

## Remarry 551

### [Chapter 551 The Uneasiness In Patricia's Heart](#)

After hearing what Patricia said, Sonia suddenly understood what the look in her eyes meant. Before they knew each other, Sonia had heard that Patricia was the kind of woman with questionable morals, a woman who was both arrogant and self-centered.

But after coming to know Patricia for a long time now, Sonia soon realized that the rumors about the woman were fake. The truth was that Patricia was actually a warm-hearted person deep inside. Those who were close to Patricia all knew how kind she really was.

That was why Sonia didn't think it was strange at all. In fact, she could even understand why Patricia thought so.

After all, Kareem loved Patricia so passionately, and now that he had become like this, it made sense that Patricia would feel guilty and uneasy about it. She was kind-hearted like that.

"Patricia, please don't beat yourself up over this anymore. You can't just force yourself to be in a relationship with Kareem out of guilt. We all know that gratitude is not love. You can't be with Kareem just because you're moved by his kind gestures and feelings for you. If you chose to be with him like this, it would only hurt him more," Sonia said softly, reaching out to touch the back of Patricia's hand.

Both of them knew this all too well. That was why they were brave enough to choose the one they truly loved.

"Yes, I think the same way. Even though I might hurt Kareem because of it, I think this is what's best for him," Patricia whispered.

After hearing what Sonia had to say, the uneasiness in Patricia's heart disappeared in an instant and now she felt much better, much calmer than before.

Sonia was right. If Patricia had agreed to Kareem's request at that time, it would've hurt them both in the long run.

Patricia believed that short-term pain was better than long-term, which was why she had been so cruel to Kareem.

But...

Suddenly, a thought crossed her mind, and Patricia couldn't help but let out a long sigh. "But now Zac and Kareem's relationship has become like this. Sometimes, I wonder if it's all my fault that they ended up this way."

Sonia looked at her in surprise. "How can that be? Isn't it normal for that to happen?" She looked at

Patricia seriously.

After hearing what Potricio said, Sonio suddenly understood what the look in her eyes meant. Before they knew each other, Sonio had heard that Potricio was the kind of woman with questionable morals, a woman who was both arrogant and self-centered.

But after coming to know Potricio for a long time now, Sonio soon realized that the rumors about the woman were fake. The truth was that Potricio was actually a warm-hearted person deep inside. Those who were close to Potricio all knew how kind she really was.

That was why Sonio didn't think it was strange at all. In fact, she could even understand why Potricio thought so.

After all, Koreem loved Potricio so passionately, and now that he had become like this, it made sense that Potricio would feel guilty and uneasy about it. She was kind-hearted like that.

"Potricio, please don't beat yourself up over this anymore. You can't just force yourself to be in a relationship with Koreem out of guilt. We all know that gratitude is not love. You can't be with Koreem just because you're moved by his kind gestures and feelings for you. If you chose to be with him like this, it would only hurt him more," Sonio said softly, reaching out to touch the back of Potricio's hand.

Both of them knew this all too well. That was why they were brave enough to choose the one they truly loved.

"Yes, I think the same way. Even though I might hurt Koreem because of it, I think this is what's best for him," Potricio whispered.

After hearing what Sonio had to say, the uneasiness in Potricio's heart disappeared in an instant and now she felt much better, much calmer than before.

Sonio was right. If Potricio had agreed to Koreem's request at that time, it would've hurt them both in the long run.

Potricio believed that short-term pain was better than long-term, which was why she had been so cruel to Koreem.

But...

Suddenly, a thought crossed her mind, and Potricio couldn't help but let out a long sigh. "But now Zoc and Koreem's relationship has become like this. Sometimes, I wonder if it's all my fault that they ended up this way."

Sonio looked at her in surprise. "How can that be? Isn't it normal for that to happen?" She looked at Potricio seriously.

In Sonia's opinion, it was typical for Zac and Kareem to be on bad terms with each other. Kareem wasn't a good man after all, and everyone knew that the relationship between the two had never been good in the first place.

The thing about their fights was that they didn't do it publicly; they did it secretly. But now, it was different. Everything had changed because of Patricia. They didn't fight in secret anymore, and they also found no reason to hide their hostility towards each other.

Patricia didn't know whether to nod or shake her head. The troubled thoughts kept trickling into her head, wrapping her heart in sadness as she sighed. "Sonia, you don't know this, but actually..."

"You're thinking too much." Sonia stared at Patricia with a serious look. "Patricia, you might think that I'm wrong, but I think that it's unnecessary to worry over it. You have also been born into a rich family. You and I both know that there are usually some public and private conflicts within the high-class society, so in my opinion, there's no need to feel guilty about it."

Sonia was being honest when she said this. For her, it really wasn't such a big deal.

Patricia looked into Sonia's eyes, suddenly unsure of what to say. She mulled it over in her head for a moment, thinking that Sonia's explanation sounded quite reasonable, to be honest.

When Patricia married Zac, she had lived together with the Reynolds family for a while, and although she had never mentioned it before, it didn't mean that she was unaware of it.

Since the beginning, Kareem had been eager to gain the CEO position in Reynolds Group. If it weren't for the fact that Johnny trusted Zac and inevitably gave the position to him, Kareem would've already been the CEO.

Kareem had always striven to be better than Zac and to never lose to him.

Ever since she knew Kareem, Patricia was already certain of his personality.

While Patricia remained quiet with her thoughts, Sonia let out a sigh. "Patricia..."

"It's okay. I know what you mean," Patricia interrupted softly with a gentle smile.

Seeing that Patricia seemed to be back to normal, Sonia breathed a sigh of relief.

Zac had been paying attention to Patricia the entire time. When he saw the gloomy expression on her face, he frowned, feeling the concern rise inside of him. He had also seen Kareem's intense gaze and wondered if Patricia would think too much about it.

After Jack and Sonia's wedding, Zac and Patricia didn't get the chance to stay with each other. It wasn't until they returned home that they finally had the time to calm down and talk.

In their apartment, after taking a shower, the two of them sat on the sofa with the TV turned on. However, they were both preoccupied with their respective thoughts, not really in the mood to watch TV at all.

There was only silence between them for a long while until Patricia finally broke the ice and asked a question.

"Zac, is there anything wrong with Sampson Bay?" Patricia had a worried look as she searched Zac's eyes for an answer.

She had read some news about the construction site at Sampson Bay before, and fortunately, the problem was solved later on. So, when she heard what Anika said today, she was shocked and instantly felt uneasy.

Zac noticed the look in her eyes and opened his mouth as if to say something, but found that he couldn't speak a word. In the end, he just nodded helplessly, resignedly.

Patricia frowned at this, but didn't say anything. She just stared at Zac in surprise, her breathing coming to a momentary pause.

No wonder Anika acted so arrogantly. In the end, it turned out that it was actually true. Then, that would mean...

Before Patricia could go on further with that train of thought, she was startled by a sudden grip on her wrist. Looking up, she saw Zac staring at her with a guilty look. "Patricia, I... I don't even know what to say. I feel too guilty to even apologize to you right now." He lowered his head afterward with a sad expression.

