

Remarry 451

[Chapter 451 Don't Blame Me](#)

"Thank you, Patricia." Zac put on a smile, and hugged Patricia. His deep-set eyes displayed his excitement. Her words meant a lot to him.

Upon hearing him say that, a smile appeared on her lips. As a matter of fact, Zac wasn't aware that Patricia was so touched and she was also excited about this.

They were so excited that they didn't notice a pair of resentful eyes glaring at them.

Anika bit her lower lip, turned around, and remembered what happened.

Zac seemed to love Patricia very much, and it made Anika upset.

Although the news of her marriage with Zac was just some trick she had planned, she somehow led herself to believe it. But what he did now was undoubtedly a slap across her face, and it made her very angry. She even wanted to rush forward and pull Zac and Patricia apart.

However, if Anika were to break them apart, she would only make a fool of herself.

These were all traps that she had set. If Zac had said something to Patricia, all of Anika's efforts would be in vain.

That was the reason Anika just stood at the door in silence. If it were possible, she wouldn't let go of Zac and Patricia so easily.

"Zac, Patricia, do you really think it'll be that easy for you to be together again? No! Fuck that. I will not let that happen!" A resentful smile appeared on Anika's face. She turned around, said nothing more, and put on a triumphant smile.

Upon seeing the smile on Zac's face, she had made up her mind that she would teach him a lesson. She had resolved that she would not allow them to be together.

With a devilish grin, Anika turned around and strode away.

Afterwards, she dialed Johnny's number, and said, "Mr. Reynolds, there's going to be a slight change in our plan."

"Change?" Johnny sounded doubtful. He seemed surprised the minute he heard her say that over the phone.

"Yes, Mr. Reynolds. There's going to be a change," Anika said complacently. She looked very serious, and she didn't seem to think there was anything wrong with what she had said.

Johnny frowned and asked, "What do you mean? I don't understand, Anike. You need to clarify this to me now." He sounded a little helpless. And if he was being honest, he felt that Anike was being willful.

Upon hearing the question, Anike chuckled and said in a relaxed tone, "I'll need to discuss the details of the plan with you. If you don't want Zec and Petricie to be together, you'll have to do as I say." The way she spoke to Johnny made it sound like she was speaking to a subordinate.

A frown appeared on his face. Johnny just couldn't understand what she was saying. However, Anike was right about one thing. He didn't want Zec and Petricie to be together.

Johnny had no idea since when he began to object with their relationship. On the one hand, it was partly because of Petricie's bad reputation. And on the other hand, he thought that she was just an ordinary woman and she didn't deserve to be with Zec.

"Whatever that is, you need to tell me the truth," Johnny said sternly. As an elder, he had never been treated this rudely before, so it made him angry and dispirited.

But that didn't matter that much right now. He just wanted to know why Anike suddenly changed her mind.

"Do you really want to know? I can tell you why," Anike responded as hatred swept across her face. What happened moments ago crossed her mind again, and she was so furious that she began glaring at the ceiling.

Upon hearing her answer, Johnny snorted with disdain and said, "It sounds like your plan has failed. Zec and Petricie..." He stopped mid-sentence because his heart became overwhelmed by anger.

He had thought that after broadcasting that fake news, Petricie would surrender right away. But things didn't go as smoothly as they hoped.

"Yes, Mr. Reynolds. There's going to be a change," Anika said complacently. She looked very serious, and she didn't seem to think there was anything wrong with what she had said.

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Despite the obvious contempt in his voice, Anika was surprisingly calm. "That's why I need to change the plan. Otherwise, all of our efforts would be in vain."

Johnny felt dispirited. He had no idea what to say, and his heart was overcome with sorrow.

Since Johnny fell silent, Anika smiled. It looked like she had expected him to react this way. "We'll discuss this matter in detail, okay? Let's meet at the same place." With that, she hung up, leaving Johnny no chance to respond.

Suddenly, a faint smile appeared on her face. Anika shot a sharp glance at Patricia's ward, and she remembered what happened just now.

Now, Anika was more determined than ever. She wasn't going to allow her anger to cloud her judgment. It was like she became another person. Her hatred towards Zac and Patricia made her lose her cool.

'If Zac wants to be with Patricia, he'll have to ask for my permission. And as long as I don't agree, they'll never be together!'

With that in mind, Anika broke into a maniacal laughter as she glared at Patricia's ward.

"Zac, Patricia, just wait and you'll see. I'm going to give you one hell of a surprise! And by then, don't blame me for what happened." With that, Anika strode away.

Right now, Zac was embracing Patricia. It looked like he couldn't have enough of hugging her, and wasn't

willing to let her go.

After a long time of being in his embrace, Patricia suddenly felt embarrassed. She coughed and said, "Zac, you've been hugging me for a long time. Do you mind letting go?"

"We've only been hugging for a few moments. If I could embrace you like this forever, I would," Zac replied with a faint smile. It seemed like he had gotten addicted to her embrace.

[Chapter 452 I Promise You](#)

Patricia blushed because of what she heard. For a moment, she had no idea how to respond, so she just lowered her head and nestled in Zac's embrace in silence.

"Aren't you tired from hugging me for so long?" Patricia asked as her ears began to turn red.

Upon seeing her reaction, a smile appeared on Zac's lips. This moment was certainly something that he enjoyed. If it were possible, he wished that time would stop, so that he could hold onto Patricia forever.

When that thought crossed his mind, happiness filled his heart.

"No. As long as I'm with you, I will never feel tired no matter how long I hold you." Zac really meant that. He wasn't kidding, nor was he lying to Patricia.

He sincerely wished that he could hold her like this forever. That way, they wouldn't be so reckless anymore. They would be able to face each other calmly and rationally.

"I..." Patricia stammered, uncertain of what to say. Her face was still flushed, and her eyes displayed her confusion.

She couldn't figure out what he must be thinking right now. This was the first time they had embraced each other for so long. A strange emotion emerged in her heart.

She didn't even know how to describe this feeling. All of sudden, memories of the past flooded her mind. She remembered all her expectations regarding Zac, and how much she loved him at the time.

The day Patricia realized that she had feelings for Zac, she hoped that she could embrace him every day, and that he could feel just how much she loved him.

After they got married, things didn't go as smoothly as she had hoped. They ended up becoming strangers after that incident. Zac didn't even glance at her, let alone hold her.

To him, Patricia was nothing but a stranger. Every time that tragic time crossed her mind, it would fill her heart with sadness, and she would feel lost.

But now, everything had changed. It was a dramatic turn of events. Zac had fallen in love with her, and he pestered her to be with him.

Patricia felt like this was all just a beautiful dream, and she had no idea if it was even real.

"Zec, I..." Petricie became confused. Her eyes displayed how befuddled she was, and she was at a loss for words.

Upon seeing the look on her face, Zec bit his lower lip. He clasped her body with his arms and fell silent for a moment.

