

The Returning Ex Chapter

The Returning Ex Chapter 501

While Matilda only reacted with silence, John patiently waited for her to respond. Soon, she chuckled and said,

“John, is that woman really more important than your own mother? Am I seriously the first suspect that comes to your mind? Are you going to assume that it’s my fault every time anything happens to her?”

Desperate to get to the point, John demanded an answer from his mother.

“Just tell me what I want to know. The police have interfered with the matter now, but there is still time for me to do something to keep you out of trouble if you are behind this. Otherwise, we’ll just keep investigating the matter.

”

Matilda said in a serious

manner,

“I didn’t do it!”

**“Alright, then I’ll not interfere,
”**

John said before he directly hung up the call. Upon hearing Matilda’s insistent denial, John started to believe in his mother’s innocence as he was able to feel her rage over the phone. My mother wouldn’t lie if she really did that to Sophia. Instead, she would admit it and justify her mistake at the same time. Soon, he put down his phone and wondered who else it could be besides Matilda. Sophia has a short fuse, but she doesn’t have a lot of friends either, which makes it less likely for her to step on anyone’s toes. With a pair of furrowed brows on his face, John realized that his relationship issue was actually far more serious than he thought it was. That night, John and Logan decided

to stay in Sophia's place, whereas Zack had to leave because he still had work the next day. Since John was likely not able to show up for work on time, Zack was expected to fill in for him until he came.

Therefore, he decided not to stick around for the night.

At the same time, Sophia was up all night in her room while waiting for the news. The following morning, the police called John and informed him that Robin had been found in the middle of the night. After that, he quickly scuttled upstairs to tell Sophia about the news, whereupon she immediately sprang from her bed.

"Where is she now? I want to see her!" Without even getting changed, she hopped into John's car directly and set off for the police station.

When Robin was found at

midnight, she was seen to be extremely frightened but unhurt. After being rescued, she settled down in a lounge with a tired look on her face. As soon as Sophia went inside, she immediately broke into tears, hugging Robin while apologizing to her. Meanwhile, Robin, who had cried earlier, felt a lot better at the moment as she comforted Sophia and assured the latter that she was fine.

In the meantime, John shot a gaze at Robin and turned around, leaving both ladies behind in the lounge.

Then, Sophia proceeded to ask Robin what had happened, but even Robin herself couldn't really give an accurate account of the incident. According to her, her mouth was suddenly covered by someone when she went to the washroom the night before. After that, she lost her consciousness, unable to recall

anything when she was taken by her abductors. When she opened her eyes, she found herself alone under a tree in a remote hilly region. Fortunately, her arms and legs weren't bound, so she fumbled her way down the mountain and took a while before she finally saw someone who later helped call the police.

Robin's statement didn't provide any useful clue as she couldn't even tell whether the person who covered her mouth was a man or a woman. Soon, she gazed at Sophia and said, "I don't know who did that to me because I don't remember making any enemy."

In response, Sophia only rubbed her back gently, knowing that it was not the right moment to tell her friend what she knew yet. Since Robin was unharmed,

Sophia reckoned that the abductors abandoned her in the middle of nowhere after they realized they got the wrong person. After John dealt with the necessary procedures, he was told that they could leave. At the same time, Sophia wanted to clear her confusion but decided to keep those questions to herself with Robin around. Therefore, she deemed that they should leave the police station for the time being since Robin hadn't been home throughout the night, as she had also received a number of missed calls from her family.

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In the end, everyone gathered at Sophia's place. While she was busy cooking, Robin was sitting in the living room and calling home at the same time, telling her parents that she bunked down at Sophia's place. In fact, Robin had already

informed her family the night before that she would be coming home

late due to their celebration.

Therefore, she told them that she was afraid that she'd

disturb them if she

came home too late, so she

decided to stay over at her

friend's place instead.

When Sophia was done with

cooking, everyone proceeded to

enjoy their meal. Then, Logan

called for his

men to see Robin home. After

that, Logan looked at John and

asked him,

"Did you find out

what

happened?"

John shook his head.

"Not a

single thing.

" Although the

surveillance camera managed

to capture the

suspects' car heading toward

the urban area, they were

eventually able to get away

with it due to the

blind spots in the traffic there.

Therefore, the police couldn't track down the places the suspects had been to. Instead, they only concentrated on the mountain where Robin was found even though they still failed to find any useful lead in the end.

Nonetheless, the police promised to look into the matter, although they couldn't guarantee that the mystery could be solved. After all, the information they had was way too limited to proceed with the investigation any further, plus there was nothing serious that happened in the end. With their limited powers, the police would rather direct their focus on criminal cases that were more urgent and serious.

Therefore, they could all empathize with the law enforcers, considering the number of cases they had to attend to throughout the city. Thus, it was no surprise that

they would prioritize those serious cases over trivial incidents like this one. Unlike his usual bluff manner, he spoke up for the police.

“It’s not easy for them either.”

Sophia came closer while hugging her shoulders.

“They’re all after me, aren’t they?”

John didn’t dare to jump to conclusions, but from the looks of things at the moment, it appeared that

the matter was as Sophia inferred that whoever did this was indeed after her. Sophia then sat on the

couch and asked herself,

“Who did I cross?”

John went ahead and said,

“I spoke to my mom last night.

She is innocent, and I’m sure she didn’t lie

because I know that’s not who she is.

”

Sophia didn't think Matilda was behind the abduction either, knowing that she wouldn't be able to pull off something like this by herself. She is too dim-witted to do something like this. The most she'd do is probably just hiring some two-bit thugs to rough me up. Anything more than that would prove too challenging for her. At the thought of that, Sophia nodded and said,
“It's not her.

”

Logan then pondered and said,
“It must be Isabelle then. You both haven't exactly gotten along with each other well either, just like the last time when you ladies argued over some nightdress.

”

Sophia knitted his brows and wondered. Really? Isabelle? But I have a feeling she is not behind all this because

she is not dumb after all. She may have a crush on John and would rather do anything for him, but she doesn't always have to do it herself. Furthermore, it'd draw a lot of attention to pull off a stunt this big unless it's perfectly planned and coordinated. Therefore, I think Isabelle is smart enough to keep herself out of trouble like this one. Sophia shook her head and replied,
"I don't think it's her either."
"

"Why not? My intuition tells me she is the one!" Logan blurted out,
"Isabelle is always up to something. Don't let her innocent look fool you! She is full of deceptions, and no one should ever hang around with her."
"

Upon hearing that, Sophia shot a gaze at John and noticed his

furrowed brows, realizing his calm expression despite Logan's provocative remark. After that, she took her gaze off the man, wondering why he didn't stand up for Isabelle even when Logan accused her.

Upon making his point, Logan shifted his gaze to John and asked,

"What do you think? Do you think Isabelle is behind all this? I think it's her."
"

John paused and said, "Well, I can't conclude anything until I investigate the matter. After all, we need evidence to confirm our suspicion."
"

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Logan didn't say a single word more, only pursing his lips. Meanwhile, John didn't stick around any longer before he decided to

leave for his office due to work.
When he left, Sophia said
something
without looking at him.
“Thanks
for your help last night.
”

John looked back at Sophia,
knowing that she was saying
that to him. In response, he
responded with an
affirmative hum.

“Just doing
the least I could.

” In that instant,
both of them appeared rather
polite to
each other. Not long after John
left, Logan, who was beat as
well, decided to make a move
too. At the
same time, Sophia felt a
headache as she proceeded to
head upstairs for a rest,
collapsing into her bed
for some shut-eye.

In the meantime, John was
exhausted as well, although he
still had the energy to go about
his work. I
guess I will return to the

company.

Zack was on the way to the office with some documents when he saw his superior returning. Therefore, he went up to him before asking,

“So, how’s the situation?”

John responded with an affirmative hum.

“We found her, and she is fine.”

Zack heaved a sigh of relief.

“That’s good news. What about the abductors? Did the police manage to find out who did this?”

John didn’t say a single word as he returned to his own office.

Confused with his action, Zack followed

behind his boss into the room.

John then sat down and explained his analysis to Zack, whereupon the

latter frowned and asked,

“Isabelle? I don’t think so. She just seems too timid for the job.”

”

John responded with an affirmative hum and said,

“I

don't think so either. It's just not necessary for her to do that.

” Although she may not get along well with Sophia, I don't see why she'd take it too far.

Furthermore, Sophia and Isabelle haven't met each other up in a while, so it just doesn't add up to assume she is the culprit.

A few moments later, Zack probingly asked,

“Do you need me to get someone to spy on Isabelle?”

John nodded slowly and said, “Go ahead. That should ease our mind.

”

Zack agreed and left while John remained seated, massaging his temples before he reached for his phone. Then, he saw a message from Isabelle telling him that

she would be dining with Matilda later that night. Nevertheless, John couldn't care less about that because Matilda wouldn't want to meet him up in person anyway. My mom would perhaps still want to dine with me if it weren't for that call. I guess I really did piss her off the last time we spoke over the phone. Anyway, it doesn't matter to me since I can now have a peace of mind. While he was clearing his thoughts in his office, William came over with some files in his hands. In fact, he wasn't planning on coming in until he saw John inside when he passed by his office. Like his usual appearance, William asked, "What happened? I heard from Zack that you had something to deal with in the morning. What was going on?" John contemplated and replied, "Sophia needed some help last

night, so I went over and lent a hand.

”

While John downplayed the incident, William didn't take it seriously either. He then nodded and added, “Sophia is all by herself without a family. Although the both of you are divorced, she is the one your grandpa was worried about the most before he died. So, I think we should help her out more often.

”

John gave a positive reply before he asked William another question, “I heard from your grandma that you've been making frequent trips to the hospital for a friend.

” His reply put William in a trance as he stared at his son with an awkward look. William didn't deny but instead nodded.

“Yeah, I have a friend

who's been admitted to the hospital.

There is no one else to look after her, so I went there to help out.

”

“Guess my mom isn't aware of it,

” John smiled and said.

Witnessing his son's smile, William embarrassedly said,

“I guess that doesn't matter now.

”

John replied,

“I wish Mom understands that, but you need to stay hidden, or trouble is bound to follow.

”

William smiled and said,

“Yeah, I'll do my best to keep a low profile. After all, I'm clearly aware of the consequence that unconfirmed rumors can bring.

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 504
From the way William spoke, it**

didn't seem like he was hiding anything as he sounded frank and open.

However, that was how William normally behaved, so John figured that William probably didn't cross the line.

William wanted to leave after chatting for a while, but he pondered for a moment and stood still after turning around.

"I heard from your Uncle Owen that Dylan's dates haven't been going well. Since you're around Dylan's age, if you're free, try asking him if he has any specific requirements. He couldn't just continue on blind dates like this, and I think he should have a target.

"

John paused.

"You're right. I'll talk to him about this when I have the chance.

"

Then, William left. Staring at

William's silhouette, John thought to himself, William is a capable man with a good temper. How did he even end up with Matilda in the first place?

The thought of this made John grin.

I shouldn't be thinking about this.

William hadn't gone to the company before noon, so he got really busy during the afternoon. Hence,

Zack only came over after working hours.

Noticing that all of the staff outside were almost gone, Zack shut the door.

"I got someone

to investigate

Isabelle, but we couldn't get anything at all. I'm not saying that we can't find anything at all, but it's just

that her recent activities have been straightforward, and none of them involved Sophia or any shady people.

"

John mumbled an answer at that. Still, there weren't any expressions on his face.

Zack sat back in his seat before staring at John.

"Who else should we investigate? I don't think there's anyone left anymore."
"

Hearing Zack's statement, John started pondering as well.

"I guess we can try investigating the Morgan Family as well, although I don't think that they would be possible."
"

However, besides the Morgan Family, he really didn't know who else could Sophia offend. Her social circle was too small. If the Morgan Family was removed from suspicion, there was no one else that John could investigate anymore.

Agreeing to the suggestion, Zack nodded.

"The Morgan

Family is the only one left.

”

Soon, he left while

John remained in his seat.

A while later, he received a text message from Isabelle along

with a picture of her and

Matilda having

dinner, although there wasn't

any correlation between the

picture with her text at all.

'Mrs. Constance is complaining

that you don't trust her. Are

there any misunderstandings

between you

two?'

John took a glance at her text

before exiting his WhatsApp.

He didn't want to answer

Isabelle's question and didn't

want to know what she was

having with Matilda.

Then, John took his phone and

left the office to get his car,

after which he headed to

Sophia's place.

He parked his car a distance

away from her house before

walking over to her front door.

The front door and the door

leading to the living room were

wide open while Sophia sat on the couch in her living room, watching TV. At the same time, she was chatting away with someone on the phone.

John slowly walked closer and soon could earlier hear Sophia talking by the time he reached the front door.

It was probably Robin on the other end of the call. Sophia's eyes were fixated on the TV while she spoke with a hint of a smile as she asked her friend if she was feeling better.

Not knowing what Robin replied, John heard Sophia again.

"He's still under intensive training, so I couldn't get in contact with him. Moreover, I don't really want him to know about this because I'm afraid he might get distracted."
"

Robin replied something again before Sophia started giggling.

“Yeah. Ian has always been nice to me.”

John stopped dead in his tracks as he stood where he was and stared at Sophia.

However, Sophia didn't notice him at all, as she was immersed in her phone call.

It was obvious that Sophia held Ian in high regard, as she'd mention Ian so frequently that it was hard to miss.

John paused for a moment before he turned around and went out.

Then, he stood on Sophia's lawn for a while as she continued speaking on the phone.

There was probably a lot to talk about between the two girls.

John sighed. I probably shouldn't wait any longer.

Without meeting Sophia, he walked out of the lawn and closed the gates with him.

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When John got back to his car, he took his cigarette pack out.

He wasn't one with a smoking addiction, but he had been smoking more frequently during this period of time.

At this rate, he was already developing an addiction to smoking.

Still, John pondered for a moment and kept his lighter after taking it out. He merely placed a cigarette near his nose before smelling it.

The lights in Sophia's living room are still on.

A few seconds later, John placed the cigarette down before starting his car and left. However, Sophia was oblivious to all of these. After she hung up on Robin, she got up to close the door.

When Sophia noticed that the gate to her lawn was already closed, she was surprised.

She could recall that the gate was left open when she went to throw the rubbish just now.

After staring at the gate for a while and glancing outside, Sophia didn't notice anything

wrong, so she went back to her house and locked the door and the windows before going back to her room.

The next few days were extremely productive for Sophia, as she was busy with her driving lesson and shop.

Her shop's business was way better than back when Robin was working alone, and now they were getting more takeaway orders.

Logan had been very supportive and would always order from her almost every night.

Great business, smooth days as well as the fact that John hadn't been coming over to bother her suddenly made Sophia feel hopeful about her future.

Ian's talent show trailer had been successful as well.

The show made its release on the Internet, and Sophia had been sitting in front of her laptop on that day itself.

To be honest, Sophia knew that

Ian wouldn't be making his appearance so early in the show, but she still

watched it due to respect, just like how she respected Ian.

Logan, who was watching the show at his clubhouse, also called Sophia as they started discussing the show. Right then, Sophia's phone vibrated. Someone was trying to call her through WhatsApp, and upon checking her phone, she realized that it was a WhatsApp call from Ian.

Since Ian was calling her, she naturally hung up on Logan. Ian probably just got his phone back, so Sophia quickly accepted the call and asked how he was doing recently.

Without hesitation, Ian replied that he was fine while Sophia informed him that she was watching his show.

At that, Ian sighed in a low, raspy voice.

"To be honest, I

kind of regretted joining this show. I shouldn't have come.

”

Initially, Sophia thought that Ian was wrongfully treated at the show. However, Ian suddenly lamented,

“I

haven't seen you in such a long time after I left, and I really, really miss you.

”

Learning the reason the man regretted joining the show, Sophia was taken aback. She didn't know if it was because they talked on the phone, but Ian didn't sound like he meant it in a friendship kind of way. Still, if she were to say that he meant it in another way, that would likely be her overthinking.

She just couldn't help but feel like someone like Ian deserved someone as smart as Isabelle. Ian's ideal girl was probably someone who was knowledgeable as well.

Sophia paused before she started laughing.

**“To be honest,
we all really miss you as well!
Logan had been
nagging that we don’t even
have enough players for a
Monopoly match after you
left.
”**

However, Ian only chuckled at that and didn’t say anything else.

Sophia didn’t know why she suddenly felt awkward, so she immediately changed the topic and asked Ian about what he was doing and practicing there.

Although Sophia didn’t really know what Ian was talking about, he still patiently told her about his entire schedule for the day.

After talking about nothing for a while, Ian told her that he had to go.

His phone was going to get confiscated again.

Knowing that she needed to hang up soon, she sighed.

“Alright. It’s late anyway, and you should sleep early.”

After hanging up, Sophia’s grip on her phone tightened as she frowned and thought to herself, Why did it become so awkward between me and Ian now? Could it be due to us not contacting each other for a long time?

**The Returning Ex Chapter 506
Sophia decided not to overthink it as she couldn’t figure anything out.**

She found out that many of the earlier contestants were not bad after watching the show for a while.

According to the voting system, many of the contestants who went for the hype of it were already eliminated.

Those that were able to get into the show were all very talented. Sophia was slightly intrigued, as all of these contestants were great. I wonder if Ian could rise

up above

these people. It might be bad if he couldn't, as the Morgans will probably taunt him about it.

The thought of that made Sophia start pondering about the Morgan family.

Logan did tell me that Simon was admitted to the hospital after he got beaten up. Then...

Wait, then what about Matilda?

What was Matilda trying to do when she was sneaking around the hospital like that

Oh! Right. She probably wanted to see the woman that William wanted to marry back then.

After that, Sophia's mind started wandering all over the place.

Suddenly, she thought of something evil and pursed her lips.

I wonder what Matilda will do if William's relationship with that woman gets rekindled?

The idea of it made her feel curious.

After pondering for a while, Sophia immediately went to wash up to prepare to sleep.

She had been going to her shop on time every day, just like when she went to work, so she maintained a regular schedule.

However, after lying down, Sophia recalled something. Taking her phone, she tapped into that unknown account on her Facebook.

This account's feed had been emptied up until recently when it posted a new status.

It was a picture of her shop's plaque.

'No Response'

.

Then, that account captioned it as: 'Terrible'

.

Sophia was taken aback. Indeed, this should be someone from the Morgan Family.

However, after thinking about the possibilities, she concluded that this account was most likely

Matilda's.

Sophia didn't remember if she had added Matilda on Facebook,

but she figured she did after thinking about it.

Then, she quitted the app.

Matilda is probably really bored to the point of stalking my life.

Still, Sophia wasn't mad about it. Instead, she felt happy. She

wasn't afraid of others

watching her as the

more they watched her, the

more it motivated her to live

well.

Comparing her life to Matilda's,

it seemed like she was having it way better than Matilda.

This is enough. She was grateful for the life she led.

The next day, Sophia went to her shop to start off a busy day.

However, people from the

Blackwell family had come

before any customers did.

The matriarch of the Blackwell

family came over with a car and

entered the shop with the help

of a maid.

Sophia was surprised when she saw her.

Although the matriarch of the

Blackwell family was healthy,

she'd still need other's help and supervision,
as she was already old after all. Sophia was really afraid that something bad might happen if the matriarch of the Blackwell family didn't be careful.

She immediately walked over. "Madam Blackwell, what brings you here?"

The matriarch of the Blackwell family looked happy when she saw Sophia, as she extended her hand over for Sophia to grab on.

"Come on!
Let's have a seat inside."
"

Kate released herself from her servant's hold before grabbing onto Sophia's arm.

"I came over because I overheard that you opened your own shop. How is it? Is your business alright?"

Sophia nodded.

"It's not bad. Sometimes it even gets so packed that I struggle to handle

it.

”

The matriarch of the Blackwell family scanned the surroundings of the shop.

“Looks like a nice place.

”

However, the reason the matriarch of the Blackwell family came today wasn't just to visit the shop.

Instead, she wanted to invite Sophia over to her place to have a meal.

Sophia chuckled before looking like she was troubled.

“I don't have much time recently, so I'm not sure if I can make it.

”

Still, the matriarch of the Blackwell family had already predicted this reaction, so she refused to release Sophia from her grasp.

“I just want you to come over for a meal. I don't have any bad intentions. It's just that I heard that you're here

alone and I really like you as a person. Why don't you just come over for me? Would that be alright?"

Sophia felt helpless when she heard her.

It seemed like Kate really knew what to say so that Sophia couldn't reject her.

Since Kate had already made her intentions clear, it would be impolite if Sophia rejected her.

Not knowing what to say, Sophia pursed her lips.

Right then, the servant next to her suggested,

"Miss

Gwendolyn, why don't you just go over? The

Blackwells are really excited to see you.

"

After considering for a moment, Kate suggested,

"Why don't you

just close your shop for a day?

I'll cover

your loss.

"

"No, no, it's not that.

" Sophia

sighed.

“Alright. Just inform me when you’re planning to have a meal, and I’ll arrange my schedule.

”

Kate finally smiled at that. Then, she left after getting what she wanted, as she didn’t want to bother Sophia from her business anymore.

However, when Kate was about to leave the shop, she turned around to face Sophia.

“You’re a really good girl.

”

Any average human would die to get closer to the Blackwells, but Sophia looked as if she just wanted to run away.

This made Kate like her even more.

After sending Kate off to her car, Sophia waved.

“Have a safe trip.

”

Right then, Kate rolled her window down and looked at Sophia.

“I’ll send my driver over to fetch you, so you can just wait for us.”

Sophia smiled and nodded before waving Kate goodbye. After the car drove away, Kate finally sat up straight.

The servant, who was sitting next to her, lamented,

“Miss Gwendolyn looks like a really nice girl.”

Kate smiled at that.

“It’s too bad that her family background isn’t that good.”

The servant chimed in with an agreement.

After a while, Kate continued,

“But, we can still be close in other ways. After all, our family’s business did get better after that tarot reading.”

The Blackwell Family had run into a rough bump a while back. As the matriarch of the Blackwell Family got ill, their business was stagnant due to slow capital return, and some problems came up with their bank loan.

In short, they were in a huge mess.

However, things started to change for the better after the matriarch of the Blackwell Family's birthday party.

Kate had always been a superstitious person and would pray whenever she could, so now she started treating Sophia as her savior.

The matriarch of the Blackwell Family believed that it was Sophia's tarot reading that resurrected the Blackwell Family.

The servant naturally couldn't say anything against her, so she could only chime in agreement. Kate pondered for a moment. "To be honest, I had the

intention of setting Fabian up with Sophia, but I dropped that idea now that I think about it. The Third Blackwell Family probably wouldn't want it anyway. My third daughter-in-law probably wants a daughter-in-law from a good background, as she didn't seem to like it when I tried to hint at her about it, so I don't want to be the bad person. Moreover, Sophia would disagree too. I mean, look at her. She looks like she wants to run every time she sees me.

”

By the time Sophia sent Kate off, the shop's morning preparation was almost done.

Sophia looked like she was in a daze as she stood behind the counter.

It had been days since John last showed up, and she would occasionally think of him when she got home after a long day of work.

John used to annoy her so much

when he'd come over almost every day to look for her. Now that she hadn't seen him in days, she couldn't help but miss him again.

I'm such a hypocrite.

After snapping out of her trance, customers started filling in.

It was usually the office workers who came in the morning to take away some desserts and coffee as their breakfast.

After Sophia handled a few customers, another customer came, and she asked while her head was still

lowered,

"What can I get for you?"

The person replied,

"I'm going to order a lot more than usual today.

"

Dumbfounded, Sophia's head snapped up.

The person that she was still thinking about suddenly showed up.

John appeared in his working suit while he stood in front of her with his hands in his pockets.

“Pack a few more sets for me according to your likings so that I can bring some back for my staff as well.”

Robin grinned and walked over, as she hadn't seen John for a long time already.

“Follow me to see if there's anything to your liking so that I can pack them up for you, Mr. Constance.”

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John gave Sophia a few more glances before turning around and following Robin to the refrigeration cabinet.**

Sophia could vaguely hear John and Robin chatting about what desserts and drinks would suit each other as she stood behind the counter.

From the side, Sophia noticed

that John looked colder now.
He looked different from how
he was in the
past.

She felt like the way John
looked now would probably
scare people away, and girls
wouldn't want to go
after someone like this.

Sophia didn't know if she was
blinded in the past, but she just
found people like John very
attractive.

I guess there was something
really wrong with my taste.

After Robin finished packing up
the meals, John came over to
pay.

However, Sophia refused to
accept his money.

"It's on the
house. Since you've helped me
so much in the
past, I won't be charging you for
these.

"

John didn't hesitate as well.

"I'll
be supporting your business
more in the future, then.

"

Right after, he nodded at Sophia and left.

Sophia stood behind the counter as she thought to herself, John seems really different from how he was before today.

At one point back then, he was shameless and slow to understand, but he doesn't act like that anymore.

It seems like he went back to how it was when he didn't love her.

Sophia smiled a little at that.

That's good.

It's better like this anyway.

There wouldn't be anything between them anymore.

After John drove away, Robin walked over.

"Hey, did Mr.

Constance come over for you?"

Hearing the question, Sophia snorted.

"Why would he come over for me? I haven't been in contact with him for a long time already. He probably came over to buy some stuff because he was

passing by.

”

Robin nodded before she pouted.

“You’re right. I’ve never seen the two of you contacting each other, although I’m with you every day.

”

Then, Robin looked outside while she leaned on the counter.

“But, are you willing to let go of him, though? Mr. Constance is a really nice person, and it would be a loss to let him go just like that.

”

Sophia smiled.

“It’s not about being willing or not. It’s just that I’m more than often sad when I was with him, so how can we continue going on like that?”

Robin grunted at that and didn’t say anything anymore.

They finally got to rest for a while after the rush hour in the morning was over.

There wasn't much left at the shop anymore, so Robin busied herself to make more desserts while

Sophia watched and learned from the side.

Right then, Robin asked,

"Have

you guys found that person that kidnapped me back then yet?"

There weren't any updates from the police, and John didn't say anything when he came

over just now,

so there probably wasn't any update yet.

Robin sighed.

"To be honest, I

don't really care if we can't find that person since I wasn't

injured

anyways. It's just that I feel like

I'm left hanging, and I can't

seem to let go of the breath

that I've been

holding.

"

Sophia nodded.

"You're right.

As long as those people aren't captured, it's hard to feel at

ease.

”

Robin hummed in agreement.

“But I feel like Mr. Constance would continue investigating this. Just now, I almost...

”

Robin lowered her tone before she turned around to Sophia.

“I

almost wanted to ask him when he would be able to find the mastermind behind this. However, I thought about it later on and realized that he had no obligation to help us, so I didn't ask him in the end so that I don't sound so immature.

”

Sophia chuckled when she heard Robin. Yeah. John really didn't have any obligation to help her.

After the morning rush hour, Sophia went for her driving lesson since there weren't many customers during the noon.

When the driving lesson ended

in the afternoon, she took a cab back to her shop but ended up stuck in a traffic jam and stopped in front of a mall.

Pondering for a moment, Sophia decided to get out of the cab and head to the mall to get some stuff.

The male and female apparel were located on the second and third floor of the mall respectively, so

Sophia took the escalator up. Right after Sophia got off the escalator, she turned around and ran into Matilda.

Matilda just bought some stuff and was standing in front of a shop while being on the phone.

The Returning Ex Chapter 509
Matilda's voice was loud, and she looked upset.

It was possibly due to Matilda's bad temper and her habit of frowning during the past few years that her facial expression looked terrifying. Although she's just speaking on the phone, she looks scary.

Sophia stopped after thinking of that and started walking over. Matilda overlooked Sophia as she was shrieked into her phone with anger evident in her voice.

“He went there every day?!”

The person on the other end of the call replied something and Matilda harrumphed.

“That sl*t!

It seems like my warning back then wasn’t threatening enough. How dare she still come over?!” Sophia could already figure out what was happening when she heard Matilda.

Matilda was obviously pissed off that William had been taking care of that woman whom he almost married at the hospital.

After a few more scoldings, Matilda hung up after saying, “I’ll destroy that b*tch this time!”

Sophia paused before she ran to hide when she saw Matilda strutting over to the direction

**of the
escalator.**

**As Matilda was pissed off, she
didn't notice the person next to
her and went down from the
escalator.**

**Thus, Sophia followed right
behind her.**

**Seeing that Matilda went out to
get a cab, Sophia followed
along as well.**

**Sophia could already guess that
Matilda was heading to the
hospital. Matilda wasn't one to
beat around**

**the bush, and from the
conversation that Sophia
overheard just now, Matilda
probably wanted to go to
the hospital to cause a scene.**

**Sophia pondered for a moment
before taking her phone out.**

**She was in a predicament, for
she wanted Matilda to go cause
a scene since this wouldn't be
beneficial**

**toward Matilda if things went
out of hand. However, she felt
like she couldn't just let Matilda
do that as**

John had helped her out after

all.

After thinking it through,
Sophia decided to contact John.
The call was connected in no
time as John's voice rang out.

"Sophia.

"

Sophia hummed in response.

"I

just saw your mother just now,
and she was heading toward
the hospital
in anger. I feel like something
bad might happen.

"

John paused before he came
back to his senses immediately.
After telling Sophia that he
understood, he
hung up hurriedly.

Sophia placed her phone down.
It seemed like John was coming
to the hospital.

Sophia's cab tailed behind
Matilda's to the hospital as the
latter could be seen getting out
of the car. She
had a handbag with her as she
walked toward the hospital in a
rush.

Sophia came out of the cab as

she watched Matilda getting stopped by a person.

It was the doctor that checked Ian's injuries last time, Dr. Holt.

Dr. Holt stood in Matilda's way and said something incoherent while the latter shrugged him off and

pointed her finger at him.

"Don't think that I don't know why you guys are blocking my way! Why won't

you guys let me have a look myself if you guys have nothing to hide? What did that sl*t give you for you

to help her, huh? Or, could it be that you have something with her as well, so that's why you're helping her?"

What Matilda said was so offensive that Dr. Holt's face immediately darkened.

Even Sophia, who was tailing Matilda, felt like what she had said was really rude.

She couldn't go up to stop Matilda as the latter's short temper fuse was already lit up, so she could only

hide aside and hope that John could reach soon.

Dr. Holt looked upset.

“Madam

Flintstone, please think before you talk as you hold

responsibilities for

the words that come out from your mouth.

”

However, Matilda looked like she lost grasp of reality as she harrumphed.

“Who are you to

tell me what

to do? I wasn't even looking for

you, so why did you appear in

front of me? I'm warning you

not to stand

in my way. I want to meet that

sl*t right now and see what

kind of tricks did she pull to

attract the

attention of a married man.

”

Dr. Holt stared at Matilda for a moment before he spoke in a normal tone.

“Married man?

According to

what I know, William is single.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 510

Matilda froze at where she stood as a ridiculous expression appeared on her face.

“He even told you guys about that?”

Faced with her question, Dr. Holt refused to say anything. A few seconds later, Matilda suddenly smiled.

“So that’s why William chose to get a divorce during this period of time. The two of them had probably gotten in touch a while back and felt like I was getting in between them, didn’t they? Is that why he wants to kick me away now? In their dreams! Just watch me destroy these shameless people!”

Then, Matilda started making her way toward the hospital again.

She had come here before and knew which ward that woman was staying at, so it wasn’t hard

for her to
find that woman.
However, Dr. Holt still stood in
her way.

“Please calm down,
Madam Flintstone. This is a
hospital, and
you’ll be made to leave if you
cause a scene.
”

Still, Matilda couldn’t care less
about getting thrown out
because she looked like she was
about to
pounce in anger.

“Do it, then.
Make me leave. Do you think
that I’m afraid of you? Let me
tell you guys
this; I am not afraid of anything.
Do you think that I would still
care so much when they’ve
already done
something so shameless? Come
on. At most, we could all stop
acting and bring the issue out
into the
open so that others can judge
for us.
”

Sophia couldn’t help but feel

intrigued. Matilda is really not bad at this. Was it all an act when she made herself look so vulnerable in front of her?

Dr. Holt closed his eyes after glancing at Matilda.

There was no way to stop her at this point as there were more and more onlookers gathering here.

If Matilda really caused a scene here, it would absolutely wreak havoc.

Seeing that Dr. Holt stopped saying anything, Matilda harrumphed and pushed him away before she started heading to the warding area at the back of the hospital. After Matilda left, Dr. Holt immediately contacted John as well.

However, John was still stuck in a traffic jam, and he felt increasingly anxious the longer time went by.

He had been running into red lights at every junction on his way to the hospital.

On the other hand, William had

already returned to the Constance Residence. However, he didn't get

John to come back as Matilda might start causing a ruckus when she saw John with her temperament.

John was still stuck in a junction when he received a call from Dr. Holt before he accepted the call.

After hearing Dr. Holt's report about what happened, John sighed.

"Sorry for causing an inconvenience.

What about this? You can just ignore her so that she couldn't ruin your reputation when she starts

sprouting bullsh*ts. I'm on my way now, and I'll settle everything else.

”

After that, John hung up when the traffic light turned green and slammed on the gas pedal. Sophia followed Matilda to the hospital wards and went upstairs as well, although she didn't dare to get

too close to Matilda.

Matilda had already caused a scene at the wards as many doctors and nurses started going over to her.

This time, it was impossible for Sophia to try to get closer as the situation was completely out of hand.

Matilda's criticisms were exceptionally loud, and she accused the woman of being a homewrecker. She claimed that the woman was picky and dumped her husband when she was young, but she just couldn't stand seeing Matilda being happy, so she came to seduce William again so that he would divorce his wife.

There were a few sobs while Matilda continued scolding and cursing, but Sophia couldn't tell if her cries

were genuine or not, as the situation was too messy.

Sophia was helpless as she stood in the corridor.

William must have done

something terrible in his past life to marry a woman like this in his current life.

Although Matilda always told her that she doesn't deserve John, from Sophia's perspective, someone from a lesser background like hers was way better than someone as short-tempered and ill-mannered as Matilda.

When John reached, the situation had escalated and gone completely out of hand. The doctors and nurses that came to help were all attacked by Matilda as she pushed all of the medical equipment and medicines to the ground.

That woman had just come out of surgery and still couldn't get out of her bed. Therefore, when Matilda came over to cause a scene, her wound split again.

The doctors and nurses in charge immediately went over to tend to the woman's injury. The securities came as well.

However, Matilda started thrashing around and threw a tantrum on the ground, causing the security guards to be at a loss on what to do to her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 511
John walked over and squeezed past the crowd before he grabbed Matilda and asked coldly,

“Mom, what are you trying to do?”
Matilda burst into tears the moment she turned around and saw John.

“John, it’s your dad. Your dad cheated on me with this sl*t! It’s good that you’re here now. Look, this is the reason why your dad wants to divorce me. Look at this; this is the woman.”

John looked upset as he grabbed Matilda and ignored what was happening in the ward.

“Let’s just leave this place and talk about it

when we get back home.

”

However, Matilda shrugged him off.

“What are you talking about? I don’t have a home anymore. I’ve already left the marriage without anything after how your dad treated me. How could I be so stupid to leave all my money with him so that he could spend it on that woman?” Then, Matilda raised her finger to point at the woman in the ward.

“Do you know that this homewrecker had already tried to seduce your dad once a few years back but disappeared for a while after I beat her up? She’s back again now.

I’ve never met anyone so audacious. This is just too much.

”

Those patients and their families who were onlooking started whispering to each

other. Although John couldn't hear what they were gossiping about, he knew that it probably wasn't anything good.

Faced

with this complicated situation, John could only sigh.

"You can't

solve anything by causing a scene here

either way. Let's talk about this at home. Dad's at home, so you can talk to him about how you feel. The

security guards are going to make you leave if you continue staying here, so there's really no point in causing a scene.

"

However, Matilda couldn't be bothered as she remained as stubborn as a mule.

"I want to make a scene!

I want to let everyone know that your dad and this woman aren't good people! They're both terrible people. Terrible!"

No one would stand a chance

against Matilda's unreasonable claims. Then, the woman turned around and started blabbering to those who were looking, "Do you guys know that this woman inside and my husband were already a thing a long while ago? My husband even tricked me into getting a divorce and made me leave without anything. I didn't even ask him for anything, but he turned around and started being all lovey-dovey with this woman here. I mean, can you guys even trust men nowadays?"

Sophia was impressed as she looked from afar. Gosh, I must say that Matilda is really good at this. If she continued causing a scene, the Constance Family was going to be viral again.

Although William had the thought of reconciling with Matilda, it probably wouldn't happen after this.

Matilda was a competent person, but she had never used her abilities in the right place. However, John raised his voice after waiting by the side for a while.

“If you really want to cause a scene, then let’s do it. Let’s make it even more huge by calling Grandma and Grandpa over so that you can tell them what you went through, and they can do you justice. I’ll also invite the media over to write your articles and release a media press for you. Are you satisfied with that?”

Matilda, who was still crying on another person, stopped right then. Although she wasn’t afraid of most of the things that John mentioned, she felt slightly afraid when he mentioned bringing the Flintstone Family over. Matilda’s days in the Flintstone Family hadn’t been great recently. It seemed like none of

them could stand her, and they all felt like this divorce was her fault.

The other day, even Old Mrs. Flintstone said that she'd want William to get away from someone as gullible as her and remarry someone else to enjoy the life of a normal person. If they knew that she came here to cause a scene, the Flintstones might actually take this opportunity to allow William to follow his will.

Crossing her arms, Sophia was leaning on the wall as she watched from afar. A while later, she noticed that the crowd had started to disperse as John came out of the crowd while dragging onto Matilda's arm.

Sophia immediately hurried to find a place to hide.

The Returning Ex Chapter 512
John actually noticed Sophia, for he could recognize her sneaky looks in the crowd with just one glance.

However, he didn't have the time to greet Sophia right now. Instead, he dragged Matilda out of the ward and left.

Matilda had exposed John's identity when she was busy criticizing others just now, and some people

started recording with their phones when they heard her.

I don't know if this would go viral, but honestly, I really don't know what to say about this.

After leaving the department, the two of them got into John's car.

John's face was dark, while Matilda looked like she was in a daze.

When John started driving, Matilda suddenly burst into tears again before they could reach the hospital's entrance.

She continued scolding how all the efforts she had made were all wasted and that William should be sorry about it.

Then, she went on about how she sacrificed so much for the

family, but William ended up cheating on her and made her leave without anything.

John had enough of listening to all of these, so he could only drive with a dark face while his mother continued crying and complaining.

He drove all the way to the Constance Residence, and when they reached, the gates were already opened.

William's car was already parked in the parking lot.

John refused to look at Matilda after he stopped the car.

"Go on.

Dad is waiting for you in the living room.

”

Matilda wiped her tears off and got out of the car in a huff before heading into the house.

She looked like she was ready to start a fight with John.

However, when Matilda entered the living room, she

was stunned.

Not only was William and Old Mrs. Constance in the living room, but even the two Flintstones were present as well. In fact, all of them were sitting on the couch with upset faces.

Matilda's strong facade immediately disappeared when she saw those two from the Flintstones as she stood unmoving.

"Dad, Mom, why are you guys here?"

Right then, Old Mrs. Flintstone took her phone and threw it at Matilda.

"Look at what you've done.

"

After the mess just now, the footage of Matilda causing a scene at the hospital had gone viral.

William's face was dark when he stared at Matilda. It was completely different from back then.

In the past, William would be patient and try to console

Matilda whenever she threw a tantrum.

Although he would look impatient, he would never have reacted like how he did today.

William looked like he was completely done with her.

John didn't come out of the car as he raked the seat of the car down before lying down.

He really didn't want to listen to those people arguing in the living room. Moreover, with Matilda's

chaotic personality, they probably wouldn't reach an agreement anyway.

Right then, John took his phone out and contacted Sophia.

When the call was connected, John sighed.

"Thanks for today.

"

"It's fine. You don't have to thank me since I didn't help out anyway.

" Sophia's tone was clipped, and it sounded a bit like she was gloating at him.

However, John didn't want to care about these anymore as he replied,

"At least you still

informed me, so

I still have to thank you for it.

"

顾思也没说话。

Even after he thanked her, she didn't say anything.

Therefore, John was slightly agitated, but he didn't hang up on her. Instead, he asked Sophia about what she was doing.

Sophia was already back at her shop, so she told him that she was resting since there weren't many customers at the shop right now.

John pondered for a moment, after which he chuckled.

"Sophia, are you relieved that we got a divorce earlier?"

Faced with John's question, Sophia actually laughed louder than he did.

"Mr. Constance, have you

mistaken something? You're the one who suggested our divorce.

”

However, John only replied a few seconds later,

“Yeah. I was the one who suggested it, but I don't understand why I wanted to get a divorce in the first place now.

”

Sophia thought about it for a moment before she answered thoughtfully,

“Maybe you're unhappy and disgusted by me the more you looked at me because I wasn't someone that you've wanted in the first place but was forced onto you.

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 513
Even after Sophia gave a long explanation, John merely replied,**

“Maybe.

”

When he thought about it, he

did harbor some sort of dislike toward Sophia in the past, and it developed

the moment he met her.

Back then, he didn't know anything about Sophia at all, but he had decided that he didn't like her.

However, he indeed didn't completely dislike her, as he would sometimes think of her as a nice but pitiful person that was forced to be with him when he looked at her.

Maybe he felt sorry for her as well.

Sophia knew why John contacted her. There should be a fight going on right now at the Constance Residence.

John probably didn't want to get involved but felt uncomfortable about it, so he wanted someone to talk to.

Sophia didn't want to retort him, so she got comfortable and started talking about everything and

anything with him.

A while later, John asked her about Ian's situation.

However, he knew clearer than anyone else about Ian's situation right now.

Still, Sophia didn't know that, so she told John about how they spoke on the phone about two days ago.

John replied with an 'oh' and trailed off at that.

Indeed, Ian had too much free time with him, so he actually still had the time to make phone calls.

According to Sophia, she had been watching the music show every day now and was hoping that Ian

could get a good result.

John narrowed his eyes. If Ian really managed to debut, he would probably be very busy.

When he got busy, he wouldn't have time to think about Sophia then.

John chuckled soundlessly. It seems like I should help Ian out.

However, while he was still talking to Sophia, he saw

someone coming out of the main building.

The Flintstone couple came out with Matilda while she cried.

John immediately bid Sophia farewell before he hung up and got out of the car.

The Flintstone couple's facial expression looked better when they saw John.

"Hey, John."
"

However, Matilda turned her head to a side as she didn't want to look at John.

John nodded at the Flintstone couple.

"Grandpa, Grandma, why are you guys leaving so soon?"

Old Mr. Flinstone sighed.

"We are leaving now. Your grandma was so pissed off when she saw the news, and I'm afraid that she might get even more pissed off if we continued staying here."
"

John didn't see the news, so he was slightly shocked.

**“The news
had already come out?”
Old Mrs. Flintstone sighed.
“News spread quickly nowadays.
As soon as there are any slight
movements,
it will start spreading.
”**

**Matilda harrumphed at that.
“It
could be that woman hiring
people to make it viral so that
she can use
the opportunity to set us up.
”**

**..
Old Mrs. Flintstone was
speechless as she turned to
Matilda.
“Just stop talking for
now. You don’t even
know what you did wrong even
until now. You’re helpless.
”**

**Matilda wiped her tears before
getting into the car along with
the Flintstone couple.
John stood where he was
before, watching the
Flintstones driving away.
When Matilda entered the car,**

she snorted.

“You guys also saw how William was like just now. He must have been cheating on me with that woman for a while now. I won’t believe him even though he denies it.”

Old Mrs. Flintstone turned around to look at Matilda. “Even if he had cheated, what you did today was still wrong. You causing a scene would just make you guys drift away even more. Remember what I told you last time? William will surely feel bad that you got divorced without anything. There would be a chance for you guys to reconcile if you’ve acted well but looked at you now. Look at what you’ve done.”

“What should I do, then?”
Matilda shifted around her seat to face Old Mrs. Flintstone.
“I’m

really pissed
off today. William must have
divorced me because of that
woman. Since they don't want
me to be
happy, I won't let them be
happy as well. Now that I've
already ended up like this, I
ain't afraid of
anything anymore.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 514
Although Old Mr. Flintstone
was sitting in the front seat, he
was very tempted to turn
around and slap
Matilda.

“Why are you so
impatient? Has your brain
decayed after all these years?
How could you not
have any improvement? You
immature little girl.
”

Matilda was still afraid of Old
Mr. Flintstone, so she pursed
her lips and lowered her voice.
“What was I
supposed to do? I just feel like
what I did was completely
normal.

”

Right after that, Matilda’s phone started ringing, which surprised her. Taking her phone, Matilda saw

that it was a call from Isabelle, so she stared at it for a while. She knew Isabelle called because the latter saw the news on the Internet, after which she couldn’t help but sigh. After the first call went unanswered, Isabelle immediately followed up with a second call.

Closing her eyes, Matilda informed her parents, “Someone’s calling me.

”

Then, she accepted the call and greeted with a cheerful voice, “Hello, Belle. Why did you suddenly call me? What’s wrong? Did something happen?”

When Isabelle heard that Matilda didn’t sound different from how she was like previously, she was confused.

Isabelle lowered her voice.

“Mrs. Constance, have you seen the news?”

Matilda knew that she would surely contact her because of this, so she chuckled.

“I haven’t.

What’s wrong?”

Isabelle probably felt like it wasn’t suitable to speak about this issue on the phone, so she suggested,

“Mrs. Constance, are you free now? Why don’t we meet up? I have something to tell you.

”

Matilda thought about it before agreeing.

She didn’t want to return to the Flintstone Residence, and those people from the Flintstone Family were probably waiting for her to get back.

Honestly, I really don’t want to see any of those people right now.

Matilda immediately agreed before instructing the driver,

“Please drop me off at the junction in front. I

**have to go settle something important.
”**

Old Mrs. Flintstone leaned back on the seat.

“That was Isabelle, isn’t it?”

Matilda mumbled a response before lowering her head and kept her phone before she heard Old Mrs.

Flintstone remarking,

“Don’t

get too close to her. It’s not good to be close to her considering both of your statuses.

”

Matilda was taken aback as she looked up abruptly at Old Mrs. Flintstone, but the latter ignored her and

looked outside of the window with a frowning expression.

Now that her footage had gone viral, she didn’t know what to do to lower the footage’s engagement.

The Constance Family wanted to announce that the two of them were already divorced.

However, Old Mrs. Flintstone felt like once their divorce was publicized, there wouldn't be any chances for Matilda and William to get back together anymore.

It was impossible for someone with Matilda's temper to find another person as patient as William.

In this entire world, William was probably the only person who could tolerate so many of Matilda's bad habits.

Looking away, Matilda argued, "I really like Isabelle. At least, she's way better than Sophia. Isabelle is educated, unlike Sophia. Sophia is just a wild village girl that doesn't deserve John."
"

Old Mr. Flintstone, who was sitting at the front, couldn't stand the way Matilda was speaking anymore.

"Why does John's liking need to be related to you? Why are you worrying about others when you can't

even understand what's wrong with your action today? You better save your energy for that.

”

Matilda immediately shut up at that. She never talked back to her father, for he was never a person who'd spoil his kids.

After the driver stopped at the junction in front, Matilda got out of the car.

Before she left, Old Mrs. Flintstone didn't forget to remind her,

“Listen to me, stay away from Isabelle.

You've been spoiled by William and us for so many years now, so you never really know how to think

things through. Think about it, alright? Gosh, talking to you makes me really tired.

”

Old Mrs. Flintstone looked away after that and instructed the driver,

“Let's go.

”

Then, the driver drove away slowly. After standing by the side of the road for a long while, Matilda

waved around to halt a cab.

The Returning Ex Chapter 515

Stay away from Isabelle? Are they telling me they want me to get closer to Sophia?

Seriously? These people are all tricked by Sophia's appearance.

Sophia was someone who wouldn't hesitate to trick her mother-in-law, and Matilda would never accept

Sophia because of this.

When Matilda reached the cafe in a cab, Isabelle was already waiting there.

She smiled when she entered the place.

"I'm slightly late

because I was stuck in a traffic jam just now.

"

However, Isabella's facial expression looked somber as she stood up immediately.

"Mrs.

Constance, are you alright?"

Matilda forced herself to be calm.

“I’m fine. What could be wrong?”

Then, Isabelle took her phone and unlocked it while the footage of Matilda causing a scene at the hospital popped up coincidentally.

The situation looked out of hand as Matilda kept crying and sniffing in the footage, but they could already figure out what happened.

Matilda watched the footage as she tried to remain as composed as she could.

“That’s nothing much. It’s not like it’s something huge, right?”

Isabelle kept her phone at that before turning to Matilda.

“Mrs. Constance, did you get a divorce?”

Let’s talk about Matilda. Although she always gave Isabelle false information about

John and Sophia, she didn't lie consciously. Matilda wasn't a good liar, and the wrong information that she had relayed was just her subjective judgments. Right now, Matilda didn't know how to cover her excuse up through observations.

”

So, she nodded after pursing her lips for a moment.

“Yes, William and I are divorced.

”

After that, Matilda didn't forget to add on,

“Causing a scene at the hospital today was actually one of my plans. Since those people won't let me be happy, I won't let them be happy as well. Now that this issue is leaked, the Constance Family are probably in a mess as they try to make a new proposal to go against this playboy.

”

Then, she pushed her hair back.

“To be honest, there’s nothing that I can do since we are already divorced. However, it’s not like we can’t survive without each other. After I’ve lost William, aren’t I still living just the same?”

Isabelle stared at Matilda with a serious look on her face.

So this was why Matilda would always come up with all sorts of excuses whenever she mentioned the idea of visiting her at the Constance Residence.

After that, Matilda would resort to saying that she had been living at the Flintstones Residence. So she had probably gotten divorced back then, huh?

Isabelle initially wanted to take advantage of Matilda to get on the Constance Family’s good side and find a way to get close to John.

However, now that Matilda was like this...

Matilda didn’t even notice Isabelle’s facial expression as

she kept talking and daydreaming about how she would never consider it if William tried to contact her again.

After leaving William, she also said that she wanted to find someone way better than William.

From the sound of it, it seemed like Matilda was dissatisfied and was trying to console herself.

Isabelle stopped talking as Matilda continued babbling as well.

To be honest, Matilda held a grudge after going to the Constance Residence just now.

William and Old

Mrs. Constance sounded determined as they decided that they wanted to announce William and

Matilda's divorce to the public.

Matilda knew that her reputation would be gone entirely the moment this news was announced to the public.

The Flintstone couple also

wished to take things slow, but it seemed like the Constance Family had reached an agreement and had made a decision.

Although Matilda was upset about it, she couldn't do anything. She could only complain so that she would feel better about it.

After going on for a while, Matilda finally realized that Isabella hadn't said anything at all.

Staring at Isabelle, Matilda asked,

“What's wrong, Isabelle?”

However, Isabelle smiled and didn't say anything.

After pondering for a moment, Matilda tried to assure her.

“Don't be worried, for I'll still be at your side regarding you and John. I'll still try to create more opportunities to help you to get closer to John since I've always decided on you as my daughter-in-law.”

Still, Isabelle couldn't listen to all these any longer.

The Returning Ex Chapter 516

Matilda made countless similar promises to Isabelle, but there was no progress between Isabelle and

John at all. Matilda kept saying that she'd help Isabelle, but did she ever?

Isabelle pinched her glabella in frustration.

"Mrs. Constance, is there no hope for you and Mr. Constance? Did you do it impulsively?"

"Impulsive? No, no. I have long noticed that something is not right with him. He started hooking up with that woman years ago. My guess is that their relationship has persisted, so what do I need a man like him for?"

Isabelle forced a smile.

"Ah, is it?" It happened that her phone buzzed, so she picked it up, but the conversation from the other

side was inaudible to Matilda. Isabelle agreed to something a few times and ended the call, after which she looked at Matilda.

“Mrs. Constance, I have something going on in the company. I’m actually excusing myself specifically to meet with you, and I have to rush back now.

”

Failing to sense the change in Isabelle’s attitude, Matilda replied,

“Sure, go ahead. Work is more important.

”

Isabelle clutched her bag and stood up without even looking at Matilda.

“Well, let’s talk again when we’re free then.

”

Matilda watched as Isabelle walked out of the cafe, got into a cab, and left. Then, the smile on her face

promptly vanished.

She slowly turned around and covered her face, for she had no courage to check out that video of her on

the internet. In that video, she looked horrible and totally different from her elegant and poised manner from before.

Matilda sat there sighing and wallowing in regrets for a while before leaving the cafe altogether. When

she hailed a cab back to the Flintstone Residence, she specifically instructed the cab driver for a detour and passed by Sophia's storefront.

Just now, when she was at the Constance Residence, Old Mrs. Constance mentioned Sophia's name and

went on to accuse Matilda of picking on Sophia for a year, making her fall short of her role as a mother-in-law.

Frustrated, Matilda admitted that she did not fulfill her role

as a mother-in-law, but Sophia failed as a daughter-in-law as well. Whose daughter-in-law would physically fight her mother-in-law?

The cab reached Sophia's storefront, where Matilda asked for the cab to stop. Sophia was still greeting customers in the store. Matilda could see her smiling at customers through the French window. I wonder what the customer told her because she appears a little shy. Still, Matilda looked down on Sophia. Look at that unsophisticated smile! How could Sophia even be compared to Isabelle? Feeling angrier the more she watched, she dryly ordered the cab driver to continue the journey,
"We can leave now. Looking at that country bumpkin just makes me gag."
"

The cab driver promptly drove

away without a word. In the store, Sophia had no clue that Matilda just dropped by. She waited for the customers to leave before hurriedly taking a seat and checking her phone.

Her current pastime was to watch the videos of Matilda online, which was an excellent way to de-stress.

Losing the cool and the stature of Mrs. Constance, Matilda appeared no different from the loud women from the countryside. The internet has a long memory. If she was ever unhappy, she could search up this video to entertain herself.

The female patient was, of course, included in the video as well. She lay on the bed in pain and was attended to by a nurse.

Now that Sophia looked more closely at it, the woman appeared younger than Matilda, and due to her bare face, she looked less

threatening than Matilda.
Smacking her lips, Sophia
thought that if William
had any taste at all, he would
never choose Matilda between
the two women.

She wondered how it was going
on Matilda's side. Before this,
she had wanted to reign in
Matilda with
her knowledge of the divorce,
but Matilda leaked the news
out herself. Hah! What a joke!
Sophia replayed the video a few
times before Robin came over
to take a look.

“You've been
watching
this for many times.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 517
Pointing at the crazy Matilda in
the video, Sophia advised her
friend,

“Gosh, look at this.
When you are
looking into getting married in
the future, you must steer clear
of any mother-in-law like her.
No matter
how much you love the man,

you cannot marry him. Do you know how difficult she is? A naive rabbit like you would be hunted and chewed down to bones the first day of your marriage.
”

Robin stared at the video for a while and asked Sophia, “When you first married John, didn’t you learn about his family?”
Sophia clicked her tongue and answered,
“No. I didn’t know better back then.”

Also, Old Mr. Constance treated her very nicely, and everyone dared not show their true faces in front of the patriarch, causing her to mistake the friendliness as acceptance.

At the start of the trouble, she was in a daze as well. When Old Mr. Constance was gone, and she was left alone, she desperately needed a family member on her

side.

She fell right into a huge family like the Constances, and she wanted to be part of them, but she later realized that they didn't want her to be a part of the family. It was a misunderstanding that cost her precious time.

Robin took a seat and rested her chin on her hands.

"Did John treat you well?"

Did John treat me well? That was hard to say because there were instances when he treated her nicely and vice versa. After giving it some thought, she decided to go with an answer, saying,

"I guess... he treated me pretty okay."
"

Robin broke into a smile.

"Look, even when his mother hated you, he still treated you nicely. He sounds like a decent man.

”

A decent man? What rubbish is that? If he had even cared for me, Matilda would not have stepped all over me. Some matters were hard to be explained, so Sophia merely laughed it off.

“Yeah, John is decent.

”

Robin pursed her lips and added, “Actually, one’s relationship with their mother-in-law is not tricky to solve.

”

Sophia smiled at her.

“Well, it depends on the person, I guess. Perhaps, it is not tough for you. I was a bit socially awkward, so it was difficult for me.

”

The conversation ended right there as Sophia and Robin went to work for a while before closing the store. Sophia let Robin leave

before her. As for herself, she counted the cash at the register before

locking the doors to leave.

She didn't feel like going home, so she wandered around on the streets. After dinner and a long stroll,

she finally took a cab home.

When she reached her door, she was shocked to find that the lights on the second floor were switched

on. She was taken aback and wondered if someone sneaked into her house again. Grabbing her

'weapon' from last time in the garden, she unlocked her door and cautiously went up the stairs.

The lights in the corridor were on, and her bedroom door was wide open as well. She inched closer and

tightened her grip on her weapon. The moment she reached the door, she immediately saw a man in her bed.

John was in her bed, and his

shoes were on the floor. He took off his jacket, and even his tie was

loosened. Seeing it was John, she carefully went up to him.

“John?”

Reeked of alcohol, he was asleep with a flushed face.

Realizing that the man was John, she put away the

weapon in her hand and stood there while watching him. Did he get himself drunk because he's upset?

She went over and pushed him.

“John, wake up. How did you get in?”

I'm a hundred percent sure that I locked all the doors on the balcony. John flipped around and mumbled

in a low voice,

“Sophia, stop fooling around.

”

She scratched her head.

“Come

on, tell me first. How did you get in?”

His eyes closed in a stupor before he started responding to

her,
“The lock on your door has
my
fingerprint record.
”

She was stunned because she
clearly remembered deleting his
fingerprint from the records. He
chuckled
gleefully, saying,
“Last time
when I sent you home, I
re-entered my fingerprint.
”

Gritting her teeth in anger,
Sophia thought, What a jerk! He
does not waste any
opportunities, huh?
She went over and pushed him
again.

“Alright. Wake up now.
Why did you drink too much
and come to
my place?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 518
This time, John showed no
response at all; he truly fell
asleep. After struggling for a
while, Sophia was
tired as well, so she sat down
on the bed.

“If you want to sleep, go to the guest room. Today is the final time I’m allowing this. If you try to act dumb when you’re drunk, I’ll call Zack to pick you up.”

John remained unresponsive. Sophia wanted to lift him, but she could not even move him an inch. After two tries, she gave up on moving him.

She went into the bathroom and washed up before leaving her room for the guest room, where John had previously stayed in. The guest room was well-stocked, and the only thing she needed to adjust to was the unfamiliar bed.

She lay down, switched off the lights, and drifted to sleep after cursing at John. In the middle of the night, she felt that something was off and lifted her blanket, but it was pinned down. Hence, she struggled for a bit before

removing the blanket and switching on the lights.

John, who had been sleeping soundly in her room, was now sleeping beside her with his leg on hers. In fact, he reached out and hugged her in his sleep.

She was beyond furious and clenched her teeth as she yelled at him,

“John, are you deliberately doing this to me?”

He was still in a daze, for he was not faking it at all because he really had too much to drink.

Upon hearing her voice, he lifted his arm and pulled her into a hug.

“Go to sleep. I’m tired.”

She pushed him away.

“You animal! What the f*ck are you doing?”

John grabbed the blanket and went back to a night of deep sleep. As for Sophia, she jumped down from the bed and left the guest

room.

Walking back to her room, she locked her door as a precaution.

With this, she believed that John would

not harass her anymore. Indeed, the rest of the night passed without an incident, and Sophia had a good sleep until the sun was up.

When she woke up, no one was asleep beside her, whereupon she washed up and left her room soon.

In the corridor, she thought about it and went over to John's room, where he was still fast asleep in the bed. It appeared that he indeed had too much to drink last night.

She had wanted to wake him up to deliver a scolding, but upon seeing his condition, she gave up on that idea. What's the point of arguing with a drunkard? I guess I'll just add more layers of security on my side.

With that thought in her mind, she went downstairs to make

breakfast. When she was done cooking,
John happened to walk down the stairs.

Since it was a Saturday, he didn't need to work. Yawning, he strolled downstairs and announced,
"Sophia, I'm hungry."
"

She brought the breakfast from the kitchen to the dining hall while scolding him under her breath before saying,
"Come here and eat now. After breakfast, you need to leave immediately."
"

He wandered over, planted himself across her, and checked out the food on the table. Sophia clearly still cared about him because she made an extra portion for him. During breakfast, she declared,
"I've deleted your fingerprints from my lock. Don't come to my place anymore."
"

Unaffected, he shamelessly
agreed and explained,
“I had
too much to drink yesterday,
and I remember
nothing at all.
”

She sneered. He doesn't
remember a thing? Who'd
believe that?
When they were done with
breakfast, he went to take a
seat on the sofa. Sophia
happened to finish
cleaning up in the kitchen and
walked out to see him still
around.

“You can leave now.
”

Since he didn't have to work
today, he was very relaxed.
“I'm
waiting for Zack to send some
fresh clothes
over.
”

He was hungover from
yesterday's drinking, and on top
of that, he didn't take off his
clothes for the
entire night. His shirt was now

extremely wrinkled and embarrassing to look at. Sophia suppressed her irritation and told him,
“But I’m going to work soon.”

He continued acting shamelessly.
“Go ahead. What are you afraid of? Are you scared that I’m going to steal?”

She pursed her lips and gave it a thought before agreeing to the arrangement.

“Alright. You can wait here but don’t pull any tricks. When Zack’s here, you better leave right away.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 519
John merely flashed her a grin without a word, after which Sophia finally left home with lots of worries in her mind. However, she could not exactly pinpoint the reason behind her worries.
It was impossible for John to

steal from her place. Even her house was a generous gift from him. How would he even eye anything in her place?

When she arrived at the store, Robin was already there. The hard worker, Robin, was done with all the cleaning and was sitting on a chair, watching something on her phone. Seeing Robin, Sophia went over and smiled.

“What’s wrong?

Why do you look concerned?”

Robin breathed through her mouth and commented,

“Look,

why is this incident getting out of hand?”

Sophia inched closer and realized that Robin was talking about William and Matilda’s divorce. The

Constances had released a public statement admitting to the divorce and explained that it was a decision made on the grounds of incompatibility. As for the

woman in the hospital, she was only a friend of William, and they never developed an inappropriate relationship. The Constances did not elaborate more than that.

Earlier, John's divorce had been a messy affair. This time, it was William's turn to get a divorce.

There must be a lot of heated discussions online about the Constances' affairs. Not bothering to take a look, Sophia knew that the discussions were never anything positive anyway.

Straightening her body, she went over to the bar counter to tidy things up.

"On this matter, it's a family issue at its core. But many out there love to take part in affairs that are none of their business. Marriages and divorces should not be an issue of interest to these outsiders.

”

Robin nodded in agreement.

“The netizens are really mean in the comments. Even I feel bad when I read the discussion, so I wonder what the Constances would feel if they read these.

”

What would the Constances feel? Well, they would definitely feel uncomfortable.

Sophia was reminded of the drunk John from yesterday. He probably drank himself to oblivion due to his parents’ divorce.

Normally, even at social events, he’d drink within his limits.

The store was busy as usual in the morning, and Sophia had no time to think about anything else. When

they were closed for the lunch break, John stopped by with takeouts. When Sophia and Robin stopped working, he walked in and announced,

“It seems that I arrived at the right time. Let’s

have lunch!”

Robin was happy to see him.

“Mr. Constance, you’re sending us lunch!”

Sophia stood at the bar counter.

“Why are you here?”

John laid out the food on the table and remarked,

“Did you

notice that you’ve been

repeating the same

sentence a lot to me recently?”

Why are you here? What are you here for? It was always one of the two variations. Sophia

was not in the

mood to talk, so John looked at her and explained,

“I haven’t

eaten lunch as well, but I didn’t want to go

home. I wanted to get some lunch buddies.

”

Hearing his excuse, she smirked.

“Isn’t Zack a human too?”

He laughed at the mention of his assistance.

“Zack has a new

target lately. He’s busy going after that girl

and has no time for me.

”

She was taken aback by the news, and her mind instantly clung to the new information, drifting away. I

wonder what type of girl is Zack interested in?

Slowly, she walked over to the table, and John handed her the cutlery. Robin was already seated and

eating. She took a seat beside Robin, and the latter exclaimed, “Yum, it’s good. I’m famished!”

Sophia had nothing more to say.

John was apparently in a low mood today as well, and he remained

silent throughout lunch. Robin was clueless about everything, but she looked at John and commented,

“Mr. Constance, I just read the news online. It seems that the issue is getting blown out of hand.

”

He merely replied,

“Oh? Is it? I

didn’t read it.

”

Robin sighed.

“A divorce that’s being scrutinized by the public must be super uncomfortable.

”

John flashed a half-smile without much interest. After some consideration, Sophia finally asked him,

“Is everything fine on your mom’s side?”

John replied after a pause,

“No big deal. My maternal grandpa has her under his thumb, and nothing much would happen to her.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 520
Had the Constances not called the Flintstones for help, John guessed that Matilda would be even more of a trouble. After taking in some mouthfuls of food, John placed his fork down and leaned into the chair to stare at Sophia and Robin, who were enjoying lunch.

**Noticing that he stopped eating,
Robin looked at
him.**

“You’re not eating?”

He couldn’t help but sigh.

**“I
don’t have the appetite.
”**

**The girls knew the reason
behind his lack of appetite.
When the internet exploded
from the news, the
netizens brought up John’s
divorce and went over it again.
The Constances had a good
reputation in the
past, but as a result of William
and John, their family name
was tainted.**

**Sophia got a little mad when
she recalled Matilda’s
expression from the video
yesterday. Indeed, a
woman like her would cause a
lot of damage if she were to
throw a fit. Taking a few bites,
she placed her
fork down as well.**

**“Your
grandmother must be super
angry right now.**

”

John chuckled at the comment. Of course, she’s indeed furious. Yesterday, when he entered the main building, he found her pounding on her chest, saying that she felt stuffy. Beside her sat William with a sullen expression.

It was rare to see that expression on William. In the past, Matilda had created lots of trouble and threw many tantrums, to which William showed no response. He always preferred to muddle through the trouble, appeasing both the Constance Family and his wife. He had never clearly expressed his irritation at Matilda like how he did yesterday.

A while later, John stared at Robin.

“I’ve sent someone to investigate your issue.

”

Robin hurriedly looked at him, after which he elaborated in a

robotic tone,
“My men
investigated within
you and Sophia’s social circles
but found nothing suspicious. I
talked to the police as well, and
they
suspected that they’d got the
wrong guy. However, I could
not ascertain if the man
specifically targeted
one of you. It’s possible that
you were targeted because of
someone you didn’t even know.
Do you
remember who went to the
washroom with you that night?
Did someone wear a similar
outfit as you?”

Sophia was surprised at the
conclusion. Didn’t the man
target her? A few days had
passed since the
incident, and Robin could not
recall who she met at the
washroom.

That night, she had some drinks
and was in an elated mood, so
her brain was tripping. When
she entered
the washroom, she didn’t even

bother to register the women around her. I mean, I was entering the restroom, so what was there to look at? Therefore, Robin shook her head.

“I can’t remember anything.

”

Hearing the same reply, John sighed.

“It’s alright. We’ll take this slow. From what we observe now, both of you don’t seem to have any security threats around you.

”

Robin pursed her lips and combed through her memories.

“I don’t have any enemies; the same goes for Sophia. Perhaps, someone mistook me for another woman.

”

John didn’t say anything after that, but he still looked tense. When Robin was done with lunch, he stretched and said,
“You guys

should get back to work. I'll leave now.
”

He sounded very straightforward. Without looking at anyone, he stood up, brushed his shirt, and left. Sophia remained seated and watched as he left in a cab. A while later, she let out a stuffy sigh.

Indeed, the commotion online about William's divorce dragged on for some time, and she stopped paying attention to it soon. When she checked the comments, it wasn't even much of a deal.

A few days later, the Blackwells called Sophia and informed her about the dinner taking place on the next day and that they'd pick her up. She agreed to it, and since the dinner was around evening, she decided to close the store earlier, which she brought up to Robin beforehand. Smiling, Robin asked,

“Are you going on a date?

“What date? It’s just a dinner with ulterior motives.

” Sophia

was not interested at all. Robin sat across

her and said,

“I thought you were meeting with Mr. Constance.

”

Faced with her business partner’s question, Sophia grinned.

“I’m not even friends with them. We won’t meet up without a good reason.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 521

For the next two days, John didn’t show up at all. He was probably busy dealing with the sordid affairs

related to his family. At night, when Sophia closed the store and was about to part ways with Robin at

the entrance, the latter turned around to look at her. After

some consideration, she said,
“Sophia, when I
came in for work last time, I
saw Mr. Constance and another
woman having breakfast
together. I thought
it over for a while and decided
to tell you.

”

Astonished, Sophia turned to
stare at Robin. A pause later,
she said,
“It’s normal. John is
popular among
ladies. It’s not abnormal to see
him with a woman.

”

Robin observed her face.
“Aren’t you sad? I thought you
haven’t let go of him.

”

Faced with Robin’s words,
Sophia laughed.
“I’m not sad,
for I’ve started my new life. As
for John, well, he
is history.

”

Robin seemed relieved after
getting the response.

“I was

hesitating to tell you. Maybe I was overthinking.”

After they parted ways, Sophia didn't hail a cab but walked down the path leading home. If John had breakfast with a woman, it must've been Isabelle. There could be no one else. Well, that's good. It's really good.

The next day, Sophia went to work, and she saw someone at the storefront as she approached the entrance. Feeling surprised, she slowly walked up, and her face fell when she registered the identity of the curious passerby.

Matilda was staring at the sign of her store deep in thoughts. Sophia stood beside and remained silent, waiting for the lady to notice her. After observing the sign for some time, Matilda finally turned around and was instantly shocked by

Sophia's presence, which prompted her to snap, "Why are you standing there like a ghost? Are you trying to scare me to death?" Sophia rolled her eyes at Matilda and went up to open the doors.

"Why are you here? Are you getting breakfast?"

Matilda followed her into the store and looked around.

**"Business looks fine."
"**

She stood there for a little while and saw a few customers trickling in. Without a word, Sophia moved into the bar counter, where Robin was already working. The latter was completely taken aback when she noticed Matilda. After all, Robin had rewatched the video online a few times and recognized Matilda's face.

Without even looking at Robin, Matilda checked every single

detail in the store and
wandered over to
the front of the counter.

“Did
John come here lately? Is he
here often?”

Sophia was knocked off her feet
by the sudden question,
whereupon she tidied the bar
while replying
with questions,

“Are you
looking for him? Why don’t you
just call him? Why are you
asking us here?”

Matilda then pursed her lips
silently for some time. She did
make calls to John, but he
refused to pick
them up. She made countless
calls to him over the two days,
but he remained unreachable.
With just a glance at Matilda,
Sophia immediately understood
what was going on, and she
flashed a
smile.

“John did not visit our
store. I haven’t seen him for
days. If you really can’t get hold
of him, you

could go to the Constance Residence or the Constance Group.

”

Matilda instantly looked away. She had visited both places suggested by Sophia, but she had no guts to enter either one. At the Constance Residence, she was fearful of running into the members of the family.

The wives of the second, third and fourth Constance Families had all been yelled at by her in the past.

Now that she had fallen from grace, those women might look at her with judgmental eyes.

The reason she didn't want to show up at the Constance Group was because of the viral video from before, which embarrassed even herself.

Those employees must have watched the video too, so she had no guts to walk in and look for John.

Therefore, she merely lingered at the entrances of the two

locations. And she indeed ran into John.

However, in each encounter, John was surrounded by people, and she could not make her way closer to him.

Sophia was immersed in her work.

“If you want to wait for him over here, I guess you’ll be disappointed.

He won’t come in.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 522

Frowning, Matilda thought it over and suggested,

“Call John

and have him come over here. I need to talk to him.

”

Sophia burst out in laughter.

“I’m not the one who wants to meet him, so why should I call him?”

Staring at Matilda incredulously, she emphasized,

“Why would

you come here and ask me to help you on

your matters? Have you forgotten that we have a lukewarm relationship?”

Matilda glared at her.

“You...

”

But she could not finish the rest of the sentence. Sophia was right; their relationship was lukewarm. She only found her way here out of desperation.

Seeing that her ex-mother-in-law couldn't reply, Sophia laughed at her.

“You can ask Isabelle for help.

She can get in touch with John, right? Isn't it better to ask her for help?”

Matilda's expression froze in embarrassment. The first person she thought of was definitely Isabelle, but in the few calls, the latter kept saying that she was busy.

Matilda was unsure if Isabelle was really busy, but she knew for a fact that when she had called Isabelle in the past, the girl could always

make time.

After a pause, Matilda pursed her lips and uttered,

“Belle is

busy.

”

Realizing that even Isabelle was avoiding her, Sophia snapped back,

“Oh, I’m busy too. Can’t you see how busy I am right now?”

Matilda’s face soured, and she looked displeased, which was of no concern to Sophia, who hummed and prepared everything for the day’s business.

It didn’t take long for customers to come in. Matilda sank into a debate, but she didn’t leave.

Instead,

she planted herself at a table near the window, determined to stay put.

Sophia didn’t bother to deal with her and only focused on running her business. Time flew by, and the

crowds started to reduce. After some thinking, Sophia told

Robin,

“Let’s make a coffee for her. It looks quite odd for her to sit there with no food or drinks.

”

Robin nodded and prepared a cup of coffee that was served to Matilda. Matilda was surprised at the service and turned around to look at Sophia, who was not even paying attention in that direction.

In the past, Sophia wanted to witness Matilda’s fall from grace. That old and crusty woman is going to land herself into trouble sooner or later.

However, when Matilda was struggling in life, Sophia didn’t feel much about the change. She was not extremely happy about it because her life resumed like usual, unchanged in any way by Matilda’s predicament. In fact, she was too busy every day to even care about Matilda’s life. After sitting for a while, Matilda

left without waiting for Sophia to finish work. Robin went up to clear the table and informed Sophia when she was back, "She didn't touch the coffee. Not even one sip."
"

Sophia smiled.
'I guessed so.'
"

Matilda was a very prideful woman and would not easily accept Sophia's show of kindness. That was good news because it meant that Matilda would not drop by anymore.

When Matilda left Sophia's store, she ran out of places to go. The Flintstones rented a place for her and even though they worded it nicely, what they wanted was for her to live on her own without dragging her own family into the mud. These few days, she spent all her time awake on her own. As the controversy was building up

over these few days, she had stayed in her house to avoid trouble. Actually, she called up a lot of people in her connections, but none picked up her call as if everyone abandoned her right away when she was at the center of the storm.

She stood beside the street for a while and hailed a cab. In the cab, she shared the address of Bailey

Corporation with the idea of taking a look over there.

During her journey, she was thinking hard about her next steps. The Constances made it clear that after

her divorce from William, she would have no business with him anymore. They also explained to her that William had no relationship whatsoever with the woman in the hospital, an explanation which she did not believe, but her opinions were irrelevant anymore.

The Returning Ex Chapter 523

After stopping her car at the entrance of Bailey Corporation, Matilda walked into a restaurant across the street instead of entering the company.

Sitting by the window, she stared at the entrance of Bailey Corporation.

Then, she called Isabelle, who connected the call quickly and inquired in a clear voice,

“Mrs. Constance, yes?”

Matilda replied smilingly, “Belle, are you free now? I want to meet up with you.

”

To which Isabelle said, “Ah, now? I’m a little busy currently. What’s wrong? Is there anything urgent?”

“Well, it’s nothing important. I just want to talk to you.

”

Matilda said with a smile, “We have not met

each other for a few days, so I miss you very much.
”

Helpless, Isabelle sighed.

“Mrs.

Constance, I’ve been swamped recently. There’s a problem with the supply side, so I have to work overtime every day. It’s really taking a toll on me. Don’t worry. When I become less busy, I’ll look for you and have a chat with you.
”

Isabelle had always been careful with her words.

Having nothing else to say, Matilda sighed and grunted.

“Alright, please continue with your work. It’s not like I’m not facing any problem currently, so I guess we’ll meet up when you’re free.
”

After hanging up the call, she stayed there until the employees of Bailey Corporation got off work in the afternoon.

To her disappointment, she

didn't see Isabelle.

Until all the employees were gone, Isabelle was still nowhere to be seen.

Matilda heaved a sigh of relief. She must still be in the company and working overtime.

It seems that she's really busy recently.

Meanwhile, Sophia closed the shop temporarily in the afternoon and took a rest with Robin. Just then, the door was opened.

Robin hurriedly said, "Sorry, we—"

Startled for a moment, she grinned.

"Mr. Constance, why are you here?"

John flashed a gentle smile at her.

"Even you're asking me this question now.

"

Seated by the window, Sophia never looked at him.

Robin smirked before replying, "Well, I didn't mean any harm.

"

John directly took a seat across Sophia.

“I’m here to have a taste of your food. Please give me a suggestion as I don’t know what to eat in the afternoon.

”

Learning the reason he dropped by, Sophia slowly turned to him.

“Your mom came here this morning and told me to contact you. I believe she wants to meet you.

”

Upon being informed of the matter, John couldn’t help but grunt.

“I knew she’d look for you.

”

Sophia snorted.

“I’m not on good terms with your mom, so it was really weird that she came to look for me.

”

Without uttering a word, John smiled.

Matilda would do whatever it

took when she had no choice.
She knew that if Sophia called
John, he
would certainly come over, so
she came to look for Sophia.
After making a cup of coffee for
John, Robin also gave him a
piece of cake.

Coming from the company,
John didn't have any appetite,
but he still politely ate the food.

He then said,
"I heard that you're going to
attend the dinner party at
Blackwell Residence.

"

Healing the man's question,
Sophia replied,
"Madam
Blackwell came over to invite
me personally, so I
couldn't reject her.

"

Seemingly understanding, John
nodded.

"As a big family,
there's bound to be internal
strife within the
Blackwell Family, so you have
to be careful with your words
and don't speak too much. If

**you don't know
what to say, just flash a smile.
”**

Sophia scoffed.

**“I don't need
you to teach me this. I
understand it full well.
”**

**She had learned to read the
expressions of others at
Constance Residence
previously.**

**When John was done with his
lunch, he returned to his
company.**

**After John's car was out of sight,
Robin asked,**

**“Did Mr.
Constance come all the way
here just to have a
cup of coffee and a piece of
cake?”**

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**“Maybe he is out of his mind,
”**

**Sophia chuckled and said. When
it came to the afternoon,**

**Sophia
permitted Robin to leave work
earlier, cleaning her shop,
whereupon she proceeded to**

close the door.

Then, she went home to take a shower and get changed shortly before the Blackwell Family's driver

arrived. Upon getting into the car, she saw someone sitting inside who turned out to be a young lady.

Sophia paused and nodded.

"Hi.

"

The lady gazed at Sophia with a smile.

"Hi, my grandma sent me to pick you up. Let's go.

"

Sophia responded with an affirmative hum, feeling a little nervous upon hearing that.

After she sat tight, the car began to hit the road. At the same time, the lady appeared to be rather talkative as she was able to lighten up the atmosphere with different topics, chatting with Sophia about her shop and even her marriage life.

Grinning, the lady replied,

“Actually, we all know that you just had a divorce with John not long ago, except my grandma.”

“I know. That’s why I was a little awkward when she asked me about that,

” Sophia answered with a chuckle.

Hearing her reply, the lady nodded.

“I understand how sensitive and upsetting this topic can be, so we didn’t bring it up to my grandma.

” In fact, the more important matter was that Old Mrs. Blackwell didn’t state her preference about who should take Sophia in, which was why none of them said a word about Sophia’s divorce. After all, they were raised in a prestigious family, in which they were taught to be discreet with their words. While both ladies were happily

chatting with each other, they soon arrived at the Blackwell Residence.

The Blackwell Residence is a huge mansion situated in the middle of the city. They're rich indeed. Just

look at the space of this compound! Gosh! I wonder how much they spent to buy a place this big. As the car stopped in the courtyard, someone was seen waiting there. Sophia then stepped out of the vehicle to

be greeted by Old Mrs.

Blackwell with someone helping her walk toward their guest. At the sight of that,

she quickly approached the old lady, who soon seized her hand.

"Finally, you're here. I've been waiting

long enough for you. Come, let's get inside.

"

Sophia smiled awkwardly to everyone aside while following behind Old Mrs. Blackwell.

Then, they sat in the living room, whereupon the

matriarch began introducing Sophia to the family. In fact, everyone else had seen Sophia on Old Mrs. Blackwell's birthday, although none of them had really talked to her.

Meanwhile, Sophia forced a smile on her face and greeted every family member even though she didn't like to be on occasions like this. After the introduction, Old Mrs. Blackwell sighed and said, "This poor little kid is all by herself without a family.

" Upon hearing that, Sophia pursed her lips while the old lady seized her hand and placed it on her own palm.

"I like this girl a lot. After long deliberation, I've decided to make her my granddaughter.

"

Then, she turned her attention to Sophia, who was in a trance, and asked,

**“What do you think,
my girl?”**

Sophia was taken aback by Old Mrs. Blackwell’s sudden announcement, staring at the old lady with her dilated eyes.

**“Madam Blackwell,
I-I...
”**

At the same time, every other member of the Blackwell Family appeared to be rather calm and unsurprised, which implied that they had already known about it ahead. Looking at Old Mrs. Blackwell’s smiling face, Sophia didn’t know what to say in order to turn her down. Well, I’m not sure if I’m going to get roughed up for turning down Madam Blackwell’s ‘kind’ offer.

“Um, maybe...

” Sophia hesitantly said, but Madam Blackwell soon interrupted her words with a smile and said,

“Since you agree, I

guess it's decided then.
Meanwhile, the rest could
decide which family she
belongs to.

”

Upon hearing the old lady's
words, the wife of the Main
Constance Family said,
“We
don't have a
daughter, so she could be with
us.

”

Soon, the wife of the Third
Constance Family chimed in,
“We don't have a daughter
either, so we could
take her in.

”

What's the Blackwell Family
really up to? I'm broke, and
everything I own now is given
by John when we
divorced, which I don't think
they're interested in, so why
does everyone start to cozy up
to me all of a
sudden?

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Sophia immediately raised her
hand.

“Anyway, I just want to say that besides not having a good family background, I also have many bad habits...

”

However, Kate’s grasp on Sophia’s hand tightened.

“Little girl, I’m not trying to take advantage of you. I just like you for being yourself, so don’t overthink about it.

”

How could Sophia not overthink it when Old Mrs. Blackwell offered to play the role of her grandmother?

Without discussing with Sophia, Kate instructed the Third Blackwell Family,

“She’ll be under the Third Blackwell Family, then. Since Fabian is about Sophia’s age, they’ll probably have similar topics to talk about.

”

Henry Blackwell of the Third Blackwell Family immediately

agreed while his wife chimed in as well,

“Gosh, I’ve always wanted a daughter, but I could never get one. I didn’t expect God to finally give us a daughter today!”

Sophia couldn’t help but chuckle. Is this even real? Did they just force a new set of parents upon me?

A couple from a family with a good background suddenly became her godparents. The thought of that was just unrealistic.

Third Mrs. Blackwell looked young and friendly as she walked over to pat Sophia’s head.

“You’ve probably suffered a lot in the past.”

