

Divorce 851

Chapter 851 Finally Meeting Charlie

Johnson hurriedly ushered everyone into the house, exchanging pleasantries as Annika expressed her gratitude profusely. However, Arton was utterly dumbfounded, a bit unsure of what to do. Perhaps even now, he couldn't believe that he had a son. As for me, I was filled with emotions. I never imagined that I would be so invested in Melanie's child one day.

I brought Charlie over to Donovan again. This time, the little one hesitated before extending a tiny hand toward the old man.

Donovan couldn't help but break into a wide smile as he took Charlie's hand. Charlie's adorable gesture melted everyone's hearts. Georgina and Annika quickly surrounded them happily.

Even the usually stern Arton had a softened expression. He was captivated by this kid that shared the same features as him, and a trace of tenderness and warmth flickered in his eyes. Georgina was overjoyed. "Oh my, how did this little one suddenly appear? Oh, Arton, you are fortunate. After all these years, you've finally done something right. Thank you, Ms. Chloe! We owe you big time for this."

It seemed that Georgina was overjoyed. She was quite different from when I was at their place earlier.

I grabbed her arm and said, "Mrs. Georgina, the ones you should thank are these two."

Donovan quickly turned to Arton and said, "Arton. Hurry up and thank them. Look, they've taken such good care of the baby."

Arton finally tore his gaze away from the little one, looking at Johnson and Myra. He bent down and said, "Thank you so much. Thank you for taking care of... my son."

His address seemed a bit awkward, but everyone laughed. Even Charlie cheered excitedly.

Everything ended well. I silently prayed that the little one would have a good upbringing from now on.

My phone rang, and I quickly took it out of my bag. Seeing that it was Adrian calling, I stepped aside and answered, "Hey, Adrian."

"Chloe, due to Melanie's crucial role in Matthew's case, the trial will be postponed despite our efforts. It can't proceed as scheduled tomorrow," Adrian conveyed the news.

Upon hearing this, my heart sank, and I repeated, "It still can't proceed as scheduled? Alright then."

Sensing my subdued mood, Adrian added, "However, Mr. Atlas and my team are still working hard. We're striving to find evidence that

disconnects Matthew from that ne

project in Muborough, allowing us to escape the case.

"And for other projects directly handled by Matthew, we have sufficient evidence to debunk the false claims against him, proving his innocence. Then we can proceed with the trial."

"Is there hope of finding this evidence?" I inquired.

Adrian promptly responded, "There are two possibilities. One is apprehending Melanie. The other is finding witnesses who can confirm Matthew wasn't involved in those projects."

"So, we need to start with Melanie for this evidence?" I continued, "The executives at Ardora are currently leaning toward Liora, and it might be challenging to find that."

Adrian assured, "It's not impossible, but we must make them realize the situation. Rest assured. Mr. Atlas is already working on it."

"Alright. I'll think of a solution on my end, too," I told Adrian.

After the call, I felt burdened as I pondered his words.

Observing the two families playing with the children in the living room, I delegated the follow-up matters to Johnson. I needed to return to the company.

I called Johnson aside, instructing him, "Johnson, later, help me take the Reese family back together. I have some matters to attend to."

Then, I bid farewell to the Reese family, saying, "I won't accompany you further. Johnson will take you back, and Myra will stay with you for a few days. I'll visit you and Charlie when I have time."

"If you have any questions or issues, just ask the couple. You can also contact me too, but I really need to leave now."

I looked at Annika, "Feel free to call me if you need anything."

I had exchanged contact information with Annika when I was at their house.

Donovan quickly asked Arton to see me off, aligning with my intentions.

Chapter 852 Cutting to the Chase

Downstairs, I paused before speaking, "Mr. Arton, there are a few things I feel necessary to discuss with you."

This time, Arton looked more deferential and nodded politely, "Please, go ahead."

"If you're taking custody of the child, you must lead by example and take good care of him," I stated firmly.

Arton nodded solemnly, "We will."

His words were concise, and his response was sincere. Satisfied, I continued, "Furthermore, I can inform you that Melanie has escaped prison, and this matter could escalate."

I looked at him sternly, "If she comes to you, I hope you won't make any foolish decisions. If you want your child to grow up healthy, you need to separate him from having her as his mother. You must provide him with a good and healthy environment to grow up in."