He could see in her eyes how fearful she must feel right now. Perhaps their marriage was a painful memory for Petricie, and he was the cause of all that misery she suffered through.

Zec let out a sigh. Slowly, he lowered his head and planted a gentle kiss on her forehead, similarly to how a dragonfly would skim across the water.

Before Petricie could react, she heard his voice. Somehow, it sounded like he felt bitter and forlorn.

"I know that you're still scared, and perhaps worried that we won't have a happy ending. I'm sure you're wondering if that's even possible." Right after Zec said that, he let out a sigh and felt confused.

Because of this very reason, he was always unsure of what to do. He knew that he had once hurt Petricie, and he was scared that she would reject him because of what happened in the past.

But that worry was all in the past now. All he wanted was to be with Petricie, no matter what the future held.

And since he had made up his mind, he would never give up so easily.

"Have faith in me, Petricie. I really love you, so I'm willing to wait for you to accept me, no matter how long it may take. I'll give you a sense of security, and I firmly believe that someday, you'll accept me," said Zec, staring into her eyes. At the moment, Petricie's reflection was in his deep-set eyes, and he was looking at her with all the love he could muster.

His love was like the spring breeze on Merch, and Petricie couldn't resist the urge to indulge herself in it. A gentle smile appeared on her lips. At long last, hope was rekindled in her heart because of his promise.

'Perhaps I really should try to move forward. I can't just avoid Zec forever. We won't make any progress like that,' she thought.

Right now, Petricie's beautiful face displayed her determination. She locked eyes with him and smiled at him.

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His love was like the spring breeze on March, and Patricia couldn't resist the urge to indulge herself in it. A gentle smile appeared on her lips. At long last, hope was rekindled in her heart because of his promise.

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Slowly, but surely, Patricia gazed into his eyes and said, "Okay. I'll trust you, but you need to remember your promise!" Patricia appeared very serious at the moment.

Patricia chose to believe in Zac, and hoped that he would not disappoint her this time.

For once, she really wanted to open her heart to him, and hope for a better future with him.

Zac's eyes widened with surprise. He wasn't sure what to say now. He wanted to speak up, but it seemed as though he was too excited to form a proper sentence.

From his reaction, he was obviously shocked to hear her answer.

Upon seeing his reaction, Patricia broke into laughter. "What's the matter? Did my words scare you? Why is your face like that right now?" As soon as she finished speaking, she smiled and creased her eyebrows at him.

Zac swallowed and was dazed. It took a while, but he finally came to his senses when he understood what was going on.

"Did you really mean all that, Patricia?" he muttered. His arms were trembling slightly, and it could be seen from his face that he was nervous.

It wasn't that he doubted Patricia, but it was all just too sudden that he couldn't bring himself to believe what he had heard.

He wondered if what he heard was all true. He even thought that he was just hearing things.

Somehow, Zac began to feel agitated. Doubt, worry, and confusion rendered him uncertain of what to do.

Patricia laughed again when she saw how he was behaving. "Oh, come on, Zac! Did you not hear me earlier? Or do you just not believe me? I'm telling the truth!" A bright smile appeared on her face, and her eyes displayed a touch of affection.

Zac just stared blankly at her for two full minutes. Only when he was certain that he wasn't hallucinating or dreaming that he finally believed Patricia's words.

"Patricia..." Zac mumbled as his Adam's apple bobbed up and down. He hugged her even tighter, as if he would never let her go again.

"I'm so happy, Patricia! I never thought you'd agree. I'm so damn happy!" Zac said.

[Chapter 453 Dissuade Patricia](#)

Feeling Zac's joy emanating off his body, Patricia smiled gently at him. She subconsciously leaned her head against Zac.

Seeing the joy overflowing from Zac's face, a sense of warmth filled her heart.

She had no idea what to do next. She never expected Zac would be so happy over something she said, which surprised her a great deal.

"You make me so happy, Patricia," Zac said in an excited voice. He hugged Patricia to him more tightly in his arms, wishing they could stay like this forever.

"I know you feel happy right now, but..." Before Patricia could finish speaking, she felt Zac holding her even more tightly.

Zac's excitement right then was contagious. Patricia's face reflected the joy seen on his face. She couldn't help but inch closer to his chest, her heart full of happiness.

It took a lot out of her to be able to start fresh with Zac. At the very same time, Patricia felt that this was a big step forward for them.

Anyway, this was a good beginning for her and Zac.

"Zac, we've been hugging for a long time," Patricia said in a gentle voice as she blushed. If they kept embracing like this, she would become very embarrassed.

Zac pursed his lips tightly with displeasure. Apparently, he couldn't stand to be apart from Patricia. Feeling very sad by her words, he begged, "Let me hold you a little longer." His eyes were filled with pleading.

There was a frown on Patricia's face as she looked at Zac gently. When she saw her reflection in Zac's loving eyes, her thoughts became chaotic and her brain didn't know how to work. She didn't know how she could refuse him.

Then, Patricia sighed and said in a light tone, "Fine, just ten more minutes." Though Patricia looked very helpless, in fact, her heart was full of happiness at that moment.

Zac was so excited by her words that he couldn't help but lower his head and kiss her on her forehead. He said in a happy voice, "Alright, ten minutes."

Ten minutes was not enough for Zac. But seeing the expression in Patricia's eyes, he felt happy that she didn't turn him down.

Zac leaned his chin on Patricia's neck and slowly closed his eyes, enjoying the moment together with her.

At this time, Zac was enjoying their alone time together very much. He wished he could stop time and allow himself to hug Patricia for a while longer.

Petricie didn't know what to say for the moment there and her face flushed red. She bit down on her lower lip unconsciously, feeling somewhat nervous and expectant.

She rarely had the time to stay with Zec quietly like this. She also felt that this moment they shared together was very special.

Before their ten minutes were over, they were interrupted by the sound of a light cough. All of a sudden, the nurse walked in and said, "Mr. Reynolds, Miss Sempson, I'm sorry to interrupt, but please understand that I have work to do." As soon as she said this, she approached them with some medical equipment.

Zec and Petricie both gave the nurse embarrassed looks. They immediately separated and smiled awkwardly. "That's fine."

With shyness visible all over her face, Petricie bent her head and was too embarrassed to face Zec and the nurse.

However, Zec didn't think it was that big of a deal. A trace of displeasure was still on his face and he sighed deeply. Petricie wasn't in his arms long enough and the nurse had to come in at that moment to disturb them. Obviously, he was in a bad mood because of this.

After the check-up was done, the nurse turned to give Zec and Petricie a weird look. But before Zec could say anything, she had already left.

Zec and Petricie exchanged a look, feeling altogether helpless over matters. They really had no idea what to say next.

After a while, Zec gave Petricie an awkward smile, still at a complete loss. He stared straight into her eyes.

