

Chapter 91 The Bad News

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Keely sneered, "It's not that she has done anything wrong. It's just that the Fletcher family doesn't

match up to the Fletcher family. We all know that if it weren't for her saving Rex's life, she would never

have had a chance with Orlando."

Helen, known for her quick wit in arguments, chose to remain silent.

She could only harbor resentment towards Penny for failing to hold onto Orlando's heart, which had

brought humiliation upon both her and Cason.

Keely glanced at Penny and noticed that she still maintained her indifferent attitude, which made her

even more furious.

"This contract explicitly states that you are required to divorce within one year.

Even if Orlando has sex

with you, you have no right to bear children. And I refuse to allow my grandchild to be born into such an

ambitious family."

Penny was agitated by these harsh words.

"Ms. Moran, you are my elder. I don't want to argue with you. Actually, during my three years here, I

have successfully maintained a platonic relationship with Orlando," she replied, "I have chosen to overlook the continuous humiliation you have subjected me to. However, it is highly inappropriate for you to involve my father in this matter. Isn't that going too far?"

For some reason, the sight of Niko that morning had unsettled Kenny, possibly evoking her unpleasant memories.

Her eldest son had also owned a dog of the same breed.

And it was widely known that her son had passed away six years ago.

Now Orlando was her whole life!

Naturally, she disliked Penny when she heard Rex's plans.

"Penny, if you believe my words are harsh, then perhaps it's best for the Stuart family to seek

alternative financing options instead of relying on the Fletcher family," Keely said.

"Since you have accepted our assistance, it's ridiculous to seek any good reputation. I am merely

stating the facts. Do you perceive my actions as intentional humiliation?"

Her indifference evident, Keely retrieved her bag from the nearby side.

"Remember, Rex's flight is scheduled for 6 pm tonight. Do not forget to pick him up. Orlando will be

there too. And as you have signed this contract, bring it to me," she added.

Then she arrogantly left.

Unfortunately, it was true. Penny had no words to fight back.

Indeed, the Stuart family needed the Fletcher family for the second round of financing, making it

inevitable for them to endure her humiliation.

But, Cason, deeply affected by the humiliation, was visibly shaken.

Struggling to catch his breath, he clutched his chest, his complexion growing pale.

"Dad?"

Penny exclaimed worriedly.

Cason closed his eyes, attempting to soothe the pain that gripped his chest.

His breathing grew rapid.

At that moment, Helen couldn't bring herself to blame Penny.

If something were to happen to Cason now, with Talon still trying to establish himself within the

company, everyone would undoubtedly believe that the company belonged solely to Penny,

overlooking her role as a stepmother.

With only a 10% stake in the company and no real power, Helen felt powerless.

So, they called for an ambulance and rushed Cason to the hospital.

Along the way, Cason struggled to speak, but ultimately failed and only released a deep sigh.

Penny was uneasy as well, rubbing her temples.

Upon arrival at the hospital, Cason was swiftly admitted to the emergency room.

His health had deteriorated over the years, and the last time he had become this angry with Penny, he almost fainted.

Today, Keely's words clearly touched on his pain.

Penny and Helen sat in the corridor, anxiously waiting as the lights of the emergency room flickered to life.

Helen let out a cold snort.

"If you had the ability to hold onto Orlando, why would Keely come to humiliate both me and your father? It's all your fault!" Helen seethed.

She grew increasingly angry as she pondered the situation.

Penny had witnessed Helen buying a villa for Talon, which had left Cason feeling guilty towards his daughter. As a result, he planned to hire a lawyer to transfer 20% of his shares to Penny as compensation.

She adamantly refused, continuously trying to prevent it.

Eventually, Cason agreed to hold off on the transfer later.

That 20% of shares amounted to twice as much as what she currently held!

Although now she could live a comfortable life, how could she give up the chance to hold the Stuart's

Group?

"If you want to hold onto Orlando, why don't you ask your own daughter to make a deal?" Penny

retorted sharply.

"You! Do you think I haven't wanted to? If Lana's health weren't so delicate, how could I have let you

benefit? But unfortunately, you just have that face, you're simply useless!" Helen said angrily.

Penny closed her eyes, refusing to engage in further arguments or dwell on the situation.

At this moment, all she desired was that nothing would happen to her father.

Chapter 92 Her Another Absence

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The rescue operation to save Cason proved to be quite challenging. It wasn't until half-past five that the

doctors finally wheeled him out.

As Penny gazed at her father, his face covered by an oxygen mask, a wave of bitterness overwhelmed

her. "Doctor, is my father's condition really serious?"

Cason had been consumed with the company's affairs for years, neglecting his own health and never

undergoing medical examinations. Any pain he experienced was merely alleviated with painkillers.

Penny couldn't help but recall the days when her mother was still alive. Even then, Cason's health was

already in a fragile state.

During those times, her mother would often say that as long as they earned enough money, they could

purchase a house in Prodale County, tend to a garden full of flowers and vegetables, and live a peaceful life.

When her mother married her father, their days became incredibly difficult, and they faced discrimination from others.

Cason, burdened with guilt towards his wife, always harbored the aspiration of making a fortune and providing her with a better life.

Unfortunately, he was oblivious to what her mother truly desired.

Even when the company finally started generating profits, it was too late.

Penny's mother passed away, leaving behind a lifetime of unfulfilled dreams. Despite their years of

hard work, they were never able to experience the good life they had envisioned.

Instead, Helen reaped the benefits.

