

Trapped in Love #Chapter 11 - Read Trapped in Love

Chapter 11

Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Find Out Where She Is

Daniella extended her hand toward Evan's phone, ready to pass it to him.

However, as she glanced at the caller ID displaying Caroline's name, a glimmer of coldness flickered in her eyes. She hesitated briefly, then swiftly ended the call and slipped the phone back into Evan's coat, feigning nonchalance.

Meanwhile, Caroline remained frozen in place, her mind reeling, as she witnessed the abrupt termination of the call.

Was he too occupied to answer?

With determination, Caroline clenched her teeth and hailed a taxi to make her way to the casino. She desperately hoped Evan would return her call.

*

An hour passed.

Caroline stepped out of the car and stood at the entrance of the opulent casino. Determined, she made her way through the bustling lobby, seeking directions that led her to Room 02.

Taking a deep breath, she gathered her courage and pushed open the door.

As the door creaked open, a pungent combination of smoke and the scent of blood assaulted her senses.

Several menacing-looking men sat inside the private room, and her father knelt on the floor, his face drained of color. His injured hand, missing several fingers, was hastily wrapped in blood-soaked gauze.

At the sound of the door, Bradley weakly lifted his head. His eyes were filled with desperation to survive. "Carol! Save me, please!"

Instantly, all of Caroline's anger dissipated upon seeing her father's distress.

She hurriedly moved toward Bradley, only to be blocked by an imposing figure.

"Miss Shenton, what's the rush? Pay up first!" sneered a man with a repulsive scar on his face, puffing on a cigar.

His gaze lingered on Caroline's body. The despicable greed in his eyes sent shivers down her spine.

Suppressing the fear and anger welling up inside her, Caroline turned her gaze toward the scar-faced man. "Release my father first, and then I'll give you the money!"

The scar-faced man was direct in his response. With a dismissive wave of his hand, the men holding onto Bradley released their grip.

Simultaneously, Bradley stumbled to his feet and hastily made his way toward Caroline, his eyes brimming with gratitude for surviving the ordeal. "Carol! I'll make my escape now. You stay and return the money for me!"

And just like that, he left Caroline behind and ran off without a single glance back.

"Miss Shenton, what a wonderful father you got there!" mocked the voices around her, accompanied by laughter.

Caroline's eyes met with the scar-faced man's gaze, enduring the heartless abandonment by her own father. "At the moment, I only have 7,000 dollars with me. Could you find it in your heart to grant me two more days to accumulate the funds?"

The smile on the scar-faced man's face froze in an instant. In the next breath, he forcefully slammed his wine glass onto the table, shattering it into countless fragments.

"How dare you negotiate with me to release him when you ain't got a single penny on you?!"

Caroline trembled but managed to gather her composure. "I just need one day!"

The scar-faced man bellowed, “Fuck you!”

His eyes narrowed as he scrutinized Caroline.

“Since you don’t have the money, use your body to repay the debt!”

Caroline’s face drained of color as she took a step back. “I’ll call the police if any of you try anything!”

“The police?” The scar-faced man laughed, pulling out his phone and throwing it onto the table. “Go ahead! I ain’t afraid of no police!”

Caroline gulped nervously.

She knew deep down that calling the police wouldn’t solve her predicament, but she couldn’t allow herself to be caught by them. Otherwise, she would either end up crippled, or dead!

Quickly, Caroline reached into her pocket and pressed the shutdown button on her phone three times in quick succession. Then, she inched back cautiously, and seizing the moment when their attention was diverted, she swiftly turned and bolted toward the exit.

“Get her!”

An enraged shout echoed behind her. Just as Caroline managed to twist the doorknob open, someone forcefully grabbed her hair and yanked her back.

“Ahhh!” Caroline’s cry of pain echoed through the room as she was brutally thrown into the pool of blood, a grim reminder of her father’s abuse.

The throbbing ache quickly radiated through her limbs and bones, causing Caroline’s vision to blur from intense dizziness.

She struggled to prop herself up. And just as her vision got a little clearer, her eyes widened in horror as she saw the bald man advancing toward her with menacing steps.

Before she could fully rise, a harsh slap landed across her face. It unleashed a symphony of ringing in her ears and searing pain on her cheek, nearly knocking her out.

With her scalp tingling, Caroline forced herself to raise her head.

“Trying to run? You ain’t gettin’ away from me! If I don’t leave you broken and shattered tonight, I ain’t worth the dirt beneath my boots!” the bald man sneered, pulling back his hand and ripping at Caroline’s garments.

The chilling sensation on her chest snapped Caroline back to reality. Her eyes widened, and she let out a despairing scream, “No... No!!!”

Meanwhile, in the corridor outside the private room, Reuben hastily grasped his phone and barged right into Evan’s private VIP room.

His intrusion disrupted the tranquility of the VIPs, earning disapproving frowns from them.

However, Evan’s face darkened. He knew that Reuben wouldn’t have acted so rashly without urgent cause.

He loosened his tie, his voice cold and commanding, “Speak!”

Reuben’s expression turned grave. “Mr. Jordan, something has happened to Ms. Shenton!”

Evan’s features hardened, and his eyes turned dark. “Find out where she is!”

Reuben quickly nodded, his fingers flying across his phone. Soon, he pinpointed Caroline’s location. novelbin

He looked up at Evan in shock. “She’s next door...”

Without hesitation, Evan rose abruptly, and a clueless Daniella hurriedly followed behind.

Chapter 12

Evan kicked open the door of Room 02.

Caroline’s bloodied and swollen face trapped beneath a bald person ignited a blazing fury within Evan. His intense black eyes exuded a bloodthirsty and ruthless aura, chilling to the bone.

He marched toward the bald man and effortlessly kicked him aside. Snatching a nearby wine bottle, he viciously smashed it against the man’s head.

