

MY WIFE IS AN ALOOF BEAUTY

Chapter 1521 A Crush On Her (Part Two)



Michelle had been distraught the rest of the day, not only because her classmates had been looking at her with fearful expressions the whole time, but also because of Bradley. The man looked so sad and dejected and Michelle couldn't help but feel as if she had cheated on him.

However, it was a really good thing that Bradley wasn't pestering her anymore. He just threw sad glances at her every now and then. It was annoying. Thus, she left the class as fast as she could when the class was over.

It was Michelle who arrived at their home first. It was a few minutes more when Luke entered their house too. This was her chance. She immediately walked up to him and asked, "Luke, did you ask Edward to deal with Erin's father's company?" It was evident how their relationship got better since they had sex.

"Yes, I did. She always acts like she is different from others, right? Well, I decided to have her father's company go broke. I want to see how she would act once she is no longer rich," said Luke with a cruel smile. In reality, Luke detested women like Erin. He just couldn't stand girls who thought of themselves as world leaders whom everyone should obey. Jessica was the same type of woman as Erin and it was needless to say how he used to hate her very much.

"But a lot of people will lose their jobs if the company goes broke, right?" Michelle asked anxiously. It seemed that their marriage had changed her a lot.

She had become more kind-hearted. She hadn't cared about others at all in the past. However, she couldn't help but feel worried about those innocent people who might get involved in the fight between Luke and Erin's father now.

"You don't need to worry about that. Mr. Mu has his own arrangements. By the way, did the girl give you trouble today?" Luke asked. Luke felt the sudden urge to pinch her cute face but then tried his best to hold back. He was too shy to do those intimate things, especially to her.

"No, she didn't. Come on! I used to be a gang member. How could she give me trouble?" Michelle lied because she thought that Luke's revenge was cruel enough. She had no plans of making the argument worse. Yes, Erin had poisoned her but Luke had saved her in time and nothing serious had happened. Michelle decided to let Erin go this time. It would be really hard for Erin to accept the huge drop in her social rank. Michelle shook her head and thought to herself, 'I already forgave Erin. I hope she won't be stupid enough to

d. She felt really happy at this moment.

"Thank you." Luke kissed her on the lips. Actually he had fallen in love with her a long time ago. It was just that it took him a long while to realize it.

Michelle shut her eyes and just enjoyed Luke's embrace. She asked herself silently, 'Would I fall in love with Luke if I had known at the very beginning that I would suffer from his coldness for a long time? I'm afraid the answer is yes.' The lovers held each other tightly in silence.

Edward had just used three days to deal with Tosca Corporation, which would go broke soon. As a result, Erin came to Michelle again.

"Tell me, what should I do to ask for your forgiveness. Please let us go." This time, Erin was not that arrogant as before.

"If you had apologized to me at the very beginning, I would have interceded for you. However, it's too late now. I don't think I'm able to help you," Michelle said coldly. She knew it would cost a lot of energy and money to overthrow a company. She couldn't just go to Luke and ask him to stop.

"How about I kneel down? I was too blind to see who you really are. I'm really sorry. Please spare me this time." Erin bit her lower lip, her face was as pale as death. She had suffered a lot during the past three days. All her families began to blame her for the stupid thing she had done.

"I'm not the one dealing with your father's company, so I can do nothing about it." Michelle was at a loss and didn't really know how to react. She would just refuse her request without hesitation if Erin came to her arrogantly. However, Erin looked so pitiful and Michelle just didn't know what to do.

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Chapter 1522 Sensible Side Of Michelle (Part One)



"Can you at least tell me who I need to see? I only want to save my father's company. Please, I beg you. I treated you wrong all this time, and I am sorry for it. Please forgive me, and help me." The girl standing in front of Michelle was no longer proud and arrogant. Now, Erin was only a girl who badly wanted to save her father's firm. She had to apologize to Michelle, knowing she was probably the only person who could help her. As long as Michelle forgave her, she would be fine. Erin was aware of the consequences of her father's company going bankrupt. Everyone surrounding her and complimenting her was only after her money and status. Yes, she could live a comfortable and happy life now, all because her father made a lot of money. That was how an arrogant and mean girl like her became so popular. If her

father became broke, then she would lose everything, and this was the last thing Erin wanted to happen.

