

## **Our Billion 1031**

Chapter 1031-In a particular Italian restaurant.

Every plain-colored table had a delicate vase placed on the surface, and a champagne-colored rose sat quietly in every vase.

The candlelight flickered.

'Thank you for coming to see me.' Noah bit her lip.

The soothing music did not seem to help enlighten her heavy heart. She called upon the waiter and ordered two bottles of red wine, then poured a glass for Edwin and one for herself. "Mind drinking with me?" Edwin glanced at Noah casually. What irony, he noted, that he no longer shared her emotions no matter how sad she looked. Needless to say, Noah's emotions did not affect him anymore.

"Noah, after much consideration, I decided not to employ you anymore. I'll ask the finance department to reimburse your loss," stated Edwin indifferently.

Noah's hand froze from reaching out to pick up her wine glass when heard this, and the happiness she felt when she knew Edwin was willing to see her disappeared into thin air.

A moment ago, she even thought Edwin was not really that heartless to her, yet in just the blink of an eye, he shattered her hope.

'Why?' she asked anxiously. "Did I do anything wrong? It's not too long since I just started working in the company. There're a lot of things I'm still new to, sure, but I believe I can do better in the future!"

Edwin bent his fingers and tapped on the table. "You know I'm not firing you because of your capabilities at work."

She stayed silent for a moment before she understood the real situation. ' Is it because of Miss Winters? Did she misunderstand US when we were in the hospital the other day? Did she force you to fire me?"

Edwin's eyes squinted at this. "It's not because of her. I just don't want to mix work with my private matters."

Noah looked at him, and her gaze faltered amid her heartache when all of a sudden, she laughed dryly. "I did an investigation on you before. Over the last five years, you've had countless girlfriends. Every time you change girlfriends, you'd splurge lots of money on them. Even invest and sponsor a movie for them to star in to make them famous. What makes you think you're mixing work with private matters when it comes to me? I'm just working in your company..."

As she talked, she even tried to reach out to Edwin's hand, wanting to press his palm against her chest. "You can't forget me, can you? You can't let go of our tragic ending and are afraid that it'll affect your marriage with Joanne, is it?

Edwin, I'm really sorry. I was wrong. The reason I come back now is that I want to be with you again... Feel my heart. I've been missing you all this while."

Edwin's steely gaze flashed with a hint of disgust as he sharply pulled back his hand. Noah, I always thought you were a smart woman. As a smart woman, you should know that you should place your attention on other men!"

"But I just can't forget you. What can I do?" Her heart hardened with indignance and dissatisfaction.

Edwin ignored her teary eyes as he heartlessly replied, "There are plenty of women who love me. Do you think I have the responsibility to react to everyone?"

"You're lumping me with those women?" Noah felt insulted.

"I'm done. You can go back to the office next week to settle your resignation procedure," concluded Edwin.

All of a sudden, the phone he placed on the table vibrated abruptly.

Noah noted that it was a reminder when she glanced at the screen. The moment she read it, however, it felt as though a knife was plunged into her heart.

[11:00 p.m. Pick up wife from the set.] 'Edwin set a reminder...to pick up Joanne?' she thought.

Over the last five years, he had countless girlfriends that Noah had lost count even with the help of her toes.

Instead of remembering these women's names, what presents he gave, and their birthdays, it was the job of his personal assistant to record them. He was only responsible for talking and flirting with those women.

'Does this mean Joanne is special to him?' she thought.

She felt as though she got cheated.

It reminded her of Joanne's innocent expression when they were in the hospital. It did not look like Joanne did not care about Edwin, but Joanne must have thought she was the only one in Edwin's heart and that no one else could steal him away from her.

That was why she pretended to be generous toward her and acted nonchalantly!

Chapter 1032-When Edwin went to the washroom before leaving the restaurant, Noah spiked his red wine with the expensive liquid ecstasy she bought. She quickly swirled the wine glass to mix the substance with the red wine.

As Edwin returned, she began pleading to him and said, "Edwin, I know well never rekindle what we used to have, but think of the love we had in the past. Can you find it in you to finish this dinner with me? I promise I won't disturb you anymore." "Not dinner. Just this glass of wine." He picked up the wine glass in front of him and finished it in one go.

After that, he walked out in a hurry, and it never occurred to Noah that Edwin could be so unfeeling toward her.

She quickly got on her feet and grabbed him, stopping him from leaving. ‘Wait, you can’t leave yet!’

