

## **The Divorce 371**

### Chapter 371 Clarity

Harmony saw me laughing and asked, "What are you laughing at?"

"I'm laughing because you're too self-absorbed. I suggest you pay attention to others for a change. As for the rooftop incident, I wouldn't dwell on it.

"The press conference made things pretty clear. You should read those reports if you don't understand. As for my feelings for Atlas, I just have one question for you. How does Atlas treat you?"

I intentionally asked this question, knowing Harmony would think I was prying into

her lif

life.

Sure enough, her eyes narrowed. "That is between me and him. I'm asking about your thoughts, so don't

deflect the conversation."

I studied her, feeling some regret. How could such a lovely face be paired with such a closed-off mind?

"You're always seeking my opinion and information. It shows a lack of confidence on your part."

I used provocative language because this dimwit couldn't resist a challenge.

"What confidence do I lack? I mean, let's be real. The online haters have a point. Can you honestly picture

I

yourself with Atlas?”

Harmony was nervous but eager to put me down.

“It depends on the competition. If he’s into someone like you, it shows his taste isn’t that great,” I replied.

So why shouldn’t I get a shot? Just because I have a history and a daughter?”

“Have some self-awareness, Chloe,” she said disdainfully. Who are you to even ask me? Saving me doesn’t make me obligated to be nice to you.”

“Don’t assume that I’m done just because I saved you. Look, I would’ve done the same for anyone. I asked you that because only then can I respond to your question.”

She grew irritated and said, “Don’t dodge my question. What’s that got to do with anything I asked?”

Her attitude made me smile again.

“Of course it’s related. If Atlas is serious about you, you don’t need to worry about how I feel,” I pointed out. “He won’t care about my existence if he’s completely focused on you.”

Harmony looked at me without rebutting.

“But if he’s just playing around with you and keeping things superficial, then he could be interested in

My words made Harmony uneasy.

“If you truly like him, you shouldn’t concern yourself with how others feel about him. Can you manage that? I glanced at her. “With a guy like him, women will always flock to him left and right. I’m not the

only one.

So, focus on your own chase.”

I never wanted to hold back with Harmony. Her head had to be filled with nonsense.

“Besides, Atlas is already by your side. You should use every trick in your book to keep him rather than wasting your energy on others.”

I genuinely admire myself. Somehow, I had gained such clarity.

“So, quit coming to me with these silly questions. Whether I’m interested in him is none of your business. I

don’t think either of us has any real influence over him.”

I felt like I’d gained some profound insight. My words were a way of reasoning with Harmony, but they also clarified my thoughts.

Harmony was always looking for answers, which showed that Atlas’s feelings for her were more

complicated than they appeared. Harmony struggled to understand this, prompting her to seek answers.

Like her, I always wanted to understand Atlas's feelings toward Annalise.

"But why do people say that you keep pestering Atlas?"

"Did you see me pestering him?" I asked her seriously.

My question left Harmony speechless. At the same time, I questioned why I should let go.

Chapter 372 Tongue-Tied

The idea briefly crossed my mind, but I quickly pushed it away. I couldn't shake the image of him pulling Harmony away from the fight in front of me.

I reminded myself to forget all the passionate moments we'd shared. None of it compared to his complete indifference that night.

It was ridiculous. Atlas claimed to love me, yet he didn't even ask if I was hurt. He just calmly left, holding another woman. I refused to be as heartless as he was.

"Do you still fail to see the big picture here? Using your fans to target me, then blaming you once the truth came out. Did the people you mentioned suffer any real consequences?"

I continued, "Imagine if I hadn't rescued you when the stage collapsed. It could have been you in that hospital bed, not me."

Harmony paled, and her gaze grew more complex.

"You even chastised me. I regret saving you up that day! This mess might not have happened if I had stepped back and just watched. At the very least, I wouldn't have hurt myself. I could have stayed out of it!"

“But those were my fans acting on their own. What does it have to do with me?” Harmony defended herself boldly.

I stared at her. “I want you to reflect on how you felt when your fans lashed out at me. Think about it.”