Patricia came to her senses instantly and clasped his hand in hers, looking at him with a serious gaze. "Don't say sorry to me. You didn't do anything wrong."

"But..."

"No buts." Patricia stared at Zac with a firm look.

### [Chapter 552 Patricia's Firmness](#)

Before Zac could respond, Patricia smiled at him gently.

"Zac, I know you've been blaming yourself for this. But in my opinion, it doesn't matter. I already told you that I don't want you to exhaust yourself, neither do I want you to break down because of this." Patricia looked at Zac softly.

Zac's thin lips trembled slightly and he was at a loss for words. He knew that she was just worried about him. But still faced with the problem regarding Sampson Bay, he couldn't help but feel sorry for Patricia.

"Patricia..." Zac said in a softly, lowering his head in guilt. He averted his gaze, unable to meet hers.

Noticing this, Patricia pursed her lips unhappily. "Zac, do you think I'll blame you for this? Do you actually think I'll hate you if Sampson Bay is taken away?"

Patricia gave looked at him sternly, her beautiful eyes more serious than before. She found herself wishing that Zac could read her mind.

Stunned, Zac looked up and met her gaze. He opened his mouth, but couldn't say a word.

All of a sudden, felt that he had no right to speak.

When she saw the hesitant look in Zac's eyes, Patricia was so angry that she couldn't help but gnash her teeth. Locking eyes with him, she said slowly, "I won't blame you, let alone hate you." She reached up and cupped Zac's face in her hands, disallowing him to look away from her.

Zac couldn't help but frown. He felt immensely gloomy and at a loss for words, his heart wrought with guilt.

The more forgiving Patricia was, the more upset Zac felt. He didn't know what to do.

Patricia could still sense the guilt emanating from Zac's heart. She felt so frustrated that she almost exploded. Instead, she took a deep breath and said fiercely, "Zac, I've already said so much. Don't you understand me yet?"

Hearing this, Zac shook his head. It wasn't that he didn't understand. He just couldn't convince himself to believe her. There was an indescribable feeling in his heart.

"Tell me what's wrong." Patrice looked deep into his eyes, eager to hear him say something.

Zac broke eye contact and looked away. He seemed to be deep in thought. After a while, he finally sighed and said, "I just don't know how to face you. If Anika really takes Sampson Bay away..." The mere thought was unspeakable. Zac couldn't help but sigh heavily, his voice weighed down by depression and doubt.

It seemed that all of this was not as simple as she thought. Seeing the anxious look on Zac's face, it was Patricia's turn to be at a loss for words.

"I always thought that I could protect Sampson Bay, but now..." His voice trailed off gloomily. Speaking of fighting, Zac couldn't help but frown unhappily.

Patricia stared at Zac blankly, stunned by what he said.

Only then did she realize that she was the ridiculous one. She didn't understand Zac's pain at all. She had always thought she was right and that he should just listen to her.

"Zac..." With his face still cupped in her hands, Patricia gently stroked Zac's cheek with her thumb in an effort to comfort him.

This time, it was Zac who looked at Patricia expectantly, as though he was waiting for her to say something.

"Listen to me. I know what you're thinking. But you have to promise me that if you've exhausted all options and still failed to solve the problem, don't stress yourself out over this anymore." Patricia looked at him tenderly, hoping that Zac would be fine.

Seeing the affection in her eyes, Zac was in a mess. He could no longer think straight. There was only the image of Patricia in his mind.

In that moment, Zac realized that he had always been a little selfish. He had never considered her feelings.

Perhaps for Patricia, although Sampson Bay was important, he was even more important.

Zac's thin lips started to tremble again. For a moment, he didn't know what to say. There was so much he wanted to say, yet he didn't have the words to express how he felt. "Patricia, I..."

"You don't have to say anything. I understand!" Patricia cut him off. It seemed that she didn't want to hear any more sad words come out of his mouth.

Knowing what she meant, Zac wrapped his arms around her and held her tightly. Both of them fell silent, both at a loss for words.

It seemed that all of this was not as simple as she thought. Seeing the anxious look on Zac's face, it was Patricia's turn to be at a loss for words.

They simply hugged each other quietly and time seemed to stand still. Neither one of them knew how long they had stood there, but after a while, they retired to their room to rest.

After Patricia fell asleep and was snoring slightly, Zac slowly peeled his eyes open. He couldn't fall asleep at all. He climbed out of bed and walked to the balcony to light up a cigarette. He stared at his phone, hesitating about something.

The next moment, a trace of determination flashed through his deep-set eyes. He dialed Jack's number resolutely.

Despite being woken up by Zac's call in the middle of the night, Jack didn't seem to be in a bad mood.

"Hey, why aren't you asleep?" Jack asked casually.

Hearing this, Zac fell silent for a while. Finally, he bit his lower lip and whispered, "How is it going?"

Hearing this, Jack seemed to be confused. Then he came to his senses and understood what Zac meant.

"It's almost done. Why are you so anxious?" Jack asked, his voice tinged with suspicion.

All of a sudden, Zac couldn't help but sigh deeply. He took a long drag on his cigarette and recalled what Patricia had said earlier. Since he couldn't fall asleep anyway, he told Jack what happened.

Jack couldn't help but burst into laughter. In a smug tone, he said, "I didn't think that the CEO of Reynolds Group would also encounter difficulties."

"Me neither." With a calm look, Zac didn't feel any trace of anger. Instead, he simply accepted what Jack said.

Jack fell silent for a while. Then, he coughed slightly and said seriously, "Don't worry. I'll take care of it. I won't let Anika get Sampson Bay. Just wait for my update."

Jack sounded so sure of himself, which made Zac somewhat relieved.

Zac nodded slightly and placed his hope on Jack. Now that Jack was willing to help him deal with this matter, he could solve the problem with ease.

"Jack—"

Just as Zac was about to say thank you, Jack interrupted him without a second thought.

"Well, go to bed now. It's late." As soon as he finished speaking, Jack hung up the phone.

### [Chapter 553 Obstruction](#)

A faint smile tugged at the corners of Zac's lips. His gloomy expression faded away, replaced with a more determined, resolute one.

He lit another cigarette and took a long drag, staring up at the bright full moon hanging in the night sky.

"Everything will be okay," he murmured under his breath.

Little did he know that Patricia had been standing behind him, listening to him quietly.

It wasn't until she saw his relaxed expression that she felt relieved. A small smile appeared on her pink lips.

Although she didn't know what Zac wanted Jack to do, she was certain that Jack would help Zac. Otherwise, Zac would never show such a calm expression.

The following day, Patricia sat in the office, mulling over what had happened last night. She was eager to know how Jack was going to help Zac.

At some point, she was even tempted to call Jack herself to ask him what happened.

In the end, Patricia held back her impulse. After all, she would just be a burden. Even if she knew the truth, she couldn't help Zac at all.

