

TMBA 1131

[Chapter 1131 Dont Give Ethan To Him](#)

Erica walked toward Matthew, reaching out to take the gift box. However, he didn't hand it over to her. Instead, he walked to the bed and looked at her, who seemed to be caught in a daze, and he ordered, "Lie on the bed."

"My hair is still wet. I can't go to sleep yet," she remarked.

Hearing this, he put down the gift box and took out the hairdryer. "Just lie on the bed already. Cut the crap," he said, losing his patience.

"You just don't get it, do you? I need to dry my hair first before I go to bed." Erica was beginning to get annoyed as well. After all, how could she lie on the bed while her hair was still wet?

Holding the hairdryer in his hand, Matthew cast her a cold glance and asked in reply, "You really don't get what I'm saying, do you? I'm asking you to lie on the bed!"

"I need to dry my hair first. Why do I have to lie on the bed? Hand the hairdryer over. You just do whatever you want to do." Upon saying that, she walked closer to take the hairdryer from him.

But just as she was reaching for it, her wrist was suddenly grabbed by Matthew.

Putting down the hairdryer on the bedside table, he swiftly lifted her in his arms and dropped her on the bed.

Erica tried to break loose, but to no avail. Because of that, she completely lost her temper and protested, "Matthew Huo, what's wrong with you? My hair is still wet. Do you seriously not see that? If you don't want me to sleep in the same bed with you, just say it already! Why did you..."

She suddenly stopped talking when she saw what Matthew was doing.

Holding her on the bed without saying a single word, he clumsily lifted her wet hair toward the bedside. He gently held her shoulder with one hand and held the hairdryer with the other. Then, he turned it on and began to dry her hair.

Tilting her head to one side, Erica watched in amazement as the man, who was half squatting on the side of the bed with a cold face, helped her dry her hair. 'Am I seeing things? Is this really happening? What on earth is going on? He is drying my hair!' she asked herself in utter disbelief.

"Be honest with me, you did something wrong, am I right? And this is just your way of saying sorry?"

Without giving her any response, the man simply remained silent.

"Well, it doesn't really matter if you did something wrong. I don't care. There's no need for you to... '...stoop so low as to dry my hair, ' she pondered to herself.

Despite Erica being a proud woman, she couldn't help thinking deep inside that dryin e?" he asked cautiously.

"He is a mature man. He holds both money and power. But more than that, he is such a bastard!" Erica had met Tam Wu a number of times, and that was her impression of him.

"When did you realize that he is a bastard? Was it before or after Ethan was born?" he went on and asked.

After giving it much thought, Erica answered, "After the baby was born. He disappeared without a trace about five or six months before the baby was born."

With a straight face, Matthew continued drying her hair and asked again, "Did he try to reach out to you after the baby was born?"

"Yes, he called me twice, but I didn't answer. Why should I answer his calls? And it's not just that I wouldn't answer his calls, but I also have no plans of handing Ethan over to him!" As she talked about this, Erica went into a fit of anger.

"Well, then don't give Ethan to him. Based on what you said, I don't think he is a competent father!"

"Exactly! I think so too. Matthew, he seems to be aware of Ethan's existence, but he hasn't done anything about it at all. What if he shows up one day and tries to take Ethan away?" Erica worriedly asked with her eyes wide open.

As Matthew gently ran his fingers through her hair, he asked, "Do you want to give the boy to him?"

"Of course not. My parents have been working so hard to raise him well. Now, they have already grown fond of him. If that bastard suddenly takes him away, there's no doubt that my mother will be depressed." She could tell that everyone in her family treated Ethan as one of their own.

Pausing for a while, Matthew then said, "You can bring him to Y City and stay here. I'll protect you."

[Chapter 1132 Bring Over The Woman You Love](#)

'It's really touching how he is promising to protect Ethan and me...' Erica was deeply moved by Matthew's words. She could imagine a scene where she was holding the baby in her arms and standing behind Matthew, who looked tall and overbearing. He looked like he could protect her at all costs, and she felt so safe being around him.

"But...there's a slight problem. My mother doesn't want me to bring Ethan here. She is afraid that having to take care of him will affect my studies." That wasn't the only thing that worried Blair. She was also afraid that Matthew would not like this. After all, this was Matthew's home.

The presence of a baby would definitely cause a great deal of inconvenience. Matthew was a busy man, and he liked being busy. More importantly, Ethan was not his biological son.

"Well...if you want me to, I can talk to your mom," Matthew suggested.