Her mouth twitched, and she looked away.

“Reflect on it! Don’t think that only the police investigate the truth. My people are just as capable! Once we sort this out, you won’t escape the blame!”

Suddenly, a spark of excitement surged through me. I wondered how he would react if it were me.lying there that night.

Harmony appeared cornered, searching for words. “How was I supposed to know you were trying to help me? The server made it clear that someone was waiting on the roof for me. When you rushed toward me,

how could I have known you were trying to save me?”

“I had already told you I hadn’t called you up there, and I was also told to go to the roof. Did you believe me? Even now, you can’t let go of this. You really are a stubborn pig.

Let me make this clear, Harmony. It’s not about my feelings for Atlas. It’s about you being manipulated!

“All these troublemakers won’t leave me alone. They’re trying to stir up chaos and enjoy the spectacle. They want to hurt both of us, not just me. Don’t you get it? If you don’t, ask Atlas. Ask him if I hold a place in his heart! Ask him who set this trap!”

She only asked, “Chloe, have you offended someone recently?”

I rolled my eyes and sighed in frustration. “I’ve offended so many people. Which one are you

asking about?”

Harmony looked at me, puzzled. “Then why are so many people criticizing you? Don’t you think you should

reflect on yourself?”

Suddenly, I laughed. “Harmony, you’ve been following the online backlash closely. But you’re focused on

the criticism, aren’t you? After enduring so much criticism, I’m used to it. It comes from people with

hidden agendas. You’ll realize that, eventually.”

‘Chloe, this is-’

“That’s enough!” I interrupted her.

Just then, a tall figure appeared in the doorway. He entered with a calm and collected demeanor. I

observed him closely, feeling a twinge of annoyance. His eyes remained fixed on me.

I couldn’t help but let out a bitter laugh.

As Harmony turned to leave, she spotted Atlas entering. Her smile immediately lit up, and she rushed to him, taking his arm.

“Atlas! What brings you here?”

His gaze was still on me as he replied casually, “Work. And then I saw you here.”

I couldn’t believe it. He had come to my ward for business matters.

“Well, perfect! Mr. Atlas, please take your girlfriend and leave. She’s been disturbing my rest.” My tone was not at all friendly.

Then, I reclined back on the bed. “Don’t forget to close the door on your way

Chapter 373 Extremely Disappointed

I shut my eyes, not wanting to face him right now.

Then, I heard a low voice addressing Harmony. “You go ahead. I need to talk to Ms. Chloe.”

“Okay!” Harmony obediently replied, and the rhythmic tap of high heels receded as she left.

The next moment, I felt that gaze drawing closer, as if I could almost sense his presence.

“Is your foot okay?”

I didn’t open my eyes and said nonchalantly, “I’m not sure what okay means.”

“Is it s

I still hurting?” His voice was gentle and slightly hoarse. As he spoke, he reached for my foot.

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“Don’t touch me. Get your hands I up abruptly and glared at his sinfully handsome face. “Keep

her away from me and tell her not to be so foolish! Honestly, the pain in my foot is more bearable than

seeing you two together!”

His hand hung in mid-air, and his eyes had a strange look. However, his gaze never wavered from me,

making me feel restless.

“Mr. Atlas, do you have anything else to say?” I met his gaze head-on and asked, “Thank you for providing

the information and the bodyguards. But I don’t need these futile attempts to fix things. I only need the

truth.

“If you see me as a pawn, your game already has a winner. Your matter has been resolved, and you’ve ensured my safety. Now, I ask you to be generous and let me go.”

“She’s not the key.”



Atlas's words stunned me. My heartache was overwhelming, and I clutched the bedsheets tightly.

We both knew who "she" referred to. He confirmed all my suspicions in that instant. If Stella wasn't the key, who was?

Did he think he had won by pushing me to the brink? Did he expect her to retaliate? He knew the risks of keeping a potential threat, yet he still did it.

I stared at him blankly. This was his answer to me.

After a month of torment and worrying about his safety every moment, he deceived me. All the uncertainty of his life and my sleepless nights of yearning culminated in this.

