

Divorce 1501

Chapter 1501 Slapping the Shrew

"She's just stating the facts. We're in this mess because of her. She blatantly disregards business rules and has no integrity whatsoever. If people like her stick around in this market, we might as well quit."

"We're all barely making ends meet, trying to solidify our market share. Especially now, we should stick together to maintain a harmonious market order. People like her aren't here for real business."

"Exactly, she's just disgraceful!"

"Look at her, trying to dominate here, rallying these thugs. What's her game?"

The crowd grew more infuriated, shouting louder.

gave a cold look at Andrea. She was visibly flustered across from me, and I asked, "Is this what you call malicious competition?"

Andrea immediately pointed at the surrounding crowd and shouted, "Shut up, all of you!"

Then she turned to me, pointing, "Chloe, who do you think you are? You're just a cheap woman relying on a man's authority. How dare you talk back to me?"

As she ranted, she shouted at the men around her, "Listen up, if she talks back, deal with her! Who the hell does she think she is..."

Before she could finish, a figure had already darted out from the crowd beside her, heading straight for her.

I didn't even know when Carol had approached her.

When I saw her figure, all I saw was her fiercely raising her arm, and the next moment came a crisp sound. With that sound, the scene fell silent.

The sudden quietness was quite unsettling. After a moment, a howl broke out, "Chloe! How dare you get someone to hit me?"

Andrea was mad at this point, but I was ecstatic. Carol, what a warrior she was. That slap she delivered relieved the tension in the air. Shrewd as she was, Eleanor immediately extended her hands to shield me, pulling me back.

I saw Carol standing boldly in front of Andrea, "Are you blind? I was the one who hit you. I'll shut your mouth, you trash talker! Say that again, and I'll slap you again. Come on, try me!"

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Andrea was practically seething. She hysterically shouted at the group of burly men she had brought, "You're all useless! Can't you see these people trying to bully me? You freeloaders, hit them back!

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over

there, teach that woman a lesson!"

Her words barely finished when a huge figure, like a black bear, charged toward me.

Eleanor shielded me behind her. She was about to shout when suddenly, Tristan kicked the man so hard he crashed into the crowd. People gasped, scattering away. Some even kicked the man while he was down.

"Why are you all just standing there? Get them!" Andrea shouted furiously.

With that, she lunged toward Carol, but Carol wasn't afraid of her. Without hesitation, she lifted her foot and kicked at Andrea. Andrea stumbled, almost falling over. She managed to grab onto someone's arm, only to be shaken off by the annoyed onlooker. Andrea's face twisted in fury. "You dare to hit me?"

"I did hit you. Come at me! Hit me back!" Carol's demeanor was assertive and resolute.

One of the burly men immediately

turned around to come to Andrea's

aid. His club was already raised high, aimed at Carol's head from behind...

Chapter 1502 Mighty Bodyguard

I exclaimed in shock, "Carol!"

Carol, upon hearing my exclamation, suddenly turned around and froze in place. It was too late to dodge, but just as the bat was about to strike her, Tristan grabbed another hefty man in the nick of time.

The man was flung out and crashed into the man wielding the bat. With no footing, both burly men fell heavily to the ground, emitting a muffled thud. Carol jumped aside in astonishment, watching the two men tumble to the ground. Then she gaped at Tristan.

Even the onlookers were surprised by Tristan's actions. Nobody could understand how he, with his slender frame, effortlessly knocked down the two hulking men. It was evident how powerful his force must have been.

Andrea was also stunned by the scene. She covered her face, watching the rolling men on the ground, then pounded her chest in anger. "Useless! What are you all doing? Just watching them fight? Hit them! I'll show you who's boss today. Get them!"

The men seemed to snap out of their daze, charging toward our store again.

As Tristan turned back, he saw that Eleanor had already shielded me within the crowd, feeling relieved. A mischievous smile played on his face.

I understood; as long as I was safe, it wouldn't hinder him from making moves.

He swiftly engaged with the burly men, rendering the menacing thugs helpless. Even when they managed to strike, they inexplicably hit their comrades instead.

One after another, they fell to the ground. Some were writhing in pain and unable to get up. Two lay motionless on the ground.

