

Divorce 951

Chapter 951 Volcano Eruption

Lauren took a deep breath when we stepped out of the door. With a mischievous grin, she remarked, "My mission is finally accomplished! I can finally go home and get a good night's sleep. If I endure this any longer, I might get high blood pressure."

"Oh my goodness, a volcano just erupted." I stuck out my tongue in response.

Atlas reached for Ava, who widened her eyes in disbelief. She asked Atlas, "Daddy, what happened to Aunt Ivanna? Why is she yelling so loudly? I'm afraid. Is she going crazy?"

Her question left us adults trying hard not to burst into laughter. Fortunately, the elevator arrived, and we quickly stepped inside.

Ava, still studying Atlas's face, curiously inquired, "Daddy, why is she so angry? Did that man make a mistake?"

Atlas smiled at Ava and explained, "Our little sweetheart is brilliant. Yes, that man made a mistake, and Aunt Ivanna doesn't want to forgive him, so she got mad."

Ava looked astonished and said, "Will they fight if we leave? What if they keep fighting?"

Atlas shook his head confidently. "No, the man is responsible. He admitted his mistake, so once he does that, your Aunt Ivanna won't be mad anymore."

Relieved, Ava earnestly told Atlas, "Daddy, just don't make Mommy angry. It's too scary."

With a captivating smile, Atlas assured, "Daddy will absolutely not make Mommy angry. Even if I do, Mommy won't stay angry."

After leaving Ivanna's house, Lauren looked at Atlas and said, "Mr. Atlas, you played a pivotal role this time. Now Chlo and I are liberated."

"Yeah. The thing is, I don't want Chlo to punish me." Atlas said, causing Ava to inquire, "Why would Mommy punish you? Is she bullying you again?"

Both Lauren and I chuckled helplessly.

I asked, "When did I bully him?"

Ava chuckled and asked, "Daddy said you would punish him. Are you not bullying him? How could Daddy do something wrong? I don't believe it, and even Jenny doesn't." Then she looked at Jenny, her voice sweet and innocent, asking, "Jenny, do you believe that my Daddy did anything wrong?"

Without hesitation, Jenny said, "No, I don't believe it either."

I felt utterly helpless. What had I done? This man had managed to conquer even the hearts of little girls around him. It seemed like I was truly destined to be with him. When Lauren reached her floor, she bid us goodbye, then turned to me, saying, "I'm going to sleep in tomorrow. I'll give you a call once I'm awake."

We waved goodbye as she entered her apartment. I knew she must not have had a good rest these past few days.

After the four of us returned home, I quickly gave the two little ones a bath. They excitedly bounced around on the bed, thrilled to be back in their space after a while.

It had been a long time since we returned to this place, and their excitement was heartwarming.

After I finished showering, they were still chattering on the bed, wide awake and full of energy.

Ava had become noticeably more cheerful since Jenny arrived. The two little ones got along well, and Jenny had a sisterly demeanor that delighted me. They had never had a single argument, which brought me immense comfort.

Once I settled them down and urged them to sleep, Atlas approached with my phone that was buzzing incessantly.

It was a call from Theo. I answered, and his voice immediately said, "Chloe, have you returned to Foswood?"

"Yes, I came back yesterday," I responded.

"That's great. How about we meet tomorrow? I've got concrete information about Beatrice," he exclaimed. "What is it?" I couldn't wait.

Theo hesitated before saying, "The

situation isn't great. It might

disappoint you. Since it's a bit late

today, let's meet tomorrow, and I'll

give you all the details then.

"Okay." I nodded. "Is it really bad?"

"This can't be explained easily. Let's discuss it in detail when we meet tomorrow. I'll let you know the location. I called just to check if you were back." "Alright, let me know the location tomorrow."

"Sure, I won't disturb you any longer." He quickly hung up.

What was going on with Beatrice? How could she not contact anyone for so many years? But I pushed the thoughts aside, knowing I'd find out tomorrow, and decided not to worry too much.

Chapter 952 Admitting Mistakes

Atlas hugged me from behind. "My wife is really busy, huh?"

I gave him a sidelong glance. "Tell me, how did you find Jared so quickly? Come clean! Don't try to deceive me."