As the doctor removed his mask and glanced at Penny, he asked, "Who are you in relation to the patient?"

"I'm his daughter," Penny replied.

Motioning for the others to move Cason into the hospital room, the doctor pointed toward his office.

"The situation is a bit complicated. Please accompany me to my office."

Penny nodded and followed his steps.

As soon as they entered the office, the doctor let out a deep and heavy sigh.

"Ms. Stuart, I regret to inform you that your father is suffering from advanced-stage liver cancer. Now,

we no longer recommend surgical intervention. He likely has approximately one year left, so it would be

wise for you to start preparing yourself mentally."

Penny felt as though her entire world was spinning.

How could this be happening?!

"Doctor, are you sure?"

The doctor nodded solemnly. "That is what the examination has revealed. The cancer has already

metastasized. He has been experiencing pain for the past two years, but he didn't pay much attention."

"Now, he can only rely on painkillers, and we should arrange for him to be admitted to the hospital

soon. Additionally, his liver enzymes are elevated, likely due to his late nights and lack of proper rest.

Given his age, prioritizing his health is of the utmost importance. Ms. Stuart, you must persuade him to

rest well and get enough sleep," he added.

Penny stood there, speechless, unable to utter a word.

The doctor knew that it would be hard for her to accept it. With a heavy sigh, he felt at a loss for further

words.

Penny left the doctor's office in a daze, her thoughts in disarray.

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At the airport, Orlando and the others had already arrived.

He realized that he hadn't received any replies from Penny.

He furrowed his brow and sent another message. [Where are you?]

But he still failed to get any response.

Then he decided to enter the terminal directly.

Zane, observing his demeanor from behind, whispered, "Is Ms. Stuart not here? Should I make a call?"

A chill shot through Orlando's eyes. "No need."

Finished, they waited for Rex to come out.

Rex, not in the best of health and tired from the plane journey, had a smile on his face at the thought of

seeing Penny.

However, upon emerging from the airport, he found no trace of her.

Instead, Orlando stood there obediently waiting.

Rex's face immediately darkened. "Where is Penny?"

But Orlando replied coldly, "Grandfather, let me take you back to the old house. Dinner has already

been prepared."

"Orlando, did you and Penny have a disagreement? As a man, you should be more considerate

towards her. Do you realize how exceptional Penny is? It's just that she can be stubborn at times." Rex

inquired.

Orlando remained angry and his impression of Penny was already tainted.

Could it be that since he had agreed to resolve the matter of the second round of funding with her, she

no longer suit the need to appease Rex?

"Orlando, I am speaking to you," Rex pressed on, hoping to get some answers.

Orlando didn't dare to anger his grandfather, especially considering the doctor's warning about avoiding

any form of stimulation for him.

So he replied, "Grandfather, I understand your concern. It's possible that Penny got delayed with work

today. I will reach out to her later to check on her."

Rex's expression softened as he nodded in agreement, a smile creeping onto his face.

"It sounds reasonable. I'll also give Penny a call. She must be occupied with something important;

otherwise, she wouldn't have missed picking me up. I even specifically informed her of my arrival.

There must be some urgent matter she's dealing with."

In Rex's opinion, there must be a reason for Penny's absence.

However, Orlando held a different perspective. He believed that she did it on purpose.

She broke their agreement last time, and now she was absent again.

Was it the upbringing of the Stuart family?

Chapter 93 The Chosen One

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A few people supported Rex back home, and Rex couldn't help but make a call to Penny.

At this time, Penny was still standing alone in the corridor, feeling an icy chill run through her bones as

she recalled the doctor's words.

Finally, the sound of her phone ringing snapped her out of her dazed state.

With stiff fingertips, she attempted to brush away the coldness by rubbing her hands together before

answering the call.

However, the screen of her mobile phone revealed that she had missed the opportunity to answer

Rex's call.

She quickly called back and apologized, "Grandpa, I'm so sorry. My father suddenly got hospitalized,

and I've been by his side. So, I missed picking you up."

Rex reassured her, "Penny, what happened? Is he better now? Don't worry about dinner tonight. Just

stay with your father."

Tears welled up in Penny's eyes.

Her father had been diagnosed with advanced-stage liver cancer, and she felt overwhelmed by the

weight of the situation.

She didn't know who else she could confide in about her father's condition.

As for Philip, they had quarreled just now.

As for the Fletcher family, it was even impossible to tell them. Although Rex had shown kindness

towards her, she hesitated to burden others with her troubles, fearing they might think she was

deliberately seeking sympathy.

"He's not feeling well, and he hasn't woken up yet. Grandpa, I bring you a gift as an apology and

Orlando will give it to you," Penny quickly explained.

Rex smiled and said, "There's no need to be so polite with me. I also have a gift for you. I'll ask Orlando

to bring it to you."

Penny's eyes welled up with tears.

"Okay, thank you, Grandpa," she whispered, her voice tinged with gratitude.

The sound of Penny calling him "Grandpa" warmed his heart even further.

After ending the call, he retrieved a box from the nearby side table and handed it to Orlando, instructing

him, "This is a gift for Penny, give it to her. And Cason from the Stuart family is currently in the hospital.

When you find the time, bring a gift and visit him. As her father-in-law, you need to fulfill that role."

Rex genuinely cared for Penny, and he had no intentions of harboring any arrogance toward other

members of the Stuart family.

He had already investigated Penny's life over the years.

Her life was neither good nor bad. The main issue was that she was too strong-willed, and if she

suffered any grievances, she wouldn't tell anyone.

