s face turned red as she argued, “I shouldn’t have to handle that kind of task. It’s below my

paygrade.”

Caroline responded coldly. “As the head of the secretaries, your first mistake is you failed to monitor the progress of your subordinates’ work. As for your second mistake, perhaps you should

take a closer look at this document.”

Reluctantly, Jane stepped forward to accept the document. Her face paled as she quickly glanced

at it.

Pushing the document away indignantly, she snapped, “Who do you think you are? You’re just a

slut who climbed your way up the corporate ladder by selling your body, yet you have the

audacity to act so arrogantly here. What right do you have to fire me?”

Caroline chuckled once again. “You are entitled to your opinion, but it is not I who is firing you.

The company has decided to terminate your employment. The workplace can be cruel, and only

those who are capable rise to higher positions.”

Dealing with the clique–formed group of secretaries was far from easy.

After hours of arguing and scrutinizing the documents, Caroline felt so exhausted that she almost novelbin

collapsed into her chair.

+15 BONUS

She sighed, feeling a melancholic weight in her heart as she gazed at the vacant office space.

They were under Mark’s command, yet he lacked the courage to show up when they faced.

criticism and dismissal.

In comparison to Mark’s despicable tactics, Evan displayed far greater excellence.

After taking a five-minute break to rest, she made her way toward the president's office.

Just as she approached the door, Evan emerged. They locked eyes.

Caroline quickly averted her gaze and shared, 'It has been resolved.'

He responded, 'In the afternoon, assist the personnel department with the hiring, and join me to meet someone at noon.'

Confusion washed over her, prompting an involuntary question, 'Who?'

Evan replied. 'The former director of an orphanage.'

With that, he walked away, leaving her no choice but to follow suit. As she walked, her gaze briefly swept into the president's office.

There, she caught sight of Mark, kneeling on the ground, his gaze fixed wickedly upon Evan's departing figure. Her heart skipped a beat involuntarily.

As they stepped out of the elevator on the ground floor, they coincidentally encountered Paige and

Daniella emerging from the staff elevator across from them.

Upon spotting Evan, Daniella smiled and hurried towards him, asking, 'Evan, are you going for

lunch?'

While speaking, she attempted to link arms with him, but he coldly evaded her touch.

Daniella's expression stiffened momentarily, yet Evan pretended not to notice.

Instead, he narrowed his eyes and focused on Daniella. 'I'm going to meet the orphanage director.'

Abruptly, she lowered her head and anxiously bit her lip. In a panic, she questioned Evan, 'Why do

you want to meet her?'

Noticing her distress, his eyes turned icy. "Ella, why are you so nervous?"

Shaking her head, her face paling, Daniella hurriedly explained, "No, I'm not. I'm just... I'm just..."

"What?" Evan pressed on, his gaze fierce.

Consequently, her breathing quickened, and she averted her gaze. "No, nothing. Evan, please. reconsider going."

+15 BONUS

Evan's expression darkened. "Are you hiding something from me?"

"Stop interrogating me!" Daniella suddenly screamed in terror. "Evan, please, no more questions."

Don't force me to remember those memories. I'm begging you, Evan, please, no more questions.

Observing from the sidelines, Caroline and Paige exchanged glances. They couldn't help but wonder why Daniella's behavior had taken such an unexpected turn.

Evan's face grew somber. He stepped forward and tightly gripped Daniella's arm. "Tell me what happened!"

"No!" she cried out desperately, pushing Evan's hand away and crossing her arms protectively across her chest.

Trembling, she retreated while sobbing. "Please, I beg you. It's my fault. Don't do this to me. No!"

In a sudden outburst, she screamed, shut her eyes tightly, and collapsed heavily onto the floor.

Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Does Mr. Jordan Know?

At Florencia Hospital.

After completing the necessary hospitalization formalities, both Caroline and Paige returned to

the ward.

Daniella had been administered a sedative and was laying on the bed, her face pale.

Meanwhile, a hint of guilt appeared on Evan's somber face as he looked at Daniella with concern.

Caroline suppressed the bitterness in her heart and approached the medical case calmly. "Mr. Jordan, it's taken care of."

However, Evan didn't accept it. "Ask Reuben if he has found Ella's medical records."

Nodding, Caroline turned around and left the ward with Paige.

