

Chapter 81 A Product of the Exchange of Interests

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Susan's voice was very loud and she was very arrogant.

Orlando paused, his face void of emotion, and a sneer appeared in his eyes.

He remembered that Penny had said that she had a very good relationship with her husband.

It turned out that she was in a bad marriage.

But if it was a bad marriage, she could end it. But she didn't want to divorce.

This showed that she

should love her husband very much.

Susan was unreasonable, which upset Penny. Penny could only take out her mobile phone and called

Philip.

But she didn't get through. She became worried immediately.

It was 96.8°F outside and Philip was walking alone on the road. Even if he passed out on the roadside

due to heat stroke, no one would know that.

"Susan, come with me to pick up my uncle."

Susan rolled her eyes. "No, I won't go unless you pay me one hundred thousand dollars."

Penny even thought that she hallucinated. How could Susan say so? How thick-skinned she was!

Penny gave Susan a sharp glance. "What did you just say?"

Susan raised her head and wanted to say it again to Penny. However, when she met Penny's cold

eyes, she suddenly didn't dare to say it. Susan shuddered with fear and stammered, "What... what do

you want?"

Penny understood that Susan was a person of kiss-up, kick-down type.

"My uncle and aunt can tolerate you, but I can't. You'd better know your place. Otherwise, once I get

something on you, you'll be doomed."

Susan quailed but held herself erect.

"How dare you threaten me! What do you get on me? Didn't your family hurt me badly enough? As an

innocent girl, I married your cousin. But he left me and ran away alone. He said he would take care of

me all the time. Bah, you all owe me!"

Penny stopped arguing with Susan and drove to find Philip.

Penny drove the car slowly along the way she went as she kept calling Philip, but she didn't get

through.

She was very anxious. After half an hour, she saw Philip lying on the roadside.

"Uncle!"

Penny was startled. She quickly took out the mineral water she brought and poured it on his face.

Philip woke up slowly. After seeing Susan, he tried to speak, but it was so hot that he had no strength to open his mouth.

Penny helped him to the car. "I'll take you to the hospital."

Philip sat in the co-pilot, feeling as if the world was shaking.

"Penny, don't quarrel with Susan. It's us who owe her because of your cousin. How stupid your cousin

is! He went to work for your father's company, but ran away with hundreds of thousands of dollars from

clients! Besides, he lost more than one million dollars in gambling. Your aunt and I need to pay off the

loan sharks. But Susan doesn't leave us, even though our neighbors always give her the cold

shoulder..."

Holding the steering wheel with both hands, Penny felt helpless.

Her cousin took away the client's money, which almost caused the Stuart family to lose several

important projects.

Cason was willing to help his brother-in-law for his wife's sake, but he didn't expect his son to be so

bold.

After that, they completely cut off contact. Only every time Penny came to visit the grave, Philip

mentioned Cason.

But Cason really held a grudge against the Glover family. So when he knew that she was going to meet

Philip, he suddenly turned hostile.

"If Susan is rude to you, I'll apologize to you on her behalf. I'm old now. I just hope that everyone can

live a peaceful life."

After hearing this, Penny was neither angry nor pleased, but a pang of sadness welled up in her heart.

It seemed that whoever it was, she wasn't preferred.

Cason preferred Helen and her children, and her uncle preferred Susan.

Since her mother passed away, she had been the one who was sacrificed.

Even her contentious

marriage was just a product of the exchange of interests.

Everything was for the Stuart family.

Chapter 82 She Felt a Little Warm

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Philip was suffering from heatstroke. Penny didn't want to argue with him, so she nodded. "Uncle, I

understand."

Philip smiled and felt very sorry for her.

"Your aunt made sausages this time. You can take some more back. She also made pickles. I

remember you liked this very much when you were studying."

"Okay."

Penny stopped talking and drove him to the hospital.

During this period, Haley called her and asked why they didn't go back.

"Uncle suffered from heat stroke. I drove him to the hospital. We have to come back later."

Haley became worried instantly. "Which hospital are you in? I'll go."

Penny told her the name of the hospital and then hung up the phone. It was another call.

"Hello, Ms. Stuart, your apartment has already been bought, but you need to sign a contract with the

buyer. When are you free?"

Was the apartment sold?

Penny was relieved. As long as it was sold, she could have the money to pay the down payment for

that house.

"Well, I'm still in Prodale County. I can sign the contract when I get back."

"Okay, I heard that you needed the money for an emergency. Then you'd better sign the contract as

soon as possible. Because you have to finish transfer procedures in the bank, and it will probably take

about half a month."

"I see, thank you."

Penny breathed a sigh of relief after it was resolved.

Just as she was about to go back to the ward, she saw Philip open the door of the ward and walk out.

"Penny, I'm fine now. I don't want to be hospitalized. It's a waste of money. Drive me home, and I'll just

rest at home for a few days."

"Uncle, I'll pay the hospital. Don't worry."

But she still couldn't persuade him and had to drive him home after the doctor gave Philip medicine.

Haley had prepared dinner and asked Penny to stay.

Penny shook her head when she saw Susan coming in.

"No need, Auntie, I haven't finished the painting in Adding Hotel."

Hearing that, Haley no longer asked her to stay.

When she passed by Susan, Susan snorted coldly.