"Why didn't you think about the consequences before doing something bad?" Michelle goaded Erin. Yes, Erin had no one else to turn to, and that was why she was willing to throw away her dignity and pride to ask Michelle for help. Michelle knew what would happen if the company of Erin's father went bankrupt. But she felt no sympathy for the girl who had done something so unforgivable against her. But she did feel sorry for the company's employees because they had no idea they were going to lose their jobs.

"I am truly sorry!" Erin cried out. "I know what I did was extremely wrong! I will never do anything like that again, I promise. But please, please help me. I don't know what else to do now. Can't you show some

ad learned her lesson and started to change for the better. But clearly, she was wrong. Erin was still the selfish and mean girl that she was before. She just hid it better now because she needed Michelle's help. It seemed impossible for someone to change personalities overnight.

After finishing her class, Michelle immediately went to her father-in-law's house because Luke had asked her to do so. She happily agreed because the alternative was to stay home alone, which bored her. At least when she was at Edward's house, Michelle would be talking to someone.

"Mom, are you home alone?" she asked Cynthia as soon as she arrived. The house was unusually quiet, which was rare. Michelle looked around and saw her mother-in-law was indeed alone.

"Yes, I'm the only one here. Your father-in-law went to pick up Justin. Maybe they're still somewhere outside playing. They should be back by now. I don't know why they're this late," Cynthia replied with a smile. The woman was

simply elegant that each time Michelle saw her, she was always blown away by her mother-in-law's quiet beauty.

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Chapter 1523 Sensible Side Of Michelle (Part Two)



"Perhaps it's because of the traffic," Michelle offered. "It is rush hour. Traffic was so bad on my way back home so they must have gotten caught in it," she added. She returned Cynthia's smile because it was impossible not to be infected by her pleasant manner.

"Whatever. I don't care where they go as long as they come back in one piece. By the way, look at you. It seems to me that you look more radiant and happier than the last time I saw you. Let me guess, does it have anything to do with Lukie?" Her eyes twinkled teasingly. As soon as Michelle entered the house, she found her daughter-in-law looking happier than usual. She was aware of how much Michelle had suffered in the past few days. So it was good to see her this way. The joyful and radiant look suited her well.

"Uhhmm... Oh, they're back! Dad and Justin are here," she announced. A blush had colored Michelle's face at her mother-in-law's teasing. She was too shy to answer. Honestly, Michelle had no idea what to say. Fortunately, Jonathan and Justin arrived, saving her from having to answer Cynthia's query. So, Michelle quickly changed the subject to divert attention away from her.

"You keep dodging my question, sneaky girl," Cynthia pretended to scold her but stopped asking anyway. She could tell the young woman was

embarrassed, prompting her to drop the subject. As long as she was happy, Cynthia didn't mind what was going on between her and Luke.

Laughing nervously, Michelle said, "The food smells delicious. I'm going to the kitchen to check out what Mrs. Wu is cooking." She walked off to escape further interrogation. Michelle was really in a good mood recently because of the way things were betw

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look on her face when she heard what Justin called Jonathan. It was strange that she didn't think it was possible that the man was married, and that he was much older than her.

"That's good to know," Cynthia said. "So, as soon as your grandpa saw that it was a beautiful woman, he kept looking at her?" she prodded the boy. Of course, Cynthia knew Jonathan well. And he was not the type of man who would be unfaithful to his wife, even in thoughts. That was why she didn't take Justin's words too seriously. She only asked to go along with little Justin. Cynthia knew the kind of boy her grandson was, and she was willing to go along with his teasing.

"Yes, that's right. That woman stood in front of our car, blocking our way, and refused to budge. She even demanded grandpa to buy her a new car. That's just ridiculous! So, grandpa glared at her with his cold and frightening eyes until she felt uneasy and decided to finally leave. That's what happened."

Justin was very excited as he related their experience as if it was some make-believe tale. He told Cynthia every small detail of what happened on their way home.

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Chapter 1524 Sensible Side Of Michelle (Part Three)



"So, you mean that you crashed into her car and didn't even offer to pay for what you had done? That... that doesn't sound like something you would do," Cynthia said looking at her husband. The little boy's words intrigued her. She raised an eyebrow at her husband to ask. Cynthia wanted to know what exactly happened. Jonathan was never one to be short of money. So, why didn't he offer to pay that woman for the problem that he caused?

"No! We paid her! Grandpa wrote her a 50, 000-dollar check to have her car repaired. But that woman was greedy. She wanted more. Of course, we wouldn't agree. That's why grandpa glared at her to make her leave," Justin continued his narrative. Her grandson was more excited than usual. Maybe it was because it was his first time to experience something like this and come across a woman who wanted to rip money off his intimidating grandfather. How ridiculous! Such a situation seldom happened, so Justin was thrilled to be part of something fascinating.

