

Sweet Wife 501

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 501 The Painful Secret She Can't Tell

Laura looked at him with a smile. Hearing his words, a fit of excruciating pain struck her heart. She frowned a bit, looking confused.

She wanted to ask him why she was not worthy of his intimacy.

It was not that she couldn't let go. She just wished to play her part till the end.

But Max didn't give her the chance.

Seeing that she was about to say something, he knew what she prepared to say would be something more outrageous.

Yet, he didn't want to listen.

His heart ached with pity for her.

He didn't want to say anything to hurt her feelings.

If he had told her blow by blow, she would think that he despised her.

At that moment, a million excuses flashed through his mind.

In the end, he said blandly, "I can't be with a woman like you."

Laura's face instantly stiffened.

But Max turned around and left without so much of a backward glance.

This was the subtlest way he could think of to turn her down so that he didn't have to see her as a "hooker".

Still, he thought what he said was really hurtful.

He didn't even have the courage to look at her face again.

If she admitted it, it would definitely be a huge blow to him.

But if she denied it and overthrew the conclusion they just drew, all her previous efforts would go to waste.

Although he didn't know why she said this, at this moment, he realized that she actually wanted him to stay away from her.

She pushed him away to save her dignity.

Now that she had made such a sacrifice, he decided to let her have her wish.

He would give her space, while she would give him time.

With that said, Max decisively walked out of Laura's room.

He didn't even give her a chance to explain before he left.

She watched him walk away with tears welled up in her eyes.

But she fought her tears back with immense self-control.

She was afraid that she wouldn't be able to explain her tears if he looked back and saw her crying.

It was not until the door closed with a bang that she finally gave loose to tears and wailings.

She almost cried her heart out.

Max didn't really leave, but she didn't know.

He leaned against her door. Upon hearing her breathless howls, he found tears rolling down his cheeks as well.

Max was so heartbroken that he could hardly breathe.

But he could not change anything. The only thing he could do was let her have her wish.

Clearly, Laura still loved him, but she pushed him away anyway.

She must have some painful secret that she couldn't tell.

So Max felt he shouldn't make this more difficult for her.

Thinking of this, Max showed a wry smile.

He looked up, wiped his tears, and strode away as if nothing had happened.

Since he had a big fight with Lily, they could no longer pretend to be a couple.

He thought this might be for the best. Now, he could play the field again,

which would help him get over Laura.

Lying in bed, Laura didn't notice her body was no longer covered by the blanket. She couldn't feel cold either, for she was howling on the top of her lungs.

Feeling sorry for Laura, Maria tucked her to bed again. She held Laura in her arms, gently stroking her back to comfort her.

"There, there. Oh my sweet Laura, don't cry."

Maria kept coaxing her in a soft voice.

But it didn't help. Laura continued crying. At last, she was sobbing so hard that she could barely catch her breath.

Maria knew nothing she could do would help at the moment. She could only stay there and keep Laura company.

Thus, she didn't say another word. She just held Laura in her arms, quietly waiting for her sobs to subside.

After God knew how long, Laura finally pulled herself away from Maria's arms, with puffy eyes and a hoarse voice.

Maria immediately grabbed a tissue to help her wipe the tears.

Laura let Maria dab the tears off from her face. Then, she just quietly gazed at Maria, as if she had something to tell her.

Maria hurriedly stopped dabbing her tears and waited for her to speak.

Yet, to her surprise, the first question Laura asked her was why Max had shown up here.

Maria's face stiffened at once.

Laura was almost emotionless. After she was done crying, she just looked at Maria, waiting for her answer.

She knew that Maria would never betray her, so she couldn't have called Max to come at this time.

Thus, Max must have come here of his own accord.

But she needed to know when he arrived and how he pressed Maria into bringing him upstairs.

In truth, it was pointless to ask this question. But Laura wanted to know the answer to see if she had gone too far,

which was simply meaningless. Still, she couldn't help but speculate.

Maybe she just wanted to console herself or fool herself to ease the pain.

She was dead from inside now. She had to find some spiritual comfort.

Maria couldn't figure out what Laura was thinking.

In fact, at this moment, Laura's real idea was sort of morbid.

So Maria was quite anxious.

She lowered her head and hemmed and hawed for a while.

Laura took it that Maria was just too nervous.

"It's ok. Just tell me. I won't be mad."

Maria held up her head and cast a timid look at Laura. After making sure that Laura wouldn't be angry, she sighed and whispered, "Max threatened me. He said if I didn't take him upstairs, all my family members would lose their jobs."

Laura was taken aback. She never thought this would be the answer.

Seeing her expression, Maria panicked at once.

She thought Laura was vexed.

She explained at once, "Laura, I didn't mean to betray you. But I... I had to protect my family. I don't want them to lose their jobs..."

However, Laura didn't let her continue.

She slowly shook her head, chuckled softly, and said, "It's OK. I understood why you did what you did. If I were you, I'd probably do the same thing?"

She then thought to herself, "I didn't know Max would go this far for me."

Max had always been lofty and ruthless.

Sometimes, he would also play the fox. But he always did it in an aboveboard manner.

He would show his opponents where the traps were and let them choose which way to go.

He thought that despicable means like blackmailing were beneath him.

Laura also knew that Maria would never sell her out if she had a choice.

She could imagine how hard Max tried to persuade Maria but failed.

That was why he eventually resorted to blackmailing...

Even so, Laura reckoned that if Maria didn't yield, Max would probably really make her whole family go unemployed.

Hence, she knew she couldn't blame Maria for this.

In fact, she guessed just right.

When Maria went out to buy medicine, she ran into Max, who just arrived at the building Laura lived in.

Perhaps no one could imagine how much Max cared about, not even herself.

Besides, all the people close to Laura knew that Maria was her agent.

Chapter 502 Brushing Past

Thus, Max thought of asking Maria to take him upstairs to check on Laura the moment he saw her.

But Maria turned him down right after he asked.

No matter how Max phrased it, how hard he bribed her, Maria still said no.

At last, Max lost his patience and chose to blackmail Maria with her family.

Also, just as Laura had imagined, he would really make what he said happen if Maria rejected him.

But that no longer mattered.

Maria had no intention to take credit for what she did for Laura. Laura didn't want to know the details either.

She only cared about the result.

Nothing else mattered to her now.

At this thought, Laura's tense nerve finally relaxed a bit.

She even started to feel a little dizzy.

She felt like wrapping herself in a blanket and sleeping for a really long time.

