

My Wife is a beautiful Officer Chapter 756 - Chapter 755: What A Boring Man (part one)

Chapter 756: Chapter 755: What A Boring Man (part one)

Green mountains, blue sky and white clouds were rare to see together in the autumn season. However, in the suburbs of S City, there was a place where one could see them. What made the place even more popular was a precipitous mountain in the vicinity. Steep and challenging, no ordinary person could easily climb up to its peak. Today, Daisy took her soldiers to have a try at the mountain. All soldiers were armed to the teeth under the Colonel's request. They picked the most dangerous trail and started their way toward the top. Soldiers were divided into groups, with each team consisting of five. The team that got to the top of the mountain first would win the contest. Not only the soldiers' determination, but also their team spirit would be tested.

"Colonel, which team do you estimate would get to the top first?" Mark looked at the mountain peak through a telescope.

"Intelligence plays a more vital role than physical ability in this contest. In my opinion, every team has its chance to win. All our soldiers are almost at the same level in terms of strength and technique." Daisy wore a camouflaging uniform. The heat was merciless and she had taken off her hat to fan herself with it. Her other hand was angled on her forehead to shield her eyes from the glaring rays of the sun. She paid attention to the moving figures walking along the rugged trail.

"That's true, Colonel. Do you think they can successfully go through the narrow pass once they get to it?" asked Mark worriedly. He wouldn't have been troubled over it if the soldiers weren't so equipped. The pass was too narrow and only allowed one person to pass through at a time. So what about the weapons and facilities that the soldiers carried with them?

"It will test their wisdom. The rules cannot be changed, but humans can always find loopholes within them. I didn't command them to carry the equipment on their back the entire way. Do you understand?" Daisy turned and glanced at Mark. He was still a naive boy who didn't dare break the rules. Fortunately, not everyone was as simple-hearted as him.

"Yes! Why didn't I think of that?" Mark grimaced. He admitted he was a bit slow-witted.

"You wouldn't be who you are if you had thought of it." Daisy shook her head, flashing him a lenient smile. She took the telescope to watch the ongoing contest on the mountain.

The soldiers were here for field training. In addition to the physical training aimed at strengthening their combat ability, another skill they needed to develop was their ability to cope with unexpected accidents. The mountain trails leading to the top were steep, uneven and could not be hiked easily. They needed to cooperate with teammates.

Mark's lip curled with displeasure at Daisy's perception of him. Since she was the boss, he dared not refute the statement. He subdued his discontentment in secret.

The soldiers hiked along the trail. It was walk-able at first: although the path was rocky, they could find a cleft to step into. But the higher they went, the rougher the trek became. The trail finally gave way to the precipitous cliff. The soldiers stopped walking and climbed with their hands and feet. They were physically trained every month. But for the first time, the soldiers were training in the tough wilderness. As they dug holes with their daggers for their feet to latch onto, they also had to be on alert for any falling stones that were triggered by their comrades' upward climb. Truth be told, Daisy was worried about the soldiers as well. However, she had faith in their capabilities. The wilderness training was novel to them and rife with unanticipated challenges they hadn't experienced before. But they were soldiers after all, who must forge ahead to strengthen their abilities. It would help them become invincible fighters.

The air in autumn was dry. Aside from the scorching heat from the sun, the soldiers suffered from cracked lips. They had brought along water canisters but didn't even have time to drink the water. Their hands were forced to clutch onto the cliff.

They gained distance inch by inch, but it was harder to move as time went by. Their limbs felt heavy, as though rocks hung onto them. Every inch of progress in the elevation seemed to cost them all their energy. None of them, however, was willing to give up. This was the critical test of their determination. They were soldiers with iron resolution. As far as they were concerned, the contest was a dare to them.

The narrow pass was the last hurdle. Although it was hard, some lean soldiers could pass it by carrying the equipment on their backs. The opening was just wide enough for a person of medium built. Those with a broader built, however, found it extremely difficult to pass and thus were detained. But they didn't concede. With Colonel Ouyang, nicknamed as Devil Drillmaster, as their training leader, each one of them had gained extensive training. The restricted passageway was a minor complication. They would pass through as long as they had weapons, strength and determination - even if they lost some time and energy.

Soldiers from each team scattered in different parts of the procession, with some in the front and some falling behind. It was impossible for any team to reach the top in their entirety. There were others who had attempted to climb paths of their own that they thought would be more convenient, but only succeeded in proving their foolishness. None of them could find a new way to the top. The wasted time meant they were left much far behind.