"Oh, I see. I think she saw how very generous your grandpa was. That's why she wanted him to pay her more. After all, if a slight scratch can get her 50,

000 dollars, she would be a fool not to try to rip him off," Cynthia nodded in understanding. She finally understood what exactly happened, and now everything made sense. Cynthia knew her husband didn't care much about the money he had, so he might have been willing to give her more to repair the car. But if, as Justin described, the woman was greedy, she would have annoyed him enough to make him treat her that way. She couldn't help but think, 'Some women nowadays are re

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"We don't need to wait for Daddy and Uncle Luke?" Justin asked. He raised his head to look at his grandmother while following her to the dining room. The boy didn't expect his father and uncle to miss having dinner with them.

"No, we don't have to wait for them. Your daddy is having dinner with a client. And Uncle Luke will be joining him," she explained. Holding Justin's hand, Cynthia led him into the dining room. It felt like she was back in the days when her son was as old as Justin. Unfortunately, holding Edward's hand when he was very young rarely happened. She didn't have a good relationship with her son as he was growing up, which was why they had always been distant as if they weren't mother-and-son. But that was all behind them now, because

everything was all right. Cynthia had made up with her son, and their relationship now was much better. She couldn't be happier with her life. A loving husband, an intelligent and successful son, a sweet daughter-in-law, and a beautiful grandson, all these made her feel like the happiest woman on earth.

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Chapter 1525 Sensible Side Of Michelle (Part Four)



After dinner, Michelle didn't stay long. She bid them all goodbye and left for home. When she got home, Luke still wasn't there, so she had some alone time to think. Erin's pleas were still in her mind and she didn't know what to feel. Michelle didn't want to help her, not only because she couldn't forgive what she'd done to her, but also because she knew Erin wouldn't change. But at the same time, she didn't have the heart to make other people suffer because of Erin's mistake. She considered talking to Luke about what happened today. And if he agreed with her, he could at least make them suffer less.

"What are you thinking about now?" Fatigue was all over his face, but he saw his wife's look. Luke hadn't been resting well the past few days, and it was catching up with him now.

She looked up at his voice. "Oh, nothing. You're back." His question startled Michelle, and she got up from the bed and walked to stand in front of Luke.

"Yes, I am," he said tiredly. His tone was not as icy as before. Luke did promise Michelle that he would try to make this relationship with her work. He would let his guard down around her, and at least be nice to her.

"You look tired," she pointed out. She looked at his face and stroked a cheek. Michelle couldn't help but worry about Luke as she realized how much she truly cared about her husband.

"Yeah, I'm a little bit tired. I'm going to take a shower first," Luke said while removing his coat. He wasn't a clean freak like Edward, but he wasn't lazy when it came to personal hygiene. Besides, maybe a nice shower would make him less tired and loosen him up.

"Ho


her. But Michelle wasn't sure if what they were doing was right. Admittedly, it was simply a feud between two classmates. There was no need to make such a big deal out of it.

"She never thought of the consequences when she decided to drug you, did she? Erin did this to herself. She made a mistake, so she should pay for it. It's that simple. Besides, have you ever thought about what might have happened if I hadn't come for you in time? Do you have any idea what would have happened to you if I wasn't there? That woman is so vicious. I think it serves her right. She's getting a dose of her own medicine. She's an adult, and she should always think twice before she decides to harm others," Luke pointed out. He'd always been on the dark side of society and had witnessed enough disgusting things to be aware of how dangerous the world could be. That was why Luke felt no guilt when he decided to take revenge on Michelle's behalf. And judging from her family background, he thought Michelle knew this, too. Maybe, the peaceful and happy life now made her forget all about this.

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Chapter 1526 Sensible Side Of Michelle (Part Five)





"Can you at least make her suffer less then? After all, we are still classmates. Though I know she hates me and has done something unforgivable, I really don't want to see her father's company go bankrupt. She'll lose everything and so many innocent people will suffer because of this," Michelle said. She thought about all this in just a few seconds. Michelle was aware this was not something Luke could easily decide on his own. But considering his relationship with Edward, if he was willing to talk to his brother about it, the latter would surely agree.

