

My Babies 21

Chapter 21 She's the Young Lady of the Aniston Family, Too?

☒ A look of surprise flashed across Isaac's eyes when he saw Patricia, but he quickly regained his composure, and a faint smile washed over his gorgeous face instead. "What a coincidence, Miss Aniston."

☒ Patricia was equally surprised earlier, but when she recalled that he was Adeline's fiancé, she no longer considered it surprising.

☒ This was the Aniston Residence, and his appearance here couldn't be any more ordinary.

☒ Patricia ignored him as she remembered that although she still owed him money, they weren't friends. So, she looked away nonchalantly and strode toward the staircase.

☒ Again, Isaac smirked, raising his brows, and didn't take it to heart. Instead, he followed after her in large strides; he walked next to her and spoke in a husky voice that carried a trace of teasing. "Patricia Aniston, do you still remember that you owe me money? You're supposed to work at my place when you're recovered, but it seems like you didn't live up to your words. Should I add some interests?"

☒ Just the mention of that 125,000 made her head throb because it was an astronomical figure for her.

☒ She stopped in her tracks and glared at him. "Isaac Arnold, can you please have a little more dignity? I only signed that agreement because I'm a kind person. Any other people won't care about how much you lost or gained at all."

☒ That day, it was only because she had taken the medication that her mind was in a blur. She would never admit to it today if she hadn't signed the agreement.

☒ He raised his arm and trapped her between the wall and himself once he heard that. His eyes narrowed, and his smile turned devilish. "Patricia Aniston, I am the kind person here. If I had left you alone, you'd probably have turned into an idiot now."

☒ After he said that, his long finger brushed over her lips gently. Her pink lips were lovely, and it was even gleaming with a glow. He really wanted to taste them again.

☒ A very sweet taste, and when he thought about it, his lips started to move closer to hers little by little.

☒ Unfortunately, she pushed him aside as she warned, "President Arnold, please watch yourself."

☒ Then, she recalled how he took advantage of her on that day when she fell sick—he had kissed her so much that her lips were swollen. Exactly how long did he kiss me?

☒ She shoved him even harder at the thought of this, and he staggered one step backward.

☒ He furrowed his brows as he wondered why he would always lose control of himself a little every time he saw this woman.

☒ "I'll admit it since I've already signed the agreement. I'll show up and work at your place at 6.00AM sharp. I'm not free during the day because I need to work."

☒ As she wasn't negotiating but confirming with him, she went downstairs after she had said her piece without hesitation as she didn't have any intention to be alone with him.

☒ Isaac lifted his hand to his chest on the spot she had just touched him, and it felt warm.

☒ In the living room downstairs, it was very lively as the room was filled with people chatting around. Hendrick was seated at the main seat, and the family of three was next to him. There were also a few people whom Patricia didn't recognize, and she reckoned they were the elders of the Arnold Family.

☒ The whole time, Adeline kept looking upstairs. Earlier, when she was passing Isaac a cup of coffee, she was so nervous that she stained his clothes. So, she had asked a servant to show him upstairs for a change of clothes. But why isn't he coming downstairs after so long? she thought anxiously.

☒ When she saw a figure coming down, she sprang to her feet, thinking that it was Isaac.

☒ However, when she saw that it was Patricia, the look on her face turned sullen. Why is it that jinx? Just the sight of her kills my mood.

☒ None of the people that Isaac had brought were the elders of the Arnold Family. After all, their marriage was fake, so he had brought over some elderly servants from his family.

☒ At the sight of Isaac coming downstairs, they turned to him and wanted to stand up to greet him.

☒ Nevertheless, he shot them a look, and all of them hurriedly sat firmly in their seats and smiled as they continued their conversations with Andy, speaking about Isaac when he was young.

☒ When Hendrick saw Patricia, he beckoned her. "Tricia, sit here next to me."

☒ Isaac overheard his words and he peered over at Patricia, wondering, Is she a Young Lady of the Aniston Family, too? If that is the case, I don't have to sign the agreement with Adeline. I can just look for Patricia.

Chapter 22 Not So Simple

☒ Patricia took a seat next to Hendrick, and it really didn't cross her mind that the guest he meant was Isaac.

☒ In fact, when she met Mr. Wallace, she wasn't paying attention to what he was saying. Instead, her mind was in a daze at that time, thinking about Hendrick and the Aniston Family.

☒ Adeline went to greet him. "Isaac, let's sit here."

☒ She reached out as she wanted to hold his hand, but he dodged her. Embarrassment flashed over her face, and it suddenly struck her that their marriage wasn't real.

☒ As he had no feelings for her, she had to put in more effort to make it work.

☒ Back to his seat, Isaac asked Hendrick with a smile,

☒ "Old Mr. Aniston, may I ask who this lady is?"

