


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Chapter 27

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The man walked so quickly that it didn't take us long to return indoors, and the table was already filled with an array of dishes. Furthermore, apart from the four of us, there was now a family of three at the table too.

It was the man and little boy I had just met, along with a woman, who was the man's wife.

The man smiled as he saw me and turned to his wife. "Bring Mrs. Fuller some cuttlefish stew from the kitchen.

It's good for the baby."

I paused briefly before thanking them.

"The baby's already gone. What's the point in serving her that?" Joe

I paused briefly before thanking them.

"The baby's already gone. What's the point in serving her that?" Joe muttered resentfully.

The way Ashton glanced at me made me feel anxious. Worried that he would infer something from the man's words, I hurriedly turned to him. "You haven't introduced me to this man!"

Chapter 28

From how gently I spoke, I probably sounded like a thoughtful wife.

Ashton's gaze on me darkened for a moment before he began to introduce the man briefly.

This man so happened to be Henry Lowell, the owner of this courtyard and heir of a prominent family of doctors. He was so passionate about medicinal herbs and ingredients that he decided to cultivate them here.

The beautiful woman with him was his wife, and the one-year-old child was his son.

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

2/12

After a brief exchange of greetings, I felt unsettled. I had been trying too hard to keep my pregnancy a secret from Ashton all this while; what if Henry were to reveal it?

Feeling worried, I couldn't help but glance at Jared, hoping he would think of a way to help me.

At this moment, Mrs. Lowell returned with the freshly cooked cuttlefish stew and beamed at me. "Try some of this, Mrs. Fuller. I loved this when I was pregnant. It may taste a little strange, but my husband added some nourishing herbs into it, so they're especially good for you. How many weeks old is your child?"

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Suddenly feeling panicky, I returned a smile. "It was six weeks old, but Ashton and I hadn't planned for the child. That's why we decided to get an abortion."

The woman was dumbfounded and stared at me, looking rather doubtful. "You don't look like—"

"These are just some symptoms of false pregnancy, Mrs. Lowell. She'll be fine as time passes. I can't help but admire you and your husband, though. You're both so experienced that you could tell she was pregnant just by observing her." Jared, who was sipping some tea, finally spoke up.



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Chapter 28

3/12

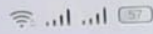
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Henry squinted for a moment before smiling and saying nothing more. Mrs. Lowell, on the other hand, still couldn't seem to believe I was merely exhibiting false pregnancy symptoms.

After our meal, Henry whispered something into his wife's ear, causing her to glance at me in surprise before nodding and leaving the room.

Then, Henry turned to Ashton. "Since you've come all the way here, I've prepared some herbs for Mrs. Fuller. If she takes them diligently, it won't be difficult for you both to have another child."

Ashton nodded and gazed at me

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Chapter 28

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Ashton nodded and gazed at me emotionlessly. I couldn't tell what he was up to.



But somehow, it felt as though he had specifically brought me over to have Henry take a look at me. As for his reasons, I truly had no idea.

Feeling perplexed, I remained silent the whole time until we left.

It was already evening by the time we got into the car. Joe couldn't stand the sight of me, so he pestered Ashton to send me home.

Knowing they probably still had other matters to take care of, I got down and

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Chapter 28

6/12

said I would take a cab.

Ashton didn't say much. He merely told me to be careful before leaving with the other two men.



My mind was filled with all sorts of worrying thoughts that I was unable to sleep at all. I considered approaching Jared, but couldn't as he was surely with Ashton now. With nowhere else in mind, I headed to Hour Bar.

The sky had gotten dark and the bar was fairly packed.

Macy was utterly shocked to see me. "What are you doing here instead of resting at home?" she demanded,



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looking like she wanted to beat me up.

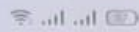
"Relieving my boredom," I spat out before finding myself a seat.

Macy clutched her forehead, seemingly about to explode. "You've just had an abortion a few days ago, Ms. Stovall. Can you please take better care of yourself and stay home?"

Knowing she was worried about me, I turned to her. "Give me a glass of orange juice. Let's have a chat."

"I'm not here to relieve my boredom," she replied before heading to the counter.

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Chapter 28

8/12

Despite keeping my eyes on the bar's patrons, I couldn't help but wonder why Ashton had brought me to Herb

Garden. Did he possibly suspect that I had kept the child?

"What are you spacing out about? Didn't you say you were bored to death? Let's go. I'll take you somewhere nice." Macy tapped me on the shoulder and began to drag me outside.

