

Divorce 1301

Chapter 1301 Another Meaning

Atlas bringing Dylan back showed his seriousness about the BZ plan.

Dylan and Atlas's partnership reminded me of Louis and Rory's, with an equally high level of understanding. I was sure Dylan was fully aware of Atlas's plan.

Cane, on the other hand, played a peripheral role. But both of them were important to Atlas. With Dylan's return, I felt more at ease.

When he mentioned going to Solaris, I quickly suggested, "I'll go with you. It must be cold in Solaris now. I promised Archie that I would visit when I returned. We can bring Ava along too."

Atlas paused, then asked, "Are you feeling alright?"

I reassured him, "Don't worry so much. Solaris isn't dangerous. Worst case, I'll stay home and not go out. At most, I'll go to a mall to buy some clothes for Archie. I want to do these things for him."

Seeing him still contemplating, I softened my tone, saying, "I'll be careful. I want our baby more than you do."

Atlas's eyes softened with affection as he looked at me.

Just then, Jim announced, "Mr. Anson and Mr. Jared are here."

"So soon?" I exclaimed, hurrying downstairs.

Indeed, Anson and Jared were chatting with Grandma Rose downstairs already.

Anson seemed spirited today. He must've received good news from Trinity. Otherwise, he wouldn't be looking like this.

"Dad, you're here so quickly." I greeted him as I descended the stairs.

He looked over. "It's been a while since I went out. I heard you guys were back, so I came over to visit."

"Dad, you look quite energetic. Could it be that there is some news from Trinity?"

He laughed. "You're quite perceptive. Let's talk about this later. But first, how's your father?"

I led Anson to see my father while Atlas and Jared returned to the study.

George went to my father's room when he heard that Anson had come.

At this time, I received a call from Atticus. We hadn't been in touch for a long time. "Mr. Atticus, long time no see. Have you been busy lately?"

"It's you who's been busy. I didn't see you at your company either. What have you been working on?"

"Do you need something?" I asked, knowing that when he called, there must be something going on.

"I want to talk to you about cooperation. Are you interested?" He got straight to the point.
"Cooperation?" I was a bit puzzled.

"Yes, I've officially signed the deal for

the second phase of the project in Rivendell, but the overall plan has been modified. Meanwhile, I've also signed another project during this period, so I hope to collaborate with you." to

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I had long heard about the second phase of the project in Rivendell, which was of considerable scale and an important development. project. It was a rare opportunity, so I naturally wouldn't let it slip away. to

"Yes. How can I give up such a good opportunity? I'm in." I didn't hesitate at all. "How about we discuss it tomorrow? Oh no, tomorrow might not work."

I suddenly remembered about going to Solaris and quickly asked Atticus, "Can we postpone it for a few days?"

Atticus hesitated for a moment and asked, "What have you been busy with lately? Why haven't you been around?"

"I've been dealing with some personal matters. Anyway, I might have to go to Solaris tomorrow afternoon, so we need to postpone our discussion for a few days," I said truthfully.

"In that case, let me know if there are any changes in your plans. We'll try to have a quick chat about this. I'm also going on a business trip, as I've taken over another construction project on Celestis Island. to

"That's kind of a big project too, so I want to sort things out here as fast as I can." Atticus didn't brush me off either.

"Okay, I'll let you know if there are any changes to my plans," I promised Atticus.

After hanging up, I pondered for a moment. The second phase of the project in Rivendell was a major project, second only to New Bourdamun. It seemed that Melvern had slipped up.

But I also knew that the reason Atticus gave me this opportunity was not for nothing. There must be another reason behind it.

Chapter 1302 The Cunning Man's Call

No matter what Atticus's intentions were, I felt confident about the situation. After all, ATL Empire's Design Division did the project's overall design in Rivendell, making communication relatively easier.

Moreover, I believed I had some basic understanding of Atticus. He might be a cunning man, but he wouldn't resort to tricks with me. Our interactions, whether in the past or present, had always been heading in a positive direction.

As businessmen in the same industry and having fought on the same front, we had a good starting point for our relationship.

Furthermore, Atlas's involvement also played a significant role. Even if Atticus saw me as a competitor, he had to consider my current status, which was far from the struggling position I was in a year ago when I first took over Tanum.