With her eyes fixed on Zec, a faint smile showed up on Petricie's face. She wanted to say something to him right then, but her words were stuck in her throat.

After a minute of complete silence, Petricie's stomach started to rumble. Zec was a little startled and looked right at her. She was so embarrassed by that sound that she turned her face away.

Seeing her embarrassed look, Zec laughed and asked in a soft voice, "Petricie, are you hungry right now? What do you feel like eating? I'll get it for you." He grinned.

Petricie nodded her head slightly. Then she said, "You don't need to ask me since you already know what I like to eat."

Her words left Zec inexplicably excited. His intense eyes were filled with joy at the moment. He nodded his head heavily and said in a gentle voice, "Okay, I see. Wait for me here. I'll be back shortly."

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his head heavily and said in a gentle voice, "Okay, I see. Wait for me here. I'll be back shortly."

Then, without further word, Zac turned around and made his way out of the room, without waiting to hear what Patricia had to say.

Seeing Zac's receding back, Patricia's eyes became soft in that instant and a faint smile played on her lips. She felt that today was a good day.

It was a good thing that both she and Zac had decided to bravely step forward with their relationship. To add to that, when they were together just now, things appeared to be different. They used to have their own opinions over matters and fought a lot because of this.

Now, the two of them were able to open their hearts to one another and share their thoughts and feelings without any inhibitions.

This was good for their relationship and the connection they shared was something words could not properly explain.

Just as Patricia was deep in thought, a gentle voice interrupted her. Out of nowhere, Kareem made his way up to her, looking anxious and nervous.

"Patricia, tell me it isn't true. Have you really made up your mind?" Kareem bit down on his lower lip and stared at her with a worried expression.

Kareem had been watching Zac and Patricia through the crack in the door and their conversation just now kept replaying in his mind. Knowing that Patricia had agreed to be together with Zac, Kareem's mind was at a complete blank. His brain was no longer working. He felt torn, and he was also very worried about her.

Patricia pursed her lips, then smiled at him and nodded her head politely.

"Yes, I have decided to accept Zac," Patricia said in a steady voice as she looked Kareem in the eye.

Kareem frowned and warned, "Patricia, you have to think things over carefully. It's not as simple as you think. And there's another thing I have to make clear. Do you know about Zac and Anika's relationship right now?"

Patricia was a little startled after hearing this. Then something occurred to her and she recovered. She returned to her usual calm state, appearing very composed. She nodded her head slightly and said, "I know. But I believe in Zac. He would never lie to me."

She implied that she believed that Zac was not involved with Anika, and she believed that if she asked, Zac would prove this to her.

[Chapter 454 I Won't Let You Go](#)

Suddenly, Kareem bit his lower lip, not knowing what to say. He was clearly sad.

When Kareem saw Patricia's hopeful eyes, his words got stuck in his throat.

What could he say at this point in time? Rather, what else could he say?

From the look in Patricia's eyes, he could tell what she was thinking. He knew that she had decided to give Zac a chance. How could he stop her?

But thinking of all Patricia had been through, Kareem clenched his fists with visible veins on his hands. He bowed his head and bit his lower lip tightly.

"Patricia, have you really made up your mind? To be honest, Zac is not as good for you as you think. You two would have a lot of problems."

Seeing Kareem's expression, Patricia pursed her lips with a faint smile. She understood Kareem's concern and was aware that there would be problems but she believed they could be fixed.

"I know. But if I didn't give it a try, things between me and Zac would remain the same, and because I don't want it anymore, I've decided to take a step to better our relationship." Patricia smiled calmly.

Seeing the smile on Patricia's face, Kareem was going to say something but swallowed his words.

Kareem knew that nothing he said would change Patricia's mind. She had made up her mind already to be with Zac.

Patricia knew what was on Kareem's mind. She smiled softly and patted him on the shoulder as she said, "Thank you, Kareem. I know you were just concerned."

So what if Patricia knew? His concern for her meant nothing to her anyway.

Thinking of this, Kareem let out a long sigh. He was clearly hurt but said in a low voice, "Just remember that I'm here for you. If Zac hurts you, let me know. I'll deal with him." His tone was firm as he looked at Patricia fixedly.

Patricia smiled at Kareem slightly, not knowing what to say.

Seeing Patricia's smile, Kareem felt even more depressed. He sighed and slowly walked away.

Kareem's shoulders slumped. He knew Patricia's mind was made up already.

From the moment she agreed to Zac's request, things had already moved on to another level. The consequence was that she and Kareem would just drift away.

Leaving Petricie's ward, Kereem returned to his own ward dejectedly only to meet Tine at the doorway glaring at him. She wished she knew what her son was thinking. Despite Petricie's rejection, he still didn't give up.

"Kereem, please. Don't go back to see Petricie again. You should be resting here. The doctor said that you need enough rest before you can be discharged. Stop worrying about and getting me worried-sick," Tine said angrily as she stamped her feet.

Tine was worried and angry because Kereem was so intent on Petricie at the detriment of his health.

Hearing this, Kereem slowly raised his head and whispered, "Mom, just let me be. I can solve my problems by myself."

"I should leave you alone? You are my son! You think you can solve your own problems? How much progress have you made?" The more she spoke, the angrier Tine became.

Why was Kereem so obsessed and irrational? Was Petricie really that important to him?

Needless to say, the expression on Kereem's face told Tine the answer.

Before Petricie appeared, Tine had she ever seen such look on Kereem's face.

As she thought about it, she became more livid. Tine stared hard at Kereem and said, "Okay, I will leave you alone. Do whatever you like, I don't care anymore." She threw her hands in the air angrily. She picked her bag and left disappointed.

Kereem sighed deeply as he saw Tine's countenance. He looked at the ceiling in perplexity as though everything was an illusion.

Kereem never expected that Petricie would give in to Zec so easily.

He had confessed his feelings to Petricie many times, but she never agreed. Now she agreed to Zec's request so easily.

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Kareem didn't want to think about it anymore. He could only watch how things played out from now.

Kareem already had it in mind that once they had a misunderstanding, he'd seize the opportunity to win back Patricia without hesitating. This plan had been on his mind since Patricia chose Zac over him.

"Patricia, I will never let you go. Even if you and Zac are together, I won't give up." Kareem clenched his fists. A ruthless look flashed in his eyes.

When Zac returned, Patricia had slept off. She didn't sleep well last night. After her conversation with Zac, she felt relieved in an instant. It seemed that she was having a good sleep.

Watching Patricia's peaceful sleeping face, Zac quietly put down the takeout box in his hand. He walked to her side and stroked her messy hair.

"You look so gentle when you are asleep," Zac muttered with a hint of affection in his eyes.

Ordinarily, there was nothing wrong with Patricia's looks but she could look a bit unapproachable. Sometimes, Zac would have doubted if she ever loved him.

Because Patricia always looked icy as if nothing could get to her. Even all her words and actions seemed programmed like a robot's.

