

# A Lifetime With You Chapter 81

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## Chapter 81

Beth's funeral was scheduled to take place two days later over the weekend. She had died in a disgraceful fashion, and her body was immediately cremated after retrieving it from the morgue. Her funeral was slated to be a low-key event. Other than relatives from the Nagel family and their close associates, almost no one else attended the funeral.

Cecelia was a sobbing heap, and she fainted in the memorial hall twice. She had to be carried off via ambulance and leaving her heartbroken husband, Keenan Nagel, to preside over the funeral on his own.

Keenan seemed uneasy with the arrival of Ava. "What else do you want from us?" Keenan rapped his cane on the ground and showed no hospitality to his eldest daughter. Ava paused at the entrance to the memorial hall with a bouquet before she decided to go in. In the center of the hall, stood an altar with Beth's monochrome portrait. By judging from her portrait, any unknowing bystander would have thought Beth a sweet and innocent girl. "Get out Ava, you're not welcome here!" Keenan said brusquely. She looked her father in the eye. They had not seen each other face to face for a long time now. Keenan's hair had been greying the last time she met him, but there were more now. His skin was sallow and he had lost a lot of weight. Also, his eyes seemed sunken and his jawline seemed sharper. Ava felt sorry for him as it must be agonizing to lose his beloved daughter. She placed the flowers at the altar and turned to say, "Take care of yourself, dad." Keenan snorted loudly and rebuked her, "Funny you should say that since you've been waiting for me to throw in the towel for a long time now!" "What do you mean?" "I am a luckless man, who was having only begotten two daughters in my lifetime, and now one of them is dead. I bet you and your mother are circling the Nagel family fortune like vultures now, aren't you?"

Ava looked at her father incredulously. She had anticipated some hostility from the Nagel family when she made the decision to come and pay her last respects to Beth. But hearing her own father said such things still wounded her grievously. "Is that what you think of my mother and me?" "Back then, when your mother used up all her shrewd tactics to get you into the Nagel family, was it not all in anticipation of this day?" Keenan's tone was no different from her late stepsister's scathing remarks. She chuckled darkly and said, "People can say what they want about me and mom, but you are especially unqualified to criticize us."

If he had not deceived her mom back then and given her false hope before running off to marry another woman, all of this would have never happened. But, even up to this point, Keenan had never repented for his deeds. Keenan only said bluntly, "You wouldn't even be here if I had controlled myself back then..." In fact, it was all his fault for tricking Ava's mother, and Beth's downfall was her own doing. But still, he chose to blame it all on Ava and her mother.

It was d\*mn ridiculous!

Ava took a deep breath and steeled herself as she was trying hard not to cry.

"Dad, if it was me who died and not Beth, would you feel just as sad?" Keenan muttered something under his breath but he did not reply to her directly. Ava somehow guessed the answer and she sighed. "Alright, I get it." She turned to take one last look at Beth's portrait, then paced out of the hall quickly. At this point, she swore never to return. At the porch, Cecelia had just returned from treatment at the hospital and had come home in time to participate in the funeral procession. The two women ran into each other. Cecelia who was limping weakly was suddenly enraged and she grabbed Ava's throat to choke her. "How dare you step foot here? What gives you the right to show your face here? Go to hell!" She cursed and felt an intense urge to rip Ava, who had killed her daughter indirectly into shreds. Ava struggled but failed to shake her off. They rolled on the ground while the servants of the Nagel residence watched listlessly. "It was you that killed her! I'm going to avenge her by killing you today, b\*tch!" "You lunatic, let me go!"

Ava gasped for air and nearly fainted, but then she grabbed a rock nearby just in time and bashed it onto Cecelia's back. However, it did not deter Cecelia at all as she was still holding her tightly. The ruckus in the courtyard had alerted Keenan and the other guests. Keenan walked out and yelled, "Stop it, you two!" On his orders, the servants finally gathered the courage to advance together and peel their Madam off Ava.

She heaved and coughed as she caught her breath. Her neck was ringed with marks from the strangling. Ava would have probably gone to join Beth in another world if it was delayed a little longer. "Kill her, hubby! Avenge our poor daughter!" Cecelia had gone insane and held onto Keenan as she begged. He frowned, and then turned sullen when he noticed the bruises on his wife's back, which was caused by Ava.

"Ava, is this how you treat your stepmother? Do you intend to kill us all!" Keenan scolded harshly. "...". She was still gasping for breath on all fours and unable to find the words to argue with her father.

In fact, she was the one who almost lost her life. But her father had never taken her side. Not even once. She smiled bitterly and balled her fists. Keenan was furious and raised his cane as though to hit her. Ava had no intention of evading it, and she was prepared to endure the abuse. Ever since she was a child, she had been beaten countless times until she became numb. Suddenly a thick jacket flapped onto her shoulders and covered her body with warmth. – And the cane never landed on her. She raised her head in astonishment and saw Damien's face. "What are you doing here?" Damien helped her get up and irritated when he saw the strangulation marks around her neck. "I told you not to come but you're too stubborn to listen. But since you're here already, I won't stand by while you get bullied." He spoke tenderly to her and her heart melted instantly. The tears that she had held back so hard, had finally broken through and they were streaming down her cheeks now. She chastised herself for her cowardice and her reliance on others for protection. It turned out she had her own guardian angel after all.... Damien pulled her behind him and called out at Keenan, "Looks like the Nagel family has some explanation to do, after what happened today."

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## Chapter 82

Keenan's expression soured, "What do you mean?" "As a sign of respect to you as my father-in-law, I planned to ignore everything that happened between Ava and Mrs. Nagel initially. But since you've crossed the line and tried to hit my wife, guess we need to have some talk now." "Mr. Radbury, this is about the Nagel family and I have got the rights to teach my daughter. Please refrain yourself from getting involved in this matter!"

Keenan was firm this time. The Radburys and the Nagels were not on good terms since the kidnapping incident. With that, Keenan was not concerned about Damien's status now.