The clock ticked away. Daisy got more anxious as each second passed by. She had noticed how some of the soldiers were in danger. They carelessly blundered while trying to step on a secured rock, almost falling off the cliff. Fortunately, their teammates offered timely help and took hold of them in time. Scared out of her breath, Daisy was relieved to see that. Team spirit was exactly what she wanted her soldiers to learn.

Today's training didn't compare to the training she had received at JC Military Academy. These soldiers were big boys serving in the ranks. They didn't need to be trained according to the same standards. Their aims were different; they weren't training to become top elite force members. Finally, she saw a red victory banner being hoisted at the peak of the mountain. The first soldier had reached the top. Daisy's eyes welled up with tears. She was touched by their courage. They had not only defeated others and the hardships of this training, they had also transcended themselves.

Colonel, they made it!" Mark yelled and elated. But his smile froze at the sight of Daisy's red eyes. He looked at her in surprise, wondering what had caused them.

"As long as we have the resolution to do it, there is nothing we can't do. Our soldiers have progressed leaps and bounds today. They've reached a new milestone." Daisy flashed a brilliant smile in relief. If we could surpass our own misgivings, the difficulties meant nothing and success could be within our reach.

The soldiers who stood like giants in the midst of the clouds, acknowledged Daisy at the top of their voices. Their deafening cheers echoed in the valley. They celebrated their success as well as their invincible spirits. A small smile tugged Daisy's mouth as she watched them. It was rare for the soldiers to see their aloof colonel smile. Although young, these soldiers were respectful. They were willing to spend their precious youth training to forge themselves into tough fighters. Their lives were different to those of other youngsters who gaily spent their time playing video games, hanging out with girlfriends and getting spoiled by the love of their parents. Only blood and sweat were what these soldiers had experienced.

Daisy liked hanging out with them. They reminded her of herself, when she was a young ambitious soldier. Her forgotten youth came to life around them. She was inspired by their energy and could always draw the inspiration she needed to drive forward, toward her next higher destination.

In contrast to the harsh training the soldiers had gone through under the unforgiving sun, the upper-class elites led a different life. Edward, as one of them, basked in the cool air of his office. Duke arrived at FX International Group when the working hours had only just begun. Pushing open the doors to Edward's office, Duke startled him. Edward had just started his work. It surprised him to see Duke in his office at such an early hour.

Please don't tell me you have been waiting outside my door, Duke." Edward paused his work as Duke came in. He stood up, walked toward the sofa and threw himself onto it.

"Will you feel sorry for me if I say yes?" Duke walked straight toward the refrigerator and grabbed a drink. He gulped it down in a flash.

"Nope," Edward replied shortly. He wouldn't feel sorry for Duke even if he had been kept waiting outside the whole day.

"A man of no mercy! No, I'm not that stupid." Duke too sank into the sofa comfortably. The cold air in the office relieved him of the heat from his drive earlier.

"So tell me, what happened? How did Belinda get hurt?" Edward stared at Duke, perplexed. Belinda was perfectly fine when they had a meal the other day.

"Oh, God. Don't talk to me about it. I'm the one to blame. We had a quarrel. I was so mad at her, I drove off and left her alone on the beach. She wouldn't have gotten hurt if I had stayed and kept her company. It was all my fault." Belinda's injuries had left Duke with unspoken remorse. It was fortunate that he had returned in time. He wondered what could've happened if he hadn't come back in time. The consequences of it would have been a nightmare he couldn't afford to accept.

Chapter 757: Chapter 756:What A Boring Man (part two)

"Were you out of your mind?! Do you know the kind of place the beach is at night? Don't you have any common sense? It's fine in the day when people come and go, but no one likes to linger after nightfall except for some loafers. It's dangerous for a woman to be there on her own. No matter how mad you were, you shouldn't have ever left her alone there!"

Edward glared at Duke, showing contempt at his carelessness. However, he was no better than Duke when it came to their lovers. He had once left Daisy alone in a forest park and regretted it immediately afterwards. But Daisy was a colonel and by no means was she a woman to be trifled with. But Belinda? She didn't know any fighting skills. Duke had been extremely reckless to leave her alone defenseless.

