

## **Mogul 701**

### [Chapter 701 I'm Getting Married](#)

After Garrett took Laney back to Barnes, he made arrangements for her to live in his villa so that he could take care of her and the baby.

"I might get busy with work these days, so it's possible I won't come home to see you that often. Don't worry. The nutritionist and the servants will be there for you. But if you need anything, don't hesitate to call me." This was what he told Laney before leaving Barnes.

"I'm just pregnant, not disabled. I can take care of myself." Sure enough, Laney's belly was still flat and one couldn't tell she was pregnant at a glance. In fact, she was still quite slender.

Garrett smiled wryly. He was determined to marry her.

But first, he needed to go back to his family to get his parents' approval.

The Harding family was a well-educated, prominent family in Seacisco.

Garrett's mother and father came from two families that had been friends for generations and they practically grew up together.

Vera Harding was the daughter of a prominent family. She had been proficient in many aspects including music and art since childhood. Leo Harding, on the other hand, had a strong sense of family and he was a man with traditional—almost stereotypical—thoughts. All in all, however, he was not a bad person.

The couple were relatively lenient with their son. They had heard a lot of rumors about Garrett fooling around with different women, but knowing that their son was just playing the field, they didn't say anything. One thing they did mind though, was he marrying a ransom girl just like that.

Garrett knew that gaining his parents' approval was no easy feat, which was why he made preparations in advance.

After returning to the Harding family, he took over the family business and garnered several important partnerships.

Seeing that her son was finally back on track and even coming home every day from work on time, Vera was very happy. "Garrett has finally grown up, don't you think, Leo?"

Leo was sitting on the chair in the garden, reading a newspaper. He too had noticed Garrett's efforts in the past two weeks. He echoed, "He has indeed matured. I hope he can keep up the good work."

Overhearing this, Garrett thought it was the right time.

He seized this chance. Later that night, he called his parents, who were in a good mood, to the study.

Garrett brought out a freshly brewed pot of tea and carefully poured two cups for his parents.

Vera instantly sensed that something was off, and even her smile froze.

Leo, who had never seen his son act so serious before, could also tell that something was on his mind. He took a sip of his tea and said in a low voice, "If there's something you want to say, just say it."

Garrett took a deep breath and broke into a smile. "I'm getting married."

Vera's hand, which was holding the teacup, trembled, and the liquid inside rippled.

She took a shaky sip of her tea and glanced at Leo.

Leo was also so shocked that he didn't even know how to respond.

An awkward silence fell over the study. "Dad, Mom, I'm getting married," Garrett repeated.

Leo squeezed his eyes shut, rubbed the spot between his brows, and asked, "What family is she from?"

"She has no family now, but she'll have one soon. I'm determined to give her a home." Garrett's voice was soft, but his eyes were firm.

"Nonsense!" Leo's eyes instantly popped open and his face turned livid.

Vera also said seriously, "We don't care who you date, but this is marriage! I'm sorry, Garrett, but you're marrying a lady from a noble family, not some orphan! An orphan doesn't deserve to marry into the Harding family! We will never approve of this union!"

Garrett smiled. He had expected this reaction from his parents.

He paused for a second and took a deep breath. "She is pregnant," he said bluntly.

"What?!" Leo roared incredulously. He pointed a shaky finger at Garrett and shouted, "What a disappointment you are!"

Vera was so angry that she couldn't breathe properly. Taking staggered breaths, she clutched the armrest tightly with one hand until she calmed down somewhat.

After a long time, she finally said, "You can't marry her even if she's pregnant. Make her have an abortion. If she refuses, she will raise the baby on her own after it's born. We can give her whatever she wants as compensation, but you just can't marry her. Period!"

[Chapter 702 Blind Dates](#)

"Mom, you've raised me to be independent, to make my own decisions. It's my marriage we're talking about. Can't I make the decision for myself?"

Vera, who had just managed to calm down, was infuriated again.

She put her hand on her forehead in distress and said, "I'm afraid not. Marriage is not a joke. We won't even let you marry a woman from an ordinary family. Why do you think we'll let you marry an orphan? Garrett, she doesn't deserve you."

"Did that woman threaten you with the child?" Leo interjected.

Garrett smiled bitterly and shook his head in disappointment. "Of course not. I want to marry her because I like her. I've been pursuing her for a long time, and she has just agreed to be with me."

Vera turned her face away and coughed violently because of her son's words.

Leo's face changed as well.

It appeared that none of them was willing to give in.

Vera and Leo exchanged a glance and sighed.

"There, there. We don't have to rush things up. I'll find you some ladies from rich and noble families, and you'll go on blind dates with them. Maybe you'll meet the right woman for you then."