She even went to Prodale County for high school and encountered that kind of teacher in college.

Rex wanted to help her several times, but Penny stopped him and insisted on resolving matters

independently.

And she made it.

Recently, the Chace Hardy of Chatville University, whose surname is Bender, was dismissed.

When Rex thought of Fiona being from the Bender family, he sneered.

"People from the Bender family, raised in such an environment, can only resort to opportunistic tricks,"

Hearing Rex suddenly mention the Bender family, Orlando furrowed his brows. "Grandpa, why are you

blaming the Bender family?"

Rex let out a cold chuckle upon seeing Orlando defend the Bender family. "Haven't you heard about

what Fiona has done at the university? It's clear that the Bender family has no potential for growth."

Orlando flipped through the documents and replied, "Fiona is Fiona, she cannot represent the whole

Bender family. Grandpa, you should treat them from a more objective perspective."

Rex still felt unease and tightly gripped his cane.

He believed that Angie wasn't a good person either.

He wouldn't give her any chance to step into the Fletcher family.

And the chosen one could only be Penny!

Anyone who dared to cause trouble would be his enemy!

"Remember to visit Cason at the hospital this week. He's your father-in-law, so you should show some

concern for him," Rex reminded.

Orlando responded casually, "Understood."

He planned to have Zane deliver a few items to Cason later.

Rex nodded with satisfaction as getting his promise.

Meanwhile, in the hospital, Cason had already woken up, but his body still ached all over.

He glanced at Helen, who was standing by his bedside, and furrowed his brow. "How did I end up in the hospital?"

Unaware of the true severity of Cason's condition, Helen's response was casual.

She had grown accustomed to his constant complaints about bodily discomfort, usually alleviated with a couple of painkillers. So, she answered nonchalantly, "You had a collapse at Hills Villa."

"What about Penny?" he asked.

Helen's face visibly soured at the mention of Penny.

"The nurse took her to the cafeteria for a meal. The hospital offers specially tailored meals for patients,

and if she misses her designated time, she'll have to wait for the next one. If you're unsatisfied with it, I

can have our chef prepare something for you later."

Cason coughed weakly, a heavy sigh escaping his lips.

"Helen, do you think Penny resents me for pushing her into the Fletcher family?"

Chapter 94 His Hurtful Comments

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Cason had a dream about Violet Glover, his ex-wife and Penny's mother.

As he woke up, a sense of guilt washed over him.

Perhaps it was the recent anniversary that had invoked such a dream. At that moment, he couldn't help

but feel sorry for Penny.

While Orlando was indeed excellent, if Penny didn't like him, their assigned marriage would also hurt

her.

To be honest, Penny had never worried him from childhood to adulthood.

But now, a growing chasm seemed to be forming between father and daughter, causing Cason

immense distress.

A flicker of anger glinted in Helen's eyes.

As one grew older, they became softhearted.

In the past, she could instigate Cason; but now, with him vulnerable, coupled with the recent

anniversary of his ex-wife's passing, he might be prone to overthinking.

Helen had never emerged triumphant against Violet in the past. And now she had no intention of

allowing history to repeat itself, especially when it came to Penny.

"Honey, please don't overthink it. You have been nothing but good to Penny. The key point lies in her

unpleasant personality," Helen reassured Cason, "just look at how Mrs. Moran treats us. If Penny had a

little more assertiveness, Mrs. Moran wouldn't have dared show such disrespect."

Cason remembered Keely's words and erupted into a fit of coughs.

What Keely said was truly harsh.

But it was true that due to the \$3 billion financing, Penny chose to marry Orlando.

It was not surprising that Keely looked down on their family and Penny, which was why she lashed out

with hurtful words.

"Honey, just look at Lana," Helen urged, "she genuinely cares for you, and if it weren't for her poor

health, she would have come to see you by now. I didn't dare mention your hospitalization to her. Talon

just called and advised you to rest more. Please try not to worry too much about the company's affairs.

You've already delegated them, and Talon will gain more expertise in your absence."

"Husband, just look at Lana. She really cares about you. If it weren't for her poor health, she would have come to see you by now. I dared not mention your hospitalization to her. Talon just called and said for you to rest more. Don't worry too much about the company's affairs. You have already delegated them, and he will learn more in your absence."

Cason's complexion brightened at Helen's words.

Lana and Talon had proven themselves to be more sensible compared to Penny. Penny was too independent. He, as a father, always failed to help her as though he didn't exist in her world.

"Penny is indeed not as sensible as Lana." Cason agreed and commended.

As soon as he finished speaking, footsteps could be heard at the door.

Penny had returned and heard that.

A wave of awkwardness wash over him, his expression shifting.

On the other hand, Penny lowered her eyelashes and placed the nutrition meal she brought on a nearby cabinet.

"Dad, are you hungry? Have something to eat first," Penny offered, her voice gentle.

Cason opened his mouth, longing to explain himself, but quickly realized he had no way to justify it.

He let out a sigh of resignation.

"Okay," he replied.

After taking a sip of porridge, Cason asked, "When will I be able to leave the hospital?"

Penny had already made it clear to the doctor that she was to be the sole recipient of information regarding Cason's condition.

With the decision against surgery and the aim of allowing him to peacefully navigate the rest of the

year, it was important to manage the situation with care.

She responded softly, "The doctor strongly advises that you rest in the hospital for two weeks, Dad."

Cason turned anxious, "how can I stay in the hospital for two weeks? There's a lot of work awaiting me

at the company. Moreover, we're on the brink of another round of financing. It is really important!"