His chilling presence, akin to the God of Death descending, silenced everyone present.

No one dared to intervene as Reuben shattered the surrounding wine bottles and approached Evan with a coat.

Evan turned around and draped his coat over Caroline's battered body.

As he wrapped Caroline in his embrace, he noticed tears streaming down her cheeks. His heart unconsciously skipped a beat.

He tightened his embrace, commanding Reuben in a cold tone, "Destroy him!"

Reuben nodded, saying, "With pleasure, Mr. Jordan."

Meanwhile, Daniella stood at the door in utter disbelief. She watched as Evan carried Caroline past her with a cold indifference.

Her initial shock turned into a mix of reluctance and envy.

*

Back at Villa Rosa, upon seeing Caroline drenched in blood and injured, Lily Smith's legs trembled in fear. "Mr. Jordan, Ms. Shenton..."

"Get a female doctor," Evan ordered as he carried Caroline upstairs.

When he arrived at the room, he gently laid Caroline on the bed, her unconsciousness evident.

As his gaze fell upon the bloodstains and swollen marks on her face, his eyes brimmed with profound ruthlessness.

Soon, Lily led a female doctor to the room.

After examining Caroline's condition, the doctor reassured Evan, saying, "Other than the physical injuries, Ms. Shenton appears to be fine."

Finally feeling some relief, Evan spoke in a low voice, "Ms. Smith, please escort the doctor out."

Lily complied and guided the doctor to the door.

Once the door closed, Evan took out his phone and dialed Reuben's number.

With narrowed eyes and an icy tone, he commanded, "Retrieve the surveillance video from that private room immediately and investigate what happened!"

No one was allowed to harm one of his own!

*

When Caroline opened her eyes in exhaustion the next day, Lily entered the room with a bowl of hot soup.

"Ms. Shenton, you're awake?"

Caroline's dry throat prevented her from speaking, so she nodded faintly in response.

Lily put the bowl of hot soup down and carefully helped Caroline to sit up. "Ms. Shenton, Mr. Jordan cares about you deeply. After the doctor left, he stayed with you until almost dawn before returning to his room to rest."

Soon, memories began flooding back to Caroline. She vaguely recalled Evan carrying her away before she lost consciousness. However, his decision to stay with her for the entire night exceeded her expectations.

Despite how touched she was, Caroline quickly suppressed her feelings when she thought of Daniella.

Evan's kindness toward her might just be a result of their three-year relationship, nothing more. Furthermore, Daniella was now the one who held the place beside him.

Caroline pushed aside the blanket, intending to get out of bed when the bedroom door swung open.

Evan appeared before her, dressed in dark home attire. Despite its casual nature, his noble and chilly aura remained unmistakable.

He tilted his head to look at Lily. "You may leave us."

Consequently, Lily withdrew her hand and stopped assisting Caroline, complying with Evan's request and exiting the room.

Caroline watched Evan approach, her gratitude unspoken. If only he had answered the call the previous night, sparing her humiliation. Still, in the end, he was the one who rescued her.

“Caroline, you’re quite something, aren’t you?” he remarked, his expression icy.

Confused, Caroline looked up at him.

What did he mean by that?

Evan drew closer, fiercely gripping her chin. “You were willing to use your body to repay the debt! Why? Wasn’t what I gave you enough?”

Caroline furrowed her brows tightly, suppressing the pain as she hoarsely replied, “I never intended to use my body to repay the debt. They were the ones...”

“You know what kind of place Fies Casino is!” Evan’s fury consumed him, his voice a low roar. “You told them you didn’t have the money. Were you hoping they would exempt you from the debt using another method?”

Caroline was taken aback. “I asked for a two-day extension last night.”

Evan’s black eyes turned chillingly cold. “The surveillance video captures your conversation clearly! Yet, you still deny it in front of me!”

Caroline locked eyes with him, her gaze firm. “Evan, I have no reason to deny such accusations. Stop trying to tarnish my name!”

“Tarnish your name?” Evan dragged her out of bed and brought her to the computer in the study.

He played the surveillance video provided by Reuben.

As Caroline watched the scene from the private room, it felt like a nightmare unfolding before her. Her body trembled uncontrollably.

However, her face turned ashen when she realized the part where she asked for the two-day extension was missing.

The remaining dialogue twisted the narrative, portraying Caroline as someone who deliberately sought them out, attempting to evade her debt by offering herself to them instead.

Chapter 13

“How do you explain yourself?” Evan’s voice boomed above Caroline her, dripping with cold sarcasm.

She offered a bitter smile. How else could she possibly explain it?

The surveillance video had clearly been manipulated, but she lacked any evidence to prove it.

“Say something!” His angry roar made her involuntarily tremble.

Overwhelmed by a profound sense of injustice, she helplessly closed her eyes. “What else can I say?”

Her indifferent response only fueled his frustration and annoyance.

She always responded this way. Whenever she couldn’t defend herself, she would surrender, leaving herself at the mercy of others.

She had done the same in the surveillance video, as well as now, standing in front of him. novelbin

Disgusted, he averted his gaze and issued a cold warning. “From now on, you are not permitted to leave the villa, except for work.”

Caroline looked up at him in disbelief. “Who are you to take away my freedom?”

“I am your superior!” With those words, Evan stormed out and slammed the door behind him.

Caroline was left speechless on the spot. The dull ache in her heart reminded her of how inferior her status was.

Battling physical and mental exhaustion, she steadied herself by leaning against the table. Suddenly, her eyes caught sight of a locked drawer in the center.

She stared at it, entranced.

She knew all too well what lay inside—the source of Evan’s vulnerability.

It was the place where he once tightly embraced her while he was drunk. In a moment of exhaustion, he murmured, “Caroline, everyone thinks I’m invincible, but do you know where my weakness lies? It’s in the drawer in the study. Every time I open it, my heart is consumed by excruciating pain.”

