

The Return 211

Chapter 211

Upon hearing that, Ingrid let out an exasperated sigh and muttered, "Goodness, what a disaster! The poor old man is so fragile, how can he handle all this stress?"

"Now what? This is a major catastrophe! What on earth should we do?"

"I've been saying it all along, Joanna is a walking curse. Anyone who gets entangled with her is bound to be unlucky, Ingrid continued her complaints.

Bruce was already overwhelmed with turmoil. Ingrid's words only added fuel to his frustration, pushing him closer to his breaking point.

"If there's nothing else, you all can go back now!"

Unable to contain himself, Shaun burst out, "How can we just leave it at that? She's your mother. We are close, aren't we? Who can possibly remain calm in the face of such a colossal mess?"

"I hope Mrs. Everett can pull through this ordeal. If she can't, well, I'll definitely give that ungrateful daughter a piece of my, mind!" Shaun vented his frustration.

Shaun and Ingrid learned from Roxanne that Joanna was the one who had brought Margaret down.

Consequently, Shaun was singularly focused on blaming Joanna for everything.

Bruce's expression became grimmer upon hearing this. His countenance turned cold and devoid of any warmth.

Sensing the tension, Roxanne swiftly intervened, "Dad, Mom, let's refrain from further discussion. Bruce is already upset."

Ingrid rolled her eyes and remarked, "Bruce, I'm not scolding you, but this is a painful lesson. Never provoke that jinx Joanna again!"

Bruce rolled his eyes in disgust, questioning her right to lecture him.

Who did she think she was?

"Mom, enough with the chatter! You and Dad should split. There's not much you can do here," Roxanne said, signaling with

quick glance.

Times had changed, no doubt!

Bruce had long stopped taking the Haynes family members seriously! Ingrid trying to assert her authority here would only infuriate him.

"Alright then!"

"We'll take off. You stay with Bruce!"

“Got it!”

“Roxy, you’re pregnant now! Take care of yourself, don’t overexert!”

“Yes, yes, I understand!”

Shaun continued their banter for a

ignoring them, his expression growing more unpleasant by the second, the two of

left, Bruce stood up and made his way

up. “Where are you

said

stepped outside the hospital and pulled out his

Beep beep beep.

to hold back any longer,

lavish seafood feast with her employees, thoroughly enjoying the spread before her.

phone rang, she retrieved it from her pocket, and her heart skipped a beat when she saw Bruce’s name on the

ID.

of answering, but the knowledge that

her to reluctantly pick up

with a hint of

into silence.

prodded, “Come on, speak up! If

a deep breath and whispered,

“I’m in Porash.”

Bruce snorted.

of showing concern,

Bruce into a fit of anger.

seconds of silence, Joanna couldn’t resist asking, “Um... How is

of you, she is still in the intensive care unit,

brow upon hearing

hold, emotions could

naturally couldn't take it. She had just retorted without thinking twice.
that she thought about
elderly woman
endured a few insults, she could have simply listened. There was no
Margaret was in the hospital, Joanna felt
want things to turn out
are you happy
breath, Joanna replied, "What is
intended to disrespect your grandmother! I was in a terrible mood that day, and now I realize it
truly sorry!" Joanna spoke sincerely.
this. "How are you? You're seriously ill, so
of
a pang of guilt.
Margaret's insults, she was still her son's
go and personally
upon

when Roxanne heard Bruce calling Joanna, her face contorted with

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He really didn't want Roxanne Haynes to give birth to his child! Even though Grandma was in such a condition, she must not be agitated! Therefore, for the sake of Grandma, he had to suppress his anger.

He really didn't want Roxanne to give birth to his child!

But his grandma was in such a condition and she must not be agitated.

Therefore, for the sake of his grandma, he had to suppress his anger.

Roxanne's expression softened as she looked at Bruce with gentleness and attentiveness. "Bruce, you should also take more rest. I can take care of Margaret here!"

Bruce remained silent, implying his consent for her to stay.

The following day, after the doctor examined Mrs. Margaret, he joyfully exclaimed, "Mr. Everett, Mrs. Margaret's recovery is going well. We can move her to a regular ward now!"

"At this rate of recovery, she'll wake up soon!"

"That's great!"

Margaret was transferred out of the ICU, and Bruce finally let out a sigh of relief.

He stayed by Margaret's bedside, occasionally exchanging a few words with Margaret, hoping for her swift recovery.

It was evident that Bruce was genuinely devoted to his grandmother.

Upon hearing the news of Margaret's progress, Roxanne's heart sank.

Suddenly, an unexplainable intention to harm emerged in her heart.

If Margaret were to suddenly pass away, Joanna would be held accountable for her demise!

With that alone, Bruce would probably never forgive Joanna!