Penny suddenly felt a burst of anger.

If he had come to the hospital when he first felt unwell, it wouldn't have become late-stage liver cancer.

"Dad, what's more important, your health or the company?" Penny retorted.

Cason sensed her abnormal attitude and stopped talking. And her persuasion softened his heart.

Penny still cared about him as her father.

"Alright, I'll convert all the meetings to online. I'll make sure to rest well in the hospital during these two

weeks," Cason conceded.

Helen, witnessing their rare warm moment, couldn't suppress her frustration any longer.

She clenched her teeth and lashed out with criticism.

"Don't you realize that your dad's illness was caused by you? If you had just pleased Orlando, would

Keely have treated us like this?"

Penny didn't want to argue with Helen in front of Cason would only bring more discomfort to him.

"Dad, you should rest and take care of yourself. Helen will stay here with you for the next two weeks.

Don't leave the hospital. I will ensure that the doctor keeps me updated," Penny reassured him.

Ignored by Penny, Helen was agitated.

As she kept arguing with her, Cason interrupted them.

She understood that continuing to cause unnecessary turmoil would only annoy him. Reluctantly, she

simmered down and resigned herself to the situation.

Cason looked at Penny with a gentle tone.

"Thank you, Penny. I'm fine. I'll stay in the hospital for these two weeks.

Penny, it has been a long time

since we had a good chat. If you have the time, please come and see me."

As tears welled up in Penny's eyes, she fought to contain her emotions.

She realized that lingering any longer would only risk revealing the hidden truth.

She knew that if Cason were still in good health, she might argue with him, resent him.

But now, the bad news was that he only had one year left.

"Yeah, I will visit often," Penny responded and then left.

Leaving the room, Penny felt a chill. It was summer, yet this chill seemed to seep into her bones.

Meanwhile, at Fletcher's mansion, a gathering was taking place.

Orlando got up to leave, but Rex held him back.

He advised, "Orlando, take my word, you need to bring a gift to visit Cason this week."

Chapter 95 His Visiting

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Orlando was frustrated, but he maintained calm and indifferent.

"I understand," he replied.

Keely heard this but couldn't retort due to Rex's poor health.

As Orlando exited the living room, she seized the opportunity and followed in his footsteps.

"Orlando, are you really going to see Cason?" Keely asked.

Orlando came to an abrupt stop.

Now they were standing in the garden where Rex couldn't hear their conversation from the living room.

His gaze faltered and replied, "No, I will not visit him."

Then Keely let out a sigh of relief.

She told scornfully, "I saw Cason earlier today. He looked great. It must be nothing more than a show to

catch Rex's attention! They have always been known for resorting to underhanded tactics like this. You

mustn't allow yourself to be deceived."

Taking advantage of Rex's poor health was simply unbearable.

Orlando said, "Mom, I understood."

"I had someone send your things to Hills Villa," Keely disclosed, "Rex may decide to check your

wedding room. Given his poor health, you had better not to upset him. I have already warned her. Now

Penny stayed in the guest bedroom, which is situated farthest from your master bedroom."

Keely's tone was filled with annoyance whenever she mentioned the Stuart's family.

"Orlando, that Penny does have some looks. You need to be careful."

Although Orlando didn't like Penny's personality, he hadn't heard of her getting too close to other men

these past few years. So he chose to remain silent in response.

Worried that she had spoken too much and annoyed him, Keely sighed.

"Mom shouldn't have separated you and Angie in the past. Now that she's decided to return, it's

important that you both cherish each other. Since your older brother's passing, you're all I have left. I

just hope you'll live well!"

Her words stirred a chill within Orlando, causing his expression to turn cold, like a wintry morning

freezing all emotions in its wake.

He raised his head and replied coldly, "You only seem to care about me because of my brother's death.

I won't let you manipulate me, Mom. I can't be a substitute for him."

Keely, now pale and stricken, felt her fingers curl and tremble, almost sinking into her palm.

She said, "Orlando, is this how you treat your own mother? Everything I did was just for you."

He forced a sneer in response, "And your appreciation led to my brother's death."

The weight of guilt and agitation consumed Keely, overwhelming her fragile state.

Sensing her distress, Orlando softened his tone, not wanting to exacerbate the situation further.

"Just go inside. I'm leaving," he said briskly, before swiftly walking away.

When he reached the car, Zane was already seated inside, awaiting his return.

Zane inquired, "Orlando, should we return to the hotel now?"

Orlando had been staying at a hotel recently.

He rubbed his temples and replied, "Tomorrow, bring some gifts and visit Cason at the hospital."

Zane clarified, "Is that what Rex asked for?"

Orlando nodded, saying, "Yes, exactly."

Just as he was about to drive to the hotel, he heard Orlando summon, "Go to Hills Villa."

Rex's health had deteriorated significantly.

But even during meals, he still kept mentioning Penny.

Orlando predicted that Rex would visit Hills Villa the next morning, so he needed to go back there.

Since he had to put on a show, he naturally had to eliminate any possibility of being exposed.

Chapter 96 Two Cups of Warm Milk

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Zane inquired, "Should we give Hills Villa a call?"

Orlando nodded with a hint of indifference.

His voice tinged with annoyance at the thought of the upcoming meeting with Penny.

Orlando had always prided himself on his punctuality, yet Penny had unexpectedly broken her promise

not once, but twice.

Such unrefined behavior was truly unbearable!

Then Zane swiftly dialed the number for Hills Villa.

