

## **The Divorce 111**

Chapter 111 The Appointment Before Grace could reply, Melanie sat on the sofa's armrest and put an arm around her.

"My dad is visiting his younger brother, so we decided to stay with you." What? Did she just say that they were also moving in? Melanie gave me a smug look.

"You see, we don't get to spend much time with Chloe." I restrained my rage and acted aloof.

"Gee, that's so thoughtful of you." My dad stared at my face silently.

My mother seemed to sense that the mood was off.

She tried to lighten it up, saying, "Mel, you're looking prettier by the day.

Are you seeing anyone?" Melanie announced shamelessly, "Yes, and we're finally getting married after many years." I wanted to rip her tongue out.

"That's wonderful news! Don't forget to invite us to your wedding." My mom smiled warmly.

"You'll be the first on my list! Melanie looked at me as she chuckled tauntingly.

Gritting my teeth, I silently swore at the bitch.

"We would've married sooner if my boyfriend's ex-wife hadn't been such a pain," Melanie added.

"I've known him since we were kids, and we were in love.

But she kept seducing him and wouldn't leave him alone.

She even swindled all his money..

My mom looked uneasy.

“Mel, come give me a hand,” Matthew said, as he emerged from the kitchen.

Melanie tilted her head and shot me a smile.

“I’m coming, Matt.” I knew Matthew was trying to defuse the situation.

Still, what was he thinking? Did he expect me to put up with Mel the way Grace had tolerated Henry’s affairs? What a messed-up family! My phone rang, and I quickly glanced at it.

Atlas was calling me.

glanced toward the kitchen and slipped outside to answer.

Atlas’s displeased voice asked, “Where are you? “I’m at home.” Why was he calling when he was supposed to be in Astronia? Before I could ask him where he was, he said, “Meet me at our usual spot.

You’ve got 20 minutes!” I gripped my phone, taken aback by the short notice.

20 minutes? Did he expect me to teleport there? Then I realized that Atlas must have returned to Foswood.

the wish My heart raced.

I checked the time and called Ivanna to ask if I needed her car since getting a cab outside the gated community would take over 20 minutes.

Fortunately, Ivanna had just arrived home.

I got her to send her car over and hurried upstairs to change.

As I headed out, Melanie said, "We're having dinner soon.

Where are you going? Do you have to go now?" It was clear she was insinuating something.

Without sparing her a glance, I said, 'Dad, Mom, I might be back late.

Ivanna will come over and keep you company.

My mom looked at me, then at Grace, concerned.

"Do you have to go now?" "Yeah, I have an appointment," I said flatly as I put on my shoes, just in time for Ivanna to arrive.

I let Ivanna in and asked her to join them for dinner.

With her around, the Murphys wouldn't say whatever they pleased.

When I arrived, I was five minutes late.

Atlas had reserved a private room on the second floor.

Before I could sit down, he asked grimly, "What's the meaning of this?"

Chapter 112 An Unpleasant Inquiry I looked at him baffled.

“Wasn’t the divorce trial scheduled for today? Why wasn’t there a hearing today? Why’d you cancel it?” He stared at me impassively, but his tone showed displeasure.

Had he gone to the courthouse? No one knew we had postponed the trial.

The only logical explanation.

was that he had been there.

“Something came up, so I had to reschedule it at the last minute,” I explained.

“Are you having second thoughts again?” His face grew stern.

“How could you even consider it after what he’s done?” I was much calmer than he was.

I took a few sips of my glass of lemonade and said, “I might not be able to get a divorce anytime soon.” He fixed his eyes on my face.

“Why not?” “There’s nothing I can do.

Matthew is using my parents to blackmail me,” I said helplessly.

“I didn’t expect him to stoop so low.” “Do you plan to let him manipulate you forever?” “My hands are tied, okay? My father just had a stroke.

I’d rather be humiliated than risk upsetting him.” We fell silent for a moment.

The thought of the Murphys in my house infuriated me.

After a long pause, I looked at him and asked, “When did you get back?” “Last night,” he said bluntly.

Then he gave me a long, unnerving look.

