

## **The Divorce 271**

### Chapter 271 Meeting My Daughter on Her Birthday

When he spotted me, he got excited as if he had just won the lottery.

“Chloe, what a coincidence! You’re here early, too? We were planning to go together. I wanted to see our

daughter as soon as possible!” He stepped out of his car and briskly walked toward me

I put some distance between us. I wasn’t keen on our daughter going out to dinner with him.

Firstly, I didn’t trust him at all. It also felt like a stab in the heart.

I quickly dialed my mother’s number, fearing she might run into Matthew. I didn’t want her to feel upset.

Only then did I welcome our daughter out. Upon seeing Matthew, Ava hesitated for a moment.

She instinctively looked up at me, and I understood her feelings. This child had learned to read the room.

Matthew, on the other hand, seemed natural. “Hey there, princess! Did you miss Daddy? Let me have a look!”

Ava didn’t move, keeping her gaze on me.

\*Say something, honey. Your dad wants you to join him for dinner. He was busy yesterday, so today, he’s making it up to you for your birthday. Will you go?” I looked at her, conveying Matthew’s intention.

“Will you come too?” Ava glanced at me, asking cautiously.

That question was quite challenging for me. Honestly, I didn’t want to go. I had very little tolerance for Matthew.

“Of course, your mom will come! Come on, let me hug you!” Matthew crouched down, opening his arms to Ava.

She hesitated for a moment, but I gently nudged her.

Perhaps encouraged by my support, Ava finally flung herself into Matthew’s arms.

He scooped her up and kissed her little face. She instantly burst into a joyful smile. She wrapped her tiny arms around Matthew’s neck, saying, “Daddy!”

sighed inwardly. Regardless of how I felt, he was her father.

Did you miss Daddy? I missed you so much! I was busy so I couldn’t visit you. Are you mad at me?”

Matthew cooed, trying to soothe the little one with his words

Though I didn’t like it, I couldn’t argue right now. After all, children needed this kind of comfort.

I nodded solemnly. “Of course I am. The building materials market needs a capable manager. If you decide to come, I’ll entrust it to you. If your year–end performance is acceptable, I can even give your shares. We can discuss your salary, but I’ll offer you the standard in Foswood.”

I offered an olive branch without hesitation.

Eleanor beamed with gratitude as she nodded. “I’ll consider it when I get home and call you when I decide.”

“I’ll be waiting for the good news!”

I didn’t return to the company after saying goodbye to Eleanor. Instead, I went to pick up Ava. Sitting in the car, I couldn’t help but feel Eleanor would be a perfect fit. She would have security while I can allow

Grayson to assist Ryan.

After all, we only needed to manage Tanum Corporation and Hartz Construction. Since I had yet to introduce Hartz Construction to the world, Grayson would be perfect to care for it.

Still, I had to await Eleanor’s decision since she had emotional attachments.

I began feeling tired after sitting in the car for a while. So, I exited the car and stretched before walking toward the kindergarten. Unexpectedly, Matthew’s car stopped beside me.

Chapter 272 There’s Been an Accident

As I expected, Melanie approached Matthew like an enraged bear when she got out of the cab.

She took a staggering step toward Ava.

I cried out in alarm and rushed forward, embracing Ava tightly. Melanie viciously grabbed my hair and yanked my head backward.

Ava was instantly frightened, crying loudly, "Mommy... Mommy.

The stunned onlookers let out a collective gasp. No one dared to intervene with the heavily pregnant woman.

"Matthew, have you gone mad? You dare sneak around behind my back to meet them? I'll finish off these two wretched women. Let's see if you'll still be cozying up to them!" She cursed vehemently while fiercely tugging at my hair.

I was forced to tilt my head back, struggling to free myself from her grip.

However, the space was too confined, and I feared accidentally bumping into her belly.

After all, she was well into her pregnancy, and I worried I might cause harm.

Our child cried out hoarsely, and I could hear Matthew shouting, "Melanie, what the hell are you doing?

Let go!"

"Let go. You want me to let go? Go to hell!" She raised her foot and ruthlessly kicked the back of my knee.