"Suddenly, you regard me as your daughter again when you want to vent your anger;" chuckled Ava. Cecelia was held by a servant. Although her back was bleeding slightly, it was not a serious injury. Damien and Ava were interlocking hands, "Last time when Mrs. Nagel barged into the restaurant and interrupted our meals, I've let her go once as respect to Beth. Yet today, she was trying to hurt my wife again and the injury behind her back is purely self-defense by Ava. I wonder what is the penalty for someone who committed the crimes more than once?" "You...! Damien, you'd better don't go too far!" "Look who's talking now!" Damien was furious, "Remember this! I'm letting everyone off today for Ava's sake! There is no next time!" Then, Damien and Ava left the Nagel residence. Keenan was enraged and he fainted due to rising blood pressure.

"Sir!" "Someone, call the doctor!" The servants and Cecelia were startled by Keenan's collapse. Ava wanted to turn around but Damien held her back. "Never look back," he said to her.

She nodded.

Damien then loosened the grip once they entered the car. Ava massaged her fingertips that were still covered in Damien's warmth and wiped off her tears. "Why did you come here today?" She asked. "The butler told me that you left early this morning and I guessed you came here." "So you went there to protect me?" Damien refused to answer and he knocked her forehead slightly, "Are you dumb all this while?" "I'm not." "Remember this. Learn to stand up for yourself. Otherwise, people will take advantage of your kindness."

Ava giggled and felt warmth in her heart.

"Thank you, Damien."

Due to the red mark on her neck that was left by Cecelia that day, Ava used a silk scarf to cover it and headed to the office. Little did she know, the scarf brought trouble to her. That afternoon, Kelly was at the Radbury Group to sign a brand endorsement contract. Since this was not the first collaboration, the contract details were roughly similar to the previous. Ava made some modifications to the document and delivered it to Kelly. Everyone included employees of the artist agency and Radbury Group were waiting for her in the meeting room.

Ava handed the contract and prepared to leave.

Just then Kelly sneered.

Ava was in a daze, and she stopped her tracks.

Everyone was staring at them and they started to whisper at both of them. "You do like to follow me, right? Last time, it was a handbag and now it's the scarf. Such a copycat!" Kelly mocked. Suddenly, Ava realized that both of them were indeed wearing the same type and color of scarf. What an awkward situation, especially for women! It was an inexpensive scarf, and Ava was not expecting Kelly to wear it. "Miss Hensley, I think you've misunderstood. This scarf was.." Before she could explain, Kelly pulled her scarf down and flung it into the trash can at a corner of the meeting room.

At that moment, Ava was embarrassed. Ava thought of removing her scarf as well as she left the meeting room. In the end, she decided to keep them on due to the bruise on her neck. There was always tension around Ava and Kelly. The latter was probably still upset about the incident at the hospital that day. Hence, it was not a surprise for Kelly to lash out at Ava. Moreover... Ava shook her head to erase the messy thoughts. Her phone rang, and it was Selden. Ava hesitated before answering the call. "What time do you get off work?" He said cheerfully. "At half-past four. Why?"

"Can you get me my favorite matcha mousse cake after that?" Ava shook her head but relented, and teased him back, "I see you're getting pluckier now and even ordering me around, eh? I thought the doctor ordered you to eat bland foods only, and the time! checked, cakes are not considered bland."

Selden groaned, "I think the ICU is ready for me if I don't get to eat cake today." Ava laughed at his joke and decided to bring Selden a cake later. After all, he was her savior. At the hospital. Selden was lying on the bed and playing mobile games. He was badly wounded and now that the anesthetics had worn off, Selden was aching all over. But he acted normally around Ava so that the latter would not feel guilty about everything. Plus, Selden chose to inject himself with painkillers to reduce the sore. Selden glanced at the clock, and he heard footsteps approaching. It must be Ava! Yet, his face froze when he saw the visitor. "Why are you here instead of Ava?"

It turned out that the visitor was Damien.

He came with Selden's favorite matcha mousse cake. "Ava asked me to bring you this." Damien put the cake on the bed stand with a blank expression. "Why didn't she come personally? Was it because of you?" Selden asked. "She had to work overtime today." "Liar." Selden cursed in a low voice. "It's up to you whether to believe it or not." Damien was about to leave before Selden said, "Hey, bring me the cake, will you? I want to try it now." "Can't you do it yourself?" Damien asked coldly. "The wound hurts too much and I can't do it myself." Damien had no choice but to stay. He helped him up on the bed and adjusted the dining tray.

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### Chapter 83

Damien was left with no choice, as Selden was Ava's savior. Upon witnessing the cake being

served by Damien, Selden was amused, "Not bad, Damien. Seems like you're quite attentive while caring for a patient." "Can I leave now?" "Please stay for a while. You've come all the way here and it'll be nice for both of us to enjoy a cup of tea."

Damien scanned around and there were no teacups besides medical devices.

Selden ignored Damien and savored his cake deliciously. Upon seeing his mischievous behavior, it seemed like Selden was recuperating well. "I heard that, Ava returned to the Nagel residence to attend Beth's funeral," said Selden suddenly. Damien sighed and replied, "Yes, you heard right." "The Oakley and Nagel families are close, and my parents attended the funeral that day. I believe you've seen the way Ava was treated by her family." "What are you trying to say?" Selden placed his spoon down with a serious expression, "Ava...had suffered so much in the past. Just when I thought she had accomplished her dream by marrying you, it turned out that you're no different than the Nagel family." "Our relationship issues are none of your business." "It's true that I am an outsider in your marriage. But I won't stand there and do nothing if you dare to hurt her again."

Damien scowled upon the statement. It seemed like Selden said those things purposely to stimulate him.

Before Selden could finish, Damien turned around and leave. But it was true that their marriage wasn't a happy one, and Damien neglected Ava most of the time over the past two years.

Then again, Damien was not late to rebuild their broken marriage again. Whatever it was, he wouldn't let anyone snatch Ava away.

Ava belonged to him.

Damien couldn't reach Ava, and Dempsey revealed that his wife was still working overtime in the office.

He instructed his driver to make a detour immediately.

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Everyone in the secretarial department had left except Ava who was still working. The contract renewal with Kelly was supposed to be a trivial matter. Yet, Kelly demanded several changes and refused to sign the contract unless her conditions were met. D Currently, Kelly was a highly-sought celebrity and the continuous partnership was crucial to the Radbury Group Hence, the contract had to be changed to fulfill her requests. Ava yawned as she drafted the new contract. Suddenly, Damien appeared in front of her. "Why did you come back again?" Ava was surprised by his presence. "To pick you up from work." "I asked you to arrange a driver for the cake delivery to Selden, have you done it?" Ava asked. "The truth is, I delivered it personally." Ava was taken aback, "You...you went there yourself?" She was embarrassed for having Damien troubled himself over it.