Seeing that Laura was obviously worn out, Maria knew she should let Laura take some rest.

Laura had been really sick. Now she also suffered such a heavy blow and cried for so long, she would certainly feel drained.

So Maria said, "Get some sleep. I'll leave now."

Then, she helped Laura to lie down.

Laura sheepishly let Maria help her lie on her back.

Maria tucked Laura in. She gave her a grateful look and then fell into a deep sleep.

For some reason, Laura had a dream.

She saw Max in her dream.

In her dream, she was still 10. Max was also the boy she remembered at that time.

They hung out together, bickered and laughed, and lay on the lawn side by side watching stars in the sky.

The sky over a decade ago was crystal clear. At night, it was filled with sparkling stars.

Watching the two childhood friends with a smile, Laura's eyes exuded tenderness.

But as time went by, they drifted apart.

The girl grew up.

New people came into her life.

First was her greedy foster father. Then, she met some investors and the boy somehow reappeared in her life.

This dream seemed to be repeating the life she had more than a dozen years after she left the military command.

At a certain point, she somehow felt that someone was watching out for her from behind.

She didn't know what that person looked like or what his voice sounded like.

He was just a blur, looming in the dark.

But she knew he had been keeping an eye on her, watching her grow up.

Laura was quite surprised by this, but she didn't know what to say.

After all, it was a dream. She couldn't think properly even if she wanted to.

She could not control her subconsciousness.

These days, though Max had appeared, he always brushed past her without really crossing paths with her.

Laura had noticed him. He had noticed Laura, too.

But in that dream, Laura always felt that Max could see her for real, while he couldn't see her if she was not in the dream.

It was a unique experience, but she wasn't aware of it.

Later on, at some point, Max suddenly showed up in front of her.

He greeted her in her dreams and used different excuses to create causal encounters with her.

Laura was baffled. But she didn't know how to vent her feelings.

Later, Max and Isaac got into a fight.

They fought fiercely. Watching them being so brutally violent, Laura couldn't help but feel scared.

"Stop fighting!" She rushed to them, trying to end the violence, "Stop!"

Laura waved at them frenetically, hoping they could notice her.

But it didn't work.

The two kept fighting, as though they couldn't see her at all. She couldn't go over and reach them either.

Laura panicked.

and didn't know what to do.

She was still beside them, but she had no idea what to do or when she would wake up.

Yes, she had realized that she was dreaming.

Just then, Max stopped attacking.

At the same time, Isaac disappeared.

Max walked up to her, took her into his arms, and said gently, "It's OK. You've got me."

Laura's tears instantly burst out and she said shakily, "Max, I'm so scared..."

Max didn't utter a word. He just quietly held her tight in his arms.

Suddenly, Max's brows furrowed. He covered his chest with one hand, and dropped onto his knees, and let go of her.

Panic-stricken, Laura called, "Max..."

His face turned pale and he was gradually fading away.

Worried, Laura cried and howled, "Max, don't go! Stay with me!"

Still, Max finally disappeared.

"Max!" Laura couldn't stand it anymore and woke up with a start.

Then, she found that Isaac was beside her. He grabbed her hand in a fluster and said, "Laura, I'm here. I'm here with you."

Laura was stunned.

Then, she flung herself into Isaac's arms, crying at the top of her lungs.

After weeping for a while, Laura finally realized she just had a dream.

Her eyes became bright and focused with a clear mind in her head.

At last, Laura looked at the man calmly. She pushed him away, wiped her tears, and said, "Oh, it's you."

Isaac felt a sting of pain.

He knew why Laura abruptly turned so cold.

He thought, "Our relationship is merely a pact, isn't it?"

She told him she didn't love him from the start, and all she needed was his help for her acting career.

"We're just using each other for our own benefit. If either of us wants to get more intimate, that person would get hurt."

Still, he couldn't help but want to get closer.

In truth, Isaac was very upset about this.

The pain in his heart grew more and more distinct. At last, he wished he could tear his heart up to stop the pain.

However, he couldn't show any bit of his love for her.

He knew that if he did, Laura would leave him without hesitation.

Isaac didn't want that to happen.

So he could only act cool and look at Laura, as though he didn't care about her coldness.

"This is just you." Isaac smiled and shook his head.

Laura looked at Isaac aloofly and said, "You know, we agreed on this from the start."

Isaac nodded and said, "Yeah, but..."

Laura arched her eyebrow and asked, "What?"

Isaac coughed and said in a mystifying tone, "you can count on me."

Laura was silent for a moment. Then, she chortled and said, "I'd consider it if it were someone else. If I were you, I think I'd rather pass. It's better for us to keep some distance and not get too involved in each other's lives."

Isaac didn't know what to say at that moment.

He knew what she was thinking and why she behaved like this.

Chapter 503 Shooting a New Movie

But Isaac was still hurt by Laura's merciless resolution.

Yet, he couldn't do anything about it. After all, Laura had made it very clear from the outset.

Thinking of this, despite his pain, Isaac tried to change the subject.

"How is your cold?"

He consoled himself by thinking that she wouldn't forbid him to care about her just as a friend.

Laura furrowed her brows. She preferred not to tell Isaac the whole story.

After all, this concerned Max and her private affairs.

She didn't want to expose her secrets out in the open.

Seeing that Laura was a little torn, Isaac decided not to press her. To gloss this over, he continued, "You'll be fine. Do you have any plans for work?"

Laura cast an indifferent glance at Isaac and said, "You should ask Maria about this."

When her name was mentioned, Maria let out a surprised yelp and then realized what they were talking about.

She coughed and thought for moments before answering, "After Laura recovers, I plan to let her continue with her previous work. She'll shoot a new TV play. Thanks to your help, Laura now has some great opportunities."

Isaac was still not used to seeing Maria being so polite to him.

He felt a little resigned, but he couldn't say anything about it.

Everyone knew Laura had drawn a clear distinction between public and private interests. As her agent and bestie, Maria certainly wouldn't make things difficult for her. Thus, Isaac couldn't complain about this.

However...

Isaac still felt pained when he saw Laura's aloof face.

Yet, he didn't get to show his pain.

Looking at Laura with a calm expression, Isaac asked in a gentle voice, "Which TV play? Who's the director?"

Maria checked her phone and said seriously, "It's called No Coming Back by Peter Scott."

"Peter Scott? This is the story?"

Isaac frowned, looking a little awkward.