While the outside world might not understand the situation, he was well aware of it.

Honestly, his assistance to me in the past had been considerable. So, this project was definitely within our grasp. I just needed to communicate with Ryan and ensure there were no issues with our manpower.

After all, the main focus for now still had to be on New Bourdamun.

I paced back and forth, then picked up the phone and dialed Ryan's number. It rang a few times before he picked up.

"You're back?"

"Yeah. I got back yesterday, and I'm too tired. I slept for over ten hours and didn't get a chance to call you. Are you at the company?" I asked. "Dear boss, today is my day off," Ryan teased. He knew I had gone to Cirencester, so he must be worried. "How are you? Did everything go smoothly? Did you manage to bring him back?"

"We did, and it went smoothly. How about you come to Pleca Park? I can't leave," I suggested.

"Sure," Ryan replied immediately. "I haven't seen your parents for a long time. It's a good opportunity to catch up and visit your biological father too." "You haven't seen me for a long time either," I teased back.

"You're right. I'll get ready right away." Ryan said.

After hanging up the phone, I couldn't help but smile. I had told him to rest well, but it seemed like it was going to be another busy day for him. But there was no help for it. As the saying goes, in business, one's choices are limited.

Suddenly, I remembered that I hadn't

called Beatrice yet. I was sure there would be a public trial over there. Atlas might be intentionally keeping it from me, but I had promised Beatrice that I would be with her, and I couldn't go back on my word. to

Moreover, she was all alone, and this was the time when she needed someone by her side the most.

So, thankfully, I had Ryan here. Otherwise, the company would have fallen apart.

Now that Tanum's business had expanded, it was time to focus on our work since we had settled the other matters. As for the situation with New Bourdamun, I wondered how it was going. to

Thinking about New Bourdamun, I suddenly remembered Arton and quickly called him. Since I was back, I should tell him about it. Plus, wanted to know about the situation at the construction site. Content

Arton answered the phone and asked, "Mrs. Chloe, you're back? Did you find your father? Did you bring him back?"

I chuckled, "I got back yesterday. And don't worry, he's back."

"That's great. Congratulations, Mrs. Chloe!" Arton breathed a sigh of relief.

"How's it going on your end?" I asked softly.

"That guy is here," Arton said in a low voice. "He's working diligently, and I've already made contact with him. But for now, everything seems normal."

"Besides him, keep an eye on the newcomers too. I feel he's not the only one who has entered our construction site. We need to figure out his intentions." I instructed.

"Got it," Arton responded earnestly.

"How's Charlie?" I asked about his child.

"He's doing well. Oh, he can walk and talk now."

"He's walking already?" I was surprised. "It seems like he's doing really well."

"Yeah. My sister and her husband take good care of him. You can rest assured." Arton sounded excited whenever he talked about his son.

And I was certain that this child had changed Arton's destiny.

That was something I was very happy to see.

Chapter 1303 Overwhelmed

Seeing Arton so proud, I smiled and said, "I'll have to find time to visit him soon. It's been almost two months, and he'll probably forget about me if I don't go." I chuckled.

"He won't," Arton said confidently, then with a smile, he added, "My sister always teaches him to call you 'Aunt Chloe'.

"I'm actually quite eager to see him," I said sincerely. Despite Charlie being Melanie's child, I genuinely liked him.

After a few more brief instructions, I hung up and returned to my father's room. Upon seeing the three old men chatting lively, I noticed that my biological father looked the oldest despite being the youngest in terms of age.

His escape was truly remarkable, and it wouldn't have been possible without Atlas's careful planning. I silently rejoiced in having someone like Atlas by my side.

They were discussing matters related to Bermuda, so it was no wonder they had a common language, considering their intricate connections to that place.

So, they hit it off immediately.

My father, Rory, seemed to be in good spirits, showing no signs of fatigue. These past few days, he had been excited, which was much better than I had expected.

I had been worried that everyone who knew the news would come to visit him. Then, he would be overwhelmed and not get enough rest. But now, seeing him in unexpectedly good condition, I realized that he was actually quite talkative.

In his prime, he must have been an outstanding man.

Moreover, Anson was talkative and sociable, never lacking in topics.

