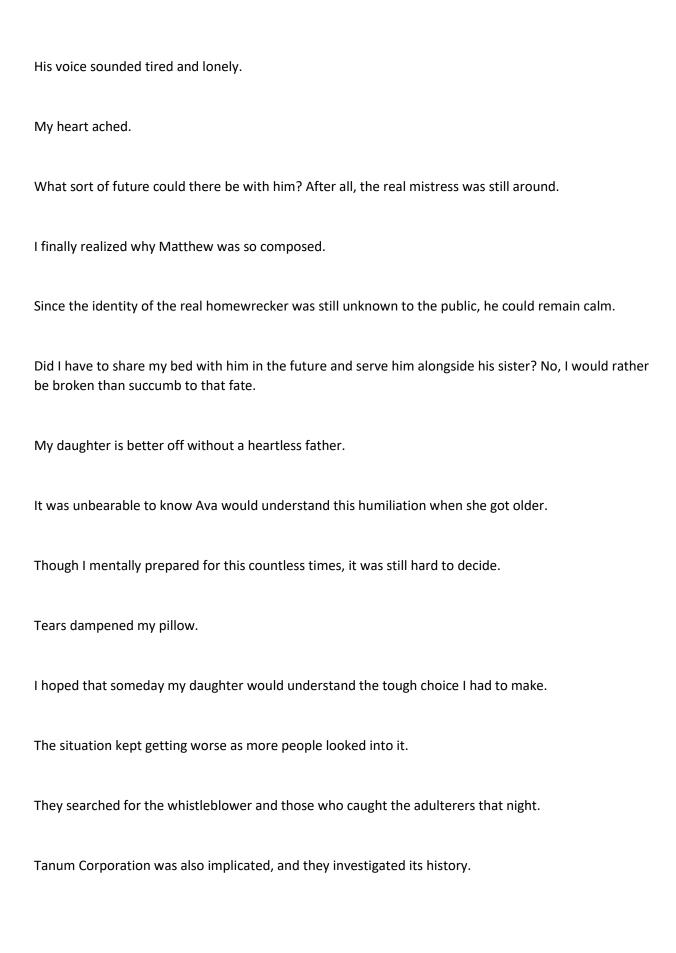
## The Divorce 71

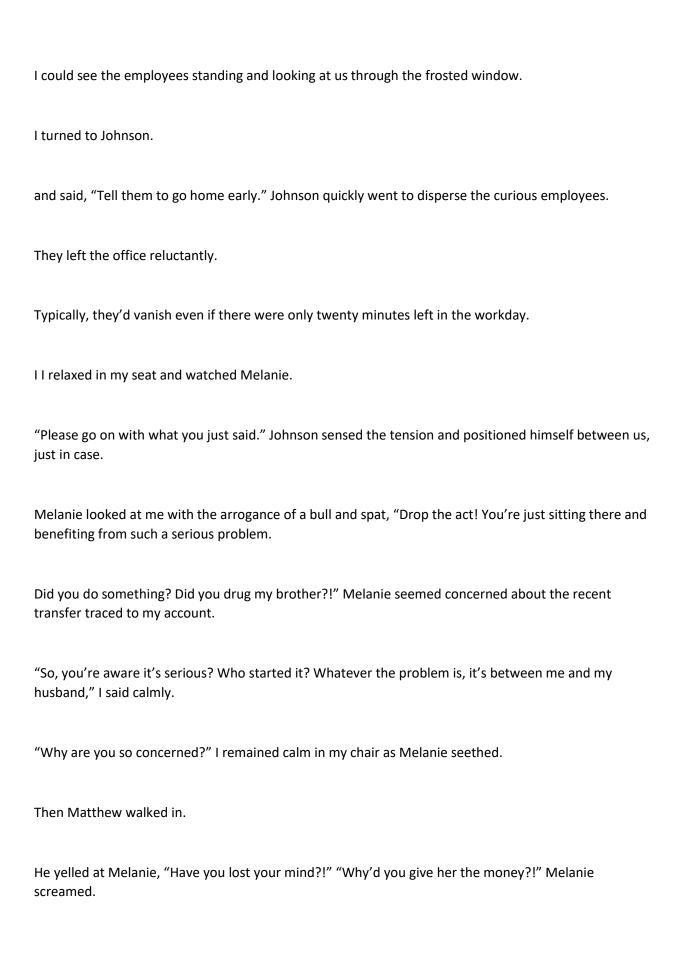
Chapter 71 Dying in Glory Is Better Than Living in Dishonor Ivanna looked at me sympathetically while I stared back.
I was trying hard not to cry.
"Chlo, don't be upset.
We're in this together now," she said, trying to console me.
My eyes welled up with tears, and I rushed into the bathroom.
I quickly texted Johnson, washed my face, and returned to the room.
"What should we do?" I asked, my voice trembling.
"H–I'm ready to do whatever it takes.
I don't care about my pride anymore." Tears streamed down my face, and I felt utterly helpless.
Suddenly, Matthew's phone rang.
He glanced at the screen, then hurriedly answered.
Although I couldn't hear what was said, I saw him turn pale.
Then he said through trembling lips, "I understand." After hanging up, Matthew's head bowed in defeat.
Ivanna shot me a glance, and I raised an eyebrow at her.



