

TMBA 1101

[Chapter 1101 Pregnant Again](#)

"Mom told me that you loved eating strawberries since you were three years old, so I bought a box of chocolate-covered strawberries." As soon as Sheffield opened the box of exquisite chocolate-covered strawberries, Gwyn grabbed a strawberry and took a bite out of it in one fell swoop. "Oh, Gwyn! This is Daddy's birthday present for Mommy. You should eat it later."

Everyone burst into laughter at how adorable Gwyn looked in her perplexity.

When she noticed everyone laughing at her, Gwyn looked at the remaining strawberry in her hand with innocent eyes and then said to her father, "What should I do, Daddy?"

Sheffield smiled affectionately, shaking his head to imply that there was nothing to worry about. "Well, it's okay. Just eat it first."

One by one he opened all the gifts he had brought for Evelyn. Each box represented a special moment in her life and the amount of effort Sheffield had put into preparing such an elaborate surprise for her was far more valuable than anything money could ever buy.

The gifts were a token of Sheffield's love and appreciation for Evelyn because he strongly believed that mere words would never be enough to express how happy he was to have her in his life.

Evelyn felt her eyes mist and she could no longer hold back her tears anymore.

Terilynn handed a tissue paper to her and said, "Hey, please don't cry. Sheffield loves you very much. You should be happy about it."

Joshua sighed, shaking his head and pretending to be dismayed. "Bro, have some mercy on me. If you keep this up, you're going to make me look like a bad husband in front of my wife."

Sheffield pulled Evelyn into his arms and patted her back soothingly. Once Evelyn stopped crying, he looked at Joshua and said, "Then you should learn from me and give your wife the kind of treatment she really deserves. Trust me, it's the small things that count and make a relationship between two people last forever."

Joshua nodded earnestly and said, "Yeah, you're right." Glancing sheepishly at Terilynn, he said, "Honey, please don't be mad at me. I'll learn all about being a romantic husband from Sheffield, I promise!"

"It's okay. I don't think I was blessed with a romantic husband," Terilynn taunted, winking at Evelyn.

Sheffield echoed at once, "You slept like a log on your wedding night. I don't think someone like you will ever learn to become a romantic man."

Everyone burst into laughter. Joshua's expression was dead serious and he clenched his fist tight, fighting the urge of punching Sheffield in the face.

"Who gave you the right to mock me? Have you forgotten that you were kneeling on a keyboard on your wedding night?"

"Oh and am I

Sheffield felt his chest tighten into a knot, like a cramp. He clutched at his chest as if he was having a heart attack!

The others laughed and made fun of him. "I think it's time you teach the naughty kid a lesson!"

"No, she's such a good girl! Are you sure you want to scold her? Maybe you can just throw her out of the house and I'll pick her up and take her home with me. Then, she'll be all mine!"

Evelyn looked at Sheffield with a smile, curiously wondering how he would deal with his daughter.

Sheffield raised his hand and as he slowly moved it towards Gwyn's head, the little girl blinked her round eyes innocently and murmured, "Daddy..."

The man's heart melted in an instant, and he ended up patting on his own thigh. "Sweetie, it's okay, but don't do it again."

"Okay." Gwyn nodded meekly.

Evelyn laughed, once again shaking her head in disbelief. Sheffield was clearly a slave for his daughter, after all.

Although Evelyn was doing a lot better right now, ever since she got pregnant again, Sheffield persuaded her to stay in bed most of the time.

On some occasions, he would allow her to walk around the manor. On most occasions, however, she would just lie in bed and rest.

Carlos and Debbie decided to put a stop on their traveling for the time being so they could take care of Evelyn and Gwyn.

Sheffield bought a house in a high-end neighborhood, not far from the Huo family's manor. The house was just as Gwyn had asked for—a big one!

It was a four-story villa, about four thousand square meters, fully furnished and equipped with all mod cons, down to crockery and cutlery.

Matthew also bought a house near Sheffield's. Although the renovation of the two houses had begun almost at the same time, Matthew's house was only halfway through.

[Chapter 1102 Final](#)

Matthew had an absurdly high standard for interior design and decoration. His taste demanded a uniqueness for which he had to source most of the decoration materials from various parts of the world.

Things were, however, much simpler with Sheffield, because he cared for nothing else except for the opinions of his wife and daughter. Fortunately, Evelyn wasn't as nit-picky as Matthew was about the decoration. Before long, with the help of many people working together, the decoration of their whole house was completed in no time.