I lunged forward, dropping to my knees on the hard ground. The force that propelled me forward, combined with the strength of her kick, caused me to kneel.

Propelled by the same force, Melanie was thrown forward, stumbling onto me....

A gasp echoed from the bystanders, but none moved to help her. She crashed heavily onto the ground.

Matthew stared blankly at the unfolding scene. Only then did he hurriedly place Ava on the ground and

Howard Melanie

sound as she was flung out. She howled loudly, clutching her stomach an

Khurts. All hurts so much!”

Upon seeing all this, Ava cried and threw the teddy bear out of her hand. “I don’t want your stupid toy! Bad Daddy... Bad Aunt! I don’t want to see you!”

But when Ava saw Melanie bleeding under her legs, she was scared and ran to me for safety.

Someone exclaimed, “Oh my! She’s bleeding...”

“Quick, call an ambulance!”

I gathered my hair, holding Ava tightly, and looked at the two people. Everyone was frozen, unable to

comprehend the situation. Everything had happened so suddenly. I didn’t even know how Melanie had

been thrown out.

“Mommy..” Ava called out in shock, hugging me tightly.

I saw blood under Melanie’s legs, confirming the severity of the situation.

ading for help from the

“Don’t be afraid, Mommy’s here!” I reassured my daughter while simultaneously pleading for help people around me. “Quick, help call an ambulance! Hurry...

Someone had already dialed for help at that moment and was shouting for an ambulance.

Still cursing, Melanie shouted, “Chloe, you’ve hurt me. Just wait, one day I’ll make you pay... Ah, it hurts, brother...”

Everyone exchanged puzzled glances, not understanding the relationship, but she kept calling him” brother’ while berating me.

I had no connection with these two people, but it was utterly embarrassing.

However, my heart raced upon seeing her leg bleeding so profusely. No matter what, we were both and I didn’t want any harm to come to her child. After all, the child was innocent.

wever, many good people spoke out because everyone there saw what happened.

her, cursing and causing a scene. She’s the one who started it. She even tried to hit a child, and only defended herself. And she’s pregnant! Who knows what would’ve happened if the mother

that pregnant woman who came out and attacked a

Just then, an ambulance rapidly approached from a distance.

I finally breathed a sigh of relief. Holding Ava in my arms, I watched as Matthew and the medical staff hurriedly lifted Melanie onto the ambulance, which then sped away.

#### Chapter 273 Making a Fuss

With trembling hands, I called Johnson to pick up Matthew's car. I waited until Johnson arrived and gave him instructions before leaving with Ava.

No matter what, Ava didn't want that toy that Matthew gave her. Back at home, Ava rushed into her grandmom's arms with a loud cry.

My mom looked at me, puzzled, and I briefly explained what had happened. My parents let out a deep sigh.

That night, I slept with Ava. She told me with a quiver in her voice that she never wanted to see her dad again.

I was at a loss for words. Faced with such a dad, I couldn't even defend him. From today's events, I could see how miserable Matthew's days would be in the future.

I comforted Ava and shared some simple wisdom with her, teaching her to be a responsible and good person. I wasn't sure how much she understood, but I didn't want her mind to be filled with darkness.

I

Johnson finally called me late at night. He said, "Chlo, don't worry! She's okay."

"What about the baby?" I asked worriedly.

"The baby is just over seven months old. They performed a C-section. It's a boy, and he's alive! Thankfully,

she was taken to the hospital in time."

Johnson's tone carried a hint of disdain.

"That's good. At least nothing serious happened!" I sighed in relief.

"Chlo, I truly admire your kind heart. You're still concerned for her after all she did to you!" Johnson said,

As for Melanie, she's bound to face consequences sooner or later. Mr. Matthew has his own troubles.

S's just a troublemaker at home and in the company."

didn't want to make too many comments. This was Matthew's own doing. He had to bear the

the

the



the security footage from outside the school downloaded. I was worried she

copy Keep it

M

“Thank you, Johnson!”

I hadn’t expected this. After hanging up, I went downstairs.

Sure enough, my parents were still in the living room, looking absent-minded.

I told them the outcome, and my dad sighed. “Those monsters! It’s a good thing they’re okay. Otherwise, they would come knocking at our door!”

