

CEO Daddy 661

Chapter 661 I Am On A Diet

“Gwen, where are you?”

Gwendolyn checked her surroundings. After making sure Zayden wasn't nearby, she answered, “I'm out of the office at the moment to deliver some documents.”

They had no idea she was the CEO of Solstice Group since she had only told them about working in the design department. They assumed she was a low-rank employee of the company.

“Come to the Surrington residence, or do you want me to pick you up?”

Taken aback by his sudden request, she asked, “Did something happen?”

Having skipped Hans' birthday celebration, she was worried about explaining her absence.

“I'll come and pick you up, then. You'll know once we get there.”

Gwendolyn hurriedly answered, “It's all right. I'll head there straight away since I'm driving.”

She entered the elevator and pressed the button for the first floor. When the elevator doors slid open, she saw Liam and the others enter the elevator next to her.

They didn't see her when she stepped out of the elevator and walked toward the hall.

After taking a few steps, she ran into Alice, Hector, and Felicia.

Felicia was holding Alice's hand, and the trio seemed to be in a good mood, talking and laughing along the way.

It looks like Patrick is leaving the hospital today, and they're here to fetch him.

It was already too late when she tried to hide. Alice had an amused smile on her face when she spotted Gwendolyn.

“Gwen...”

Gwendolyn had no choice but to greet them.

“Hello, Old Mr. and Mrs. Lowen.”

Felicia's expression turned sour at Gwendolyn's appearance.

“Gwen, are you looking forward to Grandpa's death since you come to the hospital every day?”

They thought Gwendolyn was aiming for a portion of family assets since she visited Michael daily.

Gwendolyn's expression changed slightly. “I'm not one of you guys.”

Hector cast an impassive glance at Gwendolyn, realizing she was quite bold and good at returning snappy remarks.

He had been there, so he could discern who visited him with a sincere heart.

Pat visited me every day. How could Fel say something so unpleasant and curse an elder?

He asked, “How long has it been since you last visited your grandpa, Fel?”

Felicia finally realized she had misspoken. It was a slip of her tongue from how agitated she got by running into Gwendolyn.

“I visited him yesterday.”

Truth be told, it had been a month since she last visited Michael because he had been getting better. Members of the Ashton family had lost their composure and patience with his improving health.

Hector smiled. "That's great!"

When Alice spoke to Gwendolyn, she held the latter's hand.

"Why have you lost weight, Gwen?"

I think Pat has also lost a lot of weight. These two kids haven't been doing well.

"I'm on a diet, Old Mrs. Lowen. I think I look great! Do I not look prettier now?"

Gwendolyn beamed. She hadn't smiled so brightly in a long time.

Alice patted her hand. "Pat is getting discharged today, and we're here to pick him up. If..."

She didn't continue as the words got stuck in her throat.

Naturally, Gwendolyn understood her unfinished question. After all, it was fantastic news that Patrick had finally recovered and could leave the hospital after being unconscious for such a long time.

She would have surely fetched him too if it were in the past. However, it was a scene she didn't dare to imagine now.

"You should get going, Old Mrs. Lowen. We don't want him losing his patience from waiting too long."

Alice headed for the elevator. Hector was probably in a good mood since he didn't put Alice in a difficult position. He generously stood by the elevator and waited for Alice.

Gwendolyn watched as they entered the elevator. Once the doors close, she let out a sigh and left the hospital. She got into her car and drove to the Surrington residence.

While she was parking her car, another car had also just slid into a parking spot, and three children got out of it.

“Mommy!” Juliette called out and dashed to her side.

Chapter 662 May I Suggest A Divorce

Gwendolyn was slightly taken aback. What are they doing here at the Surrington residence too?

“What brings you here?” she asked, caressing Juliette's face.

Her question was directed at the boys, who were easy to communicate with because they could think clearly.

Julian glanced at the main building. “Well, Mr. Zayden wants the family to know that we exist.”

Justin nodded in agreement, whereas an oblivious Juliette continued to cling to Gwendolyn.

“Can you take me to KFC today, Gwen? It's been so long.”

Children seemed to like such food.

Gwendolyn fell into thought as she appeared despondent. I've been so busy for the past few months that I haven't spent much time with them. Well, since Zayden's helped us take a day off, I'll take them out when we leave the Surrington residence.

“Okay.”

Juliette was overjoyed. “Yay!”

At that moment, the Surrington family butler and a few housekeepers approached them. “Good day, Ms. Gwendolyn. Mr. Zayden has asked us to come and get you.”