Thinking about this, Patricia suddenly felt melancholy. She couldn't help but sigh, her eyes filled with gloom.

Then, she recalled what Anika had said the previous night. She frowned and muttered to herself, "Is this real? Or am I overthinking?"

Patricia felt anxious for no apparent reason. If it was indeed real, then things were about to get even more complicated.

Anika must have had an ulterior motive when she said those words at Jack's wedding. Why else would she have done such a thing?

The uncertainty regarding Anika's motives made Patricia's heart uneasy. She couldn't help but suspect that something was being overlooked.

As she was deep in thought, a sudden roar startled her. With eyes wide open, she snapped back to her senses and found that it was the manager glaring at her angrily.

Patricia immediately put on a polite smile and asked meekly, "What's the matter, sir?"

When she realized just how angry the manager looked, Patricia had a bad feeling about this. Before she could figure it out, the manager slammed the documents in his hands onto her desk. Pointing a fat finger at Patricia, he said fiercely, "Patricia, look at what you handed in today." As soon as he finished speaking, the manager whirled around and left without waiting for a response from Patricia.

Baffled, she peered curiously at the documents and noticed a lot of red circles on it. She pursed her lips and couldn't help but sigh.

Well, it seemed that she hadn't been focusing on work these days.

Patricia poured over the documents and began to revise her work.

By the time she was done, it was time to get off work. She raised her arms up high and stretched before packing up her things without hesitation. Thinking about the hearty meal she was going to cook for Zac, she couldn't help but hum a happy tune excitedly.

However, little did she know that Anika was outside the office waiting for her.

Leaning against her BMW, Anika glanced at Patricia with a complacent smile, as if she was in control of everything.

When Patricia saw her, she turned around abruptly and scurried off. She didn't want to have anything to do with Anika.

Noticing this, Anika quickly caught up to Patricia and stopped her.

"Miss Sampson, could we talk?" Anika asked briskly.

But it sounded harsh to Patricia. She glanced at Anika coldly and said in a low voice, "No, thanks." She didn't want to breathe the same air as Anika, let alone talk to her.

Anika was unfazed. With a slight smile, she persisted, "Really? But I really want to talk to you, Miss Sampson."

Anika had already predicted that Patricia would refuse, so she didn't think too much about it.

Hearing this, Patricia couldn't help but sneer. She glanced at Anika and said fiercely, "Miss Curtis, we're not that close. Please don't make trouble for me." Then, without waiting for a response, Patricia turned around and walked in another direction.

But Anika was relentless. "Miss Sampson, what's the rush? There's a lot we need to discuss."

"There's nothing I want to discuss with you. Please don't show yourself in front of me again," Patricia said bluntly, pushing Anika out of the way. She didn't want to argue with this relentless woman anymore.

She didn't care about what Anika wanted. Patricia didn't want to see her, period.

Patricia walked away in a huff. She didn't notice that Anika, who was standing behind her, had a smug smile on her face. When Patricia was out of earshot, Anika couldn't help but clap her hands triumphantly.

"I did it! I bugged her!" With a confident smile, Anika shot Patricia one last glance before getting back

inside her car and leaving.

Without a clue as to what had just happened, Patricia ran away from Anika as quickly as she could.

When she was sure that Anika wasn't following her, Patricia finally heaved a sigh of relief and smiled faintly.

After she brought everything she needed at the market, she hurried home to her apartment and got busy in the kitchen.

She wanted Zac to have a hearty, healthy meal, so she tried her best and cooked a lot of dishes. There was sweet and sour fillet, braised fish in soy sauce, kung pao chicken, fried shredded potato, and corn and carrot soup.

Just as she finished up in the kitchen, Zac came home. Jack and Sonia were also in the apartment. They came to have dinner with them on the night right after their wedding.

"It seems that I made the right decision to come here for dinner. I can't even get a decent meal with my family," Jack praised, nodding with approval.

Hearing this, Patricia pursed her lips and shot Jack an annoyed look. "Then should I thank you for coming unannounced?"

"Of course." Jack nodded triumphantly and took Patricia's negative words as praise instead.

Faced with Jack's shamelessness, Patricia was speechless. She shot him one last glare before greeting Sonia warmly.

When the two women retreated to the kitchen to talk in private, the two men retired to the living room. Just as they were about to talk about Sampson Bay, Jack suddenly noticed a strange-looking thing sticking out of Patricia's bag.

Jack was about to take it out to have a closer look, but Zac stopped him and shot him a meaningful look.

"Zac—" Jack wanted to say something, but Zac cut him off, holding up his hand to silence him.

Then, he nodded towards the thing on Patricia's bag, as if he was hinting something.

All of a sudden, Jack's eyes lit up with understanding. He raised his eyebrows towards Zac, as countless evil ideas popped into his head.

[Chapter 554 Anika's Complacency](#)

Seeing the sly look in Jack's eyes, Zac couldn't help but frown.

He could tell that Jack was thinking about something bad, judging from Jack's expression.

Suddenly, Zac coughed and winked at Jack.

Jack winked back, as though he was telling him that he was ready.

The two men nodded then proceeded to talk about Sampson Bay. Jack told Zac his plan, and Zac also told him what had happened during this period of time.

They didn't even try to hide anything from Anika. It was as though they wanted her to know everything.

When they were done talking, the two men left the living room. Then, they moved the bug a little so that Anika would believe that they still hadn't suspected anything.

When Patricia and Sonia came out, it was time for dinner. Everyone ate and chatted merrily, as though there was no bug in the apartment.

The following day, Patricia went to work. After putting down her bag, she went to the bathroom first. When she left her desk, a courier suddenly appeared. He put a bunch of roses on her table and carefully took the bug away.

And that was how the bug was returned to Anika without being noticed—or so she thought she was unnoticed.

When Anika heard the recording on the bug, she was shocked. She didn't expect that she would gather that much intel.

Kareem, who was sitting on the other side, frowned and didn't know what to say, too.

It really seemed that Zac and Jack didn't notice the presence of the bug in the room. But the fact that they talked about their plans so unscrupulously made Kareem feel a little uneasy.

When they listened to the whole recording, Anika was about to burst from excitement. She whispered softly, "All our efforts will finally be worth it. It seems that we will benefit a lot this time." As she spoke, Anika smiled triumphantly.

Kareem, on the other hand, frowned deeply. "I'm afraid that things aren't as simple as you think."

"What're you talking about?" Anika sneered and shot him a look of disdain. She was displeased with his reaction. She had suggested planting a bug on Patricia's bag, but Kareem had disapproved of her plan. Now that she finally gathered vital intel, Kareem was discouraging her once again. What on earth did he want?

Anika glared at him angrily and said coldly, "If you think this source is unreliable, then why don't you give me the so-called 'reliable' information you have?" As soon as she finished speaking, Anika turned her face away unhappily. She crossed her hands over her chest, looking displeased and ruthless.

At first, Anika could understand what Kareem was concerned about. But now it seemed that he was just worried about Patricia and wasn't prioritizing their cooperation at all.

