The Divorce 181

Chapter 181 Forced to Drink With Them

Everyone turned to me. Carol got up, took my glass, and held me gently to my seat. "Let me do it, Ms.

Chloe."

With a smile, she raised my glass. "Hey, everyone, I'm Carol, Ms. Chloe's assistant. Please let me propose a toast to all of you for everything you've done for Tanum Corporation! Cheers!"

She downed the wine. Carol then refilled her glass and approached Keegan with a smile. "Mr. Matthew is

right. We should toast to you, Mr. Keegan. It's an honor to meet you today."

"However," she continued, "Ms. Chloe hasn't been feeling well. As you all know, she's been hospitalized. multiple times, and her doctors advised against alcohol. So, allow me to propose a toast on her behalf."

I was surprised at how well Carol had handled this. I was sure anyone could tell she implied that Matthew

was being a jerk

Given his experience, Keegan must have realized that Carol was trying to help me.

He gave me a longing look. Although he was upset, he knew better than to act rudely now. "You're lucky to

have an employee who cares about you so much, Chloe."

"Cheers!" Keegan clinked glasses with Carol and sipped his wine while looking at me.

It was time for him to back off, but Matthew was too eager to impress Keegan. He slammed his glass

down on the table.

He glared at Carol. "Who the hell are you to give the toast on Chloe's behalf?"

Carol gripped her glass tightly.

"Come on, Chloe, you know the rules!" He acted like he owned me.

"Stay out of this. Tanum Corporation is mine, and what we do is none of your business," I said, smiling. "I

got the contract fairly. Despite being a small company, we don't engage in shady dealings.

"Hey, do you think you got the contract yourself?" Matthew glared at me. "Don't mind her, Keegan. She

doesn't know what she's talking about. Chloe, don't act out of line. You're not leaving until you make him

happy, got it?"

I grabbed a glass of wine and splashed it in Matthew's face. The handsome face that had captivated me

for ten years was now dripping with red liquid.

You don't fucking own me, Matthew, Carol, let's go.

I walked away with Carol with my head held high.

"Stop right there!" Two men shouted at the same time from behind me.

Chapter 182 Who in He

I stopped in my tracks and tuned toward the table

Matthew charged over angrily Get back here Chloel Who the fuck do you think you are? You used to drunk all the time didn't you? You should be grateful Mr. Keegan wants to have a disk with you

trembled with anger, and Carol stood befour me protectively "Stay away from Me Chloe"

"Fuck off Who do you think you are

fall to the floor. He grabbed my wrist

Matthew shoved Carol aside, causing her to lose her balance and

Don't push it

I struggled and yelled. Let me do

Damian rushed over Take it easy. Ms Chloe We're just having some fun, aren't we?"

I snapped. "Fun I'm not going to degrade myself for a contract"

"Come on! The man from the Building Department sneered coldly. "Do you have to put it that way? You're

a divorcee. You should know what men want."

I glared at him. "What the fuck did you say?"

Keegan slammed the table angrily. "What the hell is this, Matthew? What kind of man do you take me for?

I didn't come here for this!

The situation became clear to me then.

"Apologize to Keegan!" Matthew yanked me toward the man, nearly causing me to fall. "Say sorry to him,

or you'll regret it!"

Someone opened the door and said in a chilling tone, "Oh, yeah?"

Everyone turned to the dignified middle–aged man who entered. He was glaring at the table of people. was surprised, as I didn't know the man and had never even met him.

The next second, the worker from the Building Department bolted to his feet and stammered, "Mr.

Maddox..

Keegan got to his feet as well. "How are you, Mr. Maddox?"

them. "Aren't you all ashamed of yourselves? Tell Attious to p

was the CEO of Bohalos

How did he know my name? I didn't know him!

Carol quickly hurried over and led me away by my arm. Not knowing what to say, I just nodded at Maddox. I gave Matthew a dirty look over my shoulder and walked out of the room with Carol. a

When I exited, I heard Maddox yell, 'Tell Atticus to come here immediately!"

Carol gave me a c

Chapter 183 The Mysterious Man

I was still upset as I drove home after dropping Carol off. Matthew had crossed so many lines that I

vowed to take my revenge one day.