According to the instruction, the liquid ecstasy was a strong substance and would only take 20 minutes before the effect kicked in. She just needed to keep him around for twenty minutes!

Edwin squinted his long, thin eyelids to look at the arm that she was grabbing onto. “Huh?” An idea popped into Noah’s mind. “I... My stomach hurts. Can you go to the hospital with me?”

Alas, Edwin ignored this request ruthlessly. He called upon a waiter and stuffed a pile of cash into his hand. “Send this woman to the hospital.

Make sure she’s safe.”

He then ignored Noah’s reddening face and walked off.

Noah was stupefied by how quickly things changed. She tried to chase after him the moment she gathered herself, but the waiter grabbed her and said he would send her to the hospital. As a result, Edwin’s car drove off in a whiz just as she got to the restaurant’s entrance.

She was so mad that her face looked distorted. The hatred in her heart continued to grow.

There was no way she was about to let Joanne enjoy the opportunity she created. No! She had to do something!

Edwin leaned back on the car seat and drove straight to the film set.

He was driving a low-profile Bentley Musang. He chose this car over the other more luxurious and eye-catching cars such as the Bugatti Veyron and Ferrari because he wanted to avoid being stalked and followed by the paparazzi.

Basically, the paparazzi knew his every car plate number, and though most of the paparazzi did not dare to write anything about him due to his power, there might be idiots who just started working in the industry and were ignorant enough to know how influential he was.

Since he took a shorter route, he arrived outside of the film set within less than 20 minutes. Frankly, this was the first time he had ever arrived early to wait for a woman to get off work.

Back then, women waited for him instead. There were records of him arriving half an hour or even two hours later. In the end, he brushed it off with an apology, and those women would still throw themselves at him.

He wound down his window to take a look outside. The film set was still bright with lights turned on. There was no telling if Joanna was done filming at the moment.

As the window was wound down completely, he ran his slender fingers through his soft, fluffy short hair to create a handsome and sleek hairstyle. After that, he took a look in the mirror.

Handsome, charming, and sophisticated.

Wait, something was missing.

He took off his tie and deliberately unbuttoned three buttons of his shirt, making it look slightly messy.

He raised his eyebrows smugly.

He bet the future child he would have with Joanna would be a very special, talented baby, seeing how handsome he was.

Chapter 1033-Meanwhile, on the filming set.

Joanna packed up her things into her bag and walked outside. She did not want to cause any trouble, so she sneaked out from the back door this time and told no one that she was leaving.

After just leaving for a short while, Miss Reed called her.

“Joanne, are you and Patrick dating?” asked the woman on the other end of the line, and the question, to say the least, baffled Joanne.

She quickly waved her hand dismissively. “Of course not! That’s pie in the sky, isn’t it?”

Miss Reed was a very famous celebrity agent that Edwin appointed for her, and Joanne was just an unpopular actress compared to the others under her management. Perhaps Edwin had put in his words for her that Miss Reed paid more attention to her.

“Maybe you gave Patrick a pretty good impression. He followed you on Twidder just now, and you’re now a trending topic because of him. Joanne Winters, you’re about to be famous.”

Flabbergasted, Joanne quickly pulled up the news app.

She initially had about several million fans, but at this moment, the number of her fans was increasing at an alarming speed. She was close to reaching 10 million followers!

The comments she received were quite similar. All of them were scolding her, accusing her of piggybacking on Edwin’s popularity, and how she was not worthy of Edwin.

Her scalp tingled when she noticed she had a new follower. It was Patrick.

[#PatrickAthertonJoanneWinters], [#PatrickAthertonfollowsJoanneWinters ], and [#Myhusbandisinlove.] These topics were trending.

The weirdest part of all was there were some blurry photos of her on the internet, such as the photos of her sitting with Patrick under the tree as they went over the script. The reporter used his or her imagination to make up a story of the secret relationship she had with Patrick.

This whole event annoyed Joanne so much that she felt like ending herself.

How hard was it for her to be an actress without being involved in these dramatic rumors?

Miss Reed waited for Joanne's reply, but all she had was Joanne's gasps and subsequent curses just as she was about to say something. Miss Reed swallowed whatever comforting words she was about to say to Joanne.

After they ended the call, Joanne kept on receiving calls on her phone.

Those unscrupulous reporters cared about her more than her mother did, and it triggered Joanne so badly that she decided to turn off her phone.