"The painting? You stayed there because you wanted to hook up with that man, right? I heard that your

husband was also quite rich. If you have an affair, do you know the consequences?"

Susan actually wanted to hook up. That man was very rich and handsome. If he fell in love with her,

she could do whatever she wanted in Prodale County.

But after trying several times, she couldn't even get through the door of Adding Hotel.

And she heard that the man was leaving the day after tomorrow.

Penny knew her thoughts and reminded her. "If you want to start a conversation with him, you should at

least get a bachelor's degree. You didn't even graduate from junior high school. Even if you can, you

won't understand what he said."

Susan was so angry that she was about to scold her. But before she spoke, Penny had already walked

out.

Penny got into the car and felt troubled. Susan was stupid and didn't receive any higher education.

What was more, she had low abilities but always wanted to get a high-paying job. So she had never

made any money.

Her uncle and aunt had been raising her. After her cousin ran away, Susan became even more

unscrupulous.

But after all, this was a matter for the Glover family. It wasn't appropriate for her to interfere too much.

After driving back to Adding Hotel, Penny remembered that she hadn't eaten anything since noon. Now

she was already very hungry.

There should be a cafeteria in Adding Hotel, but she didn't know where it was. What was more, there

was no takeaway in Prodale County.

Penny was so hungry that she had an upset stomach. Just as she was thinking about going out to buy

something, she saw Orlando coming out of the arch.

Orlando frowned subconsciously when he saw Penny.

Penny smiled at him. "Mr. Fletcher, do you know where the cafeteria is?"

She had a serious stomach problem, and now she fell sick, her face turned pale.

"Didn't you have dinner?"

Orlando's tone was indifferent. Penny nodded and said in a pathetic tone, "I forgot it."

Orlando thought that she said she was going to visit the grave. It should be one of her relatives.

"The cafeteria is closed. Zane will bring dinner later."

He meant they could have dinner together.

Penny put her hand on her stomach. Hearing this, she was inexplicably touched.

Today she went to visit her mother's grave first, and then she heard what her uncle said. She couldn't

help but think of her father and felt very down.

She didn't expect that the person who gave her a hint of warmth at this time was Orlando. Although he

just lifted a finger, that was enough.

"Thank you," Penny said sincerely.

Orlando was stunned and his gaze fell on her face.

Her skin was fair, and due to pain, it was paler at the moment. She chewed on her lip, fragile and pitiful.

He had seen her argue with others aggressively. He also had seen her eloquence in school as well as

her charm when they had sex...

This was the first time he had seen her aggrieved.

Chapter 83 She Wanted to Confess Her Identity

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His heart melted for no reason, and he looked away. "Come in."

Penny followed him into his room for fear that Orlando might regret it.

There was an extra desk in the room. On the desk was a computer opening and a lot of files.

Orlando seemed to be always very busy. Even if he was on a business trip, he still carried many files

with him.

Only at that moment did Penny realize that he could be chosen as the successor, perhaps not only

because of his talent but also his hard work.

Not everyone was born capable of this job and taking on this responsibility.

She consciously didn't go near the table where the computer was placed, but casually found a chair

and sat down.

Orlando walked to the desk, opened a file, and continued to review it with a pen.

When he was working, he became colder and more unapproachable.

Penny watched his silhouette. The lights seemed to come through him, and a hazy shadow was left on

the floor, and even his hair had dyed a layer of gold.

She suddenly had an itch to find a paintbrush to draw him.

This scene was really captivating with the lights, his silhouette, and the atmosphere.

Her stomach seemed not to ache badly.

Could his charm help alleviate her pain?

Penny fixed her eyes on Orlando until someone knocked on the door outside. Orlando said, "Come in."

Zane walked in with the food. Seeing Penny, he paused and then walked on.

"Mr. Fletcher, please finish your meal first. There is a meeting at eight o'clock. It'll last for an hour. Then

an overseas meeting at nine past thirty."

Orlando put down the file in his hand. When he saw that there was only a set of cutlery, he said, "Get

another set of cutlery."

Zane put down the food and asked someone to get another set.

Penny went over before Orlando invited her. Because she was too hungry and even the smells made

her mouth water.

As soon as she sat down, her stomach grumbled, which made her blush with embarrassment.

Orlando certainly heard that and a smile flashed in his eyes.

Although he didn't laugh at her, Penny still felt embarrassed and wished the floor would open up and

swallow her.

Zane quietly went out.

The food was all very light. In particular, the porridge was just suitable for Penny with a stomach

problem.

She didn't dare to bother Orlando to scoop the porridge for her. So she hurriedly stood up to take the

soup ladle, but Orlando beat her to it. After scooping the porridge, Orlando placed it in front of her.

Penny was stunned. Maybe because she was in a bad mood today, she didn't know how to respond to

his kindness. So she only raised her head to look at him subconsciously.

Orlando just did it casually. But when he saw the touch in her eyes, his heart softened again, and even

he couldn't tell what that was like.

"Eat."

Only then did Penny come back to her senses. She quickly took a spoon and began to eat.

The porridge tasted good. After just one bite, her stomach became warm.

These light dishes were specially prepared by the chef for Orlando, and all the ingredients were very

fresh.

That relieved her fatigue briefly.

Penny usually ate like a bird. But this time she had a bowl of porridge.