Maria noticed his expression and asked, "What?"

Isaac shook his head. Somewhat embarrassed, he said, "The story for the show is OK. It's a story set in ancient times that has become a hit online. It is about how a girl grew into a powerful woman in a fictional dynasty. For Laura, this part could be challenging. It can be the one play that alters her image."

Laura and Maria looked at each other and nodded.

Isaac was right about this.

Before, Laura had played female leads in many modern love stories, which was relatively easy. Although she had won the academy award for best actress, she still felt she wasn't worthy of the honor.

It was not that her acting skills were not good.

The issue was that when she made her debut, there were no good TV scripts. She had no chance to display her best acting skills no matter how hard she tried.

Later, though her acting skills had improved a lot, many great actors and actresses made their comebacks. Outshone by them, Laura did not stand out.

Because of this, though Laura rarely had scandals and was a good actress, she did not attract much attention online.

But in No Coming Back, relations between the characters were very complicated. The story also had deep meaning. For Laura, this was a golden opportunity to prove her talent. This could also be the play that would make her a new award-winning actress.

A lot of people were already discussing the show on the Internet.

What was more, this play was the follow-up of a very popular show,

which was released a year ago. Once it was put on the screen, it became a big hit.

Those who watched it would certainly want to watch the follow-up story. So as long as her performance was not very poor in the show, Laura believed this show could help her break her career bottleneck.

But Isaac didn't think this was a great opportunity.

That puzzled both Laura and Maria.

Isaac sighed and explained with resignation, "You haven't been in the TV play industry for long, so there are still many things you don't know. The director of this play is Lily Thomson's relative. He's been very close to her."

As soon as he said that, Laura cottoned on.

"So, this has something to do with Lily Thomson..." she mused.

She lowered her head, puckered her brows, and began to think about this.

After that incident regarding Max, Lily must hate her to the guts now.

If Lily knew that she would be in the show directed by her relative, she would perhaps speak ill of her in front of the director to give her a hard time.

But Laura was very certain that she needed a chance to prove her acting skills. She thought Lily wouldn't be a big problem. If she was really competent, Lily could not kick her out of the show anyway.

People often said that good wine might not sell well deep in an outlying lane, to which Laura did not agree. She thought to herself, "With my current reputation and professional acting skills, could I be stumped in the acting industry by someone who wants to pick on me?"

"If that happened, that would be because I didn't work hard enough."

Thinking of this, Laura raised her chin and looked at Isaac firmly, saying, "It's OK. I'm not worried that Mr. Scott would give me a hard time. It's no big deal. If he could really make things difficult for me, it would be because my professional skills are not good enough."

Hearing these words, Isaac knew Laura had made up her mind.

He heaved with a sigh, nodded, and said, "If you really want to be a part of this, go ahead. But be careful. He is protective of his own people and he might really make you suffer. You should be prepared."

Smiling, Laura shook her head and said, "It'll be fine. They may not know me, but you do. You know I won't be easily defeated."

Isaac laughed and said, "Yeah, you're the best." He then tucked Laura in and prepared to leave. "I gotta go. Take care."

Laura waved at him and said, "Be safe."

After Isaac left the room, Laura looked at Maria and said, "Tell the investor, I'll go back to work in three days. After I finish the work I already have, don't put anything new on my schedule. Fetch the script for me. I need to pore over the script."

Maria nodded and said, "Sure."

At the same time, Lily called Peter over.

Peter was the director of No Coming Back. He was also Lily's uncle.

There wasn't a sharp age difference between them. Lily was only 10 years younger than Peter. Thus, Peter had been close to her. He sometimes joked that Lily was not like his niece but his younger sister.

That showed how close they were.

To be honest, Peter was surprised that Lily asked him out.

Since Lily started dating Max, she became much distant toward Peter, her uncle. Peter felt rather helpless about this.

But Peter also knew that Lily didn't mean to cold-shoulder him. It was just because she had put all her focus on Max.????????????????

Chapter 504 Playing up to the Rich and Powerful

Peter had felt both happy and resigned since his niece found someone she loved.

He was happy because he knew that his niece had grown up. Yet, what made him feel resigned was Max's status.

Although the Thomsons and the Scotts were well off in Capital, they were still a far cry from the four most distinguished families.

Peter didn't want Lily to marry a man who was much more wealthy and powerful. After all, not any ordinary woman could be with someone like Max.

Nevertheless, Lily was bent on winning Max's heart. Thus, even though Peter was her uncle, he could not do anything about it.

Any girl in love would be somewhat irrational. But when she became more mature after a few years, she would not be so impulsive.

Thus, regarding Lily's relationship with Max, Peter decided to let it run its own course.

Today, when he suddenly received Lily's message, he told his friend jokingly, "Look, my niece's finally no longer head over heels in love and starts to miss her uncle."

Lately, Peter had been preparing for the shooting of No Coming Back. He even skipped a grand meeting in the industry because of it.

After Max and Lily's disputes were revealed, Max employed all kinds of means to block the news the next day.

More importantly, no one dared to bring this matter up to upset Peter. Thus, Peter was still in the dark.

Seeing him so elated, Peter's friend could only give a few laughs and echoed, "Yeah, it's great."

He wasn't very close to Peter, so he didn't dare to inform Peter of that matter.

In the entertainment field, Peter was known for his short temper and over-protectiveness.

"If Peter is irked by the news, he might vent his spleen on me. I don't wanna become the target for no reason," Peter's friend thought.

Peter hadn't contacted his beloved niece for quite a while. Thus, when he got her message, he was so happy to notice that his friend seemed eager to say something but stopped on second thought.

Because he didn't pick up the hint, he was staggered by his niece's haggard look when they met.

Peter sat down beside Lily, placed a hand on her shoulder, and asked in a worried tone, "Lily, what happened?"

Lily finally saw the uncle that doted on her very much. At the sight of her family, she felt warmth in her heart.

Besides, she had had a rough time lately. So she puckered up her lips and cried harder.

At this, Peter felt heartbroken.

Lily was his little princess since she was a child.

Now seeing that she was crying so hard, Peter thought she must've been bullied.

Peter never dared to say anything harsh to her. But now...

Seeing her weeping so sadly, Peter felt a sudden upsurge of rage.

"Lily, what on earth has happened?" Peter said with a bit of exasperation. "Did Max cheat on you?"

Peter vowed inwardly that if Max did treat Lily badly, he would risk losing all the connections he had gathered in the entertainment field over the years to make him pay the price!

