

Remarry 671

[Chapter 671 A Hasty Judgment](#)

The slightest shift in expression passed across Norman's face, but it escaped Anika, her eyes burning with hostility as she looked at him. Norman was Zac in her mind, and she wanted to sink her hands into the man's neck.

Norman could almost feel her fury sting his skin. He was already prepared for what could come after, knowing that Anika meant to take her anger out on him.

If he bore it long enough, he would finally be able to get rid of her once and for all.

Norman gritted his teeth and bore the brunt of Anika's abuse. Right now, he could do little else other than hope that the camera would be able to record footage of this scene.

Zac was resting when his phone rang with a call from Norman. A frown creased his forehead, his expression turning dark and thoughtful.

Patricia saw the shift in his expressions and frowned. "Zac, why don't you answer it?" she asked, her eyes looking at him with suspicion.

The look on his face told her all she needed to know. Zac was hiding something from her.

"Patricia..."

"Just answer it," Patricia interrupted him. She stood up and walked out of the room, giving Zac a quiet space to take the call.

As soon as she stepped out, Zac pressed the answer button. He had made a deal with Norman. If anything new came up, he would call Zac first thing.

"Have you found anything?" Zac asked, his voice thick with anxiousness. His worry had been steadily brewing since this morning when he received that phone call from Anika. At this point, he was almost desperate for some good news—any piece of information that would help him bring her down.

When his phone rang with Norman's call, he was unable to help his expectations grow. Zac hoped that he would bring him something useful.

"Of course. That was the agreement," Norman said, satisfaction written all over his face. To him, it was natural to behave this way.

Zac listened to Norman's words. When the other man finished speaking, he pursed his lips and asked, "Are you sure about this?" The information he had divulged was quite big, and Zac could scarcely believe it.

Zac's doubts about Norman and his report grew. It was disconcerting how simple things seemed to be going.

Norman couldn't help but feel insulted at Zac's suspicion. "Mr. Reynolds, I can't believe you still don't trust me until now," he said in a low voice. Displeasure would be an understatement for his feelings about Zac's response.

Norman had been nothing but genuine in his interactions with Zac. He had no other intention than to leave Anika as soon as possible.

However, it seemed that things were different now, and disappointment washed over him.

"I didn't think you would suspect me like this," Norman said, growing more upset with Zac. Norman felt his temper rising quickly at the other man's attitude.

Things were getting more and more complicated. Zac couldn't fully trust Norman. He did not know for sure if Norman was really his ally or if he was on Anika's side. Believing him completely would be too great of a risk.

Zac's silence was a test, but beyond that, it spoke of his mistrust. Norman felt anger and disappointment at this fact. "If that's the case, then our agreement stops here. I don't want any help from you." With those words, Norman hung up.

Zac was left with only the telltale beep from the other line. His frown deepened, and for a moment, he was at a loss what to say. He knew he had struck a nerve. Otherwise, Norman wouldn't have left things at that.

A long sigh escaped Zac. He shook his head, having no idea what to do next and where to go from here.

The next moment, Patricia walked over to Zac's side. She opened her mouth to say something, but decided against it at the last moment. There was nothing she could say that would help. Not when she was just as lost as he was.

Patricia overheard Zac's conversation with Norman, and she knew that he was up against a wall.

Zac felt her presence and turned around, looking at her with wide eyes. He turned away and bit his lip.

"Patricia, you..."

"I heard everything, but..." Patricia interrupted, her gaze despondent as she looked at him.

What happened just now was not going to be an easy matter to fix. Besides, if her hunch was correct, the person on the other line must be Zac's doppelganger.

Somehow, she had an inkling that she was right on the mark.

Before Zac could say anything, Patricia leveled him with a look of understanding. "Zac, I know that I don't have a say in this matter, but I feel like that person needs your help."

She had heard about what happened to Norman before, and something told her he wanted to ask for Zac's help again.

Zac nodded quietly, the confusion in his eyes slowly dissipating. Maybe he had been too hasty. Anything that had to do with Anika turned him paranoid, and Norman was caught up with it.

"Right. I understand." Zac's face turned serious, as if he had just made up his mind.

He talked to Patricia for a while, then decided to call Jack.

A mischievous voice greeted Zac from the other end of the line.

"Well, well. To what do I owe the pleasure, Zac?"

Zac automatically frowned and said in a low voice, "Keep going and see where that takes you."

Zac had already been tense from all his anxiousness. He was in no mood to humor Jack.

Jack just burst into laughter, unfazed at his threat. Chuckling, he answered, "Relax. I was just kidding. Why are you so serious? Why are you calling me? Shouldn't you be having a hell of a time with Patricia over there?" Jack snickered, unable to help himself from poking fun at Zac.

Even if Zac didn't see Jack now, he knew exactly what kind of expression he had.

Zac cleared his throat and answered, "Knock it off. I called to ask about Norman. He—"

"Zac, if you have the means, get that person out of trouble as soon as you can." Jack interrupted him, his voice turning uncharacteristically solemn.

The two men spoke, with Jack telling Zac more about Norman's recent situation. There were obvious signs of him being subjected to abuse from Anika's hands. It was the only possible explanation for his wretched state.

Zac kept silent for a moment. He could hardly believe his ears when Jack told him. Now it all made sense why Norman was so happy to see him that day. He was being tortured.

Zac was the only hope left for Norman now.

A pang of guilt tightened in Zac's chest. Perhaps he had been too quick to pass judgment on Norman.

[Chapter 672 The Plan Begins](#)

"You'd better do something as soon as possible," Jack said. His voice was full of pity for Norman.

Zac nodded. This had really surprised him.

"It looks like I have misunderstood Norman," Zac said heavily. He knew that he had gone too far this time. If possible, he wanted to apologize to Norman.

But if he decided to meet Norman now, it would arouse Anika's suspicion. What should he do?

Zac gave the matter a lot of thought, but he had no idea how to deal with it.

His phone rang with a call from Norman.

"Mr. Reynolds?" Norman said, before Zac could say something. It was obvious from his tone that he was angry and upset.

Maybe Norman was disgruntled because Zac was suspecting him. But he wasn't the kind of person to casually lose his temper. Moreover, he hoped to leave Anika as soon as possible and wouldn't give up at such a small setback.

"Norman, about what I said just now..." Zac said but Norman interrupted him.

Norman was serious this time, and he seemed sincere. He really wanted Zac to know that he was eager to cooperate with him.

"I know that you still have doubts about me. But I hope you understand that I really want to cooperate with you," Norman said sincerely.