Sophia blinked and didn’t know how to react.

If she were to reject the Blackwells, they would feel humiliated, and it would make her look ignorant.

However, she didn’t feel

comfortable being on their receiving end.

How did they suddenly become a family?

This wasn't in Sophia's plan at all.

Then, Kate gave the servant next to her a look, and the servant immediately went to retrieve a box.

Taking the box over, Kate turned around slightly toward Sophia.

“Sophia, this is a gift that I've prepared for you for our first meeting. We shall be a family in the future.”

Confused, Sophia's arms flailed around when she realized that Kate was giving her yet another gift.

“No, no, I can't accept that. The present that you've given me previously was already precious enough and I really—”

“Hey.

” Kate held Sophia's hand.

“Why are you rejecting a gift from your grandma? We’ll be a family from now on, so you don’t have to be so polite and distant anymore.”

When the servant helped Sophia open the box, she saw a purple bangle made of unknown material.

However, Sophia knew that a gift from Kate meant that it was definitely not cheap.

Then, Kate took the bangle and wore it on Sophia’s wrist, after which the latter looked like she was in a

predicament as she stared at the bangle on her wrist.

It was really ironic how the Constances had done all that they could to kick her out, but the Blackwells

did all they could to get her in. Third Mrs. Blackwell spoke up as well,

“Just keep it. It’s your grandma’s goodwill anyway.

You don’t have

to be so distant with us since you’re one of the Blackwells

now.

”

Sophia didn't know if she wanted to laugh or cry at that. However, the Blackwells ignored her facial expression and dragged her to the dining room to have a meal.

The Blackwell Residence's dining room was huge. It was just like when they gathered to eat together at the Constance Residence.

Actually, this was way larger than the one at the Constance Residence.

Sophia didn't recognize many of the people present, so she could only take her seat next to Kate.

She was initially a little bit hungry, but she had completely lost her appetite now.

Still, everyone from the Blackwells was happy as they started asking Sophia about her past but unanimously avoided mentioning the Constance Family.

Sophia knew that these people were all wise people as they all spoke cautiously.

On the other hand, the man sat next to Sophia and would occasionally snort when she was speaking.

However, he didn't look at Sophia both the times she turned to look at him. Disdain was evident on his face as if he couldn't stand looking at her.

Hence, Sophia looked away, for she didn't believe that the Blackwells didn't hear him as his snorts weren't soft at all.

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However, everyone acted as if nothing happened, so Sophia could only go along with them and acted as if she hadn't heard anything.

Sophia felt conflicted during the entire meal. Although she felt uncomfortable, she couldn't voice it out.

After the meal ended, Sophia accompanied Kate upstairs to talk to her.

This time, there was no one else other than Sophia and Kate as they went into Kate's bedroom. After Sophia entered the room, her phone rang, whereupon she sighed in relief before she quickly took her phone out and accepted the call in front of Kate.

Sophia didn't even bother to check the caller ID.

When the call was connected, John's voice rang out.

"Sophia?"

Sophia was taken aback.

"John.

"

She purposely raised her volume, and Kate turned around to look at her.

John asked,

"Are you done yet?"

I've been waiting outside of your house for a long while already, but

you're still not home yet.

"

Sophia acted as if she was surprised.

"You're outside of my house now?! Hang on, I'll

**get back right
now.
”**

Shocked, Kate stared at Sophia.

“Is that John?”

**After hearing Old Mrs.
Blackwell’s question, Sophia
nodded immediately.**

**“Yeah. It
is. He’s waiting
outside of my house right now
and probably wants to talk to
me about something.
”**

**To Sophia’s surprise, Kate
reached out for her phone.**

**“Come on. Let me speak with
him.
”**

**Sophia was dumbfounded,
however, she still gave Kate her
phone as the latter asked,**

**“John,
why are you
looking for Sophia?”**

**Unable to hear what John
replied, Sophia merely saw the
lady before her eyes laughing.**

**“You should
come over. Come on, I haven’t
seen you for a few days now.**

”

Sophia blinked as she pursed her lips and didn't say anything. A few seconds later, Kate hummed in agreement before she gave Sophia her phone back.

“You can talk to John now. He's going to come over soon.

”

Sophia let out a quiet sigh before taking her phone back.

“John, are you coming over?”

Faced with his ex-wife's question, he chuckled before explaining,

“I'll go over. I know that the situation is awkward for you right now, so I'll head there so that you can act more naturally.

”

Sophia initially wanted to take advantage of this phone call to leave this place.

John's tone was light.

“Don't be anxious. I'm coming over now.

”

Then, he hung up.

Sophia had no choice but to

place her phone and smile at Kate.

After that, Kate took a photo album and started introducing the Blackwells to Sophia.

I see, so the person who sat next to me just now was the Young Master of the Third Blackwell Family, Fabian Blackwell.

Recalling the Young Master of the Third Blackwell Family's reaction, he was probably dissatisfied that she was placed under the Third Blackwell Family.

To be honest, I'm dissatisfied as well. How did I end up with a whole new family after finally managing to be alone?

After browsing through the photo album with Kate for a while, John arrived.

John was led upstairs by a servant, and from the looks of it, he had visited the Blackwells a lot in the past.

The servant smiled and informed them when they walked over,

**“Old Mrs.
Blackwell, Young Master John
is here.
”**

**Kate immediately exclaimed,
“Let him in immediately! I’ve
been waiting for a long time
now!”**

**John looked cheerful when he
entered the room.**

**“Madam
Blackwell, I hope I’m not
bothering you.
”**

**Cheerfully, Kate nodded.
“We’ve been waiting for you.
Come on, have a seat.
”**

**John walked over and sat next
to Sophia.**

**Then, Sophia turned toward
him and lowered her voice.
“Why did you call me just now?
Why did you go
to my house?”**

**John smirked at that as he
whispered back,
“I didn’t go to
your house just now; it was a lie.
I knew that
you were in some sort of**

trouble, so I offered to come over to help you out.

”

Sophia was taken aback, for she didn't know what sort of trick John was trying to pull.

Kate watched as John and Sophia spoke to each other.

“You youngsters really have so much more to talk about. I mean, Sophia barely spoke when she was with me but immediately started talking when you came.

”

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Sophia chuckled, with an awkward expression on her face.

“It's not like that. I just had something I wanted to ask him.

”

Keeping the photo album, Kate stared at John and Sophia.

“You two knew each other previously, am I right?”

Sophia opened her mouth

slightly but didn't know what to say.

Instead, John, who was sitting next to her, replied,

"Yeah. We knew each other from way back.

We are quite close to each other as well.

"

Sophia turned and gave John a look. Was that last sentence really necessary?

Hearing the young man's explanation, Kate nodded.

"That's what I thought. I figured that you two knew each other for a long time already since you guys looked really comfortable with each other.

"

Sophia didn't say anything besides smiling awkwardly.

Suddenly, Kate thought of something and sighed.

"It's too bad that John is married. If not, I would have set you two up. You two really look suitable for each other

sitting here together.

”

**Sophia was really awkward
while John burst into laughter.**

**“Really? Is that what you
think?”**

**In a serious manner, Kate
nodded.**

**“It’s true. Since when
have I ever lied to you? You
guys really look
suitable for each other.**

”

**In a raspy voice, John chuckled
before he leaned closer to
Sophia.**

“Did you hear that?”

Sophia gave him a side look.

“Shut it.

”

**However, John looked happy
and had a slight smile on his
face the entire day.**

**Kate started telling them about
the Blackwells again, mainly
wanting Sophia to know more
about them.**

**John still didn’t know that Kate
had Sophia be her
granddaughter, so he only
thought that she was**

introducing her family members to get on Sophia's good side. Hence, he helped Kate explain more about the family members and told Sophia some funny stories so she could remember them. To be honest, Sophia wasn't interested to know these people, and although they all looked excited to see her, who knew what they were thinking of her in the dark. Since Kate treated her like a savior, the Main and Third Blackwell Family were probably fighting for her only to get on Kate's good side. Now that she was under the Third Blackwell Family, not to mention that the Young Master of the Third Blackwell Family didn't like her, the Main and Second Blackwell Family would probably stop being nice to her anymore. The thought of that made her head hurt. Sophia could barely remember what Kate and John told her

that day.

Finally, John suggested when he realized that the sky had turned dark,

“It’s late already. We don’t want to get in the way of you resting, so I’ll send Sophia back.

”

Kate initially wanted the Third Blackwell Family to send Sophia home, but she decided against it after

seeing Fabian’s attitude during their meal just now.

Since Sophia and John knew each other, it would be better if John sent her back.

Kate looked outside.

“Oh my, I didn’t even notice that it’s dark already. Time passes by real quick.

” She sighed.

“Alright. John will send you back then. Please come over more often when you’re free, Sophia.

”

Sophia immediately agreed.

“Alright, alright. Don’t be worried. I’ll be sure to visit you when I’m free.

”

It was just that Sophia wasn’t free since she needed to guard her shop and didn’t have any extra time.

None of the Blackwells came out when John and Sophia left the Blackwell Residence.

Sophia sighed in relief, for it was better if she didn’t run into them as she really didn’t want to interact

with these people.

When they entered John’s car, John saw the bangle on Sophia’s wrist when he lowered his gaze, after which he grinned.

“It seems like the Blackwells really prioritizes you. This bangle looks expensive.

”

Sophia immediately took the bangle off.

“I’ve really regretted coming over today. I shouldn’t have

come.

”

John raised his eyebrows as he started the car engine.

“Isn’t it good, though? I noticed that Kate was being really nice to you just now.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 528

Wasn’t it nice? Yeah, I suppose she was good to me.

Sophia really didn’t know who else to talk to about this, so she started telling John about what happened

at the Blackwell Residence.

Learning that his ex-wife was now a part of the Blackwell Family, John was dumbfounded.

“Seriously?”

Sophia nodded.

“Why would I lie to you? I was really shocked as well. No one had informed me about it too. If I knew what they were doing today, I wouldn’t have gone there.

”

It seemed like John suddenly recalled something as his gaze darkened.

Sophia turned over to give John a disdainful look.

“Look at your facial expressions. What are you scheming again?”

Faced with her question, John smirked.

“Scheming a plan for you. I’m trying to help you think of a better identity.”

Sophia snorted, for she obviously didn’t take John’s words seriously.

John drove and sent Sophia home.

When Sophia got out of the car, John asked,

“Are you not going to invite me into your house?

I’m sure that I contributed a little by going over there today to help you ease the tension of your awkwardness.

”

Since Sophia didn't look like she had the intention to let him in, John had no choice but to raise the question.

Sophia turned to John and pondered for a moment before replying,

"Alright. You have to leave after you finish drinking a cup of water though.

"

Sophia invited him in begrudgingly.

Secretly, John couldn't help but chuckle before getting out of the car and following Sophia.

It wasn't very late yet, but Sophia felt like resting already.

She was too lazy to boil water, so she went to

the fridge to get a bottle of mineral water before throwing it to John.

John was sitting on the couch as he toyed with the mineral water bottle for a moment before placing it down.

"Try to stay away from

the Blackwells. Although Kate is nice, the Blackwells are a huge family, and most of them have their own opinions. It was obvious that they might be against this as none of the Blackwell brothers came to send us off.
”

Sophia went over to sit in front of John as she leaned back on the couch.

“It’s not like I wanted to be involved with them as well. I’m fine on my own, and I don’t need any family right now.
”

I don’t need these people, especially those who came in halfway.

Most of these families had their own thoughts, and most of them only gather for specific reasons, or to be frank, for benefits.

Sophia looked conflicted as she stared at the bangle.

“I really didn’t want to accept this, but I

**don't know
how to return it.
”**

**“Just keep it.
” John explained,
“Sometimes it's hard to reject
things like this. Kate is
genuinely nice to you
and wouldn't harm you.
However, if you return it, you
might actually offend her, so it's
better if you keep
it.
”**

**Sophia looked helpless as she
held the bangle in her hands
and observed it.
“Alright. I'll
keep it for now
and see if I have any chances to
return it to her in the future.
”**

**Then, John stared at Sophia.
“Back to the topic, though. Do
you think we look suitable
together?”
Sophia paused at that before
the serious look on her face
immediately vanished.
She gave John a disdainful look.
“If you're not drinking the**

water, you can leave now.

”

Then, Sophia stood up and headed upstairs without waiting to see John’s reaction. John, who was still sitting on the couch, started laughing as he watched Sophia vanish by the staircase upstairs.

However, John didn’t leave immediately. Instead, he continued sitting there and looked like he was deep in thoughts as his smile vanished.

Sophia really didn’t bother about John anymore as she went to sleep right after washing up.

She was really tired after a long day at her shop and was on her guard the entire time when she was at the Blackwell Residence.

After her nighttime routine, Sophia lay in her bed and pondered for a moment before falling asleep.

She had a good night’s sleep that night, as she wasn’t

affected by any noises and slept right until the next day.

When Sophia got up the following day, she stretched and walked over to the windowsill. Then, her facial expression changed into one of shock.

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John's car was parked on Sophia's lawn.

Did that guy come here early in the morning?

Sophia rushed downstairs but saw no signs of John.

After standing in the living room for a while, Sophia turned around and ran upstairs.

The door to the guest room that John stayed in previously was closed, but it wasn't locked from the inside, so Sophia managed to open it with one turn.

John had already gotten up. He had worn his pants and was about to wear his shirt.

Sophia was standing by the door entrance and staring at John while he was midway

wearing his shirt and
staring at her.

The two of them stared at each
other for a moment before
Sophia yelled in anger,
“John,
you shameless
little prick! How could you sleep
over here yesterday night?!”
Sophia then dashed inside and
grabbed the pillow by the
bedside before throwing it
toward John.

John started laughing after
dodging her attack.

“It was
already very late yesterday, and
I was tired, so it
would be dangerous to drive
back.
”

Sophia refused to believe his
excuse and started bringing the
pillow down on John.

“You
shameless man!
How could you stay over when
we are not in a relationship
anymore? Don’t you know that
this might
tarnish my image?”

John initially kept dodging, but after realizing that Sophia wasn't stopping anytime soon, he reached out to snatch the pillow that she was holding before throwing it to a side.

John grabbed Sophia by her wrist.

"It's not like we never stayed together in the past before. Why are you so dramatic?"

"How is that the same?" Sophia was so pissed off she stomped her feet.

"John, I really didn't expect you to be this shameless. You're a vile person!"

However, John increased his force and pulled Sophia into his embrace.

"Am I really that shameless?"

John asked as he grinned, causing Sophia's eyes to widen in anger.

"Of course you are! Do you really think that you..."

”

Before she could finish, John suddenly grabbed her head and kissed her.

His movement was slightly rough, leaving Sophia with no chance to defend herself.

Sophia’s eyes widened so much it looked like it was about to fall.

Although she tried to push John away

and step on his feet, he didn’t budge at all.

John locked Sophia in his embrace, and he took a few steps to the side of the bed.

Then, he pushed her toward the bed before pinning her on it.

John was still conscious enough to support himself with both his hands so that his body was lifted and his

weight wouldn’t crush Sophia.

Pushing against his chest with both hands, she looked at him with alertness.

“What are you

trying to do?!

Get up!”

The corner of John’s lips lifted

as he smirked seductively.
“Didn’t you say that I’m
shameless? Let me
show you what’s the true
definition of shameless, then.
”

Sophia supported herself and
tried to get up.

“Move away.
”

However, John raised his hand
and brought it down on
Sophia’s shoulder before
pushing her back onto
the bed.

“Sophia, I feel like it’s
inappropriate for me to stay
over right now, so why don’t we
rationalize
it?”

Faced with the man’s obscured
reasoning, Sophia frowned.

“What do you mean?”

Smiling, he attempted to
rationalize the situation by
suggesting,

“Why don’t we
restore our marriage?
Look at it this way, once we
remarry...
”

“Leave. John, you better leave now before I lose control of myself and beat you to death.”

Sophia’s facial expression became stern.

However, John just stared at her before he started leaning toward her slowly.

Both of their noses were pressed against each other as their breaths intertwined.

Sophia could feel herself sweating bullets, yet she didn’t dare to say anything as she was afraid that she

might accidentally kiss John if she moved around too much.

After staring at Sophia for a moment, John suddenly leaned in to give her a peck before he loosened his

grip on her and stood up.

Right then, Sophia was stunned before she came back to her senses and cursed,

“You a*shole.”

However, her voice had already lost its edge from just now and

sounded slightly awkward.
It took a while before Sophia finally came back to her senses as she sat up and tidied her hair.

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John glanced at Sophia.

Thinking of what he had proposed just now, he too suddenly felt that it wasn't a good idea.

After all, he was the one who had brought up the divorce in the first place. But now, he had proposed for a remarriage. No matter how he looked at it, it was as if he treated marriage as child's play.

After a long while, John said,
“I was thoughtless.”

Sophia took a deep breath.

“Get dressed and leave. I don't really want to see you right now.”

John knew that Sophia was feeling uncomfortable, so he didn't try to explain anymore and simply put on

his clothes before leaving.

Sophia sat on the bed for a long time before slamming a fist on the edge of the bed.

This b*stard! He really dares to say just about anything, doesn't he?

After John left, he drove directly to the company and returned to the office. Sitting in the office, he was slightly dazed by the turn of events.

It was not a deliberate act; he had brought up the idea of remarriage purely by accident. But now that he thought about it, it wasn't a bad idea at all if they remarried. In fact, he was filled with anticipation.

John leaned back in his chair and stared off into space for a long time.

But Sophia wouldn't easily agree to it, would she? After all, I've really owed her a lot in the past.

After a busy morning, John went out for dinner with Zack at noon after work.

As they walked into the lobby, they saw Isabelle, who had probably waited for quite a while. Seeing John coming over, she got up from the sofa.

Stunned, he walked toward her and asked,

“Anything important?”

Hearing his question, Isabelle smiled.

“Nothing very important, but Mrs. Constance has been calling me rather often recently...”

She didn’t finish her sentence because she thought that John would get it right away.

Indeed, John’s face fell upon learning about what his mother was up to.

“You needn’t bother about this matter. Next time my mother calls you, just ignore it.”

Isabelle seemed anxious.

“But after all, Mrs. Constance has...

”

“No ‘buts.

’ We’re adults now,
so we need to be responsible
for what we’ve done.

” With

that, John

looked at the time and added,

“Well, I’m gonna go have lunch
now.

”

Understanding the situation,
Isabelle nodded.

“I won’t keep
you around any longer then.

”

John and Isabelle walked out of
Constance Group together. At
the entrance, John and Zack got
into a car,
while Isabelle got into hers, and
they went their separate ways.
Matilda was actually waiting in
the café opposite Constance
Group.

After the two cars had driven
out of sight, she picked up the
phone and called Isabelle.

The younger woman connected
the call. Her voice was no
different from before as she

asked,

“Mrs.

Constance, is something the matter?”

Matilda pretended that she didn't know anything and just smiled.

“Nothing. I just wanna ask what you've been up to.

”

Trying to avoid the topic of meeting up, Isabelle replied, “Oh, I'm at the company. I've been swamped lately without any free time. I just thought that we should meet up and have lunch together when I have time. But I haven't found an opportunity yet.

”

Matilda pursed her mouth.

“I

see.

”

Isabelle laughed.

“Did you see those things on the Internet? I think the matter is dying down soon.

Everything will be fine after a while.

”

It took a long time for Matilda to reply,

“Yeah, I suppose so.

”

After saying this, she thought for a while

and continued,

“Have you been

in contact with John recently?

John is mad at me right now. He hasn't

answered my phone nor visited

me. I wonder if you can help me

invite him out because I have

something

to say to him.

”

Isabelle gave a muffled ‘Oh’ before falling silent.

Matilda added,

“You two will

definitely be in contact during

work, so you should see him

around. Just tell

him that you've got something

to talk to him about. Help me

invite him out, okay?”

Isabelle pursed her lips as she

drove without answering right away. What she had in her mind was simple enough. Matilda and William had such a bad fallout that it seemed impossible for them to get back together now.

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Rumors had it that there was someone whom William used to like at the hospital now, so it was even

more impossible for Matilda and William to make up.

Considering Matilda's weak character, even an average woman would do better than her. Now that there was someone else around her ex-husband, it was even more unlikely for her to be considered.

Since Isabelle wanted to persuade the Constance Family to accept herself, she naturally did not wish to offend William. Just now, she had tested John, and the man pretty much repulsed the topic regarding his

mother. It's evident that Matilda couldn't even hold on to her son's heart now. Therefore, she couldn't get too close to Matilda at this critical time since William and John would be annoyed by that. Matilda had finished talking and was waiting for Isabelle's answer. Isabelle sighed and said, "Mrs.

Constance, it's not that I don't wish to help you. The truth is that I don't have many opportunities to meet up with John now. After we set him up twice previously, he's now rather disgusted and will certainly not agree if I invite him out. Sometimes when I call or text him, he wouldn't even respond. I don't think I'm able to help you much.

"

Matilda went so quiet on the other side of the phone that one could hear a pin drop. Isabelle then pretended to be torn and

suggested,
“How about this? I’ll
try to text and call John
whenever I can,
alright? If it works, great, but if
it doesn’t work, please don’t
blame me.

”

Matilda asked after a pause,
“Don’t you and John see each
other much now?”

Isabelle replied,
“Yeah, our
relationship has been a little
tricky and controversial all
along. Now that John
is trying to avoid arousing
suspicion, both of us have not
seen each other for a long
time.

”

At this, Matilda laughed aloud,
causing Isabelle to feel baffled.
After laughing, Matilda
answered,

“Well,
fine then. So be it. I will think of
a solution myself.

”

Matilda then hung up at once,
after which Isabelle threw the

phone onto the passenger seat beside her.

Her face was cold and expressionless.

After Matilda hung up, she stood still and thought for a while before chuckling. Walking out of the café

with her bag, she stared at the office building of the Constance Group for a long time. In the end, she reached out a hand and hailed a cab.

Matilda had nowhere to go, so she asked the cabbie to drive around Wharf Avenue for a while before finally telling him to head to Sophia's shop.

Sophia and Robin were very busy. Logan had placed a bulk order today, and the two were in the midst of preparing and packing the huge quantity of goods.

Matilda entered the shop with a long face. When Sophia saw her, she stared at the older woman with surprise written all over her

face before she questioned,
“Why are you here? Have you
come to smash
the shop?”

Faced with such direct
questions, Matilda snorted.
“Even if I smashed your lousy
shop, I could afford to
compensate.
”

Lowering her head, Sophia
continued to be busy but said,
“If you really smash the shop, I
must thank
you. But I don’t want your
compensation. Instead, I want
you to go and squat inside the
jail for a few
days. Perhaps you’ll become a
better woman when you come
out.
”

Matilda glared at her.
“Sophia,
you’re really impudent now,
aren’t you?”
Sophia laughed as she mocked,
“I was impudent in the past too.
Don’t you know that all too
well?”
Gritting her teeth, Matilda

stood there for a long time, then turned to sit by the window. Sophia was a little astonished, for she thought that this woman would be infuriated and slam the door as she left. To her surprise, Matilda didn't leave but sat down in the shop instead.

Robin mused for a bit, then went over and asked Matilda if she needed anything.

Although Matilda didn't need anything as she had eaten in the café just now, she knew that the bad-tempered Sophia would ridicule her if she sat there without ordering anything. So, she ordered something to eat and drink.

However, Sophia was so busy that she had no time to bother about Matilda at all. She called Robin over to count the stock and then check the various combinations possible.

In her seat, Matilda turned her head and looked outside,

feeling very uncomfortable in her heart. She didn't believe that Isabelle would brush her off like that. The Returning Ex Chapter 532 In the past, Matilda had given Isabelle her all. She obviously knew that John would be upset with her if she tried to matchmake him and Isabelle, but she still did it anyway. But now, when something happened to her, Isabelle had refused to help at all. Matilda felt a little sad, but she was still making excuses for Isabelle in her heart. After all, John had always rejected Isabelle's advances, and Matilda knew this much. Hence, she could understand Isabelle not wanting to offend John by avoiding her. She had seen Isabelle go to the Constance Group just now and meet up with John, most likely to mention her matters. It was probably due to her failure to get a positive

response from John that she had brushed me off on the phone like that. With Zack beside John, Isabelle might have found it hard to mention some things, so it's only natural if she didn't say much.

Matilda thought up a lot of excuses to explain away Isabelle's actions. The more she thought about it, the better she felt in her heart. Sophia had been busy the entire time. There were some customers at noon, but Robin was in charge of running the shop. Sophia kept on packing up big boxes and carrying things around, looking really serious in her work.

After a while, Matilda turned around and looked at Sophia, who was busy. She couldn't help but start sneering, "It's clear that your life is filled with nothing but hard work."
"

Since she didn't lower her voice,
Sophia naturally heard it.

Sophia didn't look at Matilda
and continued with her work,
but she still opened her mouth
to say,

"You're right, my life is filled
with nothing but hard work.
However, I earn my money with
my own effort.

I know someone who only
knows how to rely on her
parents when she was younger
and her husband
after marriage. Now that she's
dumped by her husband, I
wonder whom she will rely on
next?"

She turned her head and looked
at Robin.

"Guess whom she will
rely on next?"

Robin knew that these words
were meant for Matilda, so her
expression turned a little
embarrassing.

When she didn't respond,
Sophia continued saying to
herself,

"I guess she'll just live
on her own fat or

just live off her parents when all else fails. After all, there aren't many men who are willing to support a spoilt and narcissistic old woman who stays at home doing nothing!"

Matilda stood up quickly.

"Sophia!"

Sophia still refused to look at her ex-mother-in-law, after which she chuckled and said,

"If you're done eating, pay up and get lost now. Actually, I didn't even want to do your business. I just pitied you."
"

Matilda's eyes widened in anger. Rushing up toward Sophia, she snarled,

"Say that again! Who the hell are you pitying?"

There was a large mirror near the entrance of the shop.

Therefore, Sophia pointed at it and said,

"Take a look at yourself in the mirror."

Look at your own long face, and you'll know who I'm talking about.

”

Of course, Matilda wasn't that obedient to actually look at herself in the mirror. All she did was grit her teeth and glare at Sophia hatefully.

Regardless of whether they were arguing or fighting, she could never match up to Sophia.

Knowing that, Matilda could only stand there and huff in annoyance.

Sophia placed her things down gracefully before looking back at Matilda.

“Ah, you don't have any money to pay the bill? That's fine. I can treat you to this meal if you like.

”

Matilda was so enraged that she couldn't speak. She took out her purse, peeled a bill from it, and slapped it onto the counter.

“Keep the change as your

reward.

”

Sophia looked at Robin.

“Keep

it. The rest will be your tips.

After all, soon Madam

Flintstone will no

longer be able to afford to be so

generous. So, keep it.

”

Sophia’s behavior was really annoying to Matilda, who stood rooted to the spot for a long time before

finally waving a hand and leaving.

Looking at Matilda’s incensed expression, Sophia felt amused.

She doesn’t even realize her current situation right now, yet she came to challenge me. If she has so

much free time, she should think about what she can do to turn her shitty reputation around.

Robin kept the money and then came to help Sophia tidy up.

“That Mrs. Constance looks a little scary.

”

Sophia snorted.

**“What Mrs.
Constance? It’s Madam
Flintstone now. She doesn’t
have anything to do
with the Constance Family
now.**

”

**Robin smiled and looked at her.
“You’re so petty. It’s just a form
of address, so why do you care
so
much?”**

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Having said this, Robin sighed.

**“If she’s so difficult to get along
with, John must be very tired of
interacting with her.**

”

**Sophia was taken aback as she
turned to look at Robin.**

**Seeing Sophia staring at her,
Robin quickly smiled and waved
her hand,**

“I was just blabbering.

**I just
thought about it and blurted
something out.**

”

**Sophia thought for a while, but
she quickly dismissed her**

thoughts as impossible and withdrew her gaze.

“Do you think John will be tired?”

Robin lowered her head and continued to work.

“It was just a guess. I don’t really know Mr. Constance and only met him a few times with you. But since Madam Flintstone is so difficult to get along with, I suppose she won’t have a good temper at home anyway. So, I think he’ll feel tired of having to face her at home.”

Sophia smiled and said in a low voice,

“Is that so?”

She didn’t say much on the topic but simply took a minute’s break before continuing with her busy work.

In the afternoon, Logan came over.

Logan hadn’t been here for several days, so he was so excited that he jumped up and

down.

Already used to his antics,
Sophia glanced at him and
commented,

“Have you found
yourself a wife? Why
are you so happy?”

Logan snorted a little.

“Even if
I’ve found myself a wife, she’s
the one who should be happy,
not me.

”

With that, he leaned over and
told Sophia,

“I just met my
sister Lorraine, and we talked
about Ian’s
talent show. Lorraine said that
they had made arrangements,
and we’ll be able to see him
soon.

”

Sophia was taken aback.

“Really?

Did Lorraine tell you whether
there’s any guarantee for Ian to
advance
in the show?”

Hearing her friend’s question,
Logan replied,

“Well, there are some strong competitors in this batch. But now that Ian has undergone training, his performance isn’t half bad. I think he can be just as good as those people.

”

Sophia nodded.

“I hope he can perform well.

”

Smiling, Logan said,

“Lorraine said that Ian has been talking about you nonstop over there.

When I heard that, I was a little unhappy!

Why doesn’t he talk more about me? After all, we’ve known each other for

longer.

”

Sophia didn’t feel like listening to him complaining, so she quickly changed the subject.

“What’s going on with the Morgan Family? Have you observed anything?”

When Logan heard this, he

became excited.

“Ah, the Morgan Family. I was just about to tell you about them. Simon Morgan has been discharged from the hospital, but he hasn't been to the company. He is recuperating at home. Leah has been extremely distressed about his condition and wanted him to stay home and recuperate properly.”

Naturally, Simon couldn't hold back from going out. Although he was no different from being hemiplegic now, he could still manage to have fun outside. A few days ago, he had gone out for a drink with his friends but was brought home on Sean's orders. Bryce was so annoyed that he hit Simon several times with his cane. But Simon didn't feel that he had made any serious mistakes. After all, he already had all

his plaster removed, and the doctor even said that everything would be fine as long as he recuperated well.

Bryce was angry because the accident had happened when Simon was out for a drink. Now that the injury had yet to heal completely, he had gone out for a drink again without a thought. Since both their opinions clashed, it was inevitable that a dispute would break out. Because Simon wasn't working at the company now, Bryce spoke directly about how undisciplined Simon was and how he didn't reflect on his actions, so the company wouldn't dare to use him either. Thus, Bryce made him stay at home indefinitely and hand the company matters to someone else. This pretty much meant that he was firing Simon from the company. Although there was room for reconsideration, it

was almost impossible for someone like Simon to ever reflect and improve on himself.

Naturally, Simon didn't want to be kicked out of the company just like that, so he squabbled with Bryce

and Leah, causing a huge pandemonium in the family.

After recounting this story, Logan was exhilarated and said that he would be joyful for every day that his

subordinates report about how much conflict the Morgan Family was experiencing.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 534
When Sophia heard all this from Logan, she also laughed. If Ian could work hard to achieve great results,**

it went without saying that the entire Morgan Family would feel even more uncomfortable.

Logan leaned against the counter.

"I contacted John a few days ago and talked about the Morgan Family.

He provided me with a lot of

information, and I feel that I can go up against them without much issue.

”

When John was mentioned, Sophia pursed her lips and didn't say anything.

If John is a normal guy, I suppose it would be okay to contact each other once in a while. However, he's only normal at certain times. Sometimes, he behaves normally and doesn't drag things out. But other times, he behaves really weirdly.

For example, Sophia didn't quite understand why he had to stay overnight at her own home. John didn't drink, and it was still quite early, so it was rather inappropriate for him to stay over.

Logan didn't know what happened between John and Sophia, so he continued saying, "To be honest, the Morgan Family back then could do some pretty nasty things, but John had never cared about

them. After all, they don't have much to do with him. Like now, no matter how the Morgan Family falls, it doesn't have anything to do with him. But when he was making suggestions to my plans, it's obvious that he wants me to torture and destroy the Morgan Family as slowly and cruelly as I can. I think that he still holds a grudge about your injury last time at the Morgan Residence.

”

Sophia couldn't help but sigh. “Who knows? Perhaps he really has some personal grudges with the Morgan Family. In the business world, complicated interests are involved. Who knows if the Morgan Family has done something that may have indirectly hurt John's interests?” Logan thought for a bit before shaking his head. “I don't think

so. If the Morgan Family truly did something that poses a threat to the Constance Group's interests, I'm sure John will make a move himself in a very obvious way. You know what he's like. If he finds the right reason to openly act against someone, he wouldn't be willing to secretly stab them in the back like this. This much I know about him.
”

Sophia looked at Logan, who looked a little serious at the moment.

It was rare for Young Master Logan to look so serious. He didn't look like he was gossiping, but he was actually analyzing the matter instead.

Seeing how serious her friend looks, Sophia smiled.

“If I don't know you well, I would've really suspected that you're finding excuses to put in a good word for John.

”

“Put in a good word for him?
No, no, I’m really not doing that.
My relationship with John is not
as good
as my relationship with you.

”

Logan grinned.
Nodding, Sophia said nothing.
Logan turned around and
sprawled over the counter
casually.

“So, what I don’t
understand is why did
the two of you get a divorce?
Was it because you no longer
liked John?”

Seeing how John was behaving
now, it was clear no matter
how one looked at it that he
hadn’t let go of
his feelings for Sophia.
Both of them had allegedly said
that they couldn’t get along
well. Due to too many
disagreements with
each other, they had intended
to get an amicable divorce.
Now that they were divorced, it
seemed that things weren’t that
amicable either. At the very

least, one party hadn't let go of his feelings yet.

Sophia chuckled but did not explain, for she didn't wish to talk about the things that happened between her and John. After all, the story was long and ugly, and she might lose her patience before she was done telling it.

Logan was lost in his thoughts for a moment before he said, "Well, I suppose John isn't good with women. Men like him only rely on their good looks, and good looks only work for so long before women get tired of seeing the same face every day. To make a marriage work, one's character is very important.

I guess John really doesn't have much good character in him."
"

Sophia looked at Logan with some disgust. How dare this single guy who doesn't even have a girlfriend

stand here and analyze what it takes to have a lasting marriage with me?

Logan had come to take away all the items he had ordered. Tonight, someone had booked the entire clubhouse and had ordered all these desserts.

When Logan was about to leave, he looked at Sophia and said, "Although John isn't romantic nor good with women, he is very reliable. If you're together with him, you should feel very secure."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 535
Sophia pursed her lips.

"Are you sure?"

I didn't feel secure in the slightest. John hadn't given me anything during the marriage that lasted less than one year.

Robin waited for Logan to leave before coming over.

"Sophia, why do I feel like you're repulsed

whenever someone brings up
Mr. Constance?”

Sophia didn't turn her head but
continued looking outside.

“Do
you think John is good?”

Taken aback, Robin laughed
sheepishly.

“I don't have much
contact with him, so I can't say
whether he is
good or not. But I think that he
should be a very reliable
person.

”

Sophia sighed.

“That's because
you aren't married to him, so
you've only seen his other
side.

”

When you've really married him
and considered him your
husband, you'll feel differently.

The shop was less busy for the
rest of the day. In the evening,
when the shop closed, Sophia
allowed

Robin to leave first as she sat
inside the shop.

To her, there was no difference

between being here and being home. Both places belonged to her after all.

Sophia sat by the window, and her mind somewhat empty as she looked off into the distance.

She felt fulfilled after such a busy day, but she had only sat for a moment when someone came into the shop.

Sophia opened her mouth, wanting to say that the shop was closed for the day, but when she saw the person who came in, she swallowed her words back.

It was none other than Isabelle. Sophia felt that she wasn't here to have a bite.

After all, the Bailey Corporation was quite far from here. Right now should be the time when employees get off work, so logically, Isabelle should still be at the company. It was a little unreasonable for her to come all the way here just to eat something in Sophia's shop.

Sophia simply sat there and didn't move. After entering, Isabelle stood at the door and first looked at the layout of the shop, and then turned her head to look at Sophia.

Smiling, Isabelle asked,

“Are you closed?”

Sophia nodded.

“Yeah, the sign has been put up.

”

Naturally, Isabelle saw the sign as well. Still, she smiled and came to sit down across from Sophia.

“I see that you're living quite the life.

”

Sophia leaned back in her chair, turned her head, and looked outside.

“My life has always been pretty good.

”

“I suppose so.

” Isabelle nodded.

“During your divorce, John gave

**you so much money. Naturally,
you'll
have a good life.
”**

**Chuckling, Sophia answered,
“Apart from during the divorce,
John also gave me a lot of
money even after
the divorce.
”**

**Isabelle’s lips quirked up as she
always did and commented,
“I
heard that John was the one
who got
people to renovate this shop.
”**

**Sophia tutted.
“Don’t always
say that you’ve heard
something. Just say that you
found out about it. One
should always be more honest.
”**

**Bursting into laughter, Isabelle
said,
“Miss Gwendolyn, you’re
always so straightforward. I
can’t even be
a little more discreet.
”**

Sophia shrugged.

**“I do have this
bad habit. Sorry, I can’t fix it.
”**

Sighing, Isabelle said,

**“Then I’ll
tell you the truth. I’ve actually
wanted to come over and have
a look
myself for a long time now, but
I have been very busy recently.
Now that I finally have time
today, I
wanted to see what Miss
Gwendolyn can do. Looking at
this place, I think it’s pretty
good. In fact, it’s
better than I expected.
”**

Sophia raised her eyebrows.

**“Oh? Please elaborate on what
you had expected.
”**

**Isabelle spoke without holding
back,**

**“Well, Miss Gwendolyn, I
heard that you didn’t receive
much
education, so I thought that you
wouldn’t understand much
about business. But when I**

think about it, I
guess that one doesn't need
much professional knowledge
to open a shop and sell things.
As long as you
know how to serve people,
you're good to go. So, it's
normal that you're doing well
here.
”

Laughing, Sophia slowly tapped
on the table with a hand.

“I'll be
honest with you. I'm not very
good at
doing business, but my shop is
doing very well. Do you know
why? It's not because I have a
high table
turnover rate. It's because I
have two major customers.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 536
Turning her head, Sophia
looked outside and continued,
“Most of the desserts at Logan's
clubhouse are
supplied by me. He will only
look elsewhere if I really can't
prepare that many. Also, the
afternoon tea

that the Constance Group's employees enjoy are all sourced from my shop. In fact, if I simply supply these two places without actually opening for business, this shop's profit is already quite substantial.

”

The corner of Sophia's mouth curved up as a relaxed expression crossed her face. “I'm opening the business to other customers simply because I'm bored. Actually, I don't think we're that much different since we both rely on others for support. The only difference is that you live off your parents, while I rely on men and friends.

”

She deliberately made John's identity a little ambiguous, then she smiled at Isabelle after she finished speaking. The hidden meaning behind her words was palpable. Isabelle's expression changed a little before returning to normal

again. Puckering her lips, she said,
“Miss Gwendolyn, I’ve experienced how slick you are with your words before.”

On the surface, Sophia appeared flattered as her eyes moved to gaze outside again.
“Miss Bailey, your attitude surprises me too. I think that you and Madam Flintstone are often similar in many ways. You two should go and do a paternity test. Perhaps the Constance Family had gotten the wrong child in the past.”

Isabelle didn’t understand what Sophia meant. After Sophia finished speaking, she continued to explain,
“Time after time, I’ve made mincemeat of you and Matilda, yet you two seem to have no memory of those times and still choose to come here and self-destruct.”

”

Sophia shook her head and added,
“Both of you are really alike. Besides, Madam Flintstone really likes you, so you shouldn’t exclude the possibility that you’re both actually biologically related.

”

In the past, if someone had said that Isabelle and Matilda were very similar to each other, Isabelle might not think too much about it, but things were different now. Matilda’s matter was still a hot topic on the Internet, and her reputation was in tatters online. So, when Sophia said that they were very similar to each other, Isabelle felt that the other woman was being sarcastic and mocking her, making her expression darken at once. As Sophia stared out of the window, the smile at the corner of her mouth became more and

more
obvious.

When John's car stopped
outside of the shop, the first
thing he noticed was Sophia
smiling. He was a
little surprised. After the
divorce, she had never shown
such a happy expression
whenever she saw him
again.

He got down from the car and
strode toward Sophia's shop.
After taking a few steps, he
finally saw the
person sitting opposite Sophia.
It was none other than Isabelle.
Startled, John's expression
changed
imperceptibly.

When Isabelle saw him coming
their way, a trace of panic
flashed across her face before
she returned to
her usual composure. John
opened the door and entered.
Looking at Isabelle, he
commented,
"Why are
you here, Miss Bailey?"
Isabelle smiled.

**“I was passing
by, so I came to check it out.
”**

**John then turned to look at
Sophia.**

**“Why didn’t you leave
after work? I went to your
house and waited
for a while at the door.
”**

**If John had said this before,
Sophia would definitely
question why he went to her
house, but Sophia was
delighted at having chanced
upon such a perfect situation.
So, her tone was amiable as she
replied,**

**“I’m
just sitting here taking a break.
Logan ordered a lot of things for
his clubhouse event today, so
I’ve been
so busy for the whole day and
I’m dog-tired.
”**

**After saying that, Sophia
rotated her neck slightly.
John went over and stood
behind Sophia, then he gently
massaged her shoulders.**

“In the future, don’t allow Logan to order so many things in one go. There’s only Robin to help you out in the shop. You’ll overwork yourself to death.”

Then, he added with a little annoyance, “That guy Logan should have taken your situation into account as well.”

Sophia simply smiled and didn’t refute him.

Meanwhile, Isabelle’s expression did not change as she watched John and Sophia. With an unusually calm tone, she commented, “Oh, you two. If I didn’t know any better, I would never have thought that both of you are divorced with each other.”

Sophia stared at her. I’ve really got to give it to her. No matter

how furious she feels inside,
she isn't
showing any signs of it on her
face at all.

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If it were me, I wouldn't have
been able to hold it in.

John sighed.

"Yeah. I was
initially thinking of remarrying
her before people found out
about it to prevent
so many things from happening,
but Miss Gwendolyn disagreed
and insisted on kicking me
away.

"

He said it jokingly, so Isabelle
really laughed and considered it
a joke.

Sophia thought that Isabelle
herself was much funnier than
this joke, so she only laughed
after Isabelle
finished laughing. It was very
sudden and the timing of the
laugh was weird.

However, Isabelle only looked
at Sophia and was not affected
at all. Even now, she could still
hold her

ground as she commented,
“Miss Gwendolyn looks very
pretty, so I’m sure she is really
likable.

”

Sophia raised her eyebrow.

“Naturally, I also think that I’m
quite likable.

”

Isabelle nodded.

“I think Young

Master Jefferson and Miss
Gwendolyn have a pretty good
relationship.

And there’s Young Master Ian
as well. These two aren’t very
easygoing with outsiders, yet
they behave
differently when they interact
with Miss Gwendolyn.

”

John stared at Isabelle, then
looked down at Sophia.

Chuckling, Sophia replied,

“I

suppose so. But after
interacting with them for some
time, it’s clear that
they have very good judgement
of people and they are young
men with good morals.

**” Since
Isabelle has
implied that I have a
controversial relationship with
Logan, I can also mock her in
turn. After all, Logan
and Ian both didn’t like Isabelle
to the extent that they couldn’t
be bothered to be polite to her,
which
showed how bad Isabelle’s
character was.**

**Curving her lips, Isabelle did not
respond. This wasn’t the first
time Sophia had won in a war
of words
anyway.**

**Thinking for a while, John
massaged Sophia’s shoulders
and said,**

**“Come on. Let’s go
home now. There
isn’t anything to do here
anyway.**

”

**Sophia agreed with John’s
words, so she said,**

**“All right,
let’s go home.**

”

A trace of happiness flashed

past John's eyes.

Since Sophia and John were going to leave, Isabelle naturally couldn't stay here. So, she also stood up and said goodbye to them.

After she left, Sophia snorted, which John heard loud and clear. He turned his head to look at Sophia, the corners of his mouth slowly lifting into a grin.

As the two returned home from the shop, John didn't ask Sophia what Isabelle had said to her just now.

It was as if he had forgotten about that woman as he drove Sophia home. When they reached their destination, Sophia opened the door and got off, then said her goodbye.

John stopped her.

"What do you mean by this? Aren't you gonna invite me in?"

Turning around, Sophia faced him.

"It's getting late, so you should go home for dinner. I

won't ask you to
stay.
”

John opened the door and got
out of the car.

“You weren't like
this back in the shop just now.
”

Just now? That was a show I put
on for Isabelle. Now that she's
not there, who am I putting on
an act
for?

Ignoring Sophia's reaction, John
walked past her and into the
house.

“It's been a long time
since I've
eaten the food you cook.

” This
meant that he wanted to have
dinner here before leaving.
Sophia stood there for a long
time with her lips pursed, then
she turned and entered the
living room.

Familiar with the place, John sat
down on the sofa and switched
on the TV, while Sophia put on
her
apron and went into the kitchen

to cook. Although John stared at the TV, he wasn't actually watching the movie on it. His attention was mostly fixated on the kitchen, where the sounds of vegetables being chopped and the water running rang and reverberated in his ears.

After a while, John couldn't help but get up and walk toward the kitchen.

Sophia's hair was tied up into a bun. Also, she wore a pastel-colored apron and her head was lowered as she prepared the ingredients very seriously.

Upon seeing her like this, John's heart constricted for a moment before he entered and wrapped his arms around her.

"I think the two of us are great together like this. Won't you consider getting back together with me again?"

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The movements of Sophia's

hands paused at John's words.
After staring at the ingredients
on the cutting
board for a long while, she
finally said,
"Let go of me."
"

However, John was a little
bolder on this day and refused
to let go.
"Sophia, I find that I'm
really not used
to you not being with me."
"

Sophia pressed her lips together.
"You're just unaccustomed to
not having someone around to
serve
you. If you really want someone
to accompany you, I think
Isabelle is a good choice. You
may try to date
her. Perhaps you'll find that she
suits you better than I do."
"

John let out a dull laugh before
asking,
"Really?"
Sophia twisted her body,
flinging John's hand around her
waist away.

**“Of course. If you
don’t believe it,
you can try it and see.
”**

**John stood beside Sophia,
watching her cut the vegetables.
“I guess your proposal is worth
considering.
”**

**Sophia didn’t speak any more
and started busying in the
kitchen. Then, John left and
went out to sit on
the sofa. Facing the kitchen, his
mouth twitched slightly.
Isabelle? I guess I can consider
her.**

**Soon, Sophia was done with
cooking. She had made the
meal into a very formal
three-course dinner,
making John smack his lips at
the dinner table.**

**“It looks great.
Better than what the chef
makes back at
the Constance Residence.
”**

**Sophia served him the food and
said,
“Just leave after dinner.**

”

John didn't mind Sophia's attitude toward him and leaned back in his chair casually. None of them spoke throughout the dinner. When Sophia finished her food, John was still eating. She leaned back in her chair and looked at him.

It was quite normal for such a good-looking man to attract a lot of women. Thus, it was understandable for Isabelle to be interested in him. However, Sophia felt that the other woman was a little obsessive with John. It wasn't as if there were no other fishes in the sea. Why is she still so interested in this man who had been married and divorced? Sophia was a little confused by that.

Actually, she had wanted to ask Isabelle back in the shop whether she really loved John, or if she was obsessed about him simply because she couldn't win him

over. But then, Isabelle was also a stubborn one who would probably say some nonsense like 'true love conquers all'

. Sophia sometimes felt disdainful of Isabelle's loftiness that she carried with her all the time.

We're all mortals, so no one is better than another. No matter how amazing one was, one would still need to eat, drink and defecate every day, and when one died, only a handful of ashes would be left.

John had finished his dinner. Taking a paper towel to wipe his mouth, he nodded and said, "I still prefer the food you make."
"

Sophia crossed her arms. "Even if you prefer it, I can't make it for you all the time. I'm just in a good mood today. If you've finished, leave now. I need my rest."

”

John laughed.

“You weren’t like
this to me in the past.

”

That made Sophia chuckle.

“Well, you weren’t like this to
me back then either.

”

Staring at Sophia, John looked
like he wanted to say
something, but in the end, he
didn’t say it. Instead,
he stood up and announced,
“Okay, since I’ve finished eating,
I’ll leave now.

”

Sophia didn’t believe him, so
she personally escorted him to
the door, then watched him go
out and get
into the car. As John opened
the car door, he looked back at
Sophia.

“I’ll definitely consider
your
suggestion.

”

Before Sophia could react, John
got into the car and closed the
door. Watching the car leave,

Sophia

stood still in confusion. What suggestion?

She turned around and entered the house. Closing the door and windows, she then returned to her

room. It was only when she was brushing her teeth did she suddenly realize what John meant. Earlier,

she had suggested to him that he could try to get together with Isabelle. This jerk! When he said he

would consider my suggestion, did he mean this?

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Sophia looked into the mirror and sneered. Sure, go ahead and try. Do you think I care?

In the next few days, John really didn't show up, while Sophia's shop was still very busy.

The matriarch of the Blackwell Family, Kate Blackwell, came several times. At first, she complained that

Sophia hadn't visited her, but when she saw that Sophia was really busy, she stopped

badgering her.

Kate said that Fabian Blackwell's family kept talking about her. Instead of asking Sophia to call them her parents, she just told her, "Your godfather and godmother think about you all the time. Even Fabian brought you up twice, saying that his sister never goes back after the last time you had a meal together.

"

Sophia didn't know if what Kate said was true, so she could only smile.

"You've seen how busy I am yourself. There's no way I can leave the shop considering how busy it is.

"

Thus, Kate could only nod.

"Yes, I can see how busy you are now that I'm here to visit you.

" Then,

she

slowly let out a sigh and

continued her topic.

“Fabian also mentioned that your relationship with John is very different, and that you two have a special connection. Girl, why haven’t I heard you mention this before?”

Sophia was taken aback for a moment, wondering if Fabian Blackwell was trying to give the old woman a hint about something. Hence, she hesitated and replied, “Well, my relationship with John isn’t that special. I didn’t feel the need to tell you.”

Sitting in her chair, Kate looked outside the window.

“John, well, I watched him grow up too. But my health hasn’t been well for the past two years, so I’ve not really kept in contact with the Constance Family. John is a good kid

though, despite his rather aloof temperament. He is truly a good man.

”

Sophia had no comment about that, so she could only nod her head.

“Yes, I guess he’s a very good man.

”

Robin glanced at Kate and nodded as well.

“Mr. Constance looked like a nice guy. He came here a few times before and was very polite.

”

Kate agreed.

“That boy has always been really obedient since he was a kid. He followed the path his family laid out for him without any protest, so it is in his nature to be reserved. Oh, by the way, John is married. Haven’t you seen his wife before?”

At that, the old woman added, “During that banquet, John

didn't bring his wife along. I really wished to see the eldest Young Mistress of the Constance Family.

”

Sophia looked away; she wasn't sure how to react to that. After all, John had no wife now. He only had an ex-wife, who was standing in front of the old woman right now.

Robin too felt a little embarrassed. Turning her head to glance at Sophia, she felt like laughing.

However, Kate did not notice their expressions and continued saying,

“John should be a really good man.

Don't be tricked by his aloofness; I'm sure he's someone who really pampers his wife.

”

Sophia almost burst out laughing. This old lady really doesn't hear anything through the grapevine; she only relies on her own

subjective judgment in everything. I'm sure I'm the most qualified person to judge whether John is a good husband or not. That jerk was really inhuman back then!

The old woman sat there for a while before leaving.

She was no longer sprightly, so it was easy for her to feel tired after spending too much time outdoors.

Besides, the Blackwell Family would worry about her if she was out too long.

After the matriarch of the Blackwell Family left, Robin was a little emotional as she said, "This grandmother of yours looks like a nice woman. She is pretty good to you."
"

Sophia thought about the Constance Family and how Old Mr. Constance treated her so well that she made a mistake in her judgment and thought that everyone in the family would accept her. But now,

look at what happened to me after his passing.

The Blackwell Family was similar to the Constance Family; the only one who was truly willing to accept her was probably the matriarch of the Blackwell Family.

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As for the others, who knew what thoughts they had?

Sophia wasn't stupid; she wouldn't easily believe those who didn't show their true feelings this time.

After standing there for a while, she then returned to the counter. Now that there were no customers, Robin felt a little bored, so she said,

“Mr. Constance hasn't visited for several days.”

Sophia smiled.

“Why? Do you miss him?”

Taken aback, Robin stared at her.

“Don't talk nonsense! Why would I miss him? I'm just

stating an
observation. You'd better not
think otherwise.

”

Sophia grinned and replied,
“I'm just joking. Why are you so
serious?”

Robin flipped her hair without a
word.

Speaking of the devil, John
drove to the shop in the
evening. He didn't get out of
the car but simply
tooted the horn twice.

Recognizing that it was John's
car at a glance, Robin hurried
out.

“Mr. Constance,
what's the matter?”

John lowered the car window
and glanced into the shop.

“Is
Sophia inside?”

Robin was startled for a
moment. Then, she looked back
before saying,

“Are you here to
see Sophia?”

“No.

” John smiled.

Sophia was still standing at the

counter. Although she didn't stare at John, she couldn't help but notice him from the corner of her eyes.

After talking with John for a while, Robin turned around and came back in. She then said to

Sophia,

"Mr.

Constance wants to take away a piece of cake. He said that he's going to meet a client and he'll eat it on the way there.

"

Sophia frowned.

"What

important client is that for him to be in such a hurry without even having time for a meal?"

Robin shrugged her shoulders.

"I don't know. I felt that Mr. Constance was a little excited when he mentioned the client, so I suppose it should be some bigshot.

"

Sophia didn't speak further, so

Robin helped to pack the cake up and take it out to John, who didn't even greet Sophia and drove off just like that.

Standing at the counter, Sophia didn't know what she was thinking about. All she knew was that she suddenly felt a little down in the dumps and that everything was meaningless. Even when evening came around and the shop closed for the day, Sophia still felt irritable for no reason in particular. Robin had left first, leaving Sophia to calculate the day's turnover. After dragging it out for a while, she didn't hail a cab but chose to slowly walk back home.

On the way back, her phone rang. She took it out to have a look and saw that it was from John. However, it had only rang for a few seconds before the other party hung up. It was as if he had accidentally called her.

So, Sophia decided to just ignore it. When she got home, it was already dark and she was not in the mood to cook, so she simply ate some leftover pasta from the fridge. Then, she sat on the sofa to watch TV, but it wasn't long before her mind wandered, and her heart felt like there was a thorn in it.

After a while, the phone lying on the coffee table rang again. It was from John once more, but this time, he didn't hang up immediately. Sophia took the phone over and glanced at it, then picked up the call.

Her tone was a little cold without her realizing it as she asked,

“What do you want?”

Amidst a noisy background, John's words were slurred when he spoke.

“Sophia, come here.

”

Sophia was taken aback.

**“Did
you drink?”
John repeated,
“Come here.
”**

**Sophia thought for a while
before asking,
“Is Zack with
you?”
Silence fell. After some time,
John finally answered,
“No.
”**

**Sophia remembered that John
had said he was going to meet a
client just before evening.
Considering
the circumstances now, he had
probably drunk too much while
socializing with the client.
However, why
did John go over to such a social
event by himself?
Just as Sophia was trying to
decide how to reply to John, the
man continued saying,
“I’ve
tried out what
you suggested, but I don’t think
it works.
”**

After a moment of confusion,
Sophia reacted a little faster
this time and asked,

“What I

suggested? Do

you mean the matter about
Isabelle?”

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John mumbled vaguely,

“She’s

not as good as you.

”

Sophia thought for a while and
seemed to understand what
was going on.

“Are you with

Isabelle now?”

After a long pause, John’s voice
slowly came over.

“She went to

the restroom.

”

Sophia suddenly stood up from
the sofa.

“Where are you?”

It was a long time before John
gave her an address. From the
address, Sophia guessed that it
was a small

shop. She stood where she was,
one hand on her hips, hesitating

whether she should or shouldn't go. It felt a bit inappropriate for her to go since she was no longer his wife, but if she didn't, and considering John's drunken state right now, it would be easy for him to make a mistake with Isabelle since the latter had been obsessed about him all this while.

So, Sophia said into the phone, "Stay there and don't move. I'll be right there. Remember, do not leave that place.

" After speaking, Sophia hung up, changed her shoes and went out. Forget it, I'm not gonna worry so much about things. John is now drunk, so I'll get him away from that place first.

No matter what, if he really wishes to choose Isabelle, he has to be in a sober state to do that.

Sophia got in a cab and went directly to the address given by John. It was a small tavern

located deep
inside an alley. Sophia entered
the place and immediately saw
Isabelle and John. He did indeed
look
drunk as he leaned back in his
chair. At the same time, Isabelle
had gone over to him and
appeared to be
helping him up. Sophia simply
stood there without moving as
she watched them.

As if he was asleep, John had
his eyes closed. Failing to move
him, Isabelle gave up after a
few
unsuccessful attempts. She
stood beside John and looked
down at him. It was this man
who had tortured
her so much that she couldn't
eat or sleep. It was him who
had made her feel restless and
flustered time
after time. Isabelle whispered,
"John, wake up."
"

However, there was no reaction
from the man at all. She pursed
her lips and then raised a hand
to touch

his face.

Sophia chuckled before walking up to them.

“Miss Bailey, what are you doing?”

As if struck by lightning, Isabelle retracted her hand back at once, but when she saw that it was

Sophia,

she immediately put on a righteous expression.

Sophia glanced at John, but the man didn't react at all. How much has this jerk drunk?

Shouldn't you be

vigilant when you come out to drink with a member of the opposite sex?

Isabelle looked at Sophia.

“Why

are you here, Miss Gwendolyn?”

Sophia and John had already divorced, so Isabelle had no need to feel guilty upon seeing the woman

before her. Then, Sophia came over, squeezed Isabelle aside, and pushed John with her hands.

“Wake

up! You called me and told me to come over, yet you're passed out in a drunken stupor.

”

After shaking John several times, the man slowly came to his senses. He squinted at Sophia, and then smiled.

“You came.

”

Impatience was written all over Sophia's face as she said,

“Do

you want to go home? If yes, come with

me. If not, I'm going to leave first.

”

John hurriedly pulled at Sophia's hand.

“Of course I do.

Since you're here, I'll go back with you for sure.

”

After saying that, he staggered to his feet, holding onto the table for support. Only then did he notice

Isabelle.

“Miss Bailey, you're

still around? I'm leaving now.

”

Isabelle stood still without any expression on her face.

Meanwhile, Sophia had no choice but to hold out her arm and support John. Without sparing another glance at Isabelle, she took John away. The two of them got into the car and went back to Sophia's house.

Sophia had actually called Zack on the way there and asked him to come over to get John.

However, Zack told her that he was out on a date and it wouldn't be convenient for him to go. Thus, he asked her to look after John, and if it wasn't possible for her to do so, then she should call the Constance Residence and have someone go over to get him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 542
After Sophia thought about it, she decided to just let John stay over.

Along the way, John seemed to be asleep, but when the cab stopped outside Sophia's house, he

suddenly woke up, opened the door and got off quickly. After Sophia paid the fare and got off, John was

already standing at the door.

She stared at the man in a somewhat helpless manner.

In her life, she was most helpless against drunkards because she knew that she herself behaved terribly when she was drunk, so she had no right to be repulsed by others' drunken behaviors.

After she went over to open the door, John went in at once. He did not stay downstairs but walked up the stairs by himself without a word.

Sophia almost laughed out loud. Does John think that this is his home?

After that, she called out to him twice, but he didn't respond to her as if he hadn't heard her at all. In just

a moment, he disappeared at the top of the stairs on the second floor.

Sighing, Sophia went to the kitchen. Since John would definitely have a hangover the next day, she had to prepare some chicken soup in advance as a hangover cure. Thus, she busied herself in the kitchen downstairs for a while. When she went upstairs, she found that John was already asleep in her bedroom.

This guy is acting the same as the last time. He didn't take off his clothes and just lay on the bed like that.

Sophia put the chicken soup aside and went up to turn John over.

"John, wake up. Drink the chicken soup before going to sleep, otherwise you'll have a headache tomorrow."
"

John slowly turned around and lay flat on the bed. Squinting up at her, he called,

“Sophia.

”

Sophia turned around to get the bowl of chicken soup. However, John pulled her hand with a sudden force without any warning, causing her to fall directly on his body.

Sophia was so shocked that she hurriedly pushed against John’s chest.

“John, are you crazy?”

John’s eyes were a little red as he looked at Sophia without saying a word. His expression looked a little

passionate. Seeing that, Sophia took a deep breath and said,

“Don’t move. I’ll get you the chicken soup.

”

She struggled to stand up and brought the chicken soup over.

By then, John had already sat up. He was

very obliging as he drank all the chicken soup without needing

Sophia to coax him at all. When he

finished, Sophia took the bowl

and turned to leave with it.
However, John grabbed
Sophia's hand, stared
at her, and called out again,
"Sophia.
"

Sophia nodded at him.

"You
had dinner with Isabelle today,
right? Are you happy?"

John let out a muffled laugh.

Then, he suddenly flipped over
and pinned Sophia on the bed.
Grabbing the bowl tightly in her
hand, Sophia exclaimed,

"What
are you doing? Get away! The
bowl is
going to fall!"

John took the bowl over from
her hand and threw it to the
floor. As the floor was carpeted,
the bowl
didn't shatter but only clanged
dully as it hit the floor. Sophia
glared at him angrily. Although
John still
smelled like alcohol, he looked
sober enough.

John's mouth twitched as he
asked,

**“Sophia, are you
jealous?”**

Sophia rolled her eyes.

**“Are you
really this narcissistic? Why
should I be jealous? Are you
crazy, or am I?”**

**Her words were venomous, but
John had expected her to say
such things, so he blocked her
mouth**

**directly with his lips and
prevented her from speaking at
all.**

**Sophia’s eyes bulged. Again!
He’s doing this again! She
pushed John hard, but this time,
he was different
from before and acted rather
unrestrainedly. Hence, Sophia
couldn’t protect herself with
just her hands.**

**As their limbs tangled with each
other, the two of them rolled
onto the floor.**

**The situation was more than a
little chaotic. Sophia’s brain
couldn’t process what was
happening, so she
looked up at the ceiling and said
hoarsely,**

**“You smell of alcohol
all over.
”**

**Hearing this, John laughed
aloud and without any delay, he
carried her in his arms and
strode into the
bathroom.**

**In her daze, some scenes
flashed through Sophia’s mind
without any warning.**

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**The scenes weren’t from that
time back in Tri Asel; they were
from the previous time they
were here. In**

**a trance-like state, she asked
John,**

**“The previous time we
were here...
”**

**John quickly blocked her mouth
again. The previous time was a
bit too wanton and he couldn’t
have her**

**remember it. After all, he
wouldn’t have been able to
hold her down if she blew up in
a rage.**

**However, Sophia was mindful
of her situation. She was a**

single woman anyway, so this kind of situation was understandable. They were simply fulfilling each other's physical needs.

It was just that if Isabelle knew that John was staying over at Sophia's place and was doing all these things with her, the former would probably be hopping mad. Sophia admitted that she was a narrow-minded and selfish woman. Just the thought of Isabelle touching John's face made her upset.

John was a little surprised that Sophia would be so cooperative with the way things were going.

Ever

since the divorce, this woman had always been hesitant.

Sophia put her arms around John's neck and said,

"Are you happy about the dinner today?"

Lowering his head, John kissed her.

"Looks like you really are jealous.

”

Sophia chuckled without any emotion.

“I’m jealous? Dream on.

”

John didn’t want to pester her too much on this issue. The night was too short, so it was better to focus

on more meaningful things.

Then, Sophia reached out and turned the lights off. The moonlight streaming in from the window was

bright enough for John and Sophia to see each other clearly.

Sophia commented,

“You drank

so much today. Did you plan to have sex with Isabelle after taking

courage from the alcohol?”

John replied,

“I obviously

planned to be with you right from the beginning.

”

“Are you playing me for a fool?”

John leaned close to her ear

and whispered softly,
“Look at
us; we’re a match made in
heaven. Are you
sure you won’t reconsider my
proposal?”

Sophia didn’t answer, so John
added,

“Let’s remarry, okay?”

Still, Sophia chose to ignore him.
Remarry? What is he even
thinking?

In the end, she didn’t even
remember when she fell asleep.
Her fatigue caused her to sleep
until noon
the next day.

When she woke up, John was
no longer in bed. She looked at
the time and was shocked.

Sitting up
quickly, she fumbled for her
phone and called Robin. Since
the shop was always busy,
Robin must have
been completely rattled by the
amount of work she had to
handle alone.

It took Robin a long time to
answer the call.

“Sophia.

” She
sounded a little glum.
Sophia felt a little embarrassed
as she apologized.

“Sorry, I
overslept today. You must be
frazzled having
to do everything by yourself in
the shop this morning.
”

“No,
” Robin replied.

“John
called me in the morning and
said that you’re too tired and
won’t be coming
today. He got Zack to come over
to help, so I’m doing okay.
”

Sophia was taken aback.

“John
called you?”

It took a long time for Robin to
say yes.

Sophia gritted her teeth in
annoyance, but she still
maintained her composure and
asked Robin,

“What
nonsense did John say to you?”
Robin was at a loss for words.

Earlier in the morning, John had called her using Sophia's phone.

He said

that Sophia was exhausted and might not go to the shop on this day, so he would arrange for someone

to go over and help out at the shop.

Then, he had added that it was all his fault for tormenting Sophia last night and forgetting that she had

work the next day. In fact, there was no real need for him to tell Robin that. When the latter heard it, she

had turned crimson red from utter awkwardness.

But of course, Robin could not tell Sophia any of this. She simply laughed and said,

"He

didn't say much.

Don't worry about it.

"

Sophia ruffled her hair, then lifted the duvet and looked at her own body.

I knew it. This jerk likes to bite!

The Returning Ex Chapter 544

There were so many marks on Sophia's body.

**She closed her eyes and said,
"Okay, I see. Continue with
your work. I'll see if I can go
over this
afternoon.**

"

**Robin then hung up the phone.
Sophia held some clothes close
to herself to cover her body
before going to the bathroom
and taking a
good look in the mirror. Sure
enough, her neck and
collarbone were full of love
bites.**

**John is like a dog that likes to
chew on things!**

**Sophia stood in front of the
mirror for a long time. After
counting the dates, she felt that
she should be
safe since her menstrual cycles
had always been quite regular.
She didn't wish to take any
contraceptives
or morning-after pills because
she felt that they would do
damage to her body, so she
decided that it**

was a safe period and stopped thinking about it.

After soaking in the bathtub for a while, Sophia dressed herself to go out. When she came downstairs, she found John in the living room. Startled, she thought for a bit and only realized that it was a Saturday.

Ever since she opened her own business, she no longer knew the days of the week.

John stood at the entrance of the living room, making a call. From his expression, it looked like it was

about some company matters. Sophia slowly walked down the stairs. To be honest, she didn't know how to face John.

Previously, she had always been reserved and distant around the man, but she had been quite enthusiastic last night.

This made her a little bit embarrassed.

Hearing the noise, John turned around and saw Sophia. Smiling, he said,

“You’re awake.

”

Sophia tried her best to make herself appear normal.

**“Yeah,
I’m awake. Have you eaten yet?”**

John shook his head.

**“I was
waiting for you to get up. Let’s
go out to eat.**

”

**Since she was still feeling rather lethargic, she too didn’t feel like cooking. Her body still felt a little weak,
so she nodded and said,**

**“I’m
ready. Let’s go!”**

The two of them did not go too far since John did not drive his car over. So, they walked to the restaurant near Sophia’s house. Sophia lazily stretched her body as she walked. As if dissatisfied with her slow speed, John reached out to drag her along. Sophia reluctantly quickened her pace to match his.

Meanwhile, sitting inside

another car, Isabelle stared at the scene going on outside. She had been here since last night and was outside Sophia's house. So, she knew that John never left for the entire night.

Early this morning, she came back again and just saw them after waiting for a long time. John stayed over last night. It was evident what had happened between these two people last night.

Sophia was also wearing the lace dress from before.

Isabelle closed her eyes and leaned against the back of the chair. Actually, she had guessed that this

would happen, but for some reason, she had to personally come and take a look. In the end, she was simply setting herself up for disappointment.

Unfortunately, Sophia had no idea that Isabelle was here, or she would have put on a good show.

She and John soon arrived at

the restaurant. There, he ordered the food, while she ordered the drinks.

I'm really hungry and thirsty now! she thought.

John stared at Sophia and noticed the marks on her neck. It was a deliberate act when he tormented her like that last night.

With a yawn, Sophia said, "After the meal, I'll go to the shop. You should leave too."
"

John smiled.

"Are you sure you can go to the shop looking like this?"

Stunned, Sophia realized that John was staring at her neck, so she hurriedly clutched at it.

"You're the one who did this. How dare you bring it up?"

With a gentle expression, John replied,

"So, I suggest that you go home and rest for a while. I'll go and check out the shop. Zack's there, so you have nothing to worry

about.

”

Sophia said coldly,

“This kind

**act of yours is proof of your
guilty conscience.**

”

**Laughing, John answered
cheerfully,**

“Yeah, I feel guilty. I

**was too rough with you last
night, so it’s all my
fault.**

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 545

**Sophia didn’t want to listen to
what happened last night, so
she quickly stopped him.**

“What

happened

isn’t reflective of my true

**feelings. The atmosphere was
pretty good at that time, so I
just went along**

with it. There’s no further

**meaning to it. After eating, you
should just go do what you**

have to do. Don’t

you have some company

matters to handle? Go ahead

and deal with it. I don’t need

**you to take care of
my shop.
”**

**It was clear that Sophia was
subtly rejecting him again. John
wanted to say something, but
after thinking
about it, he decided not to.
Considering how Sophia had
finally relented last night, he
couldn't be too
pushy about things either. Thus,
he nodded.**

**“Alright.
”**

**After the meal, they left the
restaurant together. Sophia
strolled back home first, while
John did not
follow her but attempted to hail
a cab by the roadside.
Seeing this, Isabelle drove past
him at once. She parked the car
next to John and lowered the
window.**

**“John, what a coincidence.
”**

**John was stunned to see her,
but he just nodded.**

**“Yeah,
fancy meeting you here.**

”

Isabelle pretended to know nothing.

“What’s up? Are you hailing a cab? I can give you a ride.

”

However, John didn’t get into the car right away. Instead, he merely looked at her.

“Are you going to meet a client?”

“No.

” Isabelle laughed and explained,

“My brother has a class, so I sent him there.

”

John nodded. Looking around him, he realized that there weren’t many cabs on the road at this hour. So, he got into the backseat of the car.

“I’ll sit at the back. It wouldn’t be good if we’re photographed sitting together in front.

”

Isabelle looked like she had

only just thought of this and
commented,
“You’re the
thoughtful one.
”

Then, she started driving away.
As the car traveled along the
road, she asked,
“Are you going
to the
company or the Constance
Residence?”

John turned around and looked
out the window.

“Go to
Sophia’s shop. She’s not going
over today, so I’ll
check out the situation and
maybe help out.
”

Isabelle pursed her lips when
she heard this. After a brief
pause, she said,

“Oh. Is Miss
Gwendolyn not
feeling well? Why is she not
going to her shop?”

Hearing her words, John
struggled to come up with a
proper reply. He didn’t want to
go into much detail

with Isabelle, since what happened last night was a private matter between him and Sophia. Isabelle wasn't close enough for him to sneakily divulge his intimate affairs either.

As Isabelle's status and identity were rather controversial, plus she was also his collaborative partner at work, John naturally had to be a bit more serious toward her. So, he replied,
"No, she's just a little tired today and has decided not to go to work. Therefore, I'll go and take a look.

”

Pressing her lips into a thin line, Isabelle did not answer. She stopped the car at a traffic light, then said
after a brief thought,
"I think you and Miss Gwendolyn are getting along well. Mrs. Constance told me that the relationship between the two of you isn't this good. It

seems that she has
misunderstood
things.

”

When Matilda was brought up,
John frowned.

“My mom
misunderstands a lot of things.
You don’t need
to bother about what she says.

”

His words were a veiled
reference to the previous
incident in the hospital when
Matilda had kicked up a
huge fuss.

Since John had stopped talking
about Sophia, Isabelle stopped
asking as well. She drove to
Sophia’s shop,
and John got off when they
arrived. Isabelle too got off and
followed after him.

Only Robin and Zack were in
the shop. Zack was only
responsible for receiving
payments, while Robin
served the customers and
packed up their orders.

John went in and remarked,
“Looks like you’re quite used to

this job.

”

**He was speaking to Zack.
Surprised, Zack lifted his head
and looked over, and then gave
a helpless smile.**

**“I’ve trained
the entire
morning. At first, I was really
thrown off balance by the
amount of work needed to be
done.**

”

**Robin glanced at Isabelle
standing behind John and
commented in a somewhat
surprised tone,**

**“This
must be Miss Bailey.**

”

**Isabelle came over and stood
beside John.**

**“Yeah, I was just
passing by and decided to take
a look in
here.**

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 546
Zack was also a bit surprised to
see Isabelle.**

“Miss Bailey, did

**you come over with Mr.
Constance?”**

**Without waiting for Isabelle to
speak, John spoke up first.**

**“I
couldn't get a cab and ran into
Miss Bailey
by coincidence. So, she gave me
a ride.
”**

**Zack nodded. Suddenly, he
remembered that Sophia had
called him the previous night,
saying that John
drank too much, so she asked
him to go and take the
drunkard away, but he was
really tied up with
something, which was why he
didn't go over.
Seeing that John didn't have a
car with him, Zack thought that
he had probably stayed
overnight at
Sophia's house. Thus, he
glanced at John a little slyly.
Furrowing his brows, the latter
gave Zack a warning glare
before walking over to the
counter. Sophia had
arranged everything there in an**

orderly manner, which looked very pleasing to the eye.

Robin looked up at him and asked,

“Why didn’t Sophia come here together with you? Didn’t she get enough rest?”

John nodded.

“She should probably be here a little later in the day. It’s okay. Let Zack help out here today. If you have anything you need help with, just order him around as you wish.”

Zack bared his teeth.

“What an evil capitalist!”

Isabelle stood there for a while, feeling somewhat awkward because nobody seemed to care about her

presence at all. So, when everyone fell silent for a moment, she took the chance to say,

“Guys, I have something to do, so I’ll take my leave first. Please carry on.”

”

Turning to her, John just said,
“Okay.

” He escorted her to the
door and thanked her.

Then, Isabelle turned back to
stare at John without a word for
quite some time. John didn’t
ask why

either and simply returned her
gaze calmly.

In the end, Isabelle laughed out
loud.

“I just realized that you’re
not the same as what the
rumors say.

”

John raised a brow.

“Oh?

Really?”

Isabelle nodded.

“Aren’t you
curious about what people
think of you?”

John smiled and replied,

“No,

I’m not curious. No matter what
they think of me, I’m sure it’s
definitely

not the real me. So, I’m not very
interested.

”

Isabelle was startled, but she then remarked with some emotion,

“You’re quite the optimist.

”

John didn’t respond, so Isabelle waved her hand and said,

“Go back inside. I’m leaving now.

”

She got into the car and drove off without another glance at him, but she kept the man in the rearview mirror in her sight the whole time. How could John, a man who saw through everything so well, get stuck

when it came to Sophia?

Logically speaking, those who were optimistic would forge ahead instead of turning back and getting

hung up on a past lover.

However, whenever he mentioned Sophia, his eyes were full of gentleness. Even if others couldn’t tell, Isabelle had noticed it clearly.

When she reached home,
everyone was present there.
Her grandfather was sitting on
the sofa drinking
tea, while his father was sitting
next to him and talking about
the company matters.

Isabelle went over and sat on
one corner of the sofa.

Her grandfather looked at her
and commented,

“What’s
wrong? You don’t look happy.
”

Isabelle sighed.

“I’m not happy.

My heart is feeling terrible.
”

There was nothing that could
make her heart feel terrible
except for that little issue.

Her grandfather put the teacup
down and looked at Isabelle.

“What’s going on with John?

But there’s

nothing serious happening
recently, is there?”

Meanwhile, her father spoke up
as well.

“You came back so late

last night, yet you went out so

early this morning. What happened?" Isabelle leaned back against the sofa.

"Nothing happened. It's just that John and Sophia have a very good relationship, so I'm feeling uncomfortable."
"

When Sophia was mentioned, her father's expression changed. "It's not worth it for you to be upset about that kind of woman."
"

Isabelle answered with some anxiety, "John spent the night at her house yesterday. While I don't want to be upset, my heart feels very uncomfortable when I think about it."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 547
Her father let out a sigh. "Belle, about John and you..."
"

Before he finished speaking, her

grandfather coughed dryly
beside him, causing the man to
stop talking

all of a sudden. Then, the elder
man said,

“As long as John and
Sophia don’t remarry each
other, you still
have a shot. You mustn’t mess
things up yourself.

” He thought
for a moment before adding,

“But you’ve
got to be clear whether you
really love John or not. Does
your love for him not waver
even when you
know that he is still emotionally
tangled up with his ex-wife?”

Isabelle pursed her lips together
and only nodded after a long
pause.

“I really love John.

”

She had loved John even before
they were arranged to be
married to each other. From his
marriage to
Sophia until his divorce, Isabelle
felt that her love hadn’t
diminished even a little bit.

When her grandfather heard that, he nodded.

“Things should be fine as long as you understand yourself well. Since you’re clear about what you want, you shouldn’t become flustered just because of some unimportant things.”

Her father sighed silently next to him but did not say a word. While Isabelle was upset over here, Sophia was actually feeling a bit unsettled over there as well. She had been careless last night. After what happened, John seemed to have misunderstood her intentions.

Earlier, Robin had just called to tell her that John had gone to the shop and started to help out over there.

Now that John was behaving this way, Sophia felt that some things were becoming more and more unclear. She had just acted a

little impulsive last night and given in to her physical needs as a single

woman, nothing more. But how could she explain this to John and make him understand?

Sophia felt a little unsure about how to broach this topic with him. After hesitating for a long time, she

still dressed up and went to the shop to check things out.

There were no bulk orders for this day, so the shop was not very busy. In fact, there was no need for

John to help out at all.

Sophia took a cab to the shop.

When she arrived, there were very few guests. John, Zack and Robin were

all there and were laughing about something that was said.

Then, Sophia pushed open the door and walked in.

“You guys look happy.

”

Seeing that she had arrived, John remarked,

**“I’m here, so
you can rest at home.
”**

**Sophia replied coldly,
“It’s
precisely because you’re here
that I worry. What if you empty
my shop and
move everything away?”**

John leaned back in his chair.

**“You don’t even need this shop.
Why are you so worried about
it?”**

**Sophia gave him a sweeping
glance from the corner of her
eye.**

**“Even if I don’t need it, it’s
still mine. I’ve
got to monitor it to prevent
outsiders from taking it away
from me.**

”

**Outsiders? John thought.
When Sophia and the others
were about to close up the shop
for the day, Matilda arrived.
She was just
passing by, but then she noticed
John sitting inside, so she
hurriedly entered the shop,
calling out to him,**

“John!”

Everyone was startled for a moment. When Sophia saw who it was, she laughed.

Matilda is out of ideas and is really desperate now, isn't she?

When John saw his mother, he was a little surprised, but his expression remained calm as he greeted,

“Mom.

”

For some reason, Matilda felt a little uncomfortable.

“I called you so many times, but you didn't answer any of my calls.

”

John didn't beat around the bush but said directly,

“I didn't feel like picking up.

”

Hearing this, Matilda felt rather embarrassed; even Sophia, Robin and Zack too looked awkward on her behalf.

Sophia licked her lips and said,

“Um, I’m gonna go out for some fresh air. Do you guys wanna come along?”

Knowing what Sophia meant, Zack and Robin quickly agreed and followed her out of the shop. Then, the three of them walked a little further and stood on the side of the road.

The Returning Ex Chapter 548

Zack smacked his lips.

“Poor

Madam Flintstone.

”

Sophia sneered,

“She deserves

it. The next time you have this kind of thought, you should browse the

Internet to see how aggressive

Madam Flintstone was when

she was kicking up a fuss at the hospital

before. She didn’t look pitiful at all then.

”

Zack laughed and said,

“Now

that she has ended up like this,

do you feel especially relieved?
Like you've
gotten your revenge?"

Sophia gave it a careful thought.

"At first, I did. But when she
came over here and ordered me
to help

her contact John for a meetup, I
thought that I've really dwelled
too much on her. Why should I
bother

about someone like that? Isn't
it better to live my life well?"

Zack stared at Sophia and
remarked,

"You seem to get
wiser by the day.

"

Robin glanced into the shop
next to her.

"I think Madam

Flintstone's pretty polite
toward others, but she
doesn't like Sophia and is very
malicious toward her.

"

"Yes.

" Sophia sighed.

"I mean, I
was the one who ruined her son
anyway.

”

All three laughed at that.
Inside the shop, Matilda was
sitting across John.

“John, do
you also blame me for kicking
up a fuss at the
hospital?”

Looking at Matilda being so
despondent, John felt his heart
soften. He answered,

“No, I
don’t blame you.

No matter what you do, it’s
your own business. To put it
bluntly, you need to be
responsible for your
own affairs. I can’t interfere
with anything.

”

Matilda lowered her gaze.

“This
just means that you do blame
me.

” Then, she changed the
topic and
said,

“But I won’t believe that
your dad doesn’t have anything
to do with that woman at all. I’ll
never

believe it! They have been entangled with each other for so many years and have always been in contact. It's natural for me to lose control back then. You know me. I've always had a hot temper.

”

Matilda spoke so much, yet John just grunted mildly in response. It was clear that he really didn't want to talk to Matilda about this matter since he couldn't make her understand anything. Throughout all these years, no matter what happened, Matilda had never reflected on her own actions and always laid the blame on others instead.

Matilda sighed.

“Well, I didn't expect your dad and I to be together for so long anyway. I guess he'll get together with that woman in the coming days.

”

John's voice was very light as he

said,

“At the moment, I don’t think he’ll do that. But if you continue to make a fuss, I believe they’ll probably get together soon.”

Matilda was stunned. She realized that by saying this, John was putting some responsibility on her as well, so she couldn’t help but rebuke,

“They must have something going on between them since a long time ago. Otherwise, no matter how much fuss I kick up, it wouldn’t be possible for them to get together.”

John gave her a slight smile.

“Okay. If you want to think so, then so be it. After all, it’s pointless for you to think about it either way.”

Matilda immediately shut up at that. It was hard for her to meet up with John, so she didn’t

want to argue with him and cause a scene. Falling silent, she pressed her lips together hard, which did make her look a little pitiful.

John turned his gaze away from her and looked out the window at Sophia, who was standing on the side

of the road nearby. Sophia and Zack were chatting away.

Suddenly, Sophia laughed a little exaggeratedly and even raised her hand to hit Zack lightly.

At this moment, John saw someone coming out of the opposite shop which sold floorboards. It was a young man and he was walking toward Sophia. Because of Sophia's pleasant personality and good looks, she had a good reputation around here. On the day her shop opened for business, she gave free desserts away to the shops around her as a token of goodwill, so the neighboring shops were also

happy to do
business with her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 549

John wrinkled his brows as he watched the man walk to Sophia and said something to her. When she heard his words, Sophia looked obviously startled. The man even ruffled his own hair and was looking a little bit embarrassed.