"I didn't inquire about your character before as we had no interactions. But now, because of Charlie, our paths may cross. If you act inappropriately, I won't stand idly by."

I saw him glance down at his own feet, but he didn't refute.

"Every child is born an angel. Don't let your actions turn him into a demon. After all, I know Melanie too well. I hope you understand what I'm saying."

"With this escape, if she's caught again, there might be no chance of getting out. If the little one doesn't have a good mother, I hope you won't let him down as a father." I spoke directly, cutting to the chase. I didn't see the need to beat around the bush with Arton.

"I decided to send him back to your family because I believe in your sister. I hope you won't make me look down on you."

Upon hearing my words, Arton seemed genuinely shocked. He gazed deeply at me, perhaps not expecting me to be so straightforward.

"Is there really no hope for her?" He asked at the end.

"What kind of hope do you think she can have?" I countered.

I genuinely didn't understand the implication behind his words. Did he still have feelings for Melanie?

"I-I didn't mean it that way." He stammered.

I didn't press him on what 'that way' meant.

I scrutinized his expression and confidently said, "Yes, the cops are currently searching for her. She probably won't be able to hide for long. hope you won't make any foolish mistakes. Think about your son."

Arton looked at me with emotions that were difficult to decipher. He didn't respond to my words, but I could understand his reaction.

After all, he wasn't a person with normal thoughts. He had survived in harsh conditions for too long, and expecting him to transform instantly wasn't easy.

I didn't say much more. I got into the car with Carol and left Johnson's house. I knew Myra would handle things well.

Back at the company, as I entered the lobby from the underground parking lot, Michelle was still there.

This was unexpected.

She sat leisurely in the lobby's sofa area, sipping her coffee.

Seeing me walk in, she stood up and rushed over, "Chloe, you're back! Let's have a meal together. You made me wait so long."

I frowned at her, calmly saying, "What exactly did you wait for me for? If you have something to say, say it here. I have some matters to attend to now."

My words were already quite polite, considering we were classmates. Moreover, Michelle was like a loudspeaker.

Her persistent attachment to me made me sure that there was a reason behind it.

"Chloe, look at you. Don't be like this.

After all, we spent several years in college together. I can't control my mouth. That's just how I am. already apologized for what said last night. Can't you let it go?"

"Michelle, you're right. I did allow you to continue talking to me because of our past, as classmates. Otherwise, considering your words last night, do you think I would forgive you?" I stared at her coldly.

She felt guilty under my gaze, avoiding eye contact, "You see, you're still angry. Everyone knows that I can't my mouth. But I cherish the time we spent together. I genuinely want to be your best friend." She looked submissive, coming closer and grabbing my arm, "Let me stay in your office for a while. I won't bother you, I just..."

"Chloe, the client has arrived. They've been waiting for you." Carol interrupted, walking over with a sense of urgency.

I looked at Michelle, "I really don't have time today. You should go back."

After saying that, I walked away quickly, thinking that Michelle was like a piece of gum that was stuck to the bottom of my shoe. I truly wondered what she was up to.

Chapter 853 She's Pregnant

In the afternoon, Grayson entered my office with a disheveled appearance, clearly coming straight to me upon his return. He walked in and said, "Chloe, I've got the news. Melanie escaped?"

I quickly stood up and motioned for him to sit on the sofa. "Yeah, it directly affects Matthew's case, causing further delays."

Grayson chuckled and remarked, "Well, Matthew is really unlucky. Melanie is like a black hole. It seems her purpose in life is to trap him. What do you need me to do?"

"We need to find evidence that proves Matthew's lack of connection to the project in Muborough. Only then can his case proceed normally," I straightforwardly conveyed Adrian's advice.

"We'll find it then. But this project was originally obtained through Liora's connections and was designed to trap Matthew. It might not be easy to find the evidence we need. We'll have to put in some effort." Grayson went straight to the point.

"The crucial issue is that recently, Liora has been quite active, buying off all the senior members under Matthew. That's why it's challenging." I expressed my concern.

"No need to worry," Grayson nonchalantly remarked. "I'll consult with Mr. Atlas about this."

"But we need to get the evidence and find the witnesses quickly, or we might have more troubles down the line."

"Rest assured," Grayson said confidently.

I changed the topic. "Let's talk about the situation with Trinity. Any updates? What about Jared?"