A maid hurried over and whispered, "Mrs. Chloe, Mr. Ryan has arrived."

I was surprised at how quickly he had come, so I quickly informed the three of them and then went to the main building.

Pleca Park was indeed bustling today, as it seemed like we were packed with guests. Sure enough, my mother was chatting with Ryan, who had brought along a lot of nutritional supplements.

"Ryan, you're here!" I walked over quickly. I hadn't seen him much in the past two months.

My mom didn't disturb us and just told Ryan to stay for dinner before going to the kitchen.

"Are your parents doing well?" Ryan smiled warmly when he saw me.

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"They're both doing very well. You've been working hard these past few months," said politely before taking a seat across from him. "We talk to you about something. I'm afraid I might have to go to Solaris tonight." to

"Since when did you become so unpredictable?" He was a bit surprised. "Are you leaving tonight? Is there something important going on there?" "Atlas needs to talk to Archie about something. I promised to take Ava to see him when the season changes. So, I want to go with Atlas. Otherwise, I'll break my promise."

I explained it to Ryan earnestly. To be honest, I hadn't been acting like myself lately. There were too many things going on, and I hadn't been able to focus on work.

I had left the entire company to Ryan, which wasn't easy for him. After all, Tanum's development had been too rapid, and there were too many projects to handle. He had been handling internal and external matters alone, without a word of complaint. to

I had initially planned to delegate the external relations matters to Lauren, but with Oliver's injury recently, she had been truly overwhelmed. Thankfully, Grayson was holding down the fort in Solaris.

Otherwise, Ryan would have been stretched thin, and I wouldn't have had such a carefree time. Sometimes, I felt a bit embarrassed.

"Oh, then go ahead. When the

weather gets even colder, taking Ava with you will be difficult. She's used to the weather here, so the sudden change in weather might make her catch a cold," Ryan said thoughtfully. "Why haven't I seen the little girl?" to

"She might be playing with Jenny right now." I looked around, but didn't see Ava anywhere.

"What did you want to talk about?" Ryan asked.

"I just got a call from Atticus. He has taken over the second phase of the project at Rivendell and wants us to handle it internally. I'm quite interested. What do you think?"

I then added, "We did the overall design of the previous phase, and the project's scale is considerable. So, my idea is to take it on."

I stated my reasons directly and looked at him to hear his opinion.

Chapter 1304 Ready-Made Team

Ryan pondered momentarily, a hint of disdain appearing on his gentle face. "It seems that Melvern is completely out of the picture. He was originally part of this plan and wanted us to take over the entire project. It seems that this second phase is destined for us."

"Yeah, but these two collaborators are quite different." I smiled meaningfully.

Ryan nodded in agreement. "Melvern really wanted to do this deal but Atticus outsmarted him."

"Melvern was in a hurry to leave because he was afraid of being implicated," I said. "Atticus also took advantage of this. Otherwise, how could he be so confident?"

Ryan nodded in agreement.

"Don't forget that when the designs were released, he told me in advance about his design intentions and asked me to follow suit. This shows that he was confident of winning." I concluded.

"Melvern probably didn't even think about it. Before he came, Atticus had already set him up." Ryan speculated.

"I can't say for sure, but one thing is certain. Atticus knew early on that Rivendell would have a second phase of development. That's why he exchanged Muborough for Rivendell. He had a long-term plan. I guess he had been using Celine at the time."

A maid brought coffee for Ryan and lemon water for me.

Ryan took a sip of coffee and looked at me. "Atticus came to the company a few days ago and told me about this plan. He just wanted to thank us for a favor."

"Atticus is a cunning man. It's not just about repaying a favor. With his pride, he wouldn't give out bread for free. Have you considered that he indirectly gave us the interior design project for nothing in return?"

Ryan smiled brightly and said, "It seems that the kind-hearted little girl, after years of struggle in the business world, has also developed a cunning mind."

"I'm not joking. What you said is right. So, I didn't hesitate to accept his offer," I said excitedly. "The key is that this project is large-scale, and we lack such a large-scale project. But I'm worried about the manpower."

"That's not a problem. Don't we have a backup?" Ryan looked at me with a mischievous expression.

"Backup? What backup?" I asked, puzzled.

Ryan smiled lightly. "Don't forget, those people from Ardora are still idle."