☒ Then, he looked at Patricia, who knitted her brows for a second, thinking, Why is this guy asking this question?

☒ Hendrick was about to answer when Adeline cut him off. “Her name is Patricia Aniston, and she’s the daughter of one of our servants.”

☒ When she finished, her eyes shifted to Hendrick as though hinting at him that it would be better not to let others know that Patricia was from the Aniston Family after the humiliating thing she had done.

☒ Hendrick flinched. As someone who cared a lot about his reputation, his silence meant that he agreed with Adeline’s words.

☒ As for Patricia, the light in her eyes dimmed when she saw her grandfather’s actions. She shouldn’t have returned, to begin with, and since she had already met her grandfather, it was about time for her to leave now.

☒ Hence, she got to her feet. “Grandpa, enjoy yourselves. I’ll take my leave now, but I’ll visit you again when I’m free.”

☒ It made her furious to be called the daughter of a servant, but since Hendrick had given his silent consent to this saying, what else could she say to that?

☒ Ever since she was young, she felt unjustified for her mother for marrying a man like that—driving her away after having an affair and allowing his daughter to call his ex-wife a servant.

☒ At that moment, her mood had hit rock bottom.

☒ Meanwhile, Isaac thought that Patricia was a Young Lady of the Aniston Family, but when he heard Adeline say she was a servant’s daughter, he didn’t find this saying odd.

☒ Why would a Young Lady of the Aniston Family live at Snowflake Lane and can’t even afford rent? he thought.

☒ ...

☒ After leaving the Aniston Residence, Patricia held the wall and closed her eyes to calm herself.

☒ Earlier, she really wanted to turn back, break all the celebrative things in the living room, point a finger at Adeline’s nose, and shout it out loud that she was the real bastard before pointing at Gwen and telling her that a homewrecker like her wasn’t even fit to carry shoes for her mother.

☒ She really had a powerful urge to do that, but she couldn’t.

☒ Just then, a Mercedes stopped at the door, and Zachary hopped out to hold her steady.

☒ “Tricia, why did you come here?”

☒ He wouldn’t have known that she had come here if he hadn’t asked Josephine where Patricia was when he couldn’t find her.

☒ When she heard his voice, she lifted her head and forced a smile. “I’m here to visit my grandfather, but I feel dizzy all of a sudden.”

☒ In truth, she wasn’t dizzy but utterly agitated due to righteous fury.

☒ Zachary helped her into the car and put on the seatbelt for her before getting into the driver’s seat.

☒ “I’ll send you to the hospital.”

☒ When he noticed how unwell she looked, he immediately offered to send her for a checkup at the hospital to have peace of mind.

☒ Unfortunately, she turned him down after taking in a deep breath, “It’s alright, just drop me home.”

☒ As she wound down the window, she wanted to feel the cool breeze against her cheeks to regain her composure. Her hate was for the family of three in the Aniston Family, not including Hendrick. That was the reason why she couldn’t make a scene or start a fight on an occasion like this today—she couldn’t embarrass Hendrick, who was in bad health.

☒ Without a doubt, she would have her revenge and have Gwen and Adeline pay an equal price.

☒ From time to time, Zachary would turn to look at her while he was driving. “Did you have a fight with your family?”

☒ Every time he saw her over the past few years, she was always wearing a smile, and today was the first time he saw her so sad.

☒ At the same time, Isaac came out after her because he wanted to send her home, but he saw her getting into Zachary’s car instead. He scratched his chin, and darkness flickered in his eyes.

☒ That girl seems very poor and ordinary, but she could get into the Aniston Residence and even have the Young Master of the Selwyn Family to pick her up personally, he thought.

☒ His heart felt inexplicably jealous when he watched her get into another person’s car.

Chapter 23 Tricia Is Going to a Date

☒ Patricia shook her head as she replied, “No, we didn’t fight.”

☒ She had never brought up her family before, and Zachary only found out that she was the Young Lady of the Aniston Family when he helped her to register. Although she had this status, she was forced to live outside alone and give birth without support from her family.

☒ He thought she was rather pitiful, and despite his curiosity, he felt that she must have moved out because she didn’t get along with her family.

☒ They completed the registration with the help of his friend, and the Aniston Family was unaware of it.

☒ “Tricia, I’m always here for you. As long as you need help, you can just look for me.”

☒ As long as she turned around, he would be waiting at the same spot for her forever.

☒ Patricia smiled. “I’m fine, really. I just caught a cold a few days ago and have not fully recovered yet. Don’t worry.”

☒ Only then did he stop asking and drove her back to Snowflake Lane, where he stayed for dinner. By the time he left, it was almost dark outside, and Patricia’s whole family saw him off at the door.

☒ Sylvie waved enthusiastically and said, “Bye, Mr. Zach!”