I suddenly remembered something and smacked my forehead, "Oh my goodness, how could I forget such a big thing?"

My abrupt action startled Grayson, who looked at me with confusion.

"Sorry. Oh my god! I forgot something important."

He looked at me in astonishment, asking, "What's so serious?"

I quickly stood up, grabbing my bag while telling Grayson, "You should go home now and rest. I'll give you a call later, and we can discuss this further. I must deal with this matter immediately." After saying that, I rushed out of the office, feeling frustrated for forgetting such an important matter.

While driving out of the parking lot, I called Ivanna.

To my dismay, the phone rang for quite some time without an answer. Feeling uneasy, I stepped on the gas and headed straight to Ivanna's house.

I rang the doorbell for a considerable

time before hearing shuffling sounds from inside. Eventually, the door opened, revealing Ivanna in a lazy posture, seeming like she hadn't gotten out of bed yet.

I walked in while talking to her, "Why haven't you gotten up yet? Hurry, I'll accompany you to the hospital for the check-up. I was so busy this morning, and I just remembered this now had to handle those matters urgently."

Ivanna, with a somewhat indifferent expression, replied, "For what? I can do it myself."

I didn't like her dismissive attitude

and responded, "How can you be so

irresponsible about your own

health? Your well-being is the most important. You're out all day long. You need to know your own

situation. What if-

Before I could finish my sentence, she interrupted me. "We don't need to go to the hospital for this kind of check-up."

She sat on the sofa, looking nonchalant. "I can handle it myself."

From her reaction, I sensed that the test results might have returned positive.

"Did you... test it?" I asked, a bit unsettled.

Ivanna, looking annoyed, replied with a muffled "Mmhmm."

My head spun, and I sat on the sofa, looking at her. "When did you do it? Is it accurate? But we should still go to the hospital to be sure. At least it's more accurate. Come on, let's go." She appeared frustrated and responded, "I said we don't need to go to the hospital for this. I just want to think about it."

I was shocked. "Think about what?"

"I'm not even sure if I want it yet. I don't want everyone to know about it. It's embarrassing!"

Ivanna buried her face in her arms, looking helpless and lost.

Chapter 854 A Fatal Blow

I understood that she had emotions brewing inside her. After all, she hadn't been able to reach Jared for many days. In moments like this, anyone would feel uneasy.

Which woman wouldn't want to share the pregnancy news with her loved one as soon as possible?

I was truly regretful for my carelessness in forgetting such a significant matter.

After she tested herself last night, her emotions must have been complex. But neither of us was there to console her. I imagined she had a sleepless night, which explained why she hadn't gotten up yet and seemed disoriented.

In her current state, how much comfort could I offer? After all, I wasn't Jared-the person who could untangle this mess.

I didn't know what was going on in that man's mind.

But I knew that even if he loved Ivanna, breaking free from the shackles of the Huffman family might be an unknown challenge for him.

For adults, making choices against one's desires for the sake of family, business, career, or long-term interests was a common occurrence.

But for Ivanna, such a decision would be a fatal blow.

I understood Ivanna well. Despite her outward cheerfulness and openness, she was conservative and guarded about matters of the heart. She had remained single for years, never fully devoted herself to anyone.

Moreover, it was obvious that she loved Jared deeply.

I approached Ivanna, enveloping her in a gentle hug, and whispered, "Don't overthink it. Right now, it's just a matter of being unable to reach him. Given the uncertainty on that end, it's understandable why he..."

Before I could finish my sentence, Ivanna abruptly lifted her head, giving me a stern look.

She interrupted, demanding, "Why is it understandable? Don't make excuses for him. I know the situation very well. I love him more than he loves me. I know we come from different worlds, but I don't deny my love for him."

I looked at Ivanna in her gloomy state. To be honest, it made me uncomfortable. She loved Jared, a man she couldn't fully influence.

"Chlo, can you tell me if Atlas would just leave without a word or not even a phone call?" She stared at me with large eyes, and she chuckled, seeing my inability to answer.

"Yes, he left in a hurry because it was urgent, and I get it. But it's been five days now. Couldn't he spare a moment for a call to let me know? Would it really have cost him that much?"

I had to admit that her questioning was valid.

"Chlo, suddenly I feel like such a failure, really."

After saying this, she looked deflated.