Gwendolyn wasn't sure what Zayden intended with this.

Suzanne stood among the housekeepers and rushed over to Gwendolyn's side.

“Gwen, you're here!”

The young lady used to be so fearful of the Surringtons, but now, she seemed to have grown accustomed to this place and enjoyed coming here.

“Yeah.”

Gwendolyn nodded, unaware of the affair between Suzanne and Zayden.

All the members of the Surrington family were already present when Gwendolyn and the children arrived.

Candace's cousin and the wife of Zayden's uncle, Diana, was there too. Zayden's uncle was the one managing Surrington Corporation when Zayden had problems with his vision.

Now that Zayden was back at work, the couple was obviously not too thrilled.

Diana, in particular, had the same scowl as Candace upon seeing Gwendolyn. It was no surprise they were family.

After greeting each member, Gwendolyn and the children sat down next to Zayden.

“What are you doing?” she whispered to him.

Zayden smiled. “I've summoned you all here today to let you know that Gwen's children are also my children. I want you to treat them as such.”

Before this, only Angeline and Diana knew of the children's existence, but Diana had stayed quiet so as to avoid any trouble.

Now that Zayden had made the announcement himself, she couldn't help but feel amused.

Are you serious, Gwendolyn? Your kids don't even have the Surrington family's blood, and you're asking us to treat them like actual family?

“What an idiot,” the woman muttered to herself.

Gwendolyn was surprised. What is Zayden planning?

“What? She has three children of her own?” Hans yelled. “What kind of woman have you married?”

Greta was just as stunned. “How could you allow this to happen to you, Zay?”

The way everyone looked at Gwendolyn was as though she had deceived Zayden. How could a woman like her be worthy of the heir of the Surrington family?

Gwendolyn bit her lip, wanting to leave with the children. She refused to let others scrutinize and judge

her like this.

Soren slammed a hand on the table. “What is the meaning of this? Why didn't you tell us sooner?”

Zayden's lips curved slightly. “It wouldn't have made a difference, Dad. I would've married her whether or not you guys agreed to it.”

This was his decision, and he would never let this woman go.

The living room erupted into chaos as everyone pointed fingers at Gwendolyn and her three children.

Finally, the woman stood up firmly. “Since all of you think I'm not worthy of Zayden because I already have children of my own, may I suggest a divorce?”

Zayden was the one who had tricked her, telling her that he was blind.

She had only agreed to marry him so he could get better.

Chapter 663 We Are Here With You

Upon hearing this, Zayden grabbed her hand immediately.

“Did I say anything about a divorce?” He then leaned into her ear, whispering, “If you ever bring up that word again, I’ll send your three kids out of the country, and you’ll never see them again.”

Gwendolyn stared at him icily. He was becoming more terrifying with each passing day.

He used to treat only her like this, but now, he was starting to bring the children into the picture too.

The woman clenched her teeth. “You wouldn’t dare...”

“You know how close the kids are to me, Gwen. I can do whatever I want to them with a snap of a finger.”

Gwendolyn felt her stomach drop. He’s right. He watched them grow up.

She had also told her own children that Zayden was their savior, so they had to always treat him well and respect him.

But he’s become such a monster. Can I tell them that? They’re still so young. Would they be able to take it? Hell, even I can’t! How did he end up like this?

She had never resisted when he hit her simply because she couldn’t accept the truth of the situation. It was only after feeling the pain that realization dawned on her—Zayden was no longer the person he

once was.

Is he doing all this today just to threaten me not to leave?

Angeline turned to her.

“How could you bring up a divorce, Gwen? Zayden’s such an amazing young man. He’s never even thought about divorcing you, but here you are, wanting to leave him?”

Everyone turned to Gwendolyn in an instant.

“That’s wrong of you to say that, Gwen. You hid the fact that you have children, so we simply expressed our discontentment with that. You didn’t have to go so far as to talk about wanting to divorce him.”

“Yeah! What’s with your threats? Do you think you’re some maiden surrounded by other men? You will have a hard time getting married again if you leave Zayden.”

“Just be grateful that you got to be married into the Surrington family!”

Gwendolyn didn't have the power or courage to retaliate. Her children had always been her Achilles heel, and she would never let them be in any form of danger.

Zayden smirked internally when he saw what was happening.

“Don't think I don't know what you're up to, Gwendolyn. You're thinking of leaving me now that Patrick's woken up, aren't you? Well, that's never going to happen.”

He suddenly rose to his feet and held onto her.

