

The Returning Ex Chapter 701

Elder Mr. Bailey's expression remained unchanged. "You never used to give up so easily in the past.

Child, let me ask you this—back then, you said you like John, so it didn't matter even if he was married.

Does that still apply now?"

Isabelle raised her head and looked at him, her tears falling uncontrollably. After a moment's hesitation, she murmured, "Yes. I still love him." Although John and Sophia already had a child, her feelings for him hadn't diminished an iota. She'd been harboring feelings for this man for too long a time that her love for him was now in her bones.

Her grandfather nodded. "That's enough, then. You're not the kind of person who admits defeat easily, so just go for it if you love him. We all support you. They're not planning to remarry now, so the only connection between them is the unborn child. There's nothing else, so you definitely stand a chance. Do you understand my meaning?"

Taken aback, Isabelle gaped at him, but his expression was exceedingly calm. It was as though those despicable remarks earlier had nothing to do with him. Isabelle, however, was very much shocked that he'd openly encouraged her, his own granddaughter, to break up someone else's marriage, and he'd spoken without any compunction at that. She pursed her lips.

"Grandpa, I'm actually a tad afraid."

On the contrary, the old man wasn't the least bit afraid. In fact, it didn't even register as an issue with him. "It's fine, Isabelle. You have nothing to worry about," he declared earnestly. "If it weren't for Sophia

Gwendolyn back then, you and John would've been together long ago. Thus, it was underhanded of her in the first place."

All at once, Isabelle was reminded of John coming over to Bailey Residence to call off their marriage. At that time, we'd even had the wedding date picked out, so there was just one more step left. We were a heartbeat away from getting married, but Sophia Gwendolyn popped out! Then, she slowly nodded.

"Indeed. If it weren't for Sophia Gwendolyn, John and I would probably be living happily now." It's been a year, so if I'd ended up with John, we might even have a child by now. She heaved a sigh, her expression slightly dazed. "Let me think about it, Grandpa."

Elder Mr. Bailey knew that he couldn't push her too much on this, so he grunted in assent. "It's your happiness, so do think about it carefully."

Meanwhile, Sophia was happily ignorant, only rousing at noon. When she woke up, her mind felt rather fuzzy as she stared at the door. I think I need to change the door lock. John Constance is becoming increasingly reprehensible, sneaking in in the middle of the night every so often!

After she'd sat there for some time, Matilda came knocking on the door, chiding her for sleeping too much and asking if she wanted to come down for lunch. Grunting an acknowledgment, Sophia called out, "Come on in. The door isn't locked."

Swinging open the door, Matilda walked in with a tray filled with dishes in her hand. She then sighed. "I know you've been feeling drowsy lately, but no matter what, you've still got to get up and eat when it's time. After eating, you can then sleep again to your heart's content."

Sophia tapped her forehead. "I didn't feel hungry, so I kept sleeping." Getting out of bed, she went to the bathroom to wash up. While washing her face, she asked Matilda, "How did you feel when you saw William yesterday?"

Putting down the tray, Matilda sat on the edge of the bed. "Nothing. What feelings could there be when it's been so many years? Shyness? Anger? I felt nary a thing."

Sophia chortled. "I noticed that he kept stealing glances at you while we were eating yesterday. I wonder what that meant."

Matilda was startled. In the next instance, she laughed. "He was probably surprised since it was the first time I was so easy-going." After saying that, she stretched backward. "It's not just you all, for I actually feel that I've changed a lot, too."

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Matilda tittered. "My temperament was different back then. I was very competitive, so I had to be the victor in everything." But on second thought, it was quite tiring back then. Despite everyone tolerating me and bowing to me, I actually wasn't happy.

Sophia came out when she was done washing up and sat down at the side. Then, she started eating. The thing with her appetite was that it came and went at random times; she initially thought that she wouldn't be able to stomach much, but she was then inhaling the food before she'd realized it.

Upon seeing her stuffing her face, Matilda chortled. "The little fellow in your stomach will definitely be round and chubby in the future." After saying that, she kept an eye on Sophia's expression as she asked,

“Are you really not planning to remarry John?”

“No. No way,” Sophia declared resolutely. “That’s not in my plans.”