This was the first time I had seen Ivanna in such a helpless state. It was already past noon, and she probably hadn't eaten anything. I got up and went to the kitchen to check the refrigerator, which I found to be empty.

Well, she hadn't properly been at home for a long time. How could there be any groceries?

I pulled her up, "Let's go out to eat. You can't function without eating. No matter the outcome, we still have to be nice to ourselves. These things won't be solved on an empty stomach."

"I don't want to move. I'm not hungry at all," she said with frustration in a weak voice.

"But you're pregnant now, and you need nutrition." I closed her eyes and stopped talking.

"Then I'll check with Lauren to see where she is. What do you want to eat? I'll ask her to bring it over." I intentionally suggested this, thinking that Lauren was much better than me in this regard. She knew how to comfort people.

But I had to consult Ivanna's opinion.

"Don't bother. I'm fine. If I want to eat, I'll eat. I'm not a child anymore." She dismissed me.

I looked at her and said with

exasperation, "You can articulate your principles well, but you don't act like that! Are you sure you eat when you're hungry? Who came back starving like a wolf the other day?"

After saying this, I took out my phone and called Lauren. She answered as soon as the call went through.

"Where are you?"

Chapter 855 Why Is She Acting Like That?

Lauren immediately replied, "ATL Empire."

She had been at ATL Empire, learning from the master Atlas had arranged for her and handling some public relations cases. She was diligent, working from early morning to late at night, and it was said that she made significant progress.

The key was her solid foundation. In the upper circles of Foswood, especially in interpersonal relationships, she was practically a master.

"What is it?" She seemed to be busy while speaking.

"Go to the restaurant across the street and order some food. Ivanna hasn't eaten anything for most of the day. Oh, try to make it light... well, make it nutritious." I felt like I was speaking incoherently.

"Isn't she in Bourdamun? She's back?"

"Yeah, we'll talk when we meet. Hurry up!" I emphasized and hung up.

Ivanna adjusted her body, leaning into the sofa in a state of relaxation. "Aren't you busy? If you're busy, do your thing. I'm fine. At worst, I'll start over."

She said this and looked at me with a wry smile, looking worse than if she were crying.

"Is this how you handle it?" I retorted, "This is just a lack of communication. And this matter with the Huffman family is not so simple. There might be some complications." So, I briefly explained the family's situation to her.

Ivanna listened attentively and said, "Chlo, the key is not the Huffman family but Jared himself. If he is determined about something, no one can influence him."

"I think you should give yourself a chance and also give him a chance. Since you love him, then wait."

"You're talking lightly. Is waiting the only thing I should do? How long should I wait? Especially at this time, and he..." She sighed.

Just then, the doorbell rang, and I hurried to open the door.

Lauren came in carrying a stack of takeout boxes. She glanced inside and asked, "What's going on? When did you come back?"

After walking in, she saw Ivanna's condition and quickly asked, "Are you sick?"

Ivanna quickly sat up and smiled. "My heart is."

Then she pointed toward the sofa, "You guys sit, I need to brush my teeth."

After saying that, she ran upstairs.

Lauren looked at me inexplicably and asked, "Why is she acting like this?"

"It's all because of Jared. He left in a hurry and hasn't called her even once!" I grumbled.

"But still, does she need to act like that?" Lauren didn't understand. "They can clean up the mess together when he's back. By the way, are you not busy?" "I'm so busy! And she suddenly came to mind." I didn't mention Ivanna's situation.

"Is everything okay with the company?" Lauren asked.

"The company is fine; it's Melanie causing trouble again," I said irritably. Just then, Ivanna came downstairs, looking more spirited after freshening up. Lauren glanced at me and asked, "Melanie? What trouble is she causing now?"

I snorted, "Hmph, what else? This time, she escaped from prison."

Lauren's mouth fell open, and her eyes widened as she looked at me. "No way! She's brave, though."

Ivanna was also surprised and chuckled, "She really is. What happened? Escaping prison is a big deal."

While she spoke, she took the meal that Lauren had ordered for her. The moment she opened the bag, she couldn't take it anymore and rushed into the bathroom on the first floor while covering her mouth.

Lauren was shocked again, pointing at her back and looking at me. I O shrugged and smiled, and Lauren immediately understood what was going on. She seemed a bit stunned for a moment.