However, the thought quickly disappeared. After all, it was murder, and she didn't have the courage.

Bruce carefully massaged Margaret's limbs to prevent muscle atrophy from prolonged bed rest.

Beep beep beep!

At that moment, the phone suddenly rang-

Bruce took out his phone and saw that it was Joanna calling.

"Hello!" Bruce immediately answered the call and walked outside the ward while speaking on the phone.

Roxanne immediately deduced that it was Joanna calling, or else he wouldn't have stepped outside to answer the call.

With that realization, Roxanne's expression grew grim, and she instinctively clenched her fist!

Beep beep beep!

The ventilator's alarm went off.

looked down, only to realize that she had accidentally grabbed

and the alarm ceased immediately.

heart pounded as she regained his composure, and her mind began to

If she unplugged the ventilator, Margaret would die within

was still on the phone with Joanna. Little did he expect Roxanne to harbor murderous intentions. toward his grandmother.

phone sounded hoarse. "Bruce, I'm going to see Margaret right now. I'll be

"Yes, alright!"

call and made his way down the corridor, in search of a designated smoking area to satisfy his craving.

with trembling hands, she instinctively yanked out the ventilator plug.

deep in slumber, suddenly struggled to breathe and woke up in distress, her face contorted
accidentally knocked over a water glass on the
for breath,

Roxanne was terrified, momentarily frozen, unsure of what to do next.

was Roxanne's first attempt at deliberate murder, and her nerves were on edge.

only for

causing a tingling sensation on her scalp as she

life slipped away within three minutes, her breathing

checked Margaret's breathing and found none.

Margaret..." Roxanne finally grasped the gravity of the situation and cried out in

had only considered removing the ventilator, never imagining that Margaret's life could be so

sheer panic,

Crack!

to the ward swung open.

in and instantly comprehended the scene before him, understanding the situation at
once.

Roxanne was even more bewildered. "I... I... I..."

approached and examined Margaret's pupils, also taken aback. He quickly turned around, intending to
call

public

no, please!" she pleaded

cash!" Roxanne threw herself at Kensley's feet, hitting the ground with a thud, tears streaming down
her face as she

widened his eyes.

graduate from a prestigious medical university. Kensley joined Greyport Hospital immediately after
graduation, establishing himself as one of the

duty, so how could he condone such an

patient can still be saved..."

that moment, Roxanne composed herself. "No, no, I'll give you 2 million dollars! Please, don't breathe a
word of this to anyone!"

Kensley was stunned.

20 million, or 40 million dollars. Or you

a doctor. You must have a way to cover it up! Think about it. How long will it take you to earn 20 million dollars? Now you just need to turn a blind eye and pretend

stood still, his eyes reflecting his inner turmoil.

able to earn 20 million dollars in his

running out!” Roxanne

stepped out to smoke and would return

Kensley made

hard just to

in front of him. Why would

quickly reinserting the ventilator.

he swiftly erased the ventilator’s data...

Chapter 213

Bruce and Roxanne were sobbing. At this very moment, Joanna arrived at the worst possible time!

Seeing them in tears, Joanna couldn’t help but feel alarmed. “What’s going on?”

When Bruce laid eyes on Joanna, his gaze turned wild like a furious beast. They were crimson and fierce as if he wanted to tear Joanna apart right there and then!

“My grandmother is dead! Are you satisfied now?” Joanna cursed, her voice trembling.

This news struck Joanna like a thunderbolt! The flowers she held slipped from her grasp and fell to the ground!

Roxanne, her voice choked with sobs, angrily scolded, “It was you who killed her! It’s because of you that she got so angry she had to be hospitalized!

“Now that she is gone, how dare you show up?

“You murderer! Didn’t you kill her? Are you happy now?”

“This... this can’t be!” Joanna gasped in disbelief.

Bruce had informed her over the phone that Margaret’s health had been gradually improving.

How could she suddenly pass away?

“Bruce, is this true?” Joanna looked at Bruce in disbelief.

Bruce's expression changed, and he couldn't help but clench his fists. "Fuck off! Fuck off! I never want to see you again!"

"Bruce!" Joanna looked up at him.

With a resounding clap. Bruce's hand came crashing down on Joanna's face!

Caught off guard, Joanna stumbled and fell hard to the ground!

The force of the slap was brutal, leaving Joanna dazed, her face swelling up on one side.

"From this moment forward, I never want to lay eyes on you again!"

"Bruce!" Joanna Haynes looked up at him, trying to gather herself.

Bruce clenched his teeth and growled, "You better get the hell out of here! Before I completely lose it!"

Joanna covered her throbbing cheek and struggled to get up.

"My condolences," she said, then left in a dazed state.

Everything felt like a nightmare, and her mind was completely blank.

