Chapter 61 I Could Only Endure

Gabrielle shifted her eyes at the studio's door. Initially, she was planning to visit everyone in the studio today. Unfortunately, she had to see Estelle. As such, Gabrielle had to reschedule her visit to the studio to a later date. Moreover, she was also afraid that the wounds on her face might scare other people.

It didn't take long for Austin to arrive with the car. As soon as Gabrielle got inside the vehicle, he gave her a bottle of water. "You can take off your mask since you're already inside the car, Gabrielle. Otherwise, you'll feel hot. I can already see the sweat on your forehead. It'll be painful if it contaminates your wound."

With a relieved sigh, she removed her mask and her jacket.

Meanwhile, Austin couldn't help but gawk when he saw the wounds on her arms and face.

"This is much more relaxing for me. Thank you, Austin." After removing the bottle cap, she took a sip of water. Since she had so much wrapped around her earlier, she felt quite relieved at the moment.

"How did you get those wounds, Gabrielle? Are you in pain? Have you disinfected and

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Chapter 61 I Could Only Endure

dressed it appropriately?" Feeling pity for her, Austin couldn't help but get teary-eyed.

When he noticed the gauze on her forehead, he knew that the accident must have badly hurt her. However, he had no idea how terrible her wounds were until he saw the rest of her face and arms.

"Okay, I'll be honest with you. I got these wounds while I was fighting women. However, it doesn't hurt anymore since Remy tended to me. Aside from some scratches on my skin, I have no major injuries. Unfortunately, I can't say the same for Sloane. She's in a hospital right now because she was struck on the back of her head," Gabrielle said with a straight face. She wanted to be honest so that Austin wouldn't worry too much.

"Where are we heading now? Are you planning to meet Estelle, the woman who ordered that attack on you?" he asked, wanting to get to the point.

"That's correct. Unfortunately, we still have no evidence against her." Frustrated, Gabrielle could only look down.

Estelle was the main culprit. She only used those three pitiful women as scapegoats. Moreover, people didn't dare to offend the Johnson as they were famous in Antawood.

Although Austin wasn't completely familiar with Estelle, he had heard of her name before. The elite class of Antawood was small enough for him to be aware of her existence.

as the arrogant daughter of the Johnson.

Because of her family background, she grew up self-centered and had offended a lot of people. However, she was also generous. As such, most people adored her and treated her as the princess of the upper-class circle.

Hence, Austin realized that she wasn't a good person.

There was no way he could forgive Estelle for bullying Gabrielle.

"Gabrielle, since Estelle wants to bully you, I can help you retaliate. You're looking for proof that Estelle ordered the attack on you and Sloane, correct?" He briefly looked at her with furrowed eyebrows.

Anger built up in his heart when he saw the wounds on Gabrielle's face. At that moment, he wanted to beat Estelle to a pulp.

How could Estelle do such a vile thing like ordering people to hurt Gabrielle? Austin was afraid of what else might happen to Gabrielle.

"Is that so? Can you help me find proof to

indict Estelle? The Johnson is a powerful clan in Antawood. There's no way I can fight against them," she admitted with a sense of hatred.

The cruelty of her situation was that powerful people could sentence less influential people to death without any punishment. The Jones couldn't compete with the Johnson.

Additionally, Gabrielle was merely an adopted daughter of the Jones. Since she wasn't a blood relative, she didn't want to involve them in that matter. Otherwise, Wendy and Tobias would see her as a disgraceful daughter.

Meanwhile, Sloane came from an ordinary family with not much influence. Although she could rely on Benny, he had a complicated relationship with Estelle. As such, he couldn't help Sloane and Gabrielle retaliate against Estelle.

"Gabrielle, Westley is your husband. His influence in Antawood is more than enough to deal with both Estelle and the Johnson. Maybe you should ask him to help you," Austin suggested with a hint of curiosity as he was also interested in Gabrielle's marriage with Westley.

If there was nothing wrong with their marriage, Westley wouldn't let something

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Chapter 61 | Could Only Endure

terrible like that happen to Gabrielle. Moreover, he would do something about the culprit.

When Westley's name was mentioned, Gabrielle immediately stiffened. "Austin, you're Westley's younger cousin, correct? You already know his attitude. It's not easy to convince him to do anything I ask. Additionally, I only married him as a sign of atonement. Love and care don't exist in my relationship with him. Westley couldn't care less about my troubles." ³

Austin didn't know what to say. Since they were cousins, he knew Westley very well. However, because their characters are almost opposite of each other's, they weren't very close. It wasn't surprising for them to not like one another.

Moreover, Westley married Gabrielle, the girl Austin desired. As such, the tension between the two grew worse.

Even since they were young, Westley had continually bested Austin in everything they did. Now, Westley not only took away the woman Austin cared about but had also been treating her poorly. Hence, anger and frustration crept into Austin's heart as he thought about the marriage between the two.

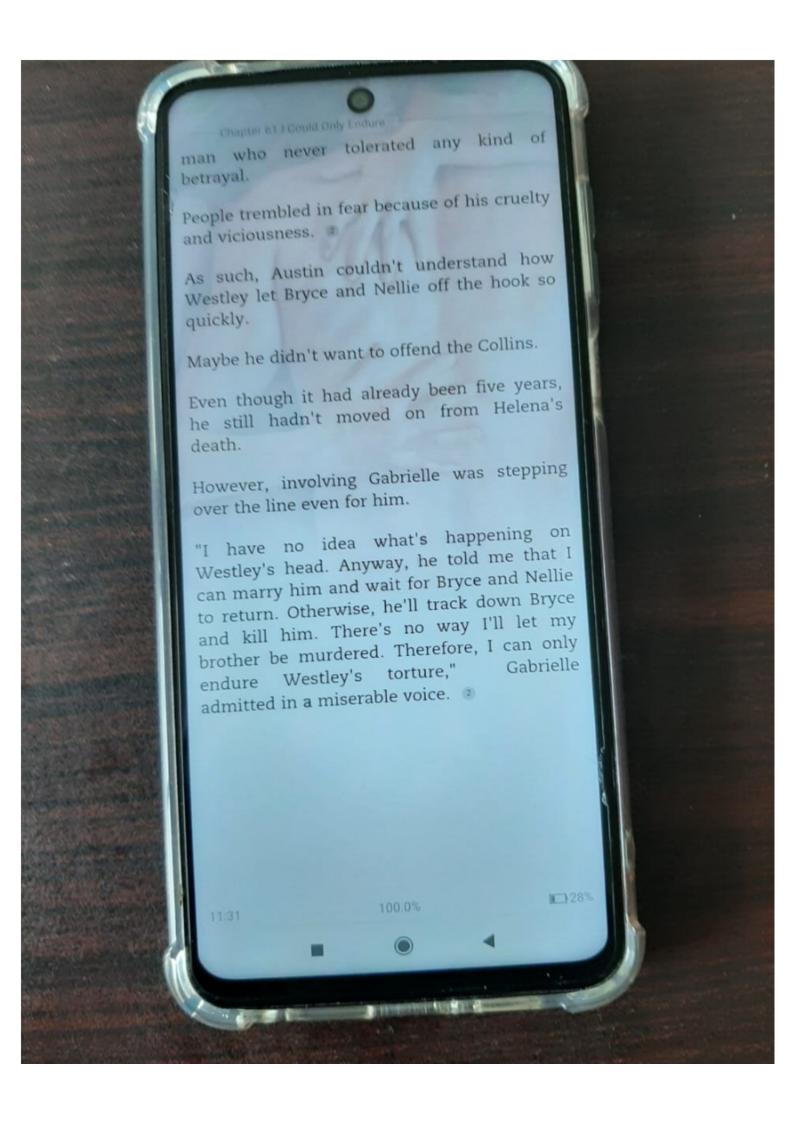
"What's happening with your marriage with Westley, Gabrielle? How can you say that it's

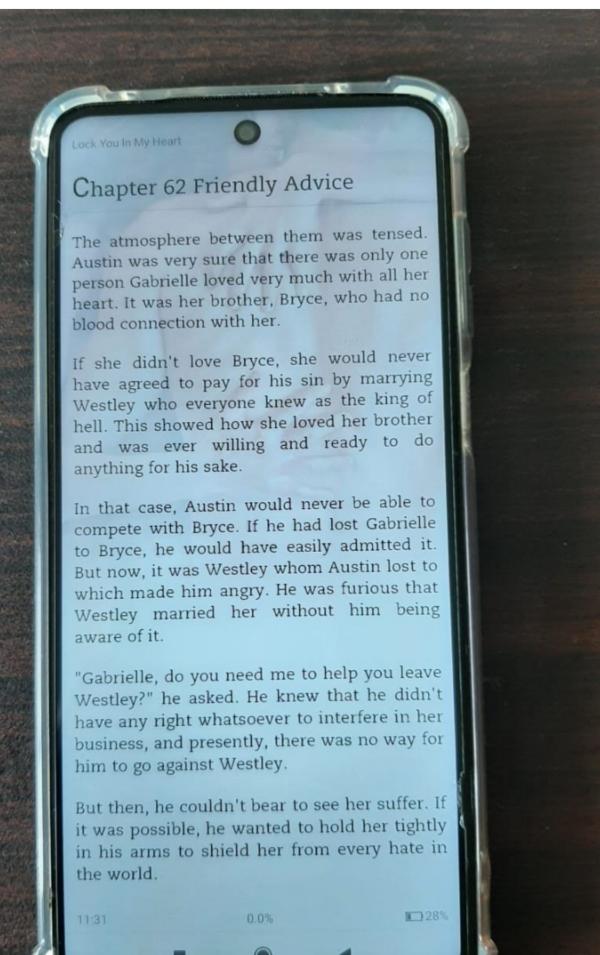
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Chapter 61 | Could Only Endure merely a form of atonement? Even though you never knew each other before, you suddenly married. Why did you marry even though he was intended for Nellie?" Austin wanted to get to the bottom of it. The mere thought of the situation was making him miserable. "My brother ran away with Nellie. As such, I became Westley's bride as compensation. The initial plan was to have a fake marriage. Unfortunately, Miley forced us to go to the courthouse for a marriage certificate. Despite our fake relationship, we are still legally man and wife. However, we will divorce each other once Nellie returns. Then, I'll cut off all my ties with Westley." A painful expression painted her face as she explained everything. She took the blame for Bryce's ridiculous decision. Maybe it was also her punishment from the heavens for liking the wrong person. "Why are you the one being punished for Bryce and Nellie's decision to Moreover, Westley is more than powerful enough to track them down and bring them back. No place in heaven and earth can hide them from his influence. There's no need for you to marry him." At that moment, Austin aspects of Westley's realized some personality that he still didn't know. He knew Westley as a ruthless and decisive 1 28% 74.0%





"I don't need to leave Westley now. Although he is very unfriendly and unwelcoming to me, at least he didn't hurt me. I will do my best to ask the Jones to bring back Bryce and Nellie as quickly as possible so that I can get rid of Westley and live my life in peace. After all, he is your elder cousin and I don't want

because of me," she said seriously.

'What an ignorant girl! Even in a situation as crucial as this, she still had the time to care about other people's brotherhood, ' he thought.

your relationship as brothers to be shattered

This was one of the reasons he worried so much about her. She preferred putting other people's happiness and comfort before hers.

"Okay, I understand. But if Westley ever tries to intimidate or bully you, Gabrielle, I'll take you away from him right away," he blurted out.

The duo had known each other for quite a long time. He treated her like he would treat his younger sister which made her very emotional.