That was the first time she witnessed him being so disappointed and dejected.

At that time, she remained unaware of what was kept inside the drawer. She couldn’t fathom what had caused such desperation in a formidable man.

However, now, a sense of realization washed over her.

The contents of the drawer must be connected to Daniella.

After all, Evan had been desperately searching for her.

The thought of it intensified Caroline’s anguish.

*

After breakfast, Caroline wanted to go to the hospital to visit her mom, Katie.

As she opened the villa door, she came face to face with Reuben.

“Ms. Shenton, Mr. Jordan has instructed that you can’t leave unless it’s for something important,” he stated.

Caroline frowned. “I want to go to the hospital to see my mother.”

Reuben took out his phone. “I need to ask for his approval.”

Her anger intensified as she watched him dial Evan’s number.

Had she somehow offended him? Even if the events in the surveillance video were true, he would simply be more disgusted and want her gone. So why was he forcing her to stay?

Reuben hung up the phone. “Ms. Shenton, let me give you a ride.”

Suppressing her frustration, Caroline walked past him and got into the car.

Thirty minutes later, they arrived at the hospital.

Reuben accompanied her to the ward and paused at the door as she entered.

Caroline's eyes welled up with tears upon seeing her mother in the ward, weakly eating stew.

She pulled her mask up to cover her red and swollen face before approaching her mother. "Mom."

Katie looked up wearily and managed a smile. "Carol, you're here."

Then, she frowned. "Why are you wearing a mask?"

Caroline sat down beside Katie. "I caught a cold. I don't want to risk infecting you."

Katie inquired, "Are you still running a fever?"

Caroline reassured her, "I'm fine. Just focus on taking care of yourself."

*

After spending some time with Katie, Caroline decided it was best to leave. Katie had just undergone chemotherapy and needed rest. Caroline didn't want to disturb her mother's recovery.

As she exited the ward, she noticed Reuben still standing by the door.

Coincidentally, Scott approached with a nurse by his side. His face brightened upon seeing Caroline. Before he could say anything, Reuben positioned himself between them.

Her gaze now blocked, Caroline glared at Reuben, displeased. "What is the meaning of this?"

Reuben responded, "Ms. Shenton, Mr. Jordan has forbidden you from interacting with any men."

Caroline trembled with anger. "Dr. Wilson is my mother's attending physician. Our conversations solely revolve around my mother's condition!"

Reuben offered no response. He turned to face Scott. “Dr. Wilson, I suggest you refrain from discussing any irrelevant matters, other than her mother’s illness, if you don’t want to cause trouble.”

A furrow formed on Scott’s forehead. He spoke earnestly, “What do you mean?”

Reuben retorted, “I have no obligation to answer any of your questions.”

Scott then shifted his gaze to Caroline, who stood behind Reuben. “Caroline, are you in trouble?”

Caroline bit her lip and shook her head. “No, I’m fine. Goodbye.”

With clenched fists, she walked towards the elevator.

She couldn’t reveal her situation, nor did she want to bring trouble upon Scott.

Once inside the car, Caroline received a WhatsApp message from Scott.

Scott wrote, [Are you in some kind of trouble?]

Caroline replied, [No, please take good care of my mother.]

Scott responded with a sighing emoji. [We’re friends. Let me know if anything happens. I can help you.]

However, Caroline politely declined his offer. [I’m fine. Thank you, Dr. Wilson.]

*

It was a Monday morning. After waking up, Caroline freshened up and came downstairs. She spotted Evan seated at the dining table, sipping his coffee. It had been two days since they last saw each other.

She approached the table and took a seat opposite him. After contemplating for a moment, she questioned, “When will you stop having them monitor me?”

Evan looked up at her. “Listen to me and remain here if you want your mother’s medical expenses to be taken care of.”

“I’ve always paid for my mother’s medical fees with my salary.” Caroline erupted in anger.

Over the years, she had relied on her hard-earned salary to settle her father's debt and cover her mother's medical bills.

Why was he now using her mother's medical expenses as a threat?

Evan sneered. "You're free to leave if you want to forfeit this job."

Caroline instantly clenched her fists tightly. "You're blackmailing me!"

"So, what?" Evan responded indifferently. "Do you think you can survive without this job?"

He could provide her with a salary far superior to other employees, but in return, she had to be obedient.

However, lately, she had been growing defiant.

She smiled warmly at a male doctor to settle her mother's medical expenses. She even sought favor from individuals in the casino to repay her father's debt.

As long as she asked him, he could fulfill all her needs.

Yet, she never did.

He wondered how long she could stubbornly hold her ground in front of him.

Chapter 14

Caroline gazed helplessly at his dignified and handsome face.

Unable to find a way to break through their discussion about money, she decided to shift the conversation to a different topic.

"Aren't you concerned that Daniella would be hurt or angry if she found out about all this?" she asked cautiously, studying his expression.

Regrettably, he replied with a stoic expression, "That's not your concern."

*

The next day at eight o'clock in the office, Caroline excused herself to use the restroom while Evan was in a meeting.

She accidentally bumped into Daniella, who was washing her hands.

Caroline quickly averted her gaze after glancing at Daniella, but Daniella smiled and remarked, “Ms. Shenton, you’re quite dedicated. Coming to work even after being beaten up so severely.”

Caroline’s hand stiffened. Was Daniella present that night? Could it be that Evan rejected the call because of Daniella’s presence?

With a composed expression, she replied, “Ms. Love, please refrain from meddling in my affairs.”

But Daniella’s smile only grew brighter. “Didn’t Evan get angry at you?”

Caroline straightened her posture and regarded Daniella with a cold gaze. “What exactly are you trying to insinuate?”

Deliberately, Daniella took a tissue to dry her hands. “If my assumptions are correct, Evan must despise you now, doesn’t he? After all, no one appreciates a woman who tries to settle a gambling debt with her body.”

