

Chapter 81

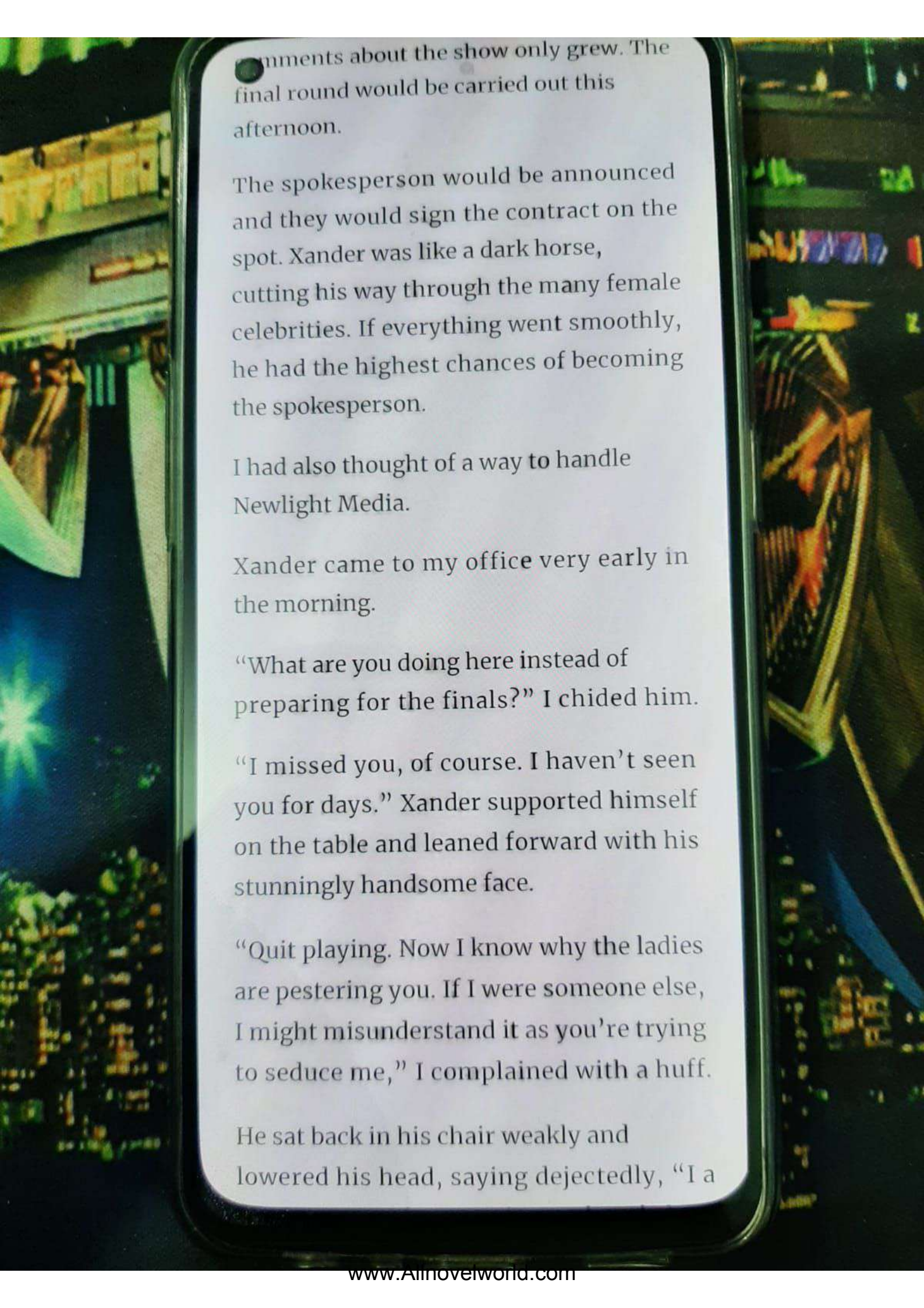
During this long period, apart from working, I spent the majority of my time with Cecilia. She was passionate about cooking all day and fed me with her food like a lab rat. I did not even bother putting up a struggle and allowed her to do whatever she wanted.

I was still feeling quite down and had not been sleeping well. I often sat on the balcony the whole night.

Cecilia had brought me to get a prescription for my insomnia that was suitable for pregnant women. However, I often forgot about it and would only take the medication when she reminded me.

Theo had not shown up, and from what Heidi told me, he seemed to have gone abroad.

