

The Divorce 191

Chapter 191 Asshole

Melanie gave me a smug look as I stared at Matthew in disbelief. "He's telling you to get lost. You and that stupid child better stay the fuck away from us!"

glared at Matthew and turned toward the door.

"Chloe!" He called out, but I ignored him and left.

The crowd outside the office quickly dispersed as I approached my car.

I swallowed dryly as I gripped the steering wheel with shaky hands. I had never imagined Matthew could be such a jerk. It was clear that meeting them would always result in humiliation.

My phone kept ringing, but I didn't

pick up. I only answered the call after a while, and a gentle voice came

through, "Why didn't you pick up?"

I broke down in tears.

"What's the matter?" Atlas sounded anxious. "Where are you?"

I wiped my tears and told him about what happened. He said, "Come back. Let's have lunch together."

"Okay." I started my car and left.

During lunch, Atlas handed me a slip of paper. "Contact this guy. He'll take care of it."

Then he stared at me and asked, "Why didn't you tell me about it sooner?"

or him!

"He had the registration form. I had to look for him!"

With a stern look, he said, "And what ended up happening?"

I was stumped. Atlas was right. In the end, I still had to ask for his help.

"Next time, don't deal with assholes like that," he said, glancing at me as he elegantly ate his steak.

I chuckled. Matthew was an asshole, wasn't he? "You're busy, and I shouldn't burden you with every little.

thing. Besides, it should've been a straightforward matter."

"Well, he's still an asshole," he said. "Or do you think your boyfriend is good for nothing?"

I blinked in surprise, struggling to process his words.

He cautioned, "No more next time, okay?"

I was happy he referred to himself as my boyfriend, but I said, "Could you stop being so presumptuous?"

About me being your boyfriend or about the situation?"

I chuckled despite myself.

He smiled. "Just admit it's dumb to look for his help, okay?"

"If I'm dumb, why are you with me? There are plenty of girls eager to be your girlfriend," I retorted.

"Well, they're way dumber than you," he said readily.

I burst into laughter. I guess I was pretty naive after all. Perhaps seeking help from the right person was the key. After dinner, we left the restaurant and unexpectedly ran into the last two people I wanted to see.

They

were entering the premises as we were leaving. Matthew's jaw dropped as he saw that I was holding Atlas's arm. Atlas walked toward him as if not seeing him, and Matthew timidly moved aside.

As we passed each other, the asshole couldn't help but say, "Slut!"

Melanie chimed in, "I told you she was a whore, didn't I?"

Atlas stopped in his path and glared at Matthew. "Have you forgotten your lesson?"

"What are you trying to do?" Matthew took a step back, pulling Melanie along.

Atlas glanced Matthew up and down dismissively. “You’re not worth the effort.”

He then held my hand. ‘Let’s not come here anymore. It’s distasteful now.’”

Melanie snapped, “What do you mean by that?”

I just chuckled.

Chapter 192 The New Kindergarten

Matthew looked on as we left together.

In just two days, I completed all the paperwork and enrolled Ava in Sunnydale Kindergarten. Initially, assumed it was a given since we lived in the neighborhood.

However, as I checked out Ava’s classroom, I overheard two teachers chatting. “Wasn’t the kindergarten full? How did she manage to get in?”

“Do you know who made the request?”

“Who?” The plump Ms. Marigold asked her colleague. The colleague whispered her reply, and Ms.

Marigold dropped her jaw.

Her response puzzled me. Was there something unusual about Atlas’s arrangement? I didn’t dwell on it because what mattered was that Ava got in.

That night, Ava told me, “Mommy, the teacher at school was nice to me. She gave me extra food and

didn't let the other kids take my toys. She even said I was the prettiest girl in the class!"

"Really? What did she teach you?" Seeing her enthusiasm relieved me.

After all, who wouldn't enjoy some special treatment? Nonetheless, I wondered who had influenced the teacher to treat Ava differently.

wor

Now I had one less thing to worry about, I should've done it sooner since my mom had a long bus ride to send Ava to her old kindergarten. Now she could walk her there in ten minutes.