She never imagined that her relationship with him would turn out this way. She became his elder sister-in-law, while he was her husband's younger cousin.

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Even though the relationship between Austin and Westley was sour, she didn't want it to get worse because of her involvement in their lives.

"Austin, can I ask you a question, please?" She thought of a problem.

The scenario that Westley held the arm of another woman with so much affection in the hospital stayed long in her mind. She didn't know so much about Holly, and she knew that it was not a celebrated thing for her to ask about the people who were around Westley from another person.

But still, she just wanted to know if the relationship between Holly and Westley was like what she thought.

Sometimes, the intuition of women was correct. She felt that something going on between Holly and Westley.

But even if the relationship was not simple, it was none of her business. It was Westley's private affair and it would be better if she didn't interfere.

So, should she ask or not?

"Okay, go ahead," he urged her. Austin was looking straight ahead and didn't notice the perplexing expression on her face.

"Why don't you ask your question?" he queried her. Gabrielle still kept silent even after he waited for a long time. He started thinking that something was wrong with her but he couldn't bring her to say what it was.

"Do you know anything about Holly?"
Looking a little agitated and tensed, she finally spoke. In her opinion, Austin was Westley's cousin anyway and so he might know a little, if not more, about the women around his cousin. Which was why she decided to ask him.

"Holly? Do you mean Nellie's elder cousin? Austin looked at Gabrielle. He was confused and wondered why she was asking about Holly.

He was not interested in Westley, let alone the women around him. Austin only knew that when Westley and Helena were together, Holly, who was Helena's younger cousin and a best friend stayed with them very often. So they became friends.

Holly had visited the Morris on several occasions and so he had an idea about her. She was more beautiful than Helena and smarter too, so she was very cunning and crafty.

"Yes," he answered her. Gabrielle only got to know from Neil that Holly was Nellie's elder

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cousin. Apart from that, she didn't know anything else.

"Why do you suddenly want to know about her? Has she come to you? Did she disturb you?" he asked worriedly.

She shook her head immediately. "I don't know Holly, neither do I know anything about her. She didn't come to me. I just heard her name and I am a little curious about her which was why I asked you about her. Just forget about it," she said with a wave of the hand.

Austin was not an idiot. He couldn't be easily deceived. Since she had asked about Holly, it showed that she cared about Westley.

"Gabrielle, is your marriage with Westley fake?" he asked reluctantly.

She didn't understand his question at the moment and looked at him uncomfortably. "Austin, my marriage to your cousin is fake. We will get a divorce immediately Nellie comes back. Then I'll be out of his life for good. Is there any problem?" she asked.

"No." After saying that, he didn't say anything more, but drove silently.

She also felt that the atmosphere in the car was gloomy. She tried to think of a topic to talk about with him, but felt that it was not

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appropriate to talk about anything at that moment, so she decided to keep mute.

When he stopped the car at New Buds Cafe, she unfastened the seat belt and was about to open the door of the car.

"Gabrielle, if you don't care about Westley, I feel you should pay less attention to his affairs because Holly will constantly appear by his side. I'm very sure about that," he finally reminded her.

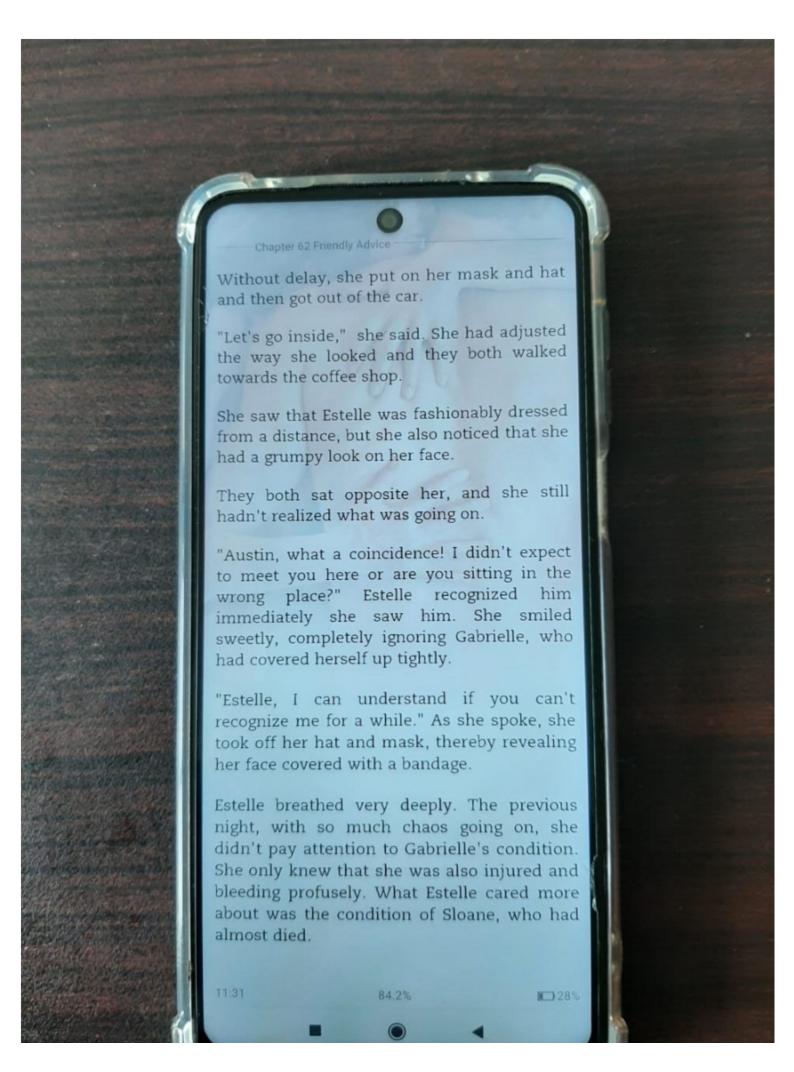
Her hand paused when she pushed the door open. She looked back at Austin with uneasy eyes. "What do you mean, Austin? I don't understand your statement."

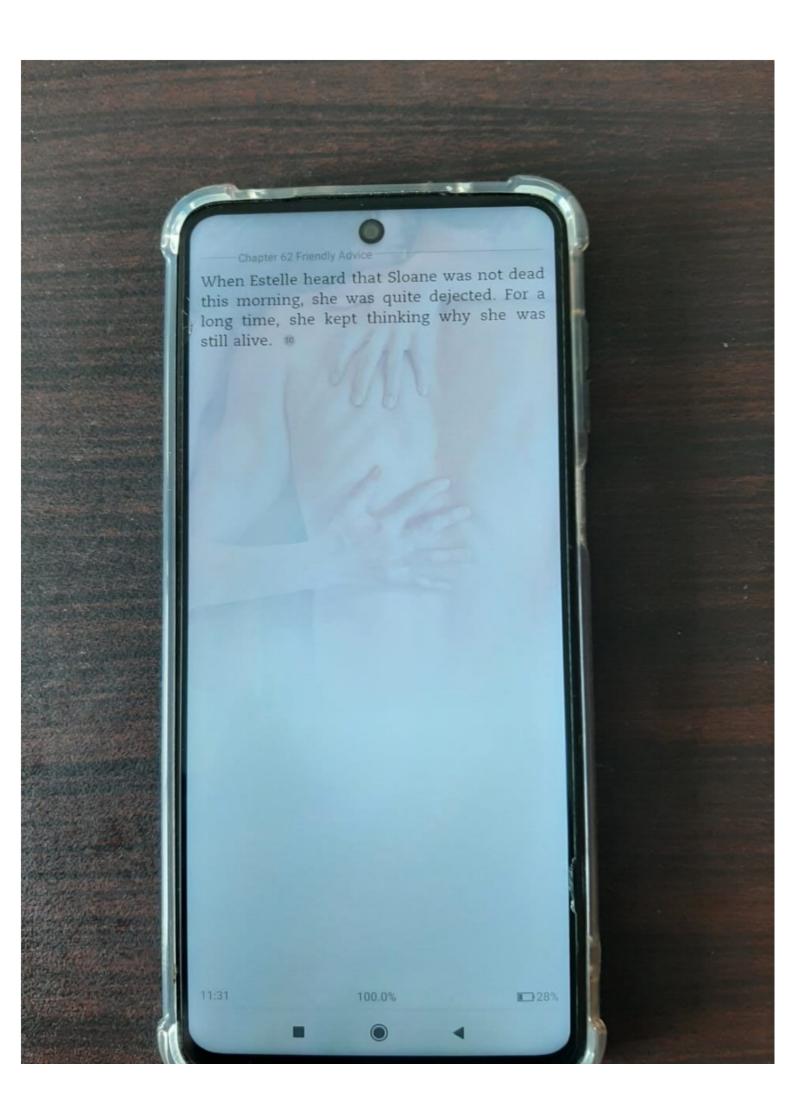
"You don't have to understand. Just do as I have said. Don't pay too much attention to Westley. It would be better if you stay away from his private affairs and Holly. She is not someone you can deal with." Just then, he pushed the door open and got out of the car.

'Huh? What does he mean? Holly is not someone I can deal with?'

His words confused her even more.

Anyway, she wouldn't pay too much attention to Westley. She would avoid anyone or anything related to him now and also in the future.





Lock You in My Heart

Chapter 63 Stand By Her Side

"Sorry to frighten you, Estelle. Unfortunately, you're the reason why my face looks like this, " Gabrielle frigidly uttered. Her apathetic glare made Estelle feel like she was surrounded by ice.

If a simple stare could kill a person, her body would've been riddled with holes already.

"What are you talking about, Gabrielle? When did I ever lay a hand on your face? Also, why is Austin here with you?" Estelle calmly replied with a concerned look on her face. Pretending to be a virtuous woman in front of the upper class was something she was always good at. In fact, she was even famous for it. However, she couldn't help but feel a bit uneasy. She didn't expect that Gabrielle knew Austin and would bring him along for help. Since he was there, how could Estelle get even with her anymore?

Even if it was hard, Estelle managed to keep her composure. The last thing she wanted was to disgrace herself in front of Austin.

"Gabrielle is a good friend of mine," Austin casually answered. The simple act of explaining his relationship with Gabrielle was a subtle hint for Estelle to watch her mouth. At that point, it was clear that if she did anything rude to a friend of his, he would

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take it as an insult directed towards him. She wouldn't dare to offend Austin, would "I see, so Miss Jones is Austin's friend. I honestly had no clue," Estelle meekly mumbled in shame. 2 "It doesn't matter if you knew or not. What's important is that you don't forget it. Gabrielle told me that you're the reason for the wound on her face. Is this true? If yes, do you have a reasonable explanation for doing so?" Austin asked earnestly. There was no doubt that he was determined to seek justice for his friend. In his youth, Austin was well-known for his calm and agreeable demeanor. If something happened and it had nothing to do with him, he wouldn't care at all. Getting into trouble was something he avoided at all costs. But once he set his sights on something, his pacifist attitude completely disappeared. When he gave his word to Gabrielle that he would sort out her affairs, he truly meant it. He wouldn't let anything stop him from reaching that goal. At that moment, Estelle had no idea what to do. Her original plan to deal with her foe failed miserably. The three women she ordered to attack Gabrielle got caught and 15.4% 28%

ended up in jail. They wouldn't be released until the litigant allowed it. Such a move couldn't have come from Gabrielle. It was obviously Westley's doing. Not having any information about Westley and Gabrielle's relationship made her feel anxious. To make matters worse, Austin was now involved. Weren't Westley and Austin cousins? Gabrielle was truly an enchantress. Not only did she manage to seduce Westley, but she also had Austin on a string. With that in mind, how many more bigwigs did she have under her control? Estelle had completely underestimated Gabrielle, hadn't she? One of the litigants was Sloane, who was lying in a hospital bed and suffering from a coma. The other one was Gabrielle. Estelle had planned to use some special means to force Gabrielle to release the three women. But since Austin made it clear that he would stand by Gabrielle's side, Estelle knew her plan wasn't an option anymore. Frankly, Estelle couldn't help but regret messing with someone she shouldn't have in the first place. "Estelle, haven't I made myself clear? Or do you need me to repeat it a second time?" Austin asked in an irritated tone. He got annoyed when he noticed that Estelle was

Chapter 63 Stand By Her Side

glaring at Gabrielle from time to time without saying a single word.