Atlas smirked. He said with pride, "I just used my brain a bit."

I rolled my eyes at him disdainfully. "Are you always trying to brush me off? Huh?"

His handsome face immediately turned serious. He quickly raised his hand as if taking an oath.

"Darling, on my honor, how could I ever brush you off? Finding Jared did involve some thinking, or I wouldn't have had any information about him," he said earnestly. "If you hadn't given me the push, it might not have been so easy to locate him."

The more he spoke, the more my curiosity was piqued. I turned around to face him. "Explain."

Atlas took my hand, led me to the bed, and carried me onto it. He then crawled in, wrapping his arms around me. "First, I had Dylan check Jared's contacts for the cooperative base with us. Then, I traced his recent whereabouts, and he was at the border.

"I told him what you said. That guy immediately panicked. He drove across the border without delay, took a flight from there, and rushed back to Foswood. So, in less than ten hours, he's back."

I snorted. "Why do men always act like this? Why can't they explain things before leaving so their women aren't confused? You guys always think you're clever, thinking you know everything. In reality, women want a sense of security, you know?"

"I know, of course. That's why I didn't make any mistakes. I knew you were clever, so I never did anything sneaky." Atlas boasted shamelessly.

"Are you sure?" I asked, looking at him. "Who was the one who thought they were clever, arranging a substitute and making me suffer? And="

"I was wrong. I won't make the same mistake again next time." He quickly corrected himself.

He looked mischievous and cheeky, making it impossible for me to scold him.

"Fine, next time I won't make such mistakes anymore." He continued to admit his fault.

I chuckled and playfully patted him on the face. "You admitted your mistake so quickly. Have you made this mistake before?"

"I thought it was over and didn't

intentionally hide it from you. It was with good intentions, not wanting my woman to worry. The more I love you, the more I want you to be

happy. I've learned to never lie to the woman I love anymore."

After saying this, he lowered his gaze to my face, lovingly pinching my cheek.

I

35ling into his embrace.

good that you know. Next t try to be too clever

got it?"

"I got it. I never deceived Stella. There are no secrets between us. I'm not like those other men."

"Then you're not a man." I teased.

Unexpectedly, he flipped over, pressing me down. Playfully, he asked, "Am I not a man? Hmm?"

His sudden move startled me, and I

laughed, pleading for mercy. He quickly released me, letting me catch my breath. Once I could

breathe normally, he hugged me.

again, saying earnestly, "There's one more thing. Adrian mentioned it this afternoon, and you'll be interested."

I immediately became serious and looked at him. "Right, I haven't asked you about it. How did it go with Adrian?"

"When you went to Adrian's place today, he was in a meeting, right? Guess who he was receiving as a client at that moment?"

Chapter 953 A Deadly Move Leading to Victory

I looked at him curiously and asked, "Who?"

Atlas pinched my nose and said, "It's Melvern."

"Melvorn?" I exclaimed.

I really didn't expect him to consult Adrian.

Could it be related to Matthew's case?

I looked at Atlas skeptically and said, "He wouldn't be consulting about Matthew's case, right? That falls under the confidentiality of this case, doesn't it?"

"Of course, he wouldn't directly ask that question. He inquired indirectly about equity and economic disputes." Atlas explained.

"This indicates something. He fears Atticus's release. He wants to protect Liora. At least until he settles the score with Atticus, he doesn't want Liora to interfere with his plans." Atlas analyzed Melvern's intentions.

I asked with concern, "Will it affect Matthew's case?"

He looked at me, somewhat conflicted, and asked, "Are you worried?"

I looked at Atlas seriously and said, "I don't want to keep entangling with this matter endlessly."

"For Liora, Matthew is already a losing move. But for us, it's an opportunity to suppress her. So, we need to be prepared on both fronts now."

"Why do you say that?"

Atlas thought for a moment. "I have a hunch that Melvern may hire the best lawyer for Liora, giving her a foolproof defense and ensuring she comes out of this unscathed before Atticus could free himself. With this constraint in place, Melvern can move against Atticus."

"Do we have a guarantee?" I asked.

"So today, I discussed with Adrian and decided to change our strategy. We'll win Matthew's case first and end our troubles, then put pressure on Liora. We'll make her act and incriminate herself."