What was I to him? I thought I was just a pawn, but his few words made me realize I wasn't even that.. Suddenly, I felt so powerless.

"Get out." My voice was small, barely audible.

Just then, Ryan strode in. "Chlo!"

"Ryan, get him out." I weakly pointed at Atlas, who was still standing by my bedside.

Ryan calmly said, "Mr. Atlas, you can leave now. Please don't disturb her."

Atlas's eyes grew darker, but I found it increasingly difficult to read him.

I grabbed the edge of the bed with all my strength and screamed, "Leave!"

Atlas's fist clenched suddenly, his veins popping out. He looked at me with restraint and said coldly,

Take care of yourself."

Then he turned and walked out.

I swayed unsteadily, and Ryan quickly reached out to support me. "Don't get worked up. Everything will be

fine when we go back tomorrow."

I looked up at him and asked, "Can we go home? Please handle the paperwork tomorrow!"

Ryan nodded. "Alright! Let's go home!"

He found my clothes and handed them to me. Then, he helped me put on my shoes, pulled me up by the

hand, and asked, "Are you okay?"

"I'm good!" I grinned.

Then, as I walked out of the hospital, I tossed the things I had brought into the trash.

"Ryan, I want stew!"

"Sure! We'll have stew when we get home!"

Holding my hand, he matched his steps with mine as we walked out together.

## Chapter 374 Like Mother, Like Son

As I was leaving the hospital lobby, I spotted Melanie entering, cradling a child. Walking beside her was a woman, heavily made-up and dressed provocatively. She must be Melanie's recently reconnected

mother, Abby.

My gaze swept over her, thinking that Abby had successfully re-entered Melanie's life. I could not help but sigh. After all, nothing beats a mother's love.

This time, Grace is in for a rough ride. I wanted to ignore them, but Melanie had already spotted me.

"Chloe!" She immediately called out in anger then swiftly walked toward me.

It's been

n over a

a month since the party, and this was my first time seeing her. I had heard from Johnson that Abby had been hospitalized after a brutal beating from Melanie. It seemed like she had recovered.

I stopped in my tracks but was too tired to muster any attitude toward her. I calmly asked, "What do you

want?"

"You live life to the fullest, huh?" Her small eyes looked at Ryan as she spoke sarcastically. "Every day is like a soap opera with you. You change men like you change clothes! You found a new lover, have you?"

She actually knew Ryan, and her snide tone was meant to provoke me.

“Yeah,” I casually replied. She was only looking for trouble, and I did not want to deal with her.

Suddenly, her temper flared up. “Hah... How shameless. You’re so quick to admit it as well!”

Her loud outburst immediately drew the crowd’s attention in the hospital lobby.

“Don’t waste your energy here. Save some energy for your child.” I said, glancing at the child in her arms.

This was the first time I had seen this child. He had fair skin and looked slightly over three months old. He resembled Melanie a lot. People say sons take after their mothers, and I believed it.

However, this child had small eyes and a big mouth. Perhaps because of premature birth, his head was bald with sparse hair. He wasn’t very cute, no matter how I looked at him.

Startled by his mother’s loud voice, he opened his eyes wide, his mouth forming a slight pout.

Abby glared at me, readying herself for a confrontation.

“Who is this?” She asked Melanie while tilting her head.

\*Matthew’s ex-wife!” Melanie said, then shot a nasty look at me. “Why didn’t those people hit you hard

“If a shameless mistress like you lives the high life, why should I be worried?” With that, I grabbed Ryan and walked away.

However, it seemed like Melanie was in for a brawl.

She threw her child to her mother and chased after me. Grabbing my arm, she asked, "What's wrong? Are you scared? You made me give birth prematurely, yet you're still talking big?"

This sentence attracted those who were paying attention, and they immediately stopped to watch.

"For your information, I have the video on my phone. Do you want everyone to see how you caused your from now child to be born prematurely?" I gave my phone a little shake. "Can we just act like strangers

on? Can't you understand that?"

"Understand? You tricked us out of our property and lived in our apartment. You shameless

homewrecker!" She screamed, her eyes narrowing at me like a snake.