"I heard you loud and clear, Austin. I'll explain why Gabrielle's face got injured now, " Estelle calmly replied. But when she looked at his ice-cold gaze, she immediately felt nervous.

In the upper-class circle, Austin was well-known for his sweet smile, gentle eyes, and a gentlemanly charm that could woo a thousand girls.

But at that moment, all of those traits disappeared. His frightening glare sent shivers down Estelle's spine. Was the man in front of her still Austin?

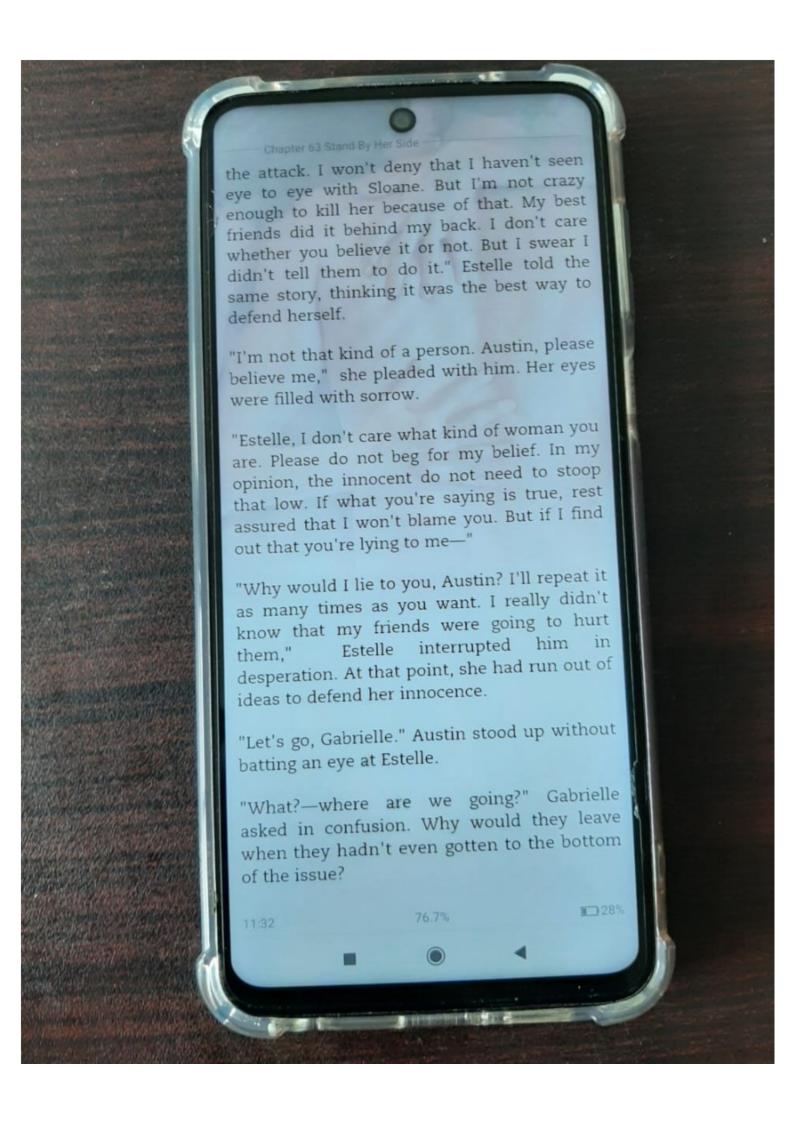
"Very well then, I'll listen to every word you say carefully. Hurting a friend of mine is a big deal. If I sense that you're not telling me everything about the incident, I'll find out the truth myself. If it has to come to that point, I can't promise that the outcome will be good for you, Estelle." Austin casually spoke, but there was a hint of malice in his voice. Understanding how important Gabrielle was to him, Estelle knew that if she couldn't give a satisfactory answer, she would get herself in a lot of trouble.

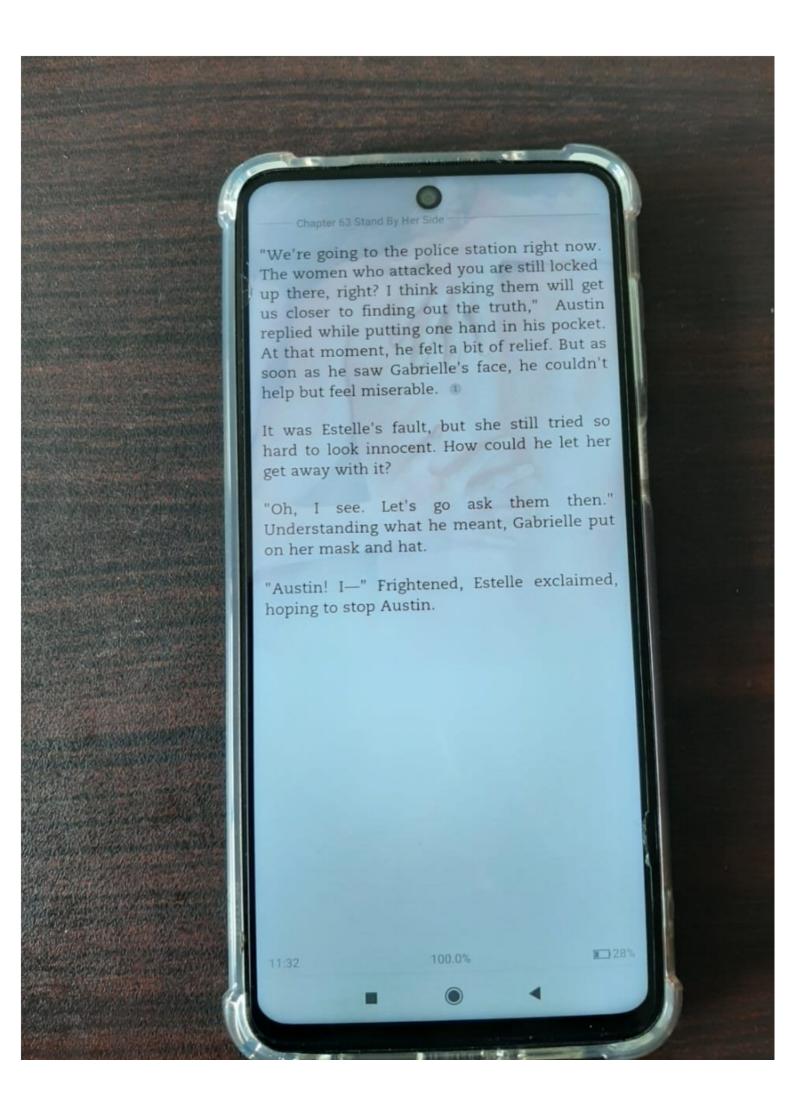
"I understand, Austin. Her injuries were caused by my three friends. I had no clue that they were planning to hurt her. If I had

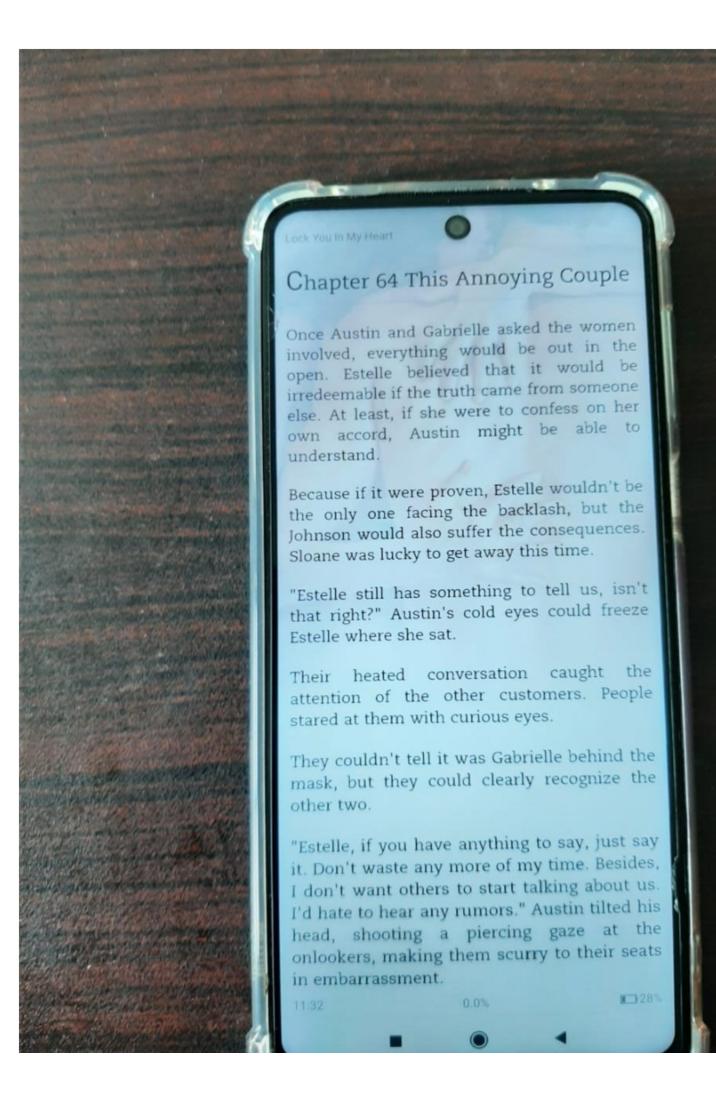
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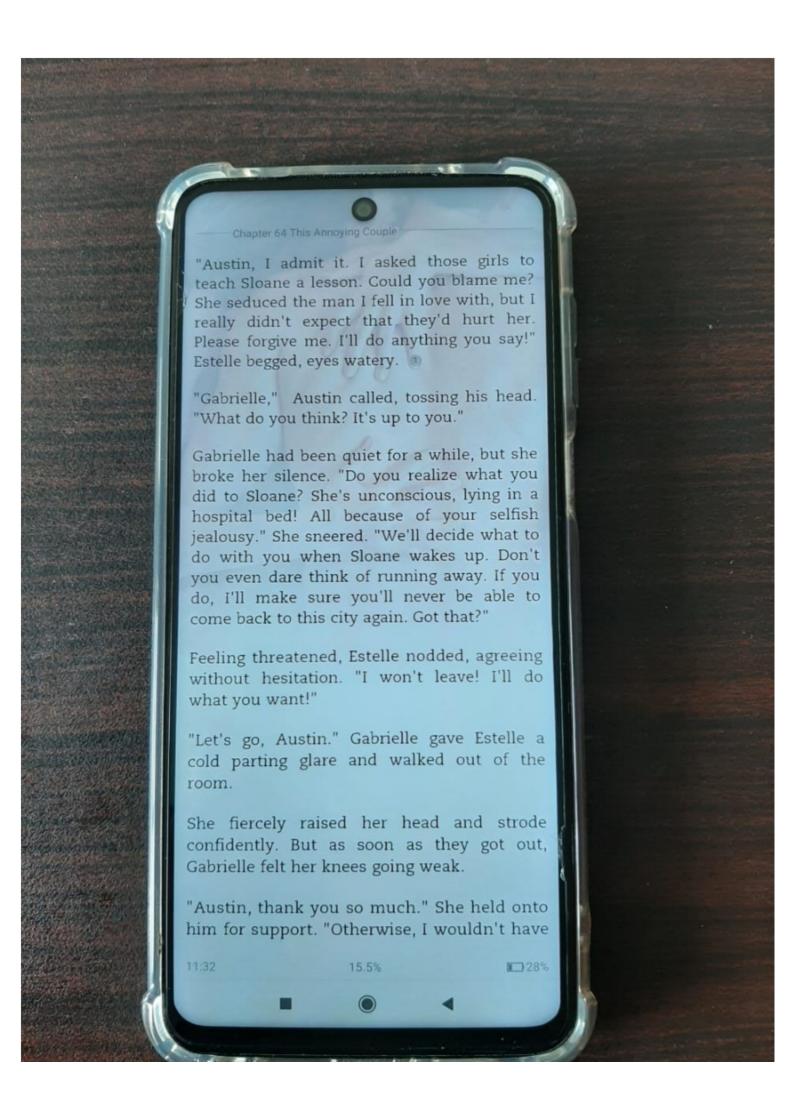
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Chapter 64 This Annoying Couple

been able to face Estelle like that." She was able to unmask the arrogance off the wicked girl's face. Seeing Estelle tremble made her feel powerful. Gabrielle was immensely pleased with herself, and she couldn't help but smile.