In that instant, Caroline understood the implications behind Daniella’s words as she recollected the altered surveillance video. Daniella had set her up!

‘How could she do that?! It’s all because of her that I’m now subjected to such humiliation and surveillance. What a bitch!’ The more Caroline thought about it, the angrier she became.

“Daniella, do you have a grudge against me?” Caroline demanded.

A smirk formed on Daniella’s face as she stepped forward. “Of course, I have a grudge against you. You’re attempting to snatch my man, Caroline. Can’t you see how furious I am? You seem completely oblivious to it. novelbin

“Why would you dare pursue the man I desire? Seeing is how your family is nothing but a bottomless pit, do you really think any man in this world would genuinely give you his heart?”

Caroline suddenly found Daniella’s arrogant behavior amusing.

She replied calmly, “What’s the matter, Ms. Love? Feeling threatened by my abilities, academic qualifications, and appearance? Is that why you can only mock me by referencing my family?”

Hearing that, Daniella's face contorted into a hideous expression.

Caroline shot Daniella a disgusted side glance before heading out of the washroom. To her surprise, Daniella quickly followed and forcefully grabbed her hand.

Instinctively, Caroline pushed her away, and in the next moment, a scream pierced the air. Caroline swiftly turned around to find Daniella lying on the floor.

Struggling with pain, Daniella looked at Caroline with a pained expression. "Ms. Shenton, why would you do this to me?"

Caroline was at a loss for words.

What was Daniella trying to achieve?

Tears welled up in her eyes as Daniella continued, "I was concerned about you and just wanted to see your face injury. Why did you push me?"

Caroline let out a cold laugh. As she was about to respond, she heard footsteps approaching from behind.

"What is going on here?"

Upon hearing the cold yet familiar voice, Caroline's heart skipped a beat. She turned around to see Evan walking toward Daniella.

With tears streaming down her face, Daniella threw herself into Evan's arms. "Evan, my legs hurt so much."

"I know." Evan lifted her up and shot Caroline a chilling glare before heading toward the office.

Caroline's heart sank as she watched their retreating figures.

One of them was acting a role, while the other willingly believed it. Suddenly, she found herself cast as the unexpected villain in this twisted narrative.

As she walked into the office, two colleagues passing by couldn't resist mocking her.

"Ms. Shenton, you're getting what you deserve."

“I thought she was on her way up. Turns out, she’s just a substitute for Ms. Love. How absurd!”

Caroline gave them a cold glance. “If your performance at the end of the month doesn’t meet the required standard, I can make sure you leave anytime.”

With her head held high, she walked back to her office.

*

After work, Reuben gave Caroline a ride back to Villa Rosa. Lily had prepared dinner for her.

As Caroline washed her hands and sat at the dining table, Lily smiled and said, “Ms. Shenton, you’re so fortunate.”

Caroline was taken aback and looked at Lily in confusion. “Me?”

Lily nodded and explained, “Yes, you. Mr. Jordan told me that you enjoy these dishes, so he asked me to cook them before you came home.”

Caroline looked down at the dishes in front of her. They were indeed her favorites.

But what did it matter if they were her favorites? She had lost her freedom.

She ate a few bites casually, lacking appetite, and then prepared to head upstairs.

However, just as she reached the top of the stairs, Evan walked into the villa.

Chapter 15

Lily immediately went to greet him. “Mr. Jordan, welcome back.”

Evan handed his coat to her. “Where is she?”

Lily replied, “Ms. Shenton just went upstairs. She didn’t eat much. It seems like she’s in a bad mood.”

Evan furrowed his brows. He hadn’t even asked her why she pushed Daniella, yet she was already in a sour mood.

Glancing at the nearly untouched dishes on the table, he ascended the stairs with a cold expression and knocked on the door without much emotion.

Shortly after, Caroline opened the door. Observing the cold man standing outside, she asked nonchalantly, "Mr. Jordan, is there something I can assist you with?"

Evan grew irritated at her distant demeanor. "Shouldn't you provide me with an explanation?" he questioned.

Caroline kept her gaze lowered. "I don't know what you're talking about."

Evan narrowed his eyes. "Caroline, stop asking the obvious and testing my patience!"

However, Caroline chuckled. Suddenly, she lifted her head and stared directly at him. "Well, even if I had the courage to do so, would you believe me?"

Evan responded icily, "So, that's why you refuse to explain? Caroline, she sprained her ankle because of you!"

Caroline struggled to contain her laughter.

He had already deemed her guilty from the very beginning, so what was the point of asking so many questions?

Caroline faked a smile. "You posed the question yourself. You just want me to confess that I pushed her, right? Well, there you have it. I'm such a wicked woman."

Didn't he despise her for having relationships with other men? Didn't he sympathize with his first love? Since he despised her so, he should just drive her away.

Witnessing her exuding confidence even after admitting her mistake only fueled his anger further.

He forcefully grabbed her, pulling her into an unwelcome embrace.

Forcing his lips upon hers, he kissed her aggressively and delivered a painful bite. A cry of pain escaped Caroline's lips, and the taste of blood filled their mouths.

Her tried to push him away but her futile attempts were met with an even tighter grip as he continued to trap her in his arms.

In that heart-wrenching moment, she realized she was nothing more than an object for his amusement. Bitter tears streamed down her face as she resigned herself to endure his cruel treatment.

Suddenly, feeling the wetness of her tears, he abruptly released his grip. A mix of sorrow and turmoil filled his eyes as he saw the tears clinging to her long eyelashes. His brows furrowing deeply with a blend of concern and inner conflict.

He couldn't help but feel that something was slipping through his fingers.

However, that fleeting thought quickly gave way to a surge of anger, evident in the intensity of his gaze.

His voice dropped to a menacing tone as he bellowed, "Does it pain you so much to share a kiss with me?"