Erica hesitated for a while, and finally shook her head in negative. "No, thanks. Maybe someday, it will be the right time for our divorce. After that, I can go back to A Country. If Ethan were here, then it would only cause more trouble." She was always ready to divorce Matthew and go back to A Country.

Matthew decided to drop the topic. He couldn't solve the problem, so there was no use worrying about it. "Alright. In that case, if you face any more trouble, just come to me. I'll have my people handle it for you," he assured her.

Erica turned to look at the man with admiration. She admired the woman he loved so much. It had been really lucky that she had managed to win the heart of such a good man.

Now she understood why some women were okay with being mistresses. But at the end of the day, her own morality did not allow her to be a mistress.

A couple of minutes later, he switched off the hairdryer and put it back inside the box. "Alright. You go get some rest now," he said.

Erica moved a little on the bed and said, "Thank you!"

As if he hadn't heard her, Matthew went straight to the bathroom with the box. After a while, he came back, switched off the light, and lay down as well.

In the darkness, Erica turned to look at the man lying beside her and remarked, "Matthew, you are so kind to me. I don't know how to repay that. And I don't think I ever will. I have an idea though. Bring over the woman you love to the villa, and I'll sleep in another room. I'll cover for you in front of your dad. How does that sound?"

Matthew was a bit amused by her suggestion. He turned over and looked her in the eye. "That's rather generous of you," he mocked.

Erica gave him a wry smile and answered shyly

sleep elsewhere, but he merely went into the bathroom.

He didn't come out until Erica had already fallen asleep.

The next morning, when the alarm rang, Erica slowly opened her eyes and welcomed the sunlight peeking through the curtains. She turned over and went right back to sleep. She subconsciously pulled the quilt in closer, as if she hadn't heard the alarm.

She didn't sit up until her phone rang and interrupted her beautiful dream.

She looked around with her sleepy eyes and found nobody but herself. The phone was still ringing incessantly on the table, and she groggily checked it. The number was unknown to her. "Hello?"

"Good morning, Mrs. Huo. This is Jarvis Zheng. I will be your driver and drive you to the school. Are you up?"

'Drive me to the school? Oh yeah. Right, I have to go to school today!' she thought.

Erica finally lost a bit of sleep now. "Hello, yeah. I'm so sorry. I still haven't gotten up. I'll get ready as soon as possible!"

"Take your time, Mrs. Huo. There's still an hour! I'll wait for you outside!"

"Okay, thanks!" Erica hung up and got out of bed.

About a couple of hours later, Jarvis Zheng brought Erica to the principal's office of Y City Film Academy.

The discussion turned towards the matter of accommodation. Even before Erica could speak, Jarvis Zheng told the principal, "Mr. Huo said that Mrs. Huo won't board at the school. So there's no need to arrange a dormitory for her."

"Okay!" the principal nodded.

Erica, however, wanted to board at the school. That way, she wouldn't have to go back to Matthew's villa.

Thinking about that, she whispered in Jarvis Zheng's ear, "No, wait. I need to board at the school. Ask the principal to arrange a dorm for me."

[Chapter 1133 See The Screenshot](#)

Jarvis was a bit hesitant. After all, he didn't want to go against his boss's order. "Mrs. Huo, Mr. Huo told me before that you won't be boarding at school. Would you mind giving him a call to discuss this matter with him?" he asked.

"All right!" Erica asked Jarvis to stay just for formalities as she left the principal's office to make a phone call to Matthew.

This was actually the first time that Erica had ever called him. She had been contacting him by sending messages before. However, the matter was quite urgent this time. What if, for some reason, he couldn't read the message in time?

After just a few rings, the call was picked up. "Hello." She heard Matthew's voice coming from the other end of the line.

The man's low and captivating voice made Erica's heart skip a beat. After clearing her throat, she said, "Well, I'm at school right now and I was thinking of boarding, but Jarvis told me you wouldn't allow it."

"You're planning to board at school?" he asked.

"Yes!"

"Come to my office once you are done with the formalities."

"What? Why?" Erica flatly asked in confusion.

In a rather calm tone, he replied, "I need to discuss this matter with you in person."

'Huh? Would that really be necessary? I don't think it is,' she thought to herself. "I don't want to bother you while you're at work. I just want to board at school," she insisted.

"Let's just talk about it when you get here." With that, Matthew hung up the phone, leaving her no chance to refuse.

Erica helplessly rolled her eyes. 'He is so bossy! Why does he have to be so unreasonable?!'