"I don't understand. What do you mean by making her act and incriminate herself?" I asked.

Atlas smiled mysteriously. "She's set in her ways. As long as we..."

He whispered a plan in my ear, then raised his eyebrows, asking, "Understand?"

After hearing Atlas's words, I smirked, feeling relieved. "You're too high-handed, playing her to death. Let her be proud for a while, and then let her fall from a high place. Maybe she'll learn a lesson by then." Atlas grinned triumphantly, leaned over, and asked, "So, should I get a reward?"

Pretending to be clueless, I said, "What reward? I don't want any reward!"

After saying this, I subtly moved away to the side.

He looked at me meaningfully and asked, "Do you think you can escape this ordeal? Hm? Are you trying to be clever with me again?"

He was like an old cat, teasing this little white mouse. The next moment, I was completely overpowered, with no strength left.

That day felt like riding a roller coaster, leaving me utterly exhausted.

Since the kids were here, I had to grit my teeth and persevere the following day. I woke up early and got the two little ones ready.

Fortunately, Atlas had already bought breakfast.

When the two little girls woke up, they chatted incessantly. I couldn't understand a word they were saying. They kept talking even while eating.

While feeding them, I also urged

Atlas to eat. He looked at me with a

strange expression. I asked in

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surprise, "What's with that look? Why are you staring at me like that?"

"You look like a housewife now. It's quite charming." He looked at me with a tender gaze.

I clearly understood what was on his mind. He loved the feeling of being at home.

So, I deliberately said, "Are you annoyed by my nagging?"

When this sentence came out, Ava immediately looked at me and said in her childish voice, "Mommy, you are indeed very naggy."

I was aghast. "What do you both mean?"

They exchanged a smile, ignoring me altogether. Since when did this father and daughter become so harmonious, forming such a united front?

"Why aren't you saying anything about how noisy you are?" I retorted, to no avail.

After breakfast, Atlas said, "Take a

I

break. I take the girls to school and

head straight to the company.

Rest a bit before going to

the

office."

"Why? Ryan's not around, and I can't slack off might have to go to Bourdamun tomorrow. The situation. there can't be neglected, and ma bit worried if I don't check it out." I entered nagging mode again.

"I can accompany you to Bourdamun." Atlas quickly suggested.

Chapter 954 What's Your Business?

While we chatted, we left the house together. He went to drop off the kids, and I headed straight to the office.

As we passed by Ivanna's building, I couldn't help but glance up, thinking that those two should have parted ways by now.

The court date for Matthew's trial was finally set, sparking a new round of public outcry. The twists and turns of this case had kept everyone on edge, but now, with the overwhelming public pressure, there was no suspense left for the trial.

Adrian had everything ready.

Not long after, Eleanor also walked into the office, bringing a stack of materials and last month's sales report.

I looked through it, and the increase in sales was significant. I smiled at her, "This month isn't even the peak season for renovations, right? The sales increase is impressive."

She smiled contentedly, "Ever since the store changes, the number of customers has noticeably increased. With your enthusiasm and the motivation of those people, how could sales not go up? Our staff's morale is very high."

"That's to your credit. You can establish a bonus distribution system based on a trapezoidal plan. The range can be broader, anyway. This part is our image. You can decide on it.

"But remember, involve everyone in the discussion and raise the level. Make them accept it willingly."

I wasn't a stingy boss. For me, the building materials market was a platform to create a high-quality image, not necessarily a profit center. It was better to boost their morale. The profit from this part was enough to cover the entire company's personnel costs.

I silently praised Eleanor for really helping me out.

It seemed that I might need a few houses as rewards at the end of the year.

Just then, Carol walked in and said, "Ms. Chloe, Mr. Nicholas McClain is here to see you."

I was a bit surprised, "Nicholas?"

In my memory, I didn't seem to know anyone named Nicholas.

"He said he is Mr. Arthur's secretary's relative," Carol whispered.

"That's interesting." I chuckled involuntarily. "Wait a moment."

Carol nodded, and I continued discussing business matters with Eleanor. I always felt that there were no real business matters whenever complicated relationships were involved.

I couldn't afford to put aside important tasks to chat with someone like him, especially when I wasn't that free.

