My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 107

/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance Chapter 107 I'm Asking You For The Last Time

Derek lit a cigarette irritably and fell silent.

My heart sank when I looked at him.

I didn't want to end every relationship on a bitter note. Even if we didn't get to be together in the future, I hoped we would at least part ways in harmony without harboring any ill feelings.

"I remember what you said before: 'Don't judge a book by its co*ve*r. Many things in this world aren't as simple as they seem to be.' I couldn't understand what you meant then. But everything makes sense now. Your purpose to be with me isn't as

You also advised me not to be kind to everyone. I always thought that you'd treat me differently. Moreover, I had lost everything then. I trusted you with all my heart, but you are no different. You broke my heart."

I kept talking, and he listened to me. Moments later, he opened the window and put his hand that was holding the cigarette outside. Wisps of smoke swirled in the air as he stared into the distance.

Derek didn't bother explaining or justifying himself. He hadn't given me an answer since | questioned him during the game of Truth or Dare a few days ago.

After all, everything was true. Perhaps he didn't know how to explain.

But despite everything, we couldn't control ourselves and ended up having sex in the car today. Things were getting complicated.

It felt as if a weight had settled on my heart. I could barely breathe. The predicament of this relationship seemed to suffocate me.

I reached out to open the door, but it was locked.

"I want to get out of the car."

Derek didn't move, nor did he intend to open the door.

I anxiously knocked on the door and winced as I bumped my head against the door.

"Eveline, you..." He grabbed my hand and glared at me.

"I want to get out of the car," I said again, trying to remain calm.

Derek looked at me for a while and finally unlocked the door. I opened the door and got out, gasping for breath.

I was desperate to get out of the car but didn't think how to get back home on my own at midnight. We were at a mountain top, and the darkness of the night didn't seem to help couldn't stay in the same car with him but didn't know how to go back either.

I reminded myself to be more decisive and determined. I had to gather myself and step out of this relationship before things got worse.

I walked down the mountain along the asphalt road, not knowing how long it would take to get back to the urban area.

After a while, I heard the blaring of honks from behind. Derek's car skidded to a halt beside me. and the window rolled down.

"Get in the car," he said.

I ignored him and kept walking.

"Are you going to walk all by yourself in the middle of the night and break your legs?" he snapped viciously.

Looking at the endless darkness around me, I hesitated for a moment. Finally, I opened the door and got in the car.

We didn't talk on the way. Derek smoked the entire time. When he opened the cigarette box again, it was empty. He grunted in annoyance and threw it out of the window.

The car windows w*e*re open on both sides. I shivered as the cold breeze slapped my cheeks but didn't want to complain. The pungent smell of smoke lingered in my nose.

Derek drove all the way to the alley.

When I was about to get out of the car, he grabbed my wrist.

"Eveline, you can either get out of the car or go back to the villa with me. The choice is yours. I am asking you for the last time." 1

He looked angry. I hesitated for a moment but eventually shook off his hand. 1 Derek gritted his teeth and nodded. "Okay. I will be a loser if I take the initiative to come to you again." A pang of pain settled on my heart when I saw the car speed away, disappearing out of my sight.

However, I felt the momentary pain was better than suffering in the long run. I knew I had made the right decision.

Derek was a man of his word. I thought our relationship would really end this way.

| sighed and walked into the alley. My heart leaped to my throat when I arrived at the stairway.

I saw the glow of a cigarette, and Shane was sitting on one of the stairs as if he were waiting for me.

"Why are you here?"

He had heard everything on the phone earlier, and now, he was outside my house. I had to be vigilant.

Shane stood up and walked up to me.

His face was hidden in the dark, so I couldn't see his expression.

"Eveline, please come to my hometown with me," he said.

I was taken aback.

He seemed eerily calm. I squinted and examined his face, but there wasn't a trace of any other emotion. *My* body stiffened because his calmness didn't seem genuine. Or perhaps he had learned to conceal his true emotions.

"I know he forced you to do that. I won't blame you," he continued.