However, having spent lot of time with Patricia, Zac had naturally come to understand her.

"Patricia, you should always look as gentle as you are now." Zac snickered.

"You mean you don't like me as I am now?" Patricia said to Zac in an unpleasant tone.

Zac was startled. He looked at Patricia in shock. As he was about to say something, she interrupted him.

"Why don't you go on? Weren't you just making a good point now?" Patricia said sarcastically. She was still lying in the bed, but her countenance turned a little cold with a bitter smile.

[Chapter 455 Dislike](#)

Hearing this, Zac was speechless for a moment. With an embarrassed smile on his cold face, he turned his face away to avoid being scolded by Patricia.

Unable to get the answer she was asking for from Zac, Patricia glared at him. She looked very angry and bit her lower lip, in an attempt to calm herself down.

"No, don't stop on my account. Why don't you finish your words?" Patricia thundered and pursed her lips. She was not in the least satisfied with what she just heard from Zac.

What exactly did he mean? Was he saying she always looked scary? Or was it that to him, she simply never looked gentle?

Patricia was furious as she thought of this. She gave him a very fierce stare, trying to get the answer from him.

This time, there was no way she was letting go so easily. If he couldn't give her a perfect explanation that would satisfy her, she would never give up.

"I... Well... Actually..." Zac stammered, hesitating for a moment. He looked away from Patricia's reproachful eyes and smiled awkwardly.

The expression on Zac's face only pushed Patricia to frown and squint at him more. She was getting more depressed with every minute that passed.

"You're not getting away easily this time around. Tell me, you said you don't like me, huh?" Patricia

asked Zac, maintaining her glare.

He could clearly see how serious she was, but he was still trying to avoid the question.

"No, I never said that. That's not what I said!" Zac looked at her seriously and shook his head.

He could swear that, it wasn't what he meant. He had never disliked her.

Patricia shook her head slightly and said in a low voice, "Oh Really? It's unfortunate that I don't believe you. Zac, if you don't dislike me, why would you say that?" She raised her chin slightly and stared at Zac.

Noticing the look in her eyes, Zac pursed his lips and realized that he had to make things clear. "Look Patricia, I didn't mean anything by it. I just think that you are usually a little cold. But when you sleep, you look much gentler." As soon as the last words left his lips, he unconsciously turned his head away from her.

Patricia frowned. Her pink lips opened and closed several times, but no word came to her.

How was she to put it? Zac was actually right. Her face was usually cold.

However, hearing it wasn't a pleasure. It saddened and angered her at the same time. Even if it was true, Zac didn't have to voice it out. He should have kept it to himself.

Looking at Petricie, Zac realized what he had done wrong. Sighing, he went close to her, gently stroked her hair with his slender fingers and coaxed, "Don't be angry, please. You know how terrible I am with words. I'm so sorry I made you angry."

Not wanting to hear any explanation, Petricie turned her face away and pursed her lips like a child.

"Hey! Don't be angry. Really, I didn't mean it," Zac said pleadingly. He looked at her with what he believed was his most pitiful look.

The look on Zac's face moved Petricie, but because she was still angry, she refused to let him off the hook. "Let's not talk about this now. I'm hungry." She set up slowly and got out of bed. Zac then placed the takeout box in front of her and opened it.

"This is your favorite. Eat however much you want," Zac said in a flattering voice, making Petricie feel like she was a queen, and breaking the ice between them.

Looking at the delicious food in front of her, Petricie finally decided to forgive Zac. She nodded slightly and said softly, "You should thank this marvel in front of me. It's the reason why I'm forgiving you, but just this time." She picked up her chopsticks and started eating.

Seeing Petricie eating with relish, Zac smiled and finally felt like he could relax. Maybe, just maybe,

things were back to normal.

For some reason, watching Petricie eating quietly and with so much gusto made Zac feel satisfied. And to top it off, Petricie had forgiven him. He was thrilled.

Noticing Zac's stare on her, Petricie paused and blushed. She slowly raised her eyes to look at him and whispered, "Stop looking at me like that. Is there something on my face?" She was a bit nervous under his gaze.

Zac just smiled, but didn't answer her. Instead, he kept looking at her.

Seeing that he didn't stop staring, Petricie frowned. She couldn't sit under his scrutinizing gaze and continue eating freely.

"Zac..." Petricie was about to say something when Zac's ringing phone interrupted her.

However, hearing it wasn't a pleasure. It saddened and angered her at the same time. Even if it was true, Zac didn't have to voice it out. He should have kept it to himself.

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"Zac..." Patricia was about to say something when Zac's ringing phone interrupted her.

Zac didn't intend on answering the phone. Instead, he looked at Patricia, patiently waiting for her to scold him, like he was sure she was about to before his phone rang.

Patricia glared at him and said, "Well, why are you looking at me? Answer the phone!"

Since she gave him the permission, Zac obediently answered the phone. When he heard what the person on the other side of the phone said, the smile on his face froze.

Patricia immediately sat up straighter when she saw the change in Zac. She didn't think it was anything good. When she was about to ask, Zac's gaze stopped her words in her throat.

What the hell had happened? Patricia couldn't sit still. She was too anxious. Eyes fixed on Zac, she tried to find any clue on his face.

Hanging up the phone, Zac gave her a gentle smile and said in a soft voice, "Patricia, there's something that needs my attention. So, if you need anything, just call Nicholas, okay?" He quickly stood up, looking very anxious.

Not liking the state he was in, Patricia nodded slightly. She didn't say anything to stop him, nor did she ask about the situation. But from the expression on Zac's face, it was obvious that something must have happened. And it couldn't be something very small.

"Okay. Just be careful," Patricia said, looking at Zac with concern.

Giving her a soft smile, Zac bent over and placed a kiss on her forehead. Then, he turned around and left without saying anything more.

Once out of the hospital, Zac drove his Porsche to the coffee shop in the suburb to meet with Anika.

He had already planned to have a talk with her, so it was a surprise that she came to him first. In any case, it was a good thing because it saved him some time.

Getting out of the car, he spotted Anika with that arrogant and confident smile on her face, as though she had Zac and everything else under her control.

"Adjust that long face, will you? We are having a talk here! You don't expect me to talk with you when you look like this," Anika teased him, fiddling with her curly hair on her shoulder. She was looking very charming indeed.

But it didn't affect Zac because he really didn't care about how charming she was. They were just here to negotiate.

[Chapter 456 A Talk](#)

"If that is so, then there is no further need for us to continue this conversation," Zac said in a cold voice. He stopped Anika from taking over the discussion.

It was obvious that Zac knew that she had gone behind his back and that she should feel grateful that he wasn't going to do anything about it.

This time because Anika came to him first, Zac thought this was a good chance for him to gain the upper hand in the situation.