When she’d said that, she turned her gaze on Matilda. “Hey, what would you do if John’s father asks you for a remarriage?”

Matilda burst into laughter. “Stop messing with me. His father will never do that. He has finally escaped my clutches, so how could he possibly turn around and jump back into hell?”

Failing to keep the lid on her amusement, Sophia dissolved into giggles.

“You’re quite clear of where you stand.”

Matilda laughed as well, but she then changed the subject. “How about going shopping after you’re done eating and washing up? A lot of malls are having sales recently, so things seem to be quite a steal. I’m thinking of going on a shopping spree.”

Humming thoughtfully, Sophia turned and gazed out the window. “It should be fine since it’s broad daylight now. Let’s go in a while, then.”

At her prompt agreement, Matilda hurried back to her room and changed. Sophia got ready as well before leaving the house with her.

The nearby shopping mall was having a promotion lately, so they went there to shop and ended up buying quite a lot of things. Sophia couldn’t carry heavy stuff, so Matilda carried the bags. Not daring to take the escalator, they headed straight for the elevator. The elevator was enclosed with transparent glass, so one could look out while standing inside.

As Sophia stood in the elevator, the elevator doors closed. However, before it started its descent, she

caught sight of a man standing outside. The man was wearing a baseball cap with a cell phone in his hand, snapping away at her. While he tried his best to be surreptitious as he did so, she still saw his action clearly. When he was done taking her photos, he dipped his head. He's probably checking them before sending them to someone, she thought. The elevator then slowly made its descent, but she kept her eyes on the man until he disappeared from sight. Then, she let out a breath, her heart having once again leaped to her throat.

Matilda, on the other hand, didn't notice anything amiss. After stepping out of the elevator, she still darted her gaze around, checking whether there was anything else to buy.

Looking at her, Sophia lowered her voice as she said, "Let's find a place and have a seat first. I feel as though something's off."

Taken aback, Matilda gaped at her. "Something's off?"

Sophia wasn't quite certain, but still, she nodded. "I can't tell for sure yet. Let's find a place and settle down first. I'll make a call."

Considering her delicate situation now and the fact that she'd been targeted once, Matilda didn't dare take any risks, so she hurriedly acquiesced.

The two of them then entered a dessert shop in the mall, and Matilda glanced out over her shoulder.

"Do we have a tail?"

Sophia didn't answer her. Instead, she took out her cell phone. She didn't call John since he was at work, and she couldn't say for certain that her suspicion was accurate since she was the one who clocked it. If he were to learn about it, he'd probably be worried and panicked, so she called Logan.

Logan picked up in no time, sounding cheerful. “Are you missing me, Sophia?”

Sophia murmured an assent before saying, “Yup. Would you like to come over? Madam Flintstone and I are outside. Why don’t you join us?”

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Startled, Logan asked, “Where exactly are you?”

Sophia told him the name of the mall. However, Logan was slightly averse to the idea. “I don’t see why I should go shopping with you. Besides, I would feel like a pervert if I were to go browsing women’s clothing with you people.”

“That’s not what I meant,” Sophia interjected. “We’re done shopping, so why don’t you come have a chat with us? We will go home after that, or even have dinner at my place. As you say, the more the merrier.”

Logan liked meeting up with friends, so he agreed to Sophia’s arrangement after giving it some thought.

Then, he told Sophia to wait for him while he was on his way. After hanging up, Sophia looked around with worry, which prompted Matilda to do the same anxiously.

“What’s wrong? Did you call Logan so that he can offer us some protection?”

Sophia ordered some coffee and hot chocolate before explaining, “I am not sure if that’s the case, but I had a feeling that a man was taking photos of me outside the lift.”

Taken aback by what Sophia told her, Matilda observed Sophia from up close. “Are you sure it’s not because you look beautiful?”

Sophia’s expression soured immediately. “I’m being serious.”

Nodding, Matilda hastily agreed with her. “Alright, I’ll take it more seriously. We should stay put as we

don't know who's waiting outside. We can't afford to have anything happen to you at this point."

Sophia licked her lips. "This feels awful." Indeed, it was awful, as they had to worry about their own safety even on a shopping trip, which was almost unbearable. Heaving a sigh, Matilda suggested, "We should tell John about it so that he can catch the culprit. We might even be able to uncover the mastermind by following this lead."

