

## Remarry 421

### [Chapter 421 The Mastermind](#)

"What's the matter? Why do you look so serious? Did something happen?" Patricia asked in a lowered voice.

The way Zac was acting made her worried. It was as if something bad had happened. He appeared to be contemplating an important aspect of his life.

"I was just thinking about something. Nothing you should concern yourself with. You must be hungry, right? Let's eat." He quickly changed the topic and opened the takeout box. It didn't seem like he wanted to talk about his thoughts.

However, he would certainly conduct an investigation about what really happened to Kareem. Since Lyndsy was innocent, Kareem was now a person of suspicion. At the moment, it was imperative for Zac to ask Nicholas to conduct another investigation.

While Patricia was resting, Nicholas conducted a thorough investigation of the matter.

Later on, he turned in the results of his investigation to Zac. After reading through the file, Zac was visibly enraged. He looked like he was about to snap.

Upon seeing his reaction, Nicholas' Adam's apple bobbed up and down, carefully backing away from him. It frightened Nicholas that Zac would vent his anger at him.

"Nicholas, have you read this report?" Zac asked frigidly as he cast him a sharp gaze.

Upon hearing the question, Nicholas nodded, swallowed, and said, "I have, sir. But it seems a little strange. Kareem was accidentally hit by a car and was sent to the hospital, yet he didn't want to search for the guy that hit him. His behavior is suspicious."

"What else?" Zac pursed his lips, looking quite stern. His reaction was a bit strange, but his eyes remained as sharp as ever.

Upon noticing his gaze, Nicholas nodded and continued, "Aside from that, Mr. Oliver was the one who reported the incident, but he also showed no intention to punish the hit-and-runner. I really can't figure this case out, sir." Right after he said that, he looked at Zac, thinking that the latter might've figured something out.

After all, Zac was smarter than him and the man could see things clearer. And when he saw the look in Zac's eyes just now, he knew that Zac must've thought of something.

All of a sudden, a smile appeared on Zac's face. He looked ahead and said, "There's only one reason why they don't want to look for the hit-and-runner; it's because the culprit is Kareem himself."

Upon hearing Zac's response, Nicholas was stunned. He wanted to speak, but he was too shocked to utter another word.

'That's odd. Did Kareem really do it?'

Nicholas looked at Zac in confusion, wanting to confirm the truth. He thought that it was impossible.

When Zac saw the look in Nicholas' eyes, he chuckled. "Nicholas, there's still a lot of things you don't know. I know better than you what sort of trickeries that Kareem and Johnny often use."

That was the reason he said all of that.

However, these were merely his assumptions. If he wanted to ascertain the truth of his claims, he would need Kareem to admit to the crime himself.

"Nicholas, where's Kareem right now?" Zac looked at him, waiting for an answer.

Upon hearing this, Nicholas smiled awkwardly. He wasn't sure how to answer the question. "Boss, all I know is that he's confined in a hospital right now, but I couldn't find which hospital."

"Why can't you find him? He's right here. In this very hospital!" Zac replied firmly.

Nicholas stared at him in disbelief. It took him a long time before he could speak up. "Boss, you're kidding me, right?"

"Do you think I'll joke about this kind of thing? Just hurry up and find out the truth!" Zac cast him a cold glance before returning to Patricia's ward in silence.

At this moment, Nicholas was stupefied. He wasn't sure if he would believe it all, and thought that he had misheard Zac. But when he saw the look on his boss's face, he figured that his boss must be right.

'If Kareem is really here, does that mean he's the mastermind behind all this?' Nicholas thought.

Meanwhile, Tina lost her temper because Kareem went to visit Patricia again.

"Kareem, have you lost your mind? Look at what's happened to you? Why do you still insist on visiting her? It's like you don't even know that you're injured! If Zac finds you here, you're a dead man." Tina glared at Kareem, displaying her anger towards him.

'Why is my son being so stubborn? Why can't he just move on from that bitch?'

This was something that she and Johnny just couldn't figure out.

"Your mother is right, Kareem. This is serious. You need to think about yourself, for once. Patricia is okay now. She doesn't need you to visit her. If you still want to see her, then at the very least, you should wait until you've recovered," Johnny remarked. Upon seeing the look on Kareem's face, he was rendered speechless.

Kareem wasn't in the mood to listen to his parents. Seemingly hurt by their remarks, he lowered his head and sighed. Afterwards, he kept murmuring something to himself.

When Tina saw his reaction, she became angrier. She cast Kareem a stern glare, wishing that she could read his mind.

Kareem used to be so smart and capable, but now he had been reduced to this pathetic state. Tina was very disappointed in him, and it only made her hate Patricia more.

'If it weren't for Patricia, my son wouldn't have ended up like this!'

The more Tina thought about it, the angrier she became. Unable to resist her flaring emotions, she snapped at Kareem.

"Kareem, no matter what you do for that woman, Patricia will never feel sorry for you! She's now in love with Zac. Can't you just face reality and move on? Why are you so obsessed with a woman who doesn't love you back? You're being foolish!" Tina was so angry that she felt like she was out of breath. The way she was staring at Kareem right now made it seem like she wanted to devour him alive.

In all honesty, Tina couldn't stand to see her son like this anymore. If it weren't for Patricia, her son would never have ended up like the desperate man he was at present. Kareem was lying there, looking hapless and powerless.

"That's enough, Tina. Kareem isn't in the state to argue right now," Johnny said, sounding dissatisfied. He glared at Tina to show his displeasure and to make her shut up.

Right now, Tina's nagging would only make things worse.

Johnny shook his head and let out a sigh. If he were being honest, he didn't understand why Kareem would've become like this.

#### [Chapter 422 Zac Found Ou](#)

"Kareem, you need to understand your current situation. If you keep on acting like this and Zac finds out the truth, you're going to..." Johnny stopped midsentence to let out a sigh. 'If Kareem had listened to me back then, he wouldn't have ended up like this. Sometimes, I really don't know what to do with him anymore. And now, things have come to this point.'

Kareem always thought that he had everything under control, but it turned out that he was wrong this

whole time. He was so obsessed with Patricia, and that was worried Johnny the most.

"Dad, I know that it was a dangerous move, but I just couldn't help it." Kareem lowered his head, visibly saddened.

Although he knew the consequences, he just couldn't resist the urge to get closer to Patricia. He just wanted to know how she was doing right now.

And the more he thought about it, the more befuddled he became. He had no idea what to do anymore.

Perhaps he was thinking of everything too simply, or maybe he just wasn't sure what might happen if Zac were to find out the truth.

Even so, Kareem still wanted to see Patricia, even if it was just from a distance.

When he saw the disappointment in Kareem's eyes, Johnny pursed his lips and sighed. He wasn't sure what to say at this point. He felt that it was useless for him to say something at this point. Kareem was a stubborn fool. No matter what he said, his son would never listen.