I followed her out of the bar in confusion. "Where are we going?"

"You'll find out when we get there!"

The entire street was filled with bars,



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Chapter 28





9/12

and I thought she was just taking me out for a stroll. "Don't you feel bored taking me out like this instead of watching over your own place?"

"What are you talking about?" She pointed at a glamorous-looking nightclub nearby. "There are other people looking after my bar. Didn't you say you were bored? Well, I'm about to show you a whole new world!"

I hardly frequented anywhere else apart from Macy's bar, so my ears instantly felt like they were about to burst from the blaring music playing in the dazzling nightclub.

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Chapter 28

11/12

Macy seemed to know this place like the back of her hand. She found a nice spot on the second floor and called the manager over. "I want two of your men."

The manager immediately nodded. "Sure. I'll have a selection sent over to you."

I turned to Macy in despair. "What are you getting male hosts for?"

"To keep us company, of course!" she answered matter-of-factly before placing a glass of juice in front of me. "Have a look at them and pick anyone you like. They're much more skillful and gentle than Ashton. Don't waste



you like. They're much more
and gentle than Ashton. Don't waste
your time thinking about him all day.
You should put on an attitude too!"

4:38

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Chapter 29

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Chapter 29

Before I could respond, the manager from earlier returned with over a dozen male models, stunning me into silence.

“Pick anyone you like. They have every kind of guy imaginable. Don’t you like those domineering Mr. CEO types? Take a look at that man in the suit. He looks just as good as Ashton, doesn’t he?” Macy remarked while choosing a youthful, puppy-like male model.

The model seemed awfully experienced. He walked over to Macy and carefully poured her a glass of wine before placing her hand in his. Macy showed no signs of refuting; she



man in the suit sat down next to me. I felt especially uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, Macy and her guy prepared to leave and have more fun among themselves.

With just the two of us left here, I turned to the man in the suit and said awkwardly, "Uhh... I'm not—"

"You don't have to explain, Miss. I understand," the man responded with a grin. "Everyone's like this the first time.

You'll get used to it."

I...

I had no words.

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Chapter 29

On the other hand, the man readily tried to strike up a conversation. "What do you usually enjoy doing, Miss?"

I smiled. "I like reading."

"Well, it's no wonder you give off such a classy vibe."

Not knowing what to say, I got up. "I have to use the bathroom."

I never found the bathroom despite wandering around the club for a long time. Instead, I bumped into a few familiar faces.

Rebecca and Joe.

The two walked side by side, and we

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Chapter 29

2/12

merely leaned into his arms.

My jaw dropped. Did this woman come here often?

No wonder she could never get a boyfriend...

"What are you staring at us for? Hurry up and choose your guy!" Macy urged.

Not knowing what to do at all, I smiled.
"I... I'm good."

Rolling her eyes at me, Macy pointed to the man in the suit. "You stay here and keep her company, then."

After the other male models left, the



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Chapter 29

met while walking on the same path from opposite sides. I couldn't avoid them even if I wanted to.

Rebecca's smile instantly vanished as she saw me, and she turned to Joe.

"What is she doing here?"

Joe was surprised too. He shook his head lightly. "Ashton told her to go home while we were at Herb Garden. He didn't let her come with us."

From their conversation, I could guess that the few of them had intended to meet up here. They probably didn't want me tagging along, which was why they had sent me away back at Herb Garden.

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6/12

Chapter 29

6/12

"Why do you follow Ashton wherever he goes, Scarlett? How shameless could you be?" Joe never had anything nice to say to me, so he didn't hold back the moment he opened his mouth.

Not bothering to explain in detail, I answered briefly, "You think too much. I'm here with a friend."

I didn't have the time to stalk Ashton everywhere.

Rebecca eyed me from head to toe and narrowed her eyes. "Didn't you just get an abortion? What are you doing in a place like this?"

"She's probably sad and lonely. Ashton

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Chapter 29

7/12

never touches her, so she has no choice but to find someone else." Joe never knew when to shut up

I frowned, feeling a wave of anger rise within me. "You should rinse your mouth when you get home, Mr. Quinn. You're polluting the air."

I never liked either of them, so I hastily turned to leave.

Yet, Rebecca stood in my way and sneered at me. "It's only been a few days since we last met, and you're getting all smart-mouthed again, huh? Have you not signed the divorce papers? You don't think Ash would actually stay with a woman who just

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Chapter 29

lost a child, do you?"