I didn't say anything and waited for Ivanna to come out of the bathroom. I quickly poured her a glass of water and handed it to her. "Rinse your mouth and drink some water first."

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She was pale, but she listened to me and rinsed her mouth. Then she sat on the sofa as if she were exhausted.

Lauren walked up to her. "Are you..."

Ivanna was silent for a moment before she nodded with some regret.

Lauren quickly sat down, took out all the meal boxes, and placed them on the coffee table. "Take it easy and eat quickly. Now, you need to take care of yourself well."

"Both of you are here, I..." Ivanna sat up, seeming hesitant to speak to both of us.

Chapter 856 A Matter of Life and Death

A Matter of Life and Death

When we saw the expression on Ivanna's face, both Lauren and I sensed that she had something on her mind.

In truth, the two of us knew exactly what she was going to say.

"I don't want this baby!" Ivanna said through gritted teeth, her words sharp. "I spent the whole night thinking about it."

"You're being unreasonable," I retorted, a tinge of irritation in my voice. "Don't act impulsively. We're not kids anymore, so you need to face the situation head-on. You can't be reckless."

Lauren fixed her gaze on Ivanna as well. "I agree. You need to discuss this with Jared."

"I can't even find him! How can I discuss anything with him?" Ivanna was getting caught up in her frustration.

"Ivanna, please be rational. Given the current circumstances, he can't be with you all the time, even when he's in Foswood." I said harshly.

Lauren pulled me aside, offering me a comforting look before gently trying to persuade Ivanna to see reason. "You really need to think carefully about this, Ivanna. Don't be childish. Listen to what we have to say, okay?"

"I've thought about it all night. I don't want to think about it anymore!" She whined like a petulant child.

I felt a sense of urgency. After all, I knew what Ivanna was like. "Lauren's right. We won't force you to use this child to pressure Jared, but this is not just about you. You have to talk to him, even if you can't reach him right now. That doesn't mean he won't contact you at all, right?"

"I know something about Trinity's situation. There are priorities in life, and it's a matter of life and death over there. You can't deny him a chance to catch his breath," Lauren added, trying to reason with her.

"Isn't this a matter of life and death for me as well?" Ivanna argued unreasonably.

"You're going a little too far, Ivanna. The child is yours and Jared's. Trinity's situation is uncertain right now, and even if you do manage to contact Jared, can you make him drop everything and come back to raise the child with you?" I said.

I realized I might have spoken too harshly a second later, but it was too late to take it back.

Sure enough, Ivanna turned pale when she heard what I said. She stared at me intensely for a while before saying, "You seem to be only thinking about Trinity right now, Chloe. Tell me, do you feel that my relationship with Jared is unfair to Trinity? Do you want them to be together?"

Her words left both Lauren and me stunned. My heart sank, and I looked at her uneasily. "What do you mean, Ivanna? Are you trying to say that I'm taking Trinity's side?" Update first at [NôvelDráma. Org.](#)

As I confronted Ivanna assertively, the very thing I feared finally unfolded.

"Yes, I do have a connection with Trinity. But that doesn't change anything, you know? You've known me for many years. Am I the type to forget loyalty for personal gain? It's true that I became sworn sisters with her, but my bond with you is just as important to me. I understand this better than anyone!" I spoke with growing indignation.

*And I've agonized over this thing with you, Jared, and Trinity a thousand times. Honestly, based on emotions alone, I can swear to you that I hope you and Jared end up together."

Ivanna's eyes widened when she heard me say that.

"I have a reason for saying that. I was moved by something Jared said. He told me that you were his life!"

"When did he say that?" Ivanna asked in disbelief.

"After I found out you two were in love, I went to Jared and asked him about it myself." I looked at her as I told her this piece of information I hadn't shared with her until now.

Ivanna looked at me and gulped before sitting up straight. Tears glistened in her eyes.

"I hoped you and Jared would be together because I believe you two complement each other. You've been fighting alone over the years, and you seem like a tough woman, but do you really see yourself that way?" I choked.

Lauren reached for my hand, trying to stop me.

I pulled away from her and continued to speak.

Chapter 857 Possibility of Assassination

Possibility of Assassination

My stubbornness surged. This was the first time Ivanna and I had disagreed.

"Do you know why I'm saying this?" I asked Ivanna, looking straight at her. "I'm not trying to please you. I think Jared and Trinity don't suit each other because they're too similar. There's no real love between them. It's more of a sense of understanding, a familial bond, or a sense of duty.