Leo tried to compromise as much as he could. If Garrett found someone prettier and better, he might give up the idea of marrying that orphan.

"I agree. You don't have to be stuck with that woman. Your dad and I are just doing this for your good. You'll go on a blind date tomorrow, and that's final."

Although Garrett did not want to go on a blind date, he had no choice but to do so.

He was determined to marry Laney anyway. So, no matter what tricks his parents played, his decision would not change.

The next day, Vera took Garrett to a restaurant to meet with a lady from one of the richest families in town.

Before they walked into the door, Vera stopped in her tracks and reminded his son, "Be a gentleman. Your dad and I picked this girl after a careful consideration. Her father is our business partner. Be kind to her."

Vera knew her son like the back of her hand. If he wanted to resist, he would do everything in his power

to do it.

"Whatever," Garrett impatiently replied.

Meeting this girl would not change a thing.

Without another word, he walked into the restaurant and sat at the reserved table for them.

The woman sitting opposite him was an absolute beauty. What was more, she seemed to take fancy on him. During the meal, she kept making up topics to keep the conversation going.

"What kind of women do you like?" the girl shyly asked and then playfully tucked her stray hair behind her ear.

Garrett smiled, adjusted his glasses on the bridge of his nose, and answered, "I like women who are considerate and capable of taking care of others. You see, I have a pregnant girlfriend. She can't take care of herself, so I need someone who'll take care of her and the baby once we get married."

The girl went livid. She rolled her eyes at Garrett and left in a huff.

Vera was watching them from afar. Seeing the girl leaving and Garrett chuckling to himself, she figured that he must have blown the date on purpose.

In the following dates, Garrett used the same trick over and over again.

He believed that if all his blind dates failed, his parents would eventually give up.

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At home, Laney was dying of boredom. She used to go out whenever she felt bored. But now, she could not go anywhere or do anything without feeling sick.

Laney did not have many friends. And Janet, her only female friend, often had to travel between Seacisco and Barnes.

As long as Janet was in Barnes, Laney would ask her out.

Knowing that Laney was bored since she got pregnant, as a good friend, Janet would spend as much as she could with her.

One day, they went shopping at the mall. Then, they proceeded to go to a restaurant to rest and dine.

Janet had been carrying two big shopping bags. She opened one of them, and it was filled with baby clothes. "We don't know yet if the baby is a boy or girl. What if we bought the wrong type of clothes?"

she worriedly asked.

Laney, who was also staring at the shopping bags, chuckled. Perhaps it was because she was about to become a mother that she had developed a motherly tenderness.

"Well, I like them. Kids won't be able to tell the difference anyway. Garrett said that..."

Something caught her eye, making her stop midsentence.

Confused, Janet followed her friend's gaze.

In the innermost part of the restaurant, Garrett was having dinner with a woman, who looked like she came from a noble family. The two of them were chatting and laughing at each other as if they were the only ones in the restaurant.

### [Chapter 703 Enduring Punishmen](#)

"That man over there... That's Garrett, isn't it?" Laney asked in utter disbelief.

She felt icy chills run all over her skin. It felt as if her blood had turned to iced water and flowed through her entire body.

With an awkward look on her face, Janet grabbed gentle hold of her wrist and hurried to lend her words of comfort. "This must be some kind of misunderstanding. It's impossible for Garrett to cheat on you with another woman."

Some time ago, she and Brandon had had dinner with Garrett. Back then, Garrett had said with conviction that he intended on making Laney his wife.

Pigs would fly before he cheated on her.

Laney kept mum and lowered her gaze. She looked ghostly pale without any make-up on. "Let's go back now. I've lost all appetite now."

She unceremoniously dropped the menu in her hand, got to her feet and left with her purchases.

She didn't even go up to Garrett and confront him.

Laney didn't want to become one of those women who caught their partners cheating on them in public and then caused a hysterical scene. Even if she was being cheated on, she wanted to keep her decency and dignity intact.

"How about we just go ask him what's happening? Don't bottle this up. You're pregnant now. The worst poison is keeping anger in your system," Janet said with genuine concern.

Laney simply smiled and waved a taxi down along the roadside.

Before getting in the car, she looked at Janet and said in an indifferent, rather bland tone, "I know. No matter what happens, I will make sure I never cause my baby any harm. You should go home, Janet. I need some time alone to mull over things."

Janet could tell that her friend was in a very crestfallen state. She could tell that Laney needed some alone time to process what she had just witnessed. She also firmly believed that Laney was smart and capable enough to solve this problem on her own.

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Vera and Leo had also come to Barnes lately for some of their friends living here also had eligible daughters that they wanted to introduce to their son.

