MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY

Chapter 1401 The Plan (Part One)

"You're the boss," Leena answered, her eyes full of affection. She always looked favorably on Kevin's ideas.

"Well, then let's go have dinner with them?" Kevin asked, looking at her. He always asked for her input. That was how relationships worked best.

"That is great," Mrs. Xu said. "Leena's never been here before, right? There are some friends in this building really want to meet her. We're all military spouses so we definitely have things to talk about." Mrs. Xu held Leena's hand and led them to her house. She was so kind that Leena and Kevin couldn't very well refuse.

"You're too kind, Mrs. Xu," Kevin said with a smile. Mrs. Xu was right; he should have introduced Leena to his co-workers and their wives. Leena might be happier making new friends.

"Please, not so formal. I'd like to have you and Leena over every day." Mrs. Xu laughed. Her child was a junior high school student and was in boarding school, so he was only home on weekends. And her husband was busy at work, so she stayed home, bored and alone.

Battalion Commander Xu's apartment was on the first floor, and the entrance faced the elevator. Mrs. Xu left her door open, so other people could come and join them.

The building was originally quiet, but became louder thanks to Leena's visit. People who got along well with the Xu family came over to have supper with everyone.

"Major General Gu, now I know why you never brought Leena here. She's so pretty and soft, and you just want to hide her away from prying eyes, right?" Battalion Commander Xu asked with a laugh. Battalion Commander Xu was the eldest one there. He was born and raised in a small village, and was promoted to Battalion Commander from a soldier. He was broad how off in front of other people.

"I heard it was a whirlwind romance between you and Major General Gu. So who made the first move?" another young woman cut in. Leena's face flushed red at her words, and she had no clue how to answer the question. And their early days weren't exactly fodder for happy memories.

"Come on now. Don't be so curious! This is her first time here. You'll scare her off and she won't want to come back," Mrs. Xu said, saving Leena from yet another awkward question. She knew they wanted to know all about Leena, but she didn't think that question was appropriate.

"But I really wanna know. Come on, Leena, am I bothering you?" the woman asked. She just wouldn't let Leena go. She was in her twenties, and she was certainly pretty and trendy. But she wasn't smart enough to figure out her question was out of line.

"Uh... no, you're not," Leena answered after some hesitation. The "not" in her statement was higher pitched, more like a question than a reply. Deep inside, she thought, 'Yes, you are bothering me. So can you just shut up?' But she gave the woman a sweet smile, pretending she was okay with that.

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Chapter 1402 The Plan (Part Two)

"See? I'm not bothering her at all!" the woman challenged Mrs. Xu, holding her gaze. She didn't want to hurt Leena, but she was making her uncomfortable.

The women here were all military spouses, but Leena was the only one from a rich family. Moreover, her husband was capable and handsome. Some were overcome with jealousy, and really did want to bring her down. Leena had no choice but to handle them with grace.

After supper, Kevin and Leena bid them goodbye and left the building. Kevin had some wine, so he didn't drive, but instead sat in the passenger seat of Leena's car.

"You were great tonight! Everyone likes you!" Kevin teased her with a laugh. He was going to butt in and save her from the embarrassment when she had to field countless questions, but then he decided to let her deal with them by herself. After all, he couldn't always hide her, and she had to meet them one day. His decision was correct; Leena had been very reserved at the beginning, but she relaxed and was bantering with them later.

"Well, I am such an adorable girl, and everyone loves me," said Leena who made a face and stuck her tongue out. Then she laughed out loud.

"Tonight was your warmup. They get worse as time goes on, believe me."
Kevin lived in the building for several years, and knew them well. Not
everyone was as kindhearted as Leena. Daisy had also lived there for years,
and had been the talk of the building. She had been a single mom at that time,
and hot as well. But Daisy couldn't care less what they thought. Let them talk,
she figured. It had nothing to do with her.

"I know, but I think I can handle them. After all, I' rdered, as long as she held those pics over her head.