As soon as he said that, I brightened up. "Right! How could I forget about that? This is a perfect opportunity to recruit them and integrate them seamlessly."

Ryan relaxed and took another sip of coffee.

"Damn! So, apart from Matthew's case, are all the other problems perfectly resolved?"

"After Atticus came to the office the

other day and mentioned this, I had already planned this. Originally wanted to wait for you to return and discuss it with you. to

"Those people are set on joining Tanum. They've wanted to do so for a long time but haven't had a good opportunity. Isn't this just perfect?" "You're right. It's indeed a perfect opportunity. This way, it's even more legitimate," I said excitedly. "Ryan, you're really smart!"

"We also have to thank Johnson."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"When he came back for the meeting a few days ago, he mentioned that the Ardora construction team is currently at a loss and wants us to take over. There are a few team leaders who feel embarrassed to come directly to you." to

Of course, I knew who the 'few team leaders' he mentioned were. At that time, they were all swaggering around with Matthew, but now karma had caught up with them quickly.

Chapter 1305 Not Afraid of Challenges

Ryan noticed my silence and continued speaking. "After all, they chose Matthew to sabotage your position, and now they're regretting it. But they're unwilling to leave and keep staying around.

"I wouldn't mind accommodating them, but I didn't want to intervene. The crucial point is that they're skilled workers and haven't caused any trouble. They're quite hassle-free." Ryan then asked, "What do you think?"

Hearing this, I couldn't help but smirk. "Do you think I'm the grudge-holding type? However, I also don't want them to think I'm too forgiving. Regardless, their return to Tanum is a step up," I stated firmly.

Ryan didn't hesitate. "Then let's set the standards higher."

I replied, "I can be accommodating, but I can't let them feel like coming back was too easy. I conduct myself professionally. Otherwise, it's unacceptable if they try to undermine me like they did when Matthew was around.

"Now, I can let it slide, but they shouldn't think they're invaluable. Matthew indulged them, but I have my limits." I knew Ryan wouldn't object.

"In that case, these people must undergo a simple assessment upon entering and receive necessary training. Don't worry about the trouble. I believe they can handle professional collaborative interior projects in the future. Do you understand?" I asked Ryan.

Ryan nodded. "You're aiming to elevate the overall level of our team, but their foundational skills are more than adequate for collaborative interior projects. This way, we can both benefit and manage them effectively."

"Exactly. Even for our own company, we need to establish ranks to recruit technical personnel in the future," I added.

"That's feasible." Ryan fully supported the idea. "This way, we avoid conflicts and maintain order."

"That's right. I've been thinking along those lines. We could even organize some sort of competition, with promotions and demotions based on skills. But the team leaders must strictly oversee everything," I elaborated, feeling more inspired by the idea.

As we were discussing enthusiastically, Rose came downstairs. Ryan quickly got up to greet her.

After exchanging greetings with Ryan, Rose said, "Archie will arrive at 5 p.m."

"Oh?" Upon hearing this, I checked the time. "Then let's have dinner together tonight. I'll go pick him up." "How can that be? You can't drive now. Let Arnold go," Grandma Rose said firmly, expressing her concern. "No, his arm is still injured, so it's inconvenient for him. I'll just go." I insisted.

Ryan scrutinized me for a moment, then looked at Rose. "Or I'll

Chloe and drive bel

there. It's no trouble for me" to

Rose smiled. "That's great. Thank you, Mr. Ryan."

"No trouble at all. Besides, we can have a chat on the way."

We set off for the airport on time without disturbing Atlas, whom I knew was busy with important matters.

During the ride, Ryan glanced at me and tentatively asked, "Grandma Rose said... you can't drive now?"

I blushed suddenly at his question and laughed, nodding. "Yeah. I'm pregnant."

I didn't know why, but I just felt awkward saying the words "I'm pregnant" out loud.

Ryan looked surprised. "Really? It's no wonder Grandma Rose won't let you drive."

"You should hurry up too. You can't keep making Joyce wait for you, right?" I seized the opportunity to urge Ryan.

"Yeah, by the end of the year, or maybe March at the latest," he replied, following my suggestion.

