

The Divorce 121

Chapter 121 Frustrations When I woke up, I felt like someone had pulled me from a faraway place.

Atlas's handsome face looked back at me.

Startled, I tried to sit up but felt a sharp pain in my wounds.

"Why the rush?" His voice sounded hoarse.

We were still in the car, but the golden sun was setting on the horizon.

Urgently, I exclaimed, "What time is it? Damn it, I need to pick up my daughter!" "I used your phone to text your friend, asking her to pick her up for you," he stated.

"Get up, will you? My legs are getting numb." Blushing, I realized I had been sleeping on his lap the whole time.

He hadn't stirred or woken me up.

"Um... How long did I sleep?" I asked shyly, quickly putting some distance between us.

"Over two hours.

Let's go!" I quickly got out of the car.

We had arrived at the same resort he had taken me to before, but it seemed less crowded this time.

There were no other guests in sight.

Taking a few quick steps to catch up with him, I asked, “What kind of place is this?” “What’s the matter?” He glanced at me absentmindedly.

“It is so lovely and peaceful! I like it a lot.

But why isn’t there anyone else here?” I asked curiously.

Atlas smirked and didn’t respond.

He entered with his hands in his pockets.

I rolled my eyes.

This guy was such a show-off! Every corner of the park was breathtaking, almost like a fairytale.

I genuinely loved the place.

Atlas led me to a cottage and scanned his fingerprint to unlock the door.

I quickly followed him inside.

The interior was exquisitely decorated and elegant without being overdone.

He motioned for me to sit on a sofa, then entered one of the rooms.

Before long, he returned with a medicine kit.

Surprised, I said, “Y–You don’t need to.

I've already treated myself at home!" He looked meaningful.

"Are you afraid of me?" chuckled nervously while hugging myself.

"N-No! I don't need it!" It was awkward to imagine him treating my wounds.

"Come here," he commanded, pointing to the widest part of the sofa.

"Lie down." I still insisted, "I-It's not necessary! I can do it myself when I get home!" Couldn't he take a hint? I don't want to repeat myself," he said, taking out an ointment tube.

"I can't take advantage of you in this state, even if I wanted to.

So what are you afraid of?" My face turned crimson, and I cursed silently.

Wasn't he doing this on purpose?! "I've already seen what I needed to.

Are you still trying to hide it?" He spoke emotionlessly.

"It's too late to worry about appearances when you look like such a mess." He walked over and lifted me onto the chaise longue.

"Move again, and I'll have you right here.

That way, you won't have any more excuses." My face reddened to my ears.

This man, seriously! He appeared aloof and gentlemanly, but he spoke without holding back.

I was suddenly aware of how little I knew about him and his character.

I only knew he was an assistant at ATL Empire.

What was terrifying was how he seemed to know me inside out.

He had seen every part of me, and that was both unsettling and fascinating.

Chapter 122 Do You Want Me To Make You? I wanted to leave this place.

Caution was key, and I wondered if I'd been too vulnerable around him.

Atlas paused and looked at me.

"What's the matter? Am I that scary to you?" My face was flushed as I asked, "Who said I'm scared?" Although I put on a tough face, I was in shambles.

"If you were more cautious around that scumbag, you wouldn't be in this state!" He said, "Don't worry.

I won't do anything you're uncomfortable with.

Unless you want me to..." Atlas remained indifferent to my pleading eyes.

"Lie down! You'll feel better soon." His tone softened.

"Do you want me to make you?" I There was no escaping this ordeal.

Good intentions had led me into an awkward spot, and I felt helpless.

As if under a spell, I reclined and allowed him to unbutton my shirt.

He was precise and gentle when applying the ointment, but my muscles were tense.

He murmured, 'Relax.

Next time, if you can't win, run.

It's not shameful.

Take a deep breath and strike hard to ensure your safety.

A strong counterattack can give you the upper hand." His words touched me, making me realize I might have been foolish.

I watched him while he applied the ointment.

He had long eyelashes, a defined nose, and perfectly-styled black hair.

Atlas was stunningly handsome.

Matthew used to be the most attractive man to me, but Atlas eclipsed him.

There was no contest—if Matthew was handsome, Atlas was a Greek god.

"Have you seen enough?" It often felt as if he could read my mind.

"You're chatty today!" I closed my eyes and struggled to control my racing heart and uneven breathing.