☒ Scott and Stellan bid him goodbye as well. “Mr. Zach, be careful when you’re driving.”

☒ The fact that everyone in this house was very friendly was why Zachary liked coming to Patricia’s house. Moreover, their smiles were very clean and warm, and he thought this place was a pure land with a beauty that was different from the world!

☒ After the car had driven away, the whole family happily walked back into the house, and Patricia asked the boys, “Both of you still have classes in the evening. So, pack your things quickly and head over.”

☒ At the same time, Sylvie had piano lessons, and Patricia wanted to send her there personally so she could keep an eye on her during class. Yet, her head started to pound at the thought of the 60,000 course fees; she had to find a job tomorrow.

☒ After she had changed to head out, she put the scarf on Sylvie properly. “Honey, take your lesson seriously today, and don’t be naughty again.”

☒ This was a course Sylvie had picked by herself, but after attending a few lessons, she started becoming mischievous in her classes and did not take her lessons as seriously as she did.

☒ Sylvie nodded. “Alright, I got it.” Then, she fixed her gaze on Patricia. “Tricia, did the Mr. Handsome who took care of you ask you out for dinner or movies recently?”

☒ This was always how it went on TV—the male lead would ask the female lead out after taking care of her when she was sick, and they would get married soon after they started dating.

☒ Just hearing Isaac’s name frustrated Patricia, and when she recalled that she owed him 100,000 out of the blue, she felt really down on her luck. In the future, even if she were dying of illness, she wouldn’t want him to take care of her anymore.

☒ That’s a sky-high care fee, she thought. It will be amazing if I have this earning power.

☒ Right at this moment, her phone started to ring, and it was Sylvie who passed her phone to her. “Tricia, here’s your phone. Maybe Mr. Handsome is asking you out!”

☒ While Patricia wore her scarf, she wondered, He’s drinking at his father-in-law’s place now. So why will he look for me?

☒ Nevertheless, when she took the phone from her daughter, she was so shocked that she almost tossed it on the floor because it was a call from Isaac.

☒ “Pick it up quickly!” Sylvie urged.

☒ As he was the lender in their relationship, that made him the master, and she could only pick up the call. “Hello.”

☒ Her voice was very indifferent, sounding even more aloof than when dealing with strangers.

☒ “Patricia Aniston, be at Estrella Villa in half an hour. Otherwise, the interest will double,” he said and hung up, leaving Patricia with a frown as she wrinkled her face.

☒ Why is there an interest now? she wondered, wholly regretting her decision to sign the IOU.

☒ When Sylvie heard that a certain woman's phone had gone silent, she bounced happily. "Yeah! It's really Mr. Handsome calling to ask you out! Go and do your makeup quickly and make yourself look pretty. I'm going for my lesson now, and I'll be a good girl."

☒ Patricia was a little nervous when she watched as Sylvie went downstairs in delight. "Sylvie Aniston, ask Mrs. Zimmers to stay with you for the lesson. Do you hear me?"

☒ "I got it. Remember to throw yourself at Mr. Handsome and give me some siblings!"

Chapter 24 How Should I Punish You?

☒ Patricia frowned as she asked herself, Where did this kid learn all these? Throw myself at him and give birth to siblings...

☒ It was already 6.30PM when she went downstairs, and if she had to reach Estrella Villa at 7.00PM, she had to drive there in her Toyota.

☒ The entire way was full of traffic as it was the peak time after work, and it pained her heart because the gas price was very high. This was a car she had bought at a considerable cost because it would be more convenient to send Sylvie to the hospital at night.

☒ Usually, she couldn't bear to drive it because it ran on gas, but if she went over with a cab, it would be even more expensive. Making a compromise, she could only bear the pain and use the car.

☒ The whole time, the traffic was heavy, and there were a lot of stops, which made her heart bleed. Finally, when she reached Estrella Villa, security refused to let her into the neighborhood.

☒ After she told the security the house number, she added, "I'm his guest, and I'll give him a call if you don't believe me."

☒ The security thought in bewilderment, Would President Arnold have such a poor friend? No, they didn't believe that.

☒ So many people wanted to approach Isaac, and they could barely keep count of the people that they had sent away on a daily basis, but this was the first time someone came with a crappy little Toyota.

☒ Was she acting pathetic to gain Isaac's pity and then crawl into his bed?

☒ "President Arnold isn't expecting any guests."

☒ Patricia almost passed out from the anger. If it weren't for her being distressed by the cost of gas, she would have left and ignored everything, but if that guy said he wanted to raise the interests again, her heart would bleed. After all, she couldn't help being in poverty!

☒ Hence, she picked up her phone and called him.

☒ "Patricia Aniston, five minutes have passed. Why aren't you here yet?"

☒ A certain man's voice was icy, even carrying a trace of anger.