Then, without further word, Zac turned around and made his way towards his Porsche step by step. He no longer wanted to talk to Anika anymore.

Seeing that Zac was walking away, Anika bit down on her lower lip. Anger was seizing her chest so she took a deep breath, trying her best to calm herself down and keep her anger at bay.

Today, she came to see Zac because she had something very important she needed to bring up with him. She couldn't let something like anger get in the way.

"Zac, if you're leaving now, does this mean you don't want to know what I'm going to talk about?" Anika said in a straightforward voice as if she was unfazed by Zac's words.

Zac sneered. A flash of coldness shot through his dark eyes and he stopped in his tracks without saying a word.

Zac would really have left in a fit of rage if Anika hadn't spoken up right then.

But now, Zac remembered something. He had come here today to ask Anika something. He couldn't act impulsively and just walk away.

Thinking about this, Zac drew in a deep breath and held back his anger. In that instant, he became his usual calm and cold self.

"Well, go on. I'd like to hear what you are going to talk about." Zac turned to give Anika a cold look.

Anika pursed her lips tightly with obvious disdain. Apparently, Zac was going to treat this like a business meeting.

Having known Zac all this time, Anika was clear that this was how he treated all his business associates. It was exactly because of this that she was so angry.

It appeared that Zac didn't love her at all and he just wanted to get rid of her for good.

After inhaling a few deep breaths, Anika finally calmed down. She turned to give Zac an arrogant and confident look and said mildly, "It's nothing much actually. I just came here to talk about our marriage."

There was a frown on Zac's face as anger lit up his eyes. His cold face visibly darkened as if a storm was brewing on the horizon.

Anika really was that daring to want to talk about "their marriage." She was the one who dared to bring it up in the first place.

"Marriage? Why do I have no idea that we're getting married?" Zac sneered. His eyes were icy cold. He scowled at Anika with a murderous rage on his face.

If Anika continued to make up stories about him, he would stop being polite.

Seeing the look on Zac's face, Anika knew what he meant. She smiled brightly at him, leaned her body against his car, and tapped her slender fingers against the window of his vehicle.

"Don't be angry with me. Let me finish first. If we go through with this marriage, it may turn out to be beneficial for both of us."

Zac snorted and glowered at Anika with razor-sharp eyes. He didn't believe Anika's words at all. He could see clearly that this so-called marriage would only benefit Anika and Kereem. He was the one with the most to lose. Besides, the last thing he wanted was to lose Petricie again.

It took him a lot of effort to get Petricie to agree to be with him. He wouldn't destroy what they had then just because of this.

"Beneficial? I don't see how any of this is beneficial to me at all." Zac glanced over at Anika coldly.

He wasn't joking around with Anika or trying to annoy her in any way. He really did think that.

Despite Zac's words, Anika remained calm and at ease. She wasn't angry or depressed because he turned her down at all. With a strange smile, she appeared very happy somehow.

"Is that really so? But what's your reason for buying the Sempson family's business? Do you remember now?" Anika gave Zac a bright smile as if she knew what she was doing and was sure Zac would come around and agree to her request in no time at all.

Zac bit down on his lower lip heavily. He had been worried about this. Even though he had taken over the Sempson family's business, the company was not running well. He had been trying to find a solution to the problem but so far had not been able to.

There was a frown on Zac's face as anger lit up his eyes. His cold face visibly darkened as if a storm was brewing on the horizon.

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Zac bit down on his lower lip heavily. He had been worried about this. Even though he had taken over the Sampson family's business, the company was not running well. He had been trying to find a solution to the problem but so far had not been able to.

Anika must have looked into it and found out about it.

"Anika, what exactly do you mean?" Zac said in a cold voice. He stared into Anika's eyes and pursed his lips, appearing very depressed.

Anika smiled brightly at him. "Well, what I'm here for is actually pretty simple. I know you need some help with managing the Sampson family's business and I think that I'm the best candidate for the job."

"Are you saying you will manage the company if I agree to our marriage?" Zac coldly enunciated word by word, and his penetrating eyes were filled with anger. It was apparent that he was on the verge of snapping.

"Zac, since it's clear to you, this should be a simple matter for you then," Anika said with a haughty expression.

Zac sneered. He covered his entire face with one hand out of anger. The vibes he was emanating were quite intimidating.

"Anika, you have a smart plan. But you have forgotten one thing. I'm the one who chooses the woman I love," Zac said slowly, with a ferocious glint in his eyes. He stared straight at Anika's face, not allowing her the chance to speak up at all. "As long as it's something I don't want, there's nothing you can do to change my mind. You know exactly what I'm capable of and you know my temper as well as what I will do if you annoy me enough."

He looked at Anika coldly, lifted his chin slightly, and stared down at her with frosty eyes. He was beyond taking her seriously at this point.

Anika was a little startled by his words. She never expected that Zac would get so angry over this. But it also proved that she was on the right track. Maybe what he needed right then was just a little nudge in the right direction.

Zac sneered. It was obvious what Anika was thinking right now. He grimaced and said venomously, "Anika, do you really think you can force me to do something I don't want to do? This is my marriage. It is a personal matter of mine."

Before Anika could utter a word, Zac turned on his heels and waved his hand at Anika. He said in a cold voice, "Anika, our talk is over. There's nothing more to discuss." Then, he got in his car and sped out of there.

[Chapter 457 I Won't Allow I](#)

Seeing the Porsche disappear into the distance, Anika bit down on her lower lip angrily. Her heart was heavy with depression.

Zac didn't respect her and paid no mind to her feelings. He really did not love her at all. He had already put everything they had gone through together behind him.

Thinking about this, Anika was enraged. She stamped her feet, and a fierce look showed up on her face, which didn't match her usual gentle expression at all.

"Zac, you think you and Patricia can be happy together so easily? Let's wait and see who the winner is!" Anika coldly enunciated word by word. Her face was icy cold, and she breathed out heavily. She stared at the Porsche driving away furiously, wishing she could somehow obliterate it from existence.

Even if Zac wasn't taking her seriously, Anika knew of a way to make him realize his mistake. Her face looked smug, and a dash of confidence appeared in her eyes.

Anika turned around, got inside her car, started the engine, and left too.

At this very same moment, Zac was observing Anika's every move through his car's rearview mirror. A hint of sharpness shot through his eyes, and he could see clearly the direction in which she was heading.

The next instant, Zac stopped his vehicle and looked in the direction Anika's car was heading towards. A cold smile showed up on his face. Next, he took out his phone and called Nicholas.

"Nicholas, let's start now," Zac said in a firm voice.

Nicholas let out a heavy sigh right then. "Boss, we can't do this now. Patricia has a problem." Nicholas was saying this in a hushed voice as if he was feeling a little scared.

Though Zac was startled by Nicholas' words, he was able to recover in the next instant. He exclaimed in a loud voice, "Nicholas, what do you mean?"