"Thank you."

Damien was annoyed, "It should be him thanking me and not you."

"Well... I do owe him a lot this time."

Reminded by the cellar incident, Damien was upset that he was unable to protect Ava. It seemed like this would be a thorn in his flesh forever. "It's alright and let's go home now," he said.

Ava shook her head, "I can't. I must get this contract amended."

"Just do it tomorrow." "No way! Kelly will be here by morning and I won't make it in time."

"Then leave it to someone else to do."

Ava laughed, "I thought the Radbury Group isn't a place for freeloaders yet you are ordering me to stop working." Upon seeing her determination, Damien decided to accompany Ava. She then continued the amendments. Fortunately, Kelly did not go overboard with her requests. Everything would be completed once she signed the contract tomorrow. To avoid Kelly's wrath, Ava thought of having Dempsey delivered the document tomorrow. The night arrived as she continued working.

Damien attempted to read a book but he lost focus subsequently. In the end, he chose to stare at Ava instead.

While Ava was deep in thoughts, she had a habit of chewing the pen, with her lips and brows quivered.

Indeed, Damien did not aware of when did he eager to observe her.

But he knew that his resistance to care for Ava was futile no matter how. His eyes still couldn't help but be drawn to her.

He was like a bee attracted to honey no matter what.

"Ava." He called her name.

"Yes?"

Ava gazed up to meet his deep stare. At that point, she felt butterflies in her stomach and she was sweating heavily. "Hold on, I'm almost done," she said in a rush. Just then, Damien came leaning closer to her. He caressed her cheek and kissed her. Ava was startled by the sudden action, and she retreated. Damien took advantage of her response and held her by her waist to pull her down to his lap.

"What are you doing...! Stop it, I'm almost done."

Ava reached for the computer mouse, but Damien had pushed it away earlier. Soon, they shared a deep kiss. At this moment, the sound of heartbeats and heavy panting could be heard.

Suddenly, Ava realized that it was the heartbeat of Damien instead of hers. Huh? Was he nervous? With her arms wrapped around his neck, Ava was blushing hard and Damien looked different than previously.

"Damien, you've been acting weird recently," she blurted out. "Why?" "You...you are different now. Last time, you used to hate me but lately..." Ava's voice faded into silence as she lost her confidence. She was afraid of being rejected and all this while, Ava felt as if everything was just her imagination. Didn't he hate her? So, what was with the sudden affection? Did he fall in love with her? Looking into his eyes, she was unsure about everything. Never once did she feel secure in this marriage. Every little sweet moment seemed fragile and could break anytime. Damien sighed quietly and kissed her forehead.

"Ava, let's start over again."

## A Lifetime With You Chapter 84



## Chapter 84

The filming of a new advertisement begun after Kelly signed the contract. Since Ava had experience in the advertising industry, she was responsible for the liaison between the artist agency and Radbury Group. However, she could only sigh out of her upset feeling. It seemed like an easy task for outsiders, but Ava was unwilling to do it. During the first day, Kelly was picking on Ava and the former even threatened to stop filming due to a wardrobe mishap. Ava had no choice but to please her. "Miss Hensley, we only have a set of this expensive dress. So, we have no choice but to adjust the size with clips. Plus, the filming is about to begin and there is no time for a professional fix or another outfit change." "I don't care. My reputation will be ruined by such inferior dress." Kelly answered coldly and decided not to cooperate with everyone. Ava was troubled, "Miss Hensley, we're going to film your front profile and no one will realize the clips at the back." "Are you suggesting to deceive the customers by having me wear this ill-fitted dress? You have my measurements all this while and it's your responsibility to prepare the correct outfit!" "That is indeed a mistake by the wardrobe team but the only thing we can do now is..." "The only thing to do is stop the filming today. We shall continue once you have everything sorted out."

Kelly was preparing to leave.

Upon hearing that, Ava was devastated. The preparation was completed, and the company would suffer massive losses if the filming was delayed. "Miss Hensley, please wait..." She rushed to stop Kelly. Damien and Dempsey were standing at the entrance, not far away. Due to the hassle at the filming site, Ava didn't notice that both of them were standing behind the cameras for more than ten minutes.

Dempsey asked softly, "Mr. Radbury, would you like me to speak with Miss Hensley?"

Damien knew that Dempsey was a capable secretary as she had been working for him for quite a long time. Hence, she was naturally more capable than Ava to handle such a trivial matter.

Yet, he shook his head, "Let her handle this."

"But Miss Hensley is making things difficult for Mrs. Radbury." Damien turned his head with a smile, "If she can't even manage Kelly, then she's not the Ava I know."

Dempsey was stunned.

She noticed that Damien smiled a lot compared to the past. Ava yelled in the studio, "Stay right there, Kelly!" Everyone was dumbfounded by her sudden shout. Kelly stopped and glared at Ava. "I know you're against me but this is your project. I won't get fired just because you leave and the company can always find someone to replace you!" "Are you threatening me?" "So what? You did the same by leaving the filming too." Ava was infuriated than usual. Kelly felt awkward with the people staring at her now. She was a celebrity after all, and any scandal would ruin her career. She was in a dilemma. Ava walked up to her and forcibly pulled her into the changing room. "What are you doing! Let me go!" Kelly struggled. "I'm going to have a private conversation with you. Feel free to make a scene if you want." Kelly was taken aback, and she calmed down immediately. Ava said, "I don't like you either, Kelly. But I refuse to admit something that I've never done. Go and win

his heart back if you want instead of wasting time on me!" "You...!"

"It's true that Selden took the stab for me. Plus, I knew him, longer and we could've been together if we want. But, I am now a married woman and he understands that both of us are impossible to get together. Otherwise, he wouldn't have dated you. It's pointless to vent your anger against me." Kelly sneered, "Huh? Your words shall hurt him badly then." "You should make a move on him instead of pestering me. Otherwise, nothing will change for you two." "But we've broken up, will there be any chance for us?" "If you think everything is over, why are you still harassing me?" Kelly went silent at Ava's question. Ava passed the dress to Kelly, "Put it on. I don't care how much you despise me but work professionalism is important. You are not gaining anything from your irrational behavior." Kelly hesitated but accepted the dress in the end. "The error is indeed our fault and I apologize on behalf of the wardrobe team," said Ava. "But everyone is giving their best for the filming and people will treat you nicely if you do the same to them."

