Remarry 601

Chapter 601 Having Fun

Zac's face lit up with a happy smile at Patricia's answer.

A smile appeared on Patricia's lips, her eyes twinkling with joy. As long as Zac was happy, she didn't need to think about anything else.

"Where should we go next?" she asked expectantly.

But just as they got to their feet, a familiar voice sounded out of nowhere, instantly making things awkward.

They looked around at the source of the voice. At the sight of Anika standing arrogantly before them, Patricia couldn't help but frown, displeased. She wished that Anika would leave them alone.

Anika didn't seem surprised at Patricia's reaction. She forced a bright smile and made her way to them.

"You two seemed really happy," Anika said casually, but the contempt in her tone was obvious.

Patricia's expression hardened at this, her displeasure evident in the way she bit her lip and stood there without saying anything.

"Anika," Patricia said, enunciating each syllable slowly.

Anika didn't care about Patricia and her words. She never took her seriously anyway.

Instead, she walked up to Zac, smiling meaningfully at him. She said softly, "I really don't know what you are thinking, Zac. Shouldn't you give me an answer?"

Patricia was stunned. She looked at Zac, confused, and then back up at Anika before looking away.

Had Zac met Anika again? What had they talked about this time?

Zac saw the worry and fear in Patricia's eyes and his lips curved up slightly. He sent her a reassuring look, trying to tell her without words that Anika didn't mean anything to him.

His eyes seemed to have a calming effect on Patricia and she gazed back at him, comforted.

Anika pretended not to see them flirting wordlessly and merely smiled at them.

"What's wrong? Haven't you made up your mind?" Anika asked, raising her eyebrows at Zac.

Zac smiled faintly at this, as if Anika had cracked another joke. He wasn't going to take her seriously. He

coughed and said in a low voice, "Anika, come on. You know what I'm thinking. Don't waste your time here."

He was determined this time and didn't want Anika to affect his relationship with Patricia.

Before Anika could speak, Zac continued seriously, "I won't agree to your deal." He stared resolutely at Anika.

Anika had seen Zac's determination in his eyes. She understood that there was no need for her to waste her time on him right now.

"Okay, I'll talk to you later." Anika turned around and strode away. The matter seemed to have reached its end. But it really hadn't.

Anika had managed to spoil the good mood that Zac and Patricia had been in. They had agreed to go to the amusement park, but now, all they wanted to do was go home and get some rest.

Patricia made a hearty dinner in accordance with Zac's preferences. After dinner, they watched TV for a while and then went to bed.

All throughout, they looked at each other as if they had made an agreement. No one mentioned Anika.

But just because they didn't bring her up didn't mean they weren't thinking about it.

Patricia was wondering about what Zac could possibly have said to Anika, while Zac was thinking about ways to negotiate with Anika.

They fell asleep, hugging each other.

Zac had only taken a day off. He went to work as usual the next day. But the moment he entered his office, he saw Anika. A frown creased his eyebrows.

"What are you doing here?" He made his way to his desk without looking at her.

Anika smiled at this and walked up to him, arrogance lining her beautiful face.

"Why do you ask? Don't you already know, Zac?" she said with a triumphant smile.

Zac sneered at her overconfidence and said, "You know what? I really don't know, and I think you've come to the wrong place." He then pointed at the door, gesturing for Anika to leave.

But Anika seemed not to notice his gesture. She approached him and said softly, "Zac, you know what I need. You only have to agree and I will return the Sampson Bay project to the Sampson family." Her tone was confident, as if she was sure that Zac would agree to her conditions.

Zac frowned, his expression darkening.

He laughed coldly as he looked at Anika, disdain dripping from his gaze. "Anika, do you really think I don't know your tricks?" He pushed her away roughly.

Zac knew what Anika meant, but her conditions were unreasonable.

If Zac were to really agree to them, what about Patricia? She would hate him for the rest of his life.

This was something that Zac could never allow. It had taken him a lot of effort to get to this point with Patricia. He didn't want anything to tarnish it.

Anika laughed wildly at his words and straightened up gracefully, as if this was all normal. The angrier Zac was, the more hopeful the situation would be for her. She was confident that even if he turned her away now, he would agree to her request at some point.

She was sure that in the end, Zac would be by her side.

"It doesn't matter whether you agree right now or not. You will think it through in a few days," Anika said. She then turned around and left, laughing arrogantly on her way out.

Chapter 602 A Trap

Zac was too angry to say anything. He stared at Anika's retreating back, his face darkening as his lips turned downwards.

He then called the security guard and instructed him to not let Anika into the company as and when she wished anymore.

Once he had vented his anger, he finally came to his senses and took a few deep breaths to calm himself down.

He knew that he had a lot of things to deal with right now and couldn't afford to act impulsively.

Although it had failed this time, the construction of Sampson Bay was still going on. Anika had control over the ecological bay, but not over the Reynolds Group's project.

The Sampson family's company, on the other hand, was said to have fallen into Sullivan's hands. Zac didn't care about what happened to it now.

He felt relaxed since he didn't need to think too much about anything.

Anika hadn't given up on Zac after she had left. Instead, she found Kareem, intending to cooperate with him.

"What do you want?" Kareem said, his tone indifferent. The gentle smile had long disappeared from his face.

He felt he didn't need to be nice to Anika anymore, especially after she had betrayed him.

Anika didn't take Kareem's expression seriously. Instead, she said with a mysterious smile, "I'm just asking if you are willing to cooperate with me, Kareem."

"Cooperate?" Kareem looked up sharply at her, unable to stop himself from sneering. "Don't joke around with me, Anika. With your abilities, you don't need me."

Irony laced Kareem's tone, a sly indication to how Anika had betrayed him in the past.

Anika didn't seem surprised at this. Her smile was gentle as she said softly, "Don't you want to be with Patricia? If we work together, we can destroy the relationship between Zac and Patricia."

Kareem sneered contemptuously at her.

"Are you kidding me, Anika? Didn't we cooperate with each other before for this very purpose? But what happened in the end?" Kareem's anger burgeoned as he remembered how Anika had not only betrayed him, but had also made him suffer a great loss. His power, which he had worked so hard to earn, had been destroyed in an instant.

How could he forgive her so easily? Without a fuss, no less? Impossible!