Bringing Austin was a good idea. He could easily influence people just by talking to them.

"Are you satisfied now?" Austin helped her stand. He knew she was wearing a smile of victory.

That was enough for him.

He came here to help Gabrielle settle the score with Estelle, but more than that, he wanted to make sure she was feeling alright.

"I am. I couldn't have done without you. Ahh, the perks of having big shots as friends. "Gabrielle giggled, teasing him with a praise.

"Gabrielle." Austin's eyes softened, looking at her affectionately.

"Won't you let me stay with you?" "Austin, you..."

"I mean, whenever you need to keep up appearances, you can always call me for help. Then, you can take me to dinner as a treat." Austin chuckled, trying to change the

subject. Gabrielle didn't pursue the topic anymore. "Of course, I'll invite you to dinner. You've been such a huge help, after all. Fighting fire with fire. You were able to easily make Estelle admit to her faults because she knew you were above her." Even behind the mask, Austin could tell Gabrielle was grinning. Gabrielle was beautiful, especially when she smiled. Her lips would curl, and her eyes would sparkle like diamonds. ① "From now on, let me help you. You can use me as much as you want," Austin offered generously. "Are you sure?" "Of course." Austin smiled tenderly, making his face look softer. A warm feeling spread through Gabrielle's chest, and she turned away from him, feeling a little bit shy. "Then, what do you want to eat?" Gabrielle asked instead. "Hmm, I'll let you choose." Austin said, pulling her as he walked towards his car. Gabrielle got in the car, fastened her seat belt, and began to search for a restaurant using a 46.9% E 28%

Chapter 64 This Annoying Couple

phone app.

"Oh, let's try here. This place is super popular. Let's hope they have open reservations."

Gabrielle called the restaurant, and to her surprise, there was a table available. It would usually take months to reserve a spot, but talk about luck!

After parking the car, Austin and Gabrielle walked through the entrance and saw a cozy courtyard house with two floors under black tiled roofs.

The sign said, "Beacher Restaurant".

Gabrielle thought it was true to its name.

"Austin, did you know? This place has been on business for thirty years. It's always on people's recommendations."

Austin looked around. "It does look like a nice place."

The old house was settled in quiet neighborhood, housing a well-maintained yard filled with various plants and flowers. It was the very definition of simple comfort.

Less of an establishment, it felt more like home.

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Chapter 64 This Annoying Couple

"It's your first time here, right? Sloane and I had only been here for a couple of times, but we enjoyed the food a lot. It was so delicious! "Gabrielle excitedly continued, "There are only six tables in this restaurant, and we can't just drop in randomly. We're so lucky that other group failed to show up!

And I know you like quiet places, so this is perfect." "I'm glad I get to try it here with you, " Austin replied.

Gabrielle led Austin inside, and he followed right behind her. She continued to give him an overview of the place. Hearing Gabrielle's cheery voice and seeing her so spirited made Austin feel tremendously delighted.

They passed through the flowery yard and arrived at the hall. Their table was just up ahead, right at the corner.

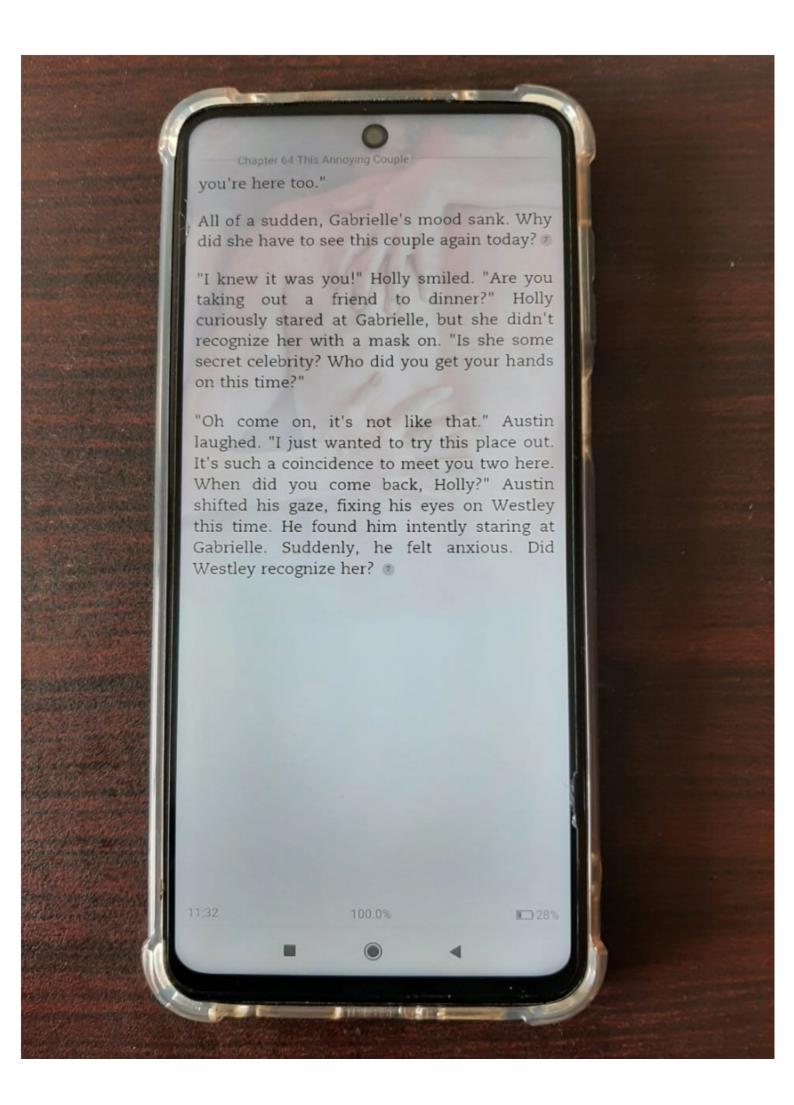
"Austin, here, here!"

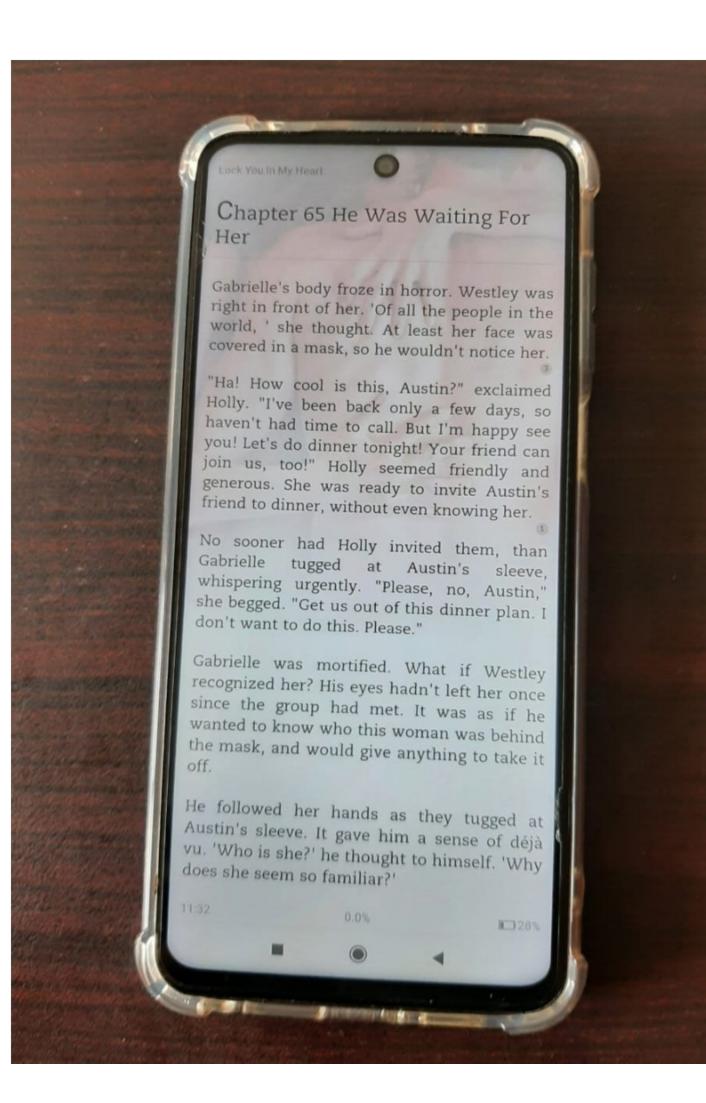
"Austin!"

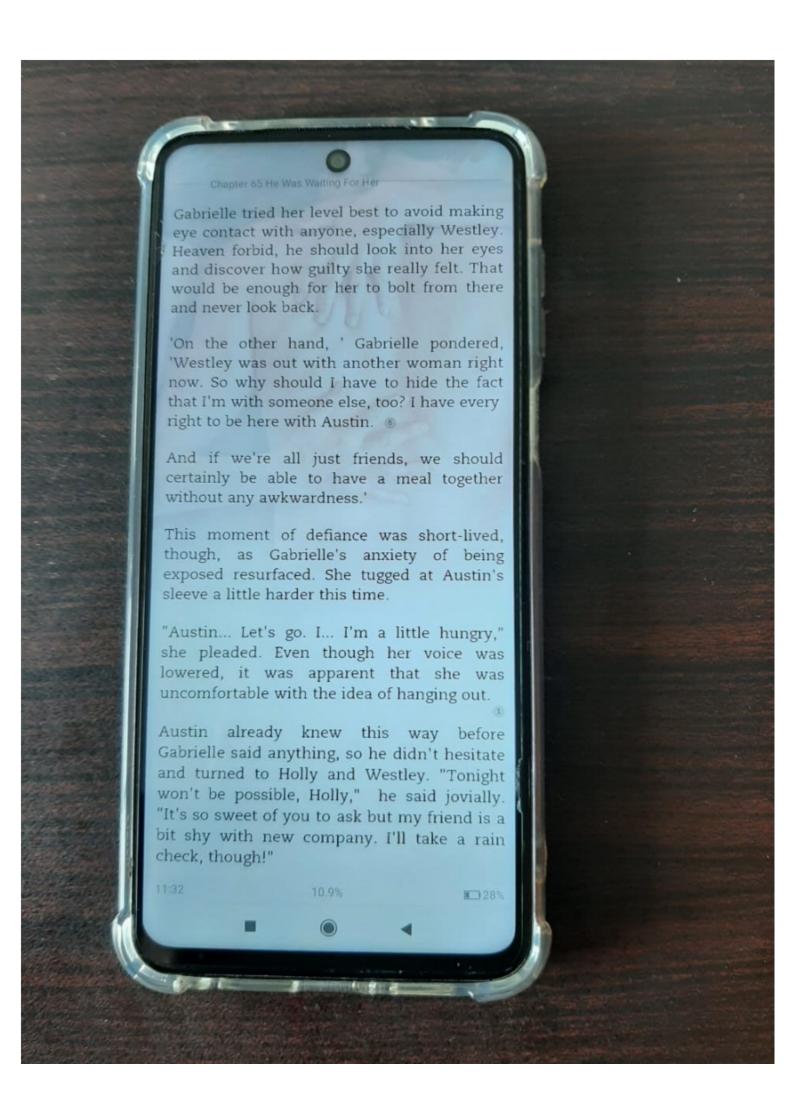
Just as they were going to enter, a woman's voice echoed in the hallway.