"Kareem, are you going to abandon me and your father for that bitch?" Tina's voice was laden with anger. She stared at Kareem, letting out a heavy breath. 'It's hard to imagine that the son I raised for so many years would abandon me and Johnny for some woman who doesn't even deserve him.'

"Mom, I never meant to do that. I just..." Stunned, Kareem lowered his head in dejection, uncertain of how to explain.

'Maybe Mom is right. I have had that thought. If Patricia agrees to be with me, I'm willing to abandon everything,' he thought.

Thus, he felt ashamed when he heard his mother's question. He couldn't bring himself to look his parents in the eye. It was so horrible of him to even think of abandoning them for Patricia. What he did made them sad and worried about him.

Tina became even angrier. She stared daggers at Kareem, inadvertently glancing at Johnny, hoping that the latter would say something. He should talk to their son out of this, so that Kareem could stop making more mistakes.

Seeing the helplessness in his wife's eyes, Johnny shook his head. With a face laden with sadness, he said to his son, "Kareem, listen to your mother. You need to stop seeing Patricia. If Zac finds out about it, he'll..."

Before he could finish his sentence, someone interrupted their conversation.

"What do you think will happen if I find out about it?"

Everyone looked at the door at the same time. Zac suddenly appeared there, with a fearsome smile on his face. He became particularly frightening when he looked at Kareem.

"Zac," Johnny muttered.

"Zac," Tina said at the same time.

They were really shocked that Zac was here.

"What are you doing here?" Johnny and Tina exchanged glances, worried that Zac might've heard what they said just now.

But Zac appeared to be calm at the moment. He just gave Tina and Johnny a cold glance before staring at Kareem. There was a frigid smile planted on his face.

"It's natural that you don't want to see me here. If I find out what Kareem did, he is doomed." The way Zac spoke made it seem like he was speaking of something trivial.

But Tina, Johnny and Kareem all knew what he meant. Zac was obviously implying that he knew the truth about the car accident.

"You..." Tina glared at Zac, biting her lower lip. 'If he does something to Kareem, I will never forgive him, and I'll hunt him down to the ends of the earth, even if I die trying!'

When Johnny heard Zac's statement, he frowned. There was a trace of fear on his face as he looked at Zac's face, wanting to ascertain if the latter was serious.

'Zac doesn't seem to be joking,' he thought. 'In that case, things are about to become even more complicated. Zac is bound to do something to Kareem.'

"Zac, don't do anything reckless. Kareem is still your brother," Johnny remarked, glancing at Zac with disappointment.

He knew what was on Zac's mind. Moreover, he knew that Zac hated them. Now that things had spiraled out of control, he sincerely hoped that Zac would not find out the truth.

Upon hearing this, Zac flashed them a smirk while looking at Johnny and Tina. He didn't seem to take them seriously.

"I'm talking to you, Kareem! Answer me. Are you really going to hide what you did forever?" Zac asked through gritted teeth.

Just now, Kareem looked utterly defeated, but now, he looked serious. He stared into Zac's eyes;

showing no sign of fear. "I didn't do anything, Zac."

He meant that he had nothing to do with the car accident, and that Zac was just making it up. Moreover, during their conversation, nobody said anything about Kareem being the person behind the car accident. Thus, even if Zac was certain of it, there was nothing he could do about it.

Upon hearing Kareem's answer, Zac sneered and his face turned grim. He maintained eye contact with Kareem, but there was no visible sign of anger on his face.

"Good. Very good. Even now, you still don't want to admit it." Zac stared daggers at Kareem with a cold smile on his lips.

'Does Kareem really think I can't do anything about this? Or does he think that Johnny will cover it all up for him and nobody will find out about his crap? Well, he's sorely mistaken! And Johnny is foolish to think that he could hide this sham forever. There's nothing that I can't find out!' Zac thought.

After casting Kareem a cold glance, he turned around and said nothing more.

Upon seeing that Zac had left, Tina breathed a sigh of relief. She looked at Johnny, visibly worried about what might happen. "Do you think he found out?"

"I'm not sure. But if he knows about it, he certainly won't let Kareem go easily."

#### [Chapter 423 Mastermind](#)

Johnny's expression fell from what he had heard. Discontent filled his eyes as he turned to Kareem, but his lips made no move to utter a single word.

Zac and Kareem were his sons, and held the same love for the both of them. It didn't matter which of them got hurt, Johnny would bear the same pain.

It was disheartening to see his children fight against each other.

"I will talk to Zac. Perhaps he would change his mind and let you off this once." Johnny sighed. Despite his words, he was unsure if he could persuade Zac.

Tina's eyes broke into a smile at Johnny's answer. She nodded enthusiastically and looked at John with hopeful eyes.

"Kareem, let your father handle this matter. Zac is his son and your brother. He would at least listen. As for that bitch..." The thought of Patricia made Tina's face twist in hatred. Her features were drawn tight, her lips pursing in distaste.

Kareem saw the shift in his mother's expression and frowned. "That's enough, Mom. Don't talk about

Patricia that way. None of this is her fault. This is all because of me."

Hearing her son defend the woman only deepened Tina's resentment towards Patricia. Tina refused to put the blame on anyone but her. If it weren't for that woman, Kareem would never have gotten into this mess.

Johnny didn't miss the quiet simmering of Tina's anger. He frowned and cleared his throat, wordlessly telling her to hold her tongue. "Enough. Let's not talk about this anymore. I don't want to see any of you arguing about this again."

Johnny gave Tina a warning look, his gaze boring into her as if to suppress her next words. Whatever she said would only provoke Kareem, and that was the last thing they needed right now.

Kareem looked at his father with a conflicted expression, his gaze heavy with his inner turmoil.

"Dad, I think I should talk to Zac myself. Even if you try to reason with him—"

Johnny cut Kareem off before he could finish. "Just leave it to me. For now, just focus on getting a good rest. I'll take care of it, don't worry."

Johnny left no room for discussion. He turned around and walked away as soon as he finished speaking, refusing to hear any more of Kareem's objections.

Kareem could only watch his father's back, biting his lip as if to contain his words. He wanted to stop Johnny, but he knew arguing would be futile.

Meanwhile, Zac returned to Patricia's ward and told her what he knew.

Her shock was unmistakable as she listened with open-mouthed disbelief. Her lips opened and closed, but no words came to her.

Kareem was crazy at times, but she had never imagined that he would be capable of something so unhinged. It was outright madness.

"Zac, are you serious? It was Kareem? He was behind all of this?" Questions hastily flew out of Patricia's mouth, her mind reeling with the knowledge.

