

## Remarry 561

### [Chapter 561 Fighting Back](#)

Anika took a deep breath before looking at Kareem. "What should we do next?" she asked grimly.

"What should we do?! What else do you think we can do?" Kareem said with a sneer. "Do we have a different solution other than launching a counterattack?"

"Are we really going to fight back?" Anika asked, confused. She couldn't, for the life of her, understand what he was saying.

They had suffered a heavy blow this time. Fighting back now would only put Zac at an advantage.

Kareem met Anika's gaze, his eyebrows shooting up as he asked, "What? Are you scared?"

"I'm not scared. It's just that the current situation doesn't allow me to," Anika said coldly. She was telling the truth.

Kareem was very clear on the point that nothing good would come to be if he fought Zac. Both sides would suffer great losses.

His sneer returned at the expression on Anika's face. "Anika, do you really think I'm going confront him head on?" he said slowly, enunciating each word.

Anika was surprised. She looked up at him in confusion, trying to decipher his meaning from his expression. Kareem, however, was shrewd and had his poker face on.

"What do you mean?" Anika asked suspiciously.

"I can't tell you. It's a secret. You only need to do your job well. Don't worry about anything else," Kareem said commandingly.

Anika was, yet again, rendered speechless, especially because of the cold, murderous look on his face. He seemed to want to convey that everything was under his control.

"Kareem, you..."

"Just wait for news from me. Remember to behave yourself and don't get involved in other things," Kareem interrupted her, his tone determined. He took a sip of wine and looked away.

Anika's spirits fell at his behavior. She opened her mouth, wanting to ask something, but nothing came out.

The expression on Kareem's face told her that he probably had a trump card hidden away, but he wasn't

telling her any of it.

Either way, Anika didn't mind as long as Kareem could deal with Zac and Jack.

She had been driven to madness, having been framed by Zac, and wished she could find someone to avenge her. And now that Kareem was in the scene, telling her these things so confidently, all she could do was wait for his word.

A burst of fragrance greeted Zac as he entered the apartment. His face split into a happy smile as he walked into the kitchen where Patricia was cooking. He hugged her from behind.

"It smells so good," Zac muttered, burying his face in her hair.

"What smells good? The dish or me?" Patricia asked, her eyebrows going up as she turned around.

Zac was surprised at the unexpected question. He snickered before saying softly, "Both. Both smell amazing."

"Smooth," Patricia said, glaring at him before pulling away to stir the braised fish in the pot. "Go away. Let me cook!"

Zac pursed his lips, turned and walked out of the kitchen. At the door, however, he paused to look at Patricia, his eyes almost welling with tears.

She used to love the way he looked at her. But now, she was too busy to even flirt with him.

Patricia remained busy in the kitchen for a while before she finally emerged, dish in hand. Zac set the table before settling down to eat.

Patricia noticed the greedy look on Zac's face and couldn't help but smile. She asked softly, "Have you washed your hands?"

Zac thought for a second before mumbling, "I washed them when I went to the bathroom."

Patricia directed yet another angry glare at him. She made to say something when Zac cut her off.

He put down his chopsticks and bolted out of his chair towards the bathroom. Before long, he was at the table, smiling happily. "See? I've washed them again. Let's eat."

As she watched Zac gobble up the food, Patricia guessed that he mustn't have had a good meal in the afternoon if he was this hungry now.

After dinner, they washed the dishes together. They then settled down in the living room to rest and watch TV. When it was time to take a shower, Zac followed Patricia to the door, sticking to her like glue.

It suddenly dawned on Patricia what he wanted to do, and she made to tell him off. "Zac, you..."

"I don't mean anything. I just want to check if the bathroom is safe," Zac said, forcing a sweet smile as he avoided her gaze.

How could Patricia not know what was on his mind? All men were the same!

"It's not safe to be with you in the bathroom," Patricia said coldly. Nothing else occurred to her in that moment.

If Zac really wanted to have a bath together with her, Patricia didn't know what to do. Although they were very close now, taking a shower together was impossible. The mere thought made her hair stand on end and her body tremble.

"Patricia..." Zac pleaded. He had no choice but to use his trump card. He looked at her with puppy-dog eyes, tears pitifully swimming in them.

Patricia would normally give in when he acted like this. But it was different now. There was no way she would go against her principles. Even though she was very close to Zac, she couldn't accept it right now.

"No," Patricia said seriously before closing the door, not giving him the chance to speak.

Sadness suddenly engulfed Zac. He knocked on the bathroom door, calling out to her over and over again. "Patricia, we need to talk. Please hear me out."

"You don't need to say anything. If you keep pestering me like that, I will be furious." This was the first time that Patricia had been so angry with Zac.

### [Chapter 562 Forgive Me](#)

When Zac heard Patricia's angry voice, he was a little stunned. He was momentarily speechless with her blatant refusal.

Of course, this frustrated him—he wanted them to shower together. Her denial made him sulk.

With a downcast look, Zac went back to the living room and flipped through the channels on the TV. None of them seemed to get his attention since his mind was elsewhere.

When Patricia stepped out of the bathroom, she saw the bitter look on Zac's face. She immediately knew what was on his mind.

She coughed and said in a low voice, "It's your turn to take a shower, Zac."

Zac didn't respond. Stubborn as he was, he kept on pressing the remote as if he didn't hear anything.

"Zac!" Patricia called, a tad louder. "It's your turn to use the shower."

Zac snorted in response. He was giving her the cold shoulder because he didn't get what he wanted.

Patricia got annoyed at this childish behavior. She glared at him as she spat out, "Don't want to take a shower? Then don't. Just don't go to bed tonight." She turned around and went back to her room in a huff.

Before Zac could react, he already heard the door slam—it was loud enough to echo in the room. He knew that he fucked this up. Not only did he get snubbed, but he also irritated her.

It was twice the setback for him. And now, he didn't know what to do.

Zac took a deep breath as he gathered all the courage he could. He softly rapped at the door as he whispered, "Patricia? Are you mad?"

Patricia rolled her eyes in response. She was so pissed that she didn't even attempt to appease him.

When Zac didn't hear anything from the other side of the door, he asked again, "Hey, are you really mad?"

"Of course I am!" Patricia finally snapped. Her face was fuming red from Zac's incessant asking and begging. She glared at the door as she angrily yelled, "Why wouldn't I be? Your behavior is getting on my nerves!" She breathed deeply and exhaled to calm herself.

Zac could immediately tell how furious she was.

He sighed. He looked at the wooden door and humbly said, "I'm sorry, Patricia. It's all my fault. Please don't be mad."

"Who said I'm mad? I'm not mad! In fact, I'm perfectly fine in here!" Patricia shot back as she rolled her eyes sarcastically.