When I told my mom the good news, she smiled and said it would save her a lot of hassle.

On Monday afternoon, Matthew came to my office again. He quietly placed the registration form on my desk, and I looked at him in confusion. He said impassively, "Go do the transfer."

I was surprised. This was so unlike him..

"Don't look at me that way. I was only upset the other day. Ava is my daughter, and I love her. Shouldn't you at least let me vent my frustration after what you put me through? Anyway, let's not fight anymore.

Just let me come home, please."

His face went pitiful. "Chlo, I handle Melanie. Let's start fresh. I miss you, you know?"

His words gave me goosebumps, and I glared at him. "I don't need it anymore. Take it back."

He gaped at me in disbelief. "You changed your mind? Honey, I know you're upset, but you shouldn't take

I didn't bother to explain to him and pressed the buzzer. Carol quickly showed up at the doorway. "Ms.

Chloe?

"Please see him out," I said coldly.

"Come on, Chlo. What can I do to make you forgive me? I'll break up with Melanie, okay? I want to spend the rest of my life with you and Ava. Don't do this to me," Matthew pleaded, attempting to appear helpless.

Before I could respond, Melanie stormed in.

Chapter 193 Given Up

"What did you just say, Matthew?"

When I saw her face, I felt angry. "Both of you, get out of my office! I have work to do."

Ryan rushed in, holding a stack of documents. He frowned when he saw them.

Carol quickly gestured for them to leave. "It's time to leave, Mr. Matthew."

Seeing that I wasn't alone, Matthew

de away.

Melanie shot me a glare. "Are you trying to seduce him again? Can't you live without a man, you fucking whore?"

I grabbed the registration form, tore it into pieces, and threw it at Melanie's feet. "Keep a leash on your man. Don't let him come here again."

Melanie grew infuriated. "How dare you?"

I said calmly, "You should leave now. We're having a meeting."

Then, I turned my attention to Ryan. "What do you have for me?"

Ryan approached and handed me the documents. I glanced at them and saw two contracts for the new development at Heartland Estates.

I was surprised. "We got it?"

Ryan smiled. "Grayson did."

"That's great! I've always liked this development," I said, thrilled.

Melanie stormed out.

Ryan waited until she was gone and said, "There's something else."

"What is it?"

"I heard that ATL Empire failed to get the land in Operose."

I sat up straight, stunned. "Do you think it's true?"

Ryan nodded. "Word has it that there's quite a buzz over at Echelon Group."

"How could this happen? I muttered, feeling worried. Had ATL Empire encountered some kind of

I gave Lauren a call. She confirmed that Echelon Group had offered only 2% more than ATL Empire, and it appeared that the latter had withdrawn their bid.

Withdrawn? Why would Atlas give up on something he was so close to acquiring? I tried calling him, but

he didn't pick up.

That afternoon, Echelon Group invited us to a celebratory party tomorrow night. It would be at Towers. It seemed like they couldn't wait to tell the world about it.

Echelon

I felt anxious for Atlas. He had been trying to secure the land for a long time. Why would he give up at this crucial time? When I tried to call him again, his phone was turned off.

Shit, not again! Frustrated, I sank back into my chair.

I was about to have dinner with my daughter that night when Atlas returned my call. I quickly answered, "Hey, why'd you switch off your phone again?"

He chuckled and asked, "Why? Did you miss me?"

I was exasperated. "How could you sound so relaxed?"

"Well, you do have a calming effect on me," he said casually. "I was on a flight, so I had to turn off my phone earlier."

"Huh? You're not in Foswood? Why did you let Echelon Group have that land in Operose?"

He said lazily, "Why would you say that?"

I was stumped. "Well, they're throwing a celebratory party tomorrow night, and I've already received an invitation."

"Then attend it," he said calmly. "I'll bring you a gown."

"Can't you just tell me what's going on? I'm worried about you," I protested, annoyed by his unpredictability.

"Okay, don't worry. I'll see you at the party tomorrow," he said soothingly.

“You’re going too?” I asked eagerly.

