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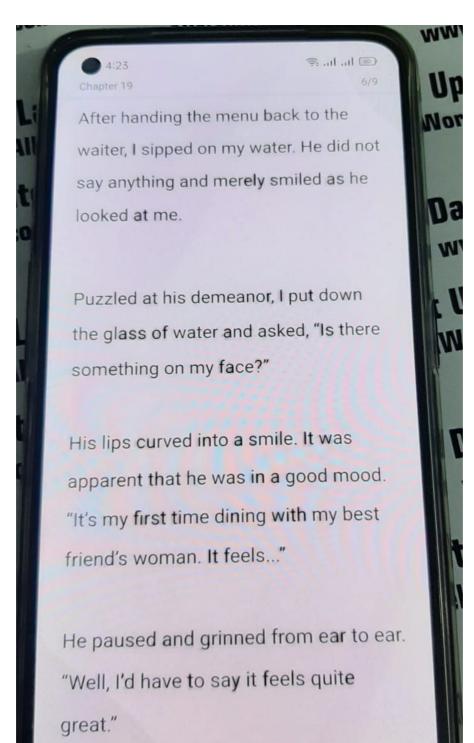
Chapter 19

across his face. "How could I be late on a date with a pretty girl?"

It was actually quite rare to catch him with a smile. I pushed the menu toward him. "Has anyone ever told you that you look really gentle when you smile?"

He raised an eyebrow at my comment and gestured me to order from the menu first. His almond-shaped eyes narrowed slightly as he looked into my eyes. "You're the first person to say that."

I merely smiled and did not comment further. After skimming through the menu, I ordered a few dishes that I thought he would enjoy.



Birds of a feather flock together.



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Naturally, the people around Ashton would not be as easy to manipulate.

I did not doubt his words, nor did I ruminate over his undertone. Seeing that he was not beating around the bush, I returned the favor by asking him directly. "If something comes up and I need your help, I believe that you would offer me a helping hand?"

He raised a brow and leaned back into his seat. "What kind of help are we talking about here?"

"Get me some medicine for women recovering from a miscarriage."

He frowned upon hearing my request.

He frowned upon hearing my request.
"Only this?"

I nodded. "Well, you have a good reputation. So is that a yes or no for the medicine?"



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Chapter 20

With a frown, Jared stared straight into my eyes with his obsidian deep-set ones. He was contemplating whether I was being truthful.

I did not fret. I sat quietly as he tried to gauge me.

After some time, he finally spoke. "Sure."

"Thank you, Dr. Crest." It was always a pleasure to deal with smart people.

Just throw them a look and they would have gotten the gist of it.

After the waiter had served our food,

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he shot a glance at me again. "Has Ms. Stovall always downplayed your

brilliance this way?"

flatter me. It's just a small trick to protect myself. Besides, Ashton and I are really not meant for each other anyway. This is a really bad time to have the baby."

He had a few bites, seemingly pleased with my answer. "When do you plan to leave?"

I was taken aback and locked eyes
with him. My plan was to deal with the
baby and divorce Ashton. As for
leaving J City, I really had no inkling as



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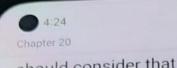
to where I should be headed at the moment.

He had even gotten the last step of my plan correct.

I paused for a moment, putting down the utensils in my hands. "Maybe in two months' time. I haven't decided on the place."

"Why don't you consider Q City? I think you'd fit in perfectly there." He put down his utensils and wiped the corners of his mouth. Maybe he was done eating.