All she could think of was to get home as soon as possible to create an anonymous account to fight back at the anti-fans. She could accept the self – proclaimed Patrick's wives to express their dissatisfaction, but not those who cursed her family!

Depressed and flustered, she hurried to the roadside to hail a taxi. As she walked on a small path, the trees' shadows on both ends swayed.

All of a sudden, someone leaped from behind her and cupped his hand over her mouth. Before Joanne could scream for help, the person dragged her to a ghastly area near the wall.

Terrified to the core and with widened eyes, she flailed and swung her limbs at every angle possible to fend off the gangster that was dragging her.

'When did security in the filming set get this bad?!' The man was aggressive, impatient as he placed his hands on the wall. Not giving her a chance to react, he overshadowed his body to hers and lowered his head, seizing her lips with his thin lips in a kiss.

Their lips meshed together, and the man kissed like he had been yearning for it for a longtime.

Joanne, however, felt chills running up and down her spine at such ferocity.

'Oh, no... Oh, no! I think I just ran out of pepper spray. Wait...why is this breath smell so familiar?' she thought.

She bent her arms and used her elbow to push against the man's chest.

Edwin's mind was near the brink of a meltdown as he forced himself to talk, albeit hoarsely, "It's me."

"How the hell do I know who you are... Wild Beast?" Joanne was surprised when she finally knew who the man was.

He had the smell of alcohol mixed with cigarettes in his mouth. It sickened Joanne and she tried to push him away.

However, it only made Edwin hug her tighter. He also took the chance to invade Joanne's personal space by thrusting his waist at her.

"Give me!" he growled.

Joanne's expression stiffened.

She bit on the tip of his tongue, and instantly, a metallic taste filled his mouth.

Edwin felt the pain and breathed heavily as he pulled back his tongue from her mouth.



Chapter 1034-From a condescending angle, Edwin stared closely at Joanne with reddened eyes. It was as though a fiery aura emanated from his body.

Joanne's heart raced at what was happening. It was a dark environment, so she could not see his face clearly. Nonetheless, her instincts told her he must have an embarrassing expression on his face now.

Anger and guilt overwhelmed her.

"I freaked out so badly because you dragged me here out of the blue, and now you're..." she mumbled.

Tears rolled down her face. She was so flustered and exasperated that she bit his shoulder vehemently through his shirt, refusing to let go even when her teeth pierced his flesh and blood oozed out.

The next day...

Joanne felt as though she finished a marathon when she had just gotten out of bed. Her entire body ached.

"Good morning, Madam." The maid Edwin hired was there to help her to freshen up and change her clothes.

After changing her clothes, she could barely walk down the stairs and leaned on the rail. Luckily, she had no filming for the morning.

When she got to the dining room, her gut instinct told her something was looming before her.

Edwin sat on the chair with a gloomy expression on his face. There were bite marks on his neck and his chin, and his face was riddled with glaringly obvious scratch marks.

The maids that worked in the mansion were tight-lipped as they stood in a line.

Even the butler responsible for overseeing the mansion did not even dare to take an extra breath.

Just like the Mason family, the Atherton family also had a specific residence in every city.

“Madam, Master Edwin has some questions for you,” the female butler came to greet Joanne and invited her over to sit with Edwin.

When Joanne saw Edwin’s painfully handsome face, she felt guilty. She only scratched so badly because she was in a whole lot of pain. That, in turn, reminded her of his bad behavior last night, and she was less scared of him.

The maid helped her to sit across from Edwin.

“How did I get these scratch marks?” he asked.

His memory stopped when he went to pick up Joanne, and because her phone was turned off, he had to go down to look for her. At that moment, he felt as though his body was lit in flames, and that was the last thing he could remember.

Joanne nearly sprung up when she just sat down. “You forgot everything?”

Edwin did not reply and merely glared at Joanne. With a face like this, people would be laughing at him as he walked out of the door, let alone going to inspect the film studio!

The female butler was very thoughtful and even prepared a dozen masks for him. The problem, however, was that the mask could not cover all of the scratch marks.

Joanne gloated internally. Nonetheless, she cleared her throat and said, “You were drunk last night and accidentally bumped into a cute puppy. You tried to give the puppy a cuddle, but it got angry and bit you. I was the one who brought you back.”

Edwin smirked upon hearing this. It was his usual good-looking smug smile yet was dangerous as well.