"My repentance has reached the point of no return. Please don't add to it," Duke asked for mercy. Leaving Belinda alone on that beach had been the greatest mistake of his in his life. He wouldn't ever forget the terrible sight that greeted him when he returned. Belinda had been disheveled and was crying out for help. The drunkard had been approaching her step by step, ignorant of her screams. Her helplessness had stabbed him in the heart. The pain was still fresh. He would have killed himself if anything terrible had happened to her.

"If I don't make a strong enough impression, you would never know how serious this matter is. So, is Belinda okay now?" Edward was worried. Judging from Duke's

demeanor, Belinda's injury must have not been severe, otherwise Duke would have killed that man already.

"She's fine. It was fortunate I returned in time. She has some minor wounds on her body. But psychologically, it has some effect on her." The suffering she would have undergone if he had been even a little late! The thought of it drove Duke crazy.

"That's good. Don't let Daisy know about the accident. If she comes to know of it, she will definitely admonish you and deliver a sermon." Edward shook his head. Men were alike. They were too overconfident to admit to their mistakes, but also reluctant to take advice from women. Their pride in the presence of women was the most important thing to maintain for them. Edward was, of course, the same kind of a man.

"What! I don't think Daisy will do that to me!" Duke exclaimed with a trace of uncertainty. Daisy had indeed warned him before for Belinda's sake. Maybe she would do it again.

"Don't forget who Daisy is. She's a colonel." Edward flashed Duke an evil smile. He would be delighted if another man received a taste of the lectures that Colonel Ouyang usually gave to him. Having been a leader in the army for a long time, she was really good at rebuking people.

"You're right, Edward. I can't let Daisy know about the incident. But news travels fast. I'm prepared for Colonel Ouyang's reprimand. Now, would you tell me what's up with you?" Somehow, Duke was fond of idle talk. He liked prying into others' secrets and usually disguised this peculiar hobby well under his cold demeanor.

"What do you mean? I'm fine. Nothing happened to me!" Edward frowned. Duke's question puzzled him.

"Stop playing tricks on me. Be honest, Edward. You know what I mean. Hero! Why did you ask Jerry to save him?" Duke was fully aware that he might not obtain an answer. But he still couldn't subdue the impulse to ask Edward. He was eager to know his motives behind making such a decision.

"Jerry seems less reliable than before. He should zip up his mouth. I must teach him a lesson for telling you the news," Edward said, as he kicked at one of his legs leisurely. A vicious smile emerged on his lips.

"You can save yourself the trouble of giving a lesson to Jerry. Just tell me why you made such a decision, Edward!" Duke was curious. Wasn't it strange for a man to help his love rival out of trouble? As far as he knew, Edward was too jealous to tolerate the attention of other men toward his wife. Duke needed to know the answer to the question that had been plaguing him all this while.

"I don't know what to say to you," Edward said bitterly. He himself didn't know why he had asked Jerry to help Hero. Hero had fallen in love with his wife. Edward should hate

him. He should have kicked his ass. Instead, he had let Jerry save him. It puzzled Edward himself.

"Damn it! If you want to keep it a secret, Edward, then fine. But stop treating me like a fool!" Duke's teeth clenched. He had forgotten his true purpose of coming here. Edward's affairs had completely distracted him.

"I have no secrets, Duke. It doesn't matter what you think. Did you not come here to get the ointment? You're so interested in my affairs. What would people think, I wonder, if I tell them about this hobby of yours. Nobody will believe the seemingly cold Mr. Leng is such a gossip."

Edward snorted. Duke was a man of few words in the public eye. Edward was surprised each time he took such interest in other people.

"I have almost forgotten. Give me the ointment. I have to get home." Edward's words had reminded Duke why he had come here. He was in a hurry.

"Aren't you interested in my story? Won't you give me a chance to tell you?" Edward blinked at Duke playfully, making fun of his gossipy nature.

"Tell me then! What's the reason?" Duke sighed. He was certain that Edward was just poking fun at him.

"Of course not." As Duke expected, Edward refused him resolutely.

"Obviously, I'm wasting my time here unnecessarily." Duke looked at Edward mockingly. He knew Edward very well. He was an unyielding man who wouldn't tell him anything, even if Duke's lips cracked by pleading to him repeatedly. Why should he waste his time talking nonsense?

"Hmm. It seems you don't have any perseverance. Maybe I'll surrender if you insist a little longer," Edward said as he walked toward his desk. Daisy had brought the ointment to the office once, forgetting that she had left it here. Since she was injured in those days, she always brought it along wherever she went.