Zac nodded. He knew how helpless and depressed Norman was. He also knew that he had gone too far just now.

"I'm glad that we can cooperate. I will now need your assistance in advancing the implementation of the plan, but I have one condition," Zac said, suddenly becoming serious. He thought of what Patricia had said and decided to surprise her.

He had promised that he would let her meet Norman, this way letting her know that he wasn't lying to her.

Norman agreed readily to Zac's proposal. "No problem. I hope the misunderstanding between the two

of you can be solved."

He also felt the need to explain himself to Patricia. He felt sorry for what happened before.

This way, they reached an agreement where they would surprise Patricia at lunch the next day.

When Patricia finally saw Norman, she was indeed taken aback. But she was not happy.

She thought Norman was Zac and began talking to him as soon as they met. She didn't notice his uneasiness.

"Why aren't you saying anything?" Patricia asked, looking suspiciously at him. She felt that something was off about Zac today, but couldn't figure out what exactly it was.

Norman noticed Patricia's intent gaze and wanted to say something, but stopped himself. He collected himself before finally saying, "Miss Sampson, you're mistaking me for someone else. I'm not Mr. Reynolds. My name is Norman."

Patricia was stunned at this information. She stared at him in disbelief for a long few minutes.

Norman and Zac really looked like each other, except for the difference in their auras.

Norman was embarrassed at the astonishment on Patricia's face. He lowered his head and whispered, "Miss Sampson, I'm sorry to startle you this way. I'm really Norman. Mr. Reynolds asked me to come here, and then..."

He was too embarrassed to continue, especially at Patricia's surprised expression. He wanted to laugh, but he couldn't. It would be inappropriate.

Patricia's surprise and shock knew no bounds. She stared at him, trying to find some, or any difference from Norman's eyes.

His eyes seemed tender, in stark contrast to Zac's, which were almost always gloomy and murderous, a dangerous combination to be.

"Are you really Norman?" she asked disbelievingly. She was frightened by Norman's sudden appearance.

Norman nodded and smiled, looking happy, as if he now considered Patricia to be his friend.

Patricia blushed, her face turning scarlet.

"Miss Sampson, are you okay?" Norman asked, confused.

Patricia vigorously shook her head, smiling in embarrassment. "I'm sorry. I mistook you for Zac and

talked so much nonsense!" She had no idea what else to say.

Norman understood what she was feeling. He smiled gently and said, "It doesn't matter."

An awkward smile snaked onto Patricia's lips just as the door suddenly swung open. Zac's appearance brought the frown back to her face. She looked at him, then back at Norman.

Zac and Norman appearing in front of her at the same time was a shock to her system.

If Norman hadn't introduced himself to Patricia first, it would have been difficult for her to distinguish between them.

"Zac?" Patricia mouthed, looking at the new entrant carefully, as if she was afraid of making a mistake again.

Zac frowned with displeasure. He squinted at her and whispered, "What do you mean? Are you still mistaking someone else for me?"

He was afraid that Patricia might have mistaken Norman for him, which was why he had asked Norman to arrive first. But he hadn't expected this reaction. He knew his anger wasn't justified, but he was angry anyway.

Patricia pursed her lips, noticing the anger on Zac's face. "No, I..." she started gently but Zac interrupted her.

"There is no need to explain. I can tell," Zac said unhappily, not wanting to hear any explanation from her. Without another word, he dragged Norman into the room and said morosely, "Ignore her. Let's go in and get some food." He didn't as much as look at Patricia as he said this.

Patricia frowned, her eyes narrowing in annoyance. She stared at Zac's and Norman's retreating backs, a violent rage simmering within her.

She hadn't expected Zac to lose his temper like a child. It was annoying to say the least.

She scoffed angrily before walking to Zac's side. She glared at him for a long moment before she went into the kitchen to cook. She had half a mind to not give them anything to eat.

Zac had made up his mind about having a guest that day. He had asked Nicholas to buy a lot of groceries so that some delicious food could be cooked.

[Chapter 673 Things Will Come To An End Soon](#)

Zac and Norman spoke for a while after the dishes were prepared. They seemed to be close as if they had known one other for a long time.

Patricia's mouth was pursed in frustration as she didn't know what to say next. When she laid the plates on the table, she said, "Well, it's time to eat." Then, she sent a look Zac's way, as if to say something.

When Zac caught a glimpse of her expression, he kept his mouth shut. With a smile, he said in a soft voice, "Do not be upset, Patricia. Do you recall what we've discussed before?"

After hearing this, Patricia became skeptical and shook her head. She was perplexed by Zac's reaction.

"Are you referring to what I told you in America?" Patricia asked and looked Zac in the eye.

As soon as Zac saw Norman, he was reminded of what Patricia had said to him in the United States at the time. As long as he could get Norman here, she was willing to give Zac another shot.

Zac had apparently kept his end of the bargain.

Suddenly, Patricia felt a sense of warmth in her heart. She figured that Zac had been too busy to recall these things lately. She was surprised to learn that he had taken her remarks so seriously all these years.

At the time, her heart was immersed in a loving embrace.

A glint of delight appeared on Zac's face as he saw her expression. His eyes were beaming with joy as he inquired in a warm tone, "Are you delighted?" Zac's lips were full of compassion as soon as he finished speaking.

Patricia, on the other hand, played dumb. She lifted her brows at Zac and murmured, "Is that what you're saying? I almost forgot." Patricia flashed a callous expression as she proceeded to the kitchen, pretending that she had no memory of it.

Zac had a grin on his face when he saw this. He was able to decipher Patricia's meaning based on the look on her face. Given her embarrassment, Zac determined there was no use in arguing with her.

After some time, Zac turned to Norman and remarked, "By the way, Norman, you said yesterday that you made new discoveries." When he completed his words, Zac's eyes gleamed with anticipation.

Norman was close with Anika. He was the only one who could get anything from Anika.

Norman's announcement that he was willing to work with Zac delighted Zac. Nonetheless, Zac was suspicious that Anika had dispatched Norman as a snitch.

However, it now seemed that Zac's prior suspicions were unfounded. Since Jack provided some information, Zac wasn't so suspicious of Norman anymore.

Norman started nodding his head a lot. At that moment, he seemed to envision the day when he would finally be free.

"This is the video you're asking for. It has been recorded per your request, but I trust you will keep my face a secret." The footage was played for Zac as Norman gazed at him in a begging manner.

This made Zac want to find out what was within. It wasn't long until he closed the video after seeing some really personal images.