Eleanor emphasized the information about Jaxford Doors.

Surprisingly, this company was

worth Eleanor's attention. They had considerable strength, an excellent R&D team, and launched new products. They had their own design philosophy and personality. Saying that their new products led the industry trends was not an

exaggeration.

I asked Eleanor to arrange a meeting with Jaxford's contact person as soon as possible.

Then I inquired if Julius and the others had called Eleanor again.

Eleanor smirked dismissively, "I've done my best. Let's not bring it up again."

After our discussion, Eleanor left, and Carol brought in Nicholas.

He greeted me, repeatedly mentioning Arthur. It was quite amusing. it seemed like this enterprise belonged to Arthur, and I had to give in to him just because he knew Arthur. After signaling him to sit, I asked, "What brings you here, Mr. Nicholas?"

He immediately chuckled awkwardly. His cunning gaze was fixed on me. "I do have something to discuss with you, Ms. Chloe."

He was not polite at all. it seemed he had come prepared.

"Please go ahead." I remained polite.

"I have a niece who studied business

management, and she's

outstanding. She performed

exceptionally as an assistant in a well-known company during her internship. Now that she has graduated, she hopes to work at Tanum. She says your company has great prospects."

His words sounded nice, but the logic was flawed.

I chuckled. "Mr Nicholas, you flatter us. No problem. Let her submit her resume to our HR department. We have a rigorous evaluation process and follow a strict procedure. We won't miss out on any outstanding talents. Rest assured."

"Her resume has already been sent to your company." He hurriedly informed me.

"So what exactly are you trying to say?" I looked at him.

Chapter 955 Ugly Stone

He quickly rubbed his hands together and said, "Well, Ms. Chloe, I might be a bit overly concerned, but the girl's wish is a big deal."

I nodded lightly, responding to him.

"You may not know, but my brother raised me from childhood to adulthood. My niece has this little wish, and I always want to help her fulfill it. So, I took the liberty to see you." He spoke with sincerity, something I could understand.

"The reason I brazenly came to see you is that you can pay a little more attention to her during her interview. After all, this girl is determined to join Tanum. Of course, I don't mean to pull any strings. It's just that, when it's convenient for you, pay a little more attention to her."

I gave a faint smile, but I was speechless. I noticed that I didn't particularly like this person. Clearly, he wanted to use Arthur's relationship to get his niece in, yet he insisted that he was not doing so. If she was so outstanding, why not let her undergo a regular interview?

And why be an assistant? Was he hinting that, once she joined, she would be my assistant?

"What's her name?" I looked at him, curious.

"Adelaide McClain." He smiled and said, scrutinizing me, "If you mention me to Mr. Arthur, he'll surely know me."

He deliberately emphasized, "My niece has always been close to Ms. Mia."

"Oh." I nonchalantly acknowledged.

I rang the bell, and Carol came in. I instructed her, "Pay attention to the resume of Adelaide McClain."

"Okay." Carol was quite clever and immediately understood my intention.

After seeing that Nicholas had no intention of leaving, I said to him, "Nicholas, I've got it. When I see her resume, I'll take note. I have other matters to attend to, so I won't keep you here. If you have anything else to discuss, explain it to my personal assistant, Carol."

Then I told Carol, "Escort Nicholas out."

Seeing that had given the dismissal

order,

up.

dead no choice but to s

politely said a few words to

I left the office with Carol.

I couldn't help but chuckle inwardly. Since when did my company become so prestigious that people had to pull some strings to get in?

Before long, Carol walked in, holding Adelaide's resume, and handed it to me. "A very impressive resume."

I took it, glancing at the person in the photo. Indeed, she had a good appearance, and the resume was well-crafted.

I raised an eyebrow, "Then let's notify her for an interview."

Carol smirked with a hidden agenda, "Alright, should I arrange an assessment for her?"

"Follow the normal procedure," I said casually, "If she's really good, we'll keep her."

In reality, our company had reached its staffing limit long ago. We didn't need too many employees. The current team, carefully selected by me, was capable enough. So, there was no need to bring in unnecessary personnel.

Just as we were discussing, Lauren walked in. Today, she looked more energetic than yesterday.

"Aren't you supposed to sleep in? Why are you here so early?" I asked casually.

