

Remarry 361

[Chapter 361 Ruthlessness](#)

"Good, that's very good. Then I'd really like to see how you are going to go about getting both." Glaring at Zac viciously, Johnny was breathing in and out in complete anger and left as soon as possible.

Seeing Johnny's receding back, Zac frowned and his face visibly darkened.

'He is about to make a move,' Zac thought. He was getting a little nervous. He didn't expect that things would turn out this way.

However, Zac didn't take Johnny's threat seriously at all. It was Patricia's attitude towards him tonight that had him worried. The look on her face made him think that she was hiding something from him.

But try as he might, Zac was unable to figure out what was on her mind.

Zac peered up at the ceiling and let out a long sigh. He wanted to talk things over with Patricia. But when he thought back to how she was still in a relationship with Jack, his heart felt very heavy. He was a dignified man and didn't have it in him to approach her.

At this time, when Johnny returned back to the house, on his face was absolute anger.

Seeing the look on Johnny's face, Tina made her way up to him in a hurry and asked, "So? How did it go?" Her face had an anxious look on it.

When she heard that Johnny wanted to talk Zac out of pursuing Patricia, she could not help but feel nervous about things. If Johnny succeeded in persuading him, this could end up becoming a problem. Tina hoped that his mission would fail.

If he really convinced Zac to drop out of the game, Kareem would become even more motivated to continue chasing after Patricia. And making him give up on her would prove even more difficult after that.

"You really can't tell?" Unable to find a proper outlet to channel his anger, Johnny could only glare at Tina, make his way into the living room, and sit himself down onto the sofa.

Seeing the look on Johnny's face, Tina already knew the outcome. But she was unsure just now, so she had to ask him.

"Stop being so angry. You know how Zac is. He's always been a stubborn man. Do you remember when he was young? He wouldn't admit defeat or give in even when you pointed out his mistakes. So it's better if you don't waste your time," Tina said in a helpless voice.

However, in Johnny's eyes, this was a challenge, and he was not yet willing to give in so easily. He glared

his eyes at Tina with dissatisfaction and panted heavily out of anger.

Seeing him like this, Tina gave him an awkward smile and asked in a timid voice, "What should we do next? Should we do nothing?"

"We have to do something about this. If we just let things go on the way they are, the matter will only worsen." With an angry face, Johnny tapped his fingers on his thigh and could not help but feel very despondent over things.

He had racked his brain, thinking of ways to make Patricia leave Zac and Kareem alone. But he had no idea what to do next.

"How about we drive Patricia away to some unknown place no one knows about? Then, Zac and Kareem will have no choice but to give up on her." Tina leaned in and whispered this in his ear.

It suddenly struck Johnny that this idea was not bad at all. He nodded his head slightly. "Yes, that's certainly plausible. Patricia is the one who needs to leave."

Hearing Johnny agree so readily, Tina secretly chuckled. This idea had come to her a long time ago, but she did not dare implement it, afraid that Johnny and Kareem would hate her if she did this. But it seemed that Johnny liked her idea.

A smug smile showed up on Tina's face. Her wish was that Patricia stays out of their affairs forever.

Meanwhile, Johnny was thinking hard about where he should have Patricia sent to.

Tina shared her idea. If they sent her abroad, it would make it difficult for Zac and Kareem to find her and therefore, end things among the three of them completely.

In the end, Johnny thought this was a good idea. He just needed to get Patricia out of the picture and out of the country, then block out all news of her. Then, it would be finally enough.

After they made their decision, Johnny and Tina began their preparations. They were determined to execute their plan in two days. In two days' time, Patricia would be sent abroad. By then, she would be far away from their sons.

To Patricia's thinking, she believed that after the scene he made last time, Johnny would be reluctant to come back to see her again. But little did she know that Johnny was not the type of person to give up that easily.

On her way back home after work, Johnny came by to see her. Helplessly, Patricia had to get out of the car to greet him.

"Patricia, I'll get straight to the point. If you are willing to end things with Zac and Kareem and leave right

away, I will forgive you for everything and let you go in peace," Johnny said in a hushed voice with a serious look.

There was a sneer on Patricia's face. "Mr. Reynolds, I already told you that day. I won't be leaving. Southfield is my home." She was very serious when she spoke.

Patricia knew that as a father, Johnny had to be worried about his sons, but he had disrupted her life on multiple occasions and even went out of his way to slander her a few times. This overall made her very unhappy.

"So you don't want to leave?" Johnny stared at her with a displeased expression, a trace of anger flashing before his eyes.

Seeing the look Johnny was giving her, Patricia frowned and her features changed back to their usual coldness. She gave him a cold glance and said firmly, "I think I've made myself clear. I won't be leaving. If you don't like your sons getting involved with me, then ask them to leave me alone."

She appeared very calm and composed, not at all intimidated by Johnny's imposing manner to the slightest degree.

She believed she had shown him enough politeness and respect.

Johnny looked her up and down.

Noting the look in his eyes, Patricia was starting to feel uneasy. She stared straight at him and opened her mouth to speak. Just as she was about to say something, her mouth was covered by someone from behind her.

She had been too busy talking to Johnny to notice that someone had snuck up behind her.

Seeing the self-satisfied expression on Johnny's face, Patricia knew that he was up to something and what happened just now had something to do with him.

Patricia wanted to fight off the person's advances, but it turned out the more she struggled, the blurrier her vision got. She stared straight at Johnny and saw the smug smile on his face. She was confused about what was going on.

After some time had passed, Patricia eventually lost all consciousness and the world all around her turned black.

She fainted and her body fell back into the arms of the man dressed in black behind her.

"Patricia, you had your chance, but you didn't take it. So don't blame me now." Making his way up to her, Johnny looked down at her unconscious body.

At this time, Johnny's face was devoid of all signs of pity—only ruthlessness for what needed to be done. He wanted her to stay away from his sons. From now on, Patricia would no longer be bothering them.

Having said that, Johnny looked at the man in black standing before him and ordered, "Carry her into the car and take her to my wife."

Chapter 362 It's You

The man in black nodded his head respectfully and carried Patricia into the car, driving away.

Seeing the car disappear out of sight, Johnny was overjoyed. He was looking forward to Patricia finally being out of the way and not showing her face in front of Zac and Kareem again.

Thinking about this, Johnny burst out laughing. His face had a very happy look on it.

"Patricia, you're finally out of the way. Enjoy your life abroad," Johnny said in a light voice.

As soon as he said this, Johnny smiled as he left. He was looking forward to some peace and quiet now that she was gone.

When Patricia opened her eyes, it was dark all around her and she did not recognize where she was. But much to her luck, there was a faint light in front of her.

The person standing in front of the light appeared to be very familiar. She thought about it and believed she had seen this woman somewhere before.

Before Patricia could fully recover, Tina quickly made her way up to her, stared down at her, and said in a sarcastic voice, "Just how are you doing? Are you shocked that you are here?" Tina looked at Patricia with a ferocious expression.

Since the last time she was admitted into the hospital, Tina had hoped for this chance to teach Patricia a lesson. She didn't expect that that opportunity would come so soon. It really took her no effort at all.

Hearing her say this, Patricia was a little dumbfounded. She gave Tina a confused look and gulped nervously. She was still a little dazed as she tried to figure out what was going on.

The last thing she remembered was Johnny coming to her and ordering her to leave Zac and Kareem. Just when she refused, a person suddenly snuck up behind her and covered her mouth. After that, she lost consciousness and had no idea what happened next.

