

Remarry 571

[Chapter 571 Help From Giselle](#)

This was a problem that needed to be solved immediately. Even though Zac didn't know how to deal with it, it shouldn't be difficult to work it out with Patricia and Giselle's help.

"You're right, Patricia," Zac said quietly as he took a deep breath.

Patricia nodded slightly. "Let's see what my mother can do about this," she said softly with a smile.

She and Zac then looked at Giselle with hope in their eyes.

Now that Giselle could understand the contents of the document, they just needed to play along with the trick and tamper with things to their advantage.

However, although the plan sounded simple, implementing it was far more complicated than what Zac and Patricia had thought.

Giselle didn't miss the look of hope in their eyes and sighed in response. "It's not as simple as you think. If you really thought so, then you are unfortunately mistaken." Her expression showed just how uncertain she was about all this.

Zac and Patricia frowned, feeling puzzled. They searched Giselle's face as though they were trying to figure something out from her expression.

"What do you mean?" Zac and Patricia asked at the same time, their faces appearing both surprised and confused.

Giselle shook her head slightly, putting the materials she had sorted out earlier in front of Zac and Patricia. "It isn't difficult to decipher the secret codes. To change them, however, is a different story altogether. Even if I can change them, it's difficult for me to hide the changes from Sullivan," she explained quietly, her expression downcast.

At the grave look on her face, Zac and Patricia could only look at each other uncertainly, both of them not knowing what to say for a moment.

The current situation was not as simple as they thought, after all. This kind of issue needed serious consideration, especially since they still had a lot of things to deal with.

"Mom, can't you help us out?" Patricia asked helplessly, her expression bordering on desperation.

She had pinned all her hopes on Giselle, and now that it came to this, it seemed that they needed to go back to square one.

Zac kept silent, but the look on his face mirrored Patricia's own.

Giselle glanced at the expressions on their faces and sighed. "It's not that I can't do it, but I just have no idea where to start. I predict that it will take me some time as I have to familiarize myself with it first."

Giselle was silently assuring them that she would try her best nevertheless.

Zac and Patricia immediately perked up at this, the glimmer of hope returning to their eyes. Excitedly, they walked towards Giselle, with Patricia reaching out to grasp her wrist.

"I knew you wouldn't leave us alone, Mom," Patricia said with a bright smile.

Giselle simply gave a gentle smile in response, reaching out to pat Patricia on the shoulder reassuringly.

Zac breathed a sigh of relief. Delight seeped into his chest as he looked at Giselle, deciding to put all his hopes on her this time.

After that, Zac began paying more attention to the managers in the company. Whenever they handed over some document, Zac would secretly give a copy to Giselle so that she could familiarize herself with the contents.

This process lasted for four whole days. On the fifth day, Giselle started sorting out information from the documents, seemingly able to do so quite skillfully.

However, things didn't go as smoothly as Zac had expected. Although Giselle managed to modify the contents a little, it was easy to be found out.

In the end, Zac decided to implement a better method, thinking that it would be great if he could change the special system used by the Sampson family.

However, it was just Zac's wishful thinking. If he really went ahead and did so, it would just cause a lot of confusion.

Seeing Zac lying on the sofa and staring up at the ceiling with a blank gaze, Patricia bit her lower lip, not knowing what to say.

As she stood by the doorway, her heart twisted in her chest at the deeply worried look on Zac's face. She had no idea what to do, so she simply stayed there, frozen with uncertainty.

Seeing him this way was making her feel very worried. She knew that he wanted to solve the problem as soon as possible, but this dilemma they currently had in their hands was quite tricky and difficult to resolve.

Patricia let out a heavy sigh, a frown curling her lips as her worry increased by the second.

At the sound of her deep exhale, Zac noticed that she was there and quickly changed his expression. He gave her a soft smile and beckoned to her with his finger.

"Come here."

The moment he said those words, Patricia put on a sweet smile and walked towards Zac, mustering the brightest expression she could manage.

"Don't worry about it. It'll be okay. My mother will solve the problem soon," Patricia assured, trying her best to comfort him. However, although her words were laced with confidence, she wasn't quite so certain on the inside.

Zac nodded slightly in response to her words, a small smile curving his lips.

Although she wanted to comfort him, she didn't want it to be like this, where Zac was clearly just forcing a smile to keep her from worrying.

"Zac, please don't force yourself," she implored softly, holding Zac's chin with tenderness. There was a serious expression on her face as she spoke, clearly just wanting Zac to stop suppressing his emotions inside.

Zac smiled gently when he saw the soft look in her eyes. Reaching out, he held her close, embracing her so tightly like he was afraid she might disappear. His grip was firm, but she could feel his body trembling unconsciously out of emotion.

Feeling his fear seeping through her skin, Patricia couldn't contain her shock. Her lips parted and closed as if she were uncertain of what to say, and her eyes were wide like she was momentarily stunned.

She had always thought of Zac as a powerful, influential man. She never imagined that he would ever be afraid of anything.

Today, however, Patricia really felt the fear in his heart, as if he was afraid that the one he loved most would suddenly disappear from his grasp.

This tight, desperate hug alone was enough to tell her that Zac wanted to hold her so closely like he never wanted to separate from her again.

"Zac..." Patricia murmured, feeling a little suffocated from his embrace.

[Chapter 572 I'm Scared](#)

At the sound of Patricia's voice, Zac immediately came to his senses and let her go.

"What's wrong? Did I hurt you, Patricia?" Zac asked worriedly, inspecting her up and down, fearing that he might've unintentionally hurt her just now.

Patricia coughed a little once he loosened his grip, feeling the air return to her lungs. "I'm fine. I just felt a little suffocated." She coughed a few more times after that, trying to breathe normally again.

Zac listened to the sound of her coughs, his worry increasing. He bit his lip as the guilt seeped into his chest.

"Patricia, I..." Zac whispered, his words laced with deep concern.

Patricia saw the look on his face and gave him a reassuring smile. "I'm fine. Don't worry about me," she said, a sweet smile curving her lips.

Zac breathed a sigh of relief at the sight of her smile. Still feeling guilty, he held her in his arms, gently this time. "I'm sorry," he said apologetically. "I didn't know I was hurting you."