'So, I genuinely hope you and Jared make it to the end. I'm saying this from the bottom of my heart. I would say that even in front of Trinity.'

Ivanna looked at my face and lowered her gaze.

I softened my tone. I knew she was at her most vulnerable now.

'I talked about this with Atlas once. He told me not to dwell on it because everyone in this world has a love that belongs only to them. You only get a chance to encounter the right love if you part with the wrong one. That's why I advised you to wait.'

Lauren quickly interjected, "You should tone it down a bit, Chloe."

Then she turned to Ivanna and continued to console her. "No matter what, Ivanna, what you said just now was really hurtful."

We both fell silent. There was a mix of anger and awkwardness in the air.

After a while, I spoke again. 'Since I became sworn sisters with Trinity, I've been trying to balance our relationship. I always reminded myself to try to remain rational about Jared's business. I tried not to let my emotions sway me, and I tried not to favor either of you. But Ivanna, I have to admit, my scale tilts more toward you.'

Lauren quickly tried to ease the tension. "Exactly, Ivanna. Don't overthink it. We're best friends, after all."

I looked at her, helpless but sincere. "It might be because of the impression Trinity left on me earlier, or maybe it was because of her actions toward you in the past. Perhaps I always felt that she was weaker compared to you." My heart was in turmoil. I thought about whether I should continue talking. I didn't know if Ivanna would sink deeper into misunderstanding if I did. Still, I felt that I needed to tell her all this, if only for my own peace of mind. As I looked at her, she silently lowered her head. I took a deep breath and continued, "But... honestly, Ivanna, Trinity is not as glamorous and arrogant as she appears on the surface. She's helpless sometimes too."

*She also has a sensitive side. Everyone's vulnerable sometimes.

"Her father told me on the morning she disappeared that he wished his daughter could lead a normal life like any other girl. He hoped she could date, get married, and have children. But she's Trinity, heir to the Huffman family. She can't just do whatever she wants."

"She risked everything to make the Huffman family stronger. She didn't disappear. She deliberately left all the family guards behind because she wanted to strengthen her authority over the old forces and regain dominance, but... there was a possibility that she had been assassinated. So, I think Jared's actions were justifiable because he felt responsible."

Ivanna looked up at me, her kindness and warmth evident. "Alright, enough. From now on, no one is allowed to say anything that hurts anyone else's feelings. No matter what happens, the three of us should be able to speak openly like this. We shouldn't hide our opinions, we shouldn't be suspicious of each other, and we should never betray each other. Update first at [NôvelDráma. Org](http://NôvelDráma.Org).

Lauren looked at both of us and winked at me, conveying her message. I understood what she meant, of course. After thinking for a moment, I walked up to Ivanna, sighed, and said, "Alright, it's time to eat. If you don't eat, you'll just waste Lauren's effort in bringing all this here for you. Besides, you need to take care of yourself. Kids need nutrition. We can talk more about this later."

She remained silent for a long time before reaching for the cutlery and silently starting to eat.

Just then, Atlas called. I glanced at my phone and casually declined the call.

Ivanna looked at me and said, "You can go. I'm fine. I know I was wrong about you."

I nearly cried at those words. My nose tingled as I looked at her with teary eyes.

Lauren also said, "You're busy. You should head back. I'll stay here with her."

"You stay here tonight, then. We'll take her to the hospital for a check-up tomorrow. I won't be able to rest easy otherwise." I turned to Ivanna. "Stop overthinking this. We'll discuss it and handle everything together. It doesn't matter how long it takes. I will always be the Chloe you know. Nothing will change."

"Okay. Just go back now." Ivanna softly agreed.

I quickly turned and walked out. As soon as I stepped outside, tears rolled down my cheeks.

Chapter 858 In Low Spirits

I remained in low spirits even after I saw Atlas.

He noticed immediately and pulled me into his arms. He looked down at my face in concern and asked, "What's wrong? Why do you look so down?"

I glanced at him and said, "Can you reach Jared?"

"I still can't reach him. What's going on?"

I explained Ivanna's situation to him. "Find a way to contact Jared. Tell him about this situation. It wasn't right for him to just leave without a word, especially with Ivanna in this state. I can totally understand why she reacted that way," I complained to Atlas in a displeased tone.