An insidious smile crept across his face as he pulled her in.

“That's enough, everyone. Gwen is the woman I love most, and now, she's my wife. Her children are my children, so please treat them with respect.” He then turned to Hans. “This is all I wanted to say, Grandpa. Congratulations on having three more great-grandchildren. The Surrington family has expanded!”

Hans was so exasperated that he nearly passed out.

“Calm down, Hans!” Greta said, holding onto him. “Zay's just lost himself over a woman for now.”

“You ingrate! Are you trying to give your grandfather a heart attack?” Soren bellowed at his son.

Juliette began to cry in fright. “Mommy! Stop picking on my mommy!”

The two boys consoled her immediately, “Don't cry, Juliette. We're here with you.”

The poor girl had never been in such a situation where they were under the watchful eyes of people who also wouldn't stop criticizing her mother.

Gwendolyn's face clouded over as she walked toward Juliette and wiped her tears.

“Let's get out of here.”

She took her daughter's hand and left, with Justin and Julian following them closely.

The boys didn't care about such things at all.

If it weren't for Zayden, they probably would have left with their mother and sister long ago.

However, this man was their savior, and Gwendolyn had told them to respect him and his family.

“Why hasn't Patrick come and get us?” Julian asked the moment they arrived outside.

No one would dare treat us like this with him around, but why doesn't he know anything?

Chapter 664 A Classic Male Model Shoot

After departing from the Surrington residence and settling into her car, Gwendolyn glanced back at the rear seat.

“I'm sorry for putting all of you through such an embarrassing situation today.”

Gwendolyn had always tried to shield her three children from such experiences.

She had tried so hard to protect them. Even though their lives were getting better, she couldn't help but feel that it was still worse off than before.

She used to be able to confront the Ashtons, ensuring her children were not subjected to scrutiny.

But now, she felt powerless.

Zayden was indeed their savior.

Yet, he was also the one who had led them into this difficult situation. Now, she was at a loss.

She buried her head in the steering wheel, suddenly overwhelmed by the darkness of an uncertain future. The path ahead seemed devoid of hope.

What am I supposed to do? How can I find a way out of this darkness and embrace a brighter tomorrow?

Justin reached out, gently stroking her hair. "Mommy, we will be fine. Juliette will soon forget about what happened. As long as we have you, that's all that matters."

Gwendolyn raised her head and forced a smile.

"Thank you boys for always being there for me."

She didn't think she could have lasted without them.

She was particularly sad to see that Patrick had forgotten about her.

She knew it was her own doing. She had chosen to let him go in the past, and now she was facing the consequences.

At the hospital, Patrick had already changed into his own clothes. He was in a sleek black tailored suit, making him appear even more dignified and serious.

His long, slender legs and narrow waist accentuated his overall charm. Every casual frown or gesture seemed like a pose from a classic male model shoot.

The three women in the room were utterly captivated by him. Their gazes remained fixed on his figure.

Jocelyn was dressed in a white coat today, looking fresh and professional.

She smiled and said, "Patrick, congratulations on your recovery!"

"Thank you for your help," he replied calmly.

If Jocelyn had not shown up, he might have passed away.

He was considered warm as he acknowledged her presence.

Felicia, who stood by the side, was utterly mesmerized by him. She had never anticipated that the man would appear even more handsome after regaining consciousness.

His face has become sharper and more defined. His chiseled look is like a masterpiece carved by the gods. He is the epitome of earthly perfection.

Her heart fluttered in excitement.

Luckily, I didn't give up. I will never let go of such a handsome man.

Felicia held a bouquet of flowers and approached Patrick with a warm smile. "Congratulations on your discharge."

Patrick glanced at her and the flowers in her hands. He said flatly, "Liam."

His assistant quickly stepped forward and accepted the flowers from Felicia. “Thank you, Ms. Ashton!”

Feeling a bit disheartened, Felicia bit her lip and stole a glance at Hector.

Thankfully, with his support, she emerged as the ultimate victor. Although the three women in the ward had feelings for Patrick, she won the Lowen family's support.

Rosalie flashed a wide smile and walked over to Patrick's side.

“You've become even more handsome, Pat! Who would've thought that a hospital stay could enhance your looks so much? I wonder how many women you'll enchant after your discharge.” She couldn't help but sigh in admiration.

The man merely curved his lips in a faint smile. “Thank you all for your concern. I have to head to the company now. I won't be able to treat you to a meal today. I will host a banquet three days later to express my gratitude to everyone.” He glanced at the clock. “Grandpa, Grandma, I need to attend a meeting.”