Upon receiving the unexpected call, Anika was taken aback.

Mr. Fletcher was coming tonight?!

After hanging up, she hurriedly had people hide Niko and thoroughly disinfect every corner of the room,

leaving no trace of dog hair behind.

The servants, skilled and accustomed to daily disinfection routines, swiftly and successfully completed

the task in less than half an hour.

Anika let out a sigh of relief.

She tended to call and inform Penny but the sudden sound of a car engine outside caught her

attention.

It was an unfamiliar black Maybach.

Mr. Fletcher had arrived!

Anika hurriedly set her phone aside and rushed to greet him. "Mr. Fletcher."

Although Orlando disliked everything related to Hills Villa, he understood that it was not appropriate to

direct his anger toward unrelated individuals.

So he simply nodded in acknowledgment of her words.

Anika became even more respectful in her tone and demeanor. "Mrs. Moran has already arranged for

your belongings to be sent over, and she has instructed the chef regarding your preferences."

"If there's anything that does not meet your satisfaction, please tell me. I am the caretaker left behind

by Rex to take care of Ms. Stuart," she added.

But Orlando's gaze fell upon her indifferently.

Anika understood and then promptly guided him to the master bedroom.

"Mr. Fletcher, this is your room," she said, "And at the end of the corridor is Ms. Stuart's room."

Orlando's gaze fixated on the end of the corridor, noting the substantial distance between the two

rooms.

Satisfied with the arrangement, he pushed open the door and entered his master room.

As Anika stood at the doorway, patiently waiting for the door to close, she couldn't help but feel

overwhelmed by his imposing presence.

This was the first time he had come to Hills Villa in three years, and she wonder how he and Ms. Stuart

would be able to get along peacefully.

Uninformed by Anika and consumed by the weight of her father's affairs, Penny went straight to her

own bedroom., seeking solace and respite.

For no reason, she sensitively noticed that there was inexplicable uneasiness hung in the air, tonight.

Completing her evening routine, Penny's thoughts were interrupted by Anika.

"Ms. Stuart, the warm milk is ready," she said.

As soon as Penny opened the door slightly, she heard Anika add, "I also prepared a cup for Mr.

Fletcher. I'll bring it to him later."

Penny's hand trembled.

"Orlando is here?" Overwhelmed by surprise, she directly called out his name.

Anika nodded, acknowledging her mistake. "Yes, Mr. Fletcher is in the master bedroom now. Would

Ms. Stuart like to go and see him?"

But Penny quickly handed over the milk and requested, "Anika, call me after he leaves in the morning. I

won't come down for breakfast."

Anika sensitively picked up on her deliberate avoidance of Orlando.

She didn't know the reason but nodded.

"Alright, Ms. Stuart, you should rest early."

Penny closed the door, her heart pounding with worry about being exposed by Orlando.

It wasn't because of infatuation, but rather worries about being exposed by Orlando.

Thankfully, they hadn't bumped into each other directly, avoiding an extremely awkward encounter.

Finishing the warm milk, Penny thought about visiting Rex tomorrow, as her today's absence was truly

impolite.

On the other hand, a knock resonated through the silence of Orlando's master bedroom, causing his

eyebrows to furrow in curiosity.

Could it be that woman returning?

Rising from his seat, he opened the door, only to find Anika standing before him, holding a steaming

cup of milk.

"Mr. Fletcher, do you usually enjoy a nightcap like Ms. Stuart? I've prepared a cup for you too," Anika

offered politely.

"Is she back?" he inquired.

Orlando felt a peculiar sensation of being ignored.

It was only natural for Ms. Stuart, early catering for the Fletcher's family, to come and greet him.

Moreover, as a married couple, they had not seen each other in the past three years.

But Anika's words shattered his expectations.

"Yes, Ms. Stuart is already asleep," she replied.

Eventually, Orlando thanked her for the warm milk and then closed the door.

Could it be that Penny had another trick?

His mind still filled with suspicions of Penny's hidden intentions.

Chapter 97 Rex's Wishes

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Orlando chose not to pay much attention to his wife's absence but returned to the nearby table, where

he resumed reading his work emails online.

The next morning, Orlando was already downstairs bright and early.

He found Anika serving a delightful Western-style breakfast.

But he failed to find his wife.

Sensing his inquiry, Anika quickly clarified, "Ms. Stuart was a bit tired yesterday, so she asked me not

to wake her up this morning."

It occurred to Orlando that she must return from the hospital.

But wasn't Cason pretending to be sick?

Thinking about here, Orlando was annoyed.

So as soon as he finished his breakfast, he straightly went towards the waiting car parked outside.

On the first night at Hills Villa, Orlando failed to encounter his wife, whom he hadn't seen in three years.

He wondered about her true intention.

Was she deliberately testing his patience, or perhaps trying to ignite his curiosity?

If it was the latter, he was determined not to be swayed.

Upon arriving at the Fletcher Group, Orlando informed Zane, "Buy something and visit Cason at noon."

Zane nodded in understanding.

At the same time, at Hills Villa, Anika knocked on Penny's door.

And Penny had already finished preparing herself and was awaiting Anika's arrival.

"He's gone?" she inquired.

"Yes, Ms. Stuart. He just left," Anika confirmed.

Penny then descended the stairs.

Anika couldn't help but feel sympathy towards Ms. Stuart and asked, "Should I inform Rex about Mrs.

Moran's interference in your marriage?"

But Penny replied, "No need. I never treat you as an outsider, Anika. To be honest, I don't like

Orlando."