Gwyn's favorite part of the entire place was the food pantry, where Sheffield had made a small shelf just for her and painted it with cherry red lacquer. This was where Gwyn's candies were being kept in dozens

of colorful jars. Gwyn was so fond of it, the mere mention of it would make her heart sing with a whoop of undisguised glee.

Evelyn, however, enforced a strict rule which allowed Gwyn no more than five candies a day.

Five candies? Unfortunately, that was far from what Gwyn had in mind, which was why she would always be found hanging around the pantry.

In the blink of an eye, Gwyn's second birthday had come along. This was the first time Sheffield would celebrate his daughter's birthday, which was more than enough reason for him to throw a grand party.

The invitation list alone was so extensive that it covered every friend and relative they had and the venue of the event was the island Sheffield had given to Evelyn as the bride price.

The entire island was shaped like a giant heart. From the pale tones of rose pink that were the essence of the guava, to the mellow yellows of mango, the cherry red hues of lychee and the fresh brown of soil, these were the epitome of the island. The flecks of green here and there were of the custard apple and freshly grown tea leaves. Overlooking from above, one would witness the beauty of nature in all its essence.

Since a lot of the guests were children, the number of bodyguards for the party had to be doubled so that every child was properly looked after on the island.

The laughter of children filled the air, while the adults happily threw shapes on the dance floor. The ones that didn't want to partake in such merriment took to other forms of entertainment such as singing games and other activities.

"Have you ever taught Gwyn how to dance?" Sheffield whispered softly into Evelyn's ears.

"No. She had PTSD not long after she could walk." Sheffield and Evelyn had arranged many classes for the little girl such as early childhood development lessons; drawing and even piano lessons. However, they seemed to have missed out on dance classes.

Sheffield immediately decided to rectify the situation. "It's okay. I'll teach her!"

Before Evelyn knew it, Sheffield confid

id, "Are you still trying to deny it?"

Looking at the woman who was standing close by and chuckling at him, Sheffield felt wronged and said, "Honey, come and save me!"

Matthew walked up to her and said, "Don't worry. Sheffield is his son-in-law after all. Dad's just playing with him."

Evelyn was about to help Sheffield, but she decided to sit back and watch the show.

She feigned helplessness as Carlos playfully beat her husband up again.

Afterwards, Sheffield ran to Evelyn and complained, "Honey, you didn't even try to stop him!"

Trying to suppress her laughter, Evelyn stroked his head and said, "Yeah, I didn't feel bad for you." In truth, she knew that her father was just having some fun with him.

Sheffield faked a look of astonishment on his face, but Evelyn gently coaxed him as he usually did when she was upset. "Honey, I love you. Don't be mad."

Sheffield felt powerless at Evelyn's affectionate way of talking. He pulled her close and kissed her. "My dear, I love you too!"

"Sheffield Tang! Didn't you see how Gwyn was looking at you? Was that your idea of parenting my granddaughter?" Carlos roared again.

Sheffield bent down, picking up Gwyn in his arms, and ran. "Dad, I'm sorry! Please don't chase after me. I'm holding Gwyn. What if I fall? Dad! My dear Dad—"

It seemed as though, whenever it came to Sheffield, Carlos would never run out of energy. Without hesitation, the old man kept running after Sheffield even though he was carrying Gwyn in his arms.

A contented smile crept up on Evelyn's lips as she thought to herself, 'Sheffield, with you in my life, every season is spring.

With you in my life, I will live my life bravely.

With you in my life, I begin to believe in eternity.

For the rest of my life, sunny or cloudy, good or bad, year after year, day after day, I want you and only you.'

[Chapter 1103 Im Pregnant](#)

Inside the Li family house, A Country

It was time for the high school entrance exams. Coincidentally, it was a hot summer day.

This didn't bother Erica too much, since she was already in college. But that was the last thing on her mind. She had gone back and forth about how to tell her parents the news, but she finally decided the direct approach was the best one. She placed a photo clipped to another sheet of paper on the table. It was obvious that it was an ultrasound picture. She announced, "Dad, Mom, I'm pregnant!"

Blair was going to chastise her daughter for pulling a stupid prank like this, but then she caught a glimpse of the name on the ultrasound report—Erica Li.

The ultrasound report verified that she was about 8 weeks along.

