

Remarry 521

[Chapter 521 Anika's Anger](#)

Johnny was so infuriated by Patricia's expression that he glared at her and snorted with disdain.

"Patricia, do you really believe that you can be with Zac? That's impossible!" Johnny enunciated harshly, gasping for air.

He then pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

"How is everything going?" Johnny spoke coldly as if talking to a subordinate.

"Mr. Reynolds, why are you behaving so anxiously?" His question didn't annoy Anika. Instead, she chuckled and got straight to the point. "Don't worry. When the time comes, I'll show you the plan. As long as we're in agreement, we can proceed immediately."

With this bit of good news, Johnny's mood brightened slightly. And if Anika couldn't get this done, he wouldn't let her go.

Seeming to have sensed what Johnny was thinking, Anika kept calm and said with a smile, "Mr. Reynolds, don't worry. We are allies now; I know what you want!"

"Then get it done!" Johnny snapped. He didn't like Anika very much.

Anika had chosen her career over Zac back then, which led to them breaking up. Thus, it could be seen that she wasn't a pure woman.

Furthermore, Anika wanted to get back together with Zac now. However, even if Zac were willing to get back together with her, Johnny would dissuade her.

Johnny knew how the Curtis family operated. The Curtis Group was constantly trying to merge with the Reynolds Group. If it weren't for Zac, who held the Reynolds Group together and expanded its business, the Curtis family might have gotten what they wanted.

"Mr. Reynolds!" Anika's eyes widened in displeasure. She was well aware that Johnny had never liked her. But now that they were allies, he should have shown her due respect.

Johnny remained calm and composed when he heard this. He couldn't help but smile coldly.

"Let's stop arguing. We'll discuss what you want after you get this done." Johnny hung up the phone once he was finished speaking, leaving Anika no chance to speak.

Turning his attention now towards the Skyline Corp building, an indescribable expression crossed his face as if he was deep in thought. Looking over at the driver, he then ordered him to drive.

Anika stomped her feet angrily in the office. She was furious that Johnny had rudely hung up on her.

Regardless of the type of feud or commercial conflict between the Reynolds family and the Curtis family, now that they were cooperating, they had common interests.

Thus, Johnny should have treated her with respect. But this whole time, he had been acting condescendingly in front of her, which pissed her off.

"Who do you think you are? Johnny, if I didn't need your help..." Anika muttered coldly, her beautiful eyes full of rage. She squeezed the phone tightly in her hand as if venting her anger.

Taking a deep breath, she tried to calm herself. But a trace of anger flashed across her face as if she was about to snap.

The fact that Johnny disrespected her, again and again, made her furious. She held on to that grudge in her heart, but now, she didn't think she could tolerate his attitude anymore.

However, Anika calmed down moments after.

"Johnny Reynolds, you are lucky I need your help! By the time my plan succeeds, you will see!" Biting her lower lip, Anika stared straight ahead.

Shortly after, a crisp knock could be heard on the door. Masking her murderous intent, Anika regained her usual approachable, bright and beautiful self.

"Come in." Smiling faintly, Anika appeared to be in a good mood.

Seeing Anika's expression, the secretary who entered breathed a sigh of relief. Placing the document on Anika's desk, she said softly, "Miss Curtis, this is the information you requested." The secretary then bowed respectfully, spun around, and silently made her exit.

Anika made her way to her desk, leafed through the document, and discovered something she could use. A sweet smile blossomed on her lips.

"This is exactly as I thought! This time, it appears I will be victorious." Anika couldn't hide the smile that lit up her face and the determination that shone in her eyes. She was certain to win this time.

Smiling faintly, she couldn't help but chuckle. A trace of expectation laced her face, and she couldn't wait to see what transpired from this.

At this time, Patricia had returned home after shopping at the grocery and had begun cooking for Zac.

Today, she planned on making braised fish, roasted chicken, and some salad. This was Zac's favorite

food, so she knew he would enjoy this meal.

A gentle smile appeared on her face. Patricia wanted to use her cooking as a means to replenish Zac's energy. Since she couldn't help him much at work, she decided to prepare his favorite meal to help him unwind.

Humming, Patricia was busy in the kitchen when suddenly, the doorbell rang. Frowning, she wondered who was at her door.

Upon opening her door, she found Jack and Sonia standing outside. Smiling broadly, she said, "Why are you both here all of a sudden?"

"We were in the neighborhood, so we thought we'd stop by to visit you and Zac," Jack answered casually and raised his eyebrows at Sonia, hinting at something.

Feeling embarrassed, Sonia quickly lowered her head, her face flushed. She wanted to say something but stopped herself. She was unsure of how to say this.

Frowning, Patricia felt confused when she saw Sonia's expression. Looking from Jack to Sonia, she thought Jack would speak instead, but he was still hinting to Sonia to talk.

Patricia couldn't help laughing. Glaring at them, she asked, "What are you two doing? What's the matter? Just tell me!" She smiled gently at them.

[Chapter 522 Attended The Wedding](#)

Seeing the friendly look on Patricia's face, Sonia was worried for a moment. She pursed her lips and took a careful look at Jack, not knowing exactly what to make of what was happening. Then, she looked back to Patricia with a blush on her face.

"Patricia, here's the thing. Jack and I decided to get married at the end of this month. Will you be free to be there?" She looked at Patricia expectantly. Though she was asking the question, it was obvious she only wanted to hear a positive response from Patricia.

Patricia was stunned by the sudden news. She looked at Jack and Sonia suspiciously. Her eyes were full of questions.

If Patricia remembered correctly, Jack had said that he was going to be engaged to Sonia at the end of this month. He hadn't mentioned marriage yet. What must have happened to make them want to get married so suddenly? Surely, it was a last-minute decision, and the reason behind it eluded her.

Patricia swallowed her numerous questions and looked at the couple carefully. Her face showed the extent of her confusion. But instead of asking all the questions she wanted to, she settled on the most eminent and asked doubtfully, "Why have your plans suddenly changed? I thought you said you were

going to get engaged first. Correct me if I'm wrong."

"Well..." Jack frowned with embarrassment. He didn't know which words to use to explain it. It looked like something had gone wrong, or maybe just a setback. Either one, he was finding it difficult to express himself.

Seeing the look on Jack's face, Sonia pouted unhappily. "You explain to Patricia. After all, I was the one who did the job of inviting her."

Jack looked down at Sonia, scratched the back of his head awkwardly and smiled sheepishly at Patricia. "Well, I was going to get engaged. But then, I have to be responsible for her and our child. So I thought it best to change the engagement party to a wedding ceremony instead."

Patricia was a little surprised hearing this. Whatever she had been expecting to hear wasn't close to what she just heard. With her eyes wide open for some extra seconds, she recovered from the shock of the news and chuckled.