Before Kareem could say anything, Anika said aggressively, "Kareem, I don't know what's on your mind, but please look at the situation carefully. We're partners, so please act like it. Don't always think about Patricia's perspective. If we fail, I don't think you can win her over."

Speaking of this, Anika couldn't help but sneer contemptuously, not taking Kareem seriously.

Kareem's frown only deepened. He glared back at Anika and said coldly, "You—"

"What? Did I say something wrong? We heard their plans come from their own mouths, yet you don't think that it's reliable. Do you think information can only be true if you see the two people talking with your own eyes?" Anika's eyebrows shot up aggressively as she spoke.

Kareem's face turned purple from anger. "Anika, watch your tongue."

"Kareem, you're the one who has gone too far. Whenever I mention Patricia, you're unwilling to do anything to her. If you really love her so much, why don't you go and protect her? Quit talking about cooperating with me." Anika was so angry that she didn't wait for a response and turned around, arms crossed over her chest angrily.

Seeing this, Kareem was also unhappy. He narrowed his eyes at Anika, who was facing away from him.

The two of them were in a stalemate for now. Just then, Anika's phone rang and broke the silence.

Anika whipped out her phone and tapped the answer button. When she heard Zac's voice, she was a little stunned. Her shock got the better of her and she found herself unable to think straight.

"Anika?" Zac called her attention again.

This finally brought her to her senses. She smiled at Kareem smugly.

"Zac, why did you call me all of a sudden?" Anika asked nonchalantly, as though she didn't take Zac seriously at all.

Sure enough, at the mention of his name, Kareem's anger dissipated and he looked at Anika carefully, trying to catch any hints from her expression.

Anika, on the other hand, looked complacent and didn't care about Kareem's gaze.

"I want to talk to you." From the other end of the line, Zac sounded uncertain.

Noticing this, Anika smiled triumphantly, feeling that she was one step closer to the victory.

"Is that so? What do you want to talk about?" As Anika spoke, she smiled at Kareem smugly, as if telling him that all her hard work was paid off.

Noticing the expression on Anika's face, Kareem frowned and bit his lower lip. Gloominess crept into his eyes. He suddenly felt at a loss.

"Anika, don't beat around the bush. Don't you know what I want?" Zac sneered. Before Anika could say anything, he continued, "See you in Room 308 of Manhattan Hotel." As soon as he finished speaking, he hung up the phone, leaving no chance for Anika to even respond.

Even so, Anika didn't feel bad at all. Instead, she shook her phone in front of Kareem's face triumphantly.

"Zac said he wanted to talk to me. Do you still think my information's unreliable?" At that time, Anika's eyes flashed dangerously, as if she was implying something.

Both Anika and Kareem knew that Zac was either going to talk about Sampson Bay or the Sampson family's company—or both.

### [Chapter 555 Jack's Attack](#)

Kareem's expression became gloomy. Frowning, he found himself at a loss for words. Despite the fact that Zac asked to meet with Anika, he still felt uneasy.

In Kareem's eyes, Zac wouldn't give up so easily. Now he was even taking the initiative to talk to Anika. Kareem couldn't help but suspect that there was an ulterior motive to this meeting.

"Don't worry too much." Noticing the uneasy look in his eyes, Anika sneered. It was evident that she didn't take Kareem seriously at all.

From Anika's point of view, they were clearly winning. Otherwise, Zac wouldn't have called to meet with her.

Kareem pursed his lips unhappily. "Anika, you don't know how cunning Zac is," he warned. "We need to be careful."

"You be careful, Kareem," Anika shot back, looking at him with disdain. She stood up and hummed a happy tune. She acted as though she had already won.

Judging from Anika's expression, Kareem knew that she was showing off now that she was going to negotiate with Zac.

Knowing the kind of person Anika was, there was nothing Kareem could do to her. Anika was not a pushover. She had fierce determination and she had her own principles and plans. In essence, she only did whatever she wanted to do.

"If you're so keen on meeting him, then I won't try to stop you. But what are you planning to do with Sampson Bay?" Kareem asked coldly, narrowing his eyes at Anika.

Anika simply smiled at him complacently. "Don't worry about that. Obviously I'm going to use Sampson Bay as a bargaining chip to negotiate with Zac." As soon as she finished speaking, Anika whirled around and walked away.

Kareem watched her leave, frowning deeply. A cloud seemed to hang over him, and he felt depressed and at a loss for words.

In a word, Kareem felt that the current situation was not as simple as Anika thought it to be. He had always believed that Zac had ulterior motives.

It was no easy feat for them to get involved in the Sampson Bay project, so they couldn't squander this opportunity. Since Anika was going to negotiate with Zac, Kareem had no right to stop her. But he could keep a close watch on the Sampson Bay carefully.

Thinking of this, Kareem formulated a clear goal in his mind and immediately sprang into action. As for what Anika wanted to do, that was her business and hers alone.

Meanwhile, in the office of the Reynolds Group, Zac tapped his fingers on his desk gloomily, as though he was mulling over a serious problem.

Nicholas, who was standing opposite to Zac, frowned when he saw the expression in Zac's eyes. He opened his mouth and wanted to say something, but on second thought decided against it.

He realized that if he made a sound, it would only put more pressure on Zac.

It was Zac himself who broke the silence. "Nicholas, are you sure that the bug on Patricia has been taken away?" He looked at Nicholas anxiously, as though he wanted to know the result just from judging Nicholas' face.

Fortunately for Zac, Nicholas nodded. He had no intention of lying to Zac.

"It's true, boss. I saw a man remove it from the bag with my own eyes, and I saw him give the bug to Anika."

Hearing this, Zac breathed a sigh of relief in an instant. The worried look on his face vanished, soon replaced with that of excitement.

He was looking forward to what was going to happen next. If Anika believed what they said, she would definitely take action. This would give them an opportunity to launch a sneak attack.

But if this task was given to Jack, Zac wasn't sure if he had prepared for it.

Speaking of the devil, Zac's phone started to ring—it was Jack.

"Zac, I heard that you're going to meet with Anika for negotiation. Is that true?" Jack's tone sounded playful, as though he was plotting something devious.

"You already know the answer to that question," Zac said impatiently. He was pissed. If Jack knew the truth, why did he still ask so annoyingly?

Hearing this, Jack chuckled. "I just wanted to make sure. You don't have to be angry."

Hearing this, Zac rolled his eyes. With pursed lips, he sighed helplessly. "How's your preparation going?"

"It's almost done. We just need to wait for Anika to take the bait," Jack said complacently.

Zac nodded and smiled slightly himself. "Okay, I'm looking forward to your performance."

"I won't let you down." As soon as he finished his words, Jack couldn't help but laugh.

After chatting a little while longer, Zac hung up the phone. Then, he looked at Nicholas curiously.

Nicholas had been quietly listening to the conversation between Zac and Jack. His heart was suddenly plagued with a mix of curiosity and confusion. He knew that Zac was cooperating with Jack now.