The recent incident involving Patrick had caused quite a stir in the business world, and many people had set their eyes on Lowen Group.

The company's stocks plummeted, and they lost several projects.

Once Patrick regained consciousness, he immediately immersed himself in work. Even on the day of his discharge, he was eager to attend a meeting.

He was determined to efficiently manage Lowen Group and prove to those who targeted it that they could not bring the company down.

Chapter 665 One Million

Hector did not voice any objections. In fact, he was pleased with his grandson's dedication to work. He believed that career should be a man's top priority.

“Go ahead. Just don't overwork yourself.”

In contrast, Alice was unhappy to watch Patrick leave.

“He's just feeling better and now he's rushing off to work. You're too harsh on him, Hector,” she chastised.

Even though Alice empathized that Hector had to handle everything himself if no one else could, she could not help but feel sorry for Patrick.

Hector held her hand and replied, “It's his destiny. There's nothing we can do about it. Life won't be as hard for him once he has more children in the future.”

He became anxious as he thought of his great-grandchildren.

If Patrick didn't wake up, it would mean the end of the Lowen family's lineage.

That was his greatest fear. However, Patrick still refused to give in.

He was not getting any younger but still had no children.

Men naturally have their needs, and he couldn't believe Patrick was still a virgin at his age.

Rosalie picked up her bag and said, “Old Mr. and Mrs. Lowen, I'm heading to work now. Please be careful on your way out.”

She had a natural talent for connecting with old people and shared a close relationship with Linda.

Alice and Linda were childhood friends, so their bond was strong.

Alice always treated Rosalie like her granddaughter.

“There's no need to worry about us. Go about your work and send my regards to your grandma!”

Rosalie chuckled in response. “My grandma always talks about wanting to go shopping with you. She was concerned you might not be in the mood before, but now she's thrilled to know she can invite you anytime!”

The delightful exchange brought a smile to Alice's face. “I understand. I'd be more than happy to accept her invitation!”

Soon after, Rosalie, Jocelyn, and Kevin left.

Felicia glanced at the bouquet of flowers she had brought which was left on the nightstand, feeling utterly disappointed.

Had she known he would wake up so quickly, she would have stayed diligently by his side.

Now, it seemed that she had missed the opportunity.

Hector got up and said to Alice, “Let's go home. Everything is fine now.”

“Grandpa, let me accompany you home.” Felicia quickly came to assist him.

When Hector saw her, he smiled and said, “Fel, you've worked hard these past few months. Take care of yourself, and pamper yourself a little. Now that Pat has regained consciousness, your task is to win him over and bear me a few great-grandchildren as soon as possible.”

While speaking, he signaled Zachariah to pass him a check.

“This is for you. Go buy something you like.”

Felicia shook her head.

“Grandpa, I'm willing to do all this for Pat. I like him. I don't need any money.”

Hector insisted, “Be good and treat yourself a little.” He forcefully stuffed the check into her hand.

In terms of looks, Felicia couldn't compare to Gwendolyn. Hector hoped she would put some effort to beautify herself.

Alice looked at the check. Why is he giving her money? I was the one who took care of Pat, not her.

As she thought about how Felicia had bossed around the housekeeper and had never taken care of Patrick, she couldn't help but feel frustrated.

However, she chose not to share these concerns with Hector, fearing it would disappoint him.

After all, he seemed quite satisfied with Felicia. Moreover, Patrick had been in a vulnerable state. Revealing Felicia's true colors might be too much for him.

Now, Alice wished she had disclosed this earlier.

If she chose to reveal the truth now, Hector might think that she was jealous.

Felicia accepted the check and said, "Thank you, Grandpa! I promise to make good use of this money."

She had never expected to earn money when Patrick was unconscious. One million was her pocket money for an entire year.

Chapter 666 A Gateway To Happiness

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Gwendolyn had been diligently learning about fashion design, and her innate talent in the field made her designs highly sought after by the company's design department.

As Solstice Group owned the high-end luxury clothing brand, Gwendolyn's designs often became limited-edition pieces, with no more than ten of each design being produced worldwide.

Suddenly, a familiar voice called out, "Gwen..."

Gwendolyn looked up and broke into a smile.

Lucy had arrived with her daughter Melenie.

The letter ran over to Gwendolyn's side and asked excitedly, "Ms. Gwen, are Juliette and the boys here too?"