Kareem's mouth twitched, a cold smile taking its place on his lips. He raised his chin and looked at Anika with barely disguised contempt as he said in a low voice, "Don't waste your time. If you want to win Zac's heart, you have to fight for it yourself." He quickly stood up and made to turn around. But Anika stopped him.

"Don't be in such a hurry. I'll show you something good." A complacent smile on her face, Anika took out something from her pocket and handed it to Kareem.

Kareem was stunned at the sight of the stack of photos. He looked at it and back at Anika, his eyes wide with shock and his mouth hanging open. No words escaped him.

"What do you think? You can't even tell, can you?" Anika said arrogantly. "This is someone that I found who looks about ninety percent like Zac. People can't tell the difference, really."

Anika spoke as if her efforts had paid off.

Before Kareem could speak, Anika looked him up and down and said, "The photos are now in your hand. As for what to do with them, I think you know better than me." Anika gave Kareem a faint smile before

turning around and leaving. She left Kareem standing there, staring blankly at the photos.

Patricia was feeling a premonition of sorts after Anika's appearance. Her brain cells seemed to be occupied elsewhere, not allowing her to think it through.

She moved around in a daze the whole morning, not knowing what to do.

Moreover, her heart was still in turmoil. She wanted to ask Zac how he was feeling, but she didn't want to disturb him at work. She still felt that if she did nothing for the mess in her heart, she wouldn't be able to calm down in time.

It was not easy for her to keep it together until she got off work. But she hadn't expected to meet Kareem before she went to see Zac. If his expression was anything to go by, she guessed he had something important to tell her. His usually gentle face crumpled a little.

"Are you okay?" Patricia couldn't help but ask, looking suspiciously at Kareem.

At the expression Patricia's face, Kareem's frown disappeared in an instant, as if he had finally made a big decision. He gulped before saying to her, his voice pleading, "Patricia, be with me. I will treat you well."

Kareem was, as always, sincere and affectionate with her. It was obvious that he was really serious about this. His love could be seen in his eyes.

But no matter how many times Kareem expressed his love to her or begged her, her decision never changed.

She had to refuse him for his own sake.

"Kareem, I don't want to say anything to hurt you, but you should understand what I mean. My thoughts haven't changed." Every word seemed to come out of her heart.

Patricia was looking at Kareem apologetically. She wanted him to know that she was serious about her decision.

Kareem smiled bitterly at the determination in her eyes. He had known it would end this way but he had still said it. Sometimes, he himself didn't know if it was because he had gotten used to it or because he really loved her.

But he couldn't help saying it every time he saw Patricia.

They looked at each other quietly, a faint smile playing on Patricia's lips as she said, "Thank you for your kindness, Kareem. I really can't accept it."

This somehow seemed to calm and relax Kareem, as if this was the natural way of things. He then pulled out some photos from his pocket, handed them to Patricia, and whispered, "If you change your mind, you can always come to me."

Then, he turned around and left without waiting for Patricia to speak. She looked at his retreating back and then at the photos in her hand, her eyes widening with disbelief and astonishment.

"What..."

Patricia's mind went blank as she stared at the photos, at a loss for words.

Chapter 603 Question Zac

In the photos, Anika and Zac looked intimate, like a couple.

Patricia stared at them with her mouth agape as she couldn't believe her eyes. Her hands trembled as she held the photos, trying to comprehend what was happening.

All she could think of was Zac and Anika together in the photos. Her head was a mess, and she didn't know what to do.

Patricia didn't know for how long she had been staring at the photos when she finally snapped back to her senses and took deep breaths, trying to calm herself down.

"I have to get ahold of myself and stop thinking so much right now," she said to herself.

Patricia gulped as she tried to calm down and think it over.

She reasoned that this matter was not what she thought, and she had to figure it out.

"I have to calm down. I have to calm down." Although she tried to calm her nerves, she was still flustered and didn't know what to do.

The next moment, something occurred to Patricia. It was what Anika said to Zac when she came yesterday.

At that time, Patricia was so confused that she didn't understand what they were talking about.

But now, this thought suddenly came to her mind, and as she looked back at the photos, a look of surprise was evident on her face.

"Is it..." Stunned, Patricia was unable to apprehend anything at all. Her lips trembled as her mind went blank, and she couldn't think straight.

She tried to dispel the suspicion and doubts in her head, but to her dismay, she couldn't.

To be honest, at this time, Patricia seemed to be in a dilemma and didn't know what to do.

Seeing this, Kareem, who was hiding in a corner, couldn't help but bite his lip as he wondered to himself whether what he was doing was right or not.

However, as he looked at Patricia, he seemed to have made up his mind to be with her.

Kareem tried to brush off his guilt by consoling himself that even if he hadn't given the photos to Patricia now, Anika would have given them to her at some point. The result would have been the same.

Even though he tried to console himself, he felt awful seeing the distressed look on Patricia's beautiful face. He thought as if he had used Anika to deal with Patricia.

He looked down as he let out a helpless sigh. With a gentle shake of his head, he turned and left.

At the same time, Patricia felt her heart squeeze. The helplessness and sorrow she was putting up with were unbearable for her.

Patricia then tried to pull herself together. She took a few deep breaths and suppressed the uneasiness in her heart. No matter what, she needed to confront Zac about it.

When Patricia arrived at the Reynolds Group, she saw Zac busy working, and a bitter smile appeared on her face. For a moment, she didn't know what to say to him.

Seeing that Zac was working so hard, Patricia suddenly felt miserable. She kept the photos in her pocket unconsciously and walked to him with a sweet smile on her face.

"You are so focused on your work that you didn't even notice that I'm here," Patricia said in a gentle tone. She couldn't help but get close to Zac and block his sight with a hint of suspicion in her eyes.

Seeing the expression on Patricia's face, Zac smiled. "You're here."

"Why? Am I not welcomed here anymore?" Patricia raised her eyebrows on purpose, making her suspicion somewhat obvious.

However, as soon as the smell of women's perfume hit her nose, Patricia froze, and her smile dropped. She stared at Zac blankly and didn't know what to say.

Seeing the expression on Patricia's face, Zac frowned and asked her, "Patricia, what's wrong?"

He suddenly caught on to an indescribable emotion in Patricia's eyes. It seemed that she had sensed something, but she was too embarrassed to say it.