"That depends on you. Be careful, and don't let anyone find out our plan," the woman said impatiently as she waved her hand dismissively, indicating that Dorothy should leave. And she did have to be careful — if they were spotted by paparazzi, it could ruin everything.

Dorothy bit her lower lip. She was going to speak, but thought better of it.

"What? Anything else?" the woman asked, annoyed.

"Why do you hate Leena so much? There's gotta be a story there," Dorothy asked in confusion. In her eyes, Leena was so kind and adorable. Why did the woman want to hurt Leena?

"None of your business! You may have heard the expression: curiosity kills the cat. Just do as I say." The woman's voice was cold as ice, which made Dorothy tremble. Dorothy could imagine the hatred on the woman's face. She could feel it.

"But... what if I mess everything up?" Dorothy asked tentatively. She knew she wasn't a nice girl, but she didn't want to hurt Leena. It was only the photos that kept her here, and doing as this woman demanded.

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Chapter 1403 The Plan (Part Three)

"Well, you can try. Even if everything is out in the open, I'll get off scot free. That's why I have you," the woman taunted. She was always cloaked in darkness. Even if things went south, Dorothy would take the blame.

Dorothy bit her lower lip, saying nothing more. She had no other choice but to follow the woman's orders. After all, the woman had her career in her hands.

At Renxin Hospital, Tom was in the rehabilitation room with Patricia. Though he turned her down when she had asked him to be her doctor, he'd help her out as much as he could.

"Let's do it again," Tom encouraged. It was the dead of winter, but their faces were covered with sweat.

"Damn it! This isn't helping," Patricia complained, breathlessly. She was totally discouraged, unwilling to move anymore. It was hard work, it was painful, and in her mind it was useless.

"You've only practiced for a couple weeks. It's no secret it's slow. Do you know how long it takes for other people to walk again? Don't give up just like that, okay?" Tom said. He would get angry every time Patricia wanted to give up. But he was not angry at her, but at himself, for he thought he was good for nothing. People called him the genius doctor, but he could do nothing to fix her leg. So the hard work began.

"I can't even move if I don't hold the railings," Patricia said, exhausted. She didn't think she was making a fuss over nothing. She was exhausted, for she had been grinding awa

ght.

"Why apologize? You make me feel like a spoiled woman," Patricia said with a frown. She really couldn't figure out why she had fallen for him in the first place. Tom was so dull and inarticulate. Why couldn't she see that before?

"Never mind. I have patients I need to see. I'll drop by when I'm done," said Tom. He knew it would take a long time for him to figure out what Patricia was thinking, but he didn't have time for it now. He hoped that she would be a little bit more rational when he got off work.

Patricia watched his receding figure and felt sad and dejected. Cool as she was, she was sensitive and fragile in love. Was it right for her to continue this? After all, she had already forgotten him. Would it be better if they broke up? But when she was thinking of leaving Tom once and for all, her heart began to ache, as if a sharp knife had been plunged into it. She shook off the thought and concentrated on how to improve their relationship.

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It had been one week since Michelle last saw Luke. For the previous week, Michelle went to a remote village with the excuse of traveling. But in fact, she wanted to stay away from S City for a while in order to rethink about herself and her feelings for Luke. She was the kind who expressed her love and unhappiness without inhibition. In order to win Luke's heart and make him change his attitude towards her, she had to be strong enough, so that she would be able to endure the pain that he caused over and over. That was how much she loved him.

He still remained cold with a certain, noticeable distance between them and Michelle still could not help but feel small. Despite this, she still raised her chin and proudly walked up to him.

"Hey! Iceman." Michelle tried as hard as she could to greet him with a steady voice and calm expression. She greeted him in a casual tone as if she just ran into him. But actually, she followed him all the way here.