Alarm bells suddenly rang in John's head. He stood up and said to Matilda,
"Wait here for
me."
"

With that, he left the shop and headed toward Sophia, who didn't even notice him as her attention was on the man in front of her. In fact, it wasn't accurate to describe the guy as a 'man'. He was more like a 'boy'

.
According to what she knew, this boy had just graduated

from university. Since she was already married before, such a fresh graduate was really just a boy to her. He couldn't be considered a man. When John came up, Zack was talking to the boy.

"You two have such a big age gap. I don't think she is suitable for you, so there's no point in asking for her number."

The boy's face flushed red as he said,

"I'm just asking. I-I have no other intentions."

Sophia pursed her mouth. Seeing how nervous the boy looked, he must have mustered up all his courage before coming over. Therefore, she hesitated for a moment, while Zack went on to ask,

"So why are you asking for her number?"

His tone was teasing as he smiled, making the boy's face turning even redder.

**John went over and said,
“I’ll
give you the number. Note it
down.
”**

**Dazed, the boy stared at John
and then hurriedly fished out
his own phone. John then
rattled off a string
of numbers. Both Zack and
Sophia were taken aback by
what he had done.**

**Sophia sighed silently in her
heart. This jerk gave his own
number! How cruel is he?
The boy didn’t know that, so he
quickly noted down the phone
number and even repeated it
once.**

**“Is
that correct?”
John replied,
“Yes.
”**

**Excited, the boy thanked John
and Sophia profusely, and then
turned to go back into his shop.
Sophia turned her head to look
at John.**

**“What a dishonorable
guy you are.**

”

John stuffed his hands into his pockets as he stood by the road.

“So, what do you think I should do then?

Should I really give him your number?”

Sophia scoffed, not wanting to talk about this topic anymore.

“Have you finished talking with your

mother?” But Matilda is still inside the shop.

John sighed a little.

“No.

Actually, we have nothing to talk about.

”

Sophia thought about it and said,

“If you have anything to say, then tell her everything clearly in one go.

Otherwise, I think she will come here to look for you next time. I don't care about what's going on

between you two, but her coming here will really affect me.

”

John didn't speak but returned to the shop after a while. Then, Sophia watched him sit down and say a few words to Matilda, who nodded. Matilda treats John really well. No, wait, I can't say that. Matilda has a good attitude toward everyone, except me. How sad it sounds when I put it this way. After standing outside for a while, Sophia saw that they weren't finished yet, so she said to Zack and Robin, "Come, let's go back. They're so slow. How much do they have to say to each other? It's been so long, yet they haven't wrapped things up."

When Sophia returned to the shop, Matilda understood her intentions at once. Thus, she stood up and told John, "Right, John. I'll leave first. If I have time, I'll call you. You must pick up."

”

John stood up with a nod.

“Okay.

”

Then, he sent Matilda out of the shop. When the latter was leaving, she glanced at Sophia with a slightly displeased expression.

Sophia almost spat in response. This old woman really deserves a good beating. How dare she be so rude on my territory? Is she out of her mind?

John came back after a while, but he only returned to get his jacket. After saying that he had something to do so he would have to leave first, he then left and brought Zack with him. The shop became quiet once again.

The Returning Ex Chapter 550

Sophia sat in her chair and commented,

“I wish these people wouldn’t come here anymore. They’re so noisy.

”

Robin was in a daze, so she didn't hear Sophia's words at all.

Turning her head, Sophia looked at Robin and called out, “What are you thinking about? Why do you look so strange?”

Robin came back to her senses all at once.

“Nothing. I'm not thinking about anything.

”

As Sophia felt a little sore all over, she decided to close the shop a little earlier. Seeing that there were no customers, she allowed Robin to go home first.

On the way back in a cab, Logan called her to inform that Ian was included in the talent show that would

be broadcasted on this day. Ian was done recording and the show would air later in the day.

Sophia

immediately became excited.

“Really? Ian would be included in the show today?”

Logan said that he had specifically asked Lorraine about it, so this information was definitely reliable. Since Sophia had been following up with the talent show for the past few days, she was aware of how many talented singers there were in the show. She was not a professional in singing, so she couldn't really analyze much, but she had a feeling that Ian's opponents were very strong. Initially, she was anxious for him, but now that Ian was about to confront these people head-on, her heart felt somewhat relieved. It was finally time to witness Ian's true strength! Sophia returned home, checked the time, and decided to go and prepare dinner first. After she finished her meal, it was almost time for the show to start. She rushed up to her computer and waited. Ian was slated to appear during

the second half of the show.
Before him, there were three
contestants
who weren't very good. Sophia
wondered if Lorraine had
deliberately arranged for them
to appear first.
Thus, against such poor
contestants, Ian would appear
to be much more talented.
When Sophia heard Ian sing,
she could finally release the
ropes that had been
constricting her heart. Ian
was still the same. He sat on a
highchair and held a guitar close
to him as he sang his heart out
in a voice
that was clear and gentle.
The results were as expected.
All the talent show judges
clapped hard for him and
invited him to join
their respective teams for the
rest of the show. Ian took the
microphone over and thanked
them. After
that, he chose one of the judges
as his mentor and joined that
judge's team.
The host standing to the side

asked him the reason for his choice. To that, Ian smiled and replied,

“My girlfriend really likes this mentor.

”

Sophia was stunned as she stared at the screen. All of a sudden, she remembered that when she heard about the mentor lineup, she did mention that she liked one of them. To be honest, she didn't really know much about singing. All she knew was that the mentor had sung two songs that she enjoyed.

The mentor then smiled and said,

“I would be interested to meet your girlfriend, Ian.

”

Ian grinned and shook hands with his mentor, saying that he would introduce the two of them when he had the opportunity to do so. Sitting in front of the computer, Sophia felt that Ian was talking

about her. She licked her lips,
not
knowing what to make of it.
What's going on? Her mind was
confused and messed up.
John was also watching the
talent show at home. When Ian
came out to sing, he had smiled
slightly and
felt that his recent intensive
training seemed to be pretty
effective. Only Ian out of all
those contestants
was worth any salt. Ian had
sung a love song with a melodic
voice as if he was telling a
sweet love story;
even John thought that he
performed quite well. However,
what happened next shocked
him and his
face fell instantly.
John didn't even know that
Sophia liked that mentor, so he
seriously suspected that Ian
was just making
things up. After Ian and the
mentor smiled at each other,
the camera switched to the
next contestant.
Annoyed, John immediately

turned off the computer.

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What the heck! I shouldn't have watched it and made myself upset!

After resting on the chair for a while, John fished out his phone and called Sophia. He did not need to ask her to know that she must have seen what Ian had said on the show.

It took Sophia some time to connect the call, and she spoke in her usual impatient tone.

After John asked what she was doing, she didn't reply to him directly but instead questioned,

"Why are you looking for me?"

After giving it a thought, John said,

"Ian has joined the contest.

"

Sophia grinned.

"I know. I just watched the show.

"

As expected, she knew about it.
After waiting for a bit, John
went on,

“So, the girlfriend he’s
talking
about is you?”

Although this wasn’t an
interrogation, John didn’t sound
polite. Before she could reply,
he continued,

“Ian doesn’t know what
happened last night, right?”

John didn’t mean to mock when
he asked that question; he
simply wanted to mention the
incident last
night. However, the question
sounded rude, no matter in
what tone it was asked. After a
pause, Sophia
replied,

“Of course I’m the
girlfriend he’s talking about.
Could you be his girlfriend
instead? Also, what
happened last night isn’t
something I need to hide from
Ian. If he minds it, I’ll tell him
about it.

”

John closed his eyes, for he

could feel that their conversation was turning sour, but this wasn't what he intended when he called.

Seeing as he wasn't speaking, Sophia went on,

"If you've called to ask me about it, we can end the call now. I'm busy."

"Wait," John said. After thinking for a bit, he asked, "What do you make of the incident last night?"

Sophia was startled for a moment before replying nonchalantly,

"Last night? We did it many times before, but you never seemed to mind it. Why do you care so much about that one time last night?"

She then burst into laughter, as though what happened last night wasn't even worth mentioning.

"You had fun last night, didn't you?"

We're both adults, and we did it on our own free will. Why are you taking it so seriously?"

John fell silent. After waiting for a while, Sophia hung up the call. Then, her expression turned into a

furious one. What the heck!

How could he call to question me? Who does he think he is?

Because of the call, her already lousy mood turned worse.

While she was washing up, she still cursed the

man who just called her. When she slumped into her bed and

was ready to turn off the lamp, her phone

started ringing. She took a deep breath and picked up the call.

"Why are you calling me at this hour? I

need my beauty sleep!"

Logan was surprised by her irritated tone.

"Why do you

sound so grumpy? It's not very late.

"

Knowing what he wanted to ask

her, Sophia said,

“I’m going to
sleep. Bye.

” She proceeded to
hang up

the call. Sure enough, Logan
wanted to ask me what Ian
meant when he said those
things on the show,
but I’m not in the mood to give
an explanation.

She covered herself with a quilt
and thought, How could Ian
have the guts to talk about it on
a show that
would be broadcast to a large
audience? This kind of joke
should only be told among
friends!

She tossed and turned until she
couldn’t take it anymore and
got out of the bed. Upon
picking up her
phone, she texted Ian.

‘Text me
back when you’re free.

,

Normally at this hour, Ian
would still be training for the
show, so Sophia didn’t expect
him to see the

message immediately.

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To Sophia's surprise, Ian called her not long after the message was sent, so she hurriedly picked it up.

With a smile, Ian called out, "Sophia.

"

After a pause, Sophia replied,

"I thought you were taking a rest.

"

"Not yet. I was just talking to Lorraine about the next round of the show.

"

The conversation should have gone really well, as Ian's voice sounded delightful, which disrupted Sophia's readiness to ask her question. Now, she didn't think she could ask him about it in a serious manner.

After a grunt, she said,

"I

watched the show. Your performance was excellent.

”

Having watched the television show as well, Ian replied,

“I

performed normally. But honestly, I was terrified that I would be out of tune.

”

Sophia licked her lips.

“But on the show, you...

”

Knowing what she wanted to say, Ian giggled and said,

“You want to ask about what I said on the show, right?”

Sophia gave a guttural grunt.

Ian let out a sigh.

“During the training, the program director told us that each contestant would find a partner and sing together. To make it interesting for the audience, we were asked to be really close to the partner to spice up the show. When Lorraine told me

about it, I didn't like the idea.
So, I decided to
tell the audience that I have a
girlfriend so that I won't be
bogged down by gossip in the
future. I hope
that my singing skills will speak
for myself.

”

Sophia didn't really understand
all this, but she knew that it
was the norm these days to
create some
gossip for the contestants.
Slightly relieved, she mumbled,
“I see.

”

Ian chuckled.
“Don't feel
pressured. It's no big deal.

”

Upon pondering on it for a
moment, Sophia concluded that
she was just an ordinary citizen,
so it
shouldn't affect her much. She
then changed the topic by
asking about what was ahead of
him.

After giving it a thought, Ian
replied,

“Well, I’ll stay here for the training for the time being. When it’s my turn to perform, I’ll go over. It goes on like this until the winner is announced.”

That is going to take a long time. Without anything else to say, Sophia told him that he had her support.

Ian mumbled, “I miss you. I really hope that this show will end soon so that I can meet you.”

Since Ian had other matters to attend to, he told Sophia to take care and hung up the call. After the conversation, Sophia’s mind was set at ease. Putting down the phone, she covered herself with the quilt, let out a sigh, and closed her eyes. For the following days, Sophia and John fell into a cold war and never contacted each other. Sophia didn’t know what

situation John was in, but she had been swamped every day, so it was a blessing for her that he never came to bother her. With her life full of challenges and meaning, she stopped caring whether John was angry with her.

Come to think of it, it has nothing to do with me whether he's angry or not.

A few days later, even Robin could sense that something was off, so she asked Sophia,

“Mr.

Constance

hasn't come here for a few days.

Did you fall out with him or something?”

Sophia giggled.

“No? It's normal

that he doesn't come here again. Since we're divorced, he shouldn't

come here in the first place.

”

Upon staring at Sophia for a while, Robin pursed her lips and gulped down her question. Meanwhile, John had been

hard-pressed for the past few days. Other than work, he was also investigating Robin's kidnap case. Although there was no indication that the target of the kidnap was Sophia, something was amiss that Robin was taken away and then abandoned. He had a feeling that the criminals were going after Sophia.

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Therefore, John couldn't pretend that nothing had happened. He had to keep on investigating the case, even though there hadn't been much progress so far. Even if it was a difficult case without much clue, he had to get to the mastermind. A few days ago, the car that the criminals used to kidnap Robin was found in the wilderness. Although the car had been badly damaged, it was the same vehicle they saw on the security footage.

Following this clue, John found out about the car owner's information and the shadow bank to which the vehicle was put up as collateral. The shadow bank appeared to be the base for a group of loan sharks.

John didn't pay much attention to it in the past, as the shadow lender didn't make a big fuss before.

Since the kidnap had something to do with the shadow bank, John told Zack to investigate it.

Certainly, the internal relations within a shadow bank were complicated, but it wasn't difficult to find out some information, since the employees were not really loyal.

Two days later, Zack came to John's office and told him that the problem was thornier than expected.

The shadow bank appeared to be a small enterprise that lent out money. Since the interest rate wasn't

exorbitant and they never tried to retrieve the money by force, they were not targeted by the authority.

It seemed that they were just an illegal business trying to make some money. However, upon closer inspection, the truth was astounding.

The shadow bank had its own unique management system.

The closer it got to the core members, the stricter the rules became. Thus, it wasn't easy to get some useful information from them.

Perplexed, Zack reported, "I've

compared other shadow lenders within the city. It seems that this particular shadow bank is different. I have a feeling that there's an expert behind this institute.

"

After giving it a thought, John said,

"Keep on investigating it.

This only proves that the truth

**is more
complicated than we thought.
”**

**A moment later, he went on,
“Find out whether the shadow
bank has
other business activities apart
from lending money. Take it
slow. If they really have other
businesses, we
can start from there.
”**

**Zack then proceeded to start his
investigation.**

**Seated on his chair for a while
longer, John rose and left the
room with a cup in his hand. He
then**

**bumped into Dylan and his
assistant in the corridor.**

**It seemed that Dylan’s assistant
had done something wrong, as
his expression was dejected.**

**Dylan kept patting his shoulders
to console him. As usual, Dylan
was magnanimous toward his
subordinates, as though he
never had a bad temper.**

**In fact, John didn’t like the way
his brother treated his
subordinates, as this made it**

hard for the leader
to manage his employees.
Without saying hi, he went
straight to the pantry. After
making himself a cup
of coffee, he stood by the
window and gazed out.

A while later, Dylan came to the
pantry with a cup in his hand.

While he was filling his cup with
water, he
said,

“I heard that your mother
went to the hospital.

”

Without turning around, John
grunted.

“She did.

”

Matilda indeed went to the
hospital two days ago, but she
was there to apologize instead
of making a
scene. The Flintstones had
persuaded her to do so, as the
problem had to be brought to
an end sooner
rather than later.

Troubled by the problem for the
past few days, Matilda gave in
to the pressure and went to the

hospital.

Whether she was willing to do so or not, she had paid enough respect to the person she had to apologize to.

When the cup was filled, Dylan let out a sigh.

“Your mother is a proud woman, so I think she has to be very aggrieved now.

”

John took a sip of the coffee and found it too hot. He then changed the topic by asking, “What about you? I heard that your recent blind dates didn’t go well.

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 554
Dylan grunted.**

“Certainly, the blind dates didn’t go well because I’m not really looking for a girlfriend.

”

Upon finishing his words, he turned to John with a faint smile.

After a pause, he added,

**“We
have to be absolutely clear
about the kind of women we
love, otherwise
we’ll be prone to making
mistakes. Since I was certain
that I didn’t like those women, I
made it clear to
them.
”**

**Clenching the cup in his hand,
John turned to him.**

**“I’m glad
you understand yourself so well
when it
comes to your preference for
women.
”**

Dylan giggled.

**“Yes, I learned it
the hard way after losing
someone important.
”**

**John’s eyebrows furrowed.
Since he wasn’t in frequent
contact with Dylan, he didn’t
realize that the
latter loved to speak in such an
oblique manner. It then
dawned on John that since his
divorce, Dylan’s**

words would always contain hidden meaning whenever they had a chat.

Putting on a smile, John replied, "That might be a blessing in disguise. You should make it clear to your mother as well, otherwise she'll force you to fall in love with one of those women.

"

After staring at John for a while, Dylan nodded.

"You're right. I should share my thoughts with my mom.

"

John fell silent, and Dylan left the pantry after swigging his water. Watching Dylan leave through the window, John's eyes slowly turned somber.

After John got off work and left the company, he decided to drive his car to Sophia's shop since he wasn't in a rush. When passing by the shop, he slowed down the car, rolled down the window, and

peered into her shop.

At this moment, Sophia was seated by the window with a man, who asked for her phone number before.

John hissed. Why is that brat here again?! Meanwhile, Sophia was smiling at the man in a gentle manner.

Also, why is that woman smirking at him?!

After passing by the shop for a while, John pulled up the car on the roadside. Seated in the vehicle, he

observed her shop from the rearview mirror. The man didn't seem to have the intention of coming out.

Fishing out his cigarette, John lit it up, placed it between his lips, and waited patiently just like this.

Before Sophia left the shop, John's phone started ringing. He took it out and was surprised that William

was calling him, for he came across his father when leaving the company, but the latter didn't seem to

have something important to tell him.

Upon picking up the call, John called out,

“Dad.

”

With a lowered voice, William said,

“Your mom called me just now. She wants the three of us to have a meal together.

”

John was startled.

“How did you reply to her?”

“What else could I say? Since this isn’t an outrageous request, I said yes.

” William’s voice sounded helpless.

Since this really was an acceptable request, John stared at the rearview mirror and said, “Okay, where are you now? I’ll go to you.

”

William told him the address and hung up the call.

With his gaze fixed on the

rearview mirror, John kept his phone, but the man remained inside the shop.

If it weren't for the fact that Robin was there as well, he would have stormed into the shop to find out what Sophia and the man were up to.

After waiting for a bit, he decided to leave, since there wasn't much time left.

William and Matilda were already at the restaurant when John arrived. Upon stepping into the private room, he saw his father and mother sitting on either side of the table without uttering a word, which was an awkward situation.

With her gaze lowered, Matilda seemed to be a quieter woman now, even though it was hard to tell what was on her mind.

The Returning Ex Chapter 555
John walked over and asked, "Have you ordered anything?"
Seeing him, Matilda hurriedly replied,

“We have only ordered a few dishes. If there’s anything you like, we can order more.”

John waved his hand.

“That’s alright. We can order more later if it’s really not enough.”

He then took a seat beside William and turned to Matilda.

“How are you doing recently? I heard that you went to the hospital.”

With an embarrassed expression, Matilda replied, “Yes. I had to apologize, since it was my own fault.”

Upon finishing her words, she took a look at William, who appeared serious but didn’t seem to have anything to say.

John said to his father, “You must be exhausted, since it’s

been a long day.

”

William pinched his glabella.

“Yes, I’m a little tired.

”

John was just trying to ease up the atmosphere. Since his parents were seated on either side of the table without talking to each other, the awkwardness in the air was so thick that it could be cut through with a knife. It was indeed a sorrowful fact that a lovey-dovey couple had turned into familiar strangers.

On the other side, after Sophia saw the shy man off, she closed the shop. Standing in the doorway, Robin said with a smile, “You are really attractive to young men.

”

Sophia hissed.

“Stop saying that.

I felt like I was committing a crime when he said he loved me.

”

Robin guffawed.

**“I think he’s
alright. He’s handsome, and he
comes from a middle-class
family.**

”

Giggling, Sophia uttered,

**“If I’m
looking for a new boyfriend, I
expect that man to be more
powerful than
John.**

”

Her words startled Robin.

**“Why?
Comparison isn’t necessary
when it comes to love.**

”

Sophia carried her backpack.

**“You’re right. I shouldn’t
compare a potential boyfriend
to John, but I’m a
vain woman, so I must find a
more powerful man.**

**” After that,
she waved her hand at Robin.**

**“Bye. Be
careful on the road.**

”

**Standing outside the entrance,
Robin watched her get into a**

taxi and leave. Pursing her lips,
she turned
to take a look at the shop
signboard and let out a sigh.
When Sophia reached her home,
she saw Logan sitting in her
yard. He must have been there
for some
time. He seems bored from the
way he's sitting. Walking over,
Sophia asked,
"Why have you
come to my
house without calling me first?"
Logan locked his eyes with her.
"When have you and Ian gotten
together? Weren't you with
John?"
The question gave Sophia a
headache.
"Let's get in before
we talk."
"

Sophia opened the door. Logan
rose slowly and followed her
into the house as he mumbled,
"Didn't you
and John still have feelings for
each other? Why did Ian say
you're his girlfriend? Have you
guys gotten

together behind my back?”

Sophia took out a bottle of water from the fridge and passed it to him.

“It’s not what you think. Ian and I are not together. He just needs me to be his girlfriend in name to fend off unnecessary trouble.

”

Logan didn’t seem to trust her.

“I had been thinking about it for a long time last night. Sophia, there must be something going on between you and Ian.

”

What could be going on between Ian and me? Sophia was rendered speechless. She then took a seat beside him and said,

“My relationship with Ian isn’t as complicated as you think. Don’t worry. We’re still friends. This fact won’t change.

”

However, Logan was still displeased.

“I feel that there are many things you guys are up to behind my back. You have your own secrets that are kept from me, and I really don’t like this.”

Logan looked like a kid whose toy had been taken away, or a young girl whose bestie found a new friend.

He looks so upset.

Sophia burst into laughter.

“You look so adorable like this, unlike the Young Master Jefferson in the past.”

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Logan snorted.

“I even called John before and asked about it. John seemed very angry when he talked about this matter.”

Sophia remembered John’s antagonistic tone during that phone conversation that had made her

uncomfortable. Caught in the thought, she didn't respond to Logan, who continued to say, "I don't know what happened between the two of you, so I asked John about it. I thought the two of you had gotten back together after the divorce, but he blew up at me when I asked."

Sophia waved a hand.

"Let's not talk about John anymore. No matter how his life has become, it has nothing to do with me. Have you eaten dinner yet? If you haven't, stay for dinner here."

Logan had a one-track mind, so when Sophia changed the topic, he too forgot about John. Then, he leaned against the sofa and replied, "I haven't eaten yet, but I'm craving for fish. Do you have any fish

here?"

Sophia nodded.

"I have some croaker fish. I'll make you dinner then.

"

With how considerate Sophia was being, the unhappiness in Logan's heart dissipated. He breathed a sigh of relief when he saw Sophia enter the kitchen and put on her apron.

Logan had a rather childish attitude when it came to these things. Earlier, he had felt upset when he thought of Ian and Sophia secretly getting together, but now, seeing that Sophia was no different from before, he felt much better.

After waiting for a while, he got up and went into the kitchen.

Sophia allowed him to help out, and the

two chatted about Ian. Logan said that he had called Ian and asked about what Ian meant when the

latter said those words on the

stage, but Ian hadn't explained much and merely said that he had gotten together with Sophia.

Sophia smiled.

"Ian is deliberately teasing you. Rest assured, if we get together, I'll certainly tell you in advance. Why would I hide it from you?"

Logan turned his head and looked at Sophia.

"Sophia, since you've already said so, I won't stop you if you two really get together."
"

Sophia burst out laughing.

"As if you can stop us!"

As the two of them prepared the meal, they talked and laughed with each other. Then, they went to the dining room to dig into their dinner.

Logan's phone was placed on the table. Halfway through the meal, the phone vibrated twice. Logan took

a look before smacking his mouth.

“Ah, it’s John.

”

John had sent a message to ask Logan where he was and if he wanted to go out for a drink together.

After staring at the message for a while, Logan turned the phone around and showed it to Sophia.

“Look,

John is asking me to go out for a drink. He must be feeling upset.

”

Sophia only gave the phone a quick glance.

“Will you go over after dinner?”

Logan checked the time and replied,

“Yeah, I’ll go over after dinner. Let me ask him if he’s being jealous of you and Ian.

” Then, he burst into merciless laughter.

“I really think it’s possible. To be honest,

John is a really strange guy. If he can't let go of you, why did he divorce you? I still don't understand that.

”

Sophia chuckled.

“You're wrong about him not being able to let go of me. He just has a big ego and doesn't want to lose to Ian.

”

Taken aback for a moment, Logan frowned and thought about it. Well, that makes sense too. If it were me, I would be upset too if my ex-wife got together with another man so soon after our divorce. In fact, if it were me, I would totally mess up their relationship first regardless of whether anyone likes it or not.

Logan nodded.

“Yeah, I suppose that makes sense.

” Thus, he sent a message to John asking the address

of the bar, and John gave him the address after a while. Logan read out the address to Sophia, then he commented, "Oh, that's a pretty lively place."
"

Sophia knew the bar in question. It was quite a big one and there were all kinds of people who frequented it.

The Returning Ex Chapter 557
There had to be an ulterior motive as to why John would choose that particular bar. Sophia snorted coldly.

"Just be careful. As for him, whatever happens to him is his own business."
"

Logan completely bypassed Sophia's disdain for John, hearing only the concern Sophia had for himself.

Thus, he answered happily, "Of course. I'll take care of myself and not do anything improper. Don't

worry.

”

After finishing dinner, it was almost time for Logan to meet up with John. Therefore, he left Sophia and drove directly to the bar.

Sophia washed the dishes, then watched TV for a while before going upstairs to take a shower. Nowadays, her life was simple but fulfilling, which was something she had always wanted before.

After taking a good long bath in the bathtub, Sophia came out to see her phone vibrating continuously from an incoming call. Glancing at it, she realized it was from John. I suppose there's nothing important for him to tell me at this hour. I'm not gonna pick up.

While she was taking her bath, John had given her a dozen calls, but he still hadn't given up and was still energetically calling her again after the line automatically disconnected.

Sophia muted her phone and threw it aside.

Now that she thought about that other time when John and Isabelle were together, John had drunk too much and called herself too. He must've put on an act then.

Most probably, he deliberately led me over

there so that he could stay the night here. He said that he was targeting me all along. Perhaps he was

being honest, and everything had gone according to his plan.

This man was a scheming fox, so she didn't really believe that he could really lower his guard and get

drunk around Isabelle.

After Sophia was done tidying up, she went to her bed and lay down.

She left her phone on the bedside cabinet before quickly falling asleep, not caring

whether John was still calling her. Her sleep was great these days. After a busy day, she could fall asleep easily at

night when
her head hit the pillow.
On the other side, inside the bar,
Logan's mind was no longer
clear. He leaned against the
sofa, all the
while staring at John, whose
figure was multiplying by the
minute, and murmured,
"I think
it's a good
thing if Sophia and Ian get
together. Considering Ian's
temperament, he won't be
bullied anymore with
Sophia by his side. Those
people from the Morgan Family
won't dare to bully Ian in the
future. That's not
bad.
"

His speech was rather slurred
right now, but John still heard
each word clearly. The latter's
face was
reddish, but his eyes were still
clear. He took the phone and
called Sophia over and over
again, but the
woman didn't answer any of his
calls.

John's gaze shifted from the phone to Logan, who was sitting on the opposite side.

"Are they a good fit for each other? I don't think so," he sneered.

Logan tutted a little.

"You're just not observant. It's true that they're a good match for each other. They look good and complement each other's character. Besides, they know each other very well. They're a perfect match."
"

John's face sank as he withdrew his gaze, not intending to entertain Logan anymore.

At this point, Logan was already very dizzy. He raised his hand and gestured at the man opposite him.

"John, tell me, why did you get divorced in the first place? I don't understand it. Sophia is such a good girl, yet you didn't cherish her at all.

”

Why did I get divorced in the first place? John had wondered about this too.

However, when he recalled his less-than-two-years-long marriage, he felt that under such circumstances, divorce was inevitable. After all, Sophia did not give him a good impression in that marriage.

Although he knew that it was all because of the Constance Family that she had become so dutiful and restrained, he really didn't like her like that.

All his interest and feelings for Sophia had only manifested after the divorce, when he was finally

exposed to her real character and temperament.

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So, if he had the chance to do it all over again, they would still get divorced. It was only after the divorce

that Sophia had changed and that he had slowly opened up as well, but John had no way of

telling
anybody about all these
feelings.

After a long while, he finally
told Logan,

“I suppose I wanted
to get to know her all over
again.

”

Logan didn't really hear what
he said because he was quite
drunk by now. Originally, he
had meant to

come over and make John
drunk so that he could get the
man to reveal his innermost
thoughts, but who
knew that John was so good at
drinking?

John watched Logan collapse on
the sofa with an indifferent
expression. Then, he closed his
eyes and

continued to call Sophia.

Sophia didn't block his number,
so all his calls connected, but no
one answered.

After some time, John finally
realized what was going on.

Sighing, he gave up at last and
put the phone

back in his pocket. That girl
Sophia is really cruel.

When Sophia woke up in the
morning, she went to carry out
her morning routine before
taking a look at
her phone. Holy crap! The
dozens of missed calls are all
from John.

Staring coldly at the phone,
Sophia deleted the entire call
log. This man is not right in the
head, she
thought.

She went downstairs and
decided that she was too lazy to
prepare breakfast, so she went
to a café
outside instead. As she ate, she
took out the phone to have a
look.

Oh hey, local gossip! There
really is some gossip. The title
of the gossip news had John's
name in it. Thus,
Sophia quickly clicked into it to
check it out.

There was a photo of John at
the bar. He was sitting on the
lounge sofa with a woman
hanging on his

arm and leaning on his shoulder. In the photo, John had his head turned toward the woman, appearing to be talking to her. The overall picture didn't seem romantic, but nobody would believe it if he said that there was nothing going on between them.

Sophia stared at the photo for a moment before reading the content of the news.

This time, the news was not exaggerated but was simply a frank report that someone saw John flirting with a beautiful woman in the bar and looking like he was having a good time. The news also reported that John and the woman left together in the middle of the night. What happened later was left untold and remained open to interpretation by the public. It was an easy guess as to what could happen between a man and a woman in the middle of the night.

After reading the news, Sophia kept her phone and continued eating her meal slowly. Then, she took a cab to the shop. Robin was already there, looking unhappy, so Sophia went in and swept her a glance.

“What’s wrong? Who offended you so early in the morning?”

Robin pursed her mouth.

“Well,
I just met someone talking trash.
It made me so annoyed.”

She rarely acted like this, so Sophia laughed and said,

“Why
do you care about what people say? Just let
them talk. All we need to do is
to live our lives well.”

Robin sighed.

“But it’s really
annoying.”

When she heard that, Sophia was a little confused.

“What did
they say about you that made

**you so
angry?”**

**Robin paused at this. Her eyes
darted around furtively before
she said,**

“It’s not about me.

**They were
talking about my family, so it
was really upsetting.**

”

**Sophia didn’t notice Robin’s
expression at all as she nodded
and replied,**

**“Well, I suppose
this kind of talk
is unavoidable. Just get over it.**

”

**Busy work then filled both of
their time for the entire day.
When most of the customers
had left and
they could finally relax, Sophia
went to stand by the door and
stretched her arms and legs. At
this**

**moment, a car drove over
slowly, stopping right next to
her. Sophia was raising her
arms and bending
her waist at that moment.**

When she saw the car, she

stopped and turned to look.

The person did not come down from the car but simply rolled down the window nearest to Sophia.

Bending forward slightly to look, Sophia realized it was Fabian Blackwell.

She almost couldn't recognize him. After all, there were so many people that day at the Blackwell

Residence. For a brief moment, she could not recall who he was at all.

The Returning Ex Chapter 559

Fabian smiled at her, but it was a very superficial smile.

"Grandma told me to come and visit you. I've done as told.

"

Sophia looked at him indifferently and said,

"You don't really have to come over. Just simply tell her that you've visited me next time. If Old Mrs. Blackwell asks me, I'll cover for you.

"

**Fabian was a little surprised as he looked at Sophia and commented,
“That address sounds pretty good. I like it better.**

” He was talking about how Sophia addressed the matriarch of the Blackwell Family; she had addressed her as ‘Old Mrs. Blackwell’ instead of brazenly calling her ‘Grandma’

**.
Sophia had nothing to say to Fabian, so she replied,
“Now that you’ve seen me, you can go.
”**

**This time, Fabian gave her a genuine smile and said,
“Sophia Gwendolyn, right? Okay, I’ll remember you.
”**

Sophia stood up straight and continued her own stretching exercise without speaking to him any further.

Raising the window, Fabian waited for a short while before driving away.

Sophia waited for his car to disappear out of sight before sighing. Why did I provoke the Blackwell

Family? If I had known this would happen, I wouldn't have followed Logan that day. Logan is to blame for all this!

When Sophia entered the shop after a while, Robin was sitting in a chair and looking at her phone with an angry expression on her face.

Taken aback, Sophia asked, "What are you doing? Why are you looking like that?"

Robin hurriedly kept away her phone.

"I saw some news and almost choked with anger."
"

There was not much in the news these days. Besides, all the media did was follow trending topics instead of reporting important affairs.

Most of the headlines nowadays were about celebrity drama and gossip.

Boring, Sophia thought.

Sophia made two cups of hot cocoa, then sat across from Robin.

“Don’t look at that kind of news. It’s so boring.

”

Robin took over a cup of cocoa, sipped on it and said,

“Yeah, it’s boring. It’s just a load of nonsense.

”

Sophia didn’t ask what Robin had been reading. The two of them just sat and looked outside the window.

Over at John’s side, he had naturally seen the news too, but there was no reaction from him.

Matilda also called and asked him if the news was true.

John grunted.

“The photo is so clear. Obviously, it’s the truth.

”

Matilda snorted in disapproval and said,

“If you want to have fun, you shouldn’t go to that kind of place.

Do you even know who frequents that place? Besides, how could you get yourself photographed by the media? You’re not being careful enough.

”

John didn’t want to talk about this.

“It’s fine. There isn’t much chaos on the Internet anyway, so there’s no need to bother about it.

”

Now that he wasn’t in a relationship, even if there was some pandemonium over the photo, it wouldn’t really affect his life. Most people would think that it was just a photo of a man and a woman and there was no big deal about it. Matilda knew that John wouldn’t like to hear anything

more about it from her, so she just gave up after thinking about it.

For the rest of the day, John busied himself at the company. It was only when he got off work at night did he have time to check his phone. He first checked Sophia's social media account, but she hadn't posted anything. She's probably been very busy recently, so she hasn't posted for many days. John sighed, not knowing what he himself was expecting. Everyone in the company had left at this time. John slowly packed his briefcase and went downstairs. As he got into the car, he pulled off his tie and threw it on the seat next to him. He suddenly felt an inexplicable irritation. After sitting in the car for a while, he started the car and headed toward Sophia's shop.

From the opened door, John could clearly see Logan inside the shop, laughing and joking

with Sophia.

Sophia is really not affected at all, he thought. Then, he stepped on the accelerator and the car sped away.

Logan was in Sophia's shop talking about what was going on at the clubhouse, including the fact that those from the Morgan Family were extremely infuriated when they saw Ian's contest video. Moreover, he also said that he had seen Sally on the previous day at the bar. Sally had told her friends how Ian had brought shame to their family.

The Returning Ex Chapter 560

Logan had wanted to go up and tell the woman that it was a bigger shame for the family to have people like her and Simon around, but John stopped him with reason and said that it was useless to preach to such an individual. No matter if it was Simon, Sally or Leah, they had to be taught a proper

lesson before
it could be seared in their
memories.

When Logan heard John say this,
he knew that John was already
forming an idea.

Upon hearing this, Robin
interjected,

“Since you went to
the bar with Mr. Constance
yesterday, why
didn’t the gossip news talk
about you?”

Logan was not inside the photo
either. It was just a photo of
John and the woman.

Stunned by the question, Logan
tutted and replied,

“The media
wanted attention, so of course
they took
the photo as if there was
something going on between
them. I was really there at that
time, but I was
already quite drunk, and I fell
asleep across from John.

”

Sophia smiled.

“So, you have no
idea what John and that woman

did.

”

Logan scratched his head.

“Uh, I

really don’t know what

happened later. When I went

there, John was

the only one sitting there. I

have no idea when that woman

came over.

” Looking at Sophia,

he really

didn’t know how to explain the

matter to her.

“But I don’t think

John is that kind of guy.

Considering his

status, how could he like that

kind of woman?”

Sophia laughed. What kind of

status does John have? As long

as he’s a mortal, he’ll have

emotions, and

he’ll commit sins.

Robin thought for a while

before asking,

“Then, how did

you leave the bar later? Did Mr.

Constance

really leave with the woman?”

Logan tugged at his hair.

“Later?

**I think I was carried back home.
I drank too much, so I really
don’t
remember.**

”

Sophia raised a hand.

“It’s okay.

**Don’t say anything anymore.
It’s better that you don’t try to
explain it.**

**The more you explain, the
worse you’re making John out
to be.**

**” Even if John is already as
bad as a man
could be.**

**Logan pursed his mouth and
stopped talking because he
really couldn’t say much.**

**When he went over, John was
indeed alone, but Logan then
became drunk very quickly, and
he was
indeed unsure what happened
afterward. He couldn’t make up
a story if he wasn’t sure about
things.**

**Sophia leaned back in her chair.
Actually, she felt a little prick in
her heart. She wasn’t upset, but**

she was certainly uncomfortable. Logan looked at Sophia, and then at Robin. Realizing that this topic wasn't a good one, he quickly changed it and talked about the Morgan Group instead.

It seemed that Simon didn't go to the company much anymore. Half of the workload was given to Sean, and half to Sally.

The rights that Simon had given to Sally might be given back to him when he returned to the company in

the future. However, the same could not be said for the rights that were given to Sean. After all, Sean

had his group of confidants within the company. He had immediately let go of his rights and held Simon's tightly instead. It appeared that he wouldn't be returning them to Simon any time soon in the future.

Although both Simon and Sally couldn't see through Sean, Leah

was clear about his intentions.
Thus, she
had kept pestering Bryce about
it.

As for Sally, she was better at
things than Simon, but not by
much. When Simon's work was
handed over
to her, she still met with some
trouble and made frequent
mistakes in her work, but even
so, Sally didn't
become firm with herself.
Instead, she still went out often
to eat, drink and be merry. Just
last night, she
had gone out with a man again.
Early this morning, Leah had
brought people to catch them in
the act at
the hotel they were staying in.
Sophia laughed.
"Sally really is
something. The first time, she
was caught by the man's
girlfriend, and the
second time by her own mother.
I think she needs to find a cave
for her future clandestine
meetings.
"

**The Returning Ex Chapter 561
Upon mentioning the Morgan
Family, Logan was
comparatively more
psyched than the rest.**

**“Well,
Simon is basically the parasite
of the family, whereas Sally is
the daughter.**

**Anyway, Bryce never looked
kindly upon both of them in the
first place, and now, they’ve
probably made
matters worse for themselves.**

**Leah must be stressed out
because of them.**

”

**Not forgetting, Leah had
schemed against Logan
previously. As of now, Logan
felt he had finally gotten
back at her.**

**Leaning against the chair,
Sophia stretched.**

**“If Ian
manages to achieve some
results, I bet the Morgan
Family will be chaotic.**

”

**Rubbing his hands together,
Logan assured,**

“Don’t you worry! Your boyfriend won’t lose out. He’ll definitely make it with flying colors.

”

Dumbfounded, Robin gasped.

“Boyfriend?”

Completely ignoring Sophia’s signaling, Logan spilled,

“Sophia

and Ian have been together ever since.

They’ve just been keeping a low profile.

”

With her eyebrows knitted together, Robin glanced at Sophia.

“You? And Ian? When did this happen?

How come I wasn’t aware? I thought the both of you were just friends.

” Clearly, she was very surprised.

Initially, Sophia intended to explain that they were only friends, but after thinking about it, she dropped the idea. Since Ian had said it

that way, it wouldn't be nice to pull the rug out from under his feet, so

Sophia just smiled.

Shocked beyond words, Robin slapped a hand over her own mouth.

"No wonder you showed no interest in Mr. Constance. It's because you're in love with someone else.

"

Frowning slightly, Sophia didn't reply.

After dawdling about, Logan left, while Sophia and Robin were packing up before leaving. Since both of them were not heading toward the same direction, Sophia had offered Robin to take the taxi first.

However, Robin shook her head and declined,

"You go ahead first! I need to run an errand before getting home.

"

Without giving much thought,

Sophia called for a taxi and left. Standing there, Robin gazed at Sophia's cab until it was no longer in sight. As Robin turned around, she was startled to see John, who stood not far away from her.

Instead of looking toward her, John had his eyes on the shop board that was hung on the wall. From the looks on his face, Robin reckoned he wasn't in such a bad mood. With that, she walked toward him and greeted,
"Mr. Constance."
"

Looking away from the board, John gazed at Robin.

"You've clocked out?"

Nodding her head, Robin reported,

"Sophia just left."
"

Obviously, John knew. In fact, he walked over the moment he saw her left. Tugging on her shirt, Robin

didn't know what else to say.
"Mr. Jefferson was here a while ago, and we were chitter-chattering, so it took some time.

"

Giving a simple acknowledgement, John didn't say anything more. With her lips pursed, Robin said,
"Mr. Jefferson had mentioned you, too. The media nowadays are downright terrible. They'll make up any stories in order to seek the readers' attention.

"

Smiling, John didn't bother to explain. Taking a quick glance at John, Robin went on,
"Mr. Jefferson said those news were fake. Back then, he was sitting right beside you, but the media deliberately made up stories.

"

"Was Sophia bothered by the news?" John asked.

Startling, Robin hesitated for a moment before she stuttered, “S-Sophia? Well... Sophia and Mr.

Morgan... Of course, she cared about you. She hoped that you won’t be misunderstood and hoped that everything is well with you in terms of your job and life overall.

”

“Sophia and Ian?” Obviously, John was quick to get the point. Blinking her eyes, Robin spilled, “Sophia and Mr. Morgan is now an item. I just found out today. I think you’ve heard of it already?”

With a sneer on his face, John acknowledged,

“Yep, I knew about it.

”

Letting out a sigh of relief, Robin said,

“Thank heavens! I thought I slipped my tongue. Good thing you’ve known about it already, but I must say, Sophia and Ian looked

good together. They've shared a close relationship all this while, so I thought they were only closely acquainted with one another, but I didn't expect them to be an official item.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter
562 Chuckling, Robin asked,

“Did

I say too much?”

“It's fine,

” assured John.

Putting on a smile, Robin asked again,

“What brings you here?”

Glancing at the time, John said,

“ Nothing. You'd better get home now. I won't hold you up.

”

“Alright,

” replied Robin with a smile.

Waving goodbye at John, Robin headed toward the opposite direction.

With a hardened expression, John stood before Sophia's

shop.

I should've known. Sophia, this woman has got the better of me.

Humming a little tune, Robin walked off and managed to hail for a taxi. Before she went in the taxi, she turned around to take a gander at the shop.

Holding a cigarette in his mouth, John was still standing there and was seen lighting up the cigarette.

With the corner of her mouth curved up, Robin got into the taxi.

Lighting up the cigarette, John took a puff.

With that, he took out his phone, and instead of calling up someone, John snapped a picture of the shop's board.

Obviously, he couldn't help but get ticked off whenever he saw the board.

After staring at the photo for a while, John took another puff and walked toward his car.

Not knowing what had

happened, Sophia got home and went on with the mundane household chores, like preparing meals, as well as cleaning up the house.

Since she had been living on her own, the cleanliness of the house could be easily maintained.

When it was near sundown, Sophia headed upstairs to her room.

As soon as she got into her room, she went straight to close the windows. While she was about to pull the curtains, she stopped abruptly.

Looking out of her window, there was a car parked right below the streetlight, so she could clearly see who was in the car.

Staring at the car below, Sophia smirked and pulled the curtains.

Damn! Humans are such complicated beings! In the past, he had been ignoring me most of the time, and even gave me the cold shoulders. Why is he acting like

this all of a sudden?

Lying on her bed, Sophia surfed the gossip news over the internet. Fortunately, gossip was something the entertainment world never lacked. Once she had read through the news, she figured it was about time, so she placed her phone down.

Upon thinking about it, she walked toward the window and slowly peeped through the curtains.

Surprisingly, John's car was still parked in the same place, and the car's engine was turned off.

As it was really dark inside, she couldn't tell whether John was in the car.

Pursing her lips, she rolled her eyes and headed to the wardrobe to get herself a set of clean clothes

before entering the bathroom.

Perhaps triggered by her own selfish motive, she took her own sweet time in the bathroom.

Filling up the bathtub with water, Sophia soaked herself into the tub, and even took a really short nap.

As soon as she was out, she blow-dried her hair and changed into a set of clean clothing. Walking toward the window, she saw John's car still stationed at the same spot. Clicking her tongue, Sophia deduced if he was already asleep in the car, since there was no sign of any movement.

Letting the curtains down, she went back to her bed.

Honestly, she did have the urge to go out and check on him, but after thinking it through, she dropped the idea.

What is there to check on anyway? John is a vigilant man.

What can happen to him?

Considering he had parked his car at such an obvious spot, he probably wanted her to notice him here.

Letting out a sigh, Sophia sneered and turned off the

lights.

Who cares how long he wishes to stay there? It's none of my business!

Seeing the lights off in Sophia's room, John had a grin on his face while sitting in his car.

This woman is so heartless.

Clearly, she saw me here, but she didn't even bother to ask.

Reclining the seat, John leaned against the seat to rest himself.

By now, the car was filled with cigarette smoke, so he wound down the car window and stared at the car

roof, trying to relax himself.

The Returning Ex Chapter 563

After Sophia had tossed and turned for a short while, she could finally fall asleep.

This time, she didn't have a good sleep, as she had dreamed about the past.

Back then, her grandpa went to the hospital for a checkup, and coincidentally, he was reunited with Old

Mr. Constance. With that, Old Mr. Constance had invited them

**over to the Constance
Residence.**

**Although Sophia knew the
Constance Family was really
wealthy, she was still startled
when she stepped
into the residence.**

**Even the clothes which the
maids were wearing seemed to
be a notch better than hers.**

**That day was the first time she
had met John in person.**

**However, he was only back to
retrieve a document and quickly
went off, without even noticing
her.**

**In a rather reserved manner,
Sophia sat on the couch in the
living room, and was nervous to
the extent**

**that she didn't even know
where to place her hands.**

**When John walked in, he knew
there were guests, so he
politely nodded his head to her
and her grandpa
before heading straight
upstairs.**

**In less than a minute, he came
down and left again.**

That was the first time she met

someone who was that good looking, and she even felt her heart fluttered.

In her dreams, Sophia felt unsettled because she didn't want to reminisce about the past, so she intended to wake up from her dream, but failed to do so.

As her dream continued to change, she saw Old Mr. Constance.

Actually, Sophia had almost forgotten how Old Mr. Constance looked like in reality. All she could recall was that he became scrawny down to the bone, looking kind of scary.

However, in her dreams, everything was quite clear.

Lying on the bed, Old Mr. Constance reached out his hands toward her.

With that, Sophia saw herself walking toward him, holding his hands in hers.

Though it was difficult for him to speak, he still delivered every word slowly but

clearly—asking whether Sophia would be willing to marry John.

With her eyes shut, Sophia could hear her own reply.

“I do.

I’m willing.

”

All because of this reply, she had walked through the darkest valley for a year, and couldn’t get herself out of the pit.

Once the dream had led to the funeral of Old Mr. Constance, Sophia managed to wake up in a cold sweat.

Even so, Sophia could still hear Matilda swearing at her.

Everyone knew that she was married into the family in hopes that an auspicious occasion would somehow bring in new blessings to the family, and so Old Mr. Constance would get better from his illness.

Unfortunately, there was no miracle.

Without bringing in any luck or

blessing to the family, they said she had taken advantage of the Constance Family.

Sitting on her bed, Sophia was still panting as she reached out to touch her forehead, which was filled with cold sweats.

With the curtains drawn, the sunlight couldn't enter the room.

Glancing at the time, it wasn't early anymore, so she walked toward the curtains and looked down at the same spot wherein John had parked his car yesterday.

Not surprised, the car was no longer there, but still and all, Sophia stared at the same spot for a short while.

Feeling a little restless, Sophia figured it was because she didn't have a good sleep yesterday.

Turning around to check on the calendar, it wasn't any special day, but she had a sudden thought to pay respect to Old Mr. Constance.

**Yesterday's dream was surreal,
and she could still picture Old
Mr. Constance lying on the bed
while
holding her hands.**

**Hence, Sophia sent a text
message to Robin, informing
her that she had some matters
to settle before
heading to the shop today.**

**Being the usual understanding
person, Robin immediately
replied to her message, asking
her to take her
time in running her own
errands, as she could manage
the shop on her own.**

**After preparing a simple
breakfast, Sophia ate up and
went out. Before heading to the
cemetery, she
dropped by somewhere to buy
a bouquet of fresh flowers.**

**Carrying the bouquet with her,
Sophia walked toward the
grave, but from afar, she
noticed a person
standing there.**

**As she walked closer, there was
indeed a person in black
standing there, unmoving.**

Placing the bouquet before the
grave, Sophia said,
“I didn’t
expect to see you here.
”

Casting a glance at Sophia,
Matilda scoffed,
“Well, I, too,
didn’t expect to see you here.
”

Both of them didn’t wish to
squabble about before Old Mr.
Constance’s grave, so they
showed some
restraints.

The Returning Ex Chapter 564
Gazing at the picture on the
grave, Sophia said,
“I had a
dream last night. Grandpa was
in my dream, and
so were you.
”

With a sneer, Matilda jeered,
“I
guess it was a bad dream after
all.
”

“Indeed.
” Sophia sighed.
“I

**dreamed of you scolding me,
blaming me for not being able
to bring any
blessings into the family. Not
only did John have to be
involved in this, but Grandpa
didn't even get
better.**

”

**These words were the exact
phrases which Matilda had
repeatedly used against Sophia.
Thinking about it, Matilda asked,
“Does John know you're here?”**

“Nope.

**” Glancing at the
mountains at afar, Sophia
reckoned it was a scenic view
here, and it somehow
calmed one's soul.**

**Pressing her lips together,
Matilda hesitated to speak her
mind. But in the end, she
blurted,**

“Before Old

**Mr. Constance left, he held my
hand, asking me to be nice to
you and to take good care of
you.**

”

Clearly, Matilda had failed to do

as she was told. In fact, she had agreed to be nice, but she was often absent-minded, so she had forgotten all about it the next day.

A moment later, Matilda turned around and casted a glance at Sophia.

“Honestly, I didn’t like you at all.

To be exact, I hate you. If it wasn’t for you, John and Belle are probably married by now.”

Nodding her head, Sophia agreed,

“Yep. If it wasn’t for me, John’s life would probably be perfect.

” At

that, she turned to face Matilda.

“However, I’m curious. Do you really think John likes Isabelle?”

Hearing that, Matilda was dumbstruck and snapped as if by conditioned reflex,

“Of

course he likes her!

What’s not to like about her?”

Putting on a smile, Sophia said,

“Really? I’m confused, then. You see, since John and I are now divorced, nothing is holding him back. If he really liked Isabelle, why didn’t they just get together officially? Why is he putting Isabelle in such an awkward position?”

Pursing her lips, Matilda stared at Sophia.

Without getting a reply, Sophia went on,

“You’ve read the news, right? Instead of approaching Isabelle, John had hooked up with some random woman in the bar. Is that how he shows his affection toward Isabelle?”

Clicking her tongue, Sophia ridiculed,

“If that’s love, it’s just heartbreaking.

”

Hearing that, Matilda’s face fell. She did read about that news, and she even called up John immediately to seek confirmation when she

did.

Surprisingly, John didn't try to hide it at all. He admitted that the news was true and the person in the picture was him. Undoubtedly, he had brought a woman out of the bar.

Upon hearing his confession then, Matilda got hopping mad, but after considering John's recent attitude toward her, she didn't dare to complain.

As John said, they were grownups, thus capable of bearing their own responsibilities without having anyone to interfere.

In particular when Matilda had messed up her own matters herself.

Seeing Matilda's sullen face, Sophia found it hilarious and sighed.

**"Oh well, why did I bother to yak so much? I wasn't here to talk to you anyway."
"**

Actually, there wasn't anything

wrong with what Sophia said,
but saying that in a place like
this sounded
wrong. Hence, Matilda was so
pissed when she heard that.
Darting a death glare at Sophia,
Matilda seethed.

“Of course
you weren’t here to see me! I’m
more than
fine. I can live up to 100 years
old.
”

Unable to hold in her laughter
any longer, Sophia bursted out
laughing.
Knowing that she failed to keep
her cool, Sophia went to stroke
Matilda’s back.

“You’re right!
My bad.
You’ll definitely live to a ripe
old age.
”

After giving a few rubs on
Matilda’s back, both of them
felt rather awkward, so Sophia
stopped abruptly
and stood aside.
Letting out a few coughs,
Matilda said,

**“Since you’re here,
I’d better get going. I’ve chatted
with Old Mr.
Constance for quite a while
already.
”**

**Without getting a reply from
Sophia, Matilda tucked her hair
back and turned around to
leave.**

**Giggling under her breath,
Sophia wondered who Matilda
took after in the Flintstone
Family.**

**Kneeling down before Old Mr.
Constance’s grave, Sophia
cleaned up the dried leaves and
weeds around
it. With a sigh, she confessed,
“Grandpa, did you see that?
John’s mom and I have always
been like this.**

**Honestly, I feel relieved to have
gotten a divorce with John.
Otherwise, it’ll be a constant
turmoil within
the family.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 565
Pressing her lips together,
Sophia thought aloud,**

**“I’m
doing fine now, and life has
been fulfilling for me.
In fact, I’m really grateful
toward John. If it weren’t
because of his generosity, with
my capabilities,
academic qualification, or even
my networks, I wouldn’t have
accomplished what I’ve today.
Everything I
have today, I owe it all to John,
so I won’t blame him for what
he had done in the past.
”**

**Though she was smiling, her
eyes began to turn red.
Taking in a deep breath, she
said,
“Old Mr. Constance, you
and my grandpa often catch up
with one
another, right? If you see him,
please tell him that I miss him
very much and I’m doing well,
so he doesn’t
need to worry. As for the two
who don’t have a conscience,
well... I still have no news about
them. Then
again, it’s for the better**

because I don't really want to see them, and I don't need them anyway.

”

With that, Sophia continued to ramble about the incident that took place in the Blackwell Family.

Beaming, she went on and chatted,

“Ever since my divorce with John, I feel like I've become quite popular among my friends because a couple of them actually approached me. To be honest, I'm not really used to the attention, and I'd rather live my life without disturbance.

”

Without anyone listening, Sophia continued to yack her head off, pouring out her heart toward the pile of bones that were buried under the grave.

Not knowing how long time had passed, Sophia bid Old Mr. Constance farewell. After arranging Matilda's

and her flowers nicely on the grave, she left.

Walking down the hill, Sophia headed toward the taxi that was waiting downhill. Leaning against the passenger seat, she turned around to gaze at the cemetery.

All humans strive throughout life, but ultimately, end up in a small spot such as this.

“Let’s go,
” Sophia requested.

As soon as the taxi had arrived at the shop, Sophia saw Robin boxing up some pastries for a customer.

Noticing the bright smile on her face, Sophia asked,

“Are you in
love? You’re smiling like a
Cheshire cat.
”

Chuckling, Robin chirped,
“Nonsense! I’m just in a really
good mood today.
”

Nodding her head, Sophia stood aside.

Once the customer had left,
Robin cleaned up the bar

counter and gazed at Sophia.

“Where did you go
this morning? And with that
outfit.

”

“Well, I went to pay an elder
my respect. I’ll go home and get
changed later.

”

Leaning over the bar counter,
Robin was examining Sophia
carefully.

Surprised, Sophia asked,

“What
are you doing?”

Grinning, Robin was bubbling
with enthusiasm.

“Me? In love?

Geez! I think you’re the woman
in love. Let
me have a good look at you
woman.

”

Waving her hands, Sophia
snapped,

“Cut the crap.

”

“Are you shy?” Robin hissed as
she prepared a cup of tea for
Sophia.

Feeling thirsty, Sophia grabbed

the cup and sat on one of the chairs.

“Was it busy today?”

“So-so, but Mr. Constance came by this morning,

” Robin replied.

Startled for a moment, Sophia asked,

“What brought him here?”

Heaving a sigh, Robin explained,

“He came over to buy breakfast, but he didn’t stay for long, and left

after takeout.

”

Nodding her head, Sophia didn’t question further.

Casting a few glances at Sophia, Robin tried to probe further.

“So, since when did you and Ian end up together?”

Gazing at Robin, Sophia was tongue-tied and didn’t know how to address the question.

Indeed, Robin was a close acquaintance, and it wasn’t really necessary to hide from her.

However, considering Ian had

revealed it through the program,
it wouldn't be appropriate for
her to pull

the rug from under his feet.

Staring at Sophia, Robin was
acting as if she was determined
to get to the bottom of this.

"Well... Ian and I... It's not like
what you're thinking,
"

stuttered Sophia as she gave an
ambiguous reply.

Giggling, Robin teased,

"Previously, you mentioned
that you'll find a man who's
way better than John,
and I thought you were only
joking. So, it was a cover-up
after all! You were taken
already. Seriously, I
still can't believe you've kept it
from me.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 566

Sophia could only chuckle as
she really had no idea what to
say.

Leaning against the chair, Robin
heaved a heavy sigh.

"So, you
really have no feelings for

John?”

With her brows knitted together, Sophia hesitated for a moment.

Do I love John? Well, this is a serious question.

From last night’s dream until her earlier visit to Old Mr. Constance’s grave, Sophia had pondered on this question.

Then again, she dared not dig deeper into the matter.

Perhaps she was in denial, or maybe she was just not prepared to face it.

After all, he was her first man and the first person who made her heart flutter. Frankly, it would be

impossible to remove this man entirely from her heart.

In this period of time, she had attempted to do so, and it seemed to have worked.

On the other hand, in regards to whether she still loved him or not, if she really had to answer that

question—it would be a yes.

Somehow, a part of her still had

feelings for him.

Seeing that Sophia wasn't answering, Robin's eyes widened.

"Allow me to remind you that you have a new boyfriend now, so don't tell me you still have lingering feelings for John.

"

Gazing up toward Robin, Sophia grumbled,

"Why are you so curious?"

Taken aback for a moment, Robin smiled awkwardly.

"Well,

I'm just a curious cat. Rumors about the both of you have spread all over the Internet, and it was difficult to tell the truth from the fake rumors.

Besides, you refuse to share it with me. But still, I'm dying to know the truth.

"

"All I can say is—ignore the gossip over the Internet. Most of them are just groundless rumors,

” said

Sophia with a pout.

Nodding, Robin didn’t question further.

Upon finishing her tea, Sophia got up and prepared to leave, as she planned to get changed at home.

Following Sophia to the door, Robin said,

“Seriously, seeing the ups and downs in your love life makes me want to be in a relationship so badly.

”

Dumbstruck, Sophia turned to look at Robin.

“Don’t be influenced by others. If you wish to be in a relationship, it has to be because you have met someone you’re in love with. Don’t jump into a relationship just because you desire to be in a relationship. Otherwise, you’ll regret it and be left feeling more alone.

”

**Laughing heartily, Robin commented,
“What you’re saying now sounds kind of philosophical.
”**

**Chortling, Sophia said,
“I was only saying. In fact, I haven’t fully grasped the thing about love, but one thing I’m sure of is that the reason for you to start a relationship has to be because the special person that made your heart flutter appeared, not because of any other reason.**

**” After thinking about it, she added,
“Then again, what kind of person are you interested in?”**

Hearing that, Robin’s eyes darted around. Licking her dry lips, she confessed,

“For me, I like someone who’s strong and capable of standing up to protect me

during troubled times; someone
who's able to
fulfill my small requests in life.
”

Nodding her head, Sophia
thought those were
understandable requests.
Basically, when it came to love,
most girls required security.
“I'm sure you'll find someone
suitable. If the man gives you
his heart, I believe he'll be
willing to fulfill
your requests,
” Sophia said to
reassure her.

Giggling, Robin chirped,
“I just
hope he appears real soon!”
Chuckling along, Sophia hailed
for the taxi that was about to
pass by.

Before getting into the taxi,
Sophia turned toward Robin
and advised,
“Remember to
order lunch for
yourself. Forget about diet;
you're not even plump to begin
with.
”

**“Roger that!” Robin nodded.
With that, Sophia got into the
car.**

**As soon as the car took off,
Sophia turned around to gaze at
Robin. She had a gut feeling
that Robin must
be in love recently.**

**These days, Robin started
taking care of her own image.
She was not considered plump
at all, but she
insisted on going on a diet.
Besides that, there was an
obvious change in her style of
dressing.**

**A few days ago, Robin had even
dyed her hair and got herself a
new hairdo.**

**Initially, Sophia didn’t notice it,
but based on their earlier
conversation, her intuition was
telling her that
Robin was indeed in love with
someone.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 567
Thinking about it, Sophia
couldn’t help but grin, as it was
a good thing to be in love.
Falling in love is a good thing,
though I wonder what kind of**

person Robin is attracted to.
By the time Sophia reached home, it was already noon, so she got changed and prepared a meal for herself.

Just then, her phone rang when she was about to serve her meal onto the dining table.

Glancing at her phone, the number was a local but unknown number. After thinking about it, Sophia picked up the call.

It was rather noisy on the other side of the call.

“Sophia?”

“Um... Who’s there?”

Chuckling, the person answered, “It’s me—your brother.”

Startled, Sophia jeered,

“What do you mean ‘my brother’? I say, are you drunk?”

There seemed to be several people there, as there was a roar of laughter, followed by the person explaining,

“Indeed, we’re a

**little tipsy. Can you come over?
I can't go home now. Hurry up a
bit.
”**

**Suspecting that it was only a
prank from a drunkard, Sophia
hung up.**

**Not long later, her phone rang
again.**

**Feeling her anger spiking,
Sophia picked up once more
and scolded,
“If you have a
problem, you should
call the cops! Stop calling me!
Otherwise, I'll call the cops on
you.
”**

**With a titter, the person said,
“Sophia, I'm Fabian.
”**

**Dumbfounded for a moment,
Sophia asked,
“Who? Fabian
Blackwell? How did you get my
number?”**

**Leaning against the car with its
engine smoking, Fabian urged,
“Can you come over for a bit?
Something
happened here.**

”

Once he hung up the phone, he sent his location to Sophia. He narrowed his eyes as he stared at the screen.

On Sophia’s end, she hesitated as she held her phone, but after a long while, she still went to clean up and went out.

According to the address that was sent by Fabian, that place was situated on the National Highway.

Fabian was involved in a car accident, and the bumper of his car was badly damaged.

When Sophia got there, Fabian was seen sitting by the road side, and he looked as if he was taking a nap.

Some traffic police were there taking pictures and performing their duties. Meanwhile, the person

whose car was hit looked kind of frustrated. Also, beside the traffic police stood a man who appeared rather anxious.

Dashing toward Fabian, Sophia asked,

“What were you thinking?

Driving under the influence of alcohol?

Are you out of your mind?”

Opening his eyes slowly, Fabian said groggily,

“I wasn’t driving.

”

Seeing that, the traffic police walked over and inquired about Sophia’s identity.

Chuckling, Fabian replied,

“This

is my sister. If there’s anything important, you can speak to her.

And

about that...

” Pointing toward

the man who looked anxious,

Fabian continued,

“That man

there, he can

leave now. It’s fine. I can handle the compensation here.

”

Hearing that, the man rushed over to thank Fabian.

Waving his hands, Fabian advised,

**“Be careful when you
drive next time.
”**

**After bowing toward Fabian,
the man left.**

**Not knowing what had
happened, Sophia asked,
“Who’s that person?”**

**Knowing that Fabian was under
the influence of alcohol, the
traffic police was kind enough
to explain the
whole incident in his stead.**

**The man who just left was a
temporary driver whom Fabian
had just hired to drive him
home, as he was
under the influence of alcohol.
However, the driver made a
quick turn and bumped into
another car by
accident.**

**Glancing at Fabian, Sophia
heaved a sigh of relief.**

**“Alright,
we’ll bear the responsibility and
admit our
mistakes.
”**

**Nonetheless, they still had to
drop by the police station to**

sign some papers, but with Fabian in this state, he couldn't possibly make his way there.

On the other hand, Sophia needed to take care of Fabian, so she couldn't go too.

Agreeing with the traffic police's arrangement, Sophia would send Fabian home, whereas the car would be towed away by a tow truck.

Drawing himself closer toward Sophia, Fabian said,

"Please keep this from my family."
"

Considering the fact that he was still conscious enough to ask Sophia to keep this from his family, she guessed he wasn't that drunk after all.

Having no other way, Sophia brought Fabian to her own home.

From the looks of it, Fabian seemed quite sober, but as soon as they reached Sophia's house, Fabian saw the couch and fell asleep on it

in no time.

The Returning Ex Chapter 568

Feeling resigned, Sophia was wondering how to settle this.

Honestly, she didn't want to have anything to do with the Blackwells, but somehow, things just

happened, and it seemed impossible to draw the line.

With that, Sophia called up Robin to inform her that she has some matters to settle, so she wouldn't be able to head to the shop later this afternoon.

Surprisingly, Robin was in a good mood.

"Oh sure! No worries. I can handle it. There usually aren't many people in the afternoon anyway.

”

Once Sophia had hung up the call, she took a seat at the swing chair.

Seeing that Fabian was sound asleep, Sophia wondered why he had drunk so much even though it was

still daytime.

Around noon, Sophia went upstairs to take a short nap.

Lying on the bed, she habitually picked up her phone to scroll through her social media.

Halfway through her browsing, she realized that that particular person on Facebook had posted a new update—it was a picture of her shop's board.

Hissing, Sophia couldn't help but commented on the photo below, asking who the person was.

Her first guess was Matilda, but after thinking it through, she didn't seem like the kind of person who would do such a thing.

Besides, Matilda often looked at her with disdain, so it wasn't like her to post a picture of her shop.

Seeing that there was still no reply under her comment, Sophia proceeded to send a Facebook message directly to the person, asking the same question.

**With the phone in her hands,
Sophia waited for some time,
but there was still no reply.
Maybe the person hasn't seen it
yet and will probably reply to
my message later?**

**Placing her phone down, Sophia
turned around and fell asleep a
while later, as she was feeling
kind of
tired.**

**Meanwhile, John did see
Sophia's personal message.
She just still wasn't aware that
the person was actually him all
along.**

**Holding tightly onto his phone,
John was staring at Sophia's
message, but he didn't intend
to reply.**

**Considering their current
situation, if Sophia knew that
the person was him, she would
definitely block
him.**

**For now, that woman certainly
showed him no mercy.**

**Letting out a heavy sigh, John
got up and went into his
personal lounge.**

For these few days, he hadn't

been sleeping well, as he was always dreaming throughout the night.

Seeing him being this exhausted, Old Mrs. Constance thought he was stressed out because of work, so she had advised him to rest well.

John felt amused, because he too was hoping that all of this exhaustion was due to work.

That way, at least he wouldn't feel this agitated.

While he was fast asleep in his personal lounge, William came knocking on the door, which woke him up.

The moment William saw John stepping out of the lounge, he passed the file in his hands to the latter.

“This is the collaborative project we're working on, so have a look at it. If possible, I hope you and I can go on this business trip together.”

Surprised, John asked,

“Together?”

It was rather unusual for them to go on business trips together, because usually, either one of them

would be sufficient to get the job done.

Nodding, William confirmed his statement.

“Yeap, together. We have quite a rough week lately, so let’s just ease up a little by going on this trip.

”

Taking the file from William, John sat down at his office desk. As he browsed through the file, he asked,

“Have you been to the hospital lately?”

After thinking about it, William replied,

“Not these two days.

Yolanda is about to recover and will be discharged soon, so I didn’t have to visit.

”

Nodding, John asked,

“What’s

her plan after she is discharged from the hospital? Since it was a car accident, it will take quite a while to recuperate.

”

“Indeed. She’ll be renting a house and hiring a housekeeper to help out.

” William nodded as he spoke.

After reading through the documents briefly, John closed the file.

“Very well. The sooner she recovers the better. Mom won’t be too worried by then.

”

As soon as John mentioned Matilda, William understood the underlying meaning—John was sending him a warning.

About him and Yolanda, John had never given his direct opinion, but from the looks of it, he was clearly against it.

The Returning Ex Chapter 569
With an affirmative grunt,

**William assured,
“Don’t you
worry. I know what I should
do.
”**

**After sitting around for a little
while longer, William had left to
get busy.**

**John read through the
documents once more. This
time, he reckoned that the
client wasn’t that great, so
it really wasn’t necessary for
them to go on this business trip
together.**

**Then again, after thinking it
through, John didn’t oppose the
idea of hitting the road,
because it was true
that both William and him had
quite a rough week. Too much
overwhelming matters!**

**While he was busy with his own
work, his office door was
opened again by someone.
Lifting his head to take a quick
glance, John said,
“Is there...
”**

**When he saw who it was, he
swallowed his**

words and rose from his seat.

“Aunt Jennifer, what brings you here?”

Gazing at John, Lady Jennifer grinned.

“I just happened to pass by your building, so I thought of coming up here to see Dylan. Unfortunately, he isn’t around, so I came here.

”

Walking out from behind his office desk, John had led Lady Jennifer to take a seat at the couch.

“Aunt Jennifer, please take a seat.

”

From the looks of it, John could tell that his Aunt Jennifer wasn’t here by coincidence, and there was something she intended to discuss.

Once they were seated, Lady Jennifer heaved a heavy sigh.

“Actually, I was just around the corner to meet a friend. She has a daughter whose age is about

the same as Dylan. I've met her daughter before, and I like her very much, so I was thinking of introducing her to Dylan.

My friend had gladly agreed to the suggestion, so I'm here to ask for Dylan's opinion, but he isn't around.

I tried calling him, but he didn't pick up. Seriously, this boy of mine has no thoughts of settling down at all. It really gets on my nerves!"

Putting on a smile, John comforted her by saying,

"Dylan

is a grown-up now, and he knows very well

what he's doing. I reckon it's better not to rush things.

"

With a worried expression on her face, Lady Jennifer complained,

"I understand, and

I did promise him

that I won't interfere in his

personal matters, but see what that's gotten him into? Since

we're not

rushing him, he is taking his own sweet time. This is how I came to realize that if we leave it as it is, he'll never settle down for good.
”

Chuckling, John said,
“That might not necessarily be the case. When the right person comes, he will settle down.
”

After pressing her lips together for a few seconds, Lady Jennifer blurted abruptly,
“Previously, Dylan mentioned that he had a chat with you about this. He said both of you share similar opinions, but he didn't mention the details. I'm just curious, and I wish to know what Dylan is thinking. When it comes to dealing with this boy, I'm at my wits' end! If I asked him, he would say it's his own personal matter, and he knows what he's doing.

Then again, simply acknowledging the matter isn't enough; he needs to execute his plans.

”

Nodding, John replied, “I did discuss this with Dylan, but he didn't share much . From what he said, I think he didn't really like the idea of getting a girlfriend through blind dates. The reason being that when it comes to blind dates, it gets rather superficial. He would much prefer to find a woman who he really likes.

”

Frustrated, Lady Jeniffer said, “A woman who he really likes? Indeed, it's important, but in reality, it's not feasible at all, because we still have to put other matters into consideration. The women I've selected are all pretty, and all of them are brought up from well-known families. Won't that

suffice? What does he mean by looking for a woman he really likes anyway?"

Uh... That's rather difficult to put into words, John thought. Before he could answer, Lady Jennifer gazed at him and continued,

"How have you been lately? I've read the news over the Internet; it was totally absurd. I guess it must have affected you somehow. Knowing you're single now, the paparazzi certainly won't let it rest.

Anyway, I'll just be honest with you since we're family. Though you're divorced, you really should give

yourself a second chance, and you should weigh your options more carefully next time.

When it comes to finding a lifetime partner, I strongly believe that affections can be cultivated. This is why I think that it's not necessary to place too much emphasis on conditions before marriage. In any

case, feelings can be cultivated after marriage.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 570

John chuckled.

“I’m not in a hurry, so there’s no rush for me.

”

Lady Jennifer nodded.

“If you’re interested in finding a life partner, I can help you out, too. I’m just afraid that your mother won’t fancy my choice and mistake me as being a busybody.

”

At this, John guffawed.

“My mother has a sharp tongue and isn’t quite good at expressing herself. Please don’t take offense to her rash words in the past.

” Lady Jennifer then answered that she held no grudge since they were a family, but John could tell that she was truly upset.

After chatting with her for a while, Dylan came back from meeting a client. When he saw that Lady Jennifer was there upon his return, mild surprise showed on his face. He greeted his mother before glancing at John. Thus, John explained, "Aunt Jennifer has been here for some time now. She came specifically to see you."

Upon hearing this, Dylan realized the purpose of her visit. She merely mentioned it in passing last night, yet she really moves fast. She's here in less than a day's time! Exasperation inundated him. "Don't go to so much trouble, Mom. I know what to do about my own affairs. There's already someone whom I like."

Taken aback, Lady Jennifer stared at him. Beside her, John pinned his gaze on Dylan as well.

**“There’s
someone whom you like? Who
is it? Is it one of those girls
whom I introduced to you in the
past?” Lady**

**Jennifer promptly questioned.
Dylan shook his head.**

**“No, no,
it’s not anyone whom you
introduced to me. However,
you are
acquainted with her.**

**” John’s
heart jolted when he heard this
remark, and his expression
inadvertently
darkened. Dylan, on the other
hand, seemed to have noticed
nothing, grinning still. His eyes
fixed on**

**Lady Jennifer, he added,
“Anyhow, I’m keeping her
identity secret for now. I’ll tell
you who it is when I
think the time is right.**

”

**Lady Jennifer’s brows creased
deeply.**

**“Just who is it that you
can’t tell me now? Are you so
mysterious**

because her background is substandard?”

Walking over, Dylan wrapped an arm around her shoulder.

“Stop asking, for I’m not going to say a single word now. Come, come, let’s go and talk in my office so that we don’t distract John from his work.

”

John went over and walked Lady Jennifer to the door. Then, he turned his gaze on Dylan.

“Introduce the girl you like to me when you’re free. I’ll help to appraise her.

”

Dylan chortled, looking not the slightest bit guilty.

“Sure.

”

John watched as the two of them entered Dylan’s office before he closed the door and returned to his desk. He was initially feeling unsettled, but it was now worse, for he wasn’t in the mood to work at all.

Taking a cigarette, he lit it and

stuck it at the corner of his mouth. Then, he leaned back against his chair.

As the cigarette smoke swirled around him, his mind wandered, bringing up tons of memories from the

past—his thoughts back when he agreed to marry Sophia and later, when he was determined to have a

divorce. What was Sophia thinking when she signed the divorce agreement? I don't believe she hadn't noticed my obvious attentiveness toward her thereafter. What, then, was she thinking at that time?

These questions churned in his mind, yet no answer came to him.

A moment later, Zack came in with a report for him. However, he was momentarily stunned when he entered and glimpsed the expression on John's face. He walked over to him.

"Boss, is something playing

havoc on your mind?”

Taking the cigarette out of his mouth, John stubbed it out.

“No.

”

At this, Zack burst out laughing.

“Look at your expression. You have a long face.

” Handing the report to

John, he asked,

“Does it have to do with Sophia? Actually, I’ve watched the talent show

Second Young

Master Morgan joined. That was akin to a public confession of love. Truthfully speaking, a girl will

definitely be moved since it’s quite romantic.

”

John’s expression was originally a tad apathetic, but after hearing this proclamation, he instantly turned forbidding.

The Returning Ex Chapter 571

John’s expression became severe.

“Shift your focus on

**work instead of browsing gossip.
You wouldn't be
making so many mistakes if
you'd just be a bit more
serious.**

**" All at once, Zack
realized that he'd
misspoken, thus pursed his lips
and said nothing.**

**Opening the file, John scanned
through the report. Then, he
slammed it close and threw it
aside with a
plop.**

**"Alright, leave this here
first. It's nothing urgent, so I'll
take a look at it when I'm free.
"**

**Zack was tickled pink. He's
wholly different now, looking
so unsettled. In fact, I know
why without him
having to point it out. Thus, he
didn't immediately leave.**

**"Actually, Boss, I don't think
you need to be so
conflicted. You just need to
figure out some things and put
them into action. Well, your
anxiousness
every day hasn't done you any**

good, has it?"

John frowned, impatience etched on his face as he stared at Zack. However, before he could say

anything, Zack blurted,

"You

must figure out whether you still have feelings for Sophia and wish to be with her.

If the answer is no, then your anxiousness is just a result of resentment since you find it incredulous that some other men are pursuing her after she'd left you. That's about it. In that case, you'll be fine when enough time has gone by.

"

John closed his mouth, all the words he'd wanted to say to refute Zack earlier vanishing into thin air.

Zack, on the other hand, continued,

"However, if you think you have feelings for her and wish to be with her, then it's even easier.

**Pursue her if you do like her,
and put in more effort if you
want to be with her.**

**I don't believe that your
marriage for almost a year will
lose to Second Young Master
Morgan's
appearance for a mere handful
of months. In my opinion, your
chances of winning are
considerable.**

”

**John stared at him for a long
while before harrumphing.
“You talk as though you're an
expert, yet you're
also a dummy in love.**

”

At this, Zack tsked.

**“Don't
underestimate me. I've been
going on dates recently, so I've
gained an
understanding of the female
mind. Frankly speaking, Boss,
regardless of a girl's personality,
all females
like aggressive men.
Opportunity only comes when
one is aggressive.**

” After saying

this, he arched an eyebrow at John.

“Do you understand me?”

John froze for a few seconds before he immediately put on an impatient expression again.

“Alright, alright, that’s enough nonsense. You’re dismissed. It’ll be best if you focus more on work.”

Knowing that he’d actually taken his words to heart, Zack nodded.

“Okay, then. You think on it. I’m going back to work.”

When he’d left, John slowly fell into a trance. Females like aggressive men, huh? But haven’t I been aggressive? I’ve been very aggressive. I’ve never been this forward with a woman, still coming on to her despite having been contradicted to my face time and again. Sometimes, I even find myself despicable.

However, he also knew that the relationship between the two of them would likely be severed if he

wasn't aggressive considering Sophia's temperament. Now that the situation is at an impasse, I'm just not sure what I should do to break the deadlock.

Meanwhile, Sophia hurried downstairs for a look after a moment's contemplation when she awakened.

Fabian was still on the sofa, sprawled out on his back.

Heaving a sigh, Sophia then boiled water to cook chicken soup. He'll probably be up soon.

Just when she was done, Fabian woke up groggily. A tad dazed, he sat up and looked around before fixing his gaze on Sophia.

"You got me here?"

Sophia took a bowl of chicken soup over to him.

"Have you forgotten about your call to

me?”

Fabian indeed remembered nothing of the sort, his mind a chaotic mess right now. Taking the chicken soup from her, he tested the temperature before finishing it at one go.

The Returning Ex Chapter 572
Sophia stood at the side.

“Why did you imbibe during the day?”

Fabian snorted.

“What do you know?”

Not in the mood to argue with him, Sophia relented.

“Whatever. Just leave since you’re awake. I’ve got things to do, too.”

Fabian shook his head in an attempt to clear his mind.

“I owe you one for this incident today.”

Getting to his feet, he fished out his cell phone and glanced at the time. Subsequently, he sighed, his expression

inexplicably tinged with a hint of bitterness though his thoughts remained indiscernible.

When he'd left, Sophia straightened up the living room for a bit before going to her shop. There weren't any customers at this time, so Robin was cleaning the place. She was in high spirits, humming while she worked, looking extremely cheery. Sophia stood at the door when she arrived, yet Robin didn't notice her at all, absently mopping the floor while occasionally singing before bursting into giggles when something occurred to her. At this, Sophia timely asked, "What's the joyous occasion that you're giggling aloud?" Her sudden voice startled Robin, and she hastily patted herself on the chest. "When did you reach? I didn't hear you.

”

Walking over, Sophia went behind the counter.

“Well, you were deep in thought, so much so that you blocked out everything. I’m truly curious. I’ve been standing there for a long while, but you didn’t notice me at all.

” After she’d said this, she asked again,

“What were you thinking just now that you were giggling so sweetly?”

Robin raked a hand through her hair.

“Nothing. I’m just feeling rather relaxed since there aren’t any customers now, so I can take things easy.

”

Turning, Sophia looked at her, upon which she hurriedly lowered her head and continued mopping the floor. Sophia narrowed her eyes, her intuition screaming that

Robin was lying to her.
Since it was rather late when she arrived at the shop, it was almost time to get off work just after she'd busied herself in the shop for a while. Thus, she had Robin leaving first, while she herself stayed for some time. I don't even know what I've done today, yet the day is over in a fleeting moment. Flipping the closed sign, she sat by the window and gazed out. The shop in the flooring business right across was still open, and while sitting there, she then glimpsed the boy showing a customer their products in the shop. For some inexplicable reason, a hint of envy welled within her. The owner of the shop was an amicable man, his son guileless and his wife virtuous; their family of three lived harmoniously. Sitting cross-legged on the chair, Sophia let out a sigh. How I

wish to have such a family as well! Alas, I've never had one. My birth family was bad, and I'd hoped to have a good family after marriage, but I was disdained all the more. My life is truly a disaster. She sat there in contemplation, only making her way home when the sky had grown dark.

The house was dark, but the moment Sophia opened the door and stepped foot into the living room, she jumped in fright. The lights in the living room weren't switched on, but it wasn't pitch-black, so she could clearly see someone sitting on the sofa. The light switch was by the door, so she instantly slammed her hand on the switch.

Then, she stared at the person who was sitting on the sofa with a hand raised to shield his eyes from the sudden light. All at once, she went ballistic and roared in a

near shout,
“John Constance,
are you f*cking
insane? Why were you sitting in
my house in the dark? How did
you get in? I’m warning you, I’ll
lodge a
police report if you persist in
doing this. Do you know that
you’re trespassing?”

After a while, John lowered his
hand.

“Why are you yelling so
loudly? I didn’t do anything to
you.
”

Upon hearing this, Sophia saw
red. Her eyes darted around,
but she failed to find any
weapon. Having no
other choice, she stomped over
and grabbed his shoulder,
pushing him away.

“Get out of
my house! Get
out! Don’t stay in my house. I
don’t want to see you!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 573
Surprisingly, John didn’t
struggle but stood up with the
momentum of Sophia’s push.

However, he then raised his hand and grabbed her wrist. His tone seemingly teasing, he asked, "Who do you want to see if not me? Ian? Or Dylan?" Sophia was taken aback.

"John Constance, go and check yourself into the psychiatric hospital if you've gone insane! Why did you come here?"

Chuckling, John lifted a hand and grasped her chin. Sophia, however, twisted her head and shook off his hand right away.