Tristan swiftly ended the skirmish, with the whole battle lasting less than five minutes. All that was left was a dumbfounded Andrea, standing there, unable to utter a sound.

After a brief silence, the crowd erupted into applause, and the market reverberated with cheers and applause.

Tristan returned to my side, his

demeanor imposing. The market echoed with admiration, saying, "Will

you dare to cause trouble again

time? This is outrageous. Now you've got what you deserved!"

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Andrea stared at me in disbelief but couldn't utter a word.

When the crowd started jeering, she shouted at me, "Chloe, just you wait!. Y-You won't get away with this."

With that, she cast a glance at the fallen men on the ground, muttering, "Useless crap!"

Then she briskly disappeared into the crowd.

Seeing their boss leave, the men struggled to their feet, limping away in defeat.

After thanking me, everyone discussed, "Mrs. Chloe, this can't continue. These troublemakers are a danger if they stay in this market for long."

"That's right. We need to find a way to deal with those who don't follow the rules."

"If we let scum like them stay, even if

they behave on the surface, they' cause trouble behind the scenes. We won't be able to tolerate it for long."

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"Let's report them to the relevant authorities and check their quality. Then, file a complaint with the market management. With

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customer testimonials, I believe this

issue will be resolved sove

Aidan slapped his forehead as if enlightened, "Mrs. Chloe is right. Alright, let me take the lead on this. How about we all file a joint report?" Everyone immediately agreed, raising their hands in support. They chanted slogans and left our store to write their complaint letters. Carol returned to my side, giving me a thumbs up and whispering, "You're amazing, Chloe!"

Chapter 1503 Julius and Andrea

I smiled knowingly at Eleanor. I knew Aidan very well. He had been in this market the longest. Back when I was just starting out in business, he was already making a name for himself, running the largest store here.

Aidan was protective, loyal, and had a good reputation, making him more suitable and influential than Eleanor to lead this matter.

Kicking them out wasn't a solution without concrete evidence and involving contract issues. We needed to uncover the facts and have everyone join forces in filing complaints.

After everyone dispersed, Eleanor pulled me back to the small office in our store.

She looked at me and said, "Chloe, thanks for your timely arrival, today wasn't a disaster. While I can repair the store if it's damaged, I can't handle her constant trouble. Since they moved into the market, it's been one problem after another.

"I can't directly approach the market management. After all, this market belongs to ATL Empire. If Tanum's store gets into trouble, it reflects poorly on them."

I glanced at Eleanor, feeling relieved that she knew about the market being under ATL Empire's umbrella. Her ability to prioritize the bigger picture was reassuring.

"Don't worry. If there's any trouble in the market next time, you can seek help from Aidan. He's a good person and has influence." I reassured Eleanor. "In some cases, the power of the masses cannot be ignored."

"Got it. This woman just wants to vent her anger on me. I've investigated this and found that their sales have been declining rapidly. They are losing many loyal customers. The worse it gets, the lower the quality of their floor tiles.

"After I left, Andrea intensified her harassment. Surface Solutions is almost entirely under their control now. To quickly regain market share, Andrea got her brother to buy a store here, intending to directly connect with the customers.

"Julius had no choice but to invest heavily in buying a store here to deal with her. Then she targeted me."

"And thus, the vicious cycle begins." I couldn't help but comment. "It's a pity for the old Surface Solutions."

Eleanor smiled bitterly. "She wants to settle old scores with me, mainly because she missed out on the cooperation with Tanum. With their market share shrinking drastically, Andrea seized the opportunity, venting all her frustration on me.

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"Plus, they've been influenced by Ardora's situation. Now that Liora has gotten into trouble again, she has nowhere to vent her anger. She's suffered a big loss, and it would be frustrating for anyone," Eleanor said with a bitter smile.

"I appreciate your efforts. What you did was absolutely right." I praised Eleanor.

"Chloe, you came at just the right time. Mobilizing everyone to do this together, then we..." We both smiled knowingly.

I patted her shoulder. "It's good for you to prioritize the bigger picture. Actually, when I heard about the situation from Carol, I knew your intentions."