Lily knew this uncle always pampered her.

When she heard Peter's question, she already knew what Peter was thinking about.

At first, she intended to rat Max out on Peter. But after knowing his thought, Lily dared not speak ill of Max.

It was true that Max had betrayed her.

She certainly wanted to do something to vex him.

But if her uncle decided to fight Max to the bitter end...

Frankly, Lily felt she shouldn't let her uncle ruin all the resources and connections he had earned over the years just for this.

After sobbing for a while, Lily knew what she should do.

She couldn't goad her uncle into making trouble for Max. That would be too unfair for her uncle.

She'd better make life more difficult for Laura instead.

This way, Laura would have a hard time, but Peter wouldn't have to make any sacrifices. Most importantly, Max loved Laura. Lily would like to see what Max would do if Laura was bullied.

At this thought, Lily suddenly cried out loud.

That startled Peter.

Seeing Lily choke on her sobs, Peter felt heart-wrenched.

"Oh, Lily, don't cry." Peter coaxed her immediately.

While he was racking his brains to figure out who had made his beloved niece so sad, Lily suddenly said who that person was herself.

“Uncle, Laura Davies bullied me...”

Laura Davies?

Peter was a little stunned when he first heard the name.

“Who is Laura Davies? Is that a second-rate celebrity?” he wondered.

Then, he recalled that he once had a meal with Isaac.

During the meal, Isaac received a phone call. He casually asked who called him. Someone at the table said it was Isaac’s fiancée, Laura Davies.

Thinking of this, Peter asked Lily, “You mean Isaac’s fiancée?”

Lily was taken aback. She then wept a little and nodded.

Peter’s brows were instantly knitted. He asked, “What happened?”

Lily bowed her head and pouted with grievances. A trace of viciousness fled across her eyes. Then, she told Peter her edited version of what happened that night.

According to her account, Laura was a total slut. Though she already had Isaac, she still shamelessly wanted to hook up with Max.

In her story, Max had also become a lustful and fickle jerk.

Peter was furious.

“That bastard! You gave him all your love and attention. You even cold-shouldered me because of him. And I didn’t blame him. But now he’s betrayed you for such a promiscuous woman! What is he thinking?”

Seeing this, through her sobs, Lily quickly comforted Peter, “Peter, it’s fine. It’s all Laura’s fault. She’s too... She’s hot and beautiful. Anyone would be attracted by her.”

Hearing Lily’s words, Peter was even angrier.

Peter began to rebuke Laura and Max indignantly. Lily then tried to persuade him not to blame them. Just then, Peter received a call.

“Mr. Scott, the female lead has been cast. It’s the investor’s decision. Anyway, that actress is truly a professional.”

“Who is it?” Peter asked, holding back his rage.

“Laura Davies.”

Peter narrowed his eyes. With a cold laugh, he said, “OK.”

The staff member on the other side of the phone was a little baffled. He didn’t know why Peter sounded so mad.

But he didn’t take it to heart. He just assumed that Peter was in a bad mood.

After Peter hung up, he checked the cast list and the cast's file a staff member just sent to his phone.

On the page of the female lead, he saw Laura's name in the big font. A cold smile curled up his lips.

Peter showed Laura's photo to Lily and said, "Lily, is she the woman that you're talking about?"

Lily glanced at the name of the show, which made her shudder in shock.

"No Coming Back? That hot story?" she thought to herself in surprise.????

Chapter 505 Start of the Shooting Party

Lily was startled. She then looked at Laura's photo with some jealousy.

The woman in the photo had sparkling eyes and shining teeth. She looked both sweet and seductively charming.

Her facial features were very exquisite. Even in this photo with a plain background, she looked like a star in a fashion shoot. She indeed had a strong vibe.

Lily showed a dark look on her face. Feeling more and more jealous, she nodded, "Yes. That's her."

"OK." Peter put away his phone and nodded pensively.

"Now that this woman bullied my dear niece, I gotta teach her a lesson," Peter thought to himself.

Three days later, Laura went back to work.

A week after that, she finished all the tasks she left before. The next month, she would focus on studying the script.

Before receiving the script, Laura already flipped through the novel which this show was based on when she had time at work.

The story happened in a fictional dynasty. In a troubled time, the female lead, Nichole Westmore, who was the daughter of a general, resolutely ran away from home and joined the army to protect her country. As the first female soldier, she fought side by side with the male lead, Howard Forstall, on the battlefield, and eventually safeguarded her country.

It included tactics in war, contentions at home, and the game to seize power in the imperial court. Laura was amazed by the storyline and held spellbound by the author's excellent story-telling skills.

Such a complicated novel that comprised so many elements was not something an ordinary novelist could write.

And the author's portrayal of the characters was extremely accurate. That was very difficult to achieve. Of course, the leads were vividly depicted. That was one of the basic elements of a good novel.

But even all the supporting roles were precisely portrayed, whether it was a big part or not.

The workload of creating this story must be enormous. Laura was daunted just trying to imagine.

Thus, after looking through the entire script, Laura closed her laptop in amazement and dialed Isaac's number.

“Thank you for helping me get a part in such a great show. I’ve read the novel. It’s fabulous and also challenging. But I believe I won’t mess it up.”

Isaac was reading some files in his office. When he got Laura’s call, he immediately put down the files and walked to the window. Watching the flow of traffic outside, he suddenly felt calm and at ease. He remarked, “We’re friends. You don’t need to thank me.”

Laura shook her head and said in a soft voice, “No, I should. You’ve done me such a big favor.”

Isaac looked a little blue. But his tone was still caring and sweet. “OK. Go study your role. You don’t have much time.”

Laura nodded and said, “OK.”

After hanging up, Laura glanced at the call records on the screen. Then, she put the phone aside and continued to study the script.

A month passed in the blink of an eye.

During the whole month, Laura cooped herself up in her apartment, studying the mentality of the role she was going to play.

Nichole was an independent and visionary woman.

As the daughter of a general, she didn’t center her life on her husband and children as every other woman in that era did. Instead, she focused on the responsibility and calling of that era.

She lived in a troubled time. Though the emperor was not fatuous, he was too young to control the ministers who all had their own agendas.

The young emperor took the throne at the critical point of the change of power. He had to fight against wicked and phony officials while protecting those who were loyal to him.

Just at this juncture, Nichole appeared.

For the lack of reinforcement and provision, her father died in a battle against the opponent country five years ago.