Upon contacting Reuben, she honestly conveyed Evan's request.

There was a brief silence on the phone before Reuben spoke. "She has suffered from severe psychological trauma since childhood, which led to regular sessions with a therapist and the use

of psychotropic medication. I met with the former director to inquire, but the details were unclear.

I'm now reaching out to the deputy director for more information."

After ending the call, Paige pursed her lips and spoke from the side. "It's quite alarming. How did

we never notice any signs before?"

Caroline put her phone back into her bag. "One cannot fabricate medical records."

Paige continued, "True, but I have a strange feeling about all of this"

Caroline asked, "Have you ever seen her take any medication?"

Paige responded, "Well, I haven't paid much attention. I'll observe her closely next time we're back

at the office."

She had a gut feeling that something was amiss with Daniella.

After informing Evan about Reuben's update, Caroline and Paige left the hospital to grab a bite to

eat.

However, as soon as Caroline stepped into the restaurant and caught a whiff of the heavy oil scent, she couldn't help but feel nauseous. She covered her mouth and rushed out of the establishment.

Stunned, Paige quickly followed after her.

When she saw Caroline retching on the side, her eyes widened. 'Carol, are you...?'

14

Caroline immediately explained, "No, you're overthinking!"

+15 BONUS

Raising an eyebrow, Paige responded, "I haven't even said anything, but you seem eager to explain,

huh?"

Caroline was momentarily speechless. novelbin

At that moment, Paige took hold of Caroline's arm. "You don't need to explain right now. Let's go to the hospital."

However, Caroline hurriedly freed herself from Paige's grasp. "No, I'm not going."

Paige insisted, "Then tell me the truth!"

Knowing it was futile to resist, Caroline sighed and decided to be honest to avoid unnecessary complications. "Yes, I'm pregnant."

She wasn't afraid of Paige revealing the secret. After all, they had known each other for seven

years. She could trust Paige.

Astounded, Paige stared in disbelief. "Is it Mr. Jordan's child? Does he know?"

Caroline shook her head. "I'm not ready to tell him yet, so please keep it confidential."

Paige asked, "What are you going to do now? Mr. Jordan's focus is solely on Daniella "

Caroline smiled, masking the bitterness in her eyes. "I'll take it one step at a time."

After completing the recruitment tasks in the afternoon, Reuben informed Caroline that she

needed to prepare dinner for Evan.

She hailed a taxi and instructed the driver, "Please take me to Blossom Hotel."

Glancing at Caroline through the rearview mirror as she focused on her phone, the driver locked

the car doors and started the engine.

As the driver drove for nearly twenty minutes, Caroline finished reading the documents on her

phone and looked up, only to realize that the surroundings seemed unfamiliar and increasingly

remote.

A sense of unease crept over her, causing her heart to race.

She slowly lifted her gaze and met the driver's vacant stare in the rearview mirror.

Collecting herself, she feigned composure and commented, “Florenxia City looks beautiful at night.”

The driver offered a brief, emotionless reply.

+15 BONUS

Maintaining her composure, Caroline swiftly accessed the GPS on her phone to check the route.

As expected, the taxi was traveling in the direction opposite of the hotel.

She began to ponder who could be behind this abduction attempt.

In Florenxia City, she had neither friends nor enemies apart from the secretaries she had offended.

earlier.

However, she doubted they would resort to such sinister tactics

That left only one possibility—Mark.

Did he believe he couldn’t confront Evan directly, so he targeted her instead?

Taking a deep breath, Caroline retrieved her chat log with Evan from her phone and sent a distress

message.

[Mr. Jordan, I’ve been kidnapped.]

At the same time, Daniella had awakened in Florenxia Hospital.

Her eyes were red as she spoke to Evan “Evan, I’m sorry for keeping something from you.”

Evan calmly sat on the sofa. T’m just relieved that you’re okay.”

“Evan, can you do me a favor?” Daniella asked with a hint of distress.

A flicker of frustration appeared on his face. "Go ahead.

She nervously bit her lip. "Please, can you refrain from digging into my painful childhood?"

For a brief moment, Evan remained silent.

He sensed that Daniella's current demeanor was vastly different from when she was younger. Something must have happened to shape her into the person she had become. If she had suffered unjustly, he was determined to seek justice on her behalf.