“Yup. Don’t stop thinking about me, okay? I got to go.” He hung up.

I held my phone, bewildered. Suddenly, I started to look forward to that party.

Chapter 194 The Party

Ava shouted, “Mommy, no phone calls at the dining table. Grandma says we aren’t supposed to talk so

much while eating.

I giggled and quickly put down my phone. I kissed her and said, “You’re right. Let’s eat.”

Atlas’s call had put my mind at ease. I was sure he had a plan in place.

The next day, Grayson walked into my office holding a large bag. “Ms. Chloe, your gown.”

I didn’t think Atlas was being serious. Grayson placed the bag on the coffee table and left.

Curious, I hurried over to inspect its contents. I pulled out a box and inside was a stunning white gown

with exquisite jewels.

It was the kind of dress that reminded me of something Show White might wear. I was eager to put it on immediately. Matthew had never bought me any nice clothing, let alone a gown. I had never attended.

important events before and was unaware of the dress code.

I called Ivanna to tell her about the party. She agreed to pick up Ava and even arranged for a makeup artist for me. Ivanna was a great help.

Lauren also called to see if I was going to the party. She said she would, so I told her we should meet there. As the invitation was extended to the higher-ups from each company, Ryan became my escort for the evening.

The party was hosted in the grand banquet hall of Echelon Towers.

Echelon Group had a long history in the real estate industry. Mercer, Atticus's father, started as a subcontractor before taking over the company at 26. He transformed it into the leading real estate developer in Foswood.

They had countless projects, including their very own Echelon Towers. One tower housed their offices, while the other was the Echelon Hotel.

Ryan and I arrived at Echelon Towers on time, and I underestimated how grand the event was. It felt like a film festival, with everyone making their entrance on the red carpet. The atmosphere was even livelier at the venue, with people chatting over their drinks.

Tanum Corporation was a smaller company, so our presence was mostly courtesy. Frankly, I wasn't

particularly eager to be there. Since my divorce was common knowledge, the situation was somewhat

awkward.

tapotted Matthew in the crowd He appeared surprisingly well-dressed for the occasion. When our eyes met, he stared at me like some idiot. Something about the way he looked at me felt odd. I chose to

Ignore him.

I wasn't one to wear heavy makeup, but a professional had worked her magic on me today. I managed to turn heads, and I guessed Matthew couldn't believe it was me.

Many people were curious about us because Ryan was new to the industry. People were whispering, "Who are those two? They aren't in real estate, are they? That girl looks rather pretty!"

"She's hot. Why haven't I seen them before in Foswood?"

"She looks familiar, but I can't recall ever seeing such a beautiful woman."

I was secretly pleased. It seemed that the right outfit and makeup had made me unrecognizable. I scanned the room and spotted Atticus conversing with someone in the distance. I had to admit that he

had a certain charm about him.

I glanced at Ryan. "Let's go say hello to Atticus."

He nodded, and we walked toward him.

Chapter 195 The Praises

However, before we reached Atticus, I spotted Maddox talking to an older man. I squeezed Ryan's arm and said, "That man is Maddox O'Connell. Let me say hi to him first."

I went over to him with a smile, and he recognized me immediately. "Good evening, Ms. Chloe."

"It's a pleasure to see you again, sir." I maintained a respectful demeanor. "I haven't had the chance to thank you for what you did that evening."

Calling him "sir" instead of Mr. Maddox was a deliberate move on my part.

"Don't mention it," he replied. "Allow me to introduce you to Mr. Mercer

Cole."

Only then did I realize the person he was speaking to was Atticus's father.

"Nice to meet you, sir. I'm Chloe from Tanum Corporation."

Mercer gave Maddox a puzzled look, surprised that he'd introduce someone like me to him. However, he soon laughed. "Oh, Tanum Corporation? You're that young lady who founded it, huh?"

I smiled. "I'm surprised that you've heard of us. We're nobodies here."

Mercer seemed to be in his 60s, but he was in great shape and sported a rosy complexion. His hearty laughter drew attention, and Maddox's presence only added to the effect.

