

The Divorce 381

Chapter 381 A Woman With a Backstory

Upon seeing the two in the room, I felt slightly awkward. I wondered if I had interrupted a private moment.

Atticus immediately smiled and said, "Ms. Chloe, please come in. We've been expecting you!"

I nodded graciously and stepped inside. The woman in the room looked at my face, then my bandaged arm, smiling faintly.

Atticus turned to the woman and said, "Let me introduce you. This is Chloe Hartz from Tanum Corporation."

He then turned to me and said, "Ms. Chloe, this is the boss of the Vanderberg Palace, Ms. Bella Vanderberg."

I extended my hand to her. "Hello, Ms. Bella. It's a pleasure to meet you!"

Her smile deepened as we shook hands. She was very amiable.

As we settled into our seats, Atticus looked at my arm and asked, "Still not healed?"

"Well, it's almost time to take the cast off. Once that's done, I'll be good as new!" I chuckled awkwardly.
"A

new injury added to the old one. Oh, speaking of my injury, I must thank you for sending your bodyguards.

to assist me in a critical moment!”

I immediately expressed my gratitude, emphasizing that it was assistance, not protection. Since I didn't know Atticus and Bella's relationship, I couldn't assume.

Atticus smiled and waved it off. “You're too kind. It's just a small effort, hardly worth mentioning.”

Bella reached out and poured me a cup of tea gracefully. I took a delicate sip, exclaiming. “This tea is exquisite!”

I might have been a little dramatic, but this tea was delicious.

The woman before me exuded a calm and ethereal presence. She wasn't conventionally beautiful, but her

demeanor was dignified and charming.

Lauren's description of her came to mind. She was a legendary woman whose past was shrouded in mystery.

I spoke up, “I've wanted to meet Ms. Bella for a long time now. It's just that we never had the chance.”

might have been a little flattering, but what I said was true.

Atticus chuckled heartily. "It seems you both share a mutual admiration. That's why I decided to play matchmaker today."

I quickly replied with gratitude, "I truly appreciate it, Mr. Atticus."

However, I wondered why someone like Atticus would engage in such an inconsequential task. It couldn't be as simple as it seemed.

"Mr. Atticus was talking

on the phone with you when he arrived earlier. I overheard and thought it would

be nice to meet you, Ms. Chloe," Bella said as she made me another cup of tea.

Her beautiful, soft hands were like the ones in old murals. This was the first time she had spoken since I arrived. Her voice was melodic and gentle.

"It's my honor, Ms. Bella." I was even more curious about Bella now.

How did a woman with her beauty and poise run a club in a busy city? There had to be a story behind it.

"Don't be so formal. Just call me Bella!" She smiled and said, "I'll leave you to your business discussion. Whenever you have time, Ms. Chloe, come find me on the fourth floor."

"Alright!" I quickly agreed.

Bella stood up, and I followed suit to send her off. However, she gestured that it wasn't necessary before quietly exiting. Everything about her seemed just right.

Atticus remained seated. It seemed like the two were quite familiar with each other.

I thought of Liora, who was her polar opposite. One was obnoxious, and the other was mysterious.

The difference between these two women made me wonder about Atticus. He was also a man who was hard to understand.

"Come sit here!" Atticus invited.

Chapter 382 Testing the Waters

I settled back into my seat and asked, "Mr. Atticus, did you have something to discuss?"

"Nothing too urgent. The design for the downtown project is complete, and construction will begin soon." He sipped his tea and said, "I had some free time, so I thought I'd invite you for a chat."

I quickly said, "If you're looking for staff, the project with ATL Empire is about to wrap up. Your team will be back in no time! I have been meaning to thank you, but it seemed insufficient."

Atticus chuckled. Since I met him, I always thought he had a captivating smile that was also mysterious.

"Do you think I invited you here just to reclaim the team?" He lounged on the couch and asked, "So, any interest in continuing our collaboration?"

"Yes, I'd love that. But that depends on how fruitful you think our partnership has been."

“The downtown project’s architecture and interior design may be synchronized, I considered doing it myself, but my energy is limited. So I’m thinking of outsourcing it.”