"You're the most gullible person I've ever met for letting them invade your home.

Even if you had taken a knife to them, it would have been in self–defense.

Truly, you’ve outdone yourself in foolishness!” Despite the mockery in his tone, his words were oddly enlightening.

I kept my eyes closed until he finished applying the ointment, loving the feel of his hands moving over my skin.

embarrassed me, I was a woman who wanted to experience love from another man because of her Still, I wanted more.

I now understood why Matthad was so greedy.

The gentle embrace of another person was intoxicating.

The more you struggled, the deeper you sank, until you finally drowned.

He gazed at my flushed face.

Then I heard him murmuring.

“If you weren’t unwell, I’d have my way with you right now.” Though his voice was low, it startled me enough to open my eyes and meet his tender gaze.

I felt drawn in.

He leaned down and kissed me without hesitation.

I felt an uncontrollable yearning.

Chapter 123 The Call of Desire 1 reveled in the sensations of being needed and caressed.

These feelings had been repressed for too long, and I kissed him passionately.

His words echoed in my mind.

“I’ll have you right here.

That way, you won’t have any more excuses.” It made me want to let go of my inhibitions and follow my heart.

Images of Matthew and Melanie together fueled my desire for revenge and competition.

I wanted it all and was determined to make it even better than anything they’d ever had.

Atlas hugged me and cradled my back, afraid to hurt me.

Why should I refuse him? He made me forget my troubles.

I discovered that caresses could ease the pain.

The wounds on my body no longer hurt.

Instead, there was an unprecedented longing, a yearning for love.

He must have sensed my desire.

His hazy eyes looked at my face, and he murmured in my ear, “Chlo, is this okay? Will... I covered his lips, blocking the words he wanted to say, I knew what he was worried about.

My response ignited him.

It was like floating on a cloud.

I forgot all my worries and fears.

Even the pain seemed to Instead, there was an unparalleled sense of comfort.

vanished.

I was on the verge of madness.

I had never indulged in losing myself in such a passionate dance for two.

It was perfect, reaching its climax until my brain seemed starved of oxygen.

Both of us had forgotten ourselves.

We continued until we could no longer see each other's faces in the dim room.

I buried my face in his embrace, feeling his strong heartbeat.

He gently stroked my back, and his touch was tender.

"Is the pain gone?" I shook my head, feeling a mix of shame and a strange satisfaction.

"You didn't seem to hold back just now.

Why are you suddenly being shy?" His voice held a magnetic playfulness.

in an instant, I was much more awake, Our lives were on different paths.

We had been entangled in a moment of desire.

I couldn't let my thoughts wander any further.

Thankfully, the room was too dark to see anything.

My stomach let out an untimely growl.

I felt mortified.

"We've exerted ourselves too much.

It's time to replenish our energy!" He whispered in my ear.

"Let's go eat!" I got up, afraid of being teased.

He attempted to turn on the lights, but I resisted.

He fumbled in the dark as he got dressed, and pulled me into his arms.

"Love does heal wounds.

How about we have some food and go at it again?" I pushed him away abruptly.

"Y-You are..." He smirked and ruffled my hair.

“You’ve gone this far.

Why pretend to be so reserved?” Oh my! This man! I shook him off and walked away.

He followed me with a sly grin.

He took me to a small, exquisite restaurant where the table was already set.

Faced with this sudden.

change of scenario, I still felt a little uneasy, realizing I might have been too bold.

Perhaps he sensed my unease, because he appeared calm and considerate.

He hand picked dishes her thought I would like—a true gentleman.

It was a far cry from the forceful dominance earlier.

Now he was gentle and caring.

The blankness in my mind had now been replaced with shame.

I reminded myself not to get caught up in this mess.

“Um... About earlier...” I didn’t know how to express my feelings at this moment.

He looked at me for a long time, then finally asked, “What do you want to say?”

Chapter 124 A Wish Come True I suddenly realized what I wanted to say might dampen the mood.

We had just been swept up in a whirlwind of passion, and it would be a real buzzkill.

I changed the subject.

“The benefits at your company seem amazing.

I’d consider working for you guys if I didn’t have my own business.” He looked at me calmly and asked, “Why is that?” “Seeing how carefree your assistants are, it’s clear your company values its employees.” My reason sounded forced.

He listened to my words with a faint smile on his lips.

Atlas ate elegantly as I rushed through my food.