Garrett had once again successfully managed to make the blind date go up in flames. Vera was so incensed that she gave him an earful.

It was quite late when he returned to his and Laney's home.

Usually by this late hour, Laney would have turned in for the night. She had been quite sleepy most of the time since she had fallen pregnant.

When he opened the front door and entered the house, he felt quite perturbed that the lights were all still on.

Laney sat cross-legged on the sofa with a knife, a keyboard and a durian set out on the tea table.

"Honey, do you have a craving for durian?" Garrett asked with a forced smile, even though his skin had goose bumps all over.

After he finished his words, he actually wanted to embrace her and give her a kiss. However, as soon as he took a seat on the couch, Laney shot him a sharp glance and he was scared to stand up again immediately.

"What's wrong?" He could clearly sense that something was off here.

Laney picked up the durian on the table and flung it on the floor. "Kneel down on that!"

The hair on the back of his neck stood on end when he looked at the thorns on the durian. If he knelt down, his knees would surely be mangled.

It would hurt!

He looked at Laney with grievance and begged for mercy, "Honey..."

"Who was the woman you were with today?"

Garrett had just been lectured by his parents, and now, he was about to be punished by his girlfriend.

"My parents did not give me their blessings to marry you, so they forced me to go on blind dates." He had no choice but to spill the truth to her.

After saying that, he moved closer to Laney and put his hand on her thigh. "Don't be angry, honey. They will come to a compromise eventually."

Laney breathed a sigh of relief when she heard his reasonable explanation. When she saw the sincerity in his eyes, Laney was somewhat moved. "I had more or less expected such a situation to arise, but it still hurts to see you with someone else, especially someone so pretty."

The lady she had seen him with today was really elegant and charming. Obviously, that was the kind of woman Garrett's family wanted him to take as a wife. She was nothing compared to that kind of woman.

Garrett still gently held her, shook his head and said, "No, honey. In my eyes, no one surpasses you in beauty! You are the prettiest woman on earth!"

Laney rolled her eyes and said, "Let go of me. I haven't given you permission to hold me. I'm still fuming mad."

"Oh," replied Garrett. But when he saw the depressed look on Laney's face, he couldn't help but get close to her again and said, "Honey, let me give you a massage."

Laney pursed her lips and lay down on the pillow.

"Don't overthink this. I will handle my parents. You just have to wait and ready yourself to be my bride," Garrett said gently.

How was it humanly possible for Laney not to overthink this situation? She didn't have much hope for her future with Garrett.

#### [Chapter 704 The First Visit To The Harding Family](#)

Leo and Vera had set up countless blind dates for Garrett with all the eligible daughters of Seacisco's rich families, but none was fruitful.

"I think your son's purposely trying to ruin his reputation. Does he want to die a single man?" Vera rubbed her aching forehead and pursed her lips unhappily. "I've been wanting a grandchild, Leo. All the other rich ladies my age parade their grandchildren in front of me. One time, I couldn't stand it and blurted that I'd have a grandchild next year at the latest. But Garrett is too stubborn! Worse yet, with all

the blind dates he had ruined, people now start to gossip and there're some nasty things they say about our son. How's he going to find a suitable partner now?"

Garrett was willing to sacrifice even his reputation in order to reject his parents' arranged marriage for him, which left them feeling helpless.

Leo in particular was at his wit's end and fed up with Vera's nagging. "He got that woman pregnant, didn't he? If you're so desperate to have a grandchild, why don't you just accept her?"

Vera snorted angrily and said nothing more.

Surprisingly, Garrett's ploy worked. Vera now fully understood that her son was determined to marry Laney.

After thinking about it for a long time, Vera finally threw up her hands in defeat. "Perhaps it wouldn't be so bad, Leo. Although this girl is an orphan, what if she turns out to be decent? How about we invite her to lunch and see for ourselves? Anyway, we have nothing to lose."

Leo nodded hesitantly. "Fine. There's no such thing as a perfect daughter-in-law anyway."

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When Laney stepped inside the house of the Harding family, she was very anxious, but she knew that her nerves were good for her. That way, she'd have her guard up and would only proceed with caution.

It took Laney a long time to get dressed before coming here today. Since she was pregnant, she had stopped wearing makeup. Today, however, she specifically hired a makeup artist to help her get her hair and make-up done. She wore her most expensive clothes. After all, this was the first time she was meeting Garrett's family. Everything just had to be perfect. She couldn't give them a reason to look down on her.

Garrett held her arm carefully and led her into the house, taking one step at a time.

Over lunch, Laney was still very uneasy. She chewed and swallowed slowly, trying to eat as gracefully as possible, totally unlike her usual self.

As a result, after the meal, Laney felt stiff and unprecedentedly full.

