

No Remarriage: You Don't Deserve Me (Lenora and Zachary) Stay Away

Stay Away 61

Chapter 61 He Only Knows How

Chapter

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To Apologize

Chapter 61 He Only Knows How To Apologize.

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Lenora had already paid through her mobile phone, and she opened her call log. There were dozens of missed calls from Zachary, along with a few messages from him.

She clicked on each one, the first message read: Lenora, where are you? I'll come pick you up.

The second read: I can explain the matter regarding the news.

The third text read: I'm sorry.

Upon seeing those words, Lenora let out a chuckle.

I'm sorry. Another apology again. He only knows how to apologize.

Knowing full well that he was in the wrong, he still chose to persist in his mistakes.

The fourth message was timestamped slightly later than the previous three: Lenora, your interview at the hospital entrance has been maliciously edited. I've already had someone try to suppress it. Where are you? I'll come pick you up. When you see this message, remember to call me back,

Lenora opened Twitter and did a quick search. Sure enough, she found news about herself, recently posted by a few paid social media accounts.

The media had dubbed this news as: The latest response from Lenora Wilkin, Zachary Fuller's rumored affair.

Wall

What response? I didn't give a response at

However, the media and marketing outlets spun Lenora's indifferent attitude as guilt, implying that she nts section was filled with criticism toward Lenora, along was too afraid to respond directly. The with endless discussions and assessments of her appearance.

Netizen one: Just a nobody here, but I can't understand how men think these days. Susanna is so beautiful, yet he still went after another woman. This woman can't even hold a candle to Susanna Netizen two: This clearly shows that for men, infidelity isn't about attractiveness but rather novelty.

Netizen three: You know what they say, the grass is always greener on the other side.

Meanwhile, during this period, a series of video compilations featuring Susanna's good looks had surfaced on various major video platforms.

The most viewed video among them was titled: Zachary's Affair Partner Zachary's Marriage Partner. Countless such videos dominated the web.

Setting aside those matters for now, there was another trending thread: Liked by Fuller Group's official

account.

After clicking into the thread, Lenora saw a picture, which was a snapshot of the homepage of Fuller Group's official account and a Twitter post liked by the account.

The Twitter post, released by a paid social media account, accused Lenora of being a homewrecker.

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However, if one browsed through Fuller Group's official account now, one would notice the account had removed its like.

However, this still provoked deep thought.

Netizens were all aflutter, calling the evidence irrefutable. Even the employees within Fuller Group couldn't stand by any longer and were quietly standing up for Susanna. Lenora knew that the operation of the official accounts of Fuller Group were handled by the Public Relations depart

A few swipes later, Lenora exited Twitter.

Just as she was about to shut down her phone, a call from Zachary came in.

Lenora swiftly rejected his call.

She tucked her phone into her bag, then headed to a cafe to order a latte. Settling down on a high stool, she nibbled on a skewer while sipping her drink.

Without her realizing, a young man had taken a seat next to her. He held a latte in his hands, nibbling on the straw as he cast a few glances her way, Gathering his courage, he finally asked, "Excuse me, miss. Could I get your number?" Taken aback for a moment, Lenora gave a light laugh, shook her head and said, "I'm sorry."

"No worries, sorry for the bother," the boy quickly said, his ears turning a noticeable shade of red.

After finishing the skewer and drinking the last of her latte, Lenora lingered for a while longer in the cafe, Eventually, she got up and left.

She leisurely strolled along the sidewalk.

She had been ambling for some time when she soon spotted a club across the street. On a whim, she crossed the road and walked in, heading straight for the first basement level. The first basement was a bar.

The bar was not very crowded at the moment, the lighting bright and clear.

On stage, a woman with a smoky voice was serenading the crowd with a folk song.

Lenora had just settled down at the bar when the bartender asked, "What can I get you, miss?"

Lenora was about to speak when she suddenly realized that she was pregnant and couldn't drink alcohol. After a moment of hesitation, she finally said, "Get me a Sprite, please." The bartender was flabbergasted.

The bartender shot her a look that said "Are you kidding me?", but still served Lenora a glass of Sprite. "Take your time, beautiful," he said.

"Thank you.

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Lenora took the glass, finding a booth in the corner to settle down. Her gaze landed on the singer onstage, her thoughts drifting off to an unknown place.

"You joined me in the cricket-filled summer, beyond the city's clamor. The melody lingers, just like the gaze of your beautiful eyes. Without your tenderness, I've lost my reason to smile. Time can't pause, it's as fleeting as clouds. I truly missed you, in every rainy season. What you chose to forget, was what I found hardest to let go. So much to say, and I can't finish it all. My story is all about you. How could I love him and leave with him? To give up everything I had for you. So much to say, yet the innocence of that

you time can't be fully expressed. My story is still about

There's

The singer's voice was not particularly remarkable, and her pitch was average. Perhaps due to the lack of patrons at the time, her singing carried a hint of nonchalance.

Yet, it still made Lenora's eyes brim with tears, and her heart ached incessantly.

The emotions she had been forcefully suppressing all day suddenly erupted in that moment.

For the past decade, she had been an observer, watching Zachary evolve from a naive college student into the competent CEO of Fuller Group.

He was the one she pursued, the beacon in her darkest nights, the only story she had woven over the past decade.

She emerged from the darkness, covered in scars, and with all her strength, she ran toward him.

Throughout their three-year marriage, she had devoted herself wholeheartedly, exhausting all her passion.

He also tried his best to play the role of a competent husband.

But alas, what's fake would always remain fake.

Time refused to stand still, and he had long since set off in pursuit of his beloved. Yet, she remained, foolishly waiting in the same spot, holding onto the hope that he might turn back.

In his heart, she was never his wife. Instead, she was his secret lover, an existence kept hidden from the world.

Over the course of three years, he visited Susanna annually, yet he never disclosed to Susanna that he was already married.

As Susanna had stated, in a relationship, the one who was not loved was the third wheel.

She was the third party who intervened in the relationship between Zachary and Susanna, The sweetness of the past only intensified the pain she felt today.

It turned out that all his kindness toward her was just an act, all with a hidden agenda.

She finally understood,

She wouldn't believe him anymore.

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"Nora? It's really you! I must be in luck to run into you here."

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A familiar voice echoed beside her. Lenora turned her head and saw a man, fully covered with only his eyes visible, taking a seat across from her.

She recognized Jonas with a single glance. Lenora composed herself and gave a light smile. "Jonas," she said, "How have you been? I seem to bump into you wherever I go."

Jonas slightly pulled down his mask and replied, "I had lunch with some people from the television station earlier today."

He gestured toward the club upstairs, tilting his head as he looked at Lenora. "I thought you might be feeling down and come to the bar, so I decided to try my luck here. I didn't expect to actually run into you. Why didn't you respond to my WhatsApp message? "Sorry, my phone was turned off."

"Seeking solitude here?"

Though it was a question, the tone carried an air of certainty.

Lenora pursed her lips, not denying anything. She picked up her glass and took a sip of Sprite.

"Don't let those online articles bother you. What I detest the most are those unscrupulous media journalists, always stirring up trouble for the sake of traffic, capable of fabricating any sort of rumors." Jonas had also seen the news of the day and assumed that Lenora was agitated because of it.

He continued to comfort her, "When I first started out, I paid a lot of attention to what people were saying about me online. As time went on, I came to realize that they were just a tiny fraction of the billions of people out there, strangers I've never met. They never truly tried to understand me. Instead, they vented their frustrations online based on a few media soundbites. Why should I care about them? My life is far more interesting than theirs. Once the hype dies down, how many of them will even remember this?" Lenora smiled and said, "You're right."

Yet, what she cared about was never the discourse on the internet. All she cared about was Zachary's

actions.

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Chapter 62 Baseless Rumors

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Netizens can't hurt me. The only one who has the power to wound me is Zachary,

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In Lenora's work, she had to deal with the media often to promote MQ and other projects. Naturally, she understood that the psychological behavior of the majority of netizens was to follow trends blindly. They only saw what others wanted them to see.

Just like in that day's news, some media outlets deliberately led an online brigade to stir up public opinion. There was also Lola's backstabbing. Someone was deliberately putting on a show for the netizens.

As for certain things that they don't want netizens to see like her clarification, Zachary kept a tight watch over it and did not let a single word of it leak onto the internet. If she dared to reveal the truth on Twitter, it would be censored within three seconds. Jonas sat with her at the bar for a while.

She asked, "Don't you have work this afternoon?"

"No. If I did, my manager would be bombarding me with calls by now. It's nice to just sit here with you for a while. Hey, why don't you come to my place for dinner tonight? It's not often that we get time to do that."

"Sure," she replied with a smile. "Just wait for me here while I go to the mall to pick up some gifts for your parents. I can't show up empty-handed,"

"Come on. Your presence is all that matters.

"That's not right. It'd be so impolite," she said, standing up as she spoke. She knew there was a shopping mall nearby.

"I'll go with you," he suggested.

"No way. You stand out too much. I'm already in the eye of a storm. If you get caught on camera with me, you'll be in trouble too."