It might be because I hadn’t had a decent meal in days.

I didn’t need to act all prim and proper in front of him.

After we finished, I insisted on heading back.

He reluctantly got up.

“I’ll walk you out!” In the car, he seemed lost in thought.

I gazed out the open window, the cool breeze waking me up.

What had just happened felt like a dream.

There were no regrets, but a hint of awkwardness lingered.

I started to understand Matthew a little better.

Perhaps there is someone who could make a person forget everything else.

In a way, love had no rights or wrongs.

Still, what about the future? Atlas seemed to sense my emotions.

He reached out and took my hand, and I felt warm.

I didn't move or say anything, letting him hold on.

We were getting closer to home, but suddenly, I felt like I didn't want to return to my own world.

My world was like a slap of reality, filled with complexity and struggles.

His world seemed otherwise.

It felt like a beautiful dream you never wanted to wake up from.

I still had that one thing to say.

It was meant to convey that he shouldn't overthink what happened today.

We both needed to face reality and hold ourselves back.

"What did you want to say?" His tone was cold.

“H just wanted to tell you not to dwell on what happened today.” He tightened his grip on my hand as he looked at me.

His face was unreadable.

After a while, he asked My heart raced.

Handle? I wasn't sure if I could handle anything.

“You can't handle it.

So don't pretend to be so calm!” After saying this, he released my hand.

Suddenly, his face was icy, but it vanished.

Gently, he said, “Go In.” I quickly got out of the car.

“Be safe on your way home! Goodnight!” I didn't dare look back as I escaped into my home.

It wasn't until I closed the door that I heard his car driving away.

A half-month later, my father's health had improved.

We calmly discussed my past with Matthew and all his actions.

My father remained composed.

He said that he sensed something was amiss when I returned to our hometown, but he never imagined it was this serious! Our paths crossed in the courthouse lobby on the day of the court hearing.

It was his third day of release, and he was with Johnson and his mother.

Matthew berated me, accusing me of being vicious and claiming that my scheming led to his detention.

His words made my head spin.

My scheming? I was the reason he got detained? I ignored his rant and smiled calmly at him.

I wanted to tell him the real show was coming.

His troubles had just begun.

Chapter 125 Liberated Leaving the courthouse felt liberating.

Before I could say goodbye to Adrian, Matthew burst out.

He rushed down the steps toward where I was standing.

Everyone instinctively shielded me in the middle.

He appeared sad and resentful.

Some of his friends held him back.

He stared at me with sorrow.

“Hon...” He couldn’t say it.

My heart dropped as well.

give me “Chlo, don’t go... Please, Chlo, give me a chance.

I just want to talk to you for a few minutes!” He tried to get away from the people holding him, and his eyes begged me.

“Chlo, give me another chance to talk to you! Even if these are our parting words, honey, we still haven’t said a lot.

I’m begging you!” *Don’t call me that.

You’ve lost that privilege.

Besides, I don’t believe there’s anything left for us to discuss, ” I replied.

“No, Chlo, there’s something I need to say.

Please, don’t hold me back! What’s going on?” Matthew begged, looking at me and the surrounding crowd.

I asked them to release him.

“Go ahead.” He glanced at the group surrounding me, struggling with his words, “Can we find a place to sit down and talk? Let me buy you a cup of coffee, at least!” “There’s no need for that.

You can tell me here.” I firmly rejected his suggestion.

I couldn’t forget the fresh scars on my body.

He walked slowly toward me, clearly debating how to broach the subject.

After a long pause, he finally said, “Chlo... can we not get a divorce?” 2 “What do you think?” I retorted.

I “I—I feel like none of this is real.

It’s like I’m in a nightmare! How did it come to this? I don’t want to leave you, honey!” His expression was pained.

He continued, “What about our daughter? I never wanted to leave you or our daughter.

Can’t we stay married? Think about Ava.

Let’s sacrifice for her sake.

We can’t let her grow up without a complete family!” 1 looked at him in astonishment, thinking my ears might be deceiving me.

The court had already decided, and he was telling me we shouldn’t separate? Was he out of his mind? I truly felt nothing for this man anymore.

All that remained was a profound sense of disgust.

In fact, I had been asking myself one question.

Was I out of my mind back then? What did I see in him? Aside from a smooth–talking mouth, he had nothing going for him.

I couldn’t help it.