"It's not the first or second time

we've been in trouble. The previous

times, they mainly stood outside the store and cursed me. Maybe seeing that I completely ignored her, she changed her tactics," Eleanor sighed.

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"I didn't expect Andrea to be so despicable." I scoffed.

"Well. What kind of values can she have? Back then, Julius's family was poor. It's said that he followed his grandfather and resettled in that town.

"Andrea's family lived comfortably and she was the only daughter. She was spoiled rotten and uncontrollable. In high school, she was always skipping classes, indulging in having fun."

Eleanor hadn't told me about this before.

"She set her sights on Julius, who was two grades above her. After pursuing him relentlessly, her family went to Julius's house to propose marriage, even offering favorable terms.

"Julius's family was moved, and he reluctantly married Andrea. This secured a place for him in that town."

I couldn't help but imagine Julius's handsome face and scoffed.

Chapter 1504 Leaving Traces Behind

I figured Julius was an opportunist. His words to Eleanor were likely just a front.

Maybe he wanted to leverage the influence of Andrea's family for himself.

"Julius used Andrea's family's support to start a lime factory in the area. He got to know the construction industry while running sales. Later, he gradually got into floor tiles. But wasn't it because of this kind of pestering that Julius..." Eleanor glanced at me but didn't finish.

"Don't make excuses for Julius. Eleanor, everyone walks their own path. Since you've escaped that mess, don't entertain thoughts of him anymore. "If he binds you with such methods, it shows he's not worthy of being your partner. You'd better realize that." I was straightforward, knowing Eleanor's past.

Eleanor blushed and nodded earnestly. "I understand, Chloe. I won't let you down. Since the day I left Surface Solutions, I've been determined not to be fooled or used by anyone."

"Eleanor, determination is good, but letting go of thoughts about him is crucial. He's not worth it. You're still young, with a bright future ahead. Find a decent man and live a good life. Isn't that better?" I felt it was necessary to be blunt at this point.

Eleanor nodded, her face down. "I get it. I just want to focus on work now."

"That's great because bigger things are coming your way."

Then she looked up at me, puzzled. "What do you mean?"

"Take it easy. Soon, our company will take over all the construction and development business under ATL Empire. You can't just stay idle, right? It's a waste for you to be stuck here."

Eleanor's management and sales skills were not to be underestimated. Even just managing this store, she could make a difference. I had high hopes for her potential.

"Don't say that. I just do what I should," Eleanor said firmly.

"Don't be modest. Just do well, and everything will be fine. Settle down in Foswood. I help you, and you just keep moving forward," I said, getting up. "I have some things to do. Kwas in a hurry, but ended up here

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"Are we not having lunch together?" Eleanor asked.

"Not today. I'm busy, so I'll come by when I have time. Let's discuss the recent situation next time. Today's been hectic," I said as I left.

Just then, Aidan came in with a few other store owners, wanting to talk to Eleanor about the joint complaint.

I quickly told Aidan, "Aidan, you must take care of my friend here. Whatever she needs, I fully support her. She has full authority in the market. Just find her if you need anything."

I quickly assured them, empowering Eleanor and ensuring that Aidan and others wouldn't underestimate her.

"Chloe, honestly, I admire you the most. The old folks in this market all respect you. Now that you've made it big, everyone envies you."

I smiled. "Thank you for saying that."

Aidan's demeanor softened, with a

hint of flattery in his tone. "You're right. Your manager, Eleanor, is good. Just like you back then, she's very loyal and brave. Everyone has high hopes for her."

Chapter 1505 Gifting a House

I looked at Eleanor and smiled as I said to Aidan, "Then please take care of each other. I'm busy and can't always come here, so I'll leave Eleanor to you all. We old friends must get along well."

"Hey. Don't say that. She not only focuses on your own sales but also brings us a lot of business. It's mutually beneficial, so we all can't just watch her being bullied.

"That woman is simply a troublemaker. With our joint effort this time, we'll drive her out. You can rest assured," Aidan said enthusiastically, showing that Eleanor had a good reputation in the market.

"In that case, I'll be relieved. I have other matters to attend to, so you guys continue your discussion." With that, I pushed Eleanor lightly. "Don't send me off, and just get back to work."

