

4:32

5G

Chapter 25

8/12

"Okay," I answered and headed to the top floor at once.

Ashton's office gave off the same cold, stern vibe that he did. The atmosphere here felt chilly even in the midst of summer.

The spacious office area looked frosty and unwelcoming. The door to the meeting room was closed. Joseph caught sight of me. "Mr. Fuller is still in a meeting with Mr. Quinn and Dr. Crest, Ms. Stovall."

I nodded while thinking. *If Dr. Crest is Jared Crest, is Mr. Quinn referring to Joe Quinn?*

I walked over to the couch and sat down. Glancing at my watch, it was now noon. I had left home in such a rush that I hadn't had anything to eat. Thus, I was now starving.

Joseph poured me a glass of water and remarked icily, "Please wait a moment, Ms. Stovall. Mr. Fuller will be done in about half an hour."

I took the glass from him. Brushing aside his cold front, I asked, "Has Mr. Fuller been drinking frequently, Mr. Campbell?"

Macy had mentioned that Ashton had been visiting her bar often, so I couldn't

4:32

58

Chapter 25

11/12

help but try to find out why this was happening.

Hearing my question, Joseph stilled for a moment before answering, "I guess Mr. Fuller hasn't been in the best mood."

"Why?" There was no way Ashton would get so upset over the child. It usually had something to do with Rebecca.

Seeing me gaze at him with curiosity, Joseph coughed lightly. "I'm not too sure either."

I fell silent.

I fell silent.

This guy wasn't being honest.

I slowly dozed off. Upon hearing a few people's voices after what felt like forever, I tried my best to sit up straight.

Chapter 26

The three men who walked out of the meeting room shifted their gazes over to me. With a slight raise of his brows and purse of his thin lips, Jared muttered a few words to Joseph, causing the latter to glance at me before taking his leave.

Ashton's gaze darkened as he stared at me. I had a feeling that he was about to unleash his wrath on me.

I hurriedly stood up upon thinking about Caleb. "I'm more than willing to compensate for all the losses incurred for the past two days, Mr. Fuller."



4:33

Wi-Fi signal strength and battery level icons.

Chapter 26

2/11

Ashton frowned while remaining silent. Instead, it was Joe who began to cause a stir. "You're incredible, Ms. Stovall. This is a project worth a few billion, and you've managed to incur your own husband a loss of over ten million in just two days! You're being far too generous!"

His words were dripping with sarcasm.

Seeing Ashton remain silent with a grim look on his face, I rolled my eyes at Joe. "You sure are a nosy one, Mr. Quinn."

Pfft! Jared stifled his laughter. With his hands in his pockets, he looked on with innocent eyes as though completely uninvolved.



4:33

58

Chapter 26

3/11

Joe cast him a glare before turning to me, looking dour. "What makes you think you can talk to me like that, Scarlett Stovall?"

I really had no intention of wasting my breath talking to Joe. The guy never had anything nice to say to me because he thought I was always getting in between Ashton and Rebecca.

Still, we had known each other for a long time, so I chose not to mince my words. "Are you a king who has time-traveled to the future, Mr. Quinn? If so, I'm afraid only the likes of Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar would have the privilege of talking to you.

You're from that era too, after all."

Joe's face flushed red in anger and he no longer held back his words. "Even a dead man has more right to talk to me than you do! To think you'd be wicked enough to kill off your own child—"

"Joe," Jared cut the man off sternly.

"Ashton and Ms. Stovall have some matters to discuss. I've made a lunch reservation, so let's head over and wait for them there."

Then, he turned to me. "I believe you haven't had lunch either, Ms. Stovall. Why don't you and Ashton join us later?"

4:33

58

Chapter 26

5/11

Before I could turn down his offer, the man left, dragging Joe along with him.

Only Ashton and I remained inside the large office. Unsure of how he intended to deal with the matter related to Caleb, I decided to break the ice. "I'm responsible for what happened. I

stayed home to recuperate after the surgery and couldn't stop thinking about the child, so I completely forgot about Dr. Ludwick."

Ashton remained gloomy and silent, so I continued, "I know I've caused unimaginable losses to the company. I'd be more than willing to resign—"

4:33

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Chapter 26

6/11

"Is that how you intend to solve this issue?" Ashton suddenly asked. His voice and eyes were so chilly that I felt goosebumps.

"Yeah." I had it all planned out—now that I had a reason to quit, I could finally leave J City.

The tall man stood in front of me, letting out a cold chuckle and engulfing me with his frosty presence. "You got rid of the child, signed the divorce papers, and now, you're about to quit your job. What are you up to, Scarlett?"

My palms began to turn sweaty. I instinctively stepped backward, only to feel Ashton grab me by the waist. "Are

4:33

5G

Chapter 26

7/11

you planning to leave J City?" he demanded, glaring at me with his sharp eyes.

"No!" I immediately denied it. "Haven't you been wanting to sign the papers? Now that I've signed them, you're finally free to be with Rebecca. What is there not to like about that?"

"Fine!" The man's smirk turned even more frigid as his grip on my waist tightened. "You know how much I hate it when others do as they please, Scarlett. Do you think I'd let you off so easily after you killed my child?"

"But you didn't want the child." I frowned, feeling increasingly

4:34

Wi-Fi signal strength icons and battery level icon

Chapter 26

8/11

bewildered. "Rebecca kept using it as leverage, so I figured I'd take things into my own hands instead of being coerced into getting an abortion!"