Also, who

no was that mysterious Mr. Maddox, and how did he know my name? Why did he save me at that exact moment? There could only be one explanation–someone had asked him to do it.

My thoughts immediately turned to Atlas. I made a U-turn and hurried back to The Cerulean. I parked my car in an inconspicuous spot, killed the engine, and watched the entrance.

About half an hour later, I saw Atlas come out. However, to my surprise, Stella was on his arm. There was also a tall, middle–aged woman with them. She was impeccably dressed and exuded an air of arrogance.

pel

I tightened my grip on the steering wheel. She had to be Atlas's aunt, the former CEO of ATL Empire. That meant Stella didn't lie to me, and her mother did indeed come to Foswood. That's why she told me that

Atlas was hers.

Then what was I to him?

Stella had claimed that everyone in their family knew they were supposed to get married. Meanwhile, our relationship was still a secret. No, perhaps that was all it could ever be. My heart started to ache.

I watched them get into a car with an entourage and drive away. I lingered in my car for a while, feeling

lonelier.

Though I never tried to antagonize anyone, my life was turned upside down. The man I loved became an asshole, my family had been torn apart, and now even my parents had to worry about me.

Everything felt messed up; and all I could do was cry in the car.

When I arrived home, I pulled myself together and forced a smile. My daughter was still awake, and she excitedly asked me to play with her dolls. It occurred to me that I hadn't played with her in quite a while.

Later that night, Ryan called to check if I had reached home safely. I laughed and told him I was about to go to sleep. Relieved, he chatted with me for a while before hanging up.

The next day, when I arrived at the office, Carol hurried in. This was unusual, as she had always been

I gave her a quizzical look, and she rushed over to whisper, "Atticus is here to see you

Jeilabeard her, I asked, "Attica?"

Cale, the CEO of Echelon Group

"Where is he?" I found it hard to believe. The CEO of Echelon Group was paying me a visit? How could i

be possible?

Pointing toward the door, she whispered, "He's just outside"

Chapter 184 A Force to Be Reckoned With

I was momentarily taken aback before saying, "Please send him in."

If my guess was correct, this visit was related to what happened last night. I settled behind my desk and

went about my work.

The door was soon opened again. I looked up and saw Carol lead Atticus into my office.

It was the first time I met him. Dressed in a well–fitted suit, he was tall and looked in his late 30s. While his face wasn't remarkable, his shrewd eyes gave him an air of wisdom and sophistication.

Perhaps due to my association with Atlas, I neither liked nor disliked him. After all, I had first heard of Echelon Group as ATL Empire's competitor, and the behavior of his employees last night disgusted me

Carol quickly introduced me to him, and I shook his firm hand.

"Nice to meet you, Ms. Chloe," Atticus said politely.

I greeted him courteously as well. "Please have a seat."

He didn't beat around the bush. "I've come to apologize for what happened last night."

After a pause, I said, "It's water under the bridge now. Don't worry about it."

"Well, it's a serious matter that would jeopardize my company's reputation, and I have to do something

about it.

"I've fired Damian and put Jett and Beckett on probation. My brother–in–law is no longer with Echelon Group, and I forbade him from participating in our future projects. As for Matthew...."

He looked at me and continued, "Echelon Group will no longer engage with him, and his eligibility as a

shareholder has been revoked."

I narrowed my eyes, astonished that Atticus would take such drastic measures.

appreciate your actions, Mr. Atticus."

the shouldn't have happened in the first place. No partners of Echelon Group should

Mr. Maddox told me off yesterday as well. I hope you don't mind what happe

face. Did he come

"Like I said, don't worry about it. It's an honor to work with you," I said, trying to sound nonchalant. "I wouldn't have yielded to them anyway, and I have nothing to be angry about now that you've punished

them."

Atticus grinned. "Good to hear that. I look forward to continuing to work with you then.

"Likewise, Mr. Atticus." There was no reason for me to fuss over the incident, but I knew he only punished

those assholes because of Mr. Maddox.

He then got up to leave. This time, he exerted more strength when he shook my hand. "I'm sure we'll have

a wonderful time working together."

I smiled and saw him off to the elevator. When the doors shut, I considered how the situation could be a

mixed blessing.

