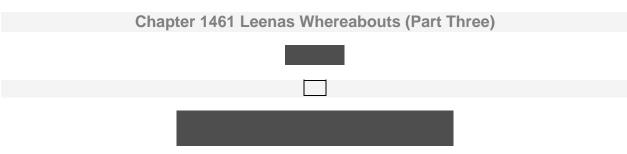
MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY



"Where did she go? She is such a silly girl. Why didn't she tell me about it from the very beginning? And you, Tom! Why didn't you tell me about her health condition? I could have comforted her! Poor Leena, she must be miserable now," Patricia blamed Tom, casting him a reproachful expression. But she could understand why he chose to do what he did.

"Tell you? Pfft! The only person needing solace at that time was you!" Tom blurted out. He didn't mean to blame Patricia, but just cracked a joke.

"Sorry! I forgot about that." Patricia knew how Tom cared about Leena, so she didn't mind his outburst at all.

"Don't worry. It was all my fault. By the way, how was your therapy today?" Tom walked towards Patricia and held her in his arms. His beloved sworn sister had gone missing, and he didn't want his girlfriend to disappear into thin air either. It would drive him mad.

"Tom, are you okay?" Patricia asked worriedly.

"Shhh! Don't talk. Don't move. Just stay here in my arms." Tom rested his head beside her neck. Smelling her light fragrance, he felt much better.

Patricia went rigid, not knowing whether she should hold his waist or not. Tom had always been aloof and never showed his vulnerability in front of her before. "Since Mr. Mu said that Leena's safe, we can rest assured now. So don't worry." After struggling to have a comfortable position for a long time, Patricia finally decided to hug him back.

"Um, I know it. I just feel a little tired and want to have a rest." Tom let go of Patricia. Her soft and warm body made his heart pump faster and feel hot, so he had to release her to cool himself down.

"Oh, yeah. I understand. We all have our weak moments." Patricia smiled, but deep inside she wondered whether he was feeling uncomfortable with her in his arms.

"Why don't we take a walk in the garden?" Tom suggested, in an attempt to rebound from his unusual b

sionate and sweet love between them.

"I know. Come on, Tom! Don't you trust your own doctors in your hospital?" Belinda said with a laugh. She really thought Tom acted like her mother who was always worried about her.

"Belinda, don't mind him. In front of his patients, he really talks a lot, as if trying to impress them all the time! You'll grow used to it." Patricia giggled. She thought she was the only one that had to listen to his babble, but it seemed that Belinda was another victim.

"Haha. To be honest, I'll never get used to it. So please do me a favor and get him away from me. I really need to leave now. See you guys." Belinda left immediately after saying that. She didn't dare walk too fast though, for she was afraid that she might slip and fall. She just waddled away to the waiting car. She could still hear Tom nagging behind her. "Walk slowly! Look out for that trash bin on the right! Hold on to that railing!" "Come on, Tom! You shush! Otherwise Belinda will speed up," Patricia said. She found that Belinda was also a straightforward woman, and they shared the same character.

"I was just worried about her. Am I wrong?" Tom complained. He felt that he had aged a lot recently, as there were so many things he had to worry about.

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY



"No," she paused for a moment. "You're right," she continued, her mouth feeling a bit tight. Patricia rubbed her nose and frowned. She thought that Tom was wrong, but she wouldn't point it out. He had the looks of a gentle man, but she knew his true nature of being sternly cold and unmovable. It would be foolish to provoke him, and she wouldn't dare to do so.

The man's eyes were cold as he looked at her. He knew perfectly well that she wouldn't dare to disobey him, but lately, he was picking up something strange from her behavior. Sometimes, it was as if she had already recovered her memory. He noticed how cautious she would act around him, and how she would hesitate before responding to him. She was no longer as unscrupulous after losing her memory, and he could tell that she was reluctant to accept him as her boyfriend.

Kevin's chest felt as cold as the terrible winter upon him. There was a time he always braved the cold with a smile on his face and skipped in his step, but at that moment, the cold wind had him chill to the bone. Three days had passed since Leena left, and Kevin was no longer too racked with anxiety. He had somehow resigned to the fact that she was gone. After failing to find her, all he could do was waiting for her in S City. The day she came back to him, the first thing she would see was the fire burning in his eyes.