If she followed logic, it was not too far off a possibility. Patricia knew that Kareem was determined to keep her here and not let her leave at any cost. But orchestrating a car accident was beyond insane. For a moment, Patricia wondered if Zac was speaking ill of Kareem.

Her disconcerted gaze met Zac's, and his eyes sharpened, disappointment washing over him at the thought of Patricia not trusting his words. "You don't believe me?"

There was a tightness in his chest, waiting in half-dread for her answer. All of his efforts would have been for nothing if she didn't believe him.

A pang of remorse came to Patricia at the palpable accusation in Zac's question. She had not meant to make him feel that she doubted him. With a shake of her head, she said softly, "No, it's just..."

It was too much to take in. She could barely process the fact that Kareem was the one who had caused the accident. There was still no solid evidence which left room for hesitation.

Patricia still couldn't believe it was Kareem.

"It's just what? Tell me," Zac pressed, troubled by the fact that Patricia didn't believe him completely.

His persistence struck a nerve, and Patricia sent him a sharp glance. Her lips tensed for a moment before she answered, "To be honest, I have no idea what to say. I know that Kareem can be crazy, but I'm finding it difficult to wrap my head around everything you said. Why would Kareem do that? What for?"

She just couldn't understand why Kareem would go that far. In all his intensity, Patricia never thought him an evil person.

"What for? Isn't that obvious? He didn't want you to leave," Zac said, putting on an air of disinterest to conceal his jealousy. He couldn't believe Patricia would be trusting Kareem that much.

At his words, Patricia's shoulders sank and her eyes became downcast. "All of this just for that?" she asked in a small voice.

"What other reason could there possibly be? Do you think there's anything more behind it?" Zac couldn't stop himself from glaring at her. At times, he wished he could just go inside Patricia's mind to figure out what she was thinking.

The love that Kareem had for Patricia had long festered into sick obsession. He had once attempted to force himself on her. What more proof was needed?

Patricia had experienced his morbid actions firsthand, and yet she refused to recognize Kareem's true colors. Zac couldn't understand why she would keep giving him the benefit of the doubt.

"I understand what you said. I just can't believe Kareem would do such a deranged thing. He..."

Patricia's words were a grating sound to Zac's ears. She was defending Kareem to his face. Zac's jaw tightened as he looked at her with sharp eyes.

Upon seeing the look on his face, Patricia let her voice trail off into silence.

Anyone would have been frightened at such an expression, but somehow Patricia couldn't help



chuckling.

Zac's jealousy was as clear as day. He was acting like a child, which amused her to no end.

"You don't have to look at me like that. I couldn't help but ask. Kareem is a stubborn man, but I never imagined that he would go as far as doing something that would put his own life and reputation on the line," Patricia said calmly. She did not think Zac made it up. She just felt strange to know a more sinister side of someone she knew.

Zac's face darkened further. His cold eyes barely masked his anger. "It's fine. You don't have to explain. If you'd rather believe Kareem, suit yourself." He turned away from her, hiding the bitterness of his gaze.

Patricia pressed her lips together, looking at Zac helplessly. It was the first time she had seen him like this, and despite the horror of the things that had just happened, she couldn't help but find it a little funny.

The sound of her light chuckles made Zac turn back to her, both bewildered and upset that she could laugh at his expense.

#### [Chapter 424 It's All My Fault](#)

"Why do you look so angry?" Upon seeing the anger on Zac's face, Patricia frowned, staring at him with suspicion.

Truthfully, she had a vague idea on why he was angry. It must be because of what she had just said.

Patricia thought that she was merely telling the truth. She didn't expect that Zac would get angry because of her statement, and thought that he was being really childish.

"I'm not angry!" As his eyes filled with anger, Zac looked at Patricia and said nothing more.

When she saw him reacting like this, she frowned and sighed. "You are angry, Zac. Why do you have to lie?" At this point, she had no idea what to tell him.

As soon as she finished speaking, she looked away from Zac. It appeared as though she felt like there was nothing she could do at the moment, but she really wanted him to understand.

Naturally, Zac understood what she meant. She was implying that he was jealous. But he pretended that he didn't get it, even though he was jealous.

Upon seeing the look on his face, Patricia pursed her lips. She wasn't sure what to say to fix this. She let out a sigh and said, "Let's just talk about this after the investigation results come out. For now, let's drop this topic. It'll only upset both of us."

Zac frowned at her suggestion, and he looked at her with helplessness.

This was their only option right now. As he looked into her eyes, he began to feel dispirited.

"Okay. I'll find out the truth, and by then you'll know I'm right!" Zac really wanted to prove to her that he wasn't speaking ill of Kareem.

Having said that, Zac stood up, and left resolutely.

Once he had left, Patricia let out another sigh. She felt helpless right now. 'The situation isn't that bad. Why does he have to be so pissed?'

After a moment of contemplation, she realized that this problem wasn't as simple as she thought. 'Maybe Zac won't feel at peace until he finds out who caused that car accident.'

But when she thought of what he said just now, it shocked her. Her heart was overcome with sadness, and she was at a loss for words.

'If Kareem was the one who did this, then I know why he did it. He may have a deeper reason behind it, but I understand his purpose. He just wanted to stop me from going abroad. It caused him to take things too far, and the situation went awry from there.'

Even though she felt bad for him, she was still frightened at how crazy Kareem was for doing what he did. Slowly, fear crept into her heart.

"Kareem, have you gone mad? If so..." Patricia frowned, stopping midsentence to heave a sigh.

Unbeknownst to her, there was a man standing outside the door. Kareem's eyes were filled with sadness as he watched her, wishing that he could rush to her side and explain.

But right now, he didn't have the courage to do that, and he had no idea what to do next. His heart was overwhelmed with melancholia. If only Patricia would believe him!

"Patricia, I..." Kareem mumbled. He lowered his head, visibly depressed.

At this moment, Patricia glanced at the door. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw Kareem standing there. She frowned and said to him, "Since you're already here, why don't you come in?"

Kareem was stunned to hear her say that. He wanted to speak to her, but wasn't sure what to say at the moment. Thus, he just stood at the door in silence, locking eyes with her.

Upon seeing the look in his eyes, Patricia pursed her lips and smiled. "Come on in," she said.

She could tell from the look on Kareem's face that he was here for her. Otherwise, he wouldn't appear

here and wear such a troubled expression. The more she looked at him, the more she wanted to hear what he had to say.

Kareem bit his lower lip. He appeared to have understood something. After taking a deep breath, he slowly limped his way in using his crutch.

The moment she saw his injured leg and the remorse on his face, Patricia couldn't help but purse her lips. Needless to say, she already knew why he was here.

'It seems that Zac is right. Kareem did it,' she thought. But when she saw how guilty he was, she felt that it wouldn't be right to get mad at him right away. She thought it would be necessary to give him a chance to explain.