He nodded. "I'll let you know the minute I get any news from him. But it looks like you can't stop letting someone else's business affect your mood, huh?"

I didn't like the way he said that. I reproached him coldly, "Is this just someone else's business? Is Ivanna just a random person to me? She's worried about me for many years. I can't just stand by and do nothing about her situation!"

I was upset as I thought about what Ivanna had said. But I couldn't deny it, and I was trying to think about whether I had taken Trinity's side in this matter.

But in fact, I had favored Ivanna and Jared's relationship all along.

Atlas, who saw that I was still gloomy, sulkily instructed the driver to take us out for dinner.

I didn't object because I didn't want to bring my emotions home. I needed some time to process things outside.

But the car hadn't traveled far when the driver said to Atlas, "Sir, that car is following us again."

Atlas just grunted and made a phone call. "Bring that person to me."

I instinctively looked behind us and saw a black sedan following our car.

Atlas pulled me close. "Don't pay any attention to it."

When we arrived at the restaurant, the waiter led us to a private room. After placing our orders, Dylan brought someone in.

I was surprised to see someone I knew. It was Kimberly from the Terrell family in Bourdamun.

As Kimberly entered, her eyes locked onto Atlas's face.

I had seen that expression before. Kimberly had the same look on her face when she saw Atlas for the first time in Bourdamun.

Atlas glanced at her coldly. "Speak. Why are you following me?"

Kimberly lowered her eyes for a moment, then raised them again. Her mouth twitched as she looked at Atlas. Her eyes were filled with grievances, but there was a hint of hostility in her gaze toward me.

It looked like she was openly declaring enmity against me.

"You've been following me for several days. Why?" Atlas's tone was icy.

"I... I just wanted to see... you. I didn't mean you any harm!" Kimberly replied under Atlas's pressing gaze.

"If I ever see you again, you won't be as lucky as you were today. Escort her out, Dylan." Atlas's handsome face was exceptionally cold, and his tone brooked no doubt. He stared directly at Kimberly with a look that would make anyone shiver,

"Why are you treating me like this? What does she have..." Kimberly began to say.

"Get out." Atlas's voice was not loud, but it was incredibly scary. His eyes also revealed a murderous intent.

Kimberly shivered involuntarily, then

glared at me resentmentfully. Before

she could say anything else, Dylan grabbed her arm and dragged her out.

She gave me a death glare while struggling to free herself from his grip.

Chapter 859 Money Talks, People Walk

The private room regained its tranquility, and as I looked at Atlas, I suddenly burst into laughter.

I leaned in toward his face curiously with a mischievous expression. "Seems like your looks are getting you into trouble everywhere. Fangirls are chasing after you all over the place."

He looked at me seriously. "Don't you feel threatened? How are you still so relaxed? Have you lost your mind, Chlo?"

I squinted my eyes, carefully scrutinizing him, then said a little irritably, "I've gotten used to being at odds with women all over the world. Why should I feel threatened? I'm sure I'll be besieged by your fangirls sooner or later."

He suddenly pulled me into his embrace. "I'll see who dares make an enemy of my woman. They must have a death wish."

I laughed, falling into his embrace as all my gloominess disappeared. Atlas kissed me passionately and eagerly.

After a long time, he said, "Stop being so down. It's better to solve problems with a smile. I'll try to contact Jared as soon as possible."

"Please do, especially now that Ivanna is pregnant. It's really unfair that she doesn't have him by her side right now," I defended Ivanna.

Atlas playfully bit my nose to change the subject. "When are we having a baby? To give our Ava a companion?"

I blushed instantly. "Ava already has a companion, doesn't she?"

"But she has the right to be a big sister." Atlas countered cleverly.

I was speechless.

"Well... let's just go with the flow. It's not like I have a say in this," I said, and blushed.

"It's my say, and I'll definitely work hard and take action to complete this challenging task as soon as possible." Atlas grinned. I couldn't believe that the man who was so hostile just a moment ago now looked so playful.

I burst into uncontrollable laughter again.

Luckily, the waiter had arrived with the dishes, and he let me go. We quickly took our seats.

He had ordered all the food I loved, but I felt uneasy as I thought about Ivanna being alone at such an important time. Atlas sensed my thoughts, so he changed the topic and asked, "Did you send the little one back to the Reese family?"