After losing her father, the breadwinner in her family, Nichole did not give up hope or let the rest of her family be bullied by others.

She chose to protect her family while trying to learn martial arts. She hoped that one day, she could take over her father’s position and avenge her father on the battlefield.

That was no picnic.

As a woman, Nichole had to take care of her family. But she also needed to practice in the arena. If Nichole was fighting this fight alone, she wouldn’t be able to hold on for long.

Thankfully, the women in the Westmore family were not weak. They saw Nichole’s toil and stepped up to help her safeguard their family.

Thus, Nichole had more time to practice her fighting skills.

At this point, Howard, the male lead, began to approach Nichole.

Howard was the successor trained by the former right-hand man of Nichole's father, James Westmore. So naturally, Howard was more eager to see the Westmores get back to their feet than anyone else.

But he didn't dare to get too close to the Westmores.

He suspected that someone in the imperial court was actually working for the opponent country. That person was high and mighty, and would take whatever it took to wipe out the Westmores' former followers.

Before James died, he forced Howard to swear that he wouldn't defend the Westmores. If it weren't for that, Howard would have probably also been...

Yes, all the Westmores' old followers who put in a good word for the Westmores had been framed. With concrete evidence proving their sins, the emperor had to execute them.

Howard had discussed with the emperor why that person, who was so powerful that he had become a threat to the ruler of the country, had still let the emperor stay in power.

They discussed this over and over again, but they didn't figure it out.

In the end, the emperor could only help Howard to go into hiding. When it was safe, he would tell Howard to show up and protect the Westmore family.

If Howard took the liberty to help the Westmores, though the emperor wouldn't say anything about this, he and the emperor would both worry that he might be persecuted.

That was why Howard pretended that he had no interest in the Westmores' affairs during the five years.

It was not until Nichole defeated the head of the imperial army that Howard saw a glint of hope on her.

Because of this, Howard began to really get to know Nichole. That was where the whole story began.

After organizing the storyline in her head, Laura thought she had grabbed the gist of her role.

Nichole was gentle but resilient. She fought and struggled against the injustice in the world. She made great contributions to her country in that turbulent era.

That was how Laura saw Nichole. It was also how Laura saw the world she was living in.

After doing her makeup and picking her outfit, she went to the place that Maria told her to go.

Today, the crew was holding a party for the beginning of the shooting. As the female lead, Laura certainly should dress herself up.

After arriving at the venue, she told the waiter the number of the booked private room and followed the waiter in.

It was on the second floor. After she went upstairs, the waiter politely opened the door for her.

"Thanks," Laura said and took a glance at the inside of the room.

She saw a large group sitting around a table.

Laura's brows furrowed. She was a little overwhelmed.

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 506 Being Targeted

If her memory served, these are all the people in the cast who need to attend the shooting party.

So was she the last one to be there?

Laura carefully recalled the time Maria had told her and looked at her own watch.

Laura was sure that, according to Maria's notice, instead of being late, she arrived half an hour earlier.

What the hell was going on here?

A rush of horrible suspicion washed over her.

Laura stilled herself. With a disarming smile, she clasped a hand over her bosom and bent slightly to apologize, "Sorry for being late. I was stuck in a traffic jam."

From the moment Laura entered the room, Peter Scott, who sat at the head of the table, stopped talking to others and looked at her darkly.

However, the first impression she gave him was that she was a clever girl. She seemed upstanding, not the type to sleep around. No matter how Peter looked at her, he didn't think she was as bad as Lily said.

But in the entertainment industry, how could he judge a book only by its cover?

The thought gave him a kind of resentment against her.

Why were young girls today so ignorant of self-respect? Why didn't she try to be a good actress instead of relying on others to pull strings for her? Didn't she go astray by doing this?

Peter's face grew solemn at the thought. Everyone around the table sensed his displeasure.

They spoke in whispers. After a while, they quieted down and looked at Peter.

Laura also noticed that Peter was looking at her with strange eyes.

Had she ever offended him before?

Suspicion clouded Laura's face.

In a few seconds, Laura quickly went over her network in mind.

The industry event? It was impossible. She had never met him before.

But other than that, she would never have any chance to meet an outstanding director like Peter.

The more she thought about it, the more confused she became. She frowned in puzzlement.

However, Peter noticed the change in Laura's expression. To be precise, he kept an eye on Laura.

The blank look in her eyes ignited his anger.

Had she forgotten what she had done? Or she had done such things so many times. Were all young girls now so shameless?

Peter felt that he had made a very foolish decision at the thought.

Maybe he shouldn't agree the investors 'request to choose Laura as the leading actress.

If Peter was unhappy, he would definitely not make Laura happy.

"Miss Davies, if you think you're famous enough to make the entire crew wait for you, you should leave."

Peter's sudden reproach stunned Laura.

She really had no idea what was happening.

Laura had no choice but to apologize.

She clapped a hand over her chest and made a deep bow. People sitting around the table could vaguely see her guilty expression and closed eyes. "Sorry, Director Scott. I didn't expect busy traffic when I left my place and I got caught up on the road for a long time. I apologize for being late. Sorry, everyone," said Laura.

Peter stared at Laura blankly and said in a cold tone, "Oh, Miss Davies, who are we to blame you?"

A trace of embarrassment formed on Laura's face. His words left her speechless for a moment.

Peter's attitude towards Laura surprised everyone.

They looked at each other, all silent.

But some people began to think about how they would treat Laura in the future.

After all, it was a foregone conclusion that director Scott was dissatisfied with Laura.

Anyway, timeservers were not uncommon.

Laura stood up awkwardly and looked at Peter. "Director Scott, sorry I'm late. I really hope you can forgive me."

Peter said with a mocking tone, "You know what you have to do."

However, Laura didn't say anything.

She could not defend herself at all. She would only dig herself into a deeper hole.

A contemptuous look fitted across Peter's face.

As far as he could see, Laura had no other fault than a lack of self-respect.

Not only did Peter look at Laura with disdain, but the way he spoke to her was also contemptuous.

During the meal, he made mean remarks about her more than once. At first, Laura behaved nicely. But later, the expression on her face became serious.

To the end, Laura didn't have the courage to stand up to the director.

She couldn't afford the risk.

It meant so much to her to be a part in No Coming Back. If she got kicked out for acting like a poser, she would never get another script like this or even worse than this again.

This would definitely be a big blow to her.

So she forced herself to endure those mean words without saying anything to defend herself, even though she was really upset and mad.