Gabrielle and Austin turned around and saw a woman sitting in the cubicle next to them.

'Holly?' Gabrielle thought in surprise. Just then, another head popped out of the cover. Austin walked over to them. "Holly, Westley,







Chapter 65 He Was Waiting For Her

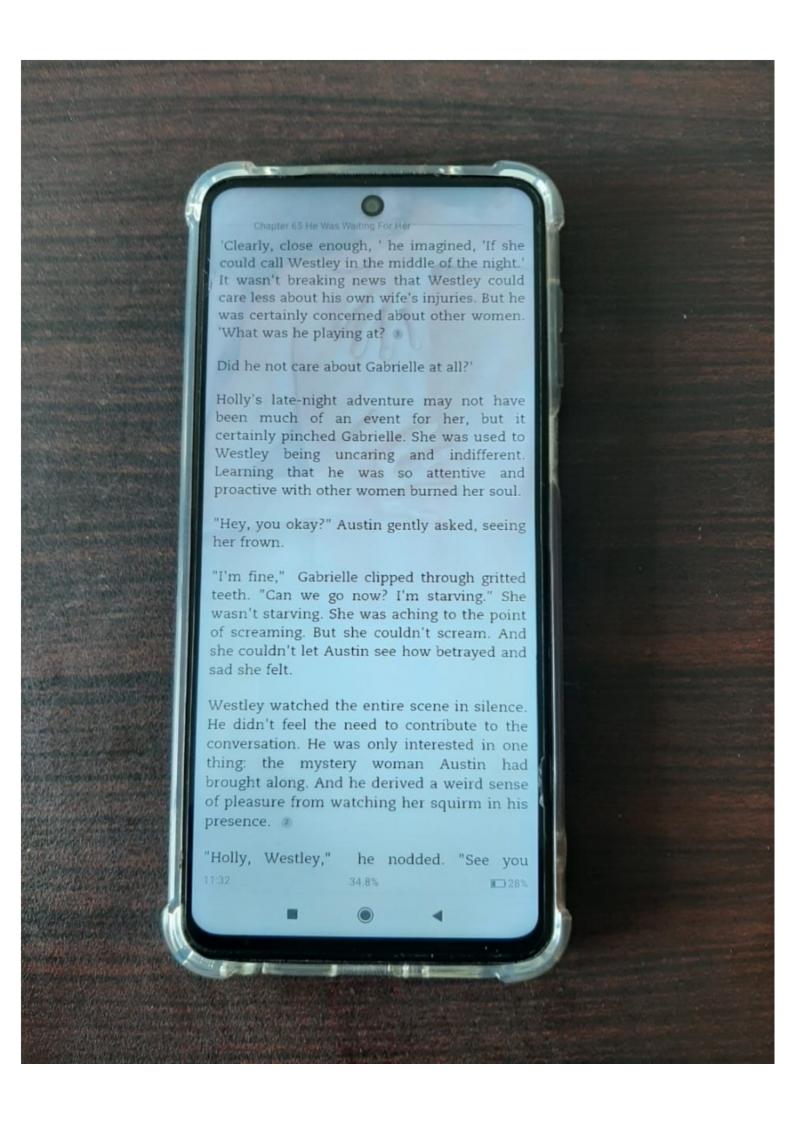
Holly didn't push the topic any further. Quite frankly, she was relieved he declined her invitation. She, too, didn't like the idea of hanging out with a stranger. Especially, when it was so apparent that Austin's date had no interest whatsoever in socializing or being remotely pleasant.

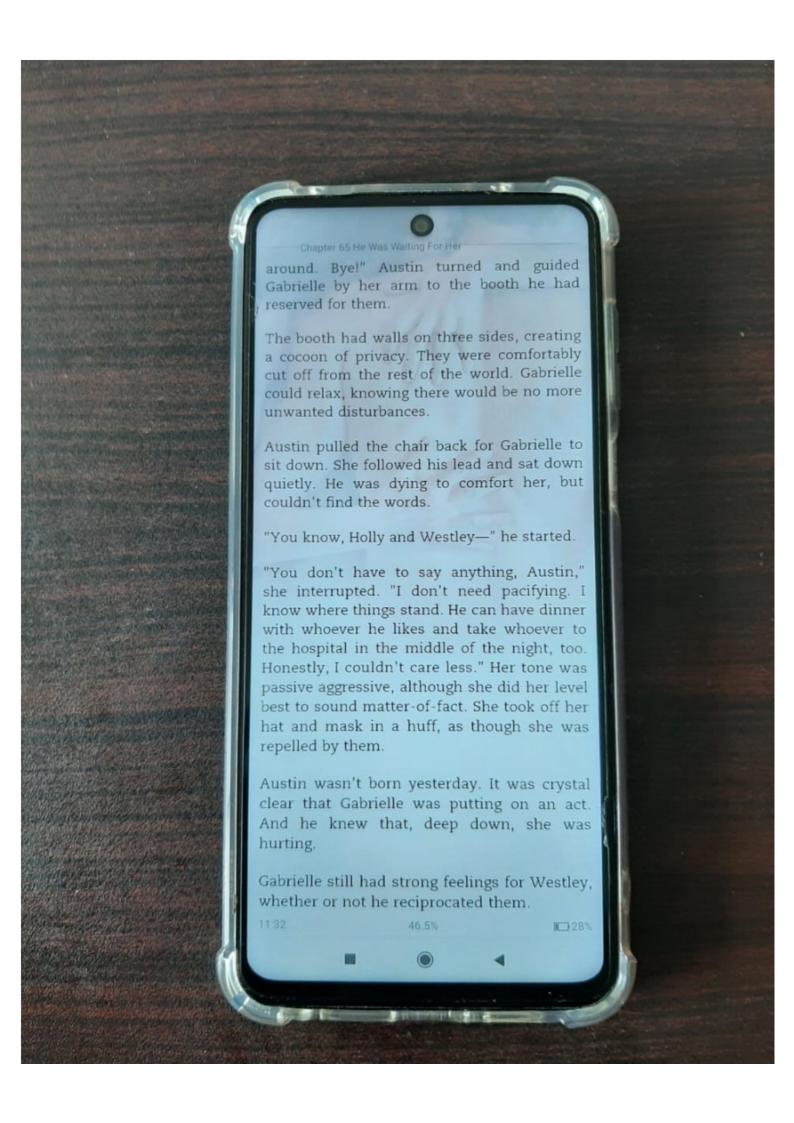
"That's alright," she replied, politely. "Maybe when my leg recovers, I'll hit you up and we'll make a plan!" Holly was in no hurry to create a new plan to hang out with Austin, while his date was around. So she decided to keep it open and vague.

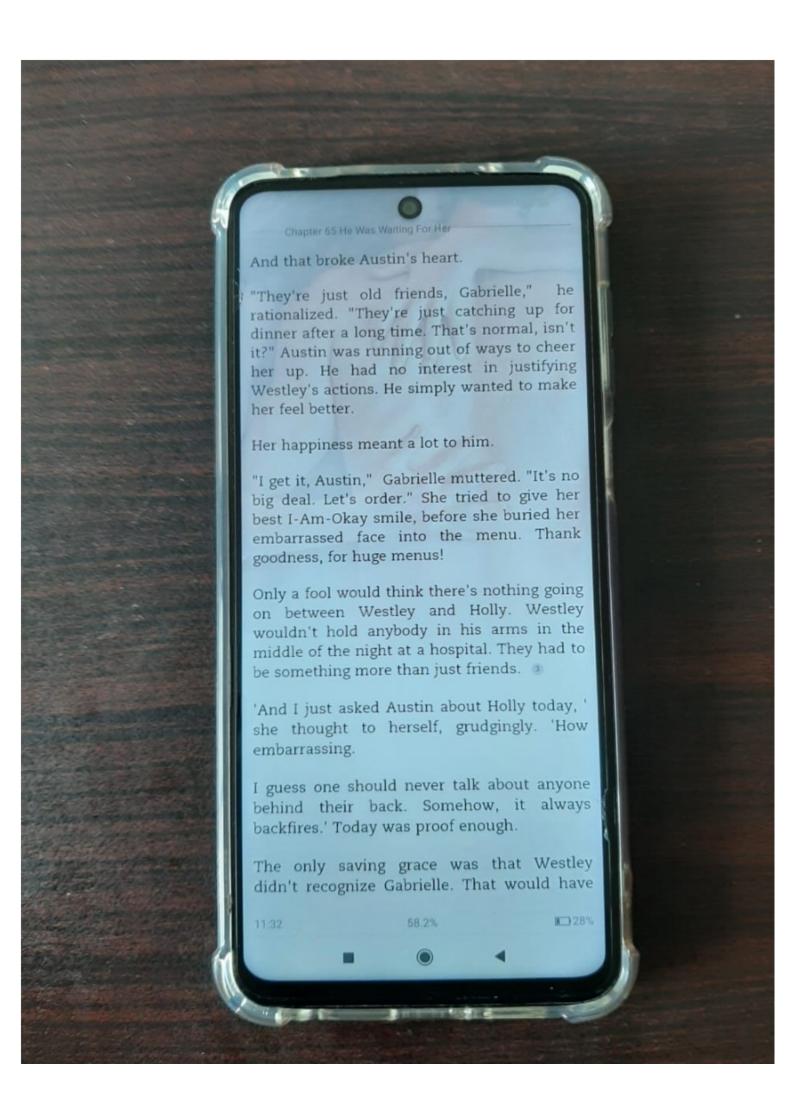
"Wait, what happened to your leg?" Austin asked, concerned.