☒ She inhaled deeply as she tried to calm herself. At the end of the day, he was the lender and could raise the interest anytime. If that happened, she really couldn't afford to pay anymore.

☒ “President Arnold, I’m at the entrance, but the security won’t allow me in.”

☒ “I’ll take care of it,” he replied curtly and hung up.

☒ Soon, the security let her in respectfully.

☒ What a bunch of realistic snobs, she thought, holding her head high and ignoring them as she drove into the villa neighborhood.

☒ This villa neighborhood was an expensive piece of land in Appleby, and it also belonged to the real estate company owned by Arnolds Corporation.

☒ As she dutifully followed the map he had given her, she arrived at No. A8 and parked her car by the porch without a hitch. After she parked her car, she was about to get out when her phone rang.

☒ When she saw that it was a call from Darcie, she quickly picked it up because she was worried that there might be an emergency. “Hi, Darcie.”

☒ At the moment, Darcie was still at the hospital, and her daughter had fallen asleep with the drip.

☒ “Tricia, I heard from Sylvie that you went on a date. Is the guy Isaac Arnold? Do your best! After you take him down, you’ll live a good life!” she whispered.

☒ Darcie was a good friend she met at Everbright, and she was a miserable woman, too.

☒ A speechless Patricia couldn’t help but think, I’m here to repay my debt, not on a date. So what on earth is Sylvie spreading around?

☒ That little girl always gave her a headache; she loved to gossip, and Patricia wondered who she resembled.

☒ She rested her head on her palm and replied in exasperation, “Darcie, it’s really impossible between Isaac and me. He’s about to get married, so you should give up on asking me to give it a try.”

☒ “Are you dumb? He’s not married yet, and he can have a divorce even if he is. Just take a look at that jerk of mine. He abandoned his wife and kid and eloped with his mistress.”

☒ Patricia couldn’t help but chuckle. “Miss Darcie, aren’t you the one who hates homewreckers the most? So, why are you asking me to be one?”

☒ Darcie raised her hand and patted her head. “Tricia, I just think that Isaac likes you, and if you just take one step closer to him, he will be yours, for sure.”

☒ Then, another call came in, and Patricia took a look. Just as she thought, it was that annoying debt collector, Isaac.

☒ “Darcie, I’m busy and have to hang up now. Tomorrow, I’ll visit Poppy, and we’ll talk again when we meet.”

☒ After she ended the call, she rushed toward the villa. As he had already given her the password, the door opened after she had keyed it in. In the house, she saw the man leaning against the couch and looking as though he had too much to drink.

☒ His long, slender fingers tugged at his tie forcefully as he narrowed his eyes. “Patricia Aniston, you’re ten minutes late. I’m going to punish you.”

☒ When he stared at her, there was a beast-like look in his eyes, and he reached out to pull her into his embrace. She didn’t expect such an action from him, so his actions utterly took her off guard as she fell on him.

☒ “Ah!”

Chapter 25 President Arnold’s Barbie

☒ Isaac’s body was so hard that Patricia was in pain from knocking against him. She steadied herself as she held onto his shoulders, and their eyes met.

☒ “How should I punish you? Interest on interest? Huh?”

☒ Patricia thought that he probably had a lot to drink when she observed him. No wonder his voice sounded a little odd over the phone earlier—it wasn’t as cold as before and sounded a little more friendly.

☒ So, he’s drunk, she thought, undoing the tie for him.

☒ After she took off the tie, a certain man felt more comfortable, and his attractive eyes gazed at her with a slight hint of a smile. “I had a little too much to drink tonight, and I’m feeling uneasy. Can you prepare something to ease my stomach?”

☒ In fact, he didn’t drink a lot, just a glass of white wine, and he had a better tolerance for alcohol than this, but a particular man just wanted to be drunk for once.

☒ Probably this was what it meant when people say that only the heart would allow itself to be drunk.

☒ Patricia blinked as she answered, “Oh, okay. But, President Arnold, you called me over for work. What exactly do you want me to do?”

☒ It seemed like someone had already cleaned his house, which was relatively clean.

☒ This girl is so innocent and gullible, Isaac thought, staring at her with a deep look in his eyes. “Clean my bedroom and also cook for me. Can you do that?”

☒ His bedroom was a place he didn’t allow anyone in, so even the servants from the Arnold Family who came over to clean didn’t dare to enter his room.

☒ She knitted her brows as she answered honestly, “I can clean the place, but I’m not that good at cooking.”

☒ Her cooking wasn’t delicious, and Josephine usually did the cooking because her culinary skills were superb. That was why Patricia kept her around—she didn’t want her culinary skills to torment her darlings.

☒ “That’s fine. You can learn. Go and prepare something to ease my stomach now.”

☒ After she gave him a nod, she went into the kitchen. She knew a recipe to ease the stomach—ginger soup. As Zachary often needed to drink during business dinners, Josephine had prepared this ginger soup a few times for him, and she had also picked it up.