“It’s alright, don’t worry. Johnson has retrieved the surveillance videos. Get some rest!”

They reminded me to keep my distance from Matthew in the future.

Johnson sent me the surveillance footage, showing several angles of the incident. I watched it, and the scene sent shivers down my spine. I didn’t know when I could escape from this nightmare completely.

A long time passed while I sat alone in the living room. Finally, I turned off the lights and went upstairs. I kept tossing and turning as thoughts of the unpleasant scenes replayed.

The following day, I got up early. I had breakfast with Ava and took her to school.

She was still moody, which worried me. I knew that yesterday’s scene had affected her deeply.

Whenever something like this happened, she would go quiet for days.

We were almost at the school when my phone rang. I checked it and was surprised to see it was from

Atlas

I quickly answered, and he asked about what happened yesterday. I was astonished that he knew.

He asked if Ava was with me, and I confirmed she was. He requested to speak to her.

I handed the phone to Ava, and she looked at it listlessly. I told her, "It's Uncle Atlas!"

She accepted the phone with her tiny hands. After a brief exchange, she burst into tears and began.

sobbing, recounting what happened.

I didn't know what Atlas said to her on the phone. She wiped her eyes vigorously with her arm, then rattled

Finally, she smiled. "Okay, I know I believe you, Uncle Atlas!"

Chapter 274 The Clues Are Confusing

I was utterly floored, unsure how to answer her because I couldn't possibly make that decision.

Ava looked at me with hopeful eyes as if my response held her greatest wish.

I had no choice but to say, "I will try my best!"

She smiled through her tears and said, "Ava will work hard with you, Mommy! Uncle Atlas would be the best Daddy!"

Seeing her smile again as she ran into the classroom, I finally breathed a sigh of relief.

I turned and headed back to the car, making my way to the office. I arrived early today. Some people hadn't even shown up yet.

I sat back in my chair, unable to stop picking up that pen and clutching it tightly. What results could I possibly achieve by my efforts?

However, I knew that Atlas was working hard, too, and I had to trust him.

On Tuesday, Eleanor called. She told me she had made up her mind to leave.

I instantly got excited. "That's great! When will you start?"

She hesitated, saying it would take a few more days. I didn't quite understand, but I figured she must have some loose ends to tie up. I didn't want to press her too much.

In any case, her agreement to come was good news

I quickly went to see Ryan. I told him about this, and when Grayson found me in Ryan's office, I told him about it, too. Naturally, he was delighted

I looked at him and asked, "What do you need me for?"

"It's about Annalise

immediately told him, "Let's talk in my office!"

Grayson said. Based on the information we've gathered, Annalise is a very peculiar person. It took so

long to investigate because we couldn't find a clear connection. Her death occurred in a secret orphanage, and strangely enough Steffa was also there, but she wasn't called Stellar"

de? I suddenly became interested "What was she called then?

Grayson she is head only finding an end photo

He took a worn photo with missing comers from the folder he had just handed me and showed it to me.

Here... This is it! Take a look!"

I picked up the photo and examined it very carefully. There were about twenty or thirty children in the picture, which was quite clear. I finally spotted Stella. At that time, she looked very young and inexperienced, far from the refined Stella of today.

Grayson then showed me another one. I was taken aback. The girl in that picture had the same face as

mine and was standing in the back row.

+ that time.

She must have been quite tall. I stared blankly at the girl in the photo, feeling incredulous. At that

these children were about 14 or 15 years old.

o one claimed “We spent a lot of time trying to find this photo. We asked everyone in that orphanage, but no to know these two people. We investigated each person in the photo one by one. It’s strange as if they vanished into thin air. Moreover, they were orphans, and we couldn’t find any other related information.”

Grayson’s words sent shivers down my spine. I looked at him in astonishment. ‘How is this possible?’”

Grayson nodded solemnly. “This is an odd situation. I have investigated many cases, but none like this. The orphanage’s records from all years do not mention Stella.”

“As for the records of the Pierce family’s adoption, Stella was adopted when she was 6 or 7. But the people in these photos are around 14 or 15. In short, nothing adds up! It’s perplexing, to say the least.”