"Nothing. I... I'm fine." Patricia flashed a sweet smile as if nothing had happened. But to her dismay, it didn't work at all. It was clear that there was indeed something weighing on her heart.

"I don't believe it," Zac said, not buying her words. He looked at Patricia sharply, trying to look for an answer.

Patricia looked away as she bit her lower lip. She couldn't help but think of the photos of Zac and Anika together.

At that moment, Patricia was stunned and didn't know what to say for a moment. She really didn't know what to do.

Seeing the expression on her face, Zac couldn't help but scowl. He looked at her with an intense gaze, waiting for her answer.

Seeing the confused questionable look in his eyes, Patricia understood what he meant.

But she didn't know why she suddenly became speechless and couldn't speak a word. The situation was not as simple as she had anticipated.

"I... Well... Actually..." Patricia averted her gaze as she struggled to form a sentence.

She couldn't think of anything to say. When she saw the look in Zac's eyes, she suddenly became afraid and looked at him with a dreadful look on her face.

"Patricia..." Zac called her in a stern voice. He wanted to know what was going on in her mind, but she wasn't telling him a word.

Patricia lowered her head, bit her lower lip tightly and took a few steps back. All of a sudden, the photos that she had hidden in her pocket accidentally fell out.

At that moment, the two of them looked straight at the photos on the floor and gasped. The atmosphere around them suddenly became tense, and there was a blaze evident in Zac's eyes.

"Patricia..." Zac said with a look of ferocity.

Hearing this, Patricia raised her eyes slowly and looked at Zac cautiously. She forced a smile as she squatted down and tried to pick up the photos.

However, before Patricia could pick up the photos, Zac had already blocked her way and stared down at her.

"Give me an explanation!" Zac demanded in a harsh tone.

Chapter 604 It Doesn't Matter

Patricia frowned at what she heard. If looks could kill, Zac would be already lying on the floor.

"What explanation? Wasn't it clear enough? What else do you need me to explain?" Patricia snapped and stared at Zac angrily.

If anyone should be angry between them, it was her. After all, it was Zac's fault.

Before he could even say anything, Patricia tilted her head and looked down at him with disdain. She said in a low voice, "You should give me an explanation. Why were you with Anika?" She stared at Zac, urging him to answer.

He looked disgruntled as he bit his lower lip in frustration. "Do you seriously believe these photos?"

Zac met her gaze, his weary eyes laced with disappointment. The first time he saw the photos, he knew something was wrong, that someone had altered them. Nonetheless, Patricia seemed convinced that they were real. His face darkened. He felt betrayed.

"Patricia, don't you believe me?" Zac asked calmly, albeit with the visible dismay on his face.

Patricia heaved a sigh. She felt offended that Zac doubted her trust, so she sneered, "When did I not believe you?"

"If you believed me, you wouldn't have carried these photos with you," Zac snapped back and tried to catch his breath.

His words left Patricia speechless. She was too stunned to speak because Zac expressed his suspicion and had the impression that she believed Anika over him.

His insinuation left Patricia furious. Her eyes widened in disbelief, then glared at him.

"Do you think so? Do you honestly think that I don't believe you?" Patricia was livid that she took a step forward and raised her hand. The palm of her hand would have landed on his cheek if not for her self-control. She badly wanted to vent her anger on him.

How the tables had turned that Patricia became the one who needed to prove herself!

"How can you say that I don't trust you? Tell me. Have I ever questioned you or anything?" Patricia lashed out at him. Even if she was upset, she could feel the sadness engulf her.

Zac couldn't move, nor did he know what to say. He tried to say something, but he shut his mouth instead.

He tried to make sense of their situation. He had a feeling that they had reached the point in their

relationship where misunderstandings occurred often.

"I didn't mean that. I was just..."

Zac was at a loss for words. He couldn't help overthinking when he saw Patricia with the photos.

"Just what?" Patricia interrupted. As much as she couldn't admit it, she was afraid to know his answer, but her eyes begged for it.

Zac sighed in exasperation. He looked at Patricia helplessly and shook his head.

"Don't you understand what I'm trying to say? Patricia, listen to me. You know how I feel about you, don't you?" His voice cracked. He was desperate to win Patricia's trust back.

Patricia nodded lightly in response. While they were both silent for a moment, she contemplated that she still deserved to get answers from Zac no matter what.

"Okay, I know what you mean. Can you explain these photos to me now?"

Patricia looked up at him. Her heart was beating fast in anticipation.

Then again, Zac frowned because he thought Patricia would drop the matter. He felt explaining would be useless.

"I don't know where these photos came from, but I can tell you clearly that I have nothing to do with Anika," Zac said firmly, stressing each word.

All it took for Patricia was to hear him say it.

It didn't matter how the photos surfaced, for his words were enough.

"Alright, I believe you." A sweet smile appeared on her face.

The expression on her face put Zac at ease that he hugged her.

"Patricia, trust me. I have nothing to do with Anika. These photos must be her doing to cause problems between us."

Patricia nodded in agreement. She leaned her head against Zac's chest and held him tightly.

It wasn't that she didn't trust Zac, but it was in her nature as a woman to overthink. She couldn't help it.

"I know. I won't overthink," Patricia assured him.

However, when the night fell, she turned back on her words.

Patricia got alarmed when she saw that Zac was on the phone with Anika. Her mouth felt dry that she had to swallow. The anxiety was eating her.

"Okay, I see," Zac said in a hushed tone. He turned around to check if Patricia was still asleep.

Patricia kept quiet to prevent alerting Zac that she was, in fact, awake. He let out a sigh of relief before leaving discretely.

As soon as Zac went out of the room, Patricia suddenly got up from the bed. She bit her lower lip in distress that the fear in her eyes would not go away.

Her uneasiness grew with each second that passed. She couldn't grasp what was going on.

It was unmistakable that Zak was talking to Anika on the phone. What made it worse was that he agreed to meet her.

Restlessness took over her as if something terrible would happen soon.

'Could it be that Zac and Anika...?'

"No! No, I have to believe him!" She told herself the same thing repeatedly to keep herself from thinking.

The more she tried to suppress her doubts, the more she grew uncomfortable. That was when she came up with the idea of following Zac to find out for herself.

Before she knew it, she had a coat on and walked out.

Just as she came out of the apartment, she remained motionless at the stairway because she saw them talking. She didn't know what they were talking about, but they were smiling.