☒ So, she took out a piece of ginger, chopped it up, and boiled it in water just long enough that she could boil the juices out of the ginger.

☒ While she waited for the ginger soup to be ready, she took out the calculator and started counting. How much should she ask for the monthly salary if the whole sum was 125,000?

☒ After several considerations, she decided on 10,000 because she had run a search on the Internet that the monthly salary for a half-day housekeeper was only a little over 4,000. So, it was considered rather high if she asked for 10,000.

☒ With a bowl of ginger soup in her hands, she returned to the living room and placed it in front of Isaac.

☒ “President Arnold, the ginger soup is ready. But, be careful because it’s hot!” she reminded him in a friendly tone and chuckled. “President Arnold, may I ask for 10,000 as the monthly salary?”

☒ Right now, he was drunk, so he must be in a blur. Nevertheless, as long as he gave her the nod, it would be too late, even if he regretted it tomorrow.

☒ Isaac straightened his body, picked up the spoon, and was about to take a sip when he heard her request. This woman is trying to con me, he thought, furrowing his brows for a second. “5,000 a month. I’ve given you an extra 1,000 compared to others.”

☒ Patricia couldn’t help but silently curse in her heart, He’s still so sharp even when he’s drunk. What a wily fox he is! Her lips pouted in disgruntlement, and she was a little unwilling to accept this, but that was the market price, and she didn’t have the right to say no.

☒ “Fine, 5,000 it is, then.” That means I have to work here for two years. My god, this is too expensive!

☒ Isaac smirked as he noticed her sullen and pouting face, thinking that it was very adorable. “Go and clean the room. The first room on the second floor.”

☒ Therefore, she went upstairs and into the first room, which was huge. The outside was a small study, and the bedroom was on the inside. When she entered the bedroom, she saw that the colors in his room were very dark—black-colored wallpaper and even the bedsheets were black, but the blanket was a mess.

☒ She decided to start with the bed, and when she pulled the blankets away, she saw a beautiful woman hidden beneath. Of course, she wasn’t real, and she looked a lot like Sylvie’s Barbie doll, but in the size of an adult.

☒ Patricia picked up the doll, paced to the top of the staircase, and exclaimed to the man downstairs, “President Arnold, are you playing with dolls? You have to dress her up nicely to look good. I’ll help you to doll her up, and I’m sure you’ll be amazed.”

☒ The man who was having soup spit it out. How could I have forgotten about this?

Chapter 26 Need to Be Taught a Lesson

☒ After that, Patricia saw the extraordinarily handsome man rushing to her side at lightning speed. He then snatched the doll in her arms, entered the room, and stuffed it into the deepest part of his closet.

☒ She was a little confused by his actions, so she followed him into the bedroom and saw him coming out of the wardrobe.

☒ Patricia blinked with her big eyes, “President Arnold, I haven’t dressed her or tied her hair yet.”

☒ It turned out that this man had a hobby of collecting Barbie dolls, just like Sylvie. He must have felt embarrassed, didn’t he?

☒ However, she thought it was completely normal since everyone had their hobbies.

☒ Isaac looked at her coldly and snapped, “Are you off or something, Patricia Aniston?”

☒ Everyone knew what that was, right? So, how dare she pretend to joke with him! She had to be mocking him!

☒ Patricia’s big eyes were crystal clear as she smiled. “My daughter also likes to play with dolls and dresses them beautifully daily. You don’t have to be shy. I will keep it a secret for you.”

☒ Isaac was suddenly infuriated. This woman had to be taught a lesson! Therefore, he strode over, carried her, and threw her onto the bed.

☒ She could not even react because he was too fast. It was only when she was thrown to the bed and bounced a little that she started feeling terrified. “What are you doing?”

☒ Did she say something wrong? Are you a lunatic, Isaac Arnold?

☒ He was so furious that he leaned down and kissed her chattering little mouth. Did she really not know what it was? Then, he would teach her.

☒ “Ugh—” Patricia was frightened and wanted to call for help, but she couldn’t as his rough kiss sealed her lips.

☒ He tightly pinned her hands down and pressed her legs on the bed, which made her unable to move at all.

☒ When Isaac tasted her mouth, he couldn’t control himself anymore. It completely overlapped with the taste in his memory.

☒ He was out of control until Patricia’s tears fell between their lips. When he tasted the bitterness of her tears, he suddenly regained his senses.

☒ He panicked and felt a little embarrassed.

☒ After that, Isaac sat up abruptly and sighed heavily. Sure enough, drinking alcohol was a bad idea. He became like this under the influence of merely one glass of alcohol.

☒ When he glanced sideways, Patricia was crying sadly on the bed. She was even trembling all over, obviously terrified. Because of him, she was also in a disheveled state. The sounds of her sobs made him feel bad.