Noticing our interaction, Atticus quickly turned and made his way toward us.

"We were all nobodies once, young lady. Not to mention that this is a male-dominated industry. You've done well." Mercer then told Maddox, "She's amazing. There aren't many female bosses in our line of

work."

I wasn't sure if Mercer was trying to impress Maddox.

"Yes, she conducts her business with integrity. I'm impressed," Maddox replied.

"I'm flattered," I responded, engaging in small talk with them before introducing Ryan.

"I'm glad you could join us, Ms. Chloe, Atticus said as he joined me by my side. "Dad, they're handling the

duplexes at Grandeur Grove."

"Ah, I see. You should work with her more often. Working with people of integrity can save us a lot of

trouble," Mercer said, looking at me. He added, "But we must always prioritize delivering quality. Echelon Group's goal is to satisfy property buyers."

"Don't worry, Mr. Mercer, that's our goal as well," I said with a smile.

Mercer laughed and told Maddox, "This young lady is going places. You can take my word for it."

Atticus laughed, too. "Everyone seems to be singing your praises, Ms. Chloe."

"It's only because I'm working with you, Mr. Atticus." Laughter erupted, and those standing nearby joined

our conversation. Everyone was eager to impress the Coles.

There was a sudden commotion at the entrance. We turned around to see Atticus walking over there.

Atlas entered, looking suave and handsome, with his arm wrapped around Stella. She looked elegant.

Walking side by side, they were an eye-catching couple. I couldn't help but think miserably that they were

a perfect match.

Someone beside me exclaimed, "Oh my! The CEO of ATL Empire is here too."

"Weren't they supposed to be competitors?"

"That's the spirit. I've heard that Mr. Atlas is no ordinary man."

I nodded at Maddox and Mercer before taking a step back with Ryan. I didn't want to draw undue attention to myself. Meanwhile, Ryan spotted the CEO of Heartland Estates and went over to greet him.

Matthew appeared next to me. He watched Atticus chat with Atlas and said, "You and Atlas almost got

1. me. See that? He has a girlfriend, so don't embarrass yourself."

I glanced at him with a half-smile, then turned and walked away to join Ryan. Halfway there, I was stopped by several women. "You're Chloe Hartz, aren't you?"

That woman who spoke was well-dressed and attractive, but she looked at me snobbishly.

“Hi, I’m Chloe. May I know-

“Liora Thompson.” Her cold voice was tinged with arrogance.

Liora Thompson? I thought for a moment. Thompson. Could she be...

Chapter 196 Unintentional Offense

Liora glanced at me smilingly. “It’s a pleasure! I finally have the honor of meeting you, Ms. Chloe. I heard you’re virtuous and exemplary. I have a lot to learn from you.”

Although she sounded polite, her words had an underlying awkwardness. I was puzzled but knew she was

far from friendly.

“You’re too kind, Mrs. Liora. I’ll have to rely on your support in the future,” I replied cautiously. I didn’t need to offend her since it was her family’s event. It was wise to keep a low profile.

Liora sneered, “Ms, Chloe, you’re being too modest. Who am I to support you? You’re a model for all of us. Please feel at ease here. Everyone is upright and respectable. You don’t have to worry about anyone

harassing you.”

Immediately after, she turned and left arrogantly.

I blushed when I noticed people looking at me. It was apparent Liora referred to the other night’s incident.

Several of her female friends glanced sidelong at me before following her.

At some point, Lauren appeared beside me, saying, "I lacked a good reason. Your incident provided him with

an opportunity."

"I can't believe this," I muttered in disbelief, "Is that a thing?"

Lauren raised an eyebrow. "Atticus is not an ordinary businessman. He can endure and keep his composure. Once he sees an opportunity, he can turn the situation to his advantage. As for you, be cautious when dealing with the Coles.

"They all seem friendly on the surface, but..." Lauren pointed to her eyes, indicating there was more to the

Coles than met the eye.

I nodded. "So, I've become a pawn in Atticus's game without even realizing it. He's clever, but it's not for my sake."