Ava was leaving Kelly for the latter to change her dress. Kelly said, "Selden said that you're gentle, and it was him protecting you from any harm in the past. But it seems like he knows nothing about you."

Ava chuckled and walked out.

Afterward, the filming went smoothly for the rest of the day. Undoubtedly, Kelly was a professional despite her temperament. She appeared lively and elegant in front of the camera without being affected by the uncomfortable dress.

Ava was monitoring the filming and she noticed a familiar silhouette leaving the studio. It seemed like Damien...

Outside the studio, Dempsey followed Damien, "Are we leaving, Mr. Radbury?"

"Let's go."

"But I thought you are visiting..." Dempsey did not understand why Damien left without saying anything to Ava.

## A Lifetime With You Chapter 85

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### Chapter 85

In the evening.

When Ava returned from work, she noticed Damien was changing his clothes. In the office, Damien was dressed smartly in a tie and he would change to casual wear after returning from work. But today, he was wearing a suit instead. "Are you going out tonight?" Ava asked. "Yes."

"Oh, who are you going out with?"

Damien tightened his tie and turned around to pinch her nose bridge, "You." Ava was bewildered and before she could respond, Damien pushed her into their walk-in closet.

"Dress up nicely because we're going somewhere special tonight." "Hmm?"

She was still in a daze, and the closet shut. Something nice...she scanned around and chose a modest yet classy dress that matched the color of Damien's tie.



By the time Ava finished, Damien was waiting for her in the living room. "What are you up to?" she asked. "We're going out to dinner." Damien was extremely satisfied with Ava's look tonight. Ava was a beauty despite her plain outfits on normal days. But tonight, she was stunning. "We are attending the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. Dominic Turner and his wife, Mrs. Lilith Turner," Damien told her. "Mr. Turner? Do you mean the professor of macroeconomics?" Damien nodded.

Dominic was their lecturer in the college. Ava knew that both of them were close since college and it seemed like they never lost contact even after these years. "But, we will meet our old classmates and lecturers there, right?" Ava was slightly intimidated by the thought. Back then, Damien was her sole reason to pursue finance studies. Having no interest in the subjects, Ava's results were terrible and she suffered immensely in the classes. Damien curled his lips, "Don't worry. Nobody is going to recognize you."

Ava went silent. There were many students in the college and perhaps only the outstanding ones like Damien would be recognized by the lecturers.

As Ava expected, many prominent figures and renowned lecturers attended the party.

Everyone looked at Damien upon his arrival.

Naturally, he introduced Ava to the guests.

"Mr. Turner, this is my wife, Ava. She was in your class too." Dominic failed to recognize Ava due to his age and poor eyesight. Ava shook his hand and smiled, "Mr. Turner, I'm just an ordinary student among the brilliant ones." "My dear, you're extraordinary for having to claim Damien as your husband!" Everyone laughed upon the remark. The party atmosphere was warm and lively. The couple sat together with Dominic and reminisced. "Back then, Damien was a genius and loved by the lecturers. I wondered why you didn't attend a prestigious university abroad?" Damien replied, "Our college was ranked top ten in the country and it's just as good." "That's right! I struggled insanely during the senior year to enter our college." Ava muttered. Damien leaned closer and grinned, "Such a shame that I wasn't able to witness your madness back then."

"Woah! Looks like our Damien has become chatty and knows how to crack jokes after getting married." Dominic chuckled.

Observing his current state, Ava wondered just how quiet Damien was back then.

Dominic was undoubtedly a notable individual since the party was attended by many guests.

Ava was envious of the old couple. Damien was greeted by other alumni, and he had a toast with them. Just then, Ava heaved a sigh. "Everything was alright, so what's with the long face?" Damien turned around and asked. "Nothing, it's just that I felt useless compared to other talented alumni." "You heard it yourself. Dominic thinks you are exceptional for making me your husband." Ava giggled. A sudden idea flashed across her mind. They attended the party and Ava was introduced to his lecturer. Was he planning to have a golden wedding anniversary with her in the future then? Suddenly, she saw Damien's expression hardened. Ava followed his gaze and saw Selina entering the party. Selina saw Damien too and approached the couple. "What a coincidence. I wasn't expecting to meet you two here." Selina smiled as usual. "What are you doing here?" "My mother is the niece

of Mrs. Turner, and it is natural for me to join the wedding anniversary." Damien was not intending to interact with Selina in the public. Yet, the latter stopped Damien from leaving "Why are you avoiding me? We can still be friends despite the breakup." Breakup... Ava was uncomfortable to hear this. So it was true that Damien and Selina were together previously. She gulped down a glass of champagne.

Somehow, Ava felt nauseous after the drink.

But she didn't have too much to drink that night. "You two carry on. I am leaving for the washroom." Ava stood up and marched towards the washroom. Damien was concerned but he was stopped by Selina before following his wife, "I have something to tell you."

Meanwhile, Ava was throwing up in the toilet. It was impossible for her to suffer this much from a few glasses of alcohol. Was she feeling disgusted by the presence of Selina? Upon exiting the washroom, Damien was nowhere to be seen. She couldn't find him in the crowd and someone offered her a drink. Ava had to decline due to her poor condition. Finally, she found Damien standing in the backyard. At this point, Selina was there as well. Ava hid behind the tree instinctively.

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### Chapter 86

Selina might have said something to Damien, and he seemed displeased by her words. He replied, "What do you want? I've told you that everything's over between us and things will get ugly if you don't stop bothering me." "Damien, how could you do this to me? It was you who suggested and ended the act back then. Now that I'm serious, why can't I have a chance?" "We match each other perfectly in everything except one."

"What is it?" "You can't be the reason for my divorce with Ava, Miss Newton." Although Damien spoke softly, Ava could hear everything.

Her heart was beating loudly. Suddenly, she accidentally stepped on a twig underneath.

Since the backyard was silent, both Damien and Selina could hear the sound. "Who is it?"

Selina asked sternly. Ava crept out slowly from behind the tree and she smiled awkwardly.