After Joanna left, Bruce closed his eyes and delivered a heavy punch to the wall!

Even though he truly loved Joanna, he couldn't forgive her for what had happened!

His grandmother was the dearest person to him, and he would never forgive himself either.

"Grandma, rest in peace! I won't let your death go unanswered!"

"Joanna Haynes, I won't let you get away with this!" Bruce gritted his teeth and spoke with a frightening intensity.

Seeing Bruce's heartbroken expression, Roxanne couldn't help but feel a sense of satisfaction. "Joanna, let's see if you survive this time!"

"Even if you survive, you'll never reconcile with Bruce for the rest of your life!" she thought.

Roxanne's initial panic gradually subsided.

this risk had

for Margaret

wealthiest clan in Greyport, spared no expense in hosting

sky on the

attire, Bruce maintained a

Roxanne, clad in mourning clothes as his wife.

funeral was halfway through.

Joanna arrived uninvited.

is here! Ms.

a black umbrella. Yet, her determination to bid

he showed

heart, "Bruce, please allow me to accompany Margaret

raised his head and delivered a harsh blow

split, instantly drawing blood.

resentment, Bruce raised his foot, intending

trickling from Joanna's lips and the fragility in her weary

get out

escape. I'll make sure you suffer

the rain, silently shedding tears.

Don't let her stay here a second

Yes!"

'Bruce..."

the cemetery immediately!" Several bodyguards seized her arms and

swiftly pounced on Joanna as

swarmed around her like relentless flies,

it true that Margaret's death is your fault?"

you confirm if Margaret was driven to her demise because of you?"

any details? Is Bruce furious? Will you still

attend the funeral today out of guilt

questions grew

questions from reporters, Joanna

of Greyport, with entertainment reporters bombarding her with every tidbit of

previous surge of attention seemed to be fading, a fresh wave crashed upon her, engulfing her

alone!" Joanna pleaded, shutting her eyes and eventually succumbing

and the others swiftly rushed Joanna to the hospital without any delay.

A week passed.

had been

Everett, are we still going to
will honor Grandma's wishes and fight tooth and nail for custody
nodded. "Understood!"
full custody of the children. Not a single one will
"Understood!",
day of the court
team
he would show no
Joanna's greatest love, and they meant everything to her!
intended to snatch all the children away from her, aiming to shatter Joanna
into the courtroom, dressed in a
followed closely behind, her demeanor solemn.
and it was a complete
custody of all three children!
moment they stepped out of the courtroom, Joanna felt
Without them,
to face the world

Chapter 214

"I have to keep fighting with the appeal. I won't give up my children! They're my flesh and blood, and I won't let go...."

Joanna was engulfed in a desperate sadness, despite taking her morning medication, her depression persisted.

Mr. Brycen's face was filled with guilt after losing the lawsuit..

Although his legal team was skilled, they were no match for Bruce's team!

"Miss Haynes, I am so sorry! I should have done better," Mr. Brycen apologized.

Joanna trembled uncontrollably and grabbed the lawyer's arm. "What are our chances of winning the appeal?"

Mr. Brycen paused, his sympathetic gaze fixed on Joanna. "I recommend... seeking a private settlement."

He genuinely wanted to help Joanna win this legal battle!

But he also knew that he was going up against the wealthiest man in Greyport!

Furthermore, the other lawyers in his team had been bribed. He couldn't possibly defeat Bruce's formidable legal team alone!

Continuing with the appeal would only lead to more legal expenses!

After she heard Mr. Brycen's analysis, Joanna's vision darkened. She struggled to maintain her composure.

"Miss Haynes, please be careful! Above all, take care of your well-being."

Joanna took a moment to regain her composure as her eyes could see things clearly.

This defeat was devastating to her.

Joanna remained immersed in profound sorrow. Not far away, a swarm of reporters had been waiting for her. When she emerged from the courthouse, they pounced on her like hungry wolves.

"Ms. Haynes! We heard that custody was awarded to Mr. Everett! Will you continue with the appeal?"

"Ms. Haynes! If the appeal is denied, will you still fight for custody?"

The reporters clamored, shoving their microphones toward her. Each one regarded her with their predatory eyes as if she were a succulent prey.

"I beg you, please stop focusing on me and let me be!" Joanna lost control in front of the cameras, completely breaking down emotionally.

She couldn't bear being exploited as a mere spectacle by these reporters, and she didn't want to live under others' constant scrutiny and verbal attacks.

Nicholas had arrived in a car. "Miss Haynes, please get in!"

Mr. Brycen and Cora shielded Joanna from the cameras, and Joanna climbed into the car in a disheveled state, feeling injured.