Thinking about this, Patricia looked over at Tina, clearly confused, but when she saw the look in her eyes, she finally understood what had happened.

"You—" Before she had the chance to say anything, Tina tightly grabbed hold Patricia's hair, gave her a ferocious look, and snorted disdainfully.

"Shut your mouth! You bitch! Don't blame us if we stop being polite to you. As long as you stay away, things will be okay. I don't want to see your face anymore." After Tina said this with disgust, she stared straight at Patricia.

There was a frown on Patricia's face and she looked over at Tina, her eyes full of confusion. She wanted to say something, but the words wouldn't come out of her mouth. Staring straight at Tina's hateful face, she thought, 'Things really took a drastic turn this time around.'

But this wasn't the time to be thinking about these things. The message Johnny and Tina were sending was very clear. They were willing to do everything in their power to ensure that she would stay away forever.

Seeing the calm look in Patricia's eyes, Tina chuckled and said, "You guessed it. Once tonight is over, you will be gone from Southfield for good." She laughed viciously and looked at Patricia with disdain in her eyes.

Hearing her words, Patricia frowned and her face went back to its usual coldness. She glared at Tina and asked, "Where are you sending me?"

"It all depends on how obedient you are. If you behave yourself right now, I will think about sending you to a place where you can live on your own and rely on yourself. If not, then I will have no choice but to get rid of you. I'm telling you, don't try and force my hand."

Patricia was shocked. She looked at Tina with surprise and exclaimed, "How dare you? Aren't you afraid that someone will find out?"

Patricia knew that Tina had bad intentions for her. It was obvious that Tina wanted to teach her a big lesson. No matter what, she would be sure to make Patricia's life worse than death.

Patricia knew firsthand what sort of person Tina was. When she lived with the Reynolds family, she was tormented by Tina on a regular basis.

"What's the matter? Are you scared now? Why weren't you scared when you fought with me that day?" Tina said in an angry voice, staring straight at Patricia while smiling coldly at her.

Hearing her say this, Patricia bit down on her lower lip heavily and glanced coldly at Tina. She inhaled deeply and had no idea how to go about answering Tina.

Tina had made her meaning clear. There was nothing else Patricia could say.

If Tina didn't get what she want, she would do everything in her power to deal with her.

Seeing that Patricia did not say anything, Tina thought that she was too frightened to speak and couldn't help but laugh at her viciously.

"Are you frightened? You are being so timid. Where did all your courage go? Weren't you quite bold?" Tina said in a sarcastic voice.

There was a frown on Patricia's face and she looked away. She no longer wanted to look at Tina as possible scenarios of escape ran through her mind.

Noticing that Patricia was ignoring her, Tina mocked, "Don't bother wasting your time and energy. Your journey starts in half an hour. What happens then depends on how well you behave." A sneer popped up on Tina's face, her smile filled with hatred.

Patricia became scared. She didn't expect things to turn out this way. She had no idea what to do next and her mind was empty of thoughts.

Tina's laughter filled the air, and time passed by just like that. Suddenly, half an hour was over before they knew it.

Then, Tina made her way out of the warehouse and went to the dock with Patricia. She waited for the arrival of the ship.

However, before the ship arrived, Tina caught sight of Zac.

Seeing the look Zac was giving her, Tina was startled. She stared into his eyes blankly, opened her mouth a few times but didn't manage to say a word. His gaze was deep and penetrating.

Her eyes were covered, so Patricia had no clue what was going on around her. When she heard Tina inhaling sharply, she knew that something had happened. She pursed her lips, believing that someone must have come to her rescue. Otherwise, Tina wouldn't be reacting in this way.

Zac looked at Patricia, and then swept his eyes to look at Tina. "It's really you!"

An expression of surprise flashed across Patricia's face. A hopeful smile started to appear on her lips. She was so excited that Zac was here. It was good that he had interfered in time before she was sent away.

"Yes, it's us. And so what? Do you really want to go against Johnny's orders?" Tina said coldly. At this point, there was no need for niceties.

Hearing her say this, Zac snickered and sneered, "You must be joking. I've never listened to his orders. Let go of my woman!" Giving Tina a cold stare, Zac advanced towards her step by step, ignored the look on her face, and took Patricia into his arms.

Chapter 363 Don't Do That Again

When Tina saw that, she was so livid that she glared at Zac with ferocity, but didn't dare utter a word.

Tina knew Zac's capability and potential very well. She also knew that if she did indeed go against his will, things would become really complicated and serious. What really irked her was that the people behind her didn't dare to move in the face of Zac.

However, this was quite understandable as people would naturally be scared when facing such a fiendish person.

"Zac, aren't you worried that this will make your father angry?" Tina said with unfettered aggression, using Johnny as an excuse.

Zac couldn't help but leer at her when he heard her comment. He looked straight back at her and said mockingly, "You see, apart from when I was a mere little child, I have never been afraid of him. And one more thing, don't say that I haven't warned you because I have now. Don't do that again. Otherwise..." Coldness appeared in the depth of his intense eyes.

Taken aback, Tina couldn't help but bite her lower lip. She looked at Zac's departing figure and stamped her foot. No matter how angry and dissatisfied she was, she knew she had no choice but to heed his words this time.

If Kareem knew what had happened, he would definitely blame her. She could also clearly tell from Zac's eyes that he was threatening her outright. If she ever dared to hurt Patricia again, Zac would definitely tattle to Kareem.

Then, things would only become increasingly complicated and would snowball out of control. Considering this carefully, Tina knew full well that she had no option but to bottle up her anger.

Zac walked away from Tina. He didn't take off Patricia's blindfold until he was certain that he had taken her to a safe place.

"Are you hurt?" With worry on his face, Zac looked Patricia up and down in thorough examination. He didn't feel any sense of relief until he was sure that she was safe and sound.

When Patricia's blindfold was removed, she clearly saw the anxious and concerned look on Zac's face. She couldn't help but throw herself into his arms.

"Zac, thank God that you're here. I was scared to the bone just now!" Patricia expressed her feelings openly. She had hoped that Zac would arrive like a knight in shining armor and save her. However, she had waited for an inordinate amount of time and he still hadn't showed up. She had become overcome by depression. Fortunately, he survived at the most critical moment.

"I am so very sorry that you're hurt. It's all on me." Zac held her tightly in his embrace as if she was a

precious treasure that he was not willing to give up.

When Patricia heard his words, all the uneasiness in her heart melted away in an instant. She smelled the familiar mix of cologne and cigarette smoke on him, and relief inexplicably washed over her.

"It's not your fault. Don't beat yourself up about it," Patricia said tenderly.

"It is all my fault. I failed to protect you adequately and, as a result, you got hurt," Zac said, his voice laden with self-reproach. He held her close, hoping her body would melt into his.

Patricia had become accustomed to this feeling over three years. For such a long time, she had cleaned the Oakleaf Villa for him. She was most accustomed to this smell.

She hadn't anticipated, however, that she would miss that scent. But now she realized that she would be comfortable and secure as long as she could smell that scent.

The two of them held each other for a very long time. It wasn't until Patricia coughed ever so slightly that Zac returned to his senses. With great concern, he enquired, "Did you catch a cold?"

"No, I'm just feeling a little choked up. And I'm quite hungry." Slightly mortified, Patricia blushed and averted her eyes from Zac with a bashful smile on her face.

Zac smiled gently when he heard this. He kissed her forehead with great affection and stroked her hair with his long, slender fingers.

"I didn't realize how hungry you must be," he said.

Patricia hadn't eaten anything in the long time she had been captured, so it was natural for her to be ravenous.