After going through all the procedures, Erica asked Jarvis to take her to Matthew's company. At that moment, she was very eager to fight for her freedom.

At the ZL Group

Someone had just informed the employees at the reception desk that the CEO's wife was on the way and should be received and escorted to the CEO's office.

When Erica arrived at the ZL Group, two employees gave her a warm welcome and accompanied her to the CEO's office.

However, when Erica entered the CEO's office, Matthew was nowhere to be found. Instead, she saw Britney Ouyang, his assistant, who served her a cup of tea with a smile. Since Matthew wasn't there yet, she gladly accepted it and said, "Thank you."

"You're welcome, Mrs. Huo. Mr. Huo should be here any minute now. Please take a seat as you wait for him."

"Okay, thank you!"

"You're welcome, Mrs. Huo. Then, I'll be heading out first." Upon saying that, she left the room with a gentle smile on her face.

As soon as the assistant was gone, Erica breathed a sigh of relief. Being the wife of the CEO wasn't so bad. When she went from the company's gate to

eenshot!"

After that, she immediately sent him a message along with the screenshot of "your dad" written by Matthew.

A few minutes later, she received a reply from Wesley. "Send me the screenshots of the complete chat log."

'What? No way! If I do that, then my trick will be exposed.' Erica felt so frustrated. The scheme she came up with failed!

Feeling so disappointed, she closed the chat box without bothering to say goodbye to Wesley.

Before lunch, Evelyn gave her a call. "Rika, come over here and have lunch with us. Dad asked the chef to prepare Chinese food. Everyone else is going to be here, will you join us?"

Taking a look around the big empty house, Erica felt so lonely being there all by herself, so she agreed without thinking twice. "Okay!"

"Auntie, Auntie, this is Godwin!" All of a sudden, Godwin's voice came from the other end of the line, and he seemed to be so excited.

And after that was Godfrey's turn. "Auntie, this is Godfrey."

Hearing their excitement, Erica chuckled and greeted the boys back, "Hello, Gods!"

"Auntie, Grandpa has just bought us new toys. Come and play with us later, okay?" Erica was such a cheerful and bubbly girl, and for that reason, many children liked her. In fact, the two children dropped their toys right away and rushed to talk to her upon hearing her voice over the phone.

When Godwin reached out his hand to grab the phone, Evelyn had no choice but to hand it over.

"All right. You guys wait for me. I'll be there before you know it."

Standing on tiptoes, Godfrey yelled out in excitement, "Then you should come here as soon as possible, Auntie! You have to come!"

Debbie, who was eating fruit right next to them, looked at them and commented, "These boys like Rika so much because she herself is like a child."

[Chapter 1134 A Trap](#)

Evelyn smiled at Godwin and reminded him, "Don't forget to ask Aunt Erica to call Uncle Matthew, okay? Tell him to come as well so we can all have lunch together."

Hearing this, Godwin immediately passed his mom's words on to Erica. "Aunt Erica, Mom said you should call my uncle Matthew and ask him to come with you."

"Okay."

As soon as she hung up the phone, Erica instantly regretted making that promise so soon. In truth, she was afraid Matthew might turn down her request.

Unfortunately, she had already promised Evelyn to go back to the manor to have lunch. So, she was left with no other choice but to give Matthew a call.

This time, the phone kept ringing for a long time before he picked it up. "Hello?"

"Well, I was just on the phone with Evelyn, and she asked me to come with you to the manor for lunch this noon," she said.

"I already have an appointment for lunch."

"Is that so? All right then! Sorry for bothering you. Go back to whatever you were doing. I'll just tell Evelyn about it."

"Tell her what?"

Hearing this, Erica was a bit confused. "Of course I'm going to tell her that you've already made plans so you can't come with me."

"Then you're planning to go back to the manor by yourself?"

"Yes!" "Is there anything wrong with that? Why was he asking these questions?" she wondered.

There was only static on the other side of the line. "Pick me up in half an hour," Matthew said.

"You want me to pick you up?"

But... Didn't you just say that you have an appointment?"

"I can't come to the appointment knowing that you're going back to the manor by yourself," he helplessly said.

"But why?" she asked, clearly still at such a loss.

There was a hint of disdain in his tone as he replied, "You attending the family gathering without me? There's no way Carlos is going to allow such a thing to happen! Do you get it now? Stupid!"

'Oh, so he's afraid of his dad as well!' she thought, laughing deep inside. Hearing this, she flew off the handle and said, "It's your fault! You didn't make it clear to me in the first place. Why are you calling me stupid? For as long as you explain it a little more, I'll be able to understand."