When Zac watched the video, he realized that cooperating with Norman was the right move. Zac had no idea that their collaboration would lead to such a positive outcome.

Norman couldn't help but grimace and quietly requested, "Mr. Reynolds, can you do me a small favor?"

With a flushed face, Norman lowered his gaze and looked embarrassed.

In response, Zac nodded slightly. Even if Norman did not say so, Zac would undoubtedly assist him. Regardless, he felt obligated to defend Norman effectively.

"Don't be concerned. Let me take care of it for you," Zac said in a serious voice.

Norman couldn't help but smile after Zac gave a promise. He grabbed Zac's hand and said, "Mr. Reynolds, thank you so much."

"Actually, I'm the one who should be grateful to you." Zac managed a half-smile. Without their help, he wouldn't have been able to find this much proof. Anika would have thought it impossible at the moment.

Unexpectedly, Norman, in whom she had always placed her faith, collaborated with Zac.

"Fret not. The issue will shortly be resolved. You will be able to return to your normal life soon enough," Zac said with a compassionate expression. He wanted to let Norman know that he was going to be able to leave Anika shortly.

When Norman learned of this, he was giddy with excitement as he grabbed Zac's wrist. "Mr. Reynolds, I am eagerly awaiting your excellent news." Then, Norman turned to check his watch and walked out the door without saying anything else.

After Norman hurried off, Patricia frowned, approached Zac, and questioned him in a confused tone, "Why did Norman leave so soon? Won't he eat with us?"

Patricia had prepared plenty of food in anticipation of Norman's presence.

After standing up, Zac approached Patricia. He softly massaged her back with his free hand. "Norman has a pressing matter, so he won't join us for dinner."

Patricia nodded slightly when she heard this. She thought Zac was odd for some reason as if something good had happened to him.

Her beautiful lips swung wide and closed. She was about to say something, but Zac interjected, "I'm delighted, Patricia." The happiness on his face was unparalleled as if he had just won the lottery.

"What delights you?" Patricia questioned, perplexed. Today, Zac seemed somewhat different. She had a gut feeling that something had happened to him and that she had to find out what it was.

"I'll keep it a secret for now." Zac purposefully arched his brows in her direction. He was beaming from ear to ear, and his wide-set eyes were bursting with joy.

Based on the expression on his face, Patricia suspected that Zac had something to hide from her and that it had something to do with Norman.

"What's the matter?" Patricia blinked her eyes and stared at Zac with suspicion. She wanted a response from him as quickly as possible.

Zac's face lit up with joy. His eyes were kind and heartfelt as he said softly, "Eventually, you will come to terms with it. There will be an end to this shortly. We can have a future together." The corners of Zac's lips curled into a pleasant grin when he stated this.

Looking at the compassion in Zac's eyes, Patricia sank her teeth into his skin. It was at the same moment that her heart began to pound with excitement. Zac's words appeared to indicate that the dispute between them and Anika would be resolved shortly.

[Chapter 674 Anika's Anger](#)

The hope in Patricia's heart was soon fulfilled. There were stories about Anika in the news.

Anika was rumored to have betrayed Zac.

Patricia deduced from the news that Zac was the mastermind behind all of this. Also, she could tell that the man in the photos was Norman.

It was clear that Zac was serious. This time, he decided to end things with Anika.

"It appears that things will be over soon," Patricia murmured. It turned out to be exactly what Zac had said that day.

Patricia smiled slightly after reading the news about Anika. She couldn't help but bite her lower lip as she looked up at the ceiling. Her eyes sparkled with happiness.

"How is Zac now?" Patricia started to worry about Zac all of a sudden.

Even though it seemed to be off to a good start, Patricia felt uneasy for some reason. She was worried that something bad would happen to Zac. Anika was never a coward. She would definitely become enraged and seek retribution from him.

Patricia's darkest fears came true. At that moment, Anika stormed into Zac's office angrily. Nicholas and the secretary were unable to stop Anika.

Zac, who was preoccupied with his work, noticed Anika standing in front of him with an angry expression. He softly waved his hand, signaling Nicholas and his secretary to leave. He wanted to talk to her in private.

The moment Nicholas and the secretary left, Anika lost her cool and stared at Zac.

"What do you mean, Zac?" Anika was enraged, and her eyes were filled with venomous hatred. She looked at Zac as if he was an enemy.

Zac's expression softened and a keen look flashed through his eyes. "What do I mean? Don't you understand, Anika?"

When he called out Anika's name, his eyes were filled with hatred, and he wasn't joking at all.

Hearing this, Anika was furious. She gave Zac a mean look and wanted to rush up to him and fight.

This time, Zac was serious. He even used such a trick, which enraged Anika.

It not only harmed her reputation but also affected the company. The company's stock had dropped a lot recently. Her relatives even called her and told her she needed to solve the matter as soon as possible or they would stop supporting her.

"Zac, what the hell do you want? We are now a couple. It's not a good idea for you to do something like that," Anika said angrily. Zac understood exactly what she meant.

Now that Anika and Zac were together, her gossip news not only affected Anika but also Zac.

When he heard this, Zac couldn't help but keep his mouth shut and his eyes fixated on Anika.

What Anika said was correct. His company's reputation was also affected as a result of the revelation.

This was exactly what Zac had expected. His major goal was to make Anika fearful. He initially assumed Anika would surrender to him. But it seems that she would not let this happen.

That was why they ended up like that. Zac would not be merciful in this circumstance. He was prepared to face the consequences.

"Yes, I know what would happen today, so I'm well-prepared now," Zac said in low voice. His deep-set eyes were filled with determination, and he seemed unaffected by Anika's words.

Anika's eyes were infuriated all of a sudden. "Zac, do you truly believe you can defeat me and be with Patricia?" she replied fiercely, biting her lower lip tightly.

Anika's eyes glowed with cruelty when she said this. She would never let go of Zac this time, nor would she give up so easily.

Anika had made up her mind not to let Zac go so easily after looking into his eyes. Zac couldn't possibly be with Patricia unless Anika was dead.

Zac's lips pursed when he caught a glimpse of Anika's gaze. His expression showed a hint of helplessness. Her eyes told him all he needed to know.

At that moment, a faint smile appeared on Zac's face. He said gently, "What do you think? I'm not going to let you succeed, Anika. In this situation, I will never back down, much alone allow you to succeed."

Zac's expression was cruel, and a tinge of harshness flashed through his deep-set eyes as he spoke. He glanced at Anika and refused to concede defeat.

Zac thought there was no need or chance for him to retreat at this time. He was responsible for not just Patricia's and his happiness, but also Norman's freedom and the company's future.