"What? Really? Congratulations! Well, if that's the case, of course you have to get married. Why did you have to take so long to say it?" Patricia grinned from ear to ear as she spoke. When she was just about to shake hands with Jack and Sonia to congratulate them, a burning smell hit her nose. She paused for a brief second, then screamed when she realized where the smell was from. Immediately, she turned around and rushed into the kitchen.

Seeing Patricia's reaction, Jack and Sonia smiled at each other and walked into the house.

"Why don't you guys take a seat first? I'm going to cook something for us. Stay for dinner tonight, please." As she turned her back to walk out, Patricia saw Jack and Sonia come in behind her. "So, what do you want to eat?"

Jack quickly listed a lot of dishes as though he had been waiting for her to ask. He would have certainly kept going if Sonia didn't land a gentle slap on his face.

"Oh, my God! How could a guest behave so shamelessly? You really embarrassed me!"

"How dare you hit me? I'm going to teach you a lesson! I won't let you get out of this one," Jack said unhappily, with his lips jutting out slightly.

At this, Sonia raised her chin slightly and looked at Jack with a cruel look. He was dreaming if he thought she was going to cower under his threats.

"Do you seriously think that I'm scared of hitting you? But well, if you have enough courage to hit me, just give it a try. Let's see how that will turn out."

Her words were getting Jack so angry that he took a deep breath to calm down. "I won't lower myself to

the same level as you. I'm going to buy something." Immediately he finished, Jack stood up, still staring angrily at Sonia. Then, he turned on his heel and stormed out in a fit of anger.

Patricia chuckled at their antics. To her, Jack and Sonia were a good match. They bickered with each other, and it was fun. Moreover, Patricia could see that Jack really liked Sonia. He had simply pretended to be angry just now. It was obvious to anyone who cared to look, that he really loved Sonia.

Though Jack left angrily, Sonia was the perfect picture of serenity. She looked calm as if nothing had just happened.

"Patricia, please don't mind him. He's always this way. He's going to be fine soon enough," Sonia said with a confident smile.

Patricia nodded slightly and raised the corners of her mouth gently. Of course, she didn't mind. She was sure that Jack must have gone out to buy something to eat.

"Sonia, come on, have a seat. I'll be in the kitchen cooking." Patricia walked to the kitchen, hinting to Sonia that she didn't need to come into the kitchen to help. She could handle it on her own.

Jack came back with Zac just when Patricia had finished cooking. Both men were talking and laughing together.

"You two really look like good old friends," Patricia teased with a gleam of mischief in her bright eyes. Of course, Zac and Jack knew what she was implying.

Not so long ago, Zac and Jack had been as incompatible as fire and water. Whenever they met, they would fight or quarrel. Anyone who didn't know them would have thought them to be sworn enemies.

But now, they shared a good relationship, as though they were two long lost friends, eager to have a few drinks with each other and catch up.

"If it weren't for the things that happened before, we wouldn't have been such good friends now," Zac and Jack answered together, their faces spotting rather bright smiles.

Patricia and Sonia couldn't help but chuckle at this. "What you guys said made actual sense." The two women gave each other meaningful looks, as though they had silently agreed on something.

Seeing the look that passed between Patricia and Sonia, Zac and Jack frowned. "What do the both of you mean? It looks like you don't believe us."

"Oh, come on now, how could we not believe you?" Patricia and Sonia couldn't help snickering. Something was glinting in their eyes. They were certainly enjoying this.

Of course, their snickering made way for Zac and Jack to get suspicious. They looked at Patricia and

Sonia in confusion. "Women are really complicated." Resigned, they looked back to the ladies with helpless expressions.

Both Patricia and Sonia heard what they said and frowned. "What do you mean by that?"

"Nothing!" Zac said immediately with his hands up.

"Absolutely nothing!" Jack exclaimed almost at the same time.

Zac and Jack looked at each other and smiled mischievously, while still shaking their heads innocently.

Left with no choice, Patricia and Sonia just shrugged. Sometimes, they really didn't understand men and the things that left their lips.

Zac and Jack had exactly the same thought. Sometimes, men didn't understand what women said.

Instead of dwelling on it, they brushed passed it. Without saying anything, they heated up the food Jack bought and began to eat.

Everyone enjoyed the meal. Zac and Jack were talking and laughing, while Patricia and Sonia were engaged in a good conversation.

After dinner, they chatted for a while before Jack and Sonia left. At the door, Sonia turned around abruptly, and gave Patricia the invitation.

"Patricia, look at me. I'm so careless that I forgot to give you the invitation. Here you go." Sonia spoke with a sweet smile. Unconsciously, she approached Jack as though her heart knew she needed to be near him.

Seeing how well Jack and Sonia got along made Patricia really happy. She really wished them a happy life.

[Chapter 523 Have A Baby](#)

"Don't worry. We won't miss it for anything." Zac looked at Jack and Sonia with a smile as he spoke. He wanted to give them his blessings.

Zac was very happy that they could get married and were ready for it.

He walked up to Patricia and wrapped his arms around her waist. Then, he sent Jack a wink.

"You must make sure we're well entertained then." It was really rare to see the always cold and indifferent Zac dash out smiles to others.

"Sure, sure! That won't be a problem," Jack said with a bright smile on his face.

Jack raised his eyebrows, trying to say something to Zac. Patricia caught the action, but didn't understand. Zac, on the other hand, understood what Jack meant.

Both men looked at each other and smiled. Of course, this irked Patricia and Sonia. They stared at the two of them, pursed their lips and waited for Zac and Jack to be done with whatever they were doing.

Patricia might be ignorant of what Jack and Zac were talking about, but she was almost certain that it was nothing good.

After Jack and Sonia left, Patricia walked up to Zac and asked out of curiosity, "What was that wink you shot at Jack all about?"

"Well..." Zac started and trailed off playfully. He looked at Patricia with a meaningful look in his deep-set eyes.

A touch of confusion flashed through Patricia's eyes. She didn't know why, but her heart began to beat very fast.

"Zac, what do you want to do? What's on your mind?" Patricia asked suspiciously. She was almost panicking, and she didn't even know why.

The way Zac looked at her honestly made her feel uncomfortable.

He sighed at her reaction. He shook his head and said, "There's no ounce of romantic bone in you." Immediately, he loosened his grip on Patricia's waist, and turned around to leave without saying any other thing.

Patricia frowned and was even losing her temper as he turned his back on her. She glared daggers at his back and said, "Zac, stop! What do you mean by that? Are you saying that I'm not romantic enough?" Patricia gasped angrily. She was really angry.

Zac didn't know it, but he had really hurt her self-esteem. If he thought she was that boring, why did he even bother with her? They should just break up with each other.

The anger he heard in her voice stopped Zac short. He had no idea she was going to be hurt. "I'm just kidding with you." He looked helpless as he stood there looking at her.

The helplessness she saw on Zac's face didn't ease her up. On the contrary, it stoked her anger. She stared at Zac with eyes that burned fiercely with anger. "That's not true! You're not kidding! It's obvious you dislike me and think I'm not good enough."