"I chose to marry him solely for financial reasons. It is reasonable for Mrs. Moran to dislike me. Once

Rex became better, I will divorce Orlando," she explained.

Anika had no idea but nodded in response.

After breakfast, Penny decided to visit Rex with her well-prepared gift.

As for Rex, he was currently staying alone at Fletcher's mansion, receiving care from numerous servants and doctors.

Perhaps due to being back home, Rex looked great.

Furthermore, when he caught sight of Penny, excitement flooded his face, and he stood up with the help of a cane for support.

"Penny, you've finally come!" Rex exclaimed with joy.

A touch of guilt appeared on Penny's face.

She approached him and explained, "Rex, I'm sorry. My father's health suddenly deteriorated yesterday, and I didn't realize I had missed the time. And here is my gift for you."

The gift she handed to Rex wasn't something purchased. After all, Rex could buy anything he wanted.

Penny, embarrassed, presented her painting to Rex.

"I heard you love the 'Seven Worthies of Bamboo Grove', so I tried my best to complete the missing portion. I hope it brings you happiness," she expressed uncertainly.

Rex was excited at her gift. After all, he had always expressed regret over the missing portion of the painting.

"Penny, how could I ever laugh at you? I totally appreciate your talented painting skills. Come on, you are the best student of Hudson Arnold!"

Hudson was the current representative of traditional painting.

Penny's modesty prevented her from actively promoting herself despite being Hudson's esteemed student.

Coincidentally, Hudson knew Rex, and Penny had once saved him, deepening Rex's admiration for her.

And this admiration eventually led to the plan of arranging Penny's marriage to Orlando, believing it would be a perfect match for her.

Eagerly, Rex unrolled the scroll.

In his collected half-scroll, only four figures seated on a luxurious blanket, surrounded by servants,

rocks, and trees in the background, emanating an elegant and distinct allure.

However, the original painting was intended to feature seven individuals, with three of them lost.

Actually, Penny had conceived the idea of repairing the incomplete painting in the college.

But unlike other damaged ancient paintings, it was incomplete. So, it took her several years to copy

and recreate the missing parts.

Now, she delicately presented it to Rex, with an ardent wish that it would bring happiness to him.

As Rex laid eyes upon her finished work, an enchanting smile adorned his face.

"If Hudson knew that you were no longer participating in competitions, he would be frustrated," Rex

mentioned, expressing his admiration for her talent.

Filled with a tinge of guilt, Penny responded, "Rex, as soon as I finish my current tasks, I will resume

painting."

Rex nodded approvingly, affirming, "That's great. Don't delay your striking talents. I truly cherish your

gift, and I'll hang it in the study later."

Penny responded with a graceful smile, saying, "As long as you're pleased."

"Penny, when do you and Orlando plan to have a child?" He suddenly asked.

But his words were cut short by a fit of coughing.

Rex couldn't resist it but struggled to conceal his discomfort.

Given his poor health, the only Penny could do is say yes.

She replied gently, "Rex, we will make arrangements as soon as possible."

Chapter 98 Her Identity Would Be Found Out

Chapter 98 Her Identity Would Be Found Out

A smirk appeared on Rex's face as he patted her hand. "So, you're willing to give Orlando a child?"

Penny nodded, and the sincere smile touched her eyes. "Yes."

Rex was beaming with ecstasy.

"That's good. Don't worry. I'll definitely love the baby whether it's a boy or a girl."

Penny didn't dare say too much about that, lest Rex have very high expectations. If what Rex expected

didn't happen, he would be disappointed, and it was possible his health would deteriorate.

So, Penny brought up other topics in due time and kept the conversation going for an hour before she

left the Fletcher's mansion.

Out of the Fletcher's mansion, Penny was about to get into her car when she met Zoey.

Wearing big sunglasses, Zoey was a little surprised to run into Penny here.

"Perry, what are you doing here?"

Zoey only saw Penny getting into her car without noticing her come out of the Fletcher's mansion

earlier, so Penny made an excuse.

"I haven't painted in a while, so I came over to find inspiration."

Zoey responded with a smile and didn't doubt her story. Then, she started gossiping in a talkative

mood.

"By the way, do you know Ruby was released by the police station? I heard Billy made a trip up there.

This is an absolute disgrace. Billy has a bit of a temper. Skirt around him if you run into him. You can

also call Orlando, and I'll get him to help you. Never come into conflict with Billy. "

Even Zoey said so. It seemed that Billy was a tough nut.

"Okay, thanks for the warning."

Zoey got out of the car and pointed to the Fletcher's mansion not far away.

"I'm going in to see my grandpa. I gotta go. See you next time."

Penny nodded and waited for her to go away before breathing a little sigh of relief.

She had a feeling that she could not hide her identity for much longer.

Once Rex came back, he would definitely invite her to the Fletcher's mansion for dinner. It was

inevitable that she would meet with the rest of the Fletcher family at that time.

Penny was just about to get into the car when Zoey came back to her.

"Hey, Perry, the day after tomorrow is my birthday party. It will be held here at the Fletcher's mansion,

and it will be very lively. Grandpa said he'll make it huge to get rid of bad luck. A lot of people will be

here. Are you coming?"

Penny's heart lurched as she had a sinking feeling. As expected, her cell phone rang.

She tapped the answer button and heard Rex's voice at the other end of the line.

"Penny, I just forgot to tell you something. Zoey's birthday party will be held the day after tomorrow. You

must come."