Blame me? Who the hell was he to blame me?

| sneered in my heart.

"Shane, that's enough. You don't have to do this anymore. You have taken your revenge and fulfilled your goals. I can't be with him anymore," I snapped at him, but he didn't seem angry or upset.

"Eveline, you have misunderstood me. I feel sorry for what I did to you. I have been thinking about us a lot lately and realized that I still love you. Please give me another chance."

Another chance to hurt me? I wanted to laugh.

"Eveline, in fact, my parents don't know that I have divorced you. They still regard you as their daughter-in-law."

I jerked up in shock.

I didn't expect him to hide such a piece of important information from his parents.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 108

/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance **Chapter 108 The Favor**

Shane threw the cigarette away and it drew a fiery red arc in the darkness.

"Eveline, my mother is sick. I heard that she is bedridden. Please come home with me, at least for the sake of her. I'm not asking you to forgive me and take me back. It's just a favor to comfort my ailing mother. She would be happy to see us together. You will only have to pretend that we are still together."

It looked like he wasn't as heartless as I thought him to be. At least, he cared for his mother.

"We have divorced. You can't hide it from them forever. Sooner or later, they will find the truth, " | said.

Shane looked at me, his eyes begging me to help him. "The truth would kill my mother, Eveline. You know my parents love you a lot. It doesn't matter if you don't want to be with me or give me another chance. I only want you to pretend in front of my parents. This one lie could make my mother happy and save her life. She has worked hard to raise me. I can't lose her."

Shane's voice was thick with emotion. I couldn't help but feel sorry for him. Just then, his phone rang. He answered the call and handed the phone to me. I hesitantly took it and placed it against my ear. His mother's weak voice from the other end of the line broke my heart.

Despite her ailment, she sounded enthusiastic to talk to me. She wanted to meet me and was afraid that she wouldn't get the chance to see us before she died. I wanted to explain to her that Shane and I had divorced but stopped on second thought. His mother was too sick, and I couldn't bring myself to break her heart. I was afraid that the truth would worsen her condition.

She had worked hard to raise Shane. As a mother, not once had she bothered her son. She called him only because she was ill and wanted to see her son. I couldn't refuse her request.

Therefore, I agreed.

"Shane, let me put this straight. I'm doing this only for your mother. Don't have any other ideas." 1

Shane nodded happily. "Okay. Thank you so much. I'll pick you up tomorrow. Let's go to the hospital together and ask for leave."

The next morning, we went to the hospital and headed to our respective departments to ask for leave.

When I was about to leave, I met Aaron.

"I heard that you had asked for a long leave? What's the matter? Is everything all right?" He sounded concerned.

I told him the truth because I had nothing to hide.

A frown lined his forehead; he looked worried.

"Eveline, you are too kindhearted."

*M*y stomach churned with uneasiness. I was conflicted even though I agreed to meet Shane's parents. I didn't know whether I had made the right decision or not.

Despite my hesitation, I still got in Shane's car and went to his hometown, oblivious to what awaited me.

At that time, I didn't know that a big secret about me would be revealed after I returned from the trip. I had told Shane before that I wouldn't take the car his mistress had sat in. I didn't want her disgusting scent to ruin my mood.

I had broken all ties with Shane and didn't think I would ever interact with him after what happened. Not even in my worst nightmare did I think I would go to his hometown and meet his parents.

"Thank you, Eveline," Shane said, breaking the silence.

"You don't have to thank me. I'm doing this for your mother, not you."

Perhaps because I had always craved family affection, I instinctively sympathized with a mother who had worked hard all her life. I wanted to somehow help her in whatever way | could.

It took us five hours to get to the town through the expressway. Another thirty-minute ride led us to the village where his family lived. The entrance of the village was crooked. Shane drove slowly, adjusting to the bumpy terrain. It was four in the afternoon when we arrived at his parents' house. I had been here only twice during the two years of our marriage.

The house was located in a narrow street where the car couldn't traverse. Therefore. Shane parked the car at the roadside, and we walked toward the old two-story building.