Patricia turned around so that she wouldn't have to see Zac's face and get even angrier. How she wished she could throw him out!

Zac frowned at how things had turned out in a matter of minutes. He sighed. "No, that's what I meant."

"Then what did you mean, Zac? Come on, tell me!" Patricia was almost screaming.

Zac pursed his lips in thought, and slowly walked up to Patricia. He wrapped his strong arms around her from behind and said close to her ear, "I just think it's time we made a baby. Don't you think so?"

Patricia wasn't expecting anything close to this. She absolutely had no answer to give him. Her eyes went wide and the disbelief could be seen everywhere on her face.

Was that really what he was trying to say? But it didn't seem like it to her.

As she went further into her thoughts, her hands unconsciously went to her belly. She looked down at it and bit her lip nervously.

From the corner of his eye, Zac could see what Patricia was doing. He equally pulled his lower lip between his teeth and bit on it.

Just like Patricia, Zac was also worried about their situation. Although the doctor reassured them that Patricia's body had returned to normal, and that she wouldn't face any difficulties if she had to get pregnant, Zac wasn't at ease. He still worried about her daily. He had decided to talk about this only when Patricia was fully recovered.

But after meeting Jack and Sonia today, Zac changed his mind. He was envious of how happy they were. To top it all, they were so happy and excited for their coming baby.

Zac wouldn't lie and say he wasn't envious of what they were sharing together. He also hoped to have his own child and look forward to its arrival with Patricia.

All of a sudden, Patricia came out of the trance Zac's words had put her in. She looked at Zac with suspicion in her eyes, and parted her lips to say something, but nothing came out.

She was ready to say something when she turned, but when she saw his face, her mind went blank and her words caught in her throat.

Zac couldn't help his laughter when he saw how strangely she was looking at him. When his laughter died down, he explained seriously, "I know you have your own concerns. But don't worry, because the doctor said that you are in good health. If you don't want to have a baby now, I won't force you. I will wait until you are willing and ready for it."

With a gentle smile, Zac looked at Patricia affectionately. Patricia could see how much he cared for her just by staring into his eyes. Slowly, he cupped her cheeks with his warm palms.

"Patricia, I will wait for you until you agree." Every word was spoken with sincerity and affection. And Zac desperately needed Patricia to believe him.

Looking into Zac's eyes, Patricia could only see her own reflection, as if she was the only person that mattered in his world.

She gave him a stiff nod. She couldn't hide the joy from her face.

"Thank you, Zac." The corners of her mouth got soft. She touched Zac's face with her slender hand and stared at him as though she was memorizing his features.

She thought of how Zac always spoiled her. He had never forced her to do anything. Even though she had wanted to go abroad before, he never failed to respect her opinion in any situation.

"You don't have to thank me, Patricia. It's not necessary, you know that," Zac said unhappily. He flicked the tip of her nose and tightened his arms around her. Then, they hugged each other as tightly as they could.

Truth be told, Patricia really appreciated the love and understanding Zac gave her. Sometimes, she didn't know if she really deserved it.

[Chapter 524 Johnny's Warning](#)

"Of course, Zac! I've got to thank you." With a soft smile, Patricia touched Zac's face with her slender hand. She caressed his face, trying to memorize every inch of his skin.

The look in her eyes held Zac in a trance he didn't want to get out of. He bit his lower lip unconsciously. "Are you trying to seduce me, Patricia?"

Patricia stopped her ministrations on Zac's face, and frowned in confusion. "Where's that idea from? I'm not seducing you. I just want to be intimate with you." She smiled.

Zac coughed and asked, "Are you sure about that?" He grabbed Patricia's wrist and got one step closer to her. The corners of his mouth tilted upward slightly and something wicked flashed through his deep-set eyes.

The expression on Zac's face made Patricia realize he didn't buy what she said. She glared at him angrily and exclaimed, "I am really not! I just want to touch your face. So I can't even touch your face now?"

"Of course you can. But naturally, you'll have to take responsibility afterwards." With an evil and attractive smile on his face, Zac couldn't stop himself from slowly taking steps towards Patricia. When he got to her, however, he didn't do anything.

Patricia's eyebrows creased together as she heard what he said. "Really? Are you serious right now?"

She turned her face away immediately, pretending not to know what he was talking about.

Zac laughed at her reaction and pinched Patricia's chin. Not wanting to give her any way out of this, he came to her ear and whispered, "Yes, you should take responsibility." Deciding not to waste even one more second that could change her mood, Zac pressed his lips against hers passionately.

But this time, she wasn't surprised and didn't reject him. Instead, she accepted it happily and returned the kiss with as much passion as him. Without even realizing it, she had already accepted Zac and everything that came with him.

And when Zac decided he wanted to have a child with her, Patricia was so excited that she was incapable of saying anything. Her heart was in such a happy state that all she could manage was a surprised expression.

That was when she realized that Zac was really looking forward to having a child with her, and equally raising the child with her by his side.

Zac didn't know it, but Patricia had been longing for it. She had dreamt about it day after day. But today, when she finally heard those magical words from Zac, she was surprisingly confused on what to do, and how to react.

As she thought about it, she realized that she had overreacted. She was at a loss whether to cry or laugh.

Zac's kiss was so passionate that Patricia couldn't keep up. Soon enough, she was out of breath, and pushed Zac slightly. With eyes that still glazed over, she looked at him and asked, "Zac, was this what you and Jack talked about?"

Slowly, she came back to her senses. Surely, that wink and strange communication between Zac and Jack earlier, was about this.

"You should focus on what is going on here now." Zac went back to kissing Patricia without giving her a chance to breathe. She didn't miss the smile on his face as he did so.

Patricia woke up the next morning to an empty bed and house. Zac had already gone to work. She opened her eyes in a daze, feeling a little bit out of breath. She felt like her body had been pressed by a big stone.

"Zac went too far! He knows that I always suffer afterwards, but he still permits himself to act this way," she grumbled to herself and humped. Naturally, a blush spread across Patricia's face, though she was grumbling. Although she felt a little shy to admit it, Zac had indeed been crazy in bed last night.

She stretched herself on the bed and quickly got up, deciding that she had wasted too much time already. She washed her face, brushed her teeth, changed into proper clothes, and rushed to work.

Her mind focused on getting to work, Patricia unexpectedly bumped into Johnny. And just like that, her good mood was ruined.

Ignoring him, Patricia turned around and took a taxi. Unfortunately, Johnny's driver stopped her. She didn't want to talk to Johnny, but now, she had no other choice.

"Mr. Reynolds, in case you've not noticed, I have to get to work, and I'm in a haste. If you have anything to say, just do so quickly," Patricia said, sounding very annoyed. With a cold face, she gave Johnny a death stare.

Johnny looked rather calm and even relaxed. He smiled and said gently, "Don't worry about that. I've spoken to your CEO, and he is willing to give you a leave." He looked so composed and calm. Clearly, he didn't take Patricia seriously.