Upon returning home, Joanna surveyed her empty house, her heart feeling hollowed out.

the lawsuit, and her children had been taken away!

anchor had been shattered!

Davian and Irvin were taken, she still had Lilia by her side. But now, with Lilia also gone, it
in front of the

became the city's most notorious escort.]

Haynes is mentally unstable, unleashing her

TV, he

longer, he switched off

died because of Joanna, and he would never forgive her.

**

“Haha, Joanna, you thought

Don’t even dream of making a comeback!”

mansion felt hollow and devoid of warmth, especially

table, lost in thought, swirling a glass of red wine in his hand.

and Irvin cried incessantly throughout the day, pleading to return home and see

go back

Bruce finally snapped, “That’s enough!

witnessing his reaction, dared not cry

Bruce timidly. “Daddy, I won’t cry. Please, don’t be angry, Daddy!” she

promise to be with Mommy?”

experienced frequent bouts of illness, mocking her into someone

her words. Unable to resist, he

your brothers will live with Daddy from now on,” he

“Daddy, don’t you love Mommy very much? Why can’t Mommy live with us?

Mommy! Daddy, can you bring

as though something had crushed his heart, had his red

not

do anything to

that was his old way of thinking. He

had left an unforgivable wound in his heart. No matter what, being with

total disrespect to

that Bruce wouldn’t change his mind, tears streamed down her

back to their room!” Bruce instructed a servant.

Everett!” the

The kids were

brats, I’ll deal with each of you

led away, Bruce’s expression

kids are still young. They'll understand when they're
face turned cold as he stood
are you going? It's
business!" Bruce answered
Roxanne sounded
the door, abruptly stopping. He spoke in a frigid tone to Roxanne, "Pack
taken aback. "Why should I
was an upscale residence, it lacked the prestige of this mansion! Living here made her feel superior.

Chapter 215

Others wanted to oust Joanna as they followed the prevailing trend.

"The company can't keep going like this. If it continues, the Haynes Group will go bankrupt!" Mr. Roger expressed his
concern.

Mr. Paul sighed and chimed in, "Exactly. Miss Haynes is solely focused on custody battles for her child. How can she find the mindset to manage the company?

"It's been a few days since she last set foot in the company. Before that, it was a sporadic presence, coming and going, with frequent trips to Mossbourne.

"And to make matters worse, she's actually seeking out social media influencers to endorse our products! How can we rely on influencers for our hard-earned international brand, the Haynes Group?

"Even though her company, Mossbourne, has no direct connection to the Haynes Group, she's still the chairman. People will associate her company with our brand."

After Mr. Roger paused momentarily, he continued, "She's been in office for over six months now. While the company's profits have seen a slight increase, the negative publicity she has generated is overwhelming!

"The chairman's image directly impacts the company's development and future prospects! My suggestion is for Miss Haynes to step down voluntarily and minimize the losses in time!"

Paul quickly agreed, "Absolutely! The older generation has more experience. Mr. Haynes is more reliable in this

Haynes, you should hold

are right. Joanna is just a twentysomething girl. What does she

leading us down a dead-end path. How can our family

sense of

that he would soon reclaim the position

right! Joann is still young and doesn't grasp the gravity of her actions. She

settled. We will now vote to remove

the conference room

black suit, her expression devoid of

into an immediate

long while, Shaun gathered his courage and greeted, "Joann,

you! Mr. Everett will join

furrowed her brow, emanating a cold and refined aura. She defied the image of helplessness that others had projected

among you," Joanna stated calmly.

Roger scratched his head, feeling embarrassed. "Well, since you caught all of that, that works! We're discussing the company's future. That's it.

the deluge of negative press you've generated in the past six months. It has severely tarnished the

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"Who the hell dares to lay a finger on me? Back the hell off!" Derick lunged into a full-blown brawl with the security guards.

"Quit screwing around! It's a goddamn tragedy for our family! Joann, he's your brother!

"How can you be so heartless towards your own brother? You've let me down!" Shaun seethed with a mix of anger and disappointment.

Two security guards grabbed hold of Derick's arm and forcefully dragged him towards the exit. "Mr. Haynes, I suggest you leave this conference room right now!" they said.

Derick fumed with frustration. "Joanna, don't you dare think I'm scared of you! Who the hell do you think you are...

"Get that bastard out of here!"

The security guards no longer hesitated and forcefully expelled him from the conference room.

At that very moment, Cora rushed in to deliver the news. "Miss Haynes, Mr. Everett has arrived!"

Even before the sentence was finished, Bruce strolled in with an icy expression!

Seeing this, Mr. Roger and Mr. Paul promptly stood up, greeting him with a disarming smile. "Mr. Everett, you are finally here!"

Shaun took a deep breath. "Bruce, I'm glad you're here. We're right in the middle of a board meeting!