Melenie had put on some weight, shedding her previous thin and weak appearance. She had transformed into a beautiful little princess with striking features reminiscent of Lucy's captivating beauty.

Gwendolyn gently caressed Melenie's face and complimented her, "Sweetheart, you look absolutely gorgeous today!"

After leaving the Surrington residence, Gwendolyn brought her children to the kid's castle in the mall.

Juliette loved playing there. Although her two older brothers found it a bit boring, they happily accompanied their younger sister.

Inside the castle, the kids immersed themselves in play, giving Gwendolyn some time to sit in the parents' rest area. She sipped her coffee and occasionally glanced at her laptop to review her company's latest project. It was a field she once knew little about, but now she could understand it and even offer some valuable insights.

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“Thank you!” Melanie grinned.

Gwendolyn gestured toward the castle and said, “Look, the three of them are there. Why don't you go and join them?”

With the boys taking care of the two little girls, Gwendolyn and Lucy felt at ease knowing they were in good hands.

Lucy settled beside Gwendolyn and couldn't help but glance at her laptop.

“Working at this hour?”

Gwendolyn kept the laptop and supported her face with one hand.

“Yes! I don't want to disappoint Ms. Sanders. I can't let this company go bust since she entrusted it to me. Besides, it's a gift for her daughter.”

Lucy chuckled. “She treats you like her own daughter. You should definitely manage the company well.”

As they continued their light-hearted conversation, Gwendolyn felt all her previous worries vanish in the comforting presence of her best friend.

Just then, Lucy's phone rang. It was a call from Lucas. She chose to ignore the call for the moment.

Gwendolyn noticed the call and teased, “Why aren't you answering it?”

Lucy let out a sigh. “My contract with him has ended, but that guy does not seem to want to end our relationship. He still hangs around my place and searches for me everywhere if he can't find me. I'm not a child. I won't get lost.”

Unlike Juliette, who still had a bit of baby fat, Melanie was tall and slender with well-defined facial features. Even though she was young, she exuded a charming aura.

The exasperation was evident on her face as she regarded Lucas as nothing more than an immature child.

Amused by her friend's situation, Gwendolyn teased, “Luce, as someone who's been through it, I advise you to take matters of the heart seriously. When it comes to marriage, you should only marry the man you genuinely love.”

Lucy raised an eyebrow and looked intently at her. “Been through it? I've been through it too. When I reminded you before, you didn't listen. Now you've realized it too?”

Feeling uneasy under her friend's intense gaze, Gwendolyn said, “We were talking about you. Leave me out of this.”

She couldn't discuss her current situation with anyone.

After sipping on Gwendolyn's coffee, Lucy said, “How are things between you and Zayden after getting married? You've been unavailable for the past few months. You've lost weight. Is he treating you poorly?”

Many women in Avenport were envious of Gwendolyn for marrying into the prestigious Surrington family.

After all, the Surrington family held a prominent position as the second-largest family in the city, boasting a noble aristocratic lineage that spanned several centuries.

Zayden, with his striking looks and impressive abilities, was seen as the epitome of a desirable partner. Becoming his wife was considered a gateway to happiness for any woman.

Chapter 667 An Extramarital Affair

As Gwendolyn gazed at Lucy's hopeful expression, she fell into a momentary silence.

“He hasn't been treating you well, has he? That can't be! He used to be so good to you,” Lucy asked with genuine concern.

Gwendolyn thought about her six years with Zeyden. He had showered her with unwavering love and care.

Hence, she had chosen to stay by his side after he went blind.

While Gwendolyn knew her heart belonged to Petrick, she couldn't bring herself to abandon Zeyden. To do so would have been ungrateful and heartless.

Beck then, she had been prepared to take care of Zeyden for a lifetime.

However, he regained his sight shortly after.

Gwendolyn lowered her gaze and avoided answering Lucy's question.

Feeling worried about her friend's lack of response, Lucy pressed for an answer. "Did he not treat you well? Does he have another woman?"

She reached for her phone, seemingly determined to confront Zeyden about her concerns.

Gwendolyn immediately held onto her hand and stopped her. "Lucy, it's not entirely his fault. I'm partly responsible."

"Your fault? How could that be?"

Lucy knew Gwendolyn better than anyone else, and she couldn't imagine her being at fault.

Gwendolyn had sacrificed everything to marry Zeyden, even accepting his blindness without hesitation. She didn't even mind when Zeyden's family struggled to accept her three children during the wedding.

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She's willing to give up everything for Zayden. Why does he not cherish her? Isn't he in love with her?