Sophia smacked her lips before replying, "The thing is, I'm not sure if I am overthinking this." She couldn't help but feel like she might be suffering from a paranoia due to what happened prior to that.

Nodding, Matilda echoed, "I suppose your concern is valid."

Soon, Logan arrived at the mall with his dazzling gold chain hanging around his neck. Due to how peculiar and eye-catching his outfit was, Sophia wanted to act as if she didn't know the guy at all. On the other

hand, Logan sat down beside her with a cheerful disposition upon finding out where she was. Looking at

Matilda, he said casually, "Madam, you sure bought a lot of stuff."

Matilda was surrounded by bags that she placed on the floor and on the chair beside her. Heaving a sigh,

she said nonchalantly, "Well, I am a woman after all, so this is what happens when I go shopping."

In the meantime, Sophia finished her hot chocolate before glancing out from where she sat, only to once

again spot the man whom she saw outside the lift. However, judging from how he was scanning his

surroundings, it seemed that he had yet to notice Sophia. Sophia hastily ducked a little before instructing

Logan, "Take a look at that person over there. Is he up to something? I have a feeling he has been tailing me."

Logan's eyes went wide with anger while he questioned, "Where is he? Show me! Which dumb*ss guy would follow you around?"

As soon as Sophia pointed out who the guy was, Logan checked on him before hissing. "He seems to be looking for someone."

Sophia grunted in response. "I think he might be after me."

Upon glancing at the man, Matilda recalled what she saw, and she narrowed eyes. "I think he has been tailing us ever since the beginning, as I've been catching glimpses of him, but I didn't think much of it."

Logan wore a stern look on his face while casting a glance at Matilda. However, he wasn't planning on doing anything on his own, as he did bring his driver along. Due to his temperament, he was used to dealing with things rather violently, so he made a call to have his driver capture the man who tailed Sophia.

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Although Sophia didn't know much about Logan's driver, she figured she could trust him since Logan did.

However, she had other concerns. "Isn't it bad if we raise a ruckus in public? Why don't we lure him to the parking lot where there are less people? Logan, instead of coming over to us, tell your driver to wait at the parking lot."

Matilda couldn't help but worry. "How should we lure him? Are you planning to act as bait? You'd better not do that, as I won't know what to tell John if anything happens to you."

Chuckling, Sophia said defiantly, "If it ever comes to that, all you have to do is act out like how your previous self did." With that, Sophia stood from her seat. "Logan, stay put and observe the situation

from here.” Upon saying so, Sophia reached for Matilda’s arm, so the latter had no choice but to go along with her plans.

They left the dessert shop together. As soon as they did so, the man who was searching for something stopped in his movements out of surprise, which made it apparent that he was indeed looking for them.

Without sparing him a glance, both Matilda and Sophia headed for the lifts with their bags in hand,

whereas the man followed behind them after lowering his cap.

Meanwhile, Logan wore a cold expression while standing up to follow the man, who was so focused on

Sophia and Matilda that he didn’t notice he was being tailed as well.

While Sophia and Matilda took the

lifts, the man opted to go down the stairs, whereas Logan went downstairs on another lift. They soon

arrived at the parking lot in the basement, after which Sophia and Matilda continued to walk at a

leisurely pace, while the man caught up to them from behind.

Initially, he kept his distance, but upon noticing that there weren’t a lot of people around, the man

hastened to get to Sophia. Meanwhile, both Sophia and Matilda were paying close attention to what was

going on behind them. Matilda was so nervous that her palms were all sweaty, while her heart raced.

She was also holding so hard onto Sophia’s arm that the latter nearly cried out in pain.

Scanning her surroundings, Sophia saw Logan’s driver after walking for some time. She had an

impression of him as she used to see him during her multiple visits to Logan’s clubhouse. Upon noticing

Sophia, the driver also saw the man who was tailing her, so he began to walk over to them.

Perhaps it was because of the noise of his movements, the man saw Logan's driver as soon as he started walking, which prompted the man to stop in his tracks. With someone else around, the man realized it wouldn't be the best time to make a move. Gritting his teeth, he stared at Sophia's figure begrudgingly as he was so close to succeeding in his scheme.