The corners of Penny's mouth twitched. So presumably, her identity would be found out the day after

tomorrow.

She rubbed her brow and hung up the phone. Zoey continued, "Perry, are you coming or not? I rarely

invite people to my party."

"I'll be there."

"Great!"

Penny looked at Zoey's wildly elated face and wondered how Zoey would feel if she knew by then that

she was Orlando's wife.

"By the way, my sister-in-law should be here too. I heard Orlando has moved in with her. That's too

good for her."

Zoey sighed with a look of disgust on her face.

"I wonder what that woman actually looks like."

Penny pursed her lips. "You'll find out sooner or later. Go in. Don't keep your grandpa waiting."

After Zoey left, Penny got into the car and felt a little distressed. She began to wonder whether she

should think of a way to apologize to Orlando ahead of time.

What she didn't know was that shortly after she left, Orlando arrived at the Fletcher's mansion.

The doctor had just called him, saying that Rex refused to take his medication.

In the whole Fletcher family, only Orlando dared to persuade Rex. So Orlando had to leave his work

and rushed to the Fletcher's mansion.

Rex saw Orlando and glared at him. "You deliberately avoided Penny. You came just after she left!"

Orlando felt a bit wronged. He didn't even know Penny had been here before.

"Grandpa, the doctor said you wouldn't take your medicine?"

Right after Orlando finished his words, Zoey brought a bowl of medicine out from the kitchen.

"Orlando, Grandpa refused to take it, but after talking with Penny, he's willing to take it now."

In her hand was the dark medicine. Rex had been taking this over the years. He never missed it once.

Orlando sighed in relief, thinking that Penny was of some use.

But his face darkened at Rex's next sentence.

"Orlando, Penny said that she is willing to give you a child. Now I can rest easy. I originally thought she

disliked you and refused to give you a child. In that case, you need to hurry up and get her pregnant at

the end of the year."

Orlando's eyes were like chips of ice. Of course, Penny wanted to have a child, so that the Fletcher

family could never get rid of the Stuart family.

Orlando originally thought that it was nice of Penny not to come to see him last night, but unexpectedly,

she discussed the baby thing with Rex behind Orlando's back and also said she was willing to have

children.

Humph!

Chapter 99 Close the Stuart Family's Programs

Chapter 99 Close the Stuart Family's Programs

Satire flickered in Orlando's eyes, and his mouth set in a hard line.

"Grandpa, did she say that herself?"

"Yeah, Penny is so sweet."

When Zoey handed Rex the medicine, she really wanted to say something to contradict him, who even

praised Penny for being sweet. Every woman in the whole of Chatville dreamed of giving Orlando a

child.

Zoey thought it was scheming of Penny to say such things to Rex.

Given Rex's health, Orlando would surely agree, even if it was just lip service.

Zoey'd like to see the day after tomorrow how thick-skinned Penny was!

But then Zoey met Orlando's gaze and closed her mouth slowly.

Orlando put the medicine to Rex's lips. "Grandpa, I'll try my best."

Orlando's reply was exactly the same as before. Rex wasn't sure whether Orlando'd try his best or not,

and just held his chin up.

"I'm going to Hills Villa tonight to see if you are working as hard as you say you are."

Rex thought Orlando would panic, but Orlando dropped his gaze. "Do it if you want."

Rex was in no condition to go anywhere. He said that just to test Orlando.

Seeing that there was no fear on Orlando's face, Rex believed what he said.

"In the past three years, you left Penny out in the cold, but she didn't say anything bad about you in

front of me. Now, you can take advantage of Zoey's birthday party and officially introduce her to

everyone. Back then, your wedding was done in a hurry, so a lot of people still don't know what Penny

looks like. She'll get a bad rap then."

Rex was so considerate of Penny.

A touch of annoyance crossed Orlando's face, but he didn't dare raise an objection to Rex's idea.

Orlando and Penny were only husband and wife in name anyway, and she had used her status to lord

it over others in the past few years.

"It's good that you're satisfied. The most important thing right now is still your health."

"Did you go see Cason today?"

"I'm going over there later."

Rex was speechless.

Orlando's face was horribly cold as he left Fletcher's mansion.

"Zane, put on hold the big projects the Stuart family has landed lately."

Zane froze, wondering why Fletcher Group was going to close the Stuart family's programs.

Did the Stuart family do something to irritate Mr. Fletcher?

Zane was filled with doubts and questions, but he didn't dare to ask.

The Stuart family did land a project recently, but it was too small for the Fletcher Group.

The project was only worth 30 million dollars, and the projects that the Fletcher Group had worked on

were basically over 15 million dollars each.

But the \$30 million project was important to the Stuart family.

If it was put on hold, then the Stuart family would definitely lose a large amount of money.

"Got it, I'll get right on it."

Orlando's face was cold as he looked out at the street. He didn't like smart-ass women. If Penny

thought she could have control over him after getting Rex's approval, then she was very wrong.

She was a real smart-ass and would be bound to pay the price.

"By the way, when you go to see Cason later, warn him not to let his daughter do something she

shouldn't do."

Zane nodded, signaling that he would do as he was told.

Orlando then felt a sense of relief.

Penny didn't know about any of this yet.

She had sent the construction plans to the renovation team she had worked with before this morning.

But she still didn't get feedback from the team. She called them, but shockingly, there was no answer.

Penny was keenly aware that something might have gone wrong, so she decided to go to their office.

It was already two o'clock in the afternoon when Penny arrived at the office building 15 miles away from

Hills Villa.