Atlas had ordered some hot tea for me, which the server brought.

He pushed it toward me and asked, "Would you like to resolve the situation?" "As long as my parents are safe, yes." Their safety was my top priority.

Since he brought it up, I sensed he must have a plan.

Somehow, I trusted him.

"Let me make some arrangements," he said.

"I'll let you know when I'm done.

All you'll have to do is play along." "Thank you!" It was dark outside when I left the cafe.

Atlas gave me some brief instructions at the door, and we got I didn't head home immediately.

With the Murphys there, I felt suffocated.

I needed to figure out how to handle the situation.

They were like a ticking time bomb, and the constant anxiety was eating at me.

To ease my anxiety, I took a detour through the bustling streets.

However, I knew I had to return home eventually.

My loved ones were there, and I couldn't let the Murphys do as they pleased.

The following day, Atlas called me.

He instructed me to bring my parents and Ava to Snow World, where I was to take part in a lucky draw.

I understood that this was part of his arrangement.

I discreetly offered to take my parents out after breakfast.

They were hesitant, but when I told them Ava had always wanted to go to Snow World, they happily agreed to join us.

Matthew offered to drive us there, claiming it was a fantastic idea.

Clearly, he didn't want us to have any alone time, I didn't object, as I didn't want to leave them alone in my house.

Ivanna had left her car for me to use.

After Melanie led my parents and Grace to Matthew's car, she smilingly hopped into mine.

Chapter 113 A Dangerous Warning I knew she was up to no good, likely trying to provoke me.

I chose not to react and started the car.

She looked at me and asked, "What's the matter, Chloe? Are you upset?" "What do you think? I feel like throwing up when I see you," I said plainly.

"I feel the same about you!" She glared at me.

“Listen carefully.

You better move out of the apartment, or you’ll regret it.” I didn’t even glance in her direction.

“Dream on! Don’t forget what happened to Henry.

I can send you to jail, too, since I have proof of everything.” She lost her composure.

‘Don’t push it, Chloe!’ “You’re the ones pushing it! How dare you come to my house? Do you think I’m scared of you?” I looked straight at her.

“You’re a slut like your real mom!” Then I added with a snort, “Are you even good enough to stay in that apartment?” “Chloe, don’t forget what I can do to your parents and Aval” she said maliciously.

I stiffened, knowing well that my family was my weakness.

She and Matthew would stop at nothing to hurt me.

“If you dare lay a finger on them, I’ll kill you!” I locked the car doors and hit the gas.

She jolted backward and yelled, “What the hell are you doing?” Melanie gripped the roof handle with one hand while shielding her stomach with the other.

Her eyes were full of alarm.

A cold chuckle escaped my lips.

“You asked for this, bitch!” “You’re out of your mind! Slow down, alright?” She looked out the window in terror as I swerved between cars.

When she frantically found her phone, I grabbed it and threw it out the window.

She screamed, "Matthew will fucking kill you if anything happens to me!" "I'll kill your unborn child before you can harm my family.

Do you think Matthew will want to leave me when I do? You want me to divorce him, don't you?" I looked at her as I drove.

"I've changed my mind after seeing your behavior today.

Let's see if Matthew will pick you or me! But I know you can't beat me.

You know how much your family values money, right? "If I become the family's sole provider, they'll do whatever I ask.

Maybe you weren't aware, but Grace begged me two days ago not to divorce Matt.

She even told me you were a whore, just like your birth mother!" I had never been so mean to anyone, but I got a kick out of Melanie's helpless face.

In the end, I even said, "Tell Matthew that I'm not one to let things slide.

It's in his best interest not to push me too hard, okay?" "You cunt!" She paled from fear.

When we arrived at Snow World, Melanie exited the car while visibly shaking.

Even when Matthew asked about what had happened, she simply shook her head.

Chapter 114 Not as Planned I raised an eyebrow at Melanie, then led my family into Snow World.



I even acted lovey–dovey with Matthew.

Melanie was furious, but she dared not react.

After visiting the Underwater World, I let Ava take part in the lucky draw, “Surprisingly,” she won a prize—a free trip to Celestis Island for three.