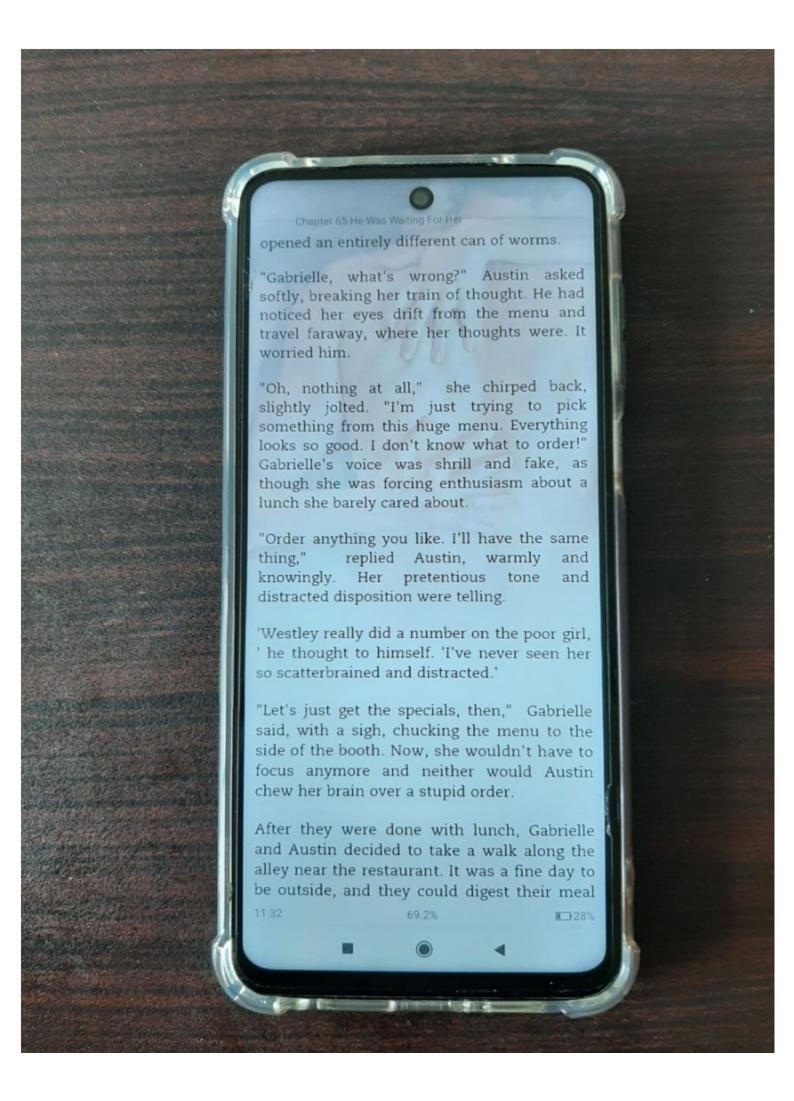
"Oh, nothing catastrophic, trust me. It happened last night. I got up to go to the bathroom, and slipped on the way. I sprained my ankle. Luckily, Westley was awake, when I called him. He rushed right over and took me to the hospital. It's just a little swollen. I'll be fine soon enough!" Holly explained, casually, as if she hadn't given it a second thought.

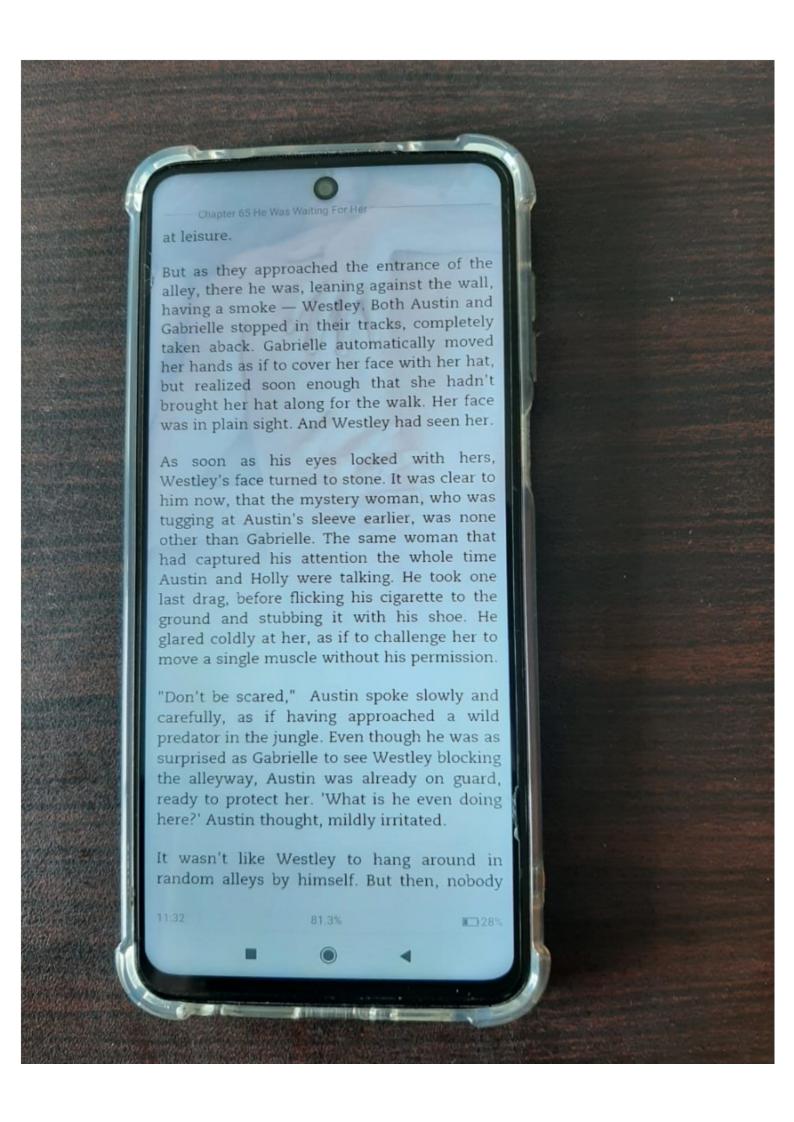
"Well, I'm glad it wasn't too serious and Westley was there in time to help you out." Austin smiled, as he replied. He feigned interest in Holly's leg only because he was curious about how close she was to Westley.











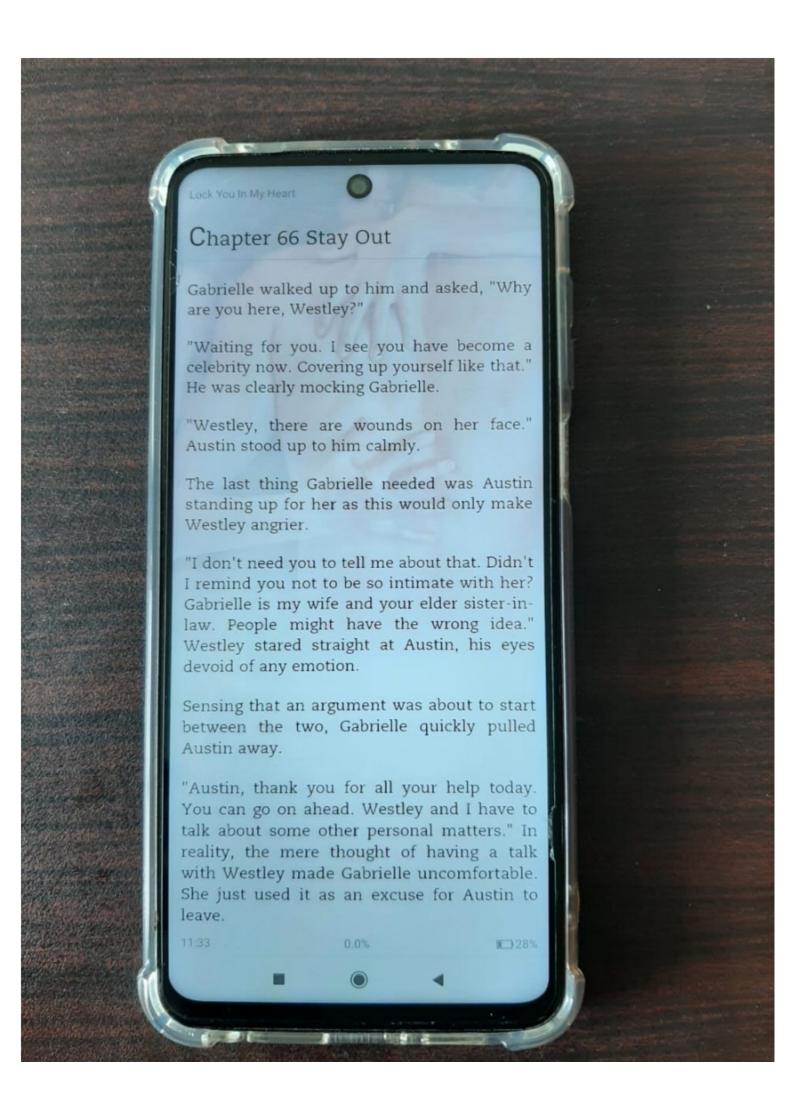
Chapter 65 He Was Waiting For Her

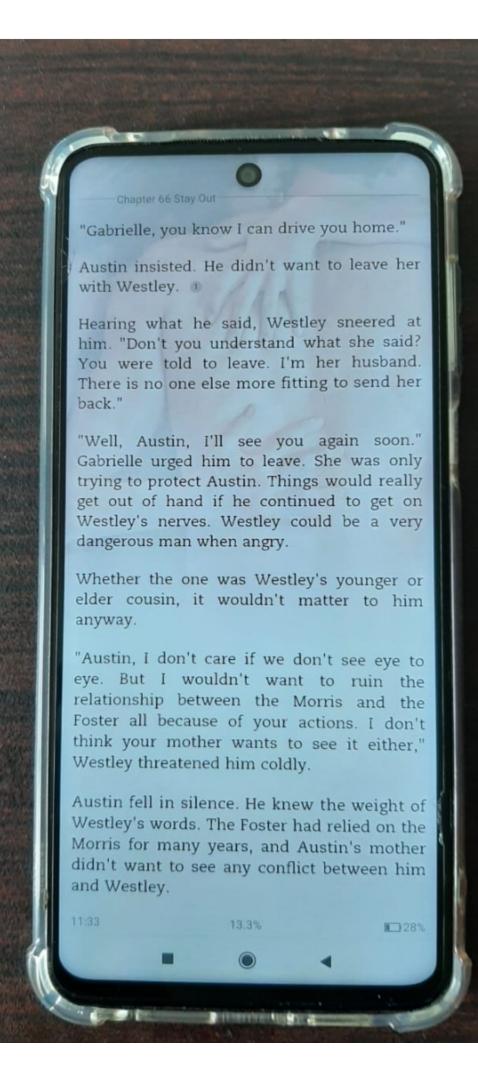
could really tell what went on in Westley's complicated mind. He was capable of doing anything.