Lenora did not care about the comments on the internet.

She was also aware that, to the netizens, she was a nobody. Once the buzz had died down, most people would no longer bring up the matter again.

At most, only Susanna's ardent fans would go after her relentlessly.

"How about this, then? I'll drive you there in my car and wait for you in the parking lot."

"Okay," she agreed. Then, she went with him to the parking lot on the second basement level.

After they got in the car, Jonas drove to the nearby shopping mall's parking lot. She had just opened the car door to get out when he reminded her, "No need to go overboard. It's the thought that counts." She waved her hand dismissively. "Got it."

Lenora made her way to the counter and picked out two bottles of wine, then headed to a jewelry store

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where she chose a necklace of lustrous pearls. She also bought a variety of items including delicacies and other miscellaneous things.

After stowing her purchases in the trunk, she dusted off her hands, slid into the car. "Let's go."

opened the passenger side door, and

When he had pulled up at the mansion, they got the gifts out from the trunk, one after another.

out of the car and proceeded to take

Upon reaching the foyer, he changed into house slippers while calling out toward the living room, "Mom, Dad, guess who's here!"

"Who is it?" Raquel Knowles, Jonas' mother, rose from the couch and took two steps toward the entrance. The sight of Lenora standing behind Jonas made her exclaim in pleasant surprise, "Oh, it's you, Nora! Come on in. Why did you buy so many things? It's not like we're lacking anything at home."

"It's not a lot. Mrs. Zirk. It's my pleasure."

"I'm just happy that you could come. Leave the things here. Someone will put them away later. Come, sit down." Raquel stepped forward, took Lenora's hand, and guided her to sit on the couch.

"It's been a while since I last visited. How have you and Mr. Zirk been lately?" asked Lenora.

"Don't worry. The both of us are in good health. Jonas is busy with work and can only come home a few times a year. Having you take the time to visit us already brings us great joy."

"I'll make sure to find time to come keep you company more often."

Jonas settled down onto the nearby single-seater couch, watching the two engage in conversation.

Raquel was getting on in years and was not particularly fond of anything related to the internet.

However, with her son being a celebrity, so would also pay attention to online comments. Praise for her son would send her over the moon, but if there were negative comments about him, she would feel upset, often even getting into arguments with others. However, she could never outargue them and would even be hit with sarcastic remarks asking if she was Jonas' mother since she knew so much about him.

She had also seen the news about Lenora online.

Jonas had been in the industry for many years, and news about him had been plentiful. Raquel also- gradually came to understand the despicable nature of the unscrupulous media who would fabricate stories and take his words out of context.

Raquel comforted Lenora, advising the latter not to take things to heart. She and Zachry have been together for so long. If there truly was something between them, there'd be no place for Susanna.

"Thank you, Mrs. Zirk. Don't worry about me. Let them say what they want while I live my life. It doesn't affect me, and I won't take their words to heart."

"Ah, that's more like it. But... with such news going around, why hasn't Mr. Fuller come out to clarify? Isn't this causing you to get a bad reputation for no reason?" asked Raquel.

Lenora lowered her gaze and smiled. "The media and netizens have already uncovered my identity long ago. They know that I'm the Fuller family's adopted daughter and that Zachary is my brother. Yet, they

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still insist on stirring things up. It's pointless to clarify things with them. The best way to handle this situation is to lay low and let the fuss die down. Once its over, we can delete all related comments and everything will be fine."

If there's really nothing between her and Zachary, then that would indeed be the best way to handle it.

Raquel nodded. "That's true. Mr. Fuller is so busy that I'm sure he hardly has the time or energy to worry about what netizens think."

When Jonas had been the subject of baseless rumors in the past, he had also handled it by keeping a low profile and making no comment, letting the issue blow over with

time. Raquel was well aware of that. Here, Jonas interrupted their conversation. "By the way, Mom, didn't you get two rosaries previously?"

"Oh, that's right. Suddenly recalling it, Raquel took out a rosary from a drawer and placed it in Lenora's hand. "Jonas mentioned that you've been having a bit of bad luck recently, so I specifically asked for an extra rosary for you when I went to church to pray. The priest said that you must keep this rosary on you for it to work."

Lenora had merely made a casual remark previously, but little did she know that Jonas had taken it to heart.

She accepted the rosary, smiling as she said, "Thank you, Mrs. Zirk. I really appreciate it."

"Don't worry about it. You don't have to be so formal with me, you know," came Raquel's response.

Lenora and Jonas chatted with Raquel, talking and laughing.

The sky gradually turned dark, and Lenora found herself having dinner at the Zirk residence once again,

After the meal, she chatted with them on the couch for a short while before getting up to bid farewell to Raquel and Bernard Zirk, Jonas' father.

Then, Jonas drove her home.

Gazing at the street outside the car window, she said to him, "Take me to Mercy Hospital, please."

"Okay. Aren't you going home? Why are you heading to the hospital?" he asked, changing their route as he spoke.

"Grandpa isn't feeling well and was admitted to the hospital. I promised him yesterday that I'd visit him at the hospital today."

"All right," he responded.

He drove up to Mercy Hospital and came to a halt in front of the inpatient building.

Lenora thanked him, then opened the car door and got out.

She had only taken a couple of steps when Jonas caught up to her from behind. He cleared his throat and said, "Why don't I go up with you? Your grandfather is not feeling well, and since I'm already here at the building, it wouldn't make sense for me not to pay him a visit."

What he said made sense and was clearly well-intentioned, so there was no way she could refuse

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She glanced at him. "In that case, put on your mask so that no one recognizes you."

Overjoyed, he quickly nodded, put on his mask, and followed her upstairs.

Upon reaching the ward's entrance, she knocked and walked in.

Gerald was semi-reclined on the hospital bed while Allison was feeding him.

"Grandpa, Grandma," she greeted.

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Lenora walked in, and only then did she notice that there was someone else seated on the couch on the other side. The person was leaning against the back of the couch, legs crossed. It was none other than Zachary. Their eyes met, and her expression was icy as she immediately looked away.

Meanwhile, Jonas was oblivious to the pair's strained relationship and inclined his head at Zachary.

"Nora, you're here. Have you had dinner? When Allison saw Jonas standing behind Lenora, she asked. "And who might this be?"

"This is my friend, Jonas. He drove me here." No sooner had Lenora uttered those words than she felt a chill run down her spine. A burning gaze was fixed on her, and there was no need for guessing to know

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Jonas took a step forward and pulled down his mask. "Old Mr. Fuller, Old Mrs. Fuller, I've brought Nora here. I heard that Old Mr. Fuller wasn't feeling well, so I thought I'd

come up and pay a visit. How are you feeling now, Old Mr. Fuller?" "Thank you. I'm all right. You don't have to worry," Gerald said with a chuckle.

"That's good. Since Nora is here, I'll take my leave now. Goodbye, Nora. Goodbye, Old Mr. and Old Mrs. Fuller. Goodbye, Mr. Fuller." Jonas put on his mask and left the ward.

"Nora, your friend is quite handsome. He's a fine young man," Allison said with a smile.

As she spoke, she subtly glanced at Zachary.

Based on her years of experience, she was certain that Jonas had feelings for Lenora.

He was also much more sensible than Susanna.

Lenora didn't quite grasp the underlying meaning of Allison's words. She chimed in, "Grandma, he's a huge/celebrity. He's quite popular among young girls." "Really? How did you two meet?"

"When we were kids, his family lived right next to mine. We were neighbors, but they moved away later on. I never thought we'd cross paths again.

"That's quite the coincidence!" Allison exclaimed. "You two must be childhood friends, right?"

I suppose so."

Zachary sat motionlessly on the couch, his expression growing increasingly somber.

"Nora, you've been working all day and must be tired. Thank you for coming to see us. You should head home and get some rest. Zack, will you take Nora home?"

Zachary had made up the excuse of working for her in front of Gerald and Allison.

However, they weren't fools. Zachary had arrived early with Susanna, but Lenora hadn't shown up all day. Considering the indifferent attitude Lenora had displayed toward Zachary earlier, they knew there were issues brewing between the couple once again. Gerald couldn't meddle in everything. He could only let them resolve their own issues.

Grandpa, it's all right. I'll stay here with-

Before Lenora could finish speaking, Zachary stood up and moved to her side. "Let's go!

Gerald waved his hand. "Go on

Lenora pursed her lips. She had no choice but to follow behind Zachary as they left.

Once they left the ward, the two moved in unspoken agreement, wordlessly making their way toward the

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elevator.

The surroundings were serene and still, with only the gentle hum of the ascending elevator breaking the silence.

The elevator doors slid open.

Lenora and Zachary entered one after the other, with Zachary pressing the button for the floor above.

The elevator doors closed and it started moving.

In thi

In the confined space, the atmosphere was heavy and stifflingly silent.

Upon reaching the floor where Lenora's ward was located, they exited the elevator.

At the doorway of the ward, Lenora stopped and looked at Zachary's back. "You should head home tonight."

Her eyes had mostly recovered. There was no need for him to stay around anymore. Gerald's health had also significantly improved. A night nurse would suffice.