Grayson scratched his head, and his handsome face contorted in confusion.

“I can’t make sense of it. The clues are all jumbled up, and it’s just not coming together.”

My eyes were still fixed on the photo. How could these two people have a connection?

In my interactions with Stella, she always implied that Anastasia, who appeared only during the six years

Allas was missing, was a recent addition.

But how could the adopted daughter of the Pierce family, who had been with them since childhood,

appear in the same photo?

This was inexplicable. In theory, Stella couldn’t have been in a welfare institution.

Suddenly, I remembered something.

Chapter 275 Top Secret

I glanced at Grayson and said, "It seems Stella has some issues. You know about Atlas's parents plane crash, right?"

"Yes."

"We should investigate Stella's father, Rory. My intuition told me there might be a connection there."

"That's exactly what I was thinking. I've already given the order, and they're investigating Rory!"

"Atlas mentioned that his parents' plane crash wasn't straightforward. I want to know why he believed that," I stated. "Let's focus on this aspect of the investigation. Having multiple angles can be beneficial."

Grayson agreed, albeit with some hesitation.

I paused and said, "Grayson, regardless of your previous relationship with Atlas, I hope you'll support me now. Even though there are feelings between Atlas and me, I don't want you to link us together. I have my

own goals and inquiries."

Grayson nodded solemnly, "Understood, Ms. Chloe!"

I smiled. "You know, this affects my direction of development, and... my choices!"

“Yeah, got it!” He seemed to understand my meaning very well.

I knew that Grayson was smart.

Since you know Hartz Construction, I will entrust that part of the company to you. Due to its unique nature and its registration, Hartz Construction can't be publicly disclosed yet. It must maintain an air of mystery.”

I provided Grayson with detailed information about Hartz Construction's situation and the need for

secrecy

“When you take over Hartz Construction, exercise caution in your actions. My intuition tells me that Hartz Construction serves a specific purpose. Until absolutely necessary, we cannot reveal that it is also under

my ownership

“Understood

“For now, only a few of us know. Atlas, Nick, Ryan, you, and me!”

Grayson nodded seriously. “Thank you for your trust, Ms. Chloe!”

Originally, I intended for it to be a tool to defeat Matthew, but now its purpose has evolved. We're

can't help but sense an unusual tension.”

I trusted Grayson deeply, and perhaps he had been sent to my side by Atlas..

“I understand. Mr. Atlas assigned me to work under your leadership, ensuring your safety. He didn’t impose restrictions on my actions, only emphasizing my loyalty to you.”

Grayson finally admitted his previous connection with Atlas, which put me at ease. Trust had to be mutual.

After our conversation, Grayson left the room. My gaze returned to the photo on the table. The face in the picture continued to send shivers down my spine.

Could there really be people in the world who look so alike? It was uncanny.

I absentmindedly placed the photo back into the bag. Just then, Carol came in with a stack of documents.

I reached out to take them and quickly dealt with them. Then, Carol informed me that the project with Echelon Group was going smoothly. All the materials were in place, and the calculations were done.

She handed me the report. Once I had dealt with the documents, it was almost noon. I put down my pen, stretched, and massaged my neck, feeling a sense of relief.

I suddenly remembered the spa incident from yesterday. I casually called Lauren.

Lauren picked up the phone with a smirk. “I was just thinking of calling you.”

“What’s up?” I asked directly.

“It’s lunchtime. What else could it be?” Lauren scolded me playfully. “Aren’t you in need of some recharging? So, why did you call?”

I chuckled and asked, “Where do you want to go?”



"I found a fantastic place that's to die for!" Lauren said with enthusiasm.

The mention of food instantly piqued my appetite. "Is it far?"

"Just wait for me. I'm on my way to your office, and then we can drive there together. It's not far from where you are, close to Ivanna's place. Give her a call, and I'll be downstairs waiting! Lauren said

before hanging up

quickly called Ivanna. She answered the call in a frustrated tone, venting her frustrations before allowing

you now? whook my

"Forget it!" Ivanna complained, "Why are you so free today?"

"We're going for lunch, Lauren said there's a good restaurant!" I parroted her words.