Patricia shook her head slightly, the smile still on her face. Reaching out, she patted Zac on the shoulder affectionately.

"It's okay. I know you didn't mean it."

She could clearly feel that Zac was scared, like a lost, insecure child who was currently walking on eggshells around her.

He clung to Patricia so tightly as if she was his lifeline.

Holding her this close, Zac could feel his nervousness slowly dissipating. "Patricia..." he said in a low tone, his voice almost like a whisper. "I'm scared."

Patricia looked at him in surprise. Her lips parted as if she wanted to say something, but the words were stuck in her throat.

To be honest, his words really surprised her just now. She knew that he must've felt guilty about hurting her just now, but she didn't expect him to be this scared.

But for some reason, after hearing what Zac said, she felt that the distance between them decreased.

Zac had always hidden his feelings from her in the past, but now that he was being more honest with her, it was making the anticipation bubble in her chest.

"Zac..." Patricia called out his name gently, not knowing what else to say to make him feel better.

"Patricia, you don't have to say anything. Listen to me," Zac told her in a serious tone. It seemed that he

wanted her to know something.

Patricia fell silent at that and met his gaze.

"Patricia, I'm really afraid that you might leave me. I'm not kidding with this. I'm being completely serious right now," Zac said quietly.

Patricia stared at him, and understanding crossed her features. Zac was afraid that Kareem would take her away from him. However, she didn't know how she could console him.

Besides, that kind of thing was impossible to happen.

"Zac, what is it that you're thinking about?" Patricia asked in a soft voice, trying to figure out how to comfort him.

To be honest, she didn't think that it would happen at all. Even if Zac failed to manage the company, she wouldn't leave him for Kareem because of that.

"I'm serious," Zac repeated, his voice still maintaining that firm, serious tone.

Patricia was unsure of what to say. She pursed her lips and sighed. "Zac, don't you have any confidence in yourself?"

She look Zac in his eye.

When Zac met her gaze, he wanted to tell her what was on his mind. However, when he opened his mouth, he suddenly didn't know where to start.

Patricia frowned and reached out to tap him on the forehead. "Don't you have any confidence in yourself?" she repeated.

Zac looked at her in astonishment. He opened his mouth once again, but found that he couldn't say a word. His mind went blank.

'I don't have confidence in myself?' Zac couldn't help but ask himself this in his head. He lowered his gaze, not knowing what to say.

Maybe Patricia was right. Perhaps he indeed didn't have confidence in himself, which was why he felt scared.

Why else would he be feeling so worried?

Patricia studied Zac's face, peering at him as though trying to search for something in his expression. She decided to wait for his response, however.

After a moment of silence, Zac let out a sigh, a faint smile appearing on his face. "You're right, Patricia. I really don't have confidence in myself."

He felt burdened in this current situation and he didn't know how to get out of it.

Patricia sighed as well, reaching out to touch his face gently. "Believe me, Zac. Nothing will happen, and there's no way I'll leave you," she said firmly yet sincerely.

Then, she raised her head and pressed a kiss against his forehead. Afterwards, she drew back, holding his cheek and gazing at him with affection in her eyes.

She wanted to tell him that no matter what happened, she would never leave him. That she would stay with him and support him in every way she could.

Zac gazed into her eyes, feeling a gentle tide of relief washing over him. He suddenly felt so much better than before.

He held her face tenderly in his hand and smiled.

[Chapter 573 Zac's Determination](#)

Zac appeared shocked for a moment before his eyes slowly turned gentle, his lips curving into a tender smile.

"Patricia..." Zac called out to her in a soft voice, the affection evident in his gaze.

Patricia smiled in response and moved closer to him, resting her head on his chest. "Zac, you have to believe in me and in yourself as well. Don't let yourself get too pressured. Do you remember what I told you before?"

Zac nodded in response, his features softening into a smile as he held her close.

"Of course. I remember everything," Zac told her firmly.

He recalled her words to him back then, the moment she told him in a serious voice that she didn't want him to burn himself out, that all she wanted was just for him to be happy.

It was because of this that Zac hoped that he could solve the problem in the Sampson family's company. If he did, then Patricia could return peacefully.

"But Patricia, I really hope that you can take over the company," Zac told her seriously with no sign of jest on his features.

Patricia frowned, not knowing what to say to that.

Zac looked at her face and couldn't help but burst into laughter. Leaning forward, he kissed her on the forehead with a faint smile.

"I know what you're thinking. You must be very angry at me right now and want to hit me," Zac said in amusement, sounding like he was making fun of her.

Patricia pursed her lips, knowing deep inside that what Zac said was true. If that was the case, she really wanted to give him a good beating.

She had tried her best to convince Zac, but it turned out that all of her efforts were in vain. He didn't understand what she meant at all.

"You don't understand what I'm trying to say at all," Patricia huffed out, staring at him angrily. She then sighed helplessly, unable to think of what to say.

In all honesty, she was really angry about this matter. She couldn't understand what Zac was doing. Why couldn't he just let go of the company?

At the look on Patricia's face, Zac instantly knew what was weighing on her mind. He sighed and reached out to tap her gently on the forehead. "Don't you understand what I'm trying to do?"

Patricia didn't understand it at all. She kept trying to explain to Zac that she didn't care even the least bit about the Sampson family's company.

She didn't know what was going on in that mind of his. He was still obsessed with the company for some reason which made her feel very worried.

"I don't understand, and I have no idea what you're thinking, either. Why do you keep trying to obtain the company? I'd still be happy even without it," Patricia said, looking at him sternly.

On the inside, however, there was a somber feeling in her heart. After all, the company was left to her by her grandfather. She couldn't give it up like that so easily.

However, she didn't believe that it was appropriate to fight for it considering the current situation they were in.

Zac was studying the expression on Patricia's face, reaching out to tap her once more on the forehead. "I know. You can't really make a move to regain the company yourself, right?"

Patricia stared at him, speechless.

Although she was unwilling to give up on the company, she respected Zac's decision. If he kept on

insisting, then she wouldn't say anything else.