There's a saying that a woman should marry a man who loves her, as that will ensure her happiness.

Lucy could sense Gwendolyn's unhappiness, but she, too, believed in the saying.

As long as a man loves a woman, he will treat her well, and she will be happy.

“Luce, I realize that when a woman doesn't love someone, she can't give herself to that person.”

Gwendolyn had thought that once they were married, she could fulfill her duties as a wife. However, when that moment actually arrived, she found herself unable to do so.

Gwendolyn couldn't get Patrick out of her mind, and she didn't have any romantic feelings for Zayden.

Being close to him made her uneasy and uncomfortable.

Lucy furrowed her brows and asked, “Is that so?”

Do I love Lucas? Probably not. But my situation is different from Gwendolyn's. She got together with Zayden after falling in love with someone else first. I wasn't with anyone. My relationship with Lucas is

purely physical. Yes, that must be it.

Gwendolyn nodded and admitted, “I think so. Whenever I'm near Zayden, even a simple hug makes me uncomfortable. I...”

She realized that Zayden's current state was partly her fault.

Such a selfless act was not Gwendolyn's usual style, but she did it all for the sake of her children.

However, he had deceived her by feigning blindness. He had cunningly manipulated her emotions which ultimately led to their marriage.

The situation between them was complex, and Gwendolyn didn't know how to handle it.

She wanted a divorce, but Zayden wouldn't allow it and had even used her three children to threaten her.

The more she thought about it, the more frightened she became, and her brows furrowed even tighter.

Lucy looked slightly surprised, but she could understand Gwendolyn's concerns.

“Do you still think about Patrick? Why not consider having an extramarital affair?”

Gwendolyn shook her head. “I haven't thought about such things. Right now, my focus is on running the company well and raising the three children. I dare not think about anything else.”

Gwendolyn couldn't help but think that she might have asked for too much, causing herself to feel trapped in this state of helplessness.

After all, she had been an unfortunate child since young and was unworthy of extravagant desires.

“Gwen, don't be like this! I still prefer the spirited you from before,” Lucy encouraged.

Gwendolyn's gaze darkened. “Patrick has forgotten about me.”

She recalled the moment he looked at her with unfamiliar eyes and realized that the starry gaze he once reserved solely for her had vanished. She was no longer his exception.

Chapter 668 Desperate Need Of Money

Upon learning that Patrick was in a coma, Lucy had gone to see him together with Lucas.

She didn't dare to tell Gwendolyn about it, for fear that it would be too much for her.

If Gwendolyn were to learn of Patrick's condition, she would go to his side and care for him without any hesitation.

Moreover, Lucas had specifically instructed Lucy not to tell Gwendolyn.

Guessing that Patrick's circumstances were likely related to Gwendolyn, Lucy had kept the matter from her friend.

After all, what was going on between Gwendolyn and Patrick had ended after Gwendolyn's marriage.

"Is he awake?" Lucy asked, oblivious to Patrick's condition, for she hadn't seen him in a while.

"Even you know of what happened to him. I think I'm the last to find out."

Gwendolyn was filled with disappointment. Everyone must think that I'm a heartless woman. That's why no one told me about Patrick. I deserve this. I really deserve to be forgotten.

Lucy apologized, "I'm sorry, Gwen. I thought things were going well between you and Zayden. That's why I didn't tell you."

She needs to move on, and so does Patrick.

Gwendolyn flashed a faint smile. "Don't worry about it. I understand."

At that moment, Lucy's phone rang again, and she could only answer it.

"What is it?"

"Attend a dinner with me this evening and dress up for it. I'll be waiting at home at five-thirty."

Lucas ended the call right after. Lucy gave her phone a glance and cursed, "F*ck. Why didn't he tell me exactly where and what the dinner is about?"

When Lucy returned her attention to Gwendolyn and realized that the latter seemed to have closed herself off, she thought it would be a good idea to get her to join them.

Usually, she would be bored at such dinners, for Lucas was the main reason they were invited.

In addition to the food, there would be nice red wine.

She thought it would be more fun if she could use the opportunity to drink with Gwendolyn.

If a woman is in an unhappy marriage, she can numb herself by going out and having some fun.

A smile emerged on Lucy's face. "Gwen, I like that dress from your company. Can you give me a discount?"

Gwendolyn responded by scrutinizing Lucy from head to toe and saw that the latter was all decked out in designer clothing. Lucy's watch alone cost at least six figures.

Both of them had experienced significant changes in their lives. They were now rich and could afford to buy everything they had previously coveted.