Laughter bubbled up from within me.

“Matthew, it’s time to face reality! Weren’t you eagerly expecting this day?” No, Chlo.

I moved the funds with her, but it’s because I was afraid that you’d find out the truth one day.

I was afraid you’d leave me.

I thought, if you had nothing, you wouldn’t leave me!” Matthew took a step closer, urgently explaining.

What a shameless excuse.

I felt like giving him this chance was a waste of time.

It wasn’t that I had lost my mind.

It was him.

He must have knocked his head somewhere! “That’s where you’re wrong.

Matthew.

Even if I had nothing, I’d still divorce you because you’re vile.

It took me an entire decade to see through you.

Your actions make me hate e you!” “Chloe, you’ve changed! You weren’t like this before.

You weren’t so heartless.

Is it that man? Don't believe his empty words.

After all, we have a child.

Yes, I was foolish before, but what happened later... I had no choice!" "Aren't you about to have another child?" I raised my eyes to see Melanie sprinting down the courthouse steps toward us.

"Don't push your responsibilities onto anyone else! I'm too clear-headed now.

I've seen how disgusting you genuinely are.

"You're not my partner! You betrayed me the moment you made those promises.

Divorce was only a matter of time.

Take care of yourself!" Matthew clutched my hand.

"Chlo, why can't you forgive me? What man doesn't fool around a bit? I truly cared for you.

I made a mistake.

Why can't you forgive me?" I was beyond furious.

"You beat me to reclaim what you thought was yours.

How dare you do such a thing and then justify it? Matthew's excuses left me speechless.

It seemed like a beautiful dream had finally shattered.

I brushed off his grip on my hand and looked at Melanie, who was getting closer.

I gave a mocking smile.

My nightmare is over, but yours is just getting started!”

Chapter 126 Once and For All Matthew froze when he heard my words.

His eyes showed unwillingness that only I understood.

Melanie grabbed his arm and yelled, “Chloe, you’re seducing him in public now! You’re shameless!” I glared at her, then turned to Matthew, saying, “I have some departing words for you.

One day, you’ll realize how horrible, disloyal, and unrighteous you are for abandoning your wife and daughter.

“We’re divorced now, so stop being deluded.

We’ll go our separate ways, and I hope we never cross paths again.” I turned away but noticed Matthew’s eyes reddening.

I thanked Adrian and then got into the car I had bought with my mom, Ivanna, and Ava.

I saw Matthew through the rearview mirror, watching me leave.

I went to the hospital to fetch my dad.

That evening, we celebrated my divorce with Ivanna, and she.

asked me if I wanted to invite Atlas.

Although I rejected her request, she teased me, “I can tell he’s interested in you.” B “You’re being ridiculous.

I just got divorced.” I rolled my eyes, and she chuckled.

Still, I called Atlas soon after, and he congratulated me.

I chuckled because it was rare for one to celebrate a divorce.

I didn’t know if I should believe in love anymore.

Atlas asked, “Do you want to meet for a drink?” “That’s okay, I had one at home.

Besides, my parents are here, and it’s too late to go out,” I gave him a valid reason, and he didn’t insist.” I took over Tanum Corporation in the following days and was swamped.

After all, the company was a mess when I took over.

I knew Matthew wouldn’t make it easy for me.

Besides taking away his trusted subordinates, he took all the resources, including ongoing projects.

When I worked at the company before our divorce, I was laid-back and not focused at work.

Therefore, most management thought I was useless and left with Matthew.

Before leaving, Matthew smirked and said, “Tell me if you find it challenging to handle the company.

Since we were once married, I won’t be so heartless to you.” found it ironic how that came from someone so heartless.

I smiled at Matthew, "I told you before, didn't I? I built Tanum Corporation from nothing and can do it again."

You know you're the heartless one between us, so save your worries for yourself." I felt relaxed watching him lead his group away.

It saved me some trouble because I didn't intend to keep As for his so-called resources, I had acquired them during my past efforts.

I knew I could win them back with my principles and hard work.

Even in a worst-case scenario, I had my contract with ATL Empire as a safety net.

It wouldn't hurt me if Tanum Corporation closed down, but I wouldn't let it fail under my leadership.

I knew I couldn't bear the humiliation that came with that.

Meanwhile, Johnson was in a dilemma.

I saw guilt in his eyes as he left, but I ignored it.