“We’ve all reached a unanimous decision to kick my ungrateful daughter off the board of directors. The ball’s in your court

now!”

“In my court?” Bruce swaggered over to a chair and sat down with an air of arrogance!

“What everyone desires is exactly what I desire!” he added.

Shaun, Mr. Roger, and the others felt a surge of confidence upon hearing this.

“Joann, you simply aren’t suited to be a director of the Haynes Group! You better come to your senses and resign!”

Joanna pressed her lips together. “You won’t find it so damn easy to push me out of the board!

“Either you buy out my shares or you get the hell out!”

Mr. Roger and Mr. Paul exchanged grimaces upon hearing this!

The shares in Joanna’s possession were valued at a staggering 200 million dollars. No one could come up with that much. money in an instant.

The few of them turned their gaze towards Bruce. After all, he was the only one capable of effortlessly acquiring Joanna’s

shares.

A cold, sinister smile appeared on Bruce’s face. “What’s the matter, Miss Haynes? Planning to sell off the Haynes Group’s shares?”

him with

the board of directors had always

Bruce was different. He truly had the means to

sudden silence?” Bruce

be willing to

got a whole slew of publicly traded companies in your portfolio. Are you seriously planning to take over the

want to invest in a

tremendous acquisition potential!”

anger as she locked eyes with Bruce.

on seeing her lose it

the shares you

words pierced Joanna’s heart, causing another pang

continued to stare at her with that same heartless gaze.

you unload your shares, it won't be enough to cover
the strings behind the scenes, Joanna would lose everything

suppressed anger and burst out,

relief. "Joann, if you voluntarily step down from the

planning to sell your grandfather's assets for a

eyes turned scarlet, and a thin veil of

been

had to amass a significant amount of money, enough to go toe-to-toe with

Bruce.

then, she would regain

Haynes

that within three years, the Haynes Group would make it into

tune and began to flatter Bruce. "Yes, you are right! No

the chairman!" Mr.

felt frustrated witnessing how easily their opinions

money and personal interests, were truly untrustworthy.

really going through your mind right now?

to effectively lead the Haynes Group, you have to put all your energy into your

frequently, and now you're even setting up a factory in Mossbourne. I heard you're planning to
collaborate with some social media influencers! How can I feel

upon her

her with no time to concentrate on her work. So, he took advantage of the situation and started
speaking with an

sense of guilt upon hearing

been somewhat distracted recently! Moving forward, I will adjust my work situation and fully immerse
myself in

is not just

Managing a company requires a tremendous amount of effort! I suggest Mr. Haynes continues working

for over twenty years and is more experienced in

the company! After all, he has been the chairman
upon hearing

Shaun returned to work at the company, it would undoubtedly lead to more
also return.

to come back to the company. Joanna was about to respond, but before she could say anything. she

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Joanna clung to the sink in the restroom, heaving uncontrollably, nearly bringing up stomach acid.

For the past couple of days, she had been experiencing occasional bouts of nausea. She dismissed it as mere indigestion, not paying much attention to it.

But today, her vomiting became more intense!

“Oh my god, could I... be pregnant?”

Joanna’s heart sank, and she hurriedly splashed cold water on her forehead. Lately, she had been feeling sluggish and fatigued.

The symptoms seemed to match those of pregnancy!

However, since that night of having sex with Bruce, she had been worried about the possibility of getting pregnant. She had taken contraceptive pills, so she couldn’t fathom how this could have happened.

“No. I need to go to the hospital and get checked!” she resolved.

Joanna regained her composure and left the restroom, returning to the conference room.

“Miss Haynes, are you alright?” someone asked.

“Do you need us to take you to the hospital?” another inquired.

Joanna paused for a moment, her expression serious. I’m sorry, I’m feeling unwell. Let’s end the meeting for today.”

“Alright! Since we’re not making any progress today, let’s wrap it up,” someone replied.

Joanna didn’t say anything more. She grabbed her bag and swiftly left the company.

As she sat in her car, restlessness consumed her. She silently prayed that it wasn’t true.

She had to hurry to the hospital to confirm if she was actually pregnant.

Half an hour later, Joanna arrived at a private maternity and child hospital.

Before long, the nurse provided her with a pregnancy test kit and drew blood for the examination.

After a while, the results were ready.

“Ms. Haynes, you’re pregnant!” the nurse informed her.

Upon hearing the news, Joanna felt as if lightning had struck her.

How could she be pregnant at this time?

What should she do?

"I remember taking birth control pills. Could there have been a mistake?"

*Contraceptive pills aren't completely foolproof. Based on this test, you are indeed pregnant.

Joanna listened, staring blankly at the doctor, struggling to regain her composure.

She didn't want to have Bruce's child again.