Joanne felt chills going down her spine upon seeing this.

'Is he trying to trick me by saying he doesn't remember when he actually remembers everything?

1 she thought.

The female butler reminded awkwardly, "Madam, the doctor had come over to treat the wound. He examined them and said they were human bite marks."

Joanne was baffled. "There's an examination forthat?" "That's right. Don't lie to Master Edwin anymore,"

added the female butler, trying her best to wink at Joanne to hint that she should apologize to Edwin.

Master Edwin had always thought of himself highly and treasured his face. No one had ever dared to cause such atrocity to his face.

Chapter 1035-Joanne blushed. Why were they asking her this if they knew she was the one who bit Edwin?

'Joanne Winters, don't you think you owe me an explanation?" Edwin tapped on the table languidly. His unrestrained eyes were slightly dark.

'Fine, okay, I bit you-but it was because you were violent first!" Joanne no longer bothered with the facade.

She pulled her collar down, and her face blushed. "Look! I got it worse than you!" The area fell deathly quiet, so much so that a pin dropping could be heard.

The female butler, who was feeling sorry for Edwin, immediately changed her target and stared at Edwin.

'Master Edwin has gone too far!' Edwin could not remember when he had caused those to Joanne. His handsome face looked terrible, and his voice sounded awkward when he said, "I did that?"

Joanne rolled her eyes. "No, it wasn't you. A dog did this!"

"You're calling me a dog?" Edwin's face darkened.

Joanne straightened her neck and refuted, "I'm scolding the dog that attacked me. Why are you so worked up?"

To this, Edwin said nothing. He stood up, grabbed a mask, and left.

After taking two steps, however, he walked back and ordered the female butler, "Keep an eye on her, and don't let her go anywhere. Get a doctor to come over, too."

In the service apartment, Noah was reading today's news. Even if Edwin requested her to resign from Worldwide Entertainment Co., the first thing she did was monitor the daily gossip and also played nice with the paparazzi to obtain the latest rumors.

After separating from Edwin in a bad ending, Noah was angry and frustrated, knowing Joanne was the one who got to enjoy the substance she bought instead of her.

Somehow, there was a sound reminding her that she should not miss the gossip today.

Miraculously, she saw Patrick and Joanne being at the bottom of the top trending list. She clicked on the thread and saw a photo of them being intimate while going over the script. There was a rumor about how Patrick never got close to female actresses from the same movie.

How was he and Joanne...

This was just unbelievable!

She would like to see how Joanne explained herself this time!

As she was submerging herself in her thoughts excitingly, the doorbell rang.

Opening the door, she saw a gloomy-looking Edwin walking in with a mask on.

His eyes looked so cruel that people might think he was the devil incarnate.

He did not take off his mask. Nonetheless, the scratch marks on his nose bridge were too obvious to ignore.

“Edwin, what happened to your face?” Noah pretended to ask while her fingers were almost pierced into her palm.

‘That b\*tch had the audacity to scratch his face!’ she thought.

Edwin glanced at Noah.

She was wearing a simple set of loungewear. Her plain cheeks were rosy in color and looked so attractive.

Despite that, Edwin was not in the mood to enjoy and admire her.

“What do you have to say?” said Edwin.

Noah’s expression turned stiff. She bit her lip and said with a pitiful look. “I’ll tender my resignation.”

‘I’m not talking about that!’ Edwin curled up his thin lips, and his slender eyes looked vicious. “Were you the one who drugged my drink last night?”

Noah's shoulders started to shiver as fear loomed over her.

She knew Edwin would not give up easily. Most importantly, she was afraid he would not come to look for her.

"I ...I'm sorry, Edwin. I was too much of a wh\*re to think I can have you by drugging you. I know you and Miss Winters are a loving couple, b-but I just want to bear your child. I promise I'll never bother you anymore in the future If The nerves on Edwin's forehead popped out. "It was you! When did you become so gross?!"

'I..." Noah opened her mouth and shut her eyes helplessly.

?

Chapter 1036-"Don't let me see you again!" snarled Edwin before he turned to leave.

As he did, however, he saw a frail old lady walking over with a stick, her back hunched. She was holding a lunch box with her right hand and made eye contact with Edwin. Tears evidently welled up in her eyes in mere seconds.

'Ed ...Edwin?" The old lady was Noah's mother. She was just over 50 years old, but because of the chemotherapy and other treatments, she looked older and weaker than an old lady who was in her late seventies or early eighty. She was so weak that the wind could blow her away.