Even if Patricia was concerned about him and wanted him to retreat, Zac would never do so.

Anika took a deep breath and turned to face Zac, her eyes filled with rage. She made her way up, step by step as if she wanted to fight Zac. At this moment, she was like a mad lion, and she didn't want to let Zac go.

When Zac saw Anika approach him, he raised his hand and gave her a hard stare.

"Anika, if you continue to mess around, things are only going to get worse." It sounded like Zac was warning Anika.

Anika came to a complete stop when she heard this. She bit her lower lip tightly, made a terrible face at Zac, and said with hatred, "Excellent. Zac, you've definitely made up your mind."

"That's correct. Anika. I have stated that I will stand with Patricia and will not allow her to be harmed." He snapped his fingers as soon as he finished speaking. Nicholas instantly opened the door and motioned for Anika to leave.

Anika scoffed and walked away without saying anything. She had no desire to be here. For Anika, it was

useless for her to stay since Zac was so ruthless. In that case, she'd better leave as soon as possible.

Nicholas approached Anika's diminishing figure with concern. He glanced at Zac with concern and asked, "Boss, what should we do next?"

The current situation was not as simple as Nicholas thought, and it was not easy to solve it.

[Chapter 675 Solve The Problem](#)

As soon as Zac saw Nicholas' expression, his face darkened and he seemed to be pondering on something.

A serious query entered his head while a frigid expression accompanied his pursed thin lips.

"Boss..." Nicholas mumbled with an anxious expression.

"Norman must not be left alone. Furthermore, the situation also has an impact on the firm." Nicholas was visibly distressed and unsure about what to do next.

At this point, Nicholas was unable to resolve the issue on his own and had no control over the matter's outcome. As soon as possible, Zac had to come up with a solution to this issue.

Confused, Zac pursed his lips and chewed his bottom lip as he heard what Nicholas had to say.

Zac's predicament was much more difficult than he had previously anticipated. It seemed that just saying something wasn't enough.

Specifically, the way Anika stared at him as she departed just now caused Zac to be concerned. He feared Anika might harm Patricia.

"I understand. Of course, I'll give it some thought," Zac said softly. As though he had sunk into a pit of misery, his eyes were filled with sadness.

Nicholas first intended to respond, but he reconsidered after seeing the look on Zac's. He decided not to bother Zac.

Then, Nicholas walked away in a sluggish manner. His gait was light and airy.

As soon as Nicholas exited the office, he noticed Norman impatiently waiting outside. Norman's fear was evident in his eyes.

"Nicholas, how is it? What did Mr. Reynolds say?" With an eager expression, Norman hoped Nicholas would respond adequately.

The intensity of Norman's stare caused Nicholas to squirm and he was about to say something, but he

decided against it. He had no idea what to say to Norman about it.

Norman couldn't help but feel sorry and depressed when he saw Nicholas' eyes. "Right. Mr. Reynolds has been ignoring me. It seems..."

Before Norman could complete his thoughts, Nicholas cut him off by saying, "It's not like that. He just has a lot to do right now. I'm the one in charge of making sure you're safe. As a result of your betrayal of Anika, she will not let you go. I'll look for a safe haven for you. During this time, please hide."

Optimism filled Norman's eyes as he heard Nicholas' comments. "Thank you very much," he said as he clutched Nicholas' hand.

When Nicholas caught a glimpse of Norman's giddy expression, he felt some relief wash over him.

Nicholas gazed toward Zac's office, hoping that Zac might come up with a solution to these issues.

Currently, Zac was seated on the chair by himself. His face became darker. He closed his eyes and placed his palm on his forehead. Misery was apparent in his expression.

"This is going to be a hard fight." A trace of bitterness developed on Zac's gorgeous thin lips.

If Anika made a move, she wouldn't hold back. She was certain to do anything that would cause both parties to incur losses.

Just thinking about it gave Zac a headache. He was at a loss how to deal with Anika's next move. For him, there was no way to have the best of both worlds.

Actually, Zac was most concerned about Patricia's well-being. After all, Anika was both vicious and brutal. She was unstoppable.

At this point, Nicholas and Jack were both overloaded with work. As a result, Zac was left to deal with the issue on his own.

Zac's face was tinged with sadness as he sighed.

"It's pointless to ruminate about it. Since I have no other options, I'll have to come up with my own solution," Zac muttered in a soft tone. His eyes were filled with a fierce purpose.

Suddenly, his attitude changed and he started to put in more effort.

Meanwhile, Patricia sat in the living room. She felt a bit apprehensive for no apparent reason at all. As if she were waiting for Zac to return, she kept an eye on the door.

Seeing Anika's news today made Patricia both delighted and nervous. The fact that Zac and Anika's

dispute would soon be resolved pleased her.

However, she feared that Anika would get enraged and seek vengeance on Zac. His life would be in jeopardy by then.

Patricia was alarmed as she pondered over this. After all, she was aware of Anika's capabilities.

"I wonder how Zac is doing. Why isn't he back yet?" Patricia's eyes glowed with concern. If Anika retaliated, she feared that Zac might not return today.

Panic and anxiety overwhelmed her. Patricia had been sitting alone on the sofa for a long time. She was tense and she had the impression that time was moving slowly.

When the door swung open, she felt completely off guard. She was under the impression that Zac had returned. But she couldn't help but be saddened when she saw Nicholas instead.

"It's you, Nicholas." Patricia's tone reflected her feelings of disappointment and anxiety.

Nicholas was able to deduce what she was trying to say just by looking at her face. He smiled and said, "Patricia, don't worry. My boss has recently had a little snag. He's safe and sound."

After hearing this, Patricia nodded her head a little bit. She was aware that Nicholas had come to give her an update on Zac's well-being. It helped tremendously that he said that. The only thing that mattered was that Zac remained uninjured and safe.

"I understand. Please remind him to take it easy and not overexert himself. It's okay if he needs a little more time to work through the issue," Patricia said in a calm voice.

Zac should not be worried at this crucial time. It would take a while for him to figure out the solution.

Nicholas bowed his head hard and seemed quite serious as he listened to her statements.

"Patricia, I'll pass your message to him. Now more than ever, it's imperative that you look after your health and safety."

Nicholas' meaning was clear to Patricia. She nodded her head. It would be difficult for Patricia and Zac to meet in the coming days since Zac would be occupied with Anika.

Patricia's eyes were filled with optimism, and she gave a tiny grin. She had now placed all of her faith in Zac. Moreover, Zac held the key to their well-being as a couple.