Caroline remained silent with her head bowed and her feet rooted to the spot.

Witnessing her stubbornness, he spun around and stormed away in a fit of rage.

Before long, the sound of a car engine resonated from downstairs.

She looked out of the window in a daze.

Once, she had been willing to be a substitute, but now she realized her limits—she refused to become a home wrecker.

*

Meanwhile, inside the confines of the private room at the Wild Sides club, two men exchanged dismayed glances as Evan entered.

They endured the stifling tension and icy atmosphere, sitting in silence for a while. Eventually, one of them could no longer contain his curiosity.

Alex Price approached Evan and remarked, "Evan, did you once again find the wrong person?"

Evan shot him a cold glare. "Watch your tongue!"

Alex promptly fell silent and shot a quick glance at Lucas Jensen, who was seated nearby.

Lucas nodded and spoke up, "Evan, why didn't you bring your secretary along today?"

A shadow cast over Evan's face. "Mention her again, and you're gonna miss the company of women for the next six months."

Fear crept into Lucas's widened eyes as he swiftly stood up, putting as much distance as possible between himself and Evan.

Alex, now enlightened, realized that Evan's anger stemmed from Caroline.

After contemplating for a moment, he changed the subject. "Evan, when will you introduce us to your new partner?"

Lucas seized the opportunity and chimed in, "Yes, let us finally meet the woman who occupies your thoughts day and night."

A moment of silence enveloped Evan. "What triggers such sudden transformations in a person's character?"

Alex and Lucas exchanged knowing glances, sensing a potential source of gossip.

Alex responded, "Life experiences and the people who surround them."

Evan looked at him, his gaze filled with contemplation.

*

Caroline had finally managed to fall asleep before dawn, only to be abruptly awakened by the sound of her ringing phone.

She reached for her phone and saw that the caller was Alex, prompting her to quickly answer the call.

"Ms. Shenton, are you asleep?" Alex asked.

Caroline sat up, fully awake now. "Mr. Price, what can I help you with?"

Alex glanced at Evan beside him who got drunk because of Lucas and him. "Mr. Jordan is drunk. Can you come and get him?"

Caroline was taken aback by the request.

She knew that Alex and Lucas were Evan's closest friends, and they were always in his company. She suspected they had gotten Evan drunk to sound him out.

She did not know what was up their sleeves at the moment, and she was unwilling to be deceived. Therefore, she declined the request simply. "Mr. Price, please contact Reuben instead. It's inconvenient for me to go at the moment. If there's nothing else, I'll end the call now."

Chapter 16

"Wait!" Alex quickly stopped Caroline as she was about to end the call.

He calmly lied, "Reuben can't make it due to some issues."

Silence enveloped Caroline before she responded, "Alright, send me the address."

Twenty minutes later, Caroline stepped out of the car at the entrance of Wild Sides.

Both Alex and Lucas were waiting at the club's entrance, supporting Evan, whose head was hanging low.

Caroline furrowed her brow as she approached. When she noticed the peculiar redness on Evan's handsome face, she confirmed that he was indeed drunk.

However, she was just 170 centimeters tall. How could she support Evan, who stood at 190 centimeters?

Alex pushed Evan into her arms and asked, "Ms. Shenton, did you meet the woman Evan has been searching for?"

Lowering her gaze, Caroline replied, "Yes, I did."

Alex smiled and said, "It's likely because of her that Evan resorted to drinking tonight, though I'm uncertain of the exact reason. Please take him home and take good care of him."

Suddenly, Caroline's heart was filled with excruciating pain.

However, that pain seemed slightly less prominent than before.

She offered a faint smile to Alex before she struggled to leave with Evan.

Once they were a distance away, Lucas immediately exclaimed, "Alex, have you lost your mind?"

Alex raised an eyebrow. "What's the matter?"

Lucas indignantly pointed at Caroline's retreating figure. "You know very well that Evan drank because of Ms. Shenton, yet you claimed it was because of his first love."

Alex chuckled. "A little suffering will do Evan some good."

Lucas became puzzled. "How will he benefit from suffering?"

Alex explained, "Chill. You'll find out in the future."

Lucas was left speechless.

*

Upon returning to Villa Rosa, Caroline exerted herself to bring Evan back to his master bedroom.

As a result, she was so drained that she weakly collapsed at the edge of the bed.

Looking up, she carefully examined his flawless face.

His short hair was slightly disheveled, partially covering his forehead.

His captivating eyes were tightly shut. The thin lips beneath his prominent nose were firmly pressed together, indicating his discomfort.

As she observed him, an impulse surged within her. She felt an urge to smoothen the space between his eyebrows.

However, Evan suddenly opened his eyes the moment her fingertips touched his face. He grabbed her wrist.

His sudden movement startled Caroline. She attempted to retract her hand, but he didn't give her the opportunity.

"Why didn't you run away when you had the chance?" Evan demanded coldly.

Caroline answered insincerely, "I won't get any money if I run away."

Evan's expression turned frigid as he tightened his grip on her wrist.

"What else do you care about apart from money?" he asked.

She pretended to ponder. "According to a certain someone, it seems that I also care about other men."

Wasn't that the answer Evan desired? Well, she would give him exactly what he wanted.

As anticipated, a deep sense of disgust manifested in his dark eyes.

"Our contract isn't over yet. Act as a mistress should," he bellowed.

His outburst caused her heart excruciating pain, to the point where she felt suffocated.

He could shamelessly engage intimately with his first love, while she was deemed so inferior that she could only be his concealed mistress, too shameful to be acknowledged.

She was unwilling to accept such a role.

Therefore, she suppressed her bitterness and took a deep breath.

She gazed up at him. "Evan, let's put an end to this relationship, alright?"

Suddenly, his breathing became erratic. In the next moment, he grabbed her chin tightly and declared fiercely, "Caroline, I always have the final say in this arrangement. You don't have the right to terminate it!"