"I'm warning you, Sophia Gwendolyn, that no other man is allowed. Behave yourself. I'll be gone on a business trip for the next few days, but I've already arranged for someone to tail you. If you dare betray me in any way, I'll kill you when I return," John threatened.

Sophia shot daggers at him.
“You should hurry home and
take your medicine. You’re
severely ill, so it
might be incurable if you tarry.
”

John yanked her into his
embrace.

“Sophia Gwendolyn,
you tormenting little temptress,
let me tell you
that I’m perfectly serious. If you
dare get together with another
man, I’ll really kill you.

” He’d
mullied this
over for a long time today,
ruminating on Dylan’s remarks
earlier. She’s temperamental,
so all the
aggressiveness in the world
won’t work if I don’t get
ruthless with her.

“Scram!” Putting all her might
into it, Sophia shoved him out.
John chortled.

“Remember
what I said, Sophia.

” After
saying that, he straightened his
clothes and

brushed past her.

He truly left just like that.

Standing there, Sophia gritted her teeth in fury. After a while, she swiftly

locked the door and windows. I just can't figure out how he got in this time. She even went over and

checked the door lock, but John's fingerprint wasn't in the system. She clenched her jaw, having no target to vent her anger.

Meanwhile, John only reached his car after walking for a while upon leaving. He was now shrewd enough

to park a distance away so that Sophia wouldn't notice his presence. After getting into the car, he looked

over at her house, his lips curving into a smile. He honked twice although he didn't know whether she'd

hear it. Then, he turned the steering wheel and drove away.

While driving, a call came from Matilda who said that she was outside and wanted to see him.

Thinking that he was going on a business trip with William soon, he went over after asking her for the location.

Instead of waiting in the shop, she stood by the roadside. At the sight of John, she opened the car door and slipped in. John glanced at her.

“Have you eaten?”

“Yeah. I just met up with Belle just now.

” Matilda pulled the seatbelt over and fastened it.

Upon hearing Isabelle’s name, John instantly went mum. At this, Matilda sighed.

“Your scandal is an awful mess now, but I can tell that Belle is saddened as well.

”

When Isabelle met her earlier, she mentioned the rumors on the Internet and even cried. They hadn’t seen each other for a while now, so Matilda was actually in a

good mood when they met this time, but at the mention of the scandal, her mood took a nosedive.

Since John wasn't saying anything, Matilda continued, "Belle is a nice girl. She even wondered whether you'll be affected by the news. She's quite worried about you."
"

John grunted.

"I'm not affected at all. It's the truth, after all."
"

In Matilda's eyes, John was writing himself off, so she heaved a sigh.

"Say, why must you live so abysmally?" I'm sure it's a piece of cake for him to find a decent girl considering his achievements now.

John didn't respond, merely driving straight to her place. The two of them exchanged a few words throughout the entire drive, every other word out of Matilda's mouth revolving

around Isabelle. In the beginning, John said nothing, but later, he seemed to have lost his patience and demanded, “Was it Isabelle who asked you to say all this?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 574
Matilda froze for a moment, but she then hurriedly denied it. “No, no, Belle would never do that. I just want you to know that she’s very much concerned about you.”

At this, John barked out a tepid laugh.

“Have you ever asked Isabelle how she feels about me before playing matchmaker? Perhaps you read her wrongly.”

Taken aback, Matilda didn’t quite know what to say. Isabelle had indeed implored her not to disclose the fact that she had feelings for John, and she understood that if it came to his knowledge that

Isabelle had feelings for him, he might assume that she instigated her considering all this matchmaking she was doing.

After pondering for a while, she replied,

“While Belle hasn’t said anything to that effect, I think she has feelings for you judging from her concern toward you.”

Seemingly having thought of something, she added,

“Belle was ecstatic back when the two of you got engaged, so it’s proof that she likes you and is willing to marry you. Even after you married Sophia, she didn’t get together with anyone else. Thus, I think she’s probably waiting for you. John, some opportunities may only come once, so you must seize it.

If you miss it, you might never have the opportunity again in

the future.

”

John said nothing. Truly, some opportunities may only come once. If I miss it, I'll never have the

opportunity again. That's why I'm so anxious now, so much so that I don't know what to do.

It's really disheartening to be confronted by a predicament in which I'm stuck, neither advancement nor retreat possible.

He drove her home, but before Matilda had gotten out of the car, her cell phone rang. Picking it up, she

glanced at it, whereupon a smile bloomed on her face and she said to John,

“Look how considerate Belle is. She's calling now, probably asking whether I've arrived home.

”

John leaned over and opened the car door on her side right away.

“Talk to her after you’ve alighted from the car.

” Startled, Matilda exclaimed in surprise, but John had grown impatient.

“Hurry up. It’s late, and I haven’t had dinner.
”

He nudged her slightly, so Matilda climbed out of the car. Still a touch dazed, she turned and looked at him.

“Hey, wait a minute! I’ll talk to Belle for a while, then you can also—”

John pulled the car door closed, aware of the trick up her sleeve. He had nothing to say to Isabelle, so he wasn’t about to tarry, driving away without a moment’s hesitation. From the rear-view mirror, he could see her answering the call even as she waved a fist in his direction. Letting out a sigh of relief, his expression gradually relaxed.

When he returned to Constance Residence, Old Mrs. Constance was seated on the sofa with Lady Jennifer who'd come over, and the two of them were talking. Mild surprise suffused John at the sight of Lady Jennifer, but still, he greeted her politely. Flashing him a smile, Lady Jennifer remarked,

"You're only back at this hour?"

John murmured an acquiescence.

"I went to see my mother, so I'm a bit late today."
"

The moment Old Mrs. Constance heard that he'd gone to see his mother, she sighed.

"How's she doing?"

John deliberated for a moment before answering,

"I think she's doing rather well. I noticed that she looked quite good.

" Other than appearing a smidge despondent

at the mention of Isabelle, she looked fine otherwise. It seems that she has started accepting her current life.

He hadn't had dinner, so he subsequently turned and ordered the kitchen staff to cook him a bowl of noodles. The kitchen staff then promptly began preparing his meal.

Meanwhile, he then walked over to the sofa before sitting down to chat with Old Mrs. Constance and Lady Jennifer. Old Mrs. Constance asked him whether he was going on the business trip since William had already packed, commenting that she'd never once seen him this enthusiastic to the point of anticipation to go on a business trip in the past. John and Lady Jennifer laughed at this, but only John knew that it wasn't an exaggeration at all.

The Returning Ex Chapter 575

Dad is indeed anticipating going on the business trip this time, for he can't wait to escape this place. As

far as John knew, Matilda seemed to be calling and texting William frequently these days, bugging him with invitations to have a meal together and requests to meet up.

And Mom isn't the kind of person who beats around the bush, so she's very straightforward, declaring that she wants to make up with him.

I'm not all that certain what Dad thinks of it all, but he definitely has no plans to start over with Mom right now. However, he can never be assertive and resolute with her, so he can't bring himself to refuse her, yet he's reluctant to agree. Hence, he can't wait to leave this place so that he can take a breather.

The corners of his mouth curving upward, he noted,

“Dad probably thinks that the collaborative partner this time is promising, so he wants to go over and assess the situation.

”

On second thought, I’m quite impressed with Mom. Zack said that one must be aggressive, and she’s putting this term into practice extremely well.

After a while, Lady Jennifer changed the subject and shifted the focus back on Dylan once again. She said that she’d pondered it for a long time, yet she just couldn’t figure out who Dylan meant when he said he had someone whom he liked. After all, his social circle was limited, and he was very much like John, having no pastime save going to the office. Thus, she truly had no inkling of any lady he’d ever associated with and developed feelings for at that.

Old Mrs. Constance was likewise at a loss, so she asked her whether he often mentioned any one of the ladies she introduced to him recently, thinking that it might be one of those ladies.

However, Lady Jennifer shook her head.

“No. He seems very averse toward the ladies I introduced to him, asserting that he has no interest in her every time he comes back from a blind date.

Furthermore, if he truly likes one of them, there’s no reason for him to keep it a secret.

But for this girl he claims to like now, he’s keeping it under wraps, allowing no one to know her identity. I

think her background must be substandard, so he’s afraid that we’ll oppose.

”

After mulling it over for a while, Old Mrs. Constance felt that it made sense, and she sighed.

“Actually,

**the younger generation should be allowed to live their own lives. We shouldn't interfere too much lest they blame us at the end of the day.
”**

**At this, Lady Jennifer cast John a glance, assuming that she was alluding to John's predicament. John's marriage to Sophia was the result of familial interference, and now, it had ended in divorce. While he hasn't openly blamed anyone, I'm sure he's feeling slightly resentful at least. Hence, she nodded symbolically.
“You're right, Mom.
”**

John, on the other hand, didn't associate it to his circumstances. Instead, Sophia came to mind. She's obviously livid when I was at her house earlier. I wonder whether she took my words to heart. He initially

thought of many strategies,
even ones gentler than the one
he used today.

Before she came home, I even
contemplated how I was going
to persuade her into having a
peaceful

discussion with me, but when I
saw her hopping mad, every
thought I had scattered.

As soon as I opened my mouth,
those warnings and threats just
rushed out. He inwardly

smacked his lips,
wondering whether his strategy
this time would work.

Lady Jennifer was still very
much curious about the girl
Dylan referred to. Since Old Mrs.
Constance

couldn't figure out anything as
well, she turned to John.

"John,
as you spend more time with
Dylan since
you even see him in the office,
have you ever heard him
inadvertently mentioning any
woman whom

you think he possibly likes?"

John froze. Dylan and I actually

don't spend that much time together. Despite us both being in the office, our interactions were all related to work. Besides work, when it comes to everyday life...

The Returning Ex Chapter 576

John inwardly hissed. Dylan had indeed mentioned a girl to me, but the person we both talked about was

Sophia. He seems very much interested in annoying me with his vague shows of curiosity or concern

about her before me every single time.

If he were to consider Dylan's attitude objectively without adding his subjective thoughts on the topic,

Sophia indeed fit the description of being the girl Dylan mentioned he liked.

However, he subjectively rejected this idea, so he shook his head right away.

"No, he never said anything or mentioned anyone to me. Dylan is taciturn in nature, so

he won't tell us such a thing.

”

Lady Jennifer nodded.

“You're

right. He's rather reserved, so he'll never tell us such a thing of his volition

without us asking him about it.

”

The kitchen staff was done cooking the noodles, so John had it brought upstairs.

Subsequently, he went upstairs as well. When he returned to his room, he changed, while the servant placed the bowl of noodles on the bedside table.

Thereafter, he walked over and took a gander. There's no improvement at all. Judging from the looks of it, it's no match for Sophia's cooking.

He then sat down and took out his cell phone. Sophia had again sent him a message on Facebook, asking him who exactly he was. He stared at his cell phone, but still, he didn't reply since he had

nothing to say.

Meanwhile, Sophia snagged her cell phone after washing up.

Upon seeing that her message had gone

unreplied for a long time, she took a very direct route and gave the other person a voice call.

John, who was still eating noodles, startled at the incoming voice call. He fixed his eyes on the cell phone intently before cracking up a few seconds later. I naturally can't take this call. Unbidden, his mind wandered.

If Sophia finds out that it's me, her wrath will definitely be even greater than when she saw me in her house today. That girl's temper is getting increasingly worse. Or more accurately speaking, she's nice to everyone else, but she's progressively short-tempered with me alone.

Sophia called him twice, but when she realized that he had

**no intentions of taking the call,
she finally
gave up.**

**After a while, John tried
browsing Sophia's posts again.
Hah, how predictable! She has
unfriended me. All
at once, he burst out laughing.
This girl is truly decisive and
resolute in such matters. How
heartbreaking!**

**If only she retains an iota of her
lukewarm disposition of the
past, I wouldn't be caught in
such a**

**dilemma. He heaved a sigh.
Even after Sophia had
unfriended the person on
Facebook, her mood didn't
improve much. A fire blazed
within her, making her restless
like a cat on hot bricks. What
did that b*stard, John
Constance, meant by
coming over and threatening
me, then leaving?**

**What has it got to do with him
if I get together with some
other man? His remarks today
were truly
ridiculous. I was blinded by rage**

then, for I really ought to have questioned his right to say all those things to me!

At the thought of this, stark regret inundated her as she felt that she'd failed to demonstrate her debate skills. I actually have tons of rebuttals that would've rendered him speechless!

She lay on the bed with her cell phone in hand, casually browsing through the news on the Internet.

There's nothing interesting. It's all gossip. How boring! Just when she was about to put her cell phone down, she caught sight of a rather intriguing piece of gossip—one related to the woman whom John left the bar with.

The woman's information was dug up, and all her previous photos were also unearthed. The news report even included her casual photos in which she was dressed stylishly although most of them

were captured in nightclubs. John wasn't mentioned anywhere in there, but the comments below were all associated with him. Many presumed that he had a preference for such women, for the average man couldn't withstand the temptation of a woman who looked so alluring and enticing.

The Returning Ex Chapter 577

Sophia nodded. This woman is indeed alluring with her ample bosom and firm butt, complemented by her exquisite makeup. At a single glance, one can be certain that all men will love her. I don't believe John remained unmoved when confronted with such a woman! She looked through the news before recalling the fact that John sneaked into her house today, claiming that he'd be away on a business trip and warning her to behave. Putting aside everything else, am I not

on my best behavior?

I merely go to the shop and back home every day. There's no one else with a better track record than I

do! As she contemplated it, she grew increasingly vexed and peeved, intense fury choking her.

All at once, she sat up and gave John a call after a moment's deliberation. John, however, was taking a shower, so he didn't hear his phone ringing. When the call went unanswered, Sophia cursed at her cell phone for a while before she put it down and went to bed. She'd always felt that she had a calm temperament, but she couldn't quite restrain herself when it came to John. Closing her eyes, she heaved a sigh.

Meanwhile, when John came out after his shower, he naturally noticed Sophia's missed call. In fact, he had an idea why she called. That girl was hopping mad at

me earlier. She probably feels chagrined for having lost face, so she wants to reclaim her pride.

He guffawed, finding it rather intriguing. She's been growing increasingly interesting after the divorce.

He then stared at his cell phone for some time before putting it down.

He was going on a business trip with William tomorrow, so he took out a suitcase and simply packed two sets of clothing. He never brought a lot every time he went on a business trip, and it was usually Zack who helped him pack. This time, however, Zack wasn't tagging along, so he had no choice but to pack by himself.

While he was packing his luggage, he recalled Sophia having followed him to Tri Asel back then. She didn't bring much either, saying that she was merely treating it as a vacation. As far as I know,

she's
never been away from home
alone.

All her life, the farthest she has
gone was from the little
mountain village in her
hometown to my life.

She isn't one who loves seeking
excitement, so she must have
mustered tremendous courage
to leave
with all her belongings back
then.

At this, a wave of distress swept
over him. I was so determined
to have a divorce that I forgot
to consider

the aftermath of it to her. I
generously gave her money
back then, thinking that it'll
compensate for
everything, but now, it seems
that I've given it too little
thought. After he was done
packing, he went
back to his bed and lay down,
feeling a tad unsettled.

John left with William the next
day, and Sophia instantly
received news of it since Zack
posted it on

Facebook, saying that his boss had gone away to toil. He made a whole issue of how difficult a task it was and insinuated that he was truly reluctant to part with his boss which Sophia scanned through.

He didn't lie at least. He has indeed gone on a business trip. She then put her cell phone down, but she couldn't help recalling John's remarks yesterday, growing aggrieved once again.

...

When Robin was done cleaning the shop, she leaned against the counter, looking at ease. She turned her gaze on Sophia.

"Haven't you been in contact with Second Young Master Morgan recently?"

Sophia, on the other hand, had her head lowered as she tidied the place.

"Nope."
"

At this, Robin sighed.

**“Doesn’t
it feel agonizing when two
people who are dating only see
each other
once in a blue moon?”**

Sophia’s brows furrowed.

**“My
relationship with Ian isn’t as
presumed.
”**

**Robin, however, hooted in
laughter.**

**“No? Love remains
the same at its core despite all
apparent
changes.**

**” She then turned to
face Sophia.**

**“Is it sweet to be in
love? When you think of that
person, you
feel happy and blissful.
”**

**Cupping her face with both
hands, she added,**

**“And when
you don’t see him,
you just feel restless.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 578
Sophia giggled.**

**“You’ll know
when you’re in love.
”**

**Robin stared at her for a while
before she suddenly changed
the subject.**

**“Sophia, will you be
upset if Mr.
Constance dates someone else
one day?”**

**While startled, Sophia truthfully
replied,
“Probably.
”**

Robin, however, was stunned.

**“Why? You’re dating someone
else, so why isn’t he allowed to
have
feelings for another woman?”**

**The corners of Sophia’s mouth
twitched.**

**“It’s difficult to
explain.**

**” Even if he’ll never
belong to me in the
end, I’ll still feel a tad
discomfited to know that he has
feelings for some other woman.
Perhaps it’s
hypocritical of me, but
regardless of whether I’ll still**

have feelings for him in the future, I once loved him, so it's inevitable.

Robin pursed her lips.

"Perhaps you'll no longer feel that way when you've remarried.

"

Sophia contemplated it for a moment before answering,

"Perhaps.

" If I've truly let go of him, I probably won't be bothered about whether he has anyone else anymore. The thing was, she wasn't all that certain either.

At this, Robin nodded but said nothing further.

After bustling around for a while, Sophia's cell phone rang.

Her cell phone was on the counter, so Robin

was the first person who rushed over for a peek. Thereafter, her expression froze slightly. Sophia,

on the

other hand, was washing some cups at the side.

"What's wrong?"

Who is it?"

Robin tittered.

"It's Mr.

Constance.

"

Taken aback, Sophia walked over and picked up her cell phone while casting it a glance.

It's indeed John.

After a moment's contemplation, she answered the call.

"Why are you calling?"

John grunted.

"I just realized that you called me last night. I was otherwise occupied at that time, so I didn't hear my phone ringing. Thus, I'm calling to ask why you called.

"

I called last night, yet he only realized that he has a missed call now? I don't believe it!

Sophia sneered,

"Are you kidding me, John Constance? Did you think that everyone else except you is a moron?"

John dissolved into laughter as

though the cold war and
dispute between the two of
them had never
happened.

“I only hope that
you’re a moron. How I wish
you’re not so shrewd! It tires
me out since I’m
afraid that you’d find me out
when I want to trick you.
”

Sophia gave a bark of laughter.

“So, why exactly did you call?
I’m busy over here, so I’m
hanging up if
you’ve got nothing to say.
”

John had probably arrived at
the hotel, for he seemed to be
stretching.

“I’m away on a
business trip, so
I’m afraid that you’d forget me
in a few days without me there
by your side.
”

Licking her back molars, Sophia
snarled,

“John Constance, I
don’t remember you ever acting
in such a

manner in the past. Are you this shameless before others as well?"

John chortled, not the slightest bit bothered that she was chastising him.

"Nope. I only act in such a manner before you."
"

He's getting increasingly impudent now! Sophia's rage was so great that she snickered.

"John Constance, you b*stard! Whose feathers are you trying to ruffle by being all lovey-dovey now? Do you have a loose screw? Have you forgotten how you treated me in the past?"

On the other end, John abruptly went silent. When the past came up, he was on the losing end since he indeed treated her badly back then. No matter when they revisited this issue, he had no way of refuting it.

Sophia's voice was exceedingly wintry as she demanded,

“Don’t call me if there’s nothing urgent in the future. I don’t quite feel like listening to your voice.

” When she’d said that, she hung up right away. After doing so, she stood there with her lips pursed and her expression somber.

Standing beside her, Robin stared at her for a long while before asking,

“Sophia, why did John call? Is he pestering you?”

Sophia said nothing, looking rather disgruntled. Actually, other than sneaking into her house last night, John hadn’t done anything that had her particularly enraged for now.

The Returning Ex Chapter 579

However, John’s attitude of ignoring everything that had happened in the past had Sophia feeling very much chagrined. He’s merely feigning ignorance and evading

the past, thinking that everything would then pass. In his dreams! After standing there for some time, she raked a hand through her hair, unable to make sense of the emotions currently coursing through her. Pivoting, she left the counter and strode to the door in a fit of pique. Robin stared at her with pursed lips, her cheery mood from earlier having vanished into thin air. A while later, she went over with a cup of coffee.

“Sophia, what’s going on between you and John? Haven’t you two broken up?” she asked cautiously.

Likewise, Sophia felt that her relationship with John had been severed, and it was a clean break at that considering the several rows they had recently. But he doesn’t seem to think so. That fella changes every so often, even faster than a

woman's mood swings.

Upon seeing that she didn't answer, Robin leaned closer and queried,

"What did it mean that he phoned you? Does he still have feelings for you?"

This question was all the more challenging for Sophia. Does he still have feelings for me?

Perhaps he's the only one who knows the answer to this. While I don't dare say for sure whether he has feelings for me, I think indignation is probably one of the reasons for his endless pestering.

"John seems to be very good to you. In the eyes of outsiders, it appears as though he's still harboring feelings for you, but he spent the night with another woman. If he still loves you, how could he get together with another woman, even if it's just a hookup?"

Robin remarked hesitatingly.

That's right. He even spent the

night with another woman.
Although the news report back
then didn't
confirm it, anyone with brains
can surmise what transpired
between him and the woman
that day in the
end. After some time, Sophia
replied,
"Exactly."
"

Robin licked her lips, her
expression a touch conflicted.
"So, why exactly did he call you?
Is he angling for
reconciliation with you?"
At this, Sophia sneered,
"God
knows why he called me. I can't
figure out this person either."
"If
his goal is
reconciliation, he knows the
kind of person I am. At the very
least, he must be chaste. Who is
he trying to
fool by acting as though he
wishes to reconcile with me
while hooking up with some
other woman out
there? Irritation gripped her.

“Okay, that’s enough. Let’s not talk about this person anymore.

My temper

spikes at the mention of him!”

Robin initially wanted to comment further, but she

swallowed her words at

Sophia’s remark. There

weren’t any customers right

now, so they both stood by the

door. Shortly after, just when

they turned

around to head back into the

shop, a car slowly cruised over.

Before it’d even drawn close,

the car

window was wound down,

revealing Fabian who was

sitting in the car.

“Wait a

moment, Sophia!” he

called out to Sophia.

Startled, Sophia stood frozen to

the spot and stared at him. His

car was so badly dented back

then that it

was almost fit for a junkyard,

but it isn’t a problem for

wealthy people at all. He has

now changed to an

even flashier car.

Meanwhile, Robin wasn't acquainted with Fabian, so she merely stood at the side and looked on.

Fabian chuckled.

"Are you not busy? I noticed that you've been standing there for a long time.

"

Murmuring an agreement, Sophia answered,

"I'm not particularly busy. Why, is there something you need that you came over?"

Fabian was rather amicable to her this time, perhaps in consideration of her help the previous time. He then alighted from the car.

"Nope. I was nearby, so I dropped by for a visit.

" As he said this, he carried a box of fruits out from the passenger seat.

"This has just been air-freighted over, so I brought it over for you guys.

”

Sophia blinked, at a loss as to what he meant by that.

However, Fabian walked into the shop with the box, so she followed suit after exchanging a glance with Robin.

The Returning Ex Chapter 580
Fabian placed the box on the table.

“Grandma has been speaking of you recently, so go and visit her when you’re free.

”

Upon hearing this, Sophia laughed.

“Did you perchance misunderstand me because I helped you the other day?”

Fabian looked at her.

“Did you perchance misunderstand me because of my remark earlier?”

He plopped down onto the chair.

“I didn’t mean anything. It’s just that you’ve helped me the other day, so I’ll look

like an ungrateful wretch if I were to treat you with contempt.

”

Walking over, Sophia sat down across from him.

“I actually helped you because there was no other choice at that time. The issue would’ve persisted if I hadn’t stepped forward in that situation when you were as drunk as a skunk. I didn’t mean anything else. I’m not really interested in associating with the Blackwell Family, so I’m rather conflicted by your visit. I don’t quite know how to face you, so why don’t you just forget about everything that had happened? We’ll just act as though nothing happened. How about that?”

At this, Fabian chuckled.

“Why are you so cautious in everything, Sophia?” He leaned back against the

chair.

“I’m not interested in associating with you either since it’s really rather awkward to have a family member out of the blue. That aside, I still have to thank you when you’ve helped me out.”

After saying that, he sighed.

“Also, I have a question for you. I didn’t ramble when I fell asleep at your house that day, did I?”

Sophia pursed her lips.

“What’s considered rambling? Calling out a girl’s name perhaps?” All at once, Fabian froze, his expression changing slightly.

“What did you hear?”

Sophia felt that she’d hit the nail on the head. Sure enough, a woman is the reason he drank like a fish that day. From ancient times, even heroes have a weakness for the charms of a beautiful woman. I’m

actually a touch curious as to the beauty who managed to lock him down. She chortled.

“I didn’t hear anything. You were inebriated, and it sounded vaguely like a woman’s name, but you weren’t enunciating all that well, nor did I pay much attention to it.”

Fabian stared at her for a long time before he finally retracted his gaze. He didn’t pursue that line of question, probably afraid that he’d give away even more if he were to speak further.

Robin, on the other hand, went to the counter and made coffee for them both. Taking it from her without an ounce of hesitation, Fabian took a sip of coffee.

“I heard that John is away on a business trip.”

At this, Sophia frowned, not at all comprehending why he

suddenly mentioned John.
Fabian lifted his eyes to Sophia.
“Actually, I witnessed the entire
incident of John leaving with
the
woman.
”

Sophia was stunned, and the
same went for Robin who was
at the side.

“So, John truly took
a woman
home and spent the night with
her?” Robin blurted.

Turning, Fabian cast a glance at
her. However, he didn’t find
anything amiss, merely
assuming that she
was Sophia’s friend, thus asking
on her behalf. Grunting in
agreement, he nodded.

“John
indeed left with
the woman, and the two of
them seemed very familiar with
each other in the bar back then.
It didn’t
seem as though they were
meeting for the first time.
”

This came as a surprise to

Sophia, for she'd seen the woman's picture. From her dressing and all, she seems to be a person who frequents nightclubs often, so John couldn't quite possibly have known her.

However, it's always difficult to say when it comes to something like this.

Meanwhile, disappointment shrouded Robin. Gazing at Fabian, she questioned,

"In other words, John may very likely have been carrying on with that woman long ago, yes?"

Nevertheless, Fabian didn't dare run his mouth when the media itself didn't confirm it as fact, merely reporting that they both left together. Thus, he only chuckled since he wasn't in a position to draw his own conclusion. This chuckle, however, was tantamount to an answer.

Robin heaved a sigh.

"Never

had I expected John to be such a person.
”

Beside her, Sophia snorted.
“Don’t assume that everyone is good. He might have another side to him out of your line of sight.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 581
After a moment’s contemplation, Fabian added,
“Actually, John wasn’t such a person in the past. He had always been chaste. I once met him while entertaining a client, and while all the other big shots were captivated at the sight of women, he was the only one who had disdain in his eyes when he gazed at the bevy of young ladies around him.
”

Hence, he couldn’t quite figure out why John had suddenly morphed into such a debauched person now.
I personally find it rather odd, but I can’t say it aloud. If I voice

it out, it'll seem as though I'm whitewashing him.

Quickly finishing the cup of coffee, he then got to his feet.

"I still have something to do, so I won't

intrude any longer. Sophia, do come to Blackwell Residence for a visit when you're free.

"

Sophia murmured an acquiescence that sounded very much perfunctory.

"Okay, will do.

" She then

walked him to his car. When he'd left, she turned around and went back into the shop.

Robin was standing at the counter, looking somewhat despondent. Sophia, however, didn't think much of it.

"Come, come, let's have some fruits. Let's see what he brought us.

" Robin was

noticeably down in the dumps, so she went over and opened the box. It was

actually a gift box of sorts with an assortment of fruits, all looking plump and juicy.

Many of them were foreign to her, so she didn't know what they were. Ah, everything is exotic when I've never seen much of the world! Taking a few fruits, she washed them before shifting her gaze to Robin.

"What's wrong? Why are you feeling downcast?"

Forcing a smile, Robin countered,

"I'm not feeling downcast. I'm merely a tad shocked at Mr. Blackwell's words.

"

Sophia startled.

"Shocked? Oh, you mean what he said regarding John?"

At this, Robin lowered her eyes.

"It just came as a surprise to me. I can't quite explain it, but well, I didn't expect it. That's the sum of it.

"

Sophia chuckled.

“Perhaps you haven’t experienced much of the world yet, but such a thing is actually quite common. There are often two sides to people. The John you normally see is bright and dazzling, but it doesn’t mean that he has no flaws.

” Robin merely nodded without commenting further. It wasn’t particularly busy today, so when Sophia noticed that Robin was truly out of sorts, she asked her to get off work first although it wasn’t yet time.

There probably won’t be many customers later, so I can manage by myself for a while. Robin didn’t decline either, claiming that her nose felt stuffy since she might have caught a cold when she napped at the table this afternoon.

Upon hearing this, Sophia patted her on the shoulder.

“Go

home. Drink some ginger tea at home. Don't wait until it's a full-blown cold before you're forced to take medicine. You'll feel even worse then.

" Robin

only packed and left after staring at her for a long while. Subsequently, Sophia sat by the window while leaning back against the chair, appearing a tad dejected.

As she gazed out the window, her mind went blank. After some time, she caught sight of an old acquaintance—Madam Matilda.

However, she wasn't alone.

Rather, she was accompanied by her favorite person. Isabelle wore a long dress, looking very much ladylike.

They do seem like mother and daughter when standing side by side. They must have gone shopping, and by plan or coincidence, they're passing by my shop. From the look of things, it's Isabelle who

wants to
patronize my shop.

After all, Matilda appeared a
touch hesitant as she looked up
at the signage, but Isabelle had
already

pushed open the door and
walked in. Nonetheless, Sophia
remained leaning against the
chair without
budging an inch.

“Are you here
for a chat or tea?”

Isabelle looked at the menu on
the wall.

“I’ll order a drink. I’m
tired after walking such a
distance.

”

Moving languidly, Sophia lazily
got up and went to the counter.

“What drink would you like?”

Isabelle ordered two cups of
coffee. After some deliberation,
she then ordered two pieces of
pastries as
well for dine in.

The Returning Ex Chapter 582

Sophia grunted in
acknowledgment.

“Have a seat.

I'll bring them over later.

”

When Matilda came in, she glanced at Sophia, but her expression was much more mellow this time, no longer looking as though Sophia owed her money.

Meanwhile, Sophia's movements were slow and measured, not the slightest bit frantic.

After Matilda and Isabelle had taken their seats, Isabelle's lips curved into a smile.

“Have you ever been here, Mrs. Constance? I think Ms. Gwendolyn's shop is quite nice with a pleasant décor.

”

Matilda murmured in affirmation.

“Yes, I've been here a few times.

” I told her this a long time ago.

Nodding, Isabelle pretended as though she'd just known about it.

“Then, is there anything you

like in particular? I'd appreciate a recommendation.

”

Matilda couldn't quite figure out what Isabelle was trying to do.

“Everything here is nice.

” At

this,

Isabelle giggled but said nothing further.

When Sophia was done preparing the order, she carried everything over to their table before returning to the counter once more. Then, she took out her cell phone and started watching the short videos in

her recommendation list. These short videos are actually quite interesting, each creative in its way. She

initially had no interest in such a thing, but as she watched one after the other, she grew pretty enthusiastic, so much so that she didn't hear whatever Isabelle said to her.

Pursing her lips, Isabelle looked

on as she kept her focus on her cell phone while blocking out the world.

Although she was well aware that it was deliberate on Sophia's part, she didn't grow incensed. Instead, she turned to Matilda.

"Mrs.

Constance, did John tell you when he's coming back from his business trip this time?"

For some reason, Matilda felt ill at ease as she sat there.

Nonetheless, she replied,

"No.

There isn't a specific time frame for the business trip this time. He said he'll see how it goes later.

"

Isabelle nodded.

"I actually phoned him last night, but I didn't ask him about his business trip. I just asked about the news on the Internet.

"

Upon hearing this, Matilda was

stunned.

“Really?”

Isabelle stirred her coffee with a spoon, but she didn't drink any.

“He assured me that it's merely a gimmick by the media, and it's all drivel.

” Matilda didn't respond, so she chortled and continued,

“He also said he doesn't care about all that. As long as he has done nothing wrong, he's not afraid of all the gossip.

”

Taking a sip of coffee, Matilda grunted in acknowledgment. I really can't tell whether she's telling the truth or otherwise. I just feel as though it's not quite right. After all, I've also phoned John some time ago, and he boldly admitted it. Could it be that she's intentionally saying this because of Sophia's

presence? But what's the use of doing so? Sophia won't give a whit even if she says all this.

Rather, it makes her appear petty. For the first time, she felt that Isabelle wasn't as laid-back as Sophia in matters of the heart.

She then stole a peek at Sophia out of the corner of her eye, only to see that she had her attention

focused on her cell phone, obviously paying no attention to the two of them. Letting out a sigh, she suggested,

"Belle, I know of a newly-opened restaurant whose food is delicious. Let's not eat pastries anymore. It's going to be dinnertime soon, so how about going for dinner?"

Isabelle scrutinized her. She seems rather different from her usual self today. When she sees Sophia in the past, she always flies into a rage at once, but now, she

hasn't uttered a single remark to make things difficult for her. Besides, I even vaguely sense that she appears to be steering me away from creating a conflict with Sophia here.

"Are you hungry, Mrs. Constance?" she queried.

Matilda mumbled vaguely in affirmation.

"I planned to take you out for a meal in the first place. This isn't all that nutritious, so there's no benefit in consuming it. Come, I'll treat you to a sumptuous spread.

"

Pursing her lips, Isabelle only agreed after a few seconds had passed. Actually, she hadn't taken a single bite of anything sold in Sophia's shop from beginning to end. She then went over to pay, but Sophia merely pointed at the QR code payment at the side without even lifting her head to look at her.

“Over there.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 583

Isabelle went over and scanned the QR code to make payment.

Then, she looked at Sophia again.

Matilda, on the other hand, had already walked over to the door.

It was only when she called out to her

did Isabelle reluctantly leave.

At the door, Matilda walked further away upon seeing that

Isabelle was making her way over. When

Isabelle had caught up to her, she asked in slight puzzlement,

“What was your intention in coming here?

To say all those things to make Sophia miserable?”

In reality, Isabelle herself didn’t quite understand what she was

trying to do. While she indeed wanted to

make Sophia miserable, she

wasn’t certain how she wanted to accomplish that.

That was why she used the

news on the Internet back then

as a starting point. Because of the news, she'd previously experienced great agony, feeling as though someone had stabbed her in the heart.

Convinced that Sophia had certainly been tormented by it to the point of losing sleep, she brought it up before her. However, when she did so, she herself was assailed by a wave of distress, so she bluffed and claimed that John had explained things to her.

Staring at her, Matilda shook her head.

"It's no use showing off with words, Belle. Even if you'd said that you were the person John left the bar with, there wouldn't have been any reaction on Sophia's part. She has always been calm and unruffled. This time, you really lost to her.

"

Isabelle pursed her lips, likewise finding herself inexplicably on

the losing end in this battle today.

Moving over to her, Matilda patted her on the shoulder.

“Never mind, don’t think about it now. Let’s go for dinner first.

” Isabelle said nothing further and left with her.

Meanwhile, Sophia stood at the counter. She placed her cell phone down, her face a mask of wintry

coldness. Young Lady Isabelle Bailey seems unable to read the situation now. Hah, I wonder what she

intended by coming in and showing off. She went over and put away everything on their table. Then, she

flipped the closed sign over.

After that, all that was left was to clean up the place. She took out the mop, but just when she was about

to start mopping, her cell phone rang. She sauntered over and picked it up for a quick glance.

It’s an

unknown number, and from another city to boot.

It's generally a scammer or telemarketer. She'd answered several such calls in the past, so she declined the call and went back to mopping the floor.

When she was done with the cleaning, a call came in again from the same number.

Frowning, she glanced at it. This time, she picked up the call.

"Hello."
"

At first, no sound came from the other end of the phone. Sophia then repeated the greeting, upon which the other person stammered, "Is this Sophia Gwendolyn?" It was a woman's voice, the voice tinged with uncertainty and wariness. Sophia didn't answer right away. Instead, she countered, "Who are you?" After a few seconds, the person on the other end suddenly

started sobbing, her voice soft and timid.

“It’s
me, Soph.
”

Sophia’s brows knitted together. I don’t recognize this person’s voice, and no one calls me Soph. She pursed her lips, growing a smidge impatient as her conviction grew that it was a scammer.

“Who are
you? Stop crying and answer
me first.
”

Sniffling sounded from the other end.

“I’m your mother,
Soph.
”

Sophia froze, very much taken aback.

“Who are you again?
Repeat that, please.

” Her tone was neither anxious nor exuberant. Instead, it was filled with contempt. Immediately after, she growled,

**“I’d advise
you to think carefully before
you answer me.
Are scammers not doing their
homework before scamming
people nowadays? There’s an
obvious
problem with your information.
Let me tell you, my mother is
dead. She’s been dead for many
years
now. You want to scam me?
Dream on!” After saying that,
she hung up right away.
However, she was shaking all
over, shivering uncontrollably.
Whirling around, she poured
herself a glass
of water and guzzled it down in
a single go. My mother?
What nonsense! That woman
has probably reincarnated into
a young and beautiful lady now.
She
inhaled deeply, repeating the
motion a few times. Then, she
promptly packed and locked up
before
hailing a taxi home.
The Returning Ex Chapter 585
Disheartened, Sophia didn’t**

cook. She made some instant noodles and simply ate a bite before retiring upstairs.

When the sky had grown completely dark outside, she received a call from Logan who said that he was on her doorstep. He claimed that he was here to visit her, but he was surprised that she'd gone to bed so early upon seeing that the lights were turned off downstairs.

Thus, she listlessly went downstairs and opened the door for him before parking her butt on the sofa. Logan brought a lot of food, so it seemed that he hadn't had dinner. He didn't trouble Sophia but went

to the kitchen himself and plated everything before carrying them to the dining room. Grinning, he called out,

"Come, come. I even bought beer, so let's have a feast today!"

The entire house was filled with

the aroma of grilled skewers. While Sophia hadn't any appetite, her stomach rumbled at the fragrant smell. Hence, she stood up and went to the dining room, only to see that Logan had even prepared the cutlery and opened the bottles of beer. She plopped down onto a chair.

"What happened? Why the sudden interest in coming over for drinks at my place today?"

Logan sighed.

"I was just thinking that we haven't officially eaten together ever since Ian went for the competition. I miss the days when the three of us feasted together, so I came over."
"

Upon hearing this, Sophia chortled.

"You're right. I miss those days, too.

" There wasn't any turmoil back

then, so I was in high spirits every day despite living rather aimlessly. Now, I seem to have found my goal in life, but turmoil after turmoil assail me.

Logan then poured her some beer.

“I hope Ian performs well, and we can then have a gathering when he returns.

”

Sophia, however, sighed. If Ian truly makes his debut, there probably won't be many chances for us to gather together in the future. We'll all have our respective lives, and life is difficult, so there won't be so much time for us to fritter away. Without saying anything superfluous, she raised her glass to Logan before emptying it. Logan didn't realize that she was in a bad mood, assuming that they were both as easy-going as before. As they ate and drank, they

both imbibed a little too much. Leaning back against her chair, Sophia lifted her head and stared at the ceiling. In a low voice, she began, "I was alone when my grandfather fell ill, and I knew nothing at all. At that time, I hated them to the bone. Why didn't those two unconscionable wretches return? How could they be so heartless to leave for so many years?"

Logan was drunk, so he paid her no mind. However, Sophia wasn't hoping for someone to lend her an ear, so she continued,

"Later, my grandfather passed away, but there were many rules in my hometown. One of them was to have the firstborn son break a pot for the funeral ceremony. I volunteered to do it, but the elders forbade me from doing so. They insisted on having the son doing it, else to just do away

with the tradition. However, it then meant that my grandfather's reincarnation wasn't certain.

”

At this, she felt her tears trickling down the corners of her eyes.

“I then said that his son had died, and it'd been years ago. I claimed to be his only living relative, the only one whom he had left.

”

Dashing at her tears, she asserted,

“Say, aren't they dead when they didn't return for so many years?”

In fact, she almost asked earlier whether her heartless father had also remarried and had another child, living the high life as well. Did they never consider how the elderly man and child they left behind were going to survive?

After a while, Sophia wiped her face and straightened in her

chair. At this time, Logan was no longer in the dining room. He'd gone to the living room and dozed off on the yoga mat. Casting him a glance as she stood at the entrance to the dining room, she then got a blanket and draped it over him. Subsequently, she whirled around and went into the dining room to clear the table. The alcohol had initially kicked in, but it's all gone after all the rambling I did. Sighing, she returned to her room after putting everything away.

The Returning Ex Chapter 586
Thereafter, Sophia received a message from her irresponsible mother. It was a picture of a young girl who looked to be 12 or 13 years old. Actually, there wasn't much of a resemblance to her, but her intuition told her that this was probably the child that woman had after remarrying. She looks quite

presentable, neat and tidy.

After a single glance, she deleted the message. Why did she send this to me?

I'm not at all interested in their lives.

She then took a shower and sprawled out on the bed. I've been contemplating changing phone numbers back when John and I got divorced, but I then returned with him from Tri Asel, so I didn't get to do so.

Now, I truly need to consider whether to bite the bullet.

Many inane thoughts crowded into her mind, but she finally drifted off groggily.

The next day, Sophia was awakened by the ringing of her cell phone. With her eyes shut, she fumbled for her cell phone and answered the call. It was Robin on the other end, and she shrieked loudly,

"You two are just too romantic, Sophia!"
Squinting, Sophia grunted.

“What are you talking about?”

Robin startled.

“Are you still in bed? Why, did you spend the night talking with Ian on the phone?”

Nonetheless, Sophia couldn't make head or tail of her remark.

Propping herself up, she felt a mild

pounding in her head.

Robin then continued,

“Ian is truly handsome, so he must give you quite the sense of security, huh?”

Sophia's brows furrowed.

“Ian?”

What's with him?”

Again, Robin was stunned.

“Didn't you watch him in the competition last night?”

Oh yes, Ian's competition was last night! It had completely slipped Sophia's mind due to the trifles

beleaguering her. She heaved a sigh. This hangover feeling truly doesn't feel so great. Getting out of bed,

she headed to the bathroom. At

the same time, she asked,

“What’s with Ian?”

Robin giggled.

“You should go

and take a look. I’ve never had
such a thought before, but now,

I find that

loyal men are really

handsome.

”

Hissing in pain, Sophia just
couldn’t wrap her mind around
Robin’s remarks. Thus, she hung
up and took

a shower. When she came out
after she was done washing up,
she did a search on her cell
phone, only to

see that Ian’s performance last
night was of a song he
composed by himself. It was his
usual style in

which he played the guitar as
he sang, slow and lyrical.

However, the title of the song
was rather intriguing—Fated
Response. Before he sang it, he
even

explained that he was inspired
by his girlfriend’s name. He said
that his girlfriend’s name

symbolized love and devotion, so he titled the song thus to encapsulate his hopes for their future. Sophia pursed her lips. I wonder if he's trying to establish a public persona. Nonetheless, his apparent show of affection had him soaring in popularity. After all, loyal men are very much attractive. He received the highest number of votes from the live audience last night, so this is probably a gimmick, Sophia thought. Everything involves gimmicks nowadays, but in reality, it's all fake, and everything is a huge lie. Without even bothering to listen to his singing, she locked her cell phone. Well, as I've said, my life is getting increasingly chaotic now, and I've been proven right. She then went downstairs, but Logan was still sleeping after imbibing far too much last night. Her head

pounding badly, Sophia wasn't in the mood to cook, so she merely boiled some water. My stomach is feeling queasy, and I'm slightly nauseous.

Ah, a hangover can only make someone forget his or her troubles temporarily, but when the buzz is gone, reality remains!

Whatever may come will still come without a doubt, and everything may even come at the same time.

Meanwhile, John and William returned to the hotel together. Before entering his room, William turned and looked at John.

"Have you called home?"

Taken aback, John stilled while opening his room door.

**"No."
"**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 587
Something seemed to have occurred to William, for he then said,
"You've got to call home.**

For some things, it may be a mere difference of holding out just that tiniest bit before you score the goal. If you retreat, it'll then be to no avail, but if you persist, you might just succeed.

”

John gaped at him in mild surprise. He initially thought that William was referring to Constance Residence, but from his words now, that didn't seem to be the case. Lowering the key card, he turned and walked over to William.

“I'd like to visit with you for a while.

”

Flashing him a smile, William opened the door. The two of them reserved adjacent rooms, so the layout was almost the same; the door opened to a row of similarly designed sofas in the living room. Striding over, John plopped onto the

sofa and blurted,
“I thought you
don’t like Sophia?”

William, on the other hand,
slipped off his jacket.

“I didn’t
quite like her in the past since
she always
seemed nervous and timid. But
on your uncle’s birthday back
then, I found her rather
pleasant. She
might have been bullied too
much by your mother those
days, but after the divorce, she
didn’t have any
more qualms, so she let her
true self out.

”

Walking over, he sat down
beside John.

“Frankly speaking,
I might like Sophia more than
Isabelle. It’s not
that Isabelle is inferior, but
perhaps she’s too good that I
just feel that something is
lacking.

” Heaving a
sigh, he continued,
“Furthermore, there are too

many people in the Bailey Family, and their relationships are just too messy. Take the issue of your divorce coming to light, for instance. The Baileys took

advantage of that to make various demands. I actually disdain such people.

Undeniably, one might have to resort to trickery in the business world, but when it comes to someone's personal life, it's deplorable to do such a thing.

”

John nodded slowly.

“You're right, but I initially thought that, like Mom, you disdained Sophia's background.

”

“Hmm, her background, huh?” William pondered for a moment. “Actually, I mulled over this issue at length back when I divorced your mother. Well, how much is a lot of money? Our family isn't hurting for

money. What is our aim when we seek a girl from a decent family background? Her money?" He then continued poignantly, "Marriage is for life. There actually isn't much need to place constraints on the other person's background and all if one is already successful. When external factors don't pose much of a threat to our lives, I think feelings are then the only consideration."
"

John stared at him. He has actually changed a lot. In the past, he never would've said all that to me. He has probably gained some new insights after breaking free from the chains of marriage. He nodded sedately.

"I think Grandma has accepted Sophia as well."
"

William hooted with laughter. "Your grandmother likes her quite a bit now. She said that

none of us has
the kind of liveliness she
possesses.

”

At this time, something came to
mind, so John remarked,

“I

noticed that Aunt Jennifer is
frantic in
introducing prospective
girlfriends to Dylan. She’s never
been in such a hurry before.

What’s going on?”

William wasn’t quite certain
either, but he answered,

“It

seems that it was your uncle
who brought it up
and asked your aunt to settle it
as soon as possible. I didn’t ask
why specifically, but Dylan is
not getting
any younger, so it’s indeed time
to consider marriage.

” After

giving it some thought, he then
added,

“If

you hadn’t gotten divorced and
had continued your life as usual,
you’d probably have a child

now. Thus,
can your uncle not be in a
hurry?”

John pursed his lips. After a
long while, he echoed,
“You’re
right. If I’d continued my life as
usual, I’d be a
father now.
”

The two of them then talked
about the business trip for a bit.
John was a tad anxious to
return, upon
which William guffawed.

“My
plan was to take you away for a
breather, but it now seems as
though I’d
miscalculated. From your look
of things now, you don’t appear
at all keen to leave.
”

John merely chuckled without
saying anything. Then, he
returned to his own room.
The Returning Ex Chapter 588
John hadn’t much to do, so he
took a shower before lying
down on the bed. Then, he took
out his cell

phone. Recalling that it was the first round of the knockout competition for Ian, he went online and did a search right away. Oh, how cunning of him!

This Ian Morgan is quite crafty in creating opportunities for himself. He confessed his love some time ago, and now, he has started with public displays of affection!

Fated Response? What f*cking title is that

for a song? I think it's most fitting for him to use the name of Sophia's shop now!

He was initially a tad anxious to return, but after seeing Ian's competition, he became downright restless.

After all, he understood Sophia's temperament. She bumbles around at times, so his ploy this time is just the perfect strike to her defenses.

He isn't confessing his love and displaying his affections privately, but blatantly before the entire

country. Considering her kind-hearted disposition, she probably can't bring herself to do anything other than lending him a hand. How could I allow that to happen? He promptly went online and looked for flight tickets. Phew, there's another flight tonight!

Scrambling

out of bed, he packed his luggage before going over to William's room.

William was taking a nap, but John pounded on his door several times. Frowning, he demanded,

"What's wrong with you?"

With his suitcase in hand, John declared,

"I've booked a flight ticket, and I'll be leaving immediately.

Something came up with Sophia.

"

Leaning against the door frame, William doubled over with laughter.

"See, I just knew that

**you won't be
able to sit still after I'd said all
those things to you.**

**" He then
nodded.**

**"Sure, you can go back.
There's
nothing important here, so I can
manage alone.
"**

**John smiled and waved at him
before leaving, wheeling his
suitcase along.**

**Meanwhile, Sophia stayed in
her shop and worked until late
at night. Robin had already left,
so she**

**calculated the profit she'd
made since starting the
business until now by herself.**

**It's double my
expectation! Actually, she knew
that most of it was from the
support of friends, Logan and
John
especially.**

**Putting the calculator aside, she
let out a sigh. I always say that I
want to be independent, but in
the end,
I'm still relying on the people**

around me. She then dawdled for a while before packing up to leave.

This time, she didn't hail a taxi but slowly made her way home on foot alone while shouldering a

backpack. She'd already blacklisted that woman's phone number, but still, she felt a touch discomfited. It was as though she had a thorn in the side which she tried to avoid as much as possible.

However, this wasn't a sign that she was on the mend, nor did it signify a full recovery. Rather, she was

just lying to herself that the wound didn't exist by neither looking at it nor touching it.

It was very late when she arrived home, so she merely cooked some dumplings.

Feeling down in the dumps, she wasn't even in the mood to watch television, so she went for a shower straight away before getting into bed. Nevertheless, her sleep was fitful, her dreams

bizarre with a messy
phantasmagoria.

As a wave of exhaustion swept
across her, Sophia's mind felt
fuzzy. Turning over, she then
slowly opened
her eyes. The curtains weren't
drawn, so the room was
relatively bright from the glow
of the moonlight
outside the window.

Thus, she could clearly see that
someone was standing beside
the bed. It was such a terrifying
occurrence that she even forgot
to scream, rendered motionless
as though she'd been frozen in
time.

Knowing that she was awake,
John sighed.

"You just won't
listen though I advised you to
lock the sliding
door to the balcony."
"

Sophia slowly sat up, so John
came over and sat down on the
edge of the bed.

"What
happened? I
noticed that your sleep seemed

rather fitful.

”

Sophia stared at him intently. All of a sudden, she sprang up and lunged at him.

“Were you trying to scare me to death, John Constance?

Let me tell you, I detest people like you! Didn't you know that you might have triggered a heart attack?”

Pinning him onto the bed, she straddled him and started swinging her arms, raining blows upon him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 589

In reality, Sophia couldn't possibly restrain John with her feeble strength, but John knew that he'd

indeed gone a tad overboard, having scared the bejesus out of her this time. Thus, he allowed her free

rein though he did raise his arms and shield his head.

Even while she was livid, Sophia didn't truly intend to beat him up. She merely punched his arm

incessantly while lambasting him. I almost fainted when I caught sight of someone beside my bed in the middle of the night! Hitting someone required energy, and swinging one's arms was extremely tiring, so she was drained in no time. Chuckling, John raised his hands and grasped her shoulders before moving her off him by exerting slight force. Nonetheless, Sophia continued berating him while sitting on her heels on the bed, saying, "I was too soft-hearted in the past. I really should have lodged a police report against you! John Constance, judging from your conduct now, you really need to spend a few days in jail before you learn your lesson!" As she said this, she looked around in search of her cell phone. However, John moved swifter than she did, reaching out and

grabbing her wrist in one fell swoop.

“You can lodge a police report later if you wish to do so, but I have a question for you now. I naturally have some misgivings since I took a flight back all this way. Come on, answer me first.”

Sophia tried pulling her hand back, but when several attempts failed, she simply gave up. She fixed her eyes on him.

“Fine. I’m very much interested to know what it is that drove you to do such an unconscionable thing, so spit it out. I’m listening.”

Leaning close to her, John’s expression turned serious in the blink of an eye.

“Have you really gotten together with Ian Morgan?” he asked.

“Yes, that’s right. Hadn’t I told

you that I'm dating Ian?" Sophia sneered.

At this, John drew closer and lowered his voice.

"Sophia Gwendolyn, be honest with me. Don't spout off just to piss me off. Are you truly dating Ian Morgan for real?" His voice grew increasingly deep and soft as he spoke.

Due to the illumination of the bright moonlight and the negligible distance between them, Sophia could see his expression clearly. He was exceedingly solemn though one could also say that his gaze was tinged with a hint of affection. For that reason, Sophia suddenly couldn't bring herself to casually admit something that had never happened despite having done so a moment ago. Pursing her lips, she stared at him. In her daze, she even seemed to sense the travel-weary vibes radiating off

him.

Lifting a hand, John rested it on her head and stroked her gently.

“You’re not, are you?”

“What has it got to do with you?” Sophia countered in a huff.

John chortled.

“Of course, it has got something to do with me.

As I’ve said, I’ll definitely kill you if you

dare get together with someone else. You can only be mine, be it in the past, present, or future.

”

“Bullsh*t!” Sophia just couldn’t hold herself back. After cursing him out, she added,

“You seem

to have

forgotten that we’re divorced.

And I don’t quite understand you, Mr. Constance. Are you

angling for

reconciliation with me now? I

remember that you used to

turn your nose up at me in the past.

”

John's expression stiffened slightly, and he then sighed.

"I was blind in the past. Don't take offense at me, please?"

I wonder if he's making himself sound humble on purpose.

Feeling a tad discomfited, Sophia inched back before changing the subject.

"This is the last chance I'm giving you, so hurry up and leave. I'll no longer show you any mercy if you were to do this again in the future."

John wasn't at all intimidated since she was, in fact, a paper tiger. While she seems vicious on the surface, she's actually very soft-hearted. Thus, Ian Morgan probably did all those things on stage to coerce her into accepting him because he knows about her weakness!

**The Returning Ex Chapter 590
He knows that Sophia won't humiliate him. On second**

thought, this Ian Morgan is actually very cunning despite appearing plain and unpretentious. The corners of John's mouth quirked into a smirk.

"You know what?

I came here as soon as I returned without even going back home, and my luggage is still in the courtyard.

Besides, there's no taxi at this hour. Don't tell me you want me to walk home while dragging my luggage behind me...

"

He gave me a pile of drivel, yet it's all so that I'll allow him to stay overnight! Hopping mad, Sophia stared at him for a long while before getting out of bed. Opening her room door, she pointed at the corridor.

"Go out. Out!"

This means I can be anywhere as long as it's not her room! John beamed, his smile tinged with a gleam of

craftiness. Getting to his feet, he straightened his clothes. "I've got to retrieve my luggage first since it so happens that I've got a change of clothes in there."
"

Her temper getting the best of her, Sophia lifted her leg and swung it at John when he exited her room.

However, John was rather nimble on his feet, so he dodged it with a simple sidestep. Chuckling, he remarked, "The damsel and the villain..."
"

In the next moment, Sophia slammed the door shut. Leaning back against the door, the vicious expression on her face relaxed. She then gave a slight sigh of relief before fisting her hand and hitting her chest. I don't quite know what I'm feeling at the moment, but it seems that I'm actually not all that

enraged.

After a while, she went over to the window and gazed out into the courtyard. The lights were turned on

in the living room downstairs, and John was standing in the courtyard. His luggage was indeed in the courtyard, right there beside him.

At this time, he lifted his head and looked at her window as though he was certain that she'd definitely

be there. Sophia was taken aback, but she didn't dodge, merely meeting his gaze with a cold expression

on her face. John, however, flashed her a smile and even waved at her. Then, he went into the living room with his luggage in hand.

Thereafter, Sophia whirled around and went back to bed, but she didn't lay down. Instead, she sat on the

bed, hugging her knees. What does John mean by doing this? Is he angling for reconciliation?

Could this man have forgotten what he'd done in the past? How could he shamelessly come over now and claim that I'm his? Pshaw! As she chewed over it, she grew all the more irritated, and she plopped back in a huff. She didn't sleep well the entire night, feeling ill at ease with the sudden presence of another person, perchance because no men had stayed overnight at her house in a long time. She repeatedly jolted awake, perking up her ears to catch any sound coming from outside her room. Thus, she woke up early the next morning and went downstairs after hurrying through her ablutions. John was already up, and for the first time in forever, he was in the kitchen, probably preparing breakfast. Languidly walking over, Sophia stood by the kitchen entrance and

scrutinized him.

John was making dumplings, a fairly easy fare to prepare.

Turning his head to look at her, he flashed her a smile.

“Go and wait in the dining room. It’ll be done in a jiffy.

”

Sophia stared at the pot for some time.

“Are you sure you can manage?”

At her query, John pointed at his cell phone beside the stove.

“I looked it up just now, so it should be fine.

”

Upon hearing that, Sophia pivoted and went to the dining room. In no time, John was done cooking the dumplings which he then carried out and served.

Subsequently, Sophia started, “John, I think there is a communication issue between us when it comes to some things. You don’t seem to

understand my
meaning.
”

John hurriedly insisted,
“I do, I
do. You don’t need to say
anything. I know everything you
want to say, so
hurry up and eat. You still have
to go to the shop after this.
” It

was clear as day that he didn’t
wish to
listen to whatever she wanted
to say.

Hence, Sophia pursed her lips
and looked at him for a long
while before nodding.

“Alright,
then. It’s good
that you understand.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 591

Lowering her head, Sophia ate a
few dumplings before she put
her cutlery down. Startled, John
asked,

“What’s wrong? Are they still
raw?”

Sophia shook her head.

“No. I

just don't have much of an appetite.

"The dumplings seem to be of shiitake mushroom filling. The taste of shiitake mushroom is rather heavy, so it's turning my stomach.

At this, John spun around and went into the kitchen. Shortly after, he brought her a glass of milk.

"How about some milk, then?" Hmm, I wonder when he became so proficient at caring for someone else.

After breakfast, he offered to accompany her to the shop. However, Sophia was very much averse to the idea. It's my shop, and it's not like I don't know where it is, so why do I need him to accompany me? She then urged him to go home with his luggage instead of hanging around her house, but he hemmed and hawed, stalling by insisting, "I'll

just accompany you to your shop first.

I'm in no hurry.

" She was no match for him when it came to playing pull-and-tug, nor was she in the mood to argue with him. This man will definitely resort to trickery when he can't win with logic.

Instead of having someone drive over, John hailed a taxi with Sophia and accompanied her to her shop.

Robin was already there, and she even had a smile on her face before she caught sight of him.

"Good morning.

"

Sophia nodded.

"Morning.

"

Her downcast mood surprised Robin who then asked,

"Why are you...

" However, she trailed off before

she'd finished speaking.
Entering behind Sophia, John
glanced at Robin.

"Morning.
"

Robin pursed her lips, only
responding after a long time
had passed.

"Morning. You're
back.

" John
merely murmured an
affirmation without expounding
further.

Sophia didn't sleep well last
night, so she was suffering from
a terrible headache at the
moment. Upon
seeing that Robin had already
done the cleaning, she thanked
her before plopping down onto
a chair.

John then went over and sat
down in front of her.

"What's
wrong? Are you not feeling
well?"

Raising her head to look at him,
Sophia reflexively started
growing impatient.

"Why

haven't you left?

What are you doing here?"

John leaned back against the chair.

"I'm just taking a brief respite. I'll leave soon. What's the hurry?" Fed

up with his roguish behavior, Sophia ignored him and massaged her temples.

Meanwhile, Robin wiped down the counter.

"I thought you'd only be coming back a few days later.

"

John chuckled.

"My business trip actually hasn't ended, but something urgent came up, so I returned earlier.

"

Robin brought him a cup of coffee.

"Then, why did you come with Sophia? Did you bump into each other on the way here?" John shifted his gaze to Sophia, looking as though he was stifling his

laughter. Sophia,
on the other hand, lifted her
gaze to his and rolled her eyes
without saying a single word.
Taking in both
their expressions, a vague sense
of unease rose within Robin.
John took a sip of coffee before
replying,
“No, I came back last
night, but I couldn’t get a taxi
home, so I
went over to Sophia’s place.
”

Robin knew that Constance
Residence was located halfway
up the mountain, so she still
helped to
explain things despite her
astonishment at his answer,
echoing,
“That makes sense. It
must have been
late when your flight arrived.
Taxis won’t be willing to go too
far in the middle of the night.
”

John vaguely grunted in reply.
After drinking half the cup of
coffee, he stood up.
“You guys

get busy,
then. I'll be leaving first.

"It's
going to be busy for them soon
considering the time now.
Robin saw him to the door. She
initially wanted to say
something, but she then
dismissed the idea upon
seeing that he hadn't even
noticed that she'd followed him
out. John then hailed a taxi and
left, but she
stood by the door and stared
for a long while before turning
around and returning to the
shop.

At this time, Sophia had already
gone to the counter and started
prepping. After a moment's
contemplation, Robin went
over to her.

"John spent the
night at your house yesterday?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 592

Pursing her lips, Sophia
murmured in assent.

After a long time had passed,
Robin then commented,

"Ian
will surely feel aggrieved when

he learns
about it.
”

Sophia was startled, at a loss as to what this matter had to do with Ian.

After saying that, Robin then smacked her lips.

“Anyhow, it’ll be scandalous if the two of you still live together when you’re divorced.
”

Sophia heaved a sigh.

“How I wish John shares the same sentiments as you do!” He isn’t bothered whether it’ll be scandalous. A headache assailed her when she recalled his unabashed behavior last night.

Meanwhile, John went back to Sophia’s house in the taxi. He’d long since taken his luggage upstairs, and he wasn’t planning to carry it back down either. He merely came back to straighten up the

kitchen. While Sophia had deleted his fingerprint for the door lock to her place, he still remembered the password.

Thus, the lock couldn't possibly keep him out.

After he was done cleaning up, he then left and hailed a taxi back to Constance Residence.

Old Mrs.

Constance knew that he was back ages ago, so she cackled as soon as he stepped foot into the house.

"You finally found your way home, huh?"

Walking over, John parked his butt on the sofa and stretched.

"I arrived too late last night, so I didn't

come home immediately.

”

Old Mrs. Constance was listening to music, appearing very much laid-back, but she had a retort ready.

"Enough of your excuses. Did you think I'm oblivious to your thoughts?"

At this, John laughed and went

over to wrap an arm around her shoulder.

“You know me best,
Grandma.

”

Casting him a glance out of the corner of her eye, Old Mrs.

Constance then commented,

“Nonetheless,

I’ve got to remind you to take things easy. Sophia is no longer as easy-going as before, so be mindful of

her temper. Else, it won’t end well for you.

”

John nodded.

“Got it. I’m now testing the boundaries bit by bit so that I’ll know how far I can go.

” Sophia

had changed tremendously, so he couldn’t quite figure her out.

Besides, that woman always has a

mercurial temper toward me. In many a thing, she might not have much of a reaction when it involves

someone else, but when I’m the

person in question, she goes ballistic! This is truly worrying. Old Mrs. Constance then asked whether he had eaten, to which he murmured an affirmation and replied,
“I’ve eaten. I only came back to see you, so I’ll be going to the office in a bit.”

After giving her assent, Old Mrs. Constance then said,
“Oh yes, do talk to Dylan if you see him at the office. Your aunt was insistent on arranging a blind date for him last night, but he refused to go. The two of them then exchanged words. Your aunt came over early in the morning and told me that she’s a touch worried, so just try talking to him. It’s for his own good, so he shouldn’t let it come between them.”

John froze for a moment before agreeing to do so.

**“Got it. I’ll
talk to him if I see him.
”**

**He didn’t tarry long at
Constance Residence. After
retrieving his car, he drove to
the office. Alas, he was
then stuck in a traffic jam.
Traffic came to a head long
before he’d reached the traffic
light. He couldn’t
see what had happened ahead,
but many people alighted from
their cars and walked to the
front for a
look before coming back while
cursing aloud. It was impossible
to turn the car around and take
another
route at this stretch of road
since there was nowhere to
execute a U-turn in front. Hence,
everyone had
no choice but to remain in this
standstill traffic.
After mulling it over, John
alighted from the car and
languidly made his way to
where a crowd was
gathered ahead. The accident
didn’t occur at the intersection,**

for the two cars collided well before the junction. Judging from the condition of the cars, it wasn't an accident but a battle of wills with both cars deliberately slamming into each other. At present, both car owners had alighted from their respective cars and were tearing into the other.

Walking over for a look, John cracked up. Sally Morgan! Hmm, this is a nice turn of events. It'll take the edge off my anxiety. He didn't recognize the person who was squabbling with Sally, but the person seemed even fiercer than her, outright calling her a sl*t.

The Returning Ex Chapter 593
Standing at the side, John looked on with his arms crossed. Meanwhile, Sally then stopped cursing, probably exhausted from all the shouting she'd done. However, the moment she shifted her gaze, she

caught sight of John. Immense displeasure suffused her at his blatant enjoyment of the show. In a bad mood to begin with, her temper instantly spiked upon spotting an acquaintance.

She stared in his direction, but she didn't dare rush at him, merely snapping at the people near him,

“What are you all looking at? What's so interesting here?”

Chastising voices rang out around her, condemning the two of them for inconveniencing others because of their row. However, Sally wasn't the slightest bit bothered. Whirling around, she took a baseball bat out of the trunk of her car and made a beeline for the woman who was bickering with her though her gaze remained fixed on John. The woman wasn't afraid, sticking out her neck by standing there without budging an inch.

“Why, do you want to kill me? Let me remind you that there are a lot of witnesses here!”

Sally cast John a glance before she brought the baseball bat down on the woman’s head. At the same

time, she snarled,

“You just had to stick your nose into my affairs, huh? That’ll teach you!”

These words were probably meant for John. She has probably found some evidence pointing to me and Logan secretly investigating her, or more

accurately speaking, the Morgan Family. However, John didn’t give a whit about that.

When everyone around them shrieked the moment Sally struck the woman down with the baseball bat, he even smirked.

Standing there, Sally’s emotions went haywire at the sight of his smirking countenance. She’d been sh*t

out of luck recently, everything

going to hell in a handbasket—her work, life, and just about everything else. This had never happened to her before, so she knew that someone had to be sabotaging her.

She did have some brains at times, so she hastily sought out Leah and had her investigate the matter to ascertain whether someone was setting her up behind her back. Sally hadn't much knowledge of such things, but Leah was another story.

As soon as she heard about it, a light bulb went off in her head, and she promptly contacted someone to investigate everything that had happened on her side.

In reality, they didn't really unearth much, merely the fact that Logan played a minor part in everything that had happened with the Morgan Family, but John's involvement seemed to have ceased midway.

Sally understood why Logan would be involved since Leah set him up back then. He was a person who'd never allow himself to be at a disadvantage, so it was understandable that he wanted revenge. John, however, was an enigma to her. She couldn't figure out why he butted into the matter since his relationship with Ian was strained, so it didn't make sense for him to sabotage them for Ian's sake. Leah then enlightened her that he probably did so because of Sophia, but that made even less sense. They were divorced, so why would he do that? Flinging the baseball bat onto the ground, Sally pursed her lips, looking exceedingly defiant. "You want to sabotage me? I'll tell you what, dream on! I definitely have a way to make you pay a hundred or even a thousand times over!" Hugging his arms, John

appeared wholly unruffled, very much at odds with others who were in a flurry of panic around him. Sally had never known reality for all its cruelty since she was used to having her own way, so she didn't seem to realize that she'd done something to rile the public up. Someone had already called the police and reported a traffic accident here, but now, it was no longer a mere traffic accident. The traffic police happened to arrive at this time, but they were stunned at the sight of the situation here. Onlookers had long since taken out their cell phones to film Sally's misdemeanor, but she wasn't at all intimidated, holding her head high instead. I like people like her who remain ignorant in the face of imminent disaster!

The Returning Ex Chapter 594
How nice! It's only when one is ignorant can one be fearless.

John was already gratified at the turn of events so far. Hence, he spun on his heels and headed back to his car. Meanwhile, shouts continued ringing out, the situation extremely chaotic. With so many witnesses, Sally Morgan is truly in hot water this time!

After slipping back into his car, he reclined in his seat and gazed at the cars before him. Shortly after that, the cars ahead of him started moving slowly, so he followed suit. When he drove past the spot where the accident transpired, he could see that the injured party had already been carried to the roadside to await the arrival of the ambulance, while Sally had also been restrained.

When the traffic police arrived, there were only two of them, and one of them had to direct the traffic.

The remaining officer couldn't

subdue Sally at all since she made a scene and kept everyone away from her. It was so bad that some people just couldn't sit on their hands. Parking their cars by the road, they went over and twisted her arm while pinning her down against the divider at the side.

No matter how aggressive she was, she was still a woman at the end of the day, so she couldn't break free when restrained. Hence, she resorted to cussing them out.

Upon seeing that she was acting out, the person who was pinning her down gave her no quarter by holding her head down with his other hand and contorting her entire body into a pretzel. At this, she finally zipped her mouth.

Chuckling, John wound up his car window and drove off to the office. It was busy at the office, and Zack wasn't yet aware that John had

already returned.

John spotted Zack heading to his office with a document in hand when he stepped out of the elevator, so he called out to him at once, startling him.

“You’re back?

Didn’t you say you’d only be back in a few days?”

Nodding, John went into his office, followed by Zack.

“What happened? Did it go badly? And you came back alone?”

John grunted in affirmation.

“I came back alone. Anyway, it went well, and it wasn’t a difficult collaboration in the first place.”

There were some documents that had been processed on his desk, pending his approval. Striding over, he briefly flipped through them before shifting his gaze to Zack.

“How was the past few days?

Was it hectic?”

Zack shook his head.

“Nope, it

was rather idle. I noticed that

the other managers didn’t really

go out to

entertain clients either.

”

John nodded.

“Alright, then. I

brought some documents back,

so have a look at these first. I’ve

done a

screening of the basic data for

the collaboration this time. Just

look them over and integrate

everything.

”

Taking the documents from him,

Zack then studied him, his

expression slightly different

now. Lowering

his voice, he asked,

“You came

back early by yourself?” When

John said nothing, he could

somehow

guess his thoughts.

“Was it

because of Sophia?”

This time, John didn't pull a long face. He merely stared at Zack nonchalantly, so Zack continued,

**"Actually, I went over to Sophia's shop for a look while you were gone on your business trip during the past few days. There's nothing unusual. She's really on her best behavior these days."
"**

A few seconds later, John answered,

**"I know."
"**

Zack pondered for a moment before sighing.

**"Sophia is actually quite an insecure lady. I think she sometimes acts differently than how she truly feels. Well, women always love saying the opposite of what they mean. Therefore, you shouldn't take it to heart even if she treats you contemptuously."
"**

The corners of John's mouth

twitched.

**“You speak as though
you’re an expert.
”**

At this, chagrin flooded Zack.

**“I’m really an expert. I’ve spent
an inordinate amount of time
with women
recently, so I’ve figured them
out. Everything I said is true.
You’ve got to believe me.
”**

John waved a dismissive hand.

**“Alright, go and get busy. I
know what to do about my own
affairs. Look
how anxious you are.
”**

The Returning Ex Chapter 595

Raking a hand through his hair,
Zack chortled.

**“I’m really
anxious when I see the two of
you at such an
impasse.**

**” Then, he left the
room with the documents.
John chuckled lightly. Who isn’t
anxious? I myself am anxious,
but some things can’t be
resolved in haste.**

I've done a few foolish things in the past, which is why I end up boxing myself into a passive state of

affairs now. Sighing, he then lowered his head and started perusing the documents.

Meanwhile, Sophia plopped onto the chair for a rest after having bustled around. She was feeling

crummy, but she couldn't quite pinpoint what exactly was ailing her. My head seems to be spinning, but

it then feels as though it's gastric reflux, and at the same time, it also feels like a stomachache. Anyway, it feels complicated.

Robin was sitting beside her, but her exuberance earlier had all but vanished. Instead, she appeared a

tad distracted. After a while, Sophia turned and looked at her.

"If it's too busy in the afternoon, you can

just close up. I'm going home first. I don't feel quite good.

"

Robin was startled, making it glaringly obvious that she'd zoned out just now. Staring at Sophia, she asked,
"What's wrong?"
Thumping her chest, Sophia answered,
"I can't quite explain it, but I just feel worn out. I probably didn't get enough rest yesterday, so I'll just go home and catch some Zs."
"

Her remark of not getting enough rest had Robin's imagination running wild. John stayed overnight at Sophia's place last night, and she didn't get enough rest... Robin pursed her lips.
"Did you and John—"
Truly bone-tired, Sophia didn't catch what she said. Getting to her feet, she waved at Robin.
"I'm going home first. Just close up if you can't handle things. It's fine."
"

Thus, Robin couldn't do anything else but nod.

Sophia then left and hailed a taxi, but her head felt heavy throughout the ride. Even when she arrived home, she had no idea how she made it into the house. Anyhow, the moment she caught sight of the sofa, she staggered over and lay down.

Then, she slumbered until someone tried waking her.

While she was feeling woozy, she felt someone helping her up before touching her forehead. Disgruntled, she reached out and slapped the hand away.

**"Go away."
"**

After a moment's contemplation, John scooped Sophia up and went upstairs with her in his arms in a few strides. Her temperature feels normal to me. He then placed her on the bed.

"What's wrong?"

**Are you
not feeling well?"**

**However, she merely turned
over without responding at all.
Subsequently, he sat down
beside her. It
truly seems as though
something's wrong with her.
She didn't even notice it when I
entered the house,
nor did she respond even after
I'd called her name several
times. After sitting for a while,
he glanced at
the time and went downstairs
again.**

**Meanwhile, Sophia had a truly
good sleep. When she next
woke up, it was already
afternoon. My mind
feels much clearer now. She got
up and stretched before going
downstairs, only to be greeted
by the
sight of John standing
downstairs with another man.
Shocked, she demanded,
"Why
are you here again,
John?"
John merely turned and glanced**

at her. Then, he said to the person in front of him,
“Thank you.

” The person then waved at him and left with a box in his hand. At long last, John pivoted and hurried over to her. Staring at her, he suggested,
“Go back up. I’ve boiled some soup, so I’ll bring you a bowl later.”

At this, Sophia frowned.

“What are you doing? And who was that man earlier?”
John looked at her thoughtfully.
“That was a doctor friend of mine. I asked him to come and check you over. You must have been deeply asleep just now since you didn’t sense anything at all.”

Sophia had indeed slept like a log earlier, for she had absolutely no idea that

someone entered her house.

Climbing a few steps further, John wrapped an arm around her shoulder and led her back to her room.

“You were near comatose in your sleep just now, so I asked someone to come and check you over.

Fortunately, nothing’s wrong with you.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 596

Sophia’s temperature was normal, and her blood pressure was fine, so the doctor said that she might

have been too exhausted recently. Then, John remembered that he came over in the middle of the

previous night and gave her a fright. She probably didn’t sleep well for the rest of the night, so

this is all my fault.

Sophia was indeed feeling tired, so when she got back to her room, she climbed back into bed after a

moment's deliberation.

"I don't
feel like eating now. You may
leave. I'll just rest for a while
before going
down and cooking myself
something when I'm hungry."
"

How could I possibly leave
when she's in such a condition?
Walking over, he sat down on
the edge of the
bed.

"Go ahead and sleep. I'll
keep watch here."
"

Upon hearing this, Sophia
scoffed. What's there to keep
watch of? At present, no one
else would enter
this house besides him!
However, she wasn't in the
mood to bicker with him, so she
turned over and
dozed off groggily.
After contemplating it for some
time, John lay down beside her.
Sophia wasn't the only one who
hadn't
gotten much rest last night, for
he himself didn't sleep well.

Since he harbored secrets, his sleep was naturally fitful.

A few heartbeats later, he slowly hugged her from the back and drifted off as well. As the atmosphere was too peaceful and the air too tranquil, the two of them slumbered until dusk fell.

John was the first to rouse when the sky outside was already slightly dark. Glancing at the time, he then hurried downstairs. The soup had long gone cold, so he reheated it. Just when he'd turned off the stove, the cell phone in his pocket rang. Fishing it out, he checked the caller ID before answering the call.

"What do you have to report?"

It was a woman's voice on the other end, sounding very much coquettish.

"Are you busy, Mr. Constance?" John said nothing, so she continued, "There's nary

a problem. Several days have passed, but I haven't noticed anything amiss.

”

John gave it some thought before replying, “Just wait. Since they're so imperturbable, we must be patient as well.

”

At this, a sigh came from the other end of the phone.

“It's just a bit of a torture since I loathe waiting.

”

Taking a bowl, John scooped some soup which he made by following the instructions on the Internet step by step. He then tried some himself. It's not exactly gourmet, but it doesn't taste awful either. I suppose it's good for my first attempt. I just hope it passes muster with Sophia. The woman probably heard the clinking sounds from John's end,

for she then giggled.

“You’re in
the
kitchen, Mr. Constance?” When
John remained mum, she sighed.
“I wonder who the lucky
woman is.

”

At this point, John became a tad
impatient.

“I’m hanging up if
there’s nothing from you. I’m
busy over
here.

”

Sensing his irritation, the
woman on the other end
hurriedly tittered.

“Alright,
alright, got it. I’ll go and
toil for you right away.

”

John hung up without a word.
Then, he carried the bowl of
soup upstairs. This time, Sophia
had truly
gotten her fill of sleep, for her
mind was much clearer than
before when she sat up.
Stretching, she
remarked,

“I might have been too fatigued lately, which is why I’m suffering from sleep deprivation, leading to my body protesting by shutting down.

”

John placed the soup on the bedside table. Wetting a towel, he then wiped Sophia’s face and hands, treating her like a princess. Sophia didn’t refuse either, merely staring at him as he served her presently.

“Who taught you this?”

John chuckled.

“How is it? Are you satisfied?”

Looking at him thoughtfully, Sophia answered,

“Not bad. If you apply for a job with such skills, you might even earn some tips.

”

When John was done, he spun around and went to the bathroom to hang up the towel.

“Apply for a job?

I’m only this tender with you. If

it were someone else, I
wouldn't even bother.
”

Sophia said nothing further.
After all, she was currently
famished since she'd only eaten
a few dumplings
earlier. Having eaten nothing till
dusk, she was feeling really
weak. John quickly brought the
soup to her.

“Don't tire yourself out. Look
what a scare you gave me
today.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 597
When John came in that time,
he was greeted by the sight of
Sophia dead to the world on the
sofa,
appearing as though something
tragic had happened to her.
Later on, she didn't respond no
matter how
he tried rousing her, so he
almost carried her out to the
car before heading to the
hospital.
Sophia didn't say anything.
Since she was starving, she
didn't disdain the soup he made

and slowly drank
it. As she was all sweaty when
she'd finished the soup, she
then ordered him,
"Go out. I
want to take a
shower."
"

This time, John didn't argue
with her, merely taking the
bowl from her before leaving.

Locking the door
behind him, Sophia then
promptly took a shower. Ah,
I've finally washed the
weariness off me!

After she came out, she
changed and stood by the
window. While toweling her
hair, she gazed at John
who was in the courtyard,
watering the plants with a
serious expression on his face.

This is a picture that
would've never manifested in
the past. In his life back then, it
seemed that work was the only
thing that
existed for him.

I actually did a lot of things to
win his favor, but he either

didn't care or didn't notice it.

He mostly preferred to turn a blind eye to the mundane things of everyday life.

Thus, she was truly astounded to see him presently watering the plants seriously and even cooking. It seems that he has finally gotten a taste of the masses at this time.

She then opened the window.

Propping herself by the windowsill, she gazed out.

Meanwhile, John spotted her as soon as he looked up after watering the plants. Sophia wasn't looking at him but gazing out at the horizon in the distance, her hair that was still damp falling casually around her.

She looks quite beautiful at this moment. His head remained lifted as he stared at her intently, a smile playing on his lips.

After a while, Sophia flipped her hair before spinning around and disappearing from view. All

at once,
John's control snapped, and he burst out laughing. She must have sensed my gaze and grown embarrassed. Besides impatience, she has finally exhibited some other emotion toward me.

Whirling around, he then went back into the living room.

Subsequently, he looked up as he stood at the landing.

"Sophia, what should we eat for dinner? I'm not good at cooking yet, so would you like to have takeaway?"

Sophia only came down after some time, her movements unhurried.

"I'm fine now, so you may leave. I'll settle dinner by myself."
"

In the past, John would've surely teased her by saying that she was dumping him after having used him, but now, he seemed to have found an even more effective

method. He outright declared,
“I’m not
leaving. I took care of you here
for the entire afternoon and
even made you soup, yet this is
how you
treat me?

I’m staying.

” After saying that,
he went to the refrigerator and
rummaged around.

“If you
don’t want to
eat takeaway, we can cook
something. I think I can try my
hand.

”

Sophia rolled her eyes at him.

“I’ll do it.

”

Straightening, John looked on
as she came over and took out
some vegetables from the
refrigerator. In
the next moment, he hastily
snatched them from her.

“I’ll do
the washing. You just need to
cook later.

”

Sophia stared at him, but she

didn't rebuff him in the end. He has indeed taken care of me today, so I'll

just consider this as... as...

Never mind, it's no use overthinking it!

John then washed the vegetables, while Sophia cooked rice, both working well together. While they were still bustling about, Logan drove over. Before he'd even stepped foot into the house, he'd started yelling,

"Are you not feeling well, Sophia?

I went to your shop, and Robin said you went home since you were feeling out of sorts.

What's wrong?"

His voice was so thunderous that even someone on the second floor would have heard him loud and clear.

Ignoring him, Sophia continued cooking. When Logan came in, he heard movement in the kitchen, so he rushed over in the blink of an

eye.

The Returning Ex Chapter 598

Stunned, Logan gaped at John.

“John? Why are you here?”

**John was cleaning up at the sink,
so he didn’t look at him.**

“Why

can’t I be here? You came over,

after

all.

”

Logan tutted.

“I came over

because Sophia is my friend.

You’re her ex-husband, so why

are you so

diligent in coming over?”

After a moment’s

contemplation, John changed

the subject.

“I saw Sally Morgan

today. Her car collided

with another car, and she

bashed the other driver in a fit

of fury. From the look of things,

the other

person’s injuries are rather

severe.

”

His eyes bulging, Logan’s

thoughts made a complete

U-turn.

“Seriously? I’ve got to investigate this, then! If it’s true, I’m the best at manipulating public opinion. I’ll have her ruined this time!”

John chortled.

“Sure, I’ll be waiting.

”

Subsequently, Logan went over and peered at the pot.

“Did you cook extra? I haven’t had dinner.

”

At this, Sophia laughed.

“Why didn’t you have dinner before coming over?”