Luke saw her but did not acknowledge her, acting indifferently and continuing to drink the tea in his hand. At this time, Edward was staying with Daisy so he did not need to be on standby for any work for Edward. He was enjoying his rare free time, especially happy that Michelle hadn't shown up for an entire week to bother him, which he appreciated. But now, out of nowhere, she showed up here, and that was something Luke did not anticipate. He thought she'd already given up.

Michelle had already gotten used to his attitude. But she still could not help feeling a bit awkward when he made no response

The only time she would stop bothering him was if and when he got married. She would not be a shameless loser who ran after a married man. Yes, she was a thug, having connections in the underworld, but she had her limits and she would draw the line at some point. Far up ahead, she already knew what she should and should not do.

"Fine. If that's the case, I will marry you! But I have one request. You go and persuade your parents about it. Don't expect me to help you with that. I'm not the type who visits the family and asks their daughter's hand in marriage. Yuck." Luke shrugged in disgust. "Let me know how that goes." Just then, Luke stood up. His parents actually could not stop talking about his future, especially about marriage recently. He did not want them to worry about him anymore. Plus, Michelle was the only single woman he knew. So he'd considered that it could be worth a try. She desperately wanted to have him, while he was in need of a wife. As long as his parents were happy, he did not care who his wife was, at all.

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Chapter 1405 A Marriage Promised (Part Two)

"Excuse me? What did you just say? Are you serious?" Michelle opened her eyes wide, staring at him in disbelief. She never saw that coming and was totally out of the blue. She was expecting a rude retort, not a marriage proposal. It wasn't a romantic proposal but still, what a surprise! She was so shocked that she just could not think of a proper response. So many things were going on in her head at the same time.

"Well, I hate repeating myself," Luke said impatiently. Had Cynthia and Jonathan not kept bugging him that they would like to introduce a woman to him, he would not have said that. Even though he was just an adopted son, he considered them his natural parents and gave them the highest respect. And since it was their wish for their son to get married, he would make every effort to please them. That being said, Michelle was just a sacrificial lamb whom he took advantage of to make them happy. Apart from that, she was nobody to him.

"Fine. I think I heard what you said. It is just very hard to believe. Especially with your attitude towards me. Also you blocked me. I can't call you," Michelle said in a wronged tone. Anyway, she received the best and most inspiring response from him. Of course, she was not that naive to believe that he decided to marry her because of love. But she did not care. She believed that he would eventually fall in love with her someday as long as she tried hard enough and did her very best.

"I'll unblock you. Oh, and just to be clear, there won't be any wedding ceremony. We'll simply go to the civil

It looked like Luke was deliberately forced into a marriage which turned to be a blessing in disguise for Michelle. Had his parents not paid too much attention to Luke's personal life and pressured him about it, he probably would not have considered even hanging out with her. Fortunately for Michelle, the stars in the sky, with the help of the gods, had aligned perfectly to her favor. Edward knew Luke well. If he had his own way, he would not even think of getting married.

"No way! Uncle Luke, are you confirming to us that you like men? I remember that Grandma was busy choosing among lots of women for you. But it turns out that you like men!" Justin joined in the conversation and turned to his uncle. He took his father's words seriously. Actually, he did not think there would be something wrong should his Uncle Luke marry a man. These were the modern times and he was allowed to love anyone he wanted. As for the sex? It did not matter a lot, did it? It was done in private and was nobody's business, so why worry about that?

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"Hey, you boys, be quiet, okay? Let Luke explain it." Daisy shot a cold glare at the father and the son to stop them from being too noisy as they were not helping. Also, she was curious about who that woman was. She knew Luke was a tough man and it was definitely not easy to please him, let alone make him fall in love. Only an extraordinary woman would be able to do it. Who on earth could it be?

"What's her name? Who is she?" Jonathan finally asked in a calm tone when the noise had died down. He asked seriously because he knew Luke was of stability and mature, and that his son would not marry a man.

"Yes, tell us. What's her name? Did you just pick up a girl at random outside to play us, poor old people?" Poor old people? It just sounded so weird when Cynthia described herself to be poor and old because both she and Jonathan could easily pass for someone in their forties! Wouldn't she feel embarrassed to consider herself an old woman?

