

Come back to me

Chapter: 141

You Are So Ugly

John pulled the numb Nina into his arms. It was the first time that he smiled publicly, his eyes gleaming with satisfaction.

There was an uproar throughout the banquet hall.

The woman who just insulted Nina was absolutely dumbfounded. She still couldn't believe it as she muttered, "She is your wife?" After saying that, she passed out.

"Mr. Shi is...married?" another woman murmured as she tried to support her friend.

What was going on? The crowd looked around at each other looking for answers.

Nobody could make it out.

"John, what nonsense are you talking about?" Jessica finally snapped out of her astonishment and scowled at John. She barked, "Didn't you know that you are to be engaged to Vivi tonight?"

"No, I didn't," John replied coldly.

Jessica shouted angrily, "Even if you don't like Vivian, you can't just marry anyone to get me off your back."

Vivian's face turned pale. She stood in the middle of the hall with tears in her eyes, looking shattered. She looked at her father beside her and asked, "Dad, what's going on?"

"It's impossible." Howard was possibly as embarrassed as Vivian, but it didn't stop him from gently comforting his daughter.

"Dad, what's going on?" Vivian's mind raced. How could John say that Nina was his wife

e.

"Hurry up. This is big news." The group of reporters swarmed up and took photos of them.

The media's camera flashes and noise finally sobered Nina up. Looking at the reporters in front of her and the man holding her, her jaw dropped again.

She was stunned and stood as still as a statue.

After a while, she realized that this was really happening. She lowered her head and stared at the marriage licenses in her hand again.

She didn't bother checking whether the marriage licenses were true or not. Instead, her attention was pulled by their photo.

John's short hair was in a mess, his eyes were slightly narrowed, his eyebrows were scrunched and the corners of his mouth were twitching.

Was it really John? Was this the same man who cared so much about his image and appearance?

She took a closer look and lo and behold, it was him.

Squinting her eyes, Nina said in disgust, "John, you are so ugly."

Then she raised his wristwatch and scanned the marriage license. Nina input the information of the marriage license and took a photo at the same time.

After taking the photo as quickly and discreetly as possible, Nina started planning to make this photo of John into stickers.

The smile on John's face froze immediately.

Damn this photo!

Chapter: 142

Everyone Was Stunned

Everyone was speechless.

The media people present looked at Nina in astonishment. They were so taken aback that they even forgot to take photos.

They were confused. Why did Nina say that John was ugly? Everyone knew that John was one of the most handsome men in the city.

"Give those back to me." John took back the marriage licenses with an annoyed face.

He had not forgiven Sam for choosing the ugliest photo of him and having it edited onto the wedding photo.

And now that Nina had seen the photo, his anger boiled over. He wanted to hurt somebody just to make himself feel better.

He was ashamed and displeased.

"Let me have another look at the photo," Nina insisted, reaching for the licenses in John's hand. This was the first time that Nina had seen John embarrassed.

"No way!" John replied, holding the licenses in the air out of Nina's reach.

"Come on! Let me just see it one more time!"

Under the watchful eyes of the people around, John grabbed Nina's head with his free hand and leaned in.

Then, he kissed Nina.

One second passed. Then two. And then three.

The media people snapped back to their senses and began taking photos. They were so excited that the hall instantly looked like an open field being struck by lightning because of the camera flashes.

It was the scoop of the century and

replace it right away. It's the only one." Isabella wanted to say more but stopped. She looked so pathetic in front of everyone.

Nina didn't want to waste time on her and said honestly, "I'm Elk. I'll paint another one for you another day. No, I'll paint two for you as my way of apology. Now I really have to go. I'm sorry."

As soon as Nina finished speaking, she ran away.

Isabella stood there shocked. The others were also left with their mouths hanging open.

Did Nina just say she was Master Elk?

"Who is she?"

"Professor Gu's disciple."

"She is also the famous young painting master, Elk."

"And she is also Mr. Shi's wife."

For a moment, the room stood still.

And then whispers erupted. The new information about Nina just spread across the banquet hall like wildfire. Isabella was still frozen on her spot. She still could not believe what she just heard.

'Nina is Mr. Shi's wife? She's also Master Elk?'

Vivian's face turned completely pale. She had just heard from the crowd that Nina was the famous young painter, Master Elk, whose paintings sold for a fortune.