Logan harrumphed.

“I was coming over to your place, and it so happened to be dinnertime, so I definitely had to come on an empty stomach.

”

Sophia then handed a dish to Logan.

“Take this to the dining

room.

” She’d cooked extra on this day, planning to have some leftovers for the next day, but it now seemed that it wasn’t going to happen.

When everything was done, the three of them went to the dining room. Logan wanted to know more about Sally’s situation, so he kept pestering John about it. John languidly related everything he saw in brief, but Logan wasn’t at all satisfied.

Mulling it over, he then hastily made a phone call and asked someone to investigate this matter. After he’d done so, he rubbed his hands and declared that he once again had a goal in life. Chuckling in exasperation, Sophia looked at him.

“If you’ve got so much energy, Logan, you can actually think about solving your own problems. It’s a waste to always

spend your time on someone
else, so do
consider your own issues.
”

Logan was startled.

“My own
issues? I don’t need to consider
anything since I’m doing pretty
well.
”

However, Sophia pursed her
lips.

“Were you hurt in the past?
By a girl perhaps?”

Logan nodded before shaking
his head in the next instance.

“I
was hurt in the past, but it’s not
what you
think. I’ve got no interest in
women after seeing those four
women in my family. Really, I
think it doesn’t
matter even if I were to spend
the rest of my life alone.
”

Upon hearing this, John
guffawed.

“Does your old man
not nag you?”

“Nope.

**” Then, Logan
expounded plainly,
“He said I’ll
only ruin a good lady, so he told
me to behave
myself and to spend my life
alone.**

”

**Sophia couldn’t help laughing at
this.**

**“Your old man is rather
shrewd.**

”

**When they’d finished eating
after endless chatter, Logan and
John parked their butts onto
the sofa.**

**While watching television, they
discussed manipulating the
incident over at the Morgan
Family.**

**Meanwhile, Sophia went back
to her room. She first changed
into her pajamas, but for some
reason, she**

**was again assaulted by a wave
of nausea. I indeed ate while
talking earlier, so I gorged
myself**

**considering I haven’t eaten
much earlier during the day.**

However, I'm not stuffed to the point of retching. This is a bit too much. Inhaling deeply, she then went over to the window and opened it. A cool breeze hit her, alleviating her nausea. However, it was only a momentary respite, for she again felt nauseated after a while.

Inwardly sucking in a breath, she then went to the bathroom and rinsed her mouth before propping her hands against the sink, waiting. A moment later, nausea rose again.

The Returning Ex Chapter 599
Sophia took a deep breath, but still, she couldn't help throwing up. She then promptly rinsed her mouth before turning on the faucet and washing her face. I've got gastric problems, and it's a chronic illness at that, so this is probably my gastric problems rearing its head again. Sure enough, I've got to take

good care of myself. I've just
slacked off a bit, and my body is
already
staging a protest, kicking up
such a fuss!

After a while, she went
downstairs. John and Logan
were still there. During a lull in
the conversation,
John glanced at her, only to be
taken aback.

"What's wrong?
You look exceedingly pale."
"

Sophia went to the kitchen to
boil some water.

"Gastric
problems."
"

John had once witnessed her
long-standing gastric problems
when she even vomited blood
at Tri Asel
back then. His brows creased.

"Do you have any medicine
here?"

Actually, there wasn't any
medicine here, but Sophia
didn't want to take any, so she
replied,

"Yes. I just

took some medicine, but it doesn't seem to have gone down properly. It's stuck in my throat, making me feel rather discomfited, so I'll just drink some water to wash it down.

”

There were no flaws in her words, so John didn't think too much of it.

After boiling some water, Sophia drank some in the kitchen, upon which her stomach felt somewhat better. Then, she went back upstairs. She initially planned to lie on the bed and scroll through her cell phone for a while, but once she climbed into bed, a rush of drowsiness immediately swept over her.

Losing her temper, she swore before putting down her cell phone. Ignoring Logan and John, she got up and locked the door before hitting the sack. She had no idea when the people downstairs left, for she

slept right through the night.
When she woke up the next day,
the sun was already shining
brightly outside. As she sat up,
her mind
still felt fuzzy, but she then got
out of bed to wash up after
darting her gaze around.
However, the
moment the toothpaste went
into her mouth, the same wave
of nausea rose within her.
She sucked in a breath, finding
it a tad strange. I've been
having gastric problems for
years on end, but it
has never felt like this. Gazing
at herself in the mirror, nausea
abruptly assailed her, but it was
flitting, for
it was then gone in the next
instance.
She hurriedly washed up. When
she came out, she took out her
cell phone and did a search.
However,
her symptoms were too broad,
so a myriad of answers popped
out after her search. She stared
at the
topmost result, her gaze

intensely serious.

She then gave Robin a call and said that she wouldn't be going over to the shop that morning since she

had something to do. Used to such behavior from her, Robin instantly murmured an acknowledgment.

Sophia dawdled for a long while before changing. Then, she headed to the hospital. When she did the

registration, she kept wavering, uncertain whether she should have her stomach or some other part checked.

Although it was more likely that she was having gastric problems, she felt that some things couldn't be

ignored. Thus, she went to the gynecology department after turning the matter over in her mind.

It was slightly late in the day when she arrived, so many people were waiting for their turns. She was somewhere at the end of the

queue with a dozen people before her. Finding a seat, she then sat down, her mind blank.

Actually, there were plenty of things she couldn't really figure out, so she just couldn't fathom how such

a possibility existed. She waited for a long time before her name was finally called.

When Sophia went in, she was greeted by a young female doctor who was wearing a mask, her

expression a tad rigid. The doctor inquired about her ailment, to which Sophia licked her lips before

answering,

"I often feel sleepy and nauseous.

"

Studying her, the doctor could already guess what she wanted to ascertain. After all, she came to the gynecology department and described the typical symptoms, so there wasn't any other possibility.

Hence, the doctor typed out her recommendation on her computer right away.

“Go and have a blood test. You’ll know for sure whether you’re pregnant when the results are out.”

Initially, Sophia had wanted to ask whether it was a misinterpretation on her part and whether it could have been caused by her gastric problems since she’d been suffering from the ailment for more than a decade.

The Returning Ex Chapter 600
Since the doctor had already handed her a slip, Sophia swallowed her superfluous question. With the slip in hand, she went to the blood test room. It was almost noon, so only a few people were left, and she had her blood taken right away. Looking at the receipt, she then saw that the results would be out in the

afternoon itself.

She wasn't quite certain how she left the hospital, and at such a time, she wasn't in the mood to go to the shop either. As she walked, she stopped intermittently before finally calling it a day at a bus stop.

Plopping down onto the bench there, she stared ahead at the cars coming and going.

It'll be too much if I'm truly pregnant. It was a safe period for me back then, and even if I'm pregnant, it won't be apparent so quickly, no? From what I see on the television, the symptoms will only appear a little after a month. She pulled at her hair.

It's probably my overactive imagination. I never took any steps to prevent pregnancy before the divorce, yet I never got pregnant. At one point, I even suspected whether I was barren. Thus, how could I possibly be when it was my safe period

then? This is just maddening!
Sophia sat there until noon
when a call came in from John.
Through the line, he said he was
at her shop
before bombarding her with
questions—why she didn't go to
the shop; where she was;
whether she was
still having gastric problems.
At his barrage of questions, she
didn't quite know which to
answer. Sighing, she then
massaged her
temples.

“I'm outside, but
there's no taxi now.
”

At this, John promptly asked,
“Where are you? I'll come and
drive you.

” Sophia then told
him her
location, upon which he asked
her to wait for a while before
hanging up the phone.
Putting her cell phone away,
Sophia then stroked her
stomach, her head feeling
heavy.

Meanwhile, over at the shop,

John bid Robin farewell and made to leave after ending his call with

Sophia. Robin hurried over to him.

“Are you going to look for Sophia?”

John grunted in affirmation.

“She’s outside, so I’m going to drive her.

”

Upon hearing this, Robin pursed her lips.

“Sophia has a boyfriend now, so won’t it be inappropriate if you were to drive her?”

John was startled.

“Are you referring to Ian Morgan?”

Robin quickly nodded.

“Ian has even made a public display of affection toward Sophia during his show.

Thus, Sophia will be caught in a difficult position if you do this, and it’ll also affect her

relationship with

Ian.

”

“Ian Morgan?” John snorted.

“You’re the only one who believes his delusions.

”

All at once, bewilderment swamped Robin.

“What do you mean?” Without further explanation, John strode to his car and drove away.

Robin was left standing at the door, staring in the direction where he’d gone until he disappeared from sight. Her expression was slightly dejected, her exuberance when he came over earlier all but gone at this moment.

John, on the other hand, paid no heed to Robin’s words, driving straight to the location Sophia gave him.

When he arrived, he saw Sophia sitting on the bench at the bus stop, looking very much drowsy since she

had her head tilted, still as a statue herself. Stopping the car, he then walked over to her.

Sophia didn't notice his presence at all, so he went over and stood before her. Still, her head remained lowered, her hair falling to the front. Gazing at her for a while, his heart softened. Her petite and lean stature really tugs at my heartstrings.

"Sophia,
" he called out.

Sophia slowly raised her head. "You're here, John?" She seemed really sleepy, and she even lifted a hand to slap herself on the forehead.

"Let's go."
"

Sighing in exasperation, John reached out and helped her to her feet, supporting her all the way to the car. Even after they'd gotten into the car, he was still worried. "Are you not feeling well? How about I drive you to the hospital for a checkup?" Sophia reclined against her seat.

“I’ve been to the hospital. The doctor said that my blood pressure and blood sugar levels are too low, but I’m fine otherwise.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 601

That excuse just came rushing out when Sophia opened her mouth, but John was reassured after mulling

it over. He then drove Sophia back to her house. However, shortly after, she dozed off while reclining

against her seat. She seems exceedingly tired, and her entire person appears to be sapped of energy.

Slowly bringing the car to a stop, he then alighted from the car and circled to Sophia’s side before

carrying her out. I wonder if I’m reading too much into things, but she seems to have lost a lot of weight.

She’s so light that I wonder if she’s been eating properly.

Entering the house, he headed upstairs and placed her on the

bed. All at once, she flipped over and conked out while hugging the covers. Standing beside the bed, John chuckled for some inexplicable reason before an image flashed across his mind out of the blue. If we have a worrisome daughter like her in the future, and the two of them lie together like this, I don't think I'll have any more regrets in life. However, this picture was so perfect that he scarcely dared to imagine it.

Glancing at the time, he then gave Zack a call and asked him to bring the documents over.

With Sophia in such a condition, I truly can't bring myself to leave. On the other end, Zack snickered.

"You're at Sophia's place? Gosh, you've finally seen the light, Boss!"

"Cut the crap! Hurry up and bring the documents over."
"

Mild impatience gripped John.

Zack was not quite afraid of him now, feeling that while he was indeed outstanding in his work, he

appeared to be an utter dunce in life, especially in matters of the heart. After all, once a person's flaws were exposed, his authority would be inexplicably weakened.

When he'd hung up the phone, John went downstairs. He sat on the sofa and logged in to his email with

his cell phone and perused a few documents. Thereafter, something seemed to have occurred to him, for his expression turned solemn.

Meanwhile, Zack was rather prompt in arriving with several documents in hand. Since the door was opened, he came right in. In the next moment, John lifted his gaze and looked at him.

"Check

in with

Roselia and look into the progress of things recently.

”

Zack froze for a moment before he nodded. Initially, he appeared a touch flippant, but now, he became entirely serious.

“I had someone asking around about the shadow bank, and it’s said that they keep a very low profile. When they lend someone money, they never lend a huge amount. It seems that there’s a limit. Regardless of the borrower’s financial standing, he or she can’t take out a loan for more than the limit. I think it’s really something else considering the magnitude of its operation.

”

Pursing his lips, John nodded. “Put in more effort henceforth in investigating this matter.

”

When Sophia woke up, it was already afternoon. She lazed in bed for a while, recalling how she came home. After staring at the

ceiling for some time, she then heard a voice drifting over from the courtyard.

The window was open, so sounds from the courtyard could be heard loud and clear. She recognized John's voice at once, but she didn't go over for a look, merely lying there and listening.

He must be conversing with someone from the office since it's all about work. She didn't quite understand, nor was she particularly interested in doing so.

Inhaling deeply a few times, she then snagged her cell phone and went to the hospital's official webpage to check the results of the blood test. However, the results weren't out since it wasn't time yet. She sighed, uncertain about what she hoped the results would be. As she waited while gripping her phone in her palm, it suddenly rang. Squinting, Sophia glanced at it. It's

an unknown number, but it's the same area code as that woman's number. As expected, she probably realized that she has been blacklisted, so she's now calling with a different number. She sneered and threw her phone aside.

Getting up, she then went to the bathroom to wash her face before going downstairs.

The Returning Ex Chapter 602

At this time, John had also ended his phone call and returned to the living room, looking at some documents. When he spotted Sophia coming down the stairs, he hurried over to her.

"Are you feeling unwell anywhere?"

Sophia shook her head.

"I'm fine.

" In fact, she hadn't been feeling particularly unwell in the first place.

She'd merely been drowsy, so much so that she could barely

keep her eyes open.

**Giving her a thoughtful look,
John raised a hand and touched
her forehead.**

**“I don’t think
there’s
anything serious either.**

**” Then,
he went over to the coffee table
and took a liquid tonic.**

**“I just
had
someone bring this over since
you’re lacking energy and iron.
While you won’t feel any
immediate effect,
it’s good for the body.**

”

**Sophia glanced at the bottle in
his hand. Pursing her lips, she
asserted,**

**“You don’t need to
take care of
me.**

”

**At this, John chuckled. He was
now not the slightest bit
bothered by her blatant
remarks in attempting to
draw a clear demarcation
between the two of them.**

“Who else would I care for if not you? I promised Grandpa, after all, ” he declared brazenly.

Sophia closed her eyes for a moment. Here he comes again! When he has no argument left, he always uses Old Mr. Constance as an excuse. This man is truly shameless!

Upon seeing that she wasn't declining, John opened the liquid tonic for her. After looking at it for some time, Sophia took it from him. She was indeed a tad weak recently, and she was well aware of it. Despite looking active and lively, she actually had a suboptimal health status.

After she'd consumed the liquid tonic, John instantly asked, “Are you hungry? I ordered some soup for you. It's now in the pot. I've been keeping it warm so that you can drink it when you wake

up. Shall I go
and get you some?"

Sophia stared at him, looking
exceedingly serious. No matter
how aloof this man is, there are
still times

when he's tender. It all depends
on whether he wants to do so,
but never had I imagined that
the John

Constance of the past would
one day have such a side to him.
Letting out a sigh, she then
acquiesced.

Evidently overjoyed at her
acceptance, John hastened to
the kitchen.

As Sophia continued eyeballing
him, she vaguely felt as though
she was looking at her past self.

Once, I
was also this servile in our
marriage, even more so than he
is at present. So, when exactly
did this change
occur?

Then, she went to the dining
room. John brought the soup
out, and it was at the perfect
temperature.

She wasn't all that hungry

initially, but when no rush of nausea assailed her at the smell, she didn't mind drinking it. Sitting down in front of her, John then inquired whether it was too hot or too salty before moving on to asking whether it was to her liking, and so on and so forth. At first, Sophia didn't respond, but she later grew a touch irritated.

"If you're so free, go and peruse your documents. Don't just sit here and spoil my view."
"

John immediately nodded and stood up.

"Just call me if you need anything."

After saying that, he then went out.

Holding the bowl, Sophia snorted. I should really have Matilda... Ah, no... I should really have Isabelle watch how he keeps catering to me. I wonder how she'll feel if

she sees this side of him. Would she be humiliated since she went over to my shop and showed off a few days ago? When she'd finished the soup, she went back to her room. Now that she was feeling much better, she wanted to continue sleeping. Bustling around her, John settled her on the bed before he went downstairs again.

After lying down for a while with her eyes closed, Sophia took her cell phone out once more. She went to the hospital's official webpage. Logging in, she saw that her results were out. She couldn't understand the report, but there were reference values at the end of it. While she couldn't make head nor tail of it either, the almighty Google could help to analyze it. Keying in her results, she hit the search button, upon which the answer popped out.

Unlike the myriad of answers this morning, the result was unified this time.

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Sophia then checked the subsequent results. Alas, they all pointed to the same possibility. She felt her mind splintering, but it was only momentary, for it then reverted to normal. In reality, she'd already guessed the verdict while waiting for the results.

Putting down her cell phone, she placed both hands on her stomach. A jumble of complex emotions roiled within her. Am I happy? Sad? Conflicted? Regretful? Probably all of the above. She closed her eyes as they burned slightly. Why do I have to fall pregnant at this time? Why now? Flipping over, she then curled into herself and slowly fell asleep.

Meanwhile, Robin had been preoccupied the entire

afternoon. When it was almost dusk, Logan came over to the shop, seemingly dropping by on his way elsewhere. However, when he didn't see Sophia upon coming in, his brows creased slightly.

"What happened? Did Sophia take the day off?"

Her voice sullen, Robin replied, "She didn't come over the entire day. It seems that she isn't feeling well.

"

"She isn't feeling well?" At this, Logan became a tad anxious.

"I'll go and visit her, then!"

Robin, who was cleaning the place, abruptly stilled.

"You're going over to Sophia's place? May I tag along? I want to go and visit her, too.

"

Not thinking much of it, Logan nodded right away.

"Sure. Just close up after straightening

**everything,
and we'll go together.
”**

**It so happened that there
weren't any customers then, so
Robin left with him after simply
cleaning up.**

**Climbing into his car, the two of
them went straight to Sophia's
house.**

**John, on the other hand, had
been at Sophia's place the
whole time. When he was done
looking through**

**the documents, he then phoned
Zack and asked him to come
and get them. Just when Zack
had exited**

**Sophia's house, he spotted
Logan's car heading here, so he
waited and stood at the door.**

**Parking the car
by the door, Logan then
alighted with Robin. Zack
chortled at the sight.**

**“Hey, you
two are here as well?”**

**Logan grunted, looking rather
frantic.**

**“I heard that Sophia
isn't feeling well, so I came over**

to visit her.

”

As he said this, he brushed past Zack and strode toward the house.

Robin, however, halted. Her gaze was fixed on the living room, but her words were directed to Zack.

“John is here, yes?”

Zack grunted in assent.

“He’s

been here the entire day with me bringing him the documents.

Look,

haven’t I been relegated to an errand boy now?” As he spoke, he flicked the documents in his hand.

Upon hearing this, Robin sucked in a breath.

“John is really nice to Sophia.

”

“That’s a given.

” Ignorant of her feelings toward John, Zack was very blunt as he proclaimed,

“Sophia is the apple of his eyes. He regards her as a priceless

treasure, so he's naturally nice to her.

”

Robin's brows knitted together.

“But aren't they divorced?”

Zack tutted.

“So what if they're divorced? Isn't there something known as remarriage in this world?”

When feelings have clicked into place, they can just remarry.

”

After he'd said this, he dipped his head

and glanced at the time.

“Alright, we'll talk another time since I've got to go back to the office. Go on in.

Sophia seems to be sleeping, but she should be waking up soon.

” He then inclined his head to her and left.

Standing by the door, Robin stared at the living room, vaguely making out Logan and John's silhouettes.

Inhaling deeply, she then took a step forward and made her way

into the house.

John had changed; he was now wearing a different set of clothes than the one he wore to the shop, and this was obviously casual wear. When he saw her coming in, he flashed her a smile.

“You’re here? Sophia should be waking up soon, so just wait for a while.”

Robin nodded.

“Sure.

” She then walked over to the sofa and sat down at a corner decorously. Looking at the staircase, Logan asked,

“What’s wrong with Sophia? What’s ailing her?”

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John sighed.

“Perhaps she’s been too stressed, so she’s overly tired these days. As she’s thin in the first place, her body can’t take it in the long run even though there’s no major problem with

her health.

”

Logan gave him a thoughtful look.

“She’s indeed very thin, so she really needs some nourishment.

” After

saying that, he added,

“You’ve

been here the whole time?”

Nodding, John leaned back against the sofa.

“I was worried about her.

”

Logan was slightly relieved to hear that he’d stayed, but recalling Ian, he then felt that it seemed rather

inappropriate. Thus, he stared at John for a long while before asking hesitantly,

“Isn’t your life affected

when you take care of Sophia so much?”

John guffawed at the subtlety of the question.

“How would it be affected? I’m single, and so

is she. The only thing that might happen is rumors floating around. What else could there be?" Without waiting for him to respond, he instantly added, "Besides, we were once husband and wife, so we have a strong emotional foundation. Even if something does happen, it's only natural."
"

Standing at the landing on the second floor, Sophia was gripped by the urge to rebuff him upon hearing his shameless remark. A strong emotional foundation? How brazen of him to say that! Has he forgotten how he treated me in the past? Robin was the first to notice her, so she sprang to her feet. "Sophia."
"

This time, Sophia had gotten her fill of sleep. She then descended the stairs. "You're all

here?”

Robin pursed her lips.

“How are you feeling? Are you not feeling well?”

After a moment’s contemplation, Sophia answered,

“I’m okay. I’m feeling much better now.”

Logan walked over and touched her forehead.

“You must voice it out immediately if you’re not feeling well. You can’t dawdle when it comes to your health.”

Murmuring her assent, Sophia glanced at John out of the corner of her eye, recalling the medical report she saw earlier. All at once, she was at a loss for words. John looked around at everyone. “How about you all stay for dinner? It’ll be a lively affair.”

Naturally ecstatic, Logan promptly agreed,

“Sure! I love lively affairs! I’ll go for groceries. Shall we have steamboat tonight? What do you all think?”

Sophia nodded.

“Sure.

” At the mention of ‘steamboat’ , it was as though she could already smell its fragrant aroma, and she started salivating.

Subsequently, Robin concurred as well.

However, there weren’t many groceries left at home, so

Sophia suggested,

“I’ll go and buy some groceries from the supermarket. You guys wait at home.

”

“I’ll go with you,

” John instantly blurted.

Thus, Robin parroted,

“I’ll go as well.

”

Logan definitely couldn't stand waiting here alone, so he declared,
"Then, I'll go as well.
Since you're all going, I certainly can't stay here alone."
"

Therefore, it was decided that the four of them would all be going. After Sophia had changed her shoes, they then set out. The supermarket was only a stone's throw away, so they went on foot.

John walked beside Sophia.

"Are you cold?"

Sophia gaped at him as though he had lost his mind. Who would be cold on such a warm day?

Ignoring her reaction, he moved closer and grasped her hand.

"Let me see. Hey, why is your hand so cold? Here, I'll warm it for you."
"

Sophia arched an eyebrow.

"Can you please have some self-respect?"

At this, John outright laughed.
“What self-respect? I’ve long since abandoned all self-respect before you.

” Since his answer was starkly unabashed, Sophia had no words to refute him.

As Robin took in their interaction at the side, her gaze grew increasingly dim.

Logan, on the other hand, tutted.

“What are you two doing? Let go, let go. We both have eyes on you here.

”

John didn’t care a whit whether someone else was watching. Instead, he tightened his hold on Sophia’s hand.

“Her hand is too cold, so I’m warming it up. What’s there to see? What’s so interesting?”

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Sophia tugged her hand back, but it wouldn’t even budge.

Exasperation flooded her.

“John

**Constance,
when are you going to stop
putting on a show? Let go of my
hand!”**

**John turned his gaze on her.
Surprisingly, he released his grip
on her obediently.**

**“Look, even
you have
misunderstood me!”**

**Sophia simply ignored him.
They then arrived at the
supermarket. As Sophia pushed
a shopping cart, John again
stuck to her side.**

**“What do you want to eat? Go
on and buy more.**

**” Sophia said
nothing, merely putting items
that caught
her interest into the cart.**

**Robin was also pushing a
shopping cart. Following behind
Sophia, she looked on as John
placed himself
at Sophia’s beck and call,
shamelessly clinging to her. In a
soft and muted voice, she said
to Logan,**

**“They’re divorced, yet they still
act like a couple. Isn’t this**

rather bizarre?”

His eyes fixed on the shelves on both sides, Logan hummed thoughtfully and echoed,

“It’s

bizarre. It’s

definitely unorthodox, but even a fool could tell that John still has feelings for Sophia.

”

Taken aback, Robin’s head snapped to the side, and she stared at him.

“Really? But if he

has feelings for

her, why did they divorce in the first place? Since they’re

already divorced, it must have been because

they no longer have feelings for each other, no?”

Logan wasn’t quite sure about this either. After darting his gaze around, he then looked at her.

“I’m not

too sure about this. But why are you so curious about them? Just

let them be. Matters of the heart are

most complicated.

”

Robin’s eyes narrowed.

“Yeah,

it’s most complicated.

”

They didn’t spend too long buying groceries since they snagged everything that caught their fancy. When

they checked out, it was John who paid, and he even said that it was his treat with Sophia. At this, Logan

hissed,

“Why must you always put yourself together with Sophia? I’ll get the wrong idea if you do so,

John. Are you trying to compete with my buddy?” His ‘buddy’ naturally referred to Ian.

Beside him, Robin swiftly pinned her gaze on John. Ian has confessed his love and made a public display of affection on the show, after all!

Sneering, John roared with laughter.

“You mean Ian? I’m competing with him?” He shook

his head.

“You’ve got it wrong. Ian never stood a chance.

”

Since Logan was close with Ian, he was instantly disgruntled upon hearing that and turned his eyes to

Sophia.

“You tell me! In your opinion, who’s better? John or Ian? I want to hear from you now.

”

Sophia looked at the two of them insipidly.

“They’re both out of the running, so neither of them stand a chance. Is that clear enough for you?”

A second before Logan spoke, Robin interjected,

“Aren’t you dating Young Master Ian? Why are you now saying that he doesn’t stand a chance?”

Sophia shrugged.

“It’s all a misunderstanding. I’ll just leave

it at that. Actually, I'm not in a relationship with either of them. Alright, let's go back and have dinner. We'll save the talk for later.
”

John backed her up. Not at all bothered about her explanation earlier, he reached out and wrapped an arm around her shoulder.

“Yes, yes. Save the talk for later.
”

When Sophia's brows furrowed, he slowly retracted his arm.

“So, this is how things are, huh?” Staring at Sophia, Robin mumbled to herself in a voice so soft that even she herself couldn't quite catch it.

It was Sophia who prepared the soup base for the steamboat. She'd always been skilled at cooking, so as the fragrant aroma drifted into the air, all of them salivated. Meanwhile, Robin sat on the sofa and watched the three of

them in the kitchen. She couldn't even go in to help, for the two men didn't need her at all. A sense of uneasiness enveloped her, her heart feeling exceedingly heavy. After some time, she left the living room and went to the courtyard.

When Sophia was done with the soup base, she then said to the two men,

"You can bring it to the dining room after washing the vegetables and putting them in.

" After she'd said that, she left the kitchen and went to the courtyard as well.

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Sophia walked over to Robin.

"What's wrong? Are you worn out because you had to handle everything alone at the shop today? If so, take the day off tomorrow and rest.

"

Robin shook her head.

"No, I'm

fine.

” After saying that, she let out a sigh.

**“You’re done cooking? I wanted to go in and help you, but there was no room for me.
”**

**At this, Sophia cracked up.
“Those two fellas aren’t so diligent usually, so just let them handle it when they’re willing to do so.
”**

**Glancing at the kitchen over her shoulder, Robin then noted,
“I noticed that John is really nice to you.
”**

**Sophia’s hand instinctively flew to her stomach.
“Really? He was different in the past.
”**

**Robin chuckled.
“Is he also nice to your friends?”
This was a question Sophia had never considered since she had few friends in the first place.**

I've never noticed him giving special treatment to those associated with me for my sake. Still, after ruminating about it, she answered, "Probably. Anyway, he's quite nice to everyone.

"

Robin smiled.

"I see.

"

At this time, Logan hollered that the food was ready. Having hustled around for so long, Sophia had long since been feeling ravenous, so she tugged at Robin.

"Let's go.

We'll talk while we eat.

"

There was still some left of the beer Logan brought the previous time he came, so he took them out.

"Ah,

it's utter bliss to have steamboat and beer together! Come, come! Everyone should drink some since we're all in high spirits today,

and it's rare that we're all gathered together!" He then handed Sophia a bottle of beer.

Casting a look at it, Sophia shook her head.

"I don't feel so well, so I'll pass.

"

Lifting a hand, John snatched the beer away.

"I second that.

Don't put yourself through the wringer

when you're feeling better now.

"

After mulling it over, Logan nodded.

"True enough. You shouldn't drink any, Sophia.

" As

he said that, he took another bottle and gazed at Robin.

"Are you drinking?"

Stretching out a hand, Robin snagged it from him.

"Of course.

After all, it's rare that we're all here today,

and the atmosphere is so vibrant.

”

Without thinking too much about it, Sophia leaned toward her.

“Pace yourself. Don’t drink too much, else you’ll be suffering tomorrow.

”

Robin pursed her lips.

“Alright, got it.

”

With Logan there, the atmosphere would never grow cold. In the next instance, he brought up Sally’s incident. The person Sally assaulted with a baseball bat back then was her ex-boyfriend’s current girlfriend. Bumping into each other, the two of them started a battle of wills before slamming into each other. This actually wasn’t a huge deal, but when Sally grabbed a weapon and bashed her, it then

escalated to intentional assault. Sally was rather simple-minded, but Leah later offered compensation in hopes of settling the matter out of court with the injured girl. Though she was quite generous, the girl refused. To begin with, she had a grudge against Sally, and she wasn't strapped for cash, so she wanted Sally to have a criminal record to alleviate the resentment within her. Leah sought the girl out several times while she was recuperating in the hospital, but the girl didn't want to see her. The final time Leah went, she outright lodged a police report. Therefore, from the look of things now, this matter would definitely be brought to court.

Logan was ecstatic at the turn of events.

"I can't wait to know the final verdict! Sally Morgan has always had her nose stuck in the air, so

it'll be good if she spends a few months in prison!"

Sophia didn't hear a single word, eating happily by herself. Since her appetite had been bad lately, she hadn't been eating much, so now that she had her favorite food before her, she was gorging herself without any restraint.

Beside her, John took food for her, yet he also replied to Logan, saying,

"If Sally manipulates things under the table, she can still mitigate her culpability.

"

Logan considered it for a moment.

"Then, I'll manipulate things under the table as well.

Anyone can do that.

"

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John then laughed.

Subsequently, he looked at Sophia.

"Slow down. There's

still plenty left. Don't you find it hot?" After saying that, he poured some juice for her. "Have some juice. Why are you eating so quickly?"

Taking it from him, Sophia guzzled it down in one go, cracking John up.

"You seem vastly different now."
"

Without even lifting her head, Sophia shot back, "You're also different now."
"

Putting down his cutlery, John took a piece of tissue and wiped the corner of Sophia's mouth.

"Do you like me better back then or now?"

This is obviously a trap! I'm not that easily duped. Sophia snorted.

"I don't like you no matter what."
"

Guffawing, John lifted a hand and stroked her head.

“Why must you be so quick to react?” Robin sucked in a breath, her appetite all but gone. So, she put down her cutlery and took a sip of juice.

Surprise inundated Sophia.

“Why aren’t you eating? You’ve only eaten a few bites. Are you still on a diet?”

The corners of Robin’s mouth quirked up.

“Nope. There’s no point going on a diet. I think my figure now is good enough.”

“Exactly!” Sophia seconded. Then, she lowered her head and continued eating.

Logan began yakking about the situation with the Morgan Family again, very much enthusiastic in tripping them up.

Nonetheless, Sophia didn’t pay him any mind, merely wrapping up her meal before taking a piece of tissue and wiping her mouth.

“You guys continue. I’m done eating.

” After she’d said that, she stood up and toddled out of the dining room.

She stood at the living room entrance for a while. Inhaling deeply several times, she then hurried upstairs. When she’d gone into her room, she rushed to the bathroom and barfed right away.

Thereafter, she hastily rinsed her mouth and washed her face before going downstairs again. Having left the dining room, Robin stared at Sophia who was on the staircase.

“What’s wrong?

You look rather pale.

”

Sophia hesitated for a moment before replying,

“I just ate too much, so I’m feeling stuffed now.

”

She then went to the courtyard

with Robin. There were rattan chairs there, so they both sat down. Then, Robin looked at Sophia.

“It feels as though you’re planning to reconcile with John now.”

Sophia chuckled.

“Why would you say so?”

Robin pondered for a moment.

“It’s just the look in your eyes when you gaze at him. It feels like you’re not all that averse to him. And the interaction between you two feels as though you’re on the verge of reconciliation.”

” After saying that, she then commented, “Thus, I just can’t figure out why the two of you got divorced. Do you not like him?”

A hint of chagrin swamped Sophia. John’s full-fledged acting now makes everyone assume that the reason for our divorce lies with

me, but all these people have no idea how despicable he was in the past.

Back then, he asked me for a divorce before Old Mr.

Constance had even been dead for 100 days. He

never once considered me or put himself in my shoes!

She pursed her lips.

“That’s not

it. The reason we divorced was actually simple yet complex. I

don’t quite

know how to explain it either.

”

Simply put, they divorced because John didn’t love her.

Going further in

complexity, it’d then involve

the friendship between Old Mr.

Constance and her grandfather.

Irritation

assailed her at the thought of

digging up all those messy

matters again. Never mind, just

forget about it!

It’s all in the past, so there’s no

need to keep bringing it up!

Thus, she waved a dismissive

hand.

**“Let’s
not talk about this anymore. It
just infuriates me.
”**

**Looking at Robin, Sophia then
remarked,**

**“You ate very little
just now. Why is that so? Did
you not have
any appetite?”**

**Her expression was stained
with concern, so Robin smiled.**

**“I wasn’t really hungry, so I
didn’t eat much.**

**Perhaps my stomach has shrunk
since I’ve been eating less due
to my diet recently.**

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 608
Sophia nodded. Then, she
heaved a sigh.**

**“Don’t go on a
diet. You’re perfectly fine, so
why would you do
so? Perhaps the person you
meet in the future likes you just
as you are right now.**

”

Robin said nothing.

**As the two men in the dining
room ate, they lost all sense of**

time. In the end, Robin gave up waiting and took her leave from Sophia, saying that she would like to go home first. Thus, Sophia saw her to the entrance of the community and watched as she got into a taxi and left. Standing at the gate, she looked around before pivoting and going back in.

On the street a near distance away was a parked car. Someone was sitting inside with a camera in hand, snapping away in Sophia's direction. Only when she'd disappeared from sight did the person put the camera down and wound up the car window. Subsequently, he checked the photos taken. Seemingly very much satisfied, he then put everything away and started the car before driving off. Having absolutely no idea about that, Sophia languidly went back into the house. John and Logan were

still drinking as the two of them started discussing the Bailey Family. As Logan disliked Isabelle, he spoke ill of her every so often, criticizing her incessantly.

Leaning against the entrance to the dining room, Sophia listened for a while before she found it futile.

Actually, each person has his or her own opinion as to whether Isabelle is a nice person. Forcing one's view onto another person will only backfire. She then turned around and went upstairs.

My mind is only feeling much clearer now. For the entire day today, I'd been feeling really drowsy. She then did a search online, only to find out that it was an early pregnancy symptom. She touched her stomach, not quite certain how she felt about this little one in her belly. This child came at an untimely time, but she wasn't all that

averse to it. Anyhow, abortion had never crossed her mind.

While she wasn't a kind person, she just couldn't bring herself to do so. To her, it was extremely cruel if she were to

forcibly strip away the life within her.

She then drank the blood nourishing liquid tonic John bought before climbing into bed and lying down.

At this time, her cell phone on the bedside table rang again.

She could guess who it was since no one else

would be calling at this hour.

Lifting a hand, she groped for the phone. Subsequently, she cast a glance at

it and answered the call.

"Well, what is it?"

The woman's voice was tinged with a hint of ingratiating, and she didn't speak of anything serious,

merely asking Sophia whether she'd had dinner. Sophia said nothing, keeping mum. The

woman then
gave a light cough, perchance
finding things too awkward.
Then, she said,
“The picture I
sent you the
other day was of your sister.
Your sister—”
“I have no sister,
” Sophia
asserted. All at once, the other
end went silent.
“My parents
are both
deceased. Since young, I only
had a grandfather, and he
passed away a little over a year
ago. I’m now all
alone without any relatives, not
even one.
” Her voice was very
placid yet not exactly
indifferent, merely
the kind of attitude one would
employ with a stranger.
A sigh came from the other end,
and the woman’s voice started
cracking.
“I knew it! I knew that
you’d
resent us. But Soph, we had our

own difficulties. Back then, your father wanted to start a business, but as you know, that poverty-stricken place was no place for a business. Later on, we owed people too much money, and they came to demand repayment every single day. Our life was dismal, so your father and I had no choice but to leave and make a living elsewhere. We wanted to make some money and return for a good life.”

Sophia dissolved into laughter. “Well, the two of you have left for more than 20 years, no? Where’s the money? Were you two dazzled after going out there and seeing the myriad temptations of the world? You then felt that it’s better out there, and there’s nothing to miss at the small mountain village back home. Am I right?”

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Turning around, John stood beside Sophia.

“It’s unsafe for a girl to be out there alone.”

Pursing her lips, Sophia pondered for a moment before saying,

“I have my own considerations, John. I need to go and handle some things.”

John gazed at her with solemnity etched on his face, his expression inexplicably conveying

disappointment and abandonment. Thus, Sophia then explained,

“I want to go back and visit my grandfather’s grave. The anniversary of his death has passed, yet I haven’t gone back to visit his grave.

I’m the only person he has left, so I must make a trip back there.”

At this, John breathed a sigh of

relief.

“I’ll go with you.

”

Pursing her lips, Sophia seemingly tittered.

“It’s okay.

I’ll be fine going back alone. We might need to put on a show for those who are alive, but I think you don’t need to do so for someone who’s deceased.

There’s no such need.

”

John frowned.

“I’m not offering so that I’ll look good.

”

Sophia hastily nodded.

“I know,

I know. You don’t need to say anything else, for I know what you meant.

However, I want to go back alone. You’ve never been to our little village, so if you go, all the villagers would come over to take a gander at you. It’ll be difficult for me to introduce you, so will you please save

me the trouble, John? I don't want to kick up a fuss.

”

This is much better than her attitude before this. As it was rare for her to talk to him so nicely with room for discussion, John couldn't really insist on having his way. Sophia looked at him.

“I'm just informing you about this. I actually don't have to say anything to you, but I'm hoping that you won't mind taking care of the plants here while I'm away. Since I spent an exorbitant amount on them, I'll be distressed if they wither.

” After she'd said this, she chuckled.

“In fact, I can just have Zack come over. But then, I thought that you'll be the one to come over in the end even if I speak to Zack, so I decided to speak to you instead.

”

She's being very much amicable

toward me now, but it feels as though she's simply too calm.

John
sighed.

"I don't mind you making the trip, but I'm truly worried if you go alone. How about I have someone accompany you? Do you still have a place to stay in your hometown? You'll need to clean up the place when you go back, no? You'll have some help if someone goes with you."
"

Sophia shook her head.

"It's fine. The village isn't big, so everyone knows each other. I can just stay the night at someone else's house. People are quite friendly in small mountain villages, so they won't mind doing me this insignificant favor."
"

John knew that he wouldn't be able to sway her. Judging from the resolve on her face, she

must have
made up her mind. Hence, he
could only nod.

“Alright, then.

However, I might phone you
every day, so
you must answer my call.

Okay?” He made a request of
his own since they were
somewhat negotiating.

Sophia murmured an assent.

“Okay.

”

Just when they’d finished
talking, Logan staggered out of
the living room while howling
and wailing
indistinctly. John’s brows
furrowed.

“I’ll go downstairs
and take a look. He had one too
many drinks, so
he’s probably on a drunken
rampage.

”

Sophia didn’t respond.
Meanwhile, John quickly went
downstairs, only to discover
that Logan wasn’t on
a drunken rampage. Instead,
he’d merely grown impatient

and went to the entrance of the courtyard to await his ride. At the end of his wits, John grabbed a chair over and sat him down to wait. Then, he kept him company at the side. Logan's speech was already all garbled, yet he could still run his mouth with John, jabbering away. He vowed that he'd definitely help Ian take the reins in the Morgan Family one day before having the two rat b*stards, Sally and Simon, kneel before him in repentance. Then, he even spoke of Leah, saying that the old woman was vicious, so she would certainly be kicked away by Bryce in the future.

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Logan then continued saying that even though Bryce was advanced in age, so he was unable to find another chick after kicking Leah away, that woman couldn't be allowed to stay in the Morgan Family. He

said a lot, but John paid him no mind, merely standing silently at the side.

On the other hand, Sophia stood by the window upstairs, gazing down at the two men below. She again

touched her stomach. I really don't know what to do next.

Meanwhile, an attendant from Logan's clubhouse then drove over. Surprisingly, Logan could still

recognize the car, so the moment he caught sight of it, he promptly threw himself at it.

Terror-stricken, the attendant quickly slammed the brakes. Sprawled on the hood, Logan cackled.

"You're finally here! I missed you so much!"

Seemingly at the end of his patience, John strode over and yanked him up by the collar as he threw the attendant a look. The attendant hurriedly alighted from the car and opened the car door, upon which

John threw Logan in. His head spinning, Logan slumped onto the seat and grunted a few times before wriggling around in search of a comfortable position. Subsequently, he conked out. John waved a dismissive hand, and the attendant then drove away. Thereafter, he went back to the dining room and cleaned up briefly. When he went upstairs again, the door to Sophia's room was already locked from the inside. He raised his hand to knock, but on second thought, he dismissed the idea. Letting out a sigh at the door, he then called out, "Rest well. I'll be leaving first. I've checked the doors and windows for you."

There was no response from Sophia inside. After waiting for a while, John whirled around and went downstairs. He then drove back

to Constance

Residence. The occupants there had long since gone to bed, so he returned to his own room.

However,

he just couldn't sleep as he lay on the bed while irritation

swamped him. After tossing and turning for

some time, he sat up and remained silent in the darkness

for a few heartbeats. All of a sudden, he got

out of bed and left the room.

He went to the adjacent room that had been vacant all this

time. Although no one was staying in the

room, it was still dusted and the windows opened daily for

ventilation. He didn't turn on the lights there

since the moonlight outside illuminated the room. Slipping

into the bed, he lay down. He actually wanted

to seek out Sophia's smell, but it'd long since dissipated since

she'd only stayed here for a handful of

days. However, it was still a

small consolation; when he lay there, he could still quiet his mind. Closing his eyes, he inhaled deeply before he slowly drifted off to sleep. The next day, he went to the office first before driving over to Sophia's shop during lunch break. Robin was the only one there, and she seemed a tad awkward upon seeing him, greeting him falteringly. Then, John peered inside.

"Did Sophia not come over today?"

Robin grunted in affirmation.

"She said she'll be away for a few days. She actually told me to close up the shop and gave me paid time off, but I came over and opened the shop up since I figured I can manage.

"

John mulled it over for a while before saying,

"How about I get someone here to help you out? It'll be tiring for you to handle

everything alone.

”

Staring at him, Robin then
chuckled after a long while.

“It’s
okay. I can handle things alone.
If I truly can’t
manage, I’ll just close the shop.
It’s fine.

”

John didn’t insist further.

Without further ado, he drove
over to Sophia’s house.

Meanwhile, Robin stood at the
door and looked on as he drove
away. Then, something seemed
to have

occurred to her, and she gave a
bark of derisive laughter under
her breath. He offered to have
someone

come over and help me out. In
the past, I would’ve definitely
been deeply moved, but now...

Touching

her chest, she sighed before
pivoting and returning to the
shop.

When John arrived at Sophia’s
house, he then cottoned on to
the fact she was an efficient

contender.

She has left ages ago, as evidenced by the locked doors and windows, the spotless house, as well as all the everyday utensils that had been put away!

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From the looks of things, it's as though she's planning to be away for a long time. After searching the entire house, John then came back out. Taking out his cell phone, he gave Sophia a call. Turning time back a few hours ago, when Sophia was done packing up early in the morning, she first went to the hospital. When she was there, she accessed her blood test report and showed it to the doctor. Her expression rigid, the doctor scanned through the report before saying, "You're pregnant.

However, it's still early. Are you planning to keep it?"

Sophia nodded.

“Yes.

”

The doctor looked up and studied her for a moment.

“You came alone?”

Sophia grunted in affirmation.

“My family is busy, so I came alone.

” While she was wearing a mask, she wasn't feeling all that well, so she appeared rather pitiful. Thus, the doctor's voice became gentle.

“If you're planning to keep the child, you must keep up with the nutrition requirements in the early stages. You're too thin. The child absorbs nutrients from the mother in the later stages, so there'll be an adverse effect if you're lacking certain nutrients.

”

Sophia murmured in acknowledgment,

“Okay. I got it.

”

The doctor then inquired about the date of her last menstruation and gave her an estimated due date.

Then, she told her to come for a B-scan at a later date. She also gave her a lengthy reminder before

saying poignantly that these words should have been meant for her husband. Putting on a cheerful front,

Sophia chortled. Finally, she thanked the doctor and left the hospital. Sure enough, I'm pregnant. But

how could this be? When did it happen? I really have no recollection at all.

From the hospital, Sophia took a taxi to the train station. She'd already booked a ticket to her hometown, but there was no direct train there, so she needed to change trains.

Nonetheless, she didn't mind since she could just rest on the way there. While she was waiting in the lounge, her cell phone rang. It's that woman again!

She stared at her cell phone for a long time. I just knew that she wouldn't have taken my words back then seriously!

A few seconds later, she answered the call. The woman on the other end sounded jubilant as she exclaimed,

"Soph!" Sophia said nothing, so the woman continued,

"I miss you. Can we have a video call?"

I want to show you your sister as well. You'll definitely like her.

"

Glancing at the tourists coming and going around her, Sophia lowered her voice as she replied,

"But I don't want to see you both.

"

The moment this remark reached the woman, silence abruptly reigned on the other end. Sophia then demanded that she stop calling and hung up. Pursing her lips,

she leaned
back against the chair, her
expression vacant.
Having bought a soft sleeper
ticket, Sophia climbed into bed
when she got on the train after
checking in.

She didn't have any luggage
with her since it was too long a
journey, nor did her current
condition allow
it. There weren't many people
in the soft sleeper
compartment, so it was fairly
quiet. She groggily drifted
off, only to be roused by a
phone call from John. She
dopily took the call.

"John.
"

John sighed.
"You left too early.
Why didn't you call me over to
drive you?"

"It's fine,
" Sophia blurted.

"I
don't like having someone ferry
me around. I can manage by
myself.
"

John then asked whether she was taking a flight, upon which she laughed weakly.

“No, I’m taking the train. It’s very safe.

” He immediately requested her train information before asking whether she packed any food and clothes with her in a concerned voice.

Sophia reclined against the headboard, feeling herself gradually falling into a trance.

The previous time, I took a train here alone with my luggage in tow to seek shelter with the Constance Family. My state of mind back then was rather similar to my current predicament, feeling utterly lost.

But I’d never experienced the disenchantment of married life at that time, so I was still very much fanciful. And back then, I was looking forward to meeting him.

John continued blabbering on

the other end. Only when the conductor came to check her ticket did

Sophia hang up the call.

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If only John had been this nice to me from the very beginning itself! When the conductor had left, Sophia

closed the door to her compartment. Lying back down, she drifted off to sleep again.

After about two days on the train, she then changed trains before taking an express bus. At long last, the

bus lurched to a stop at the intersection in front of the village. It was a dirt road that stretched for a long distance, so much so that one couldn't see the village at the end of the road from here.

It was afternoon, and Sophia slowly made her way toward the village with a bag on her shoulders. At this time, it was relatively quiet in the village. The houses in the village were all brick houses, though some

retained the thatched houses of the previous generation albeit no longer occupying them.

Instead, they

were using them for storage.

The village was small, so the moment she stepped foot in there, the people

in her path swung their gazes at her.

Sophia flashed them a smile.

“Mr. Yanez, you seem hale and hearty!”

The old man from the Yanez Family stared at her for a while before clarity hit him.

“Sophia?

Why are you

back? What’s wrong? Did your husband’s family mistreat you?”

Sophia shook her head.

“No. I

came back to visit my grandfather’s grave since I couldn’t make it on the anniversary of his death.

”

Beside him, a middle-aged woman looked at her and asked, “Then, why are you back alone?”

Is your husband not coming? He didn't even come here for a visit when you two got married, and now, he's not even coming to visit your grandfather's grave?"

Sophia licked her lips.

"He's swamped with work at the office, so he can't spare the time.

"

"Ah, it's a matter of distance. You married too far, so it's difficult for you to even make it back once a year.

" The middle-aged woman sighed.

Sophia merely smiled in response. After greeting them, she then headed to her house. Her family's house was still standing thanks to the villagers helping to repair it ages ago, but after so many years, it looked somewhat dilapidated. Standing in the courtyard, she stared at the traces of mold on

the wooden window lattice for a long time. Out of the blue, tears streamed down her face. As the house had been vacant for too long, she was greeted by the sight of dust everywhere when she went in. There were two rooms in the house, both with wooden beds. She'd packed up all the bedding when she left, so the wooden boards were now exposed, appearing a touch desolate. She stood in the kitchen right off the entrance, tears pouring down her face uncontrollably. In the end, I'm the only one left here in this house I've lived in for almost 20 years. Hearing movement, her next-door neighbor, an elderly lady, came over. At the sight of Sophia, utter surprise suffused her. "You're back, Sophia? Well, what a coincidence! Tell you what, your mother came

back some time ago and
inquired about you.

”

Sophia hurriedly dashed her
tears away.

“I know, Mrs.
Hensley. She called me.

”

Mrs. Karina Hensley heaved a
sigh.

“How despicable! She
never once came back for so
many years, only
doing so when you’re married
and your grandfather has
passed away. I’m not trying to
sow dissension,
but what’s the use of her
returning at this time?”

Nodding, Sophia echoed her
sentiments.

Upon seeing that she was alone,
pity flooded Mrs. Hensley, and
she helped to clean the house.

In a
delicate condition, Sophia
didn’t dare carry heavy things,
so it all fell to Mrs. Hensley.

Before they were
done, a call came in from John,
asking Sophia whether she’d

arrived. Sophia murmured in affirmation,
“I’ve arrived. We’re cleaning the place now.”

Mrs. Hensley was initially busy with her chore, but she came over upon hearing Sophia on the phone.

“A call from your husband?”
Sophia didn’t want to explain too much, so she faltered before answering,
“Yeah.”

At this, Mrs. Hensley raised her voice and said,
“Hello there.
Why didn’t you come with Sophia? You didn’t come here for a visit back when the two of you got married to get acquainted with her relatives, and now, you’re also not here to visit her grandfather’s grave for the anniversary of his death. This is rather unreasonable. Work is work, but still, some things are

essential.

”

All at once, mortification swamped Sophia, and she chuckled.

“It was me who asked him not to come out of consideration for him.

”

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On the other end, John heard every single word. He then sighed.

“Where will you be staying at night?

And what will you be eating?”

Sophia thought for a moment.

“The store here has everything. We’re almost done cleaning the house, so

there’s no problem on my side.

You don’t need to worry.

”

John was silent for a long while before he grunted in assent.

“Alright, then. I got it. Call me if you need anything.

”

Only when he’d hung up did Sophia breathe a sigh of relief.

After bustling around for half the day, the sky outside had gone dark. Very much hospitable, Mrs.

Hensley offered to have dinner at her place.

“Why don’t you come over to my place for dinner? You’ve got nothing here in your house.

”

Sophia turned it over in her mind. I’m rather tired, so I don’t feel like cooking for myself.

“Sure. Sorry for the inconvenience.

”

Mrs. Hensley laughed.

“Why did you become so courteous in your speech after leaving for a year, girl?”

After having dinner next door, Sophia then returned to the house. Flipping on the lights, she sat down on the bed she’d previously slept in. The wattage of the lights was relatively low, so the house appeared

very dim. Although my life has improved a lot now that I've come this far in life, every time I reminisce

about everything in the past, I just find myself regretting many things.

As she looked around the empty house, tears once again streamed down her face. Back when Grandpa passed away, the elders said that everything that once belonged to him had to be burned so that he could use it in the afterlife. We hadn't had much in the first place, so when everything was burned, the house truly turned empty.

Getting to her feet, she went over and opened the door. Then, she gazed out. As it was late, every house had its door closed since rural families would go to bed early considering the lack of entertainment at night. At present, the only sounds outside were the occasional dog barking and

whooshing wind from some unidentified place. She stood there for a long time. Pulling her clothes tighter around her, she then turned and went back into the house, turning off the lights before going to bed.

Her sleep was fitful and plagued by dreams, perhaps because she was in an unfamiliar place.

The dreams were so vivid that she couldn't quite discern between fantasy and reality. At one time, she dreamt of her grandfather before it switched to John's grandfather, then her wedding with John, followed by them

getting their divorce certificate.

Finally, she dreamt of a child standing in front of her, asking her why she

was crying in a childish voice.

She had no idea whether she was crying, only aware that her heart twisted

in agony upon hearing the child's voice. The child's face was blurry, but he or she was

probably very
good-looking.

When Sophia awakened
groggily, she glanced out,
noticing that the sky had just
begun to lighten.

However, since rural families
went to bed early, they also got
out of bed early. At this time,
other
people's chimneys were already
smoking. Having nothing at
home, she could only straighten
up the
place briefly before going to the
store in the village to buy some
things.

The store owner was up in
years and woke up early in the
morning to feed his chickens
and ducks. Shock
assailed him at the sight of
Sophia.

"You're Sophia, no?
When did you come back?"
Sophia greeted him with a smile.
Then, she replied,
"I came back
yesterday afternoon, so I've
been
cleaning the house.

”

The owner knew that she was all alone during her return this time, so he sighed.

“You came back to visit your grandfather’s grave, yes? Ah, how pitiful!” However, no one knew who he meant to pity.

Sophia bought some food as well as some flowers. Before she left, she heard the owner muttering,

“Why didn’t your husband tag along? Does he look down on this small place?”

Pursing her lips, she pretended as though she hadn’t heard him. Just when she’d arrived home with her

purchases, her cell phone rang.

Glancing at it, she saw that it was Robin, so she promptly answered the

call. On the other end, Robin’s voice was threaded with a hint of worry.

“Have you arrived in your

hometown, Sophia?"

Sophia murmured an assent.

**"I
arrived yesterday and had a
good night's rest. I'll be going to
my
grandfather's grave today.
"**

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Robin sighed.

**"You've spent so
many days just to make the
journey, so you must be feeling
bone-weary.
"**

**Actually, it doesn't really matter
whether I'm weary. Sophia then
inquired about the shop, upon
which**

Robin chortled.

**"With me here,
you can rest assured. I'm an
expert now, so I can manage
everything
myself. Just stay there however
long you want. You don't need
to worry about things over
here.
"**

Sophia licked her lips.

"Thank

you.

”

Robin laughed.

**“Why are you
thanking me? I’m happy to be
working with you in the shop. I
don’t have
many skills to boast of, so I
certainly won’t be able to find a
decent job out there. Plus, I
love doing this,
so I’m very happy here.**

”

**As Sophia sighed, she then
heard Robin continuing,**

**“By the
way, my family arranged a blind
date for me.**

**I’ll be going on the date today,
so I’ll secretly snap a photo and
send it to you. Help me to
evaluate him as
well, okay?”**

Surprise inundated Sophia.

**“A
blind date? Is that necessary?
You’re still young.**

”

To that, Robin exclaimed,

**“Of
course. Why is it not necessary?”**

I can only rely on my family to find me someone now since I definitely can't find someone on my own.

”

However, Sophia recalled her bouts of distractedness and inexplicable giggling before this.

She clearly has feelings for someone, so why is she going on a blind date in the blink of an eye? After a long pause, she replied,

“If you go on a blind date, the emotional foundation might not be very strong in the beginning. It can only be nurtured slowly, so you must brace yourself for this.

”

**“I've done so,
” Robin answered right away.**

“I really hope to have someone by my side now, so it doesn't really matter who the person is. Perhaps it's as you said back

then, and I'm feeling lonely. But I don't think I'm a shallow person, so if the person is nice to me, I'll likely develop feelings for him.

”

Sophia couldn't say for sure that blind dates were bound to end in failure, so she nodded.

“Then, set a standard for yourself. Don't accept just anybody.

”

After murmuring her assent, Robin informed her about the business recently. Later on, the time came for her to set out for the shop, so she hung up the phone. Sophia then cooked some noodles. When she was done eating, she cleaned the courtyard before leaving with the things she'd prepared. As the village was surrounded by plenty of mountains, people who passed away were usually buried in the mountains. It was a rather long journey. Midway up the mountain,

nausea besieged her. Crouching by the roadside, she dry heaved, retching until her head was spinning and her vision was blurry. It was probably then that grief struck, and she covered her face, wiping her tears. After resting for a while, she then resumed her trek toward the mountains. Since her speed was sedate, the trek took quite a long time. It was seemingly noon before she started climbing the mountain. Subsequently, her cell phone rang, so she took cover under a tree. Panting, she answered the call, upon which John's voice drifted out.

"Are you awake?"

Sophia grunted in affirmation.

"I woke up ages ago. I've even eaten.

"

John murmured an acknowledgment. It was slightly noisy on his end with quite a din in the background,

but Sophia wasn't at all bothered. Lifting her head, she glanced up the mountain.

"We'll talk another time. I'm in the middle of something over here.

"

John grunted in assent.

"I've got to go as well.

"

Taken aback, Sophia couldn't understand his meaning. However, he then promptly reminded her to take care of herself and so on before hanging up. Slowly putting her cell phone away, she then continued making her way up the mountain.

Old Mr. Gwendolyn's grave was very simple. Unlike the ones in the big cities, the tomb here was only a small dirt patch without any tombstone. A wooden plank with the deceased's name was skewered on top of the small dirt patch with no mention of the date of birth

and the like. Sophia still remembered her grandfather's grave, so she went in search of it. However, the small dirt patch was all but indiscernible, having been leveled by the rain. Fortunately, there was still a simple grave marker.

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As soon as Sophia saw the small dirt patch, tears poured down her face, her heart clenching.

Slowly walking over, she put down the things in her hands.

"I'm here to visit you, Grandpa.

" Her control snapping, she sobbed aloud.

"I'm divorced, but John gave me a lot of things as compensation.

I now have plenty of money, so life is great.

" Her voice broke as she added,

"I'm even... pregnant.

"

The wind was quite strong on the mountains, rustling the tree

leaves around her. Thereafter,
she could
no longer utter a single word,
merely kneeling before the
grave, weeping. After crying for
an
indeterminate time, she then
wiped her tears away.

“If only
you were alive, you could see
my child. After
all, you love children.
”

Taking the flower she bought,
she placed it in front of the
grave marker.

“My mother
came back some
time ago and asked for my
phone number. She claimed to
miss me, but I don't miss them.
I don't need
them. Since you're gone, I don't
need anyone else. I can live
alone.

” Then, she promised,

“In
the future,
I'll live here with my child and
keep you company. I won't be
going anywhere else.

”

It was afternoon when Sophia arrived back home. Many villagers knew that she was back, so they all came to visit her. As her eyes were red and swollen from all the crying she did, they knew what had happened the moment they glimpsed her countenance. Mrs. Hensley came over.

“I’ve cooked some delicious food at my house, Sophia. Why don’t you come over and eat?”

A tad exhausted, Sophia replied, “I’d like to rest for a while, Mrs. Hensley. I’m a bit tired after such a lengthy round trip.

”

Mrs. Hensley hurriedly nodded. “Yes, yes, of course. I forgot all about that! Go and rest first. I’ll bring the food over.

”

There were other people in the courtyard. Sophia knew nothing

back when her grandfather passed away, so it was these people who helped to settle his funeral. They also knew that she was now all alone, so these fellow villagers wanted to come over and look in on her.

Sophia took some chairs out for everyone before she sat down in the courtyard. An elderly man then

started speaking of Sophia's mother's return some time ago, reckoning that she wanted to acknowledge

Sophia as her daughter.

Mrs. Hensley happened to be bringing the food over at this time, and she interjected,

“Acknowledge

Sophia? In her dreams! What has she been doing all those years? Now that she has fallen on hard times,

she comes back after learning that her daughter has married a wealthy man!”

Sighing, the elderly man continued saying to Sophia,

“From your mother’s dressing when she came back that time, I don’t think she’s all that well-off. Thus, she probably hasn’t had a good life all these years. As outsiders, we can’t meddle in that, so this is just for your knowledge.

Sophia, you have no other relatives, and we all watched you grow up, so just tell us if there’s anything you find difficult to express. We’ll act in your stead so that you don’t have to be caught in a difficult position.

”

Tears trickled down Sophia’s face again, but she tried her utmost best to keep her control intact.

“I won’t acknowledge her.

”

Everyone understood why she made such a decision.

Subsequently, the person beside her sighed as well.

“It’s understandable that you

**don't want to acknowledge her.
When your grandfather passed
away,
those two unconscionable
wretches didn't even come back
for his funeral.
You then married into a decent
family, but well, is there really
no one in your husband's family
who
could come back with you this
time? They must be unbothered
since you don't have anyone
left on your
side of the family.**

”

**The elderly man hastily shot
him a glare.**

“Zip it, Buddy!”

**Sophia pursed her lips, for she
knew that it was an affront to
tradition in other people's eyes
when she
came back alone to visit her
grandfather's grave. No one
from the Constance Family has
ever been here.**

**Back when Grandpa passed
away, they actually planned to
have someone come to help me
with his**

funeral, but Old Mr. Constance was also critically ill at that time and had been resuscitated time and

again in the hospital, so they didn't have any energy left to care about my affairs here.

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After glancing at Sophia, the old man said,

"Sophia, you don't seem to be doing that well."
"

Sophia lifted her head while telling him,

"Nah, I'm doing just fine. I set up a shop over there, which is making me quite a lot of money, so I'm good."
"

Meanwhile, Mrs. Hensley was serving them their meal. She knew that no matter how Sophia was doing, the latter wouldn't tell them much about it, so she said, "Alright, everyone. Sophia must be tired, so we should let her rest. We can come over after she has rested,

since she will be here and won't
be leaving
any time soon.
”

As soon as the others heard Mrs.
Hensley, the rest of the
occupants stood while telling
Sophia to take
care. They were all kind people
who hailed from the same
village as her. After sending
them off, Sophia
returned to her room.

In the house, there was a
simple and worn frame which
held a photograph that was
taken from many
years ago.

Sophia could be seen leaning
against her grandfather's legs in
the photo. She was probably
twelve or
thirteen, while her
grandfather's hair was still
mostly black. Smiling, he was
looking toward the camera.
Sophia caressed her belly while
staring at the photo for a long
time before murmuring,
“Look,
this is the

guy who protected me for more than twenty years, so you have to remember him.

”

After having something to eat, Sophia lay down. Due to how tired she was after all the hiking she did, she fell asleep as soon as she lay down, after which she slept through the rest of the day. It was night when she was roused by a phone call. Without even checking the caller ID, she picked up upon reaching for the phone.

“What’s up?”

John’s voice could be heard over the line.

“Sophia.

”

After Sophia grunted in response, John fell silent without saying anything else.

She asked in a semi-conscious state,

“Is there something you need?”

It wasn’t until a while later that John told her he didn’t.

Wherever he was, it sounded like a quiet place as there wasn't a lot of noise.

Sophia didn't give much thought about it while she added,

"I was sleeping, so I will be hanging up if there's nothing to be said."
"

Agreeing with her, John hung up, after which Sophia put down her phone. She spent some more time in bed before getting up. There wasn't a lot to be done though, so she began spacing out after doing some house cleaning. Life in the village was starkly different from life in the city, as there was nothing she wanted that she could get her hands on, but it provided her with an odd sense of security. She went into the yard to sit on a chair, then she lifted her head to admire the night sky. While she was in the village, Robin would be looking after the shop, so she

wasn't worried about it. Now that she had a baby within her, she no longer wanted to return to the city. If the Constances knew she was pregnant, they would definitely take the baby from her, but she wasn't sure if they would accept her into the family.

With no plans to get back together with John, she didn't want to risk being separated from her child, so she decided to live in the village with her child. However, she did expect some complications halfway through her pregnancy, as John was hard to fool if he got serious. Besides, the villagers might notice something if she settled down in the village.

Sophia sat in the yard until everybody went to bed, only then did she turn to enter the house. That night, she managed to get some good sleep, which was probably due

to the exhaustion after a day's work. By daybreak, there was a commotion just outside her house. Mrs. Hensley came to knock on her door while calling in a loud voice,

“Sophia, come out. Quickly!”

In her groggy state, Sophia opened the door without even opening her eyes while standing at the door.

“Mrs. Hensley, why the panic?”

Mrs. Hensley stared at Sophia with a peculiarly joyful expression on her face.

“Sophia, you have a guest.”

Startled, Sophia wasn't sure what she meant by saying that she had a guest, since she was the only person in the house. Noticing that Sophia was still half-asleep, Mrs. Hensley tugged her hand to lead her outside.

“You should go check if he's your man! Do you see him?”

He came looking for you in a car!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 618

Sophia was still in a daze, nor did she understand what was going on while being dragged by Mrs.

Hensley to the entrance of the village. There was already a crowd gathered over there, but Mrs. Hensley managed to have them make way with a bellow.

“Excuse us!

Sophia is here!”

Parked behind the parting crowd was a car, beside which stood a man who seemed worn from travel.

Frozen to the spot, Sophia stared at John before asking, “Why are you here?”

John seemed tired when he replied,

“I’m worried about you, so I came.

”

Her mind blank, Sophia stared at John for a long while before questioning,

“How did you even

get here?”

John heaved a sigh upon hearing her question.

“Won’t

you let me go get some rest before this? I’ve been driving for a long time, so I’m exhausted.

”

One of the villagers approached them.

“Sophia, so is he your man?”

However, all Sophia did was gaze at John in silence, as if she didn’t even hear the question.

Meanwhile,

John was all smiles when he told them,

“Hello, I wanted to come with her, but I got held back by some matters in my company. She was so impatient though, so she came back alone, which left me with no choice but to track her down like this, and it was tiring.

”

The villagers knew nothing of their feud, so they ushered him

in.

“That’s true, the long drive must have been exhausting. Come on, you should go get some rest inside.”

After John got into his car, Mrs. Hensley gave Sophia a shove, so she got in as well. It wasn’t until then that she snapped back to her senses. She pointed the way to her house stiffly while John drove. The two of them sat in John’s car for some time, seemingly not in a hurry to get off. Then, John heaved a sigh.

“I’m sorry that I never came to visit.”

**Still in a daze, Sophia replied quietly,
“You don’t have to apologize.”**

Upon stepping out of the car, John noticed just how run down the mostly empty yard was. However, he was rather unfazed when he

stepped through it, only to find that the house was even emptier, and was without a decent piece of furniture. After looking around in the house, John saw the photo in her grandfather's room.

Standing by the door, Sophia asked,

“Why are you here?”

John didn't give her an immediate reply. Instead, he mumbled while checking out the photo,

“So this is what you look like when you were a kid.”

As could be seen in the photo, Sophia was wearing a slightly tattered dress while her hair was combed into two braids. It was apparent from her outfit that she was from a poor family, but her smile was innocent. Holding onto Sophia with a kind and loving look while seated, her grandfather was still young

when the photo was taken. Truth be told, John could no longer recall what her grandfather looked like, as he had only met the latter a few times. During the later days, he only ever saw her grandfather in a sickly state, so he was rendered a mere shell of his former self. Sophia was leaning against the door frame with her brain in a muddled state, as she never expected him to find her here. After staring at the photo for a while, John smiled.

“Since Grandpa’s grave is just over there, I will go visit him when I have the time.”

“That won’t be necessary,”

Sophia replied.

“You don’t have to since we aren’t family anyway.”

John examined Sophia only to notice that she seemed less lively after a few days of not

seeing her.

Moreover, she seemed sluggish and somewhat depressed.

Walking up to her, John touched her face.

“You must’ve had it hard when you came over here.

”

Sophia dodged him without a word, whereas John scanned his surroundings.

“Have you eaten? I learned to cook a few dishes during the past few days, so you can have a taste.

”

Seeing that Sophia remained silent, John went to the kitchen on his own. Before she could react, the

villagers arrived at Sophia’s house. The village hadn’t had a visitor in a long while, so John’s presence

piqued the villagers’ curiosity.

The Returning Ex Chapter 619

From what they gathered, John was wealthy. Knowing that the villagers came to meet him, John quickly

greeted them. He was used to dealing with all kinds of people while doing business, so he had no problem at all dealing with a bunch of simple village folk. Meanwhile, Sophia was looking out from the window while remaining in the house, whereas John showed the elders into the house. He answered all of their questions with much decorum, which showed how polite and cultured he was. Turning around, Sophia sat on her bed. It seems that a change of plans is due. Now that John is here, I can't stay here forever. On the other hand, John was still speaking to the villagers when an old man came in to hold Sophia's hand. While thanking her, he also praised John for his kindness. Sophia could only respond with an awkward expression and a dry chuckle, as she had no idea what was going on. All she

could see was the other villagers in the yard were also shaking hands with John while praising him.

The elderly man led Sophia out of the house while advising her to maintain a harmonious relationship with John, and that they shouldn't hold grudges against each other. With a frown on her face, Sophia looked toward John, who in turn looped an arm around her shoulder with a smile once he approached her.

"You're absolutely right! Don't worry. She is the boss within the household."

It wasn't until some time later that the villagers left. As soon as they did leave, Sophia asked quietly,

"What did you tell them to warrant all the praises that they were showering on you?"

With a smile on his face, John turned to enter the house.

"It

was nothing... All I did was promise to donate some money so that they could pave the roads in the village.

”

What he told her startled her. The roads in the village were indeed in poor condition, as all the mountain villages had muddy roads which were hard to walk on. Due to its small size, there were no schools within the village, so the children had to leave the village on foot to go to school. While it was alright when the weather was nice, it was a bother during rainy days. Upon recalling that, Sophia told John, “You sure are being nice.

”

John smiled while saying, “When I was on my way here, the roads were so bumpy that I could puke any moment.

” Upon checking out the kitchen, he told her,

**“Since
we don’t have much of anything,
we can
only boil some noodles.
”**

**Sophia didn’t have much of an
appetite to begin with, and
John’s presence only served to
muddle her
thoughts and feelings. As he
never used a traditional
cooktop before, John had a
hard time figuring it
out, so Sophia had no choice
but to help him start a fire.
Although a little clumsy, John
still managed to boil them some
noodles. After that, he went to
the yard to
open the boot of his car to
reveal the stash of items he had
in it. He retrieved a bag of items
while
mumbling to himself,
“I rented
the car to come here. After
observing the area, I figured it is
a little
underdeveloped, so I bought
some stuff from a mall just in
case. With how things are, I**

think they might
come in handy.
”

The items he bought consisted
of processed food such as
canned food and sausages,
which made for a
decent meal. He placed the bag
by the cooktop before
rummaging through it.

“Look
how smart I am! I
bought these for us too!” He
was holding a few packets of
pickled vegetables in his hand.
“These go
great with noodles.
”

Despite her silence, Sophia
admitted that she was feeling
much more secure now that
John was with her.

Meanwhile, John poured the
noodles into a bowl to be
served to Sophia, then he laid
out the packets of
pickled vegetables.

“Why don’t
you see what you like better?”
Glancing at the pickled
vegetables, Sophia chose to

open a packet of pickled cucumbers, as she always liked them. However, as soon as she sniffed on it, she couldn't help but cast it aside before running out of the house. She rushed into a corner before retching over there, and her action frightened John. He quickly came to pat on her back to help soothe her.

"What's wrong? Did it smell bad because it has expired?"

All Sophia could manage was wave her hand, as she could hardly speak with her stomach churning uncomfortably.

The Returning Ex Chapter 620
However, John didn't think much of her reaction while he said,

"Your stomach must be acting up because you have been overexerting yourself. I'll go buy you some medicine later on. You'll feel better

after taking them.

”

Waving him down, Sophia told him,

“You don’t have to. I’m not going to take them.

”

With a sigh, John tried to persuade her otherwise.

“That nausea will persist if you don’t take the medicine. You have been suffering from it for years, and you know how excruciating it can be, so you should take the meds.

”

Without a word, Sophia rinsed her mouth with some water in the kitchen before telling John,

“You should eat up while I take a short rest.

” Her nausea faded as soon as it came, so she was feeling better after a few moments, after which she returned to the house. There was no dining room in her house,

except for a table in the kitchen.
She walked up to the table
while instructing,
“I can’t stand
the smell of
pickled cucumbers, so take
them away.
”

With a grunt of assent, John left
the pickled cucumbers on the
shelf by the door. Sophia felt
better after
taking a deep breath, so she
went over to the table to start
eating her bowl of noodles.
After they were
both done eating, John washed
the dishes before leaving the
house once again, as he wasn’t
accustomed
to doing nothing.
He probably went out to meet
the other villagers, Sophia
thought. The meal left Sophia
feeling drowsy,
so she took a nap in her room
since she could leave everything
to John now that he was here
with her.
In the meantime, John was
strolling in the village while

examining it. He realized it was an underdeveloped area with not even a hundred families, and all the houses looked the same.

Now that everybody had had their meal, there were some who came out to chat with each other in front of their houses. Sure enough, their topics revolved around John and Sophia.

Due to the fact that they hailed from a poor village, when they noticed that John was dressed nicely and drove a car, they surmised that John was in fact a wealthy man. He even promised to donate some money so that the villagers could pave their roads.

Therefore, the villagers began exclaiming, "Sophia is in luck to have found herself such a rich husband despite hailing from a village in the mountains. It must be because of her grandfather's

blessings!”

**When John passed them by,
they quickly greeted him before
asking if he had had his meal.**

**With a smile
on his face, John approached
them.**

**“I already had my meal,
sir. By the way, I’d like to pay
my respects to
Sophia’s grandfather. Do you
know where he is buried? I
don’t want to wake Sophia up
as she is asleep.**

”

**The villagers looked at him
while replying,**

**“You sure are a
nice young lad.**

”

**Almost all of the villagers knew
where Sophia’s grandfather was
buried, as she was at a loss as
to what to
do when he passed away.**

**Hence, it was up to them to
help her with the proceedings
of the funeral; even
the grave was dug by the men
in the village.**

Therefore, one of the old men

told John,
“I know where it is,
but you’ll have to prepare some
offerings if
you want to pay your respects.
It’s impolite to go
empty-handed. In the
meantime, I will find someone
to
show you the way, as well as
keep you company.
”

Upon hearing what the old man
said, John thanked him while
retrieving a packet of cigarettes
to be
handed out to everyone. Never
had they ever laid eyes on such
quality cigarettes, so they
examined it
curiously.

The guide that the old man
found for John was none other
than Buddy, who had an
attitude about him
while in Sophia’s house.
However, despite his brash
demeanor, he was a
kind-hearted man. When
Sophia’s grandfather passed
away, he provided much

needed help, going as far as to help dig the grave.

Buddy took John to where the latter could buy some flowers before both of them went uphill.

As they were both young, they managed to travel a lot faster.

While on their way, John asked about

Sophia's life while living with her grandfather in the village.

Buddy heaved a sigh before replying,

"Sophia

led such a harsh life. When she was young, both her parents ran away, which left her alone in her grandfather's care.

As she came from a poor family, she was forced to help out with chores ever since a young age, so she

learned early on how to handle all of them. During the harvest seasons, she also had to help with

harvesting. It was a pity that she had to go through all that during such a young age.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 621

With his heart throbbing, John felt uneasy about it. Eventually, Buddy told him,

“It was fortunate that she married you. You’re a good man, so I’m sure you’ll treat her nicely. That kid finally came into some good luck.

”

However, his words only left John pouting while averting his gaze. It wasn’t until then that he recalled how poorly he treated Sophia back then by not only ignoring all of her efforts, but also allowing Matilda to mistreat her.

On the other hand, Sophia was disoriented when she woke up from her nap, as she had no idea what time it was. She went to the yard, only to see Mrs. Hensley’s grandson playing there. The five-year-old child was covered in mud, but

he seemed to be having fun. After some thought, she went to pick out some snacks from the bag that John carried into the kitchen before handing them to the kid. As soon as the kid saw the snacks she held, his eyes lit up. While observing the young child, Sophia seemed to be gazing at something else. Caressing her belly, the feeling of joy that she tried so hard to suppress seemed to pop up again. Now that she had a child of her own, it didn't matter anymore whether she would have a partner in life, as she had a family now. She was no longer alone, and she would also have someone to love wholeheartedly, just like her grandfather. After observing the child for a while, she left the yard. The village didn't undergo a lot of change during the past few years. She strolled at a leisurely pace on the road

while appreciating the run-down houses around her. However, she was feeling much happier compared to when she was observing the exquisite architecture of the Constance Residence.

Some time later, she saw John, who was on his way back with Buddy after they had paid their respects.

Naturally, John saw her as well. In a few strides, he went up to her to hold her hand.

“Why are you here?

How was your nap?”

Upon observing their interaction, Buddy wore a smile.

“Sophia, your husband went to pay his respects to your grandfather. He sure is a nice guy.

”

Taken aback, Sophia glanced at John before stopping herself just in time from thanking him.

After Buddy

left for home, John kept on walking while holding onto

Sophia's hand. They were walking along a mud road that seemed pretty fine during normal days, but would probably be quite a difficult path to walk during rainy days. The villagers would have a hard time even venturing out, as the road would become all muddy.

Lowering his head while looking at the road, John said,

"There are a lot of young men in your village, so they can think about switching jobs if farming doesn't yield much.

"

Sophia heaved a sigh before saying,

"What else can they do? This place is underdeveloped, so business won't thrive without customers. Someone will come to buy the crops as long as we farm, and even if we can't sell them, we are at least guaranteed food on our table.

”

While it was true that the village was populated by young men, the village itself was located at such a remote place, so it wasn't easy for them to leave the place to even do manual work elsewhere. Most of the people who remained in the village were planning on settling down without going too far away from home.

Meanwhile, John was recalling the scenery he saw while on his way to the village. He acknowledged that it was indeed located in a remote area, and its immediate surroundings were also more or less in the same condition, so there weren't a lot of jobs available. After pondering about the situation, John said, “The company is planning to build a warehouse, and we will need a few workers and a manager over there. We don't

**need someone highly educated,
so you can
ask if any of the villagers would
like to come with me. We
should try as much as possible
to bring them
out of here. With everybody's
combined efforts, we might
eventually be able to improve
the living
conditions here.
”**

**After a moment's pause, Sophia
turned to look at John. She
nearly agreed to his plans, but
not before
she thought of something else.
If she agreed with him, it would
mean that she owed him one.
Although
he would never use it as
leverage against her, Sophia
would still feel unhappy about
it.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 622
Besides, if she agreed with
John's plans to take the
villagers with them, she would
have a hard time
parting ways with John. Since
the villagers assumed that they**

were married as they knew nothing of their long-standing feud, Sophia understood herself well enough to know that she might continue to associate herself with John to some extent in order to cover up the lie.

Glancing at Sophia, John said, "Why don't you give it some thought? My opinion is that the young men wouldn't be making anything of themselves if they were to spend their whole lives in the village, so they should venture out."
"

It wasn't until a while later that Sophia gave her reply.

"Let me think about this. But I have to say, they might not want to leave. Maybe they like the lifestyle here."
"

John didn't press on.

"Think about it. If you think my suggestion sounds good, you

should ask them.

”

Letting out a grunt, Sophia said nothing else. Both of them walked on hand-in-hand, each in their own minds, but it was still a sight to behold for the villagers. Coming out to put some trash away, a villager made fun of Sophia as soon as he saw her.

“Sophia, when are you planning on having a child? You two seem to get along well, so it’s about time you get one.

”

Sophia wasn’t sure how to answer that, so John replied flatteringly,

“We are getting to it. We might have one after today.

”

The man exclaimed,

“Yeah, I suppose it’s time. You should give birth to a few more children when you’re still young so that you can raise

them together. Isn't that nice?"

Upon hearing what he said,
Sophia's smile froze on her face.

She already felt like a goner
despite being

still in the beginning stages of
her pregnancy, so she couldn't
imagine going through the
process a couple

more times. When they arrived
at home, John had Sophia get
some rest while he started
cooking.

Standing by the door of her
room, Sophia observed him as
he worked clumsily. It would be
a lie to say

that she wasn't touched at all.
In fact, she was shocked that he
came all the way to find her.

She knew
full well how remote her village
was, so it must have taken a lot
for John to find her on his own.

The sun was setting when the
families began cooking, and
Sophia left the house after
looking around

her. All of the houses had their
own vegetable garden that they
cultivated on their own. She

asked
around for some veggies, and
she was given loads of them to
be brought home, as the
veggies weren't
worth much in a village such as
theirs, so nobody would be
stingy with their veggies.
Upon arriving home with the
veggies, John took them from
her before washing them by the
well in the
yard. At first glance, he sure
seemed like he knew what he
was doing. Later on, Sophia left
for the store
to buy some rice that was being
sold in small amounts. She then
had John step aside before she
began
cooking, which she made quick
work of while suppressing the
nausea triggered by the smoke.
Coming from behind, John
hugged her while saying,
“I
missed you a lot during your
absence.
”

Her movements came to a halt.
While she didn't struggle to

break free from his hold, she questioned,

“Do you miss me because you can’t get me to return to you now, John?”

Startled, John clicked his tongue in dismay, but he soothed himself before replying in a gentle tone,

“Must you interpret my care toward you as something despicable, a means to an end?

Can’t I be nice to you simply because I want to, or simply because I love you and I miss you?”

Lowering her gaze, Sophia questioned,

“Why do you love me now? Throughout our one-year marriage, you only ever showed me disdain, so why would you say that love me now that we’re divorced?”

To be honest, John had no answer to that. In fact, he didn’t think that anybody would have an answer when it came to romance. Silently, he held onto her

stubbornly. After mulling over the situation, Sophia told him,
“Alright, it’s time for our meal, so let’s tidy up the table.”

Meanwhile, John still had a lot of items in the trunk of his car, so he went to fish out some milk and canned fruits.

The Returning Ex Chapter 623
Sophia opened up a carton of milk as she knew she needed to make sure that she took in enough nutrients for the sake of the child in her belly. While John and her were eating, she saw a few kids sneaking into the yard as they cautiously glanced into the house. Upon opening the door, she asked them,
“What’s the matter, kids?”

These kids that were all dressed in simple linen clothing seemed to be around eight years old. As

soon as they saw Sophia coming out from the house, they smiled sheepishly. In fact, Sophia had a hunch as to what they were up to, as she used to be the same. Therefore, she led them into her house to hand them some snacks. Upon receiving the snacks, the children left without further ado.

Sophia sat down on a chair before explaining, "Since a lot of our families were poor, we didn't get to have much tasty food.

Whenever someone within the village got something tasty, we would gather in the yard of that family's house. Even if we don't get to taste the food, we wanted to at least catch a glimpse of the food, as watching them eat was satisfying enough.