"But I don't want you to bother yourself with this matter. To be honest, Zac, I just hope that you can handle it better and not tire yourself out in the process," Patricia said quietly.

Zac nodded, understanding what she was trying to say. He moved forward and kissed her on the lips. "I know, Patricia, but I hope that you can understand my intentions. The Sampson family's company is the fruit of your grandfather's painstaking efforts. I just want for it to be yours again."

Patricia looked into his eyes and knew that he was being serious with her. He wasn't joking around with her right now. Because of this, she was at a loss for words.

They stared at each other for a while as if gauging the other person's thoughts, and after what seemed to be an eternity, Patricia finally sighed and broke the silence. "All right, I understand. All I ask is that you don't put too much pressure on yourself. I just want you to be happy."

"I promise you that I'll take good care of myself," Zac said sincerely, taking her hand and planting a kiss on her palm.

Patricia saw the determination in his eyes and knew that it was useless to stop him. The only thing she could do right now is follow his decision and hope for the best.

For her, it was fine as long as Zac was happy.

This was the only promise she wanted him to keep, and nothing else.

Meanwhile, when the manager noticed that there was a problem going on in the company, he immediately went to report it to Sullivan. As Sullivan heard the news, he frowned. He had promised Kareem that he would get rid of Zac in a week.

However, a week had already passed without making any progress. Worst of all, Zac seemed to be aware that something was wrong.

"Why haven't you fulfilled your promise?" Kareem asked coldly, tapping the table with his fingers, the sound seeming to reverberate within the silence.

Sullivan swallowed and looked up at Kareem, stammering out, "Mr. Reynolds... About that... I..."

Sullivan's hesitant response was enough to tell Kareem everything he needed to know. Kareem snorted and gave him a frosty look. "You sounded so confident before. What happened to you now?"

Sullivan flinched a little at Kareem's gaze and instinctively lowered his head, unable to meet his eyes.

[Chapter 574 Uncovered](#)

"Why so quiet?" Kareem taunted, his lips curling into a cold smile. He looked Sullivan dead in the eye as his gentle expression slowly morphed into something more sinister.

Sullivan unconsciously took a step back in his surprise and stammered, "Well... it seems that Zac has already found out."

Kareem scoffed at his answer. He repeated Sullivan's words slowly, turning it into a cold question. "So Zac already knows and the matter has been exposed?"

"No, no," Sullivan scrambled to explain. "It has not been totally uncovered. But Zac is starting to be suspicious."

Kareem was still far from satisfied. His brows drew together in disapproval, and he said in a low voice, "No matter how you say it, you've failed. I don't need your excuses."

"It's not like that," Sullivan insisted, still wanting to plead his case. However, his words were cut short by the frightening glint in Kareem's eyes. Sullivan shut his mouth, not daring to speak anymore. The last thing he wanted was to aggravate Kareem's already dangerous temper.

Sullivan's meek acquiescence did not escape Kareem. He looked at the other man in contempt and said, "I'll give you another week. If you don't show me results, don't blame me for what happens next." The look on his face was menacing as he finished.

Sullivan nodded repeatedly, his expression riddled with fear. Without another word, he turned around to leave.

Anika stood by the door, a mischievous smile playing on her lips as she watched Sullivan scurry off.

"Someone's in a bad mood," she remarked, walking inside the room leisurely with a gloating smile.

Kareem ignored her obvious baiting and asked, "What are you doing here?"

"No reason. I was just curious," Anika answered, her expression turning sharp.

"I'm dying to know how on Earth you're going to solve this problem." Her eyes were as cold as her voice when she turned to him.

Kareem still refused to acknowledge her iciness. "Do you seriously think that I don't know what you're thinking?" he asked back.

"Stop dodging the question. How are you going to take the Sampson family's company?" Anika sneered as she pressed him further. "It seems that you're running out of tactics. Even the people you trusted turned out to be failures."

Her remark was punctuated with mocking laughter, the harsh sound echoing in the room.

The truth was that Anika found it strange for Kareem to just believe what Sullivan had said. Why would he bet on that useless man?

Had Sullivan been at least a little helpful, the Sampson family's company wouldn't have ended up where it was now.

Failures were garbage. And garbage should be thrown away. A person's value could only be measured by how much power they had to turn the situation in their favor.

Of course, Kareem knew precisely what Anika was thinking. However, he was not like her. Anika followed the rules of the Curtis family as closely as she could.

He, on the other hand, was far from an obedient little heiress. All his work in the business world had taught him to be shrewd. Even the lowest servant had his uses, and Kareem would make sure to exhaust all his resources as well as he possibly could.

"We're different, Anika. Our ways of handling things don't really match, so there's no use discussing it," Kareem said, dismissing her earlier question.

It was as good as saying that he would not be humoring her.

Anika looked at him sharply, but her expression turned calm the next second.

"Is that so? Then, I look forward to seeing your next move." Her lips broke into another mischievous smile, as if she was anticipating the next episode of a show.

Kareem's temper rose at her blatant mockery. He glared at her but held his tongue. There was no use starting a conflict now. Even if they had their differences, the fact remained that the two of them were working together.

He gave her a slow once-over and asked, "Is that the only reason why you came here?"

She wouldn't have come for such a trifling reason. There must have been something else.

Anika nodded complacently and answered, "It's good to see that you at least still have a clear head. This is for you." She took out a letter from her pocket and threw it to him.

Kareem took the letter and frowned with suspicion. "What's this?"

"See for yourself. You'll know once you open it. It's late now. I should go." With that, Anika strode away, leaving no chance for Kareem to speak.

He opened the envelope, his eyes growing wide at the pictures. He could hardly believe his own eyes.

If it had come from anyone other than Anika, Kareem would have been incredulous.

"Anika, what the hell?" His brows furrowed as he looked at the images in his hand. For a moment, he couldn't understand Anika's intention.

Kareem emptied the contents of the envelope onto the table, his disbelief growing every second. His lips tightened into a harsh line as shock overcame him.

The last thing in the envelope was a memory card chip.

He was even more confused. Just what did Anika want to tell him?

Finally, Zac and Patricia were able to clear things up. They ate dinner, then sat in front of the TV. As the two were quietly basking in the calm of each other's company, Zac's phone rang.