I chuckled and continued, "If that's the case, that man is cunning and smooth. He did what would please Mr. Maddox, solved my issues, and fulfilled his agenda. Most importantly, he resolved his issues and

gained the crowd's respect. His one move accomplished four things!

"You're sharp. So be careful with Liora in the future. This woman holds grudges," Lauren warned.

“I never expected my actions to offend that scheming woman,” I sighed, “Is anyone reasonable these days? They’re the ones who tried to molest me, but I became the target of resentment instead.”

I couldn’t help but look at Liora again as she happily chatted with Stella. The two smiled like they were long-lost friends. I didn’t know why, but it gave me an inexplicable premonition.

Chapter 197 Stealing a Kiss

Seeing Stella and Liora standing side by side gave me a bad feeling. Meanwhile, the two men beside them chatted and laughed like close friends instead of rivals.

Just then, Stella smiled and raised her glass toward me. Liora also looked toward me, but she looked proud yet indifferent.

I scoffed and whispered to Lauren, “Thank goodness this is her family’s event. Otherwise, things would have gotten ugly. You were right when you said she holds grudges.”

Lauren sighed, “That’s because it was hard for the Thompsons to get involved in the Coles’ business. They’ve been planning this for years. Although Atticus was cautious, Liora had some tricks up her sleeve. Then, Keegan eventually entered the company.

“However, Atticus finally removed Keegan thanks to your actions. It wouldn’t be right if Liora weren’t mad

at you.”

“I guess I can buy a lottery ticket just using my instincts,” I joked, then chuckled self-deprecatingly.

“You’re laughing about it? Lauren rolled her eyes at me. “You should be more careful”

The formal part of the event began with Atticus giving an enthusiastic speech. I noticed Atlas in the

distance, smiling mysteriously. Since everything proceeded as planned, I wanted to leave early,

I saw Ryan conversing with several developers, so I didn’t want to interrupt. I took out my ringing phone

and saw Ivanna’s name. I worried she might be in trouble, so I stepped outside because it was too

crowded.

However, Ivanna said they were having a great time. I assured her I would return soon and hung up. As I

was about to leave, someone pulled me back. I was about to scream when the person covered my mouth.

The person’s familiar scent put me at ease, and he kissed me. My head spun, but he released me after a

while. He was charming as he raised an eyebrow, saying, “You look gorgeous.”

I

pushed him away and whispered, “Are you crazy?”

“What’s wrong? You’re already mine, so why can’t I kiss you?” Atlas looked at me up and down. “I knew

the gown would look perfect on you.”

Indeed, the gown was simple yet elegant. It highlighted my figure perfectly when I first put it on. I gasped in surprise when I saw myself in the mirror for the first time. Still, Atlas dared to kiss me when so many people were around. We’d be in trouble if someone saw us

I was even more Arious because he had come here with Stella “Can you stop provoking me?”

Immediately after, I walked away.

Then I take you home later!” he declared.

“No! I’m leaving on my own!” I retorted.

“Don’t say no!” After that, he walked away.

As I left the terrace, I saw Matthew grinning. He handed me a glass of wine, saying, “Have a drink to calm

your nerves.”

Although a little uneasy. I glanced at Matthew disdainfully, then turned to leave.

“Chloe, you’ve shown me how much you’ve changed. I underestimated you in the past. But if others discover what I just saw, it won’t be good for you. How about we make a deal?’ he said as he leaned

Chapter 198 Shamelessly Discussing About Her

My heart sank, wondering if Matthew was bluffing. He was so despicable that it frustrated me further. Just then, Stella approached with an eager smile and said, "Chloe! I finally get to talk to you. What are you doing here??"

She glanced at Matthew and then at the drink he had handed me. She looked embarrassed and said, "Did I interrupt you two?"

When Matthew stepped forward, someone bumped into him and apologized. However, Matthew didn't mind and focused on me. He grinned, saying, "It's nothing. We were just discussing something that concerned you, Ms. Stella."

The man who had accidentally bumped into Matthew passed by again and patted him on the back,

saying, "Sorry!"