"You've seen and met her before." Luke felt a big headache, thanks to their ridiculous guesses and accusations of him being gay. What were they thinking? He might not be an expert in dating women. But he would not just pick up a girl at random and bring her home!

"Oh! I know! I know her! It's Michelle, right?" Edward stepped ahead excitedly and raced to be the first to guess, as if it were a game. He apparently did not like it when he was ignored.

"Oh! Daddy, so you've already known! Why did you keep it a secret and didn't tell us?" Justin was totally a junior Edward. He wanted to be the center of attention, just lik

t matter. Let them decide that by themselves. Pick up a date, Luke. Any day is fine with us." Jonathan still remained cool, but he became softer when around his family. Although the changes were not obvious to most people, it was already too much for him, considering that he was more uptight and much stricter in the past.

"Okay. I'll let you know when we decide on it. Thanks!" Luke sighed in relief. He had been worried that they might object to this marriage. Michelle was from a gangster family, which was a sharp contrast to his family that Jonathan led with strict values.

"Anyway, Luke, congratulations to you." Daisy was the first to congratulate him and Michelle. Although she was not sure whether they were getting married out of love, she was still willing to support them, and believe that they would live a happy life and get what they wanted as long as they worked hard for it.

"Thank you," Luke replied in a cool tone like always. However, his face turned a faint red as he could not help feeling a bit embarrassed at this time.

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Chapter 1407 A Marriage Promised (Part Four)

"What about your life after getting married? Are you gonna stay here or live somewhere else? I'll prepare the house for you." This was what Edward was concerned about. If Luke and Michelle stayed here, he would have the rooms in this house rearranged. But if they wanted to live somewhere else, all he

needed to do was find another house that would be perfect for them.

"We haven't discussed it yet. But we probably won't live here. I've started looking around and I have my eye on a few good houses nearby." The reason Luke did not want to stay here with the rest of the family was because he did not want them to find anything wrong between Michelle and him. He was worried that their relationship would be the center of excessive attention. A different house would be good to maintain privacy. That was why he preferred to live with his future wife separately.

"Okay, I got it. I'll take care of the house hunting. You don't need to worry about it," Edward said in a serious tone. He stopped making fun when it came to serious topics like this.

"It's okay! I can pay for it!" Luke refused. He had saved a large amount of money through all the years. He could even afford to buy a grand shopping mall if he wanted to. He had been well-paid thanks to Edward. Besides, he had stock shares in FX International Group. He was literally quite rich.

"Consider it our wedding gift to you and your new wife! That's all. Don't refuse us brother!" Edward surely knew that Luke did not lack money, and that he was actually rich. He knew exactly how much money he made. But the house was a gift that he wanted to prepare for him and he would not take no for an answer.

Besides, it was not a tough task for Edward to find a house nearby, especially that money was not an issue. He had bought a

couples nearby did not have any effect on him at all.

Michelle momentarily paused as if in deep thought when she was about to sign on the paper, which made Luke frown a bit. What was she thinking now? Was there a bit of regret?

"Miss, you can stop now if you don't really want to marry him." A young female was proceeding with their registration. She never saw a man come here to marry with a cool face like Luke. He even read the marriage declaration so reluctantly with a poker face and a monotonous voice during the whole time, as if someone was holding a knife against his throat.

"No. I'll be done soon." Michelle smiled awkwardly. She made up herself slightly today and put on a skirt she seldom wore. She dressed herself elegantly, thanks to Leena's fashion sense. Leena, being a celebrated designer made sure that her friend looked great on her wedding day and prepared all of these for her.