There was a call from Nicholas. Zac frowned, turning to look at Patricia and wordlessly asking for her permission to take it.

Seeing the look on his face, Patricia nodded.

To be honest, the call also made her anxious. Why was Nicholas calling at this time?

As soon as Zac pressed the button to receive the call, Nicholas' frantic voice came from the other end.

"Boss, we have a problem. Something happened in the company, and all our servers are down for no reason," Nicholas said, his words coming quickly one after another.

Patricia was shocked at the tone of his voice. Something serious must have happened for Nicholas to sound as if he was at his wit's end.

[Chapter 575 Virus Invasion](#)

Zac's expression changed in that instant, a hint of distress flashing in his eyes. He glanced over at Patricia first before averting his gaze. "Explain it to me clearly," he ordered.

In contrast to Nicholas' panicked state, Zac was not as anxious, and his voice remained calm and steady.

At his words, Nicholas swallowed and took a deep breath to calm himself down.

He began to tell Zac the entire story of what happened. All of the staff members had been working overtime in the company when an egg suddenly appeared on the screens of the computers. However, before they could figure out what was going on, the screens went black all of a sudden, and then the computers in the company went down.

Zac's jaw clenched in response. "The virus has invaded. It seems that she has now taken action."

'She?' Patricia stared at Zac in shock, waiting for his next words.

Nicholas instantly understood what was going on and fell silent, a thoughtful expression coming over his face.

However, before he could ponder on it in his head, Zac suddenly spoke, interrupting his train of thought. "Nicholas, I want you to drop everything at hand and go find Jack immediately."

Nicholas responded with his assent and then hung up the phone without another word.

Zac sighed heavily, an anxious emotion surging in his chest.

Patricia saw the look on his face and frowned, not knowing what to say. She stared straight at him as though she was trying to search for something, but in the end, she felt too embarrassed to ask.

Meanwhile, Zac smiled secretly at the expression on her face from the corner of his eye. He reached out and tapped her gently on the forehead. "Don't worry, Patricia. I'm fine."

Patricia looked at him uncertainly. "Zac, the woman you meant earlier..."

"Anika," Zac answered before she could even finish her words.

He had to tell her like this, especially because of the look on her face just now. If he didn't, she might feel uncomfortable all night.

"What? Anika?" Patricia repeated in shock. She stared at Zac incredulously, as if she couldn't believe what she just heard.

Zac tapped her on the forehead once more, smiling. "Anika isn't as simple as you think. She has a lot of tricks up her sleeve. The virus implant is her most powerful skill," he explained in a low voice.

Patricia nodded slightly in agreement. She already knew that Anika was a force to be reckoned with the first time she met the woman.

Not only that, but Anika always strove to win over Zac in any way she could.

"So what are you going to do now?" Patricia asked quietly, looking up at Zac with a worried look.

There was no good news from Giselle yet, and now that this incident came up, their troubles only increased, making the situation all the more depressing.

Patricia's expression grew downcast the more she thought about it. She really didn't know what to do at this point. It felt like the situation was growing troublesome and becoming more than they could possibly handle.

"Don't worry. Jack will solve this for us," Zac assured her.

Patricia blinked, looking at him in confusion. "What are you talking about? What does this have to do with Jack?"

She was bemused at this sudden mention of Jack's name and couldn't understand why Zac brought it up so suddenly.

Zac snickered at her expression. "It turns out that Jack didn't tell you, huh? To be honest, he..."

His words were interrupted when the sound of a phone call suddenly rang in the room. Zac took the call and was about to speak when Jack's voice immediately cut in before he could.

"Zac, how could you be like this? Why did you leave this virus issue to me?" Jack exclaimed, his voice filled with distress.

Meanwhile, Patricia was staring at the scene, stunned. She stared at the phone first, then at Zac.

She couldn't believe that Jack had such a talent.

"There's no other choice. You're the only one in this world who can handle this task," Zac said, intentionally making a compliment.

However, Jack wasn't happy at all. "Even though you're trying to flatter me, it doesn't change the dissatisfaction I'm feeling. Zac, you've gone too far. I'm a talented person, but you don't give me any difficult tasks. You're wasting my skills on such an easy job."

Jack's tone was clearly unsatisfied.

Zac remained calm and composed throughout it all, but Patricia, on the other hand, just stood there in shock and disbelief.

"Don't feel so bad. There's no one else I really trust to solve this problem except for you."

What Zac said was exactly what Jack wanted to hear.

Jack's voice was filled with pride the next second. "Good, you have come to the right person. Others can't help you solve this problem, but it's different if you ask me for help." Jack's lips curved into a confident smile.

The two of them continued to chat for a bit before hanging up the phone.

Patricia frowned, seeming a little doubtful. "Can Jack really do this?"

"Of course. Didn't you hear what he said just now?" Zac said confidently, raising an eyebrow at her.

For a moment, Patricia felt that this development was so sudden and out of the blue. She didn't expect that Jack was so capable. She had thought that he...

Well, all of this was simply her own opinion though, and she admittedly didn't understand what was going on before.

Patricia sighed. "I really didn't know about any of this. I guess I've been too ignorant." A smile curved her lips.

"There are so many things you don't know," Zac said bluntly as he gazed at her.

"I also think that there are a lot of things I've yet to know," Patricia agreed, shrugging helplessly. "Is it okay for Jack to deal with it alone, though?"

"Don't worry. Just leave the matter to Jack," Zac assured her gently.

[Chapter 576 Anika's Confidence](#)

Patricia looked at Zac in astonishment, a trace of doubt appearing on her expression. To be honest, if Zac hadn't said so himself, she wouldn't have believed it at all.

Meanwhile, Zac simply looked calm and at ease. There was a relaxed smile on his face as he waited for good news on Jack's end.

Seeing his confidence, Patricia's worries lessened by the second. Deep inside, she was also looking forward to the results.

Soon enough, Zac's phone rang, and Jack's casual voice later came from the other end of the line.

"It's done now. You really just wasted my talent on such a simple problem," Jack said in dissatisfaction.