can't believe the mess Can i ever trust in manage again? Ivanna sighed.
her paint for now I cleared the table before calling my daughter, realizing how much I missed her.
However, I felt relieved that she wasn't here while this was happening.
back wh I Matthew got and I was already in bed.
When he got into bed, I turned away from him.
I felt.
his hand on my back and mumbled, "I'm tired." He paused and withdrew his hand.
"Alright, get some rest.
It's my fault.
I know I've hurt you.
That woman.
duped me.
I swear I'll do nothing like this again.
I'll give our child the best future, and we'll live a good life together.



As the true founder of the company, I was also subjected to scrutiny.
While the public seemed to be on my side, some started delving into my assets.
It was disheartening.
This situation finally caught Matthew's attention, and he swiftly took action.
That afternoon, a notification flashed on my phone.
The missing down payment for our house had been returned.
However, before I could feel any relief, Melanie stormed into the room.
Her face was flushed with anger.
Chapter 72 Protecting Her She yelled at me.
"Chloe, you seem pretty comfortable, huh? Acting all high and mighty as the boss.
Do you think you're qualified?" I sat calmly in my chair and looked at her.
Johnson followed her inside, attempting to mediate.
"Ms.Murphy, why are you here? Can't you resolve it at home? There are so many people here, and it's not the right place.
Besides" 1 "Is she afraid of causing a scene? Who does she think she is?" Melanie was on a roll, her words cutting.



"Maybe she had something to do with all this.

Why else would people look into the 'founder of the company? Is she trying to claim credit?" Melanie had surprising insight and was digging deep I got up and said, "Matthew Murphy, you came just in time! I have a question for you! Who gave Melanie Be judecity to provoke me?" Thening to Mature, Isaid, "You've pretended to be his wife twice now.

Do you think you're the real deal? you become your broder's sook aon? I glared at Melanie, not wanting to let her win "You peren Dani masinitos for I closed the distance between us as her face contorted with hostility.

Matthew pulled Melanie behind him and faced me.

He shouted angrily, "Enough, both of you.

Can't you give me a break at such a horrible time?" He was trying to shield her, which sent a chill down my spine.

The beautiful moments we used to share had faded, leaving only bitterness.

So, you're saying I'm causing a scene, right?" I asked, my voice trembling with rage and sadness.

As I approached Matthew, I wondered if this was all there was to us.

I was too optimistic when I thought he would find his way back.

All the hopes that I had for the future were gone.

"You should take a closer look, Matthew.

This is my office." "So what?" Melanie chimed in. "Without you, things wouldn't turn out this way. If you could make my brother happy, would he seek out someone else?" 2 "I dare you to repeat that!" I yelled, feeling a sting in my heart. Chapter 73 Ganging Up "Both of you, shut up!" Matthew shouted. "So you're protecting her, huh? You cradle your sister and let her call the shots. Honestly, she doesn't seem like your sister at all. From the looks of it, she's the one sleeping by your side. You do whatever she says! You're like her lapdog!" I couldn't help but point it out. "Come on, Chloe... What are you talking about Cont you show a little restraint? Think about the bigger. picture?" Matthew's face suddenly changed color, and he shoved me away, causing me to stumble. "Ms. Chloe!" Johnson gasped, offering support as I steadied myself and glared at Matthew. Melanie hid behind her brother and whispered venomously in his ear. "Matt, can't you see she's only after your money? She only cares about herself. Has she ever genuinely worried about you?" She turned to me.