I actually found Q City to be a good suggestion and nodded. "Yes, maybe I



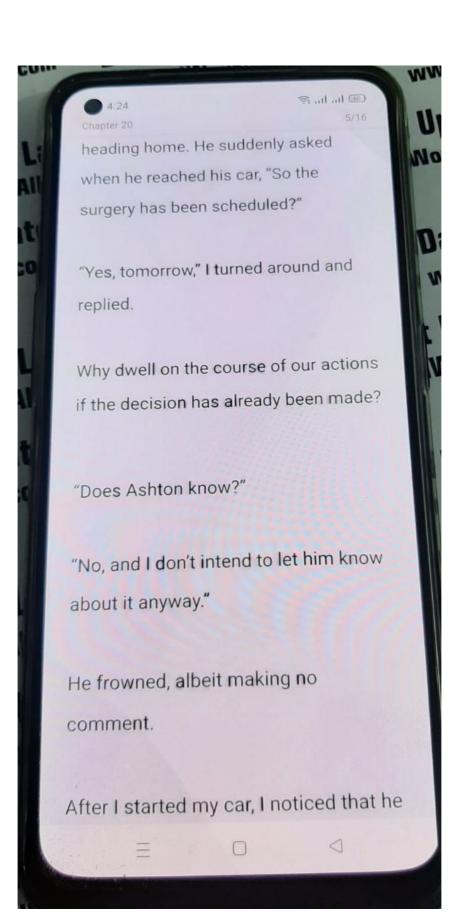
should consider that." Even though Q
City was modest in comparison with J
City, the pace of life there was slower.
If I were to choose someplace where I
would spend the rest of my life, Q City
was actually a viable option.

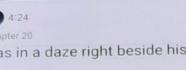
I was supposed to foot the bill but he was one step ahead of me. We walked out of the restaurant together and I said, "I owe you one. It's going to be my treat next time!"

"Well, I hope you would treat me at Q City then."

I was at a loss for words and merely smiled.

It was getting late and I should be





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was in a daze right beside his own car.

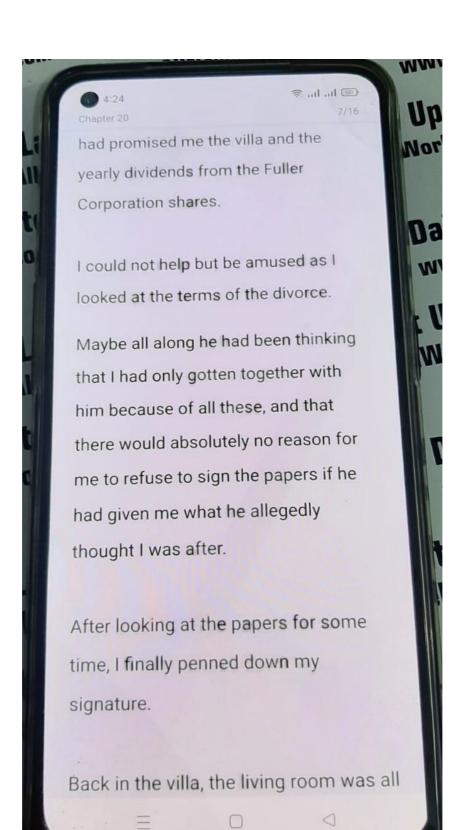
I figured it was best not to comment about it. I drove back to the villa right after.

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It was a ten-minute drive. I parked the car downstairs and did not get off as I took the divorce papers that Stacey handed over to me.

A wave of bitterness washed over me. I thought that I would only sign the divorce papers should Ashton ever put a knife to my neck. Never would I have imagined that one day I would willingly sign and hand this over to him.

Ashton had always been liberal with the terms in the event of a divorce. He







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hard gaze.

"Wh- what's the matter?" There was only contempt in his eyes whenever he would look at me. Somehow, it felt different today... It felt complicated. I did not know how to deal with it and panicked.

He did not reply, and I took that as because he did not feel like talking to me. So, I kept my mouth shut and cooked ramen for him. "We don't have much at home, only eggs. You'd have to make do with that."