'So, our Rika's pregnant!' Blair felt an intense pressure in her head. Visions of what it took to rear a child flashed through her head, creating a logjam in her thoughts. Then, something inside her snapped. All of this took only a fraction of a second.

Then Blair gave Erica a slap. The impact sounded crisp and clear, leaving a red slap mark on Erica's face.

It was obvious that Blair had lost control. There was no time for Wesley to stop her from doing this.

She may have hit Erica, but it was Wesley's heart that felt the sting.

Erica had been consistently naughty as a child, given to mischief and testing boundaries. Wesley was given the role of the authoritarian, but he knew he could hurt her without half-trying. Most of the time, his punishments were meant to scare the girl straight.

This was the first time Erica had been slapped by a member of her family. And it was her mother, to boot. The hardest she'd ever been on Erica was to pull her ear.

Blair raised her hand, which was already numb from the slap. She pointed at her daughter and scolded, "What the hell were you thinking? This is so ridiculous!"

Erica was just 20 years old! She could have ignored her daughter's mischief in the past, just let it roll off her back. But now the girl told her she was pregnant? That was just beyond the pale.

For the first time in her life, Blair felt she had failed as a parent. She couldn't even teach her own child to keep her legs closed.

With reddened eyes on the verge of tears, Erica rubbed her stinging face. She figured her dad might fly off the handle first, but apparently she was wrong.

She looked into Blair's disappointe

embled. "Rika, where have you been? I was so worried about you!"

Wesley, who was no longer in panic mode, walked over to Erica and took the baby from her arms with a poker face. "Is this... my grandson?" he asked.

Erica had texted him earlier. She said she'd be there with his grandson.

Grandson... The living room became quiet after everybody heard the word. Erica nodded and said, "Dad, meet Feb Wu." She looked at her son and said, "That's your granddad."

Yvette was torn between laughing and crying. With doubt written all over her face, she asked, "You can't be serious! Feb Wu?"

"Yes. He was born in the second lunar month and his family name is Wu. So I named him Feb." Erica just couldn't think of a good name. She stayed up late racking her brains, trying to think of something. Giving up, she just gave the baby that name for the time being.

Everyone was speechless.

Blair didn't try to hold the baby, but held Erica's hand instead. Luckily, Erica didn't pull away, so she asked, "Where have you been all this time? Your father and brother tried to find you. But they had no luck."

Wesley had tried to reach out to her by using all his connections, but to no avail.

She had been missing for months. Blair hadn't been able to sleep well since Erica ran off.

Instead of answering her question, Erica lowered her head to look at Blair's hands which were holding hers tightly. With a guilty look, she apologized, "Mom, I'm sorry."

'I'm sorry for making you and Dad worry about me for so long.'

She had wanted to say this for a long time, but she decided not to contact them.

[Chapter 1104 Feb Wu](#)

Erica knew that if she used a cellphone or instant messenger, her father and brother would be easily able to track her down.

Hearing Erica's apology, Blair couldn't hold back her tears anymore. She broke down sobbing, clutching Erica closely.

Yvette touched Feb Wu's smooth face and said, "He's so adorable!"

Blair didn't think about the baby until just now. She let go of Erica and cautiously took the boy from Wesley's arms. With a tearful smile, she said, "Come here, little one. Do you look like your mom?"

Maybe it was chance, maybe he felt that many eyes were upon him. Regardless of the reason, the sleeping boy slowly opened his eyes and looked at everyone curiously.

Yvette had never seen such a tiny child before. His every action charmed her. When she saw him do that, she said excitedly, "Mom, look! He opened his eyes!"

Blair explained resignedly, "I saw it. But why the fuss? Did you think he couldn't do that? But check it out—his eyes are so small."

Wesley turned to look at the baby and said, "Rika's eyes weren't that small when she was born." 'He might take after the father, ' he thought.

Blair explained, "The baby is only a month old. He's too young to have any well-defined facial features. Maybe when he gets older, his eyes will look like Rika's." Rika's eyes were beautiful. Blair hoped the little guy had a pair of beautiful peepers too.

Erica breathed a sigh of relief when she saw that her family liked Feb Wu.

When Gifford walked in the door, Feb Wu was crying, perhaps because he was hungry. Blair had sent a servant to buy some formula.

Gifford heard the baby's cries the moment he walked up to the door. He thought he had the wrong place at first. But once he was inside, he recognized the woman holding the child. It was his mother, Blair.