Eleanor smiled at me and Carol as we left, then turned back to attend to her duties.

As I stepped out of the store, I couldn't help but think that perhaps Eleanor would manage this largest building materials market in Torado in the future.

With some nurturing, she would be a valuable asset. Then Ryan would have a good assistant.

Back in the car, Carol looked at me with concern and said, "I'm not sure if this matter will be resolved."

"Don't worry, with Aidan's joint effort, it'll be much easier to handle. If Andrea continues to be stubborn, then don't blame me for being tough." I said, recalling my father's teachings.

He had told me, "In the business world, one must be steady, ruthless, and never show weakness."

Thinking of this, I suddenly remembered what I had asked Grayson to do, and I wondered how things were going on his end with Fred.

"Any updates on Hugo recently?" I asked Carol casually.

"They've already started construction. The first batch of products does not seem bad," Carol responded cheerfully.

"Has Grayson come back in the past few days?"

Carol immediately said, "He hasn't returned for a long time. Ever since you visited Bourdamun, he hasn't returned."

"Why didn't you call and ask?" I asked her. This silly girl was truly infatuated with Grayson.

Carol blushed and said shyly, "He's busy. I can't bother him all the time."

Grayson was indeed busy, and sometimes it wasn't convenient for him to answer the phone. I figured it was also part of his discipline, and he must have informed Carabin advance.

At the Design Division, we didn't find Hana, as she was out.

I took Joyce with me to visit the new house, and indeed, Ryan's dad and the others were there.

They were delighted to see me, pulling me around to tour every corner of the new house.

Joyce seemed very satisfied, and her interaction with her future mother-in-law seemed quite harmonious. Seeing them so happy together, I felt truly relieved.

After the tour, everything seemed perfect. The house was already fully furnished, thanks to their arrangements in the past few days.

Seeing the new house, Carol looked envious as she followed behind me. "Chloe, no wonder Ryan comes to work every day without fail. It seems

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him, and he delegated all his life-related matters to his

Mike,

you're such a strong backing for Ryan!"

The old couple smiled happily. "It's all thanks to you, Chloe, for arranging everything so well. A house is a big deal, so we can rest assured."

"Chloe, you favor Ryan so much." Carol quickly chimed in.

"When you get married, I'll also give you a house. It just depends on when you'll get married," I said to Carol.

She blushed instantly. "Please don't tease me. How about giving me something else first?"

Joyce laughed. "Seriously, this is the first time I've seen someone give a house as a gift. Chloe, you're so generous."

"This isn't a gift from me, but a

reward for Ryan's outstanding

contributions to the company. It also

shows that your man has absolute value and deserves such a reward from me."

I cleverly dispelled Joyce's concerns, not wanting her to develop any reservations toward me in the future because of these matters.

Sure enough, my words brought joy to Joyce, and her face lit up with pride.

Chapter 1506 Heartwarming Little One

I also firmly believe that Ryan was truly valuable to me. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to have his own accomplishments overseas.

His mother was a great mother-in-law too. She pulled Joyce over and remarked, "Joyce is the best. She's reasonable and understanding, unlike those materialistic women. She's not only excellent at work, but also very virtuous."

"Exactly!" I quickly agreed.

In this regard, Joyce was truly exemplary. After all, although she was of Etrian descent, she had grown up abroad, and she had a different mindset from other girls in Zydan.

I was very grateful that Ryan had met Joyce.

Time passed quickly, and if Carol hadn't reminded me to go see the little one, I would have forgotten.

After buying some snacks and toys for the kids, I knocked on the Reese family's door again.

To my surprise, Charlie was running around the house. When I walked in, he froze on the spot, staring at me blankly.

Then, he abruptly dropped the toy in his hand and staggered toward me.

He called me mommy as he approached.

Honestly, I was deeply moved at that moment. The little guy had always thought of me as his mother.

I squatted down, opened my arms, and he jumped into my embrace. I kissed his cheek before lifting him up.

Carol gasped softly, and I glanced back at her. I understood she was worried for me because holding a child while being pregnant was risky.