"Oh, alright... I was just about to let off some steam!" She vented. "I'm dealing with someone who's a

handful, and it's affecting the whole team."

"Is it Harmony again?"

Chapter 276 The Origin of the Diamond Card

"Hmph, who else would be a handful?" Ivanna growled, "I swear that woman's digging her own grave."

"Calm down, Ivanna. We'll talk when we meet later." I interjected, trying to avoid a rant.

I received another call as we talked. I glanced at my phone and saw Atlas's name, so I told Ivanna, "Hang

1. up. I have another call."

When she ended the call, I answered Atlas's, "Hello."

"Who were you talking to?" he asked.

"Ivanna."

"Oh. Come to Pleca Park after work tonight," Atlas said firmly.

"Sure!" I blushed but replied sweetly, "Aren't you busy?"

"What do you think?" He sounded flirtatious, "You can help me relax."

"Stop that" I lost my breath, thinking of how shameless he was.

He laughed, saying, "Do you know what you want to eat? I'll prepare it for you."

"I'm meeting the girls for local food soon. I'd prefer something lighter in the evening." I replied confidently.

"That sounds doable. You can hang up now."

I imagined how he looked after ending the call. I leaned on my desk while palming my head, still lost in thought. Suddenly, Lauren knocked and entered.

When she saw me daydreaming and smiling, she approached curiously and asked, "What were you daydreaming about? You're beaming

I quickly put away my smile and feigned ignorance. "I wasn't daydreaming. I was just dealing with contracts and just finished a call.

Come on, let's go. We can chat on the way. Did you reach Ivanna?" Lauren looked striking with her bag says remembered what she looked like when we first met.

struck gold yesterday I said while tidying my table and picking up my bag. As we left my

thought I'd embarrass myself, but it happened to someone else's unlucky day

"It's all thanks to you!"

"How am I involved? Spill the tea now." Lauren became even more interested.

I recounted my encounter with Liora as we headed downstairs. Lauren looked at me. "You thoroughly embarrassed her. You must be even more cautious now. That woman is evil and can't stand anyone opposing her. She won't let you off so quickly."

I shrugged and said smilingly, "I didn't have a choice. Liora would've been relentless if I hadn't given her a taste of her own medicine. I just wanted to cancel the membership and reimburse you, but she kept pushing her luck. She embarrassed herself."

Lauren said, "Atlas gave you that Diamond card. I just borrowed your limelight."

"Wait, how does this situation involve him? Why don't I know about it?" I asked in surprise. I didn't expect

Atlas to be the source of the Diamond card.

“It was when you two lost contact. During the holidays, I went with Lauren whispered a name, and I nodded in silent understanding

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met with Atlas and took me along. They discussed financing, and Atlas gave me these two cards. Of course, I knew his intentions. After all, he would’ve just given me one card if it were just for me. Lauren

shrugged. “He’s pretty considerate of you.”

“You’re perceptive,” I teased, “No wonder that chatty receptionist said they’d have to close down if they canceled our membership.”

“Of course! Don’t forget, their shop is within Arkadia Plaza, which belongs to Atlas. He wouldn’t let it slide if people were bullying his woman,” Lauren explained.

I knew she also enjoyed being special to someone. She continued, “I guess my life is as comfortable as you said ”

Immediately after, Lauren sighed, “There was a time I hoped for faithful and enduring love, but I didn’t keep that faith. I’ve accepted being without it.”

“You’re still young, so stop speaking so pessimistically,” I said, holding her arm as we walked.

Lauren chuckled and replied indifferently, “You silly girl! I’m different from you since I’ve already

established my reputation.”

So you’re okay with continuing with that guy without a title?” I asked, thinking about that person’s face.

## Chapter 277 Foswood’s Woman in Power

I had never met Lauren’s date but was familiar with his appearance. Still, I wasn’t the only one. Most in Foswood should be familiar with him because he was always on TV. It was easy to search for someone online now, not to mention someone famous.

Lauren continued as we entered my car, “He has been considerate toward me, and I’m content. People should be grateful for what they have. We distanced ourselves from each other after the incident with

Matthew.

“Soon after, we realized we couldn’t live without each other. Even though we get what we need, perhaps.

this is how our relationship is supposed to be.”