His life didn't change drastically after she left. He knew she was safe, so he didn't let his mind be occupied with unproductive dismal thoughts. Instead, he shaved off his beard, and restored the image of a handsome, young, clean-cut general. He knew all too well how Leena didn't appreciate his sloppiness, so he decided to keep himself neat, and his house tidy, while she was away.

"Are you alright, Kevin?" Daisy's words cut through his newfound image. It was mere camouflage, and she could tell. She knew that he was going to paralyze himself in training again.

"Of course. Why, don't I look good?" He playfully raised his brow, his thin, finely structured face looking handsome.

"You look pale. Do you really want to die by exercising every day until you drop?" Daisy's face was twisted into frustration.

He sighed. "Don't worry. I just lead the soldiers' training

us among the other students. It was a shame that her beloved Harley-Davidson motorcycle was locked away in the garage at home.

"Light rain?" Hilda looked at her incredulously. "You're soaking wet, Michelle." Hilda's thick lips were almost pouting in disagreement.

Michelle chuckled. "Hilda, I'm fine. It's just a little water. It's not a big deal. You don't have to make such a fuss. Look, you're calling everyone's attention now." She grabbed Hilda's hand in reassurance. She appreciated the concern for her, but she felt a little helpless. All she wanted was to blend in, and in turn stay unbothered.

"Err..." Hilda looked a little guilty. "Sorry. How about going back to the dorm to get changed? Your clothes are wet, and you might get sick." Hilda was a cute friend, Michelle thought. The girl stuck out her tongue playfully.

"I'm a healthy girl. I don't get sick easily." The night proved her wrong, however, because Michelle felt unexpectedly ill.

When Luke came back late, he was surprised to see that Michelle wasn't waiting for him in the living room like she usually would. He was curious, but didn't worry too much about it. She might have just gotten tired and went ahead to bed. No one would actually want to wait for a poker-faced man, he thought.

When he walked past the master bedroom, he paused a moment before rushing away. He had made up his mind to stop getting mixed up with Michelle, and he was determined to stay away. Love was unattainable for him, he believed.

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY



Meanwhile, Michelle lay in bed rather dazed. She enjoyed a hot bath and soothed herself with some ginger decoction for warmth, but she caught a cold anyway.

Her door was unlocked so she could hear when Luke arrived. Her heart went a mile a minute when she heard his footsteps stop in front of her door, and felt his presence close. To her great disappointment, though, the footsteps continued at a much faster pace as he walked away without giving her a visit. Maybe it was the illness that made her feel so vulnerable. She had already told herself repeatedly that the man was cold and unfeeling, but somehow her body still couldn't accept it. She couldn't control the tears running down her face. She chose Luke as her husband, but all she could do was staying silent. If she married any other man, she could probably have him at her beck and call. But Luke--Luke didn't love her, she believed.

Michelle knew it was helpless, but she couldn't persuade her heart to understand and accept it. To her, he was home--a harbor where her drifting heart could dock securely.

Late in the night, Michelle's temperature went up into a high fever. Her whole body was burning, and she felt weak and hazy as the drowsiness took over. She didn't seem to be fully there, and the sensations smothered her.

She carelessly reached out to turn on the bedside lamp so she could get up and look for something to take that could help. Her stubbornness kept her from going to Luke for assistance, but she was too weak. When she tried to sit up, she fell back down, and she hit her head on the bedside a little too hard.

"It's really late. Why are you still up?" The voice surprised her, but in a comforting manner. Luke appeared quietly at the door and switched on the light. He was on his way downstairs for water when he heard her rustling about. He walked in on instinct, thinking that something might be wrong with her, only to find her rubbing her head and grimacing in pain.

"Sorry. Did I disturb you?" Michelle looked unusually ruddy, her voice hoarse.

Her voice and pale skin concerned the man. "Are you alright? You sound strange." He frowned. He thought it would be best to leave her alone to rest, but before he knew it, he was walking towards her.

"Yeah, I'm good. Maybe it's because I went

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t, it would seem she thought much too highly of herself. Luke had said he would take care of her, and she took those words and made them heavy in her heart. 'Foolish, ' she thought.