"My fault?"

"Of course. Are you seriously blaming me? You're a man. Aren't you the least bit ashamed of being so petty?"

"In half an hour, I need to see you in my office! If you are even one second late, I won't arrange a dorm for you to have noon breaks in the college anymore."

His threat instantly made Erica so infuriated. "You've gone too far, Matthew Huo!" Was she being to

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"I've already changed my mind. I don't want any reward nor do I want to beat you. All I want is to get out of here."

"Don't worry, I will let you leave." Freeing one hand to hold the back of her head, he pulled her closer and asked with a straight face, "Are you sure you don't want to hit me anymore?"

"Well, before I answer that, can you, at least, let go of me first?" He was obviously flirting with her. At that point, she was afraid that she might not be able to control herself and end up hugging him and kissing him.

"In that case..." Grabbing her delicate chin, he raised it slightly and said, "Then, I'm going to give you your reward first."

Seeing that he was about to kiss her again, she quickly tried to warn him, "If you kiss me again, I'll... Mmmph..." The rest of the words she was trying to say vanished completely between their lips.

How dare he do such a thing?! No other person had ever annoyed her as much as he did! For that reason, Erica vowed to teach this playboy a lesson!

A few minutes later, when Erica was already running out of breath, Matthew decided to let go of her, albeit reluctantly.

As she gasped for air, she cast him an intense glare and said, "Matthew Huo, you jerk...Mmmph..." Damn! He leaned in and kissed her one more time!

This time, the kiss they shared lasted for at least minutes before he finally let go of her again. Before she could complain, Matthew beat her to the punch and said, "If you say another word, I will kiss you once. If you say two more words, I will kiss you four times! Four words, and it's going to be eight kisses. Don't you dare think I won't do that! You're my rightful wife. I would even go far as to sleep with you right now!"

[Chapter 1135 Only Think Of Me](#)

'Sleep with me...' It was the first time they had talked about such a sensitive topic. Erica was angry but she didn't dare to say anything. Deep down, she knew Matthew was right. She had no reason to refuse him even if he wanted to sleep with her right there and then.

Part of her wanted to go home and cry to her father. She couldn't understand why Matthew was even harder to get along with than Wesley.

In the end, the pitiful look on her face made Matthew let go of her.

Leaning against the door, Erica gasped for breath.

She tried to calm herself down, but she was so angry that she unconsciously raised her fist to hit Matthew. However, just as she swung her fist toward him, Matthew dodged.

Erica missed, but because she had exerted too much strength, her body leaned forward. With a pale face, she screamed, "Help!"

Just as she was about to fall to the floor, a powerful arm wrapped around her waist. At last, she fell into Matthew's arms.

"Do you want intimacy that much, Mrs. Huo? Is that why you threw yourself at me?" he teased.

Threw herself at him? Well, he wasn't lying. Erica was indeed in his arms. She wanted to argue, but she couldn't. She felt as if her tongue had been tied into a knot.

She thought she must have been possessed by something. After all, she had always been sharp-tongued, but at this moment, she couldn't find a word to retort to Matthew.

It really pissed her off! She pushed him away, her cheeks bulging up in anger. When she saw the smug expression on his face, however, a thought struck her and her anger disappeared instantly. She said, "Matthew, how about this..."

Matthew raised his eyebrows, hinting for her to go on.

"Since you enjoy kissing me so much, you should forget the girl you like, only think of me, and treat Ethan as your own son. If you do that, I will never bring up divorce again, and you can kiss me whenever you want, okay?"

Eric said, even though she was sure that he wouldn't agree. In her opinion, very few men would be able to forget their first love. Even fewer men would be willing to raise another man's son, let alone a proud man like Matthew.

"Only think of you?" Matthew looked her up and down. "You're okay in general, and your figure is not bad. But I need a better style. Wait fo

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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.

t's get inside the elevator first."

Together, they stepped into the elevator, and Matthew let go of her wrist as soon as the door closed.

His expression became indifferent again as he stepped away and kept her at a distance. Adjusting his clothes, he said to the angry woman, "We have to pretend to be a sweet couple in front of others."

The way he spoke made Erica feel like the man who had just whispered into her ear a moment ago was someone else altogether.

So, he had been acting? "You... You... You are such a good actor!" she finally blurted out. She was so annoyed that she was even stuttering.

"Thanks for the compliment, Mrs. Huo," Matthew replied calmly.