Judging from the current situation, there seemed to be a tacit understanding between Zac and Jack. And even the conversation between the two of them flowed naturally, as though they were quite familiar with each other.

Seeing Nicholas' curious eyes, Zac coughed and asked stiffly, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing. I was just wondering if Mr. White will really cooperate with you, boss." Nicholas couldn't help pursing his lips uneasily. Jack had said that he would cooperate with Zac without expecting anything in return. When Nicholas heard the news, he was really worried.

After all, all the industries that the White family were engaged in had nothing to do with the Reynolds Group. So Nicholas couldn't think of any reason for Jack to choose to cooperate with Zac.

"I'm just as confused as you," Zac said lightly, smiling sheepishly. "But I believe that Jack will not hurt us." He shot Nicholas a firm look.

Seeing this, Nicholas nodded with understanding. He believed in Zac's judgement. Since Zac trusted Jack so much, that meant he was good on his word.

All the worry in Nicholas' heart ebbed away. He sighed with relief.

"By the way, Nicholas. There is something I need you to do now." As a thought occurred to him, Zac suddenly became serious and looked straight at Nicholas.

Nicholas looked at his boss attentively, waiting for his orders.

"Don't let Patricia find out that I'm going to meet with Anika today." Zac gazed at Nicholas seriously.

Nicholas frowned in confusion. He didn't understand what Zac meant. Why didn't he want Patricia to see them talking?

Seeing the confused look in Nicholas' eyes, Zac couldn't help but shake his head. In a low voice, he said, "Nicholas, you don't understand. I don't know how to explain to you. Just do as I say."

"But—"

"You know how Patricia is. If she sees us, she'll overthink things. I don't want that to happen," Zac explained, pursing his lips helplessly.

#### [Chapter 556 Overthinking](#)

Hearing this, Nicholas suddenly understood and nodded gravely. Patricia was always overthinking things. She would definitely misread Zac's intentions if she caught him meeting with Anika.

"I see." Nicholas smiled faintly, then turned to leave without saying anything more.

When he was gone, Zac couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief. With Nicholas' help, he could rest easy and focus on the negotiation with Anika.

When Nicholas went to look for Patricia, she had just finished her work for the morning and was about to have lunch.

When she saw Nicholas standing nearby, she frowned and looked at him suspiciously.

"Nicholas, is there something wrong?" Truth be told, Patricia felt a bit off to see Nicholas show up for no apparent reason. He had always worked for Zac and rarely appeared in front of her so leisurely. Yet today, here he was, as though he wanted to talk to her about something.

Nicholas shook his head. He didn't know what to say for a moment, so he just smiled at Patricia.

This only served to make Patricia even more suspicious. She frowned at him, wondering what he was up to. But then she thought about how Nicholas had been working for Zac tirelessly, so she reasoned that he must've been tired. Besides, what with everything that had been happening recently, Zac was under a lot of stress, and consequently, so was Nicholas.

Patricia's expression softened. "Nicholas, have you had lunch?"

Nicholas shook his head and suddenly frowned, as though a serious thought occurred to him.

Speaking of lunch, Nicholas thought about how Zac and Anika were meeting at the Manhattan Hotel, which was close to Patricia's office.

Thinking about this, Nicholas grew nervous. What if Patricia saw them meeting?

When Patricia saw Nicholas' conflicted expression, she frowned in confusion. Her instinct told her that he was hiding something.

"Nicholas, tell me. What's wrong?" Patricia asked point blank.

Nicholas' eyes went wide but he quickly calmed down and smiled. "Nothing's wrong. I'm just thinking about where to eat."

"Don't worry about that. There's a nice place near here. The food there is good." Patricia warmed up to him gradually.

Nicholas' face fell. Obviously, she was referring to the Manhattan Hotel.

"Is that so? Is the food there really that delicious?" Nicholas smiled awkwardly, at a loss as what to do.

Patricia eyed him warily, wondering what was wrong with him. He wasn't behaving as straightforward as before.

"Why? Nicholas, don't you want to eat good food? How about you pick a place for lunch? And don't worry. It's my treat," Patricia offered, smiling casually. She didn't care about the food. She just wanted Nicholas to be satisfied.

Nicholas immediately lit up. "I know a good restaurant," he said politely. "Would you like to go there with me?"

Originally, she wanted to invite Nicholas to lunch. Now that she had offered to let Nicholas choose a restaurant, she felt embarrassed to decline him. So she agreed to his request without hesitation.

Nicholas had chosen a restaurant that was very far away from the Manhattan Hotel. That way, when Zac met up with Anika, Patricia wouldn't have the slightest clue.

When they settled on the venue, Patricia packed up her things and headed out with Nicholas.

Just as they were leaving, Zac and Anika met up. Anika had dressed up carefully for the occasion, and her original beautiful face looked more charming and attractive than usual.

But Zac didn't give a damn. As soon as he saw her approach, he went straight to the point.

"Anika, what is it that you want?" Zac asked bluntly, shooting Anika an indifferent glance.

Upon hearing this, Anika frowned and glared at Zac unhappily. It was fine if Zac wasn't attracted to her, but he didn't take her seriously at all. How could Anika let such rude behavior slide?

"What's the rush? There's a lot we need to talk about. Let's discuss it over lunch." Anika smiled charmingly at Zac and even batted her eyelashes.

Even though Zac didn't want to share a meal with her, Anika wouldn't give him a chance to escape. Now that she had the final say in this matter, she needed to make good use of this opportunity. At the very least, she wanted them to have lunch together.

She had been back for a while now, but Zac had never taken her seriously. He had refused her invitation many times, which embarrassed her. Since Zac was so unwilling to sit down with her, Anika had to resort to threatening him.

Hearing this, Zac frowned and stared at Anika with displeasure.

He knew that Anika had some tricks under her sleeve, but he didn't expect her to force him to have a meal with her. Zac had no appetite right now. After all, he was worried about the issue concerning Sampson Bay and the company.

"And what if I refuse?" Zac asked in a bone-chilling tone, staring at Anika coldly.

Anika was unfazed by his hostile behavior. She smiled at him gently and flipped her hair over her shoulder. "In that case, it's clear that you don't want to talk with me so I don't think it's necessary for us to talk." She stood up to leave.

Seeing the resolute expression on Anika's face, Zac was pissed. He exhaled a deep breath, trying to suppress the anger in his heart.

It was not the right time to lose his temper. He had to deal with this problem as soon as possible. Although Anika's attitude made Zac very angry, he wasn't in control of the situation. He needed to stall Anika and give Jack enough time to take action.

What was more, Zac needed to give Anika the impression that she was winning. After Zac and Jack deliberately discussed their plan in the presence of the bug, Zac reasoned that Anika wouldn't give up easily.

"Wait!" Zac stopped Anika at once. His eyes revealed his gloomy mood and he couldn't help but bite his lower lip in annoyance. Even though he was very reluctant now, he couldn't let Anika leave.

"What's the matter? Did you change your mind?" Anika asked in a cheery tone. She turned around and looked at Zac with a big smile.