They could be together as long as they were able to get through this. There would be no more difficulties and humiliations for them to endure.

Patricia was ecstatic as she contemplated this. She made an effort to control her enthusiasm.

"No problem. I will wait patiently for the good news from Zac." At this point, Patricia's facial expression changed to one of happiness and bliss. Her eyes were brimming with optimism about what the future had in store for her.

As Nicholas saw Patricia's look, he nodded a little. The fact that she was on board made him feel a little better.

He still had a lot of work to do, particularly to get Norman back to his feet.

Seeing his expression, Patricia couldn't help but inquire, "Nicholas, what's wrong?"

She saw a tinge of sadness in Nicholas' eyes as if he was struggling with something.

[Chapter 676 Patricia's Idea](#)

Seeing the look on Nicholas' face, Patricia asked, "Nicholas, what happened?"

Patricia could tell something was bothering Nicholas by the look in his eyes. He appeared to be anxious and unsure of what to do.

"Nothing, Patricia, you misunderstood me," Nicholas responded pleasantly, forcing a smile.

When Patricia heard it, she looked very serious all of a sudden. She coughed and blinked at Nicholas.

"Do you really think I have misunderstood you?" Patricia was dead serious when she said this, and she didn't appear to be joking.

From the way Nicholas looked, she could tell that something bad had happened.

When Nicholas saw Patricia's expression, he couldn't help but sigh gently and explain, "In fact, here's the thing..." Nicholas told Patricia what happened to Norman.

She finally understood what was going on.

Norman was now feeling nervous. Also, his situation was not at all as simple as they thought it was. He had to deal with something very important. If Anika found him, he would be punished very badly for sure.

When Patricia thought about this, she was shocked and started to worry about Norman's safety.

In any case, Norman was on their side. They couldn't put him in danger after he had helped them. Now that he was trapped, she should help him find a way out.

"Then what should we do next?" Patricia stared worriedly at Nicholas, hoping for some response.

What happened now was not as simple as she had imagined. They were also all very clear about Anika's abilities. Norman would suffer the consequences if she took action.

Hearing this, Nicholas pursed his lips in depression. He looked very sad and didn't know what to do.

Nicholas thought about finding a place where Norman could hide. But he didn't expect Anika was so powerful that she could find that place in such a short time.

Furthermore, Norman, who had previously been tortured by Anika, refused to return to her. He felt nervous and restless now as if he had encountered something serious.

Nicholas felt depressed just thinking about it. His lips parted slightly as he stared up at Patricia. He wanted to say something, but he couldn't find the words.

"Nicholas, just get to the point," Patricia urged, knowing exactly what Nicholas was thinking.

Nicholas' eyes showed that he was genuinely worried about Norman's safety and treated him like a friend.

Looking at Patricia, Nicholas wanted to say something but stopped on second thought. Finally, he gathered up his courage, took a deep breath, and said, "Patricia, can you talk to my boss? Let Norman follow him."

Patricia was a little surprised. She agreed with Nicholas that it was a wonderful plan.

To be honest, Patricia wasn't sure what to think when she heard that. If Norman was with Zac, it would be hard to tell them apart, which could cause trouble.

As Patricia was pondering about it, a thought came to her.

"I have a good idea." As soon as she finished speaking, a faint smile appeared on her face. She looked very happy.

Nicholas then scowled in uncertainty and listened intently. His eyes were wide with anticipation as if he wanted to hear Patricia's brilliant idea as quickly as possible.

"Simply leave it to me. Don't be concerned, Nicholas," Patricia remarked confidently, raising her eyebrows at Nicholas.

When he saw Patricia's eyes, Nicholas became skeptical. Although she was confident this time, he was concerned because he didn't know what her plan was.

Nicholas was worried, but Patricia didn't intend to tell him about her plan. Instead, she decided to talk to Zac about it first.

Patricia walked up to Zac with a big smile on her face when he got back.

Zac couldn't help but frown when he saw the look in her eyes. His heart skipped a beat as if he had seen into her mind.

"Patricia, what's wrong?" Zac pursed his lips and asked. He looked at Patricia up and down as if he wanted to find something from her.

Patricia appeared calm and relaxed when she saw Zac's inquisitive expression. She patted Zac's shoulder and coughed in a meaningful way.

"Actually, I have something to tell you."

Hearing that, Zac frowned suspiciously, waiting for her next words.

Patricia then whispered something in Zac's ear.

Zac's pupils shrank when he heard Patricia's words. He looked surprised and perplexed in an instant.

As soon as she stopped, Zac stared at her with displeasure and murmured, "Are you sure?"

He would have thought he had misheard if he hadn't heard these words from Patricia.

He never imagined Patricia would suggest that he switch identities with Norman. In this way, it could protect Norman and Zac could deal with Anika.

When Zac thought about this idea, he frowned and looked at Patricia in a confused way. "Will it work?"

To be honest, Zac didn't think this plan was practical, especially at this time. Things would become difficult if something happened.

Patricia kept nodding her head. She thought her proposal was wonderful. It was not only advantageous to Zac, but it also had the potential to safeguard Norman. However, when she considered this problem, she overlooked one crucial factor.

Patricia could easily recognize Zac and Norman, let alone Anika. Anika had been with Norman for quite some time. She should be more familiar with him.

After a while, Zac decided to tell Patricia what he thought. She was shocked and realized that this matter was not as simple as she thought.

"You're right, Zac. My plan isn't meticulous enough." Patricia pursed her lips and sighed.

Zac couldn't help but bite his lower lip when he saw the look on her face. He felt bad about what he had just said. If he had known that saying it this way would ruin her good mood, he would have found another way to say it.

The next second, Zac said, "I didn't actually mean anything else, but..."

But for the matter of Norman, Zac was more serious. There was no margin for error.

[Chapter 677 Take The Risk](#)

"But what? Tell me." Patricia's curiosity was piqued all of a sudden. She waited patiently for Zac to respond, eager to know what he had to say.

Zac's sigh was audible, and it was hard not to notice. In a desperate voice, he said, "Keep your distance from this situation. You should avoid it." A bitter grin flashed across his lips.

When Patricia saw this, she pursed her lips and whispered hopelessly, "Although that's true, Norman is in a very perilous position right now and needs your assistance."

She was so upset when she stated this that she wanted to grab Zac's hand. Her pink lips were pursed and her eyes were wide with concern. At that moment, she hoped Zac would be able to answer her.

Patricia had the distinct impression that Norman was going through a lot of pain right now. If feasible, she hoped Zac would do something to help safeguard him.