Plus, she could feel Vera's and Leo's intent gaze, sizing her up carefully.

Vera dabbed the corner of her mouth elegantly and stole a glance at Laney's belly. "Miss Garcia, how many servants do you have at your house? You're pregnant now, so you have to take good care of yourself."



Laney nodded obediently and smiled. "Thank you for your concern, Mrs. Harding. I have several maids taking care of me, and there's also a nutritionist and a doctor. In fact, I've been on a diet specific for expecting mothers."

She wasn't lying. Although the whole truth was that the food designed for her was terrible and she secretly ate other snacks throughout the day.

Vera nodded in satisfaction.

After lunch, Garrett arranged for someone to take Laney back to the villa ahead of him. He stayed a little longer to talk with his parents.

"Well? What do you think?" Garrett asked seemingly casually, although he was even more nervous than Laney was just now.

Leo had investigated Laney's background before she came.

It turned out that Laney used to be a professional bodyguard for high-profile celebrities and superstars. She led a simple life, but she was indeed a decent girl. Just now, she treated them with respect. But Leo could tell that she had tried her best to act like a proper lady to impress them.

"She's good enough to be your girlfriend, but she's not good enough to be the future hostess of the Harding family." Leo was not the kind of man who would say something nice. This was already high praise for Laney.

Garrett turned to his mother, eyebrows slightly raised.

Vera adjusted her posture and said, "She looks good, but she definitely doesn't look like a noble lady. No matter how expensive her clothes are, there's not a graceful bone in her body."

Vera's ideal daughter-in-law had to be as elegant and dignified as herself.

#### [Chapter 705 Pay The Price](#)

Garrett pursed his lips unhappily. "Laney has been practicing martial arts ever since she was a child. Naturally, her temperament is different from those spoiled rich ladies you want me to marry. She's sensible and reasonable, which is already very hard to find these days."

Vera remained unfazed. Smiling faintly, she continued, "She isn't even your wife yet, but you already defend her so much. Garrett, do you really love her? Even so, love fades over time. What will you do if you fall out of love in the future? If you marry a woman with an affluent background, at least you can maintain the marriage with money. But Miss Garcia doesn't even have a family. How will you maintain your marriage? Getting married on impulse is an injustice to both you and Miss Garcia."

Garrett clicked his tongue, disappointed in his mother's stodgy view. "I've dated a lot of women before. I

know how I feel about Laney. She's different. Besides, I have to take responsibility for her. It is not like the Harding family is struggling and has to rely on my marriage to stay afloat. Why can't you let me marry a woman I love? What's more, she's pregnant with my child. Do you really have the heart to let this child grow up without its father? Dad, Mom, let me make things simple for you. If I can't marry Laney, I won't marry anyone else."

Garrett employed both hard and soft tactics to convince his parents.

Vera had never seen her son act like this. She sighed and looked her disappointing son up and down.

Finally, she turned to her husband helplessly. "Well, it's up to you. I can't control your son. It seems that he's obsessed with Miss Garcia."

Leo frowned tightly.

He was distressed. Vera was a shrewd woman who only cared about her image. In giving her husband the responsibility to call the shots, she was secretly asking him to force Garrett into submission.

On the other hand, Leo also wanted to be a kind father and grandfather. So that left him with only one choice.

"Okay." Leo finally agreed. "I approve of your getting married to her. But on one condition: you have to leave the Larson Group. That way, you can take over the family business and make a plan for future development. Back then, we only let you work in the Larson Group so that you could get some experience. Unexpectedly, you were reluctant to leave after working there for so long, leaving our family businesses in the dust for several years. Now that you've chosen to marry Miss Garcia... Well, this marriage won't bring anything to the table, so you have to make up for it by bringing value to the family in another way."

Leo spoke solemnly.

Garrett knew that his father was dead serious. He fell into pensive silence.

The Larson Group was founded by both him and Brandon when they were young. Naturally, he was very reluctant to just leave it.

Moreover, the Harding family and the Larson Group were competitors in some fields. If he chose to return to the Harding family, it meant that one day in the future, he might end up on the opposite side of the Larson Group.

He and Brandon would become rivals.

But he had to make a choice. At present, Laney was his priority.

"Fine. I promise." Garrett's eyes took on a fierce light.

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Laney had been waiting for Garrett at home for a long time now.

When he finally came back, he beamed at her brightly. "Mom and Dad will choose a perfect date for us to hold the wedding. She is quite fond of you and she also hopes that we can move back and live with them after getting married."

Garrett plopped down on the sofa and hugged Laney tightly.

Laney pushed him away a little to look at his face carefully. She was confused. "How did you manage to convince them? Your parents didn't agree to it before. What made them agree now?"