"Listen, don't fool me around. I don't believe you. There's no way to persuade you into telling me something you aren't willing to. I won't ask for further humiliation!" Duke touched his nose in defeat as he spoke to Edward. Duke had seldom triumphed over him at anything.

"Well, you are clever enough to know your place. Here you go, the ointment. Use it wisely. It's valuable." Edward tossed the ointment at him, unconcerned about Duke not catching the precious bottle.

"I always know where my place is. I'm a wretched guy with too many disadvantages, but I know better than anybody else what those disadvantages are. That's my greatest boon." Duke caught the ointment carefully. The medicine was important to him. It stood for his last hope, after all.

"Huh. That's your greatest advantage? I think you overestimate yourself! You think knowing about your own weakness can be considered a boon?" Edward sat down in his chair. Curling his lips, he pretended to be annoyed by Duke's ignorance.

"Belittle me as much as you like. I can't linger here for a minute longer. It's just a waste of my time. Bye!" Duke swallowed some water before standing up. He must send the ointment to Belinda as soon as possible.

"Go, please! I have work to do now," Edward spoke, already burying his head between the documents on his desk. He had come to the office a little later than usual, after spending time at the hospital. There was too much work waiting for him.

Duke took the lift and saw Rain outside as soon as its door to the lobby chimed open. Rain dressed like a male peacock in courtship. His odd dressing sense never failed to distinguish him. However, Rain looked so perfect with his strange clothes and make-up, that nobody thought he looked odd.

"Hi! Iceberg Duke! Long time no see! Are you leaving?" Rain whistled at Duke like a rogue, studying him up and down. There was a playful smile on his face.

"Leave me alone. Do you think I'm one of your beloved girlfriends? 'Long time no see'? Use that to start conversations with one of your dull girlfriends. Not with me," Duke spoke coldly as he stepped out of the lift. He had no time to talk rubbish with this playboy in public.

"My heart! What a boring man. You hurt my pure heart." Rain cried exaggeratedly. He laid a hand on his chest to pacify himself. Truthfully, he was a good actor.

Little Duke, are you mad at me? Damn, I can't believe you said I sickened you. Fine, I let you know what I'm capable of. Then you'll really know what it's like to feel sick.

Stop talking to me in that sissy way. Unlike you, I'm not unmanly. Duke hastened his pace as he finished speaking. He'd throw up his breakfast if he lingered around Rain for a second longer. Little Duke! Only he could come up with that disgusting name. Should I call him little Rain in return? Duke thought ridiculously. Absurd!

Chapter 758: Chapter 757: Dinner (part one)

Rain gave him a cunning smile. He didn't expect that Duke would get pissed off so easily. Apparently, Duke was not as indifferent as they said. 'Is he in a bad mood today? Why is he so irritable? Never mind. I'd better go upstairs first,' Rain thought to himself.

Come in, please." Edward was still buried in his papers when he heard the knock on his door. Undoubtedly, he looked handsome in the moment.

"Mr. Mu, here's your schedule for this afternoon. Please take a look. Do you want me to make any changes?" Anna asked as she handed her notebook to Edward. She wore a tight, well-cut suit that showed off her figure.

"Mr. Ouyang? What does he want to see me for?" Edward asked, taking a sip of his coffee as he saw an upcoming appointment with Leo mentioned in Anna's notebook.

"He said he wanted to talk about private matters with you. I told him I would ask you first, Mr. Mu. Do you want me to tell him you're busy?" Anna stole a glance at Edward, unsure about his answer. Leo was Edward's father-in-law, after all.

"No, tell him I'll see him. The schedule is fine by me." Edward shut the notebook, giving it back to Anna. He wondered what Leo was planning to say. Daisy had broken off with him and had asked Edward to ignore him too. However, Edward was unable to treat the father of his beloved wife with indifference.

"Sure! If you don't need me for anything else, sir, I'll take my leave," Anna said respectfully as she gazed at Edward. He was handsome and competent. Anna admired him very much, but she was a wise woman who didn't think unrealistically.

"Wait, C Financial Group faxed me a document. Fetch it for me." Rain should've been the person handling the case of C Financial Group, but he was reluctant to meet anyone from the firm because of Annie. So Edward had to take over the case.

"Of course, Mr. Mu." Anna turned around to walk toward the door. She reached out her hand to turn the knob, but the door bumped open from the outside. Luckily, she dodged the door in time to avoid getting hit.

"Hello! Anna, you look more and more beautiful each day." Rain was flirtatious with a lot of pretty ladies. For him, everything was just a game. That was his attitude toward life.