"Is it early? What time is it?"

"Well, I've already taken care of a lot of things." I checked the time and said, "Those two haven't made any moves, have they?" "Nope. They're probably too busy with each other to notice us," Lauren quipped.

I chuckled, "Ivanna is such a gentle woman now."

She glanced at the stone on my

desk, which I brought back from Solaris and commented, "What's

with that stone? Does it match with

the table?"

I casually picked it up and played with it, "It's a gift from Archie's friend in Solaris. It was heavy in my bag, so I just placed it here."

"A gift?" Lauren exclaimed with disdain, "What kind of friend is that? This is so ridiculous. Who gives stones as gifts?"

Chapter 956 Valuable Meteorite

At this time, Grayson walked in, asking, "What's up?"

Grayson's men approached too, and when I saw him, I quickly straightened up and asked, "You're back? Where's Ryan?"

Before I could ask any more about Ryan, Grayson suddenly strode toward me and took the stone from my hands. Astonished, he asked, "Chloe, where did you get this?"

I explained, "Didn't I tell you? It's a gift from someone."

Grayson held the stone carefully, examining it closely like he was holding a precious treasure. When Lauren saw his surprised expression, she scoffed. "Do you really need to exaggerate like that?"

Grayson ignored Lauren and continued to scrutinize the stone in his hands. "Who gave this to you, Chloe?"

I sensed that something was strange, so I pressed, "What's wrong? I got it from Archie's friend in Solaris."

Grayson's eyes remained fixed on the stone.

He finally looked up, asking, "Do you know what this is?"

I was confused by his question and replied, "Isn't it just a stone? What's with it?"

"Just a stone? You're underestimating it. This is not an ordinary stone, but a top-grade meteorite, precious and rare. Do you know how much this meteorite is worth?"

I stared at him in disbelief, not quite understanding what he meant.

"Are you serious, or are you just joking around? How could it be so valuable?" I looked at him incredulously. "There's nothing special about that, right?"

"What do you think?" Grayson looked

at me seriously and continued, "A meteorite like this, even though it's only the size of an egg, can be worth tens of millions. How much do you think this is worth? It's an extremely rare item."

I started to feel uneasy. Who was that old man exactly? Why did he give me such a significant gift on our first meeting? I wondered if Archie knew the value of what his friend had given me.

Lauren quickly took the meteorite, examining it carefully. She sighed, "It's heavy, but with all these pits and bumps, I don't see anything special. Why is it worth so much?" Ryan, on the other hand, remained composed. He smiled as he saw us all studying the stone and left.

It looked like they had just returned to the office.

I shifted my gaze back to Grayson, and he said to Lauren, "Currently,

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only two families possess this item One is the Crosby family in Xyris, and the other is Mr. Atlas. But the items owned by the two families are not exactly the same. This was a gift from the Crosby family to you, am I right, Chloe?"

I didn't think Grayson would have been able to figure out where the stone had come from, and he also seemed to be implying that Atlas knew the value of the stone.

I had shown Atlas the stone in the car the day I returned from Solaris. He hadn't explained its worth to me though.

But now I understood why his expression had changed when he saw the stone.

Lauren handed the stone back to Grayson cautiously, looking confused. "How could it be worth so much?"

Chapter 957 A Grand Gift

Grayson smiled helplessly when he heard Lauren's words.

"You don't understand. Its value lies in its significant scientific research value due to its rarity. It's not just about money, of course. Its value can't be measured with that, after all." Grayson seemed well-versed in the subject as he explained it to us.

"The rarity of this meteorite is self-evident, and the scarcity of a meteorite determines its own value. Generally speaking, the fewer there are, the higher the value. You understand the principle of rarity equating to value, right?" he asked Lauren.

Lauren nodded. "Isn't this just something that fell from the sky? So it's valuable because it's rare?"

Grayson chuckled at Lauren's words, "You're being too simplistic. The value of these meteorites needs to be scientifically verified now. As far as I know, they come in many different qualities, depending on the planet they originated from and the substances they contain. There are many intricacies involved. It's very complex.

"In any case, this piece is priceless. Mr. Jason was very generous to give you such an extravagant gift. Looks like my boss here has an extraordinary network," Grayson joked.