I felt guilty when she mentioned her situation with Matthew. Her reputation would’ve remained intact if I didn’t meddle. Still, I never expected Lauren and I to be so close.

“Indeed, it’s rare that he’s loyal to you, but...” I began.

“It’s okay this way. If love were to last long, it wouldn’t be interesting. Haha! Plus, it’s better not to be together constantly. Otherwise, the relationship loses its charm, Lauren shared her perspective candidly.

We chuckled, and she looked at me, saying, “Atlas differs from him. Men come in different grades, and Atlas is at the top. Don’t listen to Ivanna’s nonsense. You’re not someone who settles for an ordinary life.”

“What kind of person am I, then?” I asked casually.

“You’re a successful woman. That’s why Ryan isn’t a suitable match for you. Only someone like Atlas can’t

be beside you!” Lauren declared.

I glanced sidelong at her and couldn’t help but laugh. “I didn’t think you’d have such a high opinion of me.

What made you think I’m successful?

“Haha! I’ve met countless people and can see through them at a glance!” Lauren confidently patted her chest and said, “Although you may encounter some obstacles in your relationship with him, it’ll work out

in the end.

Have you become half-immortal or something? Did God possess you?” I teased.

Do you know why I said that?” she asked.

share a common trait. You both have clear goals!”

I didn’t understand what Lauren meant by ‘clear goals,’ but I had always wondered why Atlas chose me

“By the way, do you know Mia Morgan?” I suddenly remembered that cold and distant woman.

“Mia Morgan?” Lauren looked at me, slightly surprised. “How do you know her?”

“She was at the spa yesterday and even took my side against Liora,” I said. “She was cold and unrelenting

“Oh! She’s Arthur Morgan’s daughter!” Lauren answered with certainty.

I was stunned. “Mia is Arthur’s daughter? He’s a big shot in Foswood. No wonder she’s so arrogant. But it

seems like Liora doesn’t know her.”

Lauren, the celebrity encyclopedia, said, “Who do you think Liora is? Besides, Mia is pretty discreet.”

“So that’s why she sat among the crowd unassumingly. I didn’t realize she was such a big deal.” I was genuinely impressed.

“Oh, what’s this fragrance in your car?” Lauren suddenly asked, even deliberately sniffing it several times.

“It was a gift from Stella for the New Year,” I replied. Lauren took it, sniffed it, and commented, “It smells like essential oils. It doesn’t smell like ordinary car air freshener, but the scent is lovely.”

“You can have it if you like it that much,” I casually offered,

“Don’t... It was a gift for you. You can’t just give it to someone else,” Lauren said, putting it back.

Soon after, we arrived at Ivanna’s company building. I called her, then we went to Crispy Crust. Surprisingly, the food there was fantastic.

Ivanna complained about Harmony during the meal, saying she behaved arrogantly and insisted on taking

leave to visit Jitador,

“She’s lost her mind Ivanna exclaimed, “Her irresponsibility is harming the company and me. We had Tready set the schedules, yet she canceled them. That’s a breach of contract. Why does she want to

ruin

everything for herself?!”

knew Ivanna was upset. Suddenly, she turned to me and said, “Did you know she’ll be your neighbor

Chapter 278 Go All Out Against Her

Ivanna’s question surprised me. I looked at her in disbelief and asked, “What do you mean? Is she moving to Amethyst Apartments?”

Not only that—she’s also staying in the villa zone in your area! It should be pretty close to your place,” Ivanna said, frustrated, “The company has been too nice to her!”

Hearing that made me uncomfortable. I had a strange feeling I might have conflicts with Harmony. Although she and I looked similar, I felt uneasy when I first saw her. I couldn’t help but wonder if Ivanna’s impression of her had influenced my feelings.

Still, I knew others couldn’t influence me so easily. However, seeing Annalise’s photo gave me a sense of familiarity.

Lauren interrupted Ivanna, saying, “I thought we came here for a relaxing meal. Can we change the subject? Talking about Harmony affects my appetite.”



I obliged and said, "Hey, guess what? Melanie gave birth."

"What?!" Ivanna exclaimed. I succeeded in shifting her attention.