I had always wanted to visit a tropical island, and my parents shared my enthusiasm.

Then I went to the organizer to learn more about the itinerary.

We discussed the trip plans at home, and Matthew encouraged me to go with my parents.

He said, “Have fun, okay? I’ll pay for all the additional expenses.

Stay there for a few more days if you want.” I eagerly planned the trip and got an extra ticket for Ava.

Then, based on Atlas’s plan, I got Adrian to set a date for the divorce trial.

Once we were on the island, I would make an excuse to return for the hearing.

The night before our departure, I had packed everything and was talking to my parents in the Ava ran over to me in tears and threw her arms around me.

“Daddy and Aunt Mel are fighting!” Puzzled, I embraced Ava.

My parents also came over to calm her down.

“They’re fighting!” she said.

“I’m sure they were just messing with you.” I thought Melanie was bullying her again.

room.

“They’re fighting on the bed.

I saw it when I went to look for Daddy.” Ava cried loudly, her innocent words finally hitting me.

Bolting to my feet, I passed Ava to my mom and stormed toward the main bedroom.

Had they no shame? How could they be having sex here and let my daughter see it? I kicked the door open.

They had heard Ava’s cries, and Matthew was frantically attempting to get dressed.

Seeing me storm in, he hurried over to hold me.

“Be quiet! Your parents are still around, remember?” I slapped his face.

“Do you call yourself a father? If you want to fuck your sister, do it outside.

Just get out of my house!” My parents rushed over and quickly grasped the situation.

Melanie shamelessly rose to her feet, wrapped herself in the blanket, and looked at me.

“Why should we “Belongs to you?” I lunged at her.

Matthew shoved me aside and stood in front of Melanie.

“Enough, Chloe! If you dare lay a finger on her, you’ll be sorry! Can’t I have a little fun? It’s not like you want to have sex with me! This is my house, alright?” “Matthew, what the hell are you doing?” my dad shouted.

“Y–You...” It was then that I realized I had acted impulsively.

I turned to look at him.

“Dad!” Quickly supporting him, I said, “Calm down, Dad.

I’ll deal with this.” “Chloe, he...” My dad pointed toward Matthew, unable to find the right words.

Melanie declared, “That’s right, old man.

Let me introduce you to my boyfriend.

We grew up together, and we’ve been a couple for many years.

It’s your stupid daughter who refuses to divorce him.” Then she added, “Oh, by the way, I’m pregnant with his child!” “Don’t listen to her, Dad!” I looked at Melanie as I tried to calm down my father.

“Shut your mouth, bitch!” “You want me to shut up? No problem.

Just leave the house!” She turned to my dad while hugging herself.

“Matt brought you two here so you could tell your daughter to leave us alone.

Tell her to have some self- respect!” I felt my dad stagger next to me and had a bad feeling.

Chapter 115 In the Child’s Presence I looked at Matthew.

“If you still have a conscience, take her away before something happens to my dad!” Matthew looked at my dad and saw that his face was pale.

He instinctively put his hand on Melanie’s shoulder.

“Cut it out, okay?” Melanie, eager to cause trouble, didn’t care.

“Stop playing the victim.

Give us back everything that’s ours! Matt bought the house for me, and you fucking stole it.

Have you no shame?” She smirked as I helped my dad, who looked weak.

Grace looked distressed and somewhat flustered.

“Mom, take Dad back to your room,” I said with concern.

However, my dad composed himself and held my hand.

“Don’t worry, I’m stronger than you think.” He glared at Matthew and said, “I trusted you with my daughter’s happiness and helped you with your career.

I don’t care how you treat me or my wife, but is this how you treat my daughter?” Matthew guiltily averted his eyes.

“It’s okay if you don’t love her anymore, my dad continued.

“But she’s the mother of your child and has been with you for a decade.

You should treat her with kindness.” t My father remained firm.

He was a respected figure as the head of his school, and I doubt he had ever encountered such filthy matters before.

“If you think you can bully her just because she’s alone, you’ve got another thing coming.

’ll make you pay for what you’ve done to her!” Matthew tried to shift the blame.