"Well, I can only promise to try my best. Honestly, this doesn't seem like something that you'd say to me. It's not like you at all. And it was a surprise to me that you're willing to go easy on Erin," Luke pointed out. His wife's change of heart was a definite surprise. And he wasn't sure if it was a good change or a bad one. All he knew was that he felt happy to see a more sensible side of Michelle. It felt like unearthing a hidden facet of her that no one had ever seen, so it made him feel closer to his wife. There seemed to be a lot more things he didn't know about Michelle, and Luke was looking forward to discovering them.

The next day, before Luke had a chance to speak to Edward about what Michelle said to him, they ran into Erin. She had been waiting for them outside the company building. As soon as she saw the two men walking in, she immediately ran to them, her face looking very anxious.

"Mr. Mu, please, please don't let our company go bankrupt. I beg you. Please. I know what I did was wrong, and I will never do anything like that ever again," Erin pleaded. She kneeled before Edward and Luke to block their way. Erin raised her head and looked at them with a

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"If you don't get up and leave now, you will lose this only chance to save your father's company, too," Edward threatened Erin. While he wasn't sure what Luke was planning, Edward trusted him unconditionally. Given what he said, Edward decided not to contradict him while Erin was still there. He knew Luke must have his reasons for having a change of heart. As long as they were acceptable reasons, Edward would consider it.

"All right. I will do anything you ask me to do, as long as you don't allow my father's company to go bankrupt," Erin said as she stood up. Using the back of her hand to wipe her tears away, Erin didn't seem like the arrogant pretty girl she was in school. She had never once thought that she would one day meet the CEO of the famous FX International Group. Secretly, Erin was impressed by Edward's handsome looks. He was even more good-looking in person, and photos on the Internet did him little justice. But she didn't dare say what she was thinking. Now was not the time to drool over some handsome, rich guy. Erin didn't forget that she was there to plead her case, to save her father's company from going bankrupt.

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"From now on, behave yourself," Luke said brusquely while looking at her one last time. Turning around, he walked into the company premises with Edward without looking back. Luke sincerely hoped he would never have to see or meet Erin ever again. He knew the kind of girl she was and didn't like her one bit.

The moment they stepped into the elevator, Edward turned around to look at Luke, with a knowing smirk on his face. He looked intrigued as he stared at his companion as if there was something interesting on his face. Out of the blue, Luke felt uncomfortable, once he sensed the intensity of Edward's gaze.

"Why are you looking at me that way?" Luke asked while touching his face self-consciously. Was there something on his face? Why was Edward looking at him in such a strange way? It was unnerving!

"I am thinking," he started, and paused. "Has Michelle completely melted you? I've noticed that recently, all you talk about is her. Your life seems to be revolving around your wife now. Don't you notice this about yourself?" Edward knew he was right. He'd known Luke for years but had never seen him acting this way. It was as if being with Michelle changed him, making him softer than usual. But, he was also glad about this change. They made a cute couple. Edward, though, was curious about how Michelle had tamed the cold and stoic Luke.

"Are you really enjoying making fun of me? Why are you being so damn curious?" Luke demanded while rolling his eyes in exasperation. There was nothing new about Edward being nosy like he was now. While Luke had a

vague idea what Edward hinted at, he didn't want to humor him with an answer. He was annoyed because he had never been nos

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sibility. For now, it was best that Erin avoided her, and this should make both their lives easier. They only had to consider each other as complete strangers to co-exist peacefully.

The fact of the matter was, it was Hilda that benefited the most from this mess. She was once the least popular girl in school because of her figure. But since she was friends with Michelle, people had started talking to her, even sucking up to her, to try and get in touch with Michelle with her as a conduit. Everyone was aware that Michelle had a powerful husband who worked in the famous FX International Group, who was protective of her. They all wanted a piece of Michelle. And approaching Hilda first was a good idea.

It seemed as though Michelle's life had become peaceful once more. But she still felt something missing at the back of her mind, and this would sometimes dampen her spirit. Her life was perfect now -- a promising relationship, good friends, and a place where she could learn to draw. She couldn't ask for more. Yet there was still an emptiness in her heart, probably because not everything was perfect all the time.



When Shannon hadn't heard from Leena for a long time, she grew anxious and couldn't stay still. For this reason, she found herself coming to S City for a visit. Entering her son's apartment, she sought for her daughter-in-law but to no avail. The woman was simply nowhere to be seen.

However, Shannon's presence under his roof surprised Kevin. He hadn't found the right time to tell her about Leena's disappearance yet, and didn't think that he would have to do it some time soon. In fact, he never expected Shannon to come without prior notice. Taken aback, he rushed towards her.