"Would you like some congee?" Maria interrupted her thoughts. "Mr. Luo asked me to cook some before he left. He said you might want something hot after you wake up." Maria's tone was concerned, but Michelle looked at her, puzzled.

"What did you say? Luke was here last night?" Maria's words sparked some hope in Michelle. She looked at her with her eyes aflame.

"Yes, he looked tired, like he didn't get a wink of sleep." Maria was pleased to see the strain easing between the two. She wanted to see their relationship grow well. Maybe they would even have a baby soon, she thought. The night was promising.

"Did he say where he was going?" Michelle felt something skipping happily inside her. He was true to his word, it would seem. He stayed by her side last night, so that must have meant progress, right? He was beginning to accept her as his wife, she thought eagerly. "I'm afraid not. But at this hour, he's usually off to work with Mr. Mu." Maria found the question odd. How could she know about Luke's whereabouts?

"Okay." Michelle smiled. "I see. Thank you, Maria. You can go about your day. I'll go downstairs and eat the congee in a bit." She had no appetite, but it was Luke who had Maria cook congee for her. She put her hands on her cheeks when she felt herself smiling. To show she was grateful, she had to go try some.

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY

Chapter 1464 Discharged From The Hospital (Part One)

During the time that Leena left, everyone seemed to gradually forget her. But in fact, all the people she was close with still knew in their hearts that their love for her never stopped, hoping that one day she would come to her senses and return.

The sun cast its bright light through the room, filtered by the blinds and bathing the room in a soft yellow glow. Patricia sat on the hospital sickbed. Today was the day she would be released from the hospital. She had almost recovered and was allowed to leave the facility that she had stayed in for a few months. Although she still felt a little reluctant to leave, what she truly wanted was the wider skies from the outside. She didn't want to be confined in only a small world.

"Although your feet can walk smoothly, they still haven't returned to their best state. So after you go back home, you should take careful steps when you go back to your usual routines. Remember to not run or participate in strenuous activities. As long as you do some proper rehabilitation exercises, your feet can return to their original state of health," Tom said, holding a plastic blue clipboard as he perused her feet. He said it as best as he could from a doctor's point of view. The reason he reiterated everything carefully was because he knew that Patricia was an active and lively girl, so he was afraid that she'd do something reckless like a wild horse without reins. It was crucial that she took extra care unless she wanted to stay in the hospital again.

"Well, I see. You've told me these things three times already." Patricia's fingers stroked her forehead. And she wondered if every other doctor would be so wordy to their patients, just like him.

"That's because it's the most important thing for you right now. I have to say you'll need more time as well in case you don't take serious care of it." Tom didn't think there was anything wrong with what he said. On the contrary, he spoke these words with sheer confidence as a knowledgeable and well meaning doctor.

"Alright, just let me go now! I promise that I will remember everything you sa

ed in front of him as if she was just like a scolded child. It was true that she occasionally caused troubles carelessly, but she never dared provoke him as he could be indifferent to her. Yes, they were in love now—but she couldn't feel the kind of empathy between lovers.

Tom was an extremely gifted doctor, and many people constantly flattered him. There were also many beautiful and charming women always showing their admiration and vying for his attention. To top that, he was also very handsome in appearance--but most importantly, he had a clean personal life. He was a good man and he had no love affairs. It could be said that he was a rare golden bachelor.

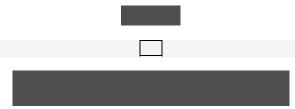
Patricia followed Tom to his car with careful steps. It was her first time to ride in it and she noticed that there was none of that annoyingly strong scent of perfume, and no strands of long hair on the seat that could come from women who rode in the car. Patricia felt that sitting in the car of such a man was refreshing and pleasant.

"Tom, may I ask you umm...a rather personal question?" Patricia sat on the shotgun seat and tilted her head to ask him. She was just a little bit curious to ask him more about his life.

"Since it's a personal question, don't even ask," Tom answered in a brusque voice. He just started the car and drove away. He didn't want to try imagining the type of question she wanted to ask him.