Matthew was annoyed and glared at the man before returning his attention to Stella.

"Me?" Stella looked surprised and asked, "What does this have to do with me?"

"Matthew, what are you trying to say?" I asked coldly, feeling uneasy. I knew he was up to something.

"You should ask Chlo. Right, honey?" Matthew's smug expression was repulsive, and my unease grew.

"You're shameless," I muttered, then raised my voice, "If you have something to say, say it! Don't beat around the bush! I have nothing to say to you!"

"Ms. Stella, you're Mr. Atlas's date tonight, right? I'm curious as to what your relationship with him is."

Matthew asked.

I clenched my handbag, feeling increasingly flustered. Stella glanced at me and smiled. Then, she asked Matthew politely, "What do you mean?"

He smirked. "Chlo wants to know your relationship with Mr. Atlas.

"I think you want to know that, Mr. Matthew!" That voice shocked me. The next second, Atlas was already

standing beside me.

Matthew was surprised by Atlas's sudden appearance.

The surrounding people shifted their attention to us, and Stella wrapped her arms around Atlas. She said, " I apologize for interrupting your conversation just now, Mr. Matthew and Ms. Chloe."

Her words caused the crowd to exchange glances. After all, they knew Matthew and I were once married.

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Atlas looked at Stella's arm around his with indifference. Immediately after, he gazed at Matthew. "is there something else you'd like to know, Mr. Matthew? Are you curious about what I discussed with Ms. Chloe just now?"

I wondered what Atlas planned and if he wanted to make things messier.

"Even if I'm curious, is it too much to ask? S—She's my wife," Matthew stammered as he tried to regain control of the situation. Atlas's presence seemed to have affected him.

“Ex-wife,” Atlas corrected.

That felt like a slap to my face to me. It was painful and humiliating when Atlas spoke of my relationship with Matthew in such a place.

My expression grew cold as I felt a sharp pain in my chest. “Have some self-respect, Matthew. Read the room before causing a scene.”

“Neither of you care about the occasion, so why should I? When you were doing it, did you care about shame? Why are you afraid now?” Matthew’s face reddened as he continued his explicit remarks.

“Mr. Matthew, what do you want to say? You seem upset,” Stella asked. However, her smile only fueled the fire.

Matthew handed his glass to someone nearby and pulled out his phone from his pocket. He raised it and taunted me, “Chloe, why don’t I show everyone what’s in here?”

“I’m quite interested,” Atlas said calmly.

Looking at Atlas, I felt a deep sense of shame, humiliation, and frustration. I clenched my teeth to remain composed. Even so, my eyes welled with tears. I couldn’t imagine what would happen next.

Chapter 199 As the Scumbag Deserved

I felt exposed and couldn’t understand why Matthew acted so boldly. He wouldn’t be this relentless if he didn’t have leverage. I knew him well and had experienced his deceit.

Nonetheless, I was even more shocked that Atlas seemed to care little about my dignity. I looked at him disapprovingly and uttered one word, “Shameless!”

I directed it toward Atlas and Matthew. Immediately after, I turned away to escape the chaos.

“Stop right there! Don’t you want to see it too? Matthew continued to taunt me. He smirked and continued, “It won’t be entertaining if you leave.”

Stella took my arm to seemingly diffuse the situation, She smiled and said, “Chloe, this is all my fault. I didn’t know you two were talking and disrupted your conversation.”

I glanced at her hand gripping my arm and knew she didn’t want me to leave. She didn’t want to resolve the situation—instead, she wanted to worsen it.

Liora emerged from the crowd to look at us with curiosity and annoyance. She glanced at Stella, then at Matthew’s smirk. Her eyes seemed to flicker with suspicion. He asked, “What’s going on here, Mr.

Matthew?”

“I apologize, Mrs. Liora. I just wanted to show everyone a picture to liven the atmosphere, Matthew shamelessly replied.

When Liora gazed at Stella, I felt the latter tremble slightly. Finally, Liora crossed her arms and said, “Well,

I want to see it too. Show us the picture.”