"Missus Sinclair?" No matter how absurd Edwin was, he could not possibly let himself talk badly to an elder suffering from cancer.

"Mom, why are you here? Didn't I ask you to stay put in the hospital?" Noah looked worried as she rushed over to take over the bag and helped her mother to sit in the room.

Missus Sinclair shook her head stubbornly. Her eyes were filled with tears. ' How would I know you nearly got blamed if I didn't come?"

She grabbed Edwin's shirt with trembling hands. "Edwin, are you here to denounce and condemn Noah? Don't blame her, please. I was the one who gave her the substance. I don't have many days left, but I just can't bear to leave her. It just hurts me to see her not getting married or having children before I'm gone... That's why she... Cough...cough..."

Missus Sinclair broke out into a coughing fit as she sobbed incessantly.

Noah helped her mother wipe off the tears while feeling bad and sorry.

Edwin's elegant eyebrows furrowed at this as he then looked at Noah. Perhaps there was truly telepathy as Noah, too, looked at him. That was how they made eye contact.

She bit her lip and looked away helplessly. ' Please leave. Regardless of the reason I drugged your drink, I'm still a shameless person." Edwin felt his temple pulse several times.

During the years he was rebellious and insisted on going abroad to further his study, Missus Sinclair happened to be around to take care of Noah as her daughter preferred her mother's cooking. Thus, Missus Sinclair also took the liberty to look after him.

She was kinder and gentler toward him than his own mother ever was.

"I'm going to let this go because of Missus Sinclair. Let's send her back to the hospital for now." In the corner where no one would notice, Noah curled up her lips evilly.' See, even Edwin can be soft-hearted.' On the way to bring Missus Sinclair back to the hospital, Noah turned on the radio. The radio host was broadcasting the news, and Edwin heard it.

"Lately, rumors of the Best Actor Award winner, Patrick Atherton, being in a relationship with actress Joanne Winters while filming together has been swirling around. There was a photo of them looking very intimate on the film set.

Currently, there's no response from the production team yet, but some fans discovered Patrick Atherton had followed Joanne winters in Twidder..."

It was a piece of news about Joanne and Patrick, and it felt quite irritating.

Noah pretended to look shocked and wanted to change the channel.

However, Edwin stopped her from doing so and listened to the entire news broadcast.

“Miss Winters is deeply in love with you. It must be some sort of rumor,” remarked Noah.

Deeply in love... Edwin’s heart inexplicably stirred upon hearing this.

Noah observed the look on his face. ‘He looks gloomy.’ She pursed her lips and continued, “Patrick is your brother. I’m sure that’s why they’re close with each other, and that’s what makes people misunderstand them.”

Patrick was always busy with his filming and other endorsement activities. He had to fly around the world most of the time, and the only time they would see him was during Christmas. Besides, he was rather ‘distant’ in the Atherton family’s lineage.

Edwin trusted that Patrick did not know Joanne’s real identity. However, Joanne must know who Patrick was, and she should have been careful!

‘D\*mn that woman; attracting the attention of other men again.’ Edwin’s expression looked vicious. However, he just raised his brow unhappily because Noah was around.

“It’s normal to make up stories and gossip in the industry. I thought you should know it better, seeing as you’ve been working in this industry for many years.”

Chapter 1037-Noah could imagine how embarrassed she looked. She thought she had triggered Edwin when, in fact, he did not believe this gossip at all.

She was not about to give up easily and said, “Wind doesn’t come from an empty cave without reason.”



Edwin did not reply and drove faster.

He had called the hospital in advance, so the doctor and nurses were already waiting at the entrance with a stretcher. He had them carry Missus Sinclair out of his car and drove off without saying anything.

Even when Noah wanted to stop him, she was not fast enough.

A pair of beautiful eyes were wavering with jealousy.

Back in the mansion.

Joanne felt better after the doctor examined her and applied for medicine. Nonetheless, her lower region was burning in pain, so she sat on the sofa and turned on the television while hugging a pillow.

Coincidentally, the news was on. 20 minutes ago, Patrick got surrounded by reporters at a restaurant near the film set, and one of them had asked why he followed Joanne's social media account and his reaction to the intimate photo.

Out of the blue, he made a response to the questions. His answer was very ambiguous too.