Immediately after hearing Patricia's words, Zac's face darkened and his deep-set eyes furrowed slightly as if a thought lingered in his head.

Seeing Zac's expression, Patricia opened her lips to say something, but her words fell flat.

He finally lifted his head after some time and stared at Patricia seriously, before saying in a soft voice, "I know you are anxious about the safety of Norman, but now...."

"There should be no buts. You are aware of Norman's predicament. Anika will retaliate if we don't intervene immediately. Do you have the patience to stand by and watch him suffer?"

Doing so wasn't in Patricia's nature at all. That was why she decided to sit down with Zac and have a serious conversation about the issue.

As a result, she didn't anticipate Zac suddenly becoming apprehensive and uncertain of what to do.

Before Zac had a chance to respond, Patricia ducked her head and murmured, "Regardless of what you believe right now, Zac, you must grasp one important concept. To put it another way, Norman is now on

our side. We can't sit by and let him go through this ordeal."

Patience appeared on Patricia's face as soon as she completed her thoughts. Her gaze riveted on Zac.

Zac couldn't help but grin when he saw her reaction. He couldn't tell whether she was joking or if she was being sincere.

Obviously, he was aware of Norman's predicament and had a plan of action in place. Norman couldn't be left alone like this.

Patricia squinted her eyes at the sound of Zac's giggles. Infuriated, she said, "Zac, do you think it's appropriate to laugh right now?" His laughter enraged her in a way she couldn't understand.

Zac couldn't help but grin as he shook his head. He said with a smile, "Don't worry yourself to death. It's never my intention to imply that I won't assist him. However, if I follow your advice, it will be difficult to save him."

"Where does the difficulty come from? I think it's a good idea," Patricia responded. She no longer cared whether what she said was logical or not.

A giggle escaped Zac's lips when he heard this.

"However, what you suggested is an excellent one. In the meanwhile, I may use this chance to deal with Anika," Zac replied. His deeply-set eyes had an inexplicable expression about them. A pout flashed on his lips.

"Really?" Patricia cast a wary glance at Zac and saw in his eyes that he was determined on dealing with Anika.

Zac's eyes sparkled and his lips curled slightly at this moment. Actually, he was eager to take a chance. It was important to analyze all the factors before making a final choice. To act so hastily would have been foolish.

Patricia's mood worsened as she caught a glimpse of Zac's expressionless gaze. She had a nagging suspicion that this situation was more complicated than she first imagined, and she was a bit sorry about it.

At this point, Zac seemed to be focused only on defeating Anika. Deep inside, Patricia was a bit nervous and apprehensive.

After all, she was well aware of Anika's character. That woman would never be lenient with Zac.

"Are you determined to go through this plan?" Patricia bit her bottom lip and sighed, her cheeks flushed with anxiety.

Suddenly, Zac's face lit up with a gleeful grin. When he looked at her, he approached her and embraced her. A look of affection filled his eyes. His warm fingers caressed her hair.

"Don't be concerned. I'm confident in my abilities. I won't act recklessly," Zac said in a serious voice.

Patricia became more concerned after hearing this. The fact that Zac would do something out of the ordinary scared her.

She was aware of Zac's character. Once he made up his mind, he would never back down.

"Are you certain you're not going to screw around?" Patricia stared at Zac with suspicion.

Zac seemed adamant about dealing with Anika. He had a stern expression and seemed to have no intention of fooling about.

"Taking a risk is really necessary this time. If we're successful, we won't have to worry about being separated." Zac's deep-set eyes glowed with a strong sparkle.

Patricia couldn't help but sigh as she saw Zac's steely gaze. In light of the situation, she decided not to say anything. Zac's decision was final.

"Zac..." Patricia sighed and closed her lips, unsure of what to say.

"Patricia, don't be alarmed. I won't act recklessly," Zac soothed her in a confident voice. With his gentle gaze, he assured Patricia that she had nothing to fear as he squeezed her tighter in his arms.

The more Zac acted this way, the more concerned she became. No matter how concerned she was, she had faith in Zac's ability to resolve the situation.

Patricia pursed her lips. But as soon as she caught a glimpse of Zac's gaze, the sadness in her heart began to lift.

"Okay. I'm not sure what your strategy is, but you need to exercise caution." At this point, Patricia's expression became resolute and a slight grin emerged on her lips.

Zac raised his lips, and a tinge of tenderness formed in his gaze. In a swift motion, he placed a kiss on her forehead. "That's exactly what I want to do. Don't worry, I'll take care of it." After he finished speaking, he put his chin on her neck.

His thin lips opened just a little to reveal a fuller pout. Unfortunately, an unexpected visitor knocked on the door just as Zac was about to say something. He scowled and his eyes glowed with rage at being disturbed in such a way.

Patricia read Zac's expression and understood exactly what was going on.

With a fierce glare, she caressed the tip of Zac's nose. Then, she whispered in a low voice, "What's the matter? The most essential thing to do is work."

[Chapter 678 Norman's Uneasiness](#)

Hearing this, Zac looked very displeased. For many days, he hadn't had any intimacy with Patricia, so it was rare for him to have such an opportunity now, but...

At the thought of this, Zac was a little upset and even felt that the person who knocked at the door now was totally insensitive.

Glancing at Zac's face, Patricia got the message in his expression, but she said nothing. Anyway, now wasn't the time to discuss such things.

"Well, go on with your work." Patricia patted Zac's shoulders, giving a soft smile.

Seeing her smile, Zac's displeasure dissipated a little. With a light cough, he put on his usual cold expression in an instant. He then said in a low voice, "Come in."

A while later, the office door slowly pushed open to reveal an identical face as Zac's. Seeing the pair of frightened eyes, Patricia frowned a little.

What was wrong with Norman?

Seeing Norman's expression, Patricia felt that he seemed very afraid of Zac. However, she couldn't tell if it was because Zac was angry now, or because of something else.

"Norman," Patricia called out softly. She seemed to see something in his eyes, but she just wasn't sure of it or why he was here.

Norman nodded in embarrassment. Being aware that he had interrupted Zac and Patricia, he lowered his head and whispered, "I'm sorry, I didn't know Mr. Reynolds wouldn't be alone in the office. I didn't think..."

Seeing Zac and Patricia together, Norman knew what it meant. His sudden appearance had interrupted them, making Zac upset. So, he understood why Zac's countenance had darkened.

"No, it's fine." With a faint smile, Patricia glanced at Zac and winked at him.

Zac was obviously angry. As such, Norman might have to bear the consequences.