Shane's father was sitting at the door, smoking. He was an honest man who seldom spoke. He spotted us from afar and stood up, smiling innocently.

"You are back."

I couldn't call him "Dad" anymore, so I smiled and nodded.

"Shane and Eveline are back?"

His mother's feeble voice resounded from the house.

Shane and I walked into the house. His mother was lying on the bed. A thin blanket covered her scrawny frame; her messy gray hair was sprawled on the pillow.

I could see that life had taken a toll on her. She was only in her fifties but looked at least ten years older than her age.

An ecstatic smile slipped onto her face. She wanted to get out of the bed and cook for us, but even the small movement made her gasp for breath. I stopped her, put on the apron, and prepared myself to cook.

When I walked out of the room, I turned around and saw her nudging Shane, asking him to help me light the fire.

After dinner, Shane's father insisted on washing the tableware, and I agreed.

Plumes of dust had fallen on me when I cooked. Seeing me constantly ward off the dust from my hair, Shane said he would boil some water for me to take a shower.

The bathroom looked shabby, and the tiles *we*re crooked. But despite the clumsiness, it was still good enough to have an independent bathroom in the countryside.

When I entered the bathroom, I found the latch of the door was broken. Therefore, I pushed a

stool against the door to hold it in place.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 109

/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance **Chapter 109** An Eye For An Eye

Just as I was about to finish showering, I realized the door was slightly opened.

My back turned numb, and I immediately put on my clothes.

The bathroom was located outside the house. It was dark when I stepped out. The place was silent except for the occasional clucking of the hens in the henhouse.

The weather in the countryside was colder. I shivered as a cold breeze brushed against me.

I guessed the bathroom door had opened because of the wind.

Just as I walked past the living room, Shane's mother called me. I walked in her room and saw that she was talking with Shane.

His mother patted the bed and asked me to sit down. I walked over and sat beside her.

"I heard you had taken off from work to spend time with me," she said, patting my hand.

I called her "Mom" and pretended to be in a harmonious relationship with her son.

"*M*om, it doesn't matter. *W*e seldom come to see you. Your health is more important. After all, money can't buy everything in the world."

Shane's mother shook her head and heaved a long sigh. "I know you young people are ambitious. You two have been busy with work ever since you got married. I'm worried that I wouldn't be able to see my grandson before I die."

Her words made me realize that she had no idea about my previous pregnancy.

I turned and glared at Shane, but he avoided my gaze and lowered his head.

If he hadn't aborted the baby, I would be holding my little one in my arms.

After talking for a while, Shane's mother slowly drifted off to sleep. Once sure she was asleep, | secretly asked Shane where I had to sleep, and he pointed upstairs.

I nodded and ascended the stairs. However, just as I was about to close the door, Shane grabbed my hand and stopped me.

"What are you doing?" | scowled at him as my senses instinctively became alert.

He pushed the door open, stepped inside, and looked at me before closing the door.

"If we don't sleep in the same room, my parents will get suspicious."

I felt his concern was reasonable, but I couldn't bring myself to trust him, so I stood still.

He looked at me and said, "If you are worried, I will make a bed on the floor."

Shane took out a quilt from an old cabinet and made a bed on the floor.

I didn't go to bed until he lay down.

I couldn't fall asleep in the same room with him. I checked my phone, but there was no network.

After a while, I heard Shane's steady breathing and realized that he had fallen asleep.

I tried not to sleep because I couldn't trust the man. How*ev*er, my eyes eventually grew heavy and, before I knew it, I was fast asleep.

I didn't know how long I had slept when I was awakened by a strange sound. *My* heart leaped to my throat when I opened my eyes. Just as I was about to scream, a strong hand clamped my mouth.

Shane had climbed onto the bed; his hands were wandering over my body.

His breathing was heavy like a savage beast, waiting to ravage its prey.

"What are you doing?" I tried my best to push him away; my scalp tingled with panic.

Shane hovered above me; the weight of him trapped me in place. His gaze met mine as a slow, predatory smile emerged on his face.