Atticus added. “But I want to target the high–end market. Your second phase for the 50,000–square–meter

project impressed me, so I wanted to discuss it with you.

I caught a clue. His limited energy implied that he had something significant in the works.

Then I briefly went over our year’s plans. “It depends on your needs. Ryan and I adjusted our strategy this

year to target high–end customers. We will build our brand with top international design teams.

“Ryan studied management abroad but attended an architectural design college. So he has connections there.”

However, I quickly pulled back when I thought of the second phase of Avalon Hills. Liora had been

fighting for the

early stages. Could it be that Atticus’s attention was diverted to this project?

“Do you have any new goals for this year?” I asked casually, though I was nervous inside.

I couldn’t afford to lose the second phase. It was a stepping stone for me and Ryan.

“Nothing definite yet. Several projects outside the city require a lot of attention.”

Atticus spoke casually, but I could tell he was hiding something.

He continued, “Why don’t you schedule a meeting with Ryan? We can discuss the interior work for the downtown project. While the overall plan has been approved, I think something is missing. Let’s exchange Ideas!”

“Sounds good! You choose the time.” I quickly agreed. No matter how I looked at it, I could not say no to

Atticus.

He casually dropped a piece of information. ‘ATL Empire is also in talks for new projects.’”

“Oh? Mr. Atticus, you’re well-informed,” I replied calmly.

It seemed that Atlas was also vying for the second phase of Avalon Hills.

“Atlas is reclaiming his territory and expanding his domain. Celine’s projects appear to be nearing completion, ending her competition with Atlas.”

Atticus appeared to be well-versed in the Pierce family’s internal affairs. However, it was understandable.

It was only natural for a foundation like Echelon Group to be aware of its competitors. It seemed to me

that Echelon Group could not match ATL Empire.

Echelon Group focused solely on architectural development, while ATL Empire was a more comprehensive entity.

“But Celine may not accept defeat so easily,” I remarked.

“Since leaving the ATL Empire, her cunning and vigor have declined. Atlas also hasn’t given her a chance to counterattack. This time, it’s not that she doesn’t want to compete, but her competitive edge has diminished,” Atticus analyzed, and it made sense.

“Celine used to be the foundation for Pierce Corporation. Her power is still viable. I retorted.

“That was back in Nocturnia. She has no power in Torado. Atlas sees that, too, since he can only overpower Celine when her influence is minimal. Therefore, Atlas’s influence in Torado shouldn’t be underestimated.”

“But those who cozy up to Mrs. Greta can be quite crafty. They might still help her,” I said, subtly alluding to Liora.

Chapter 383 Making Things Difficult

Atticus smiled faintly. “Unless Celine is willing to go all out.”

My heart raced. He was right that if Celine went all in, ATL Empire wouldn’t be the only one affected.

Was Atticus trying to imply something to me? However, since it involved Liora, I couldn’t openly ask.

I had always consciously avoided discussing Liora with Atticus.

Atticus asked, "Is your inclination towards high-end designs inspired by Pinnacle Group?"

I nodded. "Yes."

After all, it was Atticus who introduced me to Dominic.

"A word of caution. Don't rush things. Pinnacle Group has an exceptional planning team, considered among the global elite. But that means no one has replicated their success yet. Be careful!" Atticus warned.

*Are you trying to set me back?" I asked with a light laugh.

"Not at all. I'm merely offering a reminder. Some things require the perfect alignment of timing, location, and personnel," he advised.

"Got it. Thanks for the advice. I'll proceed cautiously," I replied, feeling a heightened appreciation for Atticus.

It meant a lot to me that he could offer such direct advice. Our conversation lasted well into the afternoon.

When it was time for me to leave, Atticus said, "Actually, it was Atlas who increased the number of bodyguards."

I froze but didn't turn around. Instead, I waved and walked out briskly. Truthfully, I was already aware that Atlas's men were among the bodyguards that day.

I had also confirmed this at the hospital. When I mentioned that things had settled down, Atlas didn't refute it. I knew then that his involvement went beyond providing information.

