

Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1081

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1081 – Loretta's breathing suddenly grew heavy. Nick immediately pulled his hand back. "I'm just going back to take a look, and I also have some personal matters to deal with."

Without giving anyone else a chance to speak, he stood up at once. After respectfully nodding to his grandparents, he turned and went straight upstairs without looking back.

He understood very clearly—everyone present was merely exchanging words to pretend nothing had happened.

But he was done pretending, including with Khloe.

Perhaps even Khloe thought he was simply waiting for death.

But even if he was waiting for death, he would still use whatever time remained to fulfill his duties—to be a husband, a CEO, and a junior to his elders.

Seeing him leave, Loretta could no longer hold back. Tears spilled down her face.

"He's forcing himself to his death!"

Leon hurriedly held her in his arms to soothe her. "Sigh... if we can't stop him, then let him be. His fate is bitter. Heaven has been unfair—what else can we do?"

Arista quickly went over to support the elderly woman. "Mom, don't worry. I'll take good care of him."

"But what exactly is going on between him and Khloe? Why... why did Khloe leave at a time like this?"

Loretta wiped her tears, looking at Arista in confusion.

She had also received a letter from Khloe—a long letter expressing gratitude for all the care and affection she had shown her, saying she regarded her as her own grandmother. Even if she could not stay by their side to fulfill her filial duty or remain as a granddaughter-in-law, she promised that if they ever needed anything, she would do everything in her power to help.

She did not understand the meaning behind the letter. When she tried to find Khloe afterward, she was told by Arista that she had already moved out.

At first, Loretta thought it was just a lovers' quarrel. But now, it seemed far more serious than she had imagined.

"Mom," Arista said gently, "I believe Khloe has her own reasons and difficulties. Matters of the heart can only be resolved by the two of them. But I don't think it's anything too serious. They both just need some time to calm down. In a few days, I'll try speaking to them separately..."

She could only comfort her like this.

Loretta trusted Khloe's character deeply. She was certain Khloe would not abandon Nick at a time like this, so she did not press further.

But she was still deeply worried about Nick.

"Arista, you know his personality better than do. He can be gentle to the bone, but when he's stubborn. he can be downright reckless I'm afraid he might do something impulsive out of anger toward Khloe..."

Arista fell silent.

She knew Loretta was right.

Nick had always been like this. The more pain he felt, the more abnormal his outward calm became.

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He never cried or made a fuss in the face of setbacks. When he and Michelle broke up back then, he buried himself in work, filling every hour with endless tasks as if

staying busy meant he would not have to feel the pain.

But this time was different.

This time it was Khloe—the light he had finally found, the soul he had clung to, the person he believed would never leave him.

Meanwhile, elsewhere, Khloe had returned to the small apartment she and Nick had lived in before their marriage.

Because a cleaning lady came every day, the place remained as pristine and orderly as ever.

But she would not stay here long. It was only a temporary stop for a couple of days. Her assistant had already been instructed to arrange a new residence.

Since they were separating, it had to be a clean cut, with no lingering ties left behind.

Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1082

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1082 – As she walked toward the entrance hall, Khloe suddenly thought she saw someone sitting on the sofa by the floor-to-ceiling window in the distance.

But that shadow vanished in an instant.

The room was empty—utterly empty. Aside from her... there would never be anyone else.

The person who used to wait for her in the dark had

already disappeared completely.

Khloe did not turn on the lights. She walked straight to the spot where Nick used to sit the most.

From here, one could look out over the city—its lights blazing, the entire night skyline glittering brilliantly in her eyes.

Yet if one looked further, one could even see a window in the Hunt Group building.

That was... the window of Nick's CEO office.

Her phone lit up in her hand.

She glanced at it. It was Nick calling.

He had not sent her any messages today. Only three calls—one at noon, one in the afternoon, and now.

With Nick's personality, there were only two possible reactions to her behavior: either complete clarity, or uncontrollable anger.

Khloe understood very well that either one would be torture for him.

But at least... it was only three calls. That meant his rationality was still intact.

Perhaps he already understood what he was doing, and would soon return to the decisive, ruthless man he once was—just as he had been with

Michelle...

Completely withdrawing his feelings from her...

This was what Khloe had wanted.

And yet, at the thought of it, her heart felt as though it had been pierced by a knife.

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Night deepened.

The streets of the bar district were still packed with people.