"Why delay till March? The weather

here is so nice, and the house will be ready by the end of the year. It's perfect timing, especially since your parents will also come here for the New Year. to

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will be here, and it's during

Chapter 1306 Perfection Might Not Be a Good Thing

"You're just a heartless capitalist. You're afraid I'll take too much time off. You just want to keep pushing me to work for you, right?" Ryan teased me again.

"There you go again. How could you say that?" I was immediately displeased and protested, "No... I've just been busy with personal business lately. Why are you acting like this?"

"Who you marry or have children with is your own business. Let me tell you, you're lucky to have met a girl like Joyce. She's open-minded and tolerant. Who else would be so willing to wait for you? But you seem indifferent about her."

He gave me a gentle glance, then said helplessly, "Am I that bad?"

"How could you not be? Can't you be loyal to someone who deserves it?" I exposed him bluntly.

As soon as the words left my mouth, I felt like I might have gone too far.

"Are you saying you're out of my league?" Ryan said self-deprecatingly.

I chuckled contentedly. "Aren't I?"

"I guess. I'm practically invisible in someone's eyes," he retorted sarcastically, looking defeated.

I chuckled and fell silent, looking at the scenery outside the airport.

I thought about the first winter break when we had returned to our hometown together, and how he had taken care of me so carefully throughout the journey.

When Ryan saw that I wasn't saying anything, he looked at me. "What's wrong? Did I say something wrong?"

"Actually, you did. I was thinking about that first winter break trip back to our hometown. You were so caring. To be honest, I felt very attached to you, but I always felt like I was overthinking it.

"If you had dropped any hints back then, I would have been with you without hesitation." I smiled.

"You were such a gentleman back then, so I really didn't dare assume anything. All I had was respect for you."

"Seems like I was wrong too. I was afraid my confession would scare you and make you think I had ulterior motives." He smiled brightly. "What a pair we are, huh?"

"Don't blame yourself. I was destined

to be with Atlas. The things that happened before him were all not meant to be, so it didn't end well. affirmed to Ryan. "From the moment

I was born, I was meant to be with

him." to

"Uh... are you really sure about that?" Ryan seemed doubtful.

"Absolutely. Since it felt wrong with anyone else, had to correct it. You should be glad we're still friends today. That was the best outcome anyone could have hoped for." sincerely said, "Hurry up and get married. Don't keep Joyce and your

parents waiting." to

"Okay," Ryan responded solemnly.

I knew that although saying this might hurt him a little, I couldn't let him continue to have lingering feelings for me. That would be irresponsible.

"If it's possible, I hope Matthew can be my friend too. After all, this was just a mistake by the heavens."

"Him? Forget it." Ryan scoffed.

I chuckled. "Yeah, I guess we shouldn't be too generous with love. I can't erase this regret in front of Atlas in this lifetime."

"You can't be too perfect, so don't torture yourself." Ryan quickly comforted me.

"Exactly. Wouldn't it be great if our friendship continued like this?" I patted his shoulder and said candidly, "It would be nice if you became my children's uncle. You're practically family anyway."

"Sure. I could be an uncle."

"Great! Hurry and get married then. Your house should be ready next month. You'll finally have your own nest to live in. When our business grows in the future, you can buy your dream villa," I said sincerely. to

"Joyce is good about that. She doesn't care about these things at all. Maybe it's just me," he said proudly.

"I didn't realize you were so self-centered," I teased.

We had arrived at the airport early, so we sat in the car and discussed the project again.

I suddenly remembered the development plan for Old Bourdamun, which had been delayed several times because of me.

Chapter 1307 The Ideal Partner

Ryan said, "The overall plan is ready. It's been on my desk all this time. When you come to work tomorrow, you can take a closer look. If you have no objections, we can use Old Bourdamun as a pilot project and replicate it like what we did for New Bourdamun. It could become a sophisticated system."

"Great. I'm feeling positive about this. Atlas and I have discussed it, and he's fully on board. It's just that he's busy right now, so I don't want to distract him."

I gave Ryan the green light.

"I'll have the Design Division draw up a plan to highlight the characteristics of Old Bourdamun and transform it into an ancient town. Retro-style things are in trend right now," Ryan said, getting excited immediately.