“George, she’s the one who’s causing trouble, alright? Chloe is not as innocent as you think.

She’s been seeing other men behind my back!” “Stop finding excuses!” I tried to end the confrontation.

“Dad, let’s go back to your room.” Matthew shouted, “It’s you who swindled all my money!” My mother couldn’t contain her anger any longer.

“You ingrate!” she exclaimed.

“Stop spouting lies about my daughter, Laura, she cheated on me first and left me no choice! Yes, you funded the business, but you gave the money to your daughter, right? I’ve repaid you over the years!”.

“Matt.

My dad staggered.

“How could you say such a thing?” “It’s all your daughter’s fault.

Chloe, if you want to get a divorce, then get out of here.

Unless you seeing us fuck each other.” enjoy Melanie chimed in, “Oh, but keep an eye on your daughter.

Don't let her run around and spoil our sex life." My dad pointed at Matthew.

"You." 1 The veins on his forehead stood out, and he slowly slumped onto the floor.

Chapter 116 A Sudden Misfortune "Dad?" I cried out in panic, with tears streaming down my face.

"Dad!" My desperate cry made everyone present feel suffocated, including Matthew, who quickly called an ambulance.

The apartment echoed with mine, my mom's, and Ava's worried cries.

Ivanna arrived simultaneously with the ambulance.

She knew what had happened at a glance.

I entrusted my mom and daughter to her while I followed the ambulance to the hospital.

Inside, the medical staff worked to provide emergency treatment for my dad.

Though trembling.

I found my phone and called Atlas.

I pleaded, "Please, find a doctor for my dad." "Which hospital are you in?" Atlas asked directly.

"Foswood General Hospital!" "Got it!" He hung up, and I hoped my dad would pull through.

After arriving at the hospital, the nurses rushed my dad to the emergency room.

I leaned against the wall and slowly slid down to the floor.

My heart ached as I clutched my chest.

My parents had raised me, yet I didn't repay their kindness.

I prayed my dad would be okay.

Atlas arrived with several doctors in less than ten minutes.

The doctors headed straight for the emergency room while Atlas approached me and helped me to my feet.

He asked with concern, "What happened? Tell me everything." However, I was too exhausted to speak as I leaned against the wall.

At that moment, my mom arrived with Ava while Ivanna supported her.

Matthew followed behind them, looking conflicted.

Matthew grimaced when he reached the emergency room entrance and saw Atlas.

"You sure are quick to respond, Atlas.

How dare you say there's nothing between you two? Chloe, are you still going to make excuses? You caused all this yourself!" Matthew tried to shift the blame.

Meanwhile, my mom glanced at Atlas in puzzlement.

"Mr.

Atlas, thank you for coming!" Ivanna stepped forward, her voice aimed to defuse the situation.

Atlas nodded, and I told my mom, "Mr.

Atlas brought us the best doctors to help." My mom nodded in gratitude.

"Thank you, Mr.

Atlas!" Matthew stood aside and smirked, "Why thank him, Laura? He might be your next son-in-law, don't you think? Your daughter isn't innocent either!" Atlas remained silent, focusing on my mom and Ava.

Then he calmly walked away and told Matthew, "Step outside for a moment." Matthew followed Atlas out with a disdainful expression.

I was shocked and exchanged a glance with Ivanna.

Immediately after, I chased after them.

As expected, they walked down the corridor where no one could see them from the emergency room.

Atlas stopped and turned to face Matthew.

Although Matthew was not as tall as Atlas, he looked bigger than the latter.

Matthew sneered, saying, Atlas, your service is top-notch, always ready to assist at a moment's notice!" Matthew smugly continued with his snide remarks, "What's happening? You're just a mere assistant, yet you're acting so arrogantly.



I can't believe you're bold enough to pursue a married woman-" 1 Before Matthew could finish, Atlas punched him.

Matthew crashed to the ground, cursing, "How dare you! punch me?! Do you think I don't know what kind of person you are? You're only worthy of getting the I woman I don't want anymore." Atlas lifted him and punched him again, sending Matthew flying.