I turned around and went upstairs to
wash up. However, he suddenly spoke,
"So do we make do with our marriage

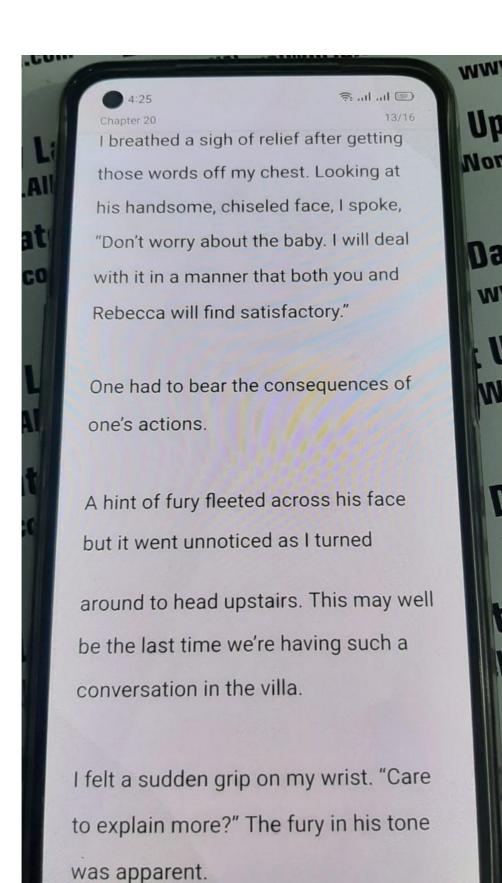




Stumped, I felt a searing pain in my chest. I would have chosen to keep quiet some other time. However, today was different. My eyes went red at his words. "So what? Big deal. Haven't we been doing that for almost two years now?"

"Ashton Fuller. I'm saying yes to the divorce." I fished out the divorce papers in my bag and put them right in front of him. I felt bitterness creeping up inside of me. "I've signed it. You

take a look at it and put down your signature too. Let's set a time and head to the Civil Affairs Bureau to make things official."





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I knew he was getting mad, but still, I did not turn around. I tried hard to suppress the swelling emotions and said, "I'll get it done so that it won't affect Rebecca."

"Scarlett Stovall!" His grip tightened on my wrist as his fury reached a tipping point. "What's your plan, huh? To

divorce me? To abort the baby? What's next? Are you going to leave the city?"

"What other choice do I have?" The tears welled up in my eyes streamed down my cheeks despite my best efforts at holding them in. "What else could I do? Ashton, haven't you always wished for me to agree to this? You've always wanted me to stay as far away 4:25 Chapter 20 € ...l ...l 💯

from you as possible right? What exactly am I doing wrong here? Isn't this what you've wished for?"

His gaze darkened. The iciness was even more apparent.

"You think you're really smart, huh?" He snorted as he pinched my chin with his slender fingers. I tried to shrug him off but he pinched down harder. The two of us were so close that I could feel his breath against my skin. "That is my baby. You do not have the right to determine whether it lives or dies."

"I don't have the right?" I chuckled, enunciating myself. "So does Rebecca have a say in this?"

have a say in this?" "Stovall, you're playing with fire here!" He narrowed his eyes at me, his gaze threatening.



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Chapter 21

He let go of his hand, not exerting any force. However, I felt a searing pain extending from my chin all the way to my heart.

Even my toes were curling from the pain.

I had not yet recovered from getting drenched in the rain. The sudden confrontation and him abruptly letting go of me made me slump into his embrace.

His strong arms from the years of fitness training held me steady. I could clearly feel his muscles flexing as I





leaned into his embrace. My energy was running low, and I did not wish to be entangled in a fight with him. So, I closed my eyes.

"Well, someone's gotten bolder. You even know how to play dead now!" His mocking voice rang in my ears. The anger in his tone was still apparent.

He tapped my cheeks repeatedly, and it was by no means gentle. However, I did not feel well and kept my eyes closed.

Perhaps he had regretted his actions, he carried me and brought me back to the bedroom after noticing that I did not respond.



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After he put me on the bed, there were no discernible movements.

I thought he just could not be bothered with me. However, after some time I heard him calling Jared. It sounded like he was asking Jared to come take a look at me.

So, he's not that heartless after all.

After about ten minutes, I fell asleep from the drowsiness. Still in a daze, I heard Jared talking.

"Ashton, you'd better think how you want to deal with the baby."

"It's getting late. You'd better head