

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

Stay Away 91

Chapter 91 All I Want Is You

Chapter 91 All I Want Is You

Zachary massaged his temples. A light bulb went off in his head, and he recalled the row he once had with Lenora because Susanna brought her own makeup artist.

Lenora claimed that Susanna's makeup and appearance did not meet the requirements at all yet adamantly refused to make any changes, even threatening to terminate the collaboration. Back then, he didn't believe that the latter would casually speak of terminating the collaboration.

But later on, there was indeed an issue with the makeup.

Coupled with everything that transpired lately, he suddenly felt that Lenora was telling the truth- Susanna indeed provoked her and threatened to terminate the collaboration.

Once Miles was done with the backup, he returned the phone to Zachary,

Just then, the phone chimed with a message notification.

Zachary glanced at the phone screen and unlocked it, only to reveal a message from Susanna.

It read: Zack, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have lied to you. Could you please forgive me?

Susanna knew that the man would not answer her calls at the moment, so she had been periodically texting him these past few days, pleading for his forgiveness.

Just as Zachary was about to put his phone down, another message came in. It read: Zack, will you still attend my birthday banquet tomorrow? It's my first one here back in the country. I hope you can make it. There was a subtle hint of cautiousness and hope between the lines.

The birthday banquet had been prepared in advance, but after such an incident, Susanna lost her confidence.

Zachary replied: Okay.

Susanna: That's great! Thank you, Zack. I thought you'd still be mad at me and wouldn't come anymore.

Zachary did not respond to that.

Striking while the iron is hot, Susanna sent another him message.

She asked: Zack, will you still honor the promise you made me previously at my birthday banquet tomorrow? Zachary answered: Yes.

Delighted, Susanna texted back: Phank you, Zack! You've so good to me.

Then, she sent another message that read: Zack.... has your anger toward me abated? I'm sorry. I just love you too Chapter 91 All I Want Is Your

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Susanna was secretly thrilled. She replied: Thank you, Zack. That's more than enough.

He still loves me. Even after discovering that I'd lied to him, he still caters to my every whim.

Zachary stated: This will be the last birthday I'm going to celebrate for you, I'll do my best to make it memorable.

Immediately, he received a call from Susanna.

He answered the call.

On the phone, Susanna's voice quivered as she asked. "What's the meaning of that, Zack? What did you mean by it being the last birthday you're going to celebrate for me?"

"In the future, the twentieth of September every year will be nothing more than my wedding anniversary with Lenora. It won't have any other significance."

Susanna could hardly believe her ears. "Zack, are you saying that you're no longer getting a divorce with Lenora? Do you not want me anymore?"

"After I promised Grandpa to open my heart to get along with Lenora, I warned you that the outcome might not be to your liking. If you choose to go abroad, I'll ensure that you live a comfortable life. If you decide to stay here, I'll do my best to make your career flourish." Susanna was in tears. "I don't want a comfortable life. Nor do I want a flourishing career. All I want is for you to stay by my side. You promised me, remember? You said you would take care of me for the rest of my life. Have you forgotten?"

"It was you who declined first."

After that incident, Zachary made a promise to her and even proposed getting engaged and married. However, she asked for a breakup.

Having reunited then, he held the power to decide whether the promise he made still held true.

"I... I was just scared back then."

"I can make it up to you in other ways."

"No, I don't want it. All I want is you."

"Be good, Susanna."

Whenever Zachary asked someone to be good, it meant that he was losing his patience.

He's already growing impatient with me.

"Zack, have you fallen for Lenora?" Susanna asked desolately.

I've looked forward to the birthday banquet for so long, but little did I know that it would be my last! It seems as though I've won, but in reality, I lost to Lenora completely!

Zachary didn't answer that. Instead, he said, "If there's nothing else, I'll be getting back to work first."

He swiped the red button to end the call before setting his phone aside.

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His phone rang again.

At that, he muted it outright and placed it face-down on the table.

He leaned back against the chair and loosened his collar, feeling unusually relaxed.

Perhaps his state of mind had changed.

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On the other end of the phone, Susanna stared at the phone screen that had gone black, her heart aching so much that she could hardly breathe.

Why? Why did things end up like this? He was already on the verge of getting a divorce with Lenora, while I was going to be Mrs. Fuller in no time, soon becoming the happiest woman in the world! But now, all of it had shattered into nothingness, turning into mere delusions! Her eyes blazed with hatred, so intense that it seemed close to overflowing.

Lenora! It's all her fault! If it weren't for her, Zack and I would have been married long ago! This is so unfair!

Lenora's business trip this time was scheduled for four days.

However, their work was completed by the morning of the third day, leaving almost two whole days extra.

Thus, she gave her assistants some time off, suggesting that they take the opportunity to explore Bloudence and regard it as a vacation.

She then received a message from Jonas on WhatsApp. It read: Are you free these few days! I happen to have time to spare. How about I treat you to a meal?

Lenora: Aren't you filming on set?

Jonas: You didn't catch the news, huh? Because of the incident with Susanna, there are safety concerns, so filming has been suspended for a few days. I've gone to Bloudence for work, but I'll be heading back today.

Lenora: What a coincidence. I'm in Bloudence on a business trip right now.

Jonas: Really? Have you finished your work, then? I'll treat you to a meal?

Lenora: Okay. I'll find a restaurant.

In the end, Lenora decided on a private restaurant. It guaranteed great privacy and had a pretty good reputation.

Jonas arrived first. He asked for a private room and simply ordered a few dishes.

Before long, Lenora entered the private room. "I'm here."

"Have a seat."

"What kind of work are you here for?" Lenora sat down at the table.

"Being a special guest on a reality show. See if there's anything else you want to eat and order it yourself." "What else is there to order? You've already ordered everything I like to eat.

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Jonas laughed, feigning nonchalance as he asked, "How are things between you and your boyfriend?" The corners of Lenora's mouth stiffened, and she waved a hand dismissively. "Let's not talk about him." "Did you two have a fight?" Jonas asked, secretly rejoicing inwardly.

"We're probably breaking up soon."

"Why?"

"He likes someone else, not me."

"If so, you should indeed break up with him. It's easy for someone like you to find a man who likes you."

"What about you? When are you planning to find a girlfriend?"

"Me? I'm in no rush. If I dare date now, wouldn't my fans kill me?"

"Even so, you can't remain single your entire life, no?"

"We'll see after Cloudwater City is broadcasted."

That makes sense. If you manage to win an award with your performance in Cloudwater City.

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successfully transitioning your career, no one would dare stop you from dating then. You might even end up dating a bunch of women at that time."

Jonas chuckled softly. "Have you finished your work here? And when are you going back?"

"Yes, and the plan is to go back tomorrow."

"Let's go back together, then. I'm also heading back tomorrow."

"Sure."

It was rare for Lenora and Jonas to have time off work. They bought two tickets to a movie for the very last row. Jonas went in full disguise, donning a mask, a cap, and sunglasses. After the movie, they returned to their respective hotels

The following day, Lenora and Jonas made arrangements to return to Jacaster together.

The two of them sat together on the plane, engaging in casual conversation.

Jonas asked, "Are you going home after this flight?"

"Where else would I go? Aren't you going home?"

"I have to attend a banquet. I wonder if you know about it."

"What banquet?"

"Susanna's birthday banquet."

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"Isn't Susanna hurt from being burned?"

"I visited on the very day of the incident. It wasn't serious."

"Oh, I see."

Then, why did Charles make it sound like Susanna was on the verge of death back then?

"Seeing that you're not busy now, how about attending the birthday banquet with me?"

"Maybe this isn't such a good idea."

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Zachary was certain to attend Susanna's birthday banquet, and Lenora didn't wish to see him at the moment.

"Why not? The invitation clearly states that the invitee can bring a female companion. Mr. Fuller is your brother, and she might be your sister-in-law in the future. Isn't it only right for you to attend her birthday banquet? It's no different from the press conference previously. The more you avoid them, the more the media will speculate. If you were a bit bolder instead, they wouldn't dare fabricate stories." Lenora lowered her eyes and pursed her lips.

Jonas glanced at her before continuing. "I heard that Mr. Fuller didn't skimp on Susanna's birthday banquet this time. He specially hired a world-renowned designer for the venue setup, and her gown is a limited edition, specially flown in. Even the birthday cake is crafted by an international fondant master. It's a rare sight. Are you sure you don't want to go for a look?"

As Lenora listened, her eyes grew increasingly dim.

How devoted is he to Susanna! He must have started making preparations for this birthday banquet long ago, huh? Susanna must be thrilled that she successfully got Zachary to accompany her and even host a birthday banquet solely for her on the twentieth of September, huh?

She knew that if she were to attend the birthday banquet this time, Susanna would undoubtedly be annoyed to the core.

'Okay. I'll go with you, then.'

After disembarking from the plane, Lenora and Jonas dolled up a bit before heading straight to the

banquet.