He secretly met me again, and I comforted him, "Leaving Tanum Corporation is the right choice."

You might be helpful to me again someday, so don't feel conflicted." He reassured me he would support me if I ever needed him.

His reassurance was enough.

However, I didn't think I'd need Johnson so soon, and I couldn't afford to harm him, especially considering he had a family.

When Myra gave birth, I provided substantial help.

She was grateful and often told me Johnson chose the wrong side.

I understood the complications of choosing sides, especially since Matthew took so many people and continued his business as usual.

He drained Tanum Corporation and transferred all its profitable projects to his new company, Ardora Construction.

In contrast, the Tanum Corporation appeared dire.

It had high operating costs and had a recent divorcee leading the team.

Although most knew I had founded the company, I had been away for many years.

It was apparent which side Johnson should choose to ensure his job security.

Therefore, I allowed the remaining employees to choose whether to stay or leave.

I didn't want to force them to stay.

Finally, I released those with questionable intentions.

Some initially resisted, but I presented evidence of their misdeeds.

They never expected my recent "idleness" to involve watching them closely.

After clearing the bad apples, I had very few staff.

I heard Matthew celebrated opening his new company.

I knew it was his way of taunting me while awaiting my downfall.

Soon after, I began recruiting new talents.

Surprisingly, I saw his resume among the stack of job applications.

Chapter 127 Mutually Beneficial It was Ryan Phillips, my senior at university.

Coincidentally, we grew up in the same town.

I heard he had ventured abroad.

Besides that, I hadn't received any news from him for many years.

I instructed Carol Adams, my assistant, to call him for an interview.

Carol was a veteran employee at Tanum Corporation.

Although she didn't have a higher education, she possessed impressive business skills and memory.

She chose to stay with the company because of a conflict with Melanie.

Hence, I promoted Carol to be my assistant.

When I met Ryan, I could tell he knew I owned Tanum Corporation.

While delighted by the reunion, I didn't beat around the bush, "You know it's me, right?" He responded with a faint smile, saying, "I do." "My company is modest in scale and might not align with your qualifications and experience," I stated, "I must also clarify our salary may not meet the standards you've grown accustomed to in larger.

corporations." He replied straightforwardly, "Let's make a deal.

You can offer me company shares.

I'll do my best, and this arrangement will be mutually beneficial." Ryan's bold proposal surprised me.

I wondered if he was after my company.

He noticed my reaction and chuckled, "What's wrong? Are you hesitant to try?" I retorted, "In that case, you must provide a feasibility report.

Actions speak louder than words, and I don't like empty promises.

Remember, I recently parted ways with someone ungrateful." We laughed at my statement.

Before concluding the interview, Ryan assured me he would deliver his report within three days.

"I know some of the reasons for your divorce.

Don't worry.

I'm not like that guy.

I'll create the most value for the company and get what I want with my skills." I felt ashamed because the whole city knew about my divorce.

However, I knew Ryan was my senior in high school and university.

Among everyone at Foswood University, only we came from the same hometown.

Ryan was caring toward me then.

We even spent winter and summer vacations together in our freshman year.

I considered him a brother.

Later, I got with Matthew, and Ryan graduated.

I heard Ryan had pursued his postgraduate education overseas.

After discussing work matters, we had a casual conversation.

I couldn't help but ask about Ryan's whereabouts.

That evening, I called Ivanna and asked her to investigate Ryan's activities before we reunited.

After all, his information would be vital for my plans.

stability, we Ryan's earlier proposal gave me an idea.

To revive Tanum Corporation and ensure its stability, couldn't adhere to our decade-old model.

That approach would lead to the business's closure.

Transitioning to a new model and mindset was crucial: However, my lack of experience meant I needed reliable talent to help navigate this transition.

I couldn't let unexpected obstacles trip me, or I'd be in dire straits.

Indeed, Matthew had taught me a valuable lesson.

Soon, I shared my thoughts with Ivanna, even though she worked in a different industry.

Still, she possessed extensive experience in the corporate world.

She asked, "Are you considering moving toward a shareholding system?" I responded, "There's no harm in considering it since I know my limits.

Even if I'm resilient, I can do only so much.

Finding capable partners might be the right choice." Ivanna nodded.

"I'll see what I can find out about Ryan." Ryan's timely arrival felt like a stroke of luck.

However, I had to remain cautious and vigilant.