Loosening his tie, he responded in a detached tone, "Let's set that aside for now."

Just then, his phone rang, and upon reading the message, his expression instantly turned icy.

He swiftly replied to Caroline's message. [Where are you?]

Caroline promptly shared her location with him.

Sensing that something was amiss, Daniella tried to prop herself up in bed. "Evan, what's wrong?"

However, Evan ignored her question and strode out of the ward. Before departing, he muttered,

Chapter 29

Chapter 29

Tears streamed down Olivia's cheeks.

She knew that she and Ethan could never go back to how things were before. He had betrayed her and destroyed the Fordhamns, and the Fordhams owed him his sister's life.

Those debts could never be settled. Trying to resolve them would only serve to tighten the knots of their relationship, suffocating them and leading to an inevitable end.

Ethan held her face in his hands, wiping away her tears with his cheeks. "Liv, don't love me. Hate me instead. I betrayed you, I killed our child, and I can never turn back."

She sensed his inner turmoil, but amidst that, she could feel the tenderness he still had for her like a calm oasis in a turbulent desert sandstorm. However, she knew that the oasis would soon be destroyed by the raging winds.

Ethan left the room, leaving Olivia behind. Olivia knew that this was their final farewell.

When Olivia headed out of the study, Madam Burgess was nowhere to be seen. The kind-hearted Madam Burgess had always believed their conflicts to be petty quarrels and had even attempted to mediate between them.

In her eyes, Olivia was the singular and rightful Mrs. Miller, hence she was unaware of her grave mistake.

Olivia laughed at herself. With Madam Burgess by her side, she never felt lonely in the spacious mansion. It wasn't until Madam Burgess left that Olivia was hit by the emptiness of the house and the tedium of life.

The sky outside was already dark, and there was a pot of chowder Madam Burgess had made waiting in the kitchen. Olivia poured herself some into a bowl. The steam from the pot veiled her face, obscuring her features.

Slowing eating, Olivia's expression was calm. She had found a solution to the exhausting game they were stuck in.

"Ethan, I will repay the debt my father owes you," she thought to herself.

Instead of undergoing chemotherapy, she decided to enjoy the remaining days of her life.

Having seen Ethan's pain and turmoil, she was certain that he would no longer be burdened by hatred and his conflicted feelings upon her death.

For Ethan to have a better life, she would just have to give up her own. He would have the beloved wife and a child he had always longed for after she was gone.

He would remain a legendary figure in Aldenvine. Aside from the fact that she would be gone, everything would be fine, and that would be wonderful. Olivia suddenly felt the chains binding her loosen, and she realized that she had liberated herself

from her own constraints.

That night, Ethan didn't return, and the Miller residence was as silent as death.

The next morning, Olivia woke up early for the first time after confining herself to the room for so many days. The rest had greatly improved her spirits, and Madan Burgess had played a significant role in it too.

Under Madam Burgess's care, Olivia appeared to be healthier. Perhaps the chemotherapy medication was working, as her stomach stopped hurting in the past few days.

Olivia changed into appropriate attire and was about to open the door when she saw Brent standing outside with a cold, solemn expression.

He respectfully greeted her, "Good morning, Mrs. Miller."

Olivia smiled at him. "Good morning."

Brent was taken aback. Ever since the argument, for the past two years, she was either exhausted or weeping with sorrow whenever he saw Olivia. It had been a long time since he had seen her smile like that.

Brent couldn't bring himself to say what he wanted to say next, so Olivia took the initiative to do it.

Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Promise Not to Get Too Worked Up

He had finally arrived.

A chilling intensity filled his eyes as he looked at Caroline, who was crouched on the floor.

He directed a deadly glare at Mark. "Well, Mark, impressive, aren't you? How dare you kidnap my woman?"

Mark quickly stood up, seeking refuge behind his secretaries, visibly trembling. "Uncle... Uncle Evan!"

Evan approached him with a few swift steps, narrowing his eyes as he questioned, "So, you finally acknowledge that I'm your uncle, huh?"

Mark's fear was palpable as he swallowed nervously.

In a sudden realization, Mark glanced at Caroline. "Uncle Evan, I did arrange for someone to bring her here, but it was for your sake! You have no idea what I discovered earlier. She has ulterior motives against you. She despises you to the extent that she wants to poison you. You must trust

me!"