Susanna had only recently returned to the country. As such, the celebrities she had interactions with were limited. Consequently, few people were invited. They were all special guests from her previous variety show and members of Cloudwater City's film crew. As soon as one stepped into the banquet hall, one could immediately see the opulence of the place. It was reminiscent of a western lavish castle, everything incredibly exquisite and luxurious. 19:48

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This unique indulgence of his belongs solely to Susanna. Once upon a time, I, too, dreamed of a grand wedding with him, with him holding my hand under the watchful eyes of countless well-wishers. Regrettably, I didn't get a wedding at the end of the day. All I got was a divorce agreement.

The melodious strains of piano music filled the air in the banquet hall, soothing and peaceful. It sounded somewhat familiar to her.

"Unexpectedly, Mr. Fuller can play the piano!" Jonas exclaimed, gazing off in a particular direction.

Lenora followed his gaze.

In the left corner of the banquet hall was a piano.

A man in a tailored suit and leather shoes sat elegantly before it. With his eyes focused intently on the music sheet in front of him, he played the piano with great focus and dedication. Under his fingers, the black and white keys on the keyboard depressed and rose swiftly, producing a pleasing cascade of piano notes.

At that moment, his expression was one of great earnesty.

With just one glance, Lenora recognized him as Zachary

It turns out that he can play the piano. How romantic of him to perform personally at Susanna's birthday banquet. But ironically, my husband gave it all to another woman!

"Mr. Chance and some of the film crew are over there. I need to go over and greet them. Are you coming with me?" Jonas asked.

"No. You go ahead." Lenora proceeded to take two pieces of dessert before she took a seat in a corner and savored them slowly.

Even after a decade of mingling with the upper echelons of society, she still felt out of place and could only pass the time by eating in such a situation.

Before long, the protagonist of the banquet made her appearance.

Susanna wore a stunning gown that was meticulously designed. Holding up the hem of it, she stood in the center of the banquet hall like a princess, at the center of everyone's admiration.

Holding a microphone, she started with a smile, "Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend my birthday banquet. The venue is modest, so I hope you all

won't mind. Additionally, I want to thank Zack for his thoughtfulness in organizing this birthday banquet for me and personally playing Ballade For Adeline. This is our love song. It was because of it that we met back then. Today, we're going to use it for our first dance. Feel free to join us."

Lenor was promptly taken aback.

No wonder I found the music familiar. Ballade For Adeline... It was even Zachary who told me the title. It turns out that he can play himself, and it's a love song. No wonder he instantly recognized it that day at the restaurant.

She chuckled self-derisively. Suddenly, a sparkle caught her eye. Upon closer inspection, she noticed a ring on Susanna's hand.

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With the distance between them, she couldn't see it all that well. However, she had a feeling that the ring was the very same one in Zachary's car that day. Sparse applause broke out.

The banquet was small, so things were rather casual. Susanna's speech wasn't overly formal either, and that bridged the gap between everyone present. As her voice faded. Zachary's piano music also gradually came to a close.

He rose from before the piano and strode forward steadily to stop in front of Susanna. Holding hands, they walked to the center of the banquet hall together. His rested hand on her waist, while hers draped over his shoulder as they kicked things off with ballroom dancing.

Music filled the banquet hall.

Following the beat of the music, the two of them moved in sync, matching each other and gradually attaining perfection.

spectator, Lenora had to admit that they danced in perfect harmony, complementing each other.

Susanna had a foundation in dance. Like a graceful butterfly, she spun and twirled with the rise and fall of the music, drawing close to Zachary's embrace.

Judging by their coordination, they must dance together often, huh? She's unlike me, a country bumpkin who knows nothing and even stepped on Zachary's shoes when I danced with him.

Finally, Lenora understood why Susanna always exuded a strong sense of superiority whenever she faced off against her

It was because she was the first person to enjoy Zachary's tenderness.

The man would play the piano for her, dance with her, teach her Granatanolan, tell her Granatanolan stories, buy her cakes, and cook for her.

She, on the other hand, was always secondary to Susanna.

Lenora's gaze was filled with melancholy.

It was as if she finally understood the gulf between her and Zachary at that very moment.

In the past, I prided myself on the fact that she understood him. But in reality, I was merely deluding myself. He has never opened up to me. The version of him I know is only the side of him he was willing to show me. Whatever he didn't want me to know was closed off to me. It's just like how it's only today that I learned that he can play the piano. But on second thought, this is perfectly normal. He's a scion of a wealthy family, meticulously groomed and taught by renowned teachers. So, it's hardly surprising that he learned piano since young. Just as he's proficient in Japriumian and Granatanolan in addition to Clusian and Uprian, his ballroom dancing is skilled and graceful. He can also cook and is extremely self-disciplined in his daily routine. He works out regularly, jogs every morning to keep in shape, and only drinks black coffee usually without ever adding sugar. He also didn't smoke and seldom drank. [SEARCH THE website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Compared to him, she felt that she was nothing.

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Contrarily. Fin just an ordinary person, only adopted by the Puller family by sheer luck. Otherwise, I might not have even had the chance to know him, let alone marry him. Perhaps we truly aren't a good match.

Suddenly, Zachary's dance steps faltered, and he nearly brought Susanna down. Fortunately, he reacted in time, swiftly pulling her into his arms.

Susanna adjusted her steps to match his, getting back on track.

She leaned in close to his ear and asked in a whisper, "What's wrong, Zack?"

Zachary lowered his gaze. "Nothing."

As he turned around, he stole another glance at the corner, affirming that his eyes weren't playing tricks on

him.

It's really Lenora. Why is she here? And how long has she

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"Zack, not so hard, Susanna said.

"Sorry."

Everyone interpreted the exchange as them flirting

After all, flirting would certainly spice up the dance.

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Lenora still remembered the day she danced with Zachary. He had teased her until her cheeks flushed red, and in that instant, they had managed to close the distance between them, with a passionate spark igniting.

Had it not been for Susanna's phone call, their evening would have been incredibly wonderful.

Unfortunately, there was no turning back time.

Susanna was the gap between them that could never be bridged.

Once the first song ended, the guests at the venue promptly began to form pairs and dance.

Meanwhile, Zachary was distracted, his grip on Susanna's hand slackening. Yet, Susanna quickly caught his hand back

"Zack, aren't we going to continue?"

Zachary said, "I've already fulfilled my promise to you.

Susanna bit her lip in frustration, stubbornly clinging onto Zachary's sleeve.

Zachary glanced at her hand and casually said, "There are many people here. I'm trying not to embarrass you. You should know better."

Left with no choice, Susanna reluctantly let go of Zachary's sleeve.

"Susanna, you must have heard the story of The Boy Who Cried Wolf. At this rate, the feelings between us will eventually be worn away. I hope you what's good for you."

"Zack, I know I messed up. I'm sorry. It's just that I was scared, scared that one day you wouldn't come. I missed you so much..."

That day, he had prepared a ring for her.

Even if she hadn't gotten Charles to seek him out, he would have still come to see her.

However, her cunning scheme backfired. She played the victim, but it only served to irritate Zachary further.

Zachary had already heard these words once before and he cut her off.

Unlock succeeded

Zachary turned his head, intending to walk toward Lenora, only to suddenly realize that the figure in the

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corner had disappeared.

He halted, his gaze sweeping through the crowd in search of her.

When he finally found her, Zachary's eyes darkened.

At that moment, Lenora was dancing with Jonas.

When Jonas invited her to dance, she found no reason to refuse.

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Lenora was not particularly skilled at dancing, and being aware of an intense gaze fixed on her made her feel extremely uncomfortable. This threw her off a few times, but eventually, she managed to finish the dance routine. Lenora waved her hand at Jonas. "That's all for me. I don't want to dance anymore. I'm completely embarrassing myself."

"Don't worry, I'll take it slower. Let's try it again. Practice makes perfect after all."

"Let me give it another shot then." With that, the two danced to a second song

Zachary found a spot to sit down, cradling a glass of red wine in his hand.

In the midst of the gathering, Lenora and Jonas danced to several songs in succession. Lenora's rhythm and dance steps became increasingly steady, showing marked improvement. At the same time, Zachary's eyes grew increasingly gloomy.

Once the music ended, someone brought out a cake. The cake was an impressive ten layers high, with each tier offering a unique and exquisite design. It was indeed a sight to behold. Everyone gathered in a circle, clapping in rhythm as they began to sing Happy Birthday.

"Happy birthday to you... Happy birthday to you..."

When the song concluded, loud applause erupted.

It was time to cut the cake.

Naturally, Susanna had the honor to cut the first slice. She cut off a piece and handed it to Avery

"Zack, would you mind cutting the rest for me?"

Zachary remained silent. Hence, Susanna began to slice the cake from top to bottom with the plastic knife in hand.

There were quite a few actresses present at the event. In order to keep their figures, they could forego eating the cake, but they couldn't refuse to accept it when offered.

Everyone was naturally shrewd. Even those who had gotten their cake lingered around, trying every trick in the book to strike up a conversation.

Lenora stood outside the crowd instead of squeezing her way in.