Zac took her by the hand and walked briskly to the other end of the dock. In a soft voice, he said, "I'll take you to get something scrumptious."

Patricia became highly suspicious of him and looked at him with bewilderment. It was the first time she had seen Zac smile so brightly instead of being his usual, gloomy self.

After a little while, he took her to a snack stand at the dock. There was a small crowd buying sweetbreads from the vendor.

"The sweetbreads here are amazing. Do you want to give it a try?" Zac asked with a smile.

Patricia nodded and looked at him curiously. For the very first time, she felt like Zac caused her to have a very unusual, different feeling in her inner depths.

In the past, her impression of Zac was that he was a stony person who was unapproachable and didn't say much.

It turned out he also eat sweetbreads at a roadside vendor and chatted a lot too, but he just happened to keep a cold look on his face.

Not after long, the two of them both had a bowl of sweetbreads in their hands. They shared a smile and began to gobble the treat up. They looked exactly like other happy young couples.

"Is it delicious?" Zac asked while he ate the sweetbreads. He looked at Patricia with a warm smile playing on his lips.

Patricia nodded enthusiastically without even realizing it. This was the first time trying sweetbreads after a long while. She seldom ate sweetbreads. She usually didn't think they tasted particularly good, but today she thought they were delectable.

"Whatever you want to eat, I'll take you to get it," Zac said in a quiet voice. He wiped the corner of her mouth with his own hand. Tenderness appeared in his eyes.

Patricia saw her reflection in his eyes. She pursed her lips and nodded shyly.

In that moment, she saw his affection and endearment for her clearly. His sincerity in his promise was reflected in his clear eyes.

All that was happening was actually real.

"Patricia..."

Suddenly, Zac called her name in a soft voice. There was an incomprehensible look in his deep-set eyes. It was quite apparent that he wanted to say something to her.

As if she had snapped back into reality, Patricia blinked her eyes in sudden confusion. She couldn't wait for him to say what he was thinking.

However, Zac just shook his head with a small smile and gestured for her to eat up quickly.

His response left her confused and curious but she was too embarrassed to press him for something more. All she could do was hide her doubts in the recesses of her heart.

Once they had finished eating, he told her that there was somewhere he wanted to take her.

But it was getting quite late so Patricia knew she had to do the sensible thing and decline his invitation. However, Zac wasn't unhappy in the least bit. So long as he was in her company, unhappiness wouldn't touch him.

After he took her to her apartment, Zac worried about her safety. He offered, "Patricia, why don't you stay at my place?"

When Patricia heard his suggestion, she was dumbstruck. However, in that moment, she just couldn't bring herself to say no to him. She felt it strange.

[Chapter 364 Stay For One Nigh](#)

"I..." Patricia couldn't help stuttering. She bit her lower lip and tried to speak but she was at loss for words.

She wasn't trying to refuse Zac. Instead, she didn't know what to do. She could only wait for him to speak first.

Seeing her hesitation, Zac couldn't help laughing. He then explained, "Don't be nervous. I'm just worried about your safety. Although what happened today has passed, it doesn't mean that they won't do anything afterwards. If they really did something again, I'm worried that I wouldn't be able to save you in time."

Hearing his words, Patricia nodded slightly. She knew what Zac meant and was aware of the situation.

Seeing the look in her eyes, Zac curved his thin lips into a smile and said, "I don't mean for you to move into Oakleaf Villa. I just want you to stay for one night. You can go back tomorrow at your convenience." Just as he spoke, a sweet and tender smile blossomed on his face.

Patricia nodded her head repeatedly in agreement.

What Zac said was right. There was a possibility that they hadn't given up and planned to attack her again.

Thinking of this, Patricia instantly developed a feeling of insecurity. She decided to follow Zac's words.

Seeing this, a faint smile appeared on Zac's face. Without further ado, he started the car and drove away quickly towards Oakleaf Villa.

Just as Patricia arrived at Oakleaf Villa, she had a sense of familiarity. It was a feeling that she hadn't had in a long time. There was also a touch of sadness. But she shouldn't be emotional at this moment. After all that had happened, there was no need to be bothered by it.

She hadn't been here in a long time, so the place seemed a little different to her. It was a little dirty.

Patricia reached out her hand and touched the things around her and a layer of black dust instantly stuck to her finger. At that moment, she furrowed her brows and stared at her dusty finger, unable to speak for a long time.

Seeing the expression on her face, Zac quickly waved his hand and explained, "I'm usually alone, so I don't clean the house very often." The smile on Zac's face froze after he said this.

"It's not that you don't clean it very often, but that you barely clean it at all," Patricia said as she squinted her eyes at Zac without blinking. She looked very angry as if she was about to fight with him.

Seeing the expression in her face, Zac squeezed out an awkward smile and said in a low voice, "Why did you say it out loud?" As Zac said that, he still maintained the smile on his face.

Seeing him act like this, Patricia was at loss for words. She sighed helplessly. From the moment she entered the living room, she observed every corner of the house, especially the kitchen. She couldn't even find any word to describe it.

"Zac, how can you make the house so dirty?" in a rage, Patricia ran to Zac and yelled. It was obvious that her anger had reached its saturation.

"Well... Don't you know? How do you expect a man to be proficient in house chores? I'll leave the cleaning task to you from now on." Zac blatantly came up with an excuse.

Hearing his words, Patricia didn't know whether to laugh or cry. She sighed helplessly, stared at Zac and said in a low voice, "Alright."

"Don't be angry, Patricia. I'm a man and it's normal for me to live here without anyone cleaning it."

"Can't you hire a cleaner?" Patricia glared at Zac angrily and said.

"No. I can't just let anyone in." Zac's tone sounded genuine but Patricia read a different meaning to his words.

While frowning, she glared at Zac unhappily and said in a low voice, "You think I don't know what you mean?" As soon as Patricia said that, she shrugged her shoulders and then raised her eyebrows at Zac.

"If you need me to clean it, you can surely ask, but you have to pay me." There was a smug look on her face as she spoke. Patricia was not afraid of bargaining with Zac.

Hearing this, a gentle smile appeared on Zac's face. He nodded heavily and said, "No problem. Name your price."

Patricia stretched out five fingers. She gave Zac a naughty look and smiled proudly.

"Fifty thousand. Deal." Zac said in a straightforward tone and clasped hands with Patricia without hesitating.

At that moment, Patricia couldn't help chuckling. She looked at Zac with disdain and said gently, "I only suggested five thousand, but you offered fifty thousand instead. How generous of you!" As soon as Patricia finished speaking, she snickered and accepted the fifty-thousand offer.

Seeing the smile on her face, Zac didn't think his offer was inappropriate. On the contrary, he thought that offering fifty thousand was at least what he should do. To him, it was a priceless experience for the woman he loved to clean for him. No matter the cost, he was sure he wouldn't regret it.

From Zac's perspective, there was no need to bargain.

Just then, Patricia felt a little hungry. She walked to the kitchen to cook some noodles, but there was nothing in the fridge.

"Zac, don't you eat anything?" Patricia looked at Zac with a gloomy face and asked. She didn't know how Zac was able to live here all this while. The room was dirty and the fridge was empty. It seemed like the only thing he did was to sleep.

At this moment, she really didn't understand Zac's state of mind.

Hearing this, Zac couldn't help snickering. He shrugged his shoulders and explained, "Many of my foodstuffs got expired. I haven't replaced them yet."

Patricia had an awkward feeling after hearing his words. She couldn't find the appropriate word to describe his living style. She stared at Zac and said gloomily, "But I'm hungry now. What should I eat?"