Zachary did not respond. He pushed open the door to the ward and switched on the light.

A burst of white light suddenly filled the room, illuminating every corner.

"Why didn't you answer your phone?" Zachary suddenly asked.

"My phone died, Lenora walked in, placing her bag on the table.

Her nonchalance was so apparent that anyone could tell she was lying.

Zachary took a couple of steps in, then turned to look at Lenora. "I've been looking for you

all day."

Lenora settled onto the couch. "I never asked you to look for me."

"Lenora, do you really have to talk like this?"

Lenora looked up at him. "What? Why did you look for me? I'm an adult. Do you think I would get lost or something?"

"I was worried you couldn't take it."

"Don't be ridiculous."

Zachary looked into Lenora's eyes, took a deep breath, and said softly, "I'm sorry about the incident online. Susanna is..."

Seeing Zachary fall silent, Lenora looked straight at him. "What about her?"

"Susanna is a public figure. She can't afford to be associated with negative news..."

"Oh, so she can't afford to be associated with negative news, but I can?"

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"Lenora, by the time I found out, things had already escalated. Suppressing the situation was the best way to handle it. I thought you would understand. But now, silence is the only way..." Upon hearing Zachary's words, Lenora instantly lost

ioning further.

This whole mess started with him and Susanna, but she ended up bearing the unfair reputation of being the third party. She faced public scorn, while he acted like he had no other choice. The underlying reason was simply favoritism.

Truly loving someone means never letting them endure indignity, just as he staunchly defended Susanna from any negative press.

His heart wasn't with her. Even though he knew she was being wronged, he persisted, continuing to subject her to injustice.

He had already made it crystal clear that he cared only for Susanna. There was no use in her questioning any further. He would still do something to hurt her.

If she were to argue with him, there was a chance he might accuse her of lacking empathy and ruining Susanna's career. Seeing that Lenora was silent, Zachary added, "I'm sorry. I didn't expect some extreme fans to target you... Though he hadn't anticipated it, the scare she had received from the couriered package should have been, a warning. He simply hadn't factored it in.

He only cared about whether Susanna would be affected. Her well-being was not within his consideration.

"Zachary, constantly saying sorry can be more annoying than helpful sometimes," Lenora said calmly, looking up at him.

She had already dealt with her negative emotions on her own, so his apology to her now didn't matter.

He had apologized so often that it had become meaningless.

He had nothing else to offer her, and she had heard it so many times that her ears were practically growing

calluses.

Zachary's expression stiffened. He lowered his gaze and asked, "What do you want?"

"You want to make it up to me?"

Yeah."

"Okay, I want you to promise me something, but I haven't quite figured out what it is yet, I'll let you know once I've decided. Don't worry, I won't force you to break up with Susanna,"

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In truth, Lenora had already figured it out. She just couldn't voice it out yet.

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Gerald's health had improved, and she wouldn't be divorcing Zachary any time soon. But as time went on. the child growing in her belly would inevitably be revealed.

She hoped that if she were to divorce Zachary, he would be willing to give up his custodial rights.

"All right, you have my word," Zachary responded decisively.

"I'm tired. You should head back."

Having been slapped, he should have been very angry.

He had thought that she would confront him that night, just as she had done before, arguing with him.

Yet, she was so serene at that moment, calmly driving him away, that a vague sense of unease stirred in his

heart.

However, he simply had no reason to stay any longer. All right then, I'll be leaving first. You take care and get some rest"

Suddenly, Zachary's steps came to a halt.

Seeing that he was still standing there, Lenora asked with a hint of confusion, "Why aren't you leaving?" Zachary noticed the rosary around Lenora's neck and distinctly remembered it wasn't there this morning. How it came about was self-explanatory.

"Where were you today? Were you with Jonas the whole time?" Zachary asked, his gaze falling on the rosary around her neck.

"Yeah, is there a problem?" Lenora replied, raising her eyes to meet his. "Where were you last night? Were you with Susanna the whole time?"

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Chapter 64 Stop Lying

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Zachary took a deep breath before explaining, "Susann was missing. She could have been in danger..."

Upon hearing his words, Lenora felt a profound sense of helplessness.

She needed Zachary to understand that Susanna's well-being was not her concern. This wasn't an excuse. she should feel sympathetic toward.

From the way Susanna had spoken to her that morning, there was no indication whatsoever of her being sick..

However, if she were to voice her thoughts, he would accuse her of lacking empathy.

"Even if her life wasn't at risk, you'd still go. You care about her, so stop pretending you don't," Lenora said. "Besides, I don't owe you any explanations."

"I know you have feelings for Jonas, but now isn't the right time for you to see him, let alone bring him to meet Grandpa..."

"What are you talking about? You met Susanna at such a critical time and even brought her to see Grandpa. I simply learned from you."

"Susanna fell ill, so I had no choice but to bring her here to calm her down. You'd mentioned before that once Grandpa was moved to the general ward, we could bring her over. So, what's upsetting you now?" Zachary asked, his confusion evident. Lenora had never expected that Zachary would speak of this matter with such unabashed confidence.

Her husband had been lured away by a single phone call from another woman, staying out all night. The next day, he had the audacity to introduce this woman to his grandparents and still had the nerve to question why she was upset.

To him, Susanna's illness took precedence. When she fell ill, he felt obligated to calm her down-a valid reason, indeed.

Yet, he never considered soothing Lenora's emotions. Instead, he accused her of lacking empathy.

With a smile, Lenora said, "Oh, I forgot to mention, Jonas has been frail since childhood. He can't handle stress. Since he wanted to visit Grandpa, I had to agree to calm him down. I hope you can understand. Surely, you can show a bit of empathy, right?" Zachary's expression stiffened. "Lenora!TM

"What's the matter?" Lenora raised an eyebrow at him. Isn't this perfectly, normal? Mr. Fuller, I don't -understand what you're so upset about."

Lenora, I'm not joking with you!" Zachary frowned.

"I'm not joking with you either," Lenora said seriously.

"You're deliberately p*ssing me off, aren't you?"

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Lenora chuckled. "Why would I want to p*ss you off?"

"Lenora, don't forget what you promised Grandpa!"

Lenora hadn't expected that Zachary would use Gerald's words to pressure her.

She found it quite amusing.

"I only promised Grandpa that I would get along with you."

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As Zachary's expression grew increasingly grim, Lenora curved her lips slightly. "Mr. Fuller, these were your exact words yesterday. If you can spend a night with your lover without returning, why can't I? Before you accuse me, take a look at what you've done yourself. Zachary fell silent for a moment. "I'm sorry if that bothers you, but yesterday was unavoidable. I never meant to break my promise to Grandpa."

Lenora looked at him with a mocking expression. "Zachary, you've completely missed Grandpa's point! He wanted us to genuinely get along, hoping it might change our minds about divorce, not just put on a harmonious show for him!" "I know."

"Oh, really? Tell me, have you ever considered completely giving up on Susanna, staying away from her," and not divorcing me?"

Seeing Zachary remaining silent, Lenora gave a smile. Why aren't you-

"I have," Zachary interrupted her, looking straight into her eyes. D

Lenora's words caught in her throat.

She observed Zachary's serious expression, attempting to detect any signs of deceitfulness in his demeanor.

But no matter how hard she tried, she just couldn't see it.

"Zachary, stop lying."

"I'm not." Zachary slowly stepped forward, standing firm before Lenora. "I've seriously thought about staying away from her and never divorcing you for the rest of my life."

Lenora looked up, meeting his eyes. Her heart was in turmoil.

Upon regaining her composure, she asked, "Okay, then answer this, if Susanna calls you again, telling you she's ill or missing, will you go?"

Zachary fell into silence for a moment.

Lenora could see his hesitation, a mocking smile playing on her lips. "You've only thought about it. We'll talk when you're ready to do something about it. Now, off you go. I need to rest." If he continued to behave as he was, leaving at Susanna's every beck and call, then his thoughts would be

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of no use

She didn't want a husband who could be called away by another woman at any given moment. Zachary was the best at putting on a show. She would no longer believe him. "It's only nine o'clock, and you're already resting?"

"I'm a bit tired today"

"Do you want to relax?"

"Relax?" Lenora looked up at him.

"Yeah."

He stood with his back to the light, his entire face shrouded in shadows, making it difficult to discern his expression. "How?"

"Stay seated and don't move."

Zachary knelt on one knee before Lenora, his large hand resting on her thigh, gently sliding up against her skin.

The heat from his hand was intense as he gently caressed her.

A tingling sensation shot straight to her brain, causing her to shudder. She bit her lower lip.

Zachary studied her expression, gently lifting the hem of her dress and slowly venturing further. "Stop!" Lenora held his hand.

"Don't you want it?" Zachary looked into her eyes, slowly withdrew his hand, and stood up. Lenora lowered her gaze, her legs pressing closer together.

Zachary turned around and walked away.

Lenora clenched the hem of her dress. She wanted to say something, but nothing came out.

Suddenly, the sound of water came from the bathroom.

