

Protected Ex-wife Chapter 12 - Chapter 12: A Rough Patch

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After hanging up the phone, Elsie went back to bed and fell into a deep sleep. As Christopher no longer looked for her and she was too exhausted, she slumbered until the next afternoon.

When she got up, she saw Lewis sitting on the couch with a worried look on his face. "Elsie, we might have to move."

"Why?"

"I saw a notice posted in the hall earlier, saying that Whizsystem has bought over this land to build a mega shopping mall." He sighed before adding, "House prices are through the roof nowadays, and our apartment is small. The demolition cost won't be enough for us to buy a new house."

Elsie lowered her head and mumbled, "I'm sorry, Uncle Lewis. It's all my fault."

Back when she was attending university, she had vowed to provide for her uncle, but she had been powerless to resist Charlie and ended up marrying him.

In the eyes of the Gardner family, she was the embodiment of Cinderella; other than her pretty face, she had no family background nor money to match their prominent family status.

Charlie's mother, Ashlynn Dunlap, had always been unhappy about her and Charlie's marriage. Before they got married, Ashlynn had made things very unpleasant by expressing her disdain during a meeting between the two families. Although Lewis was poor, he was a tough man. Not once had he taken the initiative to look for the Gardner family, nor had he asked for a penny from her when she was still married to Charlie.

After the divorce, she was kicked out and could only return to Stroast South alone to find Lewis. Misfortune seemed to follow her everywhere she went because not a few days after her return, her uncle was fired.

The latter wasn't well-educated in the first place, and he wasn't in good health either. Filled with indignation, Elsie had diligently searched for a job, but no company had been willing to hire her. Even when she had offered to wash dishes at restaurants, no one had wanted to take her in.

Life without a source of income became more and more difficult. Eventually, Lewis's savings were insufficient to last them any longer, not to mention the various incidents that happened later.

Thank goodness Joel had been there for her.

At the thought of this, Elsie let out a sigh. While she knew very well how much Joel had done for her, she was also clear about his feelings towards her.

However, she was even more aware of how high the status of the Graham family was. Back then, they had looked down on her even before she was divorced. Now that she was a divorced woman and a single mother, it was a far-fetched dream to think about getting together with Joel.

Mrs. Graham was right. As the eldest son of the Graham family, the burden on Joel's shoulders was extraordinary. Many descendants of the family were eyeing the family's property covetously, and Elsie couldn't be selfish enough to drag him down with her. He was already in his thirties and shouldn't waste his youth on a woman like her. Besides, between her and the Graham family's assets, the choice was rather clear.

Having owed Joel a lot of favours, she couldn't keep asking him for help for the rest of her life. Instead, she had to rely on herself. Only when she became stronger could he rest assured.

In fact, he was the one who'd introduced her to Christopher. Even though she hated the latter with a passion, beggars couldn't be choosers. Despite being a playboy, Christopher was generous to give her a high salary, though she had to suffer a little.

At first, she had planned to endure for a few years before coming up with another way to fend for herself. In the end, Christopher began to take interest in her and she was forced to quit. Otherwise, the consequences of being targeted by a pervert like him were unimaginable.

After having a casual meal, Elsie left the house with a backpack. She had to find a job to solve the urgent problem at hand.

When she got out of the alley, she saw a bus slowing to a stop by the roadside and started sprinting to catch up. Just then, a red car screeched loudly as it abruptly halted right next to her.

Frightened, she froze on the spot subconsciously. Meanwhile, the driver was also scared out of her wits. She rolled down the car window and yelled at her in fury, "Hey! Are you blind? Watch where you're going!"

"I'm sorry!" Elsie hurriedly apologized. When their eyes met, the woman cried out in surprise, "Elsie!"