Zac sighed again as he said, "If you're still mad, you can go ahead hit me. Just open the door, please? You can vent your anger on me." He looked absolutely repentant by the time he finished. If Patricia still didn't forgive him, things would be problematic.

What if she was too angry to sleep with him? The thought of this gave him a splitting headache.

Zac didn't know what to do at the moment. He stared at the door, looking very anxious.

"Patricia? Come on, open the door. I'm sorry, okay? Please forgive me. I won't do that again." He tried his best to present himself as adorable as possible, hoping it would tug her heart. After that, he patiently

waited for her decision and said nothing more.

When Patricia heard his voice, she was in shambles. Part of her wanted to forgive him that soon. But if she was too soft-hearted, what could guarantee that he wouldn't make the same mistakes again?

Unfortunately, her feelings got the best of her.

She frowned, a little annoyed at herself for being too lenient, and muttered, "You..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Zac was already jumping for joy. Since she didn't allow him to do so now, he would listen to her.

He would be frustrated if he wouldn't be able to go to the bedroom tonight.

It would be a terrible loss for him if he couldn't sleep with her over an impulsive decision.

Hence, Zac was hell-bent on getting her to forgive so he could be in the bedroom.

"I promise I won't do it again, Patricia! Please let me in. The sofa in the living room is not big enough for me to sleep." Zac pulled the most charming voice he could muster so he could get on her good side.

When Patricia heard this, she glared at the door and sighed helplessly.

Her kindness and her tender heart got the best of her. She had no choice but to forgive him.

Soon enough, she opened the door with an unimpressed look. She looked straight at Zac and asked, "You promise? You won't do it again?"

"Yes, I promise! One hundred percent sure," Zac swore solemnly as he raised three fingers in the air.

Seeing the determined look on his face, Patricia lowered her guard and sighed. "Fine! I forgive you. I swear to god if this ever happens again..."

"I swear! It won't happen again!" Zac interjected. He looked at her seriously as he made a cross on his heart.

Patricia saw the grave look on his face. She sighed deeply, thinking it would be pointless to drag out this fight longer. "It's getting late. Go take a shower and go to bed after."

Zac beamed brightly and he flashed her a handsome smile. He immediately grabbed his pajamas and practically ran to the bathroom like an excited child. He quickly took a shower and when he came out, he looked very excited.

Patricia raised her brow questioningly at Zac's excessively happy face—she knew what this meant. She

didn't say anything as long as Zac behaved himself.

Patricia turned around and walked into the bedroom in silence. Zac followed her with a happy smile. He wanted to hold her close.

However, he didn't want to push her buttons so he didn't do it.

Seeing that Zac was so obedient, Patricia couldn't help snickering. She found it very amusing. After all, it was the first time she saw Zac acting like this—submissive, like a primary school student.

Patricia stifled a peal of laughter as she reprimanded, "Remember what you promised me, okay? Don't mess around." It didn't take long before she drifted off to sleep.

Although Zac solemnly promised that he would behave, part of him still wanted to be intimate with her. He felt sad.

He told himself that he had to work twice now as hard since all his efforts were in vain.

Patricia had given an order. If he dared to act recklessly, she would definitely...

Zac couldn't finish the thought. Just the idea made him feel sad. He felt melancholic. If he really ended up like that, then at that time...

It simply distressed him more. It was not easy for him to have such a chance.

#### [Chapter 563 Discussion](#)

Zac was disappointed because he couldn't have an intimate moment with Patricia.

Meanwhile, Anika, Kareem, and Johnny were discussing about the Sampson Bay.

Perhaps because Anika had already expected that Johnny would treat her with disdain, she was no longer bothered.

Despite the anger on Johnny's face, she remained calm, and all her attention was on Kareem.

It was Kareem's idea to meet and talk, so Anika was curious what he had to say.

"Kareem, quit stalling. Tell me what happened," she asked impatiently.

From the way Kareem looked at her, Anika felt that something important had happened. Otherwise, why did he seem strange?

With a smug look, Kareem turned to Anika and Johnny.

"I know you're thinking that we've lost a great opportunity because of the incident in the Sampson Bay. But you're wrong," said Kareem.

Both Anika and Johnny frowned in confusion, wondering what Kareem meant. They looked at him with a trace of hopelessness on their faces.

They did lose a great opportunity. So why did Kareem say that they were wrong?

'That's weird,' Anika thought. 'Isn't he being overoptimistic? Why can't he see the reality?'

When he met Anika's questioning eyes, Kareem smiled gently at her. "Even though Zac has the Sampson Bay now, it doesn't mean he'll get the company of the Sampson family." His tone was firm, full of confidence.

It was still unclear to Anika why Kareem was overflowing with confidence. He had never been like this in the past, so she couldn't help but be curious.

Johnny also looked at Kareem curiously. He felt that the man in front of him was a little different from the one he knew. He had always known what kind of person Kareem was, and he knew that his son was not as gentle as he appeared to be.

Since then, Kareem had been trying to steal the position of the CEO of the Reynolds Group. If Johnny hadn't given the position to Zac, there wouldn't have been so many troubles.

At the thought of this, Johnny couldn't help but sigh inwardly. His heart was heavy with regret.

But he knew that he couldn't be so emotional anymore. He had to solve the matter between Zac and Kareem as soon as possible, as well as the problem with Patricia.

The mere name of Patricia could make Johnny's blood boil. He had thought that she was a smart woman and would know that leaving Zac was the right thing to do. But it turned out that he made a mistake.

Patricia was a stubborn woman and didn't listen to his advice.

A flash of coldness flashed through Kareem's eyes when he turned to his father. "Now we just need to work hard to wrest control of the Sampson family's company."

Still, Anika and Johnny's question wasn't answered. "What's your plan then?"

"I don't have one," said Kareem, looking like he didn't take things seriously at all.

Because of his answer, the crease on Anika's forehead grew deeper. "What do you mean you don't have a plan?"

If Kareem had no plan in mind, what was the point of being here? Why did he call for a meeting? He looked so arrogant even though he had no concrete plan, which pissed Anika off.

It seemed that Kareem had already expected such a reaction from Anika. He wasn't surprised at all. "Anika, don't worry. Just because I said there's no plan doesn't mean there's nothing we can do." The confidence in his voice didn't falter.

Anika was even more confused.

She couldn't understand what Kareem meant. It wouldn't be easy to take down Zac and get the company without a concrete plan.

Anika felt worried, knowing that Kareem had no plan. But her partner still looked confident.

"Forget it. I will handle it myself," said Kareem in a dismissive tone.