Chapter 185 Creating a Scene

As expected, Matthew came to create a scene. His aggressive entrance left no doubt that Atticus had cu

ties with him, and he looked like he wanted to kill me.

He barked, "How could you do this to me, you cunt?"

It was the first time I had seen him so furious.

Carol stood protectively before me and called other employees to step in. Benjamin called the building's

security.

I pulled Carol aside and stared at Matthew. "I got the divorce because I wanted nothing to do with you. But you kept pushing it and pulled that stunt last night. How dare you try to make a scene here?"

"Don't talk back to me, you fucking whore!" Matthew seemed ready to lunge at me any moment.

"You brought this on yourself."

Matthew shouted through clenched teeth. "You're a jinx, Chloe! I was so unlucky to have married you!"

"How come you never thought of me as a jinx when I helped turn your life around?" I held my ground. "One day, you'll regret this, Matthew. I'll make sure of it!"

Unable to reach me physically, Matthew trashed the things around him.

Ryan hurried over when he heard the commotion. "Matthew, what the hell are you doing?"

Matthew looked over his shoulder at Ryan. Stunned, he started to call me a slut and accused me of

sleeping around.

Several security guards arrived at the scene but hesitated upon seeing him. Benjamin yelled, "What are

you waiting for? Throw him out!"

Matthew pointed at the security guards. "I dare you to lay a finger on me! Don't forget whose company

this is, okay? Benjamin, you fucking traitor!"

Calm the fuck down, Matthew. It's Atticus who refused to work with you, not Chloe. You're barking up the

tree, Ryan said calmly

think about why Atticus made that decision. Just so you know, he was here artic

You should know what it means right?

right?""

"If you still don't get it, I have nothing else to say." Ryan told the guards. "Let him go. No matter what, he used to own this place. We should show him some respect.

"Anyway, you brought this on yourself, Matthew. Chloe has shown great kindness to you. She could have pushed you out of the business, but she didn't. Learn from her."

Ryan then turned to everyone else. Let's clean up the mess."

The staff looked at Matthew, worried he might have another outburst and hurt me. However, he was

standing there, seemingly thinking about what Ryan said.

At the same time, I was surprised that Ryan knew the reason for Atticus's visit, as I hadn't told him about

it last night.

Chapter 186 Putting the Show Together

When Matthew calmed down slightly, the employees helped to clean up his mess while Carol

accompanied me back to my office

Suddenly, Matthew burst into my office. "Chloe, what's your relationship with Mr. Maddox? Why didn't you say anything about it when we were together? How many more resources and connections do you have? Why are you doing this?!"

I stood behind my desk and rested my hands on it as I gazed at him in amusement. His questions

seemed comical, as if he believed I should surrender all my answers. He had a peculiar way of thinking.

I replied, "There's a lot you don't know about me."

"Why are you doing this to me, Chloe?" His tone softened abruptly, and he sounded disheartened, "When

did you become so ruthless?"-

My phone rang as he spoke, interrupting our conversation. I saw it was Atlas, collected my thoughts, and

answered the call, "Hello?"

"Where are you?" Atlas's voice came through.

"In my office," I replied simply.

"Wait for me," he said before hanging up. I didn't quite grasp the meaning behind his words.

I sat in my chair, looking at Matthew. "I don't have time to answer your questions. Take care of yourself from now on. Carol, please see our guest out!" I instructed Carol.

I learned a valuable lesson from Ryan today. Instead of arguing with Matthew, I remained calm and used

my strengths to render him powerless and troubled. I believed it was the best course of action.

"Chloe, how could you treat me like this?" He continued to gaze at me dejectedly. "Why can't I see through you?"

I didn't want to engage with him since today's events gave me a splitting headache.

"Mr. Matthew, please leave," Carol said coldly.

ariced at Carol, then turned to me. "Chipe, you're not the same as before, You've hat, he strode out of my office.

He felt he could tal

vantage

I started to appreciate Ryan's tactics. He used Atticus's visit to make Matthew anxious and confused. Matthew now believed I had a connection with the mysterious Maddox. Meanwhile, I knew Maddox could

put everyone on edge.