"... I wasn't planning to eavesdrop on purpose. Plea... please continue." Ava prepared to run

away. But Damien yelled, "Stay where you are, Ava." Ava froze on the spot. Selina stared at

Ava and she claimed pitifully, "I admit that I'm not good enough, but... but I am willing to

change. Can't you give me another chance?" Most of the guys wouldn't be able to resist

Selina's current dejected tone. Ava was getting uncomfortable now, and she dared not to

look at Damien. But Damien replied coldly, "Miss Newton, you're being inappropriate in

front of my wife." "You told me that Ava was nothing to you, so I shouldn't care too much

about her feelings, right?" Damien's face tensed. It was true that back then he said Ava was

nothing to her, but now... "You two keep on and I will leave first," Ava spoke suddenly. She

then fled the scene.

Selina continued to pester Damien, but the latter pushed her off. He rushed to the hall, but

Ava was nowhere to be seen. "Mr. Turner, have you seen my wife?" Damien asked

immediately. "She left in a hurry to the entrance. What's wrong?" Damien dashed towards the direction and grabbed Ava. "Where do you think you're going?" "... I feel awkward there. You two should continue." Damien chuckled, "Do you think that I want to continue the conversation?"

Ava pouted. Back then, Damien and Selina were embroiled in a few scandals, not to mention that the latter was a frequent guest of the Radbury residence. Now, he chose to ignore Selina firmly after their breakup. Oh, men sure were cruel!

"Uh, it seems like Miss Newton truly likes you. Are you not giving her a chance?" He tickled her nose and said, "Too bad for her, she came late and I've already given that chance to someone else."

.....

At the hospital. Selden was recuperating in the hospital. After much thought, Kelly decided to visit him. Unfortunately, there was still heavy tension between them. Selden was weak, and he refused to argue with Kelly. Yet, Kelly's soft-spoken nature only lasted for a while. She was angry again after a short conversation. "I came to see if you're still alive. Who cares about you! Get lost!" Selden was amused, "This is my room and I have the right to stay. Plus, I'm not allowed to move around." "You're telling me to leave? Fine!" Kelly stormed out, but she left her handbag in the room. Selden shook his head helplessly. Then, he decided to taste the fish soup brought by Kelly in a thermos. He had to admit that the soup tasted quite good. Although Kelly insisted that the soup was prepared by her, Selden knew that it was impossible with her cooking skills. Kelly returned for her bag, but she stopped upon seeing Selden was savoring the soup she brought. Only after he had finished the soup, Kelly entered to grab her bag before leaving again. "Kelly, wait," Selden called her. She stopped her tracks. Selden returned the thermos to Kelly, "This soup tastes alright. Do buy for me again next time." "I didn't buy it! I boiled it myself based on the restaurant's recipe!" Kelly snatched the thermos and she yelled, "Don't expect the soup from me again next time!" Selden couldn't help but chuckle. But he hurt his wound by the sudden laugh. Kelly was concerned, but she said angrily nonetheless, "The doctor told you not to move around. Plus, what's so funny about it?" "I think you will become famous if you join the industry again as a comedian." "What do you mean! I am always famous since my debut!" Kelly wanted to hit him with the thermos, but she tripped over the bed stand. Something then fell to the ground.

Kelly noticed that it was an album containing photos of Selden and Ava together... They were old photos and some of them were memories of Selden's teenage years. Despite there were photos of other friends, most of the collections were about Ava. Even now, Selden was still thinking of Ava... "Selden, you're such a loyal man." Kelly snickered, and she threw the album on the floor. "You...!" Selden snarled. He was just too bored to stay in the hospital, so he just flipped through old photos to pass the time. Now, Selden's injuries were preventing him from bending to retrieve the album. Kelly then kicked the album further away and she mocked him, "Go and spend the rest of your days staring at those pictures then! Wish you two live happily after!" Kelly felt deeply hurt as she left the hospital. It was not easy for Kelly to swallow her pride by visiting Selden. In the end, Ava was still the most important to him!

"You fool! Do you think you're such a catch? You're not even worth my time!" Kelly cursed, and she stomped her feet at the hospital entrance.

## A Lifetime With You Chapter 87

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### Chapter 87

"Are you sure that you don't like him anymore? Then why are you getting angry?" A woman's voice appeared from behind. Kelly turned around, and she saw Selina. "Why are you here?" "I was here a while now and I saw you coming out angrily." Kelly responded cautiously, "It's none of your business." Selina smirked, "You're right, Miss Hensley. But again, both of us have the same enemy, right?" Obviously, Ava was their enemy. Kelly rolled her eyes upon the question, "You want us to work together?" "Shouldn't we? After all, both of us share the same enemy and almost the same goal." "Do you think I'm stupid? Once Damien is yours, Ava will switch to Selden immediately." With a smile, Selina approached Kelly, and she whispered, "All we need is to eliminate Ava, right?"

During his stay at the hospital, Selden would call Ava constantly. He requested meal delivery and simple chats with Ava roughly four times a week. Finally, Damien could not take it anymore. "From now on, you are prohibited from visiting Selden!" Ava was speechless, "Selden is my savior and his requests are simple. Perhaps he was bored in the hospital. Plus, I did inform you about the visit every time." "Does he not have any family or friends? Why must it be you every time?" "Fine. How about you replace me like last time?"

Ava glanced at Damien mischievously.

Damien snorted and he instructed the task to his driver instead. "Anyway, you're not allowed to have further interactions with him!" He warned Ava. Ava felt wronged, "Seems like Mr. Radbury is a difficult person. You did the same too last time." "What are you trying to say?" "I didn't question you about Selina last time. Plus, you used to fool around too..." "That's different," Damien denied the accusation. "How is it different? You should take a look at yourself before commenting on others." Ava was busy in the kitchen during their conversation. Since the chefs of the Radbury family were skilled, she rarely stepped into the kitchen. But Ava learned a recipe online and she had a sudden urge to prepare charbroiled chicken wings for Damien this weekend. Yet, Damien was unsettled at the thought of Ava's cooking.

While he was leaning on the door during the conversation, Damien inhaled the scent of burnt meat. A loud noise was heard from the oven and the kitchen was at risk of being damaged. Ava rushed to switch off the oven and she complained; "It's all your fault for distracting me! The food is burned now because of our conversation!" "No. The chicken wings were overcooked before our talk started. The recipe states to have them roasted for twenty minutes, but you used half an hour instead." In the end, charcoals were left instead of food.