However, Peter didn't know her forbearance.

In his opinion, Laura was a woman of cunning, and she was just playing hard to get.

She wasn't his type, but he had some doubts that she would come to him.

At this time, however, Laura did not know that Peter was thinking ill of her.

She would never stay in this crew anymore if she had known.

On the contrary, she would leave without hesitation and told Maria that she would not participate in this TV series.

When the party was over, Laura returned to her apartment with an iron face.

She kept repeating in her mind that if it weren't for Peter's fame and the script, she really couldn't suck it up.

After removing her makeup, she looked at herself haggard in the mirror and her thoughts started to wander.

She didn't know why she became like this.

Was it because of her mother? Not exactly.

Was it because of her foster father? Not exactly.

So what is it?

Laura didn't know.

However, she was so sleepy that she fell asleep in bed before she could find an answer.

Chapter 507 The Distant Girl

She fell into a deep dreamless sleep.

When Laura woke up the next day, she found that her face was covered in tears.

She wondered why she was suddenly acting like this.

All she knew was that she was tired and exhausted.

However, she had no other choice.

All she could do was to present herself as glamorous as possible in front of everyone, and to make herself the image of a goddess.

After putting on makeup, the haggard woman in the mirror suddenly became bright and charming.

The corner of her lips twisted. She didn't know whether to marvel at the wonder of makeup or how gaunt she was.

Dressed up, she went downstairs, got into the nanny car her company offered her, and went to the crew.

Laura was silent all the way, which made Maria heart ache.

Maria heard about Laura's dilemma at the shooting party yesterday.

She knew that she had misjudged the start time of the party.

However, she was confused.

The start time was clearly told by Peter's assistant. How could it be wrong?

No one would explain her doubts.

She had inquired more than once since yesterday.

Those who knew about this said they didn't know the truth.

No matter how hard she tried, no one could give her a clear answer,

which not only frustrated her,

but also made her began to wonder if Laura had done something wrong.

Absolutely, Laura must have offended someone powerful.

However, Maria didn't know who he was.

Laura had a good reputation in the industry and was known for being kind to others, she almost never got into a conflict with others.

She had, it must be said, made far fewer enemies than her peers.

Maria didn't understand who Laura had offended for this to happen.

After all, only Lily had feuded Laura recently.

And...Lily...

Maria had to laugh at her own foolishness when she thought of that arrogant woman.

Why did she think of Lily?

Alright, it was Lily!

Maria felt contrite and wanted to give a slap to herself.

How could she forget Lily?

Peter was Lily's uncle. If it was because she was trying to play tricks on Laura, then it all made sense.

Lily was the only one who had the motive to make things difficult for Laura.

Maria patted Laura who was staring out of the window in a daze at the thought.

"Laura, I know why I got the time wrong!"

"Why?" Laura frowned.

Maria said with great seriousness, "Lily Thomson."

It all clicked.

"Lily....." Laura paused, lost in thought.

If that was the case, it all made sense.

Peter gave her a hard time because of Lily. She was also the reason why Maria got the wrong time.

A cold shiver ran down her spine at the thought.

She didn't know Lily was so narrow-minded that she would actually do this to her.

It was Laura's fault that they were not friends but Max was the one she should be mad at.

Frankly, she was a victim.

But why did Lily blame it on her?

Laura reckoned that it was ridiculous but she had to be on her guard because of this.

At this rate, some nasty things might be around the corner.

So she must be careful.

Soon, the car arrived at the cast.

As soon as she got off the car, she saw the actor she had dinner with yesterday.

His name was Andy Roland,

who was the leading man of the show and a very popular star in the entertainment industry?

Unlike other so-called celebrities, Andy was trained for acting properly. With a handsome appearance, acting skills in variety shows and the ability to draw public attention, he often appeared in the headlines and was sought after by many investors.

Professional training and rich acting experiences as a leading role in different shows brought great specialty accomplishment to him.

Judging by the quality of his previous work, he would be the best partner Laura had ever worked with.

Laura had a tremendous air of expectancy at the thought of this.

Her acting skills would certainly be improved if she could work with him.

Laura thought it was a golden opportunity.

She loved acting and genuinely treated it as her career, instead of a tool to bring in money.

So when she saw Andy, she tried her best to restrain her excitement and said with a smile, "Hello, I am your partner. I'm Laura. Nice to meet you."

Before that, they have never met each other in person.

So it was normal for her to introduce herself and say hello to him.

However, Andy didn't think so.

Although he didn't know her, he had heard a lot of gossip about her.

His head ached at the thought of his best friend.

According to his best friend, Laura was nice but reserved.

Why was she so enthusiastic today?

In the face of her enthusiasm, Andy suddenly became narcissistic.

Was she hitting on him?

But as soon as the thought struck, he emptied his mind.

He must read too much into it.

He might not know her, but he must have heard what was going on at the event, which had gone viral.

Laura could refuse Max Nixon for her fiancé, how could she want to date him ?

Andy set his mind at rest at the thought of it and felt much more at ease.

He looked at Laura, with a polite but distant smile. "Miss Davies, nice to meet you too. Wish us a pleasant cooperation."

As soon as Andy spoke, Laura knew she seemed out of place.

She was impulsive and was overexcited at the thought of acting with such a great actor.

She rubbed her nose awkwardly and gave a dry cough. "Of course, we will."

Andy nodded. Then they split up and headed for the crew.

However, Andy stood looking at Laura with mixed feelings.??????

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 508 The Fence-sitter

She was a woman that even Max Nixon couldn't get. What did she see in him? He didn't deserve her passion...

He was seized by curiosity.

After a while, he decided to send Max a short message to avoid misunderstandings in the future.

Soon, the cast and crew arrived.

Before shooting, Peter Scott said a few words.

What he basically meant was that he valued the actor's strength more than the investors' financial resources.

He appreciated actors who enjoyed performing, but if someone tried to behave like a prima donna, he would kick them out of the crew.

He wouldn't put up with that even if he lost his shirt.

Everyone there looked at each other.

They knew who he was talking about. That was why they were so surprised.

They had no idea that Director Scott was so prejudiced against Laura.

At this point, some of the fence-sitters looked at Laura differently.

However, in the face of strange eyes, Laura projected an air of calm self-confidence.

She looked at Peter in the face with a smile, showing agreement with his views.

Laura was certainly not afraid.

She had spent a whole month boning up on the script.

How could she be easily defeated by Peter's prejudice?