"Joanne is a potential actress new in the block. She's pure, kind, strong, and optimistic. I have a great time working together with her. I believe those people who wrote those bad comments about her have other agendas. Too bad, she had unrequited love with me in the movie, and there is no room for further..."

Publicity stunt! This must be a publicity stunt!

Joanne's eyes widened as she angrily stared at Patrick on the television.' He purposely released a false statement to trick his fans! And he didn't discuss it with me first!' While she was still seething with rage, she heard the sound of a car driving in the garage. She quickly reached for the remote control to switch to another channel.

Even after switching it three times, all three channels were repeating the same sentence.

“There is no room for further-“

“Why did you switch the channel when you realized that I’m back?” rang the familiar voice, laced with sarcasm.

Her hand trembled, and the remote control fell to the sofa. Startled, she wanted to reach for the remote control to turn off the television. Using his long arms and legs, Edwin was the first one to reach for the remote control.

However, he did not turn off the television and increased the volume instead.

Listening to the news, Edwin sat down across from Joanne. He squinted his long, narrow eyes. “Oh, I see. You’re feeling guilty. Are you that afraid I’d find out about this gossip?”

Joanne gulped upon hearing this and felt her confidence plunging.

Nevertheless, she pretended to look guilt-free and disdainfully replied, ‘ Why should I feel guilty? This is the publicity stunt for the new movie. A D- list actress with a horrible history, and the Best Actor-award winner with a bright future. Any gossip could help US hype our movie...”

Edwin glared at her interestedly and asked, “Is it really just a publicity stunt? IV “Of course.” Joanne could hear her heart thumping rapidly even as she explained, “I’ve just known Patrick not long ago. Even if it was supposedly’ love at first sight’, it won’t happen so quickly. The thing that worries me the most is that we haven’t signed our divorce papers yet. What happens if your grandmother got to know about this? Will she overthink it? Do you need to explain it to her?”

Edwin sneered. “Okay. I understand.” “You’re not...mad?” asked Joanne carefully, unable to tell what Edwin was thinking of.

“The entertainment industry is always full of gossip. I don’t think I’ll have enough life if I need to be angry every time you’re trending.”

He stood up with his phone at hand, his expression tranquil and devoid of anger. However, the ferocity in his eyes appeared in a flash, and it gave Joanne chills like the wind from the coldest part of the world blew past her.

‘Didn’t he say he was not angry?’ she thought.

She bit her lip.

It was vital to discuss with the director, and she wanted to disallow him from using her in the publicity stunt!

Chapter 1038-The first place Edwin went when he went upstairs was his study. He did not even bother to take off his jacket as he immediately sat in front of his laptop to scroll through news about the entertainment industry.

Maybe he had been staying low-key lately. He used to overtake the headlines, yet at this moment, Patrick was the one all over the news instead.

Patrick Atherton’s romance, Patrick Atherton’s movie, the actress starring in the same movie as Patrick Atherton...

Various news related to Patrick showed up.

Although Edwin and Patrick were not closely related based on the family tree, they both had the same family name. Looking at some points, they shared strong resemblances in some ways.

Edwin admitted he was annoyed, especially when an idiot actually commented on his social media account and asked to validate his relationship with Joanne.

'Don't he even tell his own idol?' he thought.

When he saw Joanne's name being affiliated with Patrick, he instructed his assistant. "Ban Patrick Atherton's news from appearing. One month-no, three months.

"Disallow any media from reporting anything related to him!"

His assistant felt all too stunned and rushed, but before he could make any response, Edwin added, "Go and look for the screenwriter for my wife's movie, and ask them to alter her role in it. Make her character into a bad character.

Have Patrick murder every one of her family in the movie, and the only thing she thinks about every day is how to kill Patrick."

His assistant's bewilderment only prolonged upon hearing this.

When it was time for lunch, Edwin did not come down from his study.

Joanne requested for the female butler to invite Edwin down, but after a while, she came back down, visibly helpless, and shook her head at Joanne.

With her brow furrowed, Joanne went to his study and knocked on his door.

"Edwin, don't you want to have your lunch?"

There was no reply.

Joanne wrung her fingers together and added, "Are you still mad the production team used me and Patrick to pull a publicity stunt? I've already told the director about this, and he promised there won't be a next time. Why don't you go downstairs to eat something? You worked really hard last night. You must've consumed a lot of energy-

Swoosh! The door abruptly opened, and it caught Joanne by surprise. The joke she intended to say was lodged in her throat, and she could not bear to finish it.