She guessed that Garrett must've paid a heavy price to change his parents' mind.

Smiling brightly, Garrett pinched her cheek and teased, "What's with the long face? Aren't you happy you'll be my bride? They're my parents. They wouldn't do anything to hurt me. They just asked me to go back to the Harding family and take over the family business."

He spoke with calculated casualness, but Laney's heart still sank. Perhaps it was because of her raging hormones that her emotions fluctuated easily. Tears welled up in her eyes as she said, "Are you stupid? Why would you accept such a condition? You built the Larson Group from the ground up with Brandon! The Larson Group is practically your child, isn't it?"

She knew that Larson Group was very important to Garrett, or he wouldn't have worked there for so many years. Now he was forced to abandon what he had built in order to marry her. It must've been a very difficult decision for him.

Garrett's expression softened. He wiped the tears from the corners of Laney's eyes, wrapped her in his arms, and said gently, "What can I do? I can't work in Larson Group for the rest of my life. My parents are getting old. I needed to take over the family business sooner or later. Besides, now I have something more important to protect than the Larson Group."

Looking at him with tears in her eyes, Laney couldn't help but cry even harder.

### [Chapter 706 Marrying Into The Harding Family](#)

Laney knew that Garrett just sacrificed something valuable to him for their relationship.

She couldn't let him down.

In that moment, Laney made up her mind to be the best wife after they got married.

"I promise I'll be a good wife and make you and your parents proud," Laney swore in a hoarse voice.

Garrett was amused by her words. He chuckled and then kissed her forehead affectionately. "Just be yourself, Laney. Don't change for me, okay?"

Laney was not an ignorant girl. She knew that marrying into a rich family would not be easy.

Besides, she could tell that Vera had high standards for her daughter-in-law.

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Now that he had his parents' approval, Garrett began to prepare for the wedding.

Laney didn't want a grand wedding, so they held a simple one and didn't invite too many guests. Not a single reporter was allowed to step foot in the wedding venue. Garrett also warned all the major media outlets, forbidding them from gossiping about Laney.

However, even Garrett couldn't stop the news that he, the only son and heir of the Harding family, was marrying an ordinary woman. On their wedding day, the news trended on Twitter. Everyone was curious to see what this real-life Cinderella looked like.

During the wedding ceremony, the guests were kept talking about it.

Especially all the women who had tried to chase after Garrett.

Before now, Garrett was one of the most eligible bachelors in Seacisco. There were a lot of girls who liked him.

Janet had experienced a similar situation before. She had been under the same pressure when she married Brandon.

"Don't listen, don't look, and don't even think about it. They're all just jealous. After all, in their eyes, you've won!" Janet whispered to Laney as she helped smooth the creases on her wedding dress.

Laney smiled, feeling an indescribable sadness. "How come I don't feel like the winner? This is just the beginning. Janet, I'm more worried about what life will be like after I get married."

Laney was used to a carefree life and never let anyone tie her down. What if she grew tired of married life?

"I heard that Mrs. Harding is a kind woman. I doubt she'd make you suffer." Janet tried to comfort her.

Truth be told, she had never met Garrett's mother before.

However, Garrett loved Laney very much. If he was able to convince his parents to accept Laney as his wife, then he could protect Laney from being bullied in the Harding family.

Janet prayed in her heart, hoping that Laney could be with Garrett in peace and harmony.

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After their wedding, Laney was flung into the upper-class world as Garrett gradually took over the Harding family business.

Every time there was a party or a banquet, he would take Laney with him.

Just like what had happened to Janet previously, Laney was often mocked by some of the rich people on such occasions.

Laney had chosen to marry Garrett, and she had foreseen this situation long before she said "I do". Thus, she endured every insult and slander.

Not long after they got married, Vera called and told Laney to move to the Harding mansion.

Laney was not prepared for such an order. She anxiously twisted the phone line with her fingers and said, "Mom, I have professionals here to take care of me. I don't want to bother you at home."

"Nonsense! We're family. Of course I should take care of you. Besides, I've arranged a lot of etiquette classes and other compulsory courses for you, including dancing, wine tasting, and appreciating art. Laney, now that you're the future hostess of the Harding family, you must behave like a cultivated lady from now on. Don't disgrace the Harding family."

#### [Chapter 707 Alienation](#)

From the other end of the line, Vera seemed calm and unfazed. Laney could tell that her mother-in-law didn't look down upon her, but rather she was looking out for her.

"Oh, I see, Mom," Laney answered respectfully.

Vera was very discerning and could tell that Laney was a little hesitant. "Laney, is there something wrong? Why don't you want to live with us? We're a family now. You can be frank with me."