Truth be told, Vivian never liked Master Elk's wash paintings. Sam liked them, and she just wanted to please him, so she pretended to like them as well.

But now, Nina was Elk. And if Sam found out...

Vivian fainted and fell.

Chapter: 143

Run Away

The birthday girl suddenly fainted, causing a panic. Someone called the ambulance in a hurry.

Completely oblivious to what just happened to Vivian, John smiled. He understood now why his father had chosen Nina to be his wife.

It turned out that he liked her paintings.

He looked at the direction Nina had run to. He imagined that at this time, she was probably caught by his men.

It was time for them to leave and go back to North Yard.

At this time, Nina had reached the western gate of the Ye family estate. That part of the place was deserted. No one was there but her.

She looked back and saw that Nine had followed her after she ran out of the banquet hall. The dog was now sitting next to her and looking up at her as if waiting for her command.

"What are you doing, Nine? I thought we were best buddies. Why are you helping your father chase after me?"

Nine happily barked an answer. Nine ran after Nina because he regarded her as his master.

At the moment, Nina had to escape. She did not have the time to guess what Nine was trying to tell her. If she stayed where she was a little longer, John would eventually catch up to her.

"Go back to your father, Nine. Stop following me." Nina's voice had started to crack. She just realized that she was in so much pain. She just ran from

are your shoes? Why are you barefoot?" As soon as Nina got in, her feet were the first things Noah noticed.

He just saw Nina run out of a small park, which was paved with stone roads. He wondered if her feet were injured.

"It doesn't matter. We must leave now. They're going to catch up soon." At this nervous moment, Nina was in no position to pay attention to her feet at all. Her eyes were fixed on the road behind that was dimly lit.

"All right. Buckle up." Noah stepped on the accelerator as Nina fastened her seat belt, and the car lurched forward like an arrow off a bowstring.

When Richard and the maids finally reached the road, Noah's car just turned a corner. They could only hear the sound of the car driving away.

"Someone helped Mrs. Shi run away." Richard felt embarrassed. There was three of them, and they could not stop a twenty-year-old girl from running away.

"What do we do now?" The two maids looked at Richard.

"You two follow that car and capture its license plate. We can get something out of that information. I'll go back and report to Mr. Shi."

Richard summoned up his courage and went back to report to John. As soon as he was in front of him, he said, "We failed to get Mrs. Shi back, Mr. Shi. Someone helped her escape. We were incompetent. Please punish us."

Chapter: 144

Treat Me As Your Brother

When John heard that Nina had escaped, he burst into a menacing fury. The air around him was freezing cold, and no one dared to get close to him.

"Richard, send everyone out to secretly search for her," he ordered.

"Yes, sir." Richard was not only the leader of the Shi family's two hundred guards, but he was also the leader of forty people who were loyally assigned to John. With John's order, he quickly sent out the remaining guards to search for the missing Nina.

All the guards of the Shi family moved with breakneck speed. Each of them drove an inconspicuous SUV, and searched every inch of Lexington City in secret.

Each of the cars was low-key and they scattered in different directions, so they wouldn't be easily noticed. But Nina and Noah were people who were sensitive to their surroundings. The more dangerous a situation they were in was, the more diligently careful they observed the surrounding environment.

"Noah, there is something wrong with that car," Nina said as she pointed at a black SUV not far away, and frowned slightly with anxiety. She saw a small bulge on the car, which was not characteristic of its original version.

"There's a monitor, a micro monitor which can rotate 360 degrees to any direction," Noah knowingly explained. He happened to know this kind of monitor, and had seen it in a case wherein a
er face. Her brother had once said the similar words to her.

When she was young, she lost her way in the forest of C Island, and fell down accidentally. When her brother found her, he squatted down in front of her and wanted to carry her on his back.

Back then, she remembered what the teacher had told her, so she said to her brother that it was improper for a man to touch a woman.

Nina could still remember her brother's helpless expression at that time. He gently put his hands on her shoulders and patiently explained, "Nini, I'm your brother, not anyone else. It's absolutely normal for a brother to carry his sister."

Hearing Noah's words right now, Nina seemed to go back to the past. Her brother's figure gradually overlapped with Noah's. She stared at Noah with her wet alluring eyes, and whispered in a daze, "Brother..."

Noah was stunned for a moment, and then smiled gently. "I'm your senior, and you can treat me as your brother."

