A smartphone is shown at an angle, displaying a chapter of a book. The background of the phone's screen is a photograph of a wooden boat on a body of water, with green foliage visible in the background. The text on the screen is white and matches the provided OCR. The phone's home indicator is visible at the top left of the screen.

Chapter 61

“When did you become such a scaredy-cat?” Xander teased, a charming smile on his face.

“What are you doing here?” I asked, slightly bewildered.

“I missed you, of course! That’s why I came.” He pressed my body back down onto the chair and reached forward to continue his massage.

I instinctively tried to avoid his hands, but he clamped me down and ordered, “Don’t move.”

His tone was demanding, which was rare. As his hands worked their magic, using just the right amount of force, I really began to feel like I was in a massage parlor. I let him continue.

After a while, he retracted his hands and handed me a glass of water. “How do you feel? Do you need to go to the hospital?”

“I’m feeling better, no need for hospitals. I still gotta head back to the office for a

I still gotta head back to the office for a meeting." I clutched the glass of water in my hands and took a sip from it.

Xander was quiet. He pulled out a chair and sat in front of me. He stared intently at me for a long while before asking, his tone stern and firm, "Do you really love Theo Grant so much that you're okay with forsaking your health just for him?"

I was stunned. "I've always made sure that my work and my personal feelings were separated. You of all people should know that best, right? To me, this is a job, and since I've been asked to do it, I'll give it my very best shot at it."

Since Theo first ordered me to manage Nectarine Entertainment, I had never given the job any less than my best just because of Cindy. I always gave it my all.

"But... my heart aches to see you like this."

Xander spoke very seriously. He was usually jolly and happy-go-lucky, so I was not used to him being so serious all of a sudden. I picked my glass up once more and took a sip, an attempt to dissolve the awkwardness in the air.

Fortunately, Heidi came back in the nick of time. "Wanda, I'm done with the site recce. Other than a few minor details that need to be changed, everything was pretty much perfect."

I nodded in response. "Alright, let's discuss this further once we get back." I had a lot of confidence in Heidi's skills, so if she said that some changes needed to be made, those aspects most probably needed alteration.

"Heidi, you can drive yourself back. I'll send Director Lane back," Xander stood up and told Heidi.