Just as she put down the bowl, Orlando's mobile phone rang.

Seeing the flashing name on it, he seemed to frown before answering the phone.

"Grandpa."

"Orlando, I'll arrive in Chatville in about two days. Take Penny to pick me up, okay?"

Orlando was surprised and subconsciously wanted to refuse. Thinking of his poor health, Orlando

hesitated and then said "Grandpa, I'm still on a business trip. I'm not sure if I can get back in two days.

Just her to pick you up."

Rex coughed and said, "No way. You must pick me up together and then have dinner with me."

Orlando took a deep breath. Although he disliked that woman, having dinner with her wasn't a big deal,

for Rex's sake.

"Okay, I'll come with her then."

After hearing his answer, Rex smiled and was going to call Penny.

After hanging up the phone, Orlando lost his appetite in an instant and raised his hand to rub the space

between his eyebrows.

Penny had heard their conversation clearly. Rex would be back soon, and it was inevitable to visit him.

Because Orlando treated her well tonight, she even wanted to confess her identity.

"Mr. Fletcher, actually, I'm..."

Chapter 84 Orlando Would Hate Her Even More

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Before Penny finished speaking, Zane walked in again and said respectfully, "Mr. Fletcher, the Stuart

family just called and said they want to have dinner with you."

A sneer flashed in Orlando's eyes. Did they want to have dinner with him?

They heard Rex was coming back, so maybe they thought that they could control him.

He was extremely tired of this family.

"Turn them down."

Zane nodded respectfully. Then he thought of something and asked, "Mr. Stuart said that Ms. Stuart

had been looking forward to meeting you and that she had learned several delicious dishes."

Penny was sitting opposite Orlando. Hearing that, she tightened her grip on the spoon instantly. Her

father really couldn't wait to want her to win Orlando's favor.

Disappointment and mockery appeared in her eyes.

It was a pity that her father was in vain. Because Orlando would only hate her even more.

Sure enough, there was a clear disgust in Orlando's eyes. His words were even more harsh, almost unfeeling.

"Tell the Stuart family to fulfill the contract well and not to think about anything else."

Zane nodded and then quietly retreated out.

Orlando looked at Penny, "What did you want to say just now?"

Penny smiled, "I wanted to say that I was full. Mr. Fletcher, do you still continue to eat?"

Being so disturbed by the Stuart family's affairs, Orlando lost his appetite.

Penny got up and began to tidy up, lowering her gaze, without saying a word.

It wasn't that she was worried about what Orlando would think of her. Apart from their business

contacts, they were like strangers without any emotional basis. She was just disappointed with what

her father said.

It was clear that her father wanted to see Orlando, in order to close the relationship with the Fletcher

Group. But he used her daughter who went out to visit her mother's grave as an excuse.

She never felt that her father was biased. It was indeed because of her that at first, he didn't take Helen

home. However, she didn't know when their relationship was no longer as good as before.

Orlando's voice interrupted her original thoughts.

"Someone will tidy them up. Off you go."

Penny looked up at him. "Okay, Mr. Fletcher, you'll return to Chatville the day after tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow."

Everything had been discussed, and he was very satisfied with the project in Prodale County. Besides,

the local authority strongly supported this project.

An enterprise that could develop well locally depended on the strong support of the local authority.

The Fletcher Group's funds were safe under the local authority's support. All subsequent development

plans would be followed up by the project team.

Penny originally wanted to ask if her uncle's house would be torn down. But she thought that even if it

was torn down, all the money paid would go into Susan's pocket.

Seeing her hesitating, Orlando tapped the keyboard lightly with his fingertips and said, "If you're short

of money, you can buy some houses in Harmony District."

He meant that the area would definitely be demolished.

He meant that the houses in that area would be definitely demolished.

In addition, this was the government's demolition plan, so it must pay a lot of money.

Her uncle's house was in Harmony District. She was relieved after knowing that his house could be

demolished.

As for her, although she was a little short of money, she couldn't do so. In this case, if she bought

someone else's house, it was speculative. She couldn't cut off others' profits.

"No need. There are all bungalows in Harmony District. Most of those who live there are elderly people

left as well as middle-aged people who can't afford a house in the urban area. If I buy their houses,

where will they live in the future? Even if I get the money, I can't feel at ease."

Orlando paused and said in a calmer tone, "Business is about making more money by legal means.

Information gaps are sometimes a resource."

Many people were making money through information gaps.

Penny smiled, "I see. Mr. Fletcher, thanks for your kindness. I didn't mean to criticize you. I once lived

there and was familiar with the people. So I can't do such a thing."

"Uh-huh."

Orlando's gaze fell on the screen and he wore Bluetooth earphones. It seemed that he was going to

hold a meeting. He only casually mentioned it just now.

Penny didn't take it to heart either.

Back in her room, she took a bath and then fell asleep.

The next morning, she went to say goodbye to Philip and Haley. Haley took out the prepared sausages

and pickles and gave them to Penny.

Penny actually didn't like these, but she didn't want them to be sad, so she had to take them and put

them all in the trunk.

Susan sneered, "She is from the city. How can she like your things? Even though she took them now,

she was also reluctant. You might as well sell them to make some money."

Penny looked at her coldly. "Don't talk nonsense."