Of course, Anika was displeased. But she had no choice but to look for any clue on Kareem's face since he didn't want to tell her anything.

Not only Anika but also Johnny thought that Kareem was too reckless and impulsive. It was also too selfish of him to keep them in the dark.

The two had uncertainty in their eyes, while Kareem's had determination. "Don't worry. I will definitely take care of it."

Anika and Johnny said in unison, "Even if you are confident about your plan, you have to let us know about it. You can't keep us in the dark."

However, Kareem only smiled coldly at them. It could be told from the way he looked at them that he didn't trust them that much.

"It's not that I don't trust you, but I just really can't tell you anything yet right now." There was nothing but indifference in Kareem's tone. It seemed like he had made up his mind not to tell anything to the two.

At this moment, they finally understood that the reason why Kareem asked them to come was not to discuss with them, but to inform them that he would handle everything by himself from this point.

Nevertheless, Anika was furious. But when she was about to voice out her complaint, she was stopped by Johnny.

The old man glared at her, ordering her not to ask recklessly. If Kareem said he would handle it himself, they should let him be.



Since Johnny had agreed to Kareem, Anika had no choice but to keep her mouth shut. After all, she was just an outsider. Pissed off, she glared at the two men and walked away, stomping her feet like a spoiled little girl.

Once Anika was out of sight, Johnny finally spoke. "Kareem, what do you have in mind?" he asked in a low voice.

Kareem only flashed a faint smile, having no intention to tell Johnny the truth.

Although it was obvious that Kareem didn't have any plan to tell him anything, Johnny still continued to ask.

"Don't you want to say anything?"

Finally, Johnny sneered and answered, "Dad, if you trust me, just leave it to me. If you don't, then don't meddle in this matter."

Nothing could threaten Kareem anymore, not even Johnny's words. He still looked calm and composed.

With a sigh, Johnny gave up. He would only waste his saliva if he kept asking his son who was determined to keep everything to himself.

#### [Chapter 564 Time To Make A Move](#)

Johnny let out a heavy sigh and frowned helplessly. He had said what he needed to say. If Kareem refused to tell him anything, there was nothing Johnny could do about it.

"Fine. I won't ask you anything more. As for what will happen next, you should take care of it." As he spoke, Johnny shook his head helplessly. Now that there was nothing more to say, he took his leave.

Despite Johnny's helpless expression, Kareem didn't mind so much.

Kareem was alone in the room for only a few moments before Sullivan walked in out of the blue.

"Mr. Reynolds, what are we going to do next?" Sullivan asked in a servile manner in an attempt to flatter Kareem.

Kareem noticed this and raised his chin slightly. With a complacent look, he said in a low voice, "It's time to make a move." His eyes flashed with determination as he spoke.

Sullivan was taken aback. His flattering expression was replaced with worry. "Mr. Reynolds, if you make a move now, I fear that..."

In short, Sullivan didn't think that now was a good time to make a move. It would be best if they waited a bit more.

When Sullivan met Kareem's gaze, a shiver ran down his spine. Kareem's expression darkened and he asked angrily, "When's the best time then?"

Sullivan immediately shut up.

From an outsider's perspective, one might've thought that Sullivan was helping Kareem. But the truth was that he was just a pawn.

Therefore, he never dared to cross the line with Kareem. If he did, it would be troublesome.

"My apologies, Mr. Reynolds," Sullivan said hurriedly, forcing a flattering smile. "I was just thinking that since we haven't gotten Sampson Bay yet, there's no need to rush."

The more he spoke, the more Sullivan realized he should just keep quiet. As soon as he finished his senses, he zipped his mouth shut and lowered his head humbly.

Kareem couldn't help but sneer. "You must think I'm crazy."

Sullivan didn't dare to answer. Out of the corner of his eye, he could see Kareem's cold expression. He knew that if he said something wrong, he would be doomed.

Kareem looked away and snorted. "What a bunch of idiots. You all think that now's not the time to take action. But the way I see it, this is the best time.

Zac has let his guard down. It's a golden opportunity for us to launch a sneak attack at this time." Speaking of this, Kareem couldn't help but smile smugly, his eyes flashing fiercely.

Zac always thought that Kareem couldn't do anything to him, so Kareem had made up his mind to show him just how powerful he was.

Sullivan sighed and shook his head gloomily.

But it was useless for him to say anything. Kareem had made up his mind, so nothing he could say could persuade his decision.

All of a sudden, Kareem's eyes flashed dangerously. "Sullivan, you need not concern yourself with these things. You just need to do as I say."

Sullivan nodded attentively but secretly felt depressed. It was true. Indeed, there was nothing he could do other than obey Kareem. As for whatever happened as a result, it had nothing to do with him.

Zac and Jack soon caught wind that Kareem, Anika, and Johnny had met in secret. This called for Zac and Jack to regroup and discuss their plan.

"What do you think they're up to?" Zac asked with narrowed eyes, looking at Jack with concern. His chiseled face suddenly became gloomy.

Jack, on the other hand, looked like he was having fun. With a big smile, he wagged a finger at Zac, saying, "You should ask yourself this: just how much do you know about them?"

"Not much," Zac admitted, pursing his lips. Although he always competed with Kareem and tolerated Anika, he really couldn't figure out what they would do next.

Seeing how worried Zac looked, Jack patted him on the shoulder calmly. "Don't worry. Their tricks won't work."

Hearing this, Zac was slightly stunned and looked at Jack in confusion. The firm expression on Jack's face today made him doubtful.

Somehow, Jack looked very calm and determined, as if he was sure that Kareem and Anika couldn't do anything to them.

Jack sighed and shook his head. "Zac, don't blame me for not telling you. You should know better than me what their motive is."

"Their motive?" Zac echoed with eyebrows raised. Confused, he ran his fingers through his hair and tried to think it over.

In the beginning, Zac was under the impression that Kareem wanted to become the CEO of the Reynolds Group, while Anika simply wanted to cooperate with them.

But after everything that had happened, Zac wasn't so sure. It seemed to him now that Kareem was after Patricia and not the position of CEO, while Anika seemed hell-bent on pestering Zac.

While love might not have been their main motive, Zac was certain that Kareem hoped to win over Patricia and Anika wanted him.

Zac pressed his fingers against his temple, even more confused than before.

His mind went blank and he could no longer think straight. Frowning deeply, he looked to Jack for help.

Jack coughed awkwardly and relented. "They're targeting you and Patricia."

Jack's words jolted Zac back to reality. He looked at Jack blankly and didn't say anything for a while.

What Jack said was so astonishing that Zac was at a complete loss for words.