Lenora looked up and noticed that the bathroom door was open, Zachary hadn't left. He had simply gone to the bathroom.

A moment later, Zachary emerged from within, wiping his hands, his gaze settling on Lenora.

Lenora quickly lowered her head.

Zachary gave a slight chuckle before kneeling on one knee again in front of Lenora. "I've rinsed my mouth."

3/4

Chapter 64 Stop Lying

+10 Free Coles

His fingers landed on her thigh, a gentle chill seeping in. She shivered slightly, her fingers tightening around the hem of her dress. Zachary took her hand effortlessly and moved it aside. He then held her knees gently, parting them. "All you need to do is enjoy." Lenora licked the corner of her lips.

Perhaps it was his advances last night that left her wanting more.

Her desires surged rather quickly.

She leaned against the back of the couch, closing her eyes. Her breathing gradually became heavier.

She bit her lower lip, holding back any sounds.

Upon reaching the climax, she let out a soft hum and found her hands threading through his hair.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door from outside. "Ms. Wilkin, are you in there? Is it convenient for a check-up?"

Lenóra shuddered in fear.

She wasn't at the hospital last night or this morning. It would be unacceptable if the nurses didn't make their rounds tonight.

At that moment, she felt an overwhelming sense of relief. Thankfully, it was a private hospital where the nurses provided excellent service and wouldn't carelessly enter and exit a single patient's room. "Tell her to go first, Zachary said, lifting his head.

Lenora gritted her teeth and took a deep breath. "I'm sorry... It's not a good time now... Can you... come back later..."

"All right."

The sound of the nurse's footsteps faded away.

Lenora let out a sigh of relief. A flash of white light flickered in her mind, and her body trembled as her strength drained away.

Zachary wiped the liquid off his face, grabbed a wet wipe from the table to clean Lenóra, and then headed to the bathroom to rinse his mouth.

When he emerged from the bathroom, Lenora was leaning lazily against the back of the couch, a look of contentment on her face. "You should go now. I need to rest."

"All right. Goodnight."

Zachary slowly walked away, casually closing the door behind him for Lenora

Lenora gazed at the tightly shut door, then rested on the couch for a while before pressing the bell to call the nurse over.

Read Stay Away 65

Stay Away 65

Chapter 65 The Scoundrel

Chapter

65 The Scoundrel

+10 Free Coins

Her vision had almost fully recovered, so there was no longer a need for her to stay in the hospital.

The following morning, after an early breakfast, Lenora took care of her discharge procedures first, then called her driver to pick up her belongings and bring them home before heading to visit Gerald. The ward was eerily quiet.

Gerald was seated on the bed while Allison was perched on the couch. They wore expressions displeasure, intentionally avoiding each other's gaze.

of

Upon entering. Lenora immediately noticed the odd atmosphere.

"Grandpa, Grandma"-Lenora's gaze swept over the two of them-"have you had breakfast yet?"

"Yeah," the two of them responded in unison.

"What's going on? Did you guys have a fight?"

"We didn't fight. Your grandpa was simply throwing a tantrum here all by himself," Allison shot a glance at Gerald.

"Grandpa, what did you do to upset Grandma?"

"I didn't upset her..." Gerald muttered under his breath, his face wearing an expression of guilt.

"Then what's going on?"

Allison scoffed, "Nora, you be the judge. He was insistent on going home even though he hadn't fully recovered. If this isn't his way of deliberately upsetting me, then what is it?"

Gerald was rather helpless. "All I do is eat, drink, and sleep in the hospital. I might as well go home."

Gerald didn't like staying in the hospital. He had mentioned this a few days ago,

Lenora gently advised, "Grandpa, your health hasn't fully recovered yet. Wouldn't it be better to stay in the hospital for a few more days?"

"I know my own body better than anyone else. I'm already feeling better. What's the point of staying in the hospital?"

"Grandpa, your word isn't final. We need to consult the doctor."

"That won't be necessary. I know my body well," Gerald asserted, thumping his chest.

"Grandpa..."

"What are you guys talking about?"

Zachary, dressed in a suit, entered from outside, carrying a paper bag in his hand.

"Why didn't you go to the office?" Gerald asked as he regarded him with a stern gaze.

1/4

Chapter 65 The Scoundrel

+10 Free Coins

"I came to see you first." Zachary stepped forward, placed the paper bag on the table, and glanced at Lenora. "I thought you might have skipped breakfast, so I brought along some morning treats from Aroma Inn on my way here." They were all seated on the couch, but the food was placed in front of Lenora. Allison didn't bother to expose his intentions. "Your grandpa and I have already eaten. Nora, go ahead and have something to eat." "I've already eaten..."

"Then have a little more."

Lenora pulled out several packaged boxes from the paper bag. They contained a variety of food such as gnocchi, pancakes, bagels, bread, and fritters, among others.

"Grandpa, would you like some?" Lenora asked.

"No thanks. Zack, Nora, I'm fine. You don't have to visit me all the time. Just go about your business. You're not doctors. What's the use of coming here every day?" Gerald sighed in frustration. Zachary looked at Lenora in puzzlement.

Lenora said, "Grandpa wants to go home."

Gerald thought that Zachary would side with Allison. "You don't need to persuade me. I'm well aware of my health condition. It's not as serious as you all think. There are so many restrictions in the hospital. It's pretty suffocating. After some thought, Zachary lowered his gaze and said, "Grandpa, we can't take your health as a joke. How) about I discuss this with Dr. Landon? If he gives his approval, I'll take you home."

Gerald was uncertain if George would agree. But without George's approval, his persistence would be futile. With a resigned wave of his hand, he said, "All right."

Zachary turned and left the ward, heading toward George's office.

He was aware that Gerald's health was far from optimistic. Although he wanted him to stay in the hospital for treatment, he understood that the constant hospital environment could inevitably make him feel gloomy and depressed. George said, "Honestly, your grandfather's health condition is hard to reverse at this point. It might be better to respect the patient's wishes and let him rest at home. A good mood can also be beneficial for treatment. I'll provide you with a list of essential medications and equipment and have an assistant check on your grandfather's health at the Fuller residence every day."

"Sounds good."

Zachary left George's office and made his way toward the ward.

Around the corner, there were two doctors engaged in conversation.

"Ex-husband? So, they were actually together before?" remarked the doctor on the left.

"Seems likely. They must have divorced recently," hinted the doctor on the right with a knowing look.

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Chapter 65 The Scoundrel

+10 Free Coins

The staff were aware that Gerald, one of the hospital's shareholders, was being hospitalized, and Zachary, the CEO of Fuller Group, was often seen coming and going.

Zachary had been embroiled in scandalous rumors. Reporters had been staking out the hospital entrance and some had even attempted to sneak into the VIP ward. The hospital had to issue a notice specifically to its staff and security personnel.

The doctor on the right recognized Lenora a few days ago as the same third party mentioned in the news as she entered Gerald's ward.

However, Lenora had instructed him not to let her ex-husband know she was pregnant.

Back then, he had the impression that Lenora's husband was a scoundrel. Little did he realize it was Zachary

The female celebrity was the real homewrecker, and the news had only come to light recently. It was likely the trigger for their divorce.

"How did you know they were married?" asked the doctor on the left.

The doctor on the right was about to respond when he saw Zachary approaching. He quickly straightened up. Mr. Fuller."

"Mr. Fuller, the doctor on the left greeted as well.

Zachary gave a subtle nod as he passed by the two of them.

Subsequently, he heard a faint sound from behind him. The doctor on the right lowered his voice and said, "Ms. Wilkin told me herself on the day she was admitted to the hospital. She mentioned that Mr. Fuller is her ex-husband. Zachary paused for a moment, then continued to move forward.

When he returned to the ward, Gerald asked, "What did George say?"

Allison and Lenora looked at Zachary.

Zachary replied, "Dr. Landon said you could go home

Brimming with confidence, Gerald glanced at Allison and Lenora. "I told you there's nothing wrong with me. I'm in great shape! You all worry for nothing."

Allison and Lenora exchanged a helpless glance.

"Can I go home now?" Gerald asked.

Zachary shook his head. "Not just yet. We need to wait until all the medical supplies and equipment listed by Dr. Landon are ready before you can go Gerald's face fell. "How long will that take?"

home."

"Just a day or two. You only have to stay here for a couple more days."

Gerald pursed his lips. "All right..."

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Chapter 65 The Scoundrel

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10 Free Coins

However, knowing that he would be able to return home in a couple of days, Gerald felt particularly at ease. He glanced at Lenora and Zachary and said, "You two don't need to keep me company here. Just go about your day." Zachary remained silent, his gaze shifting toward Lenora.

Lenora stood up and said. "I'll get going, then. I'll come to see you again tomorrow, Grandpa."

"All right, off you go."

Lenora walked out of the ward, with Zachary trailing behind her. "I heard from Leroy that you've been discharged?"

"Yeah."

"How are your eyes now? Is your vision still blurry?"

"I've mostly recovered. I had another check-up this morning and got cleared to discharge."

Zachary gave a slight nod. "Where are you headed now? I'll give you a ride."