The little one showed his affection for me in his own way, nodding and smiling at me. Although he didn't drool as much as before, my face was still wet.

Carol quickly took out the new toys she had bought to entice him, luring him away from my arms.

The Reese family promptly invited me to sit down.

I was surprised that Charlie clung to me tightly while I sat on the sofa and chatted with them.

I said to the Reese family, "I really didn't expect him to still recognize me after we hadn't seen each other in so long."

"Of course he does! He calls out 'Mommy!' from time to time. It seemed like he missed you," Georgina said. "But he isn't lucky enough to have a mother like you."

I watched the little one's affectionate smile.

"This little guy is so lovable. I've been busy lately and couldn't find time to visit," I said while rubbing his head.

Honestly, my heart ached. It would have been better if he had been born into a normal family.

But I also secretly rejoiced. If he had stayed with his biological mother, things would have turned out worse for him.

The Reese family took care of him very well now, and he looked cherished and clean.

Annika kept urging him to perform

the cute little tricks he'd learned for me, and he performed them really well, then happily snuggled

me.

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His affection was so genuine and touching that it was truly heartwarming.

"I feel like taking you away with me! Why are you so lovable?" I gently kissed his little hand.

Charlie laughed loudly, and you could tell the whole family was happy because of him. "Where's your daddy?" I asked him.

He squinted his little eyes, thought for a moment, then ran into the room. Before long, he brought out a photo frame with a picture of him and Arton. Arton was squatting on the lawn, holding the little one who was standing on the grass, and both of them were smiling broadly.

He pointed at the photo and said, "Daddy! Buying poop!"

"Poop?" I was skeptical.

His grandma laughed immediately. "He means books!"

"Oh!" I laughed. "So daddy bought you books?"

He nodded, then ran to get me a children's book and put it in my hands. "Daddy bought me poop! Story time..."

"It seems like your dad is doing pretty well." I looked at Charlie with great satisfaction.

Annika immediately chimed in. "Yes,

his dad is really different now. He makes time to come back, spends the night with his son, and leaves early in the morning. Arton is like a

completely different p

As soon as she mentioned Arton, the Reese family's spirits immediately lifted.

Chapter 1507 The Tallest Tree

My heart felt content as I saw the relieved smiles on the faces of the Reese family members.

"Yeah. I have him doing quality inspection now, and he's doing a great job. Actually, it's a tough job," I said truthfully. I looked at the little one. "He can't even spend time with little Charlie every day."

Carol chimed in. "I went to Bourdamun with Mr. Ryan a few days ago. We saw him, he's doing well. He knows the quality standards inside and out."

"Yeah. He's changed. He's really different now. He wouldn't even speak before, but now, he's so respectful to us old folks. It's all thanks to you, Mrs. Chloe." Donovan sighed.

"Don't say that. You don't know the love of a parent until you have a child, right? Besides, he wasn't really bad. He was just a bit rebellious, which led him astray.

"It's a good thing he's back on track. After all, he has a son now." I looked at the little one calling me mommy with his face upturned toward me. "He's a lucky star. Look at how cheerful he is."

"I used to lose sleep just thinking about this kid. Now, even if I'm not home for a few days, we can sleep soundly." Donovan laughed heartily. "We can even laugh in our sleep."

"Besides, we really feel at ease knowing that he's working in your company." Georgina always had a way with words.

"What about you? When do you plan to send him to kindergarten?" I asked Annika. "The position is still open for you."

Annika smiled and said, "I think I'll wait until after the new year. He'll be a bit older then. I'm afraid he's too young to be independent, but I really want to go back to work. The jobs there are decent and the pay is good too."

What she said was true. Arkadia Plaza's salary was higher than anywhere else in the same industry.

"You can go back anytime. Don't worry about it," I said to Annika. "Things in Bourdamun are quite rushed right now. After this, Arton should be more relaxed."

Of course, I couldn't tell them that I had arranged for Arton's heavy responsibilities. If the project in Bourdamun was completed and Denton didn't take any action, Arton wouldn't be so busy.

We had lunch at their house again, just so I could spend more time with the little one. He clung to me as if I was really his mother.