Seeing Zac's bewildered expression, Jack couldn't help but burst into laughter. "You look really shocked, Zac. Don't tell me that you didn't realize something so obvious!"

To be honest, Zac really didn't know. He had always thought that Kareem was against him because he wanted to become the CEO of the Reynolds Group. But now that he thought about it, he realized that Patricia was the reason why Kareem was so desperate.

As these thoughts raced in his head, Zac couldn't help but sigh and shake his head. "It never occurred to me. I always thought that—"

"It doesn't matter what you thought. Now's the time to face reality," Jack interrupted Zac abruptly, wagging a finger at him.

Then, he grew serious, as though a thought occurred to him.

"We need to think of a solution as soon as possible. Now that you know their motive, you should know what to do next," Jack said in a low voice, his face clouding over.

Zac nodded, with a smile tugging at the corners of his lips. He finally knew what to do.

#### [Chapter 565 Confrontation](#)

"I need to think about it," Zac said flatly, although he had a big smile on his face. He definitely wasn't as gloomy as earlier. He looked happy even, as though a weight had been lifted off his shoulders.

Amused by Zac's sudden change in disposition, Jack chuckled lightly. He too couldn't help but smile.

He patted Zac on the shoulder and winked. "Then think about it." But as soon as he said this, his expression grew serious.

Zac also grew serious, looking at Jack with a straight face. "I'll leave the matter of Sampson Bay to you. I don't think they have plans for it for the time being. What I can't tell is whether they're out to harm the Sampson family's company or not."

Zac pursed his lips, wracking his brains for a solution.

Jack could tell what was going on in Zac's mind from his expression.

So he tapped on the table and said in a low voice, "No problem! But what are you going to do next?" He squinted at Zac, wondering what he was up to.

It wasn't that Jack didn't trust in Zac's abilities, but the current situation was complicated. The issue was riddled with secrets and crookedness. If Zac grew careless, something bad could happen.

Zac frowned slightly and found that he didn't have an answer to Jack's question. A trace of helplessness

lingered in his eyes.

What Jack said was true. Now was a critical time. If Zac was not careful enough, he might get into trouble.

"Just keep an eye on Sampson Bay. Whether I can protect the Sampson family's company or not, only time will tell. Everything is just too complicated right now. What's more, I know that Sullivan's still secretly manipulating everything behind my back. That bastard's hell-bent on turning against me." Zac clenched his fists, helplessly at a loss

Jack nodded slightly. He understood where Zac was coming from.

But even he knew that there was nothing he could do but keep a close eye on Sampson Bay, just like Zac asked.

"Don't worry about Sampson Bay. I will take care of it for you. As for the company, you have to handle that matter yourself." Jack shrugged indifferently. He knew he had no advice to offer.

Zac didn't take offense and simply chuckled dryly.

As long as Jack helped him with Sampson Bay, then he could focus on dealing with the Sampson family's company.

A week later

Patricia was working at her desk in Skyline Corp. Out of the blue, her eye started to twitch.

She couldn't help but worry about what had happened the past few days.

Zac hadn't been home the entire week. Their only mode of contact was through phone calls.

Even then, Zac actively avoided the subject of work. He didn't tell her what had been keeping him busy, which made her uneasy. Moreover, since she hadn't seen him in days, she felt depressed.

As if that wasn't enough, Nicholas kept showing up. It was obvious he was just there to protect her and make sure she got home safely.

If she needed anything, Nicholas would be the one to go out and buy it for her.

The more they treated her like this, the more uneasy she felt. She had a sinking feeling that something bad had happened to Zac.

"Nicholas, can I ask you something? Is Zac really okay?" Patricia's tone was full of worry.

She had asked him this question many times, but Nicholas still patiently answered her each time.

"Don't worry. Boss is fine. He's just been very busy lately, so he asked me to keep you company," Nicholas replied politely.

Every time he answered her this, he would smile reassuringly, hoping that Patricia would calm down.

But she still worried. She just wanted to see Zac, but even that had become a difficult thing.

As they were headed home, she lowered her head and walked with heavy steps. She couldn't help but sigh from time to time.

Finally, Nicholas frowned and asked cautiously, "Is there something wrong, Patricia?"

"I want to see Zac." Patricia suddenly raised her head and stared at Nicholas fiercely.

She was serious. If Nicholas refused to help her, she would ditch him and find Zac herself. Whatever happened, she was determined to see Zac.

Nicholas could see the fierce determination in her eyes, so he could do nothing but sigh.

He knew how relentless Patricia was. Even if he didn't agree to bring her to Zac, she would definitely set out on her own and look for him in his office, regardless of the consequences.

But Zac wasn't even in his office right now. How could Nicholas explain that to her?

Seeing the flustered look on his face, Patricia frowned slightly. "I know you're in a dilemma, Nicholas, but please think about how I feel. I haven't seen Zac in a week. How can I not worry about him?"

As she spoke, tears welled up in her eyes.

Nicholas found it very hard to say no to a crying Patricia. He scratched his head helplessly, at a loss for words.

Finally, he gave in. Sighing heavily, he said gravely, "Fine. I'll take you to him. But you have to promise me that you'll only watch from afar and won't act rashly." He looked at Patricia half-firmly, half-pleadingly.

"Don't worry. I won't make things difficult for you," Patricia said reassuringly.

She also understood that if Zac found out about this, Nicholas would definitely be punished.

After Patricia agreed to his terms, Nicholas felt relieved. It shouldn't be a problem for her to see Zac from a distance.

Alas, he was too naive.

He had thought that Patricia would leave obediently after quietly seeing Zac in the Sampson family's company.

However, after catching a glimpse of Zac, Patricia grew excited. He seemed to sense something was off, because then he looked up and saw Patricia and Nicholas in the distance.

All of a sudden, Nicholas found himself glued to the spot, standing next to Patricia. Both of them didn't dare to say a word.

Zac's face clouded over, and his deep-set eyes flashed dangerously. The two stowaways gulped nervously, too shocked to say a word.

#### [Chapter 566 None Of Those Advantages](#)

Zac began walking towards them in slow, light strides. Nicholas and Patricia had a worried look on their faces, anticipating what was to come soon. From the murderous look Zac had on his face, they both knew the consequences wouldn't be pretty.

Patricia swallowed the bile that rose in her throat. Out of the corner of her eye, she glanced at Nicholas and realized his eyes were wide open with dread. It wasn't hard to make out he worried the blow that would soon fall on him.

Patricia's heart went for him and she felt truly sorry. If it weren't for her, he wouldn't have been put into this terrible situation!

"Zac, please don't blame Nicholas. I threatened him until he would give in and bring me here." Patricia stepped forward and stood in front of Nicholas, as if to protect him.