After taking off his military cap, Gifford looked around the living room searching for his sister. "Mom, who is this baby? Where is Rika? I thought she was back home."

"Yeah she is. She's upstairs in the study with your dad. He's probably reading her the riot act. That's your nephew, of course. Why did you ask if you knew the

as Wesley's biggest concern.

"You weren't easy on me before, either. You followed me wherever I went! And you hit me." Especially when she was making trouble, Wesley would stop her every time.

"Probably far less than you deserved. Do you think you don't make mistakes?"

Despite Wesley's protests, things seemed to go back to the way they were, and the long lost happiness appeared in the Li family again.

"Father, my surname is also Li. We're in the same boat. From now on, you will have to protect me as long as we live here!" She gave birth to a baby in her early twenties. Erica figured more people might look down on her!

She didn't care what other people thought, but there were always some problems that couldn't be avoided. So she had to ask her dad for help.

"Not too smart, kiddo! You just now figured out life would be hard? What were you thinking back then?"

Erica pleaded, "Father, I'm sorry. I promise it won't happen again!"

"It better not, or I'll break your legs. I'll send you to a convent before you run away from home."

Erica couldn't believe her ears. 'Listen to this guy. Is this how a father is supposed to act?'

The following week was tough on Blair.

Because it felt like she and Wesley were the baby's parents. It was they and the maternity matron who took care of the baby, feeding the baby, and changing the diaper. As the baby's mother, Erica was hardly involved.

[Chapter 1105 Marry Matthew](#)

What about Erica? She didn't look like a mother at all; she was just as free as before.

Originally, when she heard the baby cry, she'd be at his crib, ready to help him. But eventually, she got used to the infant's cries, and turned a deaf ear to them.

Luckily for her, she was at the Li family's house. If she were living with her mother-in-law, she would have been kicked out long before now. After all, what good was a daughter-in-law who wouldn't take care of her own child?

It looked like it was hard times ahead for Erica. Wesley and Blair could see them coming a mile away.

In the Huo family manor

Someone knocked on the door of Carlos' bedroom. He sprang out of bed and opened it. It was Matthew.

"You wanted to talk to me?" the younger man said. Before he got in, Matthew received a text from Carlos. The old man said he had things to discuss with his son.

Carlos pointed in a particular direction and said, "Let's go to the study."

In the study, before the young man could even take a seat, Carlos cut to the chase. "Phoebe Su is married to Nathan. Just forget her."

Nathan Tu was Matthew's best friend. He just got married to his girlfriend, Phoebe Su. Carlos believed this was the girl that Matthew had a major thing for.

Matthew was about to sit down when Carlos spoke. But he stopped and stood straight instead, listening to the old man. "I know you've had a crush on her since...well...forever."

"How do you know?"

"That's not the point. The point is I know. I don't care whether she is a goddess or a muse in your heart. Just give up on her and date someone else. If you're too busy to find a girlfriend, I can introduce one to you." Carlos knew that there were many similarities between him and Matthew. They were driven, career-minded, and would do anything to get what they wanted.

He was afraid Matthew would screw up his friendship with Nathan Tu, if he focused all his energies on making Phoebe Su his. He needed to give up on that idea. He was too high-profile now to create a scandal like that.

"You? Introduce a girl to me?"

"That's right. There's nothing good about pursuing a married woman. I'll find someone far better for you." Carlos had already found the right woman for his son.

"Mind your own business, old man!" With an emotionless face,
ul consideration, I've decided Matthew should marry Erica. This way, Feb can have a father and a family. What do you think?"

His words astonished everyone in the room.

Erica was too shocked to say a word. Spoon in hand, she shifted her gaze among the people involved in this scheme. She looked at Carlos, as poker-faced as ever. Matthew wore a gloomy expression. Debbie was smiling. Finally, she looked back at Matthew.

'Am I hearing things? Marry Matthew?! Me?' Erica couldn't wrap her brain around such a wild suggestion.

Wesley hesitated. "But... Carlos, that's unfair to Matthew." Although Erica was his daughter, he couldn't say yes to that.

Matthew was a great guy. Why should he marry a woman who had another man's baby? And he didn't look super happy about it. It was just an order from his parents. Wesley felt bad for Matthew.

But Carlos didn't think so. He simply remarked, "Rika's a good girl. So she made a mistake. She's young. As long as she knows what she did wrong and lives happily with Matthew after they're married, we should just let bygones be bygones." No matter who Matthew married, it was much better than his best friend's wife.