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Jonas asked, "Do you want some cake? I can get a piece for you if you like."

"No need. I'll go get it myself later. While I'm at it, I'll wish Ms. Carston a happy birthday."

Jonas found Lenora's words to be incredibly sensible and nodded in response. "Sounds good."

Little did he know that Lenora's thoughts were quite the opposite of his own.

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Just as Susanna's birthday celebration is nearing its smooth conclusion, I will appear before her with a smile, wishing her a happy birthday. Undoubtedly, this will leave her in an awkward shock. Thinking of this scene, Lenora couldn't wait any longer.

People had already started to leave, while the crowd around the cake cart had dwindled slightly."

At that moment, Susanna called out, "Who hasn't gotten a piece of cake yet?"

With a smile, Lenora stepped forward and responded, "Me."

"Wait a moment-Susanna's expression was full of glee. However, she froze the moment she saw Lenora, and a fleeting moment of tension filled the air.

Lenora's smile widened as she said, "Zack. I haven't had any cake yet. Hurry and cut me a slice. Ms. Carston, happy birthday. I've waited outside for so long just to wish you in person."

As she spoke, she cast a glance at Susanna's fingers, clearly noticing the design of the ring. Indeed, it was the very same one from Zachary's car.

Onlookers, unaware of the true circumstances, would have assumed that they were close.

However, Susanna could tell that Lenora was deliberately trying to upset her.

Even then, she had no choice but to smile and say, "Thank you."

Lenora replied, "You're welcome."

Zachary glanced at Lenora, carefully selecting a piece with two strawberries and handing it to her.

"Thanks, Zack. Wow, I have two strawberries."

Zachary pursed his lips upon having it.

Lenora wore a smile on her face, but he felt incredibly awkward. He had imagined that upon her return, she might treat him with indifference, ignore him, or even argue with him. However, he never expected her to be full of smiles, as if nothing had ever happened. With the cake in her hands, Lenora left, casually saying, "Zack, try to come home early tonight."

Zachary responded, "Alright."

These words could easily trigger dirty thoughts in one's mind.

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Naturally, everyone assumed that the home Lenora was referring to was the Fuller residence, which was perfectly reasonable.

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Only Susanna, fist clenched, narrowed her eyes insidiously, wishing she could give Lenora a couple of good slaps

She knew she had to endure the moment, not allowing any hint of her anger to show.

Otherwise, people might figure out Zachary and Lenora's relationship.

Lenora watched Susanna suffer in silence, feeling exceptionally pleased inside.

Perhaps I should have done this earlier, subtly challenging her in public to strike her where it hurts the most. Only then can I force her to swallow her anger.

After finishing the cake, Lenora made a trip to the restroom.

As she passed the staircase, Susanna called out to her, "Lenora."

Within the dimly lit stairwell, Susanna, clad in an elegant dress, seemed somewhat out of place.

"Ms. Carston, what can I do for you?"

"I have something to tell you," Susanna said, turning to walk toward the staircase.

What is it?" With a calm and unhurried pace, Lenora ascended the steps and arrived in front of Susanna,

Lenora speculated that Susanna was probably going to gloat about the events that took place on the twentieth of September and the birthday banquet itself

Susanna stood in the shadows, her gaze filled with jealousy as she looked at Lenora. "Lenora, you've lost. I told you that Zack would come to see me on the twentieth of September. He stayed by my bedside all night. If I were you, Lenora, I would have divorced him a long time ago!" Lenora maintained a calm expression. "Is that so? But the very next day, he pursued me to where I was on a business trip and even promised me..."

Lenora paused mid-sentence, a meaningful look in her eyes. "Do you want to know what he promised me?" she asked.

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Chapter 94 The End

She deliberately made it sound like it was romantic.

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Zachary must have promised her that he wouldn't divorce her. That's why she came to my birthday banquet today to gloat!

Susanna grimaced in anger. "Lenora, you're despicable Zack doesn't even like you. If you know what's good for you, you'd best divorce him!"

"I'm not going to do that. Are you feeling anxious? What can you possibly do to me?"

"You-

"If this was all you were planning on telling me, I would rather leave now."

"Would you dare to wager with me on who Zack will ultimately choose?"

"All you can do is to use this to affirm your own relevance. I'm not interested in playing your games."

Lenora turned around and left.

Suddenly, Susanna lunged at her from behind.

With a calm and composed demeanor, Lenora steadied herself, pushing Susanna away.

"Ah-"

A heart-wrenching scream echoed as Susanna tumbled down the stairs.

"Susanna." Zachary entered through the emergency exit, taking in the scene before him. He quickly rushed forward to help Susanna up. "Are you alright?" Susanna leaned into Zachary's embrace, her face deathly pale. Tears welled up in her eyes and her breath was weak. "Zack, it hurts."

"Don't speak. I'm taking you to the hospital first." Zachary lifted Susanna in his arms, glanced at Lenora on the steps, and turned to leave. With her face hidden from Zachary's view, Susanna shot a triumphant smile toward Lenora. Silently, she mouthed the words, "I won." Watching Zachary's retreating figure, Lenora felt a slight pang descended the stairs.

Let Zachary misunderstand. I can't be bothered to explain anymore.

bitterness. With a calm expression, she

As for the discomfort in her heart, she closed her eyes, forcibly suppressing it.

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There was no way she was letting go.

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Right away, Zack chose to take her to the hospital, which suggested that he still had lingering feelings for

her.

"What were you and Lenora talking about on the stairs just now?" Zachary suddenly asked.

Susanna spoke softly. "I just wanted to apologize to her. I didn't expect Lenora to suddenly just..."

Susanna didn't finish her sentence, yet her meaning was clear as day.

"I know Lenora despises me. I don't blame her for her actions..." Susanna continued.

Zachary remained silent, his expression unchanging.

He freed up one hand to pull open the car door, helping Susanna into the vehicle. With his hand still on the door, he said. "I'll call a driver to take you to the hospital."

Susanna's expression stiffened as she grabbed Zachary's arm. "Zack, aren't you going? I was hoping you'd

take me...

"Wait in the car. The driver will be here shortly," Zachary said, gently releasing her hand before turning to leave.

Susanna clung to Zachary from behind, her voice laced with sobs as she pleaded, "Zack, are you really in such a hurry to cut ties with me? This is the last time, the very last time. Won't you even stay with me this once? I've grown accustomed to your presence, but you suddenly insist on leaving. How could you be so heartless? "You should start getting used to it. I'll give Yelena a call and ask her to keep you company."

"I love you. I truly can't live without you! Zack, you've said that you love me too, haven't you? If you're worried about your grandfather's health, I'll willing to be your mistress. I just want to stay by your side!" Susanna pleaded with a tearful tone.

Zachary remained silent, gently prying Susanna's hands off him before striding away.

Do I truly love Susanna?

Even he was somewhat uncertain..

Susanna watched the retreating figure, her face darkening completely.

She gripped the back of the chair so tightly that her nails were nearly digging into the leather.

Upon seeing Lenora emerge from the emergency exit, Jonas stepped forward and asked. "What happened? Did Mr. Fuller just leave with Ms. Carston in his arms?"

Lenora explained, "Ms. Carston had an unfortunate fall, so Mr. Fuller took her to the hospital. The banquet is over, shall we leave now?"

"Alright."

The two of them arrived at the parking lot

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Lenora was just about to get in the car when suddenly, a voice from behind called out to her.

"Lenora"

Lenora didn't look back.

Upon hearing that voice, she immediately knew it was Zachary.

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Jonas stopped just as he was about to get into the car, turning to look at Zachary. With a smile, he greeted, "Mr. Fuller, weren't you taking Ms. Carston to the hospital?" "The driver has taken her," Zachary said, turning to Lenora. "Lenora, there's something I need to tell you."

"I have nothing to say to you," Lenora stated coldly, without even sparing him a glance.

Jonas looked at Lenora in surprise, gently tugging at her sleeve to imply that she should tone down her hostility.

Zachary said to Jonas. "Mr. Zirk, you should head back first. I'll take Lenora home."

Zachary was known to be close to Lenora, and he was also the investor behind Jonas' production. Given his position, it was impossible for Jonas to refuse his requests. However, judging by Lenora's demeanor, Jonas felt that there was some conflict between the two.

He looked at Lenora, probing, "Lenora, do you need me to send you home?"

Lenora said, "You should go ahead without me."

She knew Zachary wouldn't stop until they cleared the air, and she didn't want to involve Jonas in their problems.

Upon hearing Lenora's answer, Jonas could only nod in agreement. "Alright then, I'll be heading back first.

He leaned in close to Lenora's ear and whispered, "If you have any issues with Mr. Fuller, try to resolve it. Call me if you need anything"

Is it really possible to resolve such a matter just because / want to?

Touched by his concern, Lenora gently nodded. "Alright, thank you."

However, from Zachary's perspective, this scene was incredibly intimate.

His gaze grew increasingly intense,

Soon, Jonas' car drove you of the parking lot.