After all, she was speaking the truth. She had indeed begged Nicholas to bring her here. If she had done something, she should have the heart to shoulder the responsibility alone.

As soon as she uttered these words, Zac's handsome face creased with a frown. Soon, the murderous will in his eyes grew more intense. Patricia was left wondering if she had said the wrong thing.

Nicholas, on the other hand, was overcome by an urge to weep when he saw the turn this dreadful situation was taking. He looked at Patricia with a pleading face, hoping that she would stop talking.

However, Patricia wasn't going to stop. She was under the impression she had implicated Nicholas and would do anything to get him out of trouble.

"Zac, listen to me. Please don't hold Nicholas responsible for this. It was really all my fault. You can punish me as you please." Having said that, she strode towards Zac, ready to accept whatever

punishment that would be coming to her way.

Nicholas widened his eyes in disbelief, completely dumbfounded by how naive Patricia was.

'Does she have no idea what she means to Zac or is she simply acting?'

Anyone in their right mind could tell that Patricia was the apple of Zac's eye. Zac loved her with all his heart and his soul. He wouldn't dare to harm her, let alone say something harsh to her.

Even though Patricia had come here without permission, Zac wouldn't punish her for it.

Moreover, Zac missed her day and night. And now, seeing her stand in front of him, his heart was brimming with joy.

Nicholas felt sorry for himself. He was forced by Patricia to take her here, and yet he was going to be punished by Zac.

Nicholas stood with his head lowered. He had no reason to look because he knew what would happen next.

Patricia noticed the rejection on his face and she was thrown into confusion.

'What is wrong with Nicholas? Does he think my efforts to get him out of trouble will be in vain?' she wondered.

Patricia's resolve to help him out became stronger. She carefully raised her eyes and looked at Zac. At this moment, Zac looked terrible.

She couldn't remember ever seeing him look like this. A little afraid of him, she was about to take a step back.

Before she could do so, Zac stretched out his strong arm and wrapped it around her waist. She couldn't even budge as he pulled her towards him.

At first, Patricia was too stunned to realize what was happening. When she regained her composure, she looked up at Zac and was met with his sharp pair of eyes. In an instant, she turned her head away.

Zac let out a sigh and went on staring at Patricia, his eyes still fierce. Beneath the charade of anger, if one noticed too hard, they could detect a hint of affection flashing through his eyes. He had been missing this woman terribly.

They hadn't seen each other for a whole week and her absence was driving him crazy.

Every time his thought flitted to Patricia, Zac had an overwhelming urge to meet her. But he would



suppress these impulses as soon as they appeared. So as to remain focused, he would bury himself in work.

But the more he tried to hide his emotions, the more he missed her. He was yearning to see her and would be glad if he had gotten to see a glimpse of her from far.

And now when Patricia came and stood before him, he had difficulty believing it wasn't simply an illusion. He thought he had conjured up her memory and it was a figment of his imagination.

But when Zac saw Nicholas, he realized she was actually here.

Seeing that Patricia was standing in front of him, Zac was momentarily stuck.

"Why are you here?" Zac asked in a grave, angry tone.

However, beneath it, there was a jolt of excitement in Zac's heart. But he tried to hide it as best as he could.

Patricia stared at him and then moved her face away, not daring to say anything. She was afraid her words could make him angrier.

Both of them remained silent for a few seconds. Soon, it occurred to Zac his tone had been mean and Patricia was beginning to feel afraid.

"I..." After hesitating for a long time, Patricia finally made an effort to speak. But her face depicted fear.

Truth be told, she had every reason to be scared. The expression on Zac's face was terrible. The murderous light in his eyes couldn't be dimmed.

Zac pursed his lips, not uttering a single word. He was afraid if he spoke more, Patricia would run away from him.

"What were you going to tell me? Spill it out."

Although Patricia's pitiful look had stirred Zac's sympathy, he couldn't tone down his serious manner of speaking. The murderous look when combined with his stern voice made her too afraid.

Patricia's lips were set in a pout of dejection.

"So now I can't come to see you? You haven't been home for a week. This has made me miss you very much. Is it wrong for me to wish to see you? If that's the case, then I will leave and won't be an annoyance to you." As soon as she finished speaking, she pushed away Zac. She felt a stirring of anger. She turned around and walked quickly to Nicholas, ignoring Zac.

Turning to Nicholas, she said, "Nicholas, let's go now."

Before Zac could respond to her, Patricia grabbed Nicholas' hand and walked towards the door. Zac was left rendered speechless.

Before Patricia reached the door, Zac gave a roar of rage.

"Come back!"

This made Patricia and Nicholas halt in their tracks. They both went white with fear. Zac's frightening gaze was upon them. The two of them took a deep breath to calm themselves down.

"Patricia, let's go back." Nicholas couldn't help tugging at the hem of Patricia's shirt.

This was the first time Nicholas had seen Zac look so angry. If they really disobeyed Zac, the consequences would be terrible.

Even if Nicholas didn't remind her, Patricia knew what happened. It was not that she didn't feel the wrath of Zac, but...

Patricia's anger had woken up too. There was no way she would surrender easily. She had taken pain to come here and visit Zac, but he was behaving mean and indifferent. She felt quite offended.

"No. Zac is mean," Patricia said in a firm tone. Out of the corner of her eye, she took a look at Zac and her heart skipped a beat.

Even if she was going to disobey him, there was a part of her that was very much afraid of him.

#### [Chapter 567 A Romantic Nigh](#)

After hearing Patricia's words, Nicholas looked helpless. He knew he was doomed. Zac would definitely punish him.

At this thought, he couldn't help but lower his head, not knowing what to say. His heart suddenly felt tight in his chest.

Out of the corner of her eye, Patricia caught a glimpse of Nicholas' face. How could she not sympathize with his misery?

She was a little dejected too. She wanted to talk to Zac but didn't know what to do next.

Seeing Patricia and Nicholas still standing there like statues, Zac took a deep breath and calmed himself down before saying in a low voice, "Nicholas, bring Patricia to me."

Nicholas didn't dare to disobey the order. He quickly turned around and took Patricia to Zac. Once he

fulfilled the task, he left without saying a word, as if nothing had happened.

Patricia then watched Nicholas's back until he was gone and felt a sudden surge of anger. She glared at Zac before looking away.

Noticing her expression, Zac couldn't help but sigh. A trace of sadness flashed across his face as he asked softly, "Are you angry?"

"Didn't I make it obvious enough?" Patricia snorted, leaving no room for him to doubt otherwise.

From her tone alone, Zac could tell she was truly pissed. Still, he put his long arms around her slender waist and swallowed before confessing, "I was just worried about you, so..."

