

Wife 57

Chapter 57

Katrina continued, “Ruby did intend to bring Louie back after a while, but as she walked, she ran into her usual gambling friends, who invited her to join them. She had always been a compulsive gambler. Despite numerous warnings, she just couldn’t stop.” *Www.OverlWorm.com*

After a pause, she continued, “Ms. Fowler, since I’ve already told you so much, I might as well tell you the whole story. Ruby even stole money from Allen and Bailey to gamble. Before Louie’s accident, she had a history of stealing. It started with small amounts.

“As you know, Allen and Bailey own a successful supermarket. When they were busy, Ruby would pretend to help but was actually looking for opportunities to steal. At first, they didn’t notice.

“Once, Ruby played as the banker in a gambling game and won hundreds of dollars. She was thrilled. A smart gambler would have stopped there, but Ruby thought she was on a roll and continued.

“Eventually, she lost all her winnings and even borrowed two thousand dollars, hoping to turn things around. As you might guess, she ended up losing all of it.”

Katrina sighed, “Ruby didn’t just owe two thousand dollars. She was deeply in debt. Everyone knew that Allen and Bailey ran a successful business and that Ruby and Noel had decent pensions.

“When Noel was still alive, his pension was over 600 dollars a month, and Ruby’s was over 300 dollars. Together, they had nearly a thousand dollars a month—more than enough to live comfortably in a small town like this.”

“Because of their financial stability, people were willing to lend Ruby money without worrying about repayment. But when it came time to pay back, Ruby had nothing.”

Clara commented, “Gambling is a losing game. A family with a gambling addict can easily be ruined, leading to estrangement and financial ruin.”

“Many of the elderly here gamble. Since they’re all seniors, the police can only disperse them and issue warnings, but they can’t arrest them, which makes habitual gamblers feel fearless.”

“But gambling among the elderly is also illegal,” Clara responded.

“The police are afraid of taking responsibility. I heard they once arrested an elderly man, but he had high blood pressure and died after the raid. This incident caused a lot of controversy. Since then, the police mostly just disperse the gamblers and rarely make arrests,” Katrina explained.

Clara was speechless for a moment. “It’s tough for the police too.”

People often looked for someone to blame and sought compensation whenever something went wrong instead of examining their own actions.

Katrina returned to the topic. “Since Ruby couldn’t pay her debts, she turned to theft. She knew where Allen had kept his money, and he had stolen around six thousand dollars. *Www.OverlWorm.com*

‘Allen and Bailey had planned to deposit the money in the bank the next day, but it was stolen. If Bailey hadn’t insisted on reporting it to the police, Ruby would never have admitted to the theft.

“She used some of the stolen money to pay off three thousand dollars of debt and spent the rest on gambling. Fortunately, she didn’t lose it all that time and even ended up winning a bit.”

Katrina continued, “Allen and Bailey recovered part of the stolen money and considered the three thousand dollars as Allen’s contribution to paying off her debts. This incident is why Bailey started managing their finances.

Charts 57 *Www.OverlWorm.com*

“It’s to prevent Allen from continually helping Ruby with her debts. As far as I know, he used to pay off many of Ruby’s gambling debts secretly. Their family might have been ruined if Bailey hadn’t taken control.”

“When Ruby’s gambling friends invited her to gamble, she thought about taking Louie back to the supermarket, but he insisted on staying with her. At least, that was what she claimed. Whether that’s true, we don’t know for sure because we weren’t there.”

Suddenly, she asked Clara, “Ms. Fowler, have you ever seen a gambling addict? When they’re gambling, their addiction is so intense that they forget everything except winning and losing. Louie was only three years old. How could he bear to stay in those shabby gambling dens with Ruby?

“At first, Ruby would occasionally call out to make sure he was

nearby. But as she got caught up in gambling, she forgot about Louie. The other gamblers were too engrossed in their games to notice Louie wandering off.”