"How did you know?" His words immediately captured my attention.

"I knew you would definitely send him back to them when that incident with Melanie happened." His words warmed my heart. He really understood me.

"How can we quickly prove that Matthew has nothing to do with the projects in Muborough? Liora has probably bribed those people and they might not want to testify."

Atlas snorted and said, "Problems

that money can solve aren't really problems. Since they only want money, I'll make them pay the price and trap them with the thing they love most in the world."

As he spoke, his tone was chilling, giving a sense of both awe and fear. However, I found it oddly reassuring. I realized he must have a plan in mind already if he was saying that. I had nothing to worry about

"Trust me, you'll be satisfied with the results." Atlas's voice was as gentle as melodious music.

As we discussed Matthew's situation, my phone rang. I quickly picked it up and saw that it was Myra. I figured she must be calling to tell me about Charlie.

I answered, and sure enough, Myra

said she had returned from the

Reese family's place, and Charlie was doing well and playing happily at home. I knew I could rely on Annika.

"She was working hard to learn how to take care of Charlie this afternoon. I was very touched." Myra sounded glad.

"Arton was also very attentive. He hasn't left the child's side since he got home, so you can rest assured."

"And what about you? How are you feeling? Are you having trouble letting go?" I asked.

Chapter 860 She's Just Bait

When she heard my question, Myra fell silent for a moment. I could tell that she must be feeling a little sad.

After a brief pause, she sighed. "Well... you're right. But still, he has family. He's a treasure, and no matter how good he is with me, it's not the same as living with his own family. Blood is thicker than water, after all." I could hear the helplessness in her voice.

"That's right. Talk about it with Johnson and consider having a second child soon maybe," I said softly, "Don't worry; your burden will only get lighter, and you'll do well with Johnson in the future."

I intentionally hinted at something with my words. Since Johnson had turned over a new leaf and passed the test of time, I believed he was someone worth trusting. It was clear that he could handle things on his own, especially after Matthew's incident. He had been Matthew's right hand, but he was no longer as important after Melanie joined the company.

I had plans for his future.

I was confident that Myra could pick up on the implications in my words.

After I hung up, Atlas looked at me tenderly and asked, "Thinking about something again?"

"Can you let me have some secrets?" I looked at him in distress.

He laughed even more triumphantly. "You say you don't want Ardora, but I see you've already planned everything out."

I said, helplessly, "It's better than having it fall into someone else's hands. After all, that was my initial investment. I have no reason to give it up."

"Have you thought about how Matthew will face the future if he's acquitted?" Atlas asked me seriously.

I glanced at him and said sincerely, "I don't need to think about that since he's not important to me anymore. I just want his case to end quickly so we can put an end to this trouble." Atlas was moved and rubbed my head affectionately.

"I have no reason to get involved with the Murphys. I've done what I can, and it's not fair to you that I keep dealing with this messy affair. Trust me, I know what's important."

Atlas smiled contentedly. "I don't

doubt that at all, my darling. You don't have to go out of your way

me. As long as you're happy het

enough for me."

"Speaking of which, I need to find my father now that this business with Matthew is ending," I said softly.

The issue of my father had been weighing heavily on my heart.

"Oh, Arnold left today! I forgot to see him off." I suddenly remembered that Arnold was leaving for Monora today.

Atlas's phone rang just as he was

about to say something. I saw him pick up without hesitation, andd

vaguely heard the person on the line

say Keegan's name. Content

"Good. Release the news." Atlas's expression was calculating, which indicated that it must be good news.

After hanging up, he told me, "Keegan has been arrested."

"What? When did this happen?" I was startled at this big news.

"He was caught at the airport, attempting to flee." Atlas fed me a piece of sea cucumber as he explained.

"You guessed he would try to escape, didn't you?" I said as I chewed on the sea cucumber and looked at Atlas's handsome face "Oh well, Liora probably didn't think that her family would be in prison now in exchange for Melanie's freedom. By the way, do you know where Melanie is?"

"Yeah. The cops know too, but she's just bait," Atlas said casually.

As Atlas spoke, my mind raced. Melanie was just bait?

I suddenly thought of something and looked at him. His eyes gleamed with satisfaction, as if he had carefully calculated everything.

This strengthened my suspicions.

I leaned toward him and asked him something.