Edwin stood still with one hand in his pocket, glaring at her. "Are you sure it was a publicity stunt from the production team?"

"What? Who else would've done it, then?"

"Ha." Edwin let out a contemptuous laugh and slammed the door shut, nearly smacking her nose in the process.

She rolled her eyes. 'Well, he can starve if he doesn't want to eat anything. I'm not the one suffering, anyway!' He had to be experiencing some sort of menopause. He was so passionate last night, yet today, he fell flat and neurotic.

Just as Joanne feared, Old Madam Atherton happened to read the news about Joanne and Patrick in Sapphire City.

When she was reading the news, Catelyn was coincidentally in the living room doing her daily check-up.

Since she was unsure of the health condition of her baby, it was necessary for her to do the checking every day to make sure the baby did not absorb too many nutrients from her, be in the wrong position, and so on.

"Old Madam Atherton, look. It's Miss Winters," Kelly pointed out as she stared at the screen.

After reading the full article, Old Madam Atherton remarked, her tone oddly peculiar and jealous-sounding, "It was just a few days that she moved out, and she's already gotten herself a new man. What a waste for Edwin to love her so deeply."

"You don't have to overwork yourself for this woman. She's out, anyway," Kelly commented.

Catelyn heard Old Madam Atherton's awkward tone and laughed helplessly.

Her grandmother disliked how Joanne deceived them with ulterior motives yet was also reluctant to see Joanne going viral online because of another man.

She truly wondered what sort of complex feelings her grandmother was feeling.

Chapter 1039-That evening, Catelyn received a call from Cedrick. He told her that he would not be able to have dinner with her, seeing as he had to work overtime in the office which would result in him returning late.

Ever since they decided to keep the baby, she was worried Cedrick would lie to her. She did not dare to go out alone with her, and even if she did, she would request her grandmother to assign bodyguards to follow her all the time.

As time passed, however, she figured her worry was for nothing. Cedrick was a man of his word, and he never attempted anything detrimental to her and her baby.

When it was around late evening, Catelyn changed her outfit and was ready to go out.

"Miss Clark, where do you want to go?" asked the driver.

Catelyn smiled. "Bring me to Mason Group. I'd like to go find Cedrick to talk to him about something."

"Sure." The driver opened the car door politely and helped Catelyn to get into the car. He even said, "Your relationship with Master Cedrick is very admirable. It's so sweet that I'm having a toothache." Catelyn pursed her lips and curled them into a cheerful smile.

"Are you going to move out after you two get married?" On the way to the Mason Group, the driver chatted with Catelyn. "I'm sure Old Madam Atherton will miss both of you."

"I'll come back to visit all the time."

"It's a shame for Madam Joanne, though," lamented the chauffeur. "If she was pregnant, then Old Madam Atherton would have another great- grandson. It could add more liveliness to the manor, too."

At that very moment, Joanne rang up Catelyn's phone for a video call. She had dark eyebags and looked as though she did not have a good sleep. She also looked plaintive.

Catelyn took the chance to ask Joanne about her gossip with Patrick.

She knew Joanne used to fangirl over him. Sometimes, when Joanne could not sleep, she would play the movie Patrick starred in to help her fall asleep as she mumbled to herself, "Put me to sleep, my husband..."

Joanne blushed when Catelyn brought that topic out.

"It's ancient history, and I've already forgotten about that. I'm a married woman now. The reporter was just making it up."

"Then, what's wrong with your eyes? You look like you had a night of overindulgence. Did my cousin take his claim and take an oath of his sovereignty?" she spoke as though shocked, her voice drawled out as she did.

"Ack!" Joanne choked on her water when she heard the word ' overindulgence'.

' Why are you so dirty after you got married? I just didn't get to rest well because I was up all night filming."

Oh, god!

"Then what about the bruises on your neck? Did the mosquito bite you?"

Catelyn was not afraid to blow Joanne's cover.

Flustered, Joanne quickly pulled up her collar and placed the phone higher so the video would only reflect her face. Alas, Catelyn merely continued teasingly, "I was worried that there'd be a rift between you and Edwin because of Granny. I'm happy to see you two still loving each other. Guess I'm going to have a nephew soon. Told you Edwin has a soft heart with women. You just need to coax him, and he'll listen to you..."