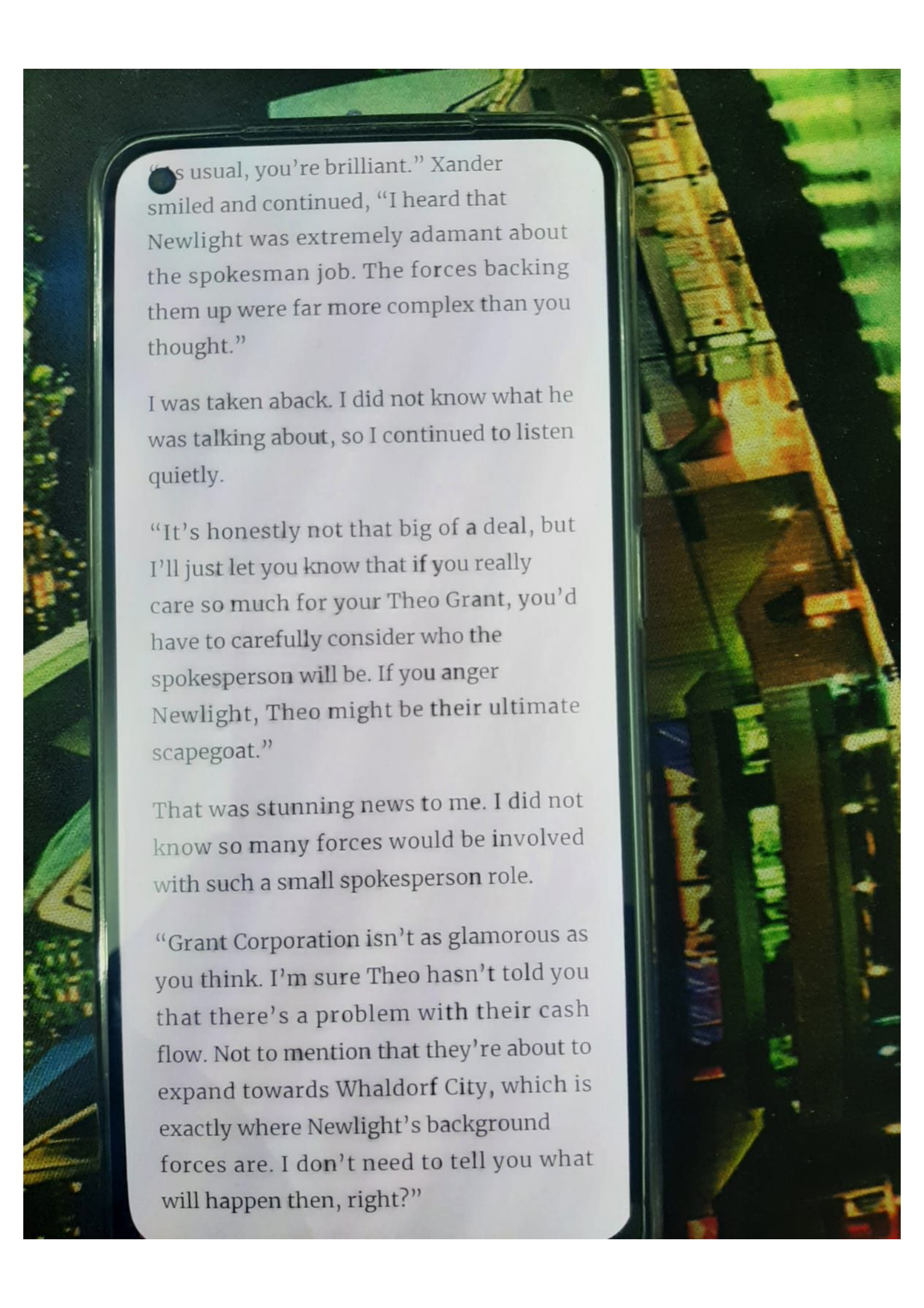
Heidi turned to look at me.

Something was not right with Xander today. Still, I nodded to Heidi and said, "I'll see you at the office later."

Xander did not say a word, not even when we got into his car.

"Did you have something you wanted to say to me, seeing that you've come all the way here today?" If he did not want to start the conversation, I would.

"As usual, you're brilliant." Xander



“As usual, you’re brilliant.” Xander smiled and continued, “I heard that Newlight was extremely adamant about the spokesman job. The forces backing them up were far more complex than you thought.”

I was taken aback. I did not know what he was talking about, so I continued to listen quietly.

“It’s honestly not that big of a deal, but I’ll just let you know that if you really care so much for your Theo Grant, you’d have to carefully consider who the spokesperson will be. If you anger Newlight, Theo might be their ultimate scapegoat.”

That was stunning news to me. I did not know so many forces would be involved with such a small spokesperson role.

“Grant Corporation isn’t as glamorous as you think. I’m sure Theo hasn’t told you that there’s a problem with their cash flow. Not to mention that they’re about to expand towards Whaldorf City, which is exactly where Newlight’s background forces are. I don’t need to tell you what will happen then, right?”

will happen then, right?"

I was deep in thought. If Xander had told me all that a while ago, I would think he was just joking. However, I now had different thoughts about what he had said, because I now knew was Petra White's son.

His sources had probably not been conjured up out of thin air.

Even though Grant Corporation was growing at a stable rate, a corporation was just like a wall—it might look firm and impenetrable, but once its foundation was slightly rattled, there was a chance of it crashing down.

"Why not get another spokesman? I'm totally okay with that. I only brought this up to help you out, that's all. And because you're my Wandy." Xander smirked once again.

I did not reply to him as I was carefully weighing my options because I knew he might be right.

There was another voice in my heart that whispered to me to believe in Theo, believe that he would be capable enough to handle everything.

weighing my options because I knew he might be right.

There was another voice in my heart that whispered to me to believe in Theo, believe that he would be capable enough to handle everything.

Xander left after dropping me off at the office building.

When I got back to my office, I was surprised to find Mason sitting there and waiting for me.