☒ After a while, he calmed himself down. "Patricia, don't mess with my things in the future. You may leave after you pack up."

☒ With that, Isaac rose and left just as Patricia cried for a while before calming down. She stared at the roof with swollen eyes. When she recalled what happened earlier, she couldn't help but shudder.

☒ She was a conservative woman who had never been in a relationship, let alone an intimate one, thanks to Old Mr. Aniston's teachings.

☒ The incident six years ago was an exception. She wasn't sober back then, so she did not even know what had happened to her.

☒ Today was the first time that Patricia was being kissed when she was conscious, and it was also the first time she was treated like this by a man. She was utterly terrified by what she had experienced earlier. As she curled herself into a ball, she wondered why she had to experience all this when she didn't even know a thing about relationships!

☒ Having been sexually abused and condemned by others, she was particularly concerned about intimate acts, which was also why she never thought of having a boyfriend all these years.

☒ She didn't even think about getting married. She just wanted to live with her three children for the rest of her life.

☒ Patricia buttoned up her clothes and wiped away her tears. She couldn't cry; she had to be strong, no matter what happened. She could not break down because she had three young children under her. She had to protect them from any danger.

☒ When Isaac looked at her, his heart hurt greatly, and his eyes darkened.

☒ Since he had no interest in women, Nikola was afraid that his lack of sex life would suffocate him if he didn't let it out. Therefore, he sent him that doll, which was why Isaac became instantly flustered and angered when he saw Patricia finding it out.

☒ It seemed that in front of her, he would easily lose control. Yet, he was unable to control the fiery desire to possess her lips until her body burned with him...

Chapter 27 Addicted to Her

☒ Patricia gritted her teeth to calm herself and began to clean up his room. She placed the books on the bookshelf and put the magazines on the floor back into the magazine rack.

☒ She made the bed and hung all the washed clothes in the closet.

☒ After cleaning the room spotlessly, she noticed how the monotone room was now clean and tidy, seemingly even more abstinent than before.

☒ It seemed that after crying for a while, her whole body was able to relax. One shouldn't be in a tense state all the time. So, it was good to release the built-up tension by crying sometimes.

☒ When Patricia went downstairs, she thought Isaac would be in the living room, but he wasn't there. He didn't even take the aspirin on the table, so she decided to keep it in the cabinet.

☒ She was a woman with pride. The moment she signed the IOU, it was equivalent to a vow from her that she would pay off her debt.

☒ Before she left the mansion, she sent him a message, 'President Arnold, I have already tidied up your room. I will come over at 6.00PM tomorrow to make dinner.'

☒ On the other hand, Isaac was feeling the cold breeze on the rooftop with a cigarette in his hand. He watched as she entered her silver Toyota and slowly drove away from the yard.

☒ It wasn't until she shut the car door that he regained his senses and raised his hand to touch his lips.

☒ As if her sweet taste was still lingering between his lips and teeth, he seemed addicted to the sweetness.

☒ Isaac's eyes darkened slightly as he took a heavy puff of the cigarette. When he exhaled the smoke, his expression became colder.

☒ It was Saturday the next day, so none of the three children had to go to school.

☒ Patricia decided to take them to the hospital. Josephine was carrying a box of food that she had made for Darcie and her daughter to replenish their bodies.

☒ When they arrived at the hospital, Patricia carried a basket of fruit and some milk, while the three children carried small gifts they wanted to give to Poppy.

☒ Sylvie asked, "When will Poppy come back to class? She used to be my best friend!"

☒ Poppy used to be in the same kindergarten with them. When they were younger, she was in the same class as Sylvie. The two had a close relationship as they went to school together every day and talked on the phone after school.

☒ Scott replied to her, "Poppy is ill. When she gets better, she will come back to school."

☒ Stellan nodded. "Give her the doll later and tell her to treat the doll like it's you."

☒ Sylvie's big eyes flickered. She could not fathom why Poppy had to stay in the hospital for so long when she was sick.

☒ She had also been ill and stayed in the hospital for a few days at most, but Poppy seemed to have been in the hospital for two years now.

☒ Poppy beamed when she saw her best friends once they arrived at the ward.

☒ While Patricia placed the fruit and milk on the table, Darcie got up and took the food box from Josephine. "Thank you, Mrs. Zimmers! You make us delicious food every time you come."

☒ Josephine smiled at her. “You and Tricia are good friends, so I want to treat you well too. How is Poppy?”

☒ Darcie sighed as she watched the three children surrounded by the bed and Poppy’s happy appearance. “Still waiting for a suitable bone marrow donor. Once we find a suitable candidate, we can proceed with the surgery.”

☒ Josephine nodded and suggested, “I’ll feed Poppy some soup. This is very nourishing. Look at how thin she is.”