His words and his particularly smug attitude got her furious. She didn't expect Johnny to have so much power, to the extent that, he could call Naylor and ask for leave on her behalf.

"Well then, say what you have to say and don't waste our time." Patricia wasn't bothering to hide her anger anymore, because it was simmering quite close to its limits. She raised her chin slightly and waited for him. She really didn't want an argument, especially with him.

Johnny could almost see all her anger, emotions and thoughts on her face, but it didn't unsettle him. Instead, he looked calm and composed. He chuckled and said, "Actually, it's very simple, Patricia. I don't need to say anything. I think you understand."

"I'm sorry, but I'm not a mind reader. I really don't know what you're trying to say," Patricia answered in a cold tone, still fixing the man with a cold stare.

Patricia actually understood what he meant. But she wouldn't let him get away with it so easily. He was going to say it loud and clear.

The old man had dared to spoil her good mood. She would be crazy if she let him have the last laugh.

Finally, Johnny lost his perfect calm and sneered. He glared at Patricia and ground out between gritted teeth, "What do you mean by you don't know? Are you playing dumb with me, Patricia?"

Seeing that she had succeeded in getting him worked up, Patricia said coldly, "Mr. Reynolds, I do understand what you mean. But I can tell you right now, that I won't leave Zac. Just forget about it."

Patricia was very honest in her wording, and spoke with the determination of a woman who knew what she wanted.

This got Johnny angry. He looked at Patricia with disdain and said, "Patricia, who do you even think you

are? You don't deserve to marry into the Reynolds family!"

"Well, that conclusion is not up to you, but up to Zac. And since he doesn't think that way, I think that solves this problem, don't you?" Now, Patricia was the one smiling rather brightly. She wasn't taking Johnny seriously at all.

Johnny was the one frowning and glaring now. Fiercely, he said, "Patricia, since you want to remain so stubborn, don't blame me for being rude and for what's to come. The Sampson family's business will be destroyed!"

[Chapter 525 Don't Bother](#)

Patricia was stunned to hear this. Biting her lower lip, she looked at Johnny as a trace of anger flashed across her face. She wasn't sure how to respond.

However, she could see the determination and seriousness written on Johnny's face, leading her to believe that his words held truth.

This realization made Patricia angrier. Glaring at Johnny, she snapped, "Mr. Reynolds, don't go too far. You're pushing me too hard." Her anger was clear as day on her face.

Johnny couldn't help but laugh at her expression. He looked at her with disdain and said gently, "Really? There's nothing wrong with me. You just don't know how to behave yourself!" After saying this, he sneered at her.

Infuriated, Patricia gasped angrily. Staring at Johnny, she said, "Mr. Reynolds, I know what you've been thinking, but..."

"No buts. As long as you promise you'll leave Zac, I will return the Sampson family's property to you," Johnny confidently replied with a smile on his face. He tilted his chin slightly upward, and his eyes were full of contempt.

Aware of how tempting the conditions he laid out were, Johnny was sure Patricia would agree. Moreover, considering her humble status, he had shown her mercy.

Glaring at him, Patricia bit her lower lip tightly. Before he could say anything more, she interjected, "Mr. Reynolds, do you seriously think that you can threaten me? The Sampson family's business belongs to Zac now. Don't think that I'm unaware of this!"

She wasn't entirely sure about this. But she believed in Zac from the bottom of her heart and was sure that he would take care of it.

Sneering, Johnny looked at her disdainfully. "It appears that you only know part of the story and not all of the details!" He continued to glare at her with disdain, his sharp gaze focused on Patricia.

Frowning, Patricia bit her lower lip, her face full of anger. For a moment, she was rendered speechless, unable to oppose what Johnny said.

She knew what Johnny said was reasonable. Truthfully, she didn't much of the details, but she believed in Zac unconditionally.

She believed in Zac's character, ability, and promise.

Taking a deep breath, Patricia returned to her usual aloofness. Looking at Johnny, she said softly, "Mr. Reynolds, today's conversation is over. There's no need for us to discuss this further." She then spun around and swiftly made her exit. She didn't want to argue with him.

Johnny's face seethed with anger as he watched Patricia's receding figure. Exhaling deeply, he wished he could pull her back and teach her a lesson.

But as he was about to do just that, a low, domineering voice growled from behind, stunning him.

"Don't take things too far. Stop being so ruthless, or don't blame me for being rude!" Johnny hadn't noticed when Zac had appeared behind him.

Looking back, he saw an angry Zac. Frowning, Johnny stared unhappily at him and asked, "Zac, I am your father. How dare you speak to me like I'm a stranger?" Infuriated and unable to vent his anger, Johnny believed that Patricia was the cause of this.

Zac's deep-set eyes were filled with coldness as he slowly asked, "Do you really think of yourself as my father? Have you ever given me the so-called fatherly love since I was a child?"

Zac knew the answer before Johnny could respond. His father had never loved him. Not even slightly.

Zac bore no grudge against him for this. He was merely stating the truth.

As an illegitimate child, Zac had never been treated well. Undoubtedly, if it wasn't for his grandfather, Johnny wouldn't have taken him back to the Reynolds family or recognized him as a son.

Although Zac was displeased with Johnny, he normally endured it. Furthermore, despite the fact that he wasn't a good father, he didn't make things difficult for Zac and gave him all kinds of opportunities, which worked in Zac's favor.

Now, however, Zac wouldn't allow Johnny to hurt Patricia. Regardless of what Johnny thought, he had no intentions of giving up on Patricia.

Smiling coldly, Zac looked at Johnny and warned, "Don't bother me!" He turned around and left after saying that.

If Naylor hadn't informed him, Zac wouldn't have known that Johnny had come to Patricia. But seeing her leave safely made Zac unwilling to continue arguing with Johnny.

Johnny was enraged by Zac's words. With a face full of anger, he exhaled deeply. "Zac is obsessed with Patricia! He doesn't know how to take the interests of the whole into account."

This thought angered Johnny so much that his chest heaved violently leaving him struggling for breath.

To calm himself, he took a few deep breaths as his sharp gaze focused on Zac's retreating figure.

"Zac, I'll never allow you to be with Patricia. Even if that's what you want, I won't let you have your way," Johnny muttered, with a hint of viciousness in his eyes.

He didn't think that Patricia was not good enough for Zac in the past. He even thought that Zac should count himself lucky to have married her.

His impression of Patricia was that she was a reasonable and sensible person. But now it seemed that he had overestimated her. Johnny's good impression of her previously had disappeared without a trace, and the mere thought of her now upset him.

"Patricia, let's see if you can remain with Zac or not!" Johnny said indifferently. In his anger, he couldn't help biting his lower lip and silently motioned to the driver to drive.

Having returned to the company, Patricia realized she was in a sour mood. Meeting with Johnny that morning and listening to what he had to say put her in a foul mood.

However, to her surprise, as soon as she returned to the company, Naylor called her over, which depressed her even more.