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY

Chapter 1465 Discharged From The Hospital (Part Two)



"But I really want to know," Patricia asked carefully. The kind of love that was always too meticulously maintained could never withstand any wind and rain. Patricia clearly knew this. But whenever she was in front of him, she could never feel free and relaxed. She only wanted to know more about him.

"If you want to ask me if I've been in this car with any other woman, I could only tell you one word: yes." Tom replied in a clipped voice. Although he had not been in love before, it didn't mean that he did not understand what women thought secretly when they saw him. So it wasn't so difficult to guess what Patricia was itching to ask.

"Err... I see!" Patricia said. She couldn't help but feel the disappointment tugging at her heart. She originally thought that Tom didn't involve himself in

such affairs like the rumors said. It turned out that he did bring back girls in his home. Thinking of that made her even more depressed.

Tom just smiled as his eyes just focused on the road. He didn't tell her that the "woman" was only Leena. If she really believed him, she would trust his words no matter what he said. If she did not, she really wouldn't trust him no matter how hard he would explain to her. There was only so much one could do to convince a stubborn person, after all.

The skies were clear and the grounds were filled with the pleasant chatter of students and some faculty alike. Michelle just entered the school when she saw Erin and her cliquish group of friends bullying Hilda. She could choose to just ignore Hilda if she didn't get well along with her as she always believed in staying out of trouble. Since Hilda was nice to her, she decided to walk towards them.

"Let her go." Michelle's cold voice held a trace of disdain. She just couldn't understand why these people couldn't comprehend that they were in college. Why did this feel like she was still in a gang?

"You actually want to stand up for her?" Erin challenged her as she blew one expertly manicured fingernail in a lazy, languid voice.

"I'll say it again: let her

espect. She had no idea what they even did with their parents' money. Although she herself wasn't an angel before, she wouldn't stoop so low as to bully innocent people.

"Bitch, what did you say? Who do you think are we?" Erin said angrily. As she said this, she raised her hand to slap Michelle. However, Michelle was able to dodge that by grabbing her wrist.

"If you want to beat me, I suggest that you should weigh up your power first. And bitch... I ask you the same question. You rely on your own advantages to bully others. Don't you feel shameful?" Michelle said coldly. She yanked Erin's wrist forcefully. She was born in the underworld to a family who were not well-to-do. It was true that she would always get into fights. But she had never been slapped by others. So to be honest, it was impossible for Erin to slap her.

"Don't be so confident. We're still here. Have you forgotten us?" The other girls said. When they saw Michelle was threatening Erin, they hurriedly aimed at her and completely forgot Hilda.

"Hmmph! You're just a disorganized, pathetic excuse of a mob. And you will collapse at the first blow. I'll tell you now that I won't be responsible for the mutilation--so if you don't want to suffer for it, I suggest you all leave right now." Michelle said as her whole body fumed with iciness. It made people feel even colder than the winter.

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY



Everyone looked at her stance. They began to fear for themselves. After all, they just liked to form cliques. They had no idea what it was like in the underworld. They felt afraid under Michelle's cold, icy glare.

"A bunch of crap," Erin said as she gritted her teeth. She left the place angrily. Michelle pinched her wrist before she dropped it and that was painful. So she didn't try to put up a fight with her anymore.

"Hmmph!" This time, I will just let you two go. But you won't be so lucky next time," said Erin. After that, she led her people away as they sweared and cussed in the hallways. Although she didn't want to let them go just yet, she didn't dare to fight Michelle. To put it bluntly, they were those pitiful kinds of people who only bullied the weak and feared the strong.

Michelle sneered as they left, and glanced coldly at their receding figures. She would never be afraid of other people's attempts to provoke her. Even if they gathered together to fight her, she wouldn't fear and back down.

"Hilda, are you all right?" Michelle looked towards Hilda and asked. She reached out her hand and helped her stand up. She brushed off the dirt on her clothes.

"I'm okay, thank you. It was just that you offended them so publicly today, they might wonder how to get revenge on us now." Hilda brushed off the remaining dirt on her clothes. She was already accustomed to being bullied by Erin and her clique. She knew that the pain from their beating would only last for a few days. So it was nothing serious. However, she just wasn't sure what would happen now after the fiasco as she noticed Erin's look towards them was far from pleasant. They all said that the most poisonous thing in the world was woman's heart. Moreover, a beautiful woman like Erin was even more insidious.