"No! I want to do it again!" Ava opened the fridge, and she retrieved the second batch of chicken wings. This time, the chicken wings were not burned, but they were too salty.

Nonetheless, Ava was driven to improve herself after the errors.

"Ava, persistence is not the way sometimes..." Damien commented as he lightly massaged his temples.

Although Damien was amused by her actions, he was getting impatient while waiting for his late lunch.

"I know cooking is not my best but practice makes perfect!" Ava motivated herself. "You sure need more practices then..." Damien eyed the third batch of chicken wings cautiously. They were slightly burned, but the seasoning looked alright. So...it should be fine, right?

"Have a bite." Ava stared with expectation. Damien picked up a chicken wing but he hesitated again. "Let it cool down for a while and I'll eat later." "Hmph! Just say that you don't like it! Fine, I'll eat them all!"

Ava picked up the chopsticks, but before she placed the chicken wings in her mouth, she felt nauseous and rushed herself to the washroom.

Damien was flabbergasted by her sudden behavior. While letting his guard down, he tasted the food. As expected, the taste was...rather strange.

Damien covered his mouth as he gagged. In the washroom, Ava's vision blurred after throwing up profusely. She felt her legs weakened as she stood up, but Damien managed to grab her in time. "How do you feel?" "I don't know, but I've been feeling nauseous lately." Just then, Damien realized that the chicken wings had nothing to do with Ava's discomfort. "Let's get you to the hospital." "I'm alright. It's probably indigestion."

At the hospital. The one-hour wait seemed too long. Damien was pacing in front of Ava, making the latter dizzy. "Can you please calm down?" She asked annoyingly while massaging her temple. But Damien was nervous. Then, the doctor brought the reports and he announced, "Congratulations to both of you! Mrs. Radbury is pregnant." Was she really pregnant? Ava rubbed her abdomen gently. This was not her first pregnancy. Last time, she was too weak to protect her child. Perhaps God had answered her prayers, and she was given a second chance to be a mother. She was overwhelmed, and her tears dropped to her cheeks. Damien grabbed the report. He read it over and over to ensure everything was real. "Ava..." He turned around and found his wife crying heavily. His smile suddenly froze.

Damien rubbed Ava's tears but the latter did not stop crying.

"What's wrong, love?" "...I'm fine." Ava turned around to control her tears but to no avail. He reached his arms to hug Ava. "I'm sorry, Ava." Damien suddenly realized the reason for her weeping. Their first child was gone because of his foolishness. But now, God had given him another chance to make things right again. Damien swore to protect his wife and their child no matter what. "Damien, are you really happy?" Ava asked suddenly. "Of course." Because this was their child.

"That's good to know." Ava dried her eyes and smiled at him.

## A Lifetime With You Chapter 88

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## Chapter 88

The news of Ava's pregnancy had reached the Radbury family. Daryl was overjoyed, and he invited them over for a meal. "You have to be careful now, Ava. Don't act recklessly like last time!" Daryl nagged at Ava.

She could only nod politely. Since her last pregnancy could not be protected, so everyone was extra cautious this time. Although Ava was unwelcomed in the Radbury family, her baby was still their eldest grandchild. Karen did not favor Ava but for the sake of the child, her attitude softened a little. Also, Karen ordered the housekeeper to prepare nutritional supplements for her. Ava was surprised at her sudden affection.

Since the marriage, it was her first time being well-treated by the Radbury family. <sup>3</sup> But Ava knew it was because of her baby. Without the pregnancy, she was nothing to them. During the meal, Karen said, "Damien, you're always busy with work. Once the baby is born, let us take care of the child. I want to raise my first grandchild properly." They were not allowing Ava to raise the baby. Naturally, Ava objected to the decision. As she tried to refuse, Damien held her wrist. Damien then replied calmly, "Both of you are getting older, and raising kids is not easy. I shouldn't be troubling you two anymore." "I know that you care about us, but we still have the strength to do it. Plus, we have the servants to help around. It's safer to bring the baby here." Karen glanced at Ava as she finished her words. Ava realized that they were shunning her despite the pregnancy. Perhaps to them, Ava was not capable of raising her kid.

She couldn't help but snigger inwardly. "Mom and dad, I think the parents should stay beside the child. Damien may be busy, but I'm quite free," Ava said politely. "Did I ask for your opinion? I'm talking to my son," Karen shot back. Ava wanted to reply to her words, but she suddenly felt queasy. Ava stood up and rushed to the washroom. Karen's displeased mutterings could be heard from behind.

Ava vomited severely. Somehow, her morning sickness this time was worse than her first pregnancy

Her stomach was emptied, and Ava gargled herself. Just then, Damien entered the washroom. Damien handed her a tissue, "Just ignore her words."

"I know. They're just worried about the baby." Ava paused for a moment and she asked, "What about you?"

"What?"

"If we don't have this child, how will you treat me?" She stared at Damien nervously. Damien was always expressionless, but now, he looked delighted towards the pregnancy news. Ava was at a loss for words upon observing his reaction. Was he genuinely happy because of the baby? Or just like Daryl and Karen, he only viewed her as a tool to ensure the continuation of the Radbury family? What if it was a baby from another woman? What if just like last time, she had another miscarriage... She dared not to think about it. Damien stroked her head and he said softly, "Do you always have these nonsensical thoughts?" Instead of answering her directly, Damien brushed her off. She was unsure if Damien was refusing to answer or he was just not taking the matter seriously.

At the hospital.



As time passed by, Selden had been recovering steadily. As he was having a conversation with the nurse, Kelly barged in suddenly. Just then, Selden happened to hold the nurse's hand. Kelly noticed that the nurse was smiling brightly. The nurse retracted her hand hastily, and she left with the patient record instantly. "A leopard never changes its spots," Kelly sneered. "I was giving her a palm reading so stop thinking too much" Selden explained. "You're my ex-boyfriend and I don't have the right to interfere though," Kelly rebuked. His flirty personality never changed. Last time, Selden used palm reading to woo her as well. At that time, he predicted Kelly to fail in her romantic life. The reality is that Selden is her reason for the failure! Selden frowned and he asked her, "Why are you here again? Didn't I tell you not to come again?"