Zac's frown deepened. He managed to nod, albeit with difficulty.

If Anika left now, the efforts of Zac and Jack would be in vain. So he had to be calm and let her think that she held all the cards.

#### [Chapter 557 Negotiation](#)

"Sit down," Zac said helplessly without even looking at Anika. He seemed quite dejected, despite trying to hold back his emotions.

Anika, in turn, didn't mind the look on his face. As long as Zac could sit down and have a good talk with her, she would be happy.

As her lips stretched in a beautiful smile, Anika returned to her seat elegantly. Picking up the menu, she took her time to choose the dishes.

The woman's expression made Zac's blood boil, adding to his dissatisfaction. However, he still refused to show her how he truly felt.

Without asking for the man's opinion, Anika ordered their dishes. Then she clasped her fingers and rested her chin in her palms, looking at Zac with amusement.

"We can talk now while we wait for the dishes to be served." Anika had an arrogant look on her face and a faint smile on her lips as if everything was under her control.

At the sound of that, Zac frowned, biting his bottom lip. His eyes were full of anger, and his mouth opened and closed, but he couldn't say anything.

Zac was indeed at a loss for words.

"Why don't you say anything?" Anika smirked and pursed her lips.

In her usually delicate eyes, there was a hint of confidence as she tilted her head a little and looked at

Zac with a smile that was incomparably charming.

The man couldn't help but frown. With a sigh, he said in a low voice, "You know very well why we are here." He looked intently at the woman with a faint smile on his lips.

However, the smile didn't reach his eyes. Instead, he looked as if he wanted to kill her.

Anika saw this but didn't take it seriously. Beaming bright, she asked almost in a whisper, "Do I? I guess I need you to remind me then."

"Cut the crap, Anika, and tell me what you want." Zac wasn't in the mood for playing around. He stared at Anika quite displeased with the situation, biting his bottom lip.

Anika was still smiling when she replied in a soft voice, "Well, you should ask yourself this question." Although still gentle, her features seemed a little fiercer now.

Before Zac could speak, she added, "In fact, you know it better than I do."

Zac's frown deepened. With his eyes still fixed on her, he didn't dare to say a word.

He knew what Anika's purpose was but couldn't bring himself to say it aloud. It wasn't so simple.

"Just tell me what you want, Anika. What will make you give up the Sampson Bay?" Zac asked nonchalantly. He wanted to end this conversation as soon as possible.

Anika couldn't help the smug look on her face at the sound of that. Raising her eyebrows, she studied the man's expression for any clues to what he might be feeling.

Seeing this, Zac became angrier. He pursed his lips and said in a low voice, "Stop wasting our time."

"It's actually very simple. I'll give you the Sampson Bay if you leave Patricia to marry me." Anika raised her chin slightly with a gentle smile. She looked quite satisfied.

Zac, in turn, only looked at her more unhappily. His sexy thin lips trembled with rage. "Anika, you're going too far."

"Am I asking too much of you?" Anika taunted with her head tilted to one side, her chin resting on her right hand.

Knowing exactly what she meant, Zac answered fiercely, "It's impossible."

"I know. But the more impossible it is, the more I want it." Anika looked at him full of arrogance. She didn't take Zac seriously.

After all, he was the one begging her for something now. There was no way Anika would waste such an opportunity.

Therefore, she couldn't help but look at him proudly.

Zac didn't know what to say. His lips curled into a sneer as he stared at Anika, panting with rage.

He knew better than anyone else what Anika was trying to do. She wanted to threaten him with the Sampson Bay.

Did she seriously think that Zac was some kind of coward to yield like that?

"Anika, don't push your luck!" Zac spat out each word coldly and stared at the woman with a heavy sigh.

But Anika continued to look calm and unbothered. A playful smile crept onto her lips as she asked, "What's wrong? I honestly think it's a very simple request."

Zac opened his mouth to retort, but Anika stopped him by adding, "Isn't it? Don't say it's not, Zac." Anika's grin grew larger as she stared at the man.

With a frown, Zac met her eyes again. He couldn't help but snort disdainfully, not knowing what to say.

Zac wondered how angry the woman would get if he gave voice to his thoughts at that moment.

Knowing it wouldn't be a good idea, he forced himself to calm down. He couldn't allow his temper to ruin all of his and Jack's efforts.

"Anika, there's no way I'll accept this request. Can't you make a concession?" Zac gritted his teeth, looking slightly defeated.

Anika didn't disguise how happy she was to see the man so beat down.

"I've already made a concession. You just need to leave Patricia and marry me," Anika said with a smug look.

She was so confident she could get what she wanted that she left no room for negotiation.

Although Zac's face was a mask of anger, he tried his best to suppress the emotion. When he was about to speak, his phone vibrated in his pocket, interrupting him.

Since it vibrated just once, Zac realized it was a text message. Confused, he thought about who it could be and picked it up.

Seeing it was a message from Jack, Zac's deep eyes flashed with confidence, and the corner of his lips

tilted up slightly.

As it seemed, Jack was well-prepared. With this in mind, Zac decided to continue his act.

The man's sudden change of mood didn't go unnoticed by Anika, who frowned suspiciously. Before she could ask anything, however, Zac spoke again.

"Since you don't want to compromise, you give me no choice," Zac said coldly, his sharp eyes falling on the woman as if he couldn't stand to look at her anymore.

### [Chapter 558 Walking Into A Trap](#)

The sudden change in Zac's expression confused Anika. Her gut roiled, warning her that something bad probably happened.

"What do you mean, Zac?" she asked, staring darkly at him, not knowing what else to say.

Zac met her gaze and his lips twisted into a sneer. He said indifferently but coldly, "Don't you understand?"

Anika scowled at him, her anger obvious. He must have an ulterior motive if he was changing his attitude like this.

A sudden foreboding overcame her. She suspected she had walked into a trap, or Zac wouldn't behave this way.

"Zac, you..." Anika started but stopped as she studied his face, trying to gauge something from his expression.

Zac grinned at this. He cocked his head as he looked at her and said, "What? Did I say something wrong?"

Anika was furious. She had made Zac suffer so far, and now, he was torturing her.

What was more, he looked like he wasn't taking her seriously.

"You..."

Before Anika could say anything, she was yet again interrupted, this time, by her phone. The ringtone jolted her back to reality.

She was shocked to see Kareem calling. She felt like she had fallen into a trap with no way out.

"Kareem?" Anika answered the call in an almost-whisper, turning away from Zac.

"You have walked into his trap. Come back right now!" Kareem's cold voice sounded from the other end. He had originally planned to remind Anika of something, but the situation wasn't allowing him to do so.

Anika was instantly worried. She frowned as she asked, "What happened, Kareem?"

"You will know when you come back," Kareem said stiffly. Not wanting to argue with her, he hung up without another word.

Anika's gut feeling returned in full force, telling her again that something was wrong. She felt uneasy from within. She turned around to face Zac and asked, "Zac, what did you do?"