"Great minds think alike. The scale of Old Bourdamun is relatively small compared to other cities in the province, but turning it into a resort city that combines tourism, entertainment, leisure, and shopping would definitely be sufficient for this project. Plus, in the future, the neighboring city will also focus on modernizing itself."

I enthusiastically shared my blueprint with Ryan.

"I've studied the map sections. The two cities are closely connected. Could we connect the ancient cities in both places and create a mutually supportive system? Like we're building a real ancient city."

"A real ancient city?" Ryan repeated.

"Yes, like those in TV series and movies. We can learn from them and take it a step further. Do you understand?" I stared at Ryan intently, hoping he would understand me.

"And our Design Division is prominent globally, but they've only been designing things related to steel and concrete, so wouldn't it be a great idea to make them think about designing something else? It might inspire them."

Ryan looked at me. "You really are a big dreamer, Chlo. You've even thought about the development of the neighboring city of Old Bourdamun. Is this all part of your plan?"

"Why can't I think about that? We're business people. Are you telling me you haven't thought about it at all?" I retorted.

"Why bother with small-scale development? What's the point?" I shrugged and looked at him, then said, "If tourists can finish exploring the place in a day, what kind of revenue can we generate?"

"If there's so much hassle, and costs

and income aren't balanced, it's

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bound to fail We can only truly succeed when the scale of the project is large enough, the scenery is attractive enough, and the surrounding industries like dining and entertainment are enough Keep people here. Are we even doing business if we invest in building something without the promise of good returns? That would just be charity." to

I became more passionate as I spoke.

"We need to do what's right, but if we're wasting funds on something useless, we might as well use it on something better for everyone."

"Since we're in business, we need to

prioritize profits. We need to make long-term investments to have long-lasting returns. That's what a successful investment is. We can't be shortsighted. We need to always have an eye toward the future." to

Ryan looked at me, his gaze somewhat complicated. "Looks like your thinking has become more sophisticated. You're becoming more of a business person. Your vision is on another level as well. I'm looking at you in a different light right now, Chlo." to

"Why? Was I just a waste of space in your eyes before?" I teased. "I just think a lot. Plus, you guys are all elites, and listening to your discussions has naturally given me my own ideas."

I finished with a smile. Chatting with Ryan had a special kind of significance. It was great that we usually agreed on the same things.

"Let's head to the arrival hall. My back's aching from sitting here. I'm getting sleepy too."

I was serious. These days, I felt like sleeping as soon as I sat down. It was probably because of my pregnancy. But since I was a natural workaholic, I couldn't give in to the temptation of sleep.

As soon as Ryan heard me say that, he turned off the car engine, and we headed into the airport together.

Chapter 1308 A Chance Encounter

"You didn't tell me anything about bringing your dad back. There must have been some complications, right?" Ryan asked as we walked.

"Forget it. It's not something I can explain in a few words. It was dangerous, and our lives were on the line. We managed to bring him out at the last moment, thanks to Atlas's meticulous plan. It wouldn't have been possible otherwise."

It still scared me when I thought about it.

If Atlas hadn't brought Loak and his sister back, there would have been no chance of success at saving my father.

Ryan looked shocked and asked in disbelief, "Was it that bad?"

I nodded earnestly. "The entire rescue operation was challenging despite our careful plan. Involving Loak and Anya really made a difference. Atlas didn't overlook any details. If it weren't for them..."

I shook my head. "We probably wouldn't have found my dad."

"He really is a good leader," Ryan said.

As we entered the arrival hall, someone called out to me. "Mrs. Chloe!"

I looked around and saw a woman, fully disguised, walking up to me. I didn't recognize her.

She approached me and asked, "Are you here to pick someone up?"

Puzzled, I looked at the woman in front of me, only to see her smile and quietly remove one side of her mask strap, revealing a beautiful face. "Poppy?" I finally recognized her.

She immediately shushed me and quickly put her mask back on.

"Are you here to pick someone up?" she asked again.

"Yes, I'm here to pick up a relative. And you?" I looked her over, wondering why she was here.

"I'm here for work, but I happened to have two days off, so I came early. I was actually going to come see you, but I didn't expect to bump into you here. Looks like we really are fated to meet," Poppy joked.

Goodness. Why would she come see me? We weren't even that close to each other.

"Oh," I replied indifferently.