"Is it time already?" she asked, wide-eyed.

I casually replied, "It was a premature birth by cesarean section."

"How do you know?" Lauren also became interested. After all, we were familiar with Matthew and Melanie. Mentioning them always riled us up. Nonetheless, I explained what had happened in detail.

"I can't believe it!" Ivanna slammed her spoon on the table. "I knew it wasn't that simple!"

I found the surveillance footage Johnson had sent me on my phone and showed it to them. Lauren and

Ivanna were furious.

Well. Matthew finally has a son this time. Hopefully, he'll simmer down now," Ivanna said, "It's good as long as he bothers you less

Hahaha Who knows if the child is even his? Not to be rude, but that kid could belong to someone else.

ing Melanie's behavior, Lauren expressed her disdain, "She's capable of anything."

Hey, you and I are on the same page. I suspected she was involved in various shady things. meeting her at the bar I knew she was somewhat involved with the man she

"Hahaha, maybe it's their family tradition. His mom raises kids for other men, and Matthew takes over!" Ivanna couldn't help but burst into laughter.

I echoed her laughter, saying “It’ll come to light sooner or later.”

“It’s good that she’s given birth. Now, we can retaliate if she dares to mess with us again. She’s not the only one who can be evil. We shouldn’t show people like her mercy!” Ivanna spoke passionately. “Don’t

forget what I told you.”

I wiped the corners of my mouth, unable to contain my laughter.

Lauren added, “She’s right. We’ll make Melanie tremble in fear and regret ever crossing you!

Ivanna continued, “Don’t be soft–hearted at times like these, Chlo. She’s a homewrecker, hurt your daughter, and assaulted you! We won’t let her do what she pleases

The three of us brimmed with determination. After the meal, we headed to my car, and I prepared to send Ivanna back to her company. However, Lauren needed to use the restroom first, so I had to wait by the

car with Ivanna.

We chatted while waiting for Lauren to return. Unexpectedly, I saw the well–dressed Harmony leaving the building with her assistant. Although I had only seen Harmony once, I quickly recognized her because of

her familiar features.

She saw Ivanna and me standing outside and glanced at us with disinterest. Harmony and I stared at each other silently. We had nothing to say to each other. Unexpectedly, she approached us.

Ivanna and I watched, but Harmony focused on my face. When she reached me, she arrogantly asked, “Are you Chloe Hartz?”

## Chapter 279 Watching by the Sidelines

I glanced at Ivanna in puzzlement. After all, I had never interacted with Harmony before, yet she knew my name. I knew Ivanna was equally surprised.

“Yes, I am,” I replied confidently.

Harmony smiled faintly. “Someone kept telling me that someone looks similar to me. I didn’t expect us to

have a resemblance.”

I immediately realized what she was referring to. Something told me she had met someone inside the restaurant.

“Ms. Harmony, may I ask how old you are?” I calmly inquired.

She hesitated momentarily. Her eyes turned cold as she asked in annoyance, “Why?”

“Oh, don’t overthink it. I’m not interested in your private life. I just want to know who’s older between us,” I continued smilingly, “I assume you’re younger because of your beauty and charm.”

“I think so, too,” she replied firmly.

“Then, it’s true that you look like me,” I contradicted her earlier statement, “I’m the original, after all.” I discreetly scoffed at the idea that I resembled her.

Lauren returned from the restroom and saw Harmony standing before me. The former glanced at me and cleverly exclaimed, “Oh, my! Chlo, she does look a lot like you!”

Harmony seemed displeased.

“Who told you we look alike, Ms. Harmony? That person must have poor eyesight. I don’t have your beauty at all,” I said, wanting to confirm my suspicions about her meeting someone.

“My boyfriend’s cousin said so,” Harmony spoke arrogantly.

I smiled and nodded. “I don’t think so. You’re you, and I’m me. People shouldn’t compare us to each

other

agree Harmony contradicted her earlier statement.

our boyfrien~~de~~ cousin must have poor sight,” I commented honestly. “If you have the chance, tell

Joked at Lan and naked, “Shall we go?”