"Sir, what can I do for you?" Patricia asked softly. She had a polite smile plastered on her lips, but a trace of displeasure flashed across her face. She couldn't help but purse her pink lips tightly.

[Chapter 526 Give Me Some Time](#)

Naylor's expression was calm and relaxed despite noticing the look on Patricia's face. With a smile, he asked, "So, how's it going? Did Mr. Reynolds pick on you today?" There was a teasing expression on his face.

Patricia frowned and couldn't help but send him a glare in response. "You knew Johnny was looking for me, didn't you? Why—"

"Yes, but I told Zac about it. Didn't he come to your rescue?" Naylor asked, looking at her in confusion.

Patricia paused for a moment, peering at him with slight suspicion in her eyes. "You told Zac about it?"

Naylor nodded with a serious expression. "Yeah. Didn't he show up? Or was Mr. Reynolds already gone when he arrived?"

Patricia sighed quietly, her expression turning somber. She really didn't want to talk about what happened.

"I'm sorry, but let's not talk about this any further. I already said what I needed to say to Johnny, and I don't care what he thinks about me," Patricia said, voice cold and aloof. Her mood became even more unpleasant when she noticed the smug expression on Naylor's face.

Meanwhile, Naylor just smiled and nodded slightly. "Oh, is that so? I thought for a moment there that something interesting would happen. Turns out I was wrong."

Patricia's jaw clenched tightly and she forced herself to take a deep breath to calm herself. She didn't want to argue with Naylor anymore, so she turned around and was about to leave the room.

Naylor saw the look on her face. "Come on, don't be angry," he said lightly in a casual tone. "I was just joking with you."

Was he being serious right now? It was plainly obvious that she was not in the mood to kid around with him.

She knew that Naylor always liked to make fun of her, but right now was definitely not a good time for that. How could he even have the gall to joke with her at this moment?

"Sir, I would like to please ask you to mind your words," Patricia told him as calmly as she could, her gaze serious and firm.

Naylor simply shrugged, looking like he didn't think it was such a big deal. "And I told you, I was just kidding. Don't mind it too much, okay? Oh, and by the way, bring this document to Zac for me."

"I'm sorry, but you'd better ask someone else to do that," Patricia said stiffly. It wasn't because of Johnny that she refused to do so, but because she just didn't want to see Zac's face right now. She needed some time to think first and calm down.

Naylor looked at her in surprise. "You don't want to see Zac? If he knows about this, I think he would be very sad," he said with a shake of his head, looking like he was indeed feeling sorry for Zac.

Patricia frowned a little and let out a sigh. It was true, though; if Zac knew about this, he would definitely feel hurt.

"All right. I'll do it." Patricia stepped forward and took the document from Naylor's hand, glaring at him one last time before turning around and leaving the room.

Naylor watched her go, his lips curved upwards in amusement as her angry expression popped up in his head.

"I think something interesting is about to happen." He then took a sip of his coffee, the smile never fading from his face.

With the document in her hand, Patricia went on her way to Reynolds Group. When Zac's secretary saw the furious look on Patricia's face, she didn't dare to stop her.

As soon as Patricia walked into Zac's office, he instantly saw her angry expression and frowned at the sight. "What happened? Did somebody make you angry?"

"It's nothing," Patricia said frostily, turning her head away and refusing to look at him.

Zac blinked, looking puzzled at her behavior. "Nothing really happened?" he asked.

"Yes! I already told you that!" she snapped.

"Then give me a smile."

Patricia was silent for a brief moment before forcing a smile on her face. Zac noticed her reluctance and instantly knew that something must have happened.

With a long, helpless sigh, he stood up and walked towards her. Moving closer, he reached out and held her in his arms comfortingly.

"Tell me. What happened?"

His voice was so light and gentle like a spring breeze. Even though Patricia was very upset, the moment she heard his soft voice, she eventually calmed down, feeling warmth and reassurance in her heart.

"Your father came to see me today," Patricia said quietly, leaning against his chest.

Zac smiled faintly as he heard her words. He had already known about this, so he wasn't surprised. Stroking her hair gently, he stayed silent, waiting for her to finish speaking.

"Your father wants me to leave you in exchange for giving me Sampson family's property," Patricia said slowly.

Zac frowned deeply, his eyes narrowing in surprise. He took a deep breath as if preparing to say something, but his mouth didn't open to make a sound.

He felt a little sad after hearing what she said, but after thinking about it for a while, he chose to wait for her answer to Johnny's request.

"I didn't say yes," Patricia said. "And we had a fight."

She then looked up at him with curious, anxious eyes, wanting to know what he thought about it.

Zac smiled at her gently and bent over to kiss her on the forehead. "Do you trust me, Patricia?"

Patricia nodded silently, a sincere expression coming over her face. "Yes, I trust you."

Her voice was very serious when she said this.

Zac smiled broadly and pressed a kiss against her forehead again. "Remember what you've said, Patricia," he said softly. "Don't worry and just trust me."

Patricia nodded without a word and was about to talk when Zac suddenly spoke once more.

"Give me some time. I promise you I'll find a way to fix this," Zac said in a firm tone and held her tightly in his arms as though he never wanted to let her go.

[Chapter 527 Work Here](#)

Patricia nodded in delight and put her head on Zac's shoulder, a sweet smile spreading on her face.

She understood that this was the kind of man Zac was. He would always figure everything out first and solve all problems that were in the way before he'd come to her.

"I believe you, Zac. I know that we can get through anything as long as we're together," Patricia said sincerely, her voice filled with love and trust.

Zac's face lit up with happiness in response, his head swooping down to press a kiss against her forehead. "That means everything to me, Patricia. As long as you believe in me, I promise I will give you a satisfying answer."

He then gave a smile that warmed her heart.

Patricia nodded, looking into Zac's eyes with a soft smile. She could clearly see how much he loved her.

However, a sudden thought came to her mind, and she turned her head towards the document on the table. "Well, that's what Naylor asked me to deliver to you," she whispered. "It must be important. Now, I need to go back to work."

"Important? There's nothing in it, though," Zac said casually, a smile playing on his lips.

Patricia blinked in confusion. With a frown, she got out of his arms and took the document to see for herself.

When she opened the file, she saw that there was a project plan inside, but it seemed a little familiar. Peering at the time signed on the paper, she was speechless when she realized that it was an old project.

"You two..." Patricia turned her head and looked at Zac with a scowl.

Zac immediately raised his hands in a form of surrender. "I didn't have anything to do with it! I don't think you know about this, but you actually gave this same file to me twice. I was curious why Naylor wanted to send me the same document repeatedly, so I called and asked him about it."

"What did he say?" Patricia said, her voice cold with anger.

She suspected that it must have been Naylor's idea. He always liked to make fun of her this way and often looked forward to a good show from her and Zac's relationship.

"He said..." Zac hesitated and gave her an awkward smile before averting his gaze, seemingly a little afraid of her.