"It's okay. If they dare to bully you again in the future, you could just tell me. We are in the school but not in the underworld. They could not act arbitrarily," Michelle said calmly. It looked a little bit desolate in the deep winter of the campus. The place where they stood w

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he used to have. Because of that, she grew mature in her struggles. However, she grew more and more lonely too. Her eyes were no longer filled with enthusiasm, and became insipid like tepid water.

Anyone would find her strange in the way she acted. Even Luke, who was indifferent to her also noticed her changing.

"You have something on your mind." On that one particular day, when Michelle sat quietly on the swing in the garden, Luke suddenly appeared beside her with doubt etched across his face.

"Do you care?" Michelle asked him. It was true that she loved him. But she believed that if she continued to live like this, she would lose all her enthusiasm in life.

"Could I not care about you? Mom has asked me about why you behaved so strangely nowadays." Luke just stared at her. If it wasn't for the fact that he had just been scolded by his mother, he would not even care about her.

"I know that you don't care about me. It turns out that you got scolded by your mom, so you will care to ask me once. In fact, you could just ignore me. After all, I am just your nominal wife. In your heart, even a stranger might be more important than me!" Michelle tightly bit her bottom lip that it turned quite red. She looked up at the sky and tried to hold back her tears. She could not cry, especially now that she was in front of him. She must hold back her tears no matter what.

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY

Chapter 1467 A Class Activity (Part One)



"I thought we had already reached a consensus from the very beginning. Yes, I married you, but I don't love you. I don't want to repeat it again and again. You are really annoying me, you know? I don't know how else to spell it out for you!" Luke said with a frown. Michelle's words really made him irritated and downright angry. He had gotten tired of telling her the same thing over and over again. But she wouldn't relent. She had tried countless times to soften him, even though she also failed countless times.

"I'm sorry. It's because I love you. But now I am starting to regret it. I don't know how much longer I am able to bear your indifference. It just hurts too much!" Michelle yelled hysterically, her hands holding tightly on the chains of the swing.

"The last thing I want is love. You are not supposed to attach any extravagant hopes and dreams to it," Luke said coldly. He couldn't bear to hurt her like this, but he didn't want to go against his will either. He couldn't find it in his heart to love her for real.

"Haha! I know that you don't love me. Fine! I deserve it! Luke, you have wasted my love for you. Don't worry, I won't pester you anymore. And this time it's for real," Michelle said with a bitter smile. She jumped off the swing and walked past him, poker-faced. She walked very fast, as she was unable to hold back her tears and didn't want Luke to see her weakness.

Watching her receding figure, Luke felt a little guilty. Michelle had always been a simple and outgoing woman. Since when did she become defiant and cold?

He was about to admit that something was wrong with him, but he couldn't figure out what it was.

Michelle enter

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re Michelle was.

"Mrs. Mu, could you please explain to me why you are staring without blinking at another man?" Edward's voice came from behind Daisy's back. Jealousy filled his voice. He approached her and played with her hair.

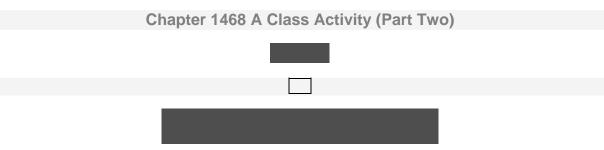
"I don't think it's necessary for me to explain anything. It is regarded as a courtesy to watch people leave. Don't you know that?" Daisy snapped and cast a reproachful glance at Edward.

"Then why haven't I seen you watch me leave? Not even once? Senior Colonel Ouyang, could you explain it please?" Apparently, Edward was trying to make a fuss about it.

"There are no eyes in the back of your head. How are you supposed to know that I haven't watched you leave? And, here we go again. Are you asking for trouble right now? Because I'm busy." In no mood to argue with her husband, the CEO, Daisy turned to go back to the house. She knew him well, and he would dwell on the matter for hours if she didn't leave.