Moreover, Erica was lively and outgoing while Matthew was cold and reserved. Their characters would be complementary to each other.

Debbie chimed in, "Yeah, Carlos is right. Blair, I know this city is a ways away from where you live, but you don't need to worry about anything. Our home will be her home too. She can do whatever she wants, just like she does now."

[Chapter 1106 Met The Wrong Guy](#)

Blair shook her head; she was touched. "We're not worried about Rika. We're just... Just like Wesley said, it's unfair to Matthew. If Rika hadn't given birth to a baby, I'd probably say yes." The point was Erica did something that couldn't be undone.

Matthew had his pick of anyone, had women lining up to date him. So why would he marry a girl who gave birth to another man's baby?

"Rika, are you still in touch with Feb's father?" Debbie asked Erica, who was still dumbfounded about everything.

For a long while, she didn't say a word. The silence became uncomfortable. Terilynn nudged her and reminded her, "Hey! My mom asked you a question!"

Erica snapped back to reality. "What? I'm sorry. You wanted to ask me something?"

Debbie repeated her question. Hearing that, Erica twitched her mouth and shook her head. "No. That bastard doesn't deserve a phone call." Why would she contact Feb's father? He was human scum!

Debbie was relieved to hear that. "That's good. So Rika was young and naive and she met the wrong guy. She didn't do this on purpose. I think we can overlook it."

There was a moment of silence at the table.

Matthew held his tongue all this time. He wasn't interested in keeping his peace anymore. The young man cast a glance at Carlos, and asked coldly, "What's the matter? Got too much free time?" The old man was even meddling in Matthew's marriage now.

The young man was thinking that Carlos really did have nothing to do. The old man had been pretty high and mighty since he took a more active hand in ZL Group. So he started to make trouble for his kid.

Carlos didn't mind his attitude. "Rika just dated the wrong guy. She didn't mean to—"

"Why should I care? Why should I pay the price for her indiscretions?" Matthew had no filter. He didn't need one, either. He didn't care about others' feelings at all.

The atmosphere in the private booth became awkward. Blair immediately chimed in, "Matthew's right. Thank you, Carlos. We're deeply moved. But marriage is a big event, after all. We should see how Matthew feels about this."

"I know how he feels. I heard him. Debbie was on him to find a nice girl, but he never took it seriously. We're not young anymore. We could leave this world any minute. I want to see my kids get married before that happens. I don't want to be

a woman to help me get what I want." He had worked for ZL Group for a long time. If he couldn't earn the CEO title himself, he might as well give up his position now.

Erica had been thinking about this while they were talking to Matthew. Now there was a break in the conversation, and she knew what she wanted to say. "Uncle Carlos, Aunt Debbie, thanks for your kindness. I'm younger than Matthew and we have nothing in common. Besides, he's a great guy. I'm

sure he'll marry a beautiful girl from a rich family. Girls like me don't deserve him. Let's drop this. Am I right, Matthew?" 'I'm only 21, but Dad's marrying me off? Is he kidding? Marry a man I have no feelings for?' Erica felt so helpless.

Matthew took a glance at the girl who was smiling at him politely. Then, he said something that shocked everyone. "Fine. I don't have time to date, anyway. If Dad and Mom worry about me so much, then I'll do it. But this is the last time. Mom, Dad, if you two stick your noses in my business again, it won't go well. Don't push me!"

As soon as he finished saying this, Matthew stood up and nodded at Wesley and Blair. He left the private booth without looking back at Erica, who was flabbergasted again.

Watching her brother's retreating figure, Terilynn got quite nervous. 'Oh, my God! Why didn't Dad tell me this earlier? He wants Matthew to marry Erica?'

Two days ago, Terilynn had secretly mocked Matthew in front of Erica. She told the girl that Matthew had a longtime crush on a goddess, but he couldn't bring himself to ask her out.

[Chapter 1107 The Emotionless Robot](#)

There was a goddess who shone like the purest moonlight in Matthew's heart. The topic was on everyone's lips in the city, but no one knew exactly who his goddess was. And why people knew about it, no one could say. After all, Matthew wasn't one to share his secrets easily.

Who on earth was his goddess? That was the biggest mystery to those who had a crush on Matthew.

Just like that, over dinner, the Huo family and Li family decided that Matthew and Erica would be married. They didn't care that she didn't want to.