I found it fascinating that Atticus was unfazed by my questions. I wondered if his indifference was toward Liora and Celine or if a secret existed between him and Atlas.

Something told me that things between them weren't that simple.

I didn't leave Vanderberg Palace but went straight to the fourth floor. After all, Bella had extended an invitation, and I couldn't decline.

To my surprise, we seemed to have known each other for years. She had prepared lunch for me while I was downstairs chatting with Atticus.

This immediately won me over. Perhaps her reputation preceded her, but for her to cook me lunch in such

a situation said a lot.

Her soup was fantastic, and the utensils she used were exquisite. It made me feel slightly embarrassed. I had never experienced such refinement before. Even as a full-time housewife, I had never put in this level of effort.

Bella was the epitome of elegance and sophistication. During lunch, we talked as if we were old friends. If not for an incoming call, we might have continued chatting..

It was Carol on the line, saying that they needed to shoot a promotional video for the sample rooms at ATL Empire. Harmony was dissatisfied with the interior design and requested a change.

I frowned. "A change?"

“Yes, she specifically requested your presence for this!” Carol’s tone was tense. “Both parties had already agreed on this during previous discussions.”

“I’ll be right there!”

I hung up and apologized to Bella. Carol showed me the visual materials for the sample rooms back at the office.

It made me scoff. It wasn’t something a spokesperson would demand. A promotional video was not mentioned when Tanum Corporation and ATL Empire signed the contract.

Carol could tell I wasn’t pleased. She continued, “She’s asking to change the accessories when we do the shoot. Isn’t she just intentionally making things difficult?”

Just as we were talking, their call came in again.

I told Carol, ‘Let them know we’re on our way!’

I had Carol coordinate with the Interior designer so that we could all go to ATL Empire together. However,

I immediately put my complaints and frustrations aside once we were in the car..

Since this was Harmony’s request, then so be it. If we could use her popularity to promote our designs, it might not be a bad thing,

When I arrived at ATL Empire, the meeting room was filled not only with the project head from ATL

Empire but also with Ivanna, Harmony’s agent, and her assistant.

It was clear. With power comes arrogance. She hadn't even waited to see the outcome before becoming high-handed.

I simply smiled. "Since we're not satisfied with the showrooms, what can we discuss in this meeting room? It might be more productive to head to the showroom instead."

Chapter 384 Flaunt

Harmony's agent immediately countered, "Ms. Harmony doesn't have that much time to move back and forth. Do you think we have nothing better to do?"

I looked at Harmony's agent, Eloise. I had seen her before, and now she stood arrogantly looking down at

me.

Ivanna had complained about Eloise a long time ago. She had been trying to use Harmony's influence to push Ivanna down.

She felt empowered to bully the weak because Harmony was highly successful and had a benefactor like Atlas.

Ivanna was the one who assigned her to Harmony, but Harmony's assistant claimed that Eloise and Stella

were secretly connected.

Inspiration struck me. I could stage a situation by having Eloise deliver a message to Stella. We would openly disagree with Harmony, causing Stella to return.

The idea was set, and I had no intention of backing down.

“We must go to the showroom to solve the problem and satisfy Ms. Harmony. It’s the quickest way to identify and solve problems.” My tone was firm as I said, “I’m not that free either!”

Ivanna raised an eyebrow with a mischievous look.

Of course, everyone was looking at me, especially the head of the project department. We all understood the necessity of this meeting.

“Ms. Harmony has another shoot to rush to. We don’t have the luxury of time to correct mistakes here,” Eloise said.

“Then let’s talk about it when we have time!” I replied, “Let me also correct you. Your demands are not our mistakes but your impolite requests. I’m doing this because I value our relationship with ATL Empire, so you don’t stress them too much. I can choose not to help!”

I spoke in a strong, and confident way.

“What do you mean? What’s impolite about our requests?” Eloise slammed the table. “Is this your idea of problem-solving?”

My mocking smile was unrestrained. “Because you are unprofessional. You do not understand home furnishings design philosophy, so your requests are unreasonable and troublesome. Understand?”

ATL Empire’s representative looked disdainful.