"To fuck you!" 1

With that, he slid his hand under my shirt.

"Get off me!" | growled, slapping his hand a*w*ay.

The dim moonlight illuminated Shane's face. His monstrous smile sent a shiver down my spine.

"You let Derek fuck you. Why can't l? After all, you have been with me for two years. You were my woman in the first place. How long have you been with him?"

My stomach clenched as I realized that I had fallen into his trap again. "Shane, don't forget that we have divorced."

"I haven't forgotten that you are Derek's wife now, and that's exactly why I want to sleep with you." He leered. "An eye for an eye."

With that, he lowered his head and kissed me. He clasped my chin so hard, making it

impossible for me to move.

Bile rose in my throat when he pressed his lips against mine. I felt so sick that I wanted to throw up.

He bit my bottom lip with his teeth as he ran his hand over my body. Just as he thrust his tongue into my mouth, I snapped my teeth. The rancid smell of blood filled my nostrils. Shane let go of me, yelping in pain.

I took the opportunity to raise my leg and hit his crotch. Shane cried out in pain and loosened his grip against me. I used the opportunity to my advantage and pushed him away. Leaving no chance for him to attack me again, I got out of the bed, put on my shoes, and ran out of the room.

Thurriedly looked over my shoulder to see if Shane was after me. The man was curled up on the bed, covering his crotch, writhing in pain.

I had used all my strength to hit his crotch a moment ago, so I knew he wouldn't be able to move for a while.

When I ran downstairs, I heard his mother's feeble voice. She had perhaps woken up after hearing the commotion.

"Eveline? Be careful when you go to the washroom. Take a flashlight."

I opened the door and rushed out, not bothering to answer her.

*M*y heart drummed in my chest as I relived the same bitter moment I had tried hard to forget.

This was the second time I had escaped from Shane's assault in the middle of the night.

Derek was right. I had probably lost my mind.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 110

/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance **Chapter 110 Savior**

I wasn't familiar with these roads at all. I ran out of the farm and followed the gravel road just beyond its fences, trying to navigate by memory.

The countryside was eerily quiet at night, and my footsteps sounded particularly loud in the dark. A dog suddenly barked somewhere, which sparked a barking frenzy among dozens of dogs in the entire village.

I was terrified out of my wits, and before I knew it, I had already broken into a run.

I had lost my slippers as I had run too fast earlier. Now, my feet hurt as they carried me down the rough gravel road, but I didn't stop until I finally reached the highway.

I was surrounded by tall trees and endless darkness. I slowly spiraled into despair.

Sousen was too far away. Who could possibly deliver me from this godforsaken place?

My feet were stinging. I only felt a little pain as I dashed all the way here, but now that I'd

stopped, it hurt to even just remain standing.

I crumpled helplessly on the side of the road. I felt like crying, but no tears came out of my eyes.

Derek had been right. I couldn't afford to be kind to everyone. My good intentions brought me no reward, only suffering. I realized then that I wasn't simply kind; I was downright stupid.

I was a fool, a blind idiot! 1

I berated myself inwardly and even slapped my cheeks several times.

I had no idea for how long I had been slumped by the highway. Just when I thought I was about to go mad with desperation, I saw two rays of light approaching from the distance. It was a car, and it was coming right in my direction.

The two rays of light were blinding as they shone on me. Vaguely, I lamented the fact that I was disheveled and not at all presentable.

Fortunately, the car stopped. The driver seat door opened, and a pair of black leather shoes appeared in my line of sight.

"What the hell happened to you, Eveline?"

I looked up to find Aaron towering above me. The dam broke then, and I burst into tears as I threw myself at his legs.

He crouched to my level and held me. He stroked my back and offered comforting words in his

gentle voice.

"It's okay. Everything is all right now. Come on, let's go. I'll take you home."

Aaron helped me up. My feet hurt so much, I stumbled back almost immediately. In the end, he picked me up and carried me to the car. Soon, we were speeding away.

Human emotions were so strange. Back when I was in the depths of anguish and despair, my eyes hadn't shed a single tear. Yet now that my salvation had come, I couldn't stop crying.

