


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Chapter 21

4/12

back and get some rest." Ashton sounded quite exasperated.

Sometimes I actually pitied Jared. He was a renowned doctor after all. How did he actually feel about being at Ashton's every beck and call?

I was all tuckered out from running around the whole day, so I fell asleep for good.

In the middle of the night, I could feel someone scooping me in an embrace. I tried to open my eyes but to no avail. I was just too tired.

The next day.

4:26

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Chapter 21

5/12

After I woke up, Ashton was no longer at the villa. It did not require a genius to guess that he had gone to visit Rebecca.

I had made an appointment with Caleb the day before and headed straight to the hospital after washing up.

Martha had been waiting at the hospital entrance after she had gotten the news about my appointment today. At the sight of me, she asked in a worried tone, "Are you sure about aborting the baby? Aren't you going to discuss it with Mr. Fuller first?"

I knew she was just looking out for me. Smiling, I entered the hospital together with her. "It's going to be okay. Don't



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Chapter 21

6/12

worry about me.”

Caleb had arranged a doctor for the surgery. I did all the basic prior checkups for the surgery. After getting the green light, I got into an operation theater.

Martha was worried sick, and she had not given up on advising me against the abortion. “Mrs. Fuller, even though you’re young, this is going to take a toll on your body. Have you thought it through?”

I nodded. It was time for the surgery. I patted her arm and comforted her, “It’s going to be alright.”

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Chapter 21

7/12

I followed a nurse into the operating theater. The doctor was a middle-aged woman, and she tried to calm my nerves. "Mrs. Fuller, we're going to go with general anesthesia here. You're going to be unconscious right after, and there's going to be no pain. Don't worry!"

I nodded. Everything was just as she said. It did not take me long before I drifted off.

I was on a hospital bed when I woke up.

Ashton was giving me the dead eyes again. His thin lips were pursed. The temperature in the room and his cold,

4:26

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Chapter 21

8/12

hard gaze were sending chills down my spine. The hint of fury in his eyes did not help either.

I had never seen him like this and my heart sank. Subconsciously, I reached out to him but he flung my hand away forcefully.

I parted my lips to say something but could not bring myself to say it.

Averting my gaze from his death glare, I closed my eyes and decided to keep quiet.

"Scarlett, you're really heartless." He turned around to leave afterward.

This was the best way for things to

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Chapter 21

10/12

end. I sighed as I watched his silhouette getting out of my sight.

“Aren’t you afraid of Mr. Fuller hating you for this?” A deep voice came from the door. It was Caleb. He had my medical records in his hands, checking on my condition. “I mean, he is the child’s father after all. You can fool him once but you can’t fool him forever. The cat will be out of the bag sooner or later.”

I smiled and sat right up on the hospital bed. Taking the medical records from his hand, I glanced at my stats. Everything seemed fine to me.

“No more next time. Thank you for keeping up the act for me.”



4:26

Wi-Fi signal strength and battery level icons.

Chapter 21

11/12

I prepared to get off the bed after keeping my medical records. However, I was stopped by Caleb. "Why don't you keep your story consistent? When have you ever seen a woman up and running not even half an hour after having an abortion?"

Well, he was right.

I lay back down on the bed and said, "Well, Ashton is a careful person, and he's likely to send someone to check on my medical records, as well as to keep an eye on me. I'd appreciate your help then, Dr. Ludwick."

His wrinkled face curled into a smile. Helplessly, he said, "Youngsters these



Helplessly, he said, "Youngsters these days. Why do you guys have to come up with things like these? But since I've agreed to help you out with this, I'll make sure the rest of the story ties together."

I nodded and thanked him. "I believe that you will come up with something for Martha too." It was best not to let too many people in on the truth.

4:27

59

Chapter 22

2/12

She nodded, started the car and sent me back to the villa.

Ashton was not around. I sent Stacey back to the office. There was nothing much I could do since I had just been discharged from the hospital. So, I fell asleep on the bed.

However, before I drifted off, I heard the sound of an engine humming downstairs. I walked over to the balcony and saw Ashton and Jared.

Just as I thought, Ashton did not even cast me a second glance. He was just calling Jared here to check on me.

I got on the bed. Jared came in with his kit. At the sight of me, he titled his

4:27

59

Chapter 22

3/12

brows. He motioned for me to let him check my pulse.

"Have you brought the medicine I asked for?"

He looked at me and said, "Your cover-up plan is brilliant."

I kept mum and he checked my pulse, taking some medicine out of his kit, and said, "These are all medicine to keep the baby healthy. If you eat these regularly and there's no mishap, the baby should be just fine."

Jared went downstairs afterward. I swapped out the medicine that Jared gave me with the ones I brought back from the hospital.

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Chapter 22

4/12

Then, I lay on the bed again. I had to take at least a week to fully recover from the miscarriage. There was no problem with dragging Caleb's project for a week. However, it would feel like hell to stay at the villa for one whole week.

I thought Ashton's fury would subside after he met up with Rebecca, and that it would take him only a while to move on from it all.

What I did not know was the fight between him and I was just about to start.