Ethan parked outside a bar, took off his coat, unbuttoned his shirt collar, and casually sprayed a bit of perfume on himself.

When he entered the private room, Ariana was already drinking with her friends.

He greeted them, glanced at the drink list, and told the server to put everything on his tab before sitting down across from Ariana.

Ariana had been chatting animatedly with her friends. When she saw him arrive, her smile brightened noticeably.

"You've been taking good care of my business lately. You're here every day," he said teasingly as he picked up a bottle of liquor from the table.

He poured himself a glass and took a sip.

Ariana's friends studied him, their eyes instantly lighting up, then glanced at Ariana.

"Ariana, who is this?"

"A new acquaintance. The bar owner," Ariana introduced simply.

Ethan immediately greeted the two girls beside her.

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He was very good at pleasing women, Within just a few minutes, he pushed the atmosphere to a

peak-besides Ariana, both girl
were completely charmed by him.

But Ethan had not come tonight to entertain the others. His main goal was to be alone with Ariana.

Moreover, she was the one who had called him out.

That meant the tension between Ariana and Trey was still ongoing.

“I’m a bit dizzy. Going outside for a smoke. Once your friends are done drinking, I’ll take you home.”

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Seeing that it was getting late and Ariana still wanted to continue, Ethan leaned in and said those words beside her ear before O standing up and leaving.

Ariana glanced at him. After he left, she indeed lost interest in staying.

Ethan was exceptionally good at talking and soothing emotions. She had come to this bar precisely to get some emotional relief.

After Trey abruptly left her that day, he still had not given her a proper explanation.

Instead, because she went to a bar and came home late, they had a huge argument and were now in a cold war.

During the day, Trey stayed at the company. At night, he did not come home for dinner either.

So Ariana simply spent the entire day out with friends.

At night, when her friends were ready to leave, Ariana insisted on coming to the bar for a drink.

Billionaire’s Match Novel Chapter 1083

Read Billionaire’s Match Novel Chapter 1083 – In order to persuade her friends, Adriana even brought up her newly acquainted “friend,” Ethan.

Ethan was handsome, sweet-tongued, and especially skilled at pleasing women. Ariana felt he would be a good source of entertainment. As expected, he did not disappoint—within minutes, he had the girls in her group laughing and completely charmed.

Yet, in the middle of the laughter-filled private room, Ariana’s attention wasn’t on the fun at all. Her eyes kept drifting to her phone, waiting for a call from Trey.

“Ariana, Ethan is really interesting. I wonder if he has a girlfriend?” one of her friends suddenly leaned over and asked shyly.

Ariana took a sip of her drink before replying, “I don’t know.”

“But I think he seems kind of interested in you,” the friend added.

Ariana glanced at her. “Someone like him looks interested in everyone.”

“Really? That’s kind of a turn-off then,” the friend said, immediately understanding and losing interest.

They had assumed he was the owner, but he was just someone working the crowd. “But you’re hanging out so late today—your fiancé is okay with that? Did you two get into a fight?” Another friend finally picked up on something and studied Ariana’s expression.

“He’s busy. It’s fine if I come home later,” Ariana said flatly.

“Even if he’s busy, he shouldn’t just leave you out here at this hour. That’s too much,” one of them frowned.

They had come specifically to see Ariana before returning to Yustonia in a few days.

Originally, Ariana had said she would bring her fiancé to spend time with them, but now she was alone.

They had already thought she was innocent and worried she might be deceived in love.

Now, their concern only deepened.

Ariana’s expression darkened at their words, but she didn’t know how to respond. She reached for her glass again.

One friend quickly stopped her. “Instead of sitting here stewing, why don’t you go and shake that annoying man up a little?”

Before Ariana could react, the girl had already pulled her up and led her out of the private room.

“Hey—what are you doing?” Ariana asked in surprise.

“Go find Ethan. Talk to him. The happier you look together, the better. I’ll take photos and post them to your social media.”

“No!” Ariana refused immediately.

Billionaire’s Match Novel Chapter 1084

Read Billionaire’s Match Novel Chapter 1084 – At that moment, Ethan’s hand was still resting on Ariana’s waist—an intimate, perfectly measured gesture. It was ambiguous, like the natural

closeness of a couple, yet also like a coincidence that had just happened to linger.

Ariana froze for a moment and instinctively tried to pull away, but Ethan gently pressed her back.