"What? Deceit is not to be despised in war," he said, smiling faintly. But his contempt for Anika was obvious from his expression.

If she were being honest, the current situation wasn't going to be as simple as she hoped for it to be. Although Zac had no idea about the tricks that Jack had played, it looked like they had succeeded, judging by Kareem's call.

A satisfied smile appeared on Zac's face at this thought, but the look he gave Anika was still icy.

His expression told Anika everything. She immediately understood what had happened and that Zac had set her up this time.

"You are really something," Anika said coldly to Zac, turned around and left. She had neither the time nor the energy to engage with him anymore.

Zac breathed a sigh of relief as he watched Anika leave.

Although she had walked into their trap, he didn't know how Jack was doing. Zac was still a little worried and ended up calling Jack.

"Why are you calling me so soon? Are you worried about me?" Jack asked, mirth bubbling up in his casual tone.

Zac had to admit that Jack was right. He really wanted to know what was going on.

Jack laughed. "Don't worry. It's done," he said. "Anika will now be facing so many troubles, she'll have a splitting headache."

Zac's tension loosened a little at this. His face split into a relieved smile.

It looked like he was right this time around. Jack could really help him. He wasn't even joking around!

"Now you can rest assured," Jack said, his voice betraying a smile.

"Thank you, Jack," Zac said sincerely.

"You don't have to thank me. We are partners. Helping each other is what we do. But what happens next is on you. Don't let me down," said Jack expectantly.

Zac nodded. "Don't worry. I won't let your efforts be in vain," he said firmly.

Zac didn't notice a pair of eyes watching him. Someone was eavesdropping on his conversation with Jack. They had also heard the negotiation that had taken place between Zac and Anika.

It was not until now that Patricia realized why Nicholas had sent her away. If it hadn't been for her client appointment here, she would still have been in the dark.

She had been shocked to see Zac and Anika together. She wanted to figure out what was going on and hid herself, listening in on their conversation. It was only then that she finally understood what was going on.

She wondered if Zac was planning something else. Either way, it looked like things were going well.

Patricia could tell from Zac's happy expression and thought that everything would be fine as long as Zac was safe.

What she didn't know was that Zac had noticed her. Perhaps because of the intensity of her gaze, or because she had become lost in thought and wasn't aware of it.

Zac was shocked to see Patricia standing at the door. He was upset, and remained speechless for a long moment.

To be honest, he didn't really know how to explain it to her.

"Patricia..." Zac muttered instinctively. His lips opened and closed, but he couldn't say another word.

He stood there like a block of wood, blankly staring at her.

Patricia came to her senses at the expression on Zac's face. "What happened? Why do you look upset?" she asked gently.

He seemed to instantly melt at the sound of her voice. He looked away, avoiding her gaze, as he mumbled, "I... Well... Did you see everything?"

Zac was not sure if Patricia had really seen it all, or if she had appeared after Anika had left. If she had, he had no idea how to explain it away. If she hadn't, he needed to make up an excuse.

## [Chapter 559 I Heard Everything](#)

"Zac, I heard everything." A gentle smile flashed across Patricia's lips as she stared at Zac.

Patricia used to act as if she didn't know anything. But things were different today. There was no need to hide anything from each other now that she and Zac both knew what had transpired. Therefore, it seemed preferable to clearly state things.

Zac was taken aback when he heard this. His lovely thin lips, but soon closed them as he couldn't utter anything.

Zac couldn't think of anything to say at the time. In his heart, there was a tinge of grief and perplexity. He wasn't sure how to convey it to Patricia without causing any misunderstanding.

Patricia smiled as she noticed Zac's face. In a soft voice, she said, "Zac, are you still hiding something from me?" Then, she approached him while her clear eyes locked on his.

For a brief while, Zac was speechless as he noticed the gleam in her eyes. He pondered for a long time before finally saying, "No, I didn't mean it that way."

Zac suddenly came to his senses and gave Patricia a serious look. He understood he couldn't remain like this any longer when he saw her smile. He needed to clear everything with her.

A sigh of relief escaped Zac's breath after he explained everything. His chest felt lighter as he bared his emotions.

His explanation momentarily stunned Patricia. Nonetheless, she thought that his reaction was reasonable. When she looked into his eyes, she saw his conviction.

She gazed at Zac. There was a touch of eagerness on her face, and a little grin at the corners of her mouth. "Zac, what are you thinking?" she softly asked.

"It's nothing," said Zac in a determined tone. Suddenly, he extended out his long arms and embraced Patricia in his grasp, as if she were a gift to him. He was adamant about being together with her.

Patricia was taken aback and had no idea what to say. Her heart sank with a glimmer of bewilderment. She smirked and slightly arched her pink lips. She was about to say something when Zac cut her sentence.

"Tell me the truth. You have seen it, right?" he asked in a calm voice. His face showed a soft smile and devoted eyes.

Patricia gave a tiny nod as she heard this. She had no intention of keeping anything from him. To be honest, she was taken aback when she heard what he said. She had not expected things to end out this way.

Apparently, Zac wanted to be honest. Otherwise, he would've kept his mouth shut.

"So what?" When Patricia heard it, she rolled her eyes and waited for Zac's next remarks. Deep inside, she was expecting a response from him.

Zac's face lit up with delight as he realized what she meant. "Now I can breathe a sigh of relief. Jack is really efficient."

Patricia realized what was going on when she heard Zac's compliments. His decision to work with Jack appeared to be a good one.

Sampson Bay was fine. However, they had another problem.

"That's wonderful." Patricia grinned joyfully, despite her reservations. She had no intention of spoiling Zac's pleasant mood.

"I know what you're worried about, Patricia," Zac remarked softly, noticing the worry in her eyes. "Now that the Sampson Bay is safe, I have more free time and can tackle other problems." Then, he leaned closer and kissed her neck.

Patricia was taken aback when she felt a gentle, numb sensation in her neck. Her body shook, and a sweet grin came to her lips.

Her soft lips flutteringly gaped. She was at a loss for words for a while. When she felt Zac's pleasant mood, she understood what was happening.

Everything was fine as long as Zac was happy.

They didn't know how long they had been hugging. When an agitated voice echoed, Patricia and Zac were still hugging.

Patricia couldn't help but grin awkwardly when she heard the manager's agitated voice. In a soft voice, she said, "I forgot that I have an appointment with a customer." Then, her gentle eyes looked up at Zac.

Looking into her adorable eyes, Zac bend closer and gave her a kiss on the forehead. Reluctance and longing were apparent in his expression.

"Can you stay for a little longer?" Zac stared at Patricia with pleading eyes.

"I can't. I still have work to do." She dejectedly shook her head.

Disappointed painted Zac's expression. Like a child, he pouted in front of her.

When Patricia saw Zac's reaction, she shook her head and said softly, "Zac, I have to work. I'm sorry." After Patricia spoke, the manager once again told her to come back to her job.

When he heard this, Zac revealed a reluctant expression. He could only release Patricia from his embrace and watch her walk away.