"Do you have anything to tell me?" Patricia asked in a gentle tone as she smiled at Kareem. She looked very friendly. It looked like she didn't resent him at all.

When he saw the look on her face, he felt even guiltier. He had no idea what to do right now. He bit his lower lip, feeling like his heart was being filled with nothing but grief and guilt. He kept on opening his mouth and closing it right afterwards, for he couldn't find the right words to say.

The way she was looking at him made Kareem feel ashamed of himself.

"Patricia, I..." He wanted to say something, but he bit his words back. It was easy to tell how guilty he must feel.

"No rush. Just say what you want to say to me. I won't force you if you can't say it." Patricia sensed that she needed to be patient with him for now.

Her calm and composed attitude made her seem like a teacher who was guiding a student.

Kareem was surprised at her behavior, especially when he saw the smile on her face. He let out a sigh while shaking his head.

"I'm sorry for what happened, Patricia. It's all my fault. If it weren't for me, you wouldn't have ended up like this." As soon as he finished talking, he lowered his head, bit his lip, and looked really dispirited.

He didn't have the heart to even look Patricia in the eye, especially after what he had done. He thought that he no longer stood a chance to be with her.

"I'm really sorry, Patricia! If I hadn't been so selfish, you never would've..." Kareem paused midsentence. He wanted to confess, but he stopped. As he trembled all over, troubled by chaotic thoughts, he realized that he didn't know what to do anymore.

When he was standing outside the door and staring at her, he kept on comforting himself with the

thought that he had done the right thing. But now that he was standing before Patricia and saw the wounds on her body, he couldn't lie to himself anymore.

#### [Chapter 425 Johnny's Plea](#)

Guilt and uneasiness overwhelmed Kareem. The emotions were so gripping that he could hardly breathe.

This accident Patricia suffered through was all his fault. If he hadn't done that stupid thing, she would've been fine.

When that thought crossed his mind, Kareem was overcome with sadness. From the look on his face, Patricia knew that he wanted to apologize to her and that he would spend the rest of his life feeling guilty for what he did.

As she locked eyes with him, she let out a sigh before smiling at him. "Kareem, there's no need to feel guilty. Look at me, I'm fine."

Her words only served to make him sadder. At the moment, his forlorn emotion prevented him from thinking what he must do to make it up to her.

'I'm the reason you're hurt, Patricia! How could I not feel guilty? And why are you looking at me like that? You look like you don't even care you got hurt, and you've completely forgiven me for what happened,' he thought.

"Patricia, this is all my fault. If I hadn't been so selfish, you wouldn't have gotten hurt," Kareem replied as he looked into her eyes. His face was laden with guilt. He felt like what he did was unforgivable, and that he was a bad person.

Patricia felt bad to see him like this. All she wanted to do was to tell him that it was not a big deal and that she had forgiven him.

If it were possible, she hoped that the accident could make him understand that they could never be together.

But she thought that it wasn't that simple, and now wasn't the time to talk about it. Thus, she patted Kareem's shoulder and said, "I don't blame you for what happened. I just hope you can learn from this accident and never do something like that again."

Patricia smiled at Kareem, showing no sign of resentment. She really hoped that he wouldn't do something reckless again that would only make things more complicated.

Kareem looked into her eyes and nodded. Sadness still reigned in his heart. He bit his lower lip. Though he understood what she meant, he still couldn't forgive himself for his foolish mistake.

Without another word, he left, while Patricia just watched him walk away.

When she saw the look on his face before he left, she couldn't help but feel bad for the guy. "Don't blame yourself. I really am fine," she murmured.

And since Kareem left without responding to her, he must be too ashamed of himself to even look at her.

Now that he had left, Patricia thought that nobody else would come to disturb her. But to her surprise, Johnny appeared. He didn't come here to despise her or throw curses at her. It looked like he had something he wanted to ask of her.

"Mr. Reynolds, just tell me what you're here for," Patricia said, smiling politely. She already had a rough idea what he wanted from her.

"I'll be frank, Patricia. I'm humbling myself before you, because I need you to help Kareem." Johnny didn't beat around the bush. He looked like he was really hoping that she could help him.

After all, she was the only person that Zac would listen to. If Patricia were to plead for Kareem's case, Zac might let him go.

Upon hearing this, Patricia smirked as she looked into Johnny's eyes. "Why are you asking me? You should talk to Zac about this, Mr. Reynolds. I doubt he'll refuse."

A bitter smile appeared on Johnny's face. He glanced back at her and muttered, "I wouldn't have come to you if he'd listen to me."

He knew full well that Zac would never listen to him, so he had to ask for her help. If that weren't the case, he would never bow before Patricia.

He thought that coming here and pleading for her help was shameful. But it didn't matter. As long as he could stop his sons from fighting against each other, he was willing to do anything.

Patricia maintained eye contact with Johnny, and she had no idea what to say. She knew what he meant. In him, she saw a father that just wanted to help his son.

When that thought crossed her mind, she didn't have the heart to refuse Johnny's request. However, she couldn't promise that she would be able to persuade Zac.

"Mr. Reynolds, I'm sure you know that I'm not able to solve their conflict." Her tone was serious, her gaze was sharp, and she glanced at him indifferently.

What she said was true. Zac and Kareem had been fighting for ages. This wouldn't be solved just

because of Patricia's words.

"I get it, but you need to at least do something. I don't want Kareem's future to be doomed. Please!" Johnny bowed to her while biting his lower lip. His face displayed his desperation, for he wasn't sure if Patricia would even consider his request.

He was aware that Zac and Kareem's feud was deep, but he didn't want Kareem's reputation to be ruined because of Patricia.

When she heard his plea, she smiled and nodded slightly. His worries and intentions as a father were clear to her.

After a while, she replied, "Okay, I'll persuade Zac not to press charges on Kareem."

"Thank you." Johnny was overjoyed to hear her say that. He had thought that she would refuse without even considering it.

"Is there anything you want in return? We're willing to give you anything you ask for," he said in a softer tone.

Patricia shook her head in response. "There's no need for that, Mr. Reynolds. I just hope that Kareem would learn from his mistake." Right after she said that, a faint smile appeared on her face.

Upon seeing her smile, Johnny understood what she meant. Thus, he just nodded gently, turned around, and left without saying anything more.

He didn't think that it was necessary to continue with the conversation, and Patricia felt the same. They were already done talking.

As soon as Johnny left her ward, he ran into Anika on the hallway. It seemed that she had been waiting for him there for a long time.

"Mr. Reynolds, I have something to talk to you about." Anika approached him with a bright smile.

Johnny frowned upon seeing her. He already knew what she wanted.

"Hmm..." He eyed her up and down, searching for clues on her face.

#### [Chapter 426 Anika's Proposal](#)

When she saw the look in Johnny's eyes, Anika smiled. "Don't be nervous, Mr. Reynolds. I just want to discuss something with you."