"You can go out and buy something." There was no feeling of remorse in Zac's tone. Patricia was rendered speechless and a trace of anger swirled up within her.

Just then, she took a deep breath, trying to suppress her anger. She glared at Zac and said unhappily, "I don't feel like eating at all. I'll just go to sleep." As soon as Patricia finished speaking, she turned around and walked towards the guest room.

Sensing her mood, Zac frowned unhappily and his face flushed with depression. He didn't expect that things would turn out like this. They were having a good conversation just now, but all of a sudden he made her angry.

"Patricia, listen to me. Don't be angry," Zac stood at the room door and said. He was afraid that the situation would lead to her ignoring him in the future.

Now that his relationship with Patricia had finally improved a little, he didn't want to lose it for trivial issues like this.

[Chapter 365 Just Kidding](#)

Even though Zac kept knocking at the door, there was still no response from Patricia. He sighed softly, head hung low and eyes dimming over in sadness.

A wave of sorrow swept over him at that moment. He couldn't help but feel a little disappointed that it turned out like this.

"Hey... I know that you're angry, and I know that you don't want to listen to my explanation, but..." Zac began in a helpless tone, his voice trailing off at the end.

On the other side of the door, Patricia snickered to herself quietly, imagining Zac's nervous expression in her mind. This was a lot more fun than she initially expected.

Thinking that she'd teased him enough, Patricia finally opened the door slightly, looking forward to seeing the look on Zac's face. However, the moment she laid eyes on him, she saw his depressed expression and she was stunned by that.

Blinking in surprise, Patricia didn't expect to see such an expression from Zac. Feeling a trickle of guilt seep into her heart, she was about to open her mouth to say something when Zac suddenly spoke.

"Finally, you came out." Zac breathed out a sigh of relief. "I didn't mean to do it, you know... I rarely stay at home. I'm at the company most of the time, and I haven't hired anyone to clean the house. But first, are you hungry? Do you want me to buy you something to eat?" Zac offered in a gentle, coaxing voice, looking at her with a tentative gaze as if fearing she might suddenly get angry.

Patricia chuckled silently in her heart, a gentle smile curving her lips. She coughed slightly behind her hand. "...I was just kidding around with you," she said lightly. "I don't want to eat anything. I'm sleepy, so let's go to bed, okay?" At her last words, she sent him a mischievous look, clearing all doubts in the air about her supposed anger.

Zac let out a long, deep breath he didn't realize he'd been holding. Relief spread in his chest as he walked towards Patricia with a much lighter heart. "All right. We should get some rest."

They looked at each other and smiled, the atmosphere shifting into a gentle, comfortable vibe. Neither of them said anything, just staring at each other deeply with a slightly meaningful look in their eyes.

It was as if they hadn't seen each other in a long time. They held eye contact for as long as they could, silently wishing that this moment could last forever.

In that instant, Patricia was starting to understand this feeling in her heart. It felt like she was being wrapped in an ambiguous atmosphere along with a strange sensation that kept tugging at her heart. Time seemed to pass so slowly, and they were still unable to take their eyes away from each other.

It wasn't until the clock made a chiming sound that the two of them snapped out of the trance they were in. Patricia gave Zac an awkward smile to which he returned with the same exact expression. "...It's

time to sleep now," she said softly.

"Okay," Zac murmured. "Go to bed now." With a faint smile, Patricia lowered her head almost unconsciously, as though she were too shy to look Zac in the eye.

Zac watched her with bated breath, a wave of hope and excitement rushing through his body. Trying to suppress the emotions from showing on his face, he opened his mouth to say something but quickly discovered that he couldn't bring himself to say a word.

The two of them behaved awkwardly like this around each other for a while, not knowing what to do in this kind of situation. In the end, Zac was the one who eventually broke the silence.

"I have to go to bed now. We'll talk tomorrow, okay?" Zac said with a gentle smile on his face.

Patricia looked up at him and nodded slightly, not finding it in herself to say anything. She watched Zac turn around and walk away before she stepped back and quietly closed the door.

It was her first time sleeping in the villa. At that moment, a strange feeling crawled into her heart, something that she couldn't quite grasp.

When she stepped inside Oakleaf Villa before, she was only there for cleaning while Zac was out. She had never imagined that she would somehow end up staying here for the night.

Back then, Zac never allowed her to enter the villa. She just chose to clean it out of her own will, and as time passed, she grew used to that kind of routine. It took her a long time to change this habit.

She thought that she had successfully grown out of that routine, but she never expected that it would come back just like that and then draw her into this kind of situation.

Patricia thought that it was a little ridiculous, to be honest. However, to her surprise, Zac didn't get angry with her. Instead, he was surprisingly calm and obedient.

She never expected that things would turn out like this.

Could there possibly be something between her and Zac...?

Wariness grew inside her heart, but there was a strange feeling there as well, something so well-hidden that it was barely scraping the surface. Something that she thought was long forgotten. A thought came to her mind in that instant.

Everything that she was feeling right now seemed unreal. If it weren't for her and Zac, this might not have happened. However, life was unpredictable like that. Nobody knew the reason why things came to be like this.

These thoughts occupied Patricia's head and didn't let her sleep at all. The confusion and fatigue were making her feel irritable. Various emotions were swimming inside of her, a warm feeling of anticipation mixed with a nagging fear.

There was a little eagerness inside of her, a small voice that encouraged her to be with Zac, but the more she thought about it, the more she felt that it was simply impossible for it to happen.

Honestly, there was practically no chance of her entering the Reynolds family, especially when Tina and Johnny didn't seem to like her so much.

There was also a Jack in the picture. Patricia closed her eyes tightly, trying to shut away the useless thoughts in her mind. As she focused more on the issue at hand, she felt clueless as to what she should do and how she should deal with it. She could still remember, vividly, what Jack said to her when he was drunk that day.

Jack already found out what her intention was and clearly knew her thoughts. If she failed to give him an answer, things would only become even more difficult.

The more Patricia thought about it, the more her annoyance grew. Things were getting too troublesome for her lately and she didn't know how to deal with it. She felt like the frustration was going to eat her alive.

"God, I really don't know what to do..." Patricia said aloud with a heavy sigh.

In her current situation, it was definitely not a good idea for her to be involved with either Zac or Jack. On top of that, Joanne and Fred didn't even like her. Even if Jack tried his best to gain their approval, it was still impossible.

Fred and Joanne had never accepted her in the first place, and would never plan on doing so anytime soon from the bottom of their hearts. So, even if Patricia wanted to be with Jack, the idea of a happy ending in store for them was pretty bleak.

Patricia sighed again, feeling gloomy and helpless. She didn't have much hope for Zac, either. Things weren't as simple as she thought, after all.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the door, Zac stood there, his expression conflicted.

He couldn't fall asleep, so he decided to take this opportunity to talk to Patricia. However, when he stood at the door and heard her sighing so unhappily, he instantly understood what was currently in her mind.

He already knew what was bothering her at this time, and he also knew that she was thinking about Jack. Zac happened to clearly hear what Jack said to Patricia that day.

However, at this point, Patricia needed to make a choice. Because, if she didn't, the problem would only become more complicated in the long run.

Deep inside, Zac hoped that Patricia would choose him, but that was it. It was simply his own wish. It still depended on her, on what her heart would choose in the end.

"What will you do now, Patricia? Who will you choose?" Zac murmured as his hand reached out towards the door. Although his fingers grasped the knob, he didn't twist it open for a long while.