☒ With that, she joined the three children and fed Poppy some soup.

☒ On the other hand, Patricia and Darcie carried the food boxes to the lounge area. While Darcie was eating, Patricia sat opposite her, holding a cup of warm water in her hand.

☒ As she regarded the parents in the hospital, she shook her head in resignation.

☒ Being healthy was the happiest blessing to a family. However, every time she came here to see the sick people in the hospital, she could not help but feel uncomfortable. She truly hoped that everyone in the world would never get sick.

☒ Suddenly, Patricia remembered what had happened last night. She was almost forced to do something intimate with Isaac, and he was so strong that she could not even resist him after struggling.

☒ He had the upper hand with long, muscular limbs, so he could easily bully her when he pinned her down. Therefore, she asked Darcie, “I want to buy something to ward off perverts. Do you have any suggestions?”

Chapter 29 Fight

☒ Patricia’s eyes lit up at the sound of this, and she thought the ring was the perfect weapon she needed. She wished she had had it last night to fend off Isaac’s untoward advances. If she could stab him in the neck with a needle soaked with anesthetic and rendered him completely limp, then she might not have been kissed by him.

☒ “I’ll take it,” she declared. “Do I get to use it more than once?”

☒ She hoped the ring would not be useless after just one use, seeing as she was stretching her budget just to accommodate its hefty price tag. However, the shop assistant reassured her, saying, “You can use it as often as you’d like until the anesthetic stored in the cavity under the gemstone runs out. Of course, you can refill it on your own, but I reckon there are about three hundred shots in there before you have to do that.”

☒ Convinced, Patricia bought two of the rings at two hundred each. It was a small price to pay to save her life, she decided, especially since a young and single woman such as herself was more likely to end up as a victim of harassment.

☒ “Here, you take the other one, just in case you run into trouble at the club,” she said to Darcie as she handed her one of the rings.

☒ She had once stayed at the modern-day pandemonium that was Everbright, and she knew how rowdy it could get over there. So, it went without saying that she was worried about Darcie's safety. She would return to her old job, but she couldn't bring herself to leave her three children at home, and she kept thinking, What will happen to the kids if something terrible happens to me?

☒ Darcie took the ring and said graciously, "Thank you!"

☒ Wrapping an arm around her as they headed out of the shop, Patricia beamed and replied, "Don't sweat it."

☒ At that moment, Darcie caught sight of her husband walking with the other woman down the street across from her. She stopped in her tracks, then gritted her teeth and ran up to them in a fit of feral rage. Before the couple could react, she grabbed the man by his hair and snapped, "You son of b*tch! Do you know how sick our daughter is right now? All I asked was for you to go for a bone marrow compatibility test, and you're whining about it like a useless wimp!"

☒ Outraged, she did not give the man a chance to speak before she slapped him hard across the face.

☒ Zeke staggered, and he saw black spots in his vision as he tried to regain his bearings. Next to him, the woman he had been walking with started shrieking, "Help! There's a lunatic attacking us!"

☒ At once, passers-by gathered at the scene to see what was happening. When Zeke's head finally stopped spinning, he started fighting back and grabbed Darcie by her hair, knotting his fist close to her scalp as he growled, "Oh, you'll be sorry for hitting me, you b*tch!"

☒ Meanwhile, Patricia was stunned by the sudden brawl, but when she saw Zeke and his lover hitting Darcie, she quickly took off her heels and rushed up to them. "Don't you dare hit her!"

☒ Using the pointed end of one of her stilettos, Patricia bashed Zeke and the other woman's heads with it, drawing blood. When the bystanders saw this, they cried out in panic and quickly called the police.

☒ The police arrived to see two beautiful young women beating up a man who was pinned to the ground. A woman sobbed hysterically next to the trio, crying, "They're going to kill him! They're mad!"

☒ The police quickly pulled the fighting trio apart. The corner of Patricia's lips was bleeding, and her hair was a tangled mess. On the other hand, Darcie was sporting a swollen cheek as she straightened her clothes, then tried to lunge forward to land a few more kicks on Zeke.

☒ Had the police not held her back, she would have succeeded in bruising the man up even more. "Stop!" one of the officers barked. "You're coming down to the station with us."

☒ The man curled up on the ground was bleeding on the head. Someone had torn his clothes, and there were countless cuts and scrapes on his face. He was gasping for air and crying as he pointed at the two madwomen, "Officer, they beat my girlfriend and me up for no reason! I'm going to sue the crap out of them! I want them thrown behind bars!"

☒ It was only then that Darcie and Patricia calmed down, but they had to admit they enjoyed the adrenaline rush. That said, they couldn't go to the police station and risk getting locked up in a holding cell; there were four kids waiting for them back home.

☒ Darcie quickly stepped in front of Patricia as if to shield her. “Officer, I was the one who started this. Leave her out of it.”