“From this day forward, you are not allowed to leave Villa Rosa without my permission!”

*

Caroline couldn't comprehend how she had managed to walk out of Evan's room.

Following his cruel warning, he ruthlessly violated her dignity and slept with her.

If she could turn back time, she would retract her previous words. That way, she could still attend to her job at the company and visit her mother at the hospital, maintaining some semblance of her former life. novelbin

However, now she was reduced to being merely his pet, someone he could toy with and discard at his whim.

*

Caroline endured an entire week of confinement.

She busied herself with the design drafts in her hands.

Once she received the payment for the commission, she promptly transferred it to Katie's bank account.

As she was about to log off from social media, her good friend Paige sent her a message.

[Caroline, Ylesir is organizing an online fashion design event. Are you interested in participating?]

Caroline was taken aback for a moment. [Could you please send me the qualifications and participation requirements?]

Paige quickly sent her a link, and Caroline clicked on it to review the website. She found that she met the necessary criteria to enter the competition.

The competition spanned three months and comprised three rounds.

The cash prize for the champion amounted to an impressive 700,000 dollars.

That sum of money would be sufficient to cover her mother's medical expenses, and it would also give her the confidence to leave Evan.

Caroline replied, [Thank you. This means a lot to me.]

Paige responded, [You're welcome. Just treat me to a meal when you have some free time.]

Caroline agreed to the proposition.

Just as she was done filling out the application form, Lily knocked on her door, informing her food was ready.

Caroline promptly closed her laptop and headed downstairs.

Chapter 17

After settling at the dining table, Lily served Caroline a bowl of freshly cooked mushroom soup.

Upon seeing the yellow and greasy layer on the soup, Caroline felt a wave of nausea wash over her.

Overwhelmed by the intense feeling, she hurriedly made her way to the restroom. novelbin

Lily was left speechless, witnessing the scene unfold before her. However, soon, a joyful expression appeared on her face.

When Caroline returned, her complexion pale, Lily smiled and asked, "Ms. Shenton, is your period late?"

Caroline weakly lifted the teacup from the table. "My period is never on time."

Lily spoke up, "If my guess is correct, Ms. Shenton, you might be pregnant."

Caroline's hand froze suddenly, and she looked at Lily in shock. "Pregnant?"

Lily nodded. "Yes, I'll help you get a pregnancy test kit later. You'll have clarity after taking the test."

Caroline managed a bitter smile. "Lily, Evan and I always use protection. Maybe my body isn't feeling well lately. It's unlikely that I'm pregnant."

But Lily felt a hint of regret. “Well, I’ll prepare some dishes to nourish your body, just in case.”

Caroline nodded, her emotions mixed. “By the way, Lily, please don’t mention anything to Evan about any issues with my body.”

Lily tried to persuade her. “Mr. Jordan cares deeply for you.”

However, Caroline let out a chuckle. “I know. But he’s incredibly busy. I don’t want him to be distracted because of me...”

After finishing dinner, Caroline quickly made her way upstairs.

She was uncertain whether she was pregnant or not. That night in the car, she and Evan had not used any protection.

However, it could also be a result of some other illness.

She raised her hand, placing it on her belly with a troubled mind.

If she was indeed pregnant, could she choose to keep the child? Certainly, Evan would not want the child of his mistress.

Feeling anxious, she paced back and forth in the bedroom, contemplating ways to leave the house.

*

Caroline heard the sound of a car engine coming from downstairs at ten o’clock at night.

She walked over to the window and saw Evan’s car parked outside. Immediately, she made her way downstairs.

It had been a week since they last saw each other, and exhaustion was evident on Evan’s handsome face.

She was well aware of his recent schedule, knowing that he had been away on business trips.

When Evan spotted Caroline standing in front of him, he appeared surprised. “Is there something you need?”

Caroline nodded. "I would like to visit my mother at the hospital tomorrow."

Evan walked briskly toward the stairs. "Let's discuss it upstairs."

She followed him into the study.

Evan sat down at his desk, loosening his tie, and asked, "When do you want to go?"

As Caroline poured water for him, she glanced up. "Can I go tomorrow morning?"

After placing the cup of warm water in front of him, she awaited his response.

He stared at the cup for a moment before speaking coldly, "Ask Reuben to drive you to the company after you visit your mother."

Caroline hadn't anticipated him agreeing so quickly, even allowing her to return to work at the company.

Suppressing her joy, she nodded with her head lowered. "Okay."

Unbeknownst to her, Evan had noticed her sense of happiness.

In a low voice, he commanded, "Come here."

Caroline looked at him, fully aware of his intentions.

After a brief hesitation, she walked over to him.

He held her by the neck from behind, pulling her into a passionate kiss.

Caroline obediently complied. Having just obtained the opportunity to go out, she didn't want to let it slip away.

*

Caroline woke up early on Monday while Evan was still sleeping beside her.

Carefully pushing the blanket aside, she quietly left the room.

After having breakfast prepared by Lily, she hailed a taxi to go to the gynecological department of the hospital.

Following the examination, she went to the doctor with the report in hand.

“You’re six weeks pregnant. You should avoid sexual intercourse during this period of time,” the doctor reminded her.

Caroline widened her eyes in shock. “Six weeks?”

Frowning, the doctor looked at her. “Why? Don’t you want the child?”

Anxiety gripped her heart. “I took contraceptive pills. How did I become pregnant?”

The doctor inquired, “Were they short-term or emergency contraception?”

She tried to recall carefully. “Emergency contraception.”

“You can’t guarantee 100% effectiveness with emergency birth control pills, and they have no impact on the fetus. I must remind you that your uterine wall is very thin. If you choose to terminate this pregnancy, it will be difficult for you to conceive again. Please consider this carefully...”

Caroline left the consultation room with the report, feeling dazed.