Laura believed that she would not do anything to damage her reputation.

She has the confidence to prove that she could play her part well and clear her name.

She was not an eye candy who relied on investors to pull strings, but a real actress.

Laura looked so poised, but Peter didn't know what she was thinking.

Quite the contrary, he thought she was a hopeless case.

Peter didn't know how she had the courage to look at him so calmly and add voice to his words, which made him feel like he was being provoked.

However, instead of showing his mind, he said, "Show me what you've got and don't let me down."

He glanced at Laura specifically and then turned to the camera.

The TV series officially began filming.

The first scene of the day was Laura's part.

It was about Nichole Westmore, played by Laura, had a dispute with her mother, Mrs. Westmore.

When the news of Mr. Westmore's death came, Nichole said angrily that she could not let her father die needlessly. But Mrs. Westmore, who had been docile and conservative, asked Nichole what she was going to do in despair.

Nichole poured out her full heart, however, Mrs. Westmore shook her head in disapproval.

She represented not only herself, but the entire Westmore Family. As Mr. Westmore's only daughter, she should guard her father's honor.

On the contrary, Mrs. Westmore thought her husband was dead and she couldn't put her reputation on the line.

However, Nichole didn't think so.

In her view, it was precisely because she represented the whole family that she needed to be to the fore. She wanted to tell the Emperor, the former subordinates of her father, and the enemies who had killed her father that Westmore Family didn't fall. She would tell everyone that females were as excellent as their male peers.

Finally, after a little gentle persuasion, Mrs. Westmore nodded in agreement.

But the premise was that Nichole must go to the Potaraka temple to pray for safety, her mother could rest assured.

After setting out, she was attacked while crossing a bridge. She was forced to jump into the lake to escape.

It happened to be winter and the lake was covered with a thin layer of ice.

The lake was freezing cold. It seemed to everyone that a woman as fragile as Nichole would surely die.

So the killer stopped, and she survived.

When Laura read this part, she felt the plot was contradictory.

There were two major contradictions here, the first was the conflict between Nichole and her mother, and the second was the assassination of Nichole.

The former was the first scene and a crucial part of the play.

Through a few short minutes, Laura was supposed to act out the determination of her role to avenge her father. Meanwhile, she also had to show her disappointment with her mother's traditional thoughts, and the compromise driven by filial piety.

If she could play the first scene perfectly, the image of the role would be shaped successfully.

But that was not easy.

People thought Laura was under a lot of pressure.

However, it was a long-awaited challenge for her.

It was significant for her to play challenging roles for her career.

So before shooting, she did not feel nervous or calm, but looked at the busy crew with expectation.

It was a pleasure even for her to wait.

However, she didn't know that, in Peter's eyes, she was just putting on an act.

Laura thought his unhappiness was understandable. After all, Lily's instigation and slander had given Peter a bad impression of her.

Laura didn't mind it at all.

She only cared about when she could start acting and bring life to her role.

To her delight, she did not wait long.

Soon, everything was ready.

Laura had already changed her clothes, patted the pleats and headed for the center of the field with a confidence smile.

"Show me what you've got." The corners of Peter's lips twitched when he looked at Laura.

When she reached the center of the field, she nodded to the woman who was about to work with her.

There was a flicker of confusion in the woman's eyes. Then she greeted Laura with stiff formality.

She was even more rattled when she remembered that Lily had told her to mess up Laura's performance.

Actually, she didn't want to do that.

Unfortunately, Lily threatened to cut off her part if she didn't agree.

She knew better than anyone how hard she worked to get the part.

So she treasured the opportunity, and she didn't want to be kicked out because of Laura.

Soon, the shooting began.

When Laura delivered her first line, she found that her partner wasn't emotionally involved.

In other words, the woman didn't act out the emotions her role was supposed to show.

Chapter 509 It Was All in Vain.

All Laura could feel was the actress herself.

When actors and characters didn't fit well, there would be a lot of deviations.

It was happening now.

Laura hadn't thought much about it and she thought the woman was too nervous.

She knew something about her partner.

This actress worked with her when she made her debut. In a way, she had been doing this longer than Laura did.

She had appeared in many TV series since her debut, but she didn't become more famous because of her relatively ordinary appearance.

However, she had a good reputation. Her character and acting skills were praiseworthy. Maybe everything happened today for a reason.

Laura finally became a successful actress after all those years while she still...

She sighed and felt sorry for her.

Everyone had his own tough situation. She could understand that. But there was nothing she could do to help her.

The only thing she could do was try to help her commit to the scene.

Laura got more and more involved. She became her role.

However, her partner became more flustered.

She didn't expect that her efforts were in vain. Instead of being screwed up, Laura's performance went smoothly.

The actress was a little scared.

Thinking of the threat Lily posed to her, the possibility that she could never act again, and her gloomy future,

she broke down.

She remembered that Laura had been her inferior.

When they first worked together, Laura was still an unknown.

However, everything had changed.

She was still a nobody, but Laura was a famous star.

At the moment, she was devoured by envy and hatred.

Her expression grew fiercer.

By the end, she was completely out of her role.

The difference was, Laura's acting kept getting better and better.

She acted the part with consummate skills.

The staffs at the scene could not tell whether she was Nichole or not.

Everyone looked at each other and whispered. They were shocked by Laura's perfect performance.

The actress, who had been paying attention on something else, was more and more devastated.

At last Peter could stand it no longer. He shouted, "Cut!"

Hearing Peter's drawly voice, the actress was ecstatic, then she began to cry.

She thought she had made it.

She thought she had successfully ruined Laura's image in the director's mind.

She thought she had finished the task Miss Thomson gave her.

She felt hope was beckoning to her.

Lily promised her that once she pulled it off, Lily would ask the director to give her more shots.

She could even imagine her glorious future based on this.

She knew that Peter had a lot of resources in the industry and Lily had a tremendous background. She spent her every minute toiling away in the crew, however, she got nothing. She ascribed everything to her own stubbornness.

She thought she could get what she wanted by sticking to fairness and justice.

She had come round to the idea now. All she wanted now was fame and money.

More importantly, success was at hand.

A note of hysteria crept into her voice.

Her hard times were over, how could she not be happy?

But to her surprise, the director did not reprimand Laura, but screamed abuse at her.

When the director called out her name, she froze.

She wondered why she was the one being blamed.

Seeing her faraway look, Peter became even angrier.