Chapter 128 Utterly Exhausted On my way to Solaris, I looked out the plane window at the clouds.

Suddenly, I thought of an unexpected person.

I hadn't seen or heard from Atlas since the divorce proceedings concluded.

Although he hadn't called, I somehow felt disappointed.

Still, I kept my distance, not wanting to get too close to him.

Despite my efforts, I couldn't help but wonder why he hadn't called or even texted me.

Strangely, I saw a missed call from him after turning my phone on when the plane landed.

My mind raced, but I returned the call after some hesitation.

Atlas asked, "Where are you?" "I just landed in Solaris," I replied.

"Alone?" "Yeah." "All right safe." His tone was distant, and he didn't seem interested in continuing the conversation. "I'll hang up now." I was frustrated.

Atlas called me, yet he didn't intend to say much.

I was about to ask why he called, but he had already hung up.

I sighed and pocketed my phone, feeling conflicted.

When I met Fred this time, he seemed much better.

He knew I had arrived and sent someone to pick me up from the airport.

Immediately after, I went to Urban Builders, and they wasted no time holding a project coordination meeting.

We discussed a detailed analysis of the upcoming ATL Empire project and made the necessary preparations.

We also used their blueprints to draft a comprehensive design and construction plan.

Then, they presented a cooperation plan for my company.

They provided precise requirements and a well-defined direction for my work.

I felt confident about what I was doing.

The meeting lasted until late evening, and we had dinner in the meeting room.

Afterward, Fred sent me to the hotel they had arranged for me.

I accepted their hospitality.

My schedule was tight, with only two days in Solaris.

I had to return to Foswood the following afternoon.

I was exhausted after taking a shower.

I hadn't experienced such an intense schedule since birthing Ava.

was grateful my parents were with me, and my dad's health had somewhat improved.

I would have Amid everything, I became overwhelmed.

Dealing with Tanum Corporation's takeover had mentally and physically drained me.

I had pushed myself, determined not to make any mistakes.

However, I was desperate for assistance.

My once–bustling company now felt lonely, and I grew increasingly anxious.

Although I expected disruption upon reclaiming my company, I hadn't anticipated such a massive shift.

Matthew's actions had pulled a rug from underneath me.

10 clients he I wasn't concerned about I was confident in my previous relationships.

Still, the supplier side of things was more challenging.

Matthew had handled it since Tanum Corporation's establishment, making it my weakness.

The remaining staff from the previous marketing department was minimal, and I had tasked them with maintaining supplier relations.

However, I knew they weren't confident in my takeover.

It slowed my progress.

I worked hard to maintain relationships with suppliers.

I could only afford about four hours of sleep each night.

After today's three–hour flight, I dived into intense work.

It was close to 11 p.m.

now, and I had reached my limit.

I wanted to call home but realized it was too late.

My parents and Ava must've slept already.

I knew I had a busy day ahead when I thought about finalizing details with Fred tomorrow and returning home the day after.

I had to sign the contract with ATL Empire in two days and outsource the agreement with Ardora Construction.

Soon, I went to sleep.

I didn't know how much time had passed when a series of knocks on the door startled me awake.

I sat up with a racing heart, wondering who it was.

Chapter 129 Late Night Visit I thought I was dreaming, so I palmed my forehead before laying back down.

However, the knocking continued, and I tensed up, asking, "Who is it?!" A voice from outside replied, "It's me!" I couldn't believe it.

My drowsiness disappeared as the person repeated, "Open the door, Chloe.

It's me." I jumped out of bed and stumbled to the door.

My heart raced as I mumbled, "That voice sounds like... How's that possible?" I peeked through the peephole and saw a tall figure standing in the dimly lit corridor.

My heart skipped a beat, and I trembled before opening the door.

I saw a weary-looking Atlas standing before me with a faint smile.

I stared at him in disbelief, fearing he would disappear if I blinked.

I asked shakily, "H-How'd you get here?" I wanted to throw myself into his arms but dared not.

He looked at me and pursed his lips, looking somewhat tired.

"I knew you were here, so I had to come.

Aren't you glad to see me?" Then, he put his arm around my shoulder and said, "Let me in." Finally, I gathered myself and stepped aside to make way for him.

He looked indifferent as he entered.

He noticed me standing barefoot on the cold floor and frowned before looking at me.