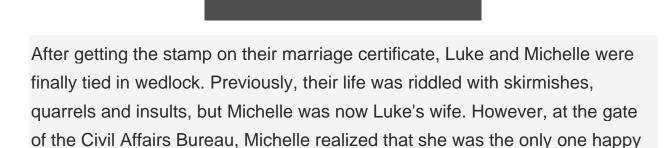
When their marriage certificates were sealed officially, they both felt quite relieved as if the seal was stamped on their heart. She felt that this man finally

belonged to her for eternity, and he knew that his life would be changed completely, which was something he dreaded a lot.

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about it.

Chapter 1408 Tied In Wedlock (Part One)



"Here are the keys to the house. Pack your things and move them there. But I can't help you. I have to go to work." Luke took out a bunch of keys from his pocket and handed them to Michelle. He gave out a faint snort, barely looking at her, and then turned around to leave.

"Okay," was Michelle's simple answer. She really didn't know what else to say. Luke had already told her that he could only give her a nominal marriage, and she'd better not try in vain to expect other things.

She didn't pack up that much. Except for some clothes and things she held memorable and dear, she didn't need to bring anything else.

It was said that the house was newly decorated as ordered by Edward. The ritzy and glitzy furniture suited his taste. Nothing in that house was cheap. Michelle felt embarrassed remembering how she refused his help rudely before. Now, she was concerned how to get along with him from here on.

Thinking that she would be living here with Luke afterwards, Michelle was of course secretly pleased. She didn't know whether she could be a good wife, but she would double her efforts anyway.

While hanging her clothes in the wardrobe, Michelle suddenly found that Luke had nothing but black suits and white shirts to wear. She frowned at the monotonous and dark colors and thought that her husband was too stereotypical of a bodyguard. She thought long and hard, tryin ch about his real identity.

As a new wife, Michelle knew nothing about cooking. She grew up around gangs and adopted that kind of rough and always on the go kind of life. Surprisingly, Cynthia didn't know how to cook either. She hired cooks and didn't have to worry about everyday meals for her and her family. Michelle went to the kitchen because she thought she needed to learn about cooking. She couldn't be as good a cook as Leena now, but at least she needed to learn to cook something decent and fit to eat. It had been a common joke how some women got married and then fed their new husbands burnt rice, fried egg with sugar or soup with too much salt. There were other horrifying stories such as entire families needing to go to the hospital after eating what the new daughter-in-law made.

In this family, Daisy was always the last one to arrive. Although she looked cold on the outside, Michelle got to know that she was a lot nicer than the others who gave out a feeling of invisible pressure.

"So Michelle, have you adjusted to living there now?" Daisy in an olive-green army uniform looked bright, snappy and respectable.

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Chapter 1409 Tied In Wedlock (Part Two)

"Yeah. It's very nice of you to ask, Senior Colonel Ouyang." Michelle was embarrassed. She felt as if they met yesterday, but everything had changed now.

"Ha ha! Just call me Daisy. You're part of the family now." Daisy grinned. Luke was unwilling to change the way he addressed her, but she didn't want Michelle to follow his example.

"But is that proper?" Michelle hesitated. She felt gawky because of Luke.

"Sure. We're of the same family. Luke has been used to calling me Mrs. Mu and he said he can't change it. That's why he calls me like that. I'd say bullshit, but if he's happy with it, I won't make a big fuss." Daisy didn't expect that Luke and Michelle would get married so quickly. They didn't even go through the proper dating and falling in love phase and now, all of a sudden, they had become husband and wife. They still had a long way to go. Unexpectedly, change was an instantaneous thing.

"Okay, Daisy." Michelle smiled as she purposefully mouthed out the name. She had become more comfortable around these two women of the Mu family.

"Auntie, Grandma said you married into our family. Is it true?" Justin came out from nowhere, blinking his big black eyes and smiling excitedly.

"Huh?" Michelle was taken aback. What an awkward question this boy asked. But she had to answer him, "Yes, it's true."