Zac was incredulous. When he left the hospital, Patricia was perfectly fine. How could something happen in such a relatively short amount of time?

"Tell me, what happened?" Zac asked in an anxious voice. There was a frown on his face and he appeared very worried. He bit down on his lower lip heavily, feeling perplexed.

Nicholas sighed again and again as if he didn't know how to go about explaining things. "It's very hard to explain over the phone. You should come here and see for yourself."

Zac disconnected the call. He started the car hurriedly and drove straight towards the direction of the hospital.

When he saw that Petricie was lying in the bed, resting peacefully, Zec breathed out a sigh of relief. Even though her face was paler than usual, she appeared well in one piece. Zec then turned to give Nicholes a suspicious look.

Nicholes swallowed nervously and said fearfully, "I don't know why, but Petricie suddenly was feeling uncomfortable and had diarrhea. The doctor came and prescribed her medication and she is doing fine now."

Nicholes gave Zec a careful look as he said this, obviously afraid that Zec might get angry with him.

Zec nodded his head slightly. He didn't appear to blame Nicholes for any of this.

When he heard that something had happened to Petricie just now, he thought Anike was behind it. He knew what Anike was capable of and was afraid that she had done something to Petricie.

But now that he saw that Petricie was safely resting in bed, he was very much relieved. While sighing slightly, he gestured for Nicholes to leave the room so that he could stay and personally take care of Petricie.

Nicholes nodded his head respectfully. When he was about to turn around to leave, something occurred to him and he spoke up.

"Boss, Anike..."

Nicholes was feeling a little too embarrassed to meet Zec's gaze. He didn't know how he should go about approaching this matter.

"Keep your eye on Anike. If anything happens at all, report back to me immediately." Zec gave his order. After seeing Anike today, he was now on high alert. Who knew what other tricks were up that woman's sleeve?

Zec didn't know what other schemes Anike had planned so he had to put up precautions in order to prevent the problem from getting out of hand later on.

"Will do, sir," Nicholes said respectfully and turned around to leave the room without further word. Before he left, he gave one last glance back at Petricie and Zec, a smug smile revealing itself on his face.

Seeing the two of them back together, Nicholes was very happy for them. It was good that they finally decided to be in a relationship now.

After Nicholes left the room, Zec sat down quietly beside the bed, staring down at Petricie. His slender fingers gently caressed her hair. Seeing her face so deeply pale, he couldn't help but feel very sorry for her.

When he saw that Patricia was lying in the bed, resting peacefully, Zac breathed out a sigh of relief. Even though her face was paler than usual, she appeared all in one piece. Zac then turned to give Nicholas a suspicious look.

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After Nicholas left the room, Zac sat down quietly beside the bed, staring down at Patricia. His slender fingers gently caressed her hair. Seeing her face so deathly pale, he couldn't help but feel very sorry for her.

Anyway, Zac made a promise to himself that he would protect Patricia well and not let her get hurt in the future.

As he was thinking about this, Zac gently touched Patricia's hand. Something seemed to pop up in his mind, which made his hands stop dead suddenly.

"Patricia, I promise to do my best to protect you. You don't have to worry about anything for the rest of your life," Zac swore seriously.

Patricia didn't answer him. But her face appeared to soften in that light as if through her sleep she had heard Zac's words and was showing her gratitude.

Sitting beside her bed, Zac stared down at her, scared that he wouldn't be the first person she saw when she woke up.

However, he waited a long time, but Patricia was still asleep throughout all of this. As he waited by her bedside, he was feeling sleepy and couldn't keep his eyes open. Pretty soon, he was fast asleep.

When Zac opened his eyes next, he discovered there was a sheet covering him and Patricia was already out of bed.

At that moment in time, Zac was shocked and opened his eyes wide. He looked around him in a rush, hoping to catch sight of her as soon as possible.

Damn it! He just closed his eyes for a few seconds and when he opened them again, Patricia had disappeared.

Zac got up in a hurry and looked around, feeling panicked.

Just as he was about to rush out of the room, Patricia slowly made her way out of the bathroom. When she saw the panicked look on Zac's face, she frowned and asked in a suspicious voice, "What's the matter? Why are you so anxious?"

Zac released a slight sigh. His tense features disappeared from his face in an instant. He breathed out another long sigh of relief.

Patricia frowned as she looked at Zac quickly making his way up to her.

"What's the matter? Did something happen?"

"No, everything's alright." Smiling, Zac shook his head. He didn't want her to know just how worried he was. Just now, when he saw that Patricia was gone from her bed, his mind had gone wild with possible scenarios and he was truly terrified for her well-being. He sheepishly realized that he had overreacted, but he couldn't let Patricia know just how worried he had been just now.

Chapter 458 Anika's Trap

Patricia felt confounded as she noticed the look on Zac's face. She couldn't help but look at him warily as she asked him in a low voice, "Did you think I disappeared?"

An embarrassed smile appeared on his lips. Although Zac didn't answer, his eyes betrayed him.

Seeing the expression on Zac's face, Patricia knew that her guess was correct. She glared at him and said, "Are you for real? I didn't disappear. I just had diarrhea." Displeased, she patted Zac's shoulder.

Seeing the look in her eyes, Zac couldn't help but feel ashamed of himself. Giving off an awkward laugh, he quietly told her, "I was just worried about you."

"You overthink a lot." With a gloomy face, Patricia let out a sigh.

Zac didn't want to worry Patricia with his paranoid thoughts, so he decided to keep them to himself and deal with Anika without bothering Patricia.

Although Patricia could sense that he was hiding something from her, she decided to let it go when she saw his expression. Even if she were to ask him, she knew that he wouldn't tell her.

"Well, let's not talk about this. Have you solved the problem?" Patricia asked, diverting the topic to avoid making Zac upset.

"It's settled. Don't worry. It was just a small matter," Zac said casually as if it was really a trifle.

However, Patricia could tell by the look of distress in his eyes that it was not a trivial matter or else he wouldn't have such an emotion manifested in his eyes.

Nevertheless, Patricia nodded slightly and said in a soft voice, "Good." A bright smile appeared on her face.

As Zac saw her beam radiantly, he breathed a sigh of relief. He felt relieved that she didn't notice anything.

Then the two began to make small talk. After that, Zac got an urgent call about something that had happened in Reynolds Group, and he was needed back, so he left for the company.

Not long after Zac had left, an unexpected guest arrived. With an arrogant and proud look, Anika slowly walked up towards Petricie.

Seeing the smug look on her face, Petricie couldn't help but frown as she asked her, "Miss Curtis, what do you want from me this time?"

"Nothing. I just came to see you." Instead of looking at Petricie, Anika casually looked around as if she

was observing something.

Anike's calculating expression gave Petricie an unpleasant feeling about her visit. She thought that Anike must be there to spy on something.

"I appreciate your kindness. If you don't have anything else to say, please leave. I have to rest." Petricie couldn't care less about Anike.