Susan was immediately excited and looked at Haley. "Mom, you see, I'm right. This is what she is. How

dare she shout at me."

Chapter 85 She Suddenly Felt Very Ashamed

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Haley was a little embarrassed, and Philip was even more at a loss.

Penny ignored her. "Uncle, Auntie, then I'll go first."

Haley and Philip hurriedly went out to see her off.

Thinking about it, Penny couldn't help but ask, "Uncle, it's said that the big boss is going to develop the

tourism industry in Prodale County. If your house is torn down, what are you going to do with the

money?"

House prices in small counties were low, and a very spacious house with four bedrooms was only worth about three hundred thousand dollars.

Speaking of this, Philip was very excited.

"I'll pay off the loan sharks your cousin owed first and then buy a better house. Penny, did you get any news?"

Philip remembered that Penny and the boss were in the same car.

"Well, I'm just not sure yet. Uncle, you and Auntie should make a good plan before deciding. You're getting old. Don't give all the money to Susan."

Philip coughed lightly. "Susan... is quite nice, although she's a little lazy. Never mind her rudeness."

It didn't make sense. So Penny said goodbye and drove away.

Philip clenched his hands in excitement and his cheeks turned red.

"Penny must get the news. The houses in our district must be demolished. Honey, let's borrow some

money to buy all the houses next door. If these houses are demolished, we'll make a fortune."

Haley hesitated. Those who lived there were elderly people. Either their children were working outside,

or the whole family lived in this bungalow. If they bought the houses of these people, these people

would hate them after knowing that they got the news in advance.

"Honey, let's go back and discuss it with Susan. Penny was in a car with the boss yesterday. The boss

must have told her something. This is our opportunity. Let's sell the car and a piece of land, and then

borrow some from relatives. In this case, we can buy two houses. When they are sold, we'll make

several times the money!"

Haley no longer hesitated and was tempted.

Penny didn't know that the news she told them almost caused great trouble. When she was just about to drive away, she suddenly found that she had left her mobile phone charger at Adding Hotel, so she had to go back.

But because the county was crowded and the traffic wasn't well planned. The speed of the car among pedestrians was as slow as that of a turtle crawling, which made Penny almost lose her patience.

It was only half an hour's car ride. But it took her an hour to slowly drive to Adding Hotel.

There were several people around the door, two of whom were the leaders yesterday. Orlando was standing at the door, looking sullen.

Penny quickly parked the car. When she was about to get out of the car, she saw Susan, who was driving her uncle's car, stop in front of Orlando.

"Mr. Fletcher, don't you still have to stay in Prodale County today? Your car broke down. Let me give you a ride."

Susan wore great makeup. This car was parked beside Adding Hotel yesterday, so she came here much faster than Penny.

Penny heard this just as she got out of the car. It seemed that Susan still didn't give up.

As her cousin's wife, Susan dared to hook up with someone else in public!

Penny quickly approached and realized that not only the windows of Orlando's car had been smashed, but the tires also had been punctured.

The two leaders were anxious and didn't know what to do.

A big boss finally came to invest in Prodale County, but his car worth over ten million dollars was

smashed at the place where he was staying. He might change his mind in a fit of anger.

Orlando was expressionless, and his eyes were very cold and indifferent. Everyone who knew him well

understood that he was already angry.

But Susan, who was standing not far from him, was very enthusiastic and pushed away the person in

her way.

"Mr. Fletcher, please get in. Although it's not as expensive as your car, it's a BMW. BMWs are rare in

the county. I had the car serviced last night, and it cost one thousand dollars."

Her words amused the people here. If it wasn't such an occasion, they would almost laugh.

But Susan obviously didn't realize how ridiculous she was.

Penny couldn't stand it anymore. She stepped forward and grabbed her hand.

"Susan, enough is enough!"

Seeing Penny, she quailed a little. Wasn't she gone? But thinking that there was nothing Penny could

do about her, Susan became emboldened again.

"It's none of your business. Aren't you leaving? Get out!"

Although Penny didn't turn around, she could still feel that a cold gaze was falling on her.

For some reason, Penny suddenly felt very ashamed.

Chapter 86 She Had to Take the Consequences

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She took a deep breath and looked at Orlando. "Mr. Fletcher, if you're going to return to Chatville today,

why don't you take my car back?"

Susan's eyes widened and she got angry. It turned out that Penny had this idea.

"You bitch! You're married. How dare you hook up with someone else! No wonder you got back after

leaving. I guess that you smashed this car because you wanted to use the occasion to get close to him.

You're educated, but I didn't expect you to be so shameless. Everyone, come and see the frivolous woman!"

There weren't many people at the door of Adding Hotel. But Susan shouted so loudly that everyone

who came in and out looked over.

Penny's face was purple with rage.

If Susan weren't her cousin's wife, she would have slapped her in the face. For the sake of her uncle

and aunt, she had to hold back.

Since that was so, she didn't have to worry about her anymore.

Susan also understood this point, so she was complacent at the moment.

"I thought you were noble with higher education. But it turns out that you cheat on your husband. I feel

really sorry for him. Does he know that you are hooking up with other men outside?"

Seeing Penny silent, Susan sneered, "You see, I was right."

Then she looked at Orlando with a smile. "Mr. Fletcher, now you know what she is. I guess she

followed you over here."