"Chloe, remember that Tanum Corporation belongs to the Murphy family.



Matthew shouted, "Stop!" His true colors were showing.
I paused, pulling my foot back and turning to face him.
"Is there something else you want to say?" Staring at him, I continued, "You dare raise your voice at me? Don't forget, I didn't cheat like you did.
There's no need for you to gang up on me.
But at least you're my husband, so I can understand when you act this way, +15 BONUS "But her She has no right! She eats my food, drinks my wine, and still wants to dump her problems on me.
Matthew, you're pushing me too far!" With my plece said, I stormed out of my office.
The reporters waited outside.
They swarmed around me when they saw me come out.
I was pushed and pulled like a stringless puppet.
Still, they were invisible to me.
My ears rang, and I only wanted to find a quiet, healing place.
A firm hand suddenly reached out through the crowd and grabbed my arm, pulling me away.
My head was pounding as they shoved me into a car.

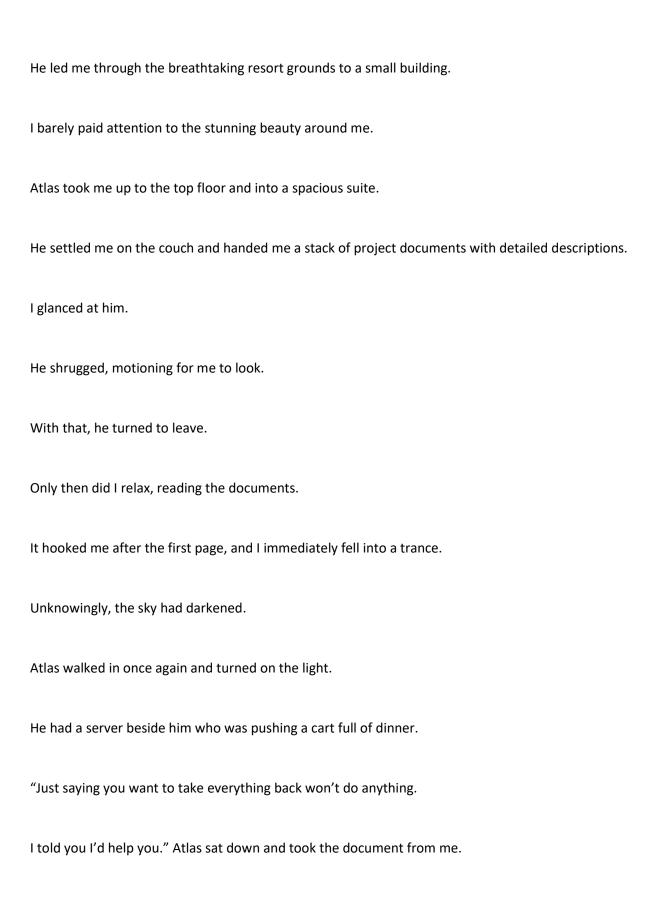


Whenever I was with Atlas, it felt like my soul was being pulled to him.
I lost myself, wanting only to follow his lead.
I was ashamed of my lack of self-respect.
As someone who had hit rock bottom and been abandoned by everyone, I was about to fall for someone else.
However, he was undeniably attractive, which made resisting him difficult.
He smiled warmly at me, and I stared at him like a deer caught in headlights.
Atlas gently brushed a strand of hair from my face.
"You've lost weight in just a few days, haven't you? You look like a damsel in distress!" His words made me smile awkwardly and pull away.
"Well, I'm still beautiful, aren't I?" I cringed at my own words.
Did I just call myself beautiful? As I inhaled the sweet air around me, I said, "This place is amazing!" I Leaning against the railing, I looked out into the distance and reflected on my years in the city.
"I've lived here for so long, and I never knew such a beautiful place was nearby.
I used to be so focused on my work." I chuckled in self–depreciation.
"That's because you never stopped to enjoy the scenery.