She was no fool. She knew that Anike wouldn't visit her for no reason. Petricie could tell that she had something up her sleeve, and all she wanted was for her to leave.

Anike smiled brightly as she heard Petricie, but she decided not to pay heed to it at all.

"Don't be so nervous, Miss Sempson. How can you treat a guest like this?" Anike scoffed.

Petricie icily glared at Anike while maintaining her calm posture. "I have always been polite with my guests. But you ought to understand that there are different types of guests. Some of them are friends and some foes. I don't treat them the same way." She raised her chin slightly and stared into Anike's eyes fearlessly.

It was clear that Anike understood that Petricie was referring to her as a foe.

"I am afraid you have misunderstood me. I'm not your enemy, but your friend. Business partner, to be more specific," Anike said, emphasizing each word as she slowly drew closer to Petricie. A trace of sternness was evident in her eyes.

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Patricia couldn't help but chuckle. No matter what Anika was up to, Patricia was sure that she and Anika couldn't ever become friends.

"You are good at joking." Patricia wasn't bothered by Anika's words at all.

Hearing her words, Anika smiled faintly. She had expected this from Patricia. Anika knew that Patricia was not easy to deal with, so she needed to use some tricks to trap her.

"It's okay. I think I can solve the misunderstandings between you and me," Anika said with a confident smile.

Upon hearing this, Patricia frowned and stared at Anika. A soft smile appeared on her face. No matter what antic Anika played, she wouldn't let her win.

Staring at Patricia, Anika smiled and said, "It seems that this is it for today's conversation. I'll visit you some other day." She gave off a proud smile and left.

Before Patricia could say anything, Anika suddenly stopped at the door. As if thinking of something, she said, "By the way, you still remember your family business, correct? Patricia, if you need any help, come to me, and I will try my best to aid you."

Then, she left briskly, leaving no chance for Patricia to speak.

Perplexed, Patricia couldn't help but furrow her brows. She did not understand what Anika was hinting at.

"Family business? What did she mean?" Patricia felt oddly dreadful hearing Anika's words as if something terrible was about to happen.

Patricia raised her hand to her chest, trying to calm herself down. She didn't know what to do. She just wanted to run after Anika and question her.

But she knew that it was a trap. If she rushed up, she would fall into Anika's trap and then troubles were likely to follow.

[Chapter 459 Let's Cooperate](#)

With that in mind, Patricia calmed down, yet she still felt a little strange. 'There must be a reason why Anika suddenly came here. She probably wants something from me.'

After taking a few deep breaths, Patricia finally managed to compose herself and made up her mind. 'No matter what Anika tells me, I will not let it affect me. Besides, I already know what this woman wants from me,' she thought.

"Anika must have an ulterior motive. It's best to proceed with caution," Patricia murmured, looking quite serious.

What Anika told her just now was still running on her mind, especially the fact that Anika mentioned the Sampson family's business. Patricia was well aware that the company had been acquired by the Reynolds Group already.

'Since Anika mentioned it, I'm sure she has some hidden meaning behind this. I'm just not certain what it could be,' Patricia thought.

After Anika left Patricia's ward, she didn't leave the hospital yet. Instead, she went to Kareem's ward.

Upon seeing her, a trace of displeasure swept across his face. "Miss Curtis, what do you want?" Kareem spoke in such an estranged manner, making it seem like they were strangers.

Anika pursed her lips. Her face was riddled with frustration, but she quickly covered it up with a smile. She approached him, putting on a kind face and said, "Mr. Reynolds, don't you think you're being a bit rude to your guest?"

"Not really. You're not my guest," Kareem replied, casting her a cold glance. It seemed as though he didn't take her seriously at all.

Naturally, Anika understood his meaning. It was obvious that he merely saw her as some sort of bad omen.

But in spite of that, Anika remained calm. She didn't take his words to heart. She just sat down, leisurely smiling at him and showing him no sign of hostility.

"Mr. Reynolds, do you remember the cooperation I mentioned before?" Anika asked.

"I do," Kareem uttered. It appeared that he didn't want to interact with Anika at all. No matter how tempting her offer could be, he still wished to win Patricia's heart through his own ways.

Upon noticing the look in his eyes, Anika snickered. She tapped on her cheek with her finger, and said, "Ah, Mr. Reynolds, try not to dismiss my offer so soon! You still haven't even heard what I'm about to say."

Kereem sneered at her remark. He just glared at her and said, "I don't want to hear it. I already have a vague idea what you have in mind, so don't waste your breath." After he said that, he gestured her to leave at once.

Upon seeing how he reacted, a devilish grin appeared on Anika's lips. Her eyes became sharper as she said, "I can tell that you're not in the mood to negotiate right now, so I'll leave you alone. But if you somehow change your mind, you're welcome to speak to me at your discretion." With that, she nodded at him and smiled confidently, before standing up and strutting away.

Despite her confidence in herself, Kereem still didn't take her words seriously. 'Whatever that woman's purpose may be, it doesn't matter to me. The only thing I need to worry about is winning Patricia's heart. I don't have time, nor care, for anything else.'

In spite of being refused over and over, Anika didn't seem fazed by it. She had already expected this would happen.

A faint smile appeared on her lips, making it seem like she was scheming something. Perhaps she thought that everything was under her control.

After leaving the hospital, Anika drove to the coffee shop in the suburbs, where there were only a few people inside.

Upon seeing her target, she quickly approached him and wore a smug smile. "My goodness, Mr. Reynolds! Why did you pick the place this far?"

"It's a precaution. I need to be certain that nobody will see us," Johnny replied. When he saw the smile on her face, he raised his eyebrow at her.

"So, how did everything go today?" He had been concerned about Kereem and Zec ever since he agreed to cooperate with Anika.

It wasn't that he didn't want to sully his hands; it was just that he knew his sons well enough. He knew that if he were to do something even remotely drastic in their eyes, they would probably fall out with him.

When Anika saw his reaction, she chuckled. "It's still not done. Zec refused me blatantly, and Patricia and Kereem are both insistent on their beliefs."

Kareem sneered at her remark. He just glared at her and said, "I don't want to hear it. I already have a vague idea what you have in mind, so don't waste your breath." After he said that, he gestured her to leave at once.

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Johnny didn't seem happy to hear that. He thought that Anika would've made progress by now, considering how confident she was of herself.

Upon seeing the disdain on his face, Anika felt dissatisfied and it was obvious on her face. Truthfully, she knew that Johnny only agreed to work with her because this was his only option.

This had been clear to her from the very start, so she had to endure the displeasure she was feeling.

With that in mind, Anika put on her usual confident smile, and said, "No need to worry, Mr. Reynolds. Everything is still within my control. Trust me, it's only a matter of time until Patricia and Kareem come to me." The complacency on her face made it seem like she really did have everything under control. She thought that Kareem and Patricia were merely her pawns in this game.