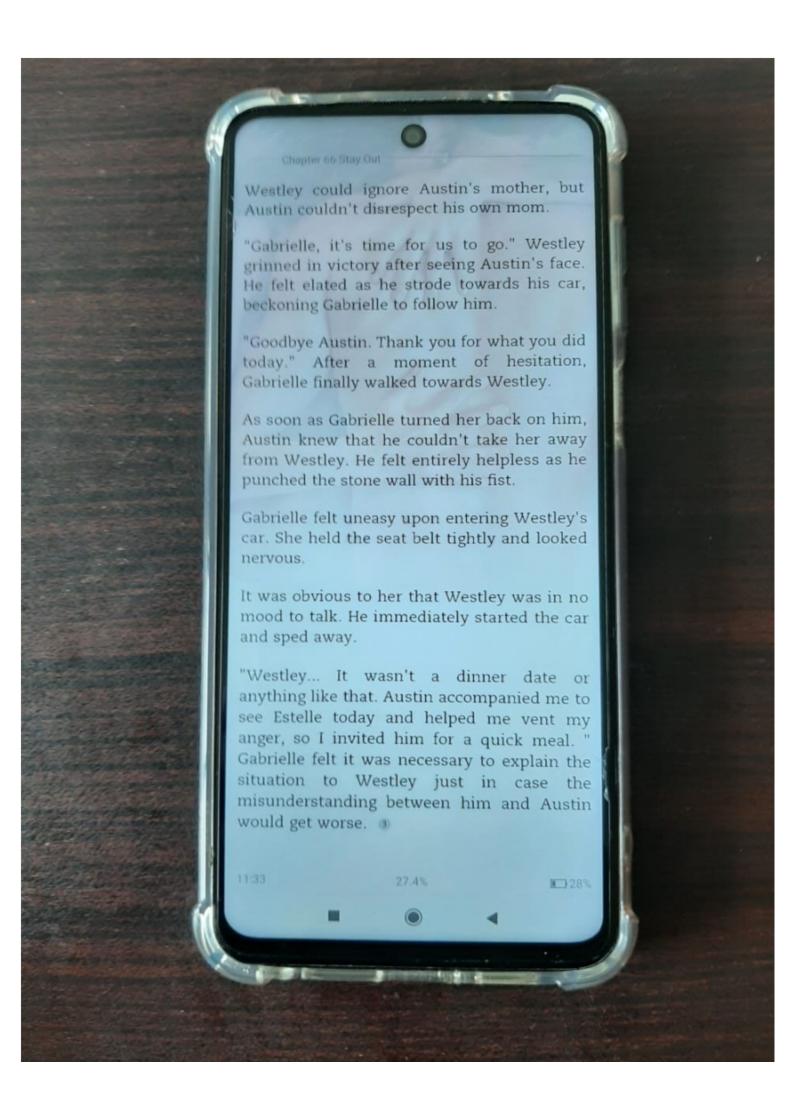
And yet, ironically, he couldn't recognize Gabrielle through her mask before. How poetic was that?

"I'm not scared," Gabrielle muttered. Her jaw clenched and her voice trembled. But she pretended to be strong, even if it was to assure Austin she was fine.

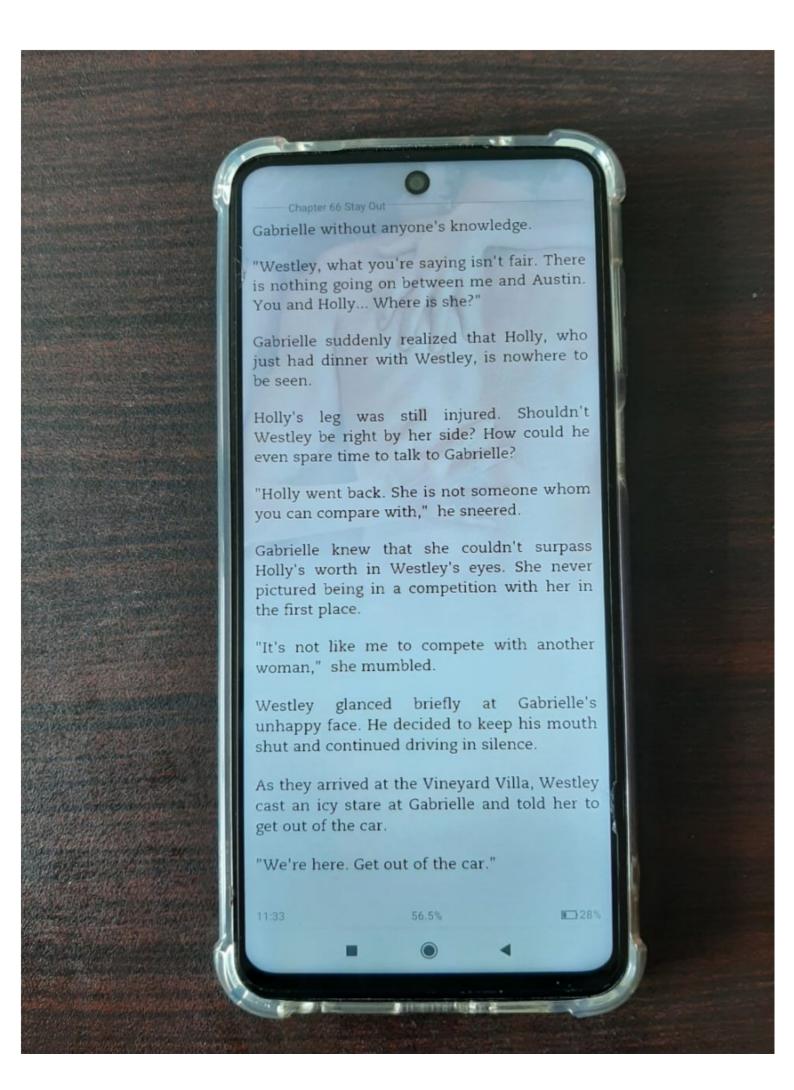
'How could I not be afraid?' she asked herself. 'Westley is right in front of me. He knows it was me earlier. He could lose his temper any second and let me have it just to take revenge.'