Chapter 605 Patricia's Sadness

Patricia peeped at the two of them from her hiding place. Although she couldn't hear the conversation between the two, she could tell from the look in their eyes that they were having a good time.

Biting her lower lip, she murmured, "Did Zac lie to me?"

In the past, whenever Zac saw Anika, he would get angry and refuse to look her way. But now...

Sadness and confusion crept into Patricia's heart. She didn't know what to make of this situation.

When Zac and Anika turned around and left, Patricia stood up and began to follow them discreetly from behind.

Although she didn't think it was a good idea to stalk them, Patricia just wanted to find out for herself. She wanted to know what the two of them were doing together, and she wanted to hear it from Zac himself.

Earlier, she noted that Zac immediately left after receiving a phone call from Anika.

Patricia couldn't figure out why they suddenly looked so close now. The more she pondered about it, the more the confusion in her heart grew. Her mind was filled with all sorts of conflicted thoughts.

When they arrived at the door of a hotel, Patricia instantly stopped in her tracks. A sense of uneasiness rose to her throat, and she swallowed heavily, trying to make sense of the situation.

"Did they go inside?"

Patricia's mind raced. What kind of business were they going to do in a hotel with just the two of them?

She shook her head vehemently, reminding herself not to jump to any conclusions just yet.

"No. Going to a hotel doesn't mean anything. I have to stop overthinking about this."

Patricia repeated this to herself many times, trying to find some sort of reassurance. However, when she saw Zac coming out, her world came crashing down on her.

She saw, with her own eyes, Zac walking out of the hotel with his arm wrapped around Anika's waist.

Patricia's mind went blank in shock.

Eventually, she came to her senses and followed after Zac, walking up to him in quick strides. "What are you doing? Zac, are you..."

Her voice slowly trailed off, unable to say the rest of the words. She stared at Zac, ignoring Anika as she waited for his answer.

On the inside, she was feeling very flustered, and the current situation was so confusing that she didn't know what else to do.

What was the real relationship between Zac and Anika? Why were the two of them acting like this?

Patricia had so many questions she wanted to ask Zac, but now wasn't the right time.

"What the hell are you doing?" Patricia repeated a little sternly this time. The fact that Zac wasn't giving

her an answer made her face burn in embarrassment. When she noticed the expression on his face, her heart sank to her stomach.

Zac was looking at her as if she was nothing but a stranger to him, as if he had never seen her before. His lips were curled downwards in displeasure.

"What? Aren't you seeing it for yourself already? Do you need me to tell you outright?" Zac said coldly with an indifferent gaze.

Patricia stared at him, stunned. She couldn't believe what she had just heard.

"Zac, explain this to me!"

Today, no matter what, he was going to give her the explanation she needed, and she would not give up until he gave her one.

Anika, who was standing aside, couldn't help but let out a chuckle. She looked at Patricia with a condescending smile.

"What are we doing, you ask? Can't you see, Patricia? Zac has chosen me over you now." Anika raised her chin at Patricia smugly.

Patricia sent Anika a fierce glare in response, trying hard to restrain her anger. She looked at Zac again.

"I'm not leaving. Not until I get an explanation from you," Patricia said firmly, never averting her gaze from Zac's.

She wasn't going to give up. She had to know exactly what was going on here.

Zac scoffed. "Isn't this already clear enough for you? Is there anything else I need to say?"

Patricia stared at him in shock. She felt a sinking sensation in her chest at his words.

She didn't know what to do. What could she say in response to that?

With a triumphant look, Anika stepped forward and shoved Patricia hard. "You're a smart woman, aren't you? You should already understand what Zac meant by now. Stop embarrassing yourself," she said haughtily as she held Zac's wrist, smiling sweetly at Patricia.

While Patricia was still processing what happened, Zac and Anika left without another word.

Patricia watched their retreating backs, feeling her heart tighten painfully in her chest. It suddenly felt a little difficult to breathe.

How did this happen? Why did Zac become like this?

Zac's sudden change was too hard for her to swallow. She couldn't think of any reason why he was with Anika now.

Suddenly, at that moment, she remembered the photos. Zac had insisted that he didn't have anything to do with Anika, but now...

All of this thinking was making Patricia's head hurt. She felt so confused and upset.

She didn't know how she managed to get back to the apartment.

When she opened the door, she saw Zac standing there with a worried look.

"Patricia, you're back," Zac greeted nervously as he hastily walked up to her. He inspected her up and down with his eyes and let out a sigh of relief when he confirmed for himself that she was safe.

Patricia stared at him blankly, puzzled and suspicious at his behavior.

Zac blinked at the look on her face, seeming confused. "What's wrong, Patricia?" he asked in concern.

He didn't know why she was looking at him like that. He instantly felt worried that something must've happened.

"Shouldn't I be the one asking you this question?" Patricia said in an icy tone.

Zac furrowed his brows in response, his mouth parting open as if he wanted to say something. However, not a sound came out of his lips.

Chapter 606 Strangers

Once Patricia met Zac's gaze, a bitter smile touched her lips. She had no idea whether he was acting or not.

Earlier, he had treated her with such indifference that they could have easily been mistaken for strangers. But now, he looked at her again as a caring boyfriend would.

Patricia couldn't help but wonder which Zac was the real one.

"Patricia?" Zac called out to her worriedly when he realized she was in a daze.

At the sound of his voice, Patricia sneered, "Aren't we supposed to be strangers now?"

Zac was shocked at her words. He couldn't understand why she would ask him such a question. The way

she looked at him was so helpless and aggrieved, as if he had done something unforgivable.

"What's wrong, Patricia? Why are you talking like this?" Zac frowned as he looked her up and down with concern.

Staring at him, Patricia forced a smile and said, "Drop the act, Zac. Don't you remember what you did just now?

"Just now?" As Zac's mind flashed through the recent events, he raised his eyebrows in shock.

Patricia smiled wryly when she saw how astonished he looked. She asked in a low voice, "What? Did my words ring any bells?"

She glared at Zac as if he wasn't the man she loved, but a stranger.

Seeing the look on her face, Zac couldn't help but sigh. Then he took a step forward and wrapped his arms around her.

"I'm sorry, Patricia. I shouldn't have lied to you."

As she heard this, Patricia finally broke down into tears.