Atlas narrowed his eyes while Matthew unlocked his phone. I clenched my fists, but Stella still had a forced smile. Everyone looked at Matthew to see the picture. I stared at him with a pounding heart, fearing what he would reveal.

However, he frowned when he looked at his phone. He paled and appeared anxious.

I couldn't help but glance at the calm Atlas. He seemed confident, as if he had a plan in place.

Lauren stood in the crowd and could no longer tolerate it. She snatched a wine glass and splashed it toward Matthew. However, the wine also splattered on Stella, who screamed and let go of my arm.

"Matthew, you're even worse than I thought!" Lauren roared. Then she turned to me and said, "Let's go!"

I looked at Matthew one more time. He appeared disheveled and defeated. As I left, Ryan approached us

and asked concernedly, "What happened?"

nothing. I replied calmly. "I'm heading home. You stay here.

When Ryan gazed into my eyes, I whispered something only he could hear. He nodded, and I left, but not before bumping into Atticus.

"Ms. Chloe, what's happening?" he asked,

"N-Nothing! My daughter's at home, so I need to leave early. Congratulations on your success tonight, Mr.

Atticus! I smiled, trying to be calm. "I came to celebrate your achievements, after all."

He fixed his profound gaze on me and offered, "Let me get someone to drive you home."

“That’s okay. I drove here myself. I don’t want to disturb you since you’re busy.”

I walked away with my still-racing mind. It seemed Matthew had captured something incriminating. Suddenly, I remembered the man who had bumped into Matthew.

Chapter 200 Abducted on the Way

faltered when I realized what had happened. Still, I sighed and left Echelon Towers.

Since I came here in Ryan’s car and didn’t want Atticus’s man to take me home, I took a cab. I told Ryan to stay behind because many high-profile figures from the real estate industry were there.

I knew the event wasn’t just a congratulatory gathering. It was also an opportunity for Ryan to network with these people. Furthermore, these people were well-connected. As for Lauren, she was excellent at gathering information.

I had sensed something was amiss with Stella tonight. Also, Atlas wasn’t just there to celebrate his competitor’s success.

Meanwhile, I became the plot twist in this drama. I overestimated Matthew because he was nowhere near as intelligent as Atlas and Atticus. Matthew was a child compared to them.

I felt a chill in my heart as I entered the cab. My mind seemed distracted, unable to keep up with the mess. As the cab drove into Ember Lane, it suddenly stopped. The driver cursed, “What the fuck?!”

Before I knew it, someone yanked my door open and pulled me out. Then, the person pushed me into another car. I tried to open the car door, only to realize they had already locked it. I looked ahead and

saw Matthew.

“What the hell do you want, Matthew?!” I yelled in anger.

“I want you!” He shouted back, accelerating into traffic. I tried to scratch at him, but he swerved left and right, causing the other cars to honk.

He yelled, “If you want to die, we can go down together! You were kissing him, weren’t you? I’ll make sure to satisfy your needs!”

I clung to the car door in terror. “Stop the car, you idiot!”

“When did you start seeing him, Chloe?! I didn’t expect you to do that!” Matthew cursed as he continued to drive recklessly. However, I noticed he parked at our former house and got out. He pulled me out and dragged me to the entrance while I struggled to break free.

“Let go of me!”

“Scream as loud as you want! Let’s see if anyone here still recognizes you. I’ll make them realize who you are. You may act like a virtuous woman, but you’re a fucking slut! Fine, I’ll let you be your true self,” he

sneered.

ew dragged me, and I stumbled along. My legs even hit the stairs as we went up. Soon, we reached the bedroom, Without turning on the lights, he threw me onto the bed.

I noticed this place had been vacant for a while. The room was dusty and smelled damp, causing me to cough. Soon after, Matthew pounced on me and said, “I’ll satisfy all your needs tonight. You’ve been wanting it, right?”

He began to undress himself as I fought desperately. However, he slapped me and caused my vision to blur. I lost my strength to fight back and heard him ripping apart my gown. I felt a chill run down my spine as I screamed in horror, “Get off me!”