☒ Zeke’s lover jabbed a finger in Patricia’s direction and interjected, “Officer, she bashed us up with her heels and nearly cracked our skulls open! You have to arrest her!”

☒ “That’s enough,” the police said coldly. “We’re taking all of you with us.” Then, he turned to his subordinates and ordered, “Have those two sent to the hospital to get their wounds cleaned up before interrogation.”

☒ ...

☒ Over in the president’s office at Arnolds Corporation, Liam came bustling through the door and stopped in front of Isaac’s work desk. “President Arnold, have you seen this video of Miss Aniston fighting?”

Chapter 30 A Pathetic Pair

☒ Isaac chuckled at how adorable Patricia was as she took off her high heels and charged into the brawl, looking ready to fight to the finish.

☒ Liam was amused, to say the least. It took a remarkable woman to make Isaac smile. Working with a living iceberg was tough, and Liam couldn’t count the number of times he had almost quit because of this.

☒ He had come rushing into the office as soon as he saw the video, and seeing Isaac chuckle like this made his effort worthwhile. “I’ll go bail her out right now, President Arnold,” he said when they got to the part of the video where Patricia was taken away by the cops.

☒ One could say he was fishing for compliments, but Liam liked to think he was actually paving his way to a better life. So, surely there could be no downside to bailing the future young mistress out of the holding cell now.

☒ When the video ended, Isaac leaned into his seat and narrowed his eyes in thought. He had to bail her out, which he was sure he would do regardless of what had happened last night. She must be at her wits’ end right now, he thought. If he went down to the station to personally take care of the matter for her, then she might just forgive him for what he had done last night.

☒ He rose to his feet and declared, “I’ll do it.”

☒ Liam was stunned. He never thought he would live to see the day when the almighty President Arnold would go down to the police station to bail somebody out, but upon seeing that Isaac had made up his mind to go the extra mile for Patricia, he did not stop him.

☒ He would not stand in the way of a potential romance between his boss and the woman who might become the future young mistress of the Arnold household, so he hurried after Isaac and said, “I’ll have the car brought around right away, President Arnold.”

☒ Isaac pulled on his black coat and grabbed his car keys. “No need. I’ll go alone.”

☒ At this point, Liam could only stop and watch the intimidating man leave the office to save his damsel in distress. As he knew Isaac very well, he also knew that Isaac had probably already calculated his every move and weighed out all the consequences. If he showed up at the police station to bail Patricia out, there was no way she wouldn't be grateful for his kind gesture.

☒ ...

☒ At the police station, Patricia and Darcie had their statements taken. They spared no details as they told the officers how Zeke was a douchebag who turned his back on his family and refused to save his daughter's life.

☒ While the cops were entirely sympathetic toward their situation and hated men like Zeke, they could not simply strike off the women's offenses, which included battery and causing grievous injury. So, things were not looking good for them.

☒ It didn't help that Zeke and Maya insisted on suing them. As things were, the police could do nothing to help the poor women.

☒ Presently, Patricia and Darcie were kept in the same interrogation room, where they would remain until somebody bailed them out. After this, they would have a lawsuit on their hands.

☒ Being the last one to enter the room, Darcie sauntered up to Patricia and said apologetically, "I'm so sorry for dragging you into this, Tricia."

☒ The children would undoubtedly be wondering where they were.

☒ The more she thought about it, the more guilty she felt, and she even gave herself a slap. "I can't believe I actually thought that scumbag would be better than this! If he had wanted to go for the compatibility test, he would have gone ages ago. So, what's the point of getting into this state?"

☒ Patricia wrapped an arm around her and said soothingly, "There, there. On the bright side, I had a pretty good time taking down those two jerks. I would have beaten them to death for Poppy if I could." Despite the circumstances, she laughed and added, "Darcie, we're best friends, aren't we? I would have done this again in a heartbeat for you. Besides, we should really put our heads together and think of someone to bail us out."

☒ Patricia did not have time to make friends or connections throughout her life. Instead, she was almost always on her feet, working multiple jobs to raise her three children.

☒ Her colleagues had invited her out to lunch and shopping sprees, but she turned them down because of her busy single-mom schedule. In the end, they stopped asking, and she slowly grew apart from them.

☒ Darcie was more or less in the same boat as Patricia. After her daughter fell ill, she borrowed money from friends and relatives on several occasions. They eventually became wary of her and started avoiding her like the plague.

☒ As if reading each other's minds, both women exchanged a glance and burst into laughter. We're two peas in a pod, Patricia thought ruefully with a sigh. A self-mocking smile curled on her lips as she asked aloud, "When will we finally get our crap together?"

☐ Just then, the door to the interrogation room swung open, and two officers came in to announce, “Patricia, someone’s here to bail you out.”