You always had your head down," he said, joining me.
His scent was pleasant.
"Thank you for helping me when I was at the end of my rope," I said solemnly, turning to him.
"I know you were behind the Urban Builders deal.
I'll remember your kindness, and I'll repay it one day." Atlas leaned closer, and his warm breath brushed against me.
"How do you plan to repay it? I backed away.
"Enough! I'm being sincere!" Metop.
I'm curious to see how you'll repay me, he teased This man was such an unigena.
I couldn't quite figure him out.
He was arrogant for an aselefant, which He was a completely different person in front of me.
I could be wrong, but there was something special about him.
A true mystery of a man! However, I couldn't let myself indulge too much.
Although my marriage had failed, I still had a family.
If I grew too close to him, what would that make me? How would I be any different from Matthew? I "I—I'll repay you my way!" I stammered.

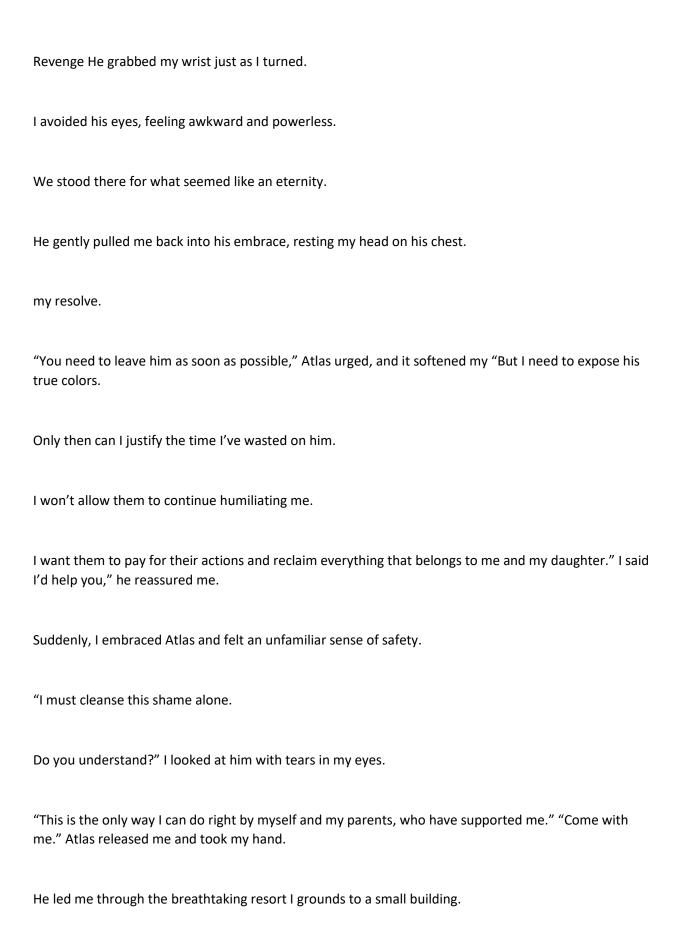






I was reluctant to relinquish the documents, but he gently suggested, "Eat something first, and I'll explain these projects to you.
Why are you helping me?" I looked into his eyes, seeking sincerity.
Because I want to," he replied, a bit unconvincingly.
I knew he wasn't telling the whole truth.
Have yol met before suddenly asked, feeling like Atlas was strangely familiar.
It was a feeling that had He was a completely different person in front of me.
I could be wrong, but there was something special about him.
A true mystery of a man! However, I couldn't let myself indulge too much.
Although my marriage had failed, I still had a family.
If I grew too close to him, what would that make me? How would I be any different from Matthew? "I—I'll repay you my way!" I stammered.
"What way is that? By offering yourself to me?' He looked right at me, and his smile had a hint of mischief in it.
Suddenly, it felt like he was mocking me My expression turned stern.
"I've said I'll repay you, and I will.
I'm not an ungrateful person, and I hope you'll respect my sincerity.