The air in the office grew even more chilly. As Ashton narrowed his eyes, I had a feeling that this man standing in front of me was like a vicious lion—one wrong move and he'd shred me into pieces.

"You're a smart one, aren't you?"

I didn't know what he meant, but I certainly understood it wasn't a compliment.

"Well, since you've already gotten rid of

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Chapter 26

9/11


the child, that's fine. We'll just have another one."

With that, he walked away. I remained frozen in place, staring at him in a daze. Perhaps these would have been words of encouragement if they came from a loving husband, but coming from him, they were nothing but crude.

"What are you waiting for? Let's go," he remarked coldly, turning back to glance at me.

In a moment of confusion, I merely grunted a response and trotted over to him.

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



Chapter 26

10/11

Ashton took me to a huge courtyard with a restaurant within it. Upon entering the yard, a woman in a fancy gown walked toward us. "This way, please, Mr. Fuller."

Then, she brought us past the yard into a room. There, I spotted Jared and Joe having a chat over some tea.

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Chapter 27

1/12

Chapter 27

As the lady left, Ashton walked over to the chair next to them and sat down, his eyes looking blank. "Why hasn't the food arrived?"

Devon needs some time to prepare," answered Jared before turning to me. "Are you hungry?"

After a quick pause, I shook my head.

Joe wasn't impressed by how Jared treated me. "Why are you acting so fragile? It's just an abortion, for God's sake. Why did we have to go out of our way to get a world-renowned chef like Devon to cook for you? What a waste



4:34

Wi-Fi signal strength icon, cellular signal strength icon, and battery level icon (58%)

Chapter 27

2/12

of his time.”

Before Jared could stop him, I merely smiled. “The view here isn’t bad. I’ll go take a walk.”

My words were meant for Ashton and Jared.

Ashton gave me a cool glance and said nothing. “The courtyard looks stunning. Go take a look,” Jared suggested. “There’s also a bonsai garden with a lake full of fish in the middle.”

With a smile and word of thanks, I headed outside.

“Are you insane, Jared? Why are you

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Chapter 27

3/12

caring so much about that woman? Have you lost your mind? If she hadn't married Ashton through underhanded means, Rebecca and Ashton would've long been happily married by now."

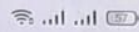
Those words clearly came from Joe. I couldn't help but hear them even if I didn't want to. From how loudly he spoke, pretty much everyone in the building could hear him.

Not wanting to hear them anymore, I picked up my pace. It was indeed a different sight as I arrived in the courtyard.

Considering how this huge courtyard was located in the heart of a



4:35



Chapter 27

4/12

glamorous place like J City and even had an enormous plot of land for planting an array of greenery, there was no doubt that the owner of this restaurant was filthy rich.

As I strolled along the pebble path, I spotted a man in his mid-thirties plucking some branches with a child next to him.

Upon walking closer, the man noticed me too. "Hello," he greeted, dropping whatever he was doing.

I returned a smile. "Hi."

The child, who seemed to have just learned how to walk, began trotting



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Chapter 27

5/12

over to me. He seems to be quite friendly.

Unable to speak, the little boy stared at me wide-eyed and gave me the yellow flower he was holding.

I was instantly overjoyed and couldn't help but want to pick him up, only to be stopped by the man. "Be careful! He's a playful one. I don't want you getting hurt while you're pregnant."

I stared at the man in disbelief.
"How..." How did you know I was pregnant?

The question never left my mouth.



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Chapter 27

6/12

Still, the man responded, "Don't be surprised. I know a little about medicine and could guess that you're pregnant from the way you subconsciously held your belly while walking."

I nodded, feeling amazed by this man.

"This courtyard is really unique," I remarked. "It's like a vegetable garden."

The man couldn't help but chuckle.

"Well, to be exact, this is a medicinal herb garden. There are over two thousand different species of medicinal plants here. They're on the brink of extinction, so they're being cultivated here."



4:35

Signal strength, Wi-Fi, and battery icons (57%)

Chapter 27

7/12

Feeling stunned, I glanced at my surroundings carefully. Indeed, there weren't many vegetables here, but there were lots of unrecognizable plants as well as an unusually tall cactus.

"This place is called Herb Garden. J City is the most suitable area in the whole country to cultivate these plants, and that's how Herb Garden became the center of our country's medicinal herbs. There aren't many, but every species is being preserved." After sorting out the branches he had plucked, the man began to leave with his child.

I nodded, gaining a newfound liking for



4:35

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Chapter 27

8/12

this place as I watched him and the little boy walk away.

Suddenly, the man stopped and called out to me, "Don't hang around too long, Mrs. Fuller! Some herbs here aren't good for the child."

Feeling taken aback, I returned to my senses only after they had walked far away. He knew who I was?

Soon, Ashton came out and saw me kneeling by a stream looking at ants. "Let's go," he called out, standing next to me.

I was so focused on whatever I was doing that I nearly slipped upon hearing his voice. Thankfullv. he helped



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Chapter 27

10/12

me up with his quick reflexes.

“Did you leave your brain at home?”

Ashton asked, frowning.

I smiled sheepishly. “I spaced out.”

The man turned and walked away without a word.

I couldn't help but notice that Ashton had been treating me less coldly for the past two days.

Following him from behind, I mustered up the courage to ask, “So Herb Garden isn't actually a restaurant?”

“Yeah,” he answered briefly, clearly not interested in holding a conversation.