Several phases of the show's filming had been successfully completed. Everything went well, and the premiere broadcast was well-received. The ratings and comments about the show only grew. The

The background of the page is a vibrant, abstract image. On the left, there's a dark, silhouetted structure that looks like a stage or a set. In the center and right, there are bright, colorful lights and patterns, possibly representing a city skyline at night or a large, illuminated sculpture. The colors are primarily blues, greens, and yellows, with some red and orange accents. The overall effect is a dynamic, high-contrast scene.

Comments about the show only grew. The final round would be carried out this afternoon.

The spokesperson would be announced and they would sign the contract on the spot. Xander was like a dark horse, cutting his way through the many female celebrities. If everything went smoothly, he had the highest chances of becoming the spokesperson.

I had also thought of a way to handle Newlight Media.

Xander came to my office very early in the morning.

“What are you doing here instead of preparing for the finals?” I chided him.

“I missed you, of course. I haven’t seen you for days.” Xander supported himself on the table and leaned forward with his stunningly handsome face.

“Quit playing. Now I know why the ladies are pestering you. If I were someone else, I might misunderstand it as you’re trying to seduce me,” I complained with a huff.

He sat back in his chair weakly and lowered his head, saying dejectedly, “I a

m trying to seduce you but I often fail at it. How boring.”

How childish of him. I was already used to seeing him fooling around all these years. I shook my head and did not entertain him further.

“It’s my final chance today, Wandy. If I become the spokesperson, then it would spell trouble for your dear husband.” He put on a rare but solemn expression.

Though within half a second, he was in high spirits again. “That’s not so bad, actually. When Grant Corporation is down, you can then ditch Theo and come with me. I’m good-looking and pretty rich. I’ll be your kid’s dad.”

He put on an excited look as he spoke, looking as though he was telling the truth.

“I’m not confident in letting you raise my kid. Your fans will skin me alive. You don’t need to meddle in Newlight Media’s affairs because I have ways to solve it myself. You just need to be the spokesperson and avoid all negative news. Make sure your popularity doesn’t drop.”

“Who says I want to be a spokesperson? I’m still considering it!” He propped up his leg and put on an air of arrogance.

“You—” I was speechless and looked at him for a moment before asking, “What’s the catch?”

“I like how clever you are, Wandy. I’m certain you like me because why else would you know me so well?” Xander looked at me with a smug look in his eyes.

I rolled my eyes. “I can consider everything but the endorsement fee.”

I had spent all the budget for this competition. The endorsement fee could not be increased further.

“You promised!” Xander stood up and said excitedly, “My request is simple. We’ll shoot this advertisement in other parts of the country and you’re required to come along and be there throughout the whole process. You have to write this requirement in the contract. I’ll sign it immediately.”

Although I did not know what he was trying to do, I still thought about it and



trying to do, I still thought about it and nodded to agree. Anyway, it would be inexcusable for me not to be there during the shoot. As for going to other parts of the country, that would be a topic for another day.

“Nice! I like how straightforward you are. It’s noon soon, Wandy, and I’m a little nervous. Can you buy me lunch to cheer me up?” Xander greedily made another request.

I pulled out my phone to call Heidi. “Can you get Mr. Celebrity Xander some takeaway food? I’m buying him lunch this afternoon.”

“Blergh...” Xander put on a pained expression and covered his mouth while saying, “H-How can you do this to me?!” He ran away after saying those words.

‘Do you think I can’t handle you, little guy?’ I looked at his back and gloated.

Takeaways were Xander’s nightmare. Once, we went out and ordered takeaways. He ended up eating a cockroach. Since then, he would reflexively gag at the mention of takeaways.

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The final results in the afternoon were expected. Whether it was the judges' or audience's vote, Xander suppressed everyone and successfully won first place, becoming the rightful spokesperson.

I signed the endorsement contract with him directly on behalf of Grant Corporation and announced another important piece of news on the scene. That was, inviting Sandy, the first runner-up, to be the brand ambassador.

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As soon as I said those words, everyone was surprised. Then, the audience broke into applause, and Sandy's fans began screaming fervently.

I guess only I was capable of announcing a surprise brand ambassador like that.

I did not inform anyone about this prior because I planned to throw Newlight Media off guard and offer them no reason to oppose. Logically speaking, anyone would think that they were trying to become the spokesperson seeing how they had come to participate in the competition.

However, they did not win first place, hence becoming the spokesperson was practically impossible now.