She was indeed pregnant...

Pregnant with Evan’s child.

But would he accept this child?

After a moment of contemplation, she took a photo of the report and searched for her chat log with Evan.

She believed that he had the right to know about this since he was the father of the child.

Chapter 18

“Abort it! It’s revolting that you’re pregnant with my child!”

Caroline’s ears were suddenly filled with a man’s angry outburst.

She spun around and witnessed a distraught woman clutching onto a man's clothes, tears streaming down her face. "Do you understand how harmful an abortion is to my body? How could you be so heartless?"

"Your body is not my concern!"

Upon hearing those words, Caroline's mind flashed back to Evan's indifferent expression. She realized she was merely an object to fulfill his desires. He might not readily accept the baby growing inside her.

Fearful of confronting the reality she had just heard, Caroline promptly switched off her phone. She needed to find a way to gauge his reaction first.

After placing the report in her bag, she anxiously made her way towards the ward.

When she arrived at Katie's ward, she composed herself before entering.

Katie was in the midst of eating an apple. Upon seeing Caroline, she immediately broke into a smile.

Chapter 19

Chapter 19 He Brought a Woman Home

As she approached the car, Reuben opened the door for her.

Instantly, she could sense the chilling aura emanating from within.

Her heart sank as she heard Evan's roar. "Get in!"

Swallowing hard, she nervously entered the car.

Before she could settle into her seat, he grabbed her chin, forcing her to meet his furious and

intense gaze.

He roared aloud, "Caroline, have you forgotten what I told you?"

Her complexion paled as she tried to explain, "Evan, it's not what you think..."

“What is the truth, then?” Evan interrupted, his voice harsh. “Caroline, I believe what I saw!”

He tightened his grip on her chin. The pain engulfed her, and she felt tears welling up in her eyes.

How could she explain it in a way that he would believe? Or was it futile to explain, regardless of her efforts? What he witnessed was not the truth, but it seemed he wasn't willing to believe

otherwise.

He stared at her with his cold, black eyes, expecting her to submit and know her place.

He had already made so many exceptions for her. After she made her request the previous night, he didn't order Reuben to keep an eye on her. He had allowed her to go out alone. How could she

betray his trust?

“Say something!” Evan roared. His menacing presence made it hard for her to breathe.

Suppressing her tears and emotions, she mustered the courage to ask, “And what about you, Evan? Are you angry because you feel humiliated, or is it your possessiveness?”

“You won't let me go while seeking your first love. Have you ever considered my feelings?”

“Feelings?” Evan laughed coldly, his words dripping with icy disdain.

“Caroline, you're merely my mistress. You have no right to have feelings.”

With that, he released his grip on her and pushed her away forcefully. He shouted from the car,

Reuben!”

In response, Reuben promptly entered the car. “Mr. Jordan.”

“Back to Villa Rosa.”

“Right away, Sir.”

+15 BONUS

Upon their arrival at Villa Rosa, Evan forcefully pulled her out of the car.

Due to the pain in her leg, she struggled to walk steadily, nearly slipping multiple times.

However, Evan paid no heed and dragged her upstairs, forcefully pushing her onto the bed and loomed over her. 1

Aware of his intentions, she mustered all her strength to resist him, her thoughts consumed by the child growing within her.

“Evan, no! You can’t do this!” 2

He tightly grasped her hands with his slender fingers, pinning them above her head.

Simultaneously, he forcefully removed her clothing, his voice filled with anger as he shouted, “ You should know the consequences of defying me

Tears streamed down her face as she confronted his madness,

Gradually, she relinquished her futile struggle.

Lying there motionless, she allowed him to do as he pleased with her body...

After a restful afternoon of sleep, Caroline opened her exhausted eyes when Lily came upstairs to

call her for lunch.

She changed her clothes before leaving the bedroom. However, Lily looked at her with concern.

Ms. Shenton, Mr. Jordan...”

“Lily, don’t mention him,” Caroline interjected, not wanting to hear his name at that moment.

His selfishness had frightened her to the point where she wished to escape

Lily proceeded to explain, "No, Ms. Shenton. He brought a woman home."

A hint of sarcasm flickered in Caroline's eyes.

He doubted and humiliated her because of another man's approach. But what was he doing now?

Was this some form of revenge?

Initially lacking an appetite, now she didn't even feel like eating.

Her tone turned cold. "Fine, I won't

no downstairs."

Lily found herself in a dilemma. "But Mr. Jordan ordered that you must go downstairs.."

Caroline sneered inwardly.

For Lily's sake, she chose to go downstairs.

As she entered the dining room, she saw Daniella serving food onto Evan's plate, smiling.

"Evan, should I peel the prawn for you?"

Evan seemed to have heard Caroline's footsteps and looked up. Upon seeing Caroline, he responded with a cold expression, "Sure,"

Daniella saw Evan's gaze on Caroline, and a trace of cruelty flashed in her eyes. However, she quickly composed herself, putting on a smile as she said, 'Ms. Shenton, here you are. Come and

have a seat."

Her words conveyed a sense of familiarity with the place, implying that Caroline was merely a guest.

Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Don't Be Mad at Me

Caroline saw through Daniella's intentions, but she chose to ignore them. She calmly sat opposite

them and ate her food.

Daniella looked at Evan with a sense of awkwardness. "Evan, is Ms. Shenton unhappy because I'm

here?"

"Just ignore her." Evan replied, extending his hand to pull Daniella down to sit beside him.

Daniella obediently nodded and absentmindedly took a few bites of her food.

"Ms. Shenton, I didn't

blame you for what happened the other day. It was my fault for not standing properly."

As she spoke, her eyes turned red. "Please don't be mad at me, okay?"

Daniella's words were like repulsive meat in front of Caroline. She had to forcefully suppress her

disgust, or she might have vomited.