'Yeah, right.' Joanne thought otherwise in her mind. She was also figuring out how to get rid of the hickey too, especially when she had to go to the film set tomorrow...

Catelyn was completely clueless of the many attempts Joanne took to get rid of her hickeys: Applying a cold compression to the hickey, massaging the area, trying a banana peel mask, and so on.

All the while, Edwin stared at her exasperatedly. It cheered Joanne to see his weirded-out expression.

Since Catelyn was pregnant, the chauffeur drove the car steadily and without rushing. It was already 6 p.m.

when they reached the Mason Group building.

Although it was the peak hour of getting off work, there were not many people coming in and out of the building. It was probably because it was the end of the year, and many staff had to work overtime.

She called a hotel to order dinner before she entered the building.

When the executive secretary saw Catelyn, she felt like her savior had arrived. Putting up her most joyous smile, she welcomed Catelyn passionately, "Good evening, Missus Mason!"

"Hello, everyone. You've all worked hard." Catelyn smiled back.

"It's our honor working here!" the employees replied harmoniously.



“Where’s Master Cedrick? Is he still working in his office?” Catelyn looked at Cedrick’s office.

She did not come to his office very often. Most of the time, she would request Charles and Eason to help her.

“Yes. He said he wants to empty two months of his schedule, so he’s been busy working overtime lately,” the executive secretary explained with a smile.

Chapter 1040-Catelyn gave a small nod at this.

She felt touched by Cedrick’s gesture, knowing he wanted to free up two months’ time because of their wedding. They would then spend their honeymoon traveling around the world as they waited for the baby’s result.

Even when they fought and quarreled many times because of the baby, they never once thought of canceling the wedding. This was his compensation to her and also the promise she made to him.

Suddenly, Mason Group’s administrative secretary came over with a few stacks of documents and, having mustered the courage to, passed them to Catelyn. Missus Mason, I have some documents here to pass to Master Cedrick. Do you think you can bring them in for me?”

Catelyn nodded, not at all bothered by the request. “Sure. Give them to me.” “Thank you. You’re so kind!”

“Mine too, please!” Another secretary took the chance and quickly requested Catelyn’s help.

Subsequently, many secretaries followed suit and requested Catelyn to help them. In the blink of an eye, Catelyn’s hands were filled with many documents.

‘Do they need to act so exaggerating^?’ she thought.

Coincidentally, Mister Peterson-who looked oddly miserable-arrived and walked out of the elevator, also carrying a tall stack of documents.

That expression of his, however, vanished when he saw Catelyn. His eyes brightened up as he pulled his face and warned the other secretaries, "You should be responsible for your work! Why should the company hire all of you if you need to trouble Missus Mason to help you with bringing the document in?" The other secretaries dispersed themselves swiftly. Even the air felt fresher.

Just as Catelyn was going to ask Mister Peterson to take some load off her, Mister Peterson quickly begged, "Missus Mason, please bring these documents to Master Mason, too. Thank you!"

Catelyn was at a complete loss for words.

Knock, knock, knock!

After Catelyn knocked on Cedrick's office door, an alluring yet enigmatic male voice rang out, "Come in."

She took a deep breath. 'So commanding...' she thought.

As she pushed the door open to go in, she was welcomed with a fierce aura.

Cedrick was sitting in front of his table as he was holding the phone in one hand. She had no idea who he was talking to on the phone; all she knew was that he sounded harsh and mean when he spoke.

"If we don't receive the balance by the end of the year, go ahead with the legal procedure as written in the contract. Let's see how long he can last."

A moment of silence hung in the air before he talked again. "I'm not in the mood to see him. It's either the land or paying his debt. Let him choose."

The low voice sounded haughty and domineering. He sounded authoritative and derisive.

Cately's heart skipped a beat. 'That's very intimidating. No wonder Charles didn't dare to come in!' "Why are you standing there? Put down the documents and leave!" After he hung up the phone, he continued to work without even lifting his head. His thin lips were pursed into a straight line.

Catelyn walked over soundlessly and placed the documents on Cedrick's table. There were already mountains of documents on his table, so much so that the ones Catelyn placed down did not make any big difference to the number of documents.

After he finished reading a document, he signed on the last page and realized the woman who delivered the document was still in his office.

He furrowed his brow. "I told you to get out. Are you deaf-?"

He did not finish his last sentence when he saw Catelyn's pure face.

"W... What are you doing here?"