"You admitted it at last," Patricia sneered, but her voice was full of sorrow.

As far as she was concerned, Zac had just admitted that he was with Anika. The biggest question now was, how would she move on?

At that moment, Patricia was very confused and didn't know what to do. She could still feel her heart breaking.

As she didn't say anything, Zac continued, "I get that you must think I was cheating on you, but I wasn't. I just didn't want you to know that I was making a deal with Anika." He sighed once again. He had never felt so distressed.

He had no idea what to say to Patricia that could make her feel better.

At first, he planned to handle the deal with Anika in secret so Patricia wouldn't find out and read too much into it.

However, his efforts were in vain. Not only did Patricia find out anyway, but she was also miserable because of it.

"Patricia, don't cry. This is all my fault. You can scold and hit me as you like," Zac urged sadly, bitting his bottom lip.

Patricia cried harder when she heard this. No matter what Zac said, she couldn't stop the tears from coming.

Her sobs made Zac more nervous. As much as he wanted to comfort her, he didn't know what to do to make her feel better. Holding her tightly, he could only hope she believed him.

Patricia cried for a long time until she heard Zac's next words.

"I'm sorry. I promise I won't see Anika or go ahead with this deal with her." His words came out so depressed.

Patricia wasn't happy to hear this. With a frown, she looked at him and asked, "What do you mean?"

Zac sounded as if he didn't want to stay away from Anika, which saddened Patricia even more.

"Well... I mean exactly what I just said. I won't see Anika again. Just don't cry, Patricia." Zac furrowed his eyebrows and looked at her aggrievedly.

He thought he had made himself clear the first time he said it. He wouldn't see Anika again or go ahead with their deal.

After seeing how sad Patricia was, he would do anything not to see her crying again.

However, Zac didn't know that instead of making Patricia happy, his statement upset her even more. When she heard his words, she thought he didn't want to stop seeing Anika for himself.

"You make it sound as if I'm forcing you not to see her again," Patricia muttered seriously.

Frowning, Zac looked at her in confusion and sighed.

"Patricia, that's not what I meant." He shook his head helplessly.

"I heard you," Patricia said through gritted teeth. What happened before and Zac's attitude now led her to believe he actually liked Anika.

Zac felt helpless. He didn't know how to respond to her accusation.

Not only did he detest Anika, but he also didn't even want to bring up her name in front of Patricia. However, somehow the latter couldn't stop talking about her and making a fuss, which frustrated Zac.

With a long sigh, Patricia muttered, "Lie all you want. But I heard you say you wanted nothing to do with me and wanted to be with her."

Zac listened to her in astonishment. Raising a suspicious brow, he couldn't help but be stunned by her words.

When did he say such a thing to her? He went out to talk to Anika just now. She asked to meet him in an alley a bit farther from the apartment. Yet, when he arrived, he didn't see Anika anywhere.

In a fit of anger, Zac made his way back home only to find that Patricia wasn't there. As the panic kicked in, he thought Anika had tricked him to get to her.

Seeing the astonished look on Zac's face, Patricia frowned and bit her bottom lip. Her heart sank.

Why was he looking at her that way? Wouldn't he say something?

"Zac, you know what you did," Patricia accused.

Chapter 607 Anika's Trick

All of a sudden, Zac came to his senses and looked at Patricia in confusion.

"Patricia, I have never said those words to you. I swear to God," Zac said solemnly, putting a hand over his chest.

In fact, he looked so serious it made Patricia wonder for a moment whether the man she had seen before was truly Zac.

If she hadn't seen him walking in and out of the hotel alongside Anika with her own eyes, she would have believed him without a shadow of a doubt. But how could there be two identical people in the world who even sounded the same and weren't twin brothers? She couldn't believe such a thing was possible.

"Please, don't lie to me. You said yourself you wanted to be with Anika now," Patricia growled. She was done having that conversation. Furious, she turned around and left without another word.

Zac watched her leave in shock. He was so confused he didn't know what to say.

Knowing Patricia as he did, he could tell she would never make up such a crazy story. She wasn't insane.

If she was so sure about what she heard, she must have had reason to believe it.

Zac fell deep into thought as he tried to solve that puzzle.

He couldn't shake off the feeling that Anika was behind all this.

At this thought, he immediately called Nicholas. As soon as the latter picked up the phone, he ordered in an anxious tone, "Nicholas, follow Anika and find out what she's been up to."

Nicholas frowned suspiciously and asked, "But, boss..."

"Leave everything you're doing and follow her!" Zac cut him off abruptly.

At the sound of that, Nicholas didn't dare say anything else. It was clear that something serious had happened. Otherwise, why would Zac ask him such a thing?

"Okay, I'll call you as soon as I have something, boss." Nicholas then hung up the phone.

Nipping his bottom lip, Zac's eyes flashed shrewdly as he muttered to himself, "Anika, I'll find out what tricks you're playing."

One thing was for sure, Anika was a very scheming woman. As Zac thought of the photos Patricia carried with her today, his mind began to work.

Anika must have something to do with the photos.

Tired, Zac made his way to the bedroom to sleep and realized Patricia had locked the door, preventing him from coming in.

With a helpless sigh, Zac shook his head. It seemed that Patricia wouldn't forgive him until he uncovered the truth. At this thought, a trace of melancholy flashed across his face.

Although he had hoped that Nicholas would find something out soon, he didn't hear from him for the next couple of days.

Unable to hold back his anxiety, Zac called Nicholas.

"Boss..." Nicholas sounded exhausted as if he had just come out of a battle.

Zac couldn't help but frown as he noticed that. "What's wrong, Nicholas?"

For some reason, he had a feeling something bad might have happened.

But Nicholas just told him in a helpless tone, "Boss, Anika is really cunning. I've been following her for the past two days, but I still haven't found anything."

Nicholas was so frustrated. He wished he had actual news for Zac. He had never failed his boss like this.

"It's okay. Just keep following her." There was a trace of sorrow in Zac's voice. After two days, he had expected Nicholas to have found something.

Unfortunately, as long as he went back home empty-handed, Patricia would continue to give him the

cold shoulder. This situation was making him really depressed.

"But..." Nicholas suddenly said before Zac could hang up.

Surprised, Zac pressed the phone back to his ear and asked, "But what? Tell me, Nicholas. What is it?"