Aside from the other cars, only Zachary and Lenora were left at the scene.

With an impassive expression, Lenora glanced at him and taunted, "What's the matter? Are you here to stand up for Ms. Carston?"

"Lenora, I didn't mean it that way."

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Chapter 94 The End

"Since that's not the case, I'll be taking my leave now."

Faced with Lenora's indifference, Zachary stepped forward, grabbing her arm. "Let me take you home!"

Lenora shrugged off his hand. "I don't need you to

"Lenora!"

-What do you want?" Lenora paused, raising an eyebrow at him.

"I know you're still upset about what happened that day. That day-

"Don't bring up that day!" Lenora interrupted Zachary sharply, her gaze icy. "You've made your choice. There's no point in talking about it anymore. The moment you walked out of that private room, it was over between us. But don't worry. I'll still play along for a while, just to keep your grandfather happy

"Over? I disagree!

"You disagree? Your opinion is irrelevant."

"You're not going to keep the promise you made to Grandpa, are you?"

Lenora gently shook her head, finding the situation somewhat amusing. "My promise to Grandpa? Did you even remember that promise when you were so determined to leave?"

"Of course I remember!"

"Bullsh*t!" Lenora glared at Zachary, anger seething in her eyes. "If you really remembered, you wouldn't have insisted on seeing Susanna. Admit it, you were the first to break your promise to Grandpa. You chose

Susanna over me."

"I'm sorry, I didn't expect that she would use Charles to deceive me. Her injuries weren't as severe at all."

"No, that's not the point." Lenora stepped forward, staring into his eyes and meeting his gaze. "She may have deceived you, but are you without fault? Upon hearing Charles say that her injuries were severe, you were in such a rush to leave without verifying it. This shows that your concern for her is beyond any injury she suffered. Moreover, that ring in your car, it was intended for Susanna, wasn't it? Even if Charles hadn't come looking for you, after our meal, you would still have gone to see her. Even a

Stay Away 95

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In truth, Susanna had insisted on it. Given Zachary's relationship with Susanna, celebrating her birthday was really no big deal.

Under ordinary circumstances, Zachary celebrating Susanna's birthday might not have elicited such a strong reaction. The notion that he could abruptly sever his emotional ties and interactions with Susanna was simply unrealistic. The unfortunate part was,

their wedding anniversary coincided with Susanna's birthday. No woman would ever tolerate her husband celebrating another woman's birthday that day.

"That day, I only planned to deliver the gift and then return...

"Returned after giving the gift?" Lenora sneered. "Could you really come back? That night, you left in the middle of the night and returned at dawn. You think I didn't know? I was already awake when you answered the phone!" Zachary's face turned pale.

It turned out that the secrets he had painstakingly tried to hide were known by her all along.

So, she has always pretended to be oblivious... But it's not a surprise, as she has always been a light sleeper.

Lenora lowered her gaze. "Zachary, just admit it, you're in love with Susanna. Even with our promise to Grandpa, we can only coexist with each other. You'll never fall in love with me, and sooner or later, we'll end up divorcing!" "What you're saying is wrong!"

Zachary placed his hands on Lenora's shoulders. "If only it were that simple. If it were, all we'd have to do is put on a show for my grandparents. But the heart isn't something we can control. I thought I was deeply in love with Susanna, but now, even when I close my eyes, or in my dreams, all I think about and all I see is you. Lenora, I think I might really be falling for you."

Lenora was taken aback, staring incredulously into Zachary's eyes.

He returned her gaze with one of earnestness and sincerity, seemingly speaking the truth.

Can it really be true? After all these years, I have yearned for this.

In an instant, Lenora suddenly snapped back to reality, regaining her senses.

She chuckled. "Stop messing around."

She knew Zachary was very convincing with his acts and his words couldn't be trusted.

"I'm not joking. If I were, what would be the purpose? To toy with your emotions?"

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Chapter 95 I Might Have Really Fallen For You

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"I find it amusing really. If your idea of having feelings for me is to still involve yourself with Susanna while being with me, I'd rather not accept your affection."

"I had already told her that this time is the last birthday I'll spend with her."

Lenora gazed at him intently, trying to discern any hints of deception from his expression.

However, she was disappointed to not spot any flaws. If he is indeed putting on an act, then he deserves an award for his skills.

With a cool smile, Lenora asked, "So, are you saying you don't want a divorce anymore?"

From then on, every twentieth of September would mark their wedding anniversary, rather than Susanna's birthday.

"Mmm-hmm. We're not getting a divorce."

Lenora stood there, dumbstruck and unsure of how to react.

The long-anticipated moment had finally come to pass for her.

Am happy

Of course she was happy, but the joy didn't seem as intense as she had initially imagined.

Instead, the overwhelming feeling was one of incredulity.

Recently, her dreams had been filled with images of divorcing Zachary. Never once had she dreamt of them staying together. Could it be that the very thing I didn't dare to dream about is actually turning into reality? "Too happy to think straight?" Zachary teased, chuckling at Lenora's dumbfounded expression.

"No," Lenora denied.

Zachary furrowed his brows, speaking in a low voice. "Nora, I need to tell you something in advance. Susanna's illness is connected to me. I made a promise to her that if she chose to stay and work domestically, I would ensure that she has a bright future. I can't sever ties with her abruptly and completely, but I will reduce the frequency and duration of our meetings. Unless it's business, I won't meet her. From now on, you're the only one I care about, is that okay?" Lenora remained silent.

She had developed a resistance toward Zachary and no longer trusted him.

Upon seeing Lenora's silence, Zachary stated, "I promise not to meet Susanna alone in the future. If you're fine with it, I'll bring you along whenever I meet her. If you can't make it, I'll bring someone else, or you can choose someone to act as my secretary to supervise me." "There's no need for me to supervise you, but answer me this, if Susanna were to call you again, telling you she's fallen ill or something has happened, how would you handle it?"

"I won't go to her, but if it ever comes to a point where I have no other choice, I will take you with me.

"I hope you can follow through with your words," Lenora said indifferently.

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She knew that Susanna would definitely not stop and was most concerned about how Zachary would handle the situation when Susanna came to pester him next. Zachary let out a sigh of relief, his eyes and brows relaxed as he embraced Lenora. "Nora, you've forgiven me, haven't you?"

He held her slender waist with both hands, his chin resting against her temple as he pulled her into his

arms.

Lenora remained silent, gently nudging his shoulder.

Zachary noticed her wariness and let her go. "Let's go home."

"Mmm-hmm." Lenora nodded gently.

Zachary then made a call to the hotel manager who promptly arranged for a car to take them home.

In no time at all, the car came to a stop in front of Galaxy Bay. Zachary and Lenora got out one after the other, walking side by side into the courtyard.

The two walked in sync, neither of them breaking the silence.

Upon seeing them return together, Miranda could sense a change in the atmosphere. Even though there wasn't any overt display of affection, something was unmistakably

different. Have the two made up? But it doesn't quite seem like they have fully reconciled....

"Mrs. Fuller, welcome back." Miranda glanced at Lenora, then at Zachary, and said with a smile, "Your secretary was here earlier. She dropped off a suitcase."

Lenora nodded. "Alright, I'll go pack."

With that, Lenora steadily ascended the stairs.

Zachary paused for a couple of seconds, then followed suit.

Inside the master bedroom, Lenora had already opened the suitcase, packing her daily necessities and

clothes.

When Zachary saw her bustling around, he sat down on the couch and gently grasped her wrist. "You can pack later."

Lenora didn't sit down. Instead, she continued packing her suitcase, casually discussing her business trip with Zachary

"Alright. I'm sure you can deal with it. What would you like for dinner tonight?"

Lenora paused what she was doing and looked up at Zachary. "Are you cooking?"

"Mmun-humm" Zachary gazed into her eyes.

"Hmm... Lenora contemplated, then said, "I feel like having pasta."

"Alright, I'll ask Miranda to go buy it. Anything else?"

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"That's all for now."

Zachary rose to his feet and descended the stairs.

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The door to the master bedroom swung open and shut, Zachary's departure marked by the echo of his footsteps.

Watching the door close, Lenora let out a soft sigh and continued to pack.

Even if Zachary were to confess his feelings for her now, she couldn't trust him wholeheartedly and love him like she used to.. Susanna's presence was like a ticking time bomb to her, ready to detonate at any given moment.

After packing, Lenora took the dirty laundry downstairs.

Just as she reached the staircase, she saw Zachary in the living room on the phone. It didn't sound like he was discussing business.

She had softened her footsteps as she descended the stairs, then she heard Zachary say, "You take her to the hospital, then come straight back. Tell her this trick won't work on me. It's her body, and in the end, she's the one who will suffer... Alright, that's all." With that, Zachary hung up the phone.

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Lenora understood that the "she" Zachary was referring to must have been Susanna.

Zachary turned his head, noticing Lenora descending the staircase with fresh clothes in her hands. "Just leave them in the room, you can hand them to Miranda"

"It was nothing." Lenora proceeded to deliver the dirty clothes to the laundry room on the first floor.