"Jack, are you complaining about this?" Patricia asked in an unhappy tone of voice.

She squinted her eyes, appearing like she wanted to teach Jack a lesson.

On the other end of the line, Jack smiled awkwardly. "It's not what you think. I'm just telling the truth." Then, in the next second, his tone became accusatory. "Zac, you're unbelievable. Didn't you promise not to let Patricia hear?"

Zac sighed in response. "Do you think that's even possible, knowing her?"

Jack became quiet at that, knowing that Zac was right.

The silence stretched out for a little while, with Jack obviously not knowing what to say.

Meanwhile, Patricia, who was listening to the entire conversation, coughed a little. "Jack, just think of this as contributing your service to us." She then hung up the phone without another word.

"Well, let's go and have a good night's sleep," Patricia ordered before turning around to leave, leaving no chance for Zac to speak.

It wasn't until Patricia returned to their bedroom that Zac finally came to his senses. He quickly caught up to her, a bright smile curving his lips.

When he entered, she was already lying on the bed, and he coughed a little at the sight. "Then let's go to sleep." Without another word, Zac pounced on her, leaving no chance for her to resist.

Meanwhile, Anika was standing before Kareem, a glass of red wine in her hand. She looked quite satisfied with her achievement.

Kareem raised a curious eyebrow, looking her up and down.

"You seem to be in a good mood today."

Anika responded to him with a smug smile. Without a word, she sat down, staring at Kareem with a trace of amusement in her eyes.

"You are correct," Anika said, taking a delicate sip of her wine.

Kareem studied Anika's face and an inexplicable smile curled his lips.

"Isn't it a little too early to feel so happy?" Kareem asked.

"Is that so? Perhaps that is because you don't know how capable I am." Anika raised her eyebrows at him, exuding confidence in every way.

Kareem shook his head, his gaze remaining frosty. He didn't really believe in her abilities at all.

It wasn't that he wanted to look down on her, but the current situation was just not as simple as she thought. She was too confident that the virus she created wouldn't be solved by Zac so easily.

Kareem didn't believe that at all. He knew Zac's capability very well. Zac would never let Anika succeed

with her plan.

Zac wouldn't go down that easily. Besides, there was no way he wouldn't figure out her trick. Knowing him, he was a man who was always prepared.

Anika noticed the look of doubt on Kareem's face and frowned, her good mood spoiled in an instant. "What is it, Kareem? You don't have any faith in my abilities?"

Kareem shook his head with an unfazed expression.

"It's not that I don't trust you. However, I also don't believe that Zac would be defeated that easily," Kareem said, looking at her with a trace of amusement in his eyes.

A strange look flashed across Anika's face at that moment. Her features began to tighten into a scowl.

"It seems that you're still looking down on me!" Anika exclaimed angrily.

Kareem shook his head once more, not really affected by her reaction. "I only told you the truth. It's up to you whether or not you want to believe it."

Anyway, the reason why Kareem came here today was to tell Anika about it. Since she refused to believe him, he didn't think it was necessary to waste any more of his time here.

"It's getting late," he said, his gaze frosty. "I should go back now." Then, without another word, Kareem turned around and left the room.

Anika watched him go, the blood boiling under her skin. She drank up the last of her wine and exhaled a heavy breath, anger clear on her features.

If Kareem thought that this was going to bring her down, then he was dead wrong. She was going to show him how capable she was. She wasn't the kind of person who gave up that easily.

Staring at Kareem's retreating back, Anika gripped the glass in her hand so tightly as if she was going to crush it.

When Patricia heard that the case of the virus invasion hadn't been solved yet, she called Zac nervously, wanting to hear the updates on the situation.

Last night, Jack had assured them that he took care of it, but now...

"Don't worry, Patricia. I will handle this," Zac told her firmly, sounding confident in his words.

Patricia was not assured by it, however. "It's easy for you to say, but..."

This wasn't some kind of simple thing. This virus issue was on the news now, and things seemed to be becoming very serious.

Zac let out a chuckle. "Patricia, don't worry about it. I assure you, this matter will be settled soon."

However, the more Zac assured her, the more worried she felt about him.

Patricia couldn't wait any longer and decided to call Jack. When she asked him about it, he suddenly fell silent.

[Chapter 577 A Scheme](#)

When Jack didn't answer, Patricia frowned, suspicion creeping into her chest. "What's going on? Did you really solve it? Or perhaps..."

"Patricia, don't you have faith in my abilities? I'm a computer expert, you know. Anika's little virus is just a piece of cake for me. How could..." Jack's voice trailed off as he suddenly seemed to realize something.

Confused as to why he stopped talking, Patricia's frown deepened. She stared at the phone in suspicion. "What is it? Are you and Zac hiding something from me?"

Jack seemed to hesitate at the other end of the line, apparently speechless.

"Jack, why aren't you saying anything?" Patricia demanded in a helpless tone.

With Patricia putting him under pressure, Jack had no choice but to tell her the truth.

It turned out that this was all just a ploy by Zac. They were hoping that Kareem and Anika would walk right into their trap.

"A ploy?" Patricia repeated, eyes wide in shock and suspicion.

It was a little strange, to be honest. This kind of plan didn't seem necessary at all.

Jack heard the confusion in her tone. "You don't know much about these things, and they're not as simple as you think. You should just wait for news from Zac."

Patricia frowned at that, not knowing what to say.

"Are you sure this is all just a scheme?" Patricia asked to make sure.

"If you don't believe me, then you can go ask Zac about it." Jack immediately hung up the phone afterwards. He didn't want to continue talking about this matter with Patricia.

Patricia stared at the screen of her phone, shocked. She then called Zac without a second thought.

"Zac..."

Before she could finish her words, Zac decided to interrupt and tell her the truth. Perhaps it was because of her tone of voice, but Zac could instantly feel that she knew something.

Patricia blinked, completely stunned. "You're telling me this now so easily?"

This wasn't like him, actually. Zac usually kept her in the dark about the company affairs before.

Zac coughed a little. "Well, you asked me, so how can I not tell you the truth?" He smiled happily as he spoke.