Focused on the sight before him, the man didn't notice Logan coming at him from behind. Although he was usually more of a lackadaisical character, Logan was dependable when the situation called for it.

Upon noticing a pause in the man's movements, Logan caught up to the man in strides and gave him a kick behind his knees before the man could react.

Due to him having his guard down, the man kneeled onto the ground from the force of the impact, while Logan gave him another kick on the shoulder to send him lying flat on the ground. Meanwhile, Logan's driver stepped in to pin the man down by twisting his arm behind him, whereas Logan stepped on his back. "You b*stard, why are you sneaking around?"

The man groaned while turning his head. "I did nothing! Who are you? And what are you doing?"

Sophia and Matilda were watching from beside, while Matilda could feel her heart pounding like crazy.

"Could it be that we made a mistake?"

However, Sophia cried out to Logan, "Check his phone!"

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Crouching down, Logan tried to go through the man's pockets. The man seemed frightened as he kept on squirming, but he couldn't break free from the combined weight of Logan and his driver. Upon noticing

the man being uncooperative, Logan whacked him on the back of his head before warning him, "I will twist your arm off if you won't settle down." As soon as Logan said so, the driver twisted the man's arm even harder, which made him cry out in pain before he ceased struggling altogether. Meanwhile, Logan got his phone and unlocked it by pressing the man's finger on the device.

Standing up, he went through the phone's contents, only to find that except for the photo albums, it was mostly empty. The newest batch of photos showed Sophia hanging out with Matilda, taken when they were buying things, taking the lift, and even when they were walking around while chatting.

Logan sniggered when he saw the photos. "Come on. Why don't you tell me what these are?" He crouched down to show the photos to the man, which caused the latter to fall into silence. Chuckling, Logan mocked, "Okay, I suppose I'll have to teach you a lesson before you will open up. Mark, take him with us."

Mark seemed to be a well-trained fighter, as he was able to pick the man up without breaking a sweat. In the meantime, relief washed over Sophia. She spoke after Mark chucked the man into Logan's car. "He must have a lot of information, so you'll have to interrogate him thoroughly."

Grunting, Logan led them back into the mall. He then made a call to have another driver wait on them at the plaza in front of the mall, as he didn't feel safe sending Sophia back on a cab. When they were

waiting for the driver, Logan gave John a call to fill him in on what happened. Taken aback by what he heard, John quickly asked where Sophia was. Logan turned to glance at Sophia before handing his phone over to her. "Here you go. John would like to speak to you." It wasn't until a while later that Sophia took the phone from him. Even then, she had a pointed attitude when she spoke to John. "What's the matter?" However, John blurted out a string of words while ignoring her attitude altogether. "Are you hurt? Do you feel pain in any part of your body? Did the man get near you? Stay close to Logan, and never leave the house alone ever again! Since it's unsafe outside, I will have someone watch over you around the clock. If you need to leave the house, make sure you have someone else other than my mother, as you will have a hard time handling things on your own if anything goes wrong."

Sophia's patience was wearing thin. "Alright, you can nag me all you want when I get back. I will be hanging up if you have nothing important to say." Heaving a sigh, John slowed down before continuing, "Sophia, please be more understanding. Don't you know how much of a fright the incident gave me? My heart almost leaped out of my throat."

Pulling her lips into a thin line, Sophia replied after a long pause, "I get what you mean, but telling me all of this over the phone doesn't help. I am already exhausted as things stand, so wait until I get home before you talk to me about anything." After that, she handed the phone back to Logan, who was trying to stifle a laugh as he realized that

Sophia was now the one in charge. Judging from how she spoke to John, she sure seemed to have power over him.

Taking his phone from her, Logan listened on while John gave him some instructions as Sophia wouldn't listen to him. Logan grunted in the affirmative before telling John, "Don't fret. I will be escorting them back to the house right away. Nothing will go wrong."

Upon hearing John express his gratitude, Logan smiled in silence. After he hung up, Sophia muttered under her breath, "He's so long-winded."

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By that point, Matilda was a lot calmer, even managing to laugh upon giving the situation some thought.

"You're the only one who can overpower John. He was never like that with anyone."

"He wasn't as caring toward me back then. I was also used to being ignored by him," Sophia muttered.