"I don't have anything concrete, but every night, Anika goes to a hotel and stands at the entrance for a while before leaving. I thought this was very weird," Nicholas answered, unable to hide his own confusion. At first, he had thought that Anika had some secret at the hotel, but when he went inside, he didn't find anything.

Upon hearing this, Zac remembered Patricia's words.

According to her, she saw him walking in and then out of the hotel with Anika.

Could it be that ...?

Zac's eyes widened in comprehension. Shocked, he bit his bottom lip and ordered, "Nicholas, further the investigation at the hotel and see if you can find anything."

At the sound of that, Nicholas suddenly felt energized again. This was his chance to prove he was capable of getting to the bottom of this mystery.

"Okay, boss. I'm on it." Nicholas hung up the phone immediately.

The next moment, Zac looked at the ceiling with a wry smile.

"Oh, Anika, you're good. You even managed to frustrate Nicholas."

Zac felt both depressed and confused. He needed to find out what Anika's trick was to make Patricia see something that never happened.

Regardless of this, he had to make Patricia happy again. He couldn't bear to see her so miserable.

Therefore, after work, he went to visit Patricia at her job, only to find she was with Kareem.

The scene made his blood boil. He wished he could rush up and punch Kareem.

However, he held himself back and stood there, watching and listening to what they were talking about.

At that moment, Patricia looked at Kareem with a bitter smile and said in a low voice, "Why do you have to do this?"

Her face was a mask of helplessness and sorrow.

Chapter 608 I Don't Allow I

What was it that Kareem wished for? Whenever he visited her, he made the same remark to her each time. All he wanted was for her to dump Zac so that she would start dating him.

Was there any chance that that would ever happen?

Even if Zac were to... Patricia had no idea what Zac was up to at the moment. Bu, to double-cross him was the one thing she would never do.

"Kareem, I'm sure you heard me. You should understand what I mean; I won't repeat it." Kareem never seemed to give up on Patricia, who had no other way of convincing him to let her go.

Kareem's expression softened slightly when he heard this. Patricia's words had no impact on him. As long as he could get Patricia, he was willing to put up with anything.

"Regardless, it doesn't make any difference because I am willing and ready to wait for you." Kareem spoke with a firm voice, his demeanor being calm and composed.

Patricia grew more tired of Kareem. She pondered on how else she would make him let her be.

"Kareem..." In a miserable voice, Patricia called out his name.

With a grin plastered on his face, Kareem appeared unfazed by Patricia's comments. He was a real mule.

Patricia's desperation grew as she noticed his expression. Kareem seemed not inclined to change his mind, no matter what she said.

"Kareem, you understand what I'm trying to say. I'd rather not repeat myself." She abruptly turned and started walking away from him.

Kareem grabbed her hand with a soft grin.

"Patricia, will you join me for dinner?" Kareem begged with a pitiful expression.

Patricia was taken aback by Kareem's expression, not because his charm smote her, but because she saw a resemblance to Zac in him.

Each time Zac pleaded with her, she couldn't help but find it difficult to say no.

She was out of words.

Zac stepped forward quickly to get to Patricia before she had a chance to respond. He snatched her waist with his strong and polite arm and then he withdrew from her.

"No!" His words came out coldly from his mouth. He gave Kareem a cold stare to air out his warning that he ought to stay away from Patricia.

Before Patricia realized what the moment entailed, Zac continued, "She is supposed to dine with me." Following his speech, Zac told Kareem to leave.

Kareem and Patricia both frowned at Zac as if they were annoyed by his sudden appearance.

Patricia's expression annoyed Zac.

What exactly was she implicating? Was she really going to have dinner with Kareem?

His face contorted into an angry expression at the thought of them having dinner together.

Suddenly, Zac felt like he was going to explode.

"Are you still going to have dinner with me?" Although Zac forced a smile, he didn't look happy at all. Instead, he was angry.

Patricia read Zac's expression and understood what he was trying to convey. She remained silent.

Kareem's and Zac's reaction to her silence was that she had already answered Zac's question.

Kareem gave Zac a cold stare and turned away, his lips pursed in a weak smile. The look in Kareem's eyes as he was about to leave got Zac all tangled up.

He seemed to be hinting at something or perhaps mocking him.

In time, Patricia came to her senses and pushed Zac away. A look of displeasure spread across her face.

"I do not recall saying that I wanted to have dinner with you." Patricia expressed her displeasure in a low voice. She stared at Zac as if he were an enemy.

Zac was outraged when he heard this. He scowled at her and bit the inside of his bottom lip.

"Patricia!" Zac couldn't contain his rage and let out a shout. His mouth was agape. They'd have a lot of issues if this continued.

Patricia couldn't help but turn her head and move away from Zac.

She was afraid to say anything to Zac at this time. She was stumped as to what had transpired on that particular day.

Despite her confusion, she could hear Zac's words for herself that day.

She couldn't believe that someone who looked and sounded just like Zac existed in the world. As far as she knew, Zac did not have an identical sibling.

Zac groaned and scowled hopelessly when he noticed the look on her face. He was well aware that no matter what he said, she would not believe him.

He didn't know how long he would have to sleep alone if Patricia remained enraged.

It was difficult for him to find the words to express his frustration.

Zac caught up with Patricia and left with her.

Zac's patience had run out by the time he returned to his flat. He walked up to her and held her securely in his arms. He stared at her with a serious expression.

"Please listen to me, Patricia." Zac spoke to Patricia word for word.

Patricia couldn't help but grimace when she heard that. She raised her chin a little to face Zac.

Zac's eyes were so honest and serious at this point that he appeared to be imploring her to listen.

Patricia's nerves calmed down when she saw his expression. She waited patiently for Zac's next words.

"What are your thoughts? Speak up." As though she didn't care what he had to say, Patricia spoke in an unfazed tone. In truth, she felt elevated from the inside out.

The expression in her eyes made Zac frown, and he couldn't help it. He appeared discouraged and unsure of how to proceed.

"I..." Zac was unsure of what to say and was unable to respond. He tried opening and closing his mouth, but he couldn't utter a word.

Patricia's cheeks suddenly glowed with a tinge of indignation. "It's okay not to say anything if you don't want to." She felt a tinge of resentment in her bones. She couldn't come up with anything to say.