Miranda had bought the ingredients for the pasta.

"Allow me." Zachary took over the ingredients.

Miranda guessed that Zachary must have taken up cooking himself, probably to impress Lenora. She didn't insist and instead, let him have the kitchen to show off his culinary skills.

Zachary made a trip to the kitchen, and when he emerged, he was suddenly donning an apron

Lenora was sitting on the couch, and she couldn't resist stealing a couple of extra glances.

After returning from outside, he had only taken off his coat. He was wearing a grey shirt underneath, with the top two buttons undone, giving off a casual vibe. His sleeves were rolled up, revealing his muscular forearms, and he was still wearing his suit pants. The apron formed a stark contrast against his sophisticated suit.

Zachary caught Lenora's gaze, smiled, and asked, "What's up?"

Lenora averted her gaze. "Nothing

Zachary turned and headed toward the kitchen

A moment later, Zachary emerged from the kitchen, carrying two servings of pasta, vegetable salad, macaroni, and shrimp. The dishes looked rather exquisite.

Lenora took a seat at the dining table, right opposite Zachary

"How does it taste?" Zachary asked, removing his apron and setting it aside.

Lenora glanced at him before picking up a piece of shrimp with her fork and placing it in her mouth. It was very tender.

Zachary settled down across from Lenora. "It's been a while since I've cooked personally. I'm a bit rusty."

"Don't you often cook for Susanna?" Lenora raised an eyebrow, asking him in a small voice

No. I only did it once."

"Oh Lenora lowered her head and continued eating.

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house."

Zachary didn't fuss over the matter. He simply suggested, "How about I personally cook one day every week from now on?"

Due to his job, he couldn't possibly cook every day.

"Work comes first." Lenora glanced at him.

Zachary remained silent, yet a thought solidified within his heart.

After dinner, the housekeeper went to clean up the kitchen.

"Do you want to go for a walk to help with digestion? Zachary suggested.

"Okay." Lenora nodded in agreement.

The two of them, shoulder to shoulder, left the courtyard together. They strolled along the cobblestone path within the residential area, engaging in sporadic conversation. Zachary took Lenora's hand. "I'm planning a trip to Navarre over the National Day holiday. I'm leaving on the thirtieth. Would you like to come with me?"

For Zachary, international business trips were a common occurrence.

Therefore, Lenora had never questioned his annual business trips in July to meet Susanna in the past.

Recently, Lenora didn't have any international schedules. Going to Navarre could only be for leisure, at most she could casually connect with some clients to maintain relations.

"I still have some work in hand, so I'm not sure if I can spare any time."

For the top brass, they'd even have to work through their holidays.

"Delegate the task to your subordinates.

Lenora felt it wasn't quite right.

"This isn't quite right. It's my job responsibility. How could I possibly delegate everything to my subordinates?"

Previously, Lenora had often felt upset due to Zachary's favoritism toward Susanna at work.

Now, Zachary had finally let his personal feelings affect his decisions for her, yet she had rejected him.

It was only then that she understood. What truly mattered to her was not the favoritism itself, but rather Zachary's preferential treatment.

"It happens only once in a while. Not a big deal."

Now that the big boss has said this, okay then.

Lenora said, "Okay, then."

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While out for a walk, Zachary received two phone calls,

One was a business partner, while the other was Charles.

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"Isn't today Susanna's birthday party? What did she say when you said you wouldn't go?" Charles asked with a chuckle over the phone.

Zachary slightly furrowed his brows, glancing at Lenora beside him. He couldn't help but feel that Charles was bringing up an inconvenient topic at the t time.

"Go make the call and ask her yourself."

With an unwavering gaze, Lenora steadily advanced forward.

It was uncertain whether she could hear what Charles had said.

"Hey, such a great opportunity and you didn't accompany her? I heard today's banquet was extraordinary. They really went all out. Does Lenora know about it? If she does, she's bound to give you a hard time."

Zachary responded with a question of his own, "Is there anything else?"

After a moment of silence, Charles asked, "Zack, do you plan to keep going on like this?"

In this way, it referred to maintaining a marital relationship with Lenora, while also keeping a romantic involvement with Susanna.

Zachary didn't respond, so Charles continued speaking "In the past, I always thought you were destined to be a loner. But then you met Susanna, and I saw a different side of you. Susanna was a good girl, gentle and considerate. Back then, all your classmates were envious that you had such a girlfriend. I witnessed your journey from meeting, to falling in love, and then to breaking up. I don't know why you two broke good relationships are hard to come by. Since you've managed to meet again, you should cherish it." In other words, he was hoping that Zachary would divorce Lenora.

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Since Zachary and Susanna were back together, it was clear they still had feelings for each other. Why not divorce Lenora and marry Susanna? After all, Lenora wasn't of noble birth, and their relationship was entangled with all sorts of interests. Though Susanna was suspected of using him as a pawn that day, Charles could understand. Now that Zachary was someone else's husband, it was only natural for Susanna to feel insecure and apprehensive.

He'd witnessed Zachary and Susanna's journey together. Hence, he naturally hoped that the two of them could reconcile.

"If there's nothing else, I'm hanging up," Zachary said.

Seeing that Zachary did not want to discuss the matter, Charles immediately changed the subject.

Previously, Zachary had insisted that Charles apologize to Lenora. In response, Charles had specifically made a phone call, inquiring when the couple would be available to meet him at the club.

"I will sincerely apologize to Lenora," said Charles.

"Let me ask her.

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He glanced at Lenora by his side, gently tugged her hand, and said, "Charles was too harsh with his words. that night. He wants to apologize to you."

That night, for Lenora, was indeed a rather unpleasant experience.

She would jolt awake at night, and her mind would be filled with the scenes from that day.

Seeing Lenora silent, Zachary furrowed his brows, ready to reject Charles.

Lenora held his hand, saying, "Let's do it tomorrow night."

"Don't force yourself." Zachary paused, looking at Lenora.

"No, that's not it."

This was simply a logical decision.

The long-standing friendship between Zachary and Charles wouldn't crumble over this incident.

She was acutely aware of her own status. Without Zachary's involvement, there was no way Charles would have taken the initiative to apologize.

She was Zachary's wife and had a falling out with Charles, leaving Zachary in a difficult position.

Taking this opportunity to make peace was also a way to provide both sides an out.

Zachary rubbed his lukewarm palms, then spoke into his phone to Charles, "Tomorrow night, we'll meet at the usual spot."

"Okay."

"Don't forget to invite Finn and the others"

Upon hearing these words, Lenora subtly raised an eyebrow,

Charles wanted to apologize to her, but Zachary insisted on involving their other friends.

Was he implying that he wanted to reveal her identity in front of his friends?

Upon hearing this, Charles paused, "You want to bring Finn and the others? Uh..."

He could also tell that Zachary's move aimed to reveal Lenora's identity.

In other words, he had no intention of getting a divorce.

What about Susanna? Is she supposed to be a mistress forever?

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Chapter 97 She Does Not Understand

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Zachary spoke in a deep voice. "Just do as I've told you

After a moment of silence, Charles agreed.

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Zachary slipped his phone back into his pocket, gently holding Lenora's hand as they strolled forward.

The atmosphere was serene,

After a while, Lenora said, "When Charles apologizes to me and you involve Finn and the others, wouldn't that embarrass Charles in front of them?"

"What's wrong?"

"I don't think it's necessary to involve Finn and the others."

In the past, this was something Lenora had desperately desired. But now that her wish was about to be fulfilled, she didn't feel as elated as she had imagined she would.

It seemed like this was a matter of little consequence.

Had he acknowledged her as his wife in front of his friends right after they got married, she would have been extremely happy.

However, revealing it now, with his prior involvement with Susanna, his friends wouldn't accept her. Instead, they would perceive her as the one who stole Zachary away from Susanna. Even if they showed her respect because of Zachary, it was clear they didn't genuinely wish her well, just as Charles felt then.

Zachary halted his steps, his gaze settling on Lenora.

"Why did you feel it wasn't necessary?"

Lenora moved her lips slightly. "Do you remember when you asked me to treat Susanna as my sister-in-law?"

Back then, he had introduced Susanna to his friends, and Lenora had come over to greet them. How much time had passed since then?

In the blink of an eye, she became the woman standing by Zachary.

She truly couldn't understand him.

Zachary held Lenora's wrist, his thumb gently caressing hers. "Don't worry," he assured. "I'm here for you."

With him around, even if his friends didn't like her, they had to keep it to themselves.

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Chapter 97 She Does Not Understand

The two of them strolled around the residential area for a bit before making their way back to the mansion. two

Zachary emerged from the bathroom, noticing a glass of water and medicine bottles arranged in front

of Lenora

He furrowed his brows slightly, moving to stand behind Lenora. "Still having stomach problems? Should we go to the hospital?"

Upon hearing his voice, Lenora was startled, her heart skipping a beat. She steadied herself. "No need."