Then, he tenderly pulled over Nina's feet and put them on his leg. He slowly turned around and opened the medicine kit, took out the disinfecting alcohol, and bent down to disinfect Nina's wounds tenderly.

"Nini, this might hurt a little. Bear with it for a while." Before applying the medicine, Noah prepared her psychologically with concern in his mellow voice, as if coaxing a child.

Chapter: 145

How Shameless

Nina came to her senses and said firmly, "I'm not afraid of pain."

When she was learning martial arts, she often got injured and did not complain. Little scabs on her feet were nothing.

"I won't laugh at you if you flinch. That's normal," Noah chuckled. 'What a stubborn girl,' he thought.

"This will hurt, but I'll try to be gentle. Just soldier on." Noah proceeded to moisten a cotton swab with alcohol to clean Nina's wounds.

On the other hand, Nina sat back and tried to relax.

As soon as she relaxed herself, Noah started treating her wounds. When the cotton swab made contact with her torn skin, she pulled away. She accidentally kicked the cotton swab off Noah's hand, and it fell to the floor.

"Are you okay? Does it hurt?" Noah turned his head to look at Nina. "I haven't done this to a girl before, so I don't know how to do it. I'm sorry. I'll be gentler."

"No, no. It doesn't hurt. I was just startled." Nina grinned. This time, she took the initiative to stretch out her foot, pursed her lips, and made a small suggestion. "Could you please get a small fan for me? The alcohol really stings."

Noah chuckled. For some r

water from Noah's hand and drank it, feeling much more relaxed.

"I may have to stay here to hide out for a while." What happened tonight left her mind in such a mess. She was worried.

"You can stay for as long as you want, Nini. But won't Mr. Shi be worried?" Noah then decided to tell her the truth. "After all, he has just announced your marriage to the public."

When he said this, he felt something heavy in his heart.

"What?" With a shocked look on her face, Nina went still.

Noah took out his phone again, clicked on the hot headlines, and handed it to Nina. "There are also photos of your marriage licenses."

"What the hell?" Nina could only stare at the photo on Noah's phone. "Did he release the photo to the public? Doesn't he care about his reputation?"

She clearly remembered the photo. John was not exactly dashing in that photo.

However, when she took a closer look at the photo, she found that the photo she saw on the phone was different from the one she had seen earlier.

"John, you shameless bastard!" Nina bellowed. He was absolutely brazen.

He had his photo retouched to make himself look handsome.

Chapter: 146

Find A Place To Hide

Hearing this, Noah smiled and said, "No one dares to say that about Mr. Shi but you."

Nina paused and pursed her lips. Her long eyelashes covered a trace of light in her eyes. She returned the phone to Noah and said calmly, "Do you think he's giving in to me?"

Nina did not think so. If she and John fought with bare hands, he was no match for her.

She didn't think John was giving in to her.

What was more, her family background was no inferior to his.

There was only one thing wherein Nina admitted that she was inferior to John—she was not as ruthless as him.

Noah took the phone and smiled without saying a word. He acquiesced in it as John had many cruel ways to torture his enemies.

But based on what he had heard thus far, Noah was convinced that Nina was really important to John.

"Are you hungry, Nini? What do you want for dinner?" Noah asked, glancing at the kitchen.

If Noah had not mentioned it, Nina would not have realized that she was hungry. Her stomach grumbled right after Noah asked her about dinner. She touched her flat stomach and said, "Yes, I am. What do you have in here to eat?"

"I think I still have some fish in the fridge. But I'm worried that they're not that fresh anymore." Noah was of

n. With a little bit more digging, she found some information about the residence in Stone Road. The owner's surname was Shi.

There was no doubt that John was really her husband.

She checked today's headlines and found a lot of news articles about her and John's marriage. The number of hits was already more than ten thousand as well as the reposts, but the comments were turned off.

Nina typed in a few commands and was able to see the comments posted within the first three minutes of the news going live. Everyone was saying that she did not deserve John. The other comments were even worse.

John must have ordered the comments to be turned off. After all, everyone was attacking Nina because of the news.

Knowing John, Nina knew that he would not let others insult her on the Internet. She also found that all the accounts with extreme comments were blocked.

Nina felt complicated in her heart. She remembered telling Henry that she would divorce her husband once she found out who he was. She would tell him to either let her go peacefully or she would beat the hell out of him until he agreed to sign the divorce papers.

But now, she just wanted to find a place to hide.