Zac was furious when he learned about this. His expression grew chilly as he gazed at her.

Chapter 609 Straightforward

"Patricia, you have to believe me. I have absolutely nothing to do with Anika. What you saw the other day was actually..."

Zac trailed off, not finding the right words to explain himself. He sighed, feeling depressed over the situation. His sexy thin lips opened and closed, meaning to say a lot of things, but not a single word

could leave his mouth.

If Zac was being honest, the real issue was that he really didn't know what he could say.

Zac got even more scared to say anything after seeing the doubt the in Patricia's eyes. He was sure that she wouldn't believe him, no matter what he said.

"Actually what? Tell me," Patricia said anxiously. She stared at Zac, willing him to just spit it out.

She was willing to hear him out, but it looked like Zac still had some secrets he wanted to protect.

"Fine! Since you have nothing to say, just forget it," Patricia said angrily. Then, she turned around and stumped into the kitchen to cook noodles.

Patricia might have been angry at Zac, but she wouldn't let her anger blind her so much that she wouldn't prepare food for him.

However, she wasn't in the mood to cook something complicated or very delicious. She cooked two bowls of noodles and sighed. "We'll have to make do with this," she muttered to herself.

Shocked at what Patricia was cooking, Zac kicked himself and quickly walked out to get some real food. He wanted her to have a better meal.

He put the dishes on the table just as Patricia left the kitchen. When she saw the dishes, she acted nonchalant and said nothing.

Then, the two of them kept silent and ate as if they had nothing to talk about.

The tense atmosphere saddened Zac very much. He wanted to say something to make things better, but no word could leave his mouth.

Patricia saw the expression on Zac's face out of the corner of her eye. He didn't need to say anything for her to understand why he was that way.

Done eating, Patricia washed the dishes and went straight to her room to sleep.

Two days had gone by and she was still the same. Her mood hadn't improved and it undeniably affected Zac.

The moment Patricia disappeared into her room, Zac couldn't hold his anger and frustration in anymore. "I'm going crazy!" he exclaimed heatedly, running his fingers through his hair.

His voice was so loud that Patricia could hear it through the door.

Finding it funny, Patricia burst into laughter. If she was being honest with herself, she also felt bad because of the quarrel she and Zac had gotten into.

Patricia would be lying to herself if she said she didn't want to talk to him too. But she simply couldn't forget what had happened that day so easily.

Patricia certainly had her doubts about what had happened that night. But what hurt her the most, was Zac' words.

Deep in her sheets, Patricia let out a dejected sigh. Just the thought of what happened that day destroyed whatever joy she could have had.

However, when she heard Zac's voice again, she decided to forget about it and put things to rest.

Patricia left the bed and walked to the door to see how Zac was doing. But when she opened the door, she heard him talking on the phone with Anika again.

"No way!" Zac said in a cold voice. He didn't believe a single word that was leaving Anika's mouth.

Patricia stood at the door and watched Zac without his knowledge. Unfortunately, she couldn't hear what he was saying. She could only see his face darken and his eyebrows wrinkle. That always happened whenever he was about to lose his temper.

Patricia raised her eyebrows in curiosity as she stared at him.

Suddenly, Patricia saw his face harden. Zac bit his lower lip tightly and said in a clipped tone, "Fine! I'll head downstairs now." He hung up the phone, then turned to look towards the bedroom for some time.

Immediately, Patricia closed the door, not wanting him to see her. When she heard the door closing, she slowly opened her own door to see if he was gone.

Sadly, Zac was nowhere to be found.

From what he had said earlier in the phone, there was no doubt that he had gone to see Anika.

Indecisive, Patricia stood there biting her lip. Her head was in a mess and she couldn't think straight. She really wanted to follow him and see what was going on, but she also was scared.

Patricia stood there, debating on what to do. Unable to keep her curiosity at bay, she quickly closed her door and walked out of the apartment.

As soon as she stepped foot out of the apartment, she saw Zac and Anika. They seemed to be arguing about something. Zac looked agitated and angry, while Anika looked calm and relaxed.

"Anika, don't push it! Just because I can't find any evidence doesn't give you the right to do whatever you want!" Zac said in a very cold tone that would have certainly given anyone else chills.

Anika had called him several times, and each time, she claimed it was to talk about the Sampson Bay project. However, Zac knew better. He knew the real reason behind her calls and yet, he agreed to meet her every single time. Maybe because he just wanted to take advantage of any opportunity that could present itself.

But from the look of things, it was only his wishful thinking because that opportunity wasn't about to show itself anytime soon.

How could he even fool himself when he knew the type of woman Anika was? She was ready to do whatever it took to achieve her goal. It was already a miracle that she didn't play tricks on him; he shouldn't have expected more.

"Oh, really? On the contrary, I think it does. In any case, Zac, I really do have something to discuss with you. Don't you want to get the Sampson Bay back? Or do you just want Patricia to be sad about it forever?" Anika asked rather casually, intentionally provoking him.

Of course, it worked because Zac got furious just looking at her face. He glared at her, and warned, "Anika!"

Loving his reaction, Anika smiled. She flicked her hair over her shoulder in a seductive manner and said, "Let's get down to it, shall we? Now that Patricia misunderstood you and isn't happy with you, I think it's best you use this opportunity. Just say yes to my proposal and get the Sampson Bay! It's as easy as that!"

Right in that instant, Zac was so angry he wished he had the guts to hit a woman.

If it weren't for the trick Anika pulled, he and Patricia would still be fine by now. What made him hate himself even more was the fact that till date, he still hadn't gotten a single clue.

Anika smiled proudly at the depressed look gracing Zac's features. She slowly walked up to him and caressed his chest seductively.

"Zac, you know what I'm capable of! If you keep this up, have no doubt about what will happen to you and Patricia."

Her tone and body language oozed confidence.

Anika was very confident that she could force them apart with just a little effort on her part.

"I'm saying things the way I see and want them, Zac. So you better make up your mind soon." From the corner of her eye, Anika caught a glimpse of Patricia and smiled deviously. Without a single sound, she stood on tiptoe and placed a soft kiss on Zac's cheek.

Chapter 610 Make A Scene

Patricia stood still, unable to move a limb. Her mind went blank as she watched the scene that was unfolding before her eyes. Her mouth was so dry, she couldn't even afford to utter a word.