There were not many people in the villa. Ashton did not come back because he was still mad about the

4:27

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Chapter 22

5/12

abortion. Well, I was actually quite pleased not having him around.

I stayed in for the whole day to keep up with my act, and would ask for Stacey's help when I needed anything.

Soon, it was already afternoon. After Stacey placed everything in the fridge, she walked over to my side and said,

"Ms. Stovall, the balance payment from Medwin Hospital has been pending for a number of days, and the Finance Department has called in a few times to check on it. Do you think you should make a call to Dr. Ludwick?"

I had a few bites of durian but could not stand the fruit's strong smell and

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Chapter 22

6/12

threw it into the trashcan. Stacey was still standing beside me. I gestured for her to take a seat, wiped my hands, and said, "How many days has it been pending at Dr. Ludwick's end?"

"About two to three days." She paused before continuing, "It's not really about how long the payment has been pending. It's just that the amount involved is quite considerable. The money has been earmarked for a new market development project of the company. Now that the payment has been delayed, it might affect the profit of the company for the next quarter."

I nodded. Fuller Corporation's cash flow had been very dynamic. Any delay

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Chapter 22

7/12

from our partners will, to a certain degree, affect our operations. The amount pending on Dr. Ludwick's end was quite huge. Even if the money had not been earmarked for any investment, it would still make a handsome profit just by sitting in the bank alone.

I paused for a moment before saying, "Dr. Ludwick is a man of his word. I've been staying at home these few days and this has been thrown to the back of my mind. I will bear responsibility for this payment. Just give a heads up to the Finance Department. I will deal with this as soon as I'm back in the office."

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Chapter 22

8/12

"Yes, Ms. Stovall." She rose from her seat and headed for the kitchen to make me some food.

I looked at my phone and there was a text from Martha. "Mrs. Fuller, are you feeling better? Caleb has managed to settle his cash flow situation. We really need to thank you for this."

It seemed like the problem had been resolved at Caleb's end. So, I could technically head right back to work. After replying to her message, I gave Caleb a call to set a time for him to sign the project completion agreement after he had cleared his payments.

Stacey was done cooking by the time I

4:27

9/12

Chapter 22

made an appointment with Caleb. She had something on and had to leave, and so I did not insist for her to stay. "I think I have almost fully recovered, so you can stay in the office tomorrow. I've made an appointment with Dr. Ludwick, and I will get to the bottom of it tomorrow."

She was worried as she looked at me. "Are you sure you're alright? Don't you have to at least rest for about two weeks after a miscarriage? It's only been a few days, Ms. Stovall."

I smiled. "I look fine, right? Besides, if I don't settle this thing with Dr. Ludwick, this would have to drag on for a long time. How much losses would the

4:28

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Chapter 22

11/12

company have to bear by then? By that time I won't be only getting dead eyes from Ashton."

There was no abortion in the first place. Things would go haywire if I just sit here and do nothing all day.

Besides, my belly would only be getting bigger with each passing day. I would have to deal with a bigger problem if I did not draw the line with Ashton as soon as possible.

So, my only choice was to hurry up and settle everything before I could leave J City for good.

Stacey sighed and said, "Alright, but you have to take good care of your

you have to take good care of your
health.”

Chapter 23

I sent Stacey away and returned to the dining table. Eating alone was no fun, but it was already late and I couldn't be bothered to head out.

After a few bites of dinner, I returned to my bedroom. Ashton wasn't coming back, nor did I have much else to do, so I spent the past two days reading at home and searching the Internet for some houses in Q City. If I were to live in Q City, I'd have to find at least a place that was decent enough for my child and me.

A sudden phone call made me stop in



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Chapter 23

2/11

my tracks. It was Macy. The moment I picked up, my ears rang before I could even speak.

"You damned woman! Did you abort the child?"





It had only been a few days. "Yeah. How did you find out?"

Macy went ballistic. "How did I find out? You have the nerve to still ask me that? Do you even consider me your friend? How could you have done such a thing without even telling me anything?"

There was no refuting this woman when she unleashed her fury. I clutched my slightly throbbing head.



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Chapter 23

3/11

"Delaying it would only cause more problems, so I took care of it ASAP. I wanted to tell you about it, but you've been busy these days, so I figured I'd wait two more days!"

"Don't give me that bullsh*t! I'm not against abortion, but don't you need someone to care for you after the surgery? You never said a word to me about it! What if something happens to you?" Macy was so frantic that she didn't mince her words.

My heart felt warm knowing that she was worried about me. After letting her give me a long lecture, I finally decided to speak. "I plan to divorce Ashton, Mary. I might leave J City after that. Do



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59

Chapter 23

4/11

you want to leave too?"

I chose not to tell her about the child for now—there wasn't much of a point in doing so by now. Still, I had to tell her about my intentions to move. Macy was now in J City because of me, after all; she'd surely cut me off if I were to leave without a word.

The woman fell silent for a long while before asking, "When will you leave?"

Where do you want to move to?"

"Sometime within these few months. I think Q City's not bad. I'd like to live there."

"Okay, I got it," she replied immediately.