"The baby is only three weeks old. Should I prescribe some folic acid for you?"

"No, it's not necessary!" Joanna vehemently shook her head, rejecting the offer, and hastily left the hospital.

"What am I going to do? How did this happen out of nowhere?" she wondered.

Joanna walked out of the hospital in a daze, her heart heavy, heading towards the parking lot.

a sleek Rolls-Royce pulled up just before she could

car door swung open, and she was forcefully dragged inside!

"Ah-

think you're doing?" Joanna's heart pounded

the backseat, his expression icy cold, legs casually crossed on

slight sense of relief. "Bruce,

ahead, holding a wine glass in his hand and took a sip. "What were you doing at

gritted her teeth. "Why the hell is any

and landed on her bag. "Show

bag and snapped, "Why

out to snatch her bag,

snooping around my

Bruce pinned her against the seat with one hand, while with

clearly visible

heart sank upon seeing this. Adopting a casual tone, he remarked. "So you're

of your business!" Joanna

to secretly have my child again?" Bruce sneered, mocking her with his

coldly, "Don't flatter yourself. Who said this child is yours?"

oozing disdain. "If it's not mine, then whose

eyes.

I want to get out!"

once everything

taking me now?"

silent, his gaze coldly

unable to make sense of it

contemplating the situation. Her demeanor softened a touch as she pleaded, "Can I

coldly and firmly rejected her, "Not a chance!

the kids until everything is

felt anger welling up inside her upon hearing this, and she asked

been granted custody of the

the right to see my children! I'm entitled to visit them

pursed his lips and retorted, "You'll only see them if I allow it. If I refuse,

fury as she clenched her teeth and challenged, "What exactly do you

witness your downfall!" Bruce said with a gloomy tone, a wicked gleam appearing in the corner of his

eyes.

his heart, he

be extinguished, he would never

lasting resentment. "I'm truly sorry

it in your heart to forgive

Joanna finished speaking, frustration overwhelmed him, and she rubbed her temples

You must be dreaming!"

trying to reason with him would be futile. It

out she

completely ignore her, showing no intention of stopping the

and the driver didn't

let me out of this

showed no reaction, and the

a

arm, and pulled her into his embrace. "What do you

won't let me out,

brows tightly. "Joanna, you still have an inflated sense of self, always provoking my anger like get out of this car!" Joanna's gaze was sharp and determined.

and couldn't help but feel

car!"

promptly pulled over and brought the car to

picked up her bag, popped open the car door, and stepped out onto the sidewalk.

his seat

Chapter 218

"Ugh..." Joanna couldn't hold back the urge to retch.

Even though it was a faint sound, Jaydon still heard it on the other end of the phone.

"Joann, what's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

"Nah, I'm fine!" Joanna swallowed hard, fighting back the nausea in her stomach.

She didn't want Jaydon to know she was pregnant again, nor did she want him to worry any further!

Jaydon pondered for a moment and asked with a touch of concern, "Are you really okay?"

"Joann, no matter what happens, don't hide it from me!"

"Alright, I got it!"

"Okay, I'll head back to Greyport tomorrow. Should be there around eight in the evening!" said Jaydon.

"Sure, want me to pick you up?"

Jaydon asked worriedly, "Is that convenient for you?"

"No worries! It's totally fine." Joanna feigned composure.

"Alright then! See you tomorrow!"

"Okay, see you!"

Joanna quietly ended the call.

After hanging up, Joanna curled up on the sofa, frustration gnawing at her as she rubbed her stomach!

Miranda walked over with a glass of milk. "Joann, what's the matter? You look so pale!"

Joanna let out a sigh. I'm alright!"

Miranda looked at Joanna with empathy. "Have some milk! Look at you, how much weight have you lost?

"It breaks my heart!" she added, handing the milk to Joanna.

Davian and Irvin were sent away. Lilia was also away. Miranda, Kelly, and Tracy fell into a hushed silence.

Joanna was already feeling queasy, and even the slightest taste triggered her sickness. The smell of milk made her vomit. uncontrollably.

"Ugh... Joanna retched and hurriedly rushed to the bathroom!

Witnessing this, Miranda was even more shocked. "Joann, what's going on?"

Joanna retched in the bathroom for a while before finally managing to stop herself from vomiting.

Having experienced it before, Miranda guessed she was pregnant. "Joann... Don't tell me you're pregnant again?"

Joanna didn't respond, but her expression grew even more despondent.