"Carol, please find out who this Mr. Maddox is."

"Ms. Chloe, Maddox O'Connell is the highest–ranking official of a government agency," Carol immediately. replied, leaving me stunned.

No wonder Atticus had acted decisively. It seemed Maddox hadn't disclosed everything last night. He had only come to help me, even though we didn't know each other. Still, I wondered why he did it or if he

had some connection with Atlas.

I wanted to know their relationship since Atlas could persuade the highest-ranking official to intervene on

my behalf. I couldn't make sense of anything.

As the workday ended, my office received another visitor, Atlas. After escorting him to my office, Carol

discreetly closed the door behind her.

Atlas approached me and extended his hand, "Come here."

However, I remained rooted and didn't approach him. He raised an eyebrow and came closer. "What's

wrong? Did you get scared last night?"

I couldn't help but find his words amusing because he had indirectly admitted his involvement. It seemed

he sent Mr. Maddox.

"I wasn't scared last night, but I am petrified today." I pouted, feeling frustrated.

I felt like a laughingstock with everything that happened today. After all, everyone in the city knew about my divorce, and I kept embarrassing myself even after that. I bet everyone in Galar Tower knew about the

stories of the tenth floor.

After the mistress came to cause a scene, my ex-husband came. I had no chance to salvage my image.

"Tell me," Atlas said, lifting my chin and gazing into my eyes. He lightly brushed his fingers against my lips.

I glanced at him skeptically and then recounted the story to him. He smiled after hearing it, and I felt like he was playing with my heart.

ked Mr. Maddox to help you to create this situation. That way, Atticus couldn't do anything to pote

and matter of factly, it also served as a warning to Matthew."

cut ties with Matthew so decisively!

Matthew so decisively?" I sakad, looking af Ale

"Why? Are you scared?" He met my gaze, smiling. "I brought someone for you."

"What do you mean?" I didn't understand what he was getting at.

"You've been looking for a capable marketing manager, right? I'll introduce someone to you," he said

casually.

Indeed, I had been searching for a marketing manager for a while, but none met my criteria.

He finished speaking and nibbled my lip before releasing me and striding to the door. He opened it and

called, "Come in!" Chapter 187 He's a Gem

A striking young man entered the room. He seemed confident and intelligent, while his charisma made him more manly than a typical marketing manager.

"This is Grayson Newell," Atlas said, "He can meet all your needs. Of course, you're still my womanthose needs are only for work-related matters.

His words made me flush. He always spoke so boldly before me. I mumbled, "What do you mean, your

woman?"

Grayson scratched his head and grinned, addressing me, "Ms. Chloe."

I gazed at him and asked, "If I wanted you to investigate something, could you do it?"

Grayson glanced at Atlas, then replied, "Anything you want, including contracts."

His confident response surprised me. It was audacious, but I liked it. Meanwhile, Atlas wasted no time

telling Grayson, "Start work tomorrow and obey Ms. Chloe's instructions. You can go home now."

"H–Hey, I still have some things to ask him!" I was interested in Grayson.

"Get out." Atlas instructed Grayson in a low voice, then lowered his head to say to me, "Your time only

belongs to me now."

"Yes, Mr. Atlas!" Grayson nodded and left in a hurry.

"Hey, what are you doing? I still have questions for him!" I protested, feeling disappointed. "Can you stop

being so overbearing all the time?"

Atlas turned to me with a hint of self-mockery in his smile. "It seems I'm not welcome here."

I was annoyed with his response. "You're not unwelcome. You're always too busy, so I can't welcome you!

properly."

I couldn't suppress my jealousy. "You can do anything you please at my place, and you still dare say you're not welcome here? Then, Mr. Domineering, enlighten me on what I should do to make you feel welcome.

He smirked and leaned closer, whispering, "Give... yourself... to me."

Can't you be more serious, you perv!" I turned around in frustration, attempting to avoid him.

Allas scoffed, it seems I have no place in your heart Fine I won't bo

I felt disappointed as I watched his retreating figure. I finally met him, and now he was leaving. "What are you doing? If you're leaving, don't bother coming back. You always disappear without a word and act like

it's reasonable."