“I brought my professional designers here to get ATL Empire to work with you. Instead of pounding the table and making a scene, show respect and change your attitude. That’s my approach to problem-solving.

My position and meaning were clear. I was only cooperating out of consideration for ATL Empire.

“Oh, please look at international trends if you think our soft furnishings and accessories are too expensive. Your ignorance shouldn’t get in the way of the bigger picture.

“We can’t follow your amateur instructions for making changes because it would make us look bad. We need to take care of our work. You cannot dismiss my designers’ international awards with one sentence!”

“You...”

“Otherwise, Ms. Eloise, let’s go to the site according to Ms. Chloe’s suggestion. It’ll provide a more direct perspective.” Ivanna provided an escape route.

ATL Empire’s representative nodded in agreement. ‘Then, let’s go to the site!’

“Ms. Ivanna, Ms. Harmony has limited time. We can’t afford to waste too much time on this matter.” Eloise expressed her dissatisfaction.

“Since she’s busy, she should be here on time!” I didn’t back down, standing my ground.

I knew very well that she must be in Atlas’s office since everyone from ATL Empire was present.

Harmony's assistant quickly stood up. "I'll go inform Ms. Harmony!"

She swiftly ran out, leaving Eloise unable to stop her.

I quickly told ATL Empire's project head, "One more thing! In the promotional video, this time, all interior decorations must be credited to Tanum Interiors."

In this critical moment, I also put forth my request.

Chapter 385 Free Advertising

The head of ATL Empire looked at me with some hesitation and said, "Well... I need to get approval for this."

"That's fine, I can wait!" I declared, taking a seat in the conference room.

I could see Ivanna suppressing a smile. However, Eloise was no longer composed.

"Ms. Chloe, what do you mean by making us wait?"

"What else?" I challenged her with a provocative tone.

In a low, questioning growl, Eloise demanded, "What do you mean?"

The project head seemed a bit anxious. "Ms. Chloe, can we....finalize the plan first? Then seek approval from higher-ups?"

'No need!' A cold, clear voice suddenly declared

Atlas strode into the conference room, Harmony never leaving his side. He glanced at everyone present, his eyes sliding over my still-raised arm.

'Let's go with Ms. Chloe's suggestion and add the sponsorship!'

My heart skipped a beat. I hadn't expected Atlas to agree to my request.

Eloise immediately put on a fawning smile and said, 'Mr. Atlas, um... Isn't this against the requirements? After all, we are ATL Empire's spokesperson. If we add another sponsor, it might be hard for us to explain! If Tanum Corporation's name is on it...'

"What? Are you trying to take over the ATL Empire?" Atlas's stern gaze locked onto Eloise.

"N-No, not at all!" Eloise immediately waved, her face filled with panic. "In the past, it was always... If we add Tanum Corporation's name, it means they also use Ms. Harmony's image. There will be a fee!"

Tanum Corporation is ATL Empire's partner, exclusively for ATL Empire. Are you suggesting that, to have Ms. Harmony, ATL Empire needs to pay double?" Atlas asked arrogantly, then turned to Ivanna. "Ms. Ivanna, is this correct?"

Ivanna smiled and said, "Of course not. Austier Agency only partners with the ATL Empire!"

Eloise paled. After all, Ivanna's response made her seem out of touch.

It was clear Harmony was Atlas's woman, yet she dared to ask for double the price. Where did she get her

Harmony's face turned cold, and she glared at Eloise.

Eloise was now in a difficult spot. Originally, she didn't intend to trouble Atlas—she was targeting me.

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“Please get Ms. Eloise to draft the agreement for us to sign.” I glanced at everyone present, stating matter

-of-factly, “Can we head to the site now?”

Harmony, puzzled, asked, “What for?”

Eloise immediately caught on to my meaning and displayed clear displeasure.

Harmony looked at me, not too pleased. “Ms. Chloe, what do you mean? It's just a matter of revising the

plan. Is it really necessary to go to the site?”

“Of course it's necessary. Tanum Corporation never does things half-heartedly. Would you understand if

it's all just on paper? Can you clarify what needs to be changed?” I replied to Harmony, unwavering.