Nevertheless, they, too, had changed together with their circumstances. They no longer felt the same joy they did when they were poor.

Gwendolyn sighed. We have been so naive in the past to think that money would bring us happiness.

It was in her current circumstance that she understood happiness was the most difficult thing to achieve. It was the only thing in the world money couldn't buy.

"There's no need for a discount. You can have it for free." Gwendolyn handed her friend a VIP card. "Take this. You don't have to pay for anything you buy at Solstice Mall."

Lucy's eyes widened at the sight of the gold card.

"Wow, do you really mean it? Is this part of the benefits of a CEO?"

Gwendolyn smiled. "Money is the only thing I'm left with now."

"Both Gwen Mall and Gwenpat Hotel in the eastern district are doing very well. You must be a multi- millionaire by now." Lucy played with the card in her hand as she spoke.

The newly developed commercial district was a gift from Patrick to Gwendolyn. It was a highly sought- after piece of land that Patrick had successfully secured back in the day.

Its commercial value was well known to everyone. Even when Lucas talked to Lucy about it, the greedy glint in his eye would reveal how much he coveted it too.

Gwendolyn's gaze darkened. "Actually..."

She didn't feel it was right for her to take it, but she knew it would only anger Patrick further if she didn't.

As a result, she begrudgingly accepted it. There was professional management running it anyway. Her only additional task was to sign off on the quarterly report and collect her profit.

Other than watching the amount in her bank account increase, there was no other impact on her life.

"Actually what? Do you not want it? Then give it to me. I'm in desperate need of money."

Chapter 669 I Want That Outfit

Gwendolyn chuckled in amusement. "Let's be serious. Have you thought about a career? How about coming to work for me as a manager?"

She obviously wasn't going to let Lucy suffer. The latter had the freedom of picking any role she wanted.

Even though Lucy hadn't thought about it before, she felt that it was time for her to consider her own path now that Melanie had regained her health.

She waved her hand at Gwendolyn. "Gwen, I'm going to pick out some outfits with the card. Why don't you come with me? Get Ms. Ziegler to pick up the children so that you can join me for dinner."

Gwendolyn agreed readily, "All right!"

After giving Camille a call, she instructed her sons to get the two young girls and be prepared to be picked up by Camille.

Gwendolyn had also ordered KFC to be sent to their home so that the children could enjoy a happy meal once they were back.

Justin and Julian nodded. Justin reminded them, "Watch yourselves while you're out."

The brothers were worried about Gwendolyn, who seemed unhappy over the past few months.

Lucy responded with a smile as she put an arm around Gwendolyn.

"With me around, there's no need for any of you to worry."

Justin looked at Gwendolyn, hoping that she would be happy.

Gwendolyn said, "Go on now. I'll be attending a dinner tonight with Lucy. It'll be a relaxing evening, so don't worry. I'm an adult. I know how to manage my emotions."

She, too, felt that she had been inconsiderate by only focusing on her own feelings and neglecting the children.

Truth be told, the three of them knew exactly what was going on.

Gwendolyn and Lucy headed upstairs and browsed around.

Lucy was in real need of a beautiful outfit because Lucas had instructed her to dress up. She wanted Gwendolyn to wear something pretty too.

So what if she's married? As long as she looks gorgeous, plenty of men will still have the hots for her. Since it's impossible for Gwendolyn to cheat, the attention showered on her will boost her confidence. That way, she won't feel so dejected and might finally cheer up.”

After going through a selection of dresses, Lucy picked a white backless dress for Gwendolyn.

She would salivate at the sight of the latter's exquisite-looking shoulder blades, let alone other men.

Standing in front of the mirror, Gwendolyn felt apprehensive about what she was seeing.

“Are you sure it isn't too revealing?”

Having not worn such a design before, she wasn't confident in carrying it off.

Gwendolyn was someone conservative, values that were inculcated by Michael when she was growing up in the Ashton residence. That was the reason for her prim and proper upbringing.

After wiping the dripping saliva off from the corner of her mouth, Lucy reassured her, “You look good. It's not revealing at all.”

D*mn it! I'm actually hoping that she reveals more skin by wearing less. What am I thinking? I'm a woman for goodness' sake. Has Gwen turned me into a lesbian?

Right then, Felicia and Diana entered the store.

When Felicia's gaze fell upon the gown Gwendolyn had tried on, she said to the sales attendant coldly, “I want that outfit.” She handed her card to the sales attendant. “Swipe the card. It isn't password- locked.”