'Matthew, shut your mouth!" I shouted as I rushed over to hold Atlas back.

"Chloe, just you wait! You're teaming up with your lover to beat me up, huh?!" Matthew thundered as his lips bled.

Soon after, a crowd gathered around us.

Standing above Matthew indifferently, Atlas said, "I've wanted to punch you for a while now.

Do anything you wish, but if anything happens to Chloe's dad, I won't just give you a couple of punches.

Take my advice and get lost." Matthew finally got up while muttering threats.

Although he looked at me resentfully, I had never seen him look so pathetic.

Despite his imposing stature, Matthew dared not retaliate.

He looked at Atlas and wiped the blood from his lips.

Alles remained composed as Matthew muttered, "Just you wait, Chloe."

Chapter 117 Enraged 1 looked at Atlas with concern and said, "Matthew's petty, so be careful of his retaliation." "You're overthinking it," Atlas replied, gesturing for me to return to the emergency room.

When we arrived, my mom asked, "Where's that scumbag?" "Gone!" I replied.

The emergency room lights had been on for two hours before they finally went out.

A doctor emerged and informed us, "Your dad's life isn't in danger anymore, thanks to the timely arrival.

However, you must ensure he doesn't get too agitated." The doctor's words put us at ease.

After exchanging a few words with the doctor, Atlas instructed me, "Hide this from all outsiders, and just say he hasn't woken up yet." Then, he got my dad a VIP ward and asked my mom to stay with him.

That would make others think my dad hadn't awakened yet, effectively stopping the Murphys from visiting.

My dad wore an oxygen mask when the nurses moved him to his room.

He was pale and in a pretty poor condition.

Tears welled in his eyes as he looked at me with trembling lips.

I grabbed his hand and said, "Dad, please relax.

I'm happy you're still with us, and I will treat you better.

I learned to let go and not let Matthew bully me anymore.

You can rest assured." My dad nodded slightly and said weakly, "You must divorce him." I stayed with my dad all night and only returned to my place the following afternoon.

I couldn't believe the Murphys were still around, calmly having lunch.

Matthew frowned when he saw me.

He stood up and blocked my way to the stairs.

Without asking about my dad or where Ava was, he cursed, "You're a slut, and you got your boyfriend to beat me up! I never thought you had the guts." Grace also scolded me, "Indeed, looks can be deceiving.

You and your family are vicious.

You already found yourself a man and still want to claim my family's assets.

I've never met a more shameless and evil woman.

You're disgusting!" I scoffed, "Too bad you didn't get to know me sooner.

Otherwise, you wouldn't dare gang up on me.

Matt of my dad doesn't wake up, I'll never let you off the hook!" Matthew narrowed his eyes, seemingly shocked.

He muttered, "He hasn't woken up yet?" Melanie crossed her arms and added, "Cut the crap.

We shouldn't care if George wakes up.

That's Chloe's problem.

Chloe, if you want to stay out of trouble, hand over the apartment.

Otherwise, we'll keep going!" However, I ignored her and went upstairs.

My room was a mess, and it was apparent they had rummaged through my drawers for the ownership agreement for the apartment.

Matthew followed me upstairs and continued his taunts, "Do you think you can keep acting arrogant just because Atlas supports you? I won't stop until we've settled things!" "Continue if you wish.

I'd love to see what else you can do," I calmly collected my mom's clothes and some daily necessities as I spoke, I advise you to restrain yourself and save some dignity.

We can part on good terms, or I'll make your life hell." Matthew reddened with anger as I continued, "You know I won't let you take advantage of me.

I know you think shifted assets, set up subsidiaries, and left behind an empty company to keep up your act.

Do you I'm dumb?" Matthew's expression grew sinister.

"Your schemes and deceitful actions are astounding.

Don't forget I'm still your wife in name.

Still, you dare to say I schemed you out of your assets? You should stop, and we can move on, or I can go to the end with you.

Matthew was furious, and he grabbed my neck with both hands.

His eyes were bloodshot as he growled, " I'll kill you, Chloe!" He tightened his grip on my neck.

Chapter 118 Brutal Beatings It got harder for me to breathe, and my eyes widened.