Truthfully, he didn't know what kind of choice Patricia would make. He just knew that it was better for her to decide on her own.

Because Zac knew that there was nothing he could do to change Patricia's choice.

So, no matter what kind of decision she would make, Zac would accept it quietly.

Although he thought this in his head, his heart didn't want to give up like that so easily. Like Kareem, Zac also hoped that he would be given another chance.

[Chapter 366 Stop Pestering Me](#)

When Patricia woke up the next morning, it was already 7 a.m. Just as she was in a daze, she suddenly remembered that she was supposed to be at work today.

She quickly got up and walked out of the room. Just as she was about to freshen up, she perceived a fragrant aroma.

"You're awake. Go brush your teeth and wash your face. Breakfast is ready," Zac said to her with a gentle smile on his face.

Seeing the smile on Zac's face early in the morning, Patricia felt a little strange. She bit her lower lip, seeming a little embarrassed and said gently, "okay."

As soon as Patricia finished speaking, she immediately went back to her room. The whole situation felt unreal and she wanted to know if she was dreaming. She didn't expect things to turn out like this.

Thinking about the three years she was married to Zac, she had always longed for his arrival, hoping to have breakfast with him.

However, her dream had finally come true, but it was a little ironic since both of them were no longer together.

As she thought of this, a trace of depression rose in her heart, and she didn't know what to do. The good mood that had just appeared suddenly diminished, leaving her with a gloomy spirit.

After she finished washing up, Zac couldn't help frowning when he saw the look in Patricia's eyes. He wanted to say something to her. His thin lips opened and closed a few times but he couldn't utter a single word.

Zac felt confused. He didn't know what to say to her. He couldn't even tell the reason for her sudden depressed mood.

They both sat down and ate in silence as if nothing had happened.

Zac ate for a while, but when he saw the sad look in Patricia's eyes, he couldn't stand it anymore. He sighed helplessly and said in a low voice, "What's wrong? Why are you sad?"

Zac was keen on knowing the reason why she suddenly became depressed after she walked out of the bathroom.

"It's okay. I'm fine," Patricia answered with a faint smile. There was a hint of hesitation in her eyes. Apparently, she didn't want to tell Zac the reason for her being bothered.

Zac felt helpless when he saw Patricia's expression. He didn't think he could say anything to help her out. Perhaps, it was better to stand aside without interfering too much.

It was not until this moment that Zac realized there was a huge gap between him and Patricia. In the past, he thought it had something to do with the problem of children. However, it seemed that was not the case. Perhaps there were many problems between him and Patricia that needed to be solved.

Yet both of them hadn't figured out how to solve these problems. Although it was in the past, it was still vivid in their memories. If it could be erased, of course, Zac would have done that, but there were some things that couldn't be erased.

They continued with their breakfast. Both of them had different thoughts in their hearts, as if they were dealing with something urgent and struggling with themselves. There seemed to be more distance between them.

After breakfast, Patricia asked Zac to send her back to her apartment. After all, she needed to change into a new set of clothes.

After arriving at the apartment, Zac couldn't help biting his lower lip. Just as she got out of the car, with a slight hesitation, he called her name.

"Patricia, why are you upset? Did I do something wrong? You can just tell me and I will correct it." He looked straight at her with a hint of determination flashing through his eyes. He hoped he could get an answer from her.

However, with her back against Zac, she waved her hand slightly. She seemed to have answered his

question with her action.

This meant she didn't think it was necessary to give an answer to Zac's question.

Seeing this scene, a trace of sadness flashed through Zac's eyes. With a bitter smile on the corners of his lips, he sighed helplessly and started the car, leaving immediately.

Hearing the sound of his car, Patricia was slightly stunned. She couldn't help looking back. At that time, the car had already disappeared.

Patricia sighed helplessly. Her heart was full of depression and she didn't know what to do anymore. At that moment, she knew that she and Zac would never go back to the past, so she had to present a new attitude while dealing with him.

But she wasn't clear on the kind of attitude she was supposed to adopt. She felt confused and didn't know what to do.

Just as Patricia walked up the stairs, she heard a familiar voice. She saw a figure with red eyes staring at her. It was obvious he hadn't slept all night.

"Kareem..." Patricia was stunned, especially when she saw his haggard look. It was as if he had received some piece of bad news recently.

"You..." With a slight frown, Patricia looked at Kareem in confusion. She sighed and said in a low voice, "Let's go inside and have a talk."

She knew Kareem's personality. If she didn't give him an answer, he wouldn't let it go so easily. He would keep pestering her.

The best proof was that he could wait for her by the stairway all this while.

When she returned to her room, she poured a glass of warm water for Kareem and told him to sit for a little while. She then went to the room to change her clothes. After she came out of the room, she saw that Kareem was absent-minded and weak. She felt horrible as she stared at his red eyes.

Patricia pursed her lips with a depressed look on her face. She opened her mouth to speak.

Just then, Kareem cut her words and asked, "Patricia, were you with Zac last night?" There was a look of anxiousness and disbelief on his face.

Hearing this, Patricia nodded slightly. Even though she felt that her answer would hurt Kareem, she still felt that it was the right thing to do.

Otherwise, Kareem would keep pestering her. At that moment, she secretly decided that in order to set

him free from his suffering, she must take actions. Even if she needed to lie, she hoped she could cut off this unnecessary entanglement between Kareem and herself.

"It's true as I expected." Kareem's expression tightened instantly. He looked bitter and his eyes turned redder as he looked at Patricia.

Noticing the look in Kareem's eyes, Patricia felt a little scared for some reason. She took a step back unconsciously, swallowed her saliva and said carefully, "Kareem, since you know it, don't come to find me anymore. I won't like you. It's absolutely impossible for us to be together."

Patricia's words were like an invisible knife stabbing Kareem in his heart. Although he was mentally prepared, the excruciating pain still felt unbearable.

"Patricia, tell me, why can't you give me a chance? Why do you choose Zac instead of me?" There was a determined look on Kareem's face as he spoke. It was obvious that he wasn't ready to give up.

In fact, Patricia wasn't ready to admit that she was with Zac. But when she heard Kareem's words, she didn't correct him in hope of making him give up on her.

[Chapter 367 We Are Not Suitable For Each Other](#)

Patricia tried to give Kareem the impression that she and Zac were together so that Kareem would not bother her anymore.

But she was wrong to do this. She had no idea just how stubborn Kareem could be.

So when Kareem heard about Patricia and Zac's relationship, he had no intention to give up at all. Instead, he gave Patricia a serious look.

"Patricia, tell me, is it true that Zac beat me this time?" Kareem enunciated in a low voice, giving Patricia an eager look.

All of a sudden, she pursed her lips in a rigid manner and had no clue what to say. "I... I..."

After hesitating to respond for a long time, Patricia was still clueless how to answer Kareem's question. She had never once set Kareem and Zac side by side to compare them before. So Kareem's question had caught her off guard just now.

"Patricia, tell me what I did wrong. I can adjust anything about myself until you are satisfied with me." At that moment, Kareem moved up to Patricia and grabbed her wrist. "What I want the most is to be with you. Please give me that chance, Patricia," Kareem said in a firm voice.

As soon as he said this, there was a hint of sadness evident on Kareem's face. His eyes were very unhappy as if someone had just struck him on the face.

Seeing the sad look in Kareem's eyes, Patricia bit down on her lower lip involuntarily and turned her head in a hurry. She didn't want to give Kareem hope for what was a lost cause because of her softheartedness. If she gave way even in the slightest, this would only give him an opening to continue pestering her in the future.