Patricia frowned, narrowing her eyes at him. "Zac, are you going to tell me?"

"Yeah, of course I am," Zac said quickly, giving her a guilty look as though he were a child who had done something wrong. "He said he was worried and that he just wanted to create some opportunities for us."

Patricia gritted her teeth and let out a heavy sigh. "I knew it. He always likes to meddle in our relationship."

"Yeah," Zac said with an awkward smile, seemingly avoiding her gaze once more.

Patricia noticed this and her frown deepened. "However, I don't believe you had nothing to do with it. You must've asked him to do so," she said, giving him a suspicious look.

Feeling pressured, Zac knew at that moment that he had to tell her the truth. With a helpless nod, he walked over to her and plastered a charming smile on his face.

"I hope you won't get mad at me for this. I did ask Naylor for help, but..."

"But what?" Patricia demanded.

Suddenly, Zac let out a snicker. He pinched the tip of her nose playfully. "I didn't ask him to do this, but I think he's right. We need more opportunities to meet each other. Besides, I can't concentrate on work if I don't get to see you for a long time." He moved closer to her and kissed her on the cheek.

Patricia pursed her lips and turned her head away. "You're such a smooth talker," she muttered.

Zac was calm and at ease despite her words. "Isn't that what you like about me?" he said with a mischievous smile.

Patricia couldn't help but smile back. She reached out and flicked his forehead with her fingers playfully. "Stop it. I need to go back to work or else I'll get in trouble with my manager again." She then got out of his arms and turned to leave with the document in her hands.

Zac watched her start to walk away and his face fell all of a sudden, looking like a child whose favorite toy had been taken away. "Why don't you come work here? That way, we can see each other every day."

"No," Patricia refused without a second thought. She pinned Zac with a serious gaze. "I don't want to be the center of gossip in this company if I do. Besides, even if I do want to work here, I'm sure there'll be at least one person who will oppose it."

"Who would dare oppose it? So what if my girlfriend wants to work at my company? What's wrong with that?" Zac said in an offended tone, sounding as if he was ready to find the people against the idea and teach them a lesson one by one.

Patricia burst into laughter and shook her head, feeling a sense of relief rising in her chest. Even though she wasn't about to admit it out loud, she couldn't deny that she did feel very happy to hear those words from him. "Stop it now. I really have to go back to work, Zac. Also, about what you said just now, please don't. I do think that things are good the way they are right now." She gave him a gentle smile before turning around and leaving the room.

Disappointment filled Zac as he watched her retreating back, eyes never leaving her figure until it disappeared from his sight.

However, he couldn't help but take her words to heart. Why didn't she want to work at his company?

The frown on Zac's face deepened the more he thought about it.

He soon got lost in thought, wondering what he should do to persuade Patricia to work here. He wanted to see her every day, and he could even protect her better if she was always by his side.

The more Zac thought about it, the more he really wanted Patricia to work together with him. He even hoped with all his heart that this wish of his would come true right now.

But... Zac suddenly remembered Patricia's words earlier and all his excitement disappeared in an instant. He felt a sinking feeling in his stomach as he wondered what he should do.

"She doesn't seem to like the idea. What should I do?" Zac muttered to himself thoughtfully, rubbing his

chin with his thumb.

Just as he was about to think about it further, Kareem suddenly appeared at the doorway, chin raised and looking at Zac with an arrogant expression.

[Chapter 528 Prove I](#)

Seeing the questionable glint in Kareem's eyes threw Zac off. For a moment, his expression faltered, but he just as quickly regained his composure and sneered.

"What's wrong? Are you scared to enter?" Zac asked coldly, looking at Kareem with contempt.

Displeasure clouded Kareem's face, but he too maintained a sneer on his lips and abruptly shuffled into the office.

"You seem to be in a good mood these days," Kareem said, his voice dripping with disdain. There was also a hint of anger in his tone, as if he was giving Zac a warning.

Sitting calmly and looking completely unaffected by Kareem's demeanor, Zac smiled lightly. "Of course I'm in a good mood. I'm having a great time with Patricia." Zac knew what Kareem was implying, so he didn't hesitate to hit him right where it hurt.

"What's with the sudden visit? Did you come all the way here just to ask me that?" Zac continued in a mocking tone, curling his lips.

Hearing this, Kareem snorted. Reluctant to dignify those words with a response, he instead placed the document in his hand on the desk in front of Zac and said in a low voice, "Sign it."

Zac frowned as he stared at Kareem. A moment later, he lowered his gaze to the document and skimmed through it. When the realization of what the content of the document was dawned on him, fury gripped him, and he tossed the document aside.

"Kareem, what do you mean by this?" Zac growled, pursing his lips.

"What do I mean? Did you fail reading comprehension?" It was Kareem's turn to smile mockingly at Zac. "Zac, it's time for you to hand over the business of the Sampson family to me. With your stunted abilities, the company won't last long. You shouldn't hold on to it so stubbornly. Let it go, so that I can manage it."

Laughter bubbled out of Kareem, as if this situation was too humorous for him. It was obvious that he didn't take Zac seriously at all, or he at least made sure to make it seem that way.

Zac clenched his fists, glaring fiercely at Kareem. "Kareem, do you seriously think you can win Patricia over and grab the assets of the Sampson family? Don't even dream about it. It's impossible." As he spoke, his tone was hard as steel.

Kareem shrugged his shoulders, looking calm and relaxed. With a smirk hanging on his lips, he said, "Really? I think you should be more far-sighted. Who knows what will happen in the future?" His attitude was haughty, as if he knew something that Zac didn't.

Needless to say, it only fanned Zac's anger, turning it from a spark to a full-blown flame.

"Kareem, I'm warning you. Stay away from Patricia and the Sampson family's company. Do you seriously think that you can control everything just because you have a deal with Anika?" Zac asked word by word, his voice thundering in the room.

It was the first time that Zac had been so angry at Kareem that he wanted to beat him up. In fact, what Kareem had said just now was true. If things went on like this, Zac didn't think that he'd be able to uphold the Sampson family's business.

Thinking of all the assets of the Sampson family that could be lost due to his incompetence, Zac felt his confidence deflate. He subconsciously bit his lower lip as he thought about the worst-case scenario. The person he felt sorriest for was Patricia.

Just the thought of having to explain the situation to Patricia filled Zac with dread. Even though he had promised her that he would be open and honest with her, there was no easy way for him to say this.

In the face of Zac's warning, however, Kareem just scoffed. "Well, if you don't believe that I can get the Sampson family's company as well as win Patricia over, then I guess I'll just how to show you." His tone was light, but there was a sharp glint in his eyes, making it clear that he was determined to fulfill his words.

The two men glared at each other, neither willing to look away first for fear of showing weakness. The tension that filled the room was thick enough to cut with a knife.

After a long time, when there was a quick knock on the door, the silence was broken, and the two men turned away at the same time.