"What is it?" Johnny looked at Anika, suspecting that she must be on to something.

Anika's smile grew wider. "It's nothing, really. I just want to be with Zac."

"I won't be able to help you with that," Johnny said, shaking his head a bit. Anika's wish seemed impossible. "Zac already has the woman he loves dearly, and no one can change his feelings for her."

"Well, that's true. But I'm sure he doesn't get to decide who he marries, right?" Anika flashed a confident smile, her eyes glinting with enthusiasm at the idea she had in mind.

Johnny eyed Anika curiously. Frowning, he wondered why Anika seemed so confident that Zac would marry her? As Zac's father, even Johnny couldn't do anything about his son. Why did this woman think that she could? It was simply absurd.

"If you are willing to help me, Mr. Reynolds, I have a proposal to share with you," Anika said, still smiling confidently. Johnny's doubtful look at her didn't even faze her.

"Are you sure that it can change Zac's mind about Patricia?" Johnny asked, squinting his eyes at Anika. He couldn't help but feel skeptical about the woman's idea and ability to persuade Zac.

"Without a doubt, Mr. Reynolds." Anika had everything planned well this time, so she was sure her plan would work.

Johnny's expression turned even more serious, considering Anika's proposal thoroughly. She seemed so certain about her plan. Could she successfully change Zac's mind?

Johnny couldn't tell for sure, but if Anika was this confident, perhaps it wouldn't hurt to give it a try. After all, she came from a wealthy family. If she and Zac ended up together, it would benefit the Reynolds family greatly.

More importantly, Johnny thought his son would be much better off with any woman as long as it was not Patricia. Patricia might have been deserving to become part of the Reynolds family in the past when her reputation wasn't as bad. However, things were different now. She wasn't worthy of his son anymore.

"Okay. I'll trust you," Johnny said. He cast a stern look at Anika, probing at what she was going to do.

Anika's smile widened. Now that she got Johnny's approval to help, success would be surely on her side.

"I look forward to a pleasant cooperation, Mr. Reynolds," Anika said, extending her hand at Johnny to shake hands.

After a deep thought, Johnny took Anika's hand and shook it firmly without another word, silently hoping that she could really change Zac's mind this time.

It would be great if Anika and Zac would end up together, and Patricia would be out of the picture.

Meanwhile, oblivious of what was going on outside, Patricia sat on her bed by herself, thinking deeply about something. How would she convince Zac not to press charges on Kareem?

Once Zac discovered the truth, he would never let Kareem off, and Patricia didn't know what to do about it. It was giving her such a headache.

If the truth were revealed, things would become even more complicated, and the two men would surely end up clashing with each other.

"What should I do?" Patricia uttered helplessly. While staring up the plain white ceiling in deep thought, she didn't notice that Naylor was watching her by the door with a fruit basket in his hand.

Sensing someone's presence, Patricia turned her gaze to the door. She was surprised to see her boss standing there.

Patricia's eyes drifted to the fruit basket in Naylor's hand, which surprised her even more. For a moment, she thought that it was be someone else because of what he was carrying.

Was her boss there to pay her a visit? It was kind of unusual for him to do so. Patricia creased her forehead, looking curiously at Naylor and feeling a bit strange.

"Boss..." Patricia muttered. Her forehead creased deeper when she saw Naylor smile at her.

Naylor's smile deepened, seeing the expression on Patricia's face. "Why do you look so surprised? I don't bite."

Patricia squeezed out a gentle smile, despite her confusion. "I just didn't expect you'd come. Shouldn't you be busy with work?"

"You are my employee. As your boss, I should at least pay you a visit. Why? Don't I look like a thoughtful person to you? Do you really see me as cold-hearted and apathetic?" Naylor said, winking at Patricia.

Patricia didn't know how to respond. She had never thought of Naylor as cold-hearted and apathetic. Still, she was confident that he was not a particularly nice person, especially when she got herself in an accident on her way to leave for abroad.

Perhaps, Naylor was here to check how badly she was hurt.

"Really? Thank you for your kindness, boss. You didn't really have to." Patricia smiled, but still eyeing Naylor warily.

Naylor kept his amiable demeanor, not minding the wariness in Patricia's eyes. "By the way, the US branch knew about what happened and they decided that you could still go there once you've



recovered," he said, and then a smirk escaped his lips.

Patricia was taken aback and confused by Naylor's smirk.

But still, Patricia nodded slightly. She was surprised by the news because she thought she had lost the chance completely.

"Well, thank you still considering me. I wasn't expecting this."

"Actually, it's not because of me. If Zac didn't pressure me, I wouldn't even make the calls," Naylor said, his smile now replaced with a sneer as he fixed his gaze at Patricia.

Patricia's eyes widened in disbelief. She wasn't expecting this information.

"Where's that man, by the way?" Naylor asked, looking around the room and not planning to explain anything to Patricia.

#### [Chapter 427 I Won't Sue Him](#)

Patricia was stunned for a moment there but slowly regained her senses. She studied his face, trying to gauge from Naylor's features some sort of reaction, but he avoided eye contact and did not say a word.

Seeing him acting this way, Patricia chuckled and said in a soft voice, "Zac is currently out. There was something he had to deal with."

"It appears that Zac cares a lot about you. Even though he should be busy with work, he still takes the time out to take care of you. He is such a good man!" Naylor cocked his eyebrows and turned to look at Patricia with a playful smile.

Patricia started to blush. She averted her eyes from Naylor's, a trace of tenderness still on her face.

In fact, even if Naylor didn't mention it, Patricia also knew all along that Zac had always been nice to her and even spared no expense in spoiling her.

Zac was very considerate of her and her feelings. Knowing that it was her dream to go abroad, he wasted no effort to try his best to help her in her endeavors.

Anyway, Patricia felt very grateful to Zac for all he did to help. Without his help, the likelihood that she would be able to go abroad would be very slim.

Seeing the slight blush on Patricia's face, Naylor nodded his head and muttered to himself, "It seems that all Zac's efforts were not in vain in the end." As soon as his words left his mouth, he laughed, completely putting aside the expression Patricia had on her face right then.

Patricia paid no mind to what Naylor said. When Zac's face surfaced in her mind, she bit down on her lower lip, and a gentle smile flashed across her beautiful eyes.

She would always remember what Zac had done for her.

After Naylor was gone, Zac returned with a thick stack of documents in his hands. Apparently, he wanted to back his words with some hard evidence.

"You can see this for yourself, then you'll know that I'm not lying," Zac said in a serious voice. He gave Patricia a serious look, wishing that she would admit that she was wrong in front of him.

Previously, Patricia didn't believe his words, but now it dawned on her that there was no reason to doubt what he told her anymore. All the information pointed to Kareem being the mastermind behind all this.