She glanced at Ryan beside me and continued, "It's been a long time

since we caught up with each other! Actually, I called you a few days ago, but your phone was off." to

"Yeah, I was away on a business trip for a few days. I just got back, and my dad will be back today too. I have something going on at home."

quickly made up an excuse,

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otherwise she might decide to stick to my side. to

As I expected, she looked disappointed when she heard me say that. "Oh, I see. I won't bother you then."

But she still said, "I came back in secret. I wanted to hitch a ride with you."

With a light smile, I replied, "I'm sorry, but I'm afraid that can't happen today. We're in a hurry to get home."

I quickly countered her idea because I was sure she would manage to come home with me if I hesitated even a little.

Pleca Park was big, but I didn't like to entertain anyone other than my family and friends at home.

Atlas thought the same way.

"Well, then TM leave. I'll come see you

when I have time tomorrow," she said as she examined me. I couldn't see her eyes clearly, but I could feel her speculative gaze. Content

As I was about to speak, she added, "I'm here for work. I just happened to sign a contract with ATL Empire. I'm the new ambassador for Sautoir Fine Jewelry."

Her tone sounded a little strange, as though she was implying something.

"Oh," I replied calmly, "the one Harmony used to endorse? It's about time for a change."

Since Harmony had been in an accident, they had been changing ambassadors. I didn't expect Poppy to be one this time.

"Well, I should leave now. Goodbye." After saying that, she waved to me and walked away with her small luggage.

Ryan watched her leave and asked, "Is she that celebrity?"

"Yeah," I replied absentmindedly.

Chapter 1309 Finally Someone Cares

Before I could fully think about the hidden meaning in Poppy's words, the large screen showed that Archie's flight had arrived. Ryan and I hurried forward.

Not long after, Archie walked out. He was dressed plainly, wearing a mask and carrying a small bag as he strode toward the exit.

Because of his status, he always kept a low profile when returning to Foswood.

I greeted him with a smile as I approached, quickly taking the luggage from Archie's hand without saying a word so we wouldn't alert the media. Ryan hurriedly took the luggage and walked ahead to unlock the car. Archie and I got in and drove away from the airport.

Once in the car, I happily said to Archie, "What made you decide to come back today, Dad? We were supposed to go to Solaris tonight."

Archie took off his mask and looked at me lovingly. "I was worried about you traveling back and forth, so I came back. Besides, it's getting cold there. Our little girl isn't used to cold weather like that. What if she catches a cold? And now that your father's back, I need to see him. We used to be close friends, but it's a pity Louis is no longer here with us."

He sighed, then immediately continued, "How is he?"

"He's doing okay. He's finally home and in high spirits. Right now, the dads, including Anson, are all chatting downstairs. They have no idea you're coming."

Archie chuckled. "Great. We can surprise them."

I smiled back at him. "How long are you staying, Dad?"

"I have a meeting in Kinenich on Tuesday, so not long. But I might come back again after the meeting."

"It's not easy for you to be here for even just a day. You're always so busy." I sighed and nodded.

"The meeting in Kinenich is just for an opening ceremony. I won't be there long. I'll come back here after."

Ryan drove fast, heading straight for Pleca Park.

In fact, not even Atlas knew that Archie was here.

When we arrived at Pleca Park, Jim called Atlas downstairs. Atlas seemed a little surprised. "Hello, Archie. What's with the sudden ambush? But your visit does save me some time though."

"That's why I decided to come back," Archie said happily.

Arnold came downstairs too. "Dad! I'm here too."

Archie glanced at him and asked, "Are you feeling better?"

Arnold grinned contentedly. "It's nothing. I just wanted you to know that I was injured while protecting your precious goddaughter."

That statement made me nervous. "Dad, I..."

"I told him," Grandma Rose quickly intervened.

I felt a little regretful. I hadn't

mentioned anything about it in the car on the way back, afraid he might be worried. But now, I felt awkward, as if thad been hiding something from him. to

But Archie reacted quickly. "Don't mind him. He's tough. He got injured a lot when he was a child."

"Arnold really did get injured to protect me." I said quickly. "If it weren't for his quick reaction,

know what might have t

me." to

to

"You're his sister. He should protect you." Archie pointed at him.