His eyes revealed a warmth I had never seen before.

"The floor's pretty cold," Atlas said, "You should put on some slippers.

I hurried inside and put on a pair of slippers, feeling awkward.

H He removed his coat, which I hung in the closet.

My actions resembled a wife welcoming her husband home from a trip.

I had done such things countless times when I was with Matthew.

Then, I stood before him with my still-sleepy expression.

I looked innocent, not knowing how to start a conversation.

Atlas seemed at a loss, too.

His gaze lingered on me as if we hadn't seen each other for a long time.

I couldn't believe he visited me so late.

"How'd you get here? I asked, still in disbelief.

approached the bedside table and sat on the bed to wear a pair of slippers.

"I went to West Quay for business and drove here afterward." "You drove here yourself?" I was shocked.

Atlas raised an eyebrow at me, "Yeah.

It was already 11 p.m.

after we had dinner.

I knew you were here, so I didn't stay there." Though he spoke casually, I knew he had to drive at least three hours to get here.

Yet he raced through the night to see me.

I felt moved, realizing it had been long since anyone cherished me like him.

I could.

almost feel tears welling in my eyes.

"What's wrong?" He stood up and hugged me before rubbing my head.

"Did I disturb your sleep? I'll go wash up.

You should get some rest." I blushed and dared not look at him.

Although I climbed into bed, I couldn't fall asleep.

My heart pounded, mind was a mess.

I couldn't ask him to leave, either.

I checked the time on my phone and and my realized it was already 2 a.m.

I thought Atlas's car must be flying if he got here so quickly.

I didn't know when our relationship evolved to be so harmonious.

I only knew his unexpected arrival made me happy.

That night, he was passionate, and I responded.

Everything felt natural, and we only exchanged a few.

words.

I didn't want to overthink it, so I surrendered myself to him.

When he moved deeper, I felt my inner self screaming.

All my restraint vanished, and I knew I couldn't escape him.

Chapter 130 The Graceful Silhouette We woke up close to noon the following day, and I felt Atlas's arms wrapped around me.

I doubted he would let go if Fred didn't call me.

I told Atlas I still had work to do and had to return to Foswood in the evening.

He released me and got up, offering to have lunch with me.

My relationship with Atlas made me feel conflicted.

I wondered what we were to each other.

It felt like the puzzle pieces just fit.

He hadn't made commitments, and there were no declarations of love.

Whenever I saw him, I didn't know how to refuse him.

For some reason, I felt comfortable being with him.

He didn't ask for my consent again and simply took action.

So, I dared not ask him about the nature of our relationship.

It was already late at night when I reached Foswood.

I was so exhausted that I could barely speak.

My mom looked at me with a heavy heart and shook her head, saying, "Chlo, why are you pushing yourself so hard? "Do you want to come home with your dad and me? Life is short, so isn't comfort and happiness more important?" My mom had a point, but Foswood held too much for me.

I had too many regrets to leave.

I couldn't back down and had to win back the ten years of my youth.

After signing the contract, it seemed I had captured Matthew on my web.

He couldn't escape, and I would play this game slowly.

After leaving work the following day, I called my mom to tell her I wouldn't be home for dinner.

I wanted to hang out and catch up with Ivanna, especially to discuss Ryan.

Since it had been a while since Ivanna and I hung out, she was excited, saying, “Let’s spoil ourselves a little! Should we go to a revolving restaurant and eat French cuisine while enjoying the river view?” I didn’t object, so we planned to meet at the restaurant’s entrance.

I was surprised to see a familiar person when we sat in the restaurant.

However, that person had a woman with him.

I tensed, and my heart almost stopped.

Their table was near ours, and it seemed Atlas had noticed me.

He glanced at me before averting his gaze.

From my angle, I could only see the woman’s slim silhouette.

She dressed elegantly, showing her taste for the finer things in life.

The woman seemed graceful, and I could imagine her captivating smile while she talked to Atlas.

That was because he looked indulgent, a sight I seldom saw.

Ivanna followed my distracted gaze and looked back at me, asking, “What’s going on?” I feigned ignorance and looked back at her.

“It’s nothing.” “Shouldn’t we say hi?” She probed.

“There’s no need for that,” I replied while ordering our dishes, but I couldn’t shake my disappointment.

The meal felt tasteless, and even the romantic river view had become boring.

I couldn't help but want to see the woman's face.