”

John never experienced life like that, so he had no idea why the

**kids would want to watch
people eat.**

**After brooding on the subject
for a while, Sophia let out a
chuckle.**

**“Let’s not talk about
these, since you
won’t understand anyway. Rich
people like you will never
understand how we survived in
this harsh
world.**

”

**With a nod, John replied,
“Indeed, I don’t understand
your life, but that is also
precisely why I would like
to know more about it. I would
like to try my best to
understand you by learning
how you managed to
get by the days before I came
into your life.**

”

**A smile bloomed on Sophia’s
face, but it was one of
resignation.**

**“John, you sure
have changed.**

”

“True,

” John quickly replied.

**“I
have changed, but you have
been perceiving me as having
ulterior
motives when I don’t.**

”

**Caressing her belly, Sophia said,
“Alright, let’s go have our
meal.**

”

**After dinner, Sophia tidied her
grandfather’s bed. She was
planning on sleeping in it that
night, while
John would sleep in her room,
as she figured he might not
want to sleep on the bed of a
dead person.**

**However, John stopped her
halfway through the process.**

**“Don’t bother. I’ll sleep in his
room.**

**” He even
added,**

**“Since he is your
grandfather, he is also mine, so
I am not afraid of him.**

**” Upon
hearing him say
so, Sophia relented without a**

word.

Communication ceased as the doors to both rooms were soon closed behind them. After

tossing and

turning around for some time, Sophia fell asleep, but John had a hard time doing the same as

he found

the bed a little too hard to be comfortable. There was also a moldy stench to it. After some

time, he got

out of bed before making his way to Sophia's room in the dark. She was curled up in a ball

toward the

edge of the bed, seemingly sound asleep.

John watched her sleeping figure by the door. With her petite frame, Sophia seemed

tiny as she curled

herself up in bed. The longer he observed her, the warmer his heart felt. He had been

wondering how

she was planning to continue living in this house if he didn't come along. The fact that the

house had

close to nothing worried him. After spending some more time staring at her, John returned to his room. If it wasn't for the fact that she was sleeping in a single bed, he would have brazenly snuck into her bed. Meanwhile, Sophia had no idea that John paid her a visit during the late hours as she slept through the night. When she woke up, he was long gone, with his blankets neatly folded.

Sophia's phone rang after she washed up, which she picked up. Robin had sent her a photo that she would like Sophia to take a look at. Chuckling, Sophia asked, "How do you feel about this?" On the other end, Robin's smile dimmed a little, but her tone was as cheerful as ever.

"I'll go for it, since looks are all that's important in the beginning stages. I know next to nothing about him, so I'll approach

him as long as he has good looks.

”

Sophia grunted before saying, “I’ll check him out in a bit, but you shouldn’t rely too heavily on my

judgement. I don’t exactly read people that well.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 624

Robin chuckled before changing the topic.

“How are you doing over there? Since you have to do

everything on your own, does living alone tire you out?”

After some hesitation, Sophia told Robin that John had come after her. There was a long pause on

Robin’s end. It wasn’t until Sophia called out to her that she snapped back to reality.

However, her cheerful tone sounded forced when she replied,

“Really? John is such a reliable man to have come after

you despite the distance. Seeing how nicely he has been treating you, you shouldn't miss out on a great man like him.

”

While knowing that John was being real nice to her, Sophia figured that she shouldn't forget whatever that came before just because of a change in his attitude. Truth be told, she wasn't an open-minded person. She was, in fact, extremely petty, as she would still get riled up whenever she recalled how John treated her back then. Licking her lips, Sophia replied, “We'll see. I don't feel like focusing on that right now.

”

After a few seconds, Robin told her, “Sophia, I will marry him in a heartbeat if I were you. It's a one-in-a-thousandth chance that you're able to find a rich

and handsome man who loves you dearly! If you think carefully, John has great assets even when compared to loads of other people, so don't get too stubborn.

”

Upon hearing what Robin said, Sophia let out a chuckle.

“Alright, I get what you mean. I will think about it.

”

After hanging up the call, Sophia went on to check her messages. Robin had sent her a photo which seemed to be taken without the man noticing her. The man in the photo was checking his phone with his head hung low.

From what Sophia could see, he seemed like a young man who seemed to be pretty good-looking.

However, he looked quite plain, and his good looks didn't stand out in any particular way.

While Sophia was staring at the

photo intently, John returned, but she didn't see him at all, as she was so focused on looking at the photo. She was contemplating on how to respond to Robin, as an exaggerated compliment would sound pretentious, while a lack of compliment would be a little too harsh.

Without warning, John approached her to take a peek at the photo when she was still hesitating on how to respond to Robin. He wore a frown while asking,

"Who is this guy?"

Sophia was frightened by his unannounced presence.

"Since when did you come in? Why did I not hear a sound?"

Snorting, John replied,

"You were so engrossed in it that you didn't notice I had been standing beside you for some time. What's so

attractive about this guy that warrants your undivided attention on him?”

Sophia tucked her phone away while saying,

“He’s nobody important. You wouldn’t know him even if I told you.

”

While staring at Sophia, John said,

“I will know him if you would just introduce him to me.

”

However, Sophia ignored him. Instead, she went to wash some veggies in preparation for some cooking, only to have John walk up to her.

“You don’t need to cook. An elderly man dropped by just now to invite us for a meal in his house.

”

Sophia was visibly startled.

“Which elderly man?”

John didn’t know who the man actually was as well, so after

some thought, he said,
“You’ll
know who he
is when he comes.
”

Therefore, Sophia turned to go
to the yard. Soon enough,
somebody came over after a
while to invite
John and her over for a meal. In
fact, the meal wasn’t on the old
man alone, but the whole
village
chipped in to prepare them a
meal as a token of appreciation
for John’s promise to help them
pave their
roads.

The roads had been a physical
hindrance to the village’s
development for generations. If
they were
paved, not only would the kids
be able to go to school without
a problem, but it would also
make it more
convenient for the adults who
wanted to leave the village to
sell their stuff.
In fact, the only meal that the
villagers could afford to serve

was some dishes with chicken and stir-fried pork, which was incomparable to the lavish meals that John was used to having. However, John didn't look down on them. Instead, he smiled as soon as he saw the meal they served.

“Did you raise the chicken and grow the veggies yourselves? It's great that they're 100 percent natural and pollution-free.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 625
Alongside the head of the village and his secretary, a few other families came for the meal as well.

Although they got themselves some alcohol. John turned down their offer to drink, as he might need to be driving later, which managed to stop the villagers from persuading him to drink. Meanwhile, Sophia was shown to her seat, but her stomach was churning as soon as she

smelled the
aroma of the chicken dish.
Considering the occasion, she
decided she should push her
queasiness down
even though all she wanted to
do was throw up.

As soon as everybody had
arrived, the feast began. The
villagers were in a jolly mood
while they chatted,
telling John that they had been
wanting to pave the roads, but
with how poor and how few
people they
had, they never managed to
gather up enough funds to do
that. Going with the flow of the
conversation,
John suggested that the
younger men in the village
should head out in search of
other jobs, as farming
wouldn't sustain them.

Upon hearing what he said, the
people of the older generation
heaved a sigh.

"We wanted to
do things
that way too, but there aren't a
lot of jobs for us around here. If

the young'uns move too far
away, there
won't be anybody left to tend
to the lands since the only ones
left will be the children and old
folks like
us. It would be a waste of time
if we ended up not having any
crops to sustain ourselves, nor
were the
young'uns earning enough
while working away from the
village.
”

What the old man said
reminded Sophia of those times
when she used to help her
grandfather farm
their land, which was tough
work, to say the least. After
giving it some thought, she said,
“Actually, there
is something that I've been
hesitating to tell you. If you'd
like to do so, John and I can
bring a few people
with us when we leave. I know
a manager who needs some
people to work on some
manual labor in a
small company. Other than

their salary, food and accommodation will also be provided to the workers. If anybody is interested to come with us, they can bring their family along.

”

John turned to look at Sophia with a smile.

“Yeah, so you can think about it. Anybody who would like to leave can come with us.

”

When they heard what Sophia and John said, the villagers were keen to go. Not only would they be provided with food and accommodation, they could also bring their family along. Those without an elderly person in the family could just leave the village right away. Sophia heaved a sigh while recalling those times when the villagers helped her out when her grandfather passed away, so she considered the gesture as repayment to their

kindness.

The meal proceeded in an increasingly jolly atmosphere, but before they finished their meal, someone came running in from outside.

“Sophia, you have to hurry! You have a guest at home!”

Another guest? Sophia thought with a frown. It was Buddy who reported the news, but he had a glum look on his face.

“You should go check it out. It’s your father who came.”

Startled, Sophia didn’t grasp the full extent of the situation at first. Despite being tipsy from their drink, the villagers around the table shot up from their seats as soon as they heard that her sorry excuse of a father came back. They reacted even more violently than she did while flocking to her house. Meanwhile, there was already a crowd gathered in front of Sophia’s house. As it wasn’t

harvest season
yet, the villagers weren't as
busy. Sophia and John arrived a
little later, only to see a man
standing in the
yard after squeezing past the
crowd. With his hands behind
him, the man was staring at the
house.

Although Mrs. Hensley had
been cursing at him for a while,
it didn't incite any form of
reaction from him,
as if he had heard nothing.

Walking up to the man, Sophia
asked,

“Who are you looking
for?”

The man turned around to look
at her, but Sophia no longer
remembered what her parents
looked like,
as their presence had long since
faded from her memories.

Therefore, she didn't recognize
the man

before her at all, so she
repeated herself,

“Who are you
looking for?”

After examining her for some

time, the man finally said,
"Sophia, it's me, your father."
"

Mrs. Hensley spat,
"You
shameless b*stard! You never
contacted your daughter
throughout the years, so
why are you back now? Where
were you when she needed you
most?"

Ignoring everybody else, the
man walked up to Sophia, but
John stepped in between them
before the
man could reach her.

"Don't
come any closer."
"

The man stared at John for a
while before saying,
"You must
be my son-in-law. Oh, look at
you! We
never got to meet each other
despite the fact that you've
gotten married such a long time
ago. I am
Sophia's father, and I came to
pay her a visit now that I know
she got married.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 626

Sophia snorted while thinking to herself, You came to me only after I was married, so I know what is

going through your mind. After that, she replied,

“Now that you’ve met me in person, you can leave now.

”

As if unaware of the disdain and impatience within Sophia’s tone, Sophia’s father refused to give in.

“Sophia, I miss you dearly after not seeing you for such a long time.

”

With a chuckle, Sophia shot back,

“Did you contact that woman? She told me almost the same thing as what you are saying. Did you have a discussion with her prior to meeting me?”

There was a pause in her father’s movement before he

went on,

“What are you talking about?”

Meanwhile, Sophia wore a smug look on her face.

“You must already be remarried. Do you already have other children? Judging from how you look, you seem to be doing alright.

”

Her pointed remarks left him feeling humiliated. On the other hand, the tipsy villagers began yelling at him.

“Walter, you are such a prick! Both you and your wife abandoned your father and Sophia! You didn’t even come home when your father passed away, so why are you here now?”

With a pout, Walter said in grief, **“I had my own problems, or else I wouldn’t have left them. I didn’t want to drag them down with my own problems.**

”

However, Sophia took a jab at him loudly.

“Then why is it that you would marry and even have kids with someone else? Aren’t you afraid of dragging your other family down?”

Walter looked at Sophia while trying to explain himself.

“Sophia, I know you blame me for what I did, and I deserve it. I owed you and your grandfather a lot. However, I am still your father. The fact that we are connected by blood persists no matter what happened between us.

”

Smirking, Sophia continued, “We needed someone to perform the rites for the funeral when my grandfather passed away. Since you were nowhere to be found, I was the one who did it. You can ask the other villagers. They will tell you under what circumstances that I, the granddaughter of the

deceased,
can take the place of the eldest
son to perform the rite.

”

Walter knew the rules. If the
eldest son was dead, the
second-eldest son would take
over the role. If the
deceased had no sons, the
daughters would perform the
rituals. Only if all the children of
the deceased
have passed away that the
grandchildren would take on
the role.

Raising her voice so that all of
the others could hear her,
Sophia announced,
“When my
grandfather
passed away, I was the one who
performed the ritual, which
means that ever since you
abandoned me
and Grandpa, you’re dead.
Therefore, I no longer have a
father.

”

Walter took a step forward
toward Sophia.

“Sophia, I know

you're only saying that because of anger—"

However, John blocked his advance before the latter could reach Sophia.

"Stay away from my wife.

"

Although seemingly a little displeased by John's actions, Walter smiled after staring at him for a while.

"My dearest son-in-law, there is a slight misunderstanding between Sophia and I, so allow us to talk things through in the house. We are family after all, so let's not be strangers.

"

Before they could proceed any further, one of the older villagers spoke up.

"Where are you thinking of going to when you don't even have the right to enter the house? We were the ones who helped refurbish the house when one of its walls collapsed during a

storm that year. Both Sophia and your father nearly died in there, but where the f*ck were you? Even if you come back now, you have now right to set foot in the house.
”

Although Walter dared not raise his voice at John, the fact that everybody else was scolding him left him feeling exasperated. Thus, he snapped,

“This is my house, and this is my family, so why are you even sticking your noses into our business? What right do you have to interfere with my family’s matters?”

As soon as he said so, a lot of the people began yelling at him.

“We helped refurbish this house, so why don’t we have a right to voice our opinions? We built the house for your father and Sophia, but not for a twat like you!”

Walter wasn’t sure who to

refute due to the sheer amount of people pointing fingers at him. Meanwhile, Sophia didn't want to see him at all, so she said, "Since you're here to meet me, you can leave now that you've seen me. Thanks to my fellow villagers, I am doing fine."
"

However, Walter had a grim look on his face, as of course, he wasn't there to merely check up on Sophia after having traveled such a long distance to where she was. The Returning Ex Chapter 627 After staring at Sophia for a while, Walter's eyes reddened. "Sophia, are you not willing to forgive me?" With a nod, Sophia replied, "Yeah, I won't forgive you."
"

Her curt reply left Walter speechless. No longer intent on wasting her breath, Sophia dismissed him with a wave of her hand.

**“You
should leave now. I don’t want
to see you.**

**” After that, she
brushed past him to
enter the house.**

**Walter let out a cry while
intending to follow her, only to
be blocked by John.**

**“Please
leave. You’re not
welcome here.**

”

**With a frown on his face,
Walter stared at John, but he
couldn’t muster up the courage
to say anything.**

**However, he did shout at
Sophia from outside the house,**

**“Sophia, I missed you dearly
throughout the
years, so please don’t be angry
at me! I was forced to leave due
to my circumstances!”**

**The villagers merely spat at him
while chiding him.**

**“He’s such a heartless b*stard
for pulling that sh*t on her. If it
wasn’t for him running away
with his wife,
his father wouldn’t have died**

that early on. It's a pity that the old man never got to enjoy his life.

”

“That's so true. Throughout the years, seeing him go through all of the hardships alone was heartbreaking. The sight of the old man and his granddaughter living in a house that had a leaking roof was just... I should stop here. It's making me uncomfortable.

”

While the villagers were all reprimanding Walter, he waited for a while with a pout on his face before turning to leave the yard behind him. John thanked the villagers on Sophia's behalf before following her into the house. Sitting on her bed, Sophia didn't seem all that happy, but neither did she look sad.

He walked up to stand before her.

“It's alright now. He has left.

”

**A cold smirk crossed her face while she questioned,
“Is that
so? I’m willing to bet that he
will be back.
”**

**John said nothing, as he thought so too. Taking a deep breath, Sophia told him,
“My
mom contacted me recently as well, and what she said was almost identical to what that man told me, so my guess is that they had planned for this.
”**

**The fact that a divorced couple managed to come to an agreement meant that they had a common goal.
It wasn’t unlike that time when John and her agreed on what to tell the public. Meanwhile, the only reason that Walter and his wife needed to do so must be because of Sophia. However, they would have never needed to jump through hoops if all they wanted was**

simply to reconcile with her, so
Sophia said
with certainty,
“They must be
after the money.
”

Although she wasn't certain
how aware they were of her
circumstances, they probably
knew who John
was. Sophia wasn't certain if
they knew of John and her
divorce. Regardless of Sophia's
marital status,
they could still take advantage
of Sophia, as the fact that she
married rich meant that she
must have
received a fair amount of
alimony during her divorce.
John could imagine such a
scenario with ease, so he
heaved a sigh before saying,
“You should come
home with me. I will have
someone handle this as soon as
we return.
”

The situation was giving Sophia
a headache, as she was
planning on staying in the

village for some more time. Now that the man had come after her, it meant that she would soon have a lot to deal with. In the meantime, John was staring at Sophia.

“I can’t stay here for too long, but I will be worried if I leave you alone here. Even if I send someone to look after you, I still worry that they might not be doing a good job. Besides, in the occasion that your father ever returns—”

“He is not my father,
” Sophia

shot back rather pointedly.

“Alright, allow me to rephrase that. If Mr. Gwendolyn ever comes back, and if he starts a fight with you, he might very well get aggressive. Judging from his reaction earlier, I don’t think he is a very sensible man.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 628
Sophia didn’t know Walter well,

as she had no memory of him at all. However, the fact that he kept on quibbling despite being reprimanded by the crowd was indication that he might be a somewhat shady character.

Besides, Sophia noticed that a savage look flashed across Walter's face when he was riled up after being reprimanded. If it wasn't for the fact that he was at a disadvantage, he might very well have assaulted her on the spot.

Heaving a sigh, Sophia figured that after spending all those years apart from one another, they never had much of a relationship to begin with. If things went awry between them, Walter might very well assault her, which was a cause for hesitation on Sophia's part. Meanwhile, John crouched down before her slowly.

"Considering the circumstances, I will be worried if I

leave you here alone. Sophia, please come with me. Besides, we will also be able to find jobs for the villagers when we get back. Whoever that wishes to come with us can come. I will take care of everything when we get there, so you have nothing to worry about.

”

Staring at him, Sophia pouted. He reached out to hold her hand.

“Judging from what I saw earlier, I suppose the future will be laden with trouble, so you shouldn’t stay here. The villagers won’t be able to defend you all the time. Mr. Gwendolyn was obviously planning to do this for the long term, which will leave you in a vulnerable position.

”

Sophia recognized what John told her to be true. No matter what he did, he was still legally

her father, so the villagers wouldn't be able to do much to help if he were to bring it to court. Moreover, she was pregnant, so she couldn't possibly butt heads with him. Thus, it only took her a moment before coming to a decision.

"Alright, we will go back."
"

Relief washed over John when he got her reply, because when he came after her, he wasn't sure if he could persuade her to return with him. If she were to insist on staying, he could only leave the village alone. He couldn't possibly extend his stay indefinitely, as his work in the company was piling up while he kept her company. The fact that Walter came after her was in fact an encouraging factor for her to leave. After that, John had Sophia get some rest before leaving the

house. She lay down without question as she wasn't intending on asking about his plans. Aside from that, her stomach was making her feel somewhat uncomfortable, so she tried to soothe herself by taking a few deep breaths. She also realized she was being inconsiderate to the child she was carrying by travelling such a long distance in order to return to her village. nor did she know when he came back. When she woke up, John was already cleaning up the house. As they might not return for a long time, he packed everything that they didn't need, which made the house seem more organized. Sophia stood by the door while watching him pack.

"Is everything settled?"

Turning around to look at her, he smiled.

"It's done. I've

already settled everything regarding the road paving, as well as finding out the people who would want to leave with us. Buddy is one of them, so he will help get the other people. After I get the full name list, I will have Zack book their tickets.
”

Since they were a large group of people with a lot of luggage in tow, they would be travelling by train.

Meanwhile, Sophia heaved a sigh of relief, as it would be better for her to take a train since she was pregnant. John worked efficiently, and with everything soon settled, they began discussing the exact date when everybody would leave.

There would be around eight people coming with them, which shook up the village. A lot of people started coming to Sophia's house to inquire on the job

scope. Not only were the men doing so, but even the women were considering leaving the village to make themselves a living, as staying in such a remote village would amount to nothing. However, Sophia couldn't possibly bring everybody with her; she was but an ordinary human being.

The Returning Ex Chapter 629

All Sophia could do was console the villagers. A few would come with them for this time, and if things went well, they would contact the rest of them to slowly help them venture out into the open world. The village head thanked Sophia while he dropped by. He also told Sophia about the fact that the villagers were all thankful toward John for helping to pave the roads, as well as finding the younger generation a job. It was all thanks to Sophia that the lives of these people were about to change

for the better.

However, Sophia felt guilty, as she did nothing to help, so she didn't think she deserved their gratitude.

In the meantime, Walter caught wind of their impending departure due to the commotion it raised, so he came to Sophia's house once again. He was wearing the same shirt, and though he tried his best to keep up appearances, it didn't take a lot for the others to deduce that he wasn't in fact as well off as he presented himself to be.

When he arrived at the house, the villagers were still in there. Chuckling, he walked up to them.

"Oh, so everyone's here. This looks fun."
"

Although the yard was full of boisterous chatter just moments ago, the villagers stopped talking as soon as they saw him. As if not

noticing the abrupt shift in their countenance, Walter alone was chuckling.

“I heard that Sophia will be leaving the place soon. It has only been a few days, so why the hurry? You don’t get to come home everyday, so why not spend some more time here?”

However, his question was ignored by everyone. All Sophia did was stare at him with a blank expression while standing in the yard.

On the other hand, John didn’t notice what was going on in the yard as he was planning the route they

would take with a few other men in the house. He told them that someone would meet them when they arrived at their destination.

Observing the villagers from where he stood, Walter chuckled before approaching Sophia.

“I was planning on paying my respects

at your grandfather's grave
yesterday, but I couldn't find it.
Sophia, why
don't you bring me there? I miss
him, and after all those years, I
figured he would miss me too.
”

The
manner in which he spoke
sounded almost frivolous,
which expressed neither guilt
nor regret.

With a stern look on her face,
Sophia said,
“You don't have
the right to pay your respects,
as Grandpa
wouldn't want to see you.
Whatever items that you and
your wife left behind, he had
burned them all to
ashes. He told me that you've
both died, which I will take as
the truth, so our ties are
severed.
”

Clicking his tongue, Walter
chided,
“You brat. Why are you
being so unfilial toward me? I
understand

that you hate me, but that's between us. I am your grandfather's son, so he will be angry if you stop us from seeing each other. He must be waiting to see me, Sophia, so stop being so stubborn! This isn't the time to throw a tantrum.
”

Sophia was watching him closely. Although she had no recollection of him whatsoever, she used to imagine what her parents' character might be. She had assumed that adults should be more or less the same when they reached a certain age, despite the way people would have different dispositions. Considering their age, she figured they should be steadfast people with a sense of decorum; even if life was harsh on them, they would at least be honorable people. However, upon coming into contact with Walter, she was disillusioned with the idea, as

Walter was the exact opposite of what she envisioned an adult should look like.

Judging from his flippant attitude, it sure seemed that Walter lacked a sense of dignity.

After pursing her lips, Sophia accused in a stern voice,

“Why would you only realize now that he had been waiting for you?

Where were you throughout the years?”

Walter heaved a sigh before replying,

“Sophia, things aren’t as simple as they seem. We never wanted to

leave, but we owed people some money. I was having it hard, but not only did your grandfather refuse

to help us out, but he blamed us for dragging everybody in the family down with us. With that in mind,

don’t you think he was the one who forced your mother and I to leave?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 630

Sophia was so angry that she couldn't help but laugh. How should my grandfather help them when he himself is dirt poor? How dare this son of a b*tch complain about it now? Lifting her hand, she pointed outside the yard.

**"Get the f*ck out of here."
"**

That was one of the worst things she had ever said to someone else. Even back when she fought with Matilda, she never said something as vicious, but Walter had crossed a line. She had to admit that the man who gave birth to her but never put in any effort in raising her was pure scum.

There was a moment's pause before his countenance shifted drastically. Even though he had been acting the part of a gentleman, he finally lost it after Sophia cursed at him in the face of the other

villagers.

Despite always being a shameless b*stard, the fact that he was being treated with such contempt by his own daughter triggered his fragile ego. With a grim look on his face, he raised his voice all of a sudden.

“Watch your mouth, you b*tch!”

Standing at the side, the other villagers had been irked by his words, but they didn't interfere due to

Sophia's presence. Now that Walter started hurling insults at her, they flocked over to her as they could no longer sit by idly.

“Why are you shouting? How dare you even do that! If she is telling you to get the f*ck out of here, you

do as she says!” a man said.

Spitting at Walter, the villager went on,

“You're such a prick!”

“Yeah, I wonder why did you have the audacity to even come here! If I were you, instead of

living on like
this, I would rather drown
myself in my own piss!”
“Walter, you should leave for
good. You’ve overstayed your
welcome,
” an old man said
languidly while
wearing a look of resignation.
“You had left for such a long
time, so you shouldn’t have
come back at all.
”

In the meantime, the
commotion finally got John’s
attention. He looked out from
the window while in
the house before he came
rushing toward Sophia.
Despite her petite figure,
Sophia had a commandeering
air about her when she stood
upright. With a
stern and aloof expression, she
told Walter,
“Walter
Gwendolyn, I hereby declare
that I will never
acknowledge you nor your
ex-wife as my parents. I don’t
care what your plans are, but

**you will never get
anything from me.
”**

**Begrudgingly, Walter pointed a
finger at Sophia.**

**“I should’ve
strangled you to death when
you were
born, you b*tch! You will
receive your retribution for
doing this to us!”**

**John took a step forward before
grabbing hold of Walter’s finger
that was pointing at Sophia.**

**Without
using much force, he managed
to break the finger. It made a
faint but crisp sound, which was
followed
by Walter’s wails of pain.**

“Argh!

Murder! This is murder!

Somebody help me!”

**Despite the crowd gathered
around him, none stepped in to
help. Instead, they simply stood
aside to**

**watch aloofly. John wore a
morose look on his face while
saying,**

“I chose not to go after

**you as you are
Sophia's biological father, but it
doesn't mean you can do as you
please. Be warned; you should
stay
away from Sophia. If you ever
come close to her, you might
end up losing the rest of your
fingers.
”**

**Grasping onto his broken finger,
Walter hissed in pain while
glaring at John, but he dared
not insult the
latter despite his anger. He
already caught wind of the fact
that John would be funding the
paving of the
roads, and he knew for certain
that an astronomical amount of
money would be required to
pave such a
long road. Other than that, he
also did a background check on
John, only to find that he hailed
from an
exceptionally prestigious
family.
With how rich he was, John
could absolutely get away with
anything, so Walter dared not**

butt heads

with him directly. Thus, he turned to leave after glaring at the people around him. In the end, the

commotion wound up ruining the jolly atmosphere.

The Returning Ex Chapter 631

John told the villagers to go back and get some rest, as well as instructing those who would leave with

him to settle things with their family during the next few days.

After the crowd dispersed,

Sophia finally

relaxed her shoulders.

Upon heaving a sigh, she

noticed that her stomach was a little upset. She quickly

surmised that her

tantrum must've affected her

child, which prompted her to sit down hastily to get some rest.

Meanwhile, John went over to

hold her in his arms before consoling her in a soothing

voice.

"I am here,

so you have nothing to worry

about. Nothing will go wrong.

”

Instead of pushing him away, Sophia squeezed his shirt in her palms while gritting her teeth.

“Why is he like that?” She didn’t understand why someone as lowly as Walter was her father. Furthermore, she was extremely disappointed in him. Her grandfather used to serve in the military, which shaped him into a fair and just man. Even during the harsh times, never once did his morals sway. Also, she never committed any outrageous crimes in the course of her life, so she should count as a good citizen. However, both instances only served to further confuse her as to why her grandfather and her would have someone like Walter as a son and a father respectively. In the meantime, John wasn’t quite sure how to console her, so he could only keep her company while holding her in his arms. After a

while, he carried her into the house. Lying in bed, Sophia curled herself up into a ball, seemingly in low spirits.

John waited until she dozed off before leaving for the yard, where he brooded for a while, then left the house altogether.

There were only dozens of households within the village, and with how small it was, one could see from one end of the village to the other end. Seeing that he broke Walter's finger, he guessed that the latter should either be seeking a doctor outside the village, or have someone check on it within the village.

He wasn't sure if there was a clinic in the village, so he headed toward the entrance to check on the road that would lead outside the village.

Seeing that Walter was nowhere to be seen on the straight road, he checked on the

other roads one by one before finally finding Walter outside a house at the south side of the village. As if having predicted Walter's course of action, the villagers who were outside Sophia's house were now gathered there, so the site was now buzzing with activity.

Jeering, the crowd told Oscar to not treat Walter's wounds as the latter brought it upon himself, and that he should have all of his fingers broken. Meanwhile, Walter seemed to have sprang back to life as he shot insults back at the villagers. Despite being alone, he was so ferocious that he could easily hold himself against a bunch of people in a verbal fight. All the while, old Oscar was plopped on the stool under the window while smoking on his tobacco in silence. Walter seemed to be exhausted after lashing out

non-stop, so he turned to look at Oscar.

“Mr. Wilde, please check on my finger! It’s already numb, so do you think I should bandage it up with some herbs?”

Seemingly unaware of Walter’s predicament, Oscar puffed on his tobacco before saying,

“Ten years ago, we had a poor harvest because of bad weather. Our village didn’t have a lot of crops that we could sell, as we only had enough to sustain ourselves.

However, your father wanted to send little Sophia to school, so he had to go foraging in the mountains to find things that he could sell. Even the storm didn’t deter him, but he fell off a slippery slope and broke his leg. It was way worse than the injury on your finger.

”

Still puffing on his tobacco,

Oscar continued,
“I told him
that he needed to go to the
hospital, as my
herbal medicine wouldn't be of
help. If he wasn't careful about
it, he might end up becoming
disabled.

However, your father didn't
want to pay for the medical bills,
so I wound up having to treat
him for a
month using herbs. Although he
healed, he was left with a limp
ever since then.

”

A few of the villagers were so
riled up upon hearing about it,
so they were starting to lash
out at Walter
again, while the latter clutched
onto his hand in silence. Lifting
his head to glance at Walter,
Oscar made
his decision.

“Your wound is nothing
compared to his, so don't even
come to me for treatment.

Walter, I am not
trying to be cruel, but if I
treated you, I wouldn't be able

to face your father when I see him in the afterlife. Don't expect me to waste my precious herbs on you, you piece of trash.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 632
Standing by the door, John took a deep breath before turning to leave. On the other hand, Walter didn't linger any longer at Oscar's house, as he had to treat his hand before it was too late. Upon realizing that none of the villagers were going to help him, he quickly left the village to head to a nearby clinic. However, he saw someone standing under a tree as soon as he exited the village. After staring at John for a while, Walter walked up to him.

“Why are you here, John?”

Upon being acknowledged, John straightened his posture while examining Walter from head to toe.

After that, he said,

“Your son is

studying in middle school, am I correct?"

Eyes wide, John's statement caught Walter off guard. With a snicker, John continued,

"Despite having left the village for almost twenty years, you never got too far away from here. Because both you and your ex-wife were uncultured, you didn't get anywhere even after spending a year outside, so you had to come back. However, you simply didn't return to your old home, right?"

Seeing that Walter pouted without retorting, John went on to say,

"Two years later, you filed for a divorce, and from what I gather, it was because you had an affair with another woman.

" Upon noticing the sullen expression on Walter's face, John smiled.

"Should I go on? Walter Gwendolyn, I know all about

you, including your home address, details about your wife, as well as where your precious son is studying.

”

Walter stared at John in shock.

“H-How’d you know about these?”

A smile tugged on John’s lips.

“I

will get to know whatever I want to know. I even gathered info on your creditors, as well as where they live, so I can contact them anytime I want to. Walter Gwendolyn, after spending almost twenty years hiding from them, what do you think they will do if they catch wind of the fact that you had always been in the area, hiding in plain sight?”

Walter’s face blanched.

“You can’t do that to me! I am your father-in-law, and Sophia’s father!”

Clicking his tongue, John

**despised the manner in which
Walter behaved.**

**“If you
weren’t her father, you
wouldn’t have gotten away
with only a broken finger.**

”

**Turning his back to Walter, John
added,**

**“I will
give you one chance. If you
promise to never disturb Sophia
ever again, I will turn a blind
eye to what
you did. However, if you decide
to show yourself once more, I
will make sure that everybody
knows of
your past deeds, so you won’t
be able to settle down no
matter where you go.**

”

**Walter stared at John’s back for
a long time before taking a
deep breath. Even if Walter said
nothing,
John knew what he would do.
Therefore, he turned to walk
back into the village.**

**“Remember, you should
never show your face in front of**

Sophia ever again. You'd better stay away from her from now on.
”

Standing at the entrance of the village, Walter spat before cursing under his breath as soon as John's figure vanished from his sight. He assumed that Sophia's marriage with a rich guy could help elevate his status, but he never knew that her husband was petty enough to blackmail him. After some time, he retrieved his phone to make a call. It connected almost instantly, but the voice over the line sounded rather impatient.

“Why are you calling?”

Walter was also feeling impatient.

“I would never call you without reason. Listen up; I have my hands tied regarding matters with Sophia, so I will be dropping out. The rest is up to you, and you

can do as you wish. By the way, I will never contact you ever again.

”

“You’re dropping out? What’s wrong? Was Sophia holding a grudge against you?”

Unbeknownst to his ex-wife, it was much more serious than that, so Walter replied,

“Stop asking! I only made the call to report back to you. That will be all, and I will no longer have a hand in this.

”

With that, Walter hung up before leaving the village while cursing under his breath.

In the meantime, Matilda bumped into Zack when she got to the Constance Group’s office building, whom she quickly called out to.

“Zack, hold on!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 633
Zack was on his way to get the car, but he stopped as soon as he heard someone calling out to him.

Startled by Matilda's presence,
he said,
"Oh, it's you. What's
the matter? Are you in need of
something?"

With a smile on her face,
Matilda asked,
"Is John not in
the company? He didn't pick up
my calls during
these past two days, nor did I
see him after waiting here for
such a long time."
"

Zack let out a grunt before
replying,
"My boss had left for a
few days, so he hasn't been in
the company. I
think he has a weak signal over
where he was, which was why
he didn't pick up your calls."
"

With a frown, Matilda asked,
"He went out? Is he on
outstation? Where did he go?
Why would he go
somewhere with a weak
signal?"

Knowing that Matilda disliked
Sophia, Zack wasn't sure if he

should be telling the truth. He wondered if she would be angry if he told Matilda that John went to find Sophia. After some hesitation, Zack told her, "I don't really know where my boss went, as he is on a private errand and not a business trip. Since it's not a business trip, he didn't tell me about it, nor did I ask."
"

Shocked, Matilda stared at Zack. "A private errand? What kind of private errand?" Zack let out a dry chuckle before replying, "That I don't know."
"

With a nod, Matilda said, "Alright, you can leave now. I will try to give him another call."
"

After nodding to bid her goodbye, Zack left. However, instead of calling John, she hailed a cab to go to Sophia's shop after giving the

situation some thought. Robin was the only one in there, so Matilda entered the shop upon seeing that there weren't a lot of customers. Out of reflex, Robin welcomed her, but she was soon startled to see that the person who walked in was none other than Matilda.

"Madam, I didn't realize it's you."
"

Scanning her surroundings, Matilda asked, "Where's Sophia? Why is she not here?"

After some thought, Robin replied, "She has something else to do recently, so she won't be here for a few days."
"

Matilda looked at Robin from the corner of her eyes; it was an unconscious act of disdain.

"Did she tell you what she's up to, or why she needed a few days off?"

Thinking back on the situation,
Robin told her,
“No, she told me
nothing, but it has been a few
days since
she last dropped by. She is my
boss after all, so I can’t just ask
her anything even if she goes
missing for a
few days.
”

It wasn’t until a while later that
Matilda asked,
“Did you call her?
Did you ask where she went?”
Robin shook her head before
saying,
“Nope. I don’t think it’s
my place to ask since I am her
employee.
”

Matilda seemed a little
displeased by the fact that she
wasted her time to uncover
nothing. After some
thought, she turned to leave
the shop. Robin, on the other
hand, gave Sophia a text. She
then put her
phone down while heaving a
sigh.

As soon as Matilda left the shop, she received a call from Isabelle, who asked in a sweet voice, “Mrs.

Constance, do you have some time to spare?”

Matilda replied in the affirmative, so Isabelle told Matilda she would like to buy her a meal since it had been some time since they last saw each other. Grasping her phone, Matilda agreed to her proposition.

They agreed on a meeting place, then Matilda hailed a cab after covering some distance on foot.

Isabelle was already checking on the menu in a private room when she arrived. With a chuckle, Isabelle asked,

“Mrs. Constance, what would you like to eat?”

However, Matilda dismissed her question with a wave of her hand.

“Anything’s fine. You can order anything you like.”

Thus, Isabelle continued to check the menu without giving it much thought. Meanwhile, Matilda spent some time staring at Isabelle before averting her gaze, whereas the latter passed the menu to the waiter after ordering a few dishes. It wasn't until the waiter left that Matilda heaved a loud sigh, which seemed to startle Isabelle.

“What’s wrong, Mrs. Constance? You seem troubled.”

Matilda agreed to her statement before saying, “I was trying to contact John, but yet again, he hasn’t been picking up.”

Startled, Isabelle asked, “What’s going on? Did you two quarrel?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 634
Upon heaving a sigh, Matilda explained,
“Why else would we

quarrel other than because of Sophia? I

complained about Sophia since I don't like her, which made John unhappy, so he began ignoring me.

Before I realized it, it had been a few days since we last spoke.

”

Pursing her lips, Isabelle was at a loss as to what to say, while Matilda clicked her tongue.

“Sophia must've cast some sort of spell on him to mesmerize John so much so that he would abandon me.

”

Still, Isabelle didn't reply to that, so Matilda waved her hand while concluding,

“Fine, it's getting on my nerves, so I won't talk about that anymore. I bet that cheeky brat blacklisted me since he didn't pick up my calls at all. He sure is being smug.

”

Isabelle chuckled amicably

**before saying,
“I’m sure the
situation will improve after a
few days.
”**

**With a nod, Matilda replied,
“I
sure hope so.
”**

**Isabelle hadn’t been keeping in
touch with John during the past
few days, as she was busy with
work in
her company. However, the
other reason she did so was
because her father told her to
cut some slack,
as she shouldn’t be the one
taking the initiative everytime.
Be it in work or life, she would
be putting
herself in a disadvantage if she
was always the one who took
the initiative. Isabelle found the
advice
relevant after some thought, so
she decided to wean herself off
him for a few days.
Since she hadn’t been
contacting John during the past
few days, she didn’t know what**

he had been doing. She thought that she might be able to get some intel from Matilda, which was why she called the latter out, but it sure seemed like it was a waste of time. After that, Matilda ceased talking about John, so the topic of conversation revolved around her own life as of recently. However, Isabelle wasn't that much interested in that, so she merely went along with everything Matilda said without much zest.

Matilda sipped on her juice, all the while checking Isabelle out with a smile on her face.

It was Matilda who paid for the bills after their meal, but Isabelle quickly said,
"Mrs.

Constance, I said I will be paying for this."
"

Smiling, Matilda replied,
"It's alright. It's just a meal, so don't sweat it."

”

They still had some time to spare after their meal, and as per their custom, Matilda would drag Isabelle on a shopping spree. However, Isabelle wasn't in the mood to do so, so she was trying to come up with an appropriate reason to turn Matilda down, only to have the latter speak up before she could.

“I will be leaving first since I am a little tired. Now that my age is catching up to me, my body needs more rest, so I won't go shopping today.

”

Relief washed over Isabelle while she replied, “Alright, Mrs. Constance. It's getting late, and some rest will be good for you, so let's meet up again some other time.

”

Matilda nodded before hailing herself a cab. Without even looking at Isabelle, she gave the

driver her address as soon as she got into one, and the driver drove off swiftly.

However, Isabelle didn't seem to care, while the smile on her face faded after the cab disappeared from sight.

He blacklisted his own mother because she spoke ill of Sophia?

John sure was mesmerized by Sophia. But

to be frank, Matilda is also such a fool for never learning to speak less candidly. Despite her age, she was

still blacklisted by her own son.

I wonder if she feels ashamed at all, Isabelle wondered.

Meanwhile, Matilda averted her gaze after Isabelle's figure disappeared from the rearview mirror.

Holding onto her bag, she began spacing out in the cab, which was on its way to the Flintstone

Residence. Upon getting out of the car, she entered the mansion without pause.

Natasha was watching TV in the living room, and she was taken aback by Matilda's arrival.

"What's going on? You don't look all that good.

"

Walking up to her, Matilda plopped herself onto the sofa.

"I'm feeling a little down, so I decided to drop by.

"

Natasha chuckled before asking, "Did you fight with William again?"

"That's not it," Matilda said.

"It's just that after thinking about it, I think I am never good at reading people.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 635
Matilda seemed a little conflicted.

"At least that's how I've been feeling recently, so I'm not totally sure myself.

”

Arching her brow, Natasha commented,
“It’s not everyday
that you would self-reflect.
You’re finally
improving.

”

On the other end, after Zack booked the tickets, John was almost done with packing. He still had a lot of food in the trunk of his car, which, much to the kids’ delight, Sophia gave to Mrs. Hensley. Although Mrs. Hensley would like Sophia to stay for a little longer, she knew Sophia’s departure was for the best, or else Walter would keep on pestering her. Standing outside with their luggage, the villagers who would be leaving with John had finished packing as well. John couldn’t possibly fit everyone and everything into the car, so the villagers left on a tractor, while John and Sophia returned

the rented car. After meeting up with the villagers, they hailed a few cabs to bring everyone to the train station.

The sight of a bunch of people tagging along was enough to give Sophia a headache, but John seemed to have done a good job at managing everything, as their journey went smoothly. They had to make a transfer halfway through their journey, but it wasn't as tiring as they had arranged for a reasonable schedule.

When they got off at their final destination, Zack was already waiting at the train station. The villagers were a little overwhelmed upon their arrival at a brand new location. After hailing a few cabs, Zack brought the people to the warehouse.

Due to how huge it was, they needed a lot of workers in the warehouse, so the villagers

were quickly assigned to their positions upon arrival. As Sophia only ever told them that she was acquainted with one of the managers, the villagers didn't think much of it, seemingly satisfied as long as they had a job.

The only thing Sophia was worried of was that they might be dissatisfied with the job they were offered once they knew the company belonged to the Constances, and would ask for an easier job that paid better. After all, human greed and desires were insatiable. After the villagers left, Zack drove both John and Sophia to her house. Throughout the journey, Sophia had been feeling groggy and nauseous. However, she tried her best to push down the queasiness and cover up for herself, which took a toll on her. Now that she was in a car, she could no longer hold back

the nausea, so she said,
“Zack,
can you drive slower? I feel like
vomiting, so please open the
windows. I
think I might have motion
sickness.
”

None of the men thought much
of it. While Zack slowed down
and opened the car windows,
John patted
her on the back to help soothe
her until Zack managed to stop
the car a moment later. As soon
as he did
so, Sophia got off the car before
retching by the road, but
nothing came out.

John got off the car as well to
hand her a bottle of water that
she used to rinse her mouth.

“Since when
did you have motion sickness? I
recall that it never happened to
you.
”

After taking a deep breath, she
replied,

“I suppose I’m just
exhausted. My head hurts, and

**my stomach is
churning. It must be due to
motion sickness.**

”

**With a nod, John said,
“Go get
some rest. Although you had
been lying down throughout
our journey, it
seemed that it still took a toll
on you.**

”

**Standing up, Sophia caressed
her belly before entering the
house, while Zack helped carry
her luggage.**

**Without even checking on the
two men, she entered her
bedroom, her head still hurting
from the bumpy
train ride. After lying down on
the bed for some time, she gave
Robin a text, as the latter had
informed
her that Matilda dropped by to
inquire about her.**

**Sophia thought it was funny
that Matilda would spend so
much time chasing after her
arse both before
and after her divorce with John.**

By being overly focused on someone whom she didn't like, Matilda was basically setting herself up for an unpleasant experience. After sending the text, Sophia took a nap.

When she woke up again, she could hear someone chatting downstairs.

The Returning Ex Chapter 636

Getting out of bed, Sophia glanced down from the stairwell on the second floor, only to see that there were quite a few people downstairs. Aside from John and Zack, both Logan and Fabian were present.

She wasn't sure what they were conversing about, but Logan seemed to be confused by it.

"You're making it so complicated that I could hardly understand! I only need you to tell me what to do! My head is hurting from all the analysis you did!"

It had been a while since she last saw Logan, so she missed

him quite dearly. With a smile
on her face,
she called out to him,
“Logan!”

Lifting his head, Logan cried out
in joy as soon as he saw her,
and he was soon hopping up
the stairs.

“Sophia, I miss you a lot!”

Upon seeing that Logan was
giving her a hug, the expression
on John’s face soured. Zack
approached him
to tease him quietly,

“Look at
them; he’s hugging her like it’s
no big deal! Young Master
Jefferson sure
knows how to take advantage
of a situation.

”

Glancing at Zack with contempt,
John chided,

“Stop being a
busybody. Do you understand
what I was
talking about?”

Zack nodded instantly.

“Yeah,
of course I understand.

”

Meanwhile, Fabian spoke up at the appropriate moment.

“But are you sure that there are a lot of herbs in the mountains?”

Recalling the situation, John replied,

“I did check out the area, and there were some in the nearby mountains. However, I do need someone to do a more detailed assessment. If things are to proceed as expected, those are all resources that we can make use of.

”

Fabian gave a grunt in response before replying,

“If that is true, I agree with your plan.

”

After some thought, John added,

“Alright, so those will be our plans for now. We will talk about it again when the assessment is done.

”

On the other hand, Sophia

came downstairs with a cheerful look alongside Logan.

“It’s not everyday that I see all of you here.

”

Fabian told her,

“I did drop by a few times before today, but you were never in. It wasn’t until I contacted Zack that I knew you will be home today. You didn’t even leave me a message when you left, so it’s all your fault that I had to leave empty-handed multiple times!”

In the meantime, Sophia walked over to them before sitting down on one end of the sofa.

“I was in a hurry, so I didn’t manage to inform anyone.

”

Upon checking her out, Fabian said,

“You don’t seem all that good. My grandmother had been complaining that you have been shunning us since you never

came to visit us.

”

Sophia was a little uneasy at the mention of Kate Blackwell, as she was being overly nice to Sophia, which seemed odd to the latter. She doubted that a mere tarot card could predict that she was a lucky star to the Blackwells. If the cards somehow foretold that she was their nemesis instead, Kate would probably have to find all sorts of ways to get rid of her to put her own mind at peace.

Fabian smiled while looking at Sophia.

“My grandmother can be quite stubborn. Some time ago, the Blackwells were stuck in a bad situation, and her health was also declining. It made her sink into depression, which was why she opted to get herself a reading in the first place.

The fortune teller foretold a fated meeting with an

important person that would help solve the Blackwell Family's troubles.

”

Truth be told, Fabian assumed that the fortune teller said so merely to soothe his grandmother's nerves, and it was a pure coincidence that Sophia managed to set herself apart during his grandmother's birthday banquet.

After that, the Blackwells managed to free themselves from the predicament as well in a similar period of time, which was why his grandmother was utterly convinced that the fortune teller told the truth.

From Kate's point of view, Sophia was the Blackwell Family's lucky star, so they had to treat her with respect. However, Sophia could only sigh in resignation upon recalling the full story.

“I

suppose something like that is nothing

but a pure coincidence.

”

Letting out a sigh, Fabian told her,

“To her, everything happens for a reason, and there’s no such thing as a coincidence.

”

Sophia smacked her lips before telling him,

“The thing is that I’m just a little afraid since she was being so enthusiastic and overly kind toward me.

”

Upon laying eyes on Sophia, John was reminded of Walter. He couldn’t help but worry that Walter might spring into action as soon as he caught wind of news that Sophia had established connections with a family as prestigious as the Blackwells.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 637
John couldn’t help but wonder how scum like Walter managed to give birth to someone like**

Sophia.

Upon averting his gaze, John's thoughts began to wander.

After spending some time lounging about in Sophia's house, the few of them were ready to leave. By

then, John told Sophia to get a fresh change of clothes as he wanted to take her out to a meal.

Sophia nodded in agreement as she was hungry. Both the journey and the food she ate on the train left

her feeling sick. Leaving to change her clothes, Sophia went upstairs, while John followed suit after waiting where he stood for a few moments.

Meanwhile, Fabian snorted while remaining in the living room.

"Just look at him. I've never seen such an expression on his face before this. Even though Sophia won't be going anywhere, he just seemed so anxious.

”

Heaving a sigh, Zack said,
“I just
don’t understand why he was
so intent on divorcing her back
then, but I
suppose he is now reaping what
he sowed. I wonder how he
feels about it.

” Truth be told,
none of them
knew why John divorced Sophia
in the first place. They always
kept their married life private,
so nobody
expected the sudden divorce.
Meanwhile, John entered the
room just when Sophia was
putting on her shirt, but he only
managed to
catch a glimpse of her waist
before it was covered by her
clothes again. Sophia quickly
tidied her clothes,
but she did so in silence as
there were people downstairs.
Visibly upset, she chided,
“John,
don’t you
ever knock before you enter
someone else’s room? I don’t

like what you're doing.

”

Letting out a grunt, John went along with it.

“I know I made a mistake, so I will make sure to not repeat it.

”

Sophia combed her hair while asking,

“Why are you here anyway? I'm only changing my clothes, so it won't take long.

”

John replied,

“You left your phone with me when you were sleeping, and I got a call from someone who claims to be your mother.

”

There was a pause in her movements before she demanded with a sullen look on her face,

“Don't you ever pick up calls on my phone again.

”

John heaved a sigh before saying,
“Sophia, I can help you out if you have any problems. You don’t have to draw a line between us.”

However, Sophia wasn’t in the mood for such a conversation. “Alright, let’s go downstairs. I’m famished.”

After saying so, she brushed past him to leave the room before heading downstairs, while John followed behind her. He assumed that things between them would take a turn for the better after his trip to her village, but now, it seemed that they were back to square one. There was still a long distance between Sophia and himself. While walking ahead of him, Sophia pursed her lips, but a faint smile soon took its place. The few of them went out for a meal, during which Logan and Fabian took up the seats beside

Sophia.

Logan wasn't the best when it came to reading other people's moods, so he didn't notice that John was in fact sulking. On Sophia's other side, though Fabian did notice that, he didn't really care, so he was still acting friendly toward Sophia. Meanwhile, Sophia didn't even spare John a glance as she was truly famished. All she did was stare at the waiter while waiting for their meal to be served. As they had quite a lot of people, they ordered a lot of dishes. Sophia gulped as soon as they were served.

"I don't think I can hold myself back any longer. I'll start first!"

Fabian wore a smile while he said,

"Go on. You don't have to be so courteous since we all know each other.

"

Smiling, Sophia dug in, but her smile froze after taking a few bites. While she wished she could suppress the bile that was traveling up into her mouth, it came too suddenly for her to be able to do so. Thus, she hastily put her chopsticks down, but she didn't have enough time to get to the toilet, so she could only rush toward the entrance before she started retching by the roadside. Same as before, nothing came out, but she retched so hard that her limbs were feeling weak.

The Returning Ex Chapter 637
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none of them
knew why John divorced Sophia
in the first place. They always
kept their married life private,
so nobody
expected the sudden divorce.
Meanwhile, John entered the
room just when Sophia was
putting on her shirt, but he only
managed to
catch a glimpse of her waist
before it was covered by her
clothes again. Sophia quickly
tidied her clothes,
but she did so in silence as
there were people downstairs.
Visibly upset, she chided,
“John,
don’t you
ever knock before you enter
someone else’s room? I don’t
like what you’re doing.
”

Letting out a grunt, John went
along with it.

“I know I made a
mistake, so I will make sure to
not repeat
it.

”

Sophia combed her hair while asking,
“Why are you here anyway? I’m only changing my clothes, so it won’t take long.

”

John replied,
“You left your phone with me when you were sleeping, and I got a call from someone who claims to be your mother.

”

There was a pause in her movements before she demanded with a sullen look on her face,
“Don’t you ever pick up calls on my phone again.

”

John heaved a sigh before saying,
“Sophia, I can help you out if you have any problems. You don’t have to draw a line between us.

”

However, Sophia wasn’t in the

mood for such a conversation.

“Alright, let’s go downstairs. I’m famished.

”

After saying so, she brushed past him to leave the room before heading downstairs, while John followed behind her. He assumed that things between them would take a turn for the better after his trip to her village, but now, it seemed that they were back to square one. There was still a long distance between Sophia and himself.

While walking ahead of him, Sophia pursed her lips, but a faint smile soon took its place. The few of them went out for a meal, during which Logan and Fabian took up the seats beside Sophia.

Logan wasn’t the best when it came to reading other people’s moods, so he didn’t notice that John was in fact sulking. On Sophia’s other side, though Fabian did notice that, he didn’t really care,

so he was still acting friendly toward Sophia. Meanwhile, Sophia didn't even spare John a glance as she was truly famished. All she did was stare at the waiter while waiting for their meal to be served.

As they had quite a lot of people, they ordered a lot of dishes. Sophia gulped as soon as they were served.

"I don't think I can hold myself back any longer. I'll start first!"

Fabian wore a smile while he said,

"Go on. You don't have to be so courteous since we all know each other.

"

Smiling, Sophia dug in, but her smile froze after taking a few bites. While she wished she could suppress the bile that was traveling up into her mouth, it came too suddenly for her to be able to do so. Thus, she

hastily put her chopsticks down, but she didn't have enough time to get to the toilet, so she could only rush toward the entrance before she started retching by the roadside. Same as before, nothing came out, but she retched so hard that her limbs were feeling weak.

The Returning Ex Chapter 638

John came out from the restaurant to crouch beside her before starting to pat her on the back in an attempt to soothe her.

"Is your stomach acting up again? Is it because of the food you ate while on the train?"

While on their journey back home, Sophia didn't eat a lot, so John figured there might be some problems with her stomach. After taking a few deep breaths, Sophia told him,

"It might be a relapse of gastritis as I

hadn't been eating on time.

”

Heaving a sigh, John helped her up.

“You should drink some hot water to help warm your stomach. After the meal, you will have to take some medicine.

”

Meanwhile, Fabian was leaning back in his chair while turning to observe Sophia. There was a smirk on

his face, and there was a shrewd look in his eyes. Zack smacked his lips before lamenting,

“This recent trip was such a hassle! Back when we were in the car, Sophia was also retching as she was suffering from motion sickness.

”

Logan gave some thought to the situation before commenting,

“I

couldn't exactly remember what the trip was about, but I remember

going on a trip by train when I was a kid. It swayed so much that I nearly puked. I never suffered from motion sickness, but that journey on the train was exceptionally uncomfortable.

”

These few men were somewhat lacking in experience of such matters, so they assumed that Sophia was indeed suffering from motion sickness.

Meanwhile, Fabian wore a smile while saying,

“You guys...

Ah well, let’s just eat.

” He had

something to

say, but he decided against speaking up as he deemed the timing somewhat inappropriate.

Upon Sophia’s return, John had the waiter serve her some warm water, which seemed to have a soothing effect after she drank it. Glancing at her, Fabian said,

**“Pick out and eat whatever
your stomach
can take. I understand that this
can be frustrating.**

”

**Sophia looked him in the eye,
but all he did was smile despite
the knowing look in his eyes,
which
prompted her to avert her gaze
without replying to him. She
managed to ingest some food,
as she
couldn't possibly go without
eating at all, but she still felt
nauseous upon consuming the
food. After a
while, Fabian asked for some
fruits to be served, which he
pushed toward Sophia.**

**“Here
you go. Eating
some fruits might help you
regain your appetite.**

”

**John glanced at Fabian in
suspicion, but he chose to say
nothing, whereas Sophia
thanked the latter
before nibbling on the fruits.
After their meal, Sophia was**

planning to go check out her shop, whereas the rest of them also had things that they needed to do.

Fabian looked at Sophia before telling her,

“Since I will be passing by your shop, please let me send you there.

”

Upon hearing what Fabian said, John’s brows were creased together. Sophia agreed to it after staring at Fabian for a few moments.

When John was inhaling deeply to calm himself, Zack snuck up to him.

“Mr.

Blackwell did say he only regarded Sophia as a younger sister, so don’t get all jealous over nothing.

”

With a glare from John, Zack shut up, while Sophia got onto Fabian’s car after bidding them goodbye. As soon as the engine was started, Fabian asked,

“How long has it been?”

Sophia yelled in surprise before turning to look at him.

“What do you mean?”

Heaving a sigh, Fabian rephrased his question.

“I mean your baby. How long has it been since you’re pregnant?”

Sophia wore a serious expression, but she didn’t deny his claim.

“How did you know?”

There was a complicated look on Fabian’s face.

“A friend of mine had similar symptoms during the initial months of her pregnancy, so I knew you’re pregnant as soon as I saw how you behaved.

”

Sophia leaned back in her seat before answering,

“Just over a month.

”

“Is it John’s?” Fabian asked.

There was a look of resignation on her face while she answered, "I never had sex with anyone else but him.

" However, the conception itself was peculiar to say the least, as she always made sure either to take contraceptive pills, or they would have sex on her safe day. After a while, Fabian stated, "From how it seems, I'm guessing you aren't planning to tell John about the pregnancy."
"

Sure enough, that was her plan, as her relationship with John was rather delicate. Seeing that he had feelings for her, John would definitely want to remarry her if he knew she was pregnant with his child.

The Returning Ex Chapter 639
However, Sophia had had enough of the Constances. Although Belinda was nice to her, memories of the awful year she spent in the

Constance Residence was unbearable. It was the major reason that she didn't want to remarry John, as she didn't want to go through that kind of life ever again.

Besides, neither did she want the presence of a child to be a dictating factor to their marriage. Staring at Fabian, she asked,

"Now that you know the truth, will you be tipping John off?"

With a smile, Fabian told her,

**"I don't think I should be meddling in you and John's business, so you should make your own choices. I won't be tattling to anybody."
"**

Sophia was feeling reassured by his promise.

However, he added,

"Pregnancy will be happening across a long time, so you won't be able to keep this a secret when your belly gets

bigger and bigger in the later stages.

”

Sophia had a similar concern, which was why she returned to her village to pay her respects to her late grandfather in the first place, as she figured she could use it as an opportunity to settle down there.

However, not only did John find her, but Walter went after her as well, which meant that the village was no longer a safe haven for her. Upon noticing Sophia’s silence, Fabian chuckled.

“It’s okay.

Let’s just go with the flow. Who knows; you might change your mind in a few days and end up sharing your good news with John, so let’s leave it as it is for now.

”

With her lips pulled into a thin line, Sophia said nothing. When they reached Sophia’s shop, Fabian

parked the car in front of the door. As soon as she got out of the car, she could see Robin and one more

person in the shop. After bidding Fabian goodbye, she entered the shop.

Robin stood behind the counter, whereas a man was standing in front of it. Upon laying eyes on him,

Sophia recognized him as the man in the photo that Robin showed her. It seemed that they kept in touch after their blind date, which meant that both of them agreed to give the relationship a go.

When she saw Sophia coming into the shop, Robin was startled, but she quickly greeted her with a smile.

“Sophia, I didn’t know you’re back!”

Sophia chuckled before replying, “I came back today, so I decided to come visit.

” Feigning ignorance,

Sophia went on to ask,

**“I
suppose he is your friend?”
To that question, Robin said,
“Oh, yeah, he is my friend. He
decided to have a look since he
was passing
by.
”**

**Sophia nodded to the man as a
greeting. However, he seemed a
bit shy, as he excused himself
soon
after. It wasn't until the man
was far away from them that
Sophia turned her attention to
Robin.**

**“So
does this mean you've decided
to start a relationship with
him?”**

**Robin nodded after giving it
some thought.**

**“Yeah, I plan on
dating him, since he seems like
a nice guy.**

**Although he isn't the most
handsome man on earth,
neither am I much better than
him, so I figured I
shouldn't be overly demanding.
Therefore, I decided to check on**

our compatibility by dating him first.

”

Letting out a grunt, Sophia leaned against the counter while observing Robin.

“To be honest, I used to assume that you have someone you like, so I never expected you to go on a blind date.

”

Upon hearing what Sophia said, Robin’s expression grew a little awkward. While she did have someone she liked, her love was unrequited. Not only did she get the wrong idea about the man, but she nearly became a third-wheel in a relationship.

Those recollections left Robin feeling slightly dejected while she explained,

“I used to think so as well, but upon more self-reflection, I suppose what I fell for were his assets instead of his person. He was

handsome, but aside from that, I didn't know much about him, which showed how shallow my feelings

were.

”

Lowering her gaze, Robin continued,

“Besides, he didn't like me, so my love for him only left me feeling hurt. If I can't be happy while in love, I don't think I should be carrying on with the relationship.

”

Sophia cast her a glance before heaving a sigh.

“So you were hurt in the past.

”

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Shaking her head, Robin said,

“He didn't hurt me! In fact, nobody did! Even if I was hurt, it was because I forced myself into a corner by overthinking.

” Robin was smiling after having said that.

“Alright, let's

switch the topic. What do you think about the man just now?"

Sophia only saw the man for such a short time, so she couldn't possibly know anything about him.

Therefore, she could only nod while replying to Robin,

"He seems fine at first glance, but your impression of him might change after you spend more time with him."
"

Heaving a sigh, Robin said, "We'll start slow, then. I really wish that I can have someone by my side, so I sure envy you."
"

Sophia was left feeling a little defeated while leaning over on the countertop.

"Don't you ever feel envious of me, as I have enough on my plate as it is, and it's giving me a headache."

" Upon saying that, Sophia recalled something else.

“You sent me a message last time telling me that John’s mom came looking for me. Do you know what she is up to?”

Shaking her head, Robin replied, “I don’t know, as she didn’t explicitly state her purpose. However, she was wearing a morose expression when she came, which seemed to me a little frightening. She asked where you went, but I told her I don’t know.

”

Robin’s reply left Sophia feeling confused as to what Matilda was trying to do. She couldn’t possibly miss being scolded by me after not having seen me for a few days, could she?

That afternoon, Sophia stayed in the shop. As she didn’t have much to eat during lunch, she had some snacks during the afternoon. When there were no customers, Robin would sit down on a chair with her

face cupped in her hands while recounting the man's habits. Judging from what she said, the man had been dropping by whenever he could to spend time with Robin. Sophia listened on with a smile while observing Robin fawn over the man like a schoolgirl in love.

Although she insisted she was seeing him out of fear of loneliness, the inconcealable smile on her face said otherwise. After all, it was easy for a woman like her to step into a relationship.

As long as someone was willing to treat her nicely as well as make her happy, she would easily fall for him head-over-heels. In fact, Sophia was a little envious of Robin. She wondered if things would be different if John and her had spent time knowing each other before their marriage.

Sophia stayed until evening, while Matilda dropped by before it was time to get off

work. As soon as she saw Sophia from the window, Matilda seemed to realize something. Seeing that both John and Sophia returned on the same day, she figured that both of them must've left for somewhere together.

Meanwhile, Sophia arched a brow upon laying eyes on Matilda. It wasn't long before Matilda entered the shop to sit down before Sophia.

"You left for somewhere with John, didn't you?"

Sophia took a sip out of her milk.

"Nope."
"

"No?" Matilda didn't seem to believe her.

"Both of you left and returned at the same time, so how could that not be the case?"

With slight dismay, Sophia replied,

"We didn't leave

together, as John was the one who came after me. I left first, while he came after me later on. I can do nothing about what he makes of his own life, so don't you dare accuse me of seducing him.

”

After staring at Sophia for some time, Matilda questioned, “Why are you not serving me any drinks even though I have been sitting here for a while? Is this how you treat your customers?”

What she said startled both Sophia and Robin. They wore a similar look of confusion as neither knew what Matilda was up to. Meanwhile, the latter was waiting stubbornly with her arms crossed. With a glance, Sophia signaled for Robin to make Matilda a cup of coffee. It wasn't until then that Matilda asked, “Where have you been?”

**After mulling over her situation,
Sophia told her the truth.**

**“I
went back to my hometown to
pay my
grandfather my respects.
”**

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**There was a moment's pause
before Matilda went on,
“Hasn't that time of the year
already passed?”**

**Sophia furrowed her brows
together.**

**“Yeah, it has passed.
”**

**In the meantime, Matilda
seemed to have calmed down a
little.**

**“The Constances had
wanted to send
someone over when your
grandfather passed away.
However, we were caught off
guard by a lot of other
things, as not only did your
grandfather pass away, but
John's grandfather was also
hospitalized. During
that period, his grandfather had
been spending time in and out**

of the emergency department
as his
health was declining.
”

Sophia cast her a glance before
saying,
“I know, so I don’t
blame anybody.
”

Exhaling, Matilda told her,
“In
fact, John wanted to go to your
village back then.

” Instead of
looking at
Sophia, Matilda turned to look
out into the streets. Never once
did she converse with Sophia so
calmly.

“He was planning on paying you
a visit when his grandfather got
better, but it kept dragging on
without
stabilizing. Due to the amount
of time it would cost to go to
your place, John might miss out
on seeing
his grandfather in case his
grandfather didn’t make it, so
we ended up putting the plan
aside.

”

They ended up putting it off until now after that initial delay. Sophia kept her silence, nor did she know what to say. Meanwhile, Matilda exhaled before turning to look at Sophia.

“I recall that you no longer have any relatives over there.”

There was a moment's pause before she said, “No, they're all dead.”

With a nod, Matilda said nothing, whereas Robin stared at both of them in shock. During her past visits, although Matilda never initiated physical conflict, she was always arrogant and spoke in an accusatory tone. Never once did they engage each other in peaceful conversation. After a few moments, Sophia looked toward Matilda. “Did

**you come to me because you
need
something?”**

“Not really.

**” Matilda had a
stern look on her face.**

**“I merely
want to know where you’ve
been.
”**

**Chuckling, Sophia leaned
against her chair.**

**“What are
you going to do with the
information? Will you tell
Isabelle?” She smacked her lips.**

**“However, even if you do tell
her, it would do nothing but
upset her.
”**

**Matilda’s expression soured,
but it wasn’t because of what
Sophia told her. Instead, she
was starting to
feel a little disappointed in
Isabelle. When they last met,
Matilda probed Isabelle by
revealing that her
relationship with John was
being strained. Ever since then,
Isabelle seemed to have**

retreated into her work, as she was always busy whenever Matilda called, so much so that she didn't seem to have time to pick up her calls.

After that, Matilda scouted out the situation at Isabelle's company, only to see that she was working the regular hours despite constantly lying to Matilda that she had to work overtime. Although Matilda was somewhat of an idiot, it didn't mean she couldn't eventually come to understand complicated subjects.

Natasha had been dissecting things with her during the past few days, all the while chiding that Matilda had been so utterly blind by doting on Isabelle. Although Isabelle indeed had decent assets to her, she was not as kind as she presented herself to be.

Meanwhile, Matilda felt defeated. Although she didn't perceive Isabelle as a malicious

character, she only came to realize that Isabelle wasn't being completely upfront with her, and seemed to have ulterior motives. Such a realization didn't feel good at all. Upon noticing the unnatural shift in Matilda's expression as soon as Isabelle was mentioned, Sophia let out a laugh.

"What's wrong? Why don't you look happy when I mentioned your sweet little girl?"

Of course, Matilda would never tell Sophia about what happened between Isabelle and her, so she let out a harrumph.

"It's none of your business."
"

Sophia pouted in response, as she could feel that Matilda was somewhat different compared to the instances before that.

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Sophia was still a little unsure

about what decision to make,
as it would
be a lie to say that she was
unaffected by John's
unwavering support of her as of
recent. With a heart as
soft as hers, she was touched
upon witnessing the great
lengths that John was willing to
go to in order to
win her back.

However, to start over with him
remained a challenge to her.

Public opinion aside, she
couldn't find it in
herself to start over a new
chapter with John without first
addressing what happened
before. After
dwelling on it repeatedly, she
gave a vague reply,
"I don't
know, as I haven't made up my
mind.

"

"Sophia.

" Ian spoke.

"Can you...

Can you withhold your decision
and wait for me?"

Startled, Sophia frowned

without intending to upon hearing what he said. He went on,

“Wait till the competition ends. I have something that I need to talk over with you when I get back, please.

”

After a few moments, Sophia chuckled as she tried to put on a casual front.

“What is it that you’d like to tell me? You can always tell me over the phone.

”

Ian heaved a sigh before questioning,

“Sophia, do you really not know what I’m trying to say, or are you just running away?”

As soon as he said so, John called out to her from the kitchen as he couldn’t seem to find the seasoning for cooking. John spoke loudly, so Ian must’ve heard him, whereas Sophia took it as an opening to end

their call.

“Alright, I have other things to do, so I’ll be hanging up. You should train hard and try your best to get a nice rank.”

After having said so, Sophia responded to John’s call from the kitchen before hanging up. However, he seemed to already find the seasoning he needed when she got to the kitchen. Without even looking at her, he asked while busying himself with cooking,

“Who was on the line? Was it Ian?”

Sophia was surprised that he knew as much. Leaning against the doorframe, she asked,

“You called out to me not because you couldn’t find the seasonings, but you did it to distract me on purpose, isn’t it?”

Cheerfully, John replied,

“Of course, not! It’s true that I

couldn't find the seasonings
before you came
over.
”

Scanning the countertop,
Sophia could see that all of the
seasonings were placed on
there, so he
couldn't possibly have missed it.
However, she didn't have the
energy bicker, opting instead to
head to
the dining room after staring at
him for a while. On the other
hand, John served the dishes
after he was
done cooking, only to come to a
halt as soon as he reached the
kitchen entrance. With a bland
tone,
John asked while looking
outside,
“Why are you here?”
Sophia quickly left the dining
room upon hearing him, only to
see a woman standing by the
entrance to
the living room uneasily. With a
cheery disposition, she asked,
“Weren't you at my shop just
this

evening? Why are you here now?"

**Meanwhile, Matilda tried her best to school her expression while replying,
"I came to look for my son. I wouldn't even be here if not for him.
"**

**A smile tugged at the corner of Sophia's mouth before she turned to look at John. After asking if Matilda had had dinner, John brought the dishes he cooked into the dining room. Setting foot into the house, Matilda said,
"I haven't had dinner, so I was thinking of dining with you outside.
"**

**Seeing John in an apron seemed to incite feelings of distress within her.
"Why did you choose to cook on your own? You shouldn't be subjecting yourself to this.**

”

However, Sophia paid her remarks no heed. After John handed her a bowl of rice, she dug in and focused her attention on eating. John also handed Matilda her bowl of rice.

“Since you’re here, let us eat together. I made all of the dishes today, so why don’t you have a taste?”

Although with a little dismay, Matilda accepted the offer while glancing at Sophia from the corner of her eye. Seemingly trying to excuse her presence, she said,

“I will taste them since John made it. He is my son, so I’m not actually imposing myself on anyone.

”

Sophia nearly burst out laughing, but managed to suppress it into a dainty smile.

“Just take your seat. You don’t have to explain yourself.

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter
644**Matilda sat down across from Sophia. On the other hand, John sat beside Sophia while putting food into her bowl.

“You should eat up since you haven’t been eating a lot.

”

Although John wasn’t a superb cook, the dishes he made were alright, so it was still an acceptable meal if one wasn’t a picky eater.

Observing John and Sophia after taking a bite out of her meal, Matilda suddenly felt like being sent back in time.

The atmosphere around them was similar to when the Constances used to have a meal together. After

giving it some thought, she told John,

“I heard that Yolanda was discharged.

” Yolanda was the woman who took care of William.

John hummed in response.

**“But
due to her multiple injuries, she
will have to take some time off
to
recuperate even after that.
”**

**With her lips pulled into a thin
line, Matilda said,
“Since your
father is such a yes man, I bet
he would go
take care of her.
”**

**John was smiling when he
replied,
“I am unsure as to how
things went, but Yolanda had a
maid by her
side, so my father didn’t really
need to do anything.
”**

**During the rest of the mealtime,
Matilda couldn’t help but sulk.
After they were finished, John
went to
do the dishes, while Sophia left
for the sofa. Matilda didn’t
seem to be in a hurry to leave,
as she looked
toward Sophia after hanging**

around and scanning the living room.

“Are you having a good time in the house that my son bought you?”

Despite her pointed question, Sophia wasn't in the mood to bicker, so she gave Matilda a hum.

“Yeah, I am.”

Matilda snorted before saying, “Everybody was assuming that John was in the wrong, but if you look closer, your divorce seemed to be beneficial to you. You got an astronomical sum out of it that normal people couldn't possibly earn.”

Sophia gave another hum before asking, “So why weren't you willing to divorce William? From what I gathered, he was willing to pay you an alimony, so it was also beneficial to you.”

” It was a mere statement of the truth, so she said so in a calm manner as she wasn’t trying to come off as mocking. Nonetheless, Matilda choked on her own words while staring at Sophia wide-eyed.

“You—”

However, she calmed herself down after thinking about it.

“You know nothing. I am not the same as you.

”

Sophia gave her a nod.

“True, you’re older than me, so men don’t look your way anymore.

”

Taking a deep breath, Matilda shut up when she realized she could never gain the upper hand against Sophia. Meanwhile, Sophia was still watching cartoons, as her interest was piqued after watching it for some time. Matilda sat down beside her after going around in

the house for a bit. Watching
the cartoon
as well, she grumbled,

“Why
would anybody watch such a
retarded program?”

Despite her complaint, she was
nonetheless watching it. It
wasn't until a while later that
Sophia asked,

“Say, how are things going with
John's father? Did you keep in
touch?”

Sophia was merely asking out of
curiosity. Staring at the TV,
Matilda replied,

“Nope, we
didn't meetup,
nor did we call each other.

”

Sophia snorted before making
fun of Matilda, remarking,
“You're still trying to sit on your
high horse
even when it has come to this.

”

Hissing, Matilda was obviously
affronted by Sophia's remark,
but she said nothing to retaliate.
Sophia
heaved a sigh before telling her,

“You should follow your son’s example.”

Her movements hitched, Matilda turned to look at the kitchen to see John cleaning up the cooktop, and he was surprisingly adept at it. He never used to do that while at home. After observing him for a while, she caught on to what Sophia meant.

However, she knew she couldn’t possibly behave like how John did, as she had always been the domineering one in the relationship. Even when she tried to meet up with William to express her intention to remarry him, she was still the one in control of the situation. Sophia didn’t care what Matilda thought, as she already did her part by offering the latter some advice, so she wouldn’t say anything more. Meanwhile, when John was

finished with cleaning up, he served them some fruits.

Matilda felt sorry for him, as he never needed to do those back when living with the Constance household.

The Returning Ex Chapter

645 Matilda quickly urged John to get some rest, but he said with a smile,

“It’s

alright. Since I always used to sit in the office, this is some much needed exercise, so I think it’s fine.

”

Letting out a cry, Matilda tried to persuade him,

“You should

put yourself to better use by flipping

through and signing documents instead of working manual labor.

” Her response caused

Sophia to glance

at Matilda from the corner of her eye with a smirk.

Although Matilda didn’t like

Sophia, she stayed the course of the night before leaving with

**John. Sophia
saw them off by the door.
Despite their history, Sophia
wasn't going to fuss over it as
Matilda was
behaving much better
compared to before, so she
wished Matilda a safe trip
home.**

**With a sophisticated look on
her face, Matilda was still trying
to act tough.**

"Just go back in.

**This house
belongs to my son, so I don't
need you to send me off.
"**

**Sophia obeyed her by turning to
leave for the house, while
Matilda got in the car and
watched her close
the door behind her before
questioning pointedly,**

**"I don't
get it. Why do you even like
someone like
her? Just look at how impartial
she was to her elders. She
didn't even smile at me!"
John smiled in resignation
before asking,**

**“Why would she
when you used to brawl with
each other?”**

**Snorting, Matilda averted her
gaze.**

**“I just can’t bring myself
to like her.**

”

John hummed in response.

“Neither can she.

”

**By the next day, Sophia went to
the hospital as it was time for a
B-scan. She made an
appointment last
night on the hospital’s website
before going there early the
next morning. Although she
didn’t spend
much time waiting, it was still
somewhat tormenting.**

**She was panicking a little, and
for a fraction of a second, she
considered giving John a call to
get him to
come. However, she was
sensible enough to push the
idea down.**

**As soon as Sophia lay down on
the bed, the doctor did a quick
checkup by asking her a few**

questions.

After that, he applied some ultrasonic couplant gel before placing the transducer on her belly.

The gel was cool to the touch, which made Sophia shudder. On the other hand, the doctor was serious about his task, so the checkup was efficient. Without saying much else, the doctor told her to wait for her results outside.

Sophia left the room at a leisurely pace before retrieving her report from the machine.

The report merely stated that an embryo sac was found in her uterus, but Sophia was staring intently at those few words.

Although she didn't understand what the graphs were indicating, she knew it showed the image of her child. Tears welled up in her eyes after she stared at it for a while, as she realized she now had a child and a family, so she was no

longer alone.

Upon leaving the hospital,
Sophia waited for a cab by the
road, but before she saw one,
another car
pulled over. When the car
window was lowered, it was
none other than Isabelle sitting
in the car.

Sophia's presence seemed to
catch her off guard.

"Miss
Gwendolyn, why are you here?
Are you feeling
unwell?"

Sophia observed her for a while
before replying,

"I'm here for a
checkup.

"

With a nod, Isabelle offered,

"Where are you headed to? I
can drive you there.

"

"Nah, I can take a cab.

" Due to
their strained relationship,
Sophia didn't want to owe her
any favors.

Other than letting out a hum,
Isabelle didn't say much else.

**“Alright, I will be leaving, then.
”**

In silence, Sophia watched her car drive off before hailing a cab with a stiff expression.

Meanwhile, Isabelle drove back to the hospital after traveling some distance.

In the cab, Sophia sat back to take a nap after telling the driver her shop’s address, so she didn’t see

Isabelle going into the hospital.

When she arrived at her shop, there were quite a lot of customers. To

her surprise, not only was Logan present, but he was also helping out.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 646
Sophia walked up to Logan with a smile.**

**“With you here, I suppose it makes us a high-end shop.
”**

Chuckling, Logan didn’t stop working.

**“Why are you so late?
I’ve been waiting for your**

arrival.

”

Sophia stood beside him while saying,

“I am late because I woke up late and spent some time lazing around.

”

Logan regarded her in silence while she made herself a hamburger and some hot chocolate. After she had both, she sat down by the window. After Logan was finished with his task, he came over to her.

“I asked Lorraine about Ian, and she told me that he wouldn’t have a problem making his debut, while his ranking indicates that he would probably make it to the top three.

”

What Logan told her reminded Sophia of the fact that Ian called her last night, so she asked,

“Did you tell him about what happened

between John and me?”

Logan didn't think it would be such a big deal.

“Yeah, I did

when we were chatting. What's the matter?

Should I not have told him?”

Pursing her lips, Sophia replied,

“That's not it. There's nothing

between John and me, so

telling Ian about

it made it sound like the

opposite.

”

Upon hearing what she said,

Logan smacked his lips.

“John

can be quite stone-hearted, but

the fact that

he went after you all the way to

your hometown showed that he

is a worthy man. When you got

back,

he had been suggesting ways to

help out the villagers back there.

He wanted to do that as he was

grateful that the villagers had

been taking care as well as

protecting you all this time.

Sophia, although I prefer that

you pick Ian, I have to

acknowledge that John really had gone the distance by helping you like that.

” Logan

exhaled before going on,

“I

think you should be able to live a good life

with either Ian or John, so you can choose to marry either of them.

”

What the hell is he talking about? Sophia was opposed to the idea. I can't just pick one as if I am

shopping for goods! Besides, Logan sure holds me in an overly high regard. Who am I to choose either of them anyway?

Sophia had been chatting with Logan for some time before someone else came in, whom she recognized to be the man Robin was dating. The young man brought a lot of fruits while walking into the shop cheerfully. Seeing him, Robin seemed a little shy while asking,

“Oh, why are you here?”

The young man scratched his head before answering,

“I was passing by, so I figured I could drop by to check on you.

”

Since he liked Robin, I suppose he would drop by no matter how far he needed to travel, Sophia mused.

Meanwhile, Logan was startled by the young man’s presence.

“Robin, is he your boyfriend?”

A blush crept on Robin’s face while she stuttered, all the while wondering if she should admit it. The

young man was also blushing profusely when he greeted everyone,

“Hello.

”

Sophia returned the greeting before looking at Robin.

“Since we haven’t got much to do, we can close the shop earlier so you can go have fun.

”

Slightly embarrassed, Robin said,

“I-It’s alright, seeing that we’re not going anywhere.

”

On the other hand, Logan was far more direct in his approach.

“We can watch over the shop while you

go on a date. This young man isn’t here to help keep watch anyway, so you should just leave.

”

While Robin’s face was beet red, the young man seemed to fare better. Glancing at Robin, he suggested,

“We should be leaving, then. I bought tickets to a movie, so I’d like to have a meal with you before we go to the movies.

”

Watching their interactions, Sophia was suddenly envious of them. Isn’t this nice? I could feel that love is in the air...

In the end, Robin left with the

young man shyly, while Sophia drank coffee in the shop with Logan as the latter updated her on what happened when she wasn't around.

The Returning Ex Chapter 647 Logan's attention was totally fixed on the Morgans. According to his accounts, Sally was still being detained, which meant she might very well be left with a criminal record.

The injured girl was already discharged, but she refused to reconcile with Sally as she wasn't about to let Sally off the hook. Logan thought the girl did a brilliant job, and that Sally finally found herself an even match.

However, Sophia was no longer interested in other people's affairs, as all she could think of was what to do with the baby she carried. To tell, or not to tell, that is the question, and a freaking hard one at that.

Besides, where should I go if I were to hide the fact that I'm pregnant from him?

They stayed there until evening, with Logan planning to send Sophia home, only to see John driving

toward them when they were closing the shop. Glancing at Sophia, Logan asked,

"Has he been the one driving you home these days?"

Without giving him a reply, Sophia watched John get out of the car. He came over to stand beside her

before greeting Logan,

"You sure have a lot of time to spare today.

"

Logan let out a hum.

"I always have much time to spare. Are you going to her house? Are you planning to have dinner over there?" Seeing

that John didn't refute him, Logan nodded.

"I haven't yet

decided on
where to have dinner, so why
don't we dine together? That
sounds like a great idea.

”

On the other hand, Sophia
wasn't sure what was so great
about it. Before they could
leave though,
another car pulled over, while
someone called out to John
after stepping out of the car,
who revealed
herself to be none other than
Matilda. Arching her brow,
Sophia figured that Matilda had
been trying to
make her presence known to
her. While John greeted Matilda,
the latter cast a glance at
Sophia before
asking,
“Are you all heading to
her place?”
Logan took the liberty to
answer that question.
“Yeah,
would you like to come have
dinner with us, Ms.
Matilda? The more the
merrier.

”

Judging from Matilda’s personality, Sophia assumed that she would turn down his offer, but to her surprise, she nodded without hesitation.

“Sure, since I haven’t had dinner anyway.

”

Squinting her eyes, Sophia watched Matilda closely, confused by the latter’s reactions. Matilda used to hate everything related to Sophia, so it didn’t make sense that she would actively approach Sophia.