“Sure.” Lauren turned to Ivanna. “You should deal with those little vixens back at your company. We’re leaving. Make sure to manage them well and not let them cause trouble.”

I couldn’t help but chuckle at Lauren’s blunt remarks.

Meanwhile, Harmony was unhappy, perhaps from being embarrassed for the first time. She glared at me as I entered my car and honked the horn, waving goodbye to Ivanna.

Lauren joined me in the car, and I told her, “This Harmony is not likable!”

“Maybe she’s just eager to become her boyfriend’s girlfriend!” I added with a laugh. However, I wondered about Atlas. I didn’t expect him to be someone’s “boyfriend.” I needed to ask him whose “boyfriend” he

was.

\*Stella seems cunning.” Lauren commented frankly, “Is she trying to sow discord between us?”

“Exactly,” I didn’t deny it, “It’s Stella’s favorite tactic. I feel she might’ve done something to ruin the relationship between me and Liora. Otherwise, Liora wouldn’t be so distant.”

“Ivanna’s right. This small incident shows Harmony is playing with fire and will eventually burn herself,”

Lauren said disdainfully.

I couldn’t help but snort. I smiled teasingly, saying, “No one can save Harmony from burning herself. Stella wants to watch the chaos from the sidelines, so let’s give her what she wants.”

Lauren narrowed her eyes at me. “What do you have in mind?”

I raised an eyebrow at her. “A magician never reveals their secrets.”

Chapter 280 Feels Like Forever

Lauren looked at me and asked, “If you have a plan, don’t forget to tell me. I want to watch the show.

when the time comes.”

“Of course!” I said proudly.

When we arrived at my company, Lauren drove her car off. I checked the time and realized it was still too early to clock out. I chuckled at myself for being too eager. Strangely, it felt like forever since I last saw

Atlas.

No matter how impatient I was, I could only head upstairs and continue working. The afternoon felt like an eternity, making me restless. Unfortunately, I didn't have much work to do that afternoon to pass the

time.

hurrying to Pleca Park, Finally, the end of the workday arrived. I happily packed my things and left. I was and the scent in my car was pleasant. It even lifted my spirits. I wished my car had wings to fly there, especially during rush hour.

I felt a sudden weakness in my legs, perhaps due to excitement. I looked at the time and realized it was getting late. I wondered if Atlas had already reached home.

While waiting for the lights to turn green, I impatiently picked up my phone and called Atlas. I wanted to tell him I would arrive soon, but the call rang several times without an answer.

I ended the call when the lights changed. Then, Atlas returned my call. I felt relieved and quickly answered, "Atlas, I'm on the way. I should be there soon."

I sounded eager and tender, showing the longing I felt all afternoon.

Chloe?" Suddenly, a woman's voice came through the phone. I widened my eyes in shock and pressed the phone to my ear to ensure I hadn't misheard.

"W-Who is this?" I panicked a bit and replied with a question.

Chipe, you can't even recognize my voice now? It must've been a while since we last saw each other

voice on the phone sounded eerie, and I quickly realized who it was

massives before finally asking, "Oh, Me Stalia, whara's Mr. Allent

I felt a chill run down my spine. My heart pounded as I sweated profusely. Stella mentioned the shower and getting out of bed, which caused my mind to race.

"Oh, no need. I don't want to disturb him," I clenched my jaw. I tried sounding calm, but my hands shook, and sweat dripped from my forehead.

\*Don't be like that. Atlas, there's a call for you!" Stella suddenly raised her voice.

was about to hang up when I heard a familiar voice asking. "Who is it?"

Immediately after, I hung up. My heart sank, and I felt an overwhelming coldness. I couldn't help but panic as I gripped the steering wheel to get out of the traffic. Fortunately, there was a gap between the cars.

I swerved into another lane and slammed the gas, desperately wanting to escape the suffocating traffic. My legs felt weak as I headed to another road. I felt exhausted and could hardly breathe.

Suddenly, a truck sped toward my car, and I heard brakes screeching. So, I stepped on the gas as hard as possible. A moment later, I could only see a blinding whiteness around me. I struggled to breathe and

shook uncontrollably.

Meanwhile, I seemed to hear my phone ringing. Immediately after, my vision faded.