She was trying to show off by paying for the gown without asking about the price.

Lucy, who was naturally upset, snapped, “What is wrong with you? We're buying this dress!”

The sales attendant responded awkwardly, “Ms. Ashton, this lady has already tried on the gown. Why don't you take a look at something else?”

Even Diana gave Felicia a tug. “Fel, stop making a fuss.”

Felicia paid them no heed. “She's only trying it on and can't afford it. Do you want to earn a commission?”

She had learned from Diana that the Surrington family was giving Gwendolyn a tough time. Now that Zayden's eyesight had recovered, they disparaged Gwendolyn who had given birth to three children.

Gwendolyn didn't benefit from the marriage, as Zayden barely cared about her. Even the housekeepers had revealed that they were staying separately.

That was the reason why she still had to work and earn a living despite being married into the Surrington family. It also meant that she couldn't afford any luxury items such as the gown in question.

Chapter 670 Steal The Limelight

Upon hearing Felicia's words, the sales attendant hesitated before asking, “Miss, are you sure you're buying it?”

She wasn't sure if Gwendolyn could really afford it.

Annoyed by the question, Lucy handed over the gold card.

“Will this do?”

The attendant was stunned by the sight of it. It was none other than the card used exclusively by the CEO, accepted by Solstice Malls worldwide.

Her expression changed drastically. “Of course, of course.”

She naturally wouldn't dare offend a friend of the CEO. There were five such cards in total which were given out by the CEO to friends and family.

It went without saying that whoever held such a card was someone close to the CEO.

All of them became particularly attentive, unaware that the CEO herself was present.

Upon taking another look in the mirror, Gwendolyn decided to take the dress despite thinking otherwise initially due to it being too revealing.

Oblivious to the significance of Lucy's card, Felicia retrieved another gold card from her bag.

“Since you want to turn this into a competition of cards, so be it!”

The sales attendant looked at Felicia as if she was an idiot. Her card means nothing in front of Solstice Group's internal gold card.

“Miss, I'm sorry. This outfit has been sold. Why don't you browse through our other items instead?”

Being at the receiving end of the cold shoulder displeased Felicia. Unable to swallow her pride, she attempted to argue with them but was pulled back by Diana. “Fel, let it go.”

Felicia protested, “Aunt Diana, I really like that dress, yet Gwendolyn has to steal it from me.”

Hector had given her money so that she could reward herself, an honor she felt compelled to gloat about.

“Fel, she's Zayden's wife now. Don't cause any trouble. Otherwise, you'll disgrace yourself. She's under the protection of the Surrington family.”

Even though Gwendolyn's relationship with Zayden was not good and the Surringtons looked down on her, they would still protect her from outsiders, as she was a member of the family.

Diana didn't want Felicia to escalate the situation any further.

Furthermore, she had caught a glimpse of Lucy's card earlier and noticed it was made of pure gold. To her, it had to be one of the store's custom-made cards given how impressive it looked.

Does she know someone really important? After all, she's undeniably beautiful and has worked in clubs before. If she were to turn on the charm, any man would definitely fall for her.

As someone with many life experiences, Diana could read the situation clearly.

In spite of that, Felicia refused to give up. The stunning gown simply made Gwendolyn stand out glamorously.

Felicia, who wouldn't spare Gwendolyn a glance under ordinary circumstances, was awed by the latter's beauty and couldn't peel her eyes away.

If Patrick were to see her, he would definitely be mesmerized, but it seems that he has already forgotten about her.

She broke into a smug grin. "Let's go, Aunt Diana. The designs in this store are really ugly. I'm never coming back here ever again."

She might have aimed those words at the staff, but they couldn't be bothered by them.

Thereafter, Lucy emerged from the changing room in a strapless mermaid gown that accentuated her already curvaceous figure.

Standing beside Gwendolyn, she commented, "Gwen, the two of us will definitely steal the limelight tonight."

Gwendolyn in particular looked so stunning that even Lucy was impressed, let alone other men.

Considering the fact that those who usually attended such dinners with Lucas were bachelors from their circle or friends from the army, she wanted to show them what a true beauty really looked like.

Gwendolyn heaved a sigh of relief upon noticing Felicia and Diana's departure.

She had started out shopping in a good mood until the sight of the two reminded her of her annoying problems.

Seeing that Gwendolyn was staring at the store entrance, Lucy asked, "Your aunt seems to be a lot more sensible than Felicia. I don't suppose she's difficult to get along with?"