

Beyond the Divorce #Chapter 11 - Read Beyond the Divorce Chapter 11

Chapter 11

Chapter 11 A Pleasant Surprise

Ava seemed to cling to me more after the fall. She remained glued to me, and I could not move without her, which drove me crazy at times. Meanwhile, Matthew didn't give me space to figure things out.

His work hours were punctual, and I had no room to pinpoint issues with him. Everything he brought back yielded no clues. I even began to question if I was hallucinating at times.

After finally putting Ava to sleep at noon, I realized we were out of fresh vegetables and fruits at home. Since Ava was fast asleep, I knew I had to rush to the market before she woke up.

The market was nearby, and I was too lazy to change my clothes, so I hurried out the door and aimed to return as quickly as possible. However, I was dumbfounded when I returned from buying groceries because I didn't have my keys.

I pondered for a while and smacked my forehead in frustration because I must've forgotten to bring them when I left. I decided to call Matthew, and he answered in a hushed tone. Afterward, I explained the situation, and he responded, "I'm in a meeting and can't leave. Get Mel to bring them to you."

Another meeting? That excuse was consistent over the years. Since I had no choice, I called Melanie. She also had the spare keys, which would be perfect if I could get the ones she had borrowed.

The phone rang for quite some time before Melanie finally picked up. There was a lot of commotion in the background, and her voice came through, "Chloe, what's up?"

"I forgot my keys at home. Can you bring yours to me?"

"I'm out right now and pretty busy. I can't do it," Melanie responded swiftly, and then she shouted to someone nearby, "Hey! Wait a moment!"

“Where are you? I can come and take them from you,” I sputtered, seeing a chance to retrieve my keys.

Before Melanie could reply, I heard someone talking to her on the other end, “Miss, can you come and see if the closet is—”

Then, the call ended abruptly.

Closet? What closet? I was puzzled and wondered what kind of closet she had to go and see. Melanie had always been pampered, and people always handed things to her. I couldn’t understand why she would need to inspect a closet.

I grumbled, “She must be up to no good again. She always lazes around and is only happy whenever she receives money.”

With the heavy bags of groceries in my hand, I couldn’t help but sigh as I leaned against the door helplessly. I feared Ava might wake up and get scared if she couldn’t find me. Ultimately, I decided to go to the company building.

So I set the groceries by the door and hurried to the office to get my keys. Since I would be there, I could also see if Matthew was telling the truth about being in a meeting.

When I entered the cab a while later, I rested my forehead in my hands and fell into deep thought. I wondered how I could go to the company in my home attire, but I had no other option.

After getting off the cab at Galar Tower, I looked at myself and laughed bitterly. I knew I had made a fool of myself and regretted not changing before leaving home. I felt embarrassed to walk into a place like this in my home clothes.

I called Matthew again after a momentary hesitation, hoping he could bring the keys downstairs and save me some dignity. However, he didn’t answer his phone, so I reluctantly entered the building.

Also, I had to be quick, or Ava would wake up, and I wouldn’t be home.

As expected, I received many curious glances once I entered the lobby. After all, these socialites always cared too much about appearances. I hurried to

the front desk, hoping to get upstairs quickly, but quite a few people were registering for visitation.

I tried getting someone's attention, but everyone ignored me. Ultimately, I patiently waited for the receptionist to finish with the other visitors before I said, "Hi, I need to go to the tenth floor, Tanum Corporation, to see Matthew Murphy."

I got straight to the point this time, not waiting for any questions from the receptionist. However, the receptionist habitually asked, "Do you have an appointment?"

I felt the person behind the counter seemed familiar and realized she was the one who told me that Mr. Murphy and his wife had gone out that day. Just as I was about to speak, the receptionist's face lit up with a brilliant smile.

She sweetly addressed someone behind me, "Mrs. Murphy, you're here!"

Those words blew my mind, and I quickly turned to look at the person behind me.

Chapter 12

Chapter 12 The Real and Fake Mrs. Murphy

I felt like lightning struck me when the smug receptionist addressed the person behind me as Mrs. Murphy. I felt rage bubbling inside me as I turned to see how Ivanna would react.

How dare she strut around here, flaunting and pretending to be someone she wasn't? My gaze was cold as I turned, expecting to see Ivanna. However, to my surprise, it was Melanie.

Her outfit was vibrant and eye-catching as her blonde hair flowed down her shoulders. She wore exquisite makeup, which added a touch of allure to her otherwise unremarkable features.

Melanie approached gracefully with a composed smile. When she was about to speak, she noticed me

turning around, my anger evident. Her eyes widened in shock as she stood frozen, unable to process my unexpected appearance.