Zac stopped talking and pursed his lips. His face was a mask of sorrow. For a moment, he didn't know what to say or how to describe what he was feeling.

In fact, he was afraid his words would only infuriate her more and that no matter how hard he tried to cheer her up, it would be useless.

However, Patricia understood what he meant.

If Zac didn't care about her safety, he wouldn't let Nicholas pick her up every day.

As she realized this, Patricia's anger dissipated a lot. With a sigh, she turned around again and looked at Zac.

"I know you worry about me, but we haven't seen each other in days. It's your fault we're having this argument now," Patricia explained seriously, her eyes fixed on Zac. Frowning slightly, she still wanted to make it clear that his behavior had hurt her.

At that moment, a gentle smile appeared on Zac's face. He couldn't resist tapping the tip of her nose.

"Well, don't be angry anymore. Like you said, we haven't seen each other in days, and you don't want to spend our time together fighting, do you?"

Zac's words made Patricia feel much better. Indeed, they hadn't seen each other for a week. Now that they could finally be together, it wasn't the right time to be angry.

Patricia nodded slightly. There was no trace of anger on her face anymore, only affection. Looking straight at Zac, she caressed his face, suddenly worried about him.

"Zac, you've lost weight." Her voice was full of concern.

Although they hadn't seen each other for only a week, Zac was so much thinner. How could Patricia not

worry about him?

"It doesn't matter. You can cook something delicious and nourishing for me." With a gentle smile, Zac held her wrist with one hand and caressed her hair with the other.

At the sound of his words, Patricia nodded with a bright smile. Standing on her tiptoes, she kissed Zac's forehead.

"Are you hungry?"

"Have you eaten anything yet?" he asked instead of answering her question.

Patricia shook her head, laughing. "I asked Nicholas to bring me over immediately, so I didn't have time to eat anything."

In fact, she had planned to eat something when she went back.

Zac frowned at her answer. Pinching the tip of her nose, he said gently, "Let's get something to eat then." He then told his subordinates he was leaving and walked out of the office with Patricia.

The two went to a Western restaurant nearby. After eating, they returned to the company.

At first, Zac wanted Nicholas to take Patricia home, but she stuck to the man like glue, unwilling to leave. Seeing he had no other choice, he let her stay.

"You're such a naughty girl, Patricia!" Zac muttered, looking at her helplessly.

Once her eyes met his, Patricia raised her eyebrows and smiled. Then she stuck her tongue out at him like a spoiled child and said, "I don't have to go to work tomorrow, so it's fine." There was an unrestrained joy in the way she moved at that moment.

She had made up her mind to spend the rest of the day with Zac, and there was nothing he could do to change that.

Since they hadn't been able to meet lately, there was no way she would let go of this opportunity.

Zac pursed his lips and shook his head helplessly. But in reality, he was very happy that Patricia stayed. He wouldn't feel so lonely now.

Patricia studied Zac's face and couldn't but get close to him. Then she asked softly, "How is it going? Have you been too busy lately?"

Patricia didn't ask because she was curious about the company's affairs. She just wanted to know how the man was doing.

"I'm fine. Don't worry, there's nothing going on that I can't handle," Zac replied gently, reaching out to hold Patricia's waist. As he pulled her to sit on his lap, the two of them snuggled up on the office sofa.

Patricia nodded at the man's response, but a feeling far more complicated flashed through her beautiful eyes. In the end, she decided to put her worries aside. She didn't want to think too much now.

Smiling, Zac touched her cheek with his slender fingers and kissed her forehead.

"Would you mind sleeping here tonight?" Zac couldn't help asking.

Patricia burst into laughter. After recomposing herself, she looked at Zac seriously and coughed. "Well, I can make do with that." She patted him on the cheek as the corner of her lips tilted up in a naughty smile.

Zac narrowed his eyes, knowing she was joking.

As he glared at her, pretending to be mad, Patricia didn't see his hands go to her waist and start tickling her.

Since she was terrified of being tickled, it didn't take long for her to laugh uncontrollably and beg for mercy. "Okay, Zac, I take my words back. Please let me go!"

"There is no way I'll let you go so easily." Although his tone was serious, Zac's deep eyes were full of amusement. At the same time, his hands stopped tickling her.

The two stared into each other's eyes affectionately, as if they were the only people in the world.

Seeing the love in Patricia's eyes, Zac gave out a gentle smile and slowly leaned in to kiss her.

#### [Chapter 568 Spy](#)

Zac's kiss was so eager and passionate that Patricia got lost in a whirlwind of emotions. She smiled and wished that this moment would last forever so that they would never part.

Soon, the office was lit with brightness.

Zac knew the moment Patricia woke up.

"You're awake."

Patricia lifted her head and saw Zac standing in front of the window. He gave her a smile that melted her heart.

"What time is it right now?" she asked, glancing at the clock on the wall in a daze. It seemed to be pretty

late.

Zac smiled gently and walked up to her, leaning over to press a kiss on her forehead.

"Are you hungry? Go wash up so we can have breakfast."

"Zac, please carry me on your back," Patricia said childishly, moving close to him with a bright smile.

Zac smiled again in response and turned around, letting her cling to him on his back and then carrying her around the room.

About ten minutes later, Zac was growing a little tired. "Satisfied now?"

Patricia nodded slightly and gestured for him to put her down.

When her feet touched the floor, she reached out and stroked his hair with a worried look. "What's wrong, Zac? Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

"No," Zac said, shaking his head slightly. Then, an evil yet attractive smile curved his lips as he leaned forward and whispered something in her ear.

When he was done and moved away, Patricia's face flushed red. She glared at him with an embarrassed look.

"Shut up." She then turned around and left without another word, her ears still red.

Zac didn't miss the expression on her face and couldn't help but snicker. Quickly, he walked up to her and held her by the waist.

At that very moment, however, there was a quick knock on the door, interrupting the moment between the two. They separated in an instant at the unexpected sound.

Soon, the manager came in. When he saw that Patricia was there, he was surprised, but he quickly concealed his expression.

"Mr. Reynolds, here are the latest document," the manager said, putting down the document on the desk and then leaving the room immediately.

Before he went out the door, however, he glanced over at Patricia curiously as if he wanted to know something.

Patricia noticed his gaze and frowned slightly, feeling like she had been seen through.

Zac gazed at her in confusion. "What's wrong? What is it that you're thinking about?"

Patricia shook her head and gave him a sweet smile, thinking that maybe she was just being too suspicious of everything.

Zac, however, noticed that something seemed to be off. Confused, he turned to look at the manager's retreating back.

Had he missed something important? Why did she keep looking at that manager?