"Hey, woman! Do you mean you always watch me leave with your loving, longing, affectionate eyes?" Edward followed and asked her with a proud smile, looking smug.

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY



"Daddy, will you please stop making a fool of yourself?" Justin asked as he leaned against the lamp standard in the garden and rolled his eyes at his father. He just couldn't bear his father pretending to be silly at all.

"You brat! Wanna be beaten up? Why do you say that I am making a fool of myself?" Edward stopped and cast a warning glance at Justin. The father and son were so alike in character.

"What do you think of it? It makes me embarrassed to have a father like you. I thought you were a cool dad, but... Such an old man acting like a spoiled and insecure little child. I mean I am a child and I never act like that! I think I'm gonna throw up."

Justin pretended that he was going to vomit before he shook his head and walked towards the house. Edward, however, stood there dumbfounded. He watched Justin's receding figure, not knowing how to react. His own son had just mocked him and knocked his confidence.

After a short while, he came to his senses as his face twitched. He thought in disbelief, 'Did my own son just mock and insult me? How dare he? I'm his

father! I must teach him a hard lesson! Something he won't forget for a long time.' He immediately walked towards the house in an attempt to stop Justin. He must re-establish his authority as his father.

"Justin Mu, stay where you are!" Edward roared. However, it was only the handful of servants in the house who were frightened by his voice. As for Justin, he had already sneaked out of the house. He was such a clever boy and would by no means hang around after provoking his father like that.

The next morning, Michelle left the house early. The bus was scheduled to depart at 7 AM, so she didn't say goodby

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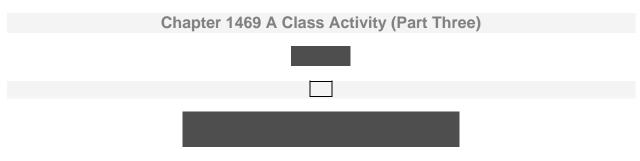
hout turning, Michelle knew Erin must be giving her a murderous look, but she didn't care. If Erin dared to confront her or challenge her, Michelle decided to teach her a lesson to vent her own frustrations. This wasn't a good time to mess with Michelle.

Looking back and forth between the luggage and the two women, Erin could only watch helplessly as the driver closed the luggage compartment before getting on the bus. When passing by the two, she cast a fierce look at them. Hilda cowered in fear and grabbed Michelle's arm for support. Michelle, however, remained expressionless as if she didn't see Erin.

It was the weekend, and Luke got up later than usual. When he walked past the main bedroom, he found the door was open. He frowned as he felt something was wrong. Remembering Michelle crying last night, he was a little worried.

He rushed towards the bedroom and the first thing he did when he entered the room was to open the closet. He heaved a long sigh of relief seeing Michelle's clothes still hanging there. It seemed that he did care about her, but he just didn't notice it or he was unwilling to admit it.

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY



"Mr. Luo, good morning. Your breakfast is ready if you want to eat now." Passing by with a basket of laundry, Maria greeted Luke the moment she saw him.

"Morning! Where's Michelle? I haven't seen her," Luke asked with a frown. His voice was as cold as ice. Obviously, he didn't remember what Michelle had told him a couple of days ago.

"Oh, Mrs. Luo has a class activity today. She's going on a 2-day sketching activity with the entire class somewhere, like a field trip. I think, she told you before. Don't you remember?" Maria looked at Luke in confusion. 'Did Mrs. Luo lie to me? Why did Mr. Luo not know about it?' she thought.

"Ah, now I remember. Sorry, I just forgot it." Michelle did mention it before, but he had been thinking about something else then and hadn't paid attention to what she had said. He actually didn't listen to her much, on purpose.

Luke ate breakfast alone in silence. He had grown accustomed to having a woman around and nagging him. He shook the weird feeling off and decided to focus on his work. He didn't need love, and he would not allow any woman to affect him.

Michelle's classmates were in high spirits and chatted all the way. Michelle, however, stared dejectedly out the window while listening to Hilda's light snore and thinking about Luke.