I couldn't help but smirk. I had to admit Melanie looked more like Mrs. Murphy while I resembled a nanny. Although I was speechless, I thought attire made a vast difference in appearance, and my casual home

attire paled to her glamorous outfit.

I wondered if the "Mrs. Murphy" the receptionist referred to was Melanie. If so, Melanie had been

indulged to the point of recklessness. However, the receptionist didn't notice my reaction and remained

focused on Melanie. 1

She looked at Melanie, frozen in surprise, and tried to appease her, "Mrs. Murphy, please-

"Wait!" I interrupted the receptionist and locked eyes with Melanie before turning to the receptionist

again. "Which Mrs. Murphy are you referring to?"

The receptionist glanced at me with a mildly surprised smile, yet her eyes showed a hint of disdain. Soon

after, she scornfully introduced Melanie to me, "This is Mr. Matthew Murphy's wife. He's the president of

Tanum Corporation on the tenth floor." 1

I couldn't help but chuckle as it felt surprisingly satisfying. While Melanie's attitude was infuriating, the

appearance of this supposed Mrs. Murphy finally allowed me to release my pent-up frustrations.

My little sister-in-law knew how to cause a scene and was desperate to become someone's wife. I

thought Melanie had gone insane.

I laughed aloud, causing several people to look at me in puzzlement. Their eyes showed their obvious

thoughts, "What a lunatic."

I sized Melanie up again, and I thought she had surpassed my usual impression of her. I never thought

she could look somewhat human in public.

1/2

+15 BONUS

"Mrs. Murphy, huh?" I couldn't help but laugh again. "Well, well. Her surname is Murphy, but I wonder who

she's married to."

Then I stifled my laughter and addressed the contemptuous receptionist, "A little professionalism wouldn't hurt, young lady. Do your homework before you open your mouth. At least ensure you're well-informed about people's relationships so you don't embarrass yourself and inconvenience others."

My words shocked the receptionist. Her standard professional smile faded, replaced by a cold look as she stared at me, asking. "What do you mean?" 1

"Allow me to introduce her to you. That's Matthew Murphy's younger sister. Yes, she's his biological

sister."

Immediately after, I gazed at everyone present, including Melanie. Then I turned and walked to the

elevator, leaving a group of astonished onlookers behind. I glanced back at the dumbfounded crowd and

said to the guard at the door, "Open up!" "

I had never been so assertive, and I couldn't help but curse inwardly at the audacity of some people.

Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Suspicious Keys

Neither I nor Melanie spoke in the elevator. She pouted and lowered her head while leaning against the elevator wall. Frankly, I couldn't be bothered to engage with her. Although her brother often spoiled her, I

never had the patience.

When we reached Matthew's office, he was indeed in a meeting. One of his employees saw me and Melanie and called Matthew out. Matthew seemed shocked as his gaze shifted between our faces before

stopping at me.

After some thought, he asked, "What are you-"

"Did I embarrass you? Why should I dress up since I only went to the market?" I interjected, knowing what he was about to say. Irritated, I retorted, "Pass me the keys. Ava's still asleep."

Immediately after, Matthew rushed to his desk and retrieved the keys from his bag to hand them to me,

saying, "Didn't you ask Mel to send them to you?"

I took the keys and glanced at a displeased Melanie. "Does she have the time to bring me the keys? Pretending to be Mrs. Murphy here seems more important than passing me the keys. You should have a proper chat with "Mrs. Murphy!"

"I don't think I can address her the same way." I didn't spare Melanie's feelings this time. "Your big brother is amazing to make you his 'Mrs. Murphy.'"

After saying that, I turned and headed out, not having the time to deal with them. After all, I needed to rush home before Ava woke up, or it'd be a disaster. I was fuming as I left the building with the keys and

hailed a cab home.

After opening the door, I noticed two new keys on the keyring. Among the keys were the ones to my house, my in-laws' house, and my office. I didn't know where the other two keys belonged to.

I quickly made up my mind and left again. I knew a few places in the east of town that specialized in key duplication, so I chose the smallest one and got them to make two copies before hurrying back home.

Ava pulled a miracle today as she remained sound asleep. However, Matthew returned not long after I got home. My heart pounded as I asked, "Why are you back so early?"

I

"I just wanted to make sure Ava was okay because I was worried she would wake up and cry," Matthew said as he walked past me and entered the bedroom. Then he looked at Ava and asked, "She hasn't

woken up yet, right?"

Ava, previously asleep, must've heard Matthew's voice and woke up. She blinked her big eyes and

+15 BONUS

Matthew's eyes lit up, and he walked over with a radiant smile. He crouched and looked at Ava. "Hello,

my sweetheart."