"I'm going to the office."

"Aren't you going to rest for a few more days?"

"I've already wasted enough time."

With MQ's promotional period underway, her department was bustling with activity. Her phone had been ringing nonstop these past few days.

Lenora and Zachary arrived at the parking lot together.

Stay Away 66

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Chapter 66 Art Comes From Reality

Chapter 66 Art Comes From Reality

+10 Free Coin

Zachary didn't bring his driver along. Lenora opened the passenger side door, settled in, and fastened her seatbelt. Zachary sat in the driver's seat and didn't start the car immediately.

He lifted his hand, loosening his collar, and asked nonchalantly, "Did you tell the doctor I was your ex-husband?"

A jolt went through Lenora's heart.

Did he find out that I'm pregnant?

Lenora shot a wary glance at Zachary, her hands slowly clenching beside her legs. "What's wrong? Are you worried people will find out Susanna broke up our marriage and caused our divorce?" "Lenora, that's not what I meant."

"Then what is it?" Lenora raised an eyebrow as she looked at him.

Zachary pressed his lips together. "Don't be so sensitive. I'm not blaming you."

As Lenora's husband, hearing her refer to him as her ex-husband left him feeling slightly uneasy.

"Maybe I'm just being sensitive," Lenora casually replied. "I said it right after the car accident. We were already on the verge of divorce, so you were basically my ex-husband."

Zachary didn't say much. He simply started the car and drove off.

Lenora stealthily glanced at Zachary's expression and let out a sigh of relief.

He probably doesn't know yet.

Lenora closed her eyes, lost in deep thought.

Grandpa is getting better, and we won't be getting a divorce anytime soon. As time goes by, the size of my belly will give it away...

But by then, I will be far along in my pregnancy. With Grandma and Grandpa's protection, Zachary won't be able to force me to get an abortion.

The car came to a halt in the underground parking lot of the Fuller Group building.

Lenora and Zachary alighted from the car and entered the elevator together.

The elevator gradually ascended, and neither of them spoke.

When the elevator came to a halt, Lenora was the first to step out.

On her way to her office, she passed through the open-plan office. Several employees greeted her in unison, "Ms. Wilkin."

1/4

Chapter 66 Art Comes From Reality

"Ms. Wilkin, are you feeling better now?"

+10 Free Cons

With a gentle smile, Lenora nodded at them. "Thank you for your concern. I'm feeling much better now,"

Lenora headed toward her office.

Behind her, the soft murmur of hushed conversations echoed.

"Guess what, I just saw Ms. Wilkin and Mr. Fuller coming out of the elevator together."

"Don't just believe what you read in the media. Ms. Wilkin and Mr. Fuller are siblings. Don't overthink it"

"What kind of siblings go out to watch a musical late at night, or get drunk and hop into a car in the middle of the night? They didn't even grow up together I don't believe they truly share a sibling bond."

"I have some insider scoop. Would you guys like to hear it?"

"What is it? Let's hear it."

...siders s that Ms. Wilkin initially had no chance of joining the company. Old Mr. Fuller raised her

...put of respect for her father. I mean, how could he possibly let her get involved in the Fuller family's business? But Ms. Wilkin wasn't willing to accept this. Since Old Mr. Fuller is alive, she's still the young lady of the Fuller family in name. Once he's gone, she'll be nothing. So, she has to get into Fuller Group and secure her position."

"And then what?"

"Don't you get it? She's involved with Mr. Fuller because she needs support. Old Mr. Fuller is getting on in years, and who knows when he might pass away. As for the supposed sibling bond, take it with a grain of salt. Even in wealthy families, real brothers can turn against each other. By the time Ms. Wilkin came into the picture, Mr. Fuller was already an adult. What kind of sibling affection are we talking about?"

"No way, I don't think Ms. Wilkin is that kind of person

"Why not? Haven't you heard that art comes from reality? In these wealthy households, even the most improbable events can happen."

"What are you talking about?" A stern voice suddenly echoed from behind.

The employees quickly fell silent. "Mr. Lancaster."

Miles ga

gave them a cold look. "Have you forgotten the company's rules? Gossiping and discussing superiors during office hours? If it happens again, you'll all be dismissed!"

The open-plan office was eerily quiet, and no one dared to speak again.

Fuller Group had a workplace group chat, primarily for disseminating information.

The primary person in charge of the large group was Skylar Zimmer from the CEO's office.

Zachary was also part of the group, serving as an administrator. However, he had never made his presence

known.

The group chat was typically quiet, as the presence of leaders deterred employees from casual chatter.

2/4

es From Reality

The most common response was, "Noted."

+10 Free Coins

That day, all the employees received a mass notification that tagged everyone in the group. Expecting an announcement from Skylar, they were stunned when they opened it.

The message came from Zachary

Did Mr. Fuller just send a message in the group?

The message read: Article 53 of the Fuller Group Employee Code of Conduct: Employees must maintain a diligent and professional attitude at all times. During work hours, idle chatter, laughter, and non-work-related discussions are strictly forbidden, as is spreading rumors. Criticizing or gossiping about management is also prohibited. Violators will face consequences. For the first offense, a warning will be issued and ten percent of the monthly salary will be deducted. For the second offense, the penalty increases to a twenty percent pay cut, with potential reconsideration for exceptional performance. On the third offense, the employee will be dismissed and permanently barred from reemployment.

Soon, many "Noted" messages began to appear in response.

Wer

The rumors began when Susanna visited the company looking for Zachary. Employees buzzing about it, and after seeing Zachary and Susanna together a few times, some even started shipping them as a couple. Later, when Zachary was spotted with Lenora, the gossip mill went into overdrive once again.

It was merely a rumor. They believed no matter how widely it spread, it would never reach Zachary, as the man had never bothered himself with such trivial matters before.

Yet, he had spoken up that day.

Although it was merely a repetition of Article 53 of the Employee Code, not a single person dared to take it lightly.

At that moment, another message came in: Please also be informed that Ms. Wilkin's leave has ended, and she has returned to work at the company today.

Zachary seemed to be dispelling the rumors on Lenora's behalf with that statement.

As Lenora was also in the large group, she saw the message as well.

She stared blankly at her phone screen for a moment.

She suddenly recalled that shortly after joining the company, she had gone to the CEO's office to report on her work. Miles had been there too, and she had addressed him as Zack. Zachary, with a serious expression, had corrected her, insisting that within the company she should always address him as Mr. Fuller whether others were around or not.

At work, he always maintained a strictly professional demeanor. He never displayed any signs of intimacy, treating her no differently than any other employee.

She had thought that was just his personality.

But after Susanna returned, she realized that Zachary could show bias in his work.

However, it was never in her favor.

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66 Art Comes From Reality

That day, Zachary had spoken up in the large group to defend her.

But Lenora wasn't as elated as she imagined she would be.

She no longer needed it.

When the news first broke, he was unwilling to defend her. Now, it felt too late.

The damage was done, and his messages seemed somewhat pointless,

Lenora put down her phone and realized she had received a group email from Skylar.

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+10 Free Coins

It was a disciplinary notice that read: An accidental misstep by the Public Relations Department's media operations intern yesterday impacted both Ms. Lenora and the company. Consequently, the intern's contract was prematurely terminated. Additionally, due to insufficient oversight, Lola Wimble, the director of the Public Relations Department, will face a penalty of a fifty percent deduction from her annual bonus.

After reading it, Lenora continued with her work.

She certainly wouldn't flatter herself into believing that Zachary was standing up for her.

After all, that was the company's official account. Every action and statement represented the company.

Lola had used her public position for personal gain and she deserved to be punished.

Fuller Group was known for its strict rules and large number of employees. No one wanted to be caught in a compromising situation and reported to the higher-ups. Only a few dared to gossip in private.

When Lenora went to the pantry and used the restroom, she felt a pair of eyes on her, following her every

move.

Upon exiting the restroom, she ran into Lola.

Stay Away 67

Chapter 67 The Biggest Fool In The World

Chapter 67 The Biggest Fool In The World

"Ms. Wilkin, congratulations on your recovery," Lola said with a warm smile.

"Thank you, Ms. Wimble," Lenora said expressionlessly

+10 Free Coins

"You haven't been around these past few days. I thought you were too embarrassed to show your

Lenora gave a faint smile. "It seems you're quite happy about losing half of your year-end bonus. Sacrificing so much money just to spite me—you really don't mind taking a hit, do you?" Lola's face stiffened momentarily. "Lenora, do you think you've won?"

"What do you mean?"

Lola raised an eyebrow. "Do you really think it was the intern's mistake?"

face!

Lenora remained silent. She knew it was all Lola's doing. The intern was merely being made a scapegoat for her actions.

Observing her expression, Lola chuckled. "If you knew I did it, wouldn't Mr. Fuller know as well? Yet, he chose to protect me, shifting the blame onto the intern. What do you think that signifies?"

What does that signify?

Lenora lowered her gaze.

She knew it signified that Zachary didn't care for her. To him, Susanna was far more important.