'What? Thank you? Couldn't he tell that I was being sarcastic?'

Erica was desperate to put him in his place, but she didn't know what to do. 'What wrong did I commit in my previous life that I was given the punishment of marrying Matthew Huo?'

On their way to the manor, if the bodyguard hadn't sat in the front seat, Erica would have taken it. Instead, she had no choice but to sit with Matthew in the back.

Nevertheless, she clung to the window, sitting as far away from him as she could.

Matthew didn't mind; he just concentrated on his work on the phone as if he hadn't noticed what she was doing.

Just when they were about to arrive at the Huo family's manor, his phone rang.

Erica, who was bored, casually glanced at his phone. Before she could see the name on the caller ID, Matthew answered the phone. "What's up?"

[Chapter 1136 Do Everyone A Service](#)

"Matthew, are you busy right now?" It was a woman's voice, which sounded a bit familiar to Erica. However, she couldn't tell whether it was the voice of the woman who called him on their wedding night or the voice of someone else she had heard before.

"No."

"Will you be attending the seventh-day ceremony of Nathan's death?"

"Yes." Tomorrow was going to be the seventh day after Nathan's death. And Matthew would definitely come.

"Okay, I'll be waiting for you, then."

"Okay."

As soon as he hung up the phone, Erica was dying to know who it was. So, she asked in a low voice, "Who was that? Your woman?"

"No," Matthew answered curtly.

"Oh." This one wasn't it either, which simply made Erica become more and more curious.

In the Huo family's manor

When they got there, a few kids were merrily running about in the yard. Noticing their car from a distance, Godwin quickly ran toward it. Godfrey and Gwyn followed him, blocking Matthew's car together.

The second the bodyguard got out of the car and opened the rear door, the two boys called out "Uncle" and frantically went inside the car.

The car was less than two minutes away from the manor itself, meaning to say the kids only got inside the car to have a bit of fun.

In order to give them space so they could get in, Matthew moved closer to Erica, and the two kids scrambled to sit right next to them.

Gwyn, on the other hand, was the only one who stood outside the car, showing no intention of getting in.

Seeing this, Erica pulled Godfrey, who was moving close to her, into her arms and let Godwin sit on Matthew's lap. Then, she called Gwyn and said, "Gwyn, hop in!"

The bodyguard said, "Mrs. Huo, Miss Tang can just sit in the front seat."

To which, Gwyneth flatly refused, "No. I don't want to sit in the front seat. I want to sit in the back with everyone!" Of course, she wanted to join the fun along with everyone.

With that, Matthew patted the empty seat beside him and said, "Gwyn, you can sit here."

Gwyn then bent over to step inside the car. After she had settled in her seat, they took their time driving toward the villa.

The car, which had been quite peaceful earlier, suddenly became very lively in an instant. Godwin was such a fearless kid. Godfrey, on the other hand, was actually a bit afraid of Matthew, but he wasn't afraid of being with him right now since Godwin and Erica were also there with him. So, he was able to continue fighting with Godwin.

Matth

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tell you, then. Matthew is..." Out of the corner of his eye, Sheffield noticed Carlos, who had actually been staring at him for a while. "Dad," he greeted him with a smile.

As soon as Carlos waved at him, Sheffield walked toward him and said to Joshua, "I'll tell you later." Lately, Joshua felt like Sheffield had been casting him aside more and more easily.

Inside the bathroom, through the reflection on the mirror, Erica looked at Matthew as he was washing his hands and couldn't help asking, "Why did you marry me?"

It was the same question she had asked him before on the day they got engaged.

Glancing at her in the mirror, Matthew flatly answered, "I wanted to do everyone a service, that way, you won't be able to harm someone else."

"Hey, that's not what you said last time!" Last time, his reasons seemed much better than this.

"Really? Is my answer any different from before?"

This left Erica at such a loss for words. It seemed that there wasn't any difference after all. As it turned out, the only difference was that his reply sounded much better last time.

For all she knew, he could have married her for any reason, but it couldn't possibly be because he was in love with her!

Fine, then. She didn't care anymore. It wasn't like she loved him anyway.

That being said, the reason why she had to ask him again was that when Matthew held her hand just now, for a fleeting moment, it gave her the illusion that he actually liked her very much.

But now, it seemed that that wasn't the case at all.

That made perfect sense, though. Why would he, a handsome, rich, and powerful man, fall in love with a single mom?

[Chapter 1137 Be Careful With Her](#)

Erica believed that Matthew had no reason to love her.