During the whole process, Erica had no right to speak, all because she already had a child out of wedlock.

In two days, the Huos presented their betrothal gifts to the Li family.

The Huo family was generous and sincere. They gave the Li family two checks, six sets of priceless jewelry, five houses in Erica's name—three houses were in Y City and two in A Country.

And just when Erica thought that was too much, they gave her more betrothal gifts.

Three limited edition supercars suitable for ladies, a listed jewelry company, two luxury yachts, two credit cards with unlimited balances issued by a bank under ZL Group...

When she saw the gifts, Erica could almost believe that she and Matthew were in love.

The truth was, these were all gifts from Carlos and Debbie. Matthew didn't give a damn about them.

But she wasn't done being surprised. The two families held a grand engagement ceremony in the Li's hometown the very next day. And the wedding was scheduled to be held on July 7th of the lunar calendar.

Everything was happening so fast.

Like an emotionless robot, Matthew coldly handled all the details.

It felt like a dream to Erica. She wore a pink dress, and had a glass of wine in her hand. After the engagement ceremony, Erica stood beside Matthew and gazed at all the guests. Looking at the relatives and friends coming and going, this was like something out of a fairy tale.

But she couldn't help poking the man's arm and whispering, "Why did you agree to marry me?"

Matthew didn't even look at her. "My father asked me," he answered indifferently.

Erica was speechless. 'You sound so reluctant.'

Later, the n

lly willing to send me to another city? That's where the Huos live!"

Wesley didn't open the door for her this time. "Yes, I am." His answer half-muffled by the wood between them.

'What the heck? This is so messed up!'

Erica looked at the baby who was sucking his own fingers in the crib. She had been racking her brain for a whole week, but she still couldn't think of a way to break off the engagement.

The pre-wedding photos would be taken very soon. If she couldn't think of a way out, she might end up marrying Matthew.

When she thought of his cold face and arrogant eyes, she wanted to gouge his eyes out!

"Rika, take Feb out and get some fresh air," Blair said to Erica as she walked towards the storage room.

"I don't want to!" She was not in the mood to go outside.

"Hurry up! He doesn't get outside much as it is. It's not good to keep him cooped up like this." Blair had stopped what she was doing so she could argue with her daughter.

Erica sighed. The little guy was cute, so she decided to take him out for a walk. Her mom was right.

Just a few minutes after Erica pushed the stroller out of the house, Blair thought of something and walked out of the storage room. She told the nanny, "Rika didn't take the baby's water bottle with her. Here, take this to her. She's a new mom and might not be as careful as she should be. Make sure she's okay."

"Yes, ma'am!" The nanny left in a hurry with the bottle of water.

[Chapter 1108 Whats So Wrong With Doing What Dad Wants](#)

Erica pushed the stroller around the neighborhood. She passed by a pregnant woman out for a walk. She was obviously not very far along. When the woman noticed the baby in the stroller, she walked over and said, "Hi, little one! You're so cute! How old is he?"

"Less than two months old," Erica said.

"I hope my kid'll be as cute as he is. Is he on breast milk or formula?"

Erica's mouth twitched. Instead of answering, she asked, "You must have moved here recently, huh?"

The pregnant woman was surprised by her question. "Why, yes! How did you know?"

With a faint smile, the girl said casually, "Because everyone around here knows me. And they pretty much keep their distance. Especially if they're pregnant."

"Why would they do that?" This confused the other woman even more.

Just then, a man strode over to them. 'Probably the woman's husband, ' Erica thought. He nervously took the pregnant woman in his arms and stared at Erica warily, "I'm sorry, Miss Li. We'll leave you alone. Honey, let's go!"

The pregnant woman didn't know what he was talking about, but followed her husband anyway. As they moved away, she asked, "Who is she? It almost seems like you're afraid of her."

"That's Miss Troublemaker, all grown up. She's the youngest daughter of the Li family. She's also unpredictable and reckless. You'd do well to stay away from her. Everyone else does. See the baby stroller she's pushing? That kid was born out of wedlock. She wouldn't even tell her family who the father was. See what I mean now?"

The man's voice got further and further away. Eventually he was out of earshot.

Standing under the tree silently for a while, Erica walked to the front of the stroller, squatted down and pinched the little boy's face, smiling sweetly. "Don't worry, Feb. No matter what they say, I won't leave you. I'm not like that."

When the baby saw her smile, he gave her a cute smile in return. Or was it just gas? There was a lot of guesswork to parenting an infant.