However, Logan didn’t seem to notice the oddity as he went ahead to usher everybody into the car.

Upon casting Sophia a glance, Matilda said,

“I’ll hitch a ride in Logan’s car.

”

Does that mean she doesn’t want to be in the same car as me? That’s just brilliant! Sophia thought

before hopping into John's car. The two cars left the site after they were ready. Throughout their journey, both Sophia and John remained silent, while Sophia seemed a little sickly and tired. John turned to check on her a couple of times, but she continued to lean against the window while looking out of it, her face devoid of expression. There were some ingredients in stock in the fridge, so they went straight back home. With both Logan and John present, Sophia figured she wouldn't even need to lift a finger to cook, so she went upstairs to get a change of clothes before sitting down on her bed. After pondering on her circumstances for some time, she retrieved the report and stared at the image produced by the B-scan. In the meantime, Matilda was feeling sorry for John, all the while assuming that Sophia was

being a little too demanding toward John. Look at her, leaving all the work to the two men while she went straight up to get rested. Matilda wasn't too happy about it, so she went upstairs after giving the situation some thought.

The door to Sophia's room was open, so Matilda entered right away, but Sophia wasn't in the room. It

wasn't until then Matilda noticed that the door to the bathroom was closed, while sounds could be heard coming from within. She tried to call out to Sophia, but nothing came of it. Upon noticing the items spread out on her bed, Matilda went over to check on it.

As soon as she stepped out from the bathroom, Sophia saw Matilda standing in her room. There was a moment's pause before panic kicked in when she saw what

Matilda was holding. In a few strides, she rushed over to snatch the report from Matilda while snapping,

“Why did you barge into my room?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 648 Visibly angered, Sophia couldn't help but raise her voice.

On the other hand, Matilda was staring at her without even registering her attitude. Hesitantly, she stated,

“You're pregnant.

” Seeing that Sophia remained silent, Matilda went on,

“And I suppose John is the father?”

Sophia denied rather directly,

“No, he's not.

”

Taking a deep breath, Matilda pointed out,

“You don't really associate yourself with other men except for John.

”

As if Ian and Logan are women,
Sophia grumbled internally.

After some thought, Matilda
asked,

“Does John not know
about this?”

Meanwhile, Sophia folded the
report so that she could tuck it
into her pocket.

“As I said, he’s
not the
father, so this has nothing to do
with him.

”

However, it only further
convinced Matilda that the
child belonged to John, as she
knew Sophia wasn’t a
player. Although she didn’t like
Sophia, she figured she
shouldn’t be framing Sophia
regardless of their
relationship. With a frown,
Matilda ignored what Sophia
told her, all the while following
her own line of
thought.

“Your belly will swell,
so you won’t be able to hide the
truth.

”

Sophia took a few deep breaths before sitting down on her bed.

Confused, Matilda asked,

“Why

won’t

you tell him about your pregnancy? If things go well, you might be able to remarry him.

”

However, Sophia only sneered at her.

“Your son isn’t as special as you perceive him to be.

Despite being pregnant, I have no intention to use it as an excuse to remarry him.

” Lifting her head, she stared at Matilda.

“Perhaps you don’t know, but your son is the one who is begging to remarry me, so I am the one being forced.

”

Matilda locked eyes with Sophia.

“Why don’t you want to

remarry him?" Given that even someone as prestigious as Isabelle was aiming for John, Matilda didn't quite believe in what Sophia told her. Due to the fact that Sophia was of even lower status than Isabelle, Matilda didn't believe that Sophia wouldn't want to marry John.

With a smile on her face, Sophia shot back,

"With you as his mother, I would of course exclude him from my list.

"

Matilda hissed before saying, "You mean—" However, she bit her own tongue upon laying eyes on Sophia's belly.

Meanwhile, Sophia lowered her gaze to look at her own feet.

"The child is mine, and mine alone. It has nothing to do with anybody else.

"

It wasn't until a while later that

Matilda found her voice again.

“If I told John about this...

”

Sophia lifted

her head abruptly to shoot

**Matilda a pointed look, which
managed to silence the latter.**

After a

**moment’s pause, Matilda raised
her chin to say defiantly,**

“In

**your dreams! I’ll never tell him
about the**

**baby! I hope you’ll never be
able to get together with him
anyway!” Having said that,**

**Matilda licked her
lips.**

**“However, I trust you will
not go for an abortion, am I
right?”**

**Without giving a direct answer,
Sophia asked,**

**“What do you
mean?”**

**Knowing that Sophia must’ve
misconstrued what she said,
Matilda supplied,**

**“I don’t plan
on doing**

anything. It’s just a question.

”

Sophia snapped back in an icy tone,
“Don’t you worry, as I will never use the child as leverage against the Constances. It’s as I told you, the child is mine, and mine alone. It has nothing to do with anybody else.

”

For a long while, Matilda stared at Sophia in silence. On the other hand, John and Logan were cooking downstairs. With Logan rambling about what happened to the Morgans, John took a peek at the living room, only to see that neither Sophia nor Matilda were there. Startled, he washed his hands before exiting the kitchen in search of them, but neither of them were in the yard, so he went upstairs in a hurry. As soon as he got onto the second floor, Matilda was already on her way out from

Sophia's room with a sullen look on her face, to whom he asked,

"What have you been talking about?"

Glancing at John, Matilda replied,

"Don't worry. With Sophia's temperament, I am always the one being bullied.

" With that, she brushed past John to go down the stairs, leaving the premises without staying for dinner.

The Returning Ex Chapter 649 Upon entering Sophia's room, John saw her lying on the bed with her

back to the door. He hurried to her while asking,

"Was my mother being difficult?"

Sophia was feeling a little groggy.

"No, she wasn't.

"

However, John didn't believe in a word she said, as from prior experience, it was impossible to

put the two together without inciting some sort of conflict. Besides, Matilda seemed a little upset when she left the room. John circled around the bed to observe Sophia from the other side.

“My mother speaks more harshly than necessary, so please don’t take it personally. If she said anything that offended you, please allow me to apologize on her behalf.”

Sophia cast John a glance before closing her eyes.

“As I said, your mother didn’t do anything to offend me.”

Propping a knee on the bed, John leaned in to caress her forehead.

“What’s wrong? You seem a little dispirited these days. Are you feeling unwell anywhere? Why don’t we go to the hospital for a checkup?”

Sophia flipped herself over to look at the ceiling.

“I’m fine. It’s just that our journey on the train left me exhausted, so I will need a few days to recuperate.

”

After giving the situation some thought, John held her hand before calling out to her,

“Sophia Gwendolyn.

” Due to how formal he sounded, she couldn’t help but turn around to look at him.

Meanwhile, he massaged her fingers one by one carefully.

“Why don’t you tell me what I should do to improve the situation?”

Sophia frowned as she didn’t catch what he meant. With a sigh, he elaborated,

“I have no idea what I should do to secure more of your time and attention.

” He spoke with such grief that

Sophia startled.

Pursing his lips, a smile flashed across his face before he continued,

“I am running out of ideas, as I feel like nothing I do would please you. Sophia, why don’t you give me a few hints as to what would make you happy?”

**You always are, no matter if it is before or after our divorce. The problem lies mostly with me.
”**

John heaved a sigh before pressing on.

**“The way you said it sounds like you’re trying to dismiss me.
”**

Sophia smiled in defeat as she wasn’t exactly lying. By that point, she realized that John wasn’t wholly responsible for how things turned out between them, as she also had her own demons. Both parties were responsible in a failing relationship, so one shouldn’t be pinning all of the

responsibility on the other.

Thus, she said,

**“Give me some
time, as I am currently
overwhelmed by my
circumstances. I am facing a lot
of blockages in life, so please
don’t push too hard.**

”

**Upon hearing what she told him,
John regained some confidence,
as it was way better than being
outright rejected. Humming, he
gave her a nod before
promising,**

**“Alright, I will push
you no more. Get
some rest while I finish cooking,
and I’ll come get you later.**

”

**Sophia shut her eyes, seemingly
intent on getting some sleep.**

**After tucking her in, he left the
room, only**

**to see Logan sitting in the living
room. As soon as Logan saw
John, he asked the latter in
confusion,**

**“What’s wrong? Ms. Matilda
seemed to have left in dismay.
Did they get into another**

fight?”

**John recalled what he saw
before replying,
“I don’t think
so, as Sophia seemed alright.
”**

**With her short
temper, she wouldn’t possibly
be that quiet if they quarreled,
as she would most likely be
cussing out
loud. However, she seemed
rather calm when John saw her.
Logan hesitated for a moment
due to
confusion, but returned to the
kitchen with John anyway.
When dinner was ready, Sophia
was already sound asleep. Upon
checking on her, John didn’t
want to
rouse her, so he finished his
meal with Logan.
Putting some food aside for her,
John figured they could decide
on what to do with it once
Sophia was
up. By that point, instead of a
rowdy meal, Logan and John
were the only ones left dining
by the table,**

which seemed to have killed the mood.

The Returning Ex Chapter
650 Heaving a sigh, Logan thought of something.

“How’s the investigation on Robin’s abduction going?”

Lifting his head, John stared at Logan for a while as if having recalled something. Logan wasn’t sure why John was doing that, so he asked,

“What’s the matter with you?”

John ran his tongue over his molars before laughing.

“I have something that I would like to talk to you about, as you might be able to help.

”

Arching his brow, Logan said,

“Why are you acting all mysterious? If you have anything to say, just spit it out.

”

After some time, Sophia woke

up in the middle of the night.
The house was lit when she
woke up, with
John sitting on bed while
scrolling through his phone.
Upon realizing that she was
awake, John quickly
inquired,
“Are you hungry? The
food is still warm, so should I
bring them up?”
Sophia sat up slowly before
replying,
“Okay.
”

After John left downstairs,
Sophia washed her face.
Standing in front of the basin,
she stared at her own
reflection in the mirror, only to
discover how haggard and
dispirited she looked, so much
so that she
could hardly face herself.
Knowing that things couldn't go
on like that, Sophia took a deep
breath to lift
her spirits. There was still a long
way to go until the end of her
pregnancy, so a shift in attitude
was due,

as she couldn't possibly remain in such a state throughout her pregnancy.

Sophia changed into her pajamas and tied up her hair before John returned, so she looked slightly more refreshed. Stepping out of the room, she said as soon as she saw the food on the tray that John held,

“Let's eat downstairs. I've been lying in bed for too long, so I wanna move around for a little.”

There was a pause before John responded with a nod.

“Sure, let's go to the dining room.”

Sophia sat down by the dining table, while John sat across from her, inquiring on her health as she was in such a bad state during the past few days. Heaving a sigh, Sophia said, “I was exhausted during the past two days, so I should be fine by

tomorrow after a goodnight's sleep.
”

John also updated her on how the villagers that came along with them were doing. They were assigned to their respective dormitories and positions, while someone would be in charge of guiding them through the work process. The villagers proved themselves to be honest people who learned fast and worked hard. Later, John added, “I’ve already told them to spend some time getting used to life in the city. And I told them if all is well and they are concerned about their family, we would be glad to receive their family if they are to come.
”

Judging from how things had been going on during the beginning stages, the villagers didn't seem to have plans to do so, mainly

because their kids needed to attend school. If they were to move all of a sudden, it would be hard to enroll them into schools in the city.

However, they managed to earn more money compared to when they were farming back home.

Even if it meant that there would be less people to help out during harvest seasons, hiring someone would be a cost-effective solution. Manual labor wasn't worth a lot back in the village, and since they were earning enough to cover for the workers' salaries, it wouldn't be a problem.

Upon hearing that, Sophia nodded.

"It's great that they're adjusting to life in the city, as I was worried that they might feel discontent about our arrangements.

"

John smiled as he replied,

"I

dropped by to check on them
some time ago. They are all
honest and
hardworking folks, so there is
nothing to worry about.

”

After a while, Sophia glanced at
John before expressing her
gratitude.

“Thank you.

”

John stared back at her with
such a gentle gaze that it was
almost overwhelming.

“I did it
for you, as I
appreciate that they had been
helping both you and your
grandfather out.

” Pulling her
lips into a thin
line, there were things Sophia
wanted to say, but she
eventually decided to bite her
own tongue.

John did the dishes after the
meal, but he didn't seem to be
in a hurry to leave. Directing her
attention to

him, Sophia requested,

“Why

**don't you keep me company
while I go on a stroll? I am
feeling sore all over
my body, so I wanna take a
walk to disperse it.**

”

**It wasn't every day that Sophia
would make such a request, so
John quickly brought her
outdoors after
retrieving some necessities.**

**They didn't go too far away
from the house, opting instead
to stroll in the
neighborhood. There were
quite a few people hanging
around although it was
nighttime, while John and
Sophia walked along the road
without a destination in mind.**

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Ex Chapter 652**

**Sulking, John stood to step on
the man's ribs.**

**“Who sent you
here?”**

**Standing beside him, Sophia
turned to look at John in shock.**

“Did somebody send him?”

As if not hearing John's

question, the man was still huffing in pain while lying on the ground, clutching onto his elbow with a tortured look on his face. John's kick came in unanticipated, so the man must've tried to brace the impact out of reflex by using his elbow. When his elbow hit the ground, it produced a tiny, crisp noise, which was followed by excruciating pain. However, it was none of John's concern as he continued to apply pressure onto the man's ribs.

"Who's behind you?"

A crowd was starting to gather around them, with the people whispering among themselves in confusion.

John ran his tongue over his teeth while he sniggered.

"I have other ways to extract information from you, so your silence isn't going to help."
"

Holding onto the man's phone, John made a call from his own phone. The crowd dispersed upon seeing that the incident was nothing out of the ordinary, as they assumed John was calling either the police or an ambulance. On the other hand, the man's elbow was hurting so much that he couldn't even retaliate.

Meanwhile, Sophia stood aside while leaning against a lamp post, her heart racing. Even though she was panicking, her mind was still clear. If she wasn't pregnant, the fall would only serve to topple and bruise her, so it didn't make sense that someone would hire the man to hurt her, which meant that the mastermind had something else in mind while doing that.

A miscarriage might be what the mastermind was aiming for since she was pregnant, which meant someone probably knew she was pregnant but didn't wish

for the child to be born. The first person that came to mind was Matilda, as she knew Sophia was pregnant, and seemingly had a motive to want to harm her.

However, upon recalling her reaction earlier, Sophia didn't think Matilda would wish her harm, as Matilda wished for the child to be born. What upset her was that the child would be a Gwendolyn, as she seemed to want a grandchild for the Constances. Before she left, Matilda even muttered to herself about becoming a grandmother. From what she could see, Sophia didn't think Matilda would actually hire someone to hurt her. However, neither did she have another suspect in mind. She didn't even tell Robin about her pregnancy, whereas Fabian, who knew about it, would never wish her harm. The situation left her mind

addled, as she didn't know anybody else who might be a suspect, nor did she ever offend any strangers. Glancing at the man on the ground who seemed to be in much pain, Sophia surmised that they wouldn't be getting any answers soon.

Taking a deep breath, she realized her stomach wasn't feeling good after all the tension. It didn't take long for a car to pull over, from which sprung out a few men. She assumed back then that John gave Zack a call, but that didn't seem to be the case, as she knew none of the men.

As soon as the men arrived on the scene, John retracted his leg before waving dismissively.

"Take him away.

" Without even putting up a fight, the man was carried away into the car. Meanwhile, John held Sophia in his arms.

**“You must
be frightened.
”**

**Sophia clutched onto the hem
of his shirt while humming in
response.**

**“I want to go home.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 654
Matilda shot Sophia a glare.**

**“I
am worried about my son! No
thanks to you, but what if he
got injured?”**

**Although she seemed as
malignant as ever, Sophia
couldn't help but huff a laugh.
She's always like this.**

**Tough on the outside, but
feeble on the inside.**

**Meanwhile, John got another
call, so he left the room.**

**Pondering on the situation,
Matilda closed the
door before approaching Sophia.**

**“Are you really alright? Do you
need to do a checkup? You
don't seem
alright to me.
”**

Sophia knew going to the

hospital was out of the question. Otherwise, John would know she was pregnant, so she shook her head.

“I’m fine. I’m feeling better now.”

Heaving a sigh, Matilda went on, “You should stay at home at night. There are all kinds of people out there, and even if none were there to get you, you might still get hurt if someone carelessly bumped into you.

” Without realizing it, Matilda was nagging at Sophia again.

Sophia was looking closely at her, not exactly used to how the latter was behaving.

“It’s getting late, so you should get some rest. Everything is settled on my end, so I would like to sleep now.”

Matilda caught herself nagging before standing up.

“Okay, you should go to bed. I will be checking up with John.

” Slightly abashed, she turned to leave, whereas Sophia lay down after switching off the lights.

However, the puzzling situation was disturbing, so she had a hard time falling asleep.

When Matilda got out of the room, John was leaning against the wall while talking on his phone, a grim look on his face. After spending some time waiting beside him, John finally got off the phone. It wasn't until then that Matilda said, “She's asleep now, so let's talk downstairs.

”

With a nod, John followed her downstairs. As soon as they settled down, Matilda questioned with a frown,

“Are you sure that man did it on purpose? Might it be an accident, or perhaps he

wasn't paying attention to his surroundings?"

Shaking his head, John answered,

"Although I know nothing of their purpose, the man must be a hired thug. Just take a look at his phone.

"

John handed the phone to Matilda, and displayed on the screen was a message that was sent after the incident. It consisted of a curt message that wrote: 'Is it done?' It was as out of the blue as it was fishy, being sent using the number that made the last call on the call log. John already had someone investigate the owner of the number. Matilda spent some time staring at the message before putting on a morose expression. "This sure seems to indicate that someone is behind this.

"

Taking the phone from her,

**John toyed with it while
muttering,
“However, it’s odd
that the culprit would
commit such a felony, as there
is no point whatsoever in doing
so.
”**

**After a moment’s pause, a
sophisticated look crossed
Matilda’s face. While it might
be pointless to do so
in the past, the situation was
different now that Sophia was
pregnant. The realization left
Matilda feeling
even worse, as nobody
should’ve known about
Sophia’s pregnancy since she
had been keeping it a
secret. To go as far as assaulting
Sophia, Matilda wondered if
the culprit had a grudge against
Sophia. She
told John after mulling over the
situation,
“Keep your guard up
while you’re here. I will be
leaving now
that it’s getting late.
”**

John didn't think much about it and nodded.

"Be careful on your way home.

"

With a hum, Matilda turned to leave. Upon stepping out of the premises, she whipped out her phone while walking on to give Isabelle a call. It took some time for the latter to pick up, and her voice sounded tired.

"Hello, Ms. Matilda.

"

Matilda hummed in response before asking,

"Are you busy?"

Humming in the affirmative, Isabelle explained,

"I'm working

overtime as the workload is heavy. Do you

need something?"

Matilda laughed before replying to her,

"Not really. Just figured I

should check on you since it has been a

while since we last met.

”

With a sigh, Isabelle grumbled,
“Oh, I have been working too
much as of late. Work keeps
piling up, so I’m
still in the office, and it’s killing
me.

”

Matilda shot Sophia a glare.

“I

am worried about my son! No
thanks to you, but what if he
got injured?”

Although she seemed as
malignant as ever, Sophia
couldn’t help but huff a laugh.
She’s always like this.

Tough on the outside, but
feeble on the inside.

Meanwhile, John got another
call, so he left the room.

Pondering on the situation,
Matilda closed the
door before approaching Sophia.

“Are you really alright? Do you
need to do a checkup? You
don’t seem
alright to me.

”

Sophia knew going to the
hospital was out of the question.

Otherwise, John would know she was pregnant, so she shook her head.

“I’m fine. I’m feeling better now.”

Heaving a sigh, Matilda went on, “You should stay at home at night. There are all kinds of people out there, and even if none were there to get you, you might still get hurt if someone carelessly bumped into you.

” Without realizing it, Matilda was nagging at Sophia again.

Sophia was looking closely at her, not exactly used to how the latter was behaving.

“It’s getting late, so you should get some rest. Everything is settled on my end, so I would like to sleep now.”

Matilda caught herself nagging before standing up.

“Okay, you

should go to bed. I will be checking up with John.

” Slightly abashed, she turned to leave, whereas Sophia lay down after switching off the lights.

However, the puzzling situation was disturbing, so she had a hard time falling asleep.

When Matilda got out of the room, John was leaning against the wall while talking on his phone, a grim look on his face. After spending some time waiting beside him, John finally got off the phone. It wasn't until then that Matilda said, “She's asleep now, so let's talk downstairs.

”

With a nod, John followed her downstairs. As soon as they settled down, Matilda questioned with a frown,

“Are you sure that man did it on purpose? Might it be an accident, or perhaps he wasn't paying

attention to his surroundings?”

Shaking his head, John answered,

“Although I know nothing of their purpose, the man must be a hired thug. Just take a look at his phone.

”

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heavy. Do you

need something?”

Matilda laughed before replying
to her,

“Not really. Just figured I
should check on you since it has

been a

while since we last met.

”

With a sigh, Isabelle grumbled,
“Oh, I have been working too
much as of late. Work keeps
piling up, so I’m
still in the office, and it’s killing
me.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 655
Matilda hummed while
listening to Isabelle’s
complaints.

“Take it slow. You’ll
do fine after you get used
to the workload.

”

Smiling, Isabelle agreed,
“Yeah,
so I’d like to come up with a
standard procedure as soon as
possible,
which could hopefully help ease
things.

”

After a while, Matilda said,
“Well, I suppose you should
work on that. Since I don’t
really have anything of
importance, I’ll end the call
here.

”

Upon getting Isabelle’s consent,

she hung up. Matilda was frowning as she did because Isabelle didn't sound much different from her usual self, so the incident might have nothing to do with her after all. She then turned around to hail a cab by the road.

Her feelings toward Isabelle were complicated, to say the least. Although she didn't hate Isabelle, she was extremely disappointed in the latter for using her despite how she treated Isabelle as her own daughter. I shouldn't have done all those things for her. What a waste of effort.

On the other hand, she still harbored a dislike toward Sophia, but it didn't mean she hated the child she carried, as the child was John's child and her grandchild. The fact that she would soon become a grandmother came as quite a shock, which made her feel older all of a sudden. Heaving a

sigh, she left on
the cab.

In the meantime, Sophia
managed to fall asleep after
spending hours tossing and
turning in bed.

However, neither were her
dreams a peaceful escape, as
she dreamed of her being
chased by someone
while holding her child in her
hands. All she could think of
was to run as fast as her legs
could carry her so
that she could leave the place,
but the formless being behind
her remained in hot pursuit.
Sophia was
drenched in her own sweat due
to anxiety and fear.

The dream went on until she
woke up the coming morning.
Upon opening her eyes, she
could feel the
sticky sensation on her skin.
Aside from that, she was tired
out, as if having physically ran
laps during her
sleep despite it being a dream.
She propped herself up to look
out of the window. The

weather was pleasant enough with loads of sunshine, which seemed to help dissipate the depressing feelings left by the dream. Getting out of bed, she took a deep breath to pump herself up.

At this time, John was cooking in the kitchen. As if having unlocked a talent within him, he could already present her with a lot of the more common dishes. Walking up to him, Sophia greeted him a good morning.

In fact, John hardly slept a wink last night, but he seemed alright.

“Breakfast is almost ready. I’ll drive you to your shop once we’re done eating.

” He checked the time then.

“I will be paying that man a visit later on. After an entire night’s interrogation, I suppose he should already have

confessed.

”

**Upon hearing what John said,
Sophia nodded.**

**“Remember to
update me on the outcome.**

”

**Cheerfully, John hummed in
agreement.**

**“Worry not. I’ll
make sure you’re the first to
know.**

”

**Soon, John was done cooking,
and upon having finished their
meal, John sent Sophia to her
shop before**

**driving away. Sophia seemed to
be in better spirits compared to
the past few days. Noticing that
John**

**drove Sophia to work, Robin
smacked her lips in mock envy.**

“He sure is nice to you.

”

**Sophia went over and lent her a
hand with the task she was on.**

**“What’s the matter? Is your
boyfriend
not treating you well?”**

Averting her gaze, Robin

mumbled,
“I suppose he isn’t
half bad.
” There was a pause
before she repeated
herself,
“In fact, he’s great, so I
should be satisfied.
”

Sophia didn’t comment on it as
she busied herself with work.
Meanwhile, John made his way
to a warehouse owned by his
company that was located in
the suburbs.

The warehouse was empty as
the company found no use of it,
having fallen into disrepair. It
was located
on a huge plot of empty land,
and because it was vacant, only
a single person was stationed to
watch
over the place, who was
transferred to another
warehouse last night.

The Returning Ex Chapter 656
As soon as he arrived at the
entrance, the person on the
lookout stopped him, but
stepped out of the

way upon realizing it was John.
He parked his car in the yard,
where a few of his underlings
approached

him. Humming, John asked,
“Did he confess?”

One of the men gave him a nod.

“He did, but what he told us
wasn’t of importance.

”

Regardless, John headed into
the warehouse. Although huge,
the warehouse was left unused
for a long

time, so it was filled with dust
and a moldy smell.

There was a piece of board on
the ground in the warehouse,
on which lay a man. His jacket
was removed,

which revealed both the T-shirt
he wore underneath as well as
his tattooed arms. At this time,
his left

elbow was bandaged up.

When John approached the
man, he squinted at John, as he
was never asleep to begin with.

Resigned to

accepting his circumstances, he
kept a straight face upon seeing

John, but his complexion was pale when he spoke.

“I already told you everything I know without concealing anything.

”

John crouched down to stare at him with a mocking grin.

“Weren’t you quite persistent in the

beginning?” Because of how close they were, John could take in all of the minute changes in the man’s expression, so John could determine that he wasn’t lying.

The man pleaded with him.

“I

don’t know much about the scheme, but I figured I should at least put on

some resistance since I am part of a gang, and I do have a reputation to uphold. Besides, I never expected

you to be able to do me any harm. I’m telling you the truth; I don’t know much, and now that I’ve told

you everything I know, please

release me. I think the injury on my arm is quite serious, so I have to go to a hospital.

”

As part of a gang, the man had been reprimanded for picking fights, as well as having been detained.

Without solid contribution to the society, he was but a parasitic being at the bottom level.

Scoffing, John questioned pointedly,

“Why should I release you? If it wasn’t for me, you would’ve created a major ruckus, so don’t expect me to release you without first providing us with something more useful.

” Having said that, John pressed his hand on the man’s injured arm, which elicited from the latter an anguished groan. Judging from his expression, he wasn’t faking it.

In a casual tone, John began

interrogating him once again.

“I need to know why you were told to topple Sophia. What exactly is the desired outcome?”

Although panting in pain, the man seemed determined to not confess. John stood up after some time, and with his hands in his pockets, he glanced down at the man lying on the board.

“Well, I suppose you should enjoy life out here for a few more days.

”

With that, he turned to leave the warehouse. The two men guarding the entrance approached him as soon as he came out.

“Sir, what should we do about him?”

John ordered calmly,

“Keep him locked up in there.

” Other than that, he also inquired about the injury on the man’s elbow.

The answer he got was that after a simple medical examination, it was deduced that the man might've landed on his elbow, which left him with a fractured bone and some minor bruises. Although they administered some first-aid on it last night, they checked on the injury again in the morning, only to see that his arm was swollen, so he might need to receive treatment in the hospital. However, John wasn't in a hurry to do that.

"It's okay. He'll beg us when he can no longer bear the pain."
"

With that, he left the scene while fishing for his cigarette case. In fact, the man did reveal some information last night. He was hired to topple Sophia, while the severity of the resulting injury didn't matter as long as she fell down.
The Returning Ex Chapter 657

The person who hired the thug promised him a handsome reward. He was also paid the full deposit, and if he succeeded, there would be more money to come. Upon recalling what the man revealed, John's expression became much more morose. He had a feeling that the man wasn't telling the truth, or at least not the full extent of it.

The thug was no fool, so he would definitely note that the amount he was paid didn't make sense

considering how easy the job was. Therefore, John believed that the thug must've asked about his

employer's intentions. After finishing a cigarette, John returned to his company.

Meanwhile, Matilda dropped by at Sophia's shop when Sophia was taking a break after working through rush hour. She didn't come empty handed, as she brought with her a thermal container.

Wearing a disgruntled look, Matilda looked at Sophia.

“Here you go.

The servants made them, and I was passing by, so I brought you some of what they made.

”

As she spoke, Matilda left the container on the table, which Robin unlidded out of curiosity.

It released

the rich aroma of the soup inside the container, which indicated the lengthy process it took to make the

soup. Sophia knew the aroma would trigger another bout of sickness, so she stepped away as soon as

Robin opened the container.

However, Matilda explained,

“I

already made sure to remove the oily bits, so

you should be able to enjoy the soup, as it won't feel greasy.

”

Robin glanced between Matilda and Sophia in surprise, while

Sophia was also caught off guard by Matilda's act of kindness, but she knew the reason behind her actions. Pursing her lips, Sophia seemed a little guarded, but Matilda was also feeling a little uneasy.

"I will come get the container from you later, so take your time to enjoy the soup. I will be taking my leave, as I have other things to do."

Without sparing Sophia a glance, Matilda turned to leave. It wasn't until then that Sophia sniffed at it, taking in the aroma of the soup. To be fair, it smelled alright—at least she wasn't feeling queasy. Staring at the soup, Sophia figured she should give it a try since she didn't eat a lot for breakfast.

Robin poured some for Sophia, and the soup was proved to be fine upon Sophia tasting it. She turned to look at Robin before telling her,

**“You should pour
some for yourself too, as there
are quite
a lot.**

”

However, Robin shook her head.

**“It’s still early, and I had a
heavy breakfast, so I don’t feel
like
drinking it.**

**” After that, she
whispered into Sophia’s ear,
“Anyway, don’t you think
Matilda has been
acting a little weird lately? She
never was like that.**

”

**Sure enough, Matilda would
never bring her soup. However,
Sophia knew the change of
attitude**

**wasn’t because of anything
Sophia did but because of the
child she carried. After a
moment’s pause,**

Robin went on,

**“If she is being
nice to you, does it mean that
she accepted you? If that’s the
case, I**

think you might have a chance

with John.

”

Chuckling, Sophia knew within her that Matilda’s attitude was never the deciding factor in her relationship with John. She disliked Matilda, but nor would she give up on anything that belonged to her even if she liked Matilda. Her relationship with John concerned nobody else but themselves.

Upon noticing that Sophia didn’t respond to her, Robin continued,

“From what I gather, your relationship with John seemed to have improved ever since you got back. Compared to how you would sulk back then when his name was mentioned, you’re less closed off now.

”

Sophia wore a stiff smile as she replied,

“It’s just that, I realized he could come in handy sometimes.

”

Robin seemed to have thought of something while observing Sophia.

“I think it’s because he gave you a sense of security, as he can help you out with a lot of tasks. He should be able to accomplish most of your requests.

”

Lifting her head to look at Robin, Sophia muttered,

“A sense of security...”

”

Back when they were married, John never provided her with a sense of security. He never treated her nicely, so she couldn’t possibly obtain it from him by any measure. Especially when his grandfather passed away, through day and night, she used to fear he might divorce her at any minute.

The Returning Ex Chapter 658

Since when did I start feeling safe around John? She thought about it long and hard before reaching the conclusion that it might've happened when John went after her all the way to her village. Back then, she was all alone, feeling unwell both physically and emotionally when he popped up. Standing by the car, he looked all haggard from all the traveling he had done to reach there, telling her that he went after her as he was concerned for her. Sophia had to admit that she was touched by his actions. He had to cover all that distance without someone to guide him, which probably gave him a hard time. There had always been a special place for him in her heart, so she couldn't possibly be unaffected by what he did. Robin leaned into her chair while joking,

“I like men like John. He is capable and extremely handsome. I wouldn’t need to worry about anything when I’m with him, as he could handle it all on his own.

”

Smiling, Sophia begged to differ. “You must be overestimating him. He couldn’t deal with his own mother at all.

”

Admittedly, even William had a hard time dealing with her, say less of John. At the mention of Matilda, Sophia was suddenly feeling a little awkward. She could see Matilda was trying to be nice to her, but she had a hard time adjusting to the sudden change in Matilda’s attitude as they had always been on bad terms. Sophia drank the soup while chatting with Robin, and she ended up finishing it all. Leaning into her

chair with a bloated stomach,
she commented,
“I’m definitely
gonna gain weight after
drinking all of
this.
”

It elicited a laugh from Robin.
“It seems that what your
ex-mother-in-law made is to
your taste.
”

After that, she went to wash
the container before watching
Sophia from beside the bar
counter.

“Lincoln would like me to meet
his parents, but I’m a little
hesitant. Isn’t this going a little
too fast?”

Lincoln was the young man
whom Robin had been dating.
Staring at Robin, Sophia queried,
“Do you like him?”

Robin blinked in puzzlement.
“I’m not exactly sure about it. I
suppose I do like certain aspects
of
him. He is nice to me, and time
spent with him is always joyful
and comfortable.

**” However,
she
wasn’t certain if her feelings
would warrant her marrying the
guy. If she went with the flow
and
agreed to the marriage, she
wondered if she would come to
regret her decision.
In short, Robin had her doubts.
She knew she was trying to
soothe the wounds she
received from
her previous relationship, so
her initial plan was to give it a
go and take it slow with Lincoln.
However, it turned out that
Lincoln was super serious about
their relationship, which was
starting
to give her some pressure.
Sophia wasn’t in a position to
offer any advice, as her own
love life was a mess. Upon
recalling her
conversation with Ian over the
phone, she realized that despite
her avoidant attitude, she
already
had all the answers to Ian’s
questions. She was only ever**

sensitive toward her relationship with John while missing out on clues regarding other peoples' feelings since she never considered them as romantic prospects.

Therefore, she reacted too slow and too late toward Ian's advances. If she knew early on that Ian had feelings for her, she would've put some distance between them, or at least try to clear things up between them earlier.

Robin was feeling a little depressed, nor was Sophia in a good mood upon thinking about Ian.

Because there weren't a lot of customers, the two of them were stuck doing nothing in the shop. By noon, Sophia decided to take a nap on the table as she was feeling a little drowsy.

However, Robin gave her a pat on the shoulder.

"You should get some rest at home. I should

be able
to handle everything since
there aren't a lot of customers. I
can see that you're still
recovering from
your previous trip, so you
should go home. Just leave
everything to me!"

Truth be told, Sophia was
feeling a little shameful to have
left almost all of the work to
Robin while
she was constantly away.

The Returning Ex Chapter 659
Apparently, Robin didn't seem
to mind it.

"Lincoln will soon be
here, so he will be able to lend
a
hand."
"

Smiling, Sophia told her,
"You
should open up and talk things
over with Lincoln. Since you're
his
girlfriend, you should share
your feelings with him. He'll
never know about them if you
don't tell
him.

”

With a nod, Robin answered,
“Alright, I’ll discuss it with him
when he comes here.

”

Sophia stood up from her seat
before stretching herself out
cautiously. After putting in a
few

reminders, she left the shop
under Robin’s care. Upon
stepping out of the shop, she
hailed a cab,

only to notice that there was
another car parked across the
street when she looked out of
the
window after she hopped into
the cab.

The window of that car was
lowered, while someone from
within the car was pointing a
camera in

her direction. The sighting
caught Sophia off guard, but
she quickly stopped the driver
from driving
away. Retrieving her phone, she
took a photo of the car furtively
before telling the driver to
leave.

While on her way home, Sophia sent the photo to John. Due to the incident from last night, she didn't

believe for a second that the presence of the cameraman was a coincidence. Someone must've dispatched him to take photos of her.

John called her immediately to inquire about the situation.

However, Sophia wasn't sure what was

going on, so she could only tell him someone was taking photos of her outside of her shop. No

matter who the photographer was targeting, Sophia figured she should have someone investigate

the matter, as she was feeling unsafe.

John thought so as well. He also pointed out that the photo captured the license plate of the car

clearly, so it should be helpful when they investigated the car owner. However, with how

brazen the
photographer was, Sophia
figured the plate number might
be fabricated.

In the meantime, John was a
little worried about Sophia
considering she was alone in a
cab, so he
instructed that she kept the
phone call going until she
arrived at home. Sophia
complied with his
request upon glancing at the
driver from the back seat that
she was on. However, she had a
hunch
that things would be fine as the
culprit couldn't possibly do
anything to her in broad
daylight.

Her safe arrival at home
seemingly proved the driver's
innocence. Seeing that he left
after Sophia
had paid for her ride, both John
and her heaved a sigh of relief.
John suggested he would
arrange for
a bodyguard to watch over her
as he was worried about her,
but Sophia was resistant to the

idea, as she wouldn't be able to go for checkups in the hospital. In turn, she told him she wouldn't be leaving the house during the following days. She would leave the shop under Robin's care, or she could close it if the arrangement didn't work out. John agreed to her suggestion because he figured that the enemy would be able to infiltrate them regardless as long as they were in public spaces, so staying in the house would be the best option. Upon entering the house, Sophia locked all the doors and windows, whereas John was busy with work, so he hung up after cautioning her against reckless moves. Sophia lay down on bed after washing up. Drinking all the soup Matilda brought her left her feeling bloated and drowsy, so she dozed off after flipping herself

over, muttering John's name. It was almost evening when she woke up. She propped herself up while taking in the view outside.

Upon retrieving her phone, she found that she had a few missed calls from John, Logan, and Matilda respectively. She checked on all of them before giving Logan a call, who picked up almost immediately.

Before Sophia even said anything, Logan started yelling over the phone, "Sophia, what happened yesterday? Did something happen to you? Who is it that wanted to hurt you? What kind of brute would do this to someone who is under my protection?" Sophia heaved a sigh before saying, "I'm alright, as nothing outrageous happened, so don't you worry."
"

**Logan was absolutely pissed.
“You’re at home, right? I’ll
leave for your house now, and
we’ll talk
about this face-to-face.**

**” He
hung up as soon as he finished
his sentence. Glancing at her
phone,
Sophia had no intention to call
either John or Matilda, as she
didn’t feel like opening up to
either of
them.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 660
After cleaning up her room,
Sophia left for the kitchen to
check on the ingredients in the
fridge so
that she could plan out what to
make for dinner. There were
still some veggies, a fish, as well
as
some ingredients for a salad,
which should be more than
enough.**

**While she was busying herself
with meal prep, Logan arrived
in a flurry of anger. With how
he
looked, people might assume**

he was there to pick a fight with her instead of being her support.

From within the kitchen, she instructed,

“You’re just in time to help with washing the veggies.

”

Logan obeyed without hesitation, fastening the apron around him.

“What happened last night? John told me you were being targeted.

”

Chuckling, Sophia commented, “He sure does tell you everything.

”

“Of course.

” Logan seemed to assume it was natural that John trusted him.

“It’s because John and I have a common goal in mind. Come, tell me what happened last night. Who has the guts to cross

you?”

Sophia hummed in response before taking over the conversation.

“How should I know what’s going on? I am still feeling confused about the incident.

”

Although they were the only occupants of the house, Logan whispered upon moving closer to

Sophia,

“Could Isabelle possibly be behind this? That woman is a scoundrel, so could she be plotting against you in secret?”

However, she wasn’t about to jump to conclusions as she had no proof.

“I don’t know, but I don’t think Isabelle will be willing to dirty her hands.

”

Logan licked his lips.

“Could it be the Morgans? It’s possible that they’re behind this.

”

Sophia was amused by his guesses. Since Logan had such a bad impression of the Morgans, he would

immediately suspect them whenever something shady happened. While they were chatting, they

had a guest. At first, Sophia assumed it was John, but their guest turned out to be Matilda.

Matilda’s presence made Sophia feel uneasy. Upon scanning her surroundings, Matilda asked,

“Is John not back yet? I thought you would all be here.

”

Meanwhile, Sophia went to the fridge as she

knew the dishes they made wouldn’t be enough for dinner now that they had more people, so she

wanted to make a few more.

With a frown, Matilda checked on Sophia.

“You shouldn’t be cooking!

Come on out! John will handle the rest when he gets home.
”

She sure is mutable, Sophia thought. Despite her claiming to feel sorry for John not so long ago while whining about him not being suited for cooking, it turned out that she had no qualms about bossing him around. Standing by the sink, Sophia said, “It’s alright. I can handle minor tasks like cooking.”

Logan glanced between Matilda and Sophia, obviously noting that something was off between them.

As soon as Matilda sat down on the sofa, he snuck up to Sophia before probing, “What’s going on between you two? You seem to be behaving differently around each other.”

A smile tugged at Sophia’s lips

as she joked,
“Perhaps she
finally realized how nice of a
person I am.
”

Even Logan understood it as a
joke as he continued to grumble,
“Matilda is actually a very
stubborn
woman who is hard to get along
with. I never liked her to begin
with, and I know that the
feelings
are mutual.
”

Sophia gave a hum before
taking a jab at him.
“Not many
people like you anyway. Do you
not notice
the faces of those privileged
people whenever they see you?
Only people like me appreciate
your
company.
”

Bursting into laughter, Logan
looped an arm around Sophia’s
shoulder.
“We are birds of a
feather

indeed! I knew it as soon as I saw you! I knew back when we first met and played games together

that you're someone who I could hang out with!"

With a smile, Sophia continued washing the veggies, whereas Matilda's expression soured upon

seeing that Logan had an arm around Sophia's shoulder.

The Returning Ex Chapter 661

Seeing that they were being intimate, Matilda wondered if Sophia and Logan were that familiar with

each other. John wasn't back until a while later, and was surprised by Matilda's presence in the house.

"Mom, why are you here?"

In response, Matilda stood from where she sat.

"I came to get an update regarding the incident.

Did

the culprit confess?"

John nodded while informing

her,
“He did reveal some
information, but just a fraction,
so he is being
detained by my men so they
can keep up with the
interrogation. I have a feeling
that he knows more
than what he chose to let on.
”

Upon letting out a sigh, Matilda
opened up.

“I didn’t sleep well
last night because of what
happened.

With where things are, it’s not
safe to leave Sophia alone, so I
think she should close the shop
for
some time, as safety should
come before money.
”

John examined Matilda before
smiling.

“Mom, your attitude
sure did a one-eighty.
”

There was a moment’s pause
while Matilda rolled her eyes at
John.

“Why do you sound

unhappy
that I am changing?”

“Oh, I am absolutely
overjoyed.

” John walked away
from the living room, only to
see Sophia and
Logan in the kitchen. He never
had concerns about Logan
snatching Sophia away from
him, so he
wasn’t affected when he saw
them together.

After giving the situation some
thought, Matilda suggested,
“You should take Sophia’s place.
Since

you and Logan can easily deal
with the cooking, Sophia
doesn’t need to be in there. The
floor in the
kitchen is wet, so what if she
slipped and fell?”

Arching his brow, John looked
back at Matilda.

“You haven’t
been visiting Isabelle these days,
have
you?”

Pursing her lips, Matilda chided,
“Instead of babbling nonsense,

**why won't you go make
dinner?"**

**John smacked his lips before
heading into the kitchen, only
to find that the veggies were
already
washed, whereas Sophia took
off her apron to hand it to John.
As she wanted to avoid inhaling
the
greasy smell later on when they
were cooking, she was glad that
John was back.**

**Upon leaving the kitchen, she
saw Matilda watching TV while
sitting on the sofa. Incidentally,
she
was watching a cartoon. Seeing
this, Sophia sat down beside
Matilda after letting out a
chuckle. With
her eyes still glued to the TV,
Matilda directed a question at
Sophia.**

**"How are you feeling?
Does it
hurt anywhere?"**

**"No, I'm feeling fine,
" Sophia
replied.**

After that, Matilda repeated

what she told John,
“With your
current circumstances, you
should let go
of unnecessary pursuits. Close
your shop for the time being, as
safety comes first, while you
can
always earn more money when
you make a comeback after
things are settled. Besides, I
don’t think
you need to worry about
business as John can help you
out on that.
”

Sophia turned to look at
Matilda before saying in a low
voice,
“As I told you, I will leave
here when
the time comes. I will never let
John know about the child, so
anything pertaining to the child
doesn’t concern you.
” Staring at
the TV, Matilda was at a loss of
words. With that, Sophia stood
from
her seat.
“I will be heading

upstairs.

”

It wasn't until Sophia's figure disappeared into the corner on the stairs that Matilda let out a sigh.

Sophia was actually feeling a little irritable because in spite of her resolve to leave, she didn't actually have a place to settle down at, nor did she know where she should go. Although the idea of giving birth to the baby without the Constances' assistance sounded easy, she knew there would definitely be a long journey ahead.

Sophia stood by the window while drowning in her sorrows. The door to her room was open, so the noises from downstairs were audible even in her room. Although the men weren't making a ruckus, they definitely weren't quiet. Logan was yelling at John for missing a step in his cooking,

which was followed by Matilda telling them to quiet down, as Sophia was resting.

Sophia didn't catch Logan's full sentence, but she could hear everything that Matilda said. As of late,

Matilda had been treating her very nicely, so much so that Sophia wasn't sure how she should reciprocate.

The Returning Ex Chapter 662

If things went on in that direction, Matilda might very well blurt out the fact that Sophia was pregnant. Scratching her head, Sophia tried to imagine how John would react once he knew she was

pregnant, but to no avail.

Despite the fear of knowing how he would react, she couldn't help but be curious about it. The two choices were pulling her in two directions, putting her in a tight spot.

Subsequently, Sophia took out

the report from the checkup and stared at it. Soon, the commotion downstairs indicated that dinner was ready, so she quickly tucked the report away.

Without needing John to come get her, she went downstairs after tidying her clothes.

In the meantime, the others had already set up the table, while John had gotten to the staircase, apparently intending to go get her. Upon noticing that Sophia came down on her own, John smiled.

“Come, let’s eat.”

Laying eyes on John, Sophia realized he was still wearing the apron, which presented him as a family man. Sophia pursed her lips, only to let out a giggle after a few seconds.

“You look nice in that.”

John smiled as soon as he heard

her remark.

“Is that so? If that’s the case, I suppose I will cook for you whenever I have time.”

Without a word, Sophia entered the dining room alongside John. Meanwhile, Matilda was already sitting by the table. Staring at the dishes laid out on it, she clicked her tongue.

“My son sure has changed after marrying his wife. He can cook almost anything.”

Both Sophia and John were startled by Matilda’s words, as she didn’t depict them as being independent from each other. However, Logan began eating as he didn’t notice what Matilda said.

On the other hand, Sophia took a deep breath while her stomach began churning. Due to the variety of dishes, she was being presented with a myriad of

smells that seemed to upset her stomach.

Sophia tried to hold herself back while grasping onto her fork, but failed miserably when she had to leave the dining room in a hurry.

There was a pause in John's movements before he stood up, but

Matilda was even faster than him.

Meanwhile, Sophia was leaning against the basin when she puked, which literally emptied her stomach of what little content it had.

Matilda helped soothe her by patting on her back, all the while heaving a sigh.

"Bear with it. That's just how things are in the beginning stages.

"

In the meantime, John held a menacing gaze while looking in the direction of the washroom from the entrance of the dining room. All

strength had left Sophia when the bout of sickness was over, so

Matilda had to help her to the sofa.

Glancing at John, Matilda heaved a sigh.

“I suppose it was because of her gastritis. You should leave this to me.

”

John stared at Sophia’s pale face.

“Are you sure it’s a case of gastritis?”

With a hum and a nod, Matilda shut him down.

“Yeah, of course it is. What else could it be?” What she said managed to silence him.

A while later, Sophia stood from the sofa while waving her hand.

“I’ll be resting upstairs.

Since I no longer have an appetite now, I’ll eat later when I’m hungry.

”

Matilda wouldn't let her go up on her own, whereas John stood watching after taking a few steps from the table. Upon helping Sophia lie down on bed, Matilda was beginning to feel sorry for her, as she knew how hard it was from personal experience. She had it better, as William was always beside her, so she was always venting out her frustrations on him by bossing him around, which somehow made her feel better. However, it was different with Sophia, as the latter had to conceal everything, so she could only rely on herself, which was a sad sight to behold.

The Returning Ex Chapter 663
Sitting next to the bed, Matilda gave it a thought before saying, "I don't get it. Why are you still so stubborn despite the fact that you already have his child? Wouldn't it be great if you tell

**John about
this, and the both of you could
raise this child properly after
you remarry each other?"**

**Sophia lay on her side in a fetal
position and closed her eyes.**

**"Would you do that if you're in
my
shoes?"**

**Dumbfounded, Matilda knew
that she wouldn't do that, and
she might be even more
stubborn than**

**Sophia. Taking the situation
with William now for example,
she desperately wanted to
reconcile**

**with him, but she was too
proud to do so. Still, she kept
hoping that he would come
running to coax**

**her like he always did before,
and clarify his relationship with
Yolanda.**

**Both William and Yolanda were
the thorns pricking at her heart
this whole time. But it seems
that**

**Sophia and John's situation is
more terrible than mine.**

Although she wasn't completely

sure, she knew that John didn't like Sophia before. From the way he behaved, it all showed that he never took her to heart.

Moreover, shortly after the passing of Old Mr. Constance when Sophia lost her only backup in the family, John had immediately brought up the divorce, proving that he didn't care about her feelings

at all. Hence, it was understandable that Sophia was now upset and couldn't decide what to do with John.

If this happened to her in her younger years when she was still proud and stubborn, she would have packed her bags and left. With money in her hand, she could easily raise a child by herself. Feeling a little tired, Sophia said, "Go and have your meal downstairs. I'm resting for a while.

"

After a short pause, Matilda

finally said,
“Okay, just let us
know when you’re hungry.”

Seeing that
Sophia didn’t reply, she then
got up and left the room.
Meanwhile, John was waiting
by the staircase the whole time.
The moment he saw her coming
downstairs, he asked anxiously,
“She’s still feeling unwell?”
“Huh? Oh yeah, she’s still
unwell.”

John nodded.
“I remember we
have some antacid at home. I’ll
bring some to her now, and
maybe
she’ll feel better after taking it.”

Matilda paused before
answering hurriedly,
“No, no,
no. No need for the antacid.
She doesn’t need to
take it.”

Standing on the same spot
without moving an inch, John

stared at her and thought that she seemed a little more worked up than needed.

Blinking a couple of times, Matilda regained her composure and explained, "She's already asleep, so she can't take the medication now. It takes time to treat gastric problems. Taking medications only relieves the symptoms but doesn't cure it from the root cause. Plus, there are always some side effects from medications. Let's try to treat it from the root cause the best we can."
"

Licking his lips, John said instead, "I'm going to take a look at her."
"

Matilda hesitated before moving away from his path. "Don't wake her up. She just fell asleep."
"

As he slipped past her, he

pointed out,
“You’re nicer to
her now.
”

Out of reflex, she twisted her
head at him, but he went
upstairs slowly without looking
at her.

It was true that Sophia, who
was in bed, had fallen asleep.
Earlier, she had exhausted
herself from
throwing up, and pregnant
women tended to be sleepy
easily. Thus, she really fell
asleep in a daze
after laying down for a while.
However, she couldn’t stay
asleep for long before she woke
up again. When she opened her
eyes, she
saw John standing by the
window with his head lowered
as he stared at something on his
cell phone,
holding a cigarette between his
fingers with his other hand.
Sitting up, she called out to him,
“John.
”

Startled, John immediately put

out the cigarette in his hand without even turning to look at her and kept away his cell phone. After taking a few deep breaths, he finally turned to her.

“You’re awake.”

”

“What’s up with you?” Sophia asked, staring at him. His eyes were a little reddened, and she could feel something off about him. Coughing lightly, he explained, “I’m fine. I took the last drag too strong and choked myself.”

”

Sophia didn’t think much about it and slowly got out of bed, but her mind was still in a blur, and she swayed when her feet touched the ground.

In contrast, John moved at lightning speed and dashed over in a blink of an eye to catch her.

“Be careful.”

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 664
His movements were so swift that it even shocked her, and she giggled.

“Your reaction is lightning quick!”

**“Yeah,
” John murmured and cast her a concerned look.**

“Are you going to the bathroom?”

Sophia nodded.

**“I would like to wash my face.
”**

In the end, he helped her all the way to the bathroom and left the bathroom door open so he could watch over her.

After washing her face, Sophia was startled when she turned and saw him staring fixedly at her, unblinking.

“What’s wrong?”

Pursing his lips, it took him a while before he answered,

**“Nothing.
”**

Then, he helped her out of the bathroom all the way until she returned to the bed and asked, “Are you hungry? I’ll get you something to eat.”

Sophia nodded and thanked him, but he went downstairs straightaway without another word.

As she stared at him leaving, she frowned. There’s something off about him. In the past, if she had thanked him, he would have replied, telling her no thanks. However, it was as though he hadn’t heard anything earlier.

Logan and the rest had already left a long time ago, and John prepared some food for her downstairs. When he went upstairs again, he placed the food on the bedside table and took a seat at the side silently.

With her head lowered, Sophia took a couple of bites from the food as she looked at him from

the
corner of her eye, unable to
fathom what was going on.
While she was eating, he
watched her
intently with a solemn look on
his face and appeared
incredibly weird.

Did Matilda tell him something?
she pondered suddenly.
Despite that, as soon as the
thought popped up in her mind,
she shot it down quickly.

Matilda
probably didn't say anything. If
he really knew that I'm
pregnant, he wouldn't be in
such a state.

After she finished her meal
under an oppressive
atmosphere, he came over and
took the dishes
downstairs.

"Would you like to
go out for a walk? Let's take a
walk around the area,
" he
suggested
afterward.

"You've slept for a
long time, so it's about time to

get up and flex your body a little.

”

Sophia gazed outside and saw that the sky was already dark, but after some contemplation, her

body did feel sore after laying down for a long time.

Hence, she nodded, thinking that it wouldn't be an issue if it was just around the area. John then

went over to help her downstairs, and they took a walk back and forth on the lane next to the house.

The air around them was incredibly odd as John was quiet the whole while. Finally, Sophia couldn't take it anymore and broke the silence first.

“John, I can stay by myself at night, actually. I'll just keep the doors and windows properly locked, so you don't have to...

”

In other words, she was now

chasing him away.

John glanced at her before saying,

“Sophia, are you hiding something from me?”

Jumping in surprise at his question, Sophia’s heart raced as she spun to look at him, speaking

incoherently out of panic,

“Hiding something from you?

What can I possibly be hiding from you? No,

there’s nothing. I’m not hiding anything from you.

”

John reached out and grabbed her hand.

“Okay, it’s great if you’re not hiding anything. That will be the best.

”

With her heart pounding against her chest, she licked her lips nervously. Seeing how he was acting, she was starting to doubt if he really hadn’t discovered anything yet. No matter how she looked at it,

his words seemed to be hinting at her.

They walked around a couple of times, but didn't have any more conversation after that, and John

helped her home when he saw that it was getting late.

While Sophia washed up and then lay in bed, he kept a watch over her by the door and only left after

she was under the blanket and closed her eyes.

When the room turned dark, Sophia opened her eyes again.

Something is off about him.

He's acting really weird.

The Returning Ex Chapter 665

It was so obvious to her that he was acting weird that she couldn't look past it.

Meanwhile, John didn't return to his room but went downstairs again and stood in front of the glass windows in the living room.

Actually, he had no idea what was going through his mind, yet his heart

was in a whirl, carrying a small glimmer of hope. At the same time, he was afraid that he was overthinking.

Without a doubt, he wouldn't be able to fall asleep now, so he went to grab a beer which Logan had brought over in the evening, thinking that they could hangout for a bit, but that didn't happen.

Taking a seat on the couch, John opened the beer and started drinking by himself in silence.

In the middle of the night, Sophia woke up to use the bathroom, but no matter how she tried afterward, she couldn't go back to sleep. Hence, she walked out of her room and, in the hallway, saw that there was light at the top of the staircase. Fearlessly, she slowly went over and looked downward.

She saw John sitting on the couch and a few empty beer bottles on the coffee table.

Taken aback, she
decided to join him downstairs.
Pacing next to him, it was clear
that he had a drink too much,
and he only realized her
presence
when she gave him a nudge.
With reddened eyes, he gazed
at her for a couple of seconds
before
reaching out and grabbing her
toward himself.

“Sophia.
”

She murmured in assent.

“What’s up with you? Did you
drink too much?”

“No, I didn’t.

” He chuckled.

“I
didn’t drink too much. This is
nothing. I can drink very well.
”

Sophia sighed.

“Why are you
drinking? You can’t sleep?”

“Yeah, I can’t sleep indeed. Tell
me honestly, Sophia, are you
hiding something from me?”

Pursing her lips, she said,
“What

can I be hiding from you?
You're always by my side and
know
everything that's happening
with me.

”

He didn't speak anymore at her
reply but held her hand.

Lowering his head, he placed
the back of
her hand to his forehead.

“Let's
make a trip to the hospital
tomorrow, Sophia.

”

Shocked, she asked,
“Why?”

In a low voice, he replied,

“I'm

worried. Recently, your gastric
is occurring too frequently, and
your

condition for the past few days
isn't the best, either. Let's go
for a checkup in the hospital,
shall we?”

Keeping her lips in a thin line, a
few seconds passed before

Sophia finally said,

“There's no
need for

that. I've been living with this gastric problem for a long time, and I know what to do. There's nothing to worry about.

”

However, John let out a long sigh and spoke in a slow but determined voice,

“Let's go.

”

Flustered, Sophia wasn't sure if he was probing her or really just worried about her health.

Realizing that she didn't say a thing, he lifted his gaze at her.

“Before this, Grandma told me to bring

you for a proper checkup.

Gastric won't cause much problem when you're young, but as you get

older, it will become a problem for you.

”

He gave her hand a tug, and she plopped herself next to him.

When he spun toward her, she could

tell that he did have a lot to drink as he reeked of alcohol.

Extending his arms, he held her

into his
embrace.

“I’m afraid, Sophia.
”

Sophia didn’t know what he
was afraid of, but right now,
she was the one struck by fear.
With his eyes shut closed, John
muttered,

“Don’t hide anything
from me if there’s something
going
on. Please don’t ever hide
anything from me, okay?”

Biting her lip, Sophia agreed
softly after a long pause,

“Yeah.
”

John patted her back gently and
said no more after that. As he
had too much to drink, it was
fine

when he was seated. However,
the moment he stood up, he
started to sway, and Sophia had
no other

option but to help him upstairs.

In the end, he refused to return
to his own room and insisted on
sleeping in her room. Hence,
she

watched helplessly as he stumbled into her room and threw himself onto her bed.

“You’re doing this on purpose, aren’t you?” she asked with a frown.

The Returning Ex Chapter 666

After tossing around in her bed a couple of times, John fell asleep, and it seemed to her that he

hadn’t heard a single word she said earlier.

Forget it, maybe he really drank too much, Sophia thought and went into the bathroom for a towel.

She wiped his face and hands before proceeding to take off his jacket. Although he was drunk, he

was rather cooperative and removed his clothes as she wanted.

Finally, she placed the blankets over him and then went to his room. Even though she wasn’t used to

his bed, she was tired and fell asleep soon after she lay down.

When it was almost daybreak,

she was awakened by the sound of the door. Opening her eyes, she saw John coming into the room. Without the need to ask, she already knew what he was up to, and she turned her back toward him.

“You’re annoying.”

John grinned and hugged her from behind.

“I can’t sleep when you’re not next to me.”

Couldn’t be bothered with him, she closed her eyes and continued to sleep until late morning without even knowing when he had left the room.

So she returned to her room and washed up before coming out again. That was when she heard Matilda’s voice from downstairs, saying, “That’s right, lay it out here where it’s slippery. That side as well, and also over there, that

left side...

”

Rushing to the top of the staircase, she glanced down and saw Matilda with a group of people who were placing carpets in the living room. Even the kitchen seemed to be covered in non-slip mats.

Watching from the top at Matilda, who had her hands on her hips, she did look like she had the stance as the mistress of the Constance Family from before. As she leaned against the handrail and observed, she had no intention of joining the commotion at all. The workers carried huge pieces of carpets into the house and placed them carefully on the floor.

The yoga mats which were there before had all been removed, and the hanging chair in the living room was moved aside, revealing a wide, open space. Sophia knew that Matilda was

worried she might trip if there were too many things in the way.

That's really thoughtful of her. While it seemed that Matilda didn't feel awkward about meddling so much into her own affairs, she was the one feeling rather uneasy about it.

When Matilda was done giving out the instructions, she lifted her head and saw her. Waving a hand at her, she called out, "Come here and don't lean over there. You look scary like that. Come down and take a seat here."
"

And so, Sophia went downstairs and was surprised to see that there was also a servant besides the workers placing the carpets.

"Over here, Ms. Cannon," she heard Matilda saying. "This is Sophia."

”

In her fifties, Ms. Cannon looked like an honest and dependable worker, and she hurried over to greet Sophia,
“Hello, Ms. Gwendolyn.

”

Sophia merely blinked and didn't say a thing, but Matilda continued,
“I transferred Ms. Cannon from the Flintstones, and she's a really great cook. Let me tell you, when I was pregnant with John, I wouldn't eat anyone else's cooking but hers, and I'm sending her here to take care of you now.
You're picky about food during this period, so you should pay more attention to it.

”

Glancing at her, Sophia pointed out,
“The way you are now is as good as telling John the truth.

”

Thinking over with pursed lips,
Matilda finally said,
“Sophia, I
don’t think you can hide your
pregnancy, really. It’s not about
me telling John about it, but
rather about your reaction now.

Even
before your belly becomes big,
it won’t take him more than a
couple of days to become
suspicious.

How much longer do you think
you can fool him with gastric as
an excuse?”

Deep inside, Sophia knew that
John was already growing
suspicious.

Holding her hand, Matilda led
her to the couch and sat down
while Ms. Cannon went ahead
with her

chores. In an incredibly rare
occasion, Matilda didn’t seem
awkward at all as she took her
hand and
spoke earnestly,

“In your
current state, you said you
want to leave alone and have
the child

**somewhere, but listen to me.
You haven't left yet, and you're
speaking about it so lightly
when your body is having such
a huge
reaction. If you really leave by
yourself and have no one to
speak to when you're upset,
you'll
definitely regret it.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 667
Sighing, she went on,
“Furthermore, someone is
obviously doing nasty things in
the dark and wants
to harm you. Do you have any
idea what would happen if that
person catches up with you if
you
leave this place? Just the
thought of it is terrifying.
”**

**Tightening her lips into a thin
line, Sophia did think about this
point as well yesterday. The
main
issue was, she didn't know who
was after her, and she couldn't
be sure if she wouldn't be
followed**

once she left here. She didn't dare to risk it, and neither could she bear the consequences of this risk.

Speechless, she lowered her gaze, and Matilda knew that her words had reached her.

Hence, Matilda softened her tone, saying,

“Sophia, I think John has the right to know about your pregnancy. It's not fair that you're keeping this from him.”

Without waiting for a reply, she continued,

“It's true that John didn't care about you in the past, and we all know that this made your heart uncomfortable and flustered. You can get back at him in other ways for it, but you really shouldn't do that with this issue. Think about it by placing yourself into his perspective, how would you feel if you're John and only found out about this later?”

“Give me some time to think about it,

” Sophia answered hurriedly.

Smiling, Matilda agreed,

“Alright, think about it carefully.

By the way, you don’t have to make a trip

to the shop because I made a stop there on my way here and already told Robin that you’ll be resting

at home today.

”

As her heart was in confusion, she didn’t have any thoughts of going to her shop at all, so she nodded.

“Alright, I got it.

”

Unsatisfied with the placement of the furniture in the place, Matilda instructed the workers to

change the layout bit by bit while Sophia went to take a seat in the garden and couldn’t be bothered

with what was going on.

Matilda had a point; John did hurt her in some aspects, but he

treated her rather well in some other ways, too. She couldn't just deny his contributions because of the pain he inflicted upon her and keep him in the dark about such a serious matter.

Wiping her face, Sophia struggled within herself on how she should open up this topic to John.

As for Matilda, after straining herself for half the day, the floors on both levels were covered in non-slip carpets. Just like that, without even the need for Sophia to say anything, John would have figured out by himself what was going on. This was simply too obvious to ignore.

Tonight, he came home a little later and only returned when the food was ready in the kitchen and would be served soon.

Ms. Cannon was a splendid cook indeed. Using the same ingredients, she was able to

**cook up dishes
that made Sophia drool from
just the aroma.**

**Meanwhile, John was stunned
the moment he came home.**

**The place had gone through
tremendous
changes; all corners of the
house were covered in carpets,
and the living room was now
much more
spacious with the removal of
many items. Standing at the
entrance of the kitchen and
watching Ms.**

**Cannon plating the meals,
Sophia's heart skipped a beat
when she saw that he had
returned.**

**Spinning around and pacing
toward him, she greeted,
"You're back.
"**

**John nodded and was about to
step through the door when she
grabbed him by his arm and
said,**

**"I
have something to tell you.
Let's talk in the garden.
"**

Peering at her, he asked,
“What
is it that has to be said in the
garden and not in the house?”
She licked her lips and
explained,
“Well, you might
lose your temper after I tell you.
Since the car is
just right here, it’s more
convenient for you if you want
to drive off when you’re mad.
It’s a hassle if
you are already in the house
and need to come out again.
”

From the way she put it, John
felt that it seemed inexcusable
for him if he didn’t drive off
later. As
they both stood in the garden,
Sophia turned back and peered
into the house.

The Returning Ex Chapter 668
Standing at the kitchen
doorway, Matilda glanced at
her, gave her a thumbs-up, and
disappeared
into the dining room with the
dinner. Sophia blinked and
turned back to John, who was

**gazing at her
intently. Suddenly, her heart
began to pound violently, and
she took a deep breath.**

**“There’s
something I want to tell you,
but I don’t know where to
begin.**

”

John nodded.

**“Just tell me.
There’s nothing which can’t be
said between us.**

”

**Despite that, she blinked
blankly at him, unsure of how
to bring up the topic as he
stared at her,
feeling as though he knew what
was coming up next.**

**Seeing that she was quiet, he
suggested,**

**“Alright, then. I’ll ask
the questions, and you’ll just
answer**

yes or no.

”

**Immediately, she bobbed her
head in agreement.**

**“Okay, you
can ask me.**

”

Lowering his eyes to her belly,
he asked,

“Previously when you
were feeling unwell, it wasn’t
because of gastric, was it?”

“Yeah,

” she answered with a
guilty conscience.

“It wasn’t
because of gastric.

”

As he stared at her, she lost the
guts to look at him, and he
breathed deeply.

“Did your
menstrual
stop for a long time?”

Actually, he wasn’t sure about
her monthly cycle because they
hadn’t lived together for a
while. Still,

he felt that the sanitary napkins
in her closet had remained
untouched for some time now.

Sophia’s heart shuddered at his
words. This man... he already
knows?

Slowly, she let out a sigh and
nodded after a long pause.

“For

more than a month now.

”

This time, John didn't ask anything anymore and merely stared at her with an expression so solemn

that it made her feel like a horrible person for hiding the truth from him before this.

Guilt-ridden, Sophia left her mouth hanging for a long time, not knowing what else she could say as

it seemed like nothing could clear the situation regardless of what she said now. From the beginning, she hadn't intended to tell him this and even planned to leave with the child.

As John maintained his silence, she felt at a loss and wasn't sure of what she should do, just like a

primary school kid who was punished. On the other side, Matilda slowly made her way over and

stood in the living room, eyeing the both of them cautiously.

From the corner of her eye, Sophia saw her and cast her a

pleading look, as though she had seen her savior. However, Matilda simply hesitated before turning around, leaving her in bewilderment. Indeed, I can't depend on anyone at all.

After considering it, she took a step closer to John. As her mind was really empty, she blurted, "Are you so mad that you want to leave now? Look, your car is just right there."
"

John shut his eyes, and she saw him gritting his teeth a few times before storming off. However, he went into the house instead of getting into the car. He didn't go into the dining room either, but straight upstairs. From downstairs, Sophia could hear the loud bang of a door closing from upstairs. Shrinking her neck, she knew that he was really, really mad this time. Since he had never been this

angry at her ever before, she didn't know what she should do next.

At this point, Matilda came out of the dining room and stood at the living room doorway.

"He went upstairs in anger? Aren't you going to coax him?"

Rolling her eyes at her, Sophia said,

"You have the cheeks to show up now when I was so terrified earlier. What are you doing here now?"

Matilda hissed,

"Can't you tell that I was giving you guys some privacy earlier so that you can talk it out properly?"

Ignoring her, Sophia merely licked her lips and said,

"Let's eat now. I'm hungry."

"

Matilda's face twitched.

"You still have the appetite for food?"

You're amazing.

”

Of course, I do, she thought silently. Earlier, she had taken in the smell of the food and had been

longing for it for quite some time, so she was definitely in the mood to eat now.

The Returning Ex Chapter 669

Paying no heed to Matilda, Sophia went straight into the dining room, where Ms. Cannon had

already prepared dinner, and she sat right down.

“It smells wonderful.

”

“You really don't plan to take a look upstairs?” Matilda asked, joining her in the dining room. Without lifting her head, Sophia began to dig in and answered, “No, I'll take a look after dinner.

”

In the meantime, John stormed into the master bedroom, but he wasn't exactly angry. Earlier in his

office, he spent a long time thinking about it and had mentally prepared himself for what Sophia said. Otherwise, he couldn't find an explanation as to why someone would spend a huge amount of money just to hire a person to knock her down. It didn't make any sense.

Despite that, he was uneasy because he didn't know when Sophia found out about her pregnancy and why she kept it from him before this. She didn't know how to explain the matter to me? Or was it that she didn't plan to do it at all? If it was the latter, what did she plan to do with the child? After staying in the room for a long while, yet Sophia still didn't come after him, he was left hanging with his temper flaring as he stood there, until he decided to rummage through the drawers in the closet. There, he found her

checkup report and adrenaline pumped through his veins after a quick glance at it.

Even though he couldn't understand the report, he could roughly understand the results of the checkup from the textual explanation. When he was done with the report, he finally let out a deep, long sigh.

Carefully, he kept the report away. Although he couldn't fully understand it, he knew that it held the first photograph of his child. Even after he sat on the bed for a long time, nobody came upstairs, so he decided to leave the room impatiently. When he went downstairs, however, the atmosphere was jovial.

Matilda had instructed Ms. Cannon to prepare some fruits and was telling Sophia which kind of fruits would produce lovable children with large eyes and fair

skin, while Sophia listened intently as she had no knowledge about such issues.

While skinning the grapes for her, Matilda elaborated,

“If you take more of this, your child will have eyes as big as grapes. Look at John’s eyes; it was all due to the grapes I’ve eaten. When I was pregnant, I would eat grapes whenever possible. Of course, I would also take apples and milk. Listen to me and you won’t go wrong. When your child is born, your baby boy will be handsome, and pretty if it’s a baby girl.

”

With a fork in her hand, Sophia was rather obedient and popped the grapes into her mouth one after another.

“It’s sweet.

”

“For sure it is because I spent so much time picking it out. I

almost tasted them one by one
just to be
sure!" Matilda said and laughed
heartily.

Giggling, Sophia said,
"You've
bought so much. I don't think I
can finish it all.

"

"Not a problem,
" she answered
casually.

"Give the leftovers to
John. Just give it to him if
you've had
enough.

"

From the top of the staircase,
John peered at the women
downstairs who were speaking
to each
other as if they had forgotten
the past discord between them
and were getting along
extraordinarily
peacefully now. Almost
instantly, the anger in him
evaporated at this sight. It
seemed like Matilda
already knew about this from
the beginning and Sophia

wasn't planning on keeping this from him completely.

As it had been a while since the checkup and Sophia didn't take any other actions, it appeared that

she had intentions of keeping the child.

Slowly, he went downstairs and Sophia lifted her eyes at him.

"Would you like to have dinner?"

The

food is still warm. You should really try Ms. Cannon's cooking.

It's really delicious.

"

Pacing next to her, he said,

"Sophia, don't you think that you owe me an explanation? Do you think

that this matter is over just like this?"

Sophia shot Matilda a look from the corner of her eyes and the latter blinked a couple of times before bringing out her previous attitude toward Sophia.

The Returning Ex Chapter 670

Matilda stiffened herself while

she looked at John.

“What’s
there to explain? Just go and
have your
dinner now. What explanation
are you expecting? You should
be grateful that she already told
you
about it. Don’t ask for too much,
young man.
”

With knitted brows, John stared
at her. Since when did Mom
become this way?

Glaring at him, Matilda
continued,

“Hurry up and have
your dinner. After that, bring
Sophia out for a
walk. She can’t be sitting too
much now that she’s pregnant.
Exercising appropriately is fine.
”

Then,
she waved a hand at him as
though to dismiss him.
John nearly broke into laughter
from his incredulity. Since when
did these two women become
allies?
Before this, both of them would

slip into an argument every time they met.

The whole time, Sophia kept her head lowered and ate her fruits. He hesitated for a second and decided to head into the dining room.

After he sat down, he heard Matilda's voice from the living room, saying,

"Are there any free rooms here? It's not easy to get a cab at this late hour. I'll stay the night here."
"

John's hand, which was holding a fork, paused mid-air. Then, Sophia could be heard saying,

"Yeah, there are many rooms on the second floor. Take a look at them afterward and pick whichever you like. Ms. Cannon will help to clean it up for you."
"

A few seconds passed, and the edges of his lips twitched upward into a smile. When he

was finished
with dinner, he went next to
the couch and saw that Sophia
was watching TV with Matilda
after she
had finished her fruits.

“Let’s go out for a walk,
” he

said in a solemn tone.

Sophia grunted and got up
slowly as she cast him a
cautious look. Even Matilda
lifted her gaze at him
when he lowered his eyes,
momentarily meeting each
other’s eyes for a split second
before they
both looked away at the same
time.

They went into the garden.

After a while, John paused,
staring fixedly at Sophia. Then,
as though he
had no other choice, he
grabbed her hand in his and
said,

“Watch your steps.

”

Next to him, Sophia pursed her
lips and was quiet. Both of
them went out for a walk, and

that was
literally the only thing they did
as they didn't exchange a single
word. Now, she was fully aware
that
he was still pissed at her for
hiding her pregnancy from him.
Even so, she knew that it was
only
natural that he was upset about
it. If she had been in his place,
she would have made a huge
fuss
about it. Thus, she kept her
mouth shut because she was
aware that she was in the
wrong in this
matter.

After going one round, John
brought her back into the house
and they realized that Matilda
had
already gone upstairs to rest for
the day. They gave each other a
look and then trod upstairs as
well.

Barely a few seconds had
passed since Sophia entered her
room when John came in as
well.

"My mom took over my room,

”

he said helplessly.

Dumbfounded, she gazed at him silently as he scanned the room quickly and saw that his pajamas

were placed on her bed.

“They

even brought my pajamas here,

” he said with a straight face.

However, Sophia still kept staring at him while he lamented,

“The other rooms were not prepared and it’s already so late now.

”

Frowning, she finally spoke.

“So?”

Keeping his face straight, John grabbed his pajamas and headed for the bathroom.

“So

what? It’s

already so late, so of course we’re washing up and then going to bed.

”

With that, he disappeared into

the bathroom while Sophia sat on the bed. Forget it, let him have his way today, she told herself in her mind with her eyes closed as it wasn't the best to challenge him, given the situation earlier.

In the bathroom, John took his time, and by the time he was done, Sophia had already fallen asleep.

Staring at her from the bathroom door, he saw that she was still holding her cell phone in her hand even though she had dozed off. Sighing, he placed her down in a more comfortable position so she could sleep properly.

The Returning Ex Chapter 671
Sophia groaned softly and turned over, continuing to sleep. After a few seconds, John placed his palm on her belly and stroked it gently. Actually, he couldn't feel anything on her flat stomach now.

In addition to that, because of

her odd sleeping position
earlier, her belly was even a
little concave.

Despite that, it didn't diminish
his curiosity and he kept his
hand on her belly, taking in the
sensation little by little.

He really couldn't feel anything,
but he could still sense the
small life growing underneath
his palm

bit by bit. Meanwhile, Sophia
was in such a deep slumber that
she didn't even notice when he
changed her into her pajamas.

When he was done, she merely
turned the other way and
resumed
sleeping.

Finally, after a long time, he
smiled and lay down, holding
her in his arms. Regardless of
whether she

could hear it or not, he
whispered,

"Thank you,
Sophia.

" Even though it was
Sophia who had said
that to him many times before,
he was the one who should

have said it to her.

In the middle of the night,
John's cell phone suddenly rang,
and after making sure that

Sophia wasn't

awakened by it, he turned over
and grabbed his cell phone.

When he saw that it was his
subordinate

calling, he went to the hallway
to pick up the call.

"Sir, this man says that he
wants to see you and has
something to tell you. No
matter how we
questioned him, he refused to
say anything,

" his subordinate
reported.

John glanced at his watch,
which was showing that it had
just turned midnight, and then
at Sophia in
the bedroom.

"Alright, I'm
going over right now,
" he said.

"I would like to know what he
has to tell
me.

"

Sneaking silently back into the bedroom, he changed and left with his keys. As there weren't many cars on the roads at this time, it didn't take him long to reach the warehouse, where someone was already waiting for his arrival and soon led him to meet the man.

That man was now seated cross-legged on the floor, and he didn't look good with his battered arm still in bandages. It seemed like he wouldn't be able to move his arm at all. Upon seeing John approaching, he smirked.

**"Tell all of them to leave. I'm only telling it to you."
"**

Unafraid, John sent all his subordinates out.

**"Talk."
"**

**Sighing, the man began,
"I'm not hiding that much from you, actually. The lady whom I**

wanted to
knock down that day is
pregnant, and someone paid
me to knock her down so she
would lose her
child. If it wasn't for this reason,
he wouldn't have offered me so
much money.

” Chuckling by
himself, he went on,

“Well, all I
can say is that we all have our
professional ethics, and I wasn't
allowed to reveal anything. But
my arm...

” He trailed off and his
eyes wandered to his arm.

“My
arm
is f*cking painful and I can't
take it anymore,
” he said.

“Otherwise, I wouldn't have
said a word.

”

That person told him this at
that time because he trusted
him, thinking that he would just
do as told
if he paid him. As for other
matters, he wouldn't tell him at

all, for the more people who knew about a thing like this, the more trouble it would create. John pondered over his testimonial before remarking, "So the person who paid you isn't the real mastermind either."
"

"No.
" The man shook his head.
"The mastermind must be hiding far away while the small fries were sent out to do the actual dirty work.
" Pointing at himself, he said,
"Take me as an example. Even though I am a small fry, we still have our rules and now I've broken them."
"

Snorting out loud, John continued to ask,
"Let me ask you this. Is this the person you're contacting?"
He took out that man's cell

phone and showed him his call records.

The man nodded.

“That’s him,

but that’s the only number I have. I don’t know anything

else. If you

want to ask me his name and

address, I really have no idea

and I’m completely honest with you. In

my current state, I wouldn’t be hiding anything from you.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 672

John merely nodded silently. On

his part, he had already run a

search on this number, but

there was

something obviously amiss with

the name registered on this

number.

The account information of the

number was registered to an

old man full of white hair living

in a

village. He wasn’t educated and

couldn’t even read. There was

no way he would believe that a

person like this was involved in

Sophia’s accident.

Hence, there was only one possibility—the ID used to register this number belonged to another person, or that this number was bought from a different person. Well, of course, no one would use their real identity to do something so despicable. John gave the man a hard stare for a long time. Probably due to his lack of rest, the man seemed a little pale and tired. Under such circumstances, it was highly unlikely that he would lie about anything. Standing up, John paced outside and his subordinates looked at him expectantly. To that, John merely waved his hand, gesturing for them to release the man. The man walked out of the warehouse by himself without the help of anyone. When he brushed past John, he stopped in his tracks and uttered, “It seems like that person has a nickname, Old

Leopard.

I'm not too sure, but you can check up on it.

”

Later, when John returned to Sophia, she was still asleep and appeared unaware of his short disappearance. Feeling a little chilly, he sat on the bed. After a while, he couldn't hold it anymore and rubbed his hands together before slowly reaching it out to stroke her belly.

It's so weird that there's actually a baby in there who will look like me and Sophia. It will gradually grow and arrive into this world to call me daddy when the kid reaches maturity, he thought in awe.

Human reproduction is such an amazing and beautiful process! He waited before changing into his pajamas again and slipped back into bed. However, he was a little restless. Even though he already sent his men to investigate this person called

'Old Leopard'

, he

**wasn't sure how many people
out there would share the same
nickname. As he lay in bed,**

many

**things flickered through his
mind; he thought about his past
with Sophia and also about the
future.**

**He didn't know when he fell
asleep, but he suddenly woke
up with a start. Still in bed,**

Sophia was

**now in his arms, clinging onto
him like an octopus.**

**Trying his best to avoid her
belly, he moved carefully as she
had her legs and arms on him.**

After

**finding herself a comfortable
position, she continued her
slumber. Chuckling softly, he
straightened**

**her posture and inched in closer
to her before falling asleep
again.**

**The next day, Ms. Cannon was
the first to wake up and started
breakfast preparation. Next, it
was**

Matilda who woke up. As he didn't rest well the night before, he didn't get out of bed even though he heard the noises. Furthermore, it was a Saturday, a day where he could get proper rest.

Holding

Sophia, he returned to dreamland.

All the while, Matilda left them alone, so he slept until late in the morning, when he really couldn't stay in bed any longer.

Cautiously, he peeled Sophia away from himself and got out of bed. While she was still fast asleep, he stopped and stared at her from the bathroom door.

Indeed, pregnant women act like pigs—they eat and sleep very well. But that's not bad, he thought.

Sophia was skinny and weak to begin with, so it's a good opportunity for her to nourish her body now.

After washing up, he went

downstairs and found Matilda in the garden staring around happily with a cup of tea in her hands. Coming up next to her, he said, "Thanks for last night."
"

Matilda grinned. "That's all I can help you with and you'll have to do your best after this. From the looks of it, I don't think Sophia will remarry you yet, so you still have a long way to go from here."
"

"We even have a child now," he said with a frown.

"And she's still reluctant to remarry me?"
The Returning Ex Chapter 673
Matilda snorted out loudly and looked at him as though he was an idiot.

"If she really wants to remarry you because of the baby, she wouldn't have waited until yesterday to break the news to

**you. Listen here, my silly boy.
She was planning to hide this
from you in the beginning.
Don't think
too highly of yourself because
she isn't even interested in
you.
”**

**Casting her an unhappy look, he
blurted,
“You wouldn't speak so
badly of me in the past.
”**

**That was when she shut her
trap. There were many things in
the past which shouldn't be
brought
up, and whenever she recalled
the things she had done before,
she would unwittingly cringe
and feel
uneasy.**

**In the past, she had been too
unreasonable, but still, not
everything was her fault.
Pursing her lips, she finished
her tea before saying in a soft
voice,
“During this period when
I'm
living by myself, I can't fall**

asleep at night and that got me thinking, what had I done before that resulted in this turn in my life now? I had such a good life before this, so I couldn't get it at all.

”

Previously, when she was in the Constance Family, putting aside the amount of envy from other people that status brought her, people had to show her respect; even Old Mrs. Constance would usually tolerate her.

Despite that, when it came to the end, Old Mrs. Constance was the most determined one to abandon

her. Even though William seemed to be hesitating, she could tell that his patience for her had worn out.