Chapter 62

When Mason saw me walk in, he put down his phone. He looked at me and asked, "How was the site recce?"

"Not too bad. Do you need anything from me?" His schedule was not free enough for him to come all this way just to play with his phone.

"I told you this morning that I'd send you some soup." He passed me a container. "Drink this while it's still hot. It's good for suppressing nausea."

"Thank you." I was grateful. He had been very attentive to me and my troubles recently, and I felt bad he had had to come all this way. "I'll buy you a meal someday to make up for this."

"That'll have to wait till after you're done with this whole spokesperson thing. I heard you're organizing a huge talent show for this?" Mason sounded like he had just learned about it.

"Yeah, so it can be fair and no one feels insulted," I joked.

He lifted his head to look at me. "Do you ever wonder if the reason Theo passed this job to you was that he didn't wanna work with Newlight any longer? What are you gonna do if Sandy wins?"

Honestly speaking, even though I had the entire thing under control, there was still a possibility that the unexpected could happen.

I frowned and asked, "What's the real reason Theo wanted to switch Sandy out?"

"You've gotta go ask him." He did not say anything else.

I did not ask any more questions either, choosing to focus on my soup.

Abruptly, my phone rang. It was Cecilia.

Her anxious voice boomed in my ear the moment I picked up the phone. "Wanda, something's happened. I'm in the police station now, you've gotta come here."

That gave me the shock of my life. What had happened to her? Why was she in the police station?

There was no time for me to ask for

There was no time for me to ask for details. I hung up and rushed outside, but Mason stopped me halfway. "What happened?" he asked.

"Something's happened to Cecilia, she's in the police station now," I answered as I hurried out the door. My body was swaying violently out of balance from the panic I felt.

He steadied me and said firmly, "I'll go with you."

I nodded. I was not familiar with the police station, so it would be better if Mason went with me.

We reached the police station that Cecilia had said she was at after a short while. She was locked up in the interrogation room. I could not meet her face to face right now, so I went to talk to the police. "I'm Cecilia Shane's family. What happened to her?"

"Ms. Shane has been arrested on suspicion of drunk driving and a hit-and-run. The injured party is still being treated at the hospital."

...reated at the hospital.

I stumbled, nearly losing my footing. It was already a crime to drink and drive, not to mention the hit-and-run. If she was guilty of these charges, she would have to go to jail.

If that became reality, it was all over. I did not want to continue with that train of thought.

I grasped the policeman tightly and pleaded, "Could you allow me to see Cecilia Shane, please? I beg of you, let me see her, please."

It was not allowed, but after Mason made a phone call, the policeman brought me to Cecilia's interrogation room and gave me five minutes with her.

"What in the world happened, Cecilia?! Why were you drinking in the middle of the day?" As soon as I entered, I began to hastily question her.

"Wanda, I'm being framed. I didn't drink at all, but the tests showed that the alcohol content in my bloodstream was really high. Also, the victim, he was the one that crashed into my car..."

Cecilia was very emotional, so I held her

Cecilia was very emotional, so I held her hand comfortingly and gestured for her to speak slowly.

She paused before continuing. "At that time, I had offered to send him to the hospital, but he waved me off, said he was okay, and asked me to leave.

However, as soon as I got back, some policemen came and showed me edited surveillance footage. It only included the part where I knocked him and left, while the part in the middle where I got down from the car and talked to him was gone."

Cecilia started to look visibly disturbed as she was telling me about that part. She held her head in her hands, fearful.

I pulled her into my arms gently and asked, "Are you completely sure you didn't drink?" I was worried she was telling me about her drunken hallucinations.

"I swear to God, I really didn't. Wanda, you've gotta believe me, everything I told you is true." Cecilia grabbed my hand in exasperation.

Of course I believed her. I tried to calm myself down and asked, "Could you think

of course I believed her. I tried to calm myself down and asked, "Could you think again, carefully, whom you met before you started driving? Do you have any enemies or people that don't like you?"

"Oh yes! Cindy Reed! It must be her! She came into my shop with a man this afternoon and bought me a cup of tea. Not long after they left, I drove out to get more supplies, and that's when this happened."

Cindy Reed?

Chapter 63

...who was with