"Kareem, I've known that you are a good man for a long time. You don't need to change a thing about yourself," Patricia said in an indifferent voice and turned to give Kareem a calm look.

Seeing the look in her eyes, Kareem was a little startled. He opened and closed his mouth wordlessly.

In the next moment, Patricia broke free from out of Kareem's grasp and kept a distance between them. Drawing a deep breath, she said in a calm voice, "Kareem, like I said, you are a very good man. There's no need to change anything at all. The thing is, we are not suitable for each other. It's not possible for us to be a couple together." Patricia enunciated each word clearly.

This time, Patricia would make it clear to Kareem that they would not make a good couple. She didn't want him to keep bothering her like this. Nothing would end well if he continued doing this.

"Why? Why do you always say this?" With a sad expression on his face, Kareem kept shaking his head back and forth. He didn't want to believe this at all.

"Tell me what you mean exactly? How is it impossible for us to be together? That's utter nonsense. We have never gotten together. How can we know if we'd be a good fit or not? And how can you be so sure that we can't be together?" Kareem said in a gentle voice with boundless sadness in his words. Then he went on, "You never gave me the chance to prove to you we can work out. Nor did you ever give yourself that chance as well. You should try to accept me for once."

After having said this, Kareem started to become excitable all of a sudden. He gave Patricia an anxious look, let out a heavy breath, and looked at her with his red eyes.

Seeing the look Kareem was giving her, there was a frown on Patricia's face. She looked very depressed as if she didn't know how to go about things all of a sudden. Just one look at her face and anyone could tell that she was feeling very confused and worried about things.

If things continued down this path, would Kareem... Patricia was afraid that the man before her would lose all control over himself and lose his mind in the process because of her.

"Kareem, stop messing around. Please calm down. You must listen to me. I..."

"No, I won't listen to your words any longer. I just want another chance. A chance for me to show you that we would make a great couple. Why can't you give me this chance?" With his disheveled hair all over his face, Kareem glared his red eyes at Patricia as if he was a beast about to completely lose it.

Seeing the look he was giving her, Patricia gulped nervously. Taking a few steps back subconsciously, she

began to exclaim in her heart. Her pink lips opened and closed, without saying a word. She wanted to do all she could to offer Kareem some solace, but she found that she had no words of comfort for him.

Kareem wasn't listening to her at all at this moment. He just wanted her to give him another chance. But if Patricia agreed to what he asked, it would only be a matter of time before things would become more troublesome and out of control.

If she continued to let the matter get out of hand, things would become more and more burdensome to Patricia.

"Kareem, you must calm down. Listen to my words. Let's talk things over."

"No, I just want us to be together. There's nothing else I need."

Hearing him say this, Patricia could not help but frown and her face became very despondent. She had no idea what to do next. She gave Kareem a helpless look.

Perhaps it was the look Patricia was giving him, but eventually, Kareem became a little saner. He turned to look at her in surprise and appeared a little worried.

"I..."

"Kareem, I know where you're coming from, but we really can't be together," Patricia said in a sad voice.

She felt very grateful for the affection Kareem always gave her, but she was not capable of showing him anything beyond gratitude for his love and attention. Although she was very grateful to him, it also was very clear to her that she couldn't be with him, now or anytime in the future.

Because they were people from two different worlds. No matter how persistent and eager Kareem was to enter a relationship with her now, this was only because this was the first time Kareem had ever liked someone.

Sometimes love had a way of making you feel so wonderful that it had nothing to do with who came first at all. Instead, it had a lot to do with feelings and emotions.

Patricia knew this very clearly in her heart. That was why she made her stance clear right from the beginning.

"Kareem, thank you very much for your love and affection for me, but gratitude can never replace love. These two things are not connected." Patricia gave Kareem a calm look, her eyes clearly determined.

Seeing the look she was giving him, Kareem bit down on his lower lip heavily. His face was full of depression and he shook his head back and forth, unwilling to accept things the way they were.

"No, it's not like that at all. This must be some sort of mistake, Patricia."

"No, it's not. I know this very well. I also know very clearly what it is I want," Patricia enunciated word by word, looking into Kareem's eyes with a fearless expression on her face.

Hearing her say this, Kareem was startled and had no idea what to say next. Suddenly, fear washed over him and his red eyes showed a hint of sadness and lingering panic.

Kareem no longer wanted to hear any more of what Patricia had to say.

"Stop right there. I don't want to listen to you anymore." Kareem shook his head back and forth, clearly in a panic.

Seeing the look on Kareem's face, Patricia pursed her lips tightly out of exasperation. There was a dash of bitterness in her clear eyes. She said in a hushed voice, "Kareem, you need to face facts. It's really impossible for us to make it together. Stop bothering me. If things continue on in this way, it will be no good for either you or me, and it will even hurt your parents as well."

To be honest, Patricia didn't want to have to go through having to experience the feeling of being kidnapped by Johnny and Tina again. It was such a horrible feeling that she wanted to avoid such a thing from happening ever again.

That kind of experience was traumatizing, and it kept haunting her, making her tremble in fear every time she thought back to it.

"No, no," Kareem screamed loudly. His eyes were bloodshot and he turned to look at Patricia, unwilling to believe that she had already made up her mind.

[Chapter 368 Insane Persistence](#)

Patricia was speechless after seeing the sad look on Kareem's face. She couldn't help it as a feeling of depression swirled up within her. She felt she had done something wrong.

But she knew she had to make the right decision otherwise it would lead to devastating consequences. She didn't want to be entangled with Kareem. This was her resolute decision.

"Kareem..." Patricia intended to say something but Kareem couldn't hold back his emotions and looked at her in disbelief. His face was full of sadness and anger, as if he had been extremely hurt by her.

Seeing the look in Kareem's eyes, Patricia hesitated but remained quiet. The depression in her heart deepened. She couldn't help but sigh. Just then, she was about to speak but was interrupted by him.

"Patricia, no matter what you say, you won't change my mind. I must be with you. No one can stop me," Kareem said with a firm tone as he stared at Patricia. His eyes were red and full of determination.

Before Patricia could say anything, Kareem turned around and strode away. Just before he left, he said, "I will prove to you that I really love you. Patricia, just wait and see."

Hearing his words, Patricia shook her head and sighed sadly.

"Kareem, why are you so stubborn? I really don't deserve your time. It's not worth it," Patricia said with a helpless tone. Her face was full of sadness. She didn't like seeing Kareem act this way.

If the situation continued like this, she would feel guilty and uneasy.

But when Kareem left, his eyes were filled with clear determination. It was obvious he wasn't ready to give up.

With such a determined look in Kareem's eyes, what else could she do? Patricia felt confused. No matter what she said, Kareem didn't seem to listen to her.

She could only stare at the ceiling as a trace of helplessness emerged in her heart. She was at loss for words and an intense depression enveloped her mind. Right then, she heard her phone ring and remembered that she had to go to work.

She was already running late.

Without any delay, Patricia picked up her office bag and hurried downstairs. There was still a trace of helplessness on her face. She was still thinking about what Kareem said.

Patricia was already late when she arrived at the company. It came as a surprise to the manager who was aware of her regular punctuality. Using this opportunity, he assigned her an exorbitant amount of work. All the department files were brought to her desk for review.

Everyone could see that the manager deliberately made things difficult for Patricia by giving her such an unreasonable workload.

As for Patricia, she didn't care much about it. Instead, there were other things that kept bugging her mind. Just thinking of Kareem, she was struck with a serious headache.