She was so confused and broken that her mind couldn't think straight.

Zac frowned in disgust and pushed Anika away. "Anika, will you behave yourself?" he said coldly between gritted teeth.

"Behave myself? But why, when you'll be mine eventually?" Anika said in a cheerful and sultry tone that oozed confidence in herself.

Getting more pissed with her unwanted attention and attitude, Zac opened his mouth to rebuke her, but Anika got the better of him and said quickly, "Oh, there's Patricia! I'll leave now."

With a satisfied smile, Anika turned around and left, not giving Zac the opportunity to speak and salvage the situation.

Patricia walked up to Zac before he could understand what was actually going on.

She glared at him with so much anger in her gaze that Zac took an involuntary step back.

"Zac, what can you possibly say for yourself now? Huh?" Patricia asked heatedly, her once bright eyes dark with anger.

Of course, she had been sad by the previous situation, but she had chosen to believe in Zac. She had been patiently waiting for him to give her a plausible explanation.

And now to come down and see this? She wasn't expecting it!

Right this moment, Patricia didn't even know what she was feeling. She was so depressed that she couldn't even find her words.

"No, no, Patricia! Please, just listen to me!" Zac said hurriedly, his face looking very anxious. He grabbed her arm, keeping her in place so that she wouldn't leave in anger.

He couldn't afford to let her leave now. If Patricia walked out on him now, then things would become even more complicated, and he knew he wouldn't get another chance to make things clear to her.

"Listen to you? Do I really need to listen to anything that comes out of your mouth?" Patricia asked him incredulously, staring at Zac as coldly as she could.

Just by looking at her eyes and listening to her, Zac was sure that saying anything right now would be useless. Patricia would never believe him if he tried explaining things now, no matter how reasonable it

might sound.

Out of everything that was happening, what hurt Zac the most was the look he was seeing in Patricia's eyes for the very time. And to make it worse, it was directed at him. Still, he wasn't going to let that stop him from making things right. He held her arm tightly, willing her to just listen to what he had to say.

"It's not what you think. Don't misunderstand what you saw, please! There is nothing between Anika and me. You need to believe me!" Zac's words rushed out in frustration. He froze when the expression on her face didn't change. Now, there was no doubt about it. Nothing he said could make Patricia believe him again.

He had to admit that the position he was in was indeed compromising. Even if he told Patricia the truth, how was she to believe him after what she just saw with her own eyes?

Zac sighed heavily. He wished he could do something, but he just didn't know what to do.

"Zac, you know what? You owe me no explanation. I know what's going through your mind now. You promised, Zac! Damn it, you promised! You said you wouldn't see her again. Could I be dreaming right now?" Patricia shook her head and chuckled without humor, mocking herself for being so naive. This was it! She had lost the trust she had in Zac!

And admitting that multiplied her pain a thousand times.

Surprised by her reaction, Zac looked at her blankly. His lips opened and closed continuously, wanting to say something. Unfortunately, he couldn't seem to find the right words.

What Patricia just said really shocked him. How was he to answer her?

Oblivious to what was going on in Zac's head, Patricia sneered, taking his silence for acceptance of guilt. Tears of anger and disappointment brimming in her eyes, she whispered sadly, "So it's true. You have been lying to me the whole time." Angry at herself for allowing him to see her weak, she pushed him away with all her strength, turned around and left without looking back.

Zac sighed and ran his fingers through his hair as he watched Patricia walk away from him. What could he possibly say to stop her?

He had never expected this. He couldn't even understand how he had ended up here.

How did things end up this way? All he had wanted to do was confirm his suspicions. It was rather unfortunate that Patricia had to see that. Of course, her reaction was only natural. She had every right to get angrier.

He had never taken the time to think of all the possible outcomes.

Zac sighed and slowly walked back to the apartment in low spirits. A single glance at him could tell anyone his present state of mind.

When he got back in, Patricia was already locked in her room, sleeping. She had no intention of talking to Zac anytime soon. Right now, he was a stranger to her. Confused on what to do, he stood in the living room, and sighed.

In her room, Patricia couldn't stop biting her lower lip. She felt like heart would explode and she would go crazy.

She wanted to cry, snap and beat Zac up all at the same time.

When she brushed off these ideas and stopped focusing on her anger, depression overtook her as the reality of the situation hit her hard. She felt like she was suffocating with all her feelings bottled up. "What do I do now?" she whispered sadly.

Suddenly, an image of Zac and Anika flashed through her mind, and her anger came back full force, stealing away her sleep.

Patricia woke up the next day with circles around her eyes. Whatever magic she did on her face didn't hide it. So, when she went to work looking that way, Naylor's eyes went wide, startled by how she looked. "Patricia..."

"Boss, what can I do for you?" Patricia interrupted him before he could ask the question that was on the tip of his tongue. She forced out a smile, which only made her look weird.

Naylor couldn't stop his frown after seeing the strange smile on her face. He cleared his throat and said in a low voice, "Did you have a quarrel with Zac?"

Patricia raised her head and glared at Naylor with hatred in her eyes. It was obvious, however, that the hatred wasn't directed at him. It was as though hearing Zac's name was synonymous to hearing her enemy's name.

The look in her eyes scared Naylor so much that he gulped and made a mental note not to mess with women.

The look on Patricia's face was indeed a little scary.

"Boss, that's private and has nothing to do with you," Patricia answered in a calm and distant voice.

Naylor shivered involuntarily. He smiled awkwardly, not understanding how a woman could have such an effect on him. Gathering his wits and becoming serious, he said, "Alright then, let's not talk about it and get down to business." He took out a planning from the drawer and handed it to Patricia.

Patricia looked at it and frowned. Then she looked at Naylor suspiciously "Boss, why..."

It was the planning for the studying abroad project. She had already refused to go. So why was Naylor showing her this again?

She started talking, but then stopped, not sure of what to say. With all that had been going on, Patricia was really lost and confused.

"Boss, I told you already, right? I don't want to go abroad," Patricia said again, looking very determined and sure of her decision. However, she wasn't so confident after saying that aloud. A surprising idea popped into her mind and confused her once again.

She thought of Zac and Anika. What if they were really together?

To be honest, she didn't think she wanted to stay here anymore and go through this torture. All she wanted at that moment, was to run away from this place and feel better.