Patricia listened to him, speechless. At first, she had planned to talk things out with Zac, but then it suddenly turned out like this. She felt so confused and frustrated, and she didn't know where to vent it all out.

"By the way, what do you want to eat today? Let's go together," Zac told her softly.

Patricia instantly came to her senses, a frown curving her lips. "Are you kidding me?" she said incredulously.

It was a sensitive period right now, but Zac was offering to have a meal with her in public. Was he doing this on purpose to give the other party a chance to take action?

The thought of it made Patricia feel even more upset.

Zac seemed to sense her confusion and chuckled calmly in response. "Don't worry about it. You just have to trust me, okay?" he told her reassuringly.

Since Zac said this himself, Patricia thought that it was unnecessary for her to retort anymore, so she just nodded her head and agreed.

The two of them went to Mance Harton, a famous restaurant, and after they finished eating, Zac accompanied Patricia to go shopping. The two of them had a pleasant evening together.

However, Patricia's good mood only lasted until the two of them returned to the apartment. When she saw Sullivan standing before them, all the pleasant feelings immediately went down the drain. On the contrary, Zac looked at Sullivan with an intrigued expression, as if he had expected that the latter would appear here today.

Patricia glanced at the look on Zac's face, surprised. She felt that he was hiding something from her.

However, just as she was about to say something, Zac turned to her with a gentle smile. "Patricia, you go

upstairs first. I think Mr. Sampson wants to talk to me about something."

The confidence in his eyes and his firm tone made Patricia frown, and the feeling inside of her grew stronger.

He really was hiding something from her.

Patricia frowned in displeasure. She wanted to hear something from Zac's mouth, but then she glanced over at Sullivan unconsciously.

She didn't like Sullivan very much. Even though he had a friendly expression on his face, she felt nauseous just being around him.

"Zac..."

Patricia whispered, just loud enough for Zac to hear. She wanted to tell him that she wanted to stay, that she didn't want to leave him behind.

However, Zac shook his head in response. He understood what Patricia was trying to say, but with the current situation at hand, he didn't want her to get involved.

"Patricia, trust me. Everything will be fine, I promise," Zac said as he kissed her on the forehead, his eyes filled with tenderness.

Patricia nodded reluctantly, looking disheartened. Pursing her lips, she turned around and left.

Zac stared at Patricia's retreating back and sighed. He did understand the concern she felt for him. The emotion was clear in her eyes.

However, he had already made up his mind not to involve her in this kind of thing.

Zac turned back and stared straight at Sullivan, his face going back to its indifferent expression. His gaze was as frosty as his smile. "What is it that I can do for you, Mr. Sampson?"

As for the reason Sullivan came here, Zac was pretty sure that it was about the Sampson family's business.

"I heard that you've had some trouble recently, Mr. Reynolds," Sullivan said smoothly, but his sharp gaze didn't go unnoticed by Zac.

In all honesty though, anybody could figure out what Sullivan was thinking at that moment.

It was obvious that he wanted to take advantage of Zac, and that this was the best time to take action.

Zac's lips curved into a cold smile, looking at Sullivan condescendingly. "Even so, I don't need your concern. I will handle this myself."

Sullivan suddenly burst into laughter, giving Zac a scornful smile in response.

[Chapter 578 Sullivan's Plea](#)

At the sound of Sullivan's laughter, Zac looked at him with frown.

Sullivan wasn't surprised to see Zac's cold gaze. In fact, he had expected that.

"Do you really think you can handle it, Mr. Reynolds?" Sullivan sounded doubtful. He thought if Zac refused to listen to him, he would only lose.

Seeing Sullivan's expression, Zac knew what he meant. He sneered, "I don't need your concern, Mr. Sampson." As soon as his words fell, he turned around to leave.

A trace of dissatisfaction flashed across Sullivan's face. Biting his lower lip angrily, he stopped Zac.

"If you insist on this approach, the Sampson family's company will eventually fall into Kareem's hands," Sullivan snapped in a fit of anger.

Zac's lips curled into a sneer, and his eyes flashed with irritation. He then said in a low voice, "Sullivan, if there's anything you want to say, drop the act and say it."

"You..." Holding back the urge to vent his anger, Sullivan glared at Zac. As he took a deep breath to calm himself down, he said evenly, "You may have noticed by now that after you took over the Sampson family's company, no matter how hard you tried, you haven't seen any improvements, right?"

A faint smile appeared on Sullivan's lips. It gave him great satisfaction to throw the fact in Zac's face.

Zac, in turn, seemed calm and relaxed as he heard this. There was no sign of tension or surprise the way Sullivan had imagined. In fact, he continued to look at Sullivan indifferently, as if waiting for his next words.

Sullivan couldn't help but frown at his attitude. He studied Zac's face carefully, trying to find any trace of anger or frustration.

With his eyebrows furrowed and his lips slightly parted, he didn't know what to say. Suddenly, Sullivan felt it had been a bad idea to come to negotiate with Zac.

"Is there anything else you want to say?" Zac's voice sounded cold as he stared at the other man with a stern expression.

"No matter what changes you implement in the Sampson family's company, you won't get any good

results. Even if Giselle takes action, it won't work. Do you seriously think I haven't tried everything myself?" Sullivan snorted with a confident smile.

At that moment, Zac finally understood the point of this meeting. Sullivan had made up his mind, or he wouldn't have told him all of this. "What do you want then?"

"Nothing. I just want to cooperate with you." Sullivan looked at Zac seriously.

In fact, Sullivan really meant what he said. Although he had cooperated with Kareem before, he realized the latter wasn't so easy to get along with. Therefore, he decided to find another backer and came to Zac.

Zac's lips stretched into a disdainful grin. His deep-set eyes flashed coldly as he looked up and down at Sullivan. "Did I hear you right?"

As he heard this, Sullivan was so angry he didn't know what to say for a while. The current situation seemed a little ridiculous, but he was serious.

"Believe it or not, it's up to you. I'll give you two days to think about it. If you decide you can trust me, just call me," Sullivan said earnestly before turning around and leaving.

Zac didn't come to his senses until Sullivan disappeared into the night.

As much as he had expected Sullivan to come to see him, his words still surprised Zac.