But now wasn't the time to worry about that. She hoped that Kareem would understand the situation and stay away from her.

However, things were not that simple. Some things far surpassed her understanding. Kareem's persistence could be considered one of such. She knew she had to come up with a means to deal with this situation otherwise things would become uncontrollable.

Thinking of this, Patricia sighed helplessly. The pending task was to sum up the documents in front of her.

Seeing the huge pile, Patricia couldn't help frowning. Her face was full of depression, but she was still carefully executing the task at hand with great efficiency.

Just when she thought she could relax, the manager came over and threw a document in front of her and said, "Send this to the CEO's office. It's in urgent need."

Hearing this, Patricia was slightly stunned and looked at the manager with suspicion. Normally, the manager would send the documents by himself. She was naturally surprised that he had to send her today.

Just as she was lost in her thoughts, the manager stared at her unhappily and said in a low voice, "Go quickly. Didn't you hear me?"

Just then, Patricia came to her senses. She nodded politely and took the document to the CEO's office in an instant without any complaint.

Just as she entered the CEO's office, she noticed the CEO looked a little strange. But she didn't care much because she knew he had never been normal.

"Boss, here is the document you asked for." After handing the document to Naylor, she immediately turned to leave.

Just then, Naylor called out and stopped her. He looked at her with amusement and said softly, "Patricia, please take this document to the Reynolds Group and give Mr. Reynolds to have a look."

Hearing this, Patricia was slightly stunned. She turned her head with suspicion and looked at Naylor in confusion. She couldn't help breaking into a cold sweat.

She thought she heard wrong, but when she saw the smile on Naylor's face, she knew she didn't.

"Boss..." Patricia called out in confusion. She didn't think it was her duty as an assistant manager to handle this kind of task.

"What's wrong? You can't do it?" Naylor looked at Patricia with an interesting smile on his face.

Seeing this, Patricia shook her head slightly. How could she dare to refuse? In fact, she didn't even have a choice.

"Stop wasting time and take it over now. Or do you want to keep Mr. Reynolds waiting for long?" Naylor urged impatiently.

A helpless smile appeared on Patricia's face. She didn't know what Naylor was scheming but her intuition told her that it wasn't good.

She had no other choice but to bite the bullet.

With the document in her hands, Patricia quickly left for Reynolds Group and arrived at Zac's office. But when she arrived, Zac was in a meeting, so she had to wait outside.

Just as she waited, Kareem suddenly appeared in front of her. He acted very gentle, as if nothing had happened between them that morning.

"Patricia, what are you doing here?" With an excited look on his face, Kareem walked quickly to Patricia and grabbed her with his slender fingers.

Just then, Patricia frowned and stared at him unhappily. She bit her lower lip and whispered, "Kareem, let go of me. We are in the public. If you don't let me go, don't blame me for not being polite."

Patricia's warning was like a gentle breeze to Kareem. He didn't take it seriously at all.

"I didn't do anything to you. I just grabbed your hand," Kareem said with a playful tone.

Hearing his words, Patricia's anger soared into the sky. She glared at Kareem, gasped for breath and said fiercely, "Kareem, don't push me. You..."

"Let go of her, Kareem," before Patricia could finish her words, a cold voice reverberated.

Hearing the familiar voice, a faint smile appeared on her face. Although she didn't notice it, Kareem saw it clearly. He could see the excitement in Patricia's eyes at the sound of Zac's voice.

[Chapter 369 Brothers' Quarrel](#)

When he heard this, Kareem couldn't help but laugh condescendingly. He looked at Zac with a cold expression on his face. "What's wrong?" he said in a low voice. "Do I need your approval to talk to Patricia?" He grabbed Patricia's hand and squeezed it tightly, eyes never leaving Zac.

Patricia was frozen in place. Her eyes nervously darted back and forth across the two men, afraid that something serious might happen any second now.

She didn't know why, but she felt a sense of foreboding in her heart. It might have been a bad time for her to show up just now. As she stared at the two men in front of her, she felt that things were bound to spiral out of control.

What worried her more was that she might even be the sole reason why Zac and Kareem were fighting.

Patricia didn't know what to do. Feeling upset and uncomfortable, she sent a subtle signal Zac's way, raising her eyebrows and letting out a long, quiet sigh.

"You..." However, before Patricia could say any more, Zac's voice interrupted her.

"Hey," he said coldly, his stony gaze on Kareem. "Didn't you hear that Patricia asked you to let her go?"

"Sorry, I didn't really hear that," Kareem said with a gentle smile, meeting Zac's cold gaze with his own.

At that moment, Patricia knew that she had stepped into a scene that she shouldn't have entered in the first place.

Taking a deep breath, she looked straight at Zac and Kareem, her tone conveying the utter seriousness of her words. "That's enough, both of you," she said in a low voice. "I came here to work, not to see you two fighting." Her gaze turned colder as she kept staring at them expectantly, an indication that she wasn't going to back down.

The two men looked at her with expressions of surprise on their faces. Their mouths opened slightly as though they were planning to say something, but no words came out.

Seeing that the two of them had nothing to say, Patricia coughed slightly and raised the document that she was holding in her hand. "This is the document," she said politely. "The boss asked me to hand it over to Mr. Reynolds."

Her eyes never left their faces, warning them not to act recklessly or else she would not be so polite next time.

To be honest, though, if they really wanted to get into a fight, it would be impossible for her to control. However, she knew that neither of them wanted to provoke her and that they didn't want her to hate them, either.

So, in the end, they listened to her. Kareem loosened his grip on her wrist while Zac looked at the document in her hand. "Okay," he said lightly. "Come to my office."

Meanwhile, the senior executives who had been watching the scene since the beginning were still standing at the sides, not knowing what to say or do to mediate the situation.

They'd known for a long time that the two brothers often fought over a woman, but to see it themselves right in front of their eyes was a different story altogether. It was a little shocking, but it piqued their curiosity nonetheless.

Zac turned his head towards them at that moment and they immediately dispersed, muttering to themselves quietly about going to their respective workstations. As Zac went on his way to his office, Patricia followed him quickly from behind. Kareem, however, saw this and followed her as well, not wanting Zac to be alone with her.

Patricia sensed him from behind and looked at him helplessly. "Kareem," she said. "What are you

doing?"

"I'm afraid that Zac might do something to you, so I have to follow you," Kareem said confidently, his voice taking on a righteous tone as though he were Patricia's white knight.

Patricia flinched a little, the embarrassment coursing through her body. "I'm just going to talk business with Zac," she said in a low voice, pinning Kareem with a hard glare. "It's not what you think."

"I don't care," Kareem said flippantly. "I'm just worried about you being with him."

His words made irritation spike inside of her. She had no idea what was on Kareem's mind and why he would say those kinds of words as though he were solely responsible for her safety.

She had nothing to do with Kareem, but the latter seemed serious with his words and actions towards her as if there was something between them.

At that moment, Zac turned around sharply and stared at Kareem, giving the latter a pointed glare.

"Kareem, I'm afraid that you are misunderstanding something."

"I'm misunderstanding something? What would that be? I am just worried about her safety which is why I followed her. You can just ignore me." Even though Kareem said it in a gentle tone of voice, Patricia still found it impressive that he could say such shameless words without a second thought.

The more she thought about it, the more she felt ashamed. Kareem was beginning to seem more and more like an annoyance.

There was a smile on Zac's face, but his eyes remained cold. Slowly, he glanced over at Patricia, then returned his gaze to Kareem. "Kareem," he said, emphasizing each word, "do not forget that we are in the company, not at home. You cannot simply do whatever you want."