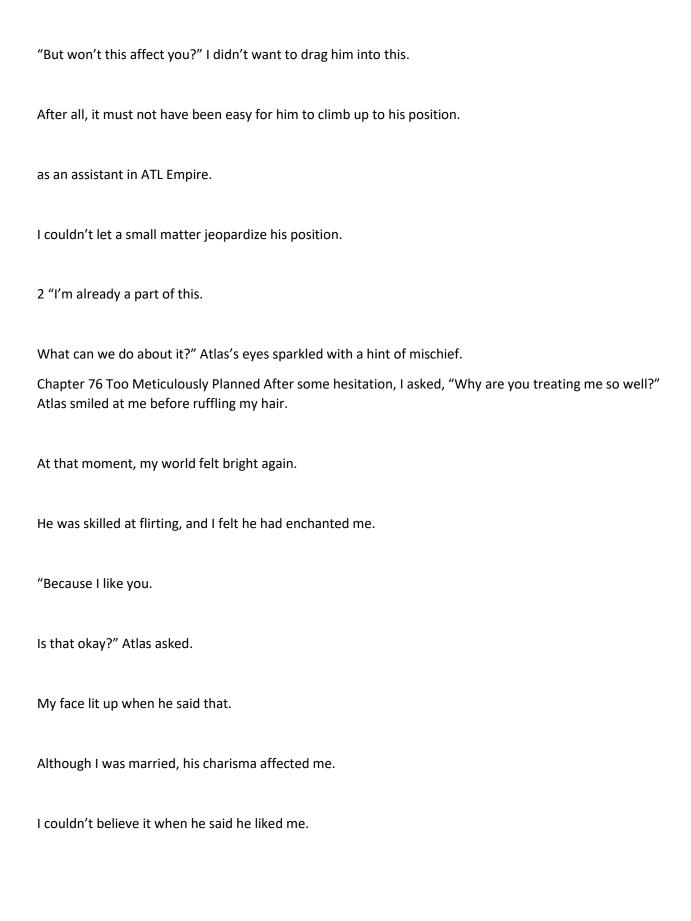




I barely paid attention to the stunning beauty around me.
Atlas took me up to the top floor and into a spacious suite.
He settled me on the couch and handed me at stack of project documents with detailed descriptions I glanced at him.
He shrugged, motioning for me to look.
With that, he turned to leave.
Only then did I relax, reading the documents.
It hooked me after the first page, and I immediately fell into a trance.
Unknowingly, the sky had darkened Atlas walked in once again and turned on the light.
He had a server beside him who was pushing a cart full of dinner.
"Just saying you want to take everything back won't do anything.
I told you I'd help you." Atlas sal down and took the document from me.
I was reluctant to relinquish the documents, but he gently suggested, "Eat something first, and I'll explain these projects to you." Why are you helping me?" I looked into his eyes, seeking sincerity, Because I want to, he replied, a bit unconvincingly I knew he wasn't telling the whole truth.
love we met before ordenly asked, feeling like Atlas was strangely familiar, it was a feeling that had He

smiled but didn't answer my question directly.

Instead, he asked, "Have you made up your mind? Are you determined to get revenge?" "Yes," I replied firmly.
"I decided before going to Solaris." As I sipped my wine, I continued.
"That day by the river Although I was out of it, one thing was clear.
I must get back everything that belongs to me." I suddenly realized that I might have offended him by saying that.
I guessed I was being too harsh.
Then, I added, "What's the point of such a marriage? There needs to be trust, even among business partners.
With Matthew, there's neither trust nor any remaining familial bond.
Maybe we're pursuing maximum benefit, but I'm not just in it for the money.
"I want to prove a point.
He came from nothing.
But now he wants to send his wife, the woman who helped him out of a crisis, straight to hell.
Where's the justice in that?" "In that case, let's toast to it!" Atlas clinked his glass against mine.
"I'll help you regain your paradise." His eyes were so clear and bright as I observed them.