After reading through the reports, Patricia had a calm look on her face. She was neither surprised nor excited. Instead, she had a calm and composed expression on her face as if everything aligned with her expectations just now.

Seeing the look on Patricia's face, Zac frowned. A look of confusion shot through his features. He had no idea how she could be so calm. Did she already know about this?

After Patricia finished looking through all the papers, Zac sat himself down and said in an angry voice, "Now that you looked through all the papers, what do you think? Now it's obvious that I'm telling the truth, right? Kareem was behind the car accident all along. I must settle this score with him." He was very angry.

Patricia gently closed the file and patted Zac's shoulder. She shook her head and said, "Zac, just forget about it. I won't sue him."

There was a frown on Zac's face. He thought that he had heard wrong. He stared at Patricia with confused eyes and thought that she was out of her mind.

"What? I don't think I heard right. Repeat what you just said, Patricia." Zac looked at Patricia, disbelief evident on his face. He could not wrap his mind around what she was saying.

"I said I won't press charges. It's over now," Patricia said in a calm voice. Smiling gently, she stared straight into Zac's eyes.

Seeing the look on Patricia's face, Zac was enraged. He glared at her with a frown and asked in a serious voice, "Why? Do you still have feelings for Kareem?"

The expression on Zac's face darkened. He frowned at the thought that Patricia might still care for Kareem.

'Does Patricia really care this much for Kareem? Kareem has done such an unbelievable thing. Why would Patricia refuse to press charges against him?'

The more Zac thought this over, the angrier he got. In the end, he snorted, apparently still very angry.

Seeing the look Zac was giving her, Patricia could not help but sigh. She really had no idea what was on his mind and why he suddenly was acting in this way.

"No, I don't care about Kareem at all. Nonetheless, I think it's unnecessary to sue him. Kareem has already been punished, and I'm doing okay now," Patricia explained, hoping that Zac would be able to understand where she was coming from with this.

However, in Zac's eyes, her explanation meant that she was simply tolerating Kareem. Zac's angry face intensified with emotion. He squinted his eyes and snapped, "You really care for Kareem. Why don't you just go ahead and admit it?"

Hearing him say this, Patricia was incensed. With a frown, she stared straight into Zac's eyes and retorted, "Zac, I think you've misunderstood me. That was not what I meant at all."

"If not, then why did you decide not to sue Kareem?" Zac asked unhappily. He avoided Patricia's eyes. It appeared that he was too angry to look at her.

Patricia frowned. Her face showed just how depressed she was and her pink lips shook slightly out of anger. She really had no idea what to say to Zac next.

'Didn't I make myself clear just now? Has Zac always believed that I love Kareem?'

"I told you that I don't want to sue Kareem, not because I care about him. I just don't think it's necessary for you to continue dealing with him. If you really decide to take action against him, things may become too uncontrollable to handle." Patricia glared at Zac, every inch of her face overflowing with anger.

She really had no clue why Zac was acting like this.

Zac was startled for a while there. Her words came out like a bolt of lightning out of the blue. He stared at Patricia without moving, not knowing what to do next.

There was a frown on Patricia's face and she looked very depressed, at a loss what to do now.

"What's the matter with you? Don't you have anything to say?" Patricia muttered unhappily and turned her face away angrily.

The next instant, Zac recovered and appeared flattered. He got closer to Patricia and asked, "Are you angry at me? Tell me, why are you angry?"

"I'm not angry. Who says I'm angry with you?" Patricia said in a cold voice, avoiding Zac's gaze this entire time.

Noting the look Patricia was giving him, Zac knew right away what she meant all along. There was no doubt about it, she was angry. Since she was angry, this meant that she cared very much about this whole matter. Besides, Zac could hear from her words just now that she cared a lot about him, or else she wouldn't have said what she said.

Thinking about this, Zac had a big smile on his face.

Seeing the overjoyed look in Zac's eyes, Patricia glared at him and whispered, "Stop smiling this instant. It's very unappealing."

### [Chapter 428 Getting Married](#)

The smile on Zac's face disappeared at once. He frowned at Patricia and let out a heavy sigh. "What did you say?" he muttered.

'I didn't mishear her earlier. She told me that my smile was unappealing. Was she not fascinated by my smile before? And now she's saying that it's unappealing? Unbelievable!' he exclaimed inwardly.

"I didn't say anything." Patricia avoided eye contact with him as a gentle smile appeared on her face, and her heart was filled with warmth.

Upon seeing her reaction, Zac frowned with displeasure. But when he saw her snickering, his heart melted and all his frustration went away.

"Let's just drop this. Are you hungry? I'll grab you something to eat." This time, he smiled at her with all the affection he could muster.

When Patricia saw how gentle he was, she nodded and smiled back. Seeing that she was being so cooperative, Zac smirked, turned around, and left the room.

As she watched him walk away, Patricia appreciated his kindness towards her. She couldn't help but remember what Naylor had said. This thought made her smile and lower her head, while her eyes were filled with tenderness.

All of a sudden, Anika strutted into the room in high heels, walking around as if she owned the room.

The mere sound of her high-heeled stilettos made Patricia frown. She looked up and saw a triumphant smile on Anika's face. For some reason, seeing this woman's arrogant smile was enough to upset Patricia.

"Miss Curtis, what can I do for you?" Patricia returned to her usual cold demeanor, and she cast Anika a listless glance.

She refused to believe that Anika came to visit her out of kindness. Anika had always thought of her as an enemy, so there was no way this woman would be so kind as to visit her in person.

Moreover, the look on the woman's face made Patricia feel uneasy. Anika seemed like she was about to warn her of something.

While Patricia looked a little agitated, Anika was calm and composed. She had a smug look on her face. "What's the matter, Patricia? Are you scared?" she asked.

"On the contrary, I'm not. I can tell that you're not here to visit me, so why don't we just cut to the chase? What do you want, Miss Curtis?" Patricia cast her a stern glance.

Anika wasn't a person to be trifled with. Patricia was certain that this woman had an ulterior motive for coming here.

"Oh, no reason! I really just wanted to see you," Anika said in a casual tone. It was as if she didn't take Patricia seriously.

Upon hearing her response, Patricia sneered. Her eyes were filled with displeasure, and she became vigilant. There was no damn way that Anika came here to visit out of the goodness of her heart.

"In that case, I appreciate that you took time off your hands to visit me, Miss Curtis. How kind of you!" Patricia remarked listlessly. There was not a single trace of delight in her tone.

Despite how calm Patricia was, Anika didn't seem fazed by it. "By the way, I forgot to tell you that Zac and I are going to get married. I'd like to invite you to our wedding, Patricia."

Right after she said that, she appeared condescending. Anyone could tell that she didn't see Patricia as a threat at all.