"Daddy! I want ice cream!" Ava licked her lips and looked at Matthew with big, hopeful eyes.

"All right, let's play a bit more, and then Daddy will take you and Mommy out for dinner and ice cream, okay?" Matthew pinched Ava's little nose, and she climbed into his arms, clinging to his neck.

"Daddy, you're the best!"

Meanwhile, I noticed Ava might be thirsty after waking up from her nap and gave her some water. Soon after, Matthew carried her to the living room when I noticed his gaze briefly landing on the cabinet by the

door.

It seemed like seeing the keys there eased his mind.

I entered the kitchen without getting in his way and peeled some apples before cutting them and giving them to Ava to eat. I happened to glance at the cabinet while I absentmindedly cut the apples. To my shock, the keys were no longer there.

My heart pounded again, and my hands trembled, causing the apple I held to fall onto the coffee table. It startled Matthew as he observed me curiously.

Chapter 14

Chapter 14 The Spoiled Sister-in-law

“What’s wrong?” Matthew looked at me with concern. “Are you tired? Maybe you should take a nap. I

won’t leave. I’ll stay and play with Ava instead.”

I suppressed my emotions and nodded. “Yeah, I’m tired. You can entertain Ava while I rest.”

Afterward, I placed the plate of fruits on the coffee table and said, “Give her something to eat. There’s

more in the kitchen if those aren’t enough.”

“Sure thing. You go rest. I’ll take you both out for a meal once you’re up,” Matthew said, picking up a fork

to feed Ava.

When I went to the bedroom to lie down, I felt suffocated as tears welled in my eyes. It seemed those

two keys were an issue as Matthew rushed home just to take them back. I knew he wasn’t worried about

Ava.

Most knew a person’s conscience would be thrown out the window once they cheated. Also, I suspected

those keys might have belonged to another woman’s house, so I instinctively thought of Ivanna.

She had been doing well these past two years and no longer had to share a place with others. She even

rented a spacious apartment for herself but never mentioned where or invited me over. The setup

seemed convenient for bringing men home, I thought.

However, the more I considered it, the angrier it made me. People were hard to read, and I felt incredibly deceived and disgusted—no wonder she had questioned Matthew's loyalty to me. It was a blatant

provocation!

Even if she wasn't the fake Mrs. Murphy, she certainly wasn't innocent. Otherwise, she wouldn't have lied

to me. In addition, that foolish Melanie got herself caught in the middle, unwittingly making the situation

more complicated.

Ultimately, Ivanna and Matthew lied about being together. I knew it wasn't a good sign because they hid a shared secret together. Soon, I reflected on how Matthew had been on guard against me for a while now.

It was no wonder I couldn't find any clues. I wondered when Matthew became so wary of me.

With these thoughts in mind, I clenched my pillow and felt a heavy weight on my chest. The father-daughter duo played outside happily while my heart tore apart inside the bedroom. I knew I should

prepare myself for the worst.

Matthew insisted on taking us out to eat that evening, and I didn't object. Ava held my and Matthew's hands as we walked to the car, forming a heartwarming sight for the envious on-lookers.

+15 BONUS

However, I self-mockingly thought Matthew and I could become actors since we paraded around like a

happy family.

Melanie appeared with her bag as we were about to leave. When she saw us getting ready, she looked at

Matthew and asked, "Where are you going?"

"Daddy's taking us to a restaurant to eat!" Ava shouted before Matthew could answer.

Melanie didn't hesitate and walked to the front passenger seat.¹

Her presumptuous attitude was getting on my nerves, and I wondered when she started coming to our

place to freeload.

Matthew didn't say much. Instead, he started the car and drove off when everyone got in. I hadn't spoken

all this while, despising Matthew's attitude in silence. I hated how he always looked the other way, no

matter what Melanie did.

I guessed he probably didn't blame her for the incident at Galar Tower either. Otherwise, she wouldn't be

tagging along so confidently.

Simultaneously, I had enough with my in-laws. Why didn't they ask or care about what their daughter did?

Matthew chose Aviary, a well-known restaurant, for dinner. Since the place was crowded, he told us to

get out of the car while he looked for a parking spot. [1

We rarely ate out, so Ava's excited chattering filled the air.

Melanie got impatient and scolded Ava, "Why are you so noisy? Why are you talking so much just because

we are eating out?!”

Her words ignited my anger. “What’s wrong with that? You’re much older than her, yet you can’t act like at

decent aunt to her?”

“You’ve spoiled that brat!” Melanie retorted disdainfully and muttered, “She hasn’t been out much, has

she?”