There was a moment's pause when Matilda turned to look at Sophia. After that, she reached out to hold Sophia's hand. "I am partially responsible for how he treated you back then, as I used to badmouth you in front of him, so I might've influenced his decision. However, despite how he treated you in the past, you can't deny that you're now his only love." Sophia fell silent upon hearing Matilda's confession. It wasn't until a while later that the driver Logan called for arrived, who drove them home as soon as they hopped in. Halfway through their journey, Logan got a call from Mark. Other than informing him that the man they caught was locked in the clubhouse's basement, Mark was also inquiring on what to do next.

Despite being a hooligan, Logan didn't actually know a lot about interrogation. Much as he was a b*stard, he was a magnanimous b*stard who preferred to settle disputes in a direct manner. If it was up to him, he would first break the man's arm, but he knew his savage behavior wouldn't help in finding out more about the mastermind, which was why he hesitated. "Well... Hold on... Keep him in there while I ask around."

Hanging up, Logan gave John a text. In the meantime, Sophia was leaning against the window while pondering on her circumstances. The person behind this incident should be the same as the one from before, as she didn't think she had so many enemies who would want to seek revenge against her. She didn't have that level of notoriety. In fact, she only had one person in mind upon going through her list of candidates.

Upon their arrival at Sophia's house, Matilda was the first to get out of the car, with Sophia following behind her, and Logan was the last. He stretched out while mumbling, "Ian should be wrapping things up on his end, so he should be back at any moment."

Sophia froze in place before glancing at Logan. Without another word, he entered the house at a leisurely pace. Judging from the online broadcast, Sophia figured that there should be more to come before the program that Ian was in reached its end, but the shooting should be almost finished. If the competition was over, Ian's return should be anticipated, but Sophia wasn't sure how she should receive him.

Meanwhile, Matilda supported Sophia while they entered the living room. Sitting on the sofa, Logan was checking his phone. “You know, I was texting John just now—”

Before he finished his sentence, John’s car was already parked in the yard. Upon getting out of his car, he came over to them in strides. “Are you guys all right?”

Although he directed his question to all of them, he only had eyes for Sophia, but she averted her gaze after sparing him a glance. Meanwhile, Matilda let out a chuckle. “I’m fine, so you don’t have to worry about me, since I was never the target to begin with.”

She was apparently making fun of John. However, he seemed to be unfazed as he maintained his gaze on Sophia while inquiring in a gentle tone, “Are you okay? Does it hurt anywhere?”

Without looking his way, Sophia answered, “I’m alright. That man didn’t even get remotely close to me as Logan was there.”

John sat down beside her before reaching for her hand. While caressing it in between his palms, he asked Logan, “Did you lock the man up at your place?”

Humming, Logan stole a glance at their intertwined fingers before replying, “Yeah, but I don’t really know how to interrogate him, so you’ll have to take over matters from here. You know me; if it were up to me, that man would end up either wounded or dead.”

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John hummed in the affirmative. “We’ll go meet him in person later.” Upon noticing that everybody had arrived, Ms. Cannon began cooking, while Sophia’s stomach began churning as soon as she took in the greasy smell from the kitchen. Therefore, she stood to leave. “I’ll be getting some rest upstairs. Enjoy yourselves.”

Matilda knew Sophia might be feeling unwell, so she chimed in, “Yeah, you probably should after shopping for such a long time.”

Without checking on anybody else, Sophia walked upstairs languidly. She then got herself a change of clothes before lying down on bed. Despite initial plans to dissect the matter in order to predict Isabelle’s next move, she was feeling drowsy soon enough. Her mind was muddled up when she was halfway through recalling her long-standing feud with Isabelle, and she dozed off after that.

Thus, she had no idea what the people downstairs were talking about. All she knew was someone embraced her from behind when she was still sleeping. “You have such a short temper,” a voice chided.

She wasn’t fully awake, so she shied away from whoever that was behind her, which made the person smile, but neither did she fully register it as she flipped herself over to continue sleeping.

John lay beside her with a smile and began patting her shoulder after she was once again sound asleep.

Some time later, Matilda came to fetch them both, but she merely reprimanded John without stepping into the room. “Didn’t I tell you to fetch her for dinner? What are you even doing?”