"Thank you, Mr. Xia." Anna smiled. She was accustomed to Rain's compliments and accepted them gracefully.

"No problem! I spare no efforts in praising beautiful women." Rain flashed her a brilliant smile. From his demeanor, nobody could tell he nursed a broken heart.

"How did it go?" Edward asked Rain, watching him tease Anna.

"You can be sure, that when a veteran goes into action, he can do the job of two." Rain tossed the document at him with a smug look. It fell on the table in front of Edward.

"Great! The construction will begin next week. We must ensure quality is maintained. If anything goes wrong, Daisy will be implicated." Edward perused the document and smiled satisfactorily.

"Don't worry. I know what you're fearing. Look at the previous projects; no one dared to cheat or cut down on materials. They don't brew plots when it comes to you," Rain stated with a smile. No one would dare to conspire when a military project was involved. It was a serious crime and the doer could be put to death.

"We'd better pay more attention to the construction. I know there is limited profit when a military project is concerned, but this is a serious matter. It should be handled with care." Edward put the document aside. He attached great importance to the project despite the low revenue. He didn't want to put Daisy in a difficult position.

"Edward, if you don't trust me, why don't you oversee the construction by yourself?" Rain teased as he sank into an armchair. He crossed his legs, looking rather lazy.

"I can oversee the construction as long as you take over the C Financial Group case. Are you fine with that?" Edward smiled slyly. He was pleased to take Rain down a notch.

"Forget it. I'd rather work with the soldiers," Rain said, feeling out of spirits at the mention of anything related to Annie.

"Come on, Rain. If you miss her so much, why don't you go find her?" Edward shook his head in resignation. If Rain was determined to find Annie, he had thousands of ways of doing it. But Rain's damned honor wouldn't allow him to do that.

"What would I do if I find her? Can I force her to fall in love with me? Don't forget, she left me without a single word."

Rain didn't believe Annie loved him, even though she had given up her valued virginity to him. He acted out his feelings of inferiority by passing himself off as a playboy. Rain might seem cheery and light-hearted to people, but inside, his heart was lonely and miserable. He was accustomed to taking on a new persona - that must have something to do with his family and upbringing.

How do you know she doesn't love you? Did you ask her in person? Lovers break up because of misunderstandings. You should find her and make everything clear." Edward leaned back in his chair. He wanted this discussion to be thorough.

Edward, just imagine. Would you ever vanish from Daisy's life without a word?" Rain always made countless excuses for Annie, but none of them were convincing enough. He couldn't figure out why she left. Maybe in her own way, she wanted to tell him she didn't love him.

"Has it ever occurred to you that she might have misunderstood you because of something you did?" Edward asked, rapping the table with his index finger. He didn't know women that well, but he knew that there was no smoke without fire. He believed Annie had her own reasons for leaving without an explanation.

"What did I do for her to misunderstand? When she was in S City, I wasn't seeing any other woman." Rain felt like he was wronged. His usually bright countenance had turned sad.

"Maybe it was your casual actions she misunderstood, that you don't take note of. I think you should seek her out and clear the air," Edward suggested. He was a man who had gone through similar experiences. Daisy and him had gone through many misunderstandings. Fortunately, they always emerged through them.

"If she truly loved me, she would have talked it out first instead of leaving without an explanation. She practically gave me a death sentence!" Rain raised his voice in frustration. He wanted to move on, but her smile kept flashing across his mind.

Come on! Don't you know, women are emotional beings? Maybe she was afraid about what you'd say. Do you think she'd have been able to swallow her pride and plead for your love?" Even a man like Edward had been unable to forgo his dignity to ask for Daisy's love in the past. Annie, on the other hand, was a shy woman.

"Damn it, Edward, since when have you become an expert in love? Is it because of Daisy?" Rain changed the subject, avoiding to answer the question. He was in the habit of evading any matters related to Annie.

"Fuck off, Rain. Don't try to sidetrack me. You really deserve to be alone." Edward knew him well. Rain obviously didn't want to continue the conversation, so he dropped the matter.

Chapter 759: Chapter 758: Dinner (part two)

"I want to announce that you are no longer my best buddy!" Declaring thus, Rain walked over to the desk to pick up the document he had brought before leaving the office. He was upset over Edward's words and had to find a quiet place to get over the hurt.