Exactly when did these people change their attitudes toward her? She thought about this over and over in her head, and felt that it was around the time when Sophia returned to live in the

old residence again. During that period, Sophia had zero regards for her and their conflicts turned even more severe. Thereafter, Old Mrs. Constance kept reprimanding her.

At the thought of this, she would be reminded of that kick Sophia gave her, and it was humiliating that she was kicked by a youngster. Nevertheless, looking at it objectively now, Matilda thought that Sophia was also partly responsible for it even though she couldn't place all the blame on her.

Hmm, I should really find time to speak about our past feud with Sophia.

Turning to look at her, John broke into a smile after a while. "Dad should be seeing the way you are now. You're a changed person."

Annoyance flashed across her face at the mention of William.

“Don’t bring up your father. I saw him yesterday when I was out.”

Surprised, John asked, “And?”

Sighing, she said, “He didn’t see me. He was shopping in the mall, probably getting something for Yolanda, and I left after taking a look at him.”

After some contemplation, John decided against saying anything as he wasn’t exactly sure what was going on between William and Yolanda. Personality-wise, Yolanda was indeed better than Matilda, and men tend to lean toward gentle and thoughtful women. Even if William was interested in Yolanda, John could actually understand the reason behind it. Since relationships were a problem each person had to

sort out by themselves, John didn't want to be involved in their matters. In the midst of their chitchat, John heard the sound of the window opening from upstairs, so he hurriedly turned to look upward.

Sure enough, it was Sophia who had woken up. Pulling back the curtains, she opened the windows and leaned out while scratching her head.

John grinned.

“Wash up now,
and then we can eat.”

Sophia appeared groggy with half-closed eyes as she stared at the both of them downstairs for a few seconds before grunting and disappearing from the window. Placing a hand on John's shoulder, Matilda said, “You're going to be a father soon. I don't know whether I should be happy or not about it. In a blink of an eye,

so many years have passed, but it feels just like yesterday when I recall how you were next to me when you were just a boy.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 674
Straightening her hair, Matilda said,

“I have to admit that I’m getting old now. I really am, and I’m about to become a grandma soon.

” Then, she turned into the living room. After a moment of thought, John trod after her.

John had nothing planned for the day. When the ladies had eaten, they stood in the garden and

Matilda came up with the idea to go shopping. She really wanted to visit the maternity store to stock up on some baby items.

“Isn’t it still early?” John exclaimed in surprise as he glanced at Sophia’s belly, which was still so flat

that he couldn't tell she was carrying a baby at all.

Matilda cast an annoyed look at him.

"It's not early at all. When the first trimester has passed, her belly will grow very quickly and she won't fit into her current clothes anymore. It will be handy to buy some maternity clothing now.

" Turning to Sophia, she asked,

"What do you think?"

Sophia's eyes were fixed on Matilda. Their relationship for the past few days had turned for the better. As a simple-minded woman, Matilda was merely spoiled by William before this. Now, she was a little more sensible and clearly much nicer toward her. On Sophia's side, she was not a calculative person and it seemed like there wasn't such a huge ridge standing in between them that

they couldn't overcome. Hence,
she set aside their past conflicts
and
nodded after just one glance at
her.

"You're right."
"

Smiling, Matilda spun her head
to face John.

"Get ready and
let's go now."
"

He stole a glance at Sophia and
replied helplessly,
"Okay."
"

Subsequently, he drove them to
a mall in the heart of the city.
Since there were many people
on a
Saturday, John guarded Sophia
into the mall on one side while
Matilda was on her other side,
asking
her if she saw any clothes she
fancied that she could still wear
for some time while her belly
was still
flat.

At home, Sophia actually had
quite a lot of clothes, and she

didn't go out that often now, so there was no need to get any more new clothes. However, she was thinking about Robin, who was managing the shop by herself now, and she wanted to drop by the shop later. Well, I'll buy her some clothes now and bring them straight to her at the shop, she thought. All three of them were on the ladies clothing level and had just come out of a store when they ran into old acquaintances. The moment the three of them exited the shop and turned the corner, they saw Isabelle coming out from another shop. Shopping as well, Isabelle had just bought some clothes and was chatting happily with her mother. The sight of Isabelle didn't have any effect on Sophia, but she stole a look at Matilda out of reflex, unsure if she would be

awkward at this meeting.
Previously, she was always the
one next to Isabelle
on such occasions.

Seeing Isabelle, Matilda didn't
appear awkward; she simply
paused for a second before
smiling.

"Isn't this Isabelle? What a
coincidence!"

Shocked that Sophia was right
next to Matilda, Isabelle froze
on the spot and stared
unblinkingly at
them for a long while before
greeting her.

On the other hand, John was
staring at Isabelle as well,
mainly because he couldn't help
but link the

things which happened to
Sophia before this to Isabelle.

Looking at her now, his gaze
unwittingly
carried a hint of scrutiny as he
scanned her.

Mrs. Bailey was also shocked
beyond words seeing Matilda
together with Sophia; especially
when
she had heard from Isabelle

that John had a complete fallout with his mother because of Sophia. She even heard that he had blacklisted Matilda.

Initially, she silently lamented on what a failure as a mother Matilda must have been for her son to turn his back on her. However, from the looks of it now, there didn't seem to be any problem between them. Not only that, even her relationship with Sophia seemed to have improved tremendously.

The Returning Ex Chapter 675
Sophia retracted her gaze from Isabelle after taking a look at her and said to Matilda,
“Let's go. I would like to drop by the shop after shopping. I'm a little worried about leaving Robin alone.”

“Alright,
” Matilda replied and gestured toward Isabelle with a

look before leaving with Sophia and John. When she passed by them, she commented, "Miss Jaeger seems to be an honest person and it's hard on her for helping you out like this. Why don't you give her an increment?"

With a hint of a smile in her tone, Sophia uttered, "I've already decided to give her a commission, which is higher than an increment."
"

Matilda grunted and said something else which was inaudible to Isabelle because of the growing distance between them. Frowning, Mrs. Bailey asked in astonishment, "Since when did the relationship between the three of them improve so much?" Shaking her head slowly, Isabelle answered,

“Beats me.

”

**Staring at Matilda and Sophia’s
back with**

**an icy look on her face, she
muttered,**

**“How did the two of
them become so close now?”**

**But just a
split second later, she snorted.**

**“Well, seeing how hopeless
Matilda is, she’ll be useless to
Sophia as**

**well. She’s probably just an
extra person to say sweet
things next to her.**

**” With that,
she grabbed her
mother’s arm and said,**

**“Let’s
go. Forget about them.**

”

Still, Mrs. Bailey was worried.

**“Looks like Matilda has
accepted her now, and it will be
a piece of
cake if Sophia wants to return
to the Constance Family.**

”

**Pausing in her tracks, Isabelle
said,**

“Even if Matilda doesn’t accept her, it’s not a difficult thing for Sophia to return to the Constance Family. Matilda is no help in this matter at all.”

Mrs. Bailey thought through her daughter’s words and nodded. “You’re right, and it seems like John doesn’t really heed Matilda’s advice either, ” she said as they walked away.

Meanwhile, the three of them browsed through a couple more stores before going to Sophia’s shop in John’s car. On the way there, John asked, “So you’re not contacting Isabelle recently? Earlier when you bumped into each other, the atmosphere seemed a little odd between the two of you.”

“Yeah, ” Matilda replied. “There’s nothing odd, but it’s

true that we're not contacting each other so often recently. She said she's busy, so I didn't disturb her.
”

“She's busy?” John repeated. He sounded thoughtful as he went on,
“The business dealings between our family and theirs has nothing much to do with her. If I don't get in touch with her, she usually won't be in contact with us either. So, I don't think there's anything keeping her busy.
”

Truth be told, he had also checked up on Isabelle for the past couple of days. Besides going to the office, she would stay at home and not go anywhere else. She didn't seem to be busy, for she stayed home most of the time. Matilda giggled at his words and said in a casual tone,
“Since she said she's busy, so be it.

**There's
nothing especially important
when we meet up anyway.
”**

**Every time when they met up,
they were always discussing
how Isabelle could get closer to
John
with her help, and it seemed
like there was nothing else they
spoke about besides this. Back
then,
she really liked Isabelle a lot,
and she longed for her to be
married into her family so that
the
younger lady would become her
daughter-in-law.
But now that she had more
time on her hands, she could
think about more issues, and
she couldn't
help but wonder what she used
to like so much about Isabelle in
the past. In fact, she had seen a
lot
of ladies from similar
backgrounds as Isabelle's family,
and she wasn't the
exceptionally unique one.
Matilda couldn't understand**

the reason behind her logic either, so in the end, she could only attribute it to her previous lifestyle, when she was in a rut. That probably resulted in her monoscopic point of view and she immediately grew an interest in an obedient girl like Isabelle who lived by the book.

When they arrived at the shop, Robin's boyfriend, Lincoln, happened to be there as well, and he seemed a little uneasy at the sight of them. Even Robin was acting flustered seeing that John had turned up, and she didn't even know where she should place her hands.

The Returning Ex Chapter 676
John didn't care about it. Thus, he said hi to Lincoln and Robin before going to sit beside the window.

Sophia showed the clothes she bought for Robin, much to her surprise.

"I mean, you're the one who

has been handling the whole shop since it started.

” She smiled.

“So here’s a gift to make up for my absence.

”

Robin smiled back.

“It’s fine. I used to run a business on my own, but it went bust. It was regrettable.

Yeah, it’s busy here, but business is fine, so I’m happy about that.

”

Sophia looked at Lincoln.

“You have an off day today? Well, we can end the operations early and you guys can go on your date. Leave the shop aside for the time being.

”

Robin blushed as she straightened her hair out and glanced at John from the corner of her eyes. That was when she saw that he was

talking with Matilda, and his attention was not on them.

Then, she

licked her lips and said,

“Sure.

I’ll go around with this guy here.

”

Sophia nodded before telling Robin about her commission raise, for Robin had put a lot of work in

the business. Being the generous woman Sophia was, this meant Robin might be making more money than her every month through commission.

“That’s a lot!” Robin gasped.

Sophia didn’t mind.

“You’ve been working hard. Fair is fair.

”

Delighted, Robin smiled at Lincoln.

Since there weren’t many customers at the moment, the group sat around a table. Being the only other guy here, John made

small talk with Lincoln, asking him about his job and how life was for him; just typical interaction. Robin pursed her lips, disappointed that Lincoln looked so nervous before John, but she knew that even if John were her boyfriend, she couldn't have kept him for long. If even Isabelle couldn't win him over, there was no hope for Robin.

Halfway through talking with Sophia, Matilda brought Isabelle up. With a nonchalant expression on her face, she said, "Isabelle's a good girl. The guy that marries her must be very lucky."

Then, she looked at Sophia as she continued, "Yes, you're a good girl too, of course. I admit that."

Sophia chuckled. "I know that."

”

John stopped talking to Lincoln and turned to smile at Sophia.

“I didn’t realize you’re this confident about yourself.

” Sophia had never talked this way to Matilda before the divorce, but she changed since then.

Sophia stared at Matilda.

“Oh, I just didn’t want to fight. Some people can be really vengeful, you know. I’m a generous lady, so I simply let the comments slide.

”

Matilda hissed.

“Hey, is that meant for me?” She glared at Sophia.

Sophia arched her eyebrows proudly, and her silence was the answer. When Matilda saw her response, she glared at Sophia, but in the end, she said nothing as she merely pursed her lips tightly.

**This is for the sake of the baby.
Calm down, Matilda. You don't
have to fight with a girl.
Since they went with Robin and
Lincoln for lunch, the shop was
closed for the time being. At the
same time, the young man
running the floor tile business
across the street came out.
Noticing the shop's closing for
the day and Sophia in the group,
the young man went up to
Sophia.**

**"Are you closing for the day,
Sophia? It's been a while since I
saw you.
"**

**John remembered this guy, for
he even came to ask for
Sophia's number last time.
The Returning Ex Chapter 677
That time, John told the young
man his own number,
unbeknownst to the young man,
and then he
kept receiving good morning
and good night messages. Even
when Sophia went back to her
home,
this young man kept sending
messages to her. John was**

surprised about the young man's iron will.

Even though he never replied to the young man's messages, he never stopped texting.

John came up and wrapped his arm around Sophia's shoulder.

"We're going for lunch.

Anything?"

The young man froze up and stared at them for a while. He couldn't believe what he was seeing.

Sophia knew what John was trying to do. If it were any other time, she would have slapped his hand

away, but not this time. She didn't want the young man to be kept in ignorance, so it'd be better for

him to know about this sooner.

Sophia leaned closer against John and repeated,

"Do you

need

anything?"

The young man's expression turned gloomy.

"Y-You guys...

"

Matilda was frustrated. What is wrong with these men? Even until then, she didn't know what was so attractive about Sophia, so her son's obsession went over her head.

I don't think John likes her for her looks. He isn't that shallow. When she noticed that someone else had a crush on Sophia as well, Matilda thought, Fine, John's blind, but everyone else is too? Robin chuckled silently and approached Matilda.

"This guy kept coming over every day during Sophia's absence, " she whispered.

**"He really likes her."
"**

Matilda looked at the boy again. This boy looks like he just graduated high school. He's just a kid!

Does he even know what love and responsibility is? Does he even know how to care for a

woman?

Matilda snorted.

“So what?

There’s no point coveting
something that isn’t his,

” she

whispered back.

Robin froze. Even though she
knew Matilda wasn’t talking
about her, she still looked at
John, who

still had his hand around

Sophia’s shoulder. A while ago,
she too coveted someone who
couldn’t

belong to her, and she even
thought there was a chance.

Once upon a time, she even
wanted to

confess to that man, just like
how this young man was doing,
but luckily, she stopped in time,
or else

she’d be in the same situation
as the young man was.

The young man looked at
Sophia, the light in his eyes dim.

“I see. I’m just here to say hi.

”

Then, he

went back to his shop.

**When he was finally out of sight,
Sophia turned to John.**

**“Take
your hand off me.**

**” John arched
his
eyebrow and removed his hand,
for he knew he shouldn’t push
his luck. Then, they went into
John’s
car, and he drove them to a
restaurant in the city center.**

**There weren’t many customers
given the time they came. John
was still delighted over hearing
the**

**news. Even though Sophia had
known about it for a while, John
only knew about it a day ago.**

**Thus,
he wanted to share this warm
and fuzzy feeling he felt with
everyone.**

**After going into their room, he
called Logan.**

**“Are you in the
middle of something now?”**

**“I’m in a game session with the
guys in my club. No money
involved.**

”

When John heard that reply, he invited Logan over for lunch and said they were a group. Being a party lover, Logan dismissed the game session right away.

“Be right there!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 678

John hung up, and Sophia’s phone rang. At the same time, Matilda was sitting beside her, and she

stared down to look at the phone on the table to see who the caller was.

“Fabian?” She

was surprised.

“You’re still keeping in touch with him?”

Then, she smacked herself on the head.

“Oh yeah! The Blackwells’ matriarch likes you, doesn’t she?”

Matilda frowned at Sophia.

“If memory serves me right, the Third Blackwell Family has adopted you, so Fabian’s your brother, isn’t

he?”

Sophia sipped some water and picked her phone up.

“You can say that.

”

Matilda clicked her tongue and looked at Sophia judgmentally.

“Well, aren’t you lucky? The Blackwells have no taste, I see.

”

Sophia sneered.

“Well, I think their taste is exquisite. Why don’t you learn from them? It might help

you, you know.

” She smacked her lips.

“Everyone except you likes me. I think that says more about

you than them.

” After saying that, she turned to Robin.

“Isn’t that right?”

Robin pretended not to hear them.

Matilda pouted.

“I bet you’re

gloating because that young man likes you.

”

Sophia nodded.

“Yeah. I have a lot of suitors, and you know it. Your son is only one of them, and I can totally date someone else.

”

John, who was at the side, paused.

“Don’t drag me into your fight.

”

Matilda rolled her eyes at him.

“You should have won her over a long time ago, brat. I wouldn’t have to bicker with her if you managed it.

”

John gave Lincoln a look.

“See how scary women can be?”

Lincoln smiled.

“I think they share a good relationship. At least your life won’t be boring.

”

Really? John looked back at

them. Well, at least it's better than what they used to be.

Sophia read Fabian's text.

'What's up? How's it looking?'

Sophia then told him that John knew about her pregnancy now, and she sent him her location, asking if he'd like to have lunch together.

'Sure,

' he replied instantly.

'I'm

just around the corner, so I'll be right there.

,

Well, this is going to be merry.

If Ian could come along as well, then everyone close to her would be

here. The thought of Ian upset Sophia a little though. It's a shame.

Fabian and Logan came at the same time, and they bumped into one another in the lobby, so they came into the room at the same time. They were going to greet Sophia, but the sight of Matilda stunned them.

They never met Matilda in the

flesh, but her infamy preceded her. She wasn't bad per se, but everyone who talked to her knew she had an... interesting personality.

Kate and Belinda would often talk about Matilda whenever they chatted, so Fabian had more or less heard of Matilda's stories from Kate.

Never once did they expect to see Matilda chatting so happily with Sophia, so they looked at each other. Are we dreaming?

Lunch was already underway, but they didn't order much so that Fabian and Logan could order what they wanted to eat as well.

Sophia rang for the waitstaff, and Fabian picked up the menu.

"What's up with John? He looks happy,

" Logan asked.

The Returning Ex Chapter 679

He stared at John.

"I've never seen you so happy. What's the occasion?"

John glanced at Sophia, who was holding her glass quietly, pretending not to hear Logan's question.

After Fabian was done with his order, he handed Logan the menu.

"Make your order. You can talk about this later.

" Logan grunted and was distracted by the menu.

When the waiter came to take the

menus back after their orders were done, Logan had already forgotten about what he wanted to ask.

He took a sip from his glass and turned to Lincoln, who was seated beside Robin.

"You're here too?

Look at you two. What a lovely couple.

"

Already used to talking with these bigshots, Lincoln smiled.

"Well, I have nothing to do, so I came to see her.

”

Robin pursed her lips and smiled sheepishly.

“He came to help because I was busy.

”

Logan clicked his tongue.

“This is what a lady in love should look like. I’ve never seen her blush for anyone.

” Then, he looked at Sophia.

“She never did, did she?”

Sophia nodded.

“Yeah. She never did, no matter who the suitor was.

”

Robin scratched her head and chuckled, looking at John from the corner of her eyes. In response,

John merely smiled without knowing anything. Robin sighed quietly. It’s fine this way. I suppose I’m fine with it as well.

Logan started complaining after

he was done teasing Robin, and of course, it was about the Morgans.

“Sally’s case is settled. She’s sued for intentional assault. The victim’s discharged, but from the results of her checkup, Sally’s going to be behind bars for months.

”

John smiled.

“Her anger got the better of her because she saw me.

”

Logan gave him a thumbs up, then he talked about Ian. Lately, Sophia didn’t watch the competition

Ian took part in. She wasn’t in her best condition these days, and because she didn’t know what to

feel about Ian, Sophia stopped watching the show.

“The elimination round is starting next week,

” Logan said.

“The management’s decided who’s going

to be kicked. Well, that's the case for talent shows like this.
”

The management would decide the ones to be kicked in the early stage, leaving only a few popular ones in the endgame. The decision would be reached based on the audience's reaction.

Logan was a simple man. He didn't know about the complex relationship between John, Sophia and Ian, but even if he did, he didn't think too much about it. Then, Logan told them about his phone call with Ian. From what he heard, Ian seemed to be upset, presumably because of the stress from the competition.

Sophia said nothing, while John pursed his lips. Failing to read the room, Logan continued, “Ian's usually the calm guy here, so I wonder what

happened to him. He sounded upset when we talked. He even told me he wants to end this competition as soon as possible.

”

Lincoln was also watching the show Ian was in, and he chimed in,

“I think it’s going to end soon

anyway. The production team paced it nicely. It’s fast-paced, and they don’t drag it on.

”

Logan was delighted about Lincoln’s praise.

“Quality over quantity, I always say. This is how you catch the audience’s attention.

”

“Yeah. And I saw Ian too,

”

Lincoln continued.

“He’s a natural, and most of the audience loves him.

”

Overjoyed that someone was praising Ian, Logan made small

talk with Ian.

The Returning Ex Chapter

680
Sophia smiled all the while.

Even after what had happened,
she

wanted Ian to live a happy life.

Meanwhile, John looked at her

but said nothing when she

showed no change in emotion.

There was

scarcely any reason obsessing

over that matter at this point.

He didn't think Sophia would go

away

now that she was pregnant.

Everyone stopped talking and

dug in when lunch was served,

and John's mood became better

at the

thought of the baby. He even

ordered some wine, much to

the worry of some people there.

"I'll get

someone to drive me back if I

get too drunk,

" he said.

Sophia frowned.

"Why didn't

you call Zack over?"

To that, John smiled.

"He

**doesn't have time for us now
that he's dating. And I don't
think we should
disturb him.**

”

**Sophia knew Zack had someone
he liked, but she never did ask
him about the progress. Zack's a
reliable guy. He's a prankster
sometimes, but reliable
nonetheless.**

**Being the party animal, Logan
would drink whenever and
wherever he liked, so he poured
himself a
glass the moment he took the
wine. When he was about to
give Sophia some, Matilda
stopped him.**

**“She can't have that for now.
Her condition forbids it.**

”

**Logan froze. When he heard
that, he looked at Sophia for a
moment, confused, then he
realized what
Matilda meant.**

“True, true.

**Your belly's acting up, so stay
away from alcohol.**

”

Robin didn't know Sophia was pregnant, so she huddled closer.

"Are you still unwell?"

Sophia smiled.

"A bit, but it's fine.

"

Robin gave her a worried look.

"You have to take care of yourself. Gastric problems aren't to be joked around. You don't want it to worsen.

"

Sophia merely responded with a nod as she smiled.

Fabian sipped from his glass of wine and gave Sophia a faint smile. When Sophia looked back, she

raised her glass and gesticulated at him, then she finished her drink. After that, Fabian turned to John.

"You've been taking care of Sophia well. Are you planning on courting her again?"

John said honestly,

"I am

working on it, but she's not making it easy.

”

Sophia snorted.

“Go on then.

Tell them how hard you're having it.

”

John looked at her and went back to drinking.

Matilda clicked her tongue.

“What a coward.

”

Logan's eyes widened in shock at Matilda's response. She's getting less haughty now, huh?

This is

really unexpected.

Matilda ignored Logan's reaction and only looked at John. Even though he was her son, she was

disgusted at how he was acting.

However, she was reminded of William. He's just like his father.

William acted the same way back then.

Since Sophia had a late breakfast, she only had a few bites before putting her knife and fork down.

Matilda was concerned.

“Are these not to your liking? I’ll get some other dish for you.”

Sophia wiped her lips.

“It’s fine. I’m not too hungry, so this is enough. Can’t have too much.”

Matilda paused.

“Alright then. Tell Ms. Cannon to make some soup for you when you get home. She’s a master in soup brewing. Remember the one I gave you last time? She made that one.”

Sophia remembered it, and it was indeed delicious, so she nodded.

“Sure. I love the soup she makes.”

Matilda and Robin stopped eating after a short while, leaving only the men digging in.
The Returning Ex Chapter 681
A short while later, Sophia was overcome by nausea. Her

stomach was churning,
presumably
because of the food, and she
had an urge to belch. She stood
up a moment later.

“You guys
carry on.

I’ll be getting some fresh air
outside.

”

Instantly, Matilda knew what
was going on, so she stood up.

“I’ll come with you.

”

Robin got up after a moment as
well.

“Count me in. The guys
can have their own fun while
we have
our girl talk.

”

When they exited the room,
Sophia trotted to the front door.
She took a few deep breaths,
but in the
end, she couldn’t hold it in and
dry retched. Matilda patted her
back and whispered,

“It’ll be

fine in a

couple of months. The second

trimester will be better. You can go around and do your own stuff.

”

Robin was about to help Sophia too, but she froze after hearing what Matilda had said.

“Y-You’re pregnant, Sophia?”

Matilda answered for Sophia,

“Yeah. It’s the first month, so she’s going through a lot.

”

Robin stopped walking toward her, and she smiled a moment later.

“Congratulations! I was wondering why Mr. Constance was looking so happy, so this is why.

”

Matilda kept patting Sophia’s back.

“Yeah. He finally has a chance now.

”

Tears were already streaming down Sophia’s face as she continued to retch. Then, she stood up and breathed in.

“So this is how it feels. I don’t like it.”

Matilda tutted.

“You must have had it hard when you went back to your home alone.”

Sophia forced a smile.

“I was fine. These symptoms weren’t as serious back then.”

Robin stared at the pale Sophia for a while and smiled.

“Having a baby must be nice.”

Meanwhile, the men were having a long lunch, and Sophia was getting sleepy halfway through.

Matilda felt concerned for her, so she told John before taking Sophia home.

Since they were leaving, Robin wasn’t going to stay either. She looked at Lincoln, who was happily chatting with the men. As he was already getting to know

everyone, Robin said she was going back to the store.

“You carry on here.

” She didn’t want to be a party pooper.

Backed by liquid courage, Lincoln held Robin boldly in front of everyone for the first time.

“Have a safe trip. I’ll come over in a minute.

” He was smiling as he talked.

Robin looked back at him and took a furtive glance at John, but John didn’t look at her; he was

chatting with Fabian. Even though he had some wine, John still looked as sober as ever. A moment

later, Robin turned back to Lincoln.

“I’ll be waiting then.

”

Sophia and Matilda were waiting for her at the front door. When she saw them, she smiled

at them
and held Sophia's other arm.
"Let's go. And be careful, you."
"

They sent Robin back to the
store before going home.
Before Robin got out of the car,
she looked
back at Sophia.

"Rest up,
Sophia,
" she said softly.

"Leave
everything here to me. I'll
handle
everything; I promise."
"

Sophia replied softly,
"Of course.
I've always trusted you. We're
friends, aren't we?"
Robin froze for a second before
she nodded.
"Yes, we are."
"

After she was gone, Sophia
leaned back on her seat and
closed her eyes. She was about
to fall asleep
when Matilda chuckled.
"You

**don't even know what you're
dealing with,
" she said
mysteriously.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 682
Bogged down by her sleepiness,
she could only hear Matilda
vaguely.**

**"Hmm?" she asked
nasally.**

Matilda looked outside.

**"Nothing. You take a rest now.
I'll wake you up when we get
home.**

**" She
looked at the rear-view mirror,
staring at the store that was
slowly becoming a dot in the
distance.**

**At least Robin knows what she
should and shouldn't do.**

**The moment they got home,
Sophia went to her room
groggily. She couldn't
remember how she got
into her bed, but she slept
eventually. Equally exhausted,
Matilda told Ms. Cannon what
they would
like for dinner before retiring to
her room.**

Matilda's phone rang after she got into her room, much to her surprise. Since she seldom received calls, her phone was like a useless piece of accessory. She took her pajamas and looked at who the caller was, and she smiled. Isabelle, huh? She called Isabelle a lot a while ago, and every time she took it, Isabelle would decline further discussion, saying that she was busy every time. So she isn't busy now, huh? Well, I suppose she's indeed pretty free when she has the time to go shopping with her mother. Matilda didn't take her call the first time, and after she changed into her pajamas, Isabelle called for the second time. It was then she slowly took the call.

"Oh, Isabelle. What do you need?" she asked, her tone as usual.

"Hi, Mrs. Constance. I was

wondering if you can come for
dinner with us tonight,
” she
chirped.

Compared to how she kept
declining Matilda before this,
Isabelle sounded so much more
relaxed in
this call.

Matilda smiled.

“I see you’re
done with your busy schedule.
”

Isabelle nodded.

“Not yet, but I
took a day off because I’ve
overworked myself.
”

Matilda grunted and said
nothing more.

After a moment, Isabelle asked,
“I was surprised to see you guys
together when I went to shop
for
some clothes with my mom.
John and Sophia seem to be
getting along really well now.
”

Matilda grunted again.

“Yeah. I
can’t stop them now. They’re

inseparable.

” Then, she sighed.

**“I really
wanted you to be John’s wife.
Sophia’s background is just
rotten. They’re not on the same
level. But
since they’re getting along
really well now, I won’t break
them up anymore. Don’t want
to get into a
fight with John, you see.
”**

**Isabelle couldn’t fan the flames
anymore, not after what
Matilda told her. From what
she said,
Matilda was essentially giving
the green light for that
relationship. A while later,
Isabelle chuckled.**

**“I
see.**

**” Her tone didn’t betray any
emotional changes.**

**“Yeah. I don’t think I can go for
dinner tonight. Sophia wants
me over at her place, and I
promised
her I would go. John’s there too,
and you know my relationship**

with him is tense. This is a good chance to relieve it. Why don't we meet up some other time, hmm?" Matilda said.

She was giving Isabelle a taste of her own medicine, and it felt oddly great. After all, Matilda wasn't

known for her kindness or forgivingness. Even though she told herself not to mind

Isabelle's

continued rejections, she'd be lying if she said she didn't care.

She did mind it; a lot.

Isabelle nodded, still sounding happy.

"Oh, okay. Sure, I can do that.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 683

She even added,

"I'll finish my

work as soon as possible, then

I'll have some free time. Tell me when

you want to meet, Mrs.

Constance. We didn't even get to talk today, and honestly, it

has been

bugging me.

”

“Sure,

” Matilda replied

‘happily’

.

“It’s been a while

since we met up. We have to

catch up sometime

over a meal.

” Then, she nodded.

“Yeap, we really should.

”

Isabelle didn’t say much after

Matilda’s rejection. Before

hanging up, she made some

small talk, and

Matilda put her phone down

slowly. Then, she smiled.

She only had a guess before this

that Isabelle was using her,

much to her disappointment.

After

taking her call, Matilda was

beyond disappointed; she was

furious. If Isabelle hadn’t seen

her

together with John and Sophia,

she wouldn’t have made the

call. She only called me because

I am

useful to her again. What a

scheming girl.

Matilda put her phone on the table and lay on her bed, staring at the ceiling for a while before finally going to sleep.

John only came back after a long while. At that time, Sophia was snugly asleep when she felt someone hugging her, then the stench of alcohol assaulted her. Displeased, she pushed him away.

John called her name in a drunken stupor.

“I’m really,
really happy.”

Sophia squinted at John, who was flushed.

“I don’t get it.”

John closed his eyes.

“Mmh...

About what?”

She hissed,

“How did I get pregnant anyway?” This was the question she had been asking herself over the last couple of days

whenever she had free time. Her periods were usually on schedule, so she only had raw sex on her safe days. Even though it wasn't the safest, she thought luck would be on her side; not this time though.

She was a stubborn woman, but no matter what she did, she couldn't figure out how this happened.

A short while later, John said, "How else? I pumped hard, so you got knocked up."
"

She turned around and pushed his hand away.

"I mean, I take the pill, and even when I don't, it's still on my safe day, so how..."
"

Every time she thought about this matter, Sophia would think about the times they had sex, and her memory would get jumbled up. For some reason, she thought something else happened that

night,
but she couldn't put her finger
on it.

John chuckled and lay on his
back with his eyes closed.

"You
don't have to think about that.
The kid's
mine anyway.
"

She stirred, still unwilling to let
go of the issue. With her back
facing John, she said,

"But I
don't
understand. When did I do it
with you?"

The alcohol was already
working its magic, and John was
about to fall asleep, so he let
slip what he
had been hiding.

"I think it's
that time when you're drunk. I
went to pick you up, and we did
it a few
times that night. Must be
because of that.
"

Sophia froze and quickly turned
back to him.

“What? But that

day was...

” She was getting

slower

these days, so it took her a

while to realize what he was

talking about. No wonder Ian

got so odd

after that.

The Returning Ex Chapter 684

That day, she saw Ian’s busted

phone in the yard. After Sophia

gave it some thought,

everything

finally made sense. That day,

she also found the sheet in the

washing machine, cleaned but

not dried.

When Sophia called John to ask

about this, he only said it was

because she puked all over it,

so

Sophia didn’t think much about

it. How could he?! I trusted him!

This b*stard!

Her face fell, and she sat up

slowly. A storm was raging

within her, but she played it

calm.

“If that’s

the case, the room should have

been messed up, but it wasn't,
and you never told me about
this.

”

Since he was asleep, Sophia
shoved him.

“Why did you
pretend nothing happened after
that? Tell
me.

” She tried her best to
sound calm.

John grabbed her hand by reflex.

“Calm down, Sophia,

” he told

her.

Calm down?! I-I... She jumped
out of bed and glared at him.

Calm down? I feel like killing
you right
now!

If he had told her what he did
that night, she would have
taken a morning after pill
instead of letting

it slide. She never wanted his
baby. Even though it was
regrettable they didn't have
one when they

were married, the baby still
shouldn't exist now that they

were divorced.

Sophia took a deep breath and looked around for something, then she picked up a pillow and tried

to suffocate John with it.

However, John reacted quickly.

Noticing the lack of air, he quickly pulled

the pillow off his face and threw it away. Sophia, being the weaker one, couldn't do anything about

it. He sat up, frowning, then he realized Sophia was the one suffocating him.

"Sophia? What

are you

doing?" He was confused.

Sophia gritted her teeth, and a while later, she spat,

"You

b*stard.

"

John didn't remember what he said earlier. He was too overjoyed, so he had a lot to drink. All he could remember was falling asleep, and nothing of the conversation with Sophia

registered in his
mind.

Sophia was looking gloomy.
After she glowered for a while,
she stormed out of the room,
leaving

John flabbergasted. A short
while later, he went to look
outside the window, and he
saw Sophia in
the yard, her arms crossed, and
she looked angry.

Then, he went down. The
alcohol was disorienting him,
and he was wobbling, but he
was worried
about Sophia.

Sophia could hear him coming
up to her when he came to the
living room, so she turned to
him.

“Don’t come here, you b*stard.
How dare you?”

John closed his eyes.

“What’s
wrong? We can talk it out.
”

Talk it out? Talk what out? You
tricked me, you b*stard!
Ms. Cannon came up to them
when she heard the commotion.

“What’s wrong, John? You’re arguing with Sophia? You should take a step back, you know. She’s pregnant.

”

John nodded.

“I know. I’ll take a step back.

” After saying that, he turned back to Sophia.

“What happened? I won’t know what I did wrong if you won’t tell. Come here and talk, okay?”

“Scram!” she barked.

“I don’t want to see you, so go back upstairs and don’t get in my sight!” With that, she turned back and ignored him.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 685
John and Ms. Cannon looked at each other. Then, Ms. Cannon gave him a look that said, ‘Go upstairs.**

,

She also mouthed, ‘I’ll deal with

her.

,

Bogged down by alcohol, John went back up to take a rest. Ms. Cannon came up to Sophia. "What's wrong, Sophia? Fighting with John again? Did he upset you? Tell me what he did. I'll teach him a lesson for you.

"

There was no way Sophia would tell her that. She couldn't tell anyone about an issue this intimate, so she shook her head after thinking about it.

"It's fine.

"

Ms. Cannon held her hand. "You're pregnant now, so you shouldn't hold everything in. Your baby will know what you're feeling. It'll be upset if you are, and that won't be good for its growth.

"

Sophia caressed her belly and took a deep breath in an attempt to calm herself down, but to no avail.

All she wanted to do was kill John. Before this, she thought he was simply brazen, but after what he told her in his stupor, Sophia thought he was disgustingly shameless.

After John went upstairs, he went to the windowsill and looked outside. Ms. Cannon was talking to her, but Sophia said nothing. John licked his lips. Did I say anything I shouldn't? I don't think so... John couldn't imagine anything would make Sophia this livid. A short while later, Ms. Cannon took Sophia in, and John heaved a sigh of relief. Thus, he went back to the bed and went to sleep, feeling groggy.

At the same time, Matilda got up and stretched her arms before going down. Then, she saw Sophia on the sofa, sulking, looking like she wanted to pick a bone with her. She arched her eyebrow and

went up to her.

“What’s wrong?

Are you trying to pick a bone
with me?”

Sophia snorted.

“What a son
you have.

”

Matilda gasped. Oh, so it’s
about John? She went up to
Sophia.

“What happened? Did
John upset
you?”

Sophia looked up at her and
snorted once more.

John only woke up when night
had fallen, and the first thing he
did was to take a bath. When
he

came down, the ladies were
nowhere to be found. He
searched the first floor and the
yard, but they
were nowhere to be seen.

“Sophia? Mom? Ms. Cannon?”
he called out to them in the
living room, but
the answer he got was an echo.
He tried to call Sophia, but she
didn’t pick it up. Then, he tried

to call his mother, but to no avail as well. After his failed attempts, John went to the kitchen and noticed everything was cold. Obviously, nobody made any dinner, and he smiled.

Based on how Sophia was treating me, I think they must be trying to teach me a lesson now. Thus, he went back to the living room and turned on the TV before sitting on the sofa.

The ladies came back late that night. John noticed they were smiling, and they were holding bags and bags of items. When they came in, Matilda looked at John.

“Oh, you’re awake. You looked like you were sound asleep, so we didn’t wake you up. We already had dinner, so you’ll have to settle it yourself.

” Matilda was wearing a polka dot dress, and it made

her look younger. Instead of tying her hair up in a bun, she had it in a ponytail.

The Returning Ex Chapter 686

She looked like a completely different person, like she was a healthier and younger version of

herself. Ignoring John's reaction, she went to put her shopping bags on the coffee table.

Obviously,

they went to the mall and got a lot of snacks. Matilda picked a couple and handed it to Sophia and

Ms. Cannon.

"Here. I think these are fine.

"

John smiled.

"I tried to call you ladies.

"

Matilda grunted.

"Really? I didn't hear it.

"

John didn't mind her remark.

"So you ladies had dinner? What did you have?"

Ms. Cannon answered,
“Barbecue. It was delicious.”

John nodded at them.

“I’ll get
delivery then.

” Then, he took
his phone out and told Matilda,
“You look
great today. A lot better than
how you used to be.”

Matilda was caught by surprise,
and she was going to smile, but
she stopped herself in time.

“I’ve
always looked good,
” she
huffed.

John looked at Matilda and
Sophia before turning to Ms.
Cannon. However, Ms. Cannon
went to the
kitchen and loaded the fridge
with the things they bought,
and she didn’t look at him. Thus,
John
looked away and called for his
delivery before looking at
Sophia. She didn’t even look at
him after

coming back, and her expression was gloomy all the while. Since he was sitting on the sofa, she went to the hanging chair with her pack of snacks in hand.

A short while later, John asked, "Where did you ladies go? The mall?" Nobody answered, but John expected this, so he didn't feel awkward. All he did was smile and keep silent after that.

Sophia had some snacks before going upstairs, and after she was gone, John hurriedly asked Matilda.

"What happened? What did you guys talk about?"

Matilda pursed her lips, but she gave him a thumbs up.

"Good job, son. Yeah, what you did was scummy, but I have to say you did well.

"

Matilda's answer only confused him more, but she didn't explain. After tidying up her items, she

went upstairs too.

John breathed deeply and went to the kitchen. At that moment, Ms. Cannon was putting the frozen food in the freezer and cleaning the kitchen up.

“Did you guys talk about something behind my back?” John stared at Ms. Cannon.

Ms. Cannon didn't look at him.

“What? No. I don't know anything at all.”

John smiled.

“It's fine. I know what's going on.”

On the other hand, Matilda went to Sophia's bedroom instead of her own. Sophia was sitting on her bed, still fuming. Even though they had chatted all the way, it still failed to calm her down. Matilda let out a sigh and sat beside her.

“Calm down. You can't change the past, and you

aren't
going to abort the baby because
of this either, are you? If you
can't change it, why don't you
accept
it?"

Sophia pouted.

"He's your son.

Of course you're helping him.

"

Matilda's eyes widened in
shock.

"Didn't I defend you
when we had dinner earlier?

Did you forget
about it?"

Sophia looked at her through
the corner of her eyes.

"Look at

what your son did. If it weren't
for this,

he might already be dating
Isabelle right now.

"

Matilda gasped.

"Why are you
mentioning her? Let's not bring
an outsider into this. I admit I
was

bad at recognizing people for
who they are, and I wanted

John to date her because she comes from a good family, so she can help his career, but now I know she's just a scheming wench. I'm already helping you, aren't I? If you're going to dwell on the past, then I'll have to do the same.
”

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vThe Returning Ex Chapter 687
Matilda sat before her.

“You kicked me in my belly and slapped me. How about that?”
Sophia's eyes widened.

“You asked for it! You want to hold me responsible for that? Fine. Then let's talk about how you bullied me

for almost a year.

”

Matilda looked at her for a long while and stood up.

“Fine. I’m the adult here, so I’m not gonna argue with you. I’ll forgive you for the sake of my grandchild.

” Then she went out.

Sophia gritted her teeth, then she laughed. Matilda can be really adorable sometimes. If she had always been this way, John and I wouldn’t have come to this.

Sophia sighed.

John had his supper and a smoke before going up. Sophia was taking a bath, so he went to look at the

ultrasonography report. Nice.

When she came out and saw him looking at her report, her anger flared, and she sneered.

John looked up at her.

“When’s your next checkup? I’ll go with you.

”

Sophia scoffed.

**“Why? It has
nothing to do with you.
”**

**John put the report down. I
need to get this message across
now. He looked at her seriously.**

**“I know
I’ve done you wrong in the past,
Sophia, but I swear I’ll treat you
better. Since we have a baby
now,
why don’t we get married?”**

**Sophia looked like John had
cracked the world’s funniest
joke.**

**“Marry you? But why? I
can raise the
baby on my own.
”**

John frowned.

**“You want the
baby to grow up without its
father?”**

Sophia paused.

**“You’re not
dead, so why won’t it have a
father? Are you saying you’re
not its dad
because we aren’t married?”**

For a moment, John was at a

loss for words. He stood up and looked down at her.

“You don’t want to marry me?”

Sophia nodded.

“Yeah. Didn’t I make it obvious?”

John licked his lips.

“You don’t want to remarry me even when you have a baby? I can understand that if it’s before this, and I can even accept it, but now? What are you thinking, Sophia?”

Sophia smiled.

“No, what are you thinking? Just because I don’t want to remarry you doesn’t mean I’m out of my mind.

” Pivoting, she went to the windowsill.

“Don’t make me laugh. You aren’t the only man in the world, and I won’t marry a b*stard like you. If I do, you’d probably try to take me for a ride. That’s not what I want.

”

John turned back to her.

“What?

Why would you say that?

Haven't I been sincere
enough?”

Sophia didn't want to talk
about that. On the way back,
Matilda told her explaining this
would be

pointless, for it wouldn't calm
her down. If she had that kind
of time, Matilda told her she
should be

coming up with ideas to teach
John a lesson.

Matilda could be annoying at
times, but she had a point. She
couldn't change the reality of
her

pregnancy no matter what, so
explanations were useless. She
looked back at John.

“I don't

want to

talk about that, and I want to
sleep now. No, I'm not going to
sleep in the same room as you,
so get

out.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 688

John was surprised she'd change her attitude so quickly. Sophia was still calm during lunch, but she changed after he came back, and she even tried to suffocate him. He went up to her.

**“What happened?” he asked softly.
“Did I upset you? Tell me.”**

**Sophia's expression darkened.
“Think long and hard about it. Think about everything you did to me.”**

Then she remembered a piece of news she saw where John took a lady along with him to spend the night. Damn it. I shouldn't think about this. The more I think about it, the worse this guy becomes.

Yeah, he has to explain this, too.

Frustrated, Sophia shoved his arm away and chased him out of her room, then she locked the door.

She stood behind it angrily for a while before going back to bed. Even though she was furious, it didn't take long for her to fall asleep, but she woke up in the dead of the night, because someone was beside her. She didn't even need to open her eyes to know who it was. Nobody could be more brazen than John.

After they had lunch the next day, Matilda took Sophia out for a stroll, though they only walked on the pavement slowly.

Matilda asked her how the conversation went, and Sophia answered weakly, "Your son's a jerk."

Matilda nodded.

"I hope your son won't turn out like his father."

Hearing this, Sophia couldn't help but chuckle. She was about to tease Matilda, but before she

could
say anything, a car stopped
beside them.

Someone rolled down the
window, then Isabelle greeted,
“Hello, Ms. Flintstone, Ms.
Gwendolyn.

What are the odds?” Sophia
almost couldn’t recognize her
because of the sunglasses she
was
wearing.

Matilda was standing nearer to
the road, and she smiled at
Isabelle.

“Oh, Isabelle. Fancy
seeing you
here. Out to meet your client?”

“No.

” She smiled.

“I was
sending my brother to his
tuition class, so I’m going back
now.

”

Matilda nodded but said
nothing, then Isabelle looked at
Sophia.

“I first saw Ms.
Gwendolyn, but I
didn’t expect Ms. Flintstone to

be here as well. And I thought I had the wrong person.
”

Matilda smiled.

“I’ll be staying here for a while. Come over when you have time.
”

Isabelle nodded.

“Can do. You guys are taking a stroll, aren’t you? Then I’ll be going now. I still have some business to settle.
”

“Sure,

” Matilda replied, then Isabelle rolled her car window up before driving away. Since nobody could see her now, Isabelle’s expression turned gloomy. She had seen them a while ago and started tailing them, so she saw them chatting happily. They got this close without me knowing? She’d be lying if she said this didn’t sting. Even though she thought lowly of Matilda and

only saw her as a stupid troublemaker, she was still John's mother.

Now that she was taking Sophia's side, Isabelle felt frustrated.

Thus, she drove back in anger. When she got home, Isabelle went upstairs without greeting anyone.

Elder Mr. Bailey looked at her and chuckled.

"Seems like she's riled up again."
"

Old Mr. Bailey nodded.

"She's not contacting John lately because she wants to see how he reacts, but John didn't call back either, not even when work is involved. His assistant's handling it for him. Thanks to that, she hasn't been in a good mood, and I guess something must have happened earlier.

She's throwing a tantrum just like last time."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 689

Elder Mr. Bailey sighed.

**“She is
a girl after all, so she’d be
swayed by her emotions.**

**” He
continued,
“Looks like we can’t count on
her to help Dexter.**

**” Old Mr.
Bailey didn’t say anything, and
his father
squinted at him.**

**“We should do
this ourselves.**

**” A long while
later, Old Mr. Bailey nodded.
On the other hand, Sophia and
Matilda strolled for a while
longer before going back.**

**“Did
you see?
Isabelle looked like she was
smiling, but she was upset,
”**

**Sophia said.
Matilda giggled.**

**“Is that so? I
didn’t know.
”**

**Sophia looked at her.
“Odd.**

What's going on between you two? Are you guys fighting?"

"No.

" Matilda looked at her through the corner of her eye.

"And you make us sound like kids. I just think that maybe Isabelle isn't what I think she is. How should I put this? I think she's more... complicated than I give her credit for. But I'm not saying this is wrong. Nobody's really naive, you know, but she disappointed me.

"

Sophia nodded. Wait, we're straying from the topic.

"Well, you're naive. You don't even know where you went wrong.

"

Matilda glared at her.

"Hey. Do you want my help in teaching John a lesson or not?"

Sophia grinned and went up to hold her arm.

"Okay, okay,

sorry. You're the most scheming of all.

Happy?"

That wasn't exactly a compliment, so Matilda gave it a long thought, but she eventually nodded.

"Fine. Apology accepted.

"

When they got home, John was talking to Zack on the phone.

From the way he was talking, the

matter they were talking about seemed serious. Since she wasn't going to talk to him, Sophia went upstairs.

When he saw her, John told Zack they'd talk about this when they met, then they made an

appointment to meet up at the company. When he hung up, Matilda asked,

"Going out, are you?"

John nodded.

"Yeah. I have to handle some business.

"

Matilda grunted.

“Will you be coming back for lunch? We won’t be waiting if you aren’t.”

John stared at her. Not only was Matilda getting close to Sophia, but she was treating him differently.

Even though she was annoying, she loved John. No matter where or when, she was nice to him, but now she sounded like she didn’t want him anywhere in the house. John took a deep breath and approached her.

“What happened to Sophia? Tell me.”

Matilda snorted and rolled her eyes.

“You should know what you did. Why ask me? I promised Sophia I won’t tell, so think about it on your own. Ask her if you can’t figure it out. Don’t ask me.”

As soon as she finished, Matilda was about to go upstairs, but John held her arm.

“Why did

you

become so close to Sophia, Mom? I thought you hated her. Is it because of her baby?”

Matilda pulled her hand back.

“What? Are you worried I might bully her again after she gives birth?

She’s so much more important than I am, isn’t she?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 690

When John was about to explain, Matilda said,

“Yes, I

used to dislike her. Her family can’t help you in

your career, and Isabelle looks so smart, and her family’s great.

If she marries you, your life would

be easier, or so I thought. I

admit I changed in the first place because of her pregnancy,

but the more

I talk to her, the more I think

she’s a nice lady.

I thought she was clinging onto

you because of money, but now I know you're clinging onto her. Yes, her temper's a problem, but she's not evil, nor does she scheme or trick anyone. Aside from her background, there's nothing wrong with her. And well, the rest is history.

”

Relieved, John nodded.

“It's great that you two can get along. Makes my life easier.”

Matilda snorted.

“Don't let your guard down. I won't be too sure if your life will be easier.”

” Then

she

waved him down.

“You do your stuff. I'll be going up now.”

”

Before Matilda went up, John asked,

“I'll be going to the residence tonight, so I might be seeing Dad.”

Do you have anything you want me to tell him?"

Matilda paused, then she looked back.

"Nope. Nothing at all.

" She smiled.

"I've thought about it, and really, I shouldn't be forcing this relationship. I should be living my life first.

"

It was hard, but eventually Matilda got over it. She used to be someone who'd obsess over every

little thing, and after her divorce with William, she had been living her life numbly.

However, after getting along with Sophia and observing how boldly she led her life, her eyes were open to new

vistas previously vague to her. She should have understood it given her age, but still she remained childish until she got along with

Sophia. When she thought

about what she was like before,
Matilda would get embarrassed.

I wonder

how they saw me then.

Looking at Matilda, John
nodded.

“Sure. I understand.

”

Matilda then went upstairs.

“If

you see him, don't mention me
at all if possible.

” William

probably

has nothing but bad memories
of me.

John drove to the company, and
Zack was already waiting in his
office. When he saw John, Zack
handed him a document.

“Take

a look at this.

”

John took it.

“A name list? How
did you get it?”

Zack nodded.

“Husky did it. You

know, the guy you introduced.

He's working as a debt collector
in

the shadow bank. This is the list of debt collectors and errand workers of the bank. He needs to have some clearance before getting the list of the management.
”

John read through the list, but he recognized none of the names, so he put the document down.

“Alright. Any other development?”

Zack nodded.

“Roselia brought news. She said she hooked up with a guy whose brother is working in the shadow bank. Then the guy said the shadow bank is just a pretext. They have another business in the shadows, pun not intended, and it’s running well. But even the mention of the shadow bank struck fear into the guy’s heart. He told Roselia to not ask anything relating to it, and that she should steer clear of his brother if she ever saw him.

**'Don't
mention anything about the
shadow bank,
' he said.
"**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 691
Zack sighed.**

**"Roselia said she'd
try to hook up with his brother,
and then there's this.**

**" He
handed
John a photo.**

**"Roselia gave me
this, but she didn't say much.
Probably wants us to look into
this
guy.
"**

**John took a look at the photo
and noticed a serious-looking
guy in it.**

**"Got it.
" He nodded.**

**"I'll send
someone to look into this.
"**

Zack gave John a look.

**"I don't
think it's safe for her to hook up
with someone from the shadow**

bank.

It might be dangerous.

”

John snorted.

**“She’s smart, so
don’t worry about her. If
anything crops up, she’s going
to be the first
to leave.**

”

**Zack stared at him. We’re
digressing.**

**“Roselia sounds
different whenever she talks
about you. You
sure you didn’t do anything
with her?”**

John gave him a look.

**“Focus on
your work, not gossip.**

”

**Unwilling to give up, Zack
grinned.**

**“Last question. This
has been bugging me for a long
time now,
and I really want to know the
answer.**

”

John looked at him impatiently.

“Why do you have so many

questions?”

Zack chuckled, and without caring if John would answer, he asked,

“Did nothing happen that day? I

don’t buy it. We’re both guys, so tell me the truth, boss. I won’t tell anyone, I promise.”

John’s expression turned serious.

“You like Roselia?”

The question caught him by surprise.

“No. I don’t like women like her.”

John nodded.

“If you don’t like her, what makes you think I will?”

Zack pondered on the answer for a moment and clicked his tongue.

“You don’t have to drag me down.”

On the other hand, Sophia was scrolling through her phone,

then she felt like watching the show Ian was in. She missed a few episodes, but Sophia thought he'd be fine, for Ian had always been the calm guy. Sophia searched for clips that only had Ian in them, and she was surprised about his performance. Something's off. He looks... depressed, and unhappy.

Ian used to perform warm and fuzzy love songs, which was closer to his personality, but now he was performing sad love songs, as if he was dumped by someone. However, the change in style suited the audience's tastes, and his reviews had gotten higher. He had a gentle look, and coupled with his depressed feeling, he was giving off the vibes of a loving but abandoned man. Everyone said they loved the depressed, forlorn Ian compared to his happy self, but not Sophia. She liked Ian more

when he smiled.

She couldn't watch it anymore after two videos, so Sophia turned her phone off and lay on her bed,

sighing. Even if she wasn't pregnant, Sophia knew she wouldn't choose Ian as her partner, for she never did feel any romantic love for him. Yes, she liked him, but that was it.

Frustrated, Sophia put everything aside and went to sleep. It was a great time for a nap, so she quickly drifted to sleep.

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Sophia slept until dusk, and she was woken up by someone.

When she got up groggily, she saw John beside the bed. Held down by her fuzzy mind, she didn't manage to show her anger yet.

"What?"

John was smiling.

"Grandma's here, and she's downstairs. Do you want to see her?"

Sophia grunted, and she slowly

sat up while rubbing her face.

“Why did she come at this hour?”

John patted her head.

“She said she wants to see you.”

Sophia paused, then she realized what was happening.

“You told her?” She frowned at him.

Pursing his lips, he said,

“No. I told my dad, but he won’t hide something like this from her.”

Sophia felt like yelling—in fact, she didn’t want too many people knowing about her pregnancy.

On the other hand, John looked happy.

“Grandma even said she’ll ask a fortune teller in the temple to predict a lucky day for us.”

Sophia looked up at him, and he answered,

“We’ll be registering our

marriage then. We didn't
choose well the first time.
”

Sophia almost laughed at how
ridiculous it was.

“My, my,
aren't we confident? You really
think I'll

marry you, you shameless
b*stard?” She shoved him away
afterward and went to wash
her face,

then she tied her hair and went
downstairs, not looking at John.

Sure enough, Belinda was
waiting downstairs with

William by her side. Matilda
was there, too, but

she was sitting a few spaces
away from Belinda. Ms. Cannon
served some fruits and tea, and
Matilda

was sipping from her cup. They
looked like they were meeting
for the first time.

Sophia went down slowly.

“Hello, Old Mrs. Constance.
”

Belinda quickly looked back at
Sophia, then she stared at her
belly and beamed.

**“Take it
slow,
Sophia. Hold the handrail.
”**

Matilda put her cup down.

**“You
guys carry on. I’ll be going out
now.**

**” She stood up and
straightened
herself out before exiting the
living room.**

**William stood up after Matilda
had left. Belinda looked at him
and said,**

“Go.

**” Then William
slowly
went away.**

Sophia sat before Belinda.

**“It’s
quite late now. You didn’t have
to come.
”**

**Belinda was beaming so
lovingly.**

**“I’m here to see you.
William just told me you’re
pregnant. So, how
do you feel? It must be
exhausting for now.**

”

Sophia nodded.

“It’s fine.

”

Belinda was liking Sophia more and more.

“How long have you been pregnant? A month or so?

It’s

the hardest part, but once you get past three months, you’ll be back to your normal life. It’ll be better

then.

” Not knowing what to say, Sophia nodded, and Belinda heaved a long sigh.

“I thought

I’d pass

without seeing my great-grandchild, but then I got my wish fulfilled.

”

The mention of this made Sophia think about what John did. That b*stard just does whatever he

wants. If it weren’t for him hiding what he did, Sophia wouldn’t even be pregnant.

Then John came

down and sat beside Sophia. Sophia couldn't flare her temper at John right in front of Belinda, so she held her anger and sat beside him.

Belinda looked at John and told Sophia softly, "I'm going to pray in the temple tomorrow and ask the fortune teller to predict a lucky day for you two. Since you have John's baby, I think you two should remarry. The baby can't grow up without its father. Do you want another wedding? Or something else? You can decide."
"

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Sophia pursed her lips. So he went home to ask for his grandmother's help, huh? He thinks this will make me give in? Not a chance.

A short moment of silence later,
Sophia said,
“I won’t remarry.

That
might happen, but at least it
won’t be now. Of course, I’ll
give birth to the child, and you
can come for
visits when you want, but I
won’t marry him for the time
being.
”

Belinda was taken aback by her
answer.

“So you won’t marry
even at this point? But this child
will be
born in an incomplete family.
It’ll stunt his growth. Tell us
what you dislike, Sophia. John
will change
for you.
”

Sophia felt like laughing. Never
did she expect the Constances
to negotiate with her, not even
in her
wildest dreams. Subsequently,
she took a deep breath.

“Nothing, really. But I’d be
happy if he can

leave me alone.

”

**Belinda gave John a
disappointed look.**

**“What are
you doing? Why is Sophia so
angry at you? She
doesn’t want to marry you even
after she’s pregnant with your
baby. You’d better reflect on
yourself.**

”

John played along.

**“Yes, yes, of
course. I know I’m in the wrong,
and I’ll change. I won’t do it
again.**

”

**Even though they were trying to
calm her down, Sophia still
looked gloomy.**

**Left with no choice, Belinda
changed the subject.**

**“I’m
surprised to see Matilda here.**

**Are you two
getting along?”**

Sophia nodded.

**“She’s here to
take care of me, and she’s been
nice. We’ve talked about the**

past, and
it's water under the bridge
now.
”

“I see,
” Belinda murmured.

“I
didn't expect to see her here.
Frankly, it gave me quite a
shock.
”

At this, John smiled.

“Mom
changed a lot. She's getting
along with Sophia better now,
but stricter on
me.
”

Belinda nodded and looked
outside. She could see Matilda
had changed and was looking
younger.

When Matilda greeted her
earlier, at a glance, she knew
she was different from before.

Compared to
the old her, Matilda looked
dignified, or to be exact,
distant.

For some reason, Belinda
thought Matilda was trying to

avoid meeting William. She thought Matilda would try to approach him, for all she wanted was to remarry William before this.

At the same time, Matilda and William took a stroll on the sidewalk near Sophia's house.

William told Matilda he saw her in the mall a few days ago, and she smiled.

"Yeah, I saw you, too.

"

William nodded.

"I was there to buy some stuff.

"

"I see,

" Matilda said. Then silence descended. William was finding it hard to adapt to this silence.

Matilda seemed to have grown out of her shell, and she was a totally different person from the one who kept calling him back then.

A while later, William said,

"So

you're living with Sophia? I was surprised to see you here.

”

Matilda nodded. So John didn't tell them about me.

“Yeah. At least we have each other here,
”

she said
calmly.

William chuckled.

“So you two have been getting along well, I see.
”

Matilda turned to face him.

“Let's not talk about me. What about you? How's work?”

William nodded.

“The usual. Nothing different from what I've been doing. It's work, work, work all day, every day.
”

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Matilda had one question she wanted to ask.

“How's Yolanda doing? Better?” William froze, then

Matilda smiled.

“Don't think

too much about it. I'm just asking.

”

A while later, he answered,
“She’s healing up now, though she’ll be needing a clutch. She can handle daily tasks though.

”

“That’s good to hear,

” Matilda

answered, then they said nothing more.

William looked back at her a few times before explaining,
“Yolanda’s been living alone, so it’s hard for her, and she didn’t even tell her family about this, so I wanted to help her.

”

“Oh.

” Matilda looked at him.

“You don’t have to tell me about it. You must have your own reasons. I would have minded in the past, but not now. We aren’t a couple, so this isn’t what I should care about.

You don’t have to tell me

either.

” She looked ahead.

“To

be honest, if you were to ask me whether I

regret my actions, I’d say no, I don’t. William, in the past, you were nice to me, and I know

I’ve been

unreasonable, but my reaction toward Yolanda was normal.

You guys were the ones who didn’t care

about how I felt.

” Then she

shook her head.

“Forget it. Why

did I even say that? It’s all in the past

now.

”

William put his hands in his pockets, and he was at a loss for words. There was no need for any

explanation now that they were at this point. It’d be useless, so they walked around for a while more

before going back to Sophia’s home. Ms. Cannon had

prepared dinner, and she was ushering everyone into the dining room.

John helped Belinda up, but she waved him away and beckoned at Sophia.

“I only want Sophia to help me. She’s just so lovable.”

John smiled. So everyone hates me now, huh?

Nobody said a word during dinner. Back in the Constance Residence, everyone only focused on eating as well. Old habits die hard indeed.

Usually, Sophia and Matilda would be chatting over dinner, but since Belinda and William were here, they felt obligated to keep quiet.

Matilda kept reminding Sophia what she should eat throughout dinner to make sure she was getting enough nutrients. Belinda looked up at her, but Matilda only cared about herself and

Sophia.

The dinner didn't take long, and everyone put their forks down after a while. Belinda looked at Ms.

Cannon.

"Nice cooking. With you here, Sophia's in good hands.

"

Ms. Cannon smiled.

"The madam asked me here to take care of the young madam.

"

Sophia and Matilda felt uncomfortable being addressed that way. Madam? Young madam? We're divorced women for god's sake. Belinda nodded before looking at Matilda.

"It has been a while, Matilda. How is life treating you?" she asked formally.

Matilda nodded.

"It's fine.

There's nothing to do here, so I kill time all day.

"

**Belinda replied,
“That’s good,
that’s good.
”**

**She didn’t know what else to
say.**

**Then they went to the living
room. John sat beside Sophia
and was peeling the grapes for
her. Sophia
didn’t feel like eating, for her
belly was full after dinner.**

**Unfortunately, John was
persistent, and since
Belinda was here, she couldn’t
refuse him outright, so she had
a grape or two to keep things
amicable.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 695
Belinda told her what she
should be looking out for in her
first trimester and what she
shouldn’t do.**

**Sophia nodded but said nothing,
while John made a note of
everything. He even asked
Belinda about
ways to reduce the effects of
morning sickness.**

**“Sophia’s
suffering from it.**

”

Belinda told him a few fruits that could lessen the symptom, but it was impossible to remove it.

“Every pregnant woman has to go through this. It’s their trial.

”

John made a clear note of everything, and Sophia looked at him. If it weren’t for what he did, John would have been a good husband and father. But he’s just a shameless man now. And how dare he trick me. The thought of that angered her.

Belinda stayed until late at night before leaving. Matilda had retired for the night, so she didn’t send her off. Sophia and John stood outside the door and saw Belinda off. After she got into the car, Belinda rolled the window down and sighed.

“Is your mother blaming us for what happened?”

John was surprised she’d ask

that, but then he smiled.

“No.

She doesn't obsess over every little thing now, so she isn't blaming anyone for what happened. It's just that she's different, so you'll have to get used to it.

”

Belinda looked up at the second floor.

“It's great your mother has changed. She's a lot more mature than she was.

”

John nodded.

“Yes. She's getting along well with Sophia. I guess she has really changed.

”

William went into the driver's seat and said nothing. John only gave him a glance before looking away. Belinda nodded.

“Alright. It's getting late now, and you two should be getting some sleep. Run along

now. We'll be leaving.

” William

then drove away, and Belinda
leaned against the seat.

“Matilda’s
changed a lot. What did you
two talk about earlier?”

William pursed his lips.

“Nothing much, just some small
talk.

”

Now that he thought about it,
they didn’t say anything more
than the mundanity of life,
though he
could see that Matilda had
changed drastically. Before this,
she kept calling him to ask him
out for
dinner, but every time she did,
she made it sound like a
command, so he refused.

However, she
stopped calling him lately, and
it was as if she vanished.

He even told Yolanda about this
a few days ago, to which she
smiled and replied,

“Give it
time. Maybe
she’ll get back to her old tricks.

”

He believed that was the case, too, but even after a few days of

waiting, she didn't call him.

William felt relieved in the beginning, but after seeing Matilda, he didn't

know what he should feel.

Belinda looked outside into the night.

“Matilda's getting along well with Sophia. I won't have to worry

about her now.

” Then she let out a sigh.

“Even though Sophia's adamant on not remarrying now, I think John will change her mind eventually.

” Following that, she looked at William from the corner of her eye.

“So now all I have to worry about is you. How is it going between you and that Yolanda girl?”

Hearing that, William smiled.

**“You think too much, Mom.
Yolanda and I are just friends. I
don’t mind it
if everyone else thinks we’re a
couple, but not if it’s you.
”**

Belinda grunted.

**“I don’t think
you two are a couple. I’m saying
that if you think Yolanda’s nice,
then
go for it. I won’t stop you.
You’re an adult now, so you can
think for yourself.
”**

William sighed.

**“Between
Yolanda and me, there’s
nothing—”**

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**“Nothing?” questioned Belinda,
with a smirk on her face.**

**“When
Yolanda was in the hospital,
you’ve
been visiting the hospital so
often. William, as if I’ll believe it
when you tell me that there’s
nothing
going on.
”**

Frustrated, William didn't know what to say, so he kept quiet throughout the journey when he sent Belinda home.

Bursting with happiness, Belinda didn't go for a rest, but instead, she was discussing with the servants to work out a to-buy-list for Sophia.

Seeing that, William couldn't help but smile, and after excusing himself, he went upstairs.

As soon as he had reached his room, his phone rang—it was John.

Picking up the call, William asked, "John? Is there anything?"

Letting out a sigh, John said, "Nothing in particular. I couldn't quite sleep, so I thought of dropping you a call."
"

In his throaty voice, he continued, "Dad, do you intend

to reconcile with Mom?”

Dumbstruck for a moment,
William asked,

“Why do you ask
all of a sudden?”

Chuckling, John spilled,

“Well,

when we had dinner today, I
saw you stealing quick glances
at Mom a

few times, so I thought you
were thinking of... you know.

”

Feeling awkward, William
reckoned he wasn't exactly
stealing glances at Matilda.

Frankly, he just felt

that Matilda had changed so
much, so he couldn't help but
cast a few more glances at her.

Was that considered as stealing
glances?

With an awkward cough,
William explained,

“I wasn't

stealing glances at your mom,
and I have no

other intentions. Don't
misunderstand.

”

“I see. By the way, how are

things with you and Yolanda?”
Frowning, William clearly didn’t
expect John would ask too.
With a stern voice, William
protested firmly,
“There’s
nothing going on between
Yolanda and me, so
there’s nothing much to talk
about. I hope all of you will take
my word for it.
”

Guffawing, John said,
“Actually,
if there’s really something going
on between you two, no one
will be
against it. About you and Mom,
I guess both of you are not
meant to be?”

Upon thinking of Matilda’s
frosty manner toward him
today, William thought perhaps
John was right
about them—they weren’t
meant to be.

Unwilling to continue with this
topic, William asked about
Sophia.

In a casual manner, John said
everything was going well

between him and Sophia. Of course, he would deliberately leave out the part about him being driven out of the room by Sophia.

That time, when a random thought struck her, she said the sight of him pissed her off, which led to him being chased out of the room.

Confused, John felt he was at his wit's end when it came to understanding Sophia.

In the past, he found it difficult to keep her under control. With her being pregnant now, she became

the boss lady of the household.

Pondering for a second, William asked,

“You decided to be with her because of the child?”

Hearing that, John laughed aloud.

“Dad, it has nothing to do with the child. I want to be with her

because I like her. I know my heart's desires.

”

As expected, Sophia was woken up during the middle of the night.

Pressing her lips together, she grumbled sleepily,

“B*stard!

You did it on purpose. You just have to

disturb my sleep all the time.

”

Leaning forward, John planted a kiss on her lips.

“Sorry, you get

on with your sleep.

”

Not knowing how to deal with the shameless side of him,

Sophia turned her back against him and

continued with her sleep.

Drawing himself nearer toward her, John held her closely

within his arms.

Back then, he could still hit the booze and do whatever he

wanted with her, but now, he had to get a

hold of himself and behave.

Gently caressing her belly, John shut his eyes.

While he was fast asleep, his

phone that was left at the bedside table vibrated.

At first, he planned to ignore it, but later, his phone vibrated again.

Thinking about it, he turned around to reach out for his phone.

Initially, he figured it was his subordinates that sent him a WhatsApp message, but much to his

surprise, it was Isabelle. The first message was removed, but the second message was her apologizing

for sending the wrong message.

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Not knowing what she had sent, John decided to ignore it and placed his phone back on top of the

bedside table.

At that, John wondered why did she even bother to send a message this late?

Hugging Sophia in his arms, he fell asleep again.

Meanwhile, Isabelle held onto her phone tightly, but still, she had yet to receive a reply from

John.

Gazing at the time, Isabelle figured it wasn't that late. Besides, judging from John's current position, he got caught up with work so often, he rarely got the chance to go to bed early.

Looking down at her phone, Isabelle was contemplating whether to resend another message, just in case.

She hadn't been in contact with John for the longest time ever. Initially, she thought of giving him the brushoff for a short period of time because she was too clingy toward him.

However, after giving the cold treatment, it indirectly gave John and Sophia a chance to be close with one another.

As of now, even Matilda and Sophia got along really well together to an extent, Isabelle felt she had missed out so much.

Thus, she felt really worried

these few days and intended to do something, but didn't know where to start.

After waiting for a little while longer, Isabelle put down her phone and turned to walk out of her room.

Once she got downstairs, she took out a bottle of red wine, opened it, and went upstairs with it.

Taking the stairs up to the first floor, Elder Mr. Bailey coincidentally walked out of his room.

Surprised to see her, he asked, "Belle, aren't you asleep yet?"

With that, Elder Mr. Bailey saw the bottle of red wine she carried with her. With a heavy sigh, he immediately got the picture.

"My child, you...
"

Hesitated, he didn't know what else to say to comfort her.

"Goodnight, Grandpa, and sleep well,

" greeted Isabelle as she

bowed her head and walked toward her room.

Without bringing a glass with her, Isabelle took a few mouthfuls directly from the bottle.

Undoubtedly, she was confident that she had the chance, but how did it slip away in a blink of an eye?

She shouldn't have listened to what others had to say, shouldn't be this passive, and should have seized every opportunity to meet up with John.

Indeed, she was aware that there was no relationship basis between them, so she really had to seek the chance to meet with him often to cultivate their relationship. Otherwise, how would his feelings for her grow?

The more she thought about it, the more bitter she felt.

Picking up her phone, the screen showed the WhatsApp

conversation with John.
Under the influence of alcohol,
Isabelle recorded a voice
message and said,
“John, can’t
you tell how I
felt?”

Upon sending the voice
message, she threw her phone
aside without anticipating a
reply from John.

Meanwhile, John heard his
phone vibrate, but he could
care less because Sophia had
turned around
and snuggled up to him like an
octopus.

Trying to avoid putting pressure
onto her belly, John waited
patiently for her to find a
comfortable
spot. Holding her back into his
arms, they enjoyed a goodnight
sleep throughout the night.

The next morning, John had to
wake up and get ready for work.
Gently moving Sophia aside, he
got
up and had a quick wash up.
The moment he got out of the
bathroom, Sophia was still

asleep, and wasn't disturbed at all.

Standing beside the bed, John gazed at her while putting on his clothes.

Seeing her sound asleep like this, John got all warm-and-fuzzies because she wasn't glaring at him and wouldn't roll her eyes at him; she looked somewhat vulnerable, and it melted his heart.

Unable to get a hold on himself, John leaned forward to kiss her. Pushing his face away from hers, Sophia reacted a little slower than usual.

"You're so annoying!" she grumbled sleepily.

Beaming with delight, John caressed her face and turned to leave the room.

Walking down the stairs, when John took out his phone to read some news, he noticed Isabelle's message.

Tapping on the voice message, he could hear Isabelle's slurred

speech.

Obviously, Isabelle was a little tipsy, so she was mumbling, but he could easily tell that she was being upset.

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His brows knitting together, John momentarily stilled while standing on the step. Then, he exited

WhatsApp and placed his cell phone back into his pocket.

Having done that, he nonchalantly went downstairs.

Matilda was in the kitchen, preparing breakfast with Ms.

Cannon. Walking over, John peered in from

the entrance before saying, “I

phoned Dad last night and asked him about his relationship with Yolanda.

”

Surprised, Matilda glanced over her shoulder at him.

“Okay.

Well?”

At this, John chuckled.

**“Looks
like you’re rather interested in
knowing about Dad’s affairs.
”**

**Lowering her head, Matilda
continued with her current
chore.**

**“I’d be lying if I were to
say that I’m
not interested. I’d still be
somewhat curious. Well, get on
with it. What did your father
say?”**

**John leaned against the door
frame with his arms crossed.**

**“Dad said that he has never had
a
romantic relationship with her
and they’re just friends.
”**

**Upon hearing this, Matilda
snickered.**

**“Yeah, they’re just
friends. They must be bosom
friends for
him to be so concerned about
her.
”**

John arched an eyebrow.

**“I
didn’t ask him about the rest,**

**nor did he offer any information.
I just
thought it'll be prudent for me
to tell you this. You can then
form your own judgment, and
of course,
the decision lies in your hands.
”**

**Matilda nodded.
“Alright, got it.
Go and wait in the dining room.
Breakfast will be ready soon.
”**

**John then stared at her profile
for a while before he whirled
around and went to the dining
room. If
this had happened in the past,
she would've definitely claimed
that she wasn't interested in
knowing
and feigned insouciance
considering her temperament.
Then, she'd make discreet
inquiries.
Truthfully speaking, her candid
attitude now is much more
likable.
Plating the salad, Matilda
straightened before heaving a
sigh. Beside her, Ms. Cannon**

cast her a
glance.

“If you’re free today,
you can ask Mr. Constance out
for a meal. I noticed that you
two got
along quite well yesterday.
”

“No way,
” Matilda shot back at
once.

“I don’t want to have a
meal with him. That’s aimless.
”

After
saying that, she pondered for a
moment before saying,
“I’ll just
leave things as they are. Things
are
vague between him and
Yolanda, so I don’t want to
insert myself into the equation.
A love triangle
will just end up in utter chaos.
Plus, I feel a headache coming
on at the mere thought of it.
”

When she
reached the door with the plate
in hand, she suddenly added to

no apparent person,
“Things are
good now, so I’ll just leave it at
that.

” Then, she went to the
dining room.

John was still looking at his cell
phone since Zack had sent him
a message. While Zack
appeared
blasé on the surface, he was
actually quite efficient.

Otherwise, he wouldn’t have
been able to work
with John for so many years.

He’d sent over a picture of the
person in the photo Roselia
previously

provided. He’d already
investigated the person and
ascertained his identity. All in
all, it was a

detailed investigation with all
his activities throughout the
years listed there plainly.

John scrutinized the
investigative report for a long
time. This person has done
quite a lot of things.

He’s done some small business,
but it didn’t yield much profit

and fell through in the end.
According
to the report, he's been
working at the shadow bank for
two years. At this time, he
recalled the name
list given by Husky. I merely
scanned it roughly back then, so
I can't remember whether this
person's name was on it. But
since it's been two years, he's
probably not a low-level errand
boy but
has some authority at least.
After studying the information
for a while, he then typed out a
message to Zack. Before he'd
finished
doing so, Matilda came over
and sat down across from him.
Raising his eyes to her, John
laughed.
"What is it? Judging from your
demeanor, you seem to have
something to say to me?"
Matilda let out a sigh.
"It's
nothing much actually. I just
want to ask how much you
know about
what's happening between

your father and Yolanda.

”

**After a moment’s
contemplation, John placed his
cell phone down and took a sip
of soy milk.**

**“Not
much. I only know that Dad
went to take care of Yolanda
back when she was hospitalized.
When he
came back, he always told us
what he did in the hospital.
Putting aside his character and
speaking
just from his upfront manner, I
don’t think there’s anything
scandalous going on between
them.**

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 699
Matilda took a steamed bun,
but she didn’t bite into it.
Instead, she merely lowered her
head and
said,
“Perhaps the two of you
don’t sense anything, but I’m a
woman, so I understand women
all too
well. Maybe your father truly**

doesn't have any other intentions, but Yolanda has feelings for him.

" At

this, she chortled.

"You were still young back then, but when I first went and had it out with her, I went crazy and kicked up a huge ruckus at Bloom Residence. At that time, Yolanda didn't even say a single word,

allowing me to slap her without defending herself. I could tell that she was feeling guilty, and that

was why I couldn't keep my temper in check. It's because she truly has feelings for your father.

"

John leaned back against his chair.

"Actually, I think this is normal. Your main concern should be Dad's headspace since someone else coveting your spouse isn't something you can avoid or control.

"

Matilda looked at John.

**“You
understand quite a bit.
”**

At this, John sighed.

**“I initially
didn’t understand either. I just
figured it out slowly in the past
few
days.**

**” For instance, when he
saw Isabelle’s message earlier
and listened to her voice
message, he**

**instantly had a moment of
clarity about the things he
hadn’t understood in the past.**

**When the
divorce was still fresh, Sophia
always mentioned Isabelle out
of the blue, obviously hinting at
something, something he once
felt was an overthinking on her
part.**

**It was no different from William
now. Likewise, he felt that
Matilda was being petty and
fretting for**

**no reason. He felt that there
was nothing between him and
Yolanda, which was exactly the**

same

way John thought about himself and Isabelle. In this matter, they both felt that it was the other

making something out of nothing, but they'd never considered why Matilda and Sophia had a sense of crisis.

John couldn't deny that he'd once found Isabelle to be the ideal spouse, but he was merely taken by

her image. In reality, he'd never felt anything for her. Only after he'd heard her words did he realize

that it wasn't Sophia who'd overthought it but he himself had underthought it. Women were

inherently sensitive, especially when it came to those of the same s@x.

Hence, Matilda and Sophia might have long since sensed it, but as men who lacked emotional

consciousness, they were blind to it, thus making them feel

insecure. He had no choice but to admit that it was his negligence; it was his failure to take a clear stance that had Sophia clinging to the issue of Isabelle. The problem lay on him.

Pursing her lips, Matilda sighed. "Alright, I got it. Let's not talk about this anymore. It just feels as though you're going to lecture me."

John cracked up. The two of them then had breakfast languidly before he went to the office.

Just after he'd turned on his computer upon arriving at the office, his cell phone buzzed again.

Snagging it over for a look, he saw that Isabelle had again sent him a message. Naturally, it was an apology in which she claimed to have been tipsy last night, thus it was the alcohol talking and asked

him not to take it to heart. After a single glance, he then deleted the message. There's no need to reply. I'll just pretend that I didn't listen to it.

Putting his cell phone aside, he then started perusing his documents. A while later, Zack came in

with documents for him and even spoke briefly of the shadow bank, but it was just a lead he was investigating, so John merely gave him half an ear.

The moment Zack left, Isabelle again sought him out. This time, it was no longer a message but an

outright phone call. Without any awkwardness on his part, John answered the call right away.

Rather, Isabelle was the one stammering as she asked him what he was doing and whether he was

busy. Grunting, John said, "Just

cut to the chase, Miss Bailey. Is

there something I've got to take note of regarding the project?"

"No,

" Isabelle hastily blurted.

Then, she lowered her voice.

"No, no, I'm not calling about work. I'm

calling about a personal matter.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 700

Upon hearing that, John chuckled.

"I don't think we have any personal matters to speak of, Miss Bailey.

" His remark was courteous, his tone pleasant, but the content was actually very callous.

On the other end, Isabelle was suddenly at a loss for words.

Putting down the document in his hand, John reclined against his chair. In a placid voice, he remarked,

"I don't think there are any personal entanglements between us save work, Miss

Bailey.

”

Isabelle slowly exhaled.

**“Have
you listened to the voice
message I sent yesterday,
John?”**

**After a few seconds, John
admitted it.**

**“Yeah, I listened to
it.**

”

**He has listened to it, yet he said
such a thing. Thus, Isabelle
understood his stance on the
matter. She
then gave a bark of laughter.**

**“You must think me comical, no,
John?”**

John denied it, saying,

**“Not at
all.**

”

**Her voice tinged with a hint of
exasperation, Isabelle
commented,**

“Sorry about that.

**It wasn't
deliberate on my part. I
imbibed yesterday, so I kind of
lost control of myself. If**

possible, I truly wish that you'd never find out about it.

" Her voice lowered to a whisper, she implored, "Just pretend that you know nothing about it. I hope it won't affect the collaboration between us."
"

After saying that it wouldn't, John went silent. It seemed that he truly didn't have anything to say to her.

In the end, Isabelle laughed. "Alright, then. I won't keep you from your work any longer. I'll leave you to it.

" After saying that, she hung up the phone. John slowly placed his cell phone on the table. Then, he truly resumed perusing documents as before, not affected in the slightest bit.

Meanwhile, Isabelle's expression was stained with a

trace of self-deprecation as she
put her cell
phone down. She'd actually
expected such a result. After all,
John was very close with Sophia
now, so
there wouldn't be much of a
reaction even if he knew that
she had feelings for him.

However,
resentment blazed within her,
and she just couldn't help
herself. She massaged her
temples, her
head feeling heavy from her
excessive drinking last night.
But that was secondary, for her
heart hurt
even more, a dull pain assailing
her.

After some time, she then stood
up and walked out with her
mug in hand. The moment she
exited
her office, she spotted her
grandfather stepping out of the
elevator. Her father greeted
him at the
elevator doors, his voice
threaded with a smile.

"Why

are you here, Dad?"

"I came to see Belle, so just go back to your work. You don't need to entertain me.

" Elder Mr.

Bailey's

voice was deep and resounding.

Just after he'd said that, he caught sight of Isabelle. Thus, Isabelle naturally couldn't go to the pantry

anymore. She hurried over to him.

"You're here, Grandpa?"

Pinning his gaze on her, her grandfather scrutinized her for a long while before nodding.

"I came to visit you.

"

Isabelle pursed her lips.

Knowing that he cared a lot about her love life, she murmured,

"I talked to John.

"

Elder Mr. Bailey merely nodded without asking her what they talked about.

“Let’s talk in your office.

” Isabelle then followed him back to her office. Walking over, he sat on a chair and looked at her.

“Child, it’s obvious that you’re feeling devastated again.

”

Isabelle might have denied it for the sake of her preserving dignity in front of others, but when it came to her grandfather, all her pretense collapsed. All at once, tears streamed down her face, and she ducked her head.

“This is the first time I’ve ever liked someone this much. Why is it so difficult?”

Elder Mr. Bailey sighed.

“Difficult? No, not at all. I think there’s still hope for you.

”

At this, Isabelle shook her head lightly.

“I don’t think so.

**Grandpa, you might not know
this, but
Sophia and John are now very
close. I saw them shopping
together with John's mother
even. The
three of them were chatting
and laughing together. Plus,
Sophia is pregnant. Truly, I
don't think I can
insert myself into their
relationship anymore.
”**