Annika begged me to wait until he napped before leaving. But the little guy refused to leave my side despite being sleepy.

In the end, he fell asleep in my arms. He was still holding onto my clothes, as if he was afraid I would leave.

When I saw him like that, my heart ached. No matter what his parents were like, this child was an angel.

I held him like that for a long time

until Carol finally took him. She was worried that carrying the child would strain me, and the Reese family was shocked to learn that I was

pregnant, their faces turning pale

with fright.

I quickly said, "It's okay. I'm not that delicate. If you're free next week, I'll come pick up the child and take him to spend a day at my place." They were naturally delighted.

After leaving, I instructed Tristan to

drop off Carol at the company. It

was almost time, so I went straight to our old place, where Atlas had already arranged everything

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It had been a long day of running around, and I was really tired.

I lay down on the sofa and called Atlas, asking when he would arrive.

As soon as he heard that I was at his old place, he became excited and said he was at Pleca Park and would come over immediately.

I hung up the phone, relaxed, and fell asleep.

I had a dream about the lotus pond in the Pierce Mansion again, with the blooming lotuses and the fishes underneath.

I vaguely saw my mother, dressed in

a white dress, sitting by the pond. She was looking at the lotuses with gentle eyes, and she smiled at me, asking if I still remembered the tallest tree.

The tallest tree?

I tried hard to remember. While looking at her kind face, I murmured, "The camphor tree!"

Chapter 1508 Unexplained Anticipation

In the garden, bathed in golden sunlight, my mother's white dress took on a golden hue. She looked ethereal and breathtakingly beautiful against the backdrop of the rose-purple water lilies.

As she stood up and looked at me reluctantly, she told me she had to leave and asked me not to forget the tallest tree.

Feeling sad, I rushed toward her, but she had already turned decisively and left, disappearing into the golden sunlight.

I wanted to call out but couldn't. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't move to catch up with her.

I reached out to grab her, but a black mist enveloped everything. The figure suddenly turned back, looking at me with a grimace and uttering in a low growl, "You will regret this!"

It was Celine. I was startled and shouted, "No! No! No!"

I sat up abruptly, but a pair of large hands lifted me up. In my scattered gaze, I saw Atlas's mesmerizing face.

He lovingly pulled me into his arms, soothing me gently. I closed my eyes, recalling the dream I just had.

"Did you have a nightmare?" His warm hands gently patted my back.

"Yeah," I replied. "I always dream when I sleep during the day, but they're all mixed up. They're all inexplicable fragments," I muttered, feeling a slight headache, and leaned against his chest. "Why were you at Pleca Park? I thought you were at the company?"

"Yeah. I had a meeting and came back. It's not so convenient to meet Gavin and Grayson at the company."

I immediately opened my eyes and looked at his face. "Is there a problem in Gerby?"

He shook his head. "No, but someone has set their sights on it. It's more attractive when it's hidden."

"Are you saying they're after the mine?" I asked.

"I suspect so. They already have a target and they know that the fathers' plans are related to the mine," Atlas said, a hint of darkness gathering in his eyes.

"How could that be?" I started to feel uneasy.

He raised an eyebrow at me. "Don't forget, we still haven't found the two former exploration team leaders."

"Are you saying they might have found those two people?" My heart sank.

"I'm not ruling that possibility out, but don't worry. Even if they find them, they're just wasting their time without the map."

"But we only have half the map," I said worriedly. "It seems we need to find the other half as soon as possible."

"Everything is in the plan. You don't have to worry now that I'm here," Atlas comforted me.

We wanted to continue, but the doorbell rang. Atlas released me and immediately went to the door to check the video intercom. Then he pressed the switch and said, "They're here."

I quickly got up and tidied myself up. I was tired and hadn't had time to change.

In no time, Oliver, Jared, and my girls arrived. Oliver came in and said to Atlas, "This place is nice. We should have our system meeting here next time. Why does no one know about this place?"

Atlas smiled. "There are some other reasons. I haven't been able to bear parting with it."

"I can't believe you've been hiding such a nice place. What a waste." Oliver looked at me. "Mrs. Chloe, I hear you have good news."

I smiled. It seemed that news of my twins had already spread among our circle.