As he watched Rain's receding figure, Edward sighed with profound resignation. When Rain was unable to straighten himself out, he was deaf to others' advice. Edward could only remind him of the possibilities, but it all depended on Rain himself.

It was late afternoon and the sun was low in the sky. Belinda was awestruck by the wedding dress in front of her. The white dress was adorned with Swarovski pearls and perfectly cut crystal beads that glowed in the bright light. She was eager to try it on, but the medicine was still fresh on her wounds. She could only imagine how she'd look in the dress.

"Belinda, what do you think? Do you like it?" Leena was proud of her masterpiece and eager to see Belinda's reaction.

"I love it! Leena, thank you so much!" Belinda was so delighted that she could hardly bear to put down the dress. She couldn't believe she was getting married soon.

"I'm glad you like it. I spent a lot of time and energy on it." Leena grinned. She was thrilled her work was appreciated.

"What? You mean you made this dress all by yourself?" Belinda widened her eyes at Leena. Duke had told her before that she wasn't yet fully able to undertake such a task alone.

"Of course! I designed it and selected the materials. Unfortunately, there was no similar cloth in the country, so I sent the drawing to a friend of mine in Paris and asked her to make it for me. Look at these pearls and beads! I sewed them myself." Leena touched the gleaming material softly with a satisfied smile.

"Wow, you're brilliant! Why did your brother tell me you haven't finished your apprenticeship yet?" Belinda asked in confusion. She loved the wedding dress so much. It was both fashionable and graceful. To her, it looked like it was made by a top designer.

"Well, this dress is only for practice." Leena smiled awkwardly. She didn't elaborate. It would be hard for her to explain.

"Wow! Leena, you have a promising future in the industry," Belinda complimented her graciously. The wedding dress was indeed wonderful.

"Thank you, Belinda. If the dress doesn't fit you, let me know," Leena said as she looked at Belinda's figure. The dress should fit her well, unless she put on or lost significant weight in the short time.

"You have my size. I don't think there will be any problem. Let's go downstairs and have food." Belinda put the wedding dress on its hanger and went downstairs with Leena.

"Why hasn't Duke come back yet?" Leena asked in confusion when she saw an empty dining room.

Oh, he has dinner with his colleagues this evening. There's no need for us to wait on him. Let's eat together," Belinda explained with a smile. It wasn't uncommon to have dinner with co-workers. Belinda herself had dinners or went to the club with colleagues.

"I think Duke hates having dinner with colleagues. I've rarely known him do so. There must be something wrong," Leena frowned doubtfully.

"I have no idea about that. Just leave it be." Belinda didn't like getting to the bottom of things. When Duke informed her he was going to have dinner with his colleagues, she didn't question it so thoroughly.

Belinda clearly didn't want to discuss it further, so Leena just sat down and ate her meal. She had to go back to work. After dinner, Leena took her leave.

Meanwhile, Duke had been forced into having dinner with the employees of the Sales Department. They arrived at a Korean Restaurant, where Rachel sat beside Duke.

"Duke, here's to you." Rachel raised her glass with glee. She even called him by his name in front of the other colleagues.

"Thank you." Though Duke disliked her straightforwardness, he lifted his glass to hers and swallowed the booze. His handsome face still looked as cold as ice.

A lot of the female employees of the company had crushes on the handsome, rich and young boss. Duke never smiled at them, so they weren't courageous enough to show their affections. They could only sneak glances at him from time to time.

The colleagues hadn't expected Rachel, the new girl, to successfully invite Duke to have dinner with them. Duke had never participated in company activities before. The girls were suspicious that there was something going on between Rachel and him. When Rachel called Duke by his name, they got even more curious.

"Come on! We should all drink a toast to our boss." Rachel was only a group leader in the company, but she was well-educated and had occupied a top position before. She was good at social activities and breaking the ice.

At Rachel's suggestion, the female employees could hardly sit still. They were having dinner with Duke for the first time, so they took this opportunity to drink with him. Even the male colleagues began to make a toast to Duke.

Duke took several glasses of wine. Upon seeing his flushed face, Rachel smiled slyly. She planned to get him drunk and then, she would have a go.

Duke might look arrogant, but he was a soft man deep inside. He refused nobody and gulped down the alcohol. Luckily, the employees knew not to go too far. Each of them only had one glass of wine with Duke.

"Duke, try this. It tastes great!" Rachel picked up a piece of meat with her chopsticks and lifted it to Duke's mouth. The others widened their eyes at the gesture. They wondered if Mr. Leng and his girlfriend, who was the president of YS Financial Group, had broken up? Was Rachel Mr. Leng's new girlfriend? Why did they look so close?