I knew Melanie had been resentful for a while. Since Matthew had bought the house for her, she thought

everything should have been hers. Things went wrong beyond her expectations.

ve forgotten

"Have you ever heard of a legal wife stealing property? you're the other woman, haven't you?" I looked at her calmly. "Don't be too greedy. You already have the man, so stop shamelessly bringing up your disgraceful past!"

I didn't mince words, aiming straight for her soft spot.

"You shameless harlot! What are you saying? How dare you insult my daughter?" Abby was itching for at fight and couldn't pass up such an excellent opportunity to show off.

Ignoring the child in her arms, she surged forward, heading straight for me.

#### Chapter 375 Going Berserk With a Child in Her Arms

Abby's aggressiveness shocked the onlookers, especially considering she was holding a child. Her irresponsibility made everyone break out in cold sweat.

The child, destined for a fiery spirit, didn't cry. He wore an annoyed expression instead.

Meanwhile, Melanie made no effort to stop her mother. She watched with smug satisfaction.

Ryan quickly pulled me behind him, roaring angrily, "I dare you to continue!"

His booming shout startled the mother-daughter pair. Abby froze, cradling the child in one arm while the

other formed into a menacing claw.

Onlookers sighed in disbelief. 'She's nuts! Going berserk with a child in her arms!'

"Are all mistresses this brazen these days?"

"These two aren't decent people. Shameless! Not setting a good example for the child!"

Hearing this, Melanie lost her temper. "Do you all even know what's going on? She's the mistress here.

After she had a kid and got divorced, she's now trying to seduce a big shot to marry into wealth. She got

pelted with rotten eggs, didn't you see?"

The humiliating scene from our confrontation had brought Melanie great joy.

Seeing them still gossiping, she grew even more furious. With her hands on her hips, Melanie pointed at the surrounding crowd.

“Stop blabbering! She’s just in it for the money. It’s all over the internet, yet she acts like nothing happened. Now she’s seducing this guy. Who knows why they came to the hospital?!”

The people fell silent, their gazes shifting toward me and then to Ryan. Ryan, a true gentleman, had never

met such a rude shrew before. Seeing everyone looking at him, Ryan paled.

My pent-up rage was fueled by days of annoyance.

I needed an outlet badly. She not only accused me, but she also wanted to make Ryan look bad in public.

I could take it no longer.

Before I could respond, someone spoke up on my behalf.

“Madam, why are you spreading false rumors? The authorities have already debunked the online gossip. It had nothing to do with this lady. To bring it up again is rather unkind.”

I turned my head towards the person speaking in the crowd. He was a burly man with prominent features, dressed in a multi-pocketed vest. Seeing his outfit, I remembered him. He was one of the journalists at my doorstep before.

When I announced the press conference, I recalled he was the first to disperse everyone. I remembered

his name—Noel!

I nodded slightly, with my eyes full of thanks. Melanie was far from one to defuse a situation.

When she saw the crowd was on my side, she quickly said, “Oh my... I didn’t realize Chloe had so many followers. Men are rallying to defend her everywhere! It looks like you haven’t been short on connections!”

Noel’s face turned red. “This is pure nonsense!”

“You should stop, Melanie. Do something useful now that you have a kid. Don’t set a poor example for your child and fill your mouth with garbage.”

“Stop acting all high and mighty. Don’t forget how Matthew dumped you. It was because he couldn’t stand your pretentiousness every day. What? You have a gang of men to bully people now?” She kept hurling

insults at me.

The onlookers frowned at Melanie’s unruly behavior.

Ryan had clenched his fists tightly. Facing such an unreasonable and aggressive woman, anyone would be pushed to their limits. I was already accustomed to their tactics.

I grabbed Ryan’s hand and smiled at the onlookers. “Let’s all disperse! Don’t let this irrationality delay



what's important. She causes a scene because she gets happier with attention. Let's go!"

Then I pulled Ryan along.

Little did I know, Abby screamed again, "You cheap tramp! You think you can just walk away after causing trouble?"