"How come you're here?" I croaked out after a while.

Deep in my heart, I had been expecting that it would be Derek who would come for me.

Aaron gave me a sideways glance and laughed quietly. It sounded rather self-deprecating for some reason.

"I don't really know. Gut-feeling, I guess. I had this inexplicable sense of dread, so I came."

He slowed down and pulled over on the side of the road. Then he reached out and pushed a button beneath my seat, and it automatically reclined.

"Get some sleep. I promise, by the time you wake up, you'll be back home." "But what about you? You'll get exhausted driving around without breaks." Aaron just smiled. "It's no big deal. I'm a man, after all."

It didn't take long for me to drift off to sleep.

Sure enough, I woke up to a familiar feeling. It was in the wee hours. The faint moonlight streamed in through the windows. I looked around and took stock of my surroundings.

I was in my room at Derek's villa.

I was surprised that Aaron had thought to bring me here.

Knowing whose roof I was under, I found it difficult to get back to sleep. My throat was parched, anyway, so I decided to go and get some water.

My feet had yet to receive proper treatment, and I had to slowly limp downstairs so as not to aggravate my wounds. As I passed by the living room, 1 accidentally stubbed a toe on something lying on the floor. I squinted to get a clearer view, and realized that it was a beer bottle.

It wasn't just the one, either. Countless others were littered all around the living room, on the floor, on the coffee table, on the mantel. And there was a person hunched on the sofa.

Was it Derek? Or was it Aaron?

I padded silently to the kitchen and poured myself a glass of water. I finished it in three large gulps, and was about to turn around when arms came around my waist. It all happened so fast. First, I was pulled flush against a broad chest, and then I was pressed against the cold wall.

Hungry lips ravished my mouth in a fierce kiss that took my breath away. The familiar, male scent washed over me.

If all the empty bottles weren't enough indication, then the smell of alcohol in Derek's breath certainly was. He was piss drunk. And when he was in this state, he lost all inhibition and any sense of propriety. He was starting to nip at my lips aggressively, and I thought I tasted blood on my tongue.

"Let go of me." I pushed him away with all the strength I could muster and fled the kitchen.

Derek caught me in the living room, where he proceeded to throw me back on the sofa. He straddled me then, trapping me between the sinking cushions and his hot body.

At that moment, I couldn't help the feeling of injustice that surged in my chest.

Earlier, Shane had attempted to rape me, and now Derek was treating me rudely, too. I didn't understand why they both wanted my body, but they didn't really love me.

Derek noticed that I had grown still beneath him. He ceased his attacks and grabbed my chin between his fingers. His grip was so tight, I was afraid he might break my jaw.

"How dare you go back with that piece of scum? That bastard has broken the rules this time. I'm going to tear him limb from limb!".

He was implying something I couldn't fully comprehend, and I was struck with a peculiar sense of foreboding. "What," I began, my voice shaking. "What do you mean?"

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 111

/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance **Chapter 111 The Indenture**

The dim light shone down on Derek's face, and I could see just how angry he was from his eyes.

Slowly, he loosened his grip on my chin. Then, he took out a piece of folded paper from his pocket and slapped it on the sofa beside my head. Afterwards, he got up from me and fell on the other side of the sofa.

The moment I got up, I noticed that the auxiliary light in the living room was on.

Derek lay at the side, holding a remote control and staring at me with drunken eyes.

I had a bad feeling about that piece of paper, so I picked it up. Somehow, it felt so heavy in my hands.

When I unfolded it, the words written at the top felt like a dagger to my heart.

An indenture?

I chuckled at my own misery. Not long after, tears fell down my cheeks uncontrollably.

I had always been curious how Shane managed to settle his three million dollars' worth of debt in the casino. And now, I found out that this was the solution he had made.

He used me as a collateral to pay Derek the three million dollars he owed him. Shane's signature and fingerprint were even on the paper.