“What did you say?! Although you’ve traveled much, you’ve never considered how you got to do that,” I

held Ava and glared at Melanie, saying, “Why are you arguing with a child? Can’t you be a mature adult?”

Once Matthew parked the car and came over, he saw me yelling at Melanie. He patted my back to try and

take Ava from me, saying, “It’s okay.” 1

“Aunt Mel is evil!” Ava complained to Matthew when she saw him coming over.

Melanie glanced at her brother and put up a front, asking Ava smilingly, “What did I do, sweetie?”

+15 BONUS

I loathed Melanie because she always put up a front whenever Matthew was around. I avoided his

attempt to take Ava from me and entered the restaurant. Then I heard Matthew behind me, “Can you

calm down?”

1- Melanie started. 2

“Shut up. Haven’t you had enough?” Although Matthew’s voice was low, I could still hear it. It was rare for

him to talk to his sister like that.

Finally, I felt a little relieved.

Matthew should have stood up to Melanie long ago to keep her in check.

As we entered the restaurant, we bumped into Johnson unexpectedly.

Chapter 15

Chapter 15 A Chance Encounter

Johnson was our company's Marketing Director. He greeted us warmly and playfully pinched Ava's cheeks when he saw us. In a way, Johnson took my role by taking charge of the company's marketing department.

I was the one who brought him into the company, and he worked under me for over a year. Back then, the marketing department focused mainly on sales, consisting of just five people.

Johnson was a quick-witted college graduate who was a natural at marketing. He had a silver tongue that could convince anyone of anything. He took over my position when I got pregnant while Matthew nurtured him.

I knew Johnson frequented this place because he arranged a private room for us with the restaurant manager's help. It was evident he was much more considerate than Matthew..

Melanie was also familiar with Johnson as the two exchanged glances while Johnson ordered the food. Meanwhile, I didn't pay much attention to the order and went straight into the private room since I knew

Matthew wouldn't let me or Ava down in that aspect.

Soon after, Johnson followed us into the room. Since it had been a while since I last saw him, I gestured

for him to sit and chat.

I asked him how the company was doing, and he discreetly responded while glancing at Matthew

occasionally, I knew the Johnson in front of me differed from the one I had recruited long ago.

Indeed, times had changed, and it was no surprise since Matthew was now the boss. In Johnson's eyes, I

was just a former boss past her prime and inferior to the current company president. I didn't fault

Johnson for that, but seeing it was still disheartening.

I had become an antique in the Tanum Corporation. It was flattering whenever people called me

Madam," but ultimately, it was just a respectful form of address. I figured people would stop

acknowledging me if Matthew and I parted ways one day.

After all, even Matthew had already forgotten about all my contributions to the company. Who would

remember the woman who started Tanum Corporation and bled for it? It was a depressing thought as I

had worked nonstop back then.

However, that chapter had long ended, and the fruits of my labor were not mine to enjoy anymore.

Although people continued singing praises, no one knew my pain as it was my burden alone.

I realized how fickle the world was.

12

+15 BONUS

At that moment, I had become even more convinced of one thing. No one would look out for me, so I needed to care for myself. I thought it was better to be safe than sorry, which made my heart ache again.

Could Matthew be so ruthless? I was still in disbelief and held some hope for the difficult times we shared. I only wanted him to remember what we had gone through together, regardless of whether or not I got the credit.

I would like to believe he wasn't that heartless.

Meanwhile, Johnson discreetly excused himself when the food arrived. 1

Matthew's phone kept ringing during the meal. Most of the calls were about business, but there was one call where he glanced at me before going outside to answer it. My body tensed as I watched him leave.

I excused myself to the restroom and saw Matthew talking on the phone in the corridor, constantly responding with "Mmm."

The familiar scene reminded me of his video call with me in the hotel a few days ago. He noticed me coming out and hastily told the person on the other end, "All right, let's do it that way then. Just make

sure the quality is good. The material isn't a problem. You decide."

I

When he hung up the phone, I walked past him and went to the bathroom. Although it sounded like a

business call, I wondered why he had to leave and talk outside.

As I washed my hands, Matthew appeared outside the door and said, "A client called me about the used

materials." 2

"Isn't that Johnson's responsibility? Why did they call you instead?" I grabbed a tissue while looking at his

reflection in the mirror.

"Oh, a long-time client is renovating their home," Matthew answered vaguely.

"I see. I'm going to use the restroom, so you should go and check on Ava," I said this to ensure Melanie

wouldn't bully my daughter.

Matthew pulled me close, kissed me, and returned to the private room. Soon after, I smiled bitterly and

headed to the restroom.

However, before I could finish using the bathroom stall, I heard footsteps, indicating that two more

people had entered the bathroom.