Zachary, however, was not going to give in. "If it's not getting better after all this time, a minor ailment can turn into a major illness. I'll accompany you to the hospital tomorrow," he insisted.

"There's really no need," Lenora began, recalling the doctor's diagnosis. "I was told that I have a chronic condition that needs some time to adjust to." She looked at Zachary's expression, taking the initiative to reassure him. "Don't worry about me. I don't shy away from seeking medical help. I'm genuinely not in a serious condition right now. If I truly feel unwell, I'll go see a doctor myself."

Hearing Lenora say this, Zachary could only nod. "Don't try to act tough."

"Okay."

In the evening, after Zachary had finished his work, he stepped out of his study and opened the door to the master bedroom.

Lenora had already fallen asleep on the bed.

He tread softly to the bedside, gazing at the peacefully sleeping face that exuded a serene beauty.

She still remained curled up and hunched over.

He walked into the bathroom and emerged a moment later, dressed in a bathrobe. He lifted the covers and got into bed, shifting closer to Lenora's side. Reaching out, he drew her into his embrace. Lenora snuggled against him instinctively.

The sunlight streamed into the room. Lenora rubbed her groggy eyes and glanced at her phone. It was five minutes to seven.

She was alone with a bed that still held some warmth.

Zachary must have gotten up to go for a run.

Lenora got out of bed, got dressed, freshened up, and went downstairs to eat. Zachary was already waiting for her downstairs.

After breakfast, the two of them headed to the office together, just like countless other days in their marriage.

In the backseat of the car, Zachary took Lenora's cool hand, placing it on his lap.

Her skin was pale, the veins on the back of her hand giving off a faint blue hue. Her fingers were slender and fair, and her nails were tinged with a soft shade of pink

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"I won't be at the office in the afternoon, and I'm going straight to the club in the evening. After work, I'll have the driver come pick you up.

Do you have plans later?" Lenora asked.

"I've arranged to play golf with Jonathan and a few others, Zachary said.

While it was said to be a game of golf, it wasn't simply about playing. Rather, it was an opportunity to discuss business under the guise of the sport, which was certainly more pleasant than having conversations in a formal boardroom.

"Okay."

"How about coming with me?"

"I still have a job to do. Or would you prefer I resign?" Lenora playfully shook Zachary's hand.

Zachary smiled. "No."

Lenora hadn't expected him to say no to her resignation.

At that moment, she couldn't help but think about the child in her womb. Counting the time, it was already roughly thirteen weeks along.

She needed to go for a pregnancy check-up.

At that time, she still didn't know how to initiate a conversation with Zachary, especially given their

current situation..

Upon arriving at the company, the two of them entered the elevator, one after the other. At the turn of a corner, they parted ways, each returning to their respective offices. Before he left, Zachary gently squeezed Lenora's hand, a glint of mischief in his eyes.

"Get going." Lenora nudged him.

Zachary headed toward the office.

Lenora averted her gaze, turning around to see Lola standing not too far away. Lola was staring intently at her, her face taut with tension, a shadow of gloom in her eyes. With a soft smile, Lenora greeted her. "Good morning, Ms. Wimble."

Lola remained silent.

Without expecting a response from Lola, Lenora simply proceeded to her own office.

Lola stood still, watching Lola's retreating figure. Her hands, which were hanging by her side, instinctively clenched into fists.

With eyes closed, the scene from earlier replayed in her mind.

Even if Zachary and Lenora didn't display excessive intimacy in their actions, Zachary's gaze revealed it

all.

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Lola swallowed hard, her throat tightening, a bitter tang of melancholy lodged deep within her heart.

She found herself thinking back to the first time she met Zachary

He was dressed in a black shirt, with two buttons undone at the top. He wore tailored trousers and handmade leather shoes, his belt was subtly stylish. His figure stood tall and straight.

His attractive and slender fingers held the documents as he delivered his inauguration speech on stage His tone was steady and unhurried, exuding an air of calm and composure.

When his gaze swept over, it was calm and undisturbed, yet it carried an undeniable authority that one simply couldn't ignore.

Upon their first encounter, Lola was immediately captivated by his charisma.

Simply because she was two years older than Zachary, she was automatically categorized as part of the older generation, akin to an elder sister. Even when the employees joked around, they never teased her about Zachary, as if they inherently felt the two were mismatched. Age was an insurmountable chasm that couldn't be crossed.

Lola was well aware that a mature and dominant man like Zachary would only be interested in women younger than himself. She was immediately ruled out.

Fearful of ridicule, she had no choice but to suppress her own emotions, publicly declaring that she had a boyfriend.

She had always kept a secret watch on Zachary.

For this reason, she had noticed early on that the relationship between Zachary and Lenora seemed to be more than just that of siblings

They often came to work together. At noon, when their workstations were empty, Lenora would slip into Zachary's office to have lunch.

If Zachary was at the company in the afternoon and had no evening engagements or other plans, they would leave work together. Before she could confirm anything, Susanna had already returned home.

The news was everywhere.

At that moment, Lola confirmed that the person Zachary truly loved was indeed Susanna.

Yet, his relationship with Lenora remained mysteriously unclear.

But now, Lola was sure.

There was no doubt that they were intimately involved. The subtle act of hand squeezing, laden with ambiguity and closeness, was a clear indication.

Even though Zachary seemed to lead a squeaky-clean private life on the surface, he would be thirty after the new year, in the prime of his youth. It was only natural for him to have women by his side to fulfill his physical needs. 19:49 Thu, Oct 31 O

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What Lola hadn't anticipated was that Susanna had already returned to the country. Zachary was often seen with Susanna, yet he was secretly maintaining an inappropriate relationship with Lenora.

However, on second thought, it was quite normal. Would a wealthy man ever be truly loyal to a woman?

It seemed that Zachary, like any other boss, had a weak sense of morality when it came to intimate relationships.

A thought surfaced in Lola's mind.

She bit her lower lip.

Lenora can do it, why can't I?

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Chapter 98 Already Broken

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After work, Lenora had initially planned to take a taxi to the club. However, to her surprise, Zachary came to pick her up.

She got into the car, and surprisingly, Zachary explained, "The afternoon event finished early, so I came."

Lenora nodded, gazing at the retreating street scene outside the window.

When she came back to her senses, the car had already stopped.

She glanced out of the window, realizing they hadn't arrived at the club yet.

Just as she was about to ask, Zachary had already pushed the door open and stepped out of the car.

"What are we doing here?" Lenora asked, getting out of the car.

Zachary took Lenora's hand, leading her toward the nearby chain jewelry store. "We're going shopping," he said. Shopping? For what?

Lenora was curious, but she didn't probe further.

As soon as the two of them pushed the door open, the manager of the jewelry store greeted them, beaming. "Mr. Fuller, Ms. Wilkin, please come and make yourselves comfortable in our VIP room. Let me know what kind of jewelry you'd like to see, and I'll have it brought over," he offered.

The store manager was surprised, too.

Yesterday, there were entertainment news reports about Zachary appearing at Susanna's birthday banquet, and the following day, he was shopping with another woman.

The private lives of the wealthy are truly beyond my comprehension.

Surprised as he was, the store manager dared not show it on his face, maintaining an air of respect and

reverence.

Zachary settled down on the couch in the VIP room. "Bring me the latest couple ring designs."

"All right. Please give me a moment," the store manager said. He signaled for his staff to serve coffee to the pair, then hastily scurried off to retrieve the rings. Couple rings? Does he have a friend who is getting married?

Lenora settled into the couch, sipping on some warm water. She then scrolled through WhatsApp.. responding to work-related messages from her assistant. The store manager carefully placed several new couple ring models on the coffee table in front of them

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As the store manager spoke, he slipped the women's ring onto his own finger and held it up for Zachary to inspect. "What do you think of this one?" Zachary glanced at Lenora beside him. "What do you think?"

Immediately, the store manager turned his attention toward her.

Lenora, having just looked up from her phone, gave the ring a brief glance before nodding in approval. "Not bad," she remarked. "It would make a nice gift."

Zachary fell quiet, his expression unreadable. Noticing Lenora's casual indifference, he gently took her phone from her hand and switched it off. "It's not a gift" he said. Lenora gave him a puzzled look as she reclaimed the phone. Then what is it for?"

Without a word, Zachary intertwined his fingers with hers, glancing down at their hands. His gaze lingered on their bare ring fingers. "Don't you think something's missing?"

It took Lenora a moment to catch on, but when she did realization dawned. Zachary wasn't looking for a gift he wanted matching rings for the two of them.

Lenora's eyes drifted over the diamond-studded rings laid out in the tray, yet she felt no spark of Excitement or eagerness to choose.

If Zachary had given her a pair of rings on their wedding anniversary-even a random design-she would have been overjoyed. But instead, he had given her a bracelet, which was already broken.

And now, another crack had formed on the mirror. The memory of that night had lodged itself in her heart, a thorn buried deep. The pain was subtle yet constant, a reminder that it still festered beneath the surface.