It all made sense now. Derek once told me that whatever I owed him could not be paid off just with a glass of beer. It was no wonder that Shane was always afraid every time he saw Derek. Now, I understood why Derek told me that in Shane's mind, he had already been cuckolded a long time ago.

I knew that Shane was inhuman. I wasn't sad because he sold me without my knowledge. In truth, it was because...

The paper fell from my trembling hands. I looked at Derek as tears streamed down my cheeks, and my voice became hoarse.

"So, I'm indentured to work off the three million dollars that is owed to you?"

Derek stood up, and pressed me down on the sofa again. The strong smell of alcohol *o*vercame me.

"You're not just sold to me. I like sleeping with you to the point that I'm addicted to it," he said.

I didn't struggle this time. I just stared at the ceiling, crying with bitterness and despair. "That means... I'm just a prostitute to you."

The sounds of his panting and my desperate cries echoed through the walls of the living room.

All of a sudden, the weight over my body disappeared, and another hand pulled me up.

Aaron glared at the drunken Derek, and remarked, "You've had too much to drink, Derek."

Having said that, he carried me in his arms and walked out of the villa. Behind us, I heard Derek shout, "Where are you taking my wife? She's my wife, Aaron! You have no right."

Once I was in Aaron's car, I still couldn't calm myself down. The blows to my ego and sanity came one after another, not giving me a second to relax. 1

*W*hen he got into the car, Aaron sighed and looked at me apologetically. "I'm sorry about that. Derek is obviously drunk. I shouldn't have taken you back here."

I just shook my head in response and let my tears fall in silence, for I didn't have the strength to utter another word.

This time, Aaron didn't say anything else, nor did he drive. He just rolled the window on his side halfway down, and smoked in silence.

For a long time, it was quiet inside his car, and nothing else could be heard other than my sobbing.

Once I had had enough of crying, I told Aaron, "I want to watch the sunrise."

He looked at me with a trace of relief in his eyes.

"Sure."

Thus, he drove to the seaside. By the time we got there, the digital clock in his car's device showed that it was three in the morning.

Only stark darkness could be seen all around and the sound of the clashing waves of the sea seemed to wash over me.

"You should nap for a little while. I'll wake you up when it's sunrise," said Aaron.

So, I fell asleep in his car yet again.

I had no idea for how long I had slept. In my dream, I was inside a big forest, and there was a beast chasing after me. I kept on running and running, but I couldn't seem to escape it.

Soon, I was woken up. The moment I opened my eyes, *A*aron's gentle face was the first thing 1 sa*w*.

"What's the matter? You looked like you were having a nightmare," he said.

I felt so tired like I had been running for a long time.

I nodded at him.

Aaron smiled at me. "Didn't you say you wanted to watch the sunrise?"

I looked through the car window, and saw the sea's horizon. At this time of the day, the sky was only slightly bright.

I sat up and noticed that Aaron's coat fell from my body.

When I got out of the car, I handed it to him. But when he took it back, he just draped it over my shoulders.

I told him that I didn't feel cold, causing him to look at me.

"I'm good. It feels hot wearing that coat," he told me.

His eyes were so gentle that it dispelled the haze clouding my heart.

Knowing that my feet hurt, he helped me towards the seashore.

"You're lucky. The weather's pretty good today. I'm guessing the sunrise that's about to come will be majestic."

As I looked at the sparkling sea and listened to the constant waves, I let out a sigh.

"I feel like I've been cursed by fate since I was a child. Time and time again, I end up getting hurt. It's an endless cycle!"

Aaron turned his head to look at me as the sea breeze blew past his bangs.

"Be brave, Eveline."

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 112

/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance **Chapter 112 A Hot Topic**

As we stared at the sea in stolid silence, the sun slowly rose from the distance. The moment the sun rose from its slumber, I felt a lump in my throat and soon broke into

tears.

"I miss a certain friend of mine," I said to Aaron.

"Just go ahead and meet this person you miss," he replied.

I shook my head in response. "He's on the other side of the earth. A few days ago, he told me that he'd come back. But later on, he suddenly said that he couldn't come back for certain reasons. It's a pity that I haven't been able to see him yet."