Even though Lola and Lenora were constantly at odds and kept each other in check, Lola wouldn't be removed from her position as the director of the Public Relations Department no matter how much she disparaged Lenora

Lola was much more important than her reputation.

She continued, "Even if I lose a lot of my annual bonus, it's just that-a bonus. It doesn't affect my salary, and besides, there's still some time before the year ends. I might even earn it back. Only you would take such painless punishment seriously. Lenora, you should understand your position in Mr. Fuller's heart

now, right? He made a show of defending you in the group cha but in reality, you gained nothing."

Her reputation remained tarnished, and her work continued to be fraught with difficulties.

Lenora sighed in relief, grateful she hadn't been swayed by Zachary's protective gestures and had already seen his true colors.

Otherwise, she would have been the biggest fool in the world.

"I'm really curious, Ms. Wimble. Why do you harbor such animosity toward me?" Lenora asked, swiftly changing the topic.

"Do I need a reason for that? Can't I just find you disagreeable?"

"No way."

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19:38

Chapter 67 The Biggest Fool In The World

+10 Free Coins

Lenora was, after all, the adopted daughter of the Fuller family and was favored by Gerald. Even if others didn't like her, they wouldn't show it on their faces. People naturally tend to seek benefits and avoid harm, especially someone like Lola who had climbed to the position of director of the Public Relations Department.

If Lola were truly straightforward, that wouldn't be an issue.

However, after working with her for many years, Lenora knew better. Lola was incredibly shrewd, presenting different faces to different people.

There had to be a reason for her targeting Lenora.

"Why not?"

"Ms. Wimble, you always seem to mention Mr. Fuller. Do you have feelings for him? Are you targeting me out of jealousy? I'm just an ordinary person who was adopted by the Fuller family and got close to Mr. Fuller. Does that upset you?" Lenora speculated, raising an eyebrow.

"Lenora, what are you talking about? You're making false accusations!" Lola's face turned red.

Lenora grew more certain. "What's the matter? Did I hit a nerve?"

"I have no idea what you're talking about." Lola hastily walked away.

With a smile, Lenora turned and went back to her office. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Lola pondered for a while before she finally decided to pick up her phone and send a message to Zachary Mr. Fuller, if Ms. Wilkin said anything offensive, please don't take it to heart.

After a long while, Zachary finally responded to her with a question mark.

She replied: It's nothing. I just wanted to give you a heads up.

If Zachary believed Lenora, it would be difficult for her to stay by his side.

As the workday drew to a close, Zachary sent a message. He had a social engagement that evening and suggested Lenora head home on her own.

Lenora didn't ask the driver to pick her up. Instead, she hailed a taxi at the entrance and headed to Glory Plaza first.

Her cravings kicked in again. She yearned for the black forest cake from that renowned, old-fashioned bakery.

"Please wait for me here. I'll be back soon after buying something." Lenora instructed the driver, then swiftly got out of the car and headed into Glory Plaza.

The bakery, named Afternoon Delight, had been a staple in Glory Plaza for many years, consistently bustling with business.

When Lenora arrived, there were a lot of people.

She walked straight to the glass cabinet on the left and asked the bakery staff to pick out a slice of black forest cake and a slice of Napoleon cake. After paying, she left with the paper bag, 2/4

Chapter 67 The Biggest Fool In The World

+10 Free Coins

As she exited the bakery, she accidentally bumped into two women. Quickly apologizing, she was about to take a detour when someone suddenly called out. "Lenora?" Lenora stopped abruptly, turning to look. Only then did she realize that the woman wearing a mask and hat was Susanna.

The one without a mask standing next to her was her assistant.

Susanna took a step forward, glancing at the paper bag in Lenora's hand. "Here for cake? You love this bakery's cake too? What a coincidence. I love it as well." "Oh, Ms. Carston, I didn't expect to see you here. Despite your busy schedule, you still came to buy a cake yourself?"

"Of course."

"Well, go ahead then. I've got to be off for other work, Lenora said, turning to leave.

"Wait a minute. You bought a black forest cake, didn't you?"

Lenora froze.

Afternoon Delight packs their cake in carefully wrapped boxes. From the outside, you can't tell what's inside. How on earth did she know?

"You're curious as to why I know, aren't you?" Susanna slowly approached Lenora with a smile. "Because I like the black forest cake from this place too."

Lenora pursed her lips tightly. She had already anticipated what Susanna was going to say.

She should have left.

However, her legs felt as if they were filled with lead, too heavy to lift.

"I remember when Zack and I were dating, he knew I loved the black forest cake from this shop. He would often bring it for me to eat, especially when we had arguments. A piece of black forest cake from him was usually enough for me to forgive him. However, there was this one time when we had a terrible fight. He brought me the cake but I was still angry, so I shut him out. I believe he must have given you the cake. I remember seeing it on your Instagram that night. Seeing how much you enjoyed it, I didn't feel the need to warn you." Lenora's heart sank.

I see...

Lenora held the paper bag and slowly walked out of Glory Plaza.

When she spotted a trash bin by the roadside, she quickly walked over and tossed the paper bag inside.

She closed her eyes for a moment, then strode toward the taxi.

"Miss, weren't you going to buy something?" the driver asked.

With a casual smile, Lenora replied, "It was sold out. Let's go."

3/4

Chapter 67 The Biggest Fool In The World

Without asking further questions, the driver started the car and headed toward Galaxy Bay

410 Free Coins

Lenora sat in the back, leaning against the seat and gazing out at the street. She blinked a few times, her eyes becoming slightly moist.

Why do I like black forest cake?

When Lenora first arrived at the Fuller residence, she had been quiet and reserved, treading cautiously. The Fuller relatives had all remarked on how well-behaved and obedient she was.

Her relationship with Zachary was neither distant nor close.

She only dared to steal glances at him when he wasn't looking, and that alone satisfied her heart.

One day, Zachary returned home carrying a paper bag Lenora was in the living room doing her homework. When she saw him and greeted him, Zachary, who was about to

go upstairs, stopped in his tracks, walked over, and placed the paper bag in front of her. "Lenora, I brought you some cake."

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Chapter 68 The Things Susanna Did Not Want

Chapter 68 The Things Susanna Did Not Want

Lenora looked up at him, feeling a sense of disbelief.

10 Free Coins

During her time at the Fuller residence, Zachary had always been lukewarm to her. It was not like him to bring her a cake.

"You don't like it?" Zachary questioned upon seeing her expression.

Lenora shook her head, then quickly nodded.

Of course I like it.

She had noticed her classmate eating from this bakery before. The cakes were quite expensive, but she was fortunate enough to try their matcha cake once. It was a taste she found hard to forget.

Back then, her father's salary comfortably supported them both. He never skimmed on anything for Lenora, but Afternoon Delight's cake was a luxury, much like an afternoon tea. For Lenora, who came from a modest background, it was incredibly precious. "I'm glad you like it," Zachary said with a faint smile before turning to ascend the stairs.

Lenora sat there, stunned, staring at the paper bag in front of her. She could hardly believe what was happening. It wasn't until Zachary was about to ascend the stairs that she finally snapped back to reality. "Thank you."

Regardless of whether Zachary heard her or not, Lenora knew that her voice was filled with sweetness.

For the first time, their conversation had evolved beyond mere pleasantries.

It seemed as if their relationship had taken a significant leap forward thanks to the cake.

She held the paper bag containing the cake, examining it from left to right, feeling a sense of satisfaction bubbling up within her.

At that very moment, even the usually tedious math and physics homework seemed endearing. She placed the cake beside her, silently promising herself that she could savor i

That day, as expected, she finished her homework half an hour earlier than before. She carefully unwrapped the cake packaging, treating it as if it were some rare treasure. After unwrapping it, she didn't immediately start eating. Instead, she took a few photos with her phone.

But no matter how many shots were taken, she was not satisfied.

After much deliberation, she finally chose an acceptable photo and posted it on her Instagram without any captions but a single cake emoji.

It represented her silent joy, the youthful sentiments she couldn't articulate, and the most innocent and naive love she had ever experienced.

That day, she found the black forest cake from Afternoon Delight to be exceptionally delicious. It was a

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Chapter 68 The Things Susanna Did Not Want

hundred times tastier than the matcha cake.

+10 Free Coins

Eventually, she often bought the black forest cake from this shop herself, and gradually it became a habit.

Rather than saying she loved the cakes from this particular shop, it would be more accurate to say that she. cherished the person who initially brought her the cake

Only now, after all this time, did she realize that the cake she had was actually the one Susanna didn't want.

The love she had cherished for so many years came effortlessly to Susanna.

She only got things Susanna didn't want.

Just like with Zachary, Susanna had to let him go before she could marry him.

At twenty past eleven, the gates of Galaxy Bay swung open, allowing a black Cayenne to drive in.

"Mr. Fuller, we're here."

The driver flicked on the interior light, casting a glance at the back seat.

As soon as she finished her homework.

Zachary was leaning against the seat with his eyes closed. Hearing that, he rubbed his temple and opened his eyes. He pushed the car door open, stepped out, and headed toward the house. It was dark inside.