She lunged toward me once more. This time, I was positioned on the outer side of Ryan, directly facing Abby.

Abby screeched, and she was in front of me in an instant.

Ryan tried to pull me away, but it was too late. Abby reached out to me with surprising speed.

Instinctively, I pushed her away, trying to fend off her attack. However, what happened next was beyond anyone's expectations.

Chapter 376 Saving the Baby

Abby spun out of control momentarily after I blocked her arm. As a result, the baby slipped from her grasp.

The crowd exclaimed in shock, "Oh no, the baby!"

I instinctively lunged forward to catch the baby. My only thought was to ensure the baby's safety.

As I caught the baby, I twisted my body to protect him from the impact. I didn't want to fall on him either. However, I exerted too much force and fell backward with a dull thud. A searing pain shot up my arm, and

my head collided with the ground.

I clutched the baby to my chest, feeling pain throughout my body. Everything had transpired so quickly

that I barely had time to react. Soon, I heard Melanie scream, "My son!"

"Chlo!" Ryan was the first to kneel before me. "Chlo..."

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The baby in my arms began to cry, prompting Melanie to snatch him from me. The onlookers gathered.

around me, expressing their relief and concern.

"Thank God the baby's fine! That was too close!"

"It would've been dangerous if the baby fell. Those two owe it to this lady."

"Are you injured? You fell pretty hard."

They chattered nervously, craning their necks to check on me. The pain in my arm became unbearable, as

I lay on the ground. Ryan looked at me in distress, unsure of what to do. He hesitated to move me, asking,

"Chlo, are you okay?"

"Are you injured? The fall was pretty heavy—you must've gotten hurt," Someone nearby expressed

concern, "Let's not move her just yet. Take it easy."

"Hurry, call a doctor!"

I took a deep breath, feeling a bit uncertain. I looked at Ryan, mustering a weak smile. "I-

"Quit acting tough. My mother wouldn't have dropped my son if you didn't push her," Melanie spoke

without gratitude.

Her words angered everyone around. "What the hell are you saying? You're heartless!"

"We saw everything. Don't you have a conscience? I can't believe you're saying that!"

"You provoked them. Who knows what would've happened if that lady hadn't risked her life to save your

"What were you thinking, trying to hit someone while holding a baby?"

I felt a sharp pain in my right arm, familiar with what I had experienced last time. Frustrated, I closed my

eyes and told Ryan, "Help me up. My arm doesn't feel right..."

"Is v

your leg okay? You just recovered, and it's all my fault..." He looked guilty and even had tears in his

eyes. It was the first time I had seen a man care so much. It touched my heart.

Noel, who had been nearby, crouched and asked, “Ms. Chloe, are you okay?”

“My arm doesn’t feel right, but my leg is fine,” I replied softly.

While everyone tended to me, Melanie tugged at her mother and attempted to leave.

Someone spotted them and shouted, “Hey, where are you two going?! She got injured while saving your baby, and you still have the nerve to walk away?”

“My goodness, what kind of people are they?”

As Ryan and Noel helped me, I said to everyone, “Let them go.”

I didn’t want to see those two anymore. After all, everyone witnessed what had happened. There was no

point in arguing. Upon hearing my stance, the crowd yelled at the two, “You’d better leave!”

“Who told her to act like a bitch?” Abby said indignantly.

Noel pointed at Melanie and Abby. “If I weren’t a man, I’d slap you both. You’ll pay for this! Everyone saw what happened.” He waved his assistant over. Come here.”

Chapter 377 How Unlucky

Everyone was too focused on me to realize Noel’s assistant had recorded everything Noel told Melanie,

I’ll show you what a lack of conscience looks like. I’m a journalist, and I’ve recorded everything you just

did. IT! ensure everyone sees your true colors.”

The crowd roared in agreement. “Expose them! They’re ugly on the outside and even uglier on the inside!”

Noel organized the onlookers, saying, “Let’s question them now to prevent them from twisting the truth!”

Melanie dared not utter another word and quickly left with Abby. The two were humiliated by the crowd’s

condemnation. Those who had gathered continued to chastise them.