My will to survive made me claw at his hands, gripping my throat.

Our love for each other had vanished, and the man before wanted to kill me.

My vision blurred as I suffocated.

Matthew threw me aside like a ragdoll as I was about to lose consciousness.

Soon, I crashed into the corridor wall and almost blacked out.

I clutched my throat and coughed as I struggled to breathe.

Meanwhile, Melanie and Grace stared at me indifferently.

Melanie smirked and said, "Do you know what karma is, Chloe? Hahaha! Matt, you should've done that long ago.

She's asking for a beating." Matthew basked in her praise, seemingly forgetting his pitiful appearance at the hospital the night before.

"Will you give it to us now?!" he roared, "I thought you'd be useful and secure the project through Atlas, but you're a worthless schemer.

Do you think Atlas would have feelings for you?" "You're finally speaking your mind, you bastard!" I glared at him.

"Did you sleep with Atlas for nothing?! You can't even secure the project yet dare to challenge me? Chloe, you must return what you took from me." Matthew kicked me as he spoke.

I gasped for air, and my vision.

blurred again.

Soon after, Matthew squatted and pulled my hair, cursing, "How dare you deceive me? Wasn't I good to you all these years? You stole my assets! Don't you love me? Why are you so calculative?" Melanie laughed, "How do you feel, knowing who my brother loves more? Do you still think you've won? Stop being so arrogant.

With that, she slapped me while Matthew continued to pull my hair.

I glared at Matthew and said through clenched teeth, "I hate you! You're not a real man.

I'll show you hell if you don't kill me now!" Matthew kicked me again in response, and I groaned.

Meanwhile, Grace froze as she witnessed her son and daughter beat me.

Suddenly, Ivanna thundered, "Matthew! I'll fucking kill you!" She sprinted up the stairs with a knife.

Melanie was frightened as she fled with her head in her hands.

Matthew released me and dodged Ivanna while Grance retreated.

I was on the floor again, numb from the pain "Fuck off, all of your Ivanna roared while pointing the knife at Matthew.

"You'll pay for this!" Immediately after, she called the police as I gasped for air on the ground, Ivanna picked me up, and I Ivanna cried, saying, "I was worried about this.

These assholes will pay!" I finally caught my breath and told her, "Don't cry.

So much happened just now.

Call the reporters now.”

Chapter 119 Breaking News Ivanna nodded and called her assistant to bring the reporters over.

I told her, “Put me down and take pictures of everything.” She followed my instructions and gently let go before taking pictures of the assault from various angles.

Soon after, she called the authorities and my lawyer, Adrian.

Seeing Ivanna’s actions, Matthew grew agitated.

He yelled, “You caused this, Chloe! Even if you call the cops, nothing will change.

You’re in my house, and we’re still married.

So what if we fought?” “I’ve had enough of your excuses!” Ivanna retorted and threw the knife at him.

Startled, Matthew bolted to the master bedroom while narrowly avoiding the knife.

Ivanna noticed my distress and cried.

However, I smiled and reassured her, “Don’t cry.

I’m not dead yet.

It's too late for him to stop now." When the authorities arrived, I showed them my house ownership certificate and ID before telling the media about the assault.

The scandal of Matthew's previous affair had yet to subside, and this incident only worsened things for him.

Adrian had also provided evidence of our ongoing divorce proceedings.

The cops did not allow Matthew to explain himself and arrested the three Murphys.

More breaking news trended in Foswood, with headlines reading, "Scumbag Brings Mistress to Assault Wife at Home," "Man Deceives Terminally Ill Father-in-Law for Assets," and "Havoc at Wife's Home, Hospitalized After Assault." I didn't think I would need to humiliate myself just to divorce him.

That night, I asked Ivanna to deliver food to my mom and tell her I had urgent matters to handle.

I dared not visit my parents because I could barely move.

Not wanting them to worry, I told Ivanna to keep the incident a secret and tell them I had fallen asleep.

I knew my parents seldom used their phones, so they wouldn't discover the trending news so quickly.

Ivanna even fetched Ava from daycare before returning.