However, since Sullivan was still working for Kareem, he didn't know what tricks he might be playing.

At this thought, Zac looked rather dejected. Lowering his head, he wondered if he could believe what Sullivan had told him.

He was so deep in thought that he didn't notice the pair of eyes that had been secretly watching him.

Lurking in the dark, Patricia had overheard the entire conversation between the two men. Sullivan's words shocked her.

It turned out that Sullivan knew everything but didn't make a move. No wonder he had been so quiet recently.

She had thought that if she asked her mother for help, perhaps Sullivan would notice something was wrong and naturally reach out to her or Giselle.

But during this period, there was no movement from Sullivan. Patricia thought something might have happened, but she didn't expect him not to take the matter seriously.

Upon realizing this, Patricia began to think about what she should do next.

Perhaps she couldn't assist Zac with other things, but this issue was different. She believed she could help him this time.

The prospect of solving this problem for Zac raised Patricia's spirits. She was so excited.

That same night, she made plans to talk with Sullivan the next day. She just didn't expect that he would contact her first.

The two decided to have lunch together. Patricia deliberately chose a restaurant with few people so she could talk with Sullivan without any disturbance.

"Stop beating around the bush and get straight to the point, Sullivan," Patricia demanded coldly. Returning to her previous stern facade, she searched Sullivan's face for any trace of information.

Furious, Sullivan met her eyes and scolded her, "You're such an ungrateful daughter, Patricia. Don't forget that I am your father."

Patricia snorted, glaring at him. "I severed all ties with you. Besides, when did you take any responsibility as a father?" Her words were full of disdain.

As he heard this, Sullivan pursed his lips and narrowed his eyes angrily at Patricia. But since he didn't come here to argue, he didn't answer her question. There was something else he wanted to talk to her about.

"The reason I want to see you today is to ask you to persuade Zac to listen to me," Sullivan pleaded unhappily. He assumed Patricia already knew the Sampson family's secret and the importance of this to Zac.

In fact, if Patricia hadn't know about it, she wouldn't have agreed to sit with her father and talk to him that day.

[Chapter 579 Walk Into The Trap On Purpose](#)

Naturally, Patricia knew this kind of thing all too well. Even without hearing everything that Sullivan said, she knew that the Sampson family's secret was quite important to Zac.

However, the current situation wasn't as simple as Patricia had thought. Before, she had no idea that Sullivan had worked together with Kareem, so she figured it would be prudent to speak to Sullivan.

But having heard Zac's opinion on the matter, Patricia began to hesitate. She was in high spirits before, but now she was feeling conflicted.

Patricia was disheartened. She frowned and asked, "Can I trust your word, Sullivan? I can't just take your

word for it, because you're working for Kareem now." While she was saying that, Patricia cast him a look of disdain.

If Patricia were being honest, it wasn't that she didn't want to trust Sullivan; it was just because she needed to be more vigilant, considering how delicate the situation was.

She was worried that Sullivan might've set a trap for her.

Upon seeing the look on her face, Sullivan figured out what she was thinking.

He scoffed at her, glaring at her with disdain. "Patricia, you ungrateful daughter! How could you help my enemy? You don't get it, do you?"

"If you still want to continue this conversation, behave yourself, Sullivan." Patricia looked down upon Sullivan. The look on her face was terrifying.

This time, she wasn't joking. If Sullivan continued to misbehave and get mad at her, she wouldn't offer him any kindness, either.

Upon hearing her response, Sullivan was enraged. In order to suppress his anger, he took a few deep breaths. "Very good. I never thought you'd be so assertive now."

A faint smile appeared on Patricia's lips. She wasn't fazed by him at all. She just hoped that they could get down to business as soon as possible.

The look on her face made Sullivan bite his lower lip. It seemed that his only option was to talk business. "I may have begun working with Kareem, but it's only temporary. As you know, the business world is like a battlefield. There's no such thing as an eternal enemy. Only interests are eternal in this world."

Patricia understood what he meant. Sullivan must've felt that he wouldn't be able to benefit much from Kareem, so he was now aiming to cooperate with Zac.

Knowing what kind of person Sullivan was, Patricia thought that it wouldn't be a good way to work with him.

But right now, he possessed the most important thing in the Sampson family's company. It was a trump card that could save her company from danger.

Suddenly, Patricia was now lost in thought and frowning. She bit her lower lip, feeling dissatisfied with Sullivan.

Patricia knew that there could never be too much deception in a battlefield. Because Sullivan had been in the business world for many years, he probably already knew that.

Upon noticing the hesitation in her eyes, his mood got better. He cleared his throat. "So, what do you think, Patricia? Do you agree to my request? Actually, all you need to do is persuade Zac to change his mind," he sneered.

Patricia was infuriated by his response. She looked him dead in the eye as she said, "I'll tell Zac, but the decision still depends on him." Having said that, she stood up, turned around, and strode away.

Patricia didn't think it was necessary to continue negotiating with Sullivan anymore, especially when he saw how arrogant he looked.

As Sullivan watched her walk away, a complacent smile appeared on his lips. He believed that this time, he would definitely succeed. By then, Zac would certainly cooperate with him.

With that in mind, he snickered like an imp, feeling confident about his plan.

However, unbeknownst to Sullivan, someone was secretly watching his every move. It wasn't until Patricia left that the person watching Sullivan approached him.

When Sullivan saw the look on that person's face, the smile on his face disappeared. He tried to speak, but he was unable to utter a word.

Kareem raised an eyebrow at Sullivan, glaring down at him with a devilish grin on his lips. "How was the conversation? It looks like it went well."

Sullivan was shocked to hear that. He waved his hands in dismissal and explained, "What? Pay no mind to what I said. It was all just a misunderstanding. I—"

"I don't care if I misunderstood you or not. I just hope you remember that you're still working for me right now. I advise you not to cause trouble for me," Kareem said casually. However, his eyes showed his bloodlust.

'If Sullivan dares to betray me, I'm going to make his life a living hell!'

Sullivan swallowed hard, trying to wrack his brain for an excuse.

Just as he was about to speak, Kareem cut him off.

"I want you to pretend to work with Zac and deliberately fall into a trap. When the time comes, you will deal him a fatal blow," Kareem said.