She was a little reluctant to divorce him.

Chapter: 147

Threaten Her To Go Home

That night, Nina tossed and turned in bed. She was not able to fall asleep until dawn.

On the other side, John was also not able to sleep. He was up all night sending out more people to look for Nina, but none of them returned with her.

Unable to turn in for the night, he made a bold decision. He decided to issue a reward for whoever brought Nina back home.

John went out and contacted the most influential media company in Lexingport City. The media company agreed to film a broadcast for him. Sitting in front of the camera, he said slowly, "My wife is still young. She doesn't know her way around the city, and she forgot to bring her mobile phone. She hasn't come home yet. To anyone who brings her to the Time Group, I will offer a hefty reward. Please help me find my wife."

When Nina woke up, she saw the fifteen-second video. The man in the video was calm, and his eyes were very gentle. She had heard that deep voice so many times, but for some reason, it sounded foreign to her.

There was a photo of her in the lower right corner of the video. It was one of the selfies she took when she participated in a beauty pageant at her school.

Nina was so rattled that she immediately turned of

ung up the phone and waited for Nina to send him the address.

After sending John the address, Nina called Noah and told him that she was coming back to North Yard. Noah just said "Okay" and hung up.

Half an hour later, Nina heard the apartment door open.

Only Noah who was the owner of the apartment could open the door.

"Noah? Is that you?" Nina stuck her head out of her bedroom door and listened carefully to the footsteps.

"I'm home." It was Noah's hoarse voice. But upon listening more carefully, Nina heard two completely different kinds of footsteps.

Noah walked steadily and lightly. The other footsteps were not only heavy but also slow and deliberate, like those of someone with a bad intention.

"Are you with someone?" Nina had always been sensitive. As Noah's career was always accompanied by danger, she decided to be vigilant. Slowly and carefully, she shut her bedroom door and waited behind it.

This time, Noah stopped instead of replying. The heavy footsteps started approaching her bedroom. Nina felt the small hairs on the back of her neck stand on end.

As the footsteps neared, Nina stepped aside and prepared herself to kick whoever came bursting through her door.

Chapter: 148

Take Them Off

The moment he set foot in Nina's bedroom, John took a step back and nimbly dodged her attack. He quickly grabbed her ankle and pulled. Nina lost her balance and fell. She stared at him with a shocked expression on her face.

"John?" The dark expression on John's face sent a chill down her spine. He was standing a few feet away, but Nina could feel his anger.

John looked down at Nina. His eyes were cold and frightening.

'How dare this woman stay in another man's house, sleep in his bed, and even wear his shirt? How could she do such a thing?'

He had come to take her back home, and she had tried to hurt him.

"You have really grown too arrogant, Nina." John's voice was flat and emotionless, and it sent Nina's heart racing.

She did not dare look him in the eye.

She had never seen John so angry before.

"Nini, are you okay?" The next moment, Noah came rushing into the room. He found Nina still on the floor. He frowned and bent down to help her up. "Get up. The floor is cold. How did you even get out of bed? Your feet are still hurt. You're not supposed to be walking on them."

Noah looked at the dressing on Nina's wounds. Fortunately, there was no blood seeping out. He breathed a sigh of relief and helped

John think she was filthy?

"I'd tread carefully now if I were you, John," Nina hissed.

"Go wash yourself," John repeated. The ice in his voice made Nina shiver. Reluctantly, she slid out of bed, wrapped the entire quilt around her, and carefully walked to the bathroom.

After Nina shut the bathroom door behind her, the coldness in John's eyes dissipated. He picked up Noah's black shirt and called for Helen.

It extremely annoyed him, seeing Nina in another man's shirt.

'Since you like to wear men's clothes so much, I'll give you plenty to wear,' he thought.

As soon as Helen arrived, John handed her Noah's shirt and said, "Burn this." Helen just dipped her chin in acknowledgement and took the shirt. John added, "And I want you to throw away all of Nina's clothes and dresses and hang my clothes in her wardrobe." Again, Helen simply nodded and went on her way.

When Nina came out of the bathroom wrapped in a bath towel, she smelled something burning. John had left the room. There was a white shirt folded neatly on the bed.

'I thought he wanted to sleep with me. Why isn't he here?'

In the time that she took a shower, Nina had prepared herself mentally for what was about to happen. But where was John?