Their harmony now was nothing more than a fragile façade, a strained effort to keep things together.

Like a burnt-out cigarette, their relationship was reduced to ash, ready to crumble and scatter at the slightest touch.

The store manager was momentarily taken aback, though not entirely surprised. He knew Lenora had been adopted by the Fuller family and had spent the last decade with them. Given her close ties with the Fuller elders, it wasn't hard to imagine they had played a role in bringing her and Zachary together.

As for Susanna, the celebrity involved with Zachary, it seemed likely she was just a fleeting affair-nothing

serious.

Zachary watched Lenora as she sat in a daze. Without a word, he picked up a ring from the tray and gently lifted her left hand, slipping the band onto her ring finger. He examined it from different angles, then asked softly, "Do you like it?"

Startled from her thoughts, Lenora blinked and met his gaze. The chandelier overhead bathed the VIP room in soft, shimmering light, casting a warm glow in Zachary's eyes.

She quickly looked away, focusing on her left hand instead. The massive, pigeon egg-sized diamond sparkled so brightly under the light that it nearly blinded her.

The store manager immediately seized the moment, launching into praise. "Mr. Fuller, your taste is

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impeccable. The design and craftsmanship of this diamond ring are truly exceptional-one of a kind. And Ms. Wilkin's fingers! So elegant, long, and fair-the ring only enhances her natural beauty"

Lenora glanced at her left hand and gently shook her head. "This is too extravagant. It's not practical for everyday wear."

Zachary offered a solution. "Why not choose two pairs? One for collection, and another for daily wear"

The store manager's eyes lit up at the suggestion, and he eagerly chimed in, "Ms. Wilkin, Mr. Fuller surely pampers you. This ring looks stunning on you-it highlights the fairness and delicacy of your hand, and it reflects Mr. Fuller's deep regard for you. The matching men's ring is equally impressive-understated, yet grand. But if you find it too lavish, we have a new model that's perfect for everyday wear.

The shopkeeper picked up a more modestly designed ring and recommended it enthusiastically.

Zachary gently removed the extravagant ring from Lenora's finger and slid on the simpler one meant for daily wear. "How does this one feel?" he asked.

Though the design was understated, the ring was still impressive, featuring a one-carat diamond.

Lenora gave the other rings in the tray a brief glance before saying, "Let's go with this one."

"Perfect. Let me measure your ring sizes," the shopkeeper responded with a smile, though he discreetly glanced at Zachary, quietly lamenting that the more extravagant ring hadn't been chosen.

A moment later, Zachary spoke up. "I'll take both designs."

"Absolutely! Of course!" The store manager's face lit up with joy, his demeanor shifting to one of reverence, as if Zachary were royalty. "Mr. Fuller, Ms. Wilkin, would you like any engravings on the rings?" "No need," Lenora replied quickly. In the back of her mind, she reasoned that if she ever divorced Zachary, the rings would still fetch a considerable resale value without any personal engravings "Very well. We'll begin your custom order immediately and reach out as soon as it's ready," the store manager assured them.

Zachary responded with a soft, disinterested "Hmm" before turning to Lenora. "Anything else catch your eye? Would you like to look around?"

Sensing an opportunity, the store manager eagerly added, "Ms. Wilkin, we've just introduced a few new necklace designs. Would you like to take a look?"

Lenora shook her head. "No need, let's go."

Zachary took Lenora's hand, standing up to leave.

The store manager escorted them to the door. "Do come again."

As they settled back into the car and it began to move, Lenora glanced over at Zachary. "What made you suddenly decide to buy couple rings?"

"Nothing really-just a sudden realization that after three years of marriage, we still don't have rings," he replied, intertwining his fingers with hers in the dim light of the car. He looked deeply into her eyes and continued, "Nora, I know I haven't fulfilled my duties as a husband these past few years. Yet, you've been

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nothing but patient with me. I promise to make it up to you in the days to come and fill in everything we've been missing."

Though Lenora had casually mentioned that she would judge him based on his performance, Zachary couldn't help but notice that she still treated him normally. Beneath that surface, however, there was an invisible barrier between them-a rift that had formed, making it increasingly difficult to return to the way things used to be.

Lenora could no longer trust him completely as she once had. She offered him a smile before turning her gaze out the car window.

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As dusk settled, the shops lining the streets and the towering buildings illuminated with soft, welcoming lights, casting a warm glow all around.

She understood Zachary's intentions; she knew he genuinely wanted to make things right. Yet, the presence of Susanna felt like a ticking time bomb, keeping her on edge.

Despite Zachary's promise not to meet Susanna alone, she couldn't shake the uncertainty of what he might do the next time Susanna came to pester him. [Search the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Lenora thought to herself that unless Susanna completely left the picture, they could never return to the way things once were.

Zachary observed Lenora's expression, gripping her hand tightly. He was determined to prove through his actions that he genuinely wanted to spend his life with her.

After grabbing a quick bite to eat, they headed to the club. The car pulled into the clubhouse and made its way toward the underground parking garage.

Zachary and Lenora exited the car one after the other, making their way to their usual private room. The lighting in the room was dim, and familiar voices filled the air as friends engaged in lively conversation,

Zachary pushed the door open, and all eyes turned toward them.

Finn chuckled. "Zack, that's not fair! None of us brought a date, and yet you brought Ms. Carston along? Trying to show off to us?"

Lenora was a step behind Zachary, half of her body shielded by him. The brightly lit hallway contrasted sharply with the dim interior of the room, preventing Finn from clearly seeing Lenora's face and leading him to assume that the woman accompanying Zachary was Susanna.

Raising an eyebrow, Michael recognized Lenora instantly and couldn't help but glance at Zachary.

Charles cleared his throat, "Ahem..."

For a moment, the atmosphere felt heavy and awkward, thick with tension.

Zachary walked in, holding Lenora's hand, and chided, "Even Lafite 1982 can't silence you?"

It was only then that Finn realized the person by Zachary's side wasn't Susanna, but Lenora.

He quickly stood up, apologizing profusely, "Nora, I'm so sorry! I didn't recognize you. Come, sit here. I'll drink three shots as self-punishment-don't take it to heart."

With that, Finn poured himself three glasses of wine.

It wasn't just Finn; several other friends had initially mistaken Lenora for Susanna as well. It wasn't that the

two looked alike; it was simply that in the past, Zachary never brought a female companion to these

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siblings. They had only exchanged simple nods to maintain a cordial facade.

No one had expected Lenora to accompany Zachary to the club tonight.

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"Don't worry, I won't take it personally. It's not your fault. If anyone should be blamed, it's Zachary. Since he often brings Ms. Carston along, he ought to see it through to the end," Lenora said, settling onto the couch and casting a glance at Zachary, wearing a half smile. Zachary caught the sarcasm in her tone but remained unfazed. He sat beside her and asked, "Would you be upset if I had brought her here?"

"Why would I be upset? She's my sister-in-law."

"I was wrong. Can you forgive me?" Zachary leaned in closer, his right hand resting casually on the back of the couch behind her.

It was clear to everyone present that something significant had shifted between them; getting Zachary to say the word "forgive" was no small feat. Finn and the others exchanged knowing glances, careful not to let their surprise show too overtly. Though they returned to their previous conversation, it was evident they were distracted.

They found it hard to believe, struggling to reconcile the image of Zachary with Lenora in their minds. Among his friends, Lenora was always an outlier.

Everyone treated her with utmost respect and politeness, but few took her seriously.

Lenora understood her role; she didn't take herself too seriously and rarely frequented the club for leisure. Instead, she dedicated herself to hard work and learning.

Their dynamic resembled that of the class misfit and the top student: merely acquaintances and not friends.

It was evident that Zachary had intentionally brought Lenora to meet his friends, deliberately showing affection toward her in front of them. In the past, when he brought Susanna along, the atmosphere was different. He would chat with his friends while Susanna sat quietly at his side. Now, it was clear to everyone that Zachary held a special fondness for Lenora, treating her with a warmth he hadn't shown before. Some of those present loved to play the field, changing their female companions daily and never repeating their choices. However, these were merely casual flings.

With Lenora's status, she was not someone to be played with.

Gerald wouldn't approve of that.

But what about Susanna? Charles couldn't help but worry about Susanna.

"Charles, Zachary suddenly called out, asking, "weren't you going to apologize to Nora?"

Lenora reminded Zachary that it was Charles who had prompted her to refer to Susanna as her sister-in-

law.

A chill ran down Charles's spine when he caught Zachary's gaze. He approached with a drink in hand. "Nora, I spoke out of turn and offended you. I truly apologize. On behalf of Zack, please don't hold it against me. Let me take this shot as a gesture of my remorse." 19:49 Thu, Oct

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He downed the wine in one gulp and raised the empty glass to show he had finished it.

Finn and the others exchanged glances before looking over.

It was clear to everyone that Zachary had gathered them today solely for Charles to apologize to Lenora.