"Mom, what brings you here?" he asked. "You should have called me first." Taking her bags immediately from her shoulder, he carried them to the living room. Luckily, it was the weekend and he was at home.

"Can't I visit my son when I feel like it?" Shannon asked angrily. She had asked about Leena's situation on the phone several times. But Kevin, who was great at deflecting, only told her that Leena had gone to Paris. That was it.

"I didn't mean it that way, Mom," he said, as she sat on the sofa. "Tea or water?" She was one of the few people who wasn't a fan of coffee. Shannon gave him a brief, surprised look before looking away.

"Iced water!" Rolling her eyes, she expected Leena to appear out of nowhere. Despite knowing she wasn't around, she couldn't help but hope to be surprised.

"That doesn't sound like a good idea," said Kevin, frowning. "I'll pour you a glass of warm water." It was freezing cold outside, and Kevin wasn't sure if Shannon was only trying to spite him.

"Where's Leena?" she asked, just before he could leave to fetch the drink. "Has she not come back yet?" she persisted stubbornly. Her eyes roamed across her son's face, never missing a single expression. His hesitance spoke a thousand words she didn't want to hear.

"Uh," he said, "I'll talk about it with you later. Let me make you something to eat first." With his mother coming over by surprise, Kevin was unprepared and couldn't think of the best way to tell her the truth. Worrying her mother was the last thing he wa

. This was exactly what he feared to happen.

"Fine!" snapped Shannon. "Just tell me why Leena suddenly left. I won't... I won't make any more presumptions until you're done." Calming down, she realized that her emotions got the better of her. She took deep breaths, and pursed her lips tightly in anticipation of Kevin's explanation.

"Leena... It's extremely difficult for her to get pregnant," Kevin said, feeling his chest tighten as soon as he mentioned it. If only he'd known about the status of Leena's health from the beginning, he would have refrained from expressing his affection for having children to her. He might have even insisted that he didn't want kids at all. Because of him, Leena probably believed that it was better she left since she couldn't give what he was dying to have. As her husband, Kevin hadn't even noticed that she wasn't herself. He just couldn't forgive himself for it. What an uncaring and incompetent husband he was!

"So?" pressed Shannon. She just couldn't understand why Leena would leave because of it. Unless... She looked at Kevin and asked, "Did you express any

regrets because of it?" As Shannon really admired Leena, she couldn't help but side with her as soon as Kevin finished talking. Her son was at a loss for words. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry, thinking, 'I'm your son! Yet you act like Leena is your daughter, and I'm just an outsider.'

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Chapter 1529 Spring Festival (Part Two)



Scowling, he said, "Mom, do you really think I'd blame her for this?" Staring at Shannon in the eye, he wondered since when his mother had started to look down on him. It was like she didn't know his own son well enough.

Emotionally exhausted, Shannon took a sip of her warm water. "It's unfortunate news, all right," she remarked. She put the glass of water down. "I just don't understand why she didn't tell us first." As he didn't have the answer, Kevin could only shrug.

"It's a sad thing, yes. I also love kids, but even if she can't get pregnant this instant, maybe it's still possible as soon as her health gets better." She shook her head. "Even if that doesn't happen," Shannon added, "we'll be okay with that. As long as you two are happy together, your father and I won't intervene." Although Shannon was saddened by the news, she had a liberal mind. Leena's problem with having kids might be a bitter pill to swallow, but she was quick to accept it. All she wanted for the meantime was to have Leena come back home.

"You mean," said Kevin slowly, "you won't dislike her even if she can't have a baby, right?" Eyes wide open, he thought it would be more difficult than this to get his mother's acceptance. Apparently, he was mistaken, and happily so.

"Come on, Kevin!" exclaimed Shannon. "Do you think I'm that unreasonable?" Surprised, she stared at her son and felt bad. "She must've been in pain if she thought that way too. Rather than blame Leena, what we should do when we see her is to comfort her. Oh, what a poor girl!" While Shannon wanted to have grandchildren as soon as possible, she simply valued Leena much more.

"Mom," started Kevin, unable to express his gratitude. "Thank you. She might come back, I believe, if she finds out about how we feel about it." Standing up, Kevin leaned over to hug his mother affectionately. Too often, stories of mothers disliking their daughters-in-law could be recounted. Once they found out that the women were incapable of giving them grandchildren, many would force their sons to

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It some thought. It was possible.