"I brought news."

"What is it?"

"Ava is pregnant."

Selden's expression stiffened.

He was playful and used to hide everything with a grin, even during his stay at the hospital. Despite that, Selden was all serious about Ava.

Kelly predicted his reaction, and she sneered, "Stop dreaming, Selden. So what if you took the stab for her and almost lost your life? She is a married woman, and she is fated to live with another man. Meanwhile, you are all alone."

"So you came to rub salt into my wounds?" "Because I enjoy observing my ex-boyfriend suffer," Kelly snickered. Kelly prepared to leave after finishing her sentence.

Selden stopped her, "Wait." "Why? Anything else?" "Kelly, I know you're suggesting that I give up on Ava. But I think you shouldn't be wasting time on me too." "... Why do you care about me? Stop thinking highly of yourself! Do you think that ... I still haven't forgotten you?" Kelly had enraged. As a celebrity, Kelly was loved by everyone. Why would she wait for Selden? He was getting on her nerves now! Her anger was observed by Selden, and the latter scratched his ears. Kelly was perfect except for her tantrum. Selden would have a headache whenever she was enraged. Selden sighed when she left the room. But Kelly returned to the room again. Kelly was on the verge of crying while staring at him. Just then, Selden's heart softened by the scene.

## A Lifetime With You Chapter 89

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### Chapter 89

"Can't you give me another chance? I swear I won't be throwing tantrums anymore, even if you still can't let her go. But, can't I have your slightest bit of love?" Both of them looked at each other for a long time. He said, "Kelly, you are great, but I'm not the man for you. I don't want to waste your time." "Oh, I knew it." Kelly laughed at herself. When did she ever give up on her dignity for any man in such a manner in her life?

Yet she still couldn't change anything. "Will it be different if you met me before Ava?"

"Love is not a race. It doesn't matter who comes first. Look at Damien, isn't that he met Ava

much more later than me? But, Ava fell for him instead."

On the next day.

At a beauty salon. Wealthy ladies often visited the beauty salon for beauty treatment, including Karen. She had her own VIP room, but on that day, soon after she arrived at the beauty parlor, she was informed that her room was occupied. Karen's face became stiff in an instant, "How can you allow others to use my room? Who is that person?"

"Madam, have you forgotten that Miss Newton whom you brought along, you did say that she is allowed to use the room." The Front Desk Manager explained to her quickly.

"Miss Newton? Selina Newton?" She was stunned for a while. Indeed, she came with Selina to the beauty salon previously. She treated Selina as her future daughter-in-law back then, so she mentioned that Selina had the right to use it whenever she came.

But now...

When Karen walked into the room, Selina had just finished her treatment. She greeted Karen warmly when she saw Karen coming in. "Karen, you are here as well? Such a coincidence, man." "Is that so? I think you are waiting for me here." Karen exposed her with a fake smile. Selina laughed in a low voice and said, "Ah... Nothing can escape from you indeed. Yes, I'm too embarrassed to go to visit you at Radbury family, so I have to find a way to meet you here." Karen sat down on the sofa in the room and let out a sigh. "Selina, it is the fate that we couldn't be a family. Don't take into your heart how Damien treated you in front of your parents during the last dinner." "Nah... I do know Damien's temperament and hence, I won't take it into my heart. But Auntie, we have much to talk about, we can't be distanced because of that issue, anyway."

Karen nodded and thought that Selina was quite sensible. Selina poured a cup of tea for Karen and she sat on the sofa opposite her. "Damien and I do meet each other at the party of his lecturer's Golden Wedding Anniversary." "Is it?"

Selina looked at Karen's reaction. It was obvious that Damien did not bring this matter to his Mother.

So she continued, "I heard from Auntie that Miss Nagel, she... Isn't that she had signed the divorced paper? Then..." "Don't mention that anymore. Divorce sounds so ominous."

Karen understood the purpose of Selina to visit her when she brought up this matter.

Selina stunned, "Not to mention it anymore?"

She was very surprised, and she was caught off guard by the sudden change of Damien's attitude towards Ava. Right now, even Karen who hated Ava all this while had treated Ava so much better.

Karen had a smile and said, "Don't you know that Ava is pregnant?"

"What?"

Selina was so surprised that she almost lost herself. She tried her best to control herself and forced a smile out, "Uh... Well, congratulations to Miss Nagel." "Hmm...Actually, Ava is blessed. It is a responsibility to have kids for Radbury family since Damien likes her so much." "But Karen, last time isn't that you said..." "Previously, I looked down on this illegitimate daughter of the Nagel family. But now that Beth is dead. So Ava was the only daughter left in the Nagel family. Although there is a gap between Nagel and Radbury

Group, she had married into our family anyway and she is pregnant too. Damien and his father were excited, so there's nothing much I could say about it anymore." Although Karen disdained and was dissatisfied with Ava in her voice, there was an obvious coldness in her manner towards Selina in the meantime.

Humph... It was just being pregnant that made her attitude change so much. Upon hearing that, Selina clenched her fists secretly. She still put on a decent smile as she talked with Karen. However, the feeling of jealousy was surged up in her heart right now. Ava Nagel... Did she really think that she would be accepted into the Radbury family just because she was pregnant?

Selina's expression turned malicious and insidious the moment she stepped out of the beauty parlor.

After some thought, she then made a call. "Miss Hensley, I think we shall meet up and have a talk."

An hour later, Kelly arrived at the cafe where Selina had mentioned.

It seemed that Selina had been waiting for some time. "Why are you looking for me again?" Kelly adjusted the sunglasses, and she said sulkily as soon as she sat down. She was a public figure, after all. She was afraid that someone would discover when she met Selina in such places. Selina still had an elegant smile and said, "Miss Hensley, don't worry. This cafe is the property of the Newton family, so no one will have your picture here." Kelly looked around and found that there weren't many people around indeed. "So, what's the matter?" Selina didn't intend to beat around the bush, and she went straight to the point, "Do you know that Ava is pregnant?" "I do know about it, what's the matter?" Kelly rolled her eyes at her. Well, what was the big deal that Ava was pregnant? The person she liked was still so dumb that he put all his attention on that woman, so he didn't even bother to look at her. Seeing how Kelly was on her guard towards her, Selina sneered and said, "Are you so foolish that you think to have an opportunity with Selden once Damien and Ava in a stable relationship?" "That's my own business. What does it have to do with you?" "Selden will always have feelings toward Ava as long as she's still alive. Do you wish that the man you like will have another woman in his mind through his life?" These words hit Kelly.