Zac then reached out and grabbed Patricia's wrist. He gave Kareem one last cold stare, the clear message of warning evident in his eyes.

Zac made his meaning very clear. Even if Kareem wanted to be all righteous and arrogant, it depended on the time and place they were in. At this moment, they were at the Reynolds Group and it was Zac who had the final say.

Zac then pulled Patricia into the office without another word. Kareem stared as they walked off, anger rising from the pits of his stomach. He bit his lower lip as he glared at their retreating backs, hands clenching into fists at his sides.

In truth, Kareem knew he had no choice. Even if he wanted to protect Patricia, he couldn't make any reckless moves, especially when they were inside the company.

After all, there were some things he worked hard for in this company. If they were accidentally destroyed, then all those years of hard work would be gone in an instant.

However, the moment he saw Zac with Patricia, he got so angry that he felt like something inside of him was about to burst. He couldn't tolerate such a thing happening before his very eyes. He wished he could just step inside that office, grab Patricia, and take her away, preventing her from seeing Zac forever.

"Damn it... Damn it!" Kareem muttered to himself angrily, his expression filled with rage.

This was the first time that Zac took Patricia away from him. At that moment, aside from the blood boiling in his veins, sadness also rose in his heart. He decided, right then and there, that he would have to let Zac know how he was not a man to be trifled with when the time was right.

He also wanted to prove to Patricia that he was more than capable of protecting her.

Meanwhile, in the office, Zac stood in front of Patricia. The two of them were so close that one small step forward could close the entire distance between them. At this proximity, Patricia could see the tight expression on Zac's face, sensing the anger simmering inside of him.

Patricia stared at him, feeling a little surprised. She wondered why Zac suddenly became so angry like this.

However, when she looked closely into Zac's eyes, she felt like she was being pulled into some unknown abyss. Her pink lips opened and closed, all of a sudden at a loss for words.

"What's going on between you and Kareem?" Zac asked in a low voice.

"...What do you mean?" Patricia said, raising an eyebrow. She couldn't help but feel displeased. It felt like Zac was trying to interrogate her and she didn't like this kind of feeling.

[Chapter 370 Doubt And Disappointmen](#)

"Do I really have to spell it out?" The words came out harshly between gasps of breath. Zac looked at Patricia, the depths of his eyes murky with anger.

Patricia was taken aback at the sharpness in his gaze. Her brows furrowed in confusion as she asked, "Zac, what do you mean?"

Zac's lip was caught between his teeth, frustration and loss leaving him helpless as words eluded him. He didn't know where to begin to tell her everything he was feeling.

Patricia stared at the defeat on his face and pressed him again. "Just say it."

A sigh came from Zac at her words. He turned to Patricia, his gaze heavy with dread and bitterness. "You and Kareem...Are you going to..." His voice trailed off, leaving his sentence unfinished.

Patricia didn't need the rest of his words to understand what he meant. Zac misunderstood things. But that didn't mean she owed him an explanation. A brief silence elapsed before she answered, "Are you questioning me?" She stared at Zac, her expression breaking in disappointment.

Zac's question was brimming with mistrust. This was the first time he had ever interrogated her, and Patricia couldn't help but feel as if she was unjustly being put on the spot.

Regret washed over Zac in an instant as he watched her face fall. He shook his head and tried to step back from the brewing argument, hoping that Patricia would do the same. "No. I just..."

But explaining was an impossible task when Zac himself didn't know what exactly it was that he wanted to say. When he saw Patricia and Kareem come out of the same room one after the other, all his reason fled. And now he was stuck in a pit he had dug himself, fumbling for words as she waited.

"What? Just say it clearly." Patricia's voice turned cold, her eyes looking at Zac with indifference. The corners of her eyes sharpened, betraying her anger.

No words could describe how incredibly wronged she felt, being questioned as if she had done something wrong.

Zac lowered his head, not wanting to see the coldness in her eyes. He took a deep breath and murmured, "I saw you and Kareem coming out of the same room this morning."

"So you're suspecting me," Patricia said. Her words weren't a question—she was merely stating a fact that Zac didn't have the honesty to admit to her face. Her breath hitched, anger surging inside her.

She didn't know whether to cry or scream. Zac was the last person she had expected to pass judgments on her like this because of a situation that could easily be misunderstood. Her chest tightened at the thought. Was that how little he trusted her?

The realization hardened as with the stretch of every second, and Patricia felt a burn in her chest.

Zac watched her anger stir, felt it with every heave of her breath. He swallowed, wishing he could take back his words.

"Patricia, listen to me. It's not what you think. I—"

"You what? Don't bother explaining. I don't want to hear it." There was a tremor in Patricia's voice as she threw a cutting gaze towards Zac.

Zac's next words froze before they could leave his lips. He couldn't say anything to refute her.

His shoulders dropped at the knowledge that he could never take back the hurt he had caused Patricia.

Whatever hope there was for the two of them lay dying in his hands from his own mistake.

"Patricia..." Zac called out in a low voice, pleading for her to forgive him.

"Mr. Reynolds, please have a look at this document,"

Patricia said in a calm, distant voice. Her eyes were devoid of emotion, as if she was looking at a stranger.

Zac sighed and nodded, quietly taking the document in her hands. He opened his mouth to say something, but no words came out.

With no other course of action, he read the file carefully.

He had no choice but to retreat. No matter what he said now, nothing would come out of it if Patricia was unwilling to hear him out. He would step back and give her time to think.

Patricia looked on as Zac read the document. Anger pricked at her chest, but she chose to remain silent. 'Does he not have anything else to say?'

Zac was reading through the document thoroughly, and it pissed Patricia off that he could be so calm when she was in front of him, burning with anger.

'Is that damned document more important than me? Just earlier, he was pressing me for answers. But now it's as if he couldn't care less.'

Patricia didn't know what to say to him. Her chest felt like it could barely contain all her emotions, but she kept her face a cool, detached mask.

Zac grew more anxious as he looked at her impassive face. He wanted to try and fix things, but he didn't know how.

"There is no problem with it," Zac said when he finished reading. He gave her a hesitant smile, hoping that she could give him a clue about what she was thinking.

But there was no change in Patricia's demeanor. She nodded politely at Zac and said, "Thank you for your time, Mr. Reynolds. I will go back and report to my boss for now." With that, she turned around and walked away, leaving Zac to his own turmoil.

He knew he had hurt her. He had to stop himself from reaching out and taking Patricia in his arms to whisper comfort and remorse. The look in her eyes told him that it was the last thing she wanted at that

moment.

Zac watched her figure grow more and more distant as she walked away.

A deep sigh escaped Patricia. She didn't know she had been holding her breath until she had stepped out of Zac's office. Her hands clutched the document, disappointment washing over her.

Kareem, who had been waiting outside, was quick to notice the heaviness in her eyes. He walked over to her and asked in a worried voice, "Patricia? What's wrong? What happened?"

The concern in his voice made Patricia furrow her brows. She quickly fixed her expression and shook her head. "Nothing," she answered indifferently. She walked past Kareem and went straight to the stairs.

But Kareem wouldn't leave her so easily. He quickly caught up with her and said, "Let me drive you back to the company."

"No, I brought my car. I'll drive myself," Patricia replied in the same lifeless voice.

She needed time and space alone after what had just happened. Kareem meant well, but his concern would just suffocate her.

"No, I'm worried. I don't know what happened, but you shouldn't be driving back on your own. Let me do this, at least."