I couldn't help but feel both amused and exasperated by Grayson's words. When that old man had given me the meteorite, he said he had as much as he wanted.

Good heavens. Just how many of these stones did he have?

I also remembered what Ardie had told me about Atlas having mines.

Suddenly, I remembered how eager I was when I accepted the stone from Jason. I had no idea it was so valuable. If I had known, I would never have dared to accept it.

I remembered something else and quickly took out my bag, searching inside. Finally, I found a small glass vial and handed it to Grayson, asking, "Take a look at this. Is it valuable too?"

Grayson took the small vial, examined it, and shook his head before returning it to me, "I don't know anything about this. It seems to be just three seeds."

I took the vial back and played with it, looking at the three seeds inside. Jason had given me a meteorite worth over a hundred million, so these were probably not just ordinary seeds either. At that moment, my phone rang. It was Theo, telling me about the location for our meeting today.

After clarifying the details, I hung up.

"Grayson, do you know anything about mining?" I asked him.

He thought for a moment, then nodded. "Not much, just the basics. I had to catch up when Mr. Atlas asked me to look into things. There are too many varieties, after all."

Grayson was definitely not telling the truth. His ability to identify meteorites at a glance indicated a deeper knowledge.

It seemed I needed to have a good chat with Atlas about mining someday.

I continued to ask, "Has everything in Solaris been dealt with?"

"Yes, it's basically settled. The

Design Division has started working on it. I've been busy with the procedures, waiting for the initial drafts to come out."

When Lauren saw us getting into a serious discussion, she picked up her bag, gestured to the door, and left.

I asked Grayson about the investigation into the Myers brothers.

"Wait a moment," he said.

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He grabbed his luggage, opened it, and took out a stack of documents. He handed them to me and said, "Here's all the background

information on the Myers family.

I glanced through the pages.

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He told me, "Take a look so you can get a brief idea. Urban Builders, whether in terms of technology,

quality, or after-sale services, are at the forefront of the industry. I've already reported that to Mr. Atlas, and he thinks we can help Fred."

I was a bit surprised, understanding clearly what Atlas meant by "helping Fred".

And I had a feeling that Atlas and Fred must have some kind of agreement.

I still didn't know what Atlas and Fred had talked about that day when I went to Fred because of my divorce.

"I've invited Fred over. He should be here in the next few days."

"If there's anything I need to do, just let me know," he said, finishing up his packing. "I'll take my leave now. I'll go to Bourdamun for you tomorrow."

I appreciated having such reliable employees. There was no internal strife within my team, which comforted me.

"Oh, by the way..." I stopped him.

Chapter 958 Rare Medicinal Herbs

Grayson stopped in his tracks and glanced at me.

"Are your people still keeping an eye on Denton? I received word that he's returning to the country," I asked. "Absolutely. Rest assured. It's not just my people. Dylan's team is watching his every move too."

"And about Trinity and Stella in Yare, do you know anything about that? I got word from Trinity herself."

"Yare?" Grayson repeated, furrowing his brows. "I don't know anyway about that. And she's with Stella?"

"That's right. Grayson, I feel uneasy about this." I confessed my concerns to him.

"I'll find out more. Does Mr. Atlas know about this?"

"I haven't told him much yet, but I'm starting to feel worried." The whole situation weighed heavily on my mind.

In truth, I didn't dare tell Atlas everything. I was afraid that if I expressed too much worry, he might hide things from me in the future.

"Don't worry. I'll get back to you with some updates," Grayson assured me before leaving.

After they were all gone, I looked at the two items on the table, feeling a little overwhelmed.

Suddenly, I wanted to discuss this with Atlas and explain it to Archie.

I hadn't known anything about the value of these two items. Otherwise, I wouldn't have accepted them.

I didn't want Archie to misunderstand me and think I was greedy.

I checked the time, and I hesitated to call Archie right away. It wouldn't be right to call him right now because of his work. He dealt with important business, and I just wanted to talk to him about something personal.

I supposed I should call him later in the evening to explain.

I immediately picked up the phone to call Atlas. I silently scolded him for not telling me the value of the stone.

Soon, Atlas picked up. I quickly reproached him. "Atlas, seriously. Why didn't you tell me the value of the stone I brought back from Solaris?"