Since that was the case, she was relieved.

There were many people in the Huo family manor. It was as lively as a family reunion dinner on the Lunar New Year's Eve. Before the lunch began, Sheffield offered to bring drinks for everyone.

Since he didn't know what Erica preferred, he asked, "Rika, what would you like to drink?"

"Coke!" Erica answered without hesitation.

Terilynn took a sip of her juice and said excitedly, "What a coincidence, Erica. Matthew likes coke, too!"

Erica glanced at the man who was silently sitting beside her. She didn't expect him to like coke. She thought he was fond of red wine.

Joshua smiled and said, "The coke at home is prepared especially for Matthew. Well, it looks like someone is going to give Matthew competition for his coke from now on."

After grabbing two cans of coke, Sheffield placed them in front of Erica and Matthew. Then he walked to Joshua, patted his shoulder, and said, "How can you say that? Since Rika is Matthew's wife, he will happily share his coke with her. Right, Matthew?" Sheffield winked at Matthew.

Matthew glanced at Sheffield before he turned to Evelyn and said, "Evelyn, Sheffield mentioned that you've been in a bad mood lately."

"Hey, hey, don't get me into trouble, Matthew!" After saying that, Sheffield trotted briskly back to his seat and put his arm around Evelyn's shoulder. "Don't listen to him. I did say that you've been in a bad mood recently, but I also said that you've become more and more adorable!"

Without the slightest change in her expression, Evelyn poured some juice for Gwyn and said in a gentle voice, "Okay, I see. We'll talk about it later tonight."

Sheffield wanted to cry.

They knew that Evelyn preferred to talk with her husband behind closed doors. Given her temperament, Sheffield would end up on his knees, begging for forgiveness. This made everyone else burst into gales of laughter.

Carlos gazed at his son for a long time. When he sensed that his son didn't get his hint, he said gruffly, "Matthew, open the can of coke for Rika."

With widened eyes, Erica leaned forward, grabbed her can of coke, and said to Carlos, "Thank you, Dad. But I can open it myself."

Erica would never adm

e had never seen each other in three years after we got our marriage certificates. When we finally met, he wanted to bury me alive or throw me into the sea. I was lucky that I survived all that misery."

Guilt coursed through Carlos when Debbie mentioned the past. He picked up some food and poured a glass of juice for Debbie before saying, "Why did you talk about that? Let bygones be bygones."

"Ha-ha." Everyone knew what had happened between Debbie and Carlos back then. They couldn't help but laugh when they saw Carlos' frustrated expression.

After a pleasant lunch, everyone went to the living room to rest.

Since everyone was concerned, Erica updated them about recent events in her life. "The procedures of entering Y City Film Academy are complete. Tomorrow, I will start classes..."

"Well, that's good!"

Clang! At this moment, a loud noise came from the other side of the living room.

It sounded as if something had broken. Before anyone could figure out what had happened, the maid cried, "Miss Gwyn! Are you okay?"

When the family heard the noise, they stood and walked to the other side of the living room.

At the mention of Gwyn's name, Sheffield rushed to their location. By the time everyone reached, Sheffield had already squatted before the young girl. He asked anxiously, "What happened, Gwyn?"

An expensive flowerpot had fallen to the floor and broken. The exquisite plant it held, lay on the floor beside her. Gwyn seemed to be staring at the broken flowerpot innocently.

[Chapter 1138 I Am Not A Child](#)

The Huo family knew that this was Carlos' plant which he had kept for two years. Joshua had asked his friend to bring it back from Singapore. Carlos liked it a lot and treated it with a lot of care and attention. He had specially bought a handmade blue and white porcelain flowerpot for the plant.

As if that wasn't enough to emphasize the plant's importance, he had specially told the gardeners to take good care of it. However, Gwyn had knocked it over and several of its branches were now broken.

People's eyes wandered from Gwyn to Carlos, wondering what he would do. Carlos merely glanced at the plant on the floor and then squatted down to look into Gwyn's eyes. "Gwyn, did you knock it down?" he asked in a soft voice.

Gwyn nodded and apologized to him, "Sorry, Grandpa. I didn't mean to do that. It was an accident."

"It doesn't matter. Are you hurt? Let me see your hands."

Gwyn shook her head and extended her hands towards Carlos. After making sure she wasn't hurt, he asked a housemaid to clean up the floor.

Then he casually said, "Don't worry. It's just a plant. As long as Gwyn didn't get hurt, everything is fine. Come on. Let's go back and continue our conversation."