"I guess you're right," sighed Kevin. "Well, just go ahead and take them. Don't forget this, too." He put Lee's flight ticket on the table. "Enjoy your holiday at home." Wearing a bitter smile, he thought to himself, 'Nana, you can be so kind to people around. I just don't understand how you can be so cruel to me. Do you even know how much you broke my heart when you left?'

"I will, Major General Gu. Will Leena come back soon?" asked Lee with a hopeful expression. Aware of Leena's departure, Lee could only hope for her safe return. He could tell her disappearance was taking a toll on Kevin.

"She will," answered Kevin optimistically. But deep inside, he wasn't so sure. Leena hadn't given him any signs yet. That didn't matter though. Determined to find Leena, Kevin was dead set on showing her his love and sincerity.

It was the saddest and most depressing Spring Festival that Kevin ever had. While others were dining with their families, he only had Leena's photo to keep him company. He missed her dearly.

"Major General Gu," greeted Mark. "Senior Colonel Ouyang asked me to give you these dumplings. Happy New Year!" As Mark had been on leave last Spring Festival, he decided to stay in the army base this year. He felt it was fair to give other soldiers the chance to go home to reunite with their families.

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Chapter 1530 Spring Festival (Part Three)



"Thank you, Mark," Kevin said a bit indifferently. After taking the food from Mark, he continued, "Happy New Year to you too! Have you eaten yet?" The man smiled and nodded. Earlier today, Mrs. Xu had asked Kevin to have dinner with her family this evening. But as he was on duty, he couldn't leave his post without permission, and had to kindly reject her offer.

"I've already eaten. That's all yours." Just as he was about to leave, Mark turned to add, "They're going to get cold so you should eat them as soon as you can." Although the dumplings were in a thermal container, the weather was very cold this time of the year. Kevin appreciated the simple reminder.

"All right." During this time, the canteen at the army base often served dumplings. Before he got married, Kevin used to have them in the canteen with the other soldiers. This year, however, he wasn't in the mood as it reminded him of his reality.

But he wasn't the only one suffering. While he missed Leena terribly, the latter also experienced an intense longing for her husband.

She had been to different countries these days, enjoying different landscapes and eating at local restaurants. It was easy to keep herself distracted in the day. During the dead of night, however, she was harassed with thoughts of her husband all at once.

As it was the Spring Festival, she made dumplings for herself even when she didn't have the appetite. Tears streamed down her cheeks as she tried to eat some of her cooking. If she were by his side at this moment, they were probably feeding each other dumplings.

Soon, the journey would be over. And when that happened, what would she do then? When would she stop missing him? The idea of never seeing Kevin again tortured her.

Taking out her cell phone, she looked at Kevin's photo. Whenever she moved to a new city, she would preoccupy herself with activities as many as she could. Otherwise, Kevin's face would cross her mind, and that made it difficult for her to stop herself from buying a ticket to go back to him.

As it was currently daytime where she was, that meant it was night back in the city where Kevin was. Curious, she wondered what Kevin was doing right now. Was he having dinner with his family or the soldiers at the moment? Or was he alone like she was? Or, did he already fall in love with her in the future!

"He deserves it!" snapped Duke. "He's such an idiot for taking all the duties during the Spring Festival!" With his sister gone because of that man, he couldn't stand hearing his wife put in a good word for him. Duke resented it very much.

"Baby," cooed Belinda at her belly, "look how naive your daddy is!" Duke looked at her. "You mustn't be as naughty as he is, okay?" she continued in a serious manner. The father of the unborn child merely gawked at his beautiful wife.

"Are you sure you want to speak ill of me to my child?" asked Duke through gritted teeth. Because of her pregnancy, he felt like he was a bachelor all over again, and this frustrated him.

"So now you're ashamed of yourself?" challenged Belinda. Her husband scowled. "Look!" She made him look at her. "Why did Kevin take all of the work he could get?" she asked, but Duke wasn't listening anymore. "Because Leena left, and he's sad and dejected." Then Belinda rested a loving hand on Duke's cheek. "Instead of mocking him, we should be comforting him. That's all I'm saying." If she had been in Kevin's shoes, she'd already have gone mental. Thus, Belinda somehow understood what the man was going through. If anyone came home to nothing but a divorce agreement, it was understandable for him to break into pieces. It had been more than two months since Leena's disappearance, and instead of a meltdown, Kevin chose to drown himself in his work. The man, refusing to collapse, was being more resilient and stronger than anyone could in his situation.