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Chapter 16

Chapter 16

I nodded truthfully. "He wants a divorce. If I tell him of the baby, he might think that I am using it to keep us married."

Jared raised a brow in question. "But he already knows of it. What will you do?"

I was taken aback by his question.

Trying to sound him out, I asked, "Will Ashton want a child?"

"I'm not Ashton," replied Jared. He placed his phone in his pocket as he glanced at me. "But Ashton is thirty.

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Chapter 16

There's no reason for him to refuse one."

With that, he placed his hands in his pockets and left.

Does that mean that Ashton will want me to have the baby?

It seemed that my optimism was premature. When Rebecca barged into my room, I was still hooked onto the IV drip. She rushed in rashly as she gripped my throat.

Her eyes were red-rimmed. "Why? Why did you get pregnant? Scarlett, you killed my baby. I won't let your baby live!"

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As she was holding me in a chokehold, I couldn't breathe. All I could do was try to pry her hands off my neck. She had obviously lost control of herself.

"I won't let you give birth to a baby. You won't use the baby to tie Ash to you!" she declared viciously.

She was petite and frail, but right now, my resistance was futile in the face of her strength.

I managed to choke out a few words, "Kill me... And you will pay..."

She sneered and tightened her grip. "I get to kill both mother and child. It's worth it!"

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"Rebecca, what are you doing?" a man's voice rang from the door.

Upon hearing the familiar voice, Rebecca stiffened at once. The menace in her gaze faded away. As tears streamed down her eyes, she collapsed onto the ground at Ashton's sudden appearance.

Ashton caught her in time while I regained my freedom again. I immediately gasped for air.

It took us a while to calm down. Rebecca was sobbing pitifully in Ashton's arms by now. "Ash, you promised me that you wouldn't allow other women to give birth to your child.

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Chapter 16

"You gave me your word!"

I stared at the loving couple calmly. The sight of them made my stomach churn.

Ashton glanced at me coolly as he patted Rebecca's back to console her.

"Stop crying. You've just recovered, hmm?" he asked, his voice deep and resounding.

Rebecca looked up at him. She wiped her tears away and inquired, "Ash, you won't allow her to give birth to the baby, right?"

I stared directly at Ashton, waiting for his answer anxiously.

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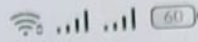
Ashton couldn't even be bothered to look at me. Instead, he gazed at Rebecca tenderly as he swept her tears away. "Stop it, Rebecca."

I sighed in relief inwardly at his answer. *At least he isn't going to ask me to abort the baby.*

"No!" Rebecca grew emotional once again. Her tears started gushing out uncontrollably as she tugged at Ashton's shirt pitifully. "Ash, you promised me that you would take care of me. After my brother died, you were the only one who I could depend on."

Sniffling, she pointed at me. "If she gives birth to your child, you won't

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Chapter 16

divorce her, right? Will you go back on your word to take care of me forever? You'll have your own family, but I'll have nothing. I don't want to end up alone."

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Chapter 17

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Chapter 17

Rebecca couldn't stop herself from sobbing like a child who had been abandoned by her mother.

Ashton pulled her into his arms.

"Rebecca, you're not alone. You won't be alone. Calm down, will you?"

"Don't let her give birth to the baby, please," Rebecca begged, her eyes swollen from all of her sobbing. "Ash, please don't let her give birth to the baby. Do you want me to die?"

She sounded so determined.

Fury flashed across Ashton's gaze.



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Wi-Fi signal strength, cellular signal strength, and battery level (60%) icons.

Chapter 17

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"Rebecca, stop it!"

Rebecca gave him a sudden shove as she grabbed a knife meant for the fruits and slashed her wrist.

Her actions were swift. Ashton and I had no idea that Rebecca would go to this extreme. Hence, the man panicked as he picked her up to bring her to the ER.

Rebecca clung to the bed's railing, refusing to loosen her grip. She gazed at Ashton intently as she repeated, "Don't let her give birth to the baby!"

I was shocked. *Why is she so determined on this?* Before Ashton could reply, I spoke up, "Rebecca, don't

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Chapter 17

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worry. I won't..." Trailing off, I took a deep breath to keep the pain at bay. "I won't give birth to the baby!"

"Scarlett!" Ashton roared angrily.

"If you don't send her to the ER, she might die. Imagine how bad you'll feel!" I threw forth bitterly.

Pursing his lips, Ashton gazed at me darkly before he left with Rebecca in his arms.

I was left alone in the ward. The pool of blood on the floor, which evidently belonged to Rebecca, was glaringly obvious.

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Wi-Fi signal strength icons and a battery icon with 60% charge.

Chapter 17

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My fever had subsided, but the doctors told me to get another IV drip. I wasn't in the mood to stay, so I refused as I discharged myself from the hospital.

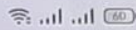
After a night of heavy rain, the air smelled rather refreshing. I didn't go back to the villa as I soon made my way to Fuller Corporation instead.

At the company's lobby, the receptionist hurriedly approached me.

"Ms. Stovall, Dr. Ludwick's wife is waiting for you in your office. She has been there for around fifteen minutes."

I inclined my head as I pressed the button on the elevator. "Tell Stacey to prepare some gifts for Mrs. Ludwick to

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Chapter 17

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show her our sincerity.”

The receptionist nodded.

After entering the elevator, I called Jared. He picked up after two rings and answered, “Scarlett?”