"No, there's nothing wrong. I just don't want to inconvenience you and Dad. But since you've asked, I'll do whatever you say." Despite saying so, Laney still felt uneasy.

She wasn't interested in any of the courses Vera had listed, but she knew that Vera was doing this for her own good. It would be beneficial if she learned the ways of the upper class.

The following day, Vera sent over some servants to help Laney pack up her things. After having her luggage loaded into the car, Laney officially moved into the house of the Harding family.

The Harding family had lavish mansions in both Seacisco and Barnes. Vera and Leo didn't want to exhaust Laney too much and decided to meet her halfway, so they temporarily moved to Barnes.

Not long after Laney moved in, her courses started and Vera began to teach her all kinds of things.

One day, at six o'clock in the morning, Laney was woken up by a servant.

When she rubbed her sleepy eyes and went downstairs, she found Vera sitting at the table, drinking coffee elegantly. She was already dressed for the day, with delicate makeup and perfume.

Vera always looked perfect and impeccable. And she never ceased to tell Laney to mind her appearance and manners.

"Good morning, Laney. Did you sleep well last night?" Vera looked her up and down and added in jest, "You look sleepy."

Laney stifled a yawn and tried to sober up. "No, no, I usually get up at this time."

"Good girl. Nowadays, few young people like getting up early." Vera nodded with a satisfied smile. She glanced at Laney's clothes and added, "We usually get dressed before breakfast. Garrett must've forgotten to tell you about it. Oh, well, you can have breakfast first and then go upstairs to change."

Laney looked down at her pajamas and blushed in embarrassment.

In an effort to hide how flustered she was, she quickly sat down at the table to eat.

After taking only two bites, Vera reminded her, "You'd better stop eating when you're half full. If you overeat in one sitting, you'll feel tired and lazy the rest of the day." After saying that, Vera paused and then broke into a smile. "But you're pregnant now. It should be okay for you to eat a little more than that."

Laney nodded obediently and quickly ate two more spoonfuls of food. Then she wiped her mouth, stood up, and was about to go upstairs to get dressed. However, she had stood up too quickly and nearly tripped over the table leg. Fortunately, she reacted quickly, or she would've fallen face flat.

Vera was so frightened just now that she patted her chest and sighed. "Don't be so brash next time. You can't afford to be clumsy anymore, Laney. You have to think about the baby in your belly."

"I'm sorry, mom." Laney apologized hurriedly. Then, she held the stair rail and made her way upstairs slowly, just to err on the side of caution.

After getting changed, her etiquette class started.

It was a very long day for Laney. By the time she returned to her room, it was already nine o'clock in the evening. She sank into bed, feeling like falling apart.

She had to restrain herself and mind her manners at all times. It was exhausting. This kind of life made her feel suffocated.

The etiquette courses were very difficult for Laney. In fact, they were so difficult that Laney found them a hundred times more challenging than martial arts.

She had only been in bed for a few seconds when her phone started to ring. It was Garrett calling.

"How've you been now that you live with my parents?" Garrett asked in a gentle voice.

Laney massaged her aching shoulder and murmured, "Mom and Dad are very kind to me. I'm happy to be here."

Garrett knew that his parents weren't mean people who were difficult to get along with, so he didn't doubt Laney's words. "That's great!" he said brightly.

"Since you're happy there, you can live with them for a little while longer."

Laney chuckled dryly and said nothing else.

She didn't like the awkward silence, so she changed the topic. "How's work?"

Garrett yawned in a leisurely manner. "I've told Brandon that I'm leaving the Larson Group. He didn't say anything.

After all, I'm the heir of the Harding family. He knew that I wouldn't work in the Larson Group forever. It was only a matter of time before I left to go work to take over the family business. The problem is that the Larson Group is really chaotic right now. Charis is on leave since she's in therapy. Now, I'm resigning. The Larson Group will be even more understaffed."

Laney didn't know what to say. She suddenly felt extremely upset and depressed.

Garrett had no idea that she was not happy at all here, but she couldn't complain to him.

The dreaded gap between them was rearing its ugly head.

"It's getting late. I'm sleepy." Laney hastily looked for a way to end the call. She wasn't lying. After all, she had to get up at six o'clock the following morning, so she had to cherish what little time she had to herself.

Garrett didn't sense that anything was wrong. He was too busy wrapping up his work at the Larson Group. He blew kisses into the receiver and said, "Okay, okay. Good night, honey."

Laney rolled her eyes, hung up the phone, and pulled the quilt all the way up to her forehead.

### [Chapter 708 Return To The Larson Group](#)

Within the span of one month, two of the Larson Group's founders had left. Charis was gone due to therapy, whereas Garrett resigned to go back and handle his family's business. These two major events made everyone in the Larson Group panic.