The nanny came along not long after. She heard the man talking to his wife. She was now a lot warier of Erica. "Miss Li, you forgot to take the baby's bottle with you."

She ignored the nanny, as she ignored most people. She was used to the reactions by now. Erica said n

Drugged one night by her ex-boyfriend, a mysterious man took advantage of her in an ecstatic night filled with sex.

To take her revenge, she married the man, and used him.

"As long as I'm alive, I'm still his legal wife, while all of you are just his mistresses."

She remained adamant even when he was involved in scandals with other women.

Eventually she stormed off after she learned that he had betrayed her again. But life brought her back to him a few years later, to his astonishment.

caused lots of drama here. If you marry someone else, I'm afraid they won't be very nice to you."

"But, what about Matthew? Aren't you afraid that he'll bully me as well?" Erica didn't understand their way of thinking. What made them think that Matthew would treat her well?

"Not really. I know the guy. It was Uncle Carlos' idea, not ours. Besides, Uncle Carlos and Aunt Debbie are good people, and they raised Matthew right. As long as you behave yourself, I think everything'll be okay."

Erica wasn't convinced. She said angrily, "Gifford, Dad sent you to talk to me, huh?"

"No, this is my brotherly advice. I also think it's a good idea to marry an older guy."

"I totally agree with you about Uncle Carlos and Aunt Debbie. But what about Matthew? He's the vice president of a big company like ZL Group. Think I can outsmart him?" Erica wondered why everyone in her family was on Matthew's side. They all wanted her to marry him.

"Listen to you. You're going about this all wrong. Matthew's rich, as are all the Huos. You'll have a good life. Why fight that? Why worry about outsmarting him? This is your chance to be happy. Don't blow it."

"I should know better than to talk to you. You're still single!"

Arms akimbo, Gifford glowered at her and shouted, "Erica Li!"

Erica picked her ear. "I get it. I'll stay here. I'm headed upstairs to comfort the little guy abandoned by his father!"

"Hey, wait. What about the baby? Is he going with you after you marry Matthew?" Gifford asked.

[Chapter 1109 Im Pregnant Again](#)

Erica walked towards the staircase and replied to Gifford without turning her head, "Talk about it later!" She was too busy worrying about her marriage to think about anything else.

"You have to respect Matthew's opinion, you know?"

"Okay." When she had just hit the first step, she suddenly turned around and smiled fawningly at Gifford. "Hey, do me a favor?"

Gifford refused directly, "No. You treat me like that and expect me to do anything for you? Get real!" He strode towards the staircase too.

When he brushed past Erica, she took his arm and said, "Gifford, don't be so mean! I've been gone for nearly a year, and I don't have much to show for it. Life's been hard. Don't you feel sorry for your sister?"

Gifford pretended to be nonchalant. "Not really. Should I?"

"Seriously? I'm not kidding." That was kind of a shock. Was he dating someone that hated her? That was about the only thing she could think of. Otherwise, why had he stopped caring about his sister?

"Okay. Fire away."

"Well, here's the thing. I ordered instant noodles every day while I was gone, so I owe Hyatt Li sixty thousand bucks. So..."

Gifford stood there, shaking his head. He didn't believe her. She had enough money with her when she left. Besides, who could spend sixty thousand dollars on instant noodles in just ten months? "You always cheat Hyatt. You'd think he'd know better by now."

Erica protested, "Why don't you talk about how I got injured for defending him? Besides, I just borrowed sixty thousand dollars from him. Can you help me pay him back? I'll get you three times that when I get a job!"

"Think I believe that? You started saying that when you were six or seven years old. How old are you now? You're going to be twenty-two, right? You kept saying the same thing for fifteen years. When you can make money on your own, you'll pay me back. You probably owe me several hundred million by now."

"It's only a few hundred million. No problem. I'll give you an IOU now, and pay you back a billion!" Erica said confidently.

Gifford squinted at her and said, "One billion? Sounds like a pipe dream to me. I've got an idea: stop borrowing money!"

"Well, if you don't believe me, then forget it."

"I believe you."

"Wha

er face without saying a word, as if waiting for her to continue.

Erica clenched her teeth and blurted out, "I'm pregnant again! I thought you should know the truth. If I hide it from you, it will be—" '—unfair to you.' The last three words disappeared under his cold gaze.

"Show me the examination results."

"What?" Erica suddenly raised her head.