Jared and Oliver teased Atlas for a

Oliver

while, and I felt a bit speechless. I had thought that it was all business between them, but it turned out they were just ordinary people too. seemed that men could joke around with each other as well.

As everyone was enjoying themselves, my phone rang. I checked and saw it was Trinity. I figured she wasn't sure about the location of this place, so I quickly answered.

As I expected, she was asking about

the specific location of this place. After all, this place was not officially open to the public and still belonged to our private territory. I told her to stay put and asked Tristan to pick them up.

Then I called Mia, asking if she had set off.

While we were on the phone, Mia exclaimed that she had seen Trinity's car.

"You stay there with her. I've sent someone out to pick you up," I told Mia on the phone.

After hanging up, I told the men, "They're all on the way here."

I had already met Ernest, so there wasn't much suspense for me. However, I was a bit excited as I thought about meeting the man from the Avila family, Trinity's man.

Chapter 1509 First Meeting with Someone From the Avila family

Atlas had once mentioned to me that he was the most outstanding man among the younger generation of the Avila family and wielded considerable military and political power in Yare. That, coupled with his relationship with Trinity, only fueled my curiosity further.

Before long, the doorbell chimed, and when I glanced outside, I saw that Tristan had already escorted them to the door.

Atlas approached with confident strides and swung open the door, welcoming Trinity inside first.

My gaze remained fixed on the towering figure beside her.

He was tall and robust, seemingly even stronger than Atlas. His tanned skin exuded a masculine allure.

His features were strikingly handsome, with a square face typical of Yare's men. Thick eyebrows framed his intense, deep-set eyes, and his straight nose and broad mouth gave off a rugged charm.

Trinity, who usually had a cold and fierce demeanor, appeared delicate and charming standing beside him, completely devoid of her usual sharpness. No wonder her transformation was so evident. With a companion like that, Trinity radiated a feminine allure.

Following closely behind were Mia and Ernest, the engaged couple. Ernest exuded an air of elegance as he stood by Mia's side with a genteel smile. But they paled in comparison to the attention-grabbing duo of Trinity and her companion.

The man beside Trinity undeniably exuded a strong presence.

As I stood beside Atlas, I couldn't tear my gaze away from the man's face. When he entered, his sharp eyes swept across everyone in the room before inexplicably lingering on me.

Trinity nodded to Atlas, then smiled at me apologetically. "Sorry about the delay."

She greeted everyone and then introduced her boyfriend, Ross Avila, in a straightforward manner.

Her introduction was concise, without any additional details.

Ross courteously nodded to everyone and greeted us. "Hello, everyone."

To my surprise, he spoke fluent Etrian language.

Trinity, who clearly cared deeply for Ross, proceeded to introduce everyone in the room to him.

Ross shook hands with everyone in turn, engaging in a brief conversation with Atlas.

Finally, they stood before me. Trinity smiled at me coyly. "This is my godsister, Chloe, also known as the real Stella White."

She emphasized the phrase 'the real', leaving me puzzled about her intention.

Ross's eyes locked onto my face,

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revealing no emotion. His close scrutiny assured me of his profound depth. He certainly didn't just have a rough exterior.

I extended my hand to him. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Ross. I'm Chloe."

"Pleased to meet you, Mrs. Chloe," He smiled faintly, gripping my hand firmly before releasing it.

It was a peculiar sensation.

He was probably older than me.

"Please make yourselves at home. I hope you feel as comfortable here as you would be at your own place." I politely invited them to take a seat.

I added, "Trinity, please, tell him to sit wherever he likes."

Trinity waved her hand casually. "You go ahead and welcome Ms. Mia."

I smiled and went to greet Mia and Ernest.

Although we had met before, it felt different this time we were in my own home.

Ernest greeted me politely, then joined Atlas to meet Oliver and Jared. He hadn't met Jared at the engagement party.

Mia smiled at me. "I didn't even know you were back."

"I had to leave in a hurry. We planned to meet up, but we had to rush off to Nocturnia the next morning," I explained. "The circumstances were beyond my control."