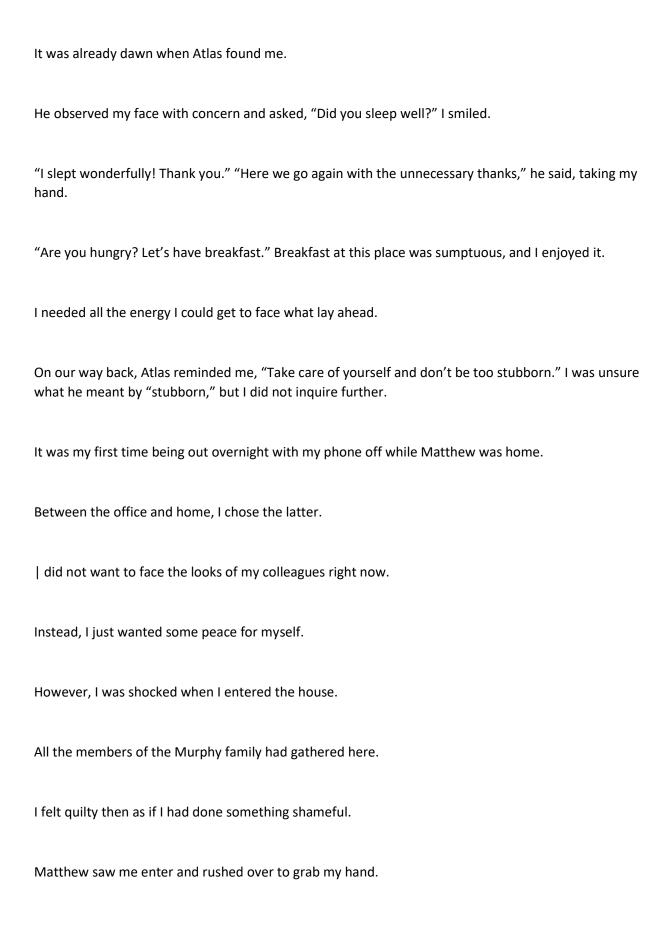


Such sweet nothings might work on young and innocent girls, but my daughter was almost old enough to understand what love was.
I knew my marriage was ending, and I would soon become divorced.
However, the outstanding man before me told me he liked me.
Even I could sense the irony of the situation.
Atlas noticed my silence and pulled me into his arms.
"Why do you always torture yourself by overthinking everything? There can be countless reasons to like someone." I rolled my eyes, freed myself from his grasp, and enjoyed the delicious meal.
It would be a waste not to savor it.
He watched me relish the food with a smile.
I had to admit my mood suddenly became better.
When we finished eating, he called for the server to clear the table and explained the documents.
He said they were a comprehensive plan for crucial projects.
However, ATL Empire had already outsourced one part to Ardora Construction.
My eyes widened when he mentioned that company.
I asked him in a whisper, "Ardora?" He nodded with a profound look.

I knew Ardora Construction was the company Matthew had registered under Melanie's name.
I had a strange feeling that Atlas had planned everything too meticulously.
It was as if he had carefully designed everything to push me forward.
I had no room to retreat, which meant losing everything and giving up on exposing Matthew's true colors.
Still, moving forward was risky, and I felt like something was driving me toward this direction.
Ultimately, I had no choice.
Although I suspected Atlas of orchestrating everything, I couldn't see his true intentions in helping me wondered if it was because he hiked" me and felt a chill running down my spine, struck a deal with Ardora Construction to make it your stepping stone.
Use it to achieve your goal of Aking everything from them.
I didn't respond because my mind was a mess, so he continued.
"Your company can take this project, and you can use it to repay Urban Builders' favor.
You don't want to owe Fred too much, right?" I asked curiously.
"Are you saying I can take this project with the company registered under my name?" "Why else did you set up a company then? Just to intimidate others? Atlas countered.

"If you don't take this project, how will you take everything from the Murphys? Tanum Corporation is already an empty shell now." I froze at how well he planned these moves I could already see Matthew heading toward a bottomless Dit Atlas looked at me while I was in a daze and pulled me into his arms. Then, he gently kissed my forehead, saying. "Maybe you should take some time and get some rest before considering your options" With that, he placed the room card on the coffee table and left the room. I was alone in the empty room, and the silence was overwhelming Atlas's perfect revenge plan scared me somewhat I didn't know if excitement or clear sight of Matthew's fate made me uneasy. Regardless, my heart raced. What troubled me the most was Atlas's feelings for me. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't find a reasonable explanation. Chapter 77 A Shameless Request I lay in bed and eventually fell asleep. My nightmare consisted of Matthew and Melanie tormenting Ava and me. I woke up crying but could not release my suppressed anger and frustration. The chirps of birds and the morning sun gradually calmed my racing heart. When I got dressed and went downstairs, I realized I hadn't appreciated this place's breathtaking beauty.

I knew I shouldn't miss such a magnificent view.