Meanwhile, I had an ice pack on my face as I endured my pain to make the noodles Ava enjoyed.

When Ava finally slept, I received a call from Atlas.

However, I didn't answer because I didn't want him to see me like this, I became a sensitive topic and finalized the divorce.



Moreover, I didn't want to stir up any more trouble.

Atlas continued to call, so I turned off my phone.

I sighed in relief the following day when I heard the cops. Before going to the hospital, I applied makeup to hide my injuries.

I also used a turtle-neck sweater to cover the bruises on my neck.

Still, my attentive mom looked me up and down.

I ignored her and calmly cared for my dad's needs.

Although still weak and often dozing off, he would urge me to leave Matthew when awake.

He said he didn't care about the house or assets.

I nodded and promised him I'd leave Matthew.

That afternoon, Atlas came to visit my dad.

After a brief stay, he left.

When I sent him off, he glanced at me and said, "You have twenty minutes.

I'll be waiting for you in my car downstairs." "I can't leave yet," I replied.

However, he ignored me and went downstairs.

I glared at him for never giving me a chance to refuse.

dad's coor When I returned to my my mom asked me who Atlas was to me.

I was shocked as I asked her, "What else can he be, Mom? Don't overthink it.

We have a professional relationship, and he has helped me a bunch.

Otherwise, I couldn't have reclaimed the house and assets." My mom went silent while I nervously thought of excuses to leave early.

Ultimately, I met with Atlas within twenty minutes.

He looked at me strangely, but his tone was gentle, "Are you okay?" I thought he would scold me for not answering his calls.

Still, I replied, "Yeah, I'm fine." Suddenly, he embraced me.

His voice was full of warmth, yet he growled, "Damn it! Did all that beating make you stupid?"

Chapter 120 Forceful Examination For some reason, I felt warm when he scolded me.

When he started the car, I asked him where we were going, but he didn't answer.

Instead, he pinched my chin and examined my face.

I blushed and pushed his hand away before glaring at him and the driver.

“What are you doing?” Atlas raised the car’s partition to give us some privacy.

I thought ATL Empire provided excellent employee benefits.

It didn’t surprise me since Atlas was an assistant to someone important.

He said, “ Show the bruises.” “Uh, that’s okay.

You’ve seen everything already!” I avoided his gaze and tried to hide my discomfort.

However, his tone turned harsh again, “So, are those pictures fake? Will you show me your injuries, or should I force you?” My breath quickened as the situation became too intimate.

After all, I had bruises in private areas that I dared not show him.

I “I-“Before I could finish, Atlas held me and pressed his hand against my back.

I couldn’t help but moan.

softly.

He lifted my shirt without warning, and I protected my chest, exclaiming, “Hey! You’re going too far...” I felt his hand stop when he saw the bruises on my chest and abdomen.

I glanced at him and saw his cold expression.

He ran his fingers over my injuries, causing me to tense up.

After glancing at me, Atlas turned.

me to inspect my back.

Although I had fewer injuries there, they still looked terrible.

Atlas rested his warm palm on my wounds, and I felt some relief.

However, his touch also made my heart race.

I had never allowed anyone besides Matthew to touch me beyond my boundaries.

He sensed my discomfort and adjusted my clothes.

Then, he turned me to face him while struggling to control his emotions "I—I'm fine," I stammered, "I don't like you being so overbearing!" "You're an idiot for going home alone.

Don't you know they were blinded by rage?" Atlas was frustrated.

I responded with a sense of resignation, "They had to vent it somehow, so I consider it my trial.

Matthew I suffered when I exposed his pretenses.

After all, I must sacrifice one thing to gain another." "You're quite understanding.

Did Matthew go too easy on you? I've never heard of someone defending their abuser." Atlas was annoyed and spoke sarcastically.

I remained silent but felt him holding me closer.

At that moment, I felt relaxed in his warm embrace.

I felt safe and instinctively moved in.

I hadn't experienced such trust, ease, and reliance for a long time.

Perhaps I never had that before.

I no longer cared where he took me, what would happen next, or why he did this.

Unknowingly, I fell asleep in his arms.