“Don’t move,” he said softly. His breath brushed faintly past her ear. “They’re taking photos.”

Her friend kept pressing the shutter without pause.

“You two are so well-matched!” she exclaimed excitedly as she ran over with her phone.

“Just look at this—the lighting, the atmosphere—it looks like a movie poster!”

Ariana took the phone and glanced at it.

In the photo, she stood by the terrace railing with the city’s glittering lights behind her.

Ethan was beside her, one hand resting at her waist, his head

slightly tilted as he looked at her. The terrace lights struck from the side, outlining their overlapping silhouettes.

It really was a beautiful shot. So beautiful it made her feel faintly uneasy.

She exited the album and handed the phone back.

“Send them to me. All of them,” she said.

Her friend gave her a meaningful look. “The photos look so good... Are you going to post

them on your Instagram?”

Ariana said nothing.

Ethan let out a soft laugh beside her.

“Let’s go,” he said. “It’s windy here. We can talk inside.”

Back in the private room, the other two friends were already half-drunk. Seeing Ariana return with Ethan, their expressions turned openly suggestive.

“Oh? You’re back already?” one of them blinked. “So soon?”

Ethan only smiled and said nothing, sitting down beside Ariana.

Ariana picked up her glass and took a sip.

Her phone vibrated.

She glanced down—it was a message from Trey: [Still out?]

She stared at the words for a few seconds.

Then she didn’t reply.

Instead, she turned the phone face down on the table.

Ethan caught the movement from the corner of his eye, the corner of his mouth lifting slightly.

“Ariana,” he whispered, “want to go out for some air? It’s a bit stuffy in here.”

She looked up at him.

In the dim light, his eyes were bright, carrying a faint, easy smile.

For a moment, she thought of what her friend had just said—

Billionaire’s Match Novel Chapter 1085

Read Billionaire’s Match Novel Chapter 1085 – Ariana tilted her head slightly and looked at Ethan.

His profile under the night light was gentle—straight nose, sharp jawline, clean and defined.

She withdrew her gaze.

“No,” she said. “I just wanted someone to drink with.”

Ethan let out a light laugh.

“Liar.”

Ariana froze slightly.

He turned his head and met her eyes directly.

“It’s written all over your face,” he said. “I could tell the moment you called me out.”

She didn’t respond.

He continued, “Did you fight with him?”

Her eyelashes trembled faintly. She didn’t deny it.

Ethan looked at her in silence for a few seconds.

Then he spoke, his voice very soft.

“Ariana... there are some things I don’t know if I should say.”

She looked at him.

He hesitated, as if weighing his words.

“Say it,” she replied.

Taking a deep breath, Ethan pulled out his phone, scrolled a few times, and handed it to her.

“I had someone look into this,” he said. “About your fiancé.”

Ariana took the phone and lowered her eyes.
On the screen was an audio file.
She tapped it.
Trey's voice came through the phone.
"...I know I wronged you back then, but you've always been in my heart. Divorce Nick, and I'll give you everything..."
Then came Khloe's voice, cold and dripping with sarcasm, "Trey, you're dreaming."
The recording was short—barely over ten seconds.
Ariana held the phone motionless.
Ethan watched her closely, waiting for a reaction.
A long time passed before she finally lifted her head. Her expression was calm—too calm, almost unnaturally so.
"How did you get this?" she asked.
Ethan paused, slightly stunned. That wasn't the reaction he expected.

He had thought she would be angry
shocked, maybe even demand an
explanation. Instead, she simply
looked at him so calmly and asked
the most ordinary question.
"I..." he hesitated. "I had someone investigate."
Ariana looked at him.
"Why did you investigate him?"
Ethan fell silent for a few seconds.
Then he answered sincerely, "Because I was afraid you'd be deceived."
Her lashes flickered.

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He continued, "The first time I saw
you, I knew you weren't ordinary.
Later, I had someone check-only
then did find out you're from the
Yuta royal family. I didn't plan to
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interfere in your affairs at first, but
later..."
He paused awhile, looking at her.
"Later, I realized your fiancé isn't a good man."
Ariana said nothing.

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Ethan went on, "He has a history of
cheating marriages, multiple affairs
at once. He's notorious in those
circles. You probably already know
some of what happened between

him and Khloe. He must have a reason for approaching you now.”