Clearly, she couldn't answer any of my questions. Eloise was infuriated, but she saw Atlas's icy expression and dared not act recklessly.

Harmony lightly asked him, “Atlas, do we really need to go to the site?”

Everyone turned to Atlas, and I was sure that Atlas wouldn't favor her. After all, this was a work-related matter.

'Follow Ms. Chloe's arrangements. After all, they are the professionals!' Sure enough, Atlas's tone left no room for doubt.

Since that's the case, why bother with the changes? Wasn't it just Harmony's idea, trying to make things difficult for Tanum Corporation?

However, with her changes, I obtained a free round of publicity. Why not take advantage of it?

ATL Empire's promotional video, endorsed by the hottest celebrities, was sure to get attention. I had truly hit the jackpot.

Then let's all head to the showroom!' I declared, standing up without any hesitation.

The ease with which Atlas had granted my request baffled me. I recalled his words to me back then. Always fight for your own interests!

I chuckled and shook my head. Was it really just about our interests?

As we went downstairs and got in the car, Carol started the car and said to me, "Chlo, you're quite

Chapter 386 Patiently Fishing

"No problem, Ms. Chloe." The designer nodded earnestly. Ryan had brought her to Tanum Corporation

from overseas. Her name was Hana Avila, a classmate of one of Ryan's juniors, Joyce.

She won the newcomer award in the International Interior Decoration Competition. Considering the room

for growth in the industry, her remarkable achievement was exceptional. Her return followed Joyce's.

After we finalized the business plan adjustments, Ryan expanded our team. Reviewing my budget, I

realized our major projects had laid a solid foundation for us. Lauren's support also boosted

my

confidence.

I planned to visit Solaris after removing my arm's cast to stabilize Hartz Construction's foundation. Once the timing was right, I would merge the two sides.

Upon entering the showroom, the design and layout gave me a sense of accomplishment. The furnishings were the cherry on top. It was simply absurd for Harmony to be dissatisfied. I only realized Atlas came when I entered. I didn't expect him to be so hands-on.

When Harmony entered, she was overwhelmed by everything. Her greedy eyes showed she was mesmerized by the exquisite decoration. She was satisfied, and I knew the issues didn't originate from

her.

Of course, I wasn't rushing to expose this. After all, I had already gained something out of this. I decided on the outcome of this game within minutes. I would first play along and then react depending on how Harmony performed.

I knew Stella wouldn't like me benefiting from this conflict.

I looked at Harmony and calmly said, “Ms. Harmony, feel free to point out what you dislike. Our designer will do a rendering on the spot for you. Then, we can discuss and finalize according to your preferences.”

“Okay, but my requirements might be high. It might take some patience on your part.” She shamelessly replied.

I smirked, curious to see how strict her demands would be. “No problem. I’m eager to learn about your style.”

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Seeing that I was being cooperative this time, Eloise seemed pleased. “It would have been better if it was like this earlier, It would have saved us all the time.”

Then please, take your time.” I was too tired to argue further.

Harmony arrogantly nodded while I signaled Hana with my eyes, “Make sure to understand all of Ms.

Hana replied, “Yes, Ms. Chloe.”

She followed Harmony while holding her tablet.

I calmly stepped back and sat on the swing outside the small garden. Through the floor-to-ceiling windows, I watched Harmony gesturing and discussing with Hana, occasionally asking Atlas for his opinion.

Atlas appeared at ease with his hands in his pockets. The scene was so vivid. Harmony seemed almost like a charming wife eagerly tidying up her love nest with hopeful anticipation.

It was jarring, and I couldn’t bear to look. I gazed at my injured arm and reminisced about my past with Atlas. I felt like I had fallen from grace in such a short time.

Still, I refused to believe everything changed. Even if I resisted and couldn’t ask Atlas why, only he could decide things. He didn’t even need to explain it to me. I could only sigh and let my mind wander. Otherwise, Atlas would appear in my mind.

Suddenly, someone appeared. Startled, I looked up and saw a pair of deep eyes, I said indifferently, "Mr. Atlas, you can communicate with the designer if you have any questions."

"You're tough on yourself. You're always battered and bruised," Atlas's voice carried a mocking undertone.