Arnold immediately said, "Now that you're his daughter, he doesn't care about me anymore."

When I heard that, I immediately said, "No! I can't do without you. You're my brother."

Arnold looked at Atlas triumphantly. "See? I finally have someone who cares about me."

Everyone laughed. My mother

quickly asked Archie to settle down and rest, but he waved her away. "I'll go see Rory. Our time is limited." to

Atlas quickly led him to the rear annex.

Jared turned to me and said, "I'm leaving for a moment."

"But we agreed to have dinner together here tonight," I said quickly.

"Yeah, I'm going to pick Ivanna up," Jared said naturally, then smiled at me.

"Okay." I nodded.

But when I saw Jared turning to leave, I thought about something.

Did he say he was picking up Ivanna? Did I hear that right?

Chapter 1310 Thursday's Court Session

I scrutinized Grandma Rose beside me, my skepticism clear as I asked, "Did I hear that right? He said he was going to pick up Ivanna, right?" Grandma Rose nodded. "Yes, that's right."

I felt surprised. He was going to pick up Ivanna when Anson was here? What was going on? Had Jared already passed Anson's test?

I couldn't help but gulp nervously, feeling puzzled.

When Arnold saw my perplexed expression, he approached me and asked, "Hey! What's on your mind?"

"Oh, nothing," I replied uncertainly. "I was just wondering, since Jared's picking up Ivanna so openly, could it mean....."

"Don't overthink it. Nothing can stop Jared if he wants to do something." Arnold dismissed my concerns with a glance.

That was true. Jared would handle everything properly.

I turned to Arnold, regaining my focus. "Are you heading back to Gerby tomorrow?"

Arnold nodded casually. "Yeah, I'm catching an early morning flight."

"Is it for Byron's trial?" I inquired. Arnold was dealing with that since Atlas wouldn't be around.

He glanced at me and nodded. "That's right. It's next Thursday."

"Next Thursday?" I echoed. That was fast.

I picked up my phone and called Beatrice. She answered promptly, and I wasted no time. "Beatrice!"

There was a hint of surprise in her voice. "Are you back, Chloe?"

"Yeah, I'm back in Foswood," I confirmed. I got straight to the point. "Is the trial on Thursday?"

She paused briefly before saying, "Yes."

There was a moment of silence between us. We both understood the weight of the situation. Whether the trial happened or not, the outcome would be the same.

Those three were guilty of heinous crimes, including causing the death of several people. There was no doubt that they would receive the death sentence.

"I'll come accompany you," I reassured her. No matter what, I had to fulfill my promise to her.

It was wonderful that Beatrice had gotten a second chance at life.

"Thank you!" Beatrice sounded relieved, but then she said, "He... he's been trying to see me."

I knew who she meant by "he," of course. After all, he was Beatrice's father.

I was silent for a moment, then said, "If you want to see him, I'll accompany you too."

"I don't want to see him." Beatrice sounded firm.

Then, she continued, but angrily this time, "How does he have the audacity to ask to meet me? He killed my family! He's a monster!"

"In that case, just let it go. I'll let you know before I come over." I comforted her. We didn't need to say much to each other.

"Thank you, Chlo. If it weren't for you, I'm sure I wouldn't have made it. Please come and be by my side again. I really need you."

"Of course. I'll be there with you," I said firmly.

Then I hung up.

Arnold looked at me and asked, "Are you really going?"

"Yeah. I have to keep my promise." I looked at Arnold and said, "This is a difficult time for her. I suppose the verdict will be announced soon."

I sighed. "I feel sorry for the Keller

family, especially for Helen. Her love

for Byron resulted in her death.

Beatrice knows that, so how could she be at peace with him?" to

"Well, don't let it affect your mood. I'll come with you too. My dad just got back, so you don't need to go to Solaris anymore. I'll go tomorrow and you can come on Wednesday. I'll arrange everything for you there. Oh, I'll pick you up too." to

Arnold hated to see me in low spirits. "Or I can postpone my plans for a day or two so you'll have someone to accompany you on the trip."

"Go ahead and handle your business! I'm fine. I'm not that weak," I said lightly.

Right then, Ava, who was playing

around with Ryan, chuckled happily, which attracted my attention. wondered what they were talking about that made her so happy. to