Rumor had it that although Carlos was very strict with his son, he was a slave in front of his wife, daughters, and granddaughter. Now Erica was finally convinced that the rumor was true.

She could tell that Carlos' heart ached for the plant. But he was not blaming Gwyn at all. He only cared that she was okay.

Erica suddenly changed her mind. She was now considering having daughters with Matthew instead of sons.

When Matthew went to the bathroom, he left his phone on the table. A moment later, the screen lit up from some notification.

Both Erica and Carlos noticed that. "Rika, check whose message that is," he said.

"What? Umm... I don't think that's a good idea," Erica stammered with her eyes wide open. She wasn't sure about checking Matthew's phone. It might have been private.

Carlos didn't think so. "Come on. I think it's perfectly normal. A couple should be honest with each other. You should remember who you are. You are his wife now, and you have the right to be a part of his business."

What he was saying was correct, but Erica knew that she and Matthew were a couple in name only.

"Dad, I think I'd better not check it. What if I see something confidential from the comp

nt. Why are you being so mean, Matthew? I check your father's phone every day. Do you have some secrets that Rika doesn't know about?"

There was an awkward silence in response to that.

Carlos echoed, "Exactly! Besides, it was me who asked Rika to check your messages. So if you were not doing anything wrong, what are you so afraid of?"

Since the older couple was now on each other's sides, the younger couple was left speechless.

Matthew didn't want to waste any more time on this discussion. He quietly picked up his phone and looked at the message Paige Shen had sent. His Adam's apple bobbed, and the look in his eyes became intense. He cast a meaningful glance at Erica. Then, he texted back. "This one is okay."

After a short while, they left the Huo family manor one by one. When Matthew was leaving, he also took Erica with him, who was busy playing with the three children at that time.

Once inside the car, Erica couldn't wait any more. She asked the man beside her, "Is Paige the goddess in your heart?" She had to be. Otherwise, why would she send the picture of such a revealing night gown to him and ask for his opinion?

'Even if she is not his goddess, she must be one of his women!' Erica thought. 'Well, well...I never expected Matthew to be a fan of office romance.'

She decided to pay more attention to Paige Shen when she visited the ZL Group again. She was thinking that the woman must be both beautiful and capable.

On the other hand, the man's face was slightly gloomy. "She has already married." He was trying to make sure she did not misunderstand Paige Shen.

[Chapter 1139 Ericas Complaint](#)

"Huh? She's married? No wonder Dad didn't agree to let you date her. Now I can see why you are unwilling to let her live with you. This is so sad!" Erica exclaimed.

Matthew hadn't expected her to react like this. He had believed that his explanation would help settle her confusion. His expression soured when she didn't understand. Erica, however, didn't notice and continued to ask, "Since she loves you, why did she marry another man? Did she fall in love with you after she got married? Did her husband refuse to divorce her when she told him about her feelings for you?"

"Why would her husband divorce her?"

Matthew's frustration continued to grow. Why was it so hard for Erica to realize that she had misunderstood his relationship with Paige? Unfortunately, it appeared as though no matter what he said, she was unwilling to let go of her misconceptions. Equally, Erica was shocked by Matthew's question. Confusion coursed through her, and she questioned, "She didn't ask her husband for a divorce? Then maybe she doesn't love you."

"Shut up!"

The sudden change in Matthew's temperament scared her a little. So, Erica pursed her lips and stared at her hands.

After a short while, uncomfortable with his silence, she mumbled, "You must be angry because I learned of your secret! But, seriously, the nightgown is beautiful. Are you going to ask her to wear it for you tonight?"

To her surprise, this time, he answered, "Hmm."

This was not the response Erica was expecting. 'Does this mean that I will be home alone tonight?' Excitement coursed through her at the thought.

At dusk, a woman rang the doorbell of the villa. She carried a delicate gift box in her hand.

When Erica opened the door, the woman handed the gift box to her and said, "Mrs. Huo, Mr. Huo bought this for you. He would like for you to wear it tonight. He also asked me to tell you not to go to bed until he returns to the villa." The expression on the woman's face indicated to Erica that she was uncomfortable with this assignment. Matthew had ordered her to bring the item in the gift box to Erica.

When Erica examined the bag, she found that it only had a logo on it. Unfamiliar with the company brand, she frowned as she asked, "What's this?"

"You will know after you open it. Mrs. Huo, if there is nothing else, I will return to the office now."

Erica nodded. "Thank you! Who are you?"