I

I slowly rose and looked away, saying, "Perhaps you should pay more attention to your girlfriend. It's best if she's not injured. You should ignore my injury."

"Have you forgotten what I once told you?"

"I only believe my own eyes." I retorted coldly.

Chapter 387 The Definition of Foolishness

There was something in Atlas's eyes I didn't understand. Soon after, he said, "I don't believe you're that stupid, Chloe."

Again, he called me stupid, I retorted, "Since you think I'm stupid, you ignore my feelings and do whatever

you want. You're too self-centered. Do you even know how to respect others? Don't you know others also

have dignity and rights?"

I became agitated. "Yes, I'm stupid enough t

you and your people to treat me like an idiot. Still, I

willingly get hurt to play these deceitful games with you. I was stupid enough to sacrifice myself for you.”

Suddenly, I saw his eyes narrow and his hands clenched

“I was stupid enough to watch you turn your back on me while I was on the floor. You’re right. I finally realized how stupid I was.” I lowered my gaze, feeling tears welling in my eyes. After a while, I sighed, “Forget it:”

When my words fell, I felt like a deflated balloon. I finally vented my frustrations. Although I managed to maintain my dignity, I felt I had lost something inside me.

“Let’s keep our relationship professional,” I said disappointedly.

“Then what?” Atlas looked at me indifferently.

“No matter what I say, one thing is certain—I’m unworthy of you. Let’s not entangle ourselves any further. You can have countless women, just not me. We’re only business partners from now on.”

“What if the collaboration ends? His words startled me, and I looked at him, feeling even more powerless.

I knew it was time to consider that. Dazed, I saw Atlas’s mocking smirk. He squinted while waiting for my response. Finally, I said firmly, “Then let’s pretend we never met. I’ll forget you and never bother you again.

He looked panicked as he pursed his lips.

I smirked and added, “I forget many things because I’m stupid. Can you rest easy now?”

“Chloe!” He called out, somewhat exasperated.

I looked into his eyes, saying, “I hope you stop treating me this way. I’ve done nothing wrong to you, so you don’t have to be so cold toward me. Maybe no one has told you this yet. You’re attractive when you’re gentle and affectionate. I envy Harmony for seeing your carefree smile.”

My voice had a teasing undertone, and I tried to make my laughter alluring. “Oh, I also made a mistake when you were unconscious. I begged to spend ten minutes with you, only to get slapped.

“It seems I’ll stay safe and avoid disrupting your grand schemes by staying away from you. I’m sorry. It won’t happen again. Thank you for all your help last time.”

“Chloe, think back on what I said. You’ll understand it someday.” Atlas looked restrained. He seemed to struggle to say something but held it back.

“You’ve said too much. What are you referring to?” My gaze was piercing.

“Then remember what you just said. Staying away will help you protect yourself.” His voice softened.

I smiled, “Well said.”

Then, there was silence between us.

Suddenly, someone interrupted us, “Atlas, what are you guys talking about?”

Harmony wrapped her arms around Atlas.

I squinted at them, thinking the celebrity and tycoon matched perfectly. I smiled calmly, looking at Atlas’s

restrained expression. I said, "You'll see what real stupidity looks like soon."

Chapter 388 A Trap Lies Ahead

I glanced at them triumphantly and dropped my smile as I turned and left. I felt a deep sense of pain and blamed myself for being forceful.

I laughed at myself and felt exhausted. I gritted my teeth as I entered the room. I took a deep breath, not wanting anyone to see me so miserable. As I composed myself, Hana approached and handed me her

tablet.

She glanced at it and shook her head helplessly. She seemed to be speechless about something. I swiped through a few times and then looked at her. "Can you sort out this information if I call for a meeting now?"

"Yes," she replied confidently. 1

to any more ti

"How long do you need?" I asked. I didn't want to on this issue. Engaging with them

would only ruin my mood, and I had more important things to do.

"Not long. Anywhere with a computer will do," Hana said, her confident look making me feel comfortable.

I thought even women could be charming and capable.

I nodded approvingly. “Good. Ask Harmony if she has other requirements. Double-check with her if you got all of her suggestions. I’ll deal with her today.”