He pressed the switch at the entrance, instantly flooding the living room with a blinding brightness.

The living room was empty, the glaring light casting a solitary shadow over him.

Zachary stood in the middle of the living room and looked around. He couldn't shake off the feeling that something was amiss.

Yet, he couldn't quite pinpoint what it was.

He poured himself a glass of water. As he stepped out, he finally noticed it.

In the past, whenever he returned home late from social engagements, the living room lights were always

1. on.

Sometimes, Lenora would be watching TV, other times, absorbed in her phone. There were also times when she'd be so tired that she'd fall asleep on the couch, waiting for him to come home and carry her to their bedroom. He knew she was waiting for his return.

On the day he returned from his business trip at the start of the month, Lenora had waited for him so long that she fell asleep on the couch.

However, ever since he mentioned divorce, things changed. Each night when he returned, the living room was always cloaked in darkness, filled with a chilling sense of emptiness.

"Mr. Fuller, welcome back," Miranda said, having heard noises from the living room and coming out to take a look.

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19:38

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Zachary responded with a nod.

"You've had some drinks. Would you like me to make you a hangover remedy to sober up?"

"Sure."

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Zachary took a sip of water and sat down on the couch. He leaned against the backrest, closed his eyes, and tiredly massaged his forehead.

After a while, Miranda brought the hangover remedy to the coffee table in the living room and woke Zachary up. "Mr. Fuller. I've brought you the hangover remedy."

"Thanks." Zachary opened his eyes but remained motionless.

Miranda returned to the kitchen, then emerged again carrying a plate of fresh fruit which she placed in front of Zachary. "Mr. Fuller, if you don't want to drink the hangover remedy, you can have some fruit instead." The variety of fruits in the fruit platter also had the ability to alleviate the effects of alcohol.

"Sorry for the trouble."

"It's no trouble at all. These fruits were initially prepared for Mrs. Fuller, but she seemed to have a poor appetite today. She barely touched her dinner and went upstairs without touching the fruit plate." After a brief pause, Zachary asked, "Is her stomach still bothering her?"

"It seems so today. She appears to be preoccupied," Miranda subtly hinted.

She knew their divorce hadn't gone through that day, likely due to Gerald's meddling.

Regardless, their marriage had taken a turn.

She still hoped they could return to the harmonious relationship they once shared.

"All right." Zachary nodded. He had a few slices of fruit before he headed upstairs.

The following day, after Zachary returned from his run, Lenora was already seated in the dining room. Miranda was serving breakfast.

He went upstairs, took a shower, and changed his clothes. When he came back, he sat down in front of

Lenora.

"Good morning

"Morning, Lenora said, keeping her head down as she ate.

Then, they enjoyed their meal in silence.

After a moment, Lenora set down her fork and stood up. "I'm done eating. I'm heading to the office now."

Zachary also set down his fork. "I'm done eating too. Let's go together."

The two of them sat together in the back seat of the car the driver quietly at the wheel.

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19:38 Thu, Oct

Chapter 68 The Things Susanna Did Not Want

The atmosphere inside was eerily quiet.

Their conversations had gradually dwindled, becoming less frequent over time..

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Neither of them was particularly talkative, but their past interactions hadn't been this silent. Lenora used to intentionally find topics to chat about with him.

Now, she rarely spoke, spending most of her time gazing out the window in silent contemplation.

"Is something bothering you?" Zachary broke the silence.

"No."

"Then why aren't you talking?"

"There's not much to talk about."

There wasn't much to say. Their relationship had reached a point where words were no longer necessary.

In the past, they hadn't exchanged many words, but it was never as completely silent as it was now.

Tas

It was apparent to Zachary that Lenora was in a bad mood.

Miranda had mentioned that she'd been like this since returning from the company yesterday,

"Are you dissatisfied with Lola's punishment? She's already admitted her mistake for failing to train her interns. Docking half of her annual bonus is quite a significant penalty."

Zachary recalled the ambiguous message Lola had sent him. She was likely the reason for Lenora's bad mood.

A hint of mockery flashed in Lenora's eyes. "Mr. Fuller, do you truly believe that it was the intern under Lola's supervision who did it?"

She found it unbelievable that Zachary could be so incredibly naive.

Zachary asked in confusion, "Are you suggesting Lola's responsible, but she made the intern take the blame? Why would she do that? She lost half of her year-end bonus. What does she gain from this?" Lenora looked up at him. "What if I told you Lola has feelings for you and that's why she's always been hostile toward me?"

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Chapter 69 Girls Are Sweeter Than Boys.

Chapter 69 Girls Are Sweeter Than Boys. 10 Free Cona

Zachary glanced at Lenora for a moment before breaking into laughter. "Lenora, there's nothing funny about this. Even if you have work conflicts with Lola, you shouldn't be making such jokes."

No wonder Lola said that.

Even if Lola hadn't mentioned it beforehand, he still wouldn't believe it.

Lola had been with Fuller Group for several years. Her character and work capabilities were evident to all. Moreover, Lola had a boyfriend whom she had been dating for many years. There was no way she would be interested in him. Lenora fell silent, no longer speaking.

He simply doesn't believe me, so why bother pretending to care about me?

Right, he's good at acting. How could I have taken his worries seriously?

Just before the lunch break, Lenora received a message from Zachary: Come to my office for lunch. I've ordered your portion.

Lenora stared at the chat box and typed out a few words I'm going to eat in the cafeteria.

Her index finger hovered over the send button. After hesitating for a few seconds, she deleted the few words she had typed and replied: Okay.

When she arrived at Zachary's office, the coffee table in front of the couch was already laden with food.

Lenora stepped forward, noticing a familiar packaging next to the lunch box.

Seeing Lenora's gaze drift off to the side, Zachary said, "I got you that black forest cake you like. Save it for after lunch."

After a moment, Lenora realized that Zachary was trying to appease her with cake.

If it had been in the past, it would have certainly been helpful. But now, when she saw the black forest cake from Afternoon Delight, she couldn't even stomach her lunch.

She settled herself on the couch, keeping a wide berth from the bag containing the cake as if avoiding it like the plague.

Zachary sat across from her. Halfway through the meal, Lenora set down her fork and said, "I'm done."

Zachary looked up. "Is that all you're eating? Have a bit more. You didn't eat much this morning. You might end up malnourished."

Thinking of the child in her womb, Lenora forced herself to eat a bit more.

Thanks for the meal, Mr. Fuller," said Lenora, standing up to leave after finishing her lunch.

Zachary reminded her to take the cake with her.

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Chapter 69 Girls Are Sweeter Than Boys

Lenora looked at the bag on the table, a strong sense of resistance welling up within her.

She found herself utterly uninterested in the black forest cake.

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She didn't like chocolate in the first place, finding it bitter-a bitterness that seemed to seep into her very heart.

However, it was already too late to say that she didn't like it.

Lenora bent over to pick up the cake, then returned to her own office.

When Milly walked in to deliver some documents, she was surprised to see the cake in Lenora's hand. "Ms. Wilkin, do you like the cakes from Afternoon Delight too?"

"No, someone gave it to me. If you want it, you can have it." Lenora stretched out her hand holding the paper bag.

Milly hesitated slightly. "That's not very nice, is it?"

"What's wrong with that? You must have been swamped with all the days I took off. Consider it as my way of rewarding you."

Milly broke into a smile, accepting the paper bag. Thank you, Ms. Wilkin."

When Zachary stepped out of the restroom and passed by the staircase, he overheard a woman's voice. "When did you buy this black forest cake from Afternoon Delight?"

"I didn't buy it. It was Ms. Wilkin's treat. She's such a kind person."

Zachary glanced toward the staircase.

One of the female employees was holding a paper bag from Afternoon Delight.

Lenora had given Milly the cake he bought for her.

All the medications and equipment Gerald needed had been fully prepared.

He could be discharged and return home.

Zachary and Lenora went to the hospital to pick him up and bring him back to the Fuller residence.

Upon reaching the entrance of the ward, Zachary suddenly halted.

Lenora accidentally bumped into his back. Rubbing her nose, she asked, "Why did you stop?"

Zachary turned to look at Lenora, then took her hand as they walked in together.

Lenora pursed her lips and took a deep breath. She walked into the ward with Zachary. "Grandpa."

Gerald was absolutely delighted, his face beaming with joy. He had been waiting on the couch. "You're here. Let's go home."

He hoisted himself up, leaning on his walking stick.

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Lenora freed herself from Zachary's grip and moved to Gerald's side to support him carefully.

him. "Grandpa, be

"Don't worry."

Zachary didn't say much; instead, he moved to Gerald's other side to support him.

Gerald waved him off. "Relax, it's not like I've forgotten how to walk."

This time, George's assistant accompanied them back to the Fuller residence.

Johanne, concerned about Gerald, suggested that George's assistant stay at the Fuller residence for a while. After learning that Gerald wanted to go home. Gerald had no choice but to agree.

Upon arriving at the Fuller residence, he seemed to be in fairly good spirits.

Lenora and Zachary sat on the couch and engaged in conversation with the elderly couple.