In order to ensure that the Sampson family's business could operate normally, Zac laid off some of the lower-level employees, but let the managers remain in their positions.

Zac kept them because they had been working diligently in the Sampson family's business for years.

However, it wasn't until now that Zac realized that maybe he hadn't thought it through enough.

Patricia glanced at him, frowning thoughtfully. "What's the matter?" she asked in a concerned tone.

"It's nothing. I was just wondering if I forgot about something," Zac reassured, though he looked like he was still lost in his thoughts.

The frown on Patricia's face deepened in response, but she kept silent, not wanting to disturb him any further since it seemed that he was thinking about something important.

Meanwhile, after leaving Zac's office, the manager quickly returned to his own office. He looked around vigilantly before taking out his phone to make a call.

"Bad news, Mr. Sampson!" he exclaimed, his tone filled with worry.

Sullivan, who was on the other end of the line, was shocked at this sudden news. "Does he know about it?" he asked anxiously.

The manager told him no with a shake of his head, but he began to worry about it when he saw Patricia there just now.

Hearing that Zac wasn't aware of it yet, Sullivan felt a tide of relief wash over his body. "He doesn't know it, so why are you panicking?" he asked, sounding displeased.

The manager let out a long sigh in response. His face filled with worry, he began telling Sullivan about seeing Patricia earlier in the company.

However, Sullivan wasn't even the slightest bit worried about it. Patricia wouldn't be able to ruin his plan, anyway.

"Is that something to be so concerned about? Since Zac is there, it's normal that she would be there as well," Sullivan said casually, clearly unfazed.

The way he was speaking about it normally made the manager feel even more anxious. Swallowing, he said in a low voice, "Mr. Sullivan, you might think it's no big deal now, but what if Patricia sees what's on the document?"

At his explanation, Sullivan instantly realized the problem. If Patricia indeed saw what was in the document...

However, after Sullivan thought about it for a while, his worry eventually disappeared. Not even Zac would be able to tell what he had done to the document, so there was no chance Patricia would notice it as well. Besides, Patricia had never worked in the Sampson family's business before, so how could she know?

After a long while, Sullivan took a deep breath, coming to a decision. "Don't worry. Even if she does see the document, she won't be able to notice anything wrong with them." His words were laced with confidence.

With Sullivan's reassurance, the manager finally felt relieved.

#### [Chapter 569 Patricia's Suspicion](#)

Both Patricia and Zac had a lot of questions. They had long suspected that this situation was more complicated than first thought, but they were unsure whether they were being too suspicious.

As soon as they finished lunch, Patricia was still clinging to Zac like glue. His sadness vanished the moment he saw her being so close to him.

It didn't take long until Zac and Patricia made their way back to the office. She kept an eye on him as he read through some document. She shook her head in disbelief as soon as she noticed the document.

"Zac, have you read that?" she asked with widened eyes.

Curious, Zac raised an eyebrow as he heard this. He was perplexed as he asked her, "What's the matter? You appear a bit out of place." His face was filled with bewilderment and disbelief.

Suddenly, Zac experienced a peculiar sensation as he looked into her eyes for no apparent cause at all.

Zac couldn't keep a grimace off his face as she was about to say something. With a cold stare, he followed her eyes to the paper in front of him, frowning.

Immediately, he had the impression that something about the paper was really weird for no apparent reason.



"Have you discovered anything, Patricia?" A puzzled expression painted his face as Zac stared at her.

Meanwhile, Patricia realized the situation. Although her pink lips moved, her words failed her. A glimmer of sadness flowed through her heart. She was torn about whether or not to tell him the truth.

When Zac saw Patricia's melancholy expression, he scowled and pursed his lips together. He had the distinct impression that she was concealing something from him.

"Patricia..." Zac called out her name in a gentle voice. His tone was full of expectation as he carefully watched Patricia's reaction.

On the other hand, Patricia couldn't stop herself from frowning and groaning. She moved fast to lay her delicate finger on the page and indicated various places.

"These places seem off," she calmly said as her big bright eyes stared at Zac.

When Zac heard this, he lifted his brows a little bit in surprise. His face was flushed with astonishment, as though he didn't know how to respond to the situation. He had the impression that there was indeed something unusual about it.

"Patricia, are you quite certain?" Zac couldn't stop himself from asking.

Actually, he already had a nagging feeling that there was something amiss with the document. However, he had personally examined everything and had sent others to double-check it as well. After that, he affirmed that there was absolutely no issue.

But he was once again perplexed and dubious after hearing what Patricia had to say.

Was it possible that Patricia made a mistake? Or maybe, he had never discovered the problem with the document?

A frown flashed across Patricia's face. She felt a bit depressed after learning that Zac had doubts about her. Nonetheless, she did not allow her rage to cloud her judgment. It was fair that he had some reservations about the situation.

"I understand that it's hard to believe. However, I am telling the truth." She had a serious expression on her face. All she wanted to do was tell Zac that the document had some mistakes.

Zac's eyebrows lifted suspiciously and he kept his gaze fixed on Patricia as he waited for her elaboration.

As soon as Patricia saw Zac's perplexed expression, she took a deep breath and said, "Perhaps you don't understand, but the Sampson family has a unique method for numbering and writing." She used her fair finger to point in a number of different directions as soon as she completed her explanation.

"According to you, there is nothing wrong with these establishments. The fact that I am a member of the Sampson family, though, makes it obvious that something is amiss."

When Zac heard this, he glanced at Patricia with a puzzled expression. He was completely perplexed by what was unfolding.

Patricia smiled and continued softly, "I learned this from my grandpa. When I was little, I was quite interested in this, so my grandpa taught me. Sullivan doesn't know that I've learned it from my grandpa."

Zac was taken aback when he heard this. His apprehension was quickly removed, and he recognized what she was referring to.

He realized why he couldn't always understand how the Sampson family's company operated. It turns out that there was some kind of secret hiding underneath it all.

Thinking that she would be able to solve the issue, Zac placed all of his faith in Patricia.

Patricia stroked the back of her head sheepishly as she saw Zac's expression of eagerness. Gently, she told him, "First and foremost, I have to warn you. It has been a long time since my grandpa taught me. As a result, I cannot promise that I will recall everything."

"It doesn't make a difference. Give it your all," Zac said while wearing a pleasant grin.

Patricia felt more relieved after hearing this. She was no longer anxious, and she started to attentively examine the contents of the document.

Despite Patricia's admission that she might not comprehend all of the text, she was still able to point out all of the mistake and explain what they all meant to Zac.

Zac regained his composure at that point and turned serious after that. His expression was filled with sorrow, and he was completely at a loss what to say.