Hana was astute when she heard my words. She smiled, saying, “I know what you mean.”

My impression of Hana was excellent. The first time she came to my office, I felt an inexplicable closeness to her. It felt like she was a long-lost sister. I wanted to get to know her more, but she was from Yare, and we didn’t have much in common.

Sometimes, I mocked myself, wondering if I was too kind or lonely. Whenever I saw a kind and beautiful person, I felt close to them. Upon calming down, I realized that wasn’t the case for everyone.

For example, my closeness to Atlas and Hana was inexplicably intense. However, my feelings for the two differed. I felt like I had known Atlas for a long time. I always had a lingering affection for him.

Meanwhile, I felt close to Hana in a family sense. Perhaps it was because she was beautiful and did what I had longed to do.

I

I wanted to be a designer when I was younger. However, it didn’t happen because I got married after college. Moreover, I married such a vile man.

While thinking, I didn’t notice Harmony entering as she held Atlas’s arm. She expressed her liking for the

place, hinting at her desire for Atlas to purchase it.

Still, Atlas hadn't made any commitments, and I silently cursed him for being stingy. After all, Harmony accompanied him everywhere. Atlas should have rewarded her for her loyalty.

I didn't want to engage with them further, so I approached Ivanna. She was chatting with ATL Empire's project manager. When they turned to look at me, Ivanna asked, "Ms. Chloe, the interior is luxurious. Your company's designs have significantly progressed; it's now on an international standard."

"Of course. I have internationally renowned designers this time. Tanum Corporation will take the high-end

route. We can't always rely on local designers. After all, their perspectives aren't inclusive.

"I've selected a few award-winning designers like Hana. I'll train and bring the team to another level."

I took the opportunity to show off to ATL Empire's project manager.

Eloise sneered and rolled her eyes. "I think you should expand your company before saying all that. No

matter how famous your designers are, a small company like yours is still nothing."

Ivanna's expression turned solemn. I grabbed her and urged her not to argue. After all, Eloise had no right to comment on the size of my company. I didn't want Ivanna to conflict with her, Eloise was just a pile of shit. Stepping on her would be disgusting.

"Ms. Eloise, you're right. Your current position suits you perfectly now. You're an excellent fit for a celebrity manager." I smiled wickedly.

Eloise glared at me.

Chapter 389 Settling It At Once

Eloise questioned, "What do you mean?"

I knew she was displeased. Everyone knew she had always desired Ivanna's position. I answered by exaggerating each word, "I meant that literally. You fit the role of a celebrity manager best."

Ivanna defused the tension, "Ms. Chloe, you've got it wrong. Eloise is ambitious and capable."

I snorted. "Anyone can dream."

"Who are you talking about?" She didn't catch what I said due to the distance and asked for clarification.

"Idiot." I winked at her and smirked playfully. Then, I turned to Harmony and said, "Ms. Harmony, is there anything else you want to add, or should we continue?"

She greedily surveyed the surroundings, wishing to claim this showroom as hers. She had been holding onto Atlas's arm the whole time. Still somewhat dissatisfied, she said, "That's enough for now. Even if I

say more, you may not meet my standards."

"Whether or not we can meet them is my problem. Your manager was unhappy just now, saying you're too busy. Since you're here, let's resolve everything to avoid wasting everyone's time."

My words struck a chord as the others glanced at me approvingly. I noticed Atlas was unfazed with his

hands in his pockets. Meanwhile, Hana was busy taking notes, tapping away on her tablet.

Everyone knew Harmony had nothing else to point out. Seeing this, I turned to Lucinda, ATL Empire's deputy director, and asked, "If Ms. Harmony has no other requests, let's return to ATL Empire's

conference room.

Eloise retorted, "Do we need to return to the conference room?"

Harmony also looked displeased, adding, "Atlas, I'm tired. Should we call it a day?"

Atlas remained indifferent. He didn't speak but gazed at me, indicating it was up to me to decide.