Sullivan was taken by surprise. He was staring at Kareem with suspicion. 'What does he mean?'

When Kareem saw the confusion in his eyes, he whispered, "Do you not understand?" Having said that, he flashed Sullivan a cold smile.

It was then that Sullivan finally regained his composure. He nodded eagerly and said, "Yes, of course, I do!" Cold sweat ran down his face. He had planned to betray Kareem, but his hopes were quashed before the plan could even begin.

After getting an answer from Sullivan, Kareem smiled with satisfaction, staring sharply at Patricia's receding figure. There was an inexplicable emotion in his eyes when he looked at her.

Upon her arrival at the company, Patricia's mind was in shambles. She couldn't think straight and she kept thinking of what Sullivan had said.

'To be honest, if Zac can get the secret of the Sampson family's company, anything that follows will be easily solved. But I'm not sure if Sullivan is lying or not. If he's planning to take advantage of Zac, it will put Zac in danger.'

After pondering on it, Patricia was still conflicted about making a decision. Even though she wanted to help Zac out, she still had to think about the pros and cons carefully.

This question troubled her for the entire afternoon. During the evening, she plucked up the courage to discuss this with Zac.

But the second she spoke, she saw him looking at her strangely. It was as if he was mad at her.

"I... I was just trying to help you because I'm worried about you." Patricia sounded unconfident with that statement. She knew why Zac was mad at her about this. It was only because he was also worried about her.

Moreover, they both knew what kind of person Sullivan was. If a conflict arose among them, Patricia would certainly get hurt.

"But..." Zac paused on purpose, hardening his voice.

[Chapter 580 A Trap](#)

Zac was silent. Patricia stared at him, confused.

However, he smiled gently the next second, reaching out to tap her on the forehead. "Patricia, I know you're worried about me, but I don't want you to get involved in this matter."

Patricia blinked in surprise, her lips curling into a frown.

What did Zac mean by that?

Although he had said it in a straightforward manner, for some reason, she felt that he was implying

something else.

It wasn't that she was suspicious, but the current situation was making things very strange for her.

"Why don't you want me to get involved?" Patricia asked doubtfully.

Zac sighed helplessly in response, and he didn't know what to say for a moment.

He began stroking her hair gently. "I just don't want you to get hurt. Maybe you think that you can help me, but it's only because you haven't seen the dangers of it yet," Zac said quietly, the sadness flickering in his eyes.

Patricia stared at him, taken aback by the raw emotion on his face. She opened her mouth as if to say something, but eventually chose to keep quiet instead.

Zac gave her a reassuring nod. "Don't worry about me. I can take care of myself. As for Sullivan, I'll need some time to think it over. After all, he has something that I want."

His expression was grave, as if he had been thinking about this for a long time now.

Patricia studied his face and understood what he meant. Even though she couldn't help him at all, what she could do at the very least was be there for him every step of the way.

"Then you have to take good care of yourself, okay? Don't get hurt," Patricia told him seriously.

A smile graced Zac's features and he leaned over to kiss her on the forehead. "I know. I promise to take good care of myself and not let you worry about me," he assured, stroking her hair.

The next morning, Zac went to see Sullivan and discussed with him the matters of the company.

"You are truly a wise man, Mr. Reynolds," Sullivan said flatteringly with a smile. He seemed completely different from before.

Zac stared at him warily. He somehow felt a little strange, but he couldn't fathom the reason why.

"Mr. Reynolds, this is my gift for you," Sullivan said pleasantly. "This is in hopes that I can gain your trust." He took out a piece of paper from his pocket.

Zac stared at the paper in Sullivan's hand and glanced at him suspiciously. He didn't understand what all of this meant.

"This contains the truth that you've always wanted to know," Sullivan said in a strange tone.

Zac didn't notice it.

However, after reading the contents of the paper, his eyes grew wide in surprise, mouth hanging open in disbelief.

A sense of uneasiness suddenly crept into his gut. He stared at Sullivan as if trying to search for something in the man's expression.

Sullivan, however, was doing a good job of concealing the emotions on his face. Despite that, Zac remained calm.

But he knew that there was something behind Sullivan's change of attitude. There was no way he could act friendly like this so quickly.

Zac's gaze was careful yet probing.

However, on the surface, he pretended to be surprised and even plastered an excited smile on his face.

Sullivan looked pleased with this response.

In his mind, things would be much easier as long as Zac let his guard down.

"I hope you know by now that I am sincere in my intentions, Mr. Reynolds," Sullivan said smoothly.

Zac coughed slightly, but made sure to maintain his calm expression and satisfied smile. Sullivan looked at him and thought for sure that Zac was pleased.

That was good, because the more delighted he was, the more beneficial it would be for Sullivan.

"But first, I need to show this to someone to confirm," Zac said, his expression serious.

"Of course. Feel free to show it to anyone you wish," Sullivan said kindly.

He didn't falsify the papers, so he had no reason to be worried. Even if Zac showed it to Giselle, she wouldn't be able to see anything wrong with it.

He made sure to do his work carefully, after all.

Meanwhile, Zac was confused by Sullivan's response. He did believe that the contents were authentic, but there was still no way of telling whether or not Sullivan had ulterior motives up his sleeve. He had seen the look in the other man's eyes just now, so Zac was pretty sure he was up to something.

"All right. I will contact you afterwards," Zac said with a wave of his hand, indicating that it was Sullivan's cue to leave.

Sullivan smiled at him kindly before turning around to leave the room. However, before he disappeared out the doorway, he glanced back at Zac.

It seemed that Zac believed it which was good news on Sullivan's end. Now that Zac took the bait, things were going to be smooth sailing from now on.

A satisfied smile curved Sullivan's lips as he finally left the room.

As long as Zac continued to fall for the trick, he would be able to obtain Sampson Group soon. Zac didn't know any of the company secrets yet, but by that time, he wouldn't be able to take it back even if he wanted to.

When Sullivan was out of sight, Zac scoffed, shaking his head in disdain.

"Sullivan, do you really think that I can't see through your tricks?" Zac murmured, lips stretching into a sneer.