Ariana stared at him for a long time.

Then she suddenly smiled. It was a faint smile, so light it made Ethan feel an inexplicable unease.

“Ethan,” she said.

“Mm?”

“Have you ever considered that I already knew all of this?”

He froze.

Ariana handed him back the phone and turned away, resting her hands on the railing as she looked out at the distant city lights.

“He told me,” she said. “He said he would use some methods to take revenge on Khloe, and told me not to interfere—just to trust him.”

Ethan’s expression changed.

“You—”

“He was drunk last night,” she continued. “He said a lot of things in his sleep. He called Khloe’s name. I heard it.”

Ethan stood frozen, momentarily at a loss for words.

Ariana went on, “I know she’s still in his heart. And I also know... part of the reason he approached me was to use me to get revenge on her.”

Billionaire’s Match Novel Chapter 1086

Read Billionaire’s Match Novel Chapter 1086 – Ariana tilted her head slightly and looked at Ethan.

“But I still choose to believe him,” she said.

Ethan’s brows furrowed.

“Why?”

Ariana thought for a moment.

“Because he was the only one who stayed with me when I was at my lowest,” she said.

“Because he told me, no matter what happens, he would never lie to me.

“Has he lied to me? Maybe. But at least... he never hid what he was going to do.”

Ethan looked at her, a complicated emotion rising in his chest.

“Ariana...” he began.

“Ethan,” she cut him off, “I know you’re doing this for my sake. But some things aren’t what you think they are.”

She turned and walked toward the exit of the observation deck.

“I’m leaving,” she said. “Thanks for tonight.”

Ethan stood still, watching her figure disappear into the night.

The wind was cold.

He remained on the platform for a long time without moving.

“Ethan!”

A voice came from behind him.

He turned.

Trey stood not far away, a faint smile on his lips.

Beside him stood Ariana—her hand in his.

Ethan's expression changed instantly.

"Trey..."

"Ethan, long time no see," Trey said as he walked forward and stopped in front of him.

"Or rather... I should call you—Vice President of the Morrison Group."

He smiled.

"Playing bar owner, deceiving my fiancée—was it fun?"

Ethan looked at him, then at Ariana behind him. Ariana kept her head lowered and did not meet his gaze.

"Ariana," he called out.

She didn't move.

Trey let out a quiet laugh.

"Don't bother. She won't respond to you."

He stepped closer and lowered his voice.

"You really think your little tricks could fool anyone? I've known from the beginning."

Ethan's fists tightened.

Trey looked at him, satisfaction gleaming in his eyes.

"Ethan, you're still too inexperienced."

He turned, took Ariana's hand, and walked down the mountain.

Ethan stood there, watching their retreating figures.

Ariana never once looked back.

He didn't even know how he made it down the mountain afterward. His mind was a complete mess.

He pulled out his phone, intending to call Khloe.

The call had just gone through when hurried footsteps suddenly came from behind him.

Before he could turn, a sharp pain exploded at the back of his head.

His phone fell to the ground. His body lurched forward. Several moths swarmed him, fists and kicks raining a

dove storm.

He curled up on the ground, shielding his head with his arms, gritting his teeth without a sound.

He didn't know how long it lasted before they finally stopped.

Someone kicked him.

"Next time you dare get close to Miss Talois, it won't be this easy!"

Footsteps faded into the distance.

Ethan lay on the ground, staring at the gray sky, gasping for air.

Every inch of his body hurt.

He forced himself up and staggered forward.

Only one thought remained in his mind—he couldn't stay there.

He didn't know how long he walked before realizing he was standing in a familiar alley.

Looking up, he saw the building where Charlotte lived.

He leaned against the wall, breathing heavily, and pulled out his phone.

The screen was shattered, but still usable.

He dialed Charlotte's number.

It was picked up almost immediately.

"Ethan?"

His voice was so hoarse it was barely audible. "Charlotte... I'm downstairs..."

When Charlotte opened the door, she froze.

Ethan was leaning against the doorframe, his face bruised and swollen, blood still smeared at the corner of his mouth. His clothes were torn and disheveled, one sleeve nearly ripped off completely.

"You..."

"Don't ask," Ethan said, the corner of his mouth twitching into a weak

smile. "Just let me
finish"

Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1087

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1087 - Charlotte helped Ethan inside and guided him to sit on the sofa.