Meanwhile, Patricia was rendered speechless. Right now, she was too surprised to utter a word. Her mind went blank, and she had no idea what to do next.

'Is Anika telling the truth? She and Zac are getting married? Why didn't he tell me about it?'

The more Patricia thought about it, the more confused she became. At this point, she was too surprised and it seemed like she had lost the ability to speak.

Upon seeing how shocked Patricia was, Anika sneered, and showed her contempt towards Patricia. "You had no idea, did you, Patricia? Well, it doesn't surprise me. After all, this had just been decided today."

Hearing that left a frown on Patricia's face. Her lips trembled, still unable to utter a word.

'They made the decision today? Why did they decide to get married all of a sudden?'

Patricia wasn't sure if she should believe Anika's nonsense or not. As she gradually came to her senses, she frowned and bit her lower lip.

If this were true, there was no way Zac would keep her in the dark. Even if he didn't tell her, Nicholas and Kareem would certainly inform her.

But seeing as Anika was the one who told her the news, it made Patricia even more suspicious of this matter. Besides, Anika had always held contempt for Patricia and had long wanted her to stay away from Zac.

As those thoughts crossed her mind, Patricia frowned at Anika. There was a faint smile on her lips as she said, "Thanks for informing me, Miss Curtis." Having said that, she regained her composure. She wasn't going to let Anika affect her.

Anika had expected Patricia to not be fazed by the news, so she just smiled at her and said, "I see. I knew you wouldn't believe me, but there's no need for me to prove myself. Anyway, tomorrow, you'll see if I'm telling the truth."

With that, she raised an eyebrow at Patricia before she strode out of the room.

Patricia watched her walk away as if she were mocking a useless imbecile. At this moment, an indescribable emotion emerged in Patricia's chest, and her heart began to race. As she continued looking at Anika, she started to feel awful.

Remembering how confident Anika seemed earlier, Patricia felt uneasy. She felt like something bad had happened, and yet she was being kept in the dark.

"Is it true?" she murmured to herself as she bit her lower lip. Sadness and confusion flashed through her eyes. Though she had resolved not to believe Anika, Patricia still couldn't stop herself from thinking about it. Soon, her heart was overcome with sadness.

She had planned to ask Zac about it once he was back, but when he seemed to have disappeared without a trace. Patricia waited for him for a long time, but he still didn't show up.

The longer she waited, the more anxious she became. When she thought of what Anika said to her earlier, her chest tightened.

"Zac, what is happening?" Patricia murmured to herself. Confusion and disappointment soon overcame her, and the look on her face displayed her emotions.

[Chapter 429 Is Zac Getting Married](#)

At this moment, Patricia wasn't sure what she should do. Her heart was overcome with sadness. 'Zac decided on this?'

But she didn't want to believe it. She hoped that it was just fake news.

But things didn't go as smoothly as she had hoped. The long hour of waiting and staring at the door, wishing that he would appear was a painful process for her.

When she saw someone appear at the door, her eyes lit up and hope was rekindled in her heart. Just when she was about to say something, she realized that Zac wasn't the one who arrived.

Patricia bit her lower lip and smiled at Kareem.

"It's getting late. Aren't you going to bed yet?" she asked.

Upon hearing the question, Kareem smiled back at her and looked away. Guilt flashed through his face. He wanted to say something, but he bit it back.

When she saw his reaction, Patricia chuckled. "If there's something you need to tell me, just say it. There's no need to hide it from me."

Even though she tried to make the conversation light, she couldn't help but feel sad. There was this uneasiness creeping at the back of her mind, telling her that something strange had happened.

After taking a deep breath, she regained her composure. She smiled at Kareem and said, "Come on, Kareem. Tell me what it's about."

Her words made Kareem pause. Truthfully, he wasn't sure how he would say this, so he just sighed and glanced at her.

"Have you heard about it yet?"

Kareem's question rendered Patricia stupefied and her heart skipped a beat. The following moment, she gathered herself and looked at him indifferently. "Heard about what?"

The more she probed into the matter, the sadder she felt. Her emotions were a mess and her mind was just as chaotic. In her gut, she felt that something had indeed happened. She wanted to say something more, but she just couldn't get them out of her mouth.

Stunned, Kareem looked back at her, lowered his head, and replied, "You probably know about it already, Patricia. I'm sure Anika told you."

Upon hearing Anika's name, Patricia bit her lower lip. Needless to say, she did know what he meant.

'Did Kareem come here to tell me that Zac is marrying Anika? Why am I the last person to hear about this?'

With that in mind, Patricia gritted her teeth and endured the pain in her heart. She wasn't sure what to say next, and her face showed how morose she was.

When Kareem saw the look in her eyes, he pursed his lips, wanting to say something. But he just couldn't say them out loud.

Right now, he wasn't sure what he could say to her that would give her even just a little bit of comfort. At the same time, it troubled him why Zac suddenly decided to marry Anika. This was certainly not how Zac usually handled things.

Patricia lowered her head, visibly depressed. Kareem was just as forlorn as she was. He turned his face away and pursed his lips again.

'I wonder if this is true. If it is, it's a great opportunity for me to win Patricia over. But I shouldn't do anything right now,' he thought.

Truthfully, Kareem knew that the only reason he could get close to Patricia right now was that she had forgiven him. He still vividly remembered his mistakes in the past, and it was clear to him that she no longer had feelings for him.

"What are you going to do?" Sadness could be heard from Kareem's gentle voice. The sound of his voice interrupted Patricia's train of thoughts, and she stared at him blankly.

Biting her lip, Patricia was at an impasse. This matter was grave, and yet she had no clue what she must do now.

"I don't know."

Confusion, disappointment, and dejection could be seen in Patricia's eyes. She had been waiting for Zac to return, so that she could hear the truth from him.

But it wasn't as simple as what Patricia thought. Perhaps Zac didn't plan on explaining it to her at all.

When that thought crossed her mind, sadness was written on her face. She let out a sigh and felt defeated.

Her answer left Kareem dispirited. He honestly had no idea what to tell her right now, and when he saw just how sad she was, he felt so bad for her.

"Patricia..." He bit his lower lip, uncertain of how to comfort her.



'Should I try to win her over?' he wondered.

Right now, Kareem had no clue what to do. But when he saw the sorrow in her eyes, he felt so bad for her that he wanted to rush to her side and give her a warm hug.

But Kareem held back his desire to do that. If he were to hug her, the consequences would be dire. Thus, he just stood beside her and watched Patricia wallow in her sadness.

He reached his hand to hold hers, but soon, his arm froze in midair. He was uncertain what to do next.

And so, he just stood in his place, watching Patricia. He gritted his teeth, feeling just as melancholic as her. His gentle eyes displayed just how bad he felt right now.