Atlas smirked at me and spoke sharply, "Are you sure you don't hate me?"

L

I was stunned, and my eyes welled with tears. "Have I ever said I hate you? You twisted my words. You didn't call me when you're back. Who's the unwelcome one here? You're busy with work and somebody

else, so who am I?

1 waited for so long without a word. Do you only find others important, and I'm just here to help you pass

the time-

Before I could finish, Atlas pulled me into a kiss. He held me tightly, and his soft words ignited my heart,

Are you trying to argue with me? Didn't I wait for you? I've been waiting for you all this time!"

His words melted my heart's doubts and grievances. I was still in a daze when he asked, "Do you want to

stay here or go home?"

I replied, slightly shocked, "I want to go home!"

He chuckled and took my hand to lead me out of my office.

ed in Grayson.

"Get out." Atlas instructed Grayson in a low voice, then lowered his head to say to me, "Your time only

belongs to me now."

"Yes, Mr. Atlas!" Grayson nodded and left in a hurry.

"Hey, what are you doing? I still have questions for him!" I protested, feeling disappointed. "Can you stop

being so overbearing all the time?"

Atlas turned to me with a hint of self-mockery in his smile. "It seems I'm not welcome here."

I was annoyed with his response. "You're not unwelcome. You're always too busy, so I can't welcome you!

properly."

I couldn't suppress my jealousy. "You can do anything you please at my place, and you still dare say you're not welcome here? Then, Mr. Domineering, enlighten me on what I should do to make you feel welcome.

He smirked and leaned closer, whispering, "Give... yourself... to me."

Can't you be more serious, you perv!" I turned around in frustration, attempting to avoid him.

Allas scoffed, it seems I have no place in your heart Fine I won't bo

I felt disappointed as I watched his retreating figure. I finally met him, and now he was leaving. "What are you doing? If you're leaving, don't bother coming back. You always disappear without a word and act like

it's reasonable."

Atlas smirked at me and spoke sharply, "Are you sure you don't hate me?"

I

I was stunned, and my eyes welled with tears. "Have I ever said I hate you? You twisted my words. You didn't call me when you're back. Who's the unwelcome one here? You're busy with work and somebody

else, so who am I?

1 waited for so long without a word. Do you only find others important, and I'm just here to help you pass

the time-

Before I could finish, Atlas pulled me into a kiss. He held me tightly, and his soft words ignited my heart,

Are you trying to argue with me? Didn't I wait for you? I've been waiting for you all this time!"

His words melted my heart's doubts and grievances. I was still in a daze when he asked, "Do you want to

stay here or go home?"

I replied, slightly shocked, "I want to go home!"

He chuckled and took my hand to lead me out of my office.

Chapter 188 Sense of Belonging

Atlas made a dinner reservation as we entered the car. My heart kept pounding throughout the ride, and I

couldn't bring myself to look at him. He pulled me closer, saying, "Call your parents and tell them you

won't be home tonight."

I had no strength to argue or think about anything else. I just wanted to find peace in Atlas's arms as it

melted away all my worries and anxieties. Soon, we returned to the resort. I felt a sense of belonging, like

this was our home.

His previous question still entranced me. "Do you want to stay here or go home?"

I wondered if this place could be our home.

After dinner, he didn't hesitate to hold and shower me with kisses. I felt like crying then because I had

waited for him for so long. I missed him so much, and all my longing turned into happiness.

However, I dared not look at him, afraid of keeping this moment in my memory. Instead, I closed my eyes

as my mind went blank.

"Why won't you look at me?" Atlas asked.

I reluctantly opened my eyes and met his tender gaze. His handsome face held a deep affection that

melted me. He held me tightly and whispered, "Chloe, I've missed you so much."

His words brought me a sense of comfort. I didn't know if this was his way of declaring his feelings for

1. me. I wondered how long he would keep missing me and dared not consider how much he loved me.

I nestled in his embrace and couldn't help but ask, "Is everything going smoothly with your work?"

"Mmm." He held me, letting out a soft hum. I wasn't sure if that hum meant everything

smoothly.

g was going

Unexpectedly, he shared, "There are some new issues at the headquarters, and the outgoing CEO won't

make any moves for now. So, I'll be staying in Foswood."