"Quick, go back to your room and lie down! You need to be extra careful during the first trimester. I'll cut up some fresh

fruits for you...

grabbed Miranda's arm. "Miranda, you don't

feeling a bit tired. I'm going to take a nap!"

that, Joanna turned around and made her way to

bed, her heart tangled like a jumbled

another child had never crossed her mind. At this point in her life, she simply didn't have the energy to care

the realization that she couldn't keep this

medications, including a hefty dose

the fetus, and even if she went ahead with the

If she insisted on having this child, Bruce would surely believe she was manipulating him through the baby.

burying

that Mommy doesn't want you! Mommy simply doesn't have the ability to care for you right now. The medications I've taken

to subject you to a life of hardship!" Joanna whispered to her

down her

terminate

the Everett

restlessly in bed, unable to sleep. He chain-smoked two packs of cigarettes throughout the pregnant again.

it was intentional

his grandmother's passing to feel any sense of joy.

forgive her

to injury! Do you think I'll forgive you just

allow you to give

an overwhelming

that Joanna would go to great lengths to give birth to this child, just as she had quietly delivered three four years ago.

all, he had taken custody

child as a means to threaten and control him, making him miserable

child as leverage against him. The more he dwelled on it, the angrier he became. He wished with

Joanna!" Tracy greeted, already

indifference. "Yeah,

snatched her bag and car

don't you want breakfast?" Tracy asked.

appetite. You guys go ahead!" Joanna

her car and immediately dialed Cora's number.

"Hey, Miss Haynes!"

ready and come

"Alright, sure!"

be there in 20

it. Miss

the call, Joanna sped

up Cora and raced toward Customs.

any documents?" Cora

"No need!"

we going to

"Not quite!"

in shock. "Then why the rush

a sigh. "We're headed to

why are we going to the hospital?"

she drove,

Cora exclaimed, casting an incredulous

Chapter 219

This damn woman, why the hell is she still going to Mossbourne while she's pregnant?" Bruce cursed furiously, his face contorted with displeasure.

The phone continued to ring, but Joanna adamantly refused to answer.

Meanwhile, Joanna was already undergoing a checkup.

All the tests met the surgical standards, and she was already lining up for the procedure.

Beep, beep, beep!

Bruce made three consecutive calls, yet Joanna remained unresponsive.

"Why the hell isn't she picking up her damn phone?"

Luna carefully observed Bruce. "Mr. Everett, Cora accompanied Miss Haynes to Mossbourne!

"If you're in a hurry, you can call Cora!"

Upon hearing this, Bruce furrowed his brow, his handsome face contorted with anger.

Unable to reach Joanna, he dialed Cora's number instead.

Beep, beep, beep!

Cora was waiting in the lounge when she heard the phone ring. She swiftly took out her phone.

Noticing that it was a call from Mr. Everett, Cora wasted no time and promptly answered.

"Hello, Mr. Everett!"

On the other end of the line, Bruce's voice turned cold. "Cora, are you with Joanna?"

"Well, yes!"

"What is she doing? Why the hell isn't she answering her phone?" Bruce's tone oozed aggression.

Taken aback. Cora stammered, "Uh... well..."

"Tell me now!"

"Miss Haynes is in the hospital!"

Bruce couldn't comprehend the situation. He raised an eyebrow and asked, "What is she doing in the hospital?"

"She's preparing for a procedure!" Cora couldn't conceal anything and had to speak the truth.

"What kind of procedure?"

"An abortion!"

Bruce listened to the news and couldn't believe his ears.

"What did you say? Say it again!"

"She is planning to have an abortion!"

This time, Bruce heard it loud and clear.

Upon hearing this news, he was consumed with anger.

That woman had the audacity!

For such a significant matter, she went ahead and underwent the procedure without even discussing it with him.

of whether she wanted this child or not, he was still the father! She should have consulted with him before

want this child, she should have sought his

was going to terminate his child without even considering him.

been

But she'll be up

Bruce furrowed his brow, took a

her

"Okay, understood!"

the address!"

"Sure, got it!"

noded obediently and quickly sent the address to Bruce.

up the phone, Bruce was seething with fury.

damn woman, you're really pushing me over
the Haynes Group, he immediately
hospital, Joanna had already completed all
people at the maternity and child health center, and
previous procedure was
out and
and prepared to enter the operating
and, seeing Joanna about to enter the
the matter? Joanna
caught her breath and looked concerned, stuttering,
twice!" Joanna checked her watch. It was already
the procedure done early, she could rest afterward! In the evening,
earlier the fetus underwent the procedure, the quicker
people even went back to work in the afternoon after having the procedure done
had the luxury of being delicate and indecisive. She had to tough
This is a human life. You really need to think it
"No need
can't afford to be distracted! I know what I'm doing. There's
she finished speaking, the nurse shouted impatiently again,
coming!" Joanna
reconsider!" Cora blocked her path.
gotten into you.
of anything, a child's life is at stake. We have
Mr.
upon hearing this. "What's there to discuss with him? He probably can't wait to get rid of this child!"
With,
Cora saw that persuading Joanna was
to stop
wrong with

just afraid that you'll regret it later!"

onto Joanna's beautiful face as she furrowed her brow. "Don't worry! can do it another day!"

on?" Joanna's expression turned

been angry with Cora before, but today,

daring to persuade Joanna any further, Cora cautiously spoke, "Um... Joanna was dazed.

matter what, I have to stop

Joanna walked towards the operating room without any delay!

get

is my own decision. No one can stop me!"