"Honey, you're finally back! We couldn't find you anywhere, and your phone was off.
Do you know how worried I was?" Although he spoke so sincerely, I wondered whether or not he was genuinely concerned about me.
All my uneasiness vanished upon seeing his expression.
I wanted to slap him but held back because I had not achieved my goal yet.
Were you really that concerned about me?" I looked at him Indifferently, removed my shoes, and walked be living room.
I glanced at everyone present and asked, "is something going on? It looks li 's bere, huh? Luder You're the one who stayed out at night" Molande locked "You little–Melanie began.
"Enough, you two!" Matthew shouted.
"Honey, it's good that you're back.
I know you were angry yesterday.
Mel didn't understand the situation and was worried because it didn't look good for us.
I let my temper get the best of me, too.
Please don't be mad at me anymore.
I forced a smile and glanced at Melanie, saying, "You don't understand a thing, do you?" "Have some shame, will you?" Melanie would not back down.











I must say ATL Empire's project is a godsend this time!" Matthew's words infuriated me. He was shameless enough to use me as his bait Their conversation was quite revealing, and I learned Matthew had been planning to oust me for a while now. I was his real obstacle because I was the company's founder. He was this petty because I stole his limelight, so he wanted to eliminate me. Unexpectedly, Melanie even hired someone to spy on me. It seemed Matthew was not ignorant of me. At least, he had been cautious since I returned to the company. He intended to use me to get Atlas's approval, proving he was cunning. Suddenly, my phone rang. The caller was none other than Melanie. Chapter 79 Meeting Melanie Alone I answered the call and heard Melanie's usual arrogant tone, "I have something to tell you. Let's meet." I "Why didn't you tell me that when you were at my place just now?" I asked. "It concerns us, not something suitable to say in front of the others.

Come to Midnight Bar now!" She hung up without waiting for my response.

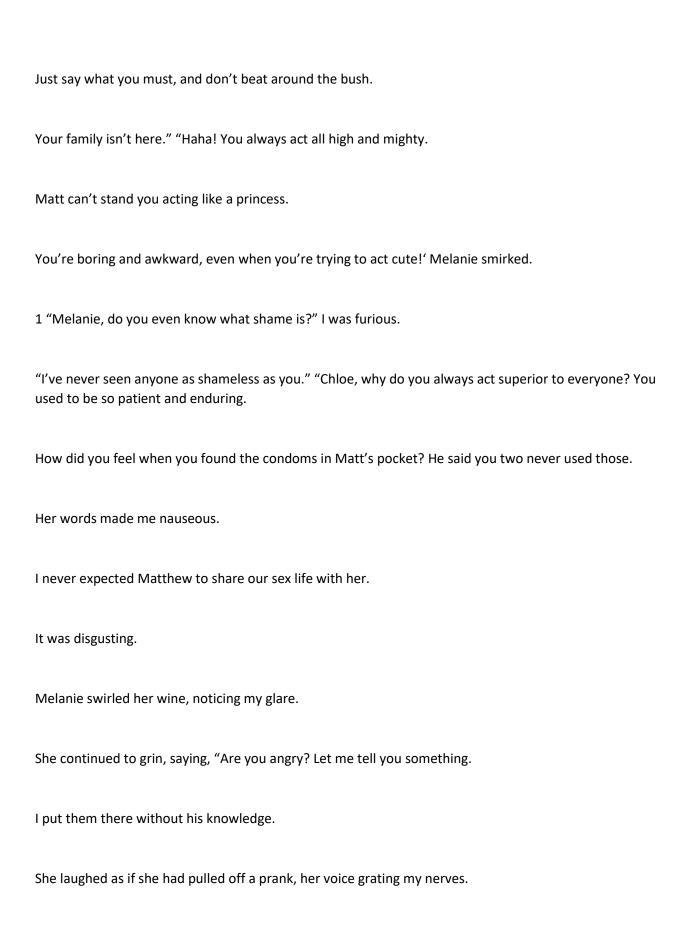
While holding my phone, I wondered what Melanie was up to.
Still, I wanted to know what she had to say, so I rolled out of bed and checked the time.
It was almost noon, so the bar wouldn't be open at this hour.
After some thought, I decided to play it safe and changed into jeans, a T-shirt, and a pair of casual flats.
I tried calling Ivanna as I drove in case something went wrong.
Unfortunately, she was out of town.
I I hesitated while holding my phone and finally called Atlas.
Immediately after, I decided against it since.
Melanie knew I had met with him before.
I knew it was best not to complicate things and hung up the call as I arrived at the bar.
I had never been to a bar, so the dim lighting made me uncomfortable.
The bar was underground, and the stairway was narrow.
However, the interior was spacious.
I took a while to adjust to the surroundings at the basement entrance.