"Help yourself. Don't mind me," Duke said with a frown. He was annoyed at Rachel's actions, but he didn't want to embarrass her in front of so many people. He picked up his chopsticks and took a piece of the beef by himself.

Rachel was not discouraged by Duke's reaction. She kept feigning to be close with Duke by leaning against him and trying to make him taste the dishes. The others had started to question if Rachel was Duke's new girlfriend, and that was exactly what she wanted. She wanted them to cook up stories so that Belinda would get suspicious.

Rachel didn't care that Duke was about to get married. She wouldn't pass any chance to drive a wedge between Duke and Belinda. According to Rachel, only she could be Duke's wife. They were made for each other. Belinda was boring and didn't hold a candle to her. Belinda didn't deserve to stand by his side.

Boss were going to club later. Would you like to join us? A girl asked Duke with a hopeful expression. She was nervous that Duke would say no.

Yes! Boss please come with us. The others echoed the sentiment. It might feel uneasy being around Duke, but each of them fantasized about a romantic time with this handsome man.

Chapter 760: Chapter 759: She Doesn't Love Me (part one)

"Duke, please say yes! You see, they are all hoping that you can come with us. You don't often take part in such a gathering after all. Since you're already here, I think it's okay to meet their demands this time, right?" Rachel said in a soft tone. She was persuading Duke on behalf of all the colleagues. But in her mind, she wished she could attach herself to Duke twenty-four hours every day.

Duke raised his head, with his gaze sweeping rapidly on the crowd. His refusal was on the tip of his tongue but he hesitated when he saw the yearning eyes from all his subordinates. For a moment, Duke felt a little embarrassed. Of course, as a CEO, he could ignore their kind invitation. Because he was dining with them here. Such dinner gathering was rare for him before, and in his mind, it already inspired their team spirit. However, also as a successful leader, he had to consider the feelings of employees. So, such a proposal really placed him in a dilemma.

"All right! I'll go with you all. But I can only stay for a while." Sometimes a compromise was not a sign of weakness. It could also mean a wiser and more sophisticated decision. What you obtained was usually more than what you lost. This saying best described the current Duke's situation.

"Hurray!" The crowd burst into cheers upon hearing what Duke said and became more casual with their CEO. Their feeling of constrained was gone. Rachel also felt happy

with Duke's decision. As far as Rachel was concerned, she still could influence Duke's decision and thought that he might still have some affections to her. She exhaled mildly with a glamorous smile on her face. Joy Karaoke was S City's top KTV. It was also one of the favorite places of many upper-class people. They just wanted to go to a normal level KTV at first. However, their CEO's persistence led them to stand before that supreme KTV. Duke was not showing off. He just felt uncertain about the safety problem with normal KTVs.

"Thank you very much for your hard work recently. I am always very proud of having professional colleagues with me. You have contributed a lot to the success of our company. It will be a happy night for us. Enjoy yourself. Have fun as much as you can. I will pay all the bill. You deserve it." Duke said as he proposed a toast to them. He seldom came to the KTV. He normally went to the Sexy World with Edward and other guys. It was only when they wanted to relax that they came here to roar a bit. He wasn't good at singing. Rain was the karaoke master in their group who never let the microphone go once he got the chance to sing.

"Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Leng." The box was full of cheers after Duke's opening speech. Such a treatment was so precious that all the people in the room felt excited. They were even much happier at this point than when they got bonuses.

Duke smiled, with his mouth twitching slightly. He suddenly envied them and their simple happiness. These were the joys of ordinary people's life, something he wasn't privileged with as he was from a higher place.

"Mr. Leng! Don't just sit there. Come and join us. Why not sing a song?" One man asked bravely. People were usually like that after having some alcohol. They would act like crazy and forget their fears. Duke's employees started to cheer for him to sing a song. It was not difficult to imagine how they would regret their actions the next day. However, they were all heroes, asking their cold CEO to sing a song that night.

"No. No. I am not good at singing. You sing and I listen. It is already a fun for me to see so many great singers in our company. Go ahead. Don't pay much attention to me. Have fun!" Duke waved his hand and said No. It would be fine for him to sing before his close friends. But to sing in front of his subordinates? Definitely No. It would be too embarrassing and he had an image to maintain before them.