Patricia was astonished and dumbfounded as she stared into Zac's dismal eyes. "I'll prepare something great for you tonight," she whispered softly with her lips pursed. She turned around and walked away as soon as she finished speaking, denying Zac the opportunity to reply.

Zac couldn't help but chuckle as he watched Patricia walk away. He had a happy expression on his face and a sweet grin on his lips. With amusement, he stared at her swaying body.

When she was out of his sight, Zac dialed Jack's number.

"Jack, do you want to have a drink with me?"

"Sure. I like that," Jack immediately replied. He was looking forward to hanging out with Zac. "Where do you want to drink?"

"We can just hang out at my house." Zac's lips curved into a mysterious smile.

Jack was ecstatic when he heard this and couldn't stop himself from smiling. "Well, that's a great invitation. I'll bring a bottle of delicious wine." Jack ended the call after he accepted Zac's invitation.

Suddenly, Zac's face lit up with a bright smile. His expression became filled with unbridled delight. He couldn't hide his excitement about drinking with Jack.

Jack had no reservations when he arrived at the Oakleaf Villa. He downed a bottle of red wine in one sitting, and his face was flushed. However, he yearned for more booze.

Zac couldn't help but chuckle when he saw Jack's voracious appetite for wine. "You seem to be enjoying yourself. How about we open another bottle?" The next moment, he opened another bottle of red wine and poured some into Jack's glass.

Jack narrowed his eyes as he inhaled the aroma. With a smile, he was completely entranced by the fragrance. He couldn't stop himself from tasting it again.

When Zac saw Jack's look, he couldn't help but chuckle and murmur, "Jack, you're exaggerating."

"No, I am not. After all, this is an expensive bottle of wine."

[Chapter 560 What Should We Do Nex](#)

Jack stared at the full glass of wine with a satisfied expression. He looked like he would be pleased as long as he could drink this wine.

Zac chuckled when he saw him like this. Looking at Jack, he said softly, "You don't need to exaggerate so much. If you really like it, I'll give you this bottle of wine." He then handed the bottle of wine to Jack.

With the full bottle of red wine before him, Jack's eyes twinkled as he looked on complacently.

"You're so generous, Zac!" Jack then happily took a sip of the red wine, enjoying its fragrance.

Zac pursed his lips when he saw Jack's expression. Shaking his head, he said, "You're exaggerating. It's just a bottle of red wine."

"You wouldn't understand, Zac. This bottle of wine may not be anything special in your eyes, but it's worth a lot," Jack responded seriously.

Unable to believe what he had just heard, Zac chuckled.

Happily sipping his wine, Jack smiled and asked, "By the way, what are you going to do next?" A sharp gleam flashed through Jack's eyes as if he was trying to read Zac's mind.

Smiling, Zac answered, "What do you think?" A complacent look appeared on Zac's face.

Frowning, Jack looked at Zac in confusion. "Do you really want to play hardball on this issue?" he inquired softly. Worry etched Jack's face as he asked this.

In Zac's current situation, he stood a chance of winning if he played hardball, but the risks were too high. It would consequently be difficult for Zac to protect himself.

A small smile formed on Zac's lips when he saw Jack's worried expression. With an unfathomable smile, he said gently, "I'll need to think about it."

"There is no need to feel conflicted about it at all. It's not possible. Think twice before making a decision. Your idea is very dangerous," Jack warned, squinting slightly at Zac. If Zac followed through with his plans, then things would become more complicated and burdensome.

Smiling, Zac nodded slightly. "Don't worry. I won't act recklessly. I'll carefully think things through first."

Unsure if Zac would do as he said, Jack reasoned that confronting the enemies head-on was not the best option.

And this wasn't because he didn't believe in Zac's strength, but because Anika, Johnny, and Kareem had partnered up. This made things more challenging to handle.

"Just don't confront them head-on. That wouldn't work out well for you." Having said his piece, Jack ignored Zac and returned to sipping his wine.

He had done his part and warned Zac. What Zac did with that advice was not on him.

Needless to say, Jack didn't agree with a head-on confrontation. If Zac took things too far, then not only himself but Patricia too would be in danger. So, he hoped that he would think it over carefully.

Zac knew what Jack was trying to convey by the look in his eyes.

It seemed that the extreme idea he had thought off wouldn't be necessary now.

With Jack's help, Zac knew he no longer needed to go to such lengths. Plus, Patricia had made herself clear. She had no intention of forcing him to do anything, nor would she blame him.

Thus, Zac's plan was now simple. He only needed to work hard to solve these things.

Sipping his wine, Jack breathed a sigh of relief as he took in Zac's expression. He was not as worried as before.

He just hoped that whatever Zac decided on, he wouldn't take things to the extremes. Worst-case scenario, he could explain it all to Patricia and beg for her forgiveness.

Jack returned home after he finished his glass of wine. While they were in a merry mood, Anika and Kareem were burning with anger.

For the past hour, Anika had been fuming with rage. In all that time, her burning anger did not fade. Knowing that Zac and Jack had trapped her completely infuriated her.

"Zac and Jack are so hateful!" Anika's face was full of rage, her delicate eyes sharp. She stared out of the window as if Zac and Jack were standing there. She felt the urge to rush up and beat them.

Kareem remained calm and composed as he took in the messy room. Not taking Anika's anger seriously, he continued to drink his red wine unhurriedly.

Out of the corner of her eye, Anika caught a glimpse of Kareem's expression. Unable to contain her anger, she roared, "Since you knew it was a trap, why didn't you warn me?"

She tried pinning the blame on him. Had he warned her beforehand, she wouldn't have ended up in this situation.

'It was already difficult to get my hands on Sampson Bay. Now, all my efforts were for naught since Jack spoiled my plans. How could I not be angry?' Anika glared at Kareem.

Smiling indifferently, Kareem said slowly, "Anika, are you sure I didn't warn you?" He sneered.

After hearing about Zac and Jack's plan, Kareem became wary and had warned Anika not to act rashly. He had informed her that it might have been a trap.

However, she didn't take his words seriously and ignored his warning. As soon as she saw Zac calling, she went to meet him without hesitation, oblivious to the trap Zac and Jack had set for her.

Noticing the coldness in Kareem's eyes, Anika was furious and couldn't help biting her lower lip.

She knew this was solely on her. She had been too arrogant this time. As soon as Zac called her, she thought she needed to take the initiative. She never suspected that she would fall prey to the trap they had set for her and make an awful fool of herself.

Stamping her feet, Anika's expression darkened. She fiercely said, "Yes, I was reckless this time. This is my fault. I didn't take the interests of the whole into account." Pouting, she exhaled a long breath.

Their top priority now was not throwing blame on Anika but solving their current dilemma and redeeming the current situation.

"I will spare you this time. But if you dare make such a mistake again, our partnership will end," Kareem said coldly, staring sharply at her. He was serious and would show no mercy to her the next time.

Seeing Kareem's sharp gaze, Anika nodded. She knew he meant every word. In this situation, if she made another mistake, she would make an awful fool of herself.