Caroline looked up at Daniella. "I'm not as petty as someone."

Upon hearing Caroline's remark, Daniella clenched her fork tightly.

However, she was remarkably skilled in acting. She swiftly turned her anger into pitifulness. "No.

that's not true, Ms. Shenton. I didn't mean that. I just think that since we're going to be staying

with Evan from now on, we should resolve any conflicts sooner..."

As she spoke, she burst into tears.

Her lips trembled, her head hung low, and she sobbed. "Evan, I'm sorry for disturbing your meal.

I'm so sorry..."

A tinge of annoyance and frustration flashed across Evan's face, but he still gently consoled her."

You'll only subject yourself to more grievances if you engage with an unreasonable person. Just

listen to me and eat."

Hearing how Evan defended and sided with Daniella, bitterness consumed Caroline. In his eyes,

she had once again become the mean person.

On the other hand, Daniella appeared gentle and generous as she accepted the compromise.

Suddenly, Caroline found it incredibly difficult to swallow the food in her mouth.

After lunch, Evan left the villa to attend to some matters. Meanwhile, Caroline decided to go to the kitchen to ask Lily to cut some fruits for her.

As she got up, she overheard Daniella's sarcastic remarks, "Your family situation is so terrible. Is that why you insist on clinging to Evan and refuse to leave?"

+15 BONUS

Caroline halted in her tracks and shot Daniella a glare. "You're quite skilled at assuming different

personalities. It's a shame you didn't pursue a career in acting." "

Contempt flashed in Daniella's eyes. "Did I hit a nerve? Looks like you can't come up with a

comeback."

However, Caroline smiled. "Don't you find your words dripping with jealousy? You're so incapable

that all you can do is mock others.”

Daniella’s expression turned cold and gloomy. “Caroline, your smugness won’t last long.”

Caroline glared at Daniella icily. “Your current angry face is more satisfying than before.!!

With that, she couldn’t be bothered to argue further and made her way to the kitchen.

Lily handed the cut fruits to Caroline. “Ms. Shenton, please forgive me for being meddlesome.”

Caroline looked up at her. “Yes?”

Lily sighed. “If your relationship with Mr. Jordan is strained, it’s easy for another person to

come between you.”

Caroline found herself at a loss for words.

Of course, it wasn’t Daniella who had come between their relationship. On the contrary, Caroline

felt like she was occupying someone else’s place.

But Evan refused to let her go.

She didn’t want to explain it, so she smiled and replied, “Lily, thank you for your concern.”

Upon returning to her room, she ate some fruit before starting her design work.

After drawing for less than an hour, drowsiness overwhelmed her, causing her eyelids to droop.

She felt the need to go downstairs to get some water and refresh herself.

As she stepped out of her room, she noticed Daniella walking into the study. Evan wasn’t home

yet, so why was Daniella in his study?

Curiosity piqued, Caroline turned around and headed towards the study. Upon reaching the door, she witnessed Daniella bending over to open a drawer.

She remembered that the contents of that drawer were a sensitive subject for Evan, and no one was allowed to pry into it. Acting swiftly, Caroline interrupted Daniella. "What are you doing?"

Startled, Daniella looked up at Caroline. "Why didn't I hear you? Are you trying to scare me?"

+15 BONUS

Mockingly, Caroline replied, "Are you scared because you have a guilty conscience?" She then walked closer.

Approaching the table, Caroline noticed the drawer that Daniella had partially pulled out, causing her heart to skip a beat. She didn't dare to look inside and quickly pushed it back in place.

"Your position is still unstable, so I suggest you refrain from going through his belongings," Caroline coldly reminded her.

Just as she uttered those words, a dark figure suddenly appeared at the door. She heard a furious male voice before raising her head.

"What are you doing?"

In shock, Caroline looked up to see Evan standing there.

Before she could explain, he stormed over in a fit of anger. His eyes turned scarlet upon noticing the keys jutting out from the drawer. Losing control, he grabbed Caroline by the throat.

Didn't I warn you not to touch this drawer? Evan yelled in a rage. "Caroline, why do you always

defy me? Why?"

Caroline's eyes filled with terror.

She struggled to explain, but Evan maintained a tight grip on her neck, rendering her unable to

utter a single word.

Meanwhile, Daniella quickly assumed the role of the good person and stepped forward

“Evan, you’ve misunderstood her. I asked her to help me find a book to read. She didn’t

purposefully open that drawer. Don’t be angry. If you want to blame someone, blame me,” Daniella.

interjected.

Upon hearing Daniella’s words, Evan finally released his grip.

As Caroline gasped for breath, she held her throat and coughed vigorously.

Evan glanced at Caroline, then turned to Daniella, his tone icy as he said, “It’s getting late, Ella. I’ll have Reuben give you a ride home.”

Danielle protested, “But I want to stay with you a little longer.

Evan’s voice turned cold abruptly. “I have other matters to attend to!”

Dejected, Daniella relented. “Okay, I’ll listen to you,

As Caroline watched them depart, tears welled up uncontrollably.

Was whatever Daniella was involved in so important?

+15 BONUS

Important enough for Evan to seemingly want to harm her just now....

After composing herself, Caroline made her way downstairs,

Before she could enter the kitchen, a stern warning came from behind her. “Caroline, just this once!”

Her body stiffened as she locked eyes with him, her eyes red. 'If you cherished whatever was in that drawer so much, you shouldn't have allowed me to stay here.'

Evan's anger had yet to subside, his handsome face still icy.

"I'll kick you out when I grow tired of you," he stated coldly.

With that, he turned and ascended the stairs, his posture exuding cruelty and aloofness.

Caroline took a few steps back, leaning weakly against the wall.

Did she have to wait until he grew tired of her?

As expected, she found herself devoid of any sense of dignity in his presence.

As she wiped away her disappointed tears, her phone in her pocket suddenly vibrated.