'Has he gotten up now? Did he miss me when he found out that I'm not home?' Then she shook her head and smiled bitterly. 'Nah. He would by no means miss me. What a humble and delusional woman I am! Last night, I told myself that I should just love me and not love him anymore. But I've begun to miss him again. Ohh well, I have got no pride!'

Their destination was a remote mountain area and although it was cold in winter, this place did not seem to be affected by the changes in the weather and even the seasons. There were gr

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wimsuits here, but the prices are kind of high." Hilda shrugged her shoulders. She really wanted to give the hot spring a try, but the expensive swimsuit was killing her.

"Oh, don't worry. I'll buy you one as a gift," Michelle said casually. She didn't mind buying it for her friend.

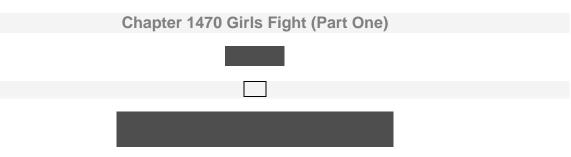
"Really? But you're not very rich as well." Hilda was a little embarrassed to accept Michelle's kind offer. She knew Michelle went to school by bus every day, and thought she was as modest as herself.

"Oh, don't think about that. I can afford to buy you a swimsuit." Michelle patted Hilda's shoulder to comfort her. All of a sudden, her phone rang. She was so ecstatic that she immediately checked who it was. However, her joy disappeared quickly. It was not Luke.

"Hi Mom! Yes, We've already checked in," Michelle said. It was Cynthia, who also knew about Michelle's class activity and was calling to make sure she was alright. Cynthia was good to her two daughters-in-law, always showing her concern for them.

"All right. And how was your trip?" Cynthia asked. Daisy was sitting next to her, and got close to the phone to hear Michelle's voice. Daisy also cared about Michelle a lot and was very supportive of her.





"It was alright, Mom. Thank you for your concern," Michelle answered politely. Michelle saw Cynthia as a graceful and elegant lady, from a world very different from hers.

"Come on, Michelle. You don't have to be so formal with me. Have fun and be safe," Cynthia urged. She had never looked down on Michelle because of her humble background. She strongly believed that Edward and Luke didn't need to marry women from rich backgrounds, but they needed women who were strong enough to stand by their side at all times.

"Don't worry, Mom. I will," said Michelle obediently. Though Jonathan and Cynthia always treated Luke as their own son, it still wouldn't change the fact that Luke was an adopted son. He treated the members of the Mu family with utmost respect. And as Luke's wife, Michelle also made sure to be the same.

"You must be tired. Get some rest. Bye!" said Cynthia. She felt that Michelle was being too polite to her. Michelle talked to her as if she were talking to her boss, and not her mother-in-law. Cynthia decided that she needed to have a long talk with Michelle when she returned.

"Okay, Mom. Bye!" Michelle hung up and heaved a long sigh of relief.

"Michelle, why were you being so polite to your mom?" Hilda asked, confused. She didn't understand why Michelle was being so formal to her mother.

"Oh, my mom is a distant, austere person. Never mind. Let's go buy our swimsuits," Michelle said, as she took out her wallet and walked out of the

room with Hilda. Erin was at the hot spring too, but Michelle decided to ignore her and have fun in the hot waters.

"Michelle, are you really going to buy me one too? It's rather expensive he

were always trying to flirt with Erin, except Bradley He.

"Really? Are you kidding me? Haven't you noticed all the girls who come to our classroom during breaks? They come to our class to get close to Bradley. He, however, is too aloof to be interested in anyone." Hilda's expression amused Michelle.

"So, you have a thing for him as well?" Michelle asked smiling.

"I do. But there's no way that he will fall in love with a girl like me," Hilda said, dejected. She had no self-confidence because of her figure and her humble family background.

"Don't say that. Who knows, he might just fall for you some day," Michelle said reassuringly. She didn't say that just for the sake of it; she really meant it. Hilda was such a sweet girl, anyone would be lucky to have her.

Hilda shook her head slightly and smiled. She knew that Michelle was just being kind to her.

Michelle had no interest in the so-called school hunk, for she gave all her attention to Luke. Luke, on the other hand, showed no interest in her at all. He had said that he didn't need her love, which had made her really downhearted.