My heart lightened, and I couldn't help but smile. Did that mean Atlas hadn't accepted any additional

conditions? I felt a sense of relief wash over me, thinking if it meant he hadn't accepted any additional

conditions.

Still, there was a lingering worry in the back of my mind. I didn't want obstacles to hinder Atlas's success

and only wished for everything to go smoothly for him.

He gazed down at me and brushed my cheek as he asked, "You want me to stay, don't you?"

+15 BONUS

His question brought me back to reality. I didn't know whether or not I wanted him to stay and wondered what I would be to him if he left. Was i just his companion in times like these?

I heard single men often seek experienced, obedient, and intelligent partners. Was he one of those men?

L

I remained silent while sorrow surged within me. Suddenly, I abandoned my usual reserved attitude and kissed Atlas passionately. However, he gently tugged at my hair with a hint of displeasure, demanding." Why won't you answer me?"

He looked into my eyes like he could sense something was amiss.

I looked at him forlornly. "I'm a divorcee. How could I demand or hope for anything? All that matters is

that you're doing well."

"Is that how you really feel?" he growled.

I understood what he asked but didn't know how to respond. Since I remained silent, he pressed me closer to vent his frustrations. It made me wonder if he was just concerned about me. It seemed like it would be a sleepless night for me.

I pondered the uncertain nature of our relationship. Stella told me they had an arranged marriage. But

even without Stella, wasn't he still bound by constraints?

The following day, I rode in his car to the office. He seemed to be in high spirits. The drive was leisurely

and unhurried as well, I was delighted to see him so content. I thought maybe I could stop overthinking

things, but little did I know that reality was about to shatter my illusions.

Trouble was on the horizon

Chapter 189 Eye Candy

When Atlas dropped me off at the company's entrance, he gave me some reminders, which I noted down.

I couldn't help but say, "Call me when you have time."

He nibbled on my lip and said, "You're improving by asking for things now."

I blushed and turned to get out of the car, but he pulled me back and kissed me passionately before letting me go. Nonetheless, I looked forward to working with Grayson today. When I entered my office, I

called Carol and asked, "Has Grayson arrived?"

Carol's eyes sparkled. "Yes, he has! Ms. Chloe, let's use this standard when hiring new employees. He's

such eye candy!"

I snorted in response. "Are you infatuated with Grayson too?"

She stuck her tongue out and chuckled. Good looks seemed to have a certain charm, and everyone liked

attractive objects. Since Carol and I had become close, she rolled her eyes at me and muttered, "You like

the handsome ones, too. It's a chain reaction."

I sighed but didn't deny it. "You're right. All right, bring Grayson in so I can grill him first."

Carol left my office with a grin, and Grayson soon walked in. Although strikingly handsome, his type of

handsomeness differed from Atlas's. Grayson wasn't cunning, authoritative, or had old-money air around

him.

Instead, he resembled a ray of sunshine that could brighten the gloomiest days.

I was thrilled after our conversation. Grayson was an invaluable tech expert, like Ivanna's two assistants.

was ecstatic, even if he couldn't handle the business side of things.

Ryan was also quite pleased when I handed Grayson over to him.

When I returned home that evening, my mother told me they had received a call from our hometown.

They said the heaters were about to be turned on, requiring someone to be home. My parents barely had

time to pack before rushing back

It had been two months since my divorce, and they had to return home to check on things. My parents were concerned about me, but my mom didn't want my dad to go home alone.

you

Since they were in a dilemma, I said, "Why don't you two head back together? If you want to move here, just rent that house to someone and come here once you've settled everything back home."

However, my mom couldn't bear to leave her house behind. My words were in vain, but I clarified that I

+15 BONUS

freezing during winter.

Besides, I had grown accustomed to living with my parents over the past two months. With such a large house here, it felt somewhat empty with just Ava and me. Meanwhile, my dad worried that the scoundrel might harass me again.

"That won't happen, so don't worry," I reassured them, "Besides, I have a few friends who can help if anything happens."

During this time, things had been relatively calm because of Maddox. Also, Matthew didn't cause any

more trouble for me.