"You said you were pregnant. Where are the test results?"

His sharp question made Erica's heart sink. She racked her brains, trying to come up with an answer. "Oh...um... I didn't think the papers were useful, so I threw them away. The test results were in there."

"Let's go, then!" Matthew turned and made his way to the door.

Erica was confused. What did he mean? But she still caught up with him and asked, "Where are we going?"

The man didn't even look at her this time. "The hospital."

"Why?" 'A pregnancy test?' she wondered. At the thought of this possibility, Erica didn't know what to do.

"A pre-natal exam." Since she was his fiancée, he tried to be patient and explain it to her.

She was right. Erica gave a wry smile.

She had two choices. Either let Matthew take her to the hospital or try on the wedding dresses. If they wound up in the hospital, he would find out she lied to him, so she figured that the dresses would be preferable. "Look! Isn't that wedding dress beautiful? It's simply gorgeous! Do you want me to try it on?" She randomly pointed at a wedding dress, hoping her lie would be forgotten.

[Chapter 1110 Trying On Wedding Dresses](#)

Matthew took a quick look at the wedding dress Erica was randomly pointing at and then fixed his eyes on her. "You sure that's the one you want?"

"Yeah, I think so. You don't like it?" She could try on wedding dresses for a whole day as long as he didn't take her to the hospital for the pregnancy checkup!

He shot a glance at the shop manager and then fixed his eyes on the wedding dress in the shop window. "Bring her that one," he ordered.

"Yes, Mr. Huo."

Robot-like, Erica followed the saleswoman into the fitting room. The first dress she tried on was the one she randomly selected a few moments ago.

With the saleswoman's help, Erica donned the dress. There was no mirror in the fitting room, but she wasn't really concerned with how it fit anyway. She was focused on how she could get Matthew to cancel the wedding.

So, she did whatever the saleswoman told her to do. She didn't realize what the cut of wedding dress was until she stood in front of the mirror outside the fitting room and saw herself in it.

She turned in front of the full-length mirror and found it was a backless, deep V-neck dress. The neckline was so low that even her belly was exposed.

For a moment, she didn't know where to put her hands to cover her body. When she met the man's eyes in the mirror by accident, Erica suddenly turned red.

She pretended to be calm and told the two workers who were helping her with the hemlines, "I don't like this one. Can we try another?"

One of the shop managers came to her and asked with a smile, "Did I hear right? You don't like it, Mrs. Huo? I think it looks great on you!"

Matthew stared at them. To save herself from embarrassment, Erica whispered to the manager, "I'm not a fan of V-neck and backless outfits. Please find me another."

True, the dress was too revealing for her. But there was another reason. Matthew was staring at her like she was a piece of meat. That made her feel uncomfortable.

The shop manager, who had no idea what Erica was getting at, still tried to mollify her. "Mrs. Huo, your back is so beautiful. And if you're worrying about not being able to fill out the front, we can add some padding. No one will ever have to know!"

Erica's lips twitched. Did the shop manager mean that? That her breasts were too small? And that crack about her back...Ugh! Erica would have snapped

supervise her practice in person.

Erica was not good at fighting, especially in front of her dad. But she had another advantage—she knew how to run! Wesley chased her for a long time before he could catch up with her.

Now, still looking at the man's back, the girl wondered if she should sucker punch him and then run away. She was confident Matthew couldn't catch up to her easily.

However... She looked down in dismay at her wedding dress. She couldn't even get out of the door in this outfit! 'Forget it!' she sighed inwardly and discarded the idea.

The pre-wedding photo shoot had been on for three days. Most of them were shot in the studio, and only two sets were shot outdoors.

Matthew was quite busy, and they only needed a few pre-wedding photos for the wedding ceremony. So the photo shoot ended in three days.

On the day she was to return home, Matthew arranged his private plane to get her there. A couple of bodyguards took her to Wesley safely and then returned.

The wedding venue, wedding dresses, gifts and invitation cards were all set up by the Huo family. Erica had nothing to worry about. She just needed to be the bride on July 7th of the lunar calendar.

On the early morning of the lunar July 6th, Gifford rushed downstairs with Feb in his arms. When she saw that he ran so fast with the baby in his arms, Blair was so scared that her heart almost jumped out. "Can you slow down? You're not holding a bomb. It's a baby!"

Gifford took a deep breath and tried his best to hold the baby securely in his arms. "Mom! Rika, she..."