Ryan looked pained as he said, “Let me take you to a doctor. Try moving to see if you feel discomfort

anywhere

Indeed, my arm hurt. With Ryan’s support, I moved my legs and felt fine. Soon after, I held my arm and

went to a doctor under everyone’s care. When the test results came out, I felt like the most unlucky

person in the world.

I had a minor fracture in my forearm from saving the baby. I couldn’t help but jest about my situation. I

hadn’t even been discharged yet and was back in the hospital again. Still, Noel recorded everything that

had happened.

I felt luck was not on my side as the nurses returned me to my ward after having my arm cast. I was

about to go home but somehow couldn't leave.

Noel asked me, "Why did you take such a risk?"

I smiled, "I am a mother, and that was a baby. How could I let the baby fall? He was so small."

"But the baby was the son of someone you had a feud with, right? They were cursing you so harshly."

"I didn't overthink it. It doesn't matter who the other person is because the baby's innocent." That was my

perspective genuine perspective. "If I put myself in their shoes, I would've felt terrible if my baby had fallen."

"But you're severely injured because of that. Do you have any regrets?" Noel's question was intriguing, but

I found it somewhat childish. I couldn't help but laugh.

"Why would I? My pain is nothing compared to what the baby would've suffered. He's so young and still unable to express himself. How could I let him experience such pain? I'd do the same again if needed.

I'm an adult and a mother. There's no other choice for me," I answered confidently, not realizing he was

I didn't feel too bad about my injuries, but Ryan was remorseful. He couldn't bear to see me get hurt right, especially considering I was about to be discharged.

After seeing Noel and the onlookers who had helped us off, Ryan was regretful as he said, “Chlo, it’s all my fault.”

I smiled and looked at his gloomy face. “Why are you blaming yourself? It was Melanie’s fault. She’s aggressive and impossible to guard against. It’s all my fault for wanting to go home. Otherwise, we wouldn’t have run into that madwoman.”

I patted his shoulder and said, “Don’t overthink it. Maybe this is my tribulation. Perhaps my life will improve after everything I’ve suffered.”

\*I feel so sorry for you. How could you encounter such a family? I should’ve been more resolute and confessed my feelings to you before Matthew did. I...” Ryan held my hand, “Chlo, can you give me a chance to care for you?”

I chuckled, but my heart ached. I intentionally teased Ryan, “I ended up like this from you caring for me.”

He blushed instantly, looking pained. “I... well, I...”

Since he took my words seriously, I continued, “It’s not your fault. These are the disasters destined for me. I didn’t have many thoughts when I chose Matthew. I just found him attractive and considerate of me. No one expected him to be a cheater.”

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Ryan held my hand tightly. "If I had been braver and confessed to you back then, would you have.

considered me?"

His palm was sweaty as he looked at me nervously.

Chapter 378 Her Internal Struggles

I looked at Ryan and knew he had waited for me for too long. I found it hard to answer his question.

because I didn't want to hurt him.

I considered how we were during college and remembered him caring for me when I returned home during my freshman year. Ryan was always attentive, yet he kept a distance and never crossed

boundaries.

So, I only saw him as an elder brother from the neighborhood.

"Perhaps I would have," I answered honestly. "You never gave me the chance to consider things in that

direction."

Ryan tightened his grip on my hand. He looked conflicted with pain, regret, and longing. He was brave this

time, asking, "What about now? I'll do my best to care for you and Ava."

His words made it hard for me to remain serious, I knew he was earnest, but I couldn't help but chuckle."



Ryan, you're too funny. You..."

When I saw his anxious gaze, I quickly adjusted my tone. I realized I was too light-hearted and even disrespectful. I composed myself and said thoughtfully, "I know you're serious and will do an excellent job

at that.

"Today's incident isn't your fault. I know you treat me well and have feelings for me. Please give me some

time."

"Really?" Suddenly, Ryan looked determined. "I will try my best. Thank you for giving me a chance!"

I felt speechless. I didn't mean to start a relationship with Ryan but rather to try and get closer. It seemed like I hadn't made myself clear. I would try it since I couldn't take back what I had said. I said softly, "But

I

I

let's not force anything, okay?"