Meeting Patricia's gaze, Zac coughed lightly, forced a smile and said in a low voice, "Since you're here, come in."

However, he was apparently reluctant to see Norman.

Zac was obviously still a little upset. But he wasn't an impulsive person. Since Norman was here, he must definitely have something to say to him.

Hearing this, Zac looked very displeased. For many days, he hadn't had any intimacy with Patricia, so it was rare for him to have such an opportunity now, but...

"Well, you guys have a good talk. I'll be taking my leave now." With that, Patricia turned around to leave without the slightest hesitation.

"Well, you guys have a good talk. I'll be taking my leave now." With that, Patricia turned around to leave without the slightest hesitation.

When she walked past Norman, he quickly became anxious. He unconsciously grabbed her wrist, shaking his head vigorously. "Miss Sampson, actually..."

Norman was going to say that Patricia need not leave. It wasn't anything serious, he just wanted to ask for Zac's favor.

Patricia smiled gently and shook her head. "It's okay. You guys should talk." With that, she turned around and left.

Norman didn't know what to say. He felt sorry, deep down. He was a little uneasy when he saw Zac's deep-set and angry eyes peering at him.

"Mr. Reynolds..." Norman called in a whisper. He became uneasy as he didn't know what to say.

Seeing Norman's expression, Zac let out a sigh. His gaze softened and he said gently, "Just say what you have to say. There is nothing to be afraid of."

Norman was startled by this. He looked at Zac suspiciously not knowing how to react with Zac's sudden change of attitude.

Without waiting for Norman to say anything, Zac nodded and said lightly, "I'm aware of your current situation, so there's no need for you to worry about anything."

Although, Zac couldn't exactly tell what was on Norman's mind, he was sure of one thing—the fact that Norman also wanted to get rid of Anika.

Norman bit his lower lip in embarrassment. Then in a low voice, he said, "I hope you can protect me, Mr. Reynolds." His voice trailed off.

Norman felt embarrassed saying that, but having no other choice, he couldn't but ask for Zac's help.

Zac nodded slightly. Sounding quite cheerful, he said, "Okay, no problem, but you'll have to cooperate with me." With that, the corners of Zac's mouth moved up slightly, giving an inscrutable smile.

This startled Norman. He looked at Zac suspiciously, his eyes filled with surprise. It felt as though he was hallucinating.

"Do you really mean it?" Norman looked at Zac in shock.

However, Zac looked relaxed. He nodded slightly and said, "Do you think I'm lying to you? All you need do is to cooperate with me, and your safety is absolutely guaranteed." Zac confidently assured Norman.

Since Patricia made her suggestion, Zac had been thinking about this matter and had come up with a brilliant idea.

Zac still had to think through the specific details and come up with a solution that work both ways.

Meeting Zac's gaze, Norman, who had been previously tensed, felt relieved instantly. With a feeling of excitement deep down, he knew he could finally get rid of Anika and be free this time.

"Mr. Reynolds, what's your good plan?" Norman asked curiously. From the determined look in Zac's eyes, he could tell Zac was very confident about this matter.

Zac smiled cunningly, then he shared his plans with Norman.

Hearing Zac's idea, Norman was stunned for a moment. His lips slightly parted, with his pupils tightening as though he couldn't speak.

He was shocked to hear that Zac actually proposed to exchange names and identities with him. Then, he would deal with Anika personally. Zac was risking his own life.

"Mr. Reynolds, you can think about this again. Don't do anything rash, please." It took a while for Norman to calm himself. He sounded so anxious trying to convince Zac that he nearly reached for Zac's hand.

Zac, on the other hand, looked quite unbothered. He smiled faintly and said, "Don't worry. I've thought it through."

Zac's voice was so firm, and his eyes full of determination. At that point, it seemed that he wasn't going to back down against all odds.

That moment, Norman felt uneasy. On the one hand, he was worried about Zac's safety. On the other hand, he was afraid that he would expose himself in front of Anika. If that was the case, all of Zac's efforts would be futile.

Chapter 679 Switching Identities

"Mr. Reynolds, you seem sure but there are too many uncertainties in this plan. It will be impossible for us to..." Norman paused. It looked like he couldn't persuade Zac after all.

The determination in Zac's eyes and his firm tone told Norman that no matter what he said, he wouldn't be able to change Zac's mind.

Zac smiled at the look on Norman's face. "Norman, if you do this, I can not only ensure your safety, but also eliminate Anika," he said, his voice low.

Zac was confident in himself and knew Anika inside out. All she wanted right now was to find Norman and teach him a lesson.

But Anika was no fool. Zac was sure she wanted to compete with him and take back the company.

Nevertheless, Zac had made his choice. No one could change his mind now.

Norman pursed his lips at the expression on Zac's face.

"In that case, all I can do is cooperate with you while hoping that you will be safe," Norman said, looking helplessly at Zac and sighing.

Thus, their plan to switch identities began.

Zac then spoke to Norman at length. Norman didn't know how to manage the company, so Zac decided to ask Nicholas to deal with the business. All Norman had to do was turn up regularly at the company.

After talking to Norman, Zac called Nicholas, summoning him to the office.

Nicholas was skeptical about Zac's plan. He looked at Zac with a frown.

"Boss, are you kidding? Is this true?" Nicholas said, dumbstruck. He was very close to a breakdown.

But Zac's calm surprised Nicholas and rendered him speechless. He had never been able to convince Zac, but this was on another level altogether.

Zac nodded, smiling faintly. He patted Nicholas's shoulder and said gently, "Nicholas, don't you have confidence in my abilities?"

"Mr. Reynolds, you seem sure but there are too many uncertainties in this plan. It will be impossible for us to..." Norman paused. It looked like he couldn't persuade Zac after all.

That was beside the point. Nicholas was worried about Zac.

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"Boss, you have to know that it's too dangerous. What if Anika finds out? Do you think you can get away with it? Don't you know what kind of a person Anika is?"

The more Nicholas spoke, the angrier he became.

He didn't agree with Zac's plan, but he knew his character. Once Zac had made up his mind, no one could change it.

"I know all of this," Zac said calmly. There was no fear or worry in his tone. He looked confident that it would be easy.

It could be a trifle for Zac, but it was a big deal to Nicholas, especially since the concern here was Zac's safety.

"Boss..." Nicholas started hesitantly, frowning unhappily at Zac. He didn't like Zac's attitude.

Nicholas was being bold, daring to oppose Zac's decision. But Zac wasn't angry. He knew that Nicholas was saying it for his own good.

"I've made up my mind. Let's stop talking about it. I'm counting on you for a lot of things," Zac said, smiling trustingly at Nicholas.