"I knew you were in Nocturnia. We visited the new site of Bourdamun a few days ago, so we knew you weren't in Foswood and didn't bother to tell you about it," Mia said, initiating the conversation

"The construction there is progressing so quickly. It's unbelievable!" Mia exclaimed.

"Yes. We've devoted all our energy to it, but it still won't be completed this year. Despite that, it looks magnificent as a whole new city."

Impressed, Mia nodded. "It's very grand."

As Lauren approached us to greet Mia, she gestured for Mia to come in and take a seat.

Chapter 1510 Her Boyfriend's Charm

The waiter brought us drinks, fruits, and some grilled meats.

I guided Mia to the small living room where the rest of us ladies gathered, while the gentlemen indulged in drinks.

Since their arrival, Ross and Atlas had been talking nonstop.

Ivanna glanced at Trinity and remarked, "No wonder you've softened and become more feminine. Looks like your boyfriend is quite the charmer." Trinity shot Ivanna a look. "Are you interested again?"

We all turned to look as Ivanna replied nonchalantly, "Don't flatter yourself. He doesn't suit me, and I know what I want. Jared is enough for me, and I'm unwavering to the end."

"That's quite the personality. No wonder Jared is so committed," Trinity commented.

"I love hearing that I've got charm too. But..." Ivanna deliberately trailed off, looking at Ross. "Your man, though..."

"What about him?" Trinity asked Ivanna.

"He's better for you than Jared," Ivanna exclaimed breathlessly. "Jared suits me perfectly."

As soon as she said that, we all burst into laughter. Trinity even blushed a little.

"It seems women are at their most beautiful when they're in love. Look at her, she's blushing. It's clear she's fallen in love," Ivanna said.

Trinity looked at Ivanna disdainfully. "You're going too far, making it seem like I've never experienced true love."

"Has no one told you that you've changed a lot? You've become more feminine. Love really does soften even the toughest hearts," Ivanna remarked shamelessly.

"You're going too far. It's not like I wasn't feminine before," Trinity protested.

Ivanna immediately looked at the rest of us for confirmation. "Can any of you honestly say she seemed girly before?"

We all chuckled, and I quickly said, "Ivanna's right, Trinity. You used to be sharp and cold..."

"And heartless," Ivanna added, "But no one dared say it to your face."

"How dare you say that now?" Trinity said coldly. But she had a smile on her face.

"Even if I disregard everything else

I'm still your friend, right? I can say a few things about you. What can you do about it? You can't deny it. In fact, you secretly enjoy it.

"I'm the kind of person you never expected, right? Otherwise, why would Chloe and I have gotten along so well over the years?" "She's just biased toward you," Trinity scoffed.

Mia looked at Trinity and softly said, "You've really changed."

Our conversation flowed smoothly, and the gentlemen seemed to be getting along well too.

I glanced at them occasionally. Their gathering could easily be the most upscale private party in Foswood.

Ernest seemed to be the weakest among them. Atlas and Oliver's influence were self-explanatory, while Ross's status was unmistakable.

Even though he was just the eldest

of the younger generation in the

Avila family, his worth was

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undoubtedly high, far surpassing Ernest's. Jared belonged to the top echelons of the covert profession, a league beyond Ernest's reach.

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But Ernest seemed determined. He was currently engrossed in conversation with Oliver, who remained calm and composed.

Ross and Atlas got along well. Jared was standing with them, and they were each holding a glass.

I looked away as Mia sat beside me, asking, "How are you feeling? Any more pregnancy symptoms?"

"Basically none, and everything's

normal." glanced at Ivanna and told

Mia, "Ivanna had severe morning sickness. She'd throw up whatever she ate. It was really tough for her."

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Trinity looked at Ivanna and asked, "How much longer until it comes out?"

Ivanna immediately looked at Trinity and chuckled. "Why are you saying it like that?"

She caressed her stomach exaggeratedly and looked at Trinity, asking, "What's coming out?"

"Your baby!" Trinity said disdainfully. "What else could it be?"

We all laughed, and Mia looked at the two of them, bluntly asking, "When did you two become so close?"

Trinity immediately asked Mia, "When haven't we been close?"

Ivanna chimed in, "Exactly. We've always admired and cared for each other."