Penny was very angry. Everyone knew that she was here to visit her mother's grave. But now Susan

distorted the fact.

Penny opened her mouth to speak but found that there was nothing to say to her.

Before Susan was about to continue talking, Orlando said to the person beside him, "Check the

surveillance video."

Zane, who was standing next to Orlando, was also a little angry. They had to postpone their return to Chatville.

"This car is worth fifteen million dollars. It's enough to keep the perpetrator in jail forever. The lawyer of the Fletcher Group is coming from Chatville. The preliminary estimate of the loss is no less than 8 million dollars. The perpetrator must compensate us for all the losses. We won't accept any out-of-court settlements."

Zane's words were enough to show Orlando's thoughts.

Orlando looked at Penny. "Let's go."

Hearing that, Susan stiffened.

It was just a window and a few tires. How could it need eight million dollars? Wasn't it a few thousand dollars?

She was a little panicked and quickly looked around. After seeing a surveillance camera at the gate,

her legs became weak with fear, and she quickly followed.

"Mr. Fletcher, don't you have insurance for this car? Actually, you can use the insurance. Ordinary people can't pay eight million dollars."

Orlando ignored her and got in Penny's car directly.

Zane sat in the driver's seat very consciously, and Penny could only sit in the back seat.

Susan hurriedly came up to pat the car window, but Zane was tired of her pestering, so he stepped on

the accelerator directly and drove away.

Penny wanted to get the charger, but she had to give it up now.

Susan, who was very arrogant just now, was anxious now. Her mind was full of that eight million

dollars.

How should she repay it? What could she do?

Susan trembled all over. Then she hurried into the car and drove it home.

Seeing her pale face, Philip and Haley asked quickly, "Susan, what's the matter with you?"

Susan couldn't say a word. She had never seen eight million dollars in her life, so how could she

possibly repay it?

But if she didn't repay it, would she be sent to prison after Orlando's lawyer arrived?

The more Susan thought about it, the more frightened she became. She was so frightened that she

couldn't speak, and her face was covered with tears.

Philip and Haley were kept in the dark until the police came and handcuffed Susan.

"Mom, Dad, you must save me. I really didn't know that the car was that expensive. I thought it could

be done with a few thousand dollars. Call Penny quickly. She has a very close relationship with the

boss. If you beg her, she'll definitely be willing to help me!"

Susan was angry and resentful. "Eight million dollars. How can I repay it? I guess Penny is having sex

with that boss in the car now. She's really shameless! I wouldn't have done it if it weren't for her."

Since the police came to the door, Philip and Haley had panicked. According to what the police said,

they finally knew the whole story. Hearing that the boss was in Penny's car, Philip had no choice but to

swallow his pride and call Penny.

Seeing the call from Philip, Penny was inexplicably irritated. But since the caller was an elder, she had

to answer it.

"Uncle."

"Is Mr. Fletcher in your car? If you... have a good relationship with him, can you beg for mercy for

Susan? She didn't intentionally smash that car and probably didn't know its price. Could you please ask

him if it can settle in private?"

Although Penny had anticipated it to some extent, upon hearing Philip's request, she still felt a little

ridiculous.

"Uncle, after smashing that car, she volunteered to use your car to take Mr. Fletcher out. It's such a

coincidence. Do you really believe she didn't do it on purpose?"

Penny continued, "I'm sorry that I can't help her. That car is too expensive. Since she dares to smash it,

she has to take the consequences."

Chapter 87 Her Sleep Talking

Chapter 87 Her Sleep Talking

Penny had long been displeased with Susan's temperament. Since her uncle and aunt had endured

each other, Susan had developed a terrible disposition.

Philip, sensing her reluctance to assist them, grew increasingly anxious.

"Even if Susan is at fault, isn't there any room for negotiation?" he implored.

"The truth is, we owe Susan an apology. If she insists on divorcing, your cousin will forever be branded

with the stain of embezzlement and high-interest loans. Nobody in the county would dare to marry into

our family, except for Susan who doesn't seem to mind. And if anything happens to Susan, what about

our family..." he kept pleading.

Penny felt powerless and closed her eyes.

She vividly knew how much Philip and Haley had suffered in their lives, and how their hard-earned

money had been squandered by their son and his wife.

She rubbed her temples wearily.

"But Philip," she sighed, "have you ever thought that even if I plead with Mr. Fletcher, he won't

compromise with Susan? He is dead serious about this matter. Either she pays \$8 million to repair the

car or she faces imprisonment."

Philip pleaded with her, "Penny, can't you at least ask Mr. Fletcher first? If... if he takes your plea into

consideration, perhaps he would be willing to reduce the amount..."

Penny felt a surge of anger and her tone turned cold.

"Philip, I've already asked him, and what I told you is true. I need to drive now. Bye."

Without waiting for a reply, she abruptly ended the call.

This was the first time that Penny and Philip had engaged in such a tense argument.

Penny clearly knew that Philip and Haley were kind and friendly. They had treated her warmly during

her stay at their house. It was precisely because of their kindness that Susan saw an opportunity to

exert control over them.

Orlando, sitting beside her, had overheard the entire conversation.

After Penny hung up, he inquired, "Is that woman your relative?"

For some reason, Penny felt embarrassed. "Yes, she is Susan, my sister-in-law."