Feeling increasingly livid, I glared at her coldly and scoffed, "Have you already forgotten that you've just lost your child too, Rebecca?"

"You..." The woman turned red with fury and swung her arm at me, but I grabbed it in time.

"If playing innocent is what you're into, you'd better a better job. Ashton's going to hate you if he saw what you just tried to do."

With that, I shoved her arm away and prepared to leave.

Unexpectedly, Rebecca had decided to set me up. The moment I let go of her, she deliberately stumbled and collapsed against the wall next to her.

From far, it looked as though I had pushed her.

To make matters worse, Ashton and Jared had just walked over. They saw what just happened.

"Are you out of your mind, Scarlett?"
Joe yelled while helping Rebecca up.
"All she did was say a few words to you! Did you have to do that?"

A few words? Should I have let her insult me, then?



"If you have no intention of using your eyes and brain, please give them to someone who needs them, Mr. Quinn. Don't waste what you've been given." I just couldn't understand why Ashton would hang around someone as despicable as this man.

With Ashton and Jared watching from the sidelines with their hands in their pockets, I shot a glance at them and got ready to leave without even sparing them a greeting.

Yet, Joe decided to grab onto my hand. "You're leaving after running your mouth and hitting someone? Were you raised by dogs, Scarlett?"

raised by dogs, Scarlett?"

"Are you mental, Joe? When did I ever push her? You're whining about me running my mouth, but you started it!" I was in an awful mood to begin with, so I really didn't want to be involved with this bunch. I began to walk away after breaking free from Joe's grasp.

But just when my shoulder touched Ashton's, the latter held me by the wrist, forcing me to stop in my tracks and gaze at him.

Chapter 30

The man's face instantly darkened, and his eyes turned frosty. Evidently, he was mad.

"Can I help you, Mr. Fuller?" I didn't feel like I was Ashton's wife at all here, but rather, an outsider.

The more I felt this way, the more upset I became.

Even the way I gazed at Ashton was full of defiance.

"Apologize." His tone was completely commanding.



Chapter 30

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My brows creased as rage consumed me. "Have you lost it, Ashton? Why the hell should I apologize?"

"You pushed her," he replied grimly in his deep voice.

I pushed her? I laughed in anger. "You should get your eyes checked, Ashton!"

"Scarlett Stovall!" The man immediately addressed me by my full name. "Apologize to her now."

"And if I don't?" Suppressing my anger, I glared at him, unafraid of his glacier eyes.

With a frown and purse of his lips, a

4:39

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Chapter 30

3/12

chilly air engulfed our surroundings.
"Macy's bar seems to be doing a little
too well these days, huh?"

I was instantly terrified. How could this
man resort to such lowly methods just
to get me to apologize to Rebecca?

I looked up at the man

's face. His lips remained pursed, and
he had a bit of stubble, making him
look unruly yet alluring at the same
time.

But at this very moment, I couldn't
admire that face of his at all. My heart
growing cold, I stilled for a moment
before speaking. "Fine. I'll apologize."

Breaking free of his grasp, I walked over to Rebecca. Suppressing all the wrath I felt, I gazed at her. "I'm sorry."

Rebecca looked incredibly helpless as though I had actually bullied her.

Meanwhile, Joe obviously had nothing better to do than to stir things up. "So you think you just have to apologize after hitting someone? In that case, I'll kill a guy and say sorry, and everything will be fine. Who needs the law, right?" he remarked with a look of disdain.

*Holy sh*t.*

Once again, I resisted the urge to cuss him out. "What else do you want from

me?" I turned to him and asked frostily.

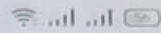
He crossed his arms in a matter-of-fact way. "We buddies have a rule—whichever messes up has to apologize sincerely and hold a drinking session for everyone. When we're happy, you'll be forgiven."

*You dipsh*t! How is THAT a way to apologize?*

"Knock it off, Joe." Jared, who had been watching the whole time, furrowed his brows.

Joe didn't bother looking at him and glanced at Ashton instead. "What do you think, Ashton?"

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Chapter 30

6/12

Ashton's gaze on me darkened, and the crease between his brows deepened.

After a long while, he turned to Rebecca. "What do propose we do?"

Rebecca lowered her head slightly. She spoke softly, but everyone could hear her. "Scarlett's your wife, so you decide."

*You pretentious little b*tch.*

I held it in and turned to Joe. "So, where shall we drink?"

Jared walked up to me and frowned.

"Have you got no fear?"