"We must go back. Everyone here is busy. My designers are here, and it's rare for my team to gather. If

everyone agrees, we can finalize everything today. What do you say, Mr. Atlas?" I turned to Atlas,

I knew less than an hour remained until the end of the workday. Harmony seemed to want to continue

hanging out with Atlas.

Then let's return to the office and finish everything today." Atlas was cold and decisive. He took the

initiative to leave, causing Harmony to frown. She glared at me before going after him.

I raised an eyebrow at Ivanna and said to Atlas's retreating figure. "See you in the conference room. I'll

need you there for a while, Mr. Atlas. We're doing an important modification, and I don't want any

mistakes. Thank you for your cooperation."

With that, I led Carol and Hana straight to ATL Empire. I noticed everyone else got into their respective cars. I deliberately invited Atlas to attend the meeting so nobody would dare to act recklessly.

In the conference room, I saw Nick and the photographer for the promotional video. Several designers from ATL Empire were also present, so I was satisfied. It would be a severe discussion, and it looked like

Atlas intended it.

However, I wondered if he was afraid I might embarrass his girlfriend.

Hana was still busy with her tablet. When I announced the meeting, she glanced at me and nodded.

“Okay, let’s get to the point. My designer will present the suggestions she received earlier for the showroom’s modification.” I introduced Hana with great solemnity.

One of the ATL Empire designers cooperated. He seemed surprised when I introduced Hana. “Are you the Hana Avila, who designed the “Colors of Life’ for the International Interior Decoration Competition in Cadrela?”

“Yes, that’s me!” Hana replied confidently.

I noticed a flash in Atlas’s eyes as he lightly stroked his chin. His meaningful gaze fell on me. Seeing his expression, I felt pleased. Soon, I would show him the true definition of stupidity.

Chapter 390 The Signs of Provocation

Hana first presented the showroom’s initial layout and decoration. The images depicted a splendid room with a grand style. The attendees occasionally nodded in approval. It seemed they were satisfied with the

initial showroom.

Hana then displayed a series of images. With each one, she asked, “Ms. Harmony, is this what you’d like?”

Hana was soft-spoken as she guided Harmony. The latter became engaged this time, perhaps because she wanted to show off her thoughts to the audience. She appeared elegant and continued expressing her ideas.

Whenever this happened, Hana would provide her with feedback before asking, "Is this what you want?"

Harmony clapped, nodded in agreement, and occasionally exclaimed, "Oh, yes! That's what I want. The effect is perfect. Wow, it's great. I love it!"

Everyone in the room watched. The attendees were eager to see the overall effect and learn about the celebrity's design preferences. Harmony's excitement engaged everyone's enthusiasm. It seemed she had a motivational effect on others.

Even Eloise occasionally commented, cooperating with Harmony.

I couldn't describe my emotions as I watched the large screen. I felt delighted, curious, and satisfied with Hana. She diligently changed the showroom's angles, colors, and accessories on her tablet, fully

Immersed in her work.

I glanced around the conference room. Everyone, especially ATL Empire designers, focused on the big screen. I noticed their initial excitement slowly changing to conflicted expressions.

Hana skillfully delayed showing the modified layouts, suggesting it would enhance the discussion's efficiency. Everyone was engrossed in the ongoing presentation, and interrupting would've disrupted the flow.

After confirming the modifications from the five layouts, Hana pressed confirm, exclaiming, "Great! We've compiled five complete proposals, approved and signed by Ms. Harmony. Now, let's look at the final results."

I nodded approvingly at Hana and then turned to the big screen. It displayed five images, all of which seemed peculiar. Hana enlarged each image and paused in between, allowing everyone to grasp the details.

She then introduced each modification, explaining the areas Harmony wanted to revise. However, the

darkened considerably.

I glanced at the composed Atlas.

The designer who had praised Hana tossed his pen on the table and leaned back, seething in silence. His

gesture alone was enough to reflect his anger. I knew nobody would dare voice their opinions now.
After

all, doing so would be undermining Atlas's choices.

I looked at Harmony and realized even she seemed bewildered as she gazed at the screen with disbelief.

Every accessory she had insisted on got singled out.

Suddenly, Atlas's voice broke the silence, "Let's all speak up and share opinions."