After dealing with Garrett's resignation, Brandon called Charis's psychologist.

"How is she?"

"Miss Turner is doing very well. Her mental state has almost completely recovered; she's practically back to her normal self. Just a few more rehabilitation sessions and she should be fit for work," the psychologist reported. Brandon had known him for many years and trusted him very much.

After thinking for a while, Brandon said, "I'll visit her this afternoon."

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When Brandon arrived, Charis was in the middle of a painting competition with some other patients.

This activity was sponsored by the hospital, and the prize was a basket of chocolate bars.

In the end, Charis's painting won first prize.

Brandon watched quietly as she kindly distributed the chocolate to the other patients. Although she was still wearing a mask, she wasn't as bundled up as before and her overall temperament seemed to have improved. She didn't seem to be as irritable as before.

"You seem to have recovered well," Brandon commented lightly as soon as he approached.

Charis looked at him in surprise. "Brandon, why didn't you tell me you were coming?"

"I happened to be in the area." When Brandon's eyes landed on the small patch of exposed skin on her neck, he smiled and said, "You look as graceful and confident as before."

Charis waved her hand dismissively. "The burns on my neck aren't as bad as the rest of my body. Still, I made mountains out of molehills before. The doctor helped me overcome my insecurities, making me less sensitive about the scars on my body. I was wrong before. I covered myself from head to toe, which



actually sealed my heart."

Now, she didn't mind showing some of herself.

"You always had the best stress tolerance among the three of us," Brendan sighed. He was not exaggerating. Charis's mental capacity was amazing.

Charis shook her head modestly. "I'm flattered. I did go through something quite stressful, but fortunately, I'm on the road to recovery. After all, my greatest advantage was never my face, but my brain."

Brandon was relieved. He turned to look out the window pensively. It was a sunny day today. It was almost as though the universe was aligning for them.

After a while, Brandon looked at Charis and said frankly, "It's good that you're getting better now. Garrett decided to take over his family business. The Larson Group needs you. Are you ready to come back?"

He wasn't sugarcoating. The Larson Group truly needed her.

After a moment of silence, Charis broke into a smile. "Of course."

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Three days later, Charis returned to the office and continued to work.

Her sudden return took everyone by surprise. After all, everyone in the Larson Group had seen just how crazy Charis had become. Her presence made them feel uneasy. What if she tried to take revenge on them?

However, their worries never became a reality.

Charis's present attitude towards everyone was as gentle as the old Charis.

Besides, she was an efficient worker and sure enough, she was still that capable woman.

Brandon also noticed that she was on a roll at work, so he started handing over the important projects to her.

When Janet heard that Charis had recovered and had returned to work, she felt both shocked and helpless.

It seemed that Charis would remain a tough opponent.

But Janet didn't want to focus her energy on taking revenge. She was content with her career and her life with Brandon. It would be a waste to spend all her time thinking about her enemy.

Since her work schedule was always different from that of Brandon, every time Janet came to Seacisco, she would prepare lunch and take it to Brandon's office. She and Brandon had made it a point to spend time with each other during lunchtime. Recently, the two had been getting closer and closer, just like a young couple who had just fallen in love.

One day, Janet was bringing lunch to Brandon's office as usual when she ran into Charis.

Ignoring her, Janet strode past her to the elevator. Suddenly, Charis called her from behind, "Please, wait a minute."

Janet frowned and turned to look at her. "Yes?"

"There's something I wanted to talk to you about. Care to join me in my office?"

#### [Chapter 709 Crazy Move](#)

Janet had a bad feeling about this.

She didn't know what Charis was up to, but technically speaking, there was nothing to be afraid of.

"Charis, what do you want from me?"

How shameless! Charis had done countless evil things to hurt Janet before. How dare she come back for more! Did she think Janet was stupid?

"Don't worry. We're on your husband's territory. I would never do anything to hurt you."

Charis narrowed her smiling eyes. Wearing just a mask, her face wasn't as tightly covered as before.

Janet bit her lower lip anxiously. After a while, she figured that Charis wouldn't do anything to her, at least not here.

Besides, she had just come out of a rehabilitation center. Someone as rational as Charis wouldn't destroy herself again so soon, would she?

So Janet obliged and followed her to her office. But Janet remained still vigilant and stood by the door, refusing to go inside.

Charis sat down on the armchair and poured tea for her calmly. "What did I say? Don't worry. I'm not going to hurt you. Relax."

Albeit hesitant, Janet slowly walked to the seat opposite her. She sat down on a chair near the French window and said expressionlessly, "Stop beating around the bush. What on earth do you want?"

Since they were sworn enemies, there was no need to be polite.