Duke, would you mind singing a song with me?" Rachel was undoubtedly good at finding opportunities to show how close she was to Duke even before Duke could notice. Everyone there would think that they had an intimate relationship after the evening, "Sorry, Rachel, but I don't want to sing. I would be fine just sitting here. You can play with them. Enjoy." Duke shifted to the side, deliberately moving away from Rachel. He could still remember what Rachel said that afternoon. They could not be lovers ever but they could still be friends. He would not accept today's invitation if not because of those words. However, how she behaved made him confused. It seemed

that Rachel wanted to pursue his love again. It was impossible. He would never give Rachel any chance. The past could only be ... a past.

"Aren't we still friends? It would be fine for friends to sing a song, right? Aren't you going to give me a chance? Just a song." Rachel murmured to Duke, in a soft and pleading way. She felt embarrassed at his refusal. She used what she said before in hope of Duke changing his mind.

"Mr. Leng. Why not just sing a love song with Rachel? I will help you find one and play." Cheering was a common party scene. It didn't matter whether Duke agreed or not, the man selected a song for them. A famous love song by two pop stars started filling the room. It was "That year, this day". It seemed that the man who suggested just picked the song randomly. The lyrics of the song was about the lost love between a young couple who were happy before but then started having misunderstandings that led them to break up. The couple met again after many years in that song and remembered their good times together. They regretted that they broke up but then, they could never turn back time anymore. What a coincidence! That was just similar to Duke and Rachel's first love!

"That year, you can't bring it to today. It doesn't matter who was right and who was wrong in that year." Duke couldn't help but frown once the microphone was already crammed in his hand. He wanted to refuse again but hesitated when the song began. The melody and lyrics had brought him back to the deepest part of the past memory. He clearly knew about the affection he had once for Rachel. That was a young impulse. However, as many years passed, he had slowly let that love fade out of his life together with those memories.

Duke was still in the middle of his thoughts when the crowd noticed their CEO was holding the microphone. They cheered for Duke to sing. It was hard for him to disregard the happiness of the crowd. Soon enough and he started singing against his will. "This day can't back to that year." The sentence was same as what Duke felt. Rachel was still Rachel, and he was still who he was. But the affection was different. Rachel was no longer his love.

Duke's voice was low and deep. Unlike his cold looks, his song was full of tenderness. He was indulged in the music. "Perhaps the limit of a love for a man is to believe forever." That was the part where his thoughts and the song's lyrics opposed. How long was forever? He never dreamed of forever. He just wanted to cherish every day with Belinda.

Rachel affectionately gazed at Duke. Duke was an excellent and handsome man. His eyes were shining brightly. He was gentle and considerate. The more she found out Duke's brilliance, the less willing she felt to let him go. This wonderful man should belong to her. Why let other woman rob him? She could not accept that.

The whole room was quiet except for the duet. Everyone's attention was fixed on them. Some even brought out their mobile phones to capture the wonderful moment.

The crowd burst into a warm applause after the song. Duke was suddenly shy. He wasn't the type of CEO to blush in public but this was his first time to sing in front of people. He felt uneasy throughout the whole song. It was fortunate that Rachel was good at singing and made up for his shortcomings.

The party atmosphere heightened after a while. The alcohol was always an indispensable and the crowd started to toast to each other. Almost everyone had a toast to Duke. It was difficult to say no and he had much more wine than he had expected. People in the room got more and more excited as they were stimulated by the drink. Some people were playing tricks. Some were dancing to the music. Some were singing or rather shouting. What a crazy world. It was rare to see these white-collar elites in frenzy with their top collar button loosely opened. It was very noisy.

Duke pressed his temples as he felt dizzy. He had drunk too much wine in the restaurant and that KTV. He raised his hand to see the time and noticed that it was time for him to go home. He quietly walked out of the room. However, to his surprise, Rachel followed him.

"Where are you going, Duke?" Rachel did not drink much wine as all her attention was on Duke every minute. She immediately noticed that Duke was about to go and she followed him outside.

"It is very late. I must go home. You can continue to play with them. Have fun. I'll go first." He went straight to the reception and asked them to put the whole fee for tonight to his account.

You had too much drink tonight. Why not let me send you back? Rachel held his arm to support his shakey body. That was the first time she held him again after many years. She could not help but remember the time when they first met. She never knew that Duke was the heir of the Leng Group. Duke used to live in a small apartment when they were in love. She really wanted to take that night's chance to know where the real Leng house was located and how it looked like.