Kareem picked up the document and shot one last pointed look at Zac before turning around and striding away.

When Nicholas opened the door and walked into the room, it was just in time to see Kareem leaving. After vigilantly closing the door after Kareem left, Nicholas frowned and hurried over to Zac's desk.

"Boss..." Nicholas called out carefully, looking at Zac with hesitation.

It was only upon hearing Nicholas' voice that Zac came to his senses. "What is it? Why are you in such a hurry?"

"Boss, we have a problem. We—"

Nicholas' words were interrupted by Zac, who shot to his feet in surprise.

"What? Is there something wrong?"

"Well...not really," Nicholas said slowly, afraid to come to the point. In the end, he sighed and said, "We just met a little trouble."

"What kind of trouble?" Zac asked nervously. His eyes wandered searchingly around Nicholas' face, trying to find a clue as to what he was about to say.

Kareem's words were still freshly imprinted in Zac's mind, so he was legitimately worried about what it was that Nicholas could be talking about.

Nicholas, who was visibly shaken, had to take a deep breath to collect himself. "We've found that many industries of the Sampson family are related to Sullivan."

Zac, who immediately gripped the severity of the issue, narrowed his eyes.

'Sullivan? Is he still secretly controlling the Sampson family's company?'

But after thinking about it for a while, Zac rejected the idea. After all, Sullivan had willingly sold his shares of the company. Otherwise, Zac wouldn't even have gotten the chance to take advantage of it.

The more Zac tried to figure out what was going on, however, the more his head ached, as if it was being crushed by a big stone. In the end, he could barely think straight.

Seeing the tensed look on Zac's face, Nicholas hurriedly added, "Boss, don't worry, it's nothing that we can't solve. We suspect that Sullivan is involved somehow, but haven't found any conclusive evidence yet. For the time being, we've sent people to keep a close eye on him."

Hearing this, Zac nodded slightly, and his stiffened shoulders relaxed a little. He looked at Nicholas seriously and ordered, "Then I'll leave it to you, Nicholas. You must take care of this problem."

Without any hesitation, Nicholas nodded firmly. Then, remembering what he had seen while entering the office, he asked, "Boss, why did Kareem..." He trailed off mid-sentence, as if he wasn't sure if it was his place to ask.

Sure enough, Zac waved his hand, signaling to Nicholas that he didn't want to talk about it. It wasn't a simple matter. Besides, Kareem's unbridled display of confidence just now had left Zac feeling on edge. There was no way he would act rashly.

"Nicholas, you just need to do your job well," Zac reminded Nicholas, staring into his eyes to convey what he couldn't say with words.

[Chapter 529 Kareem Kept Pestering](#)

When Nicholas saw this, he nodded heavily, squeezing his eyes in confusion. In an attempt to say something, his mouth opened and closed several times. Finally, he sighed and swallowed his words.

Not that he did not want to ask, but when he looked at Zac, Nicholas thought it was neither the place nor time to ask him any question. Doing so right now would only add to Zac's troubles.

"Boss, don't worry. I'm going to handle it," Nicholas said confidently with a rather determined look.

After a short while, Nicholas turned around and left Zac's office. But before he left, he looked back at Zac, with worry etched in his eyes.

Once he was sure Nicholas had left, Zac let his strong facade fall and collapsed into a chair weakly. He looked at the ceiling in confusion, bringing up his hand to knead his temples with his slender fingers.

So many things happened in just one day. It would have been a wonder if Zac wasn't stressed by all of it.

Zac understood with clarity what Johnny was doing. Johnny just wanted Patricia to leave him, and was using the company of the Sampson family as bait. It wasn't too presumptuous of him to assume that Johnny and Anika were in this together.

From the look of things, Anika was very powerful now. As such, it was possible for her to attain Zac and deal with him as she wanted to.

"Looks like I'm in a terrible mess of a situation right now!" Zac murmured to himself. This situation was getting him depressed, and he couldn't even describe how he felt at the moment. The truth was that, till now, he still hadn't come up with a solution to get out of this mess. It was even impossible to think straight with the amount of stress these things were putting him through.

Seeing that he was going too far down, he shook his head and muttered firmly, "No! I can't do this. I must hold on. I can't let Patricia down." He had to encourage himself if he wanted to get out of this.

It wasn't really easy for him to hold on at this point. But he also didn't want to give up so soon. Besides, this was Patricia's wish, and he had to work hard not to disappoint her.

He took a few deep breaths, and slowly calmed down. As though he had received a sort of jolt back to reality, his deep-set eyes instantly returned to its usual coldness. He took some time to think with a calm mind, and tried coming up with a solution.

When Patricia returned to the company, she wasn't really present. Her mind was far away from the affairs of the company. In her seat, she looked up at the ceiling in confusion, as she thought of the

problems that were falling down on them. Unconsciously, she let out a loud sigh that could probably be heard across the whole office.

Not even conscious of what she just did, she pursed her lips and lowered her head. She was so confused that she didn't know what to say.

Patricia had clearly heard the conversation between Zac and Kareem. It was not like she meant to eavesdrop, but she had heard it already, and now she couldn't get it out of her mind. She had simply been going to ask what Zac wanted to eat tonight. But when she got to the door, she accidentally heard their conversation.

If she hadn't listened in on them, she wouldn't have known the situation of the Sampson family's company, nor Zac's current mood.

If Zac hadn't been working hard to support the Sampson family's company and keep it afloat, others would have gotten their claws in it by now.

Patricia's heart ached as she thought of how hard Zac had worked during this period. She bit her lower lip tightly and her beautiful face twisted into a frown. She felt very sorry for Zac, especially because she didn't know how to help him.

"Oh, damn it! What should I do now?" Patricia cursed. Her eyes showed the extent of her frustration. It was impossible not to be frustrated. She felt powerless in the face of this.

It was not that Patricia didn't believe in Zac's ability to handle this, nor did she want to give up. But considering where they stood, she had to think carefully, to know how to tread on this new ground and come out unscathed.

All that ran through her mind was how hard Zac had worked, and was still trying his best to hold on. Patricia wasn't a selfish woman, eager to take over the Sampson family's company at all costs.

In fact, she wasn't much into the company and its affairs. She could admit that she didn't have that much ambition.

But when she thought of her grandfather who worked hard to build up the company, she knew it would be a good thing if she got it back. However, if she couldn't get it back, she believed that her grandfather wouldn't blame her for it.

She had never forgotten her grandfather's words. He had said that Sullivan was not capable enough to manage the company. He said that the time would come when the company would definitely face a crisis. And that if Patricia could do it, she should help save the company. If she couldn't, he wouldn't blame her.

Patricia was still young at that time, and didn't understand what her grandfather meant. But when she

saw the tears in his eyes, she knew that it hadn't been easy for him to give up the company. And it even hurt him more because there was nothing he could do.