He tightened his grip again like he feared I might take back my words. "Chlo, you're everything to me. I regret being indecisive. You wouldn't have suffered with Matthew if I had been braver back then."

I said, "This is my fate. The Murphys are dysfunctional. Melanie harbors deep hatred toward me. To her,

I'm the one who took away her brother and fortune."

I continued to analyze Melanie's mindset, "I was too compliant with Matthew. The Murphys think I took everything from them, so Melanie is aggressive toward me. They were heartless to me just now, but I

didn't want to be like them.

"The baby was Innocent, and saving him was my motherly Instinct. Let's hope Ava will get good karma

"But I was with you and could only watch you get hurt," Ryan continued to blame himself. He said affectionately, "Take better care of yourself next time. Do you still want stew? Let me take you."

I chuckled, "All that happened because I wanted some stew. We wouldn't have bumped into them if I had

stayed here."

Ryan was determined to take me. "Should I get your parents first? Then, we can find a nearby stew place.

together."

I nodded. "Okay, I'll nap while you pick my parents and Ava up."

"Sure." Ryan squeezed my hand before finally leaving the hospital.

I looked at my injured arm. Although the pain had subsided after applying the medication, there was still a lingering discomfort. Suddenly, I became emotional. I could only see Atlas standing before me with Atlas's deep eyes that sent a chill down my spine.

I always got hurt whenever he was around. Only I knew my composure wouldn't waver before him. My suppressed longing had caused his indifference. No matter his reasons, it couldn't compensate for my disappointment. I only watch him walk away with another woman. I wasn't even worth his glance. I smiled bitterly

I could with these thoughts. Perhaps it was time for me to start a new life.

### Chapter 379 Putting the Plan into Action

I was unsure of my role in Atlas's plans. Given his strategic thinking, my worries were unnecessary. Maybe it was time to find my place in this new situation. Why drag myself into a game of deception? I've had

enough.

By conserving my energy, I could make my parents happy and keep my daughter safe. That was what I wanted. Perhaps Ryan was the most suitable choice in such a life. He was well-mannered, calm, and

focused on Tanum Corporation.

He didn't aim for great wealth but a life of peace and contentment. Moreover, I had taken up much of Ryan's time and couldn't ignore his kindness. I couldn't keep taking from him.

Suddenly, my phone rang. I looked at the caller ID and saw Ivanna's name. When I answered, she ranted,

Chloe, did that lunatic provoke you again?"

I smiled helplessly. "How did you know?."

“It’s all over the internet! Melanie’s a madwoman! You shouldn’t have saved her son. The boy won’t turn out any better with a mother like that. You’re just adding to society’s burden. He’ll be a menace to society.

when he grows up.”

I chuckled, “You’re too harsh. I can’t let a child suffer, especially one so young.”

“You’re just too kind. Melanie’s shameless, yet you still feel sorry for her. She’s been causing trouble since

she was pregnant and still does, even after giving birth.” Ivanna continued to vent her anger, “If I ever see

Matthew, I’ll beat him up!”

“Okay, calm down. The next time-“I tried to calm Ivanna.

“Next time?! How do you feel now? Is it serious?” Ivanna was still upset.

“I fractured my arm, and it’s in a cast,” I reluctantly told her.

“You’re always getting into trouble,” Ivanna said, frustrated and annoyed, “I’ll come over. I had planned to have some fun tomorrow, but you’re in the hospital...”

She hung up, and I smiled helplessly. I couldn’t help but curse Atlas. I wouldn’t have considered going home if it weren’t for his appearance.

I wanted to check my messages, but Lauren and Elanor entered. The latter asked, “Chloe, how did you run. into that moron again?”

I smiled wryly and replied, “Who knows? Ryan was supposed to take me home, but we ran into them in the

“Then why didn’t you beat her up?” Lauren clenched her teeth, frustrated. “What kind of family is that?

They’re so disgusting!”

“I just got an earful from Ivanna,” I said with a helpless smile, “I can’t leave the hospital now.”