"You were right, okay? I'm an ugly monster now. I don't deserve to be with Brandon. I've made up my mind and decided to give up. I hope you and Brandon will live happily ever after."

Charis pushed the cup of tea in front of her.

"No, thanks. That doesn't sound like something you would say." Janet highly doubted that Charis, the woman who had coveted her husband for so long, would suddenly want to bless their relationship.

Nope, she didn't buy it at all.

But she still couldn't figure out what Charis was up to.

Charis sneered, and her eyes took on a dangerous light.

Then, without warning, she suddenly bolted and pushed Janet off her chair—right into the French window.

Janet screamed in surprise.

She had thought that Charis had returned to her usual cunning and shrewd self. Even if she wanted to hurt her, she would've made a careful plan first.

Janet never expected that Charis would act so radically!

Unprepared, Janet fell to the ground and sprained her ankle. She struggled to stand, but failed.

Then, in one swift movement, Charis raised her leg and kicked the window hard. The whole window frame was dislodged, plummeting to the ground hundreds of meters below.

Then she pulled the struggling Janet to the gaping hole.

She yanked her by the hair, forcing her to look out. "Bitch! Open your eyes. If you fall from here, I promise you will die ugly!"

They were standing at a height of more than twenty floors, and Janet could even hear the wind whistling in her ears. The people and cars downstairs looked like model toys.

In an instant, Janet's legs went limp. They were too high. If she fell from this height, there was no way she'd live to see tomorrow.

[Chapter 710 Never Recovered](#)

Janet was scared out of her wits. She desperately clung to the frame of the French window, hoping that Charis wouldn't be able to push her out.

At this critical moment, the door to the office was suddenly pushed open.

Brandon strode in.

"There is something wrong with this—"

He was looking down at a document in his hand as he walked inside Charis's office. Suddenly, he heard a blood-curdling scream. He looked up abruptly and saw the two women by the French window.

"Charis! What the hell are you doing?!" Brandon was shocked cold. He clearly saw that Charis holding Janet's head outside the broken window. One false move and Janet could plummet to her death.

All the color drained from Brandon's face.

Never in his wildest dreams would he have expected to see such a scene when Charis asked him to come to her office to talk about work.

Seeing that he was about to take a step towards them, Charis's eyes widened and she shouted, "Don't come over! If you take one more step, I'll throw her out!"

She was so worked up that the veins on her forehead bulged.

Brandon stopped in his tracks and raised his hands in surrender. "Okay, I won't move. Please, Charis. Don't do this."

"Brandon, do you feel hurt yet? I asked you to come here so that you could watch Janet die with your own eyes!" Charis raised her head and laughed hysterically. At this moment, what with her disfigured face, she looked like a real brutal monster.

Brandon was overwhelmed with shock and confusion. "Why are you doing this? The psychologist said that you had recovered!"

"Recovered?" Charis laughed again. "Brandon, you think life is that simple? I'll never be cured! Yes! That fire turned me into a monster inside and out! My life is ruined! Yet you're still so happy with Janet! It's driving me crazy!"

She roared like an injured beast. The scars of the fire had been imprinted on her face and her heart.

She had never felt so ugly in her life.

Seeing the crazed look in her eye, Brandon instantly understood.

Charis had never recovered. She had deceived everyone, including her doctor, into believing that she had recovered. Secretly, her craziness only festered and grew to unprecedented heights.

"You came back just to hurt Janet?" Brandon's eyes darkened.

"Exactly. I deliberately waited until you put your guard down so that you could let me come back to the Larson Group. I planned everything so you could watch Janet die in front of you!" With her bloodshot eyes as wide as saucers, Charis burst into crazed laughter. She looked like a madwoman!

Brandon didn't dare to act rashly. Janet was by the very edge of the window, being held in place only by Charis. As long as Charis let go, Janet would plummet over twenty floors down.

He didn't dare to call the police or ask for help, which would only provoke the crazy Charis even more.

He was caught between a rock and a hard place. What should he do?

For the first time in his life, he felt so much regret. He was the one who asked Charis to come back to work. He was the one who put Janet in danger! He gritted his teeth, wishing that he was the one that Charis wanted to kill.

Brandon tried to stay calm. He subtly covered his phone with the document in his hand and dialed Garrett's number while Charis wasn't looking.

In order to buy more time, Brandon tried to negotiate. "If you let her go unharmed, I'll pretend that nothing happened. I promise I'll let this go, okay?"

Charis threw her head back and laughed even more hysterically. "Brandon, are you seriously trying to negotiate with me right now? Do you think I want to live after this? I'm ready to go down with her! I'll take away the woman you love and make sure you live the rest of your life in pain and regret!"