"Just as Grandpa said, Sullivan has put the company in danger, and I don't have the ability to take it back. Even if Zac succeeds, it will make no difference because it won't be my doing. Besides, I can't force Zac. No matter what, I simply can't!" Patricia sighed and tried to calm down. All of this thoughts were beginning to tire her out completely.

A few deep breaths later, Patricia calmed down and regained her usual look. She thought calmly about this problem, and weighed the pros and cons.

After thinking for a while, Patricia looked determined. She now felt like she had a purpose. She slowly exhaled a long breath and relaxed her features.

"I'll talk to Zac about it tonight!" Patricia murmured, took another deep breath and began to work. She had wasted too much time already.

When she finally got off work, Patricia tried calling Zac several times. But each time she called, he didn't answer. It was as if he wasn't hearing the phone ringing.

Just when she was about to call Zac again, Kareem came into her line of vision. For some reason, Patricia felt totally disgusted when she saw Kareem. Unconsciously, she bit her lower lip, strode past him and went on her way.

But she didn't go very far because his words stopped her. "Patricia, don't you want to know the whole story? I think all you know is based on the half conversation you heard at the door of Zac's office."

Of course, this stunned Patricia for a moment. Even if she wanted to move, she was rooted to the spot and couldn't move a muscle.

Patricia kept telling herself to just leave and not listen to him, but she couldn't control herself.

Seeing the effect of his words on her, Kareem smiled, "Well, just hit me up when you are done contemplating and want to listen to me."

"No! I don't need to think of anything." Patricia stared at Kareem and exhaled heavily.

Although she said this, Patricia looked at Kareem viciously, not the least bit happy to have to spend time in his company and listen to him.

Just the sight of Kareem disgusted her. She had always known that he was not a man of integrity. She just hadn't expected him to be this cruel. As she thought about it now, she even felt ridiculous. She felt like he played her very well without her being the wiser.

But now, standing in front of him, Patricia finally saw his true colors. He was a man who was ready to do anything, just to achieve his goal.

Kareem noticed the disgust in her eyes, but wasn't even bothered. Instead, he looked calm and relaxed, feeling no ounce of sadness.

Perhaps his heart was now numb since Patricia had broken it. Right now, he could accept any attitude she gave him. His goal at the moment was to defeat Zac and win back her over.

[Chapter 530 Don't Force Yourself](#)

"Really? I don't think so," Kareem said casually. He didn't want to give up on Patricia so easily.

Hearing this, Patricia was angry. She glared at Kareem and spat, "Do you have to be so horrible now?"

"Horrible? What are you talking about?" Kareem sneered and looked at Patricia sharply without any emotion in his eyes.

When Patricia saw the way Kareem looked at her, she bit her lower lip. She instantly realized that the man in front of her was no longer the Kareem she knew before. He had completely changed into another person.

Before Patricia replied, Kareem snorted and said, "I don't think I'm horrible at all. I think what I'm doing is quite reasonable." He smiled at Patricia unusually.

Seeing the look in his eyes, Patricia took a deep breath and calmed down. "Kareem, I know why you are here. If that is what you really want, I can give you the answer now—it's impossible!" Patricia bit her lower lip and walked away quickly.

Needless to say, Patricia knew what Kareem meant, but she didn't want to give in. Besides, even if she wanted the Sampson family's business so badly, she wouldn't leave Zac for it.

This was not a trade.

Watching Patricia leave, Kareem smiled faintly as he had expected the result.

"Patricia, you will change your mind!" A cunning smile appeared on Kareem's face as he watched Patricia leave.

It was not until Patricia got rid of Kareem that she felt relieved. Just a moment ago, when she heard his words, she felt numb all over.

Patricia took a few deep breaths in order to calm down. Then, she patted her face to erase the last few minutes.

"I can't let Kareem get into my head," Patricia murmured.

From the moment Patricia saw Kareem, she got flustered. It was not because of the Sampson family's business, but because of Zac.

If what Kareem said earlier was true, then Zac was in a dilemma now. She knew she could do nothing to help him.

All these thoughts kept Patricia preoccupied and not even the delicious food she bought today could make her feel better.

As soon as Patricia opened the door to her house, she saw Zac lying on the sofa with his hand on his forehead. He looked very tired.

Patricia felt sorry for Zac. She quickly put down the things in her hand and walked over to hug him.

Zac was startled by her sudden embrace. He opened his eyes and was about to say something, but stopped when he saw the look on her face. Patricia looked worried. It seemed that something must have happened.

"What's wrong?" Zac asked in a soft voice. He stroked Patricia's back with his warm hand.

Hearing his gentle voice, Patricia bit her lower lip to stop herself from crying, but soon, tears rolled down her face. Thinking of how hard Zac had been working lately, she felt sorry for him.

When Patricia did not answer for a while, Zac frowned. He felt strange and asked, "What happened?"

Patricia shook her head and buried her face in Zac's arms. She remained quiet.

Zac frowned and looked down at her, trying to find out why she was crying. However, Patricia didn't want him to see her crying like that.

Zac glared at Patricia suspiciously and asked, "What happened, honey?" He held Patricia's face in his hands and looked her in the eye.

Seeing the tears rolling down Patricia's face, Zac was stunned and wiped them for her.

"What happened? Why are you crying?" Zac looked at Patricia and asked nervously.

Patricia shook her head again and wiped her tears quickly. "Nothing. I was just reminded of something."

Seeing the concern on Zac's face, Patricia felt sad. The words she wanted to say to him were stuck in her throat.

At that moment, Patricia knew that if she didn't tell Zac what had happened, he would feel bad.

Seeing the expression on Patricia's face, Zac pursed his lips and frowned. He did not know what to do.

Zac was sure that something was definitely bothering Patricia.

"Patricia..." Zac called out to her. He wanted to say something but didn't know how to start.

Patricia placed her hands on his neck worriedly and whispered, "Zac, don't force yourself."

Hearing this, Zac was stunned. He glanced at Patricia, not knowing what she was implying.

"What is it, Patricia?" Zac asked. Suddenly, he had a bad feeling about this whole conversation.

"No, there's nothing! I just hope that you are fine. Don't push yourself too hard, please." Patricia shook her head and pursed her lips. She wanted to tell Zac the truth, but there was nothing that she could do at that moment.

Patricia knew that it was not the right time to talk about anything.

Hearing this, Zac smiled gently and looked delighted. Patricia's words brought a sense of relief to him.

"Patricia, I'm fine! I don't feel forced. I know how much you want the Sampson family's business, and I want to give it to you," Zac said as he smiled. Then he patted Patricia's head, letting her know how much he cared for her.

Patricia bit her lower lip and she felt helpless. She didn't know what to do or say anymore.

Patricia wanted to take back the Sampson family's business, but at the same time, she didn't want Zac to get hurt along the way. She couldn't bear seeing him under too much pressure.

Thinking of this, Patricia looked at Zac worriedly. She opened her rosy lips only to close them again as she struggled with her next words.

Seeing the look on Patricia's face, Zac gave a reassuring smile.