All Kareem wanted to do now was embrace her, wilt away all her sorrow, and make her smile again.

But these were merely just flights of fancy. In fact, he knew that only Zac would be able to pull Patricia out of her misery.

Kareem's heart ached at the thought of it. He bit his lower lip tightly, waiting for Patricia to calm down.

Upon noticing how concerned he was, Patricia looked up at him and smiled. "I'm fine, Kareem. Thank you." Right after she said that, her usual cold expression returned, but sadness was still evident in her eyes.

Kareem muttered, "Patricia, you..."

"I'm fine. Don't worry about me," Patricia remarked, faking a smile. Kareem could tell that she wasn't in the mood to talk right now.

And so, he just lowered his head and sighed. A bitter smile appeared on his lips. "I can tell that you're not in the mood right now. Whenever you feel like talking to someone, you can talk to me." Having said that, he glanced at her one more time and turned around. With sadness written on his face, he strode away.

Once he had left, Patricia wallowed in her misery. She stared at the ceiling, confused and hurt. "Zac, are you really going to get married? Are you really going to be with Anika?"

Patricia's heart began to ache. She clutched her chest, staring at the ceiling and imagining Zac's face.

At this moment, all she wanted to do was see him and get an answer out of him. But waiting was obviously a long and painful process. She wasn't sure when he would show up.

[Chapter 430 Zac's Fury](#)

A bitter smile spread Patricia's lips as she shook her head. The situation confused her now.

Patricia was at a loss as she bit her lower lip hard. Her heart felt heavy. She drew a long sigh as she watched the door in a daze, waiting for that familiar figure.

But Patricia didn't see the person she had been waiting for. She lowered and shook her head, a laughter of self-mockery escaping her lips. "Just look at me. I look like a fool. Zac won't come back today."

Then, Patricia turned off the lights and covered herself with the quilt. She slowly fell asleep.

At the Reynolds Group, there was a loud noise in the CEO's office. Outside the office stood Nicholas and the secretary. They did not dare take a step closer.

But they could see the gloomy look on Zac's face through the transparent glass window. They couldn't help but quiver in fear, looking awkwardly at each other.

"Oh my goodness! What do you think we should do now? He looks so mad." The secretary looked very worried. It was time to get off work, but she couldn't because Zac was in a bad mood. The worst part of it was that she had to stand outside his office and she wouldn't dare go anywhere. Since she got the post as Zac's secretary, she had never been treated like that before.

"I don't know either." Nicholas was very nervous and didn't know what exactly to do. He had never seen Zac so furious before. It was clear that what had happened completely irritated Zac.

The secretary shook her head in disappointment and said helplessly, "Even you don't know what to do. What else can I do? It's so uncommon seeing the president this angry. It makes me scared."

"He is furious, clearly. We better stay away. Otherwise the rage will be taken out on us," Nicholas suggested with a worried look on his face.

As Nicholas said the last word, he heard Zac's cold voice calling out to him. He trembled in fear that Zac overheard him.

The secretary saw the fearful expression on Nicholas' face. He looked pitiful to her. Then, she patted him on the shoulder and said in a soft voice, "Well, good luck."

Her words jolted him back to reality. Nicholas anxiously bit his lower lip a little and sighed helplessly. Then he mustered his courage and walked into the office.

"Nicholas!" Zac yelled, gnashing his teeth.

Nicholas trembled with fear. He looked at Zac's angry face and asked nervously, "Sir, what can I do for you?"

"I want you to investigate this matter thoroughly, and fast." Zac angrily threw the newspaper in his hand in front of Nicholas. He was clearly disgusted by the photo on the newspaper and wanted it all destroyed.

The intimate photo of him and Anika made Zac so furious. At that moment, all he wanted to do was to destroy the newspaper office.

Nicholas looked at the newspaper and became dumbstruck all of a sudden. He swallowed. He wanted to say something but it was clearly hard for him to utter a word.

Nicholas was in fear and he wasn't sure of what to do or the right things to say so that Zac didn't get any angrier. He carefully looked up at Zac.

"Boss, please calm down. It's just a piece of news. It doesn't mean anything. Please don't be so angry."

Zac knew exactly what Nicholas meant, but the latter had no idea what the news meant. And even if Nicholas could figure it out, he still wouldn't be able to get the inside story.

The matter was not as simple as Nicholas thought it to be. It wasn't just a coincidence that the news was exposed at that time, saying he was going to marry Anika. Someone must be behind it.

There was only one person who could ever dare go against Zac other than Anika. That person was Johnny.

Zac sneered and looked very serious, as if he was going to settle scores with Johnny.

Zac was so keen on getting to the bottom of the matter as it was not a simple one. But most importantly, he had to figure out a way to explain it to Patricia.

When Zac saw the news at first, the first thing that came to his mind was how he would explain to Patricia. But as different thoughts came to his mind, he hesitated and was lost. He didn't know what to do.

He couldn't even imagine how Patricia would react if she saw the news involving Zac.

Zac looked down in misery, as he didn't know what exactly to do next.

'How will Patricia react? Will she be really bothered? Or maybe she'll just be indifferent, just as usual.'

Zac was left in a dilemma. On the one hand, he wanted to check up on Patricia and hoped she would care about him. On the other hand, he was scared of seeing her cold expression. So, he didn't go to the hospital immediately.

Zac's face was full of confusion and Nicholas couldn't help but notice it. He frowned a bit and asked,

"Boss, what's going on? If you would like to go meet Patricia I think you should go now." Nicholas tried to persuade Zac. He figured that Patricia was the one on Zac's mind at that moment.

Nicholas knew well Patricia was the most important to Zac. But he was in no position to meddle in their affairs as an outsider.

Zac frowned, as if his secret was exposed. With a long face, he said, "Nicholas, get your job done right away."

Nicholas gasped in fear and looked at Zac with horror. He smiled awkwardly and said, "Okay, boss. I'm leaving now."

Then he left the office immediately. He knew he couldn't stay any longer. Otherwise, Zac would get angrier and probably punish him.

Zac frowned as he saw Nicholas leave in a fit of panic. He snorted coldly and looked at the secretary standing by the door.

"Come over here," Zac said coldly, looking dead into the secretary's eyes.

The secretary trembled in fear as she heard Zac's tone. She walked into the office and asked, "Sir, what can I do for you?"

"I'll give you twenty-four hours to cover this up," Zac said, staring at her sharply as he tapped angrily on the newspaper.

The secretary was scared and looked like she was about to cry. She swallowed, turned around and left the office quietly with a sad look on her face.

She knew that no matter what she said, it would be useless. Nothing would change Zac's mind. Most importantly, if she didn't do exactly as he wanted, she would be in more trouble.

After she left his office, Zac placed his hand on his forehead and looked worried. A murderous look flickered across his deep-set eyes.