I was surprised to hear him calling my name. Frowning, I asked, “Are you free tonight? Can we meet up?”

He seemed astounded at my request. “Sure,” he replied after a short pause. “Let me know the time and location.”

“I’ll send the details to you later.” I had reached my destination, so I hung up and sent the details to Jared by text.

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Wi-Fi signal strength, cellular signal strength, and battery level icons.

Chapter 17

6/8

Then, I went to the bathroom to touch up my makeup before I returned to my office.

I had been married to Ashton for two years. I couldn't get him to fall in love with me, but I had achieved considerable success at work.

I was no longer the inexperienced office worker. Now, I was capable enough to deal with various problems at work.

In my office, an elegantly dressed lady was sitting on the sofa, reading something on her phone.

I knocked twice on the half-closed door



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before I entered. "Mrs. Ludwick, I'm sorry to have made you wait. The traffic was really bad," I greeted her with a smile.

Martha stood up at the sight of me.

"No worries. I just arrived too." She was smiling pleasantly.

After a brief exchange, Martha went straight to the point. "Mrs. Fuller, I'm sorry to disturb you at work. You know that Caleb signed a contract with Fuller Corporation earlier, right?

Nevertheless, since the horrible thing has happened, can you help us in convincing Mr. Fuller to delay the completion? Doing that will help Caleb and I get a little breathing room."

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Wi-Fi signal strength, cellular signal strength, and battery level icons.

Chapter 18

1/6

Chapter 18

Fuller Corporation's collaboration with the hospital was a project under the national fund. As a construction and trade company, the collaboration with the hospital was under the company's construction business. I was in charge of this project, as ordered by Ashton. Caleb was in fact, Martha's husband.

We had both signed a contract, stipulating that full payment should have to be made before the completion of the construction. Unfortunately, Caleb had used the money from the fund elsewhere, so we couldn't complete the construction.

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Wi-Fi signal strength and battery level icons.

Chapter 18

2/6

To simply put it, Caleb couldn't pay the balance to Fuller Corporation on time as stipulated by the contract.

After listening to Martha's plea, I forced out a smile. "Mrs. Ludwick, you know very well that Ashton and I aren't that close. It's a huge sum of money.

Ashton is known for his thoroughness at work. If something happens, I won't be able to explain it to him."

Martha panicked instantly. She thought about it and suggested, "Will one week do? Please extend the deadline by a week. When Caleb pays the balance, we'll thank you personally."

I could have easily agreed, but I chose



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Chapter 18

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to utter, "Mrs. Ludwick, Fuller Corporation isn't an SME. We have strict rules regarding funding. If I help Dr. Ludwick, I'll have to bear responsibility. Unless..."

I paused and glanced at her.



She immediately asked, "Unless what?"
It was as if I was her last ray of hope.

I hesitated before answering, "Unless I have a reason to delay my work."

Before she could answer, I added,
"There's a perfect excuse available now."

"What is it?" Martha's grip on her glass tightened.

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Chapter 18

4/6

"I need Dr. Ludwick's help in arranging for an ob-gyn to tend to me. I'm going to abort my baby."

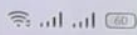
Martha was shocked to hear my words. "Mrs. Fuller, you're pregnant?"

I nodded. "I'm six weeks along."

"Why are you aborting your child at this stage? Does Mr. Fuller know about your pregnancy?" Martha was confused. "You've been married for some time. The child has arrived at the perfect time!"

I gave her a faint smile. "Ashton and I aren't ready yet."

4:22



Chapter 18

5/6

I paused briefly before adding, "I can use the excuse to delay the completion. Please inform Dr. Ludwick of my request."

"Does Mr. Fuller know about this?" she repeated unconvincingly.

I nodded. "He does."

"Well, that's too bad." She sighed.

That was it.

Stacey prepared some supplements for Martha before she left. "Go to the president's office and ask Joseph to hand me the divorce agreement that Ashton drafted earlier," I told her after

hand me the divorce agreement that Ashton drafted earlier," I told her after Martha was gone.

Stacey was dumbfounded. "Ms. Stovall!"

Chapter 19

Stacey had been with me for about two years, and she was well aware of the things that happened between Ashton and me. Knitting her brows, she said, "If you agree to the divorce, you know Old Mr. Fuller would be disappointed with your decision, right?"

"Besides, if you agree to it right now, the shares which Old Mr. Fuller had transferred to you will belong to Mr. Fuller. Ms. Stovall, the odds will not be in your favor if you make this decision."

I was well aware of her concerns. After looking at the time, I noticed that it was already quite late. Hence, I did not



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Chapter 19

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care to explain things further and said, "I have my own plans. Please fetch me the documents. I need to head out later."

Stacey stomped out of the office when she noticed that I did not pay heed to her.

I cleared up my stuff and found the car keys. Thanks to Stacey's efficiency, I only had to wait at the staircase for a short while before she fetched the things that I requested.

She still had not given up on talking me out of the divorce. "Ms. Stovall, it's really not wise to sign the divorce papers now. You..."

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Chapter 19

3/9

"Enough!" I interrupted her before she could finish her sentence. After getting into the lift, I looked into her eyes and said, "Don't worry about me and focus on your work. I know what to do."

She parted her lips to say something, but the elevator door already closed.

I started my car after I reached the parking lot and drove straight to the place where Jared and I had agreed to meet.

South Bay was a restaurant where people from the upper echelon would frequent despite its obscure location. The dishes here were exquisite.