Not long after, Johanne and Mallory arrived. They were accompanied by their son, Ryan Fuller.

Ryan, who was four years old then, was in kindergarten. His adorable appearance made him especially lovable.

With his small backpack slung over his shoulder, he first approached Gerald and Allison. "Grandpa, Grandma."

Gerald patted Ryan's head with affection. "Come here and let me hold you. Didn't you go to school today, Sweetheart?" "Mommy and Daddy said they were going to take me to see you. I want to be a good boy"

"You are, indeed! Sweetheart, do you recognize them? Gerald pointed at Lenora and Zachary

Ryan's round eyes were fixed on Lenora and Zachary Uncle Zachary! Aunt Lenora!"

"You have such a good memory. Come over here, Ryan Lenora called out, smiling warmly.

Ryan skipped over and sat down next to Lenora.

Lenora couldn't help but pinch Ryan's face, finding it incredibly soft.

"Aunt Lenora, please stop pinching me. I'm already a big kid now," Ryan pleaded, looking earnestly at

Lenora.

His expression made Lenora chuckle.

Allison said, "Ryan really likes you, Nora. I remember when he was little, he wouldn't let anyone hold him, except for you."

"Ryan is just too adorable. Who could resist a child like him?"

"He's not adorable. When he gets mischievous at home I feel like stuffing him back in," Mallory said.

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Everyone burst out laughing.

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"Nora, I see that you really love children. When do you and Zack plan on having kids?" Mallory asked.

We're on the topic of children again....

Lenora frowned slightly and glanced at Zachary.

Watching his energetic and charming nephew, Zachary found himself wondering what his and Lenora's child might look like.

Would they resemble me more or her?

Would they be more lively, or would they be quieter?

It would be best to have a daughter first. Girls are sweeter than boys....

With these thoughts, Zachary suddenly snapped back to reality.

What is wrong with me?

There are so many uncertainties surrounding our marriage. Why did I suddenly think about children?

Seeing that Zachary was silent, Lenora had no choice but to answer herself. "Zachary and I currently have no plans to have children. We'll talk about it in a couple of years." "That's right. You're both still young, so there's no need to hurry. Taking a few years to enjoy each other's company wouldn't be a bad idea at all."

Lenora lowered her head bashfully, a sense of helplessness lingering in her eyes.

She didn't know whether they were merely putting on a show or genuinely getting along, but at least they appeared to be in harmony.

Allison chuckled and asked, "Nora, where's the bangle Zack gave you last time? Why didn't you wear it?"

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Chapter

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Lenora stiffened, sharing a silent glance with Zachary. Then, she smiled at Allison. "I forgot to wear it. I'll definitely wear it the next time I see you."

Mallory chimed in, "Are you talking about Ocean's Heart from the Aurora Charity Banquet? I've heard about it before, but I didn't make it to the event that night. I can't believe Zack got it for Nora. Nora, you must wear it out sometime. I'd love to see it." Allison might have been easy to fool, but now that Mallory had spoken up, things were likely to get complicated.

"Sure, but Johanne, I think you should get Mallory something similar. I heard that the emerald used for Ocean's Heart is a large piece, enough to make quite a few bangles. The owner was just playing around with this one."/

"Really?" Mallory's attention was diverted by Lenora.

Lenora nodded. "Of course."

Mallory cast a glance at Johanne.

Johanne let out a helpless chuckle. "All right, all right, I'll have someone keep an eye out. As soon as we get any news, we'll get it."

"That's more like it."

Watching the interaction between the two, Lenora felt a pang of envy. "Johanne treats you so well, Mallory,"

"Zack treats you well too," Mallory said. "He didn't hesitate to get you a bangle worth tens of millions."

Lenora simply nodded and didn't say anything more.

Zachary was indeed quite willing to spend money on her.

However, he was also quite willing to spend money on Susanna.

If there was only one of something, it was surely meant for Susanna.

Only what Susanna didn't want belonged to her, much like the cake he casually tossed her way.

She was always the second choice, forever someone else's plan B.

Zachary remained silent, watching Lenora feign cheerfulness in front of Allison and Mallory as she smoothed things over for him. His heart felt oddly numb, filled with an indescribable emotion. The bangle was not with her.

Where would she get one to show Allison?

After a short while, Gerald's energy began to wane and he started to doze off. The assistant and the housekeeper helped him upstairs to rest.

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Allison said, "You can go if you have things to do. You don't have to come over all the time. If anything happens to your grandfather, I will call you. Just come for a visit every weekend as usual." "Okay, Grandma, we'll be going now," Johanne said.

"All right."

"Ryan, say goodbye to Great-grandma, Uncle Zachary, and Aunt Lenora."

"Goodbye, Great-grandma. Goodbye, Uncle Zachary. Goodbye, Aunt Lenora," Ryan said in his childish.

voice.

"Goodbye, Ryan."

After Johanne, Mallory, and Ryan had left, Lenora and Zachary bid farewell to Allison and left together hand in hand.

Once they were out of the living room, Lenora quickly withdrew her hand from Zachary's grasp.

Zachary felt a hollow sensation in his palm as he eyed Lenora's retreating figure. He stepped forward and reached out to grasp her hand again.

Lenora tried to pull away, but Zachary's grip only tightened. He refused to let go no matter how hard she, struggled.

"What are you doing?" Lenora looked at him coldly.

"I should be the one asking you that."

"What did I do?"

"You said Grandpa wanted us to get along genuinely and you wanted me to prove it through actions. I've been trying, but you keep pushing me away, not giving me the chance." Over the past few days, her aloofness had become too apparent.

"I didn't push you away."

"You didn't? Then what's this all about?" Zachary shook their intertwined hands. "I also saw you giving the cake to your assistant."

Lenora froze.

She wanted to ask him if the black forest cake from a few years ago was only given to her because Susanna didn't want it.

However, after some thought, she realized there was no need to question it. It was most likely true.

Back then, they were not well-acquainted, so there was no reason for Zachary to buy her a cake. And if she asked, he would know that she liked him.

He mustn't find out.

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Chapter 70 Stop Pushing Me Away

"Is it so hard to explain why?" Zachary demanded.

Lenora looked up at Zachary. "Are you serious?"

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"Of course. I'm serious." Zachary met her gaze. "I've always been serious in keeping the promise I made Grandpa."

Lenora lowered her gaze in silence. Over the past few days, she had indeed felt Zachary's subtle yet undeniable concern for her. However, her trust in Zachary had long since faded, leaving her unable to accept his care with ease. Perhaps she was scared.

She was scared of falling deeper for him and losing herself again. She dared not accept him.

Seeing that Lenora was silent, Zachary moved closer, pressing her head against his chest. "Nora, stop pushing me away. You've already promised Grandpa, so why not give us a chance?"

"That depends on how you behave," Lenora said softly

Let's just go with the flow.

She could stop distancing herself from him, yet she wouldn't take the initiative to get close. She promised herself that before any harm could come, she would timely distance herself. "Okay, Can we move back to the master bedroom now?"

Worried that Lenora might disagree, Zachary quickly added, "A healthy marital life can enhance the bond, between a couple." D

Lenora's lips twitched slightly.

Over three years, their married life was surprisingly harmonious, filled with all the typical activities of a loving couple.

"All right, but without my permission, you can't-

"I know."

With Miranda's assistance, the two of them moved back into the master bedroom that very night

Miranda was thrilled and took it upon herself to arrange the master bedroom for them. She scattered numerous rose petals over the bed and set up an aroma diffuser. The atmosphere was suggestive.

This was their marital bed, where they had shared their slumbers side by side for three years.

Once again, they found themselves back in this bed, with someone lying beside them, radiating an undeniable, intense warmth.

Lenora was somewhat nervous. She closed her eyes for a long while, but sleep eluded her.

"Nora, are you asleep?" Zachary called out to her softly

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"No..." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Do you want to hear a story?"

"Okay."

Zachary began to recount a Granatanolan tale in a low, soothing voice.

Once the story was finished, Zachary asked again. "Have you fallen asleep yet?"

"No." She was wide awake.

Zachary propped himself up, leaning toward Lenora. His warm breath brushed against her face. "Since you can't sleep, how about we-"

"You said you would get my permission first." Lenora understood his intentions and moved back.

"Then... can we?"

"No."

"Are you sure?" Zachary raised an eyebrow.

Lenora bit her lower lip, her gaze meeting his in the darkness.

Zachary knew she was saying one thing but feeling another. Swiftly, he rolled over, pinning her beneath him, and captured her lips in a kiss. Zachary's tongue gently

pushed past her teeth, smoothly exploring and boldly claiming the taste within her mouth.

The room was filled with the sound of their kisses.

Zachary's kisses trailed downward.

With her eyes closed, Lenora unconsciously puffed out her chest, her hands tangled in his hair. Her lips parted slightly as she gasped for breath.

Suddenly, a flash of white light streaked across her vision, and her whole body trembled.

Zachary lifted his head, wiping away the water droplets from the corner of his mouth. Just as he was about to make his next move, Lenora suddenly pushed him away, yawning. "I'm tired, Let's sleep."