Lauren looked at me and said, “I told you not to wait any longer. We should put our plan into action now.

They started their construction, right? I heard they’ll work on it simultaneously.”

I

I collected my thoughts, realizing Lauren was right. Since Stella had returned to Nocturnia, I needed to

bring her back here. After all, it wouldn’t be much fun without her.

Eleanor nodded after hearing Lauren’s words. “Yeah, a friend from Tobshampton Group’s finance.

department called me a few days ago. They said Ardora Construction already provided samples, but their

quoted prices are high.”

My mind raced as I pondered this. I needed to figure out how to approach this situation.

Chapter 380 Getting More Mysterious

Eleanor's information sparked a bold idea. I knew Matthew liked cutting costs because he constantly sought to reduce expenses and increase profits. It was a perfect vulnerability to use against him

I recalled advising him not to focus solely on profits. After all, being consumed by greed would only lead to failure. I remember Matthew scoffing at me, calling women timid and having no foresight.

He even pointed to his head, telling me to use my brain. It seemed he would fall to his doom because of it

I couldn't help but feel delighted with a plan in place.

At that moment, my mom entered with Ava. Upon seeing my arm, my mom's eyes welled with tears. "Your

were just about to leave, but you're in here again. Nothing good ever comes from those two.

Ava approached my bedside and touched my arm "Mommy, does it hurt here? Let me blow on it, and it won't hurt anymore!"

"The Murphys just make me mad! My mom couldn't restrain her anger.

"It doesn't hurt much. It's just a tiny fracture. The doctor said it would heal quickly. Luckily, my bone didn't break." I casually remarked

My dad and Ryan then entered together, both glancing at my arm. "Chloe, the next time you see them, just walk away."

I smiled helplessly, "Where can I hide? It was an accident I wouldn't have gotten injured if I hadn't feared

he baby might fall. The baby is still too young. I couldn't just stand and watch."

Eleanor looked at me approvingly. "Chloe's just too kind. If it were someone else, they wouldn't care their enemy's baby fell."

"But that's not right. The adults have issues, so we can't take it out on the baby. The baby was innocent," my dad added, "We can endure a little suffering, but we must keep a clear conscience."

"The despicable ones face karma." My mom still looked displeased.

Just then, Ivanna barged in. Seeing everyone there, she refrained from adding fuel to the fire. Ryan asked Lauren, "Is there a good stew place nearby?"

Just follow me."

Soon after, we happily headed out for a stew. Even I joked that the price for this meal was a bit hefty. Moreover, my right arm was injured, and Ryan cared for me the whole time.

I only stayed in the hospital for two days before being discharged. After all, I had many matters to handle and couldn't lie in the hospital.

In the aftermath of the banquet incident, I took action against the media. It led to them getting sued. My office had been swamped these days. The bosses of those media outlets sought reconciliation. They even agreed with my high compensation demands.

I thought it was bizarre and joked with Carol that these people had too much money. Still, I felt it had something to do with the authorities. Their conversations implied I had some support and that we should

collaborate more next time.

I

I sneered at it, not even understanding it myself. Later, I discovered my initial thoughts were wrong because I had unexpectedly developed close collaborations with those media outlets. I couldn't do anything if they thought of me a certain way.

Plus, it could benefit me, so I had no reason to shut them out. As a result, I became increasingly mysterious to the public eye. The authorities even punished the troublemakers and internet trolls accordingly.

Still, the banquet incident hadn't subsided yet. My popularity remained high with Noel's heartwarming reports. It attracted numerous journalists who discussed spreading positivity. Soon, I received a call from Atticus before I could thank him for dispatching his bodyguards to protect me.

Therefore, I quickly told Carol to drive me to Vanderberg Palace.

I liked that place, thanks to him. It was peaceful and perfect for discussing things. Plus, it was in the commercial center and easy to reach.

Upon entering the place, the receptionist informed me that Atticus was waiting in the Spring Hall. After expressing my gratitude, I headed toward the second floor.

When I entered after hearing Atticus's response, I saw him and a beautiful woman sitting inside.