She brought over the first-aid kit, knelt in front of him, and began treating his wounds.

Ethan watched her.

Her brows were slightly furrowed, her movements light and careful. A cotton swab soaked in iodine gently dabbed across the cuts on his face, bit by bit.

"Does it hurt?" she asked.

He shook his head.

"No."

Charlotte glanced at him.

"You're lying."

He paused for a moment, then laughed.

"How do you know?"

"You frowned just now."

He said nothing.

She continued applying the medicine.

Her fingers were cool, her touch careful and restrained as it brushed his skin with quiet gentleness.

He looked at her and suddenly spoke.

"Charlotte."

"Mm?"

“Why aren’t you asking who hit me?”

She kept her head down, her hands not stopping.

“If you want to say it, you will,” she said. “If you don’t, asking won’t change anything.”

He froze slightly.

Looking at her profile—at her lowered eyes as she focused on treating his wounds—he suddenly felt something inside him soften.

“Charlotte,” he called again.

She lifted her head.

He met her gaze.

Her eyes were bright, but there was something in them he couldn’t quite read.

Weariness. Waiting. And...

He remembered.

She was waiting for Noah.

He withdrew his gaze.

“It’s nothing,” he said. “I just wanted to say thank you.”

Charlotte glanced at him but didn’t respond. She lowered her head again and continued dressing his wounds.

The room was quiet, filled only with their soft breathing.

Moonlight spilled through the window, falling across the floor.

Ethan leaned back on the sofa and closed his eyes.

...His mind was a mess. Yet, for the

first time, he didn’t want to think

about any of it.

Meanwhile, Trey led Ariana into their house, still holding her hand.

The moment the door closed, he turned and pulled her into his arms.

“Ariana,” he murmured.

She didn’t move.

He let her go slightly and looked into her eyes.

“You believe me, don’t you?”

Ariana studied him.

His eyes were bloodshot, his face was pale, and he looked exhausted.

She remembered what Ethan had said on the observation deck.

She remembered the voice in that recording.

She remembered the name he had called out when he was drunk the other night.

“Trey,” she said.

“Mm?”

“Have you ever lied to me?”

He froze for a moment.

Meeting her gaze, he fell silent for a few seconds.

Then he reached out and gently cupped her face.

“Ariana,” he said, “I swear to you, I’m sincere about you.”

She looked at him.

His eyes were so earnest that it almost made her believe him.

But she still remembered him calling out another girl’s name while he was drunk.

“And Khloe?” she asked.

His expression shifted for a brief moment.

Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1088

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1088 – Ethan turned sharply. There stood Trey, draped in a trench coat, walking slowly toward him and Ariana.

Behind him, a convoy of cars was parked beside Ethan's luxury vehicle. Trey had deliberately walked over alone.

His voice continued, drifting through the night air. "Because Ariana and I truly love each other. She stayed by my side when I was at my lowest, and I swore I would protect her for the rest of my life. No matter how outsiders twist my past or try to sow discord, nothing can shake what we have."

Ethan instinctively moved to block Ariana, but she quickly stepped away from him, putting distance between them.

"Trey? How... how did you find me here..."

A flash of guilt crossed Ariana's eyes. She took a few steps forward, but the moment she sensed the hostility rolling off him, she stopped.

Trey glanced at her and curled his lips slightly. "Find you? How hard could that be? If you were ever in danger, I could turn the entire Goldmont City upside down to find you."

Ethan let out a faint, humorless laugh, a wave of disgust rising in him.

He had always thought his own sweet talk to women was heaven-defying nonsense—but apparently, there was an expert standing right in front of him.

No wonder Khloe had said Trey was ruthless. The man's performance alone was enough to make even someone who knew his true nature question reality.

"Trey..."

Ariana lowered her head, a little guilty, but she knew he was saying all this only for the man beside her to hear.

In truth, their phones were linked with mutual location tracking. If Trey wanted to find her, he could do so at any time—and the same was true for her.

He had set it up when they first returned to Goldmont City, as a declaration of love.

Even though Ariana was deeply in love, she still had some rationality left. And Trey had already anticipated everything that might happen after their return for revenge.

He had warned her long before, "The people from my past hate me to the core. Once we begin our revenge, they'll try to tear us apart and make you leave me. I don't want to lose you—but if you don't trust me... then I'll have no choice but to end everything."

"How?" she had asked.

"Death."