"Wow. Then you'll have babies, right?" Justin asked another straightforward question. Michelle's face reddened. She just got married and hadn't thought about that. Justin's question prompted her to put it on the agenda, but she

knew that it would be difficult to get intimate with Luke. She had become his wife, but it didn't mean th

Drugged one night by her ex-boyfriend, a mysterious man took advantage of her in an ecstatic night filled with sex.

To take her revenge, she married the man, and used him.

"As long as I'm alive, I'm still his legal wife, while all of you are just his mistresses."

She remained adamant even when he was involved in scandals with other women.

Eventually she stormed off after she learned that he had betrayed her again. But life brought her back to him a few years later, to his astonishment.

re. She knew what Michelle thought. It wouldn't be easy, but she had a lot of time.

Michelle went to say goodbye to Cynthia before she left, but Luke wasn't outside waiting like Daisy said. She was disappointed not to see him there, but she brushed it off and confidently raised her head and walked home very leisurely.

When she got home however, it was strange that the house was quiet. 'Hasn't Luke come back? Maybe I misunderstood. He's probably still back in Daisy's house, 'thought Michelle.

A deep frown marred her face. She threw herself onto the couch. She was always optimistic, but now she suddenly felt a bit sad. She really didn't know whether she had made the right decision. She was finally married Luke, but she could tell that he was colder to her than ever and even acted as if she were just a stranger who had nothing to do with him. It was easy to pay no mind to it when they were just people who knew each other. But now they

were a married couple, and that kind of behavior was impossible to ignore. However, since she had made this choice, she had to work hard to win his heart.

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Luke came downstairs naked to the waist, wearing a pair of casual trousers. He stopped when he saw Michelle, but then he went straight to the refrigerator, took out a bottle of water and drank it.

"You're home, Luke. I thought you were still in Daisy's house." Michelle jumped up from the couch instantly when she saw Luke. Her melancholy was gone, and she brightened up, just seeing him. When she saw Luke's six-pack abs, a mild blush appeared on her cheeks. Her eyes were glued to his midsection, staring at him without a blink. She had never seen his abs before.

"Wipe that drool off your face, will you?" Luke put the bottle of water back in the refrigerator and brushed past her in a distant way.

"Err... Drool?" Michelle wiped her lips. Then she realized that she was fooled as she found that she didn't salivate at all. She turned around and followed Luke upstairs with a flattering smile.

"When did you come back? Why didn't you wait for me?" Michelle asked while she trotted to catch up with Luke. Luke didn't give any answer but went straight into his study.

"Hey, say something." Michelle frowned, now having a bit more courage to complain.

"I remember I have warned you that we're a couple in name only. Don't try to impress me. It's useless. And please, oh please, don't disturb me here at home." Luke suddenly stopped, and Michelle bumped into him unprepared. She felt great pain in her nose, but his cold and ruthless words hurt her more. He didn't care that his sudden action might have physically hurt her too.

"I'm sorry. It's my fault." Michelle bit her lip, turned around sadly and walked silently to the bedroom, humiliated. Luke just exhaled heavily, rolled his eyes and went to his desk. Apart from being Edward's bodyguard, he still had to be in charge of all the security measure

ng into a thousand pieces. She shouldn't have had any wild wishes for this marriage. Her wishful thinking only brought her much pain.

The night grew late. The bed was just an arm's length from her but she stood frozen, quietly, forgetting the time and herself. Like a ghost, she let her thoughts wander around.

Desire was really a very strange thing. Sometimes people would want to get something desperately, but suddenly realized that it wasn't what they wanted after they got it. They set goals, sometimes impossible ones, but found that they were wrong in the first place. Michelle was a good example. She was in a dilemma and didn't know how to free herself. And this was just on her first night as a married woman.

She spent a sleepless night. The next morning, she wasn't downhearted anymore as she had straightened out her thinking. When the sun shone through the window curtain and gently cast its rays on her body, she let out a brilliant smile. She knew that every relationship had its share of ups and downs, and all the problems would be readily solved as long as she rose to the challenge. She was going to patiently wait for that day. Only in this way could she stand on top as the winner.