Nicholas sighed. "Okay."

He knew that Zac was too stubborn to change his mind, no matter what he said.

At Nicholas' silence, Zac patted him on the shoulder and said, "Don't worry. I will be fine."

Nicholas had nothing to say. He just hoped that Zac would take care of himself.

He shook his head helplessly before he suddenly remembered something. He muttered to Zac, "By the way, boss, Patricia asked you to go home for dinner tonight. She has cooked a lot of dishes for you."

Zac grinned at this, looking happy. "Okay. You'll eat with us."

Nicholas shook his head, refusing. He knew that Zac must have a lot to talk to Patricia. He didn't want to be the third wheel.

Zac realized what Nicholas meant and didn't force him. He then returned to Oakleaf Villa in a happy mood.

He had barely entered the villa when he smelled the food. It was hard to describe the happy feeling of knowing that someone was waiting for him at home.

Zac had never felt the warmth of family before. Since he had moved in with the Reynolds family, all he had seen was intrigue and sham. There had never been any sincerity in the relationships.

Johnny had never cared about Zac even though he was Zac's father.

As he thought of the years gone by, a deep sadness overcame him, something that no one could see.

Patricia walked out of the kitchen at this moment, a dish in her hands. She smiled as she saw Zac.

"You are back," Patricia said softly. In that moment, Zac felt the whole world become incomparably bright. She was like an angel, illuminating everything.

Zac had never expected to have a family and a happy life one day.

Family had always evoked disgust in the past. He had thought that family was just an extension of a state, just like in the Reynolds family.

He had once been eager to be part of a complete, happy family. But reality had hurt him over and over again, forcing him to lose his fantasy.

However, everything was different now. He saw his future, in which was the indescribably brilliant life he had yearned for.

Patricia looked at Zac in confusion. She raised her eyebrows and asked, "What's wrong? Why are you staring at me? Is there something on my face?"

[Chapter 680 I'm Glad](#)

Zac's eyes were fixed on her ever since Patricia had showed up. This confused Patricia, especially since he looked serious.

Zac came to his senses on hearing Patricia's voice. He smiled gently as he said, "It's nothing. I'm just thinking about something. Don't worry about it."

Patricia frowned, not believing Zac for a minute. She had the feeling that he was hiding something from her and that he wasn't telling the truth.

Patricia put down the dish after a long while and finally smiled at Zac.

"Go wash your hands. Dinner will be ready soon." Patricia went into the kitchen. The smile on her face made Zac happy.

Zac was in a good mood. He washed his hands in the bathroom before making his way to the dining table, where he sat, waiting for dinner.

The smell of delicious food reached him just as Patricia emerged from the kitchen. The smell, along with Patricia's expression, filled him with warmth.

It was such a wonderful thing to have someone waiting for him at home for dinner.

Indescribable happiness took over Zac's heart.

Patricia frowned suspiciously as she met Zac's eyes. She asked in a low voice, "What happened? Why are you being so obedient today?"

Patricia didn't know whether she was thinking too much or if what she was seeing was an illusion. But she felt that Zac was behaving a little strangely today.

Zac shook his head, smiling. "Nothing. I'm fine."

Patricia frowned. She looked him up and down and whispered, "Are you really okay?" Judging from Zac's expression, she had the hunch that he was hiding something from her.

Zac realized what she was getting at. He cleared his throat and glared at her as he said stiffly, "Patricia, can you stop thinking too much?"

Zac's eyes were fixed on her ever since Patricia had showed up. This confused Patricia, especially since he looked serious.

"I'm not thinking too much," Patricia retorted unhappily. "You're acting strange, not me. You look different today. I even think you are behaving like Norman." She turned away from him and began to eat, ignoring him.

"I'm not thinking too much," Patricia retorted unhappily. "You're acting strange, not me. You look different today. I even think you are behaving like Norman." She turned away from him and began to eat, ignoring him.

The unhappy look on her face caused Zac to snicker. "You always like acting like a child." He sighed, pretending to be helpless.

"Don't hide it from me. I'm sure there's something wrong," Patricia said firmly, her gaze on him intense.

Zac noticed her expression and said softly, "I was just thinking of something."

He had indeed been thinking of the past, but he was relieved now.

Patricia looked curiously at Zac, wondering what was on his mind.

"What is it? What happened?"

Patricia had felt that Zac had been thinking about something, but she hadn't been sure. Now, it looked like her guess was right.

At the dawning comprehension in her eyes, Zac understood the conclusion she had come to.

He instantly became serious, gazing intensely at her.

"Actually..." Zac chuckled. He took Patricia's hand in his, looking affectionately at her. "It's good to have you with me." His voice was light, tender, and full of love.

Patricia's mind went blank, as if enchanted. She couldn't say a single word.

It had never occurred to Patricia that Zac would say something so touching. His words were like the tunes of the violin, lingering in her ears.

Her lips moved wordlessly as her eyes sparkled with happiness.

"Patricia, I never expected that I would have a complete family. You gave me hope and the chance. You made me feel the warmth of home," Zac said softly. His affectionate eyes were fixed on Patricia.

Patricia was stunned at the feeling in his words.

They excited her to no end. She knew that he was not great at expressing his feelings. Even if he felt any emotions, he would bury them in his heart but say nothing.

She hadn't expected him to say so many loving words to her today. How surprising!

"Zac..." Patricia said his name softly. She felt like she had fallen into a whirlpool with no way of getting out.

"Patricia," Zac replied in an equally soft voice. He tightened his grip on her hand, as if grabbing hold of something important, which she was.

Patricia smiled at Zac, love shining in her eyes. Her smile could conquer anyone, and Zac was conquered.

He wordlessly immersed himself in it.

They stared at each other. They saw no other and there was no one else on their minds except the other.

They didn't come to their senses until the wall clock chimed.

"It's late. Let's eat, or the food will become cold," Zac said, picking up his chopsticks and gesturing for

Patricia to do the same.

Patricia merely smiled gently but said nothing. The glint in her eyes seemed to tell Zac something.

It didn't take long for Zac to understand. His own eyes softened as he looked back at her, wanting to give her the whole world in that moment.

Dinner passed pleasantly and happily.

After dinner, Zac and Patricia washed up in the kitchen, looking happy as they did, talking and laughing like a newly married couple.

They then watched TV together. But in the course of the conversation, Zac accidentally told her about his plan.

Patricia became upset at this news.

She had been the one to suggest it, but all she wanted was for Zac to make sure that Norman was safe.