Chapter: 149

I Love You

Nina could not find John in the master bedroom. Truth be told, she was a little relieved. She turned around to look for some clothes in the closet only to find all her clothes missing. They had all been replaced with men's clothes.

The new clothes now hung in the closet were different from John's. John's clothes were monotonous in style, but these new clothes were diverse in design and even color.

Left with no other choice, Nina just decided to put a set of the clothes in the closet. She put on a loose shirt and a loose pair of pants, looking lazy and noble.

Nina's feet hurt so much that she could only walk around on her toes. She carefully tiptoed to the stairway and looked around the living room, but John was still nowhere to be found.

She guessed that John had gone to work.

Nina thought that the matter had passed, and John would not make trouble for her again. After all, she had returned to North Yard as he wished.

However, in the end, she still could not escape John's punishment.

That night, while Nina was sleeping, a man who smelled of cigarettes and alcohol kicked the bedroom door open and undressed her.

"Little girl, this is your punishment," John slurred.

"John? What are you doing?" Nina protested.

She was so frightened that her face turned pale.

ress his love!" she exclaimed.

"No, I'm not! It's just that..." Nina could not explain it clearly. Deep down, she wanted to know what was running through John's mind, but there was a little part of her that was scared to find out.

What he had been doing was not like what the Internet said.

Other couples were all in love and sweet with each other. She and John did nothing but fight endlessly and play tricks openly.

"Well, Mr. Shi, I believe you will soon hear Mr. Shi's confession of love," Helen said confidently. She knew that John was listening to their conversation right now through one of the devices installed inside the master bedroom.

John did not really show up to the office today. He was in a secret hideout and quietly watching Nina all day.

Even if Nina was just sleeping in the bed and did nothing else, John could not help smiling while staring at the screen.

He did not come home until ten o'clock in the evening. As soon as he arrived, he went to the master bedroom to look for Nina.

He did her just like last night, but compared to last night, he was particularly gentle. When the two of them were sweating profusely and almost out of breath, John leaned in and whispered three words in Nina's ear with all the affection he could muster.

"I love you."

Chapter: 150

It s My Fault

John could not take his mind off Nina and Helen's conversation earlier. He had wanted to tell Nina about how he felt about her, but he had been hesitating. Being open about emotions was not his style after all.

Only others took the initiative to confess their feelings. John had never been like those people, and nobody could make him talk about things that he did not want to talk about.

But in the end, he decided he had a reason this time to confess. His little girl had already expressed her love to him, and he was only giving her a response, a response that she deserved.

Nina was not sure at first if she had heard John right. After he said that he loved her, she blinked twice in the room's dimness as if it would help her hearing sharpen and focus. The master bedroom was a shade next to pitch black, yet she could see and feel his eyes boring straight into her soul.

Suddenly, she was hyperaware of his touch. Her heart started pounding against her ribcage, and her earlobes started burning. Everything she had done with John flashed before her eyes like a movie in fast forward.

After the Four Seasons Garden Hotel, he had taken to calling her little girl in either a playful or domineering tone.

Every time he called her "my little girl," she would have dreams of returning home.

When she was kidnapped and helpless, John was all that was in her mind. In the end, consideration, Mr. Shi."

John was so considerate today. Henry had to tell the others as soon as possible.

After Henry and his new assistant left John's office, Henry sent a message in the company's WeChat group. His message read, "The level ten alarm is dismissed. Mr. Shi is in a good mood, and anyone who needs him to sign something should come up quickly."

The company's WeChat group was in an uproar, and many employees were skeptical. "Henry, why is Mr. Shi in a good mood? Tell us the reason, or we won't dare come to his office."

Henry casually replied, "Mrs. Shi has found her way home."

After thinking for a while, he added, "Mr. Shi has tamed the elk in North Yard."

"In a minute!" Everyone was sending out messages in the WeChat group. Many employees rushed to the CEO's office in batches with the documents that needed to be signed.

Sure enough, John patiently signed dozens of documents. He did not nitpick, and his eyes were not as frightening as before.

Some employees even went out of John's office with tears in their eyes. They thought, 'Thank you, Mrs. Shi. Long live Mrs. Shi.'

Lying in bed, Nina had sneezed for the whole afternoon, which frightened Helen. When Helen was about to go downstairs and call John, she saw a familiar person.

"Ms. Shi?" Helen was a little surprised. Jessica had never set foot in North Yard. Why did she come today?