My parents contemplated returning to our hometown for a few days. However, they could only return because of the heating system. Initially, they wanted to take Ava with them, but I feared she wouldn't adapt well to the colder climate.

I felt a sense of emptiness as I saw my parents off. They had treated me like a princess when they were here. My mom cared for everything, and I didn't have to worry about picking up or dropping off Ava

Things would be different without my parents, and I had to return to my old routine.

Soon after, Ivanna reminded me to transfer Ava to Sunnydale Kindergarten. Since it was closer to our home, it would be more convenient for me to pick Ava up and drop her off. Plus, Ivanna could help if

there were any emergencies.

I should have done it a long time ago, but I had been preoccupied and kept postponing it until now. As fate would have it, the story had an unexpected twist again.

Chapter 190 The Shocking Things He Said

The kindergarten registration form was still with Matthew. To enroll Ava into Sunnydale Kindergarten, I needed the physical copy of the registration form and coples of Ava's and my identification documents.

It was difficult to obtain the registration form since Sunnydale was a renowned kindergarten. Matthew and I had a lot of trouble getting a copy back then.

After some pondering, I called Matthew. However, Melanie answered with insults, "Have you no shame?

How dare you call him?"

"Let me talk to Matthew," I replied calmly, ignoring her outburst.

"You can kiss my ass!" With that, she hung up.

Her behavior infuriated me, but I could only return the calf for Ava's sake. I called several times, but she constantly declined them. Her actions fueled my determination as I went to their company in person.

Once inside Ardora Construction, many familiar faces awkwardly greeted me in hushed voices. However, I ignored them because people who undermined me with Matthew weren't worth my time.

It was my first time visiting their company. It had stylish decorations but lacked warmth-much like its occupants. Sure enough, Melanie was at the main desk while Matthew reclined on the sofa.

He held a glass of wine. He looked messy and miserable, even though it was still early morning. They were shocked when they saw me. I knew they didn't expect me to follow through on my phone call.

Melanie stood up and screamed, "Who let you in?! Security!"

On the other hand, Matthew bolted upright and stared at me. His emotions were unclear, but I think he

was stunned.

1 ignored Melanie and went straight to Matthew, saying. "Get me the Sunnydale Kindergarten registration

form. I need to transfer Ava there."

"Who cares about a registration form?" Melanie blurted out, her belly protruding as she approached. "How

dare you come here, you shameless bitch! Give up already. What's next after seducing your way here? You

can't take the loneliness and want to throw yourself at him now?"

I finally glanced at her and calmly responded, "You must work on your manners. All you do is hurl insults.

You started sleeping with Matthew at a young age, but don't think everyone else is like you.

Although Melanie stormed over, I remained composed and looked at her disdainfully. "You better not try

anything if you want this company to thrive. If you lay a finger on me, I'll shut you down by tomorrow

12

+15 BONUS

Matthew roared, "That's enough!"

Melanie froze and paled as she turned to look at Matthew. "Why are you shouting at me? She's getting

even more bold and even dared to come here. What? Do you want to make up with her?"

Matthew grimaced. "Stop the bullshit!"

Immediately after, he glared at me. "Why do you need the registration form? I'm about to lose everything

now because of you! I'm suffering, yet you plan to send Ava to a new school? You're evil, Chloe! I gave

you everything, even my company. Why are you still trying to destroy me?! You-"

"Let's get one thing straight, Matthew. You never 'gave me anything. As yourself what you've given me. I don't want to argue about it with you. If you think I'm upsetting you, fine. Just give me the form, and I'll

leave so 'someone can stop worrying about me wanting to seduce you!"

"Chloe!" Matthew stood up. "Are you that happy to leave me?"

I looked at him indifferently and said, "You have nothing to offer me."

My words rendered him speechless.

A few seconds later, he threw his glass to the floor and roared, "If I have nothing to offer you, get lost!

Since you're so capable, find a way to get the form again. Forget about the transfer if you can't get it!"

"Matthew, how could you do this to your daughter?" I was furious.

"She's not my daughter since she has a mother like you. I'm still young and can have thousands of other kids! I don't need her! She can go wherever she likes!" Matthew's words shocked me, and I couldn't catch my breath. I never expected him to say something like that.