Orlando's gaze became somewhat meaningful. "She mentioned that your cousin ran away?"

"Yes, he borrowed money at exorbitant interest rates."

"And she hasn't divorced him?"

Penny grasped the implications of his questioning.

Susan, a married woman, was actively involved with another man. Why didn't her family try to stop her?

This realization only deepened Penny's sense of shame, especially considering that Philip still held on

to the hope that her cousin would return and that Susan would bear a son for the family.

They indulged Susan because, as Philip had acknowledged, no one else would be willing to marry her cousin now, except for Susan.

"Mr. Fletcher, I apologize for that," Penny stammered, finding it difficult to explain the situation.

Orlando withdrew his gaze, his tone turning indifferent. "Are you willing to pay the \$8 million for her?"

"I don't have that much money," Penny admitted.

"Then don't meddle in other people's business," he retorted.

Penny genuinely didn't have that amount of money. Now she had to quickly sell her apartment and use

the proceeds as a down payment for the new house she had purchased.

Moreover, the subsequent transfer of funds through the bank would take another two weeks.

During this time, she would have to either stay at Hills Villa or book a hotel.

And if she happened to run into Orlando at Hills Villa, it would undoubtedly be quite awkward.

Both of them fell silent.

Suddenly, Penny received a message from Philip.

[Penny, I'm sorry for putting you in a difficult position with my words. We will handle this matter

ourselves. Just focus on yourself.]

Instead of feeling satisfied, Penny became even more agitated and unsettled.

It reminded her of the frustration and grievances she had once experienced with her father.

She leaned back in her chair, feeling utterly exhausted.

Meanwhile, Orlando had documents in his lap and was flipping through them.

Just as he was about to sign, he felt a head leaning against his shoulder.

He stiffened and couldn't help but turn to look at Penny.

It seemed that in these few days, she had suffered a lot in Prodale County.

Despite her cool appearance and clear gazing, she had been in a bad mood, appearing somewhat

pitiful, with a trace of sorrow lingering on the tip of her nose.

Even in her dreams, that same expression adorned her face.

Penny had actually dreamt about Orlando.

In her dream, he held her chin, forcing her to call him husband.

Without much resistance, she whispered tiredly, "Husband."

Orlando, engrossed in the documents, heard that muffled voice and almost lost control, tempted to tear

up the papers.

Deep furrows formed on his brow as he couldn't help but turn to look at her.

She was peacefully asleep, and her whisper was most likely just sleep talking.

Orlando wondered why Penny would call out for her husband when she had previously acknowledged

their troubled relationship.

Withdrawing his gaze, he calmed his heart. After all, it had nothing to do with him.

When Penny woke up, it was already evening.

As she recognized the familiar route, her heart couldn't help but race.

Wasn't this the way to Hills Villa?

Could it be that Orlando was planning to go to Hills Villa tonight?!



Chapter 88 Her Nervous Hiding

Chapter 88 Her Nervous Hiding

She immediately sat up straight. If Anika saw this car and couldn't resist coming to pick her up,

everything would be laid bare.

And Niko, she had to call Anika to hide it. Otherwise, as soon as Orlando arrived, he might have an

immediate and severe allergic reaction, given that he had seen Niko before and would undoubtedly

recognize it right away.

Just as she reached for her phone, she heard Zane, seated in the front, inquiring, "Orlando, Rex

mentioned that the designated wedding room is just nearby. He will be here in about two days to

inspect your living arrangements."

Actually, Zane also disliked Penny.

After all, everything the Stuart family had done since the engagement with the Fletcher family was quite

despicable.

In his opinion, it was Penny who had saved Rex, allowing them this opportunity to develop.

The first round of financing was thanks to the Fletcher Group's help, and now it seemed that the

second round of financing, worth an estimated 3 billion, also required their assistance.

What's worse, the Stuart family seemed to take advantage of Penny to seize any opportunities to keep in touch with Orlando.

What a greedy family they were!

However, Rex particularly liked Penny and cared about their marriage. Even before returning, he had already planned to visit their wedding room personally.

Love could be faked, but the traces of their living cannot be disguised.

Orlando had never been to Hills Villa thus far, naturally, there was nothing of his own there. Once Rex enters there to check, everything will be exposed.

And so, this was precisely why Zane had driven them here.

He had guided Orlando to Hills Villa. After all, Orlando cared little about his marriage, not even the wedding room.

Indeed, when Orlando heard this, his expression darkened.

The distance to Hills Villa was less than 200 meters.

Its beautiful scenery and peaceful surroundings truly proved Rex's appreciation for Penny.

Neither of them noticed Penny's unnatural expression.

She quickly called Anika.

Anika picked up the call with a cheerful tone.

"Ms. Stuart, are you back? Niko seems quite restless at home, almost as if it sensed your arrival."

"Take care of it!" Penny's voice quivered with anxiety as if she could already hear the dog's barks.

Anika was stunned by her rare urgency.

But Anika, being astute, quickly got the situation. "Is Mr. Fletcher on his way? If so, I'll hide Niko immediately."

Penny could not help sighing her agility.

What a smart assistance that Rex left to her!

Before replying to her inquiry, Penny stole a quick glance at Orlando, careful not to reveal too much in her words.

When noticing that he had no idea about what she was discussing, she finally said, "Yes, please hurry up."