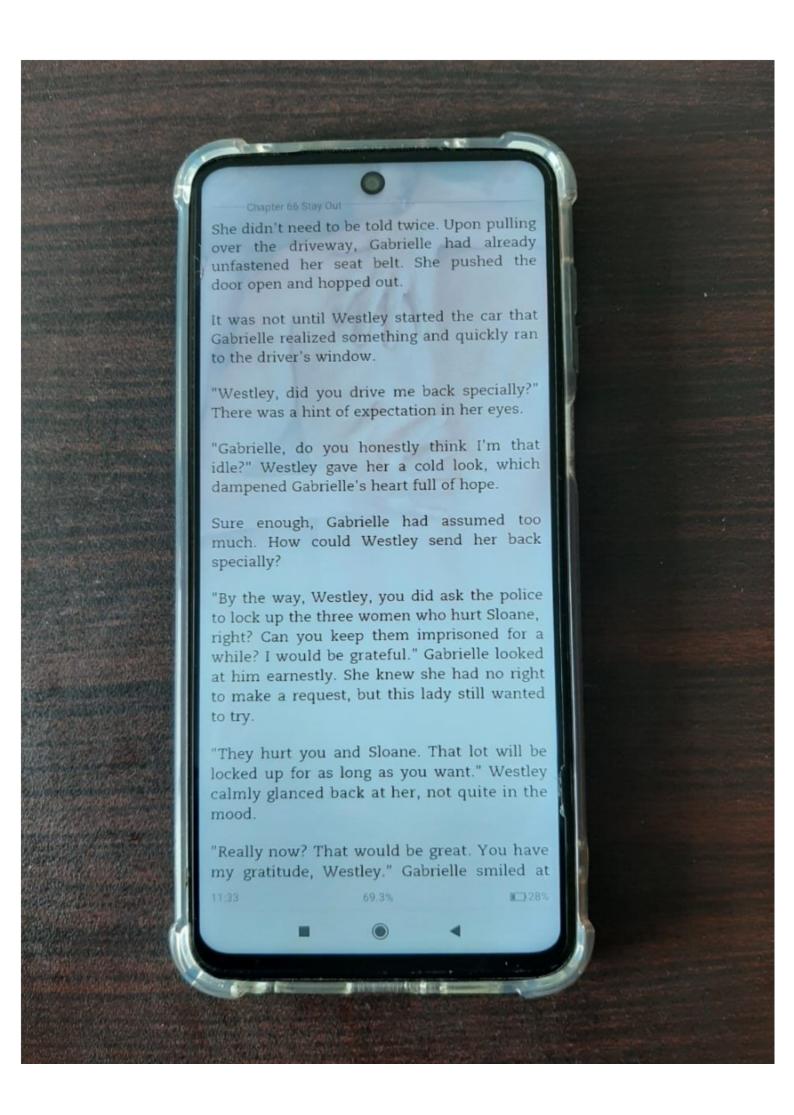


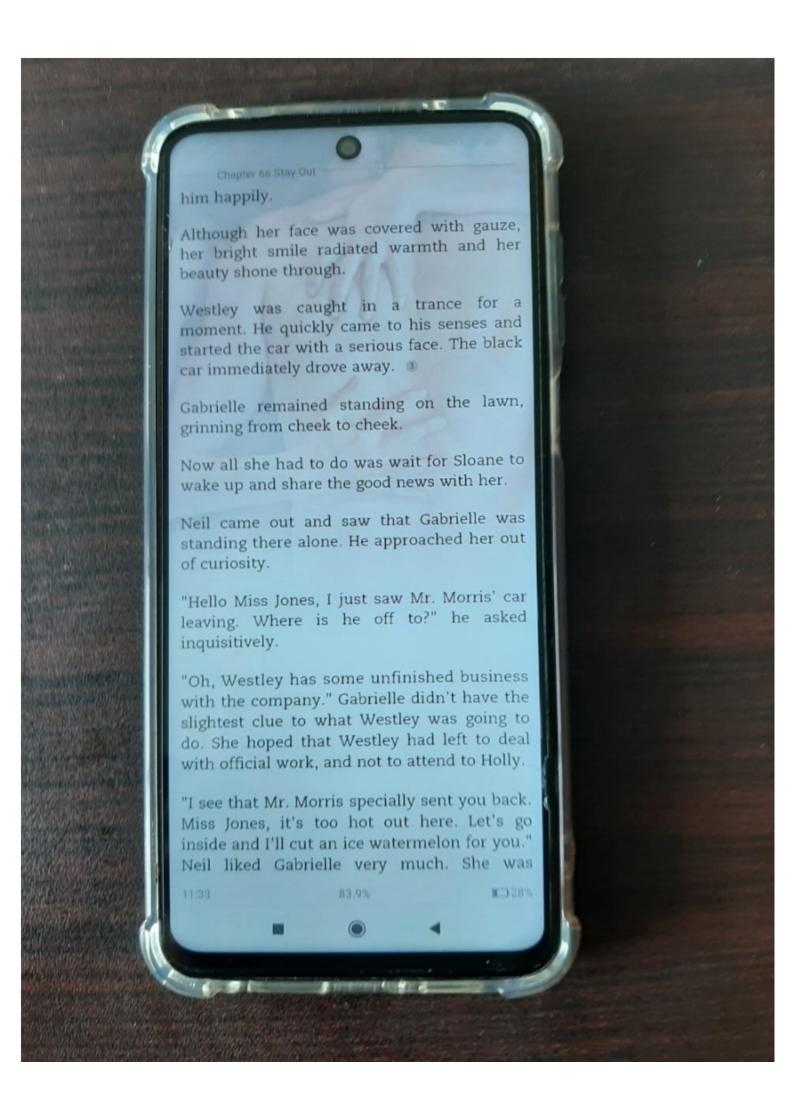




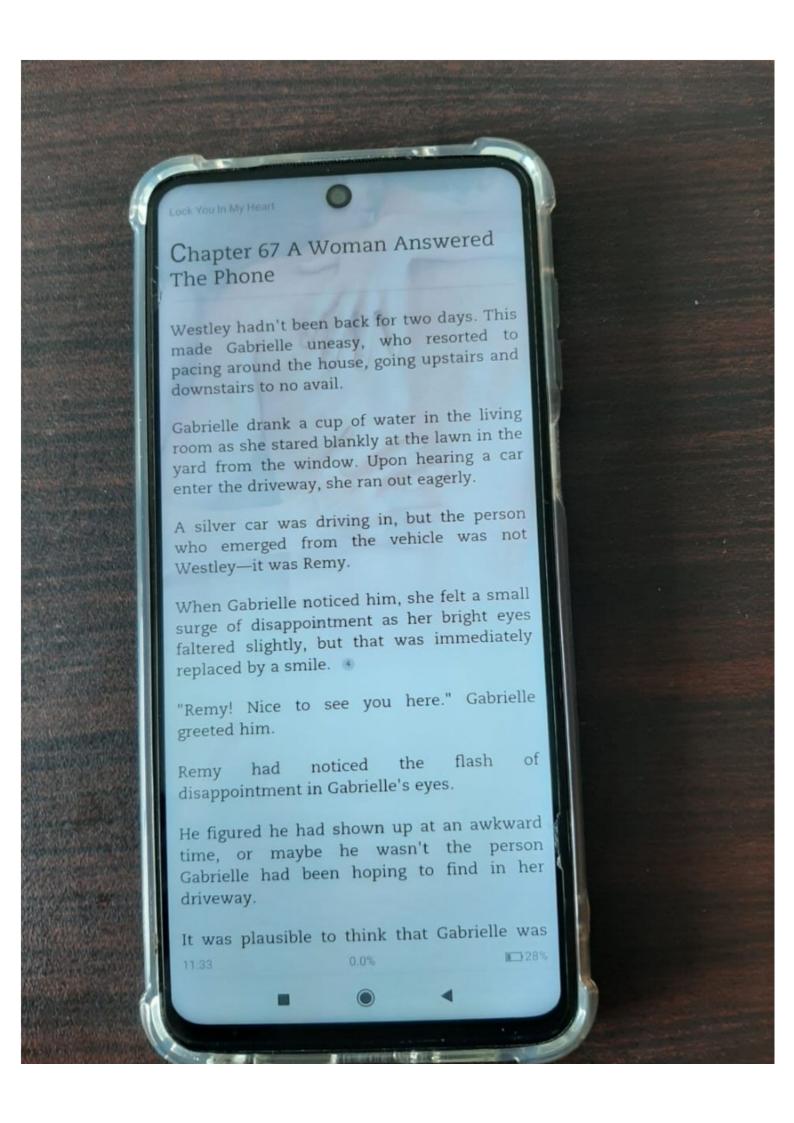












Chapter 67 A Woman Answered The Phone

waiting for Westley, but instead saw Remy, which would've upset her.

"Yes, nice to see you, too. I'm actually here to change your dressing into a fresh one for your wounds. Remember I told you that I'll be changing the dressings every three days? Well, if I'm right, three days have passed, so here I am at Vineyard Villa But... is everything okay? You don't seem too happy to see me," Remy teased Gabrielle.

Gabrielle shook her head immediately. "No, are you kidding me? How can I not be happy to see you? I just hadn't expected three days to go by so fast—time sure is flying."

Without probing the topic further and voicing his suspicions, Remy turned around and took out the medicine cabinet from his car trunk.

"Gabrielle, let's go in. I'll just pretend you warmly welcomed me in your driveway because that would make me happier." Remy was only half-joking.

Gabrielle was amused by Remy's humor. "Remy, welcome to Vineyard Villa.

I take it that you are here to change the dressings for Miss Jones' wounds? What would you like to drink?" Neil came up to greet Remy and took his slippers from him.

"Just a cup of coffee would be great. Thank

Chapter 67 A Woman Answered The Phone

you, Neil."

"Sure, I'll grab it in a moment."

"Gabrielle, do you want to change the dressings in the living room or are you comfortable in your bedroom?" Remy respectfully allowed Gabrielle to choose for herself.

"Let's go to the living room. The wounds are on my face and arms, so I don't have to lie on the bed in order to get the dressing changed." Gabrielle led Remy to the sofa in the living room.

"Is Westley at home?" Remy put down the medicine cabinet and glanced around the room.

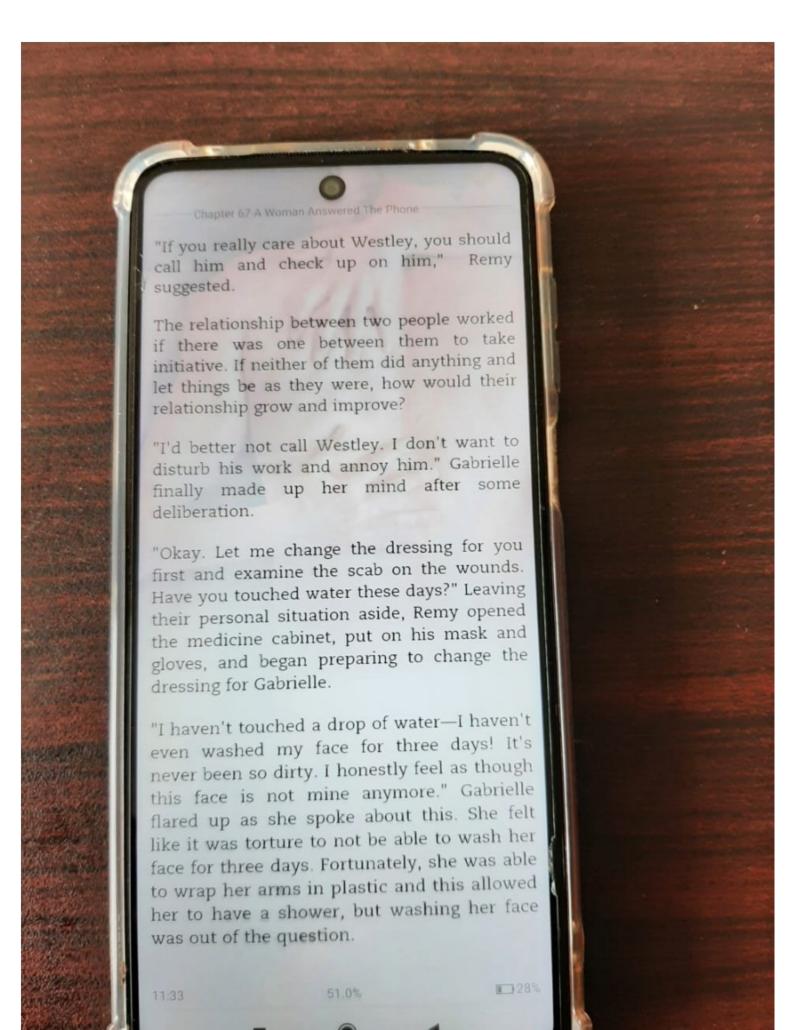
There didn't seem to be any sign of Westley at all. It was definitely him who Gabrielle had been expecting.

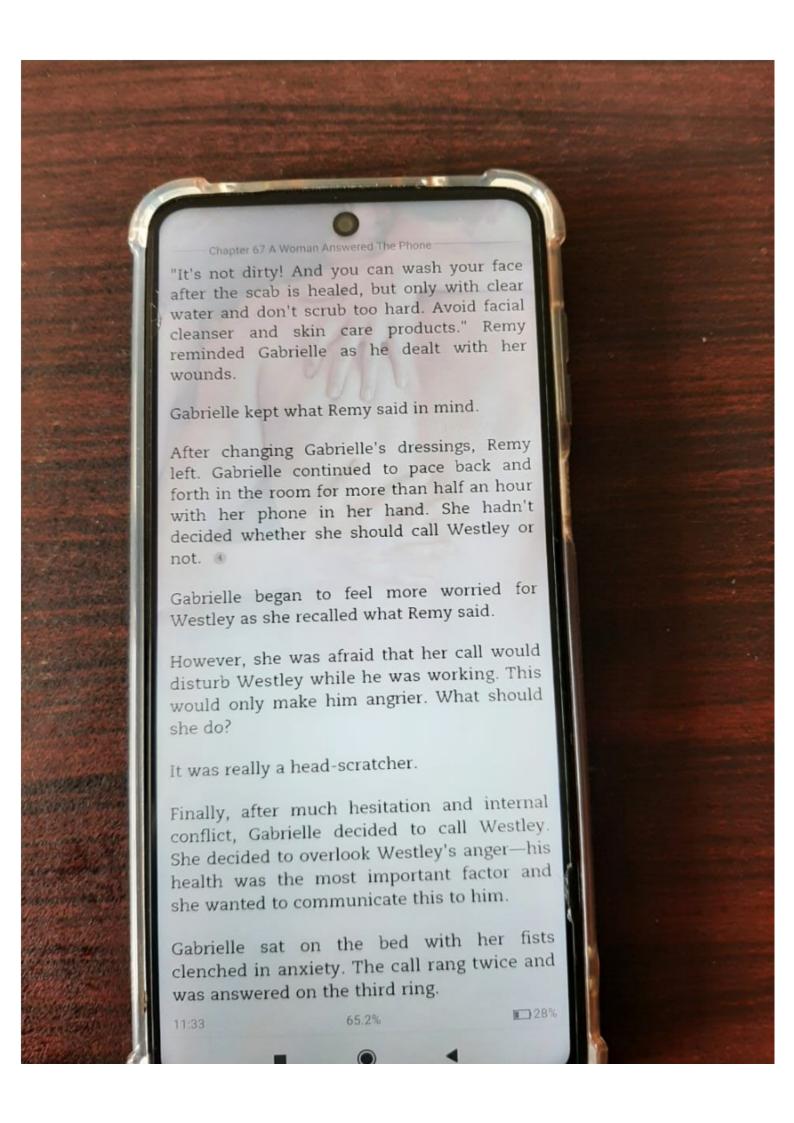
"No... Westley hasn't been back for two days, actually. I'm sure he's very busy at work,"

Gabrielle said, failing to hide the disappointment in her voice. Even if she hadn't realized it, Remy had immediately noticed it.

"If you want to know what Westley is doing, why don't you take the initiative to check in with him and see for yourself? I think he will

Chapter 67 A Woman Answered The Phon be very happy to hear your concern. After all, he works very hard every day-many days and nights on end without rest. It's terrible," Remy said, with purposeful dramatic effect. It was true that Westley was a workaholic, but he definitely had notions of day and time and he took all the rest and self-care he needed. But when Gabrielle heard that Westley would work days and nights without rest, her heart sank. 'Isn't that really terrible, to be working nonstop, without sleep? Wouldn't it lead to death in extreme cases? "Are you joking, Dr. Remy? You don't really mean that, do you?" Gabrielle looked at Remy longingly, unable to believe him. "Well, Gabrielle, if you don't want to believe that, just forget it. If Westley knows I said this, he'll be quite upset with me. The last thing he wants is someone else talking about him." Remy shrewdly picked his words deliberately as he silently observed the expression on Gabrielle's face. As expected, Gabrielle looked worried and uneasy. This time, it seemed, Westley had found the right person for him; the right person who truly cared about him this much. 1 28%





Chapter 67 A Woman Answered The Phone "Hey, Westley..." "Hello? Who's that?" A woman's voice interrupted Gabrielle before she could finish her sentence. The voice sounded familiar to Gabrielle, but she was unable to place it in that moment. "Are you calling for Westley? He's unable to answer the phone right now. I can pass on a message if there is anything urgent." "No... it's nothing." Gabrielle hung up the phone as she fingers trembled and her heart beat fast. She was shaken. She finally realized who had spoken—Holly. It seemed that after all, there was no need for Gabrielle to worry about Westley. He had already been taken care of by Holly, who he was busy with, rather than his work. Gabrielle recalled Holly's insistence meeting Westley more often. Had Westley been with Holly these last couple of days? Gabrielle began to feel upset as these thoughts ran through her mind. She didn't feel like it was her right to feel sad, because Westley was Gabrielle's nominal husband, and they didn't have a real marriage, but a fake one. It was up to Westley to choose the 28% 78.4%