Aaron turned his attention back to the glorious sunrise; this time, with tenderness in his eyes.

"Perhaps he's looking at the same sun as you are," he remarked.

| glanced over at him and said, "Yes, *w*e do see the same sun, but not at the same time. There's a time difference, after all."

This remark stunned him for a moment. For some reason, I suddenly burst into laughter while I was in tears.

When I looked back at the sky, I found that the sun had completely risen above the sea.

The sea breeze felt cold, and the golden sunlight showered over the sea.

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This incredible view somehow dispelled the sadness that I felt.

"He told me that no matter how difficult tomorrow could be, I must move forward. I always keep his advice in mind, and I tend to do as he says," I said to Aaron.

"Cheer up. Eveline. I think that whatever is happening between you and Derek, it's just a misunderstanding," he responded.

Gently, I shook my head and tucked my disheveled hair behind my ears.

"None of that matters anymore. People who have nothing left to lose aren't afraid of anything," I said.

"Eveline, I hope you don't mind me asking this, but what's your dream?" asked Aaron.

"My dream, huh?"

After hearing the question, I remembered that I was also a person with dreams and aspirations.

As the sea breeze gently blew past me, I began to recall the dream I longed for.

"In the past, I really wanted to be a doctor. I was passionate about traditional medicine of our country. Perhaps it's because my mother had been sick for so many years that I really wanted to cure her of her illness someday."

"Then, why didn't you study it?" Aaron seemed confused.

At the mention of this, I felt helpless.

"By studying nursing, I could graduate a year earlier and the tuition was much lower. At the time, my tuition was funded by a kindhearted man, which was the friend I mentioned to you earlier. Although I owed him my life, I always wished that I could owe him less, you know?"

As soon as I finished speaking, I thought that Aaron probably knew nothing of my background. He must be confused by my statements, so I simply told him everything that had happened to me.

When I mentioned Seagull, my heart was overcome with regret.

"I don't even know if I'll ever have the chance to thank him in person."

Moments later, Aaron replied, "Sooner or later, you'll see each other."

At this time, the sun was riding high, and the sea and the shore were coated in a golden light. The scenery was so picturesque that it made me forget my troubles for a moment.

Suddenly, a phone call disturbed our tranquility. The head of the human resources department was telling me to go back to the hospital at once. He sounded very serious. It was as if something had happened.

Aaron happened to be on his way to work as well, so I went to the hospital with him.

He wanted to help me walk into the hospital, but I was afraid of being the subject of chitchats again, so l insisted on letting him go first. Once we were at a respectable distance from each other, I limped my way into the establishment.

The second I entered the hospital, I sensed the tense atmosphere. Everyone was glancing at me and whispering stuff to each other.

Before long, I saw two nurses on their way towards me. I was familiar with them, because they were often wandering around Aaron to attract his attention.

They deliberately halted me and looked at me with contemptuous gazes.

I couldn't help but feel surprised by their reactions toward me. Previously, despite how displeased they were to see me, they would never provoke me openly.

"Eveline, I never expected you to be such a whore!" remarked the first nurse.

"She's right. Like they always say, we should never judge a book by its cover," said the other nurse. Their words only served to confuse me further.

"What are you two talking about?"

"What do we mean?" One of them covered her mouth and grinned at the other. "It seems that the bitch doesn't know about it yet."

I decided to ignore them and walk across the hallway quickly. And as I walked on, my heart was beating faster and faster.

Before I could reach the human resources department, I received a call from Louise.

The moment the call connected, she exploded from the other end of the line.

"Eve, what the hell is going on? You scared me to death!"

"What are you even talking about?" I asked.

"Don't you know yet? You've become a hot topic. Have you not checked the recent posts on Facebook yet?" replied Louise.

Upon hearing this, I felt very uneasy.

Soon, she sent me a Facebook link. Before I could even click it, I saw the head of the human resources department, casting me a stern gaze from nearby.

"Come in," he said.

Thus, I put my phone away and followed him into his office cautiously.