He responded softly. "Hmm. What's wrong?"

"What's wrong? Why didn't you tell me it was so valuable?" I expressed my displeasure.

"What does it matter? You thought it was just a stone anyway," He defended himself.

I quickly interrupted, "Come on. Why would Mr. Jason give me a meteorite?"

"I told you, you deserved it." Atlas remained calm.

"But I didn't know its value. If I did, I wouldn't have even reached out for it. If

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think I found out I knew, he'd

think I was greedy." I expressed my unease.

I vividly remembered the day I thought it was worthless. I had hurriedly accepted it to avoid any misunderstanding. What a situation.

"He definitely knows its value, so

don't overthink it. Just think of it as a

stone. Once something is given

away we can't take it back," Atlas

reassured me.

"Then tell me, what are those seeds in that glass bottle?" I urgently questioned Atlas.

He had known those two individuals, so he must have known what they were.

"Let's wait until you grow them, then we'll talk. I'm not sure either," Atlas said uncooperatively.

"Atlas..." I couldn't help but raise my voice. "Don't tell me you don't know! I'm sure you do." "They're the seeds of a rare medicinal herb."

As expected, he spilled the beans. "Are they valuable too?"

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"It's a unique plant, and only few people know about it," Atlas explained. "It requires careful

cultivation. Since you can't return it, why don't you nurture it with care?" en.swhovels.net

His words left me stunned.

He wanted me to grow it?

Chapter 959 Welcoming the Newcomer

After finishing the call with Atlas, I glanced at the precious stone and carefully placed it in the safe in my office.

I didn't care much for money, but I couldn't just leave a priceless gem that was worth billions lying on my desk, could I? To those who didn't know, it was just an ugly rock that clashed with my office decor. To those who did know, it might seem like I was showing off.

Honestly, I wished I could return it. Accepting such a valuable gift without reason didn't sit well with me.

I looked at the small glass bottle, remembering Atlas's words. I hesitated for a moment, then placed it back in my bag. One thing was certain-it wasn't an ordinary item.

At noon, we all went to the second floor of the building for our working lunch.

In the evening, while at work, I happened to encounter Adelaide McClain.

It wasn't a deliberate encounter, but a 'coincidental' one.

Before that, Carol had come to my office and mentioned that the girl didn't look as good as her resume.

And I understood what she meant.

"Will you see her?" she asked me.

"There's no need for that. Just keep her under your watch for now and evaluate her," I instructed. "Tell her about our rules, regulations, and professional ethics that she needs to follow. We should keep any important documents from her for now."

Precautions were necessary. I had mastered the art of being cautious.

Carol understood my meaning. "Alright."

I chose not to meet her because she was just an ordinary employee, and I didn't need to engage with every recruit. I wasn't fond of how she had come to us, either.

I didn't expect her to take the initiative to come to me.

Hana was in my office, and we were discussing a few interior design proposals.

My impression of Hana had always been positive. For some reason, I had always felt close to her since the day we met.

At that moment, Adelaide knocked on my office door and entered with a tray that held two cups of coffee.

The moment she walked in, I could tell she was Adelaide.

She had a sweet appearance, and her smile revealed her pristine white teeth. She said, "Hello, Ms. Chloe. I'm Adelaide McClain, and I've brought you coffee."

She approached our table and delicately placed the coffee cups in front of us.

It seemed that she had done her homework before coming here. She recognized me without having seen me before. She was clearly prepared.

I looked at her indifferently. "Thank you. I've reviewed your resume. You should get to know Carol for now."

"Thank you, Ms. Chloe. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you." She spoke fluently and even her light chatter sounded pleasing.

"Alright, you can leave now," I said casually.

She hesitated for a moment, and I looked at her. She immediately realized her lapse and quickly put on a smile. "Sure. Call me if you need anything." "Just follow Carol's instructions," I said, letting her know that she had crossed a line.

"Of course." She maintained her smile.

Then, with a slight nod to both Hana and me, she left.

I kept my gaze on her until she left my office. I couldn't shake the feeling that something about her smile seemed off.

I frowned. Maybe I was just

overthinking it. After all, she had just

joined the company and might have

wanted to make a good impression. Maybe she was just ambitious.