He strode up to the actress and pointed to her nose, "If you don't want to do this, get the hell out of here! Don't waste our time. Don't tarnish my show!"

The actress paused.

She didn't expect to end up like this.

"Director Scott, I....."

Before she could explain, Laura interrupted her. "Director Scott, I've worked with her, and she's a great actress. Maybe she was nervous. Give her another chance, please."

Actually, Laura just wanted to help.

After all, they used to work together. So she thought that she should help.

Laura would never forget that the actress helped her when she was taught a lesson by the director for the first time in acting. She said, "Director, Laura may be too nervous."

Although it sounded trivial, it meant a lot to Laura.

At that time Laura was a young actress, just getting her feet wet. It was hard to get a part.

She was too nervous at that time that she didn't perform well.

And that director had a reputation as Lothario. Not only did he insult her many times, but he also forced her to sleep with him.

Laura had a strong aversion to workplace bullying. That was why she made her mind to turn down low-quality jobs.

If it weren't for the help of a somewhat influential female star, she might not be where she was today.

That was also why she was grateful for her help, and she kept her kindness for her in mind.

Laura thought it was time to repay her.

So when the actress was in trouble, Laura stood up for her.

However, the actress and director didn't appreciate her kindness.

Peter didn't know anything about it; the actress forgot about it.

So the actress was embarrassed when Laura defended her. "I don't need your pity."

Stunned, Laura looked at the predecessor who had helped her before, wondering why she refused to accept her kindness.

But soon, she felt relieved.

In the chaotic entertainment industry, there was no guarantee that people would not change.

In other words, people's hands were tied in this industry.

So when Peter said sarcastically to her with a glint of mockery in his eyes, "Miss Davies is so kind", she didn't stand up for herself.

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 510 Pitfalls on the Set

Finally, Peter gave her some time to relax. Later, when the filming resumed, her performance was much smoother.

The first scene finally ended without a hitch.

Laura was worried about her, so she came to her with a smile, "Lanna, you did a great job, don't worry."

There were mixed emotions in Lanna Jones's mind. She didn't appreciate Laura's kindness at all.

On the contrary, she said in a cold voice, "I'm fine."

Then she turned and walked away.

Laura was given a cold-shoulder. What Lanna had done was beyond her comprehension.

However, she didn't think any more about it. Maybe Lanna felt humiliated by being criticized in front of the younger generation.

After a short rest, the second half of the filming began.

It was an action scene, which was also played by Laura and Lanna.

The heroine played by Laura found that the supporting role, played by Lanna, was the enemy's spy, so the two had a fight.

During the fight, the heroine stabbed the supporting role with a sword, and then the supporting role ran away.

Of course, they practiced their martial arts in advance, so no one would get hurt.

"First attempt. Action!"

At Peter's command, everyone quieted down. Their eyes were fixed on the two beautiful actresses.

Except for her improper costume, Laura was satisfied with her makeup.

Fortunately, she practiced her moves before so she was not affected by her clothes.

As long as Lanna could cooperate with her, she believed that they could pass it within one shot.

However, not everyone felt the same way.

Lanna didn't make any eye contact with her at all during the shoot. Laura didn't know if it was her own delusion or Lanna was in bad shape.

There was something indefinable in Lanna's eyes, which made her look like a viper. Her behavior was normal at first, but soon there was a twist.

The swords they carried were props, but they were heavy.

In fact, many action scenes in costume dramas were based on a lot of filming techniques. Laura planned to plunge her sword into Lanna's sleeve as plan.

All Lanna had to do was quickly cover her armpit and break the pre-prepared blood pack to create the illusion of her being stabbed.

However, there was something cold and sinister about her.

Instead of acting as plan, she went straight for Laura's sword.

Laura had to withdraw her sword out of instinct. Even so, Lanna still got stabbed.

As the sword sliced into Lanna's arm, there was a faint hint of blood in the air.

A scream slit the air. Then there was a great noise over there.

"Lanna, are you OK?"

"She got hurt."

Laura was stunned. She couldn't understand why Lanna ran toward her sword on purpose.

Due to the shooting angle, it was not Lanna's fault in the eyes of others. On the contrary, it was Laura's clumsy movements that caused her injury.

Laura's mood darkened.

Lanna, who was standing by, looked at Laura with her eyebrow twisted. Then she pretended to be injured and fell to the ground.

"Lanna, are you alright?"

"Lanna, are you hurt?"

Lanna said weakly to the staff, "I'm alright. It's OK. No big deal."

Still, they examined her wound and found that her arm was injured, but it was not serious.

After all, the sword was a prop, so it was not so sharp.

Even so, someone quickly brought a first-aid kit and helped her bandage her wound.

Peter was shocked by the accident.

He shouted grimly, "What's wrong with you? You've been rehearsing for this. What is happening?"

Peter's words were obviously aimed at Laura. It was clear that he was taking side with Lanna.

"Director Scott, I can explain....."

Laura had barely started speaking when Lanna interrupted her. Lanna's face was pale and she raised her arm with a disappointed expression.

"Laura, I know you blame me for ruining your shoot, but I didn't mean to. Even if you're mad at me, you should not stab me."

A frown appeared on Laura's forehead.

However, Lanna blurted it out before Laura could explain.

"I should know better. I took what you just said for me seriously. I'm so naive."

"Laura, I don't care if you're trying to play nice in front of everyone, or if you're really prejudiced against me. It doesn't matter even if I get hurt. But we should not tamper the filming schedule."

Lanna put the blame upon Laura. She deftly deflected everyone's attention, as if she had nothing to do with it.

After hearing Lanna's words, Peter became even angrier. He made great efforts to find sponsors for these actresses. However, he didn't expect that he had to deal with trivial things like this on the set.

His face was purple with rage, which stunned Laura.

She never imagined that Lanna who had helped her would frame her in such a mean way.

She puzzled over the problem for a while before the light suddenly dawned.

She didn't give a hoot for what Lanna did, but turned her head to Peter Scott.

She just wanted to know what he was going to say.

A sibilant murmuring pervaded the set. It was not unusual for female stars to have bad blood, and such news was often reported. But it was rare for them to express dissatisfaction with each other in public.

Lanna's assistant had helped her to a chair. She felt much better after treatment. There was a speck of blood by her wound, but it didn't seem serious.

Laura could only remain silent with Peter's condemnation.

It was not that she was afraid of telling the truth. Lanna got the head start, so she was observing Peter's reaction.

"Shut up! People are actually working here!"