Johnny still appeared to be hesitant, but he chose to believe Anika for now. He nodded and said, "If you say so. Just tell me if anything out of the ordinary happens." After saying that, he took a sip of his coffee, still looking displeased about this.

Upon seeing the way he reacted, Anika puckered her lips and felt dissatisfied. She already knew what he meant. Clearly, he looked down upon her.

Fortunately, she managed to compose herself after a few deep breaths. She suppressed her anger and smiled.

"Mr. Reynolds, all you need to do is wait for my good news. Be patient," Anika said in a flattering voice. If it weren't for the fact that she would see Johnny more often after her plan worked, she wouldn't be so humble before him.

'When this is all over, I'm going to let Johnny suffer. But right now, I need to stifle my anger. I have more important matters to do right now,' she thought.

"I will be waiting for your news; good news, I hope," Johnny remarked, clearly showing his disdain for Anika. Right after he spoke, he stood up and left without another word.

Anika saw the look on his face, but she tried her best to hide her displeasure with a bright smile. She made it seem like she was unaware of his contempt towards her.

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Looking at Johnny's receding figure, Anika couldn't keep the anger from her face. She bit her lower lip and snorted.

"Johnny, where the hell do you take the guts to be so arrogant? You'll be shocked by what I'm going to do. I'd watch my back if I were you."

If it wasn't for the fact that she really needed Johnny's help, Anika wouldn't have been so unctuous.

She let out a loud snort of contempt, her face looking quite ferocious.

Anika took a sip of coffee and anyone looking at her would think she was indifferent. But her sharp eyes were calculating and vicious.

After drinking the coffee, she stood up and left quickly. When she was out of the coffee shop, she took a deep breath. Looking at the outside with a sharp look, she smiled smugly.

Then she picked up her speed, went on her way, and didn't take Johnny seriously.

After handling the company's affairs, Zac quickly came back to Patricia.

When Patricia told Zac that Anika had visited her, his face changed completely.

"What's wrong? Did I say something wrong? Why do you look so awful?" Patricia blinked her eyes and looked at Zac suspiciously.

When Zac saw the worried look in her eyes, he pursed his lips and said gently, "Nothing. Don't worry. I'm just worried that Anika might do something bad to you."

He gave her a faint smile to confirm his words, while looking at her with such tenderness on his face.

Patricia bit her lower lip as she thought of what Zac said. After all, Anika was a vicious woman. No one knew the type of horrible thing she could do and the impact it could cause.

"Okay, I see. But you should be careful around her. It seems that Anika is seriously plotting something," Patricia said nervously.

Patricia didn't know Anika's real purpose and motivation. She also didn't know what tricks she was going to play this time, but her instincts never failed her, and right now, her instincts told that Anika must be plotting something.

"Don't worry, Patricia. I will be careful and whatever Anika's plans are, they won't work," Zac said firmly, as though he was equally trying to convince himself. Patricia could see the determination in his eyes.

Because of this, she nodded slightly and finally let a soft smile appear on her face. She looked at Zac gently, and then reached out with her hands to touch his shoulders.

"Zac, be careful and protect yourself, okay?" Patricia was so worried about his safety that she couldn't keep the concerned look off her face.

When Zac noticed how concerned she was, he couldn't hide his joy. It clearly made itself known on his face. He unconsciously broke away from her and pulled her into a hug.

"Patricia..." Zac whispered her name in a low voice that sounded choked with emotions.

Though she nodded to answer her name, hearing it from his lips made her flush bright red. Without necessarily meaning to, she approached Zac and rested her head on his shoulder.

Loving how affectionate she was, a touch of excitement flashed across Zec's face. His thin lips moved, but he was too excited to say anything that could sound reasonable.

He felt that they were getting closer to each other than before, which was a good thing for Zec.

He himself couldn't describe his happiness at that moment with what was happening.

Zec's mind went blank. He was so excited that every other thing escaped his thoughts, and he didn't know what to say.

Petricia noticed that there was something wrong with him. Stunned and confused by what was going on, she asked him lightly, "Is something wrong with you? You seem to be rather very excited, and I'm confused."

"How on earth am I not supposed to be excited at a time like this?" Zec answered her and took a deep breath, hoping that Patricia could understand him and feel his love for her.

He couldn't curb his excitement. In the past, Patricia would have never told him these things, nor acted this way. But now, it was different because she had said everything she had in mind. It had to mean that he was closer to her now, right?

However, his words stunned Patricia for a while, and she was waiting for Zec's explanation. She wanted to know why he was so excited. To her, she saw no reason that could warrant such excitement.

Zec coughed and asked her seriously, "Do you really need me to explain it to you? Shouldn't I be happy and excited when you finally open up your heart to me?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Zec started laughing, his happiness could simply not be destroyed.

Apparently, Zec's laughter was contagious, because when Patricia heard him, she also burst into laughter. His words amused her. How could he be so happy because of something so little? She had never seen him acting like that before, and it really surprised her.

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This was the first time that Patricia was feeling so wonderful.

She had always thought that Zac was a withdrawn man. But after getting along with him, she realized that he only showed his true self to the people around him. He was just like a child that would get happy for every little thing.

As she thought of this, Patricia continued laughing. She now mirrored Zac's happiness.

"I didn't expect to ever see this side of you." Patricia chuckled, still looking at him with tenderness in her eyes.

A happy smile appeared on Zac's again as he looked at Patricia's soft eyes. As though he was being pulled to do it, he raised his head and kissed her forehead. "As long as I'm with you, I'm happy."

The blush on Patricia's face deepened and spread to her neck. Was it possible to be this happy under normal circumstances?

Those were the most romantic words Patricia had ever heard. A sense of warmth engulfed her whole being. Raising the corners of her mouth slightly, she afforded to give him a faint smile.

They were so immersed in their romance that they didn't notice someone standing outside the door, his eyes full of anger. He wanted to rush up and act, but he clenched his fists hard, as if he was trying to suppress his impulses.

Staring blankly at the scene in front of him, Kareem felt a pang of pain in his heart. He wanted to move, but it was as though he was rooted to the spot. He looked straight at Zac and Patricia, as though he could see through them.

Kareem didn't know how long he had been standing there. But it was only when he felt tired and couldn't take it anymore that he turned around and slowly walked away.

Listlessly, as though a great misfortune had befallen him, Kareem walked towards the stairs step by step.

His spirits were very low at this moment. He didn't know what to do. What could he even do? His gentle eyes became empty and lost their light.

"What the hell am I even doing? Is this how I'm going to win Patricia over?" Kareem murmured and laughed at himself.

As the images of all what he had done these days for her moved about in his mind, Kareem felt like he had made an awful fool of himself.

Sometimes, he thought he was a fool, stubbornly waiting for no reason at all. He truly didn't understand why he was unwilling to give up.