After Anika ended the call, she swiftly picked up Niko and retreated to the room she had prepared before.

Located at the rear of the villa, that room was well hidden, ensuring that even Niko's barks would go unheard as long as one stayed close.

As for Mr. Fletcher, he definitely wouldn't be leisurely strolling around the villa.

Then she hurriedly summoned the few remaining servants to disinfect the villa.

Meanwhile, the car arrived at the gate.

Orlando had never set foot in this prepared "wedding room", and as he arrived now, he felt an

inexplicable resistance.

Zane caught a glimpse of his reaction through the rearview mirror.

He cautiously suggested, "Let me bring your things here next time. You don't have to enter yourself. It

won't make trouble when Rex insists on having a meal here."

Orlando raised his hand to rub his forehead and then nodded.

Upon witnessing Orlando's response, Penny, keeping nervous all the way, sighed with relief.

But Orlando was highly sensitive to others' emotions.

He noticed her change and questioned, "Why are you so nervous?"



Chapter 89 The Approved Design

Chapter 89 The Approved Design

Penny quickly composed herself, wearing a perfect smile.

"I just feel like I accidentally overheard your personal matters, Mr. Fletcher, so I feel a bit awkward."

After all, if these details were to leak to the media, tomorrow's headlines wouldn't be difficult to

anticipate.

There had been no rumors about his marital status for years. Once this news got out, it would create

quite a stir.

As the heir to the Fletcher Group and one of the youngest business magnates, Orlando had already

made a name.

Even during his time in Silicon Valley, his achievements had been reported by The Times.

It was no surprise that Rex held him in high regard.

Naturally, his private life would attract much attention.

Orlando closed the file on his knee. "Ms Perry knows how to keep things discreet," he stated calmly.

Then he cast his gaze towards Hills Villa outside.

Zane assumed he was about to enter, but all Orlando requested was, "Arranged for someone to bring

my clothes here later."

Zane nodded and made a turn ahead.

Then he courteously addressed Penny, "Ms. Stuart, allow me to drive you to your apartment."

Penny's apartment had been sold, and she was currently waiting to sign the contract to finalize the

transfer. It would be convenient to handle the matter now and get the paperwork done.

"Sure, thank you," Penny replied gratefully.

"We should be the ones thanking you, Ms. Stuart," Zane responded cordially.

Silence enveloped the car as it eventually arrived at the apartment.

Meanwhile, the car designated to pick up Orlando had already arrived.

Orlando swiftly departed, leaving Penny behind.

She stood in front of her own car, ensuring that they wouldn't return. Then she called the real estate

agent, informing them that she was ready to sign the contract.

The agent had been waiting for her call, so the contract was signed successfully within half an hour.

Now, all Penny had to do was wait for the bank to transfer the money.

She drove back to Hills Villa and noticed Anika anxiously waiting outside, which made her amused.

"Anika."

Anika extended her neck and glanced behind her, making sure no one else was there.

Then she let out a sigh of relief and then inquired with curiosity, "Ms. Stuart, what's going on?"

"It's nothing, I just worried that Mr. Fletcher might show up. I still have some things in the car, could you

please bring them down for me?"

In fact, Anika hadn't seen Orlando. Such an unexpected meeting would definitely make her anxious as

well.

Given that he hadn't arrived, she felt considerably more at ease.

Anika promptly arranged for someone to unload the items from the car.

After putting away the food in the refrigerator, she noticed a delicate handbag.

Anika asked, "Ms. Stuart, what's this?"

Penny took a quick glance at the bag and realized that she had forgotten to return Orlando's shirt.

"That belongs to someone else. Give it to me," she replied and then took the bag to retreat to her room.

She needed rest as sitting in the car for an extended period had left her tired.

She slept until the evening, awakening refreshed.

After freshening up, Penny descended the stairs. Recalling what Orlando had mentioned in the car, she

informed Anika to clean up the room.

"Anika, please clean up the guest bedroom furthest from the master bedroom.

If Mr. Fletcher sends

something over; he will definitely put it in the master bedroom."

Anika grew somber and then let out a sigh.

"Ms. Stuart, should I inform Rex about Mrs. Moran's mistreatment towards you? Rex often calls to

inquire about you, thinking that you and Mr. Fletcher are getting along well," she added, "Now, Mrs.

Moran even doesn't allow you to share a bedroom. How can the hostess sleep in the guest bedroom?"

Anika couldn't bear it any longer. Although she had been instructed by Rex, she had developed a

strong affection for Penny over the years, treating her like her own daughter.

"Anika, there's no need," Penny responded calmly, "this marriage will eventually come to an end, and

not sharing a room sounds better. And I don't wish to have any further involvement with him before the

divorce."

Anika had no choice but to fulfill Penny's request and arrange the guest bedroom.

Penny's belongings in the master bedroom were moved into the room farthest from it in the corridor.

The distance between these two rooms was now the greatest.

In fact, Penny didn't have much stuff, so the task was completed quickly.

Penny decided to sleep in the guest room tonight.

Before going to bed, she sent the renderings to Orlando, waiting for his response. If he didn't reply as

he had done in the past, she might have to create a construction plan and search for a construction

team directly.

The next morning, Penny received only one word from Orlando: "Yes."