In the past, he had doubts about his ability to handle the Sampson family's business, which was how he got himself into this situation.

But things became clearer now. Actually, Zac just couldn't make any sense of the facts given to him. It might be deduced that Sullivan was a very clever individual.

Zac couldn't help but snort when he thought about it. Then, with a bitter smirk, he admitted, "I was under the impression that I was not powerful enough to save the Sampson family's business. However, it seems that I've been deceived."

After seeing Zac's mournful appearance, Patricia couldn't help but lean into him. She opened and closed

her lips. For a brief period, she was at a loss for what to say to console him.

"Patricia, you are under no obligation to console me. It's all my fault. It has absolutely nothing to do with anybody else," Zac said with a gloomy expression.

Meanwhile, Patricia felt sad for Zac after seeing the look on his face. His being so negative and unhappy was something she didn't want for him. After all, it was a well-guarded family secret, and not everyone was privy to its contents.

Patricia shifted the subject and asked, "What are you planning to do now?"

Zac should take action now that he discovered the problems with the paper.

However, her perception of things changed when she saw the frown on Zac's face. She realized that things had suddenly become problematic. The Sampson family's firm retained all of its previous workers, and as a result, they were under the old structure and management that Sullivan had in place. It would take a long time for Zac to reform and restructure the organization even if he desired it.

"I..." Zac didn't know what to say. It was too late to change the managers of the Sampson family's firm. If he did so, the organization would become even more chaotic.

This was something that both of them were extremely clear about.

#### [Chapter 570 Play Along](#)

"But what should we do now?" Patricia frowned, her anxiousness growing as a helpless sigh escaped her.

Realistically speaking, the chances of Zac making a huge overhaul in the system was next to zero.

The Sampson family's company had been operating under a well-established scheme for years, and a change of that scale would inevitably call for a period of adjustment for the employees. Zac's move would be a very dangerous risk.

"I don't know. No matter which way I look at it, I can't think of anything that would work." Zac answered, his shoulders falling as if in defeat.

His admission only added to Patricia's worries. She had never seen Zac cornered. But the worst of it was the uselessness she felt. She couldn't even help him when he was already backed up against the wall.

Patricia could point out minor flaws in the document, but the situation called for a more concrete strategy.

It was utter chaos in her head. Her distress rose, barely letting her keep up with her own thoughts.

At this moment, a sudden thought occurred to Zac. He slammed his hand down the table and shot up from his seat, looking at Patricia with excitement in his eyes.

She saw the change in his expressions and frowned, not understanding where his sudden eagerness came from. Without saying anything, she waited for his next words.

"We can just play along," Zac said confidently, his clever eyes gleaming.

"Play along?" Patricia repeated, still not fully comprehending what he meant.

Zac was the image of composure and calmness—a stark contrast to Patricia's present confusion. He crooked his finger, motioning for her to come closer, then bent down to whisper in her ear.

Patricia's eyes widened at his words. It was not hopeless after all. She beamed at Zac, the tension leaving her face.

"Are you sure about this?" she asked. It was definitely a good plan, but it was also risky.

And there was one more problem. Patricia could read the document, but she didn't know how to modify it. If Zac wanted to change the contents, they needed to find someone else to help them.

Zac smiled fondly at her worried expression. He placed a reassuring hand on her shoulder and said, "Don't worry about it. I'll find someone to do the job."

"Is that okay?" Patricia was still not entirely convinced. Things wouldn't go so easily for them.

"You understand that it's not that simple, right? There are many complicated things involved, and if you make a mistake, we will be in huge trouble." She couldn't help voicing her doubts.

Zac's brows furrowed at her words. It was just one trouble after another. He had not expected things to be this challenging for them. Was there really no way out?

Patricia felt the waves of his nervousness fuel her own anxiety. She bit her lip, falling into deep thought.

As she sank further into worried contemplation, a thought struck her, her excitement showing itself in a scream. She shook Zac's wrist and whispered, "I know who can help us." She was grinning as she looked at him.

"Who?" Zac asked, confused but hopeful. If Patricia was right, it would be a huge help during this critical time.

Patricia's smile turned mysterious. With a self-satisfied look, she touched the tip of his nose. "I can't tell you right now, but you'll know when we get there."

Her answer seemed to have satisfied Zac enough for him not to prod further. He trusted Patricia, and he was hoping she would be able to get them out of this predicament.

After the usual busy day, the two went to meet the person Patricia talked about.

Zac could hardly believe his own eyes when he met the so-called mystery accomplice. He sent a suspicious gaze toward Patricia, wondering if she had made a mistake.

Was she pulling his leg? The person that Patricia said could potentially save them was none other than Giselle.

The women exchanged knowing smiles at Zac's evident befuddlement.

"Zac, you didn't know this, but that special system was actually made by my mother," Patricia said proudly, putting her slender arm around Giselle's shoulder.

Giselle smiled helplessly at her daughter's smugness and couldn't resist playfully chiding her. "Do you have to brag about it that much?"

"How is it bragging if it's the truth?" Patricia answered stubbornly.

Zac watched the exchange, still unable to fully believe what he had just heard.

He had heard the rumors about Giselle, and for a long time, he had his own preconceived judgment about her being just another poorly-educated woman. But he couldn't have been more wrong.

"I get that you're surprised, but don't just stand there. We did come here to ask for Mom's help. We should let her have a look over the document," Patricia said, reminding Zac of their purpose.

Zac quickly handed the document over to Giselle, who took them kindly.

She resembled her daughter even more when she was at work—both women were focused and sharp as they did their tasks.

It didn't take long for Giselle to finish examining the entire document.

She was able to quickly point out the problems, explaining them to Zac in detail. There were pieces of information that were redundant, while other parts were essentially just old materials dressed up as something new.

As the problems came to light one by one under Giselle's guidance, Zac was finally able to piece the past two months together.

He had achieved nothing significant, which caused the current mess that the Sampson family's business

found itself in.

Zac couldn't help but let out a disappointed sigh. It was his own fault that this was happening.

The realization came as a huge blow.

If things went on the same way, Zac was bound to keep making the same mistakes.

If not for Patricia's discovery, it was not unlikely that Zac would have been kept in the dark forever.

"I don't know how I would have found out if Patricia hadn't noticed it first." The more Zac thought about it, the deeper he fell into despair and helplessness.

Patricia looked at Giselle worriedly, then walked over to Zac.

"Don't dwell on it. It's over. Right now, it's more important to solve the problem in front of us," Patricia said, comforting him with gentle words as her hand lightly touched his shoulder.

Zac nodded. Patricia was right. He let a faint smile curve on his lips and gathered himself. Now was not the time for self-pity. There were more pressing matters at hand.