Since it wasn't opening hours yet, there were no customers. Under the soft yellow light behind the bar, a young man who looked like a bartender was busy with his work. I approached him and asked, "Sir, I'm here to meet someone. Is this place open yet?" He glanced at me and pointed across the room. I turned to look and saw a long corridor many rooms. I wanted to ask him which room I was supposed to enter, but the bartender seemed uninterested in being disturbed. or with m I could only search for Melanie from room to room. It seemed Melanie frequented places like this. Otherwise, she wouldn't have asked me to meet her. The many rooms along the corridor resembled a maze, with every junction leading to another corridor. felt increasingly uneasy and was about to turn back when a door suddenly opened in the corridor and out came Melanie. "Hal I didn't expect you to arrive so quickly!" She laughed, but her laughter gave me an aerie feeling.

It made me far less comfortable than facing her ously hostile demeanor.

Ever since I witnessed her entanglement with Matthew, I couldn't help but She reached out as if to hold me, but I avoided her dirty hand. "What did you want to tell me?" I opened the door with my foot and glanced inside the room, realizing it was empty. After confirming it was safe, I walked in and sat on the couch, looking at Melanie. "I'm listening" Melanie followed me in, swaying her hips in a way she thought was alluring. However, it made me nauseous. Suddenly, I realized why Matthew was attracted to her. I finally discovered why he called me " stiff." Melanie strode over and sat on the seat beside me. She looked at me with excitement, joy, and wickedness. a glass, saying I saw an already-opened bottle of red wine on the table. Melanie reached for it and poured a "Chloe, I knew you'd come as soon as I called you. I'm sure you've never been here before, right? Take a guess for Matt." Chapter 80 I'll Let You in on a Secret Melanie grinned as she spoke, and I knew her following words wouldn't be pleasant. Still, I remained.

I unfazed, saying, "I don't think coming here makes a difference.



She had shattered my perception of her, and I couldn't believe how low she had stooped.
Melanie was still sickly when I married Matthew.
However, I noticed her eyes constantly scrutinizing me.
Although she and I weren't close, she always followed me, looking for her brother.
Since she was his younger sister, I took her everywhere, even with us, to the movies.
She never refused and always stayed close.
Finally, I realized she was eyeing Matthew all along.
It seemed Melanie wasn't as innocent as she appeared.
On the contrary, she was bold.
She sipped her wine and gestured toward me.
"You should have a drink to calm your nerves.
Learn to enjoy life, Chloe.
Although I can't stand you, I pity you at times.
What else do you have besides your daughter and that shabby house?" She had a point, and I was at a loss for words.

Melanie had twisted thoughts, explaining why she could sleep with her brother. Melanie said, "You know my family prefers sons over daughters, right? My father was disappointed when you birthed Ava Matt wants a son, but I can't let you have one. Still, you won't get pregnant, even if you don't use condoms Hahaha! You don't know what I did, huh?" Melanie I shouted and bolted to my feet. Don't get to worked up I haven't finished yet! She pulled me, but I shrugged off her hend "Don't touch me, you disgusting pig!" I never thought I'd face such a vile woman. I remembered Melanie had my house keys and could enter and leave as she pleased. I felt a deep sense of unease. Melanie stumbled back and fell onto the couch after I shrugged her off. Surprisingly, she wasn't enraged. She smirked at me, saying, "I enjoy seeing you all worked up." 2 She sat up, poured herself another glass, and then filled another one. "Oh, my dear sister-in-law-\* "Don't call me that!" I growled.

I felt a shiver down my spine as I fell back onto the couch.

"All right, I won't call you that.

To be honest, I've never acknowledged you as my sister—in—law, either," Melanie spoke calmly,	"But you
see, Matt is so soft–hearted.	

Although he's lost interest in you, he can't end things.

Besides, there's a project we need to secure, so you're still useful to us." I struggled to control my anger, not wanting to lose my composure in front of her.

However, I discovered Matthew was unaware of everything she had done.

Melanie sipped her wine again and leaned in closer.

She resembled a seductress in the dim light as she whispered, "Chloe, I'll let you in on a secret."