"You're welcome, Mrs. Huo. I'm Paige Shen, Mr. Huo's special assistant. Please feel free to call me if you are being rude."

"You're indeed not bright. I can sense from his tone that he is doting on you. Can't you see that?" Erica was even more confused now. Did Wesley have X-ray eyes? How could he interpret a person's emotions just by reading these cold words? "Dad, I found out that the girl in Matthew's heart is his female special assistant. Unfortunately, she is married, and his love is unrequited!"

"Look at this situation positively. Now, you have the opportunity to consolidate the relationship between you and Matthew so that he can divert all his attention to you."

Erica suddenly felt as though she was competing with other girls for Matthew's love, just like the plot of a TV series about the emperor's women. "Are you advising me to attract the attention of a man who doesn't love me?"

"If you are going to think like this, then I can't help you," Wesley replied.

Erica rolled her eyes at the text. "Dad, don't you know that irresponsible men always say that?"

"If you will not change the way you think, then there's nothing I can do about it."

For a moment, Erica was speechless. 'Okay, you win. I will remember this.' "Wesley Li, when you and Mom are old, I'll take you and my mother out for a drive. Then, I will stop at a busy place, and force you to watch as my mother chats with other men."

Wesley replied calmly, "I've never regretted letting you marry Matthew. It's such a pleasure to see that all you can do is complain to me. You can't leave him even though you dislike him."

Erica sent Wesley a crying emoticon. She was so angry that she burst into tears. No one seemed to understand her, and she felt unloved and helpless.

[Chapter 1140 Washing Her Feet](#)

Erica began to wonder if Wesley was really her father. How could he speak to her this way? The man was acting like her sworn enemy. He was even more hateful than Reese.

As the night fell, Matthew arrived at the villa two hours earlier than before. There was no light in the living room except the grayish glare of the TV.

Moving slowly and silently, he crept up to the sofa from behind. Without even looking, he'd known what was on the screen.

It showed a cemetery with two human figures standing in the middle of it. More precisely, it was two ghosts.

With much precision, Matthew reached out and patted Erica on the shoulder, then quickly drew himself back.

"Ah!" Erica screamed and shook.

As she twisted around, Matthew saw her face had instantly gone pale. He'd expected this reaction; it was the second time she'd been scared to death like that.

It took her a few seconds to recognize who had touched her. She calmed down quickly enough, but if looks could kill, Matthew would have dropped dead right then and there.

"Can you not do that when you come back next time?" she demanded, trying to keep her voice down. "Having to deal with you is worse than having real ghosts around. Do you realize that?"

There was a trace of a smile in Matthew's eyes. "What do you want me to do next time?" he asked.

"Call me in advance!" she snapped. "Actually, no, that won't do either. The phone ringing suddenly will scare me too. Just go right upstairs without bothering me." Erica just wanted to enjoy a horror movie without any interruptions. She didn't think it was too much to ask.

To her surprise, as soon as she finished speaking, Matthew went over and turned off the TV. "Let's go upstairs," he said casually.

"What did you do that for? I haven't finished watching that!" Indignant, Erica sat on the back of the sofa. This made her almost as tall as Matthew, and she didn't care how ridiculous she looked.

Without a word, Matthew came over and scooped her up in his arms.

Erica was almost as startled as she'd been just a moment ago. R

got nervous as he started untying his tie. "Why... why are you taking off your clothes?" she asked warily. Did he have some creepy quirks?

Matthew rolled his eyes and threw his tie away without even looking at her. Then he unbuttoned his cuffs.

A possibility occurred to Erica. "Are you going to take a shower?"

With a chilly look at her, he rolled up his sleeves, and squatted down in front of Erica. Reaching into the basin, he took hold of her feet and started rubbing them.

Realizing that he was washing them, Erica wanted to draw back, but his grip was strong, and she couldn't escape it.

Matthew spoke through gritted teeth. "As far as I'm concerned, from now on, you're just a child who can't take care of herself. Just like Ethan." There was no mistaking the loathing in his voice.

His words sank in as Erica sat there, and her good mood finally began to ebb. Being treated like a baby, she couldn't help but feel frustrated.

In the meantime, his big hands continued to work at her feet, efficient but a little bit rough. Feeling wronged, Erica pouted and spoke. "You misunderstood. I can take care of myself. I just have a problem of procrastination."

If she could not even wash her own feet, she would be really useless.

Without even raising his head, Matthew replied, "Shut up. The more you talk, the more you make me think of divorcing you."