Hana's attention remained on the drawings. She seemed deeply engrossed. Honestly, that was the kind of work attitude I liked.

After we had discussed all the details, she stretched her stiff neck and looked at me with a smile. "Chloe, now that this is done, can I take a few days off?"

I looked at her, satisfied. "Are you asking me that because I'm a very strict boss?"

She smiled too. For some reason, I felt like I had seen Hana's smile somewhere before.

"Of course you can take a break. But

you might be busy after this. Several major projects are about to be

completed, and the interior work will keep you occupied."

"I want to go home. It's been a while since I was back," Hana said.

"Where's your hometown?" I asked.

Chapter 960 Messed with Her Head

When she heard my question, Hana casually mentioned a city's name. Before I could clearly hear which city it was, she smoothly changed the topic.

"I'll review the drawings again before my vacation and get everything ready in advance, Chloe. That's just how design work is. You can't let your mind idle even when you're away," Hana told me. "I might be on vacation, but my brain won't be able to stop working."

I chuckled. "I know you're dedicated. You can take a longer break this time. I'll give you a month off."

"Really?" Hana seemed genuinely surprised.

"Yes, really. Things will get busy afterward. Take this time to rest well and prepare for what's to come," I said, packing up my things.

Just then, Ivanna called. Hana quickly gestured toward the door, picked up her belongings, and left my office.

I answered. "You're awake?"

"Yeah. I'm thinking about what to eat." Ivanna sounded relaxed, as if nothing had happened.

"You've reconciled with Jared, and you don't even have a thank you for me?" I asked without reservation.

She chuckled. "I just didn't get the chance to say it yet."

"Tsk. Looks like you're happy," I said disapprovingly. "They say that becoming pregnant messes with your head. Looks like you're showing signs of that already."

"How?" She asked earnestly.

I suppressed a laugh and said, "Your intelligence has dropped."

"Shut up. You're the dumb one." She laughed and seemed to be in a good mood.

"Alright, what's the matter?"

"Why can't we just talk?" she asked, trying to find something to talk about.

"I don't have the time to entertain you all day. Now that you've returned to your senses, can you let me focus on more important things?" I retorted. Dealing with her antics the past few days had given me a headache.

"Let's have dinner together tonight. Jared wants to thank you girls personally."

"I have no time for that." I said firmly.

She immediately exclaimed, "Come on. Can't we stop fighting? I'm finally in a better mood. Don't make things worse, okay?"

I rubbed my temples. "Seriously? Your bad mood was because of me?"

She laughed heartily again and said, "You're such a drama queen."

"I do have something to do. I wanted to take you with me, but I didn't want to because you seemed so happy right now," I explained to her.

"What's going on?" she asked curiously.

"It's Theo. He's found some

information on Beatrice and suggested meeting tonight to discuss it with a few classmates," I said with a straight face. "I can't stand them up."

"Well, what time will you be done? You can come over afterward," Ivanna persisted.

"I'm not sure when it'll end. You guys

go ahead and eat," I said. "I'll try my best. Things have been busy, and we've been getting visitors from

Solaris these days. We're family net

you don't have to fuss over anything. As long as you're fine, it's all good. Give us some freedom. Do we need to revolve our whole lives around you?"

Ivanna laughed. It was clear she was in a better mood. "True. I'm in a special situation now."

"Don't be reckless. Tell that to Jared," I said impatiently.

She mischievously whispered, "Actually, I just wanted you two to call him out."

"I knew you weren't so kind. Fix your own problems. Stop trying to involve the two of us."

At that moment, Carol appeared at the doorway of my office, pointing at her wrist. She was reminding me that it was time.

Lauren was there too. I quickly told

Ivanna, "have to go now. You guys

go

Sahead. I'll join you later if I can. I'll

stay at Amethyst Apartments

tonight." .

After saying that, I hung up the phone.

Lauren walked into my office. "Do you have plans tonight?"

"Yeah." I replied.

"What about dinner with Jared? Can't you make it?"

"No, you go. I can't postpone my meeting." I reminded Lauren, "You need to give Jared a push."

"Can I say that? They're all lovey-dovey already. If I say any more, won't I be meddling in their business?"