When he said it, Ariana had been shaken.

Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1089

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1089 – “Ethan, just because you're unhappy, doesn't mean you have to ruin it for everyone else who's lucky in love.”

Trey let out a cold laugh, not even sparing Ethan a proper glance.

“As for whether I'm happy or not, that's up to fate. I don't really care. But I do know one thing—I can't bring myself to become a disgusting person who harms others without scruples just to chase their own happiness and desire,” Ethan refuted.

Trey said, “You really hate me, don't you? But if I remember correctly, you once extended an olive branch to me, asking me to help you deal with

Khloe... By your own logic, the person you should hate most now is yourself, isn't it?”

“Trey...” Ethan was provoked. In a flash, he grabbed the man by the collar.

They were roughly the same height and build, but Ethan trained regularly and was noticeably more muscular, his strength clearly superior.

Yet, the sudden exertion tugged at the wound on his abdomen, a dull pain flaring up and making his movements slightly constrained.

Trey seized the opening, grabbed his arm in counterattack, and shoved him away.

The smile on his face vanished instantly, replaced by a chilling, sinister gaze.

“Oh, right. I almost forgot—times have changed. You're Khloe's lapdog now. From the so-called righteous side of Khloe, I suppose you've conveniently forgotten your disgusting past?”

Ethan frowned, forcing himself to steady his stance, but Trey's words stabbed straight into his weak point.

“You bastard—don't compare me to you!”

Enraged, Ethan rushed forward and threw a heavy punch at him.

But Trey had already been on guard and blocked it immediately. Still, he was no match for Ethan's raw strength; the full-force blow landed on his cheek.

“Trey!” Ariana gasped in shock and rushed to his side.

She supported him and quickly stepped in front of him, shouting at Ethan, “Who the hell are you?!”

She had heard every word of their exchange.

At first, she truly thought Ethan was just a small-time bar owner.

Even after he produced that recording, she had already suspected he wasn't simple—perhaps someone deliberately approaching her.

But even so, she had still wanted to believe... him.

Now, it seemed people truly were not to be trusted.

Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1090

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1090 – Trey knew Khloe very well—so well that he understood she would definitely record their private meeting, and would inevitably come looking for Ariana.

Trey had deliberately given them time, letting them draw close to Ariana. Ariana had already been psychologically conditioned. Even if she realized Trey was not as perfect as she once believed, she would not trust their words. The moment they came to her, they had already lost.

Khloe understood Trey just as well, which was why she had warned Ethan to stay cautious.

But Trey also knew something else: at a time like this, Khloe could not possibly stay calm. No one could resist the urge to retaliate, to expose the truth.

The more someone believed they were righteous, the more they wanted to prove it—that was human nature.

Ethan was no exception. Khloe was no exception either.

Only by letting Ariana be thoroughly manipulated first could they completely close off any future leverage against her.

Because even if one day Ariana discovered the truth, she would never seek help from them—people who had clearly come to use her.

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“Ethan, I must say I admire you. You’re so busy with work, yet you still had time to keep me company these past two days. Thank you for the drinks. If one day the Morrison Group collapses, perhaps I can submit your résumé to Olympus’s HR department for you.”

Ariana’s words were measured and deliberate. Her voice was soft, but every syllable carried a chilling edge.

When she finished speaking, she took Trey’s arm on her own initiative and turned to leave.

Trey glanced back, his eyes landing provocatively on Ethan.

“Ethan, thanks for your hard work these past couple of days. Please send my regards to Khloe.”

Ethan clenched his jaw so hard he nearly ground his teeth to dust. He stepped forward, almost unable to stop himself from rushing over and beating Trey to the ground.

But Trey’s men had already arrived. Surrounded, the two figures disappeared completely into the darkness.

“Damn it!”

With nowhere to vent his fury, Ethan kicked at the stones beneath his feet.

He stood in the cold wind for a long moment, frustration boiling inside him, before finally turning and heading down the mountain, his thoughts in complete chaos.

It was already late, but he knew he had to inform Khloe about this.

He called her, but no one answered. He did not persist, instead sending a message.

Just as he reached for the car door, a rapid series of footsteps suddenly came from behind him.

Before he could even turn around, a sharp pain exploded at the back of his head.

His phone dropped to the ground.

His body lurched forward and collapsed.

Several men swarmed him, fists and kicks raining down like a storm.