Haynes..." Cora appeared helpless and

How could she dare to interfere in the directors'

Cora's grip and resolutely walked toward

not bring this child

agreed or not, she had to

walked into the operating room, clutching the medical file tightly

Chapter 220

"Come back with me..." Bruce forcibly carried her off the operating table and walked out.

Joanna's face was filled with panic. She struggled with all her might in his arms. "Let go of me, Bruce. Can you not be so domineering?"

Bruce ignored her resistance, dismissing it entirely!

His grip tightened around her like a pair of steel pincers, rendering her powerless to struggle.

In the hospital corridor, a few security guards approached, brandishing batons. The nurse pointed at Bruce, her voice trembling with horror. "Someone's causing trouble. It's them!"

"What the hell are you doing? Who the hell are you?" The security captain pointed his baton at Bruce, his posture exuding authority.

Bruce paid no heed to his outburst and continued walking straight toward him.

Bruce possessed an inherent aura of power. It was evident that he was someone not to be provoked!

The security captain didn't dare to impede him. He quickly stepped aside, making way for him.

Andy and Kody calmly dealt with the situation. "It's just a misunderstanding!

"We're just looking for someone!"

Observing the numerous bodyguards accompanying the group and the absence of any casualties, the security captain didn't dare to intervene.

He didn't dare to obstruct them at all, allowing the group to leave.

Bruce carried Joanna and confidently strode out of the hospital, capturing everyone's attention!

"Oh my god, why does that person bear such a striking resemblance to Bruce Everett, the wealthiest man in Greypoint?"

"How is that possible? Why would he come to Mossbourne Hospital?"

"But he really looks like Bruce Everett!"

Porash's proximity to Greypoint meant its residents were naturally familiar with Bruce.

Even the nurses and patients chased after them, eager to witness the commotion.

At the hospital entrance, Bruce forcefully pushed Joanna into the passenger seat.

Without waiting for the driver and bodyguards to catch up, he took the wheel himself.

Vroom!

He pressed down on the accelerator.

The powerful engine roared like a ferocious beast, propelling them forward.

"Bruce, are you out of your mind" Joanna dreaded being in Bruce's car

Despite wearing a seatbelt, she hastily grasped the car's overhead emergency handle

Bruce, that jerk, had a severe case of road rage! When he was in a bad mood, the chances of getting into a car accident soared

Mossbourne You have to follow the traffic rules

this. Bruce forcefully slammed the steering wheel

sports car was speeding too fast. Even a slight 0.5 mm deviation of the steering wheel could cause it to oversteer out of

lane

movement, the car's left front wheel momentarily lifted off the ground, narrowly avoiding tipping

swerved to the right again. The car jerked like a

her face turning pale

her tone softened. T already said

his face contorted in an indescribable
within Joanna, and today he had intended to pressure her
Joanna had already gone to the hospital for the
remiorset
anger consumed him
do you want?" Joanna asked.
silent as the car sped
him, she could only suppress her
she couldn't even come close
back to Greyport and took joanna directly to Reagan No 8
to a stop on the lawn, and Bruce forcibly pulled Joanitia out of the car
bodyguard swiftly approached and parked the
you
as he carried her
a room and placed her on
here until
he declared
bed, exclaiming, "What do you think you're doing? Are you trying to imprison
as you wish!" Bruce said as he turned and walked out of the
follow him, but it was
Bang!
closed the door and locked it with the key.
stood obediently, ready to
make sure she doesn't leave the room!"
the maids respectfully
pregnant now, and nothing should harm the
"Yes, Mr. Everett!"
instructions, Bruce disregarded Joanna's shouts from inside the
bodyguards and more than twenty servants

move in, so more than ten maids were sent here a month

You can't do this to me. It's

had also been taken away, and she was locked inside the
the lawn,

was determined to make Joanna carry this
to keep

grew increasingly impatient with this woman who had secretly wanted

let me out! Let me out!" Joanna

down. It's not good

let me out!"

Mr. Everett's instructions, we can't let you out. Please stay calm!" the maid insisted.

herself trapped, a captive in her

as if she stood at death's doorstep, feeling desperate. She pounded on the door, shouting,

if Mr. Everett wants to see you, he'll come on his