This left Penny a bit frustrated. It was the first time she had encountered such indifference from a client.

She had to inquire further, "Does Mr. Fletcher need a third-party supervisor?"

Such supervisors are usually hired by the homeowner to oversee the construction process and provide

real-time feedback to the client.

However, it seemed that Orlando wanted to remain completely hands-off, allowing the project to

progress more swiftly.

"It's not necessary," Orlando replied.

Penny pondered the situation.

After all, this house was designed for his loved one. Shouldn't he let Ms. Bender check the renderings?



Chapter 90 An Unwelcomed Guest

Chapter 90 An Unwelcomed Guest

Penny contemplated for a moment and decided to make a call.

"Mr. Fletcher, once the design is finalized, I will begin working on the construction plans. Are you sure

you don't need to involve anyone else in this decision-making process?"

She continued, "I heard from Mr. Levine that this house is designed for your loved one. Shouldn't you

consider seeking her opinion as well?"

Orlando remained silent for two seconds before speaking in a deep voice, "No need."

Penny was taken aback, wondering if the rumors were true, that Orlando had been waiting for Angie all

these years.

But then she recalled the night they had been intimate, when Orlando had called out Angie's name.

It seemed that there were indeed some misunderstandings between them, just as the rumors had hinted.

Rather than playing the role of a wife, Penny felt more like a spectator to their complicated relationship.

"Alright then. If I need to reach you in the future, I'll give you a call," she said, ending the conversation and intending to rest.

However, she heard a knock on the door, and it was Anika.

"Ms. Stuart, Rex called me at noon and informed me that he will be arriving tomorrow evening at six.

He wishes for you and Mr. Fletcher to pick him up together."

Penny's heart skipped a beat. Are they really going to be together?

She even considered finding an excuse to avoid the situation.

But then she remembered that Rex was the person who cared for her the most, treating her like a

beloved granddaughter over the past few years.

With a deep breath, she responded, "OK."

Penny speculated that Rex must have called their home because there was no reception in the tunnel

when she was driving.

He was likely on the plane by now.

Anyway, she knew she had to mentally prepare herself for the inevitable and embarrassing encounter with Orlando.

*

The next morning, Penny got ready and went downstairs, only to find the lobby surprisingly quiet.

As she looked up, she spotted Keely seated on the couch.

There was a cup of tea in front of Keely, indicating that she had been here for a while.

Penny had just returned from Prodale County yesterday and planned to have a good sleep, but she had been caught off now.

Keely snorted when seeing Penny.

“It's no surprise that you're still sleeping at this hour while Orlando has already held three meetings, since you came from a small family,” Keely remarked, in a somewhat mocking tone.

Penny couldn't help but find it amusing.

Keely disliked her, so she always looked for faults in her.

Now, with Rex's impending return, Keely worried that Orlando might come to stay with Penny at Hills

Villa. And that was why she came early in the morning to warn Penny.

"I have arranged for Orlando's clothes to be sent over, and they have been placed in the bedroom. You

have already moved out from there," Keely stated coldly.

Penny forced a smile and gestured to Anika to continue with her tasks, hoping to avoid any further

complaints from Keely.

Anika let out a sigh and grabbed a towel to wipe down the table and chairs.

Just then, Niko entered and stayed on the front step due to the rain this morning, waiting for someone

to wipe its paws.

Keely's gaze sharpened when she noticed Niko. "Didn't I say to get rid of this dog?"

"Ms. Moran, Mr. Fletcher hasn't arrived yet. And if he does come, he won't see Niko," Penny responded

calmly.

"That doesn't work! Orlando feels uncomfortable when he sees a dog!" Keely retorted sharply.

Taking a deep breath, Penny maintained a composed smile.

"Alright, I'll ask someone to send Niko away. Is there anything else you need me to do, Ms. Moran?"

A coldness flickered across Keely's face. "I didn't come alone. I have also invited your parents, and

they should be here soon."

Penny frowned, slightly taken aback.

Cason and Helen?

It appeared that Keely not only intended to criticize her but also aimed to involve her family.

Penny grew angry and anxious.

If she had any improper thoughts about Orlando, then she would accept the blame.

However, the truth was that she didn't like Orlando at all and had never considered continuing their marriage in the future.

Their union had always been a transaction, and Penny was well aware of that fact.

However, Keely constantly humiliated her centered around this issue.

Keely was narrow-minded.

Penny pursed her lips, knowing that arguing with Keely at this moment would only make things worse.

Soon after, Cason and Helen arrived, as Keely had mentioned.

They were quite surprised and flattered as it was the first time they had come to Penny and Orlando's marital home.

Keely, with her haughty demeanor, did not bother to stand up and welcome them. Instead, she raised

her chin and coolly stated, "Have a seat."

It was Cason who broke the peaceful silence. After all, he vividly knew that the Stuart family had

always been supported by the Fletcher family. So, they should treat Orlando's mother politely.

"Mrs. Moran, why did you call us here today?" he inquired.

Keely's gaze scanned all three of them and then she took out a contract from her bag.

"Sign this contract."

She explained, "I know that the Stuart family will soon undergo a second round of financing. And the

Fletcher family can help you. As long as Penny divorces Orlando and leaves with nothing, we will agree

to provide the necessary financing to you."

Cason turned pale. "What has Penny done wrong?"