Evan glanced at Caroline, who stood composedly at the side, and smirked. "Well, since you've been so considerate, I suppose I should show you some appreciation"

Turning to his bodyguards, he commanded. "Take care of it."

Amidst Mark's pitiful wails, Evan held Caroline's hand and left the warehouse.

Once inside the car, Evan taunted her, "You certainly know how to use your charms."

Caroline was taken aback, and her gratitude instantly vanished. She took a deep breath in secret and retorted, "Mr. Jordan, I should thank you for providing me with such an opportunity."

If he hadn't taken her to the subsidiary company to fire those employees, she wouldn't have offended those people. She wouldn't have needed to suppress her disgust and curry favor with

Mark.

In the driver's seat, Reuben grew anxious. Caroline seemed to be the only one brave enough to stand up to Evan so bluntly.

Frowning, Evan looked displeased as he glanced at Caroline.

Was she blaming him?

“If I hadn’t come, would you have

Whim tonight?” he asked gloomily.

“What else could I do?” Caroline responded in turn. Should I have stayed there and let myself get

+15 BONUS

Evan’s expression turned somber. He sounded slightly angry. “Caroline, can’t you survive without. relying on men?”

Caroline grumbled in reply, “What does it matter since you’ve always seen me as that kind of

woman anyway?”

Was there any need for her to provide further explanations?

Any sensible person could see through her plot to free herself from Mark, but Evan chose to

believe she loved using her charms to survive. It didn’t concern her much, as it wasn’t the first

time he had misunderstood her.

Lost in her thoughts, she was suddenly taken aback as he fiercely grabbed her wrist.

Instinctively, she turned around, attempting to free her hand from his grasp. However, he showed

no intention of letting go.

“Don’t you remember what I said?” His eyes burned with anger. “So, now that you have money..

you’re full of yourself?”

Confusion washed over her. What did money have to do with their current situation?

Suppressing the pain, she stubbornly spoke up. “So what if that’s the case? Evan Jordan, I’m tired novelbin

of being your mistress! Now that you’ve found your beloved woman, why won’t you let me leave?

Why are you forcing me to be a home wrecker?”

“Isn’t that what you want?” Evan tightened his grip on her wrist. “Don’t you enjoy flaunting

yourself in front of Daniella?”

She was dumbfounded. Why was he being so unreasonable?

She simply didn’t want to be criticized and bullied by Daniella. What in the world made him think

that she enjoyed flaunting herself?

Letting out a cold laugh, her gaze filled with disappointment. “Evan, I’ve been with you for three

years, yet you never truly knew me.’

As he detected the sarcasm in her words, he felt a pang of pain in his heart.

But after a moment, he scoffed. ‘I don’t have to know you. After all, you’re willing to do anything

for the sake of money!”

In that instant, a wave of heart–wrenching pain engulfed her.

Well, it was true indeed. She had no right to deny that.

She had willingly agreed to become his mistress back then for the sake of money.

+15 BONUS

Suddenly, she felt relieved that she hadn’t revealed to him that she was pregnant with his child.

Otherwise, he would accuse her of being a scheming and manipulative woman who did anything

and everything to usurp another woman's position.

After returning to the hotel, Evan escorted her to his room. Two bodyguards stood outside, reaffirming that she was being monitored once again.

A message from Paige popped up on her phone. [Caroline, where are you? Mr. Jordan had someone take all your belongings away just now.]

Glancing at her luggage before her, Caroline let out a bitter smile. [I'm in the presidential suite.]

[Be careful, Carol. Sorry I can't help you.]

Just as she was about to reply to Paige's message, a notification from Scott appeared.

[Caroline, is your leg healed?]

She glanced toward the bathroom, realizing that Evan was still inside. Hastily, she replied to the

message. [Dr. Wilson, thank you. It's almost healed.]

While she hadn't actually consulted a doctor for her leg injury, the medicine Lily had given her proved to be highly effective.

She knew that it was Evan who had arranged for the medicine to be delivered. However, no matter

how kind he was to her, she couldn't bring herself to express gratitude, considering the extent of his monitoring.

Lost in thought, another message from Scott arrived

[I have something to tell you, but you must promise not to get too worked up.]