When the receptionist saw Penny, she hastily stopped her.

"Hello, do you have an appointment?"

Penny had been here before. The owner of this company was Gael, and they had worked together

many times before. It wasn't the first time Penny had been here. After all, when they had worked

together before, she had often come here to negotiate details with Gael's team.

But now, Penny was stopped.

"I'm here for Mr. Bray."

"I'm sorry. Mr. Bray has gone on a business trip today, and I don't think he'll be back until next week."

This was an excuse. This receptionist clearly knew Penny, and that was why she purposely stopped

Penny in her tracks.

Gael didn't answer his phone, and the receptionist informed Penny that he was on a business trip.

Penny guessed that in all likelihood, Gael was still at the office and just was not willing to see her for some reason.

A smile crossed her face as Penny said, "Got it, I'll come back later."

The receptionist breathed a sigh of relief and waited for Penny to leave before calling Gael on the intercom.

"Mr. Bray, I've already stopped that lady, and she said she'd come back after."

Gael nodded and hung up before calling the McKay Group.

"Mr. McKay, congratulations on your promotion. I did what you told me to do. So, could you sign the contract with my company...?"

Clark smiled slightly, toying with his pen.

Chapter 100 She Would Fight Back

Chapter 100 She Would Fight Back

"Mr. Bray, you may rest assured. I've got the contract ready, and if you come in person, we can sign it right away."

Gael's eyes lit up. The McKay Group had been a leader in the domestic industry for many years.

Almost half of Gael's renovation teams got their supply from the McKay Group. If Gael could sign with

the McKay Group at a low price, it would be a big deal for him.

"Alright, Mr. Mckay, I'll be there in half an hour."

Gael hung up the phone with a smile, instructed his assistant to get ready, took his own jacket, got up, and went to the elevator.

Gael got downstairs. Just as the assistant pulled up in front of him, Gael heard a voice from behind

him.

"Mr. Bray."

Gael froze, and the smile on his face faded as he turned around to look at Penny.

Penny was cold and detached, nodding slightly. "Mr. Bray, I called you, but you didn't answer your

phone, so I have to wait for you here. I wonder if the contract we signed earlier still stands."

Gael was embarrassed and hastily held out his hand. "Perry, you're here, but the receptionist didn't

even tell me."

Penny knew he was playing dumb with her. But adults were hypocritical.

"It's my fault. Mr. Bray, I've recently signed a new contract, so I came right over to you. You know it's

Orlando's order, and it's mutually beneficial for us to work together."

"Perry, I'm going to attend a conference. I don't have time to check your order. Why don't we talk when

I get back from my business trip?"

This was an excuse. Gael properly found another business partner, but the contract hadn't been signed

yet, so Gael was just stalling.

Penny's eyes went cold, and she faked a smile.

"I've been working with Mr. Bray since I started my career in the industry, and I think we are still quite

close. If you've found a better partner, you might as well tell me directly, so that I can get prepared.

After all, Mr. Fletcher is pressing me to sign the contract."

Gael indeed wanted Orlando's order. However, to put it bluntly, even if Gael provided the decoration

teams, it was the designer who would benefit the most from this, not Gael's decoration company. At

best, people would think Gael got a good eye for talent and got the best designer.

Besides, Gael and Penny had worked together several times, and all the bosses said that Penny was

so responsible that she even personally went to the construction site. Penny's reputation was boosted

dramatically, but Gael's decorating team didn't get many orders as a result.

However, things would be different if Gael cooperated with the Mckay Group. The Mckay Group was

willing to sell the decoration materials to Gael at the cost price, which could enable Gael to acquire

customers at a lower price so that the orders of average users would definitely increase dramatically.

After all, most people in the world were not rich.

Gael was still smiling.

"Perry, I'm in a hurry to go on a business trip right now. Wait till I come back."

With that, Gael got into his car.

Penny was standing there. She had expected this. When Gael didn't let her go upstairs, she guessed

that Gael had already found another business partner.

She couldn't understand why Gael rejected her and found a new partner.

If Gael chose to cooperate with Orlando, Gael's company would thrive in the future.

How much did Gael benefit from his new partner?

Penny didn't have time to think about it at the moment. She instantly contacted a few other decoration

companies, but all of them rejected her.

One of them clearly said yes, but at the sound of her name, the guy on the other end of the phone

rejected her immediately.

Obviously, someone was targeting her.

Penny instantly thought of Clark.

Clark was now president of the Mckay Group after what happened to Rocco.

The Mckay Group was the largest renovation material company in the country. Moreover, Rocco

worked closely with the school.

If Clark was behind this, few reputable renovation teams would work with her.

It seemed Orlando's order was bound to be delayed.

Penny raised her hand and rubbed her brow.

Clark called her at this time.

"Perry, have you been upset lately? Do you need my help?"

Penny found it absurd, a glint of sarcasm crossing her eyes.

"Mr. Mckay, it's a weird coincidence that you're calling me at this time. I'm wondering if you're behind all

this."

Clark smiled a little, looking confident.

"It's true that I'm behind it, but if you go to dinner with me, I can introduce you to a better construction

team. Don't worry. You can record the whole thing, and if I offend you, you can just call the police like

you did last time."

When he mentioned calling the police, the tip of his tongue flicked the inside of his cheek.

Clark thought Penny was interesting because she was strong but still knew how to fight back.

Penny was good at her job and was beautiful. Clark did have a bit of a thing for her, or he wouldn't

have gone to all the trouble to do this whole thing.