Actually, this was not the first time Selina came to her. Her confidence and pride made her disdain to work with Selina.

But she hesitated for this time. For the past few days, especially after Selden protected Ava from the knife, she understood that she might not have chances anymore. But... She still refused to give up. Kelly shook her head instantly and tried not to think much about it.

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### Chapter 90

"Selina, I have told you I'm not interested in your schemes and intrigues. Also, I'm not interested to be part of it as well. Well, I do not wish to be like Beth." "What if I can help you let Selden change his mind?" "What can you do?" Selina leaned forward and lowered her

voice. "Do you know how did Ava marry into the Radbury family?" "Well, I heard from Selden that she fell in love with Damien at first sight since she was in high school. Afterward, she courted him for many years." "Humph, love at first sight? That's a lie. She used dirty tricks instead. She drugged Damien in his wine so Damien did the 'business' in drunkenness. Afterward, it is too late for everything that happened." "

"What?"

Kelly exclaimed in surprise. She had never expected Ava to be such a mean person. "I will help you if you are so eager for Selden" Selena spoke softly. She pondered for a moment, "Um... Why are you helping me?" "Uh, well... Take it as a business that brings benefit to both parties by lending a hand to each other."

Anyway, Kelly was moved by the conditions offered by Selina. What she wanted to do was simple. Although it was a huge risk for her, it could be done once and for all.

"Won't Selden come to you when Ava is no longer in this world?" Selina's voice was soft but with affinity. After a long time, Kelly finally said, "Uhm... let me think about it."

Ava went to the hospital on the day that Selden was discharged. She was concerned for this guy to have to go home alone after being discharged from the hospital, and it looked so pitiful.

However, Ava realized that she had too much thought after she arrived at the hospital.

Selden was the main core of the Orthopedics Doctor in this hospital and he was friendly, so almost all his colleagues from the hospital and a few of his friends visited him on that day.

Also, his family members came to pick him home too. Ava wasn't able to enter the ward as it was too crowded.

When she decided to go home alone silently, Selden noticed her and he walked through the crowd before he stood in front of her.

"I knew you would definitely come today. I was slightly disappointed as I'm worried that you would not come over," he said with a smile to her.

"Here, this is a gift as a celebration." Ava put the gift that she prepared into his hand, and he opened it immediately. It was the latest electronic gadget which was suitable for gaming.

"Wow, how did you know it? You're indeed my best friend. I wanted to buy this since last week!" "I think you are alright now. Your parents are also here, so I won't be bothering you. I'll take my leave." Ava said to him.

"Hey, don't go, my parents haven't seen you for a long time. Let's go in and greet them." Selden took her arm and forced her into the ward. Ava couldn't refuse his kindness, so she had to go in and greet the Oakley.

In fact, she was reluctant to meet Selden's parents. They were closed to each other during high school and they often studied together after classes. Even so, Mrs. Oakley thought they were in a relationship. Mrs. Oakley even handed her a cheque and asked her to leave her son back then.

Ava felt so embarrassed as this kind of old-fashioned tactic from the drama was used on her.

Although the misunderstanding was resolved, Oakleys still criticized her and since then, she had never been to the Oakley family's house. "Mr. and Mrs, Oakley," she smiled awkwardly as soon as she entered the ward. "It's Ava. I haven't seen you for a long time. I heard that

you're married. Is it true?" Although Mrs. Oakley sounded friendly, there was still a sense of the gap between them. "Yeah," Ava answered. "I didn't expect you to be so close to Selden since you are married. Does your husband know about this?"

Ava was speechless for a moment. The sarcasm that lied in Mrs. Oakley's words was the same as she had heard during high school. It was clear that she wanted to embarrass her in front of the crowd. However, she could not say much about it besides smiling awkwardly.

"Mom, what nonsense are you talking about?" Selden said immediately. "Did I say anything wrong? Selden, you are also not sensible. Miss Nagel is now married, how others will feel as you are still being indiscreet as she was when you were a child?" Obviously, Mrs. Oakley knew that Selden was injured by suffering a slash for her. So, she had been resentful for a long time. She continued, "The Oakley family is not ordinary. People will praise you for your brave deeds if they know the truth, if they don't, they might think that you have some kind of relationship with Miss Nagel. Although Miss Nagel does not come from the legal wife of the Nagel family and she might not care for the reputation, but how would Miss Nagel's husband think about this?" Selden quickly stopped his mother from speaking. Since his wound didn't heal completely, his rather harsh gesture had affected the wound, so he felt the pain and it made him gasp.

Selden's colleagues and friends in the ward became quiet for a while, and everyone looked at Ava.

Meanwhile, Ava's face turned pale.

If she had known that she would be embarrassed for no reason, she would not have made a fool of herself.

"Mrs. Oakley, my husband and I feel grateful to Selden for saving our lives. So, as we heard that he is discharging from the hospital, my husband specially asked me to prepare a gift to Mr. Oakley and you as a token of appreciation." Ava took a deep breath and said with a smile. Mrs. Oakley was stunned, "Huh? Appreciation?" "Of course we need to thank you. If Mr. and Mrs. Oakley didn't raise Selden well, he wouldn't have stood up for justice. My husband and I do think that you both do have a good way to educate a child." Mrs. Oakley had nothing else to say as Ava had emphasized Damien as her husband for few times.

Everyone knew that Ava's husband was Damien Radbury, the President of Radbury Group. Oakleys was a wealthy family too, but there was a gap between Radbury Group and them. Soon after Ava walked out of the building, Selden caught up with her. "Hey! You walked too fast. I still have something to say to you!" Selden was out of breath after taking a few steps as he just recuperated from severe illness. "Why are you following me around? You mother will be criticizing again if she sees it." "My mother, she... well, she used to say such nasty words. Hence, I would like to apologize on behalf of her. Please don't take it to heart." Ava shook her head, "Nah, I didn't mind it." . After all, she heard even more offensive words from Mrs. Oakley back then. However, she never told Selden about it. Therefore, Selden had no idea the reason his mother had such an inexplicable hostility to Ava.