Even so, Grant Corporation kept old friendships in mind and created the brand ambassador title. In everyone's opinion, that was the greatest show of sincerity and love toward Sandy and Newlight Media. They had no reason to not accept it or find fault with the

decision.

This matter was thus concluded. Initially, I was still quite worried that the kidnappers would give me trouble again, but they did not appear even after the competition ended. Thus, I felt less anxious about it now.

The next step was to make arrangements for the advertisement shooting. Due to time constraints, all the employees worked overtime to catch up with the process in order to start early.

Cecilia's milk tea store had already been sold off. She said that she had been working tirelessly for many years, so she wanted to use this opportunity to go out and enjoy herself for a bit.

I knew she had been holding herself back after what had happened previously. She was a woman with a strong character, so even though she knew that Cindy was the one who did it, she endured it all and did not mention it for my sake.

I felt extremely sorry, so I registered her for an overseas tour group so she could go out and have a good time.

“You should stay here even after I leave. I’ll hire a caretaker to take care of you during this time.” Cecilia was very worried about me.

“It’s okay. I’ll go back to the villa since Theo isn’t around anyway. Ms. Woods is in the villa, so don’t worry about me.” It was time for me to head back. No matter what happened in the future, it was not the time for me to leave yet. Living here was not an option.

After sending Cecilia to the airport, I drove back to the villa alone.

I saw Cindy standing in the living room as soon as I walked through the door. She looked just like a matchless beauty—tall with an air of stunning elegance when paired with her white dress.

No one could resist a beauty like her.

My heart throbbed in pain. Her existence was a threat to me. As long as she was around, I was destined to be abandoned at any time. My child might end up the same way too.

At the thought of this, my heart ached to the point of explosion. It formed a bloody



the point of explosion. It formed a bloody pit filled with anger and hatred, which spread rapidly.

How nice would it be if she **did** not exist in this world? My child would have a complete family and I would not have to worry about Theo randomly leaving for no reason.

The ugly monster at the bottom of my heart rapidly grew, and my thoughts became a mess. Without thinking much, I picked up the fruit knife beside me and bolted toward Cindy.

At this moment, there was only one thought in my mind—everything would be okay once she was gone. All my worries would disappear.

Just as my knife was about to pierce through Cindy's back, a huge force pushed my body away and the knife fell from my hand.

Theo picked up the knife and tossed it afar, glaring at me with frosty eyes. "What are you trying to do, Wanda Lane?"

My mind was blank but I slowly regained my senses. Did I just attempt to kill Cindy?

Cindy:

I was horrified at my own actions and my body went limp as I crashed downward. I was no longer in control of my body.

Theo reached out to hold me, but his eyes remained ice-cold. His rage had reached boiling point.

The lingering fear made me tremble. I closed my eyes in agony, and when I opened them again, they were filled with tears. I lowered my head and pleaded in a low voice, "Ask her to leave, Theo. Ask her to leave immediately."

I ignored his frosty and dark countenance. Yanking his hand, I said urgently, "Theo, I can't bring myself to see her here. This is our house. This house belongs to you and me. Please, I beg you, don't make me see her here or I'll really kill her."

I kept muttering under my breath, revealing to him all my love, hatred, grievances, and viciousness without reservation. I told him how much I loved him, how afraid I was that my child would not receive their father's love, and how much I hated Cindy.

At this moment, I was honest and spilled

out everything that I had buried in my heart for the past three years.

He listened quietly with his thin lips gently pursed. His grip on my body had loosened.

Cindy was dumbfounded by what just happened and finally realized what was going on. She screamed at the top of her lungs with no regard for her image, “Don’t listen to her, Theowy! She’s a liar. She’s lying to you—”

I was still shivering. Theo held me tight, his moist lips pressing against my forehead. He said in a deep and hoarse voice, “Why are you so silly?”

Having said that, he picked me up and carried me upstairs while saying to Keith, who was just coming in, “Send Ms. Cindy back.”

“You don’t want me anymore, Theowy?” Cindy’s voice was sad and piteous—full of despair and unwillingness.

“Keith will take you home.” Theo’s voice was a little cold.

He then closed the bedroom door. Keith’s





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then closed the bedroom door. Keith's voice could be vaguely heard from downstairs. "Let's go, Ms. Cindy. Please don't make things difficult for me."

Theo gently placed me on the bed. His dark pupils scanned me up and down, his countenance dark and gloomy. I did not know what he was thinking about.

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