Everyone was well aware of the close bond between Charles and Zachary

They were not just long-time friends but also university classmates. Despite Charles' somewhat unconventional lifestyle, he had never drifted far from Zachary's inner circle. The reason Zachary wanted Charles to apologize to Lenora was self-evident.

Lenora glanced around the room before reaching for a nearby bottle of wine. As she filled his glass, she spoke. "You're close with Ms. Carston, so I understand why you'd side with her. If I were in your position I'd likely stand by my friend, too. Isn't that right?" Charles's lips twitched; he recognized the question as a trap. Neither affirming nor denying seemed like the right move.

"Nora. I didn't know the full circumstances then, which led me to say those things. Please don't take it to heart?" He downed the wine in his glass.

Lenora poured him another full glass. "So, you're upset because Zachary hid this from you?"

Charles' expression stiffened as he cast a glance at Zachary. "No, that's not what I meant. It's all my fault."

He stared at the wine in his glass, then drained it completely.

"Have another one." Lenora promptly refilled his glass.

Charles' face turned a shade pale as he subtly glanced at Lenora, but he ultimately downed the drink

again.

"Good," Lenora said, setting down the wine bottle as she settled onto the couch, smiling. "You didn't have to apologize. It's not a big deal; I won't take it to heart."

Charles chuckled, but inwardly he rolled his eyes. He knew Lenora was deliberately giving him a hard time, taking advantage of Zachary's presence. After teasing him, she acted innocent, which only deepened his annoyance toward her.

He couldn't understand why Zachary had chosen Lenora over Susanna.

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two were evenly matched in appearance, but in terms of character, Susanna was undoubtedly superior. She was gentle and considerate, intelligent and graceful. Moreover, she was friendly and polite to them. She greeted everyone with a warm smile, leaving a good impression.

In contrast, Lenora often wore a cold, dull expression that felt uninviting. It was one thing if she were truly aloof, but she was just pretending to be high and mighty simply because Zachary had her back. Her true colors were revealed.

Lenora's expression remained unchanged. She knew Charles didn't like her, and she had no intention of changing his mind. He apologized, she accepted-it was all just for show.

Zachary shot a meaningful glance at Charles before turning back to Lenora with a playful smile. "Why are you still calling me Zachary?" he asked.

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Lenora had become so accustomed to calling him that in front of his friends that the habit was hard to break.

Hearing his question, she smiled and replied, "So, what should I call you then?"

"What do you think?"

"Zack."

Zachary simply chuckled, not uttering a word.

For a brief moment, he imagined Lenora might call him "Hubby." But he knew it wouldn't happen. They had never used terms like "Hubby" or "Wifey" with each other; those words felt entirely foreign to their relationship/ Charles' expression grew increasingly complex as he observed the interaction between the two.

Although Michael couldn't piece together the details, he had a good sense of what had transpired

Stepping forward to ease the tension, he asked, "What kept you tied up today? Were Jonathan and the others keeping you busy?"

Zachary shook his head. "No, we went ring shopping."

Michael raised an eyebrow with a grin. "About time. How do you two still not have matching rings?"

Finn was taken aback. Does that mean Zachary and Lenora are already married?

Yet, on second thought, it wasn't entirely surprising. From the moment Zachary walked in holding Lenora's hand, Finn understood that with Gerald's influence, it was only a matter of time before Zachary would tie the knot with Lenora.

What puzzled him more was that just two days ago, Zachary had thrown an extravagant birthday party for Susanna. Though no reporters were invited, someone had secretly filmed a clip of the two dancing and posted it online, stirring up a small buzz. Netizens gushed about them being a perfect match, and the couple had quickly started trending, even having fan club accounts established for them.

And today, Zachary brought Lenora along to meet his friends and shop for matching rings,

"I knew it," someone whispered from the corner. "There's no way Mr. Fuller would ever marry Susanna."

"The entertainment industry is chaotic, especially abroad. Susanna's a foreigner-if she wanted to make it big overseas, she probably had to pay some kind of price."

"Exactly. Zach was just playing around with her."

"Don't say that," Finn interjected, his tone firm. "Zach's not like that. There's probably more to this than we

know."

Having known Zachary for years, Finn was certain of his friend's character-he wasn't the type to toy with people's emotions. But despite his defense, a lingering confusion gnawed at him.

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To him, Zachary and Susanna had always seemed like the perfect pair. Zachary and Lenora, on the other hand, appeared to have nothing in common. He couldn't help but wonder how things had suddenly taken such a turn.

Still, despite their confusion, no one let it show. Their expressions remained unchanged.

One of them teased Zachary with a grin, "So, what kind of ring did you pick out? Going for a huge diamond?"

A few others turned to flatter Lenora, "Nora, it's been a while. You're looking more stunning than ever

Michael suggested, "I'm bored. How about a poker game? It's been too long since we last played." Everyone turned to look at Zachary,

"All right, let's play," Zachary said, standing up with a smile.

The private room was equipped with all sorts of entertainment facilities. Everyone moved toward the poker table.

Charles politely declined to participate. In the end, the four individuals who took seats at the table were Zachary, Micheal, Finn, and another young scion.

The rest of the group also gathered around a table nearby, while the remaining two pulled up chairs to sit behind the others, watching them play.

Someone attentively fetched a chair for Lenora, placing it just behind Zachary.

Lenora thanked him and took a seat.

Zachary glanced back at Lenora, asking, "Do you know how to play poker?"

Lenora nodded. "I've played it when I was younger, but I'm not sure if the rules are the same as the ones you play by."

Her grandfather had taught her how to play poker. He was an ordinary farmer, who had spent his younger years working in the city before returning to the land as he grew older. He kept busy year-round, taking only a few days off during the New Year celebrations. In the dead of winter, when the cold kept everyone indoors, the villagers would gather for friendly poker games. The stakes were always small, so the wins and losses never really mattered-it was more about the warmth of the company than the cards in hand. From a young age, Lenora loved to pull up a small stool and sit behind her grandfather, watching him play. Over time, she naturally picked up the game herself.

"You'll understand after watching us play," said Zachary

Not long after, his phone rang.

He pulled his phone from his pocket, glancing at the screen-it was a work call. Standing up, he headed toward the exit. Turning to Lenora with a grin, he said, "Play a few rounds for me, will you?"

After watching for a while, Lenora had picked up on the rules. She nodded. "All right."

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Once she settled into Zachary's seat and dealt a few cards, she realized she hadn't asked, "How much are you all playing for?"

Finn held up two fingers.

Lenora raised an eyebrow.

Michael said, "Twenty thousand."

Lenora, astonished, focused on the game.

At the stairwell, Zachary ended his phone call. As he turned his head, he saw Charles standing not far away.

"Why are you out here?" Zachary asked.

"Just to get some fresh air." Charles stepped forward, stopping beside Zachary, "Zack, I know I might be overstepping, but I still want to ask: What's your plan?"

Seeing Zachary remain silent, he continued, "Do you plan on letting Susanna be your mistress forever?"

"No way."

"So when are you planning on divorcing Lenora? Your grandfather..."

Zachary interrupted him, "There's nothing going on between Susanna and me. And it will stay that way."

Charles was taken aback. "But... the media noticed you bringing Susanna to meet us last time. They even took pictures of you two."

All these signs indicate that he wants to rekindle his past relationship with Susanna, isn't it?

Charles was utterly perplexed.

Previously, Zachary indeed had this intention.

Back then, he thought he was still in love with Susanna.

But looking back now, that wasn't the case.

Matters of the heart can be rather complex. All he knew at that moment was that he didn't want to divorce Lenora.

Observing Charles' expression, Zachary said, "It's all in the past now. I've made things clear with her. Whether she chooses to stay here or go abroad, it's entirely up to her."

Charles was at a loss for words as he looked at Zachary

He never imagined things would turn out this way; Zachary parting ways with Susanna came as a complete surprise.

He vividly remembered their junior year when, in the early hours of the morning, Zachary's chronic stomach ailment flared up. His face was pale from the pain, beads of sweat dotting his forehead, and it was Susanna who, without hesitation, ventured out in the middle of the night to get medicine for him.

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During the university graduation ceremony, she had been the center of attention, her crystal shoes shimmering with an opulent shine that sparked envy in everyone who saw her. They had seemed like the perfect match. Together, they stirred up quite a buzz on the school forum, despite many doubting their relationship. Yet, they had quietly navigated their university years side by side.

Charles was oblivious to the details of what had transpired between Zachary and Susanna, nor did he understand why they had chosen to part ways. He couldn't grasp why Susanna felt the need to leave the

country.

What he did know was that this reunion had been hard-fought. He suspected both Zachary and Susanna harbored hopes of rekindling their relationship. However, he never anticipated the unexpected arrival of Lenora.

Zachary, however, remained calm and composed. He gave a casual pat on Charles' shoulder. "Don't overthink it. I'm going back in there."

"Wait a moment," Charles called out.

Zachary turned around.

Charles approached him, looking into his eyes. "Have you really made up your mind? Have you really decided to let go of Susanna?"