With a smile, John said, “I’ll bring her downstairs in a bit. She’s sound asleep now.”

Matilda was somewhat displeased by his response. “Oh, be quick. She can go right back to sleep after dinner. The dishes will taste cold and bland if she waits too long.”

Chuckling amicably, John resigned himself to obeying his mother. “Alright, I get it.”

Matilda left after a while, after which John caressed Sophia's face while trying to wake her. "Sophia, it's time for dinner."

Seeing that she wasn't reacting, John dipped down for a kiss after spending some time staring at her. It was far more effective compared to his previous attempt, as Sophia woke up a few seconds later to start punching him. Letting go of her, John smiled. "Come on, let's have dinner."

With a frown on her face, Sophia grumbled, "John Constance, don't you have any decorum?"

John paid her no heed while helping her up from bed. He then got her a towel from the bathroom to wipe her face. With the lights off and without moving from her spot, Sophia stared at him in the dark as the skies darkened. John's gentleness was far more alluring compared to the harsh facade he used to put up. The contrast only served as a reminder that he never loved her in the past. With a sophisticated glance, she kept her silence.

When John returned the towel to the bathroom, Sophia got out of bed. When he came back out to lead her downstairs while holding her hand, she did not struggle. Both incidents brought a smile to John's face.

The rest of them were waiting for them downstairs, with Matilda asking Logan about the Jeffersons.

However, he didn't seem to know much about them, be it matters regarding the company or the situation back in their household. Logan wasn't living with them, so he had nothing to tell Matilda.

Still on the stairs with Sophia, John said, "Lorraine's TV program seemed to be a success, so the

Jeffersons might have some money coming their way.” He was referring to the talent show that Ian participated in.

Logan let out a cry of surprise. “Yeah, Lorraine has been in a good mood as of late, so my brother-in-law has been having it easy.”

Meanwhile, Sophia directed her attention toward the dishes on the table as she wasn’t interested in gossip. The fact that all of the dishes looked tasty proved that Ms. Cannon was a good cook. Taking the bowl she was offered, Sophia sat down by the table eagerly.

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Continuing the conversation, John said, “After this show, Lorraine should probably be able to launch a group of idol stars.”

Naturally, Logan linked the topic to Ian. “Yeah, I mentioned the same to her the last time we spoke. She told me that an agency already approached Ian, but she doesn’t want to sign up any artist for herself.

Otherwise, she would have kept this group of people in her hands.” Chuckling, he continued, “I even specifically told her to keep a look out for a reliable agency for Ian.”

“Yeah, it’s such a shame that Lorraine didn’t sign up any artist for herself,” John agreed.

He nodded. “If Ian is in my sister’s hands, he’ll actually have better developments, but she thinks it’s too much of a hassle. Even though investments in artists have high returns, there are too many troublesome details to take care of in between which she doesn’t want to deal with.”

“Yeah, that’s true.”

After speaking, he glanced at Sophia and breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that she seemed to have missed their conversation and was eating happily. As she didn't speak a word while eating, she finished earlier than anyone else. After placing down her cutlery, she announced, "I'm full." And she went out of the dining room.

Looking at Sophia, Matilda spoke in a relieved tone. "Sophia is eating well. That will help the baby to develop healthily."

Stunned, Logan stared at her and repeated, "Baby?"
"Doesn't he know?" she asked John, confused.

John grinned. "I told him the other day, but he probably didn't hear it clearly because he was drunk."

At first, Logan blinked blankly, then his brows knitted. The other day when they were having dinner, John did mention that he was happy because Sophia was pregnant and he would be a father soon. However, he said that at the end of the gathering when everyone was already tipsy from the alcohol, and Logan didn't hear anything he said.

After some time, he asked, "So you're saying that Sophia is pregnant?" Pursing her lips, Matilda nodded. "Yeah, Sophia is going to be a mother, and John a father soon."

There was no smile on his face, and he merely blinked in a look of disbelief. "Really? So she's actually pregnant now."

Utterly shocked, he never imagined that a person such as Sophia would become a mother. Can she do it?

Does she even know how to be a mom? he thought in bewilderment.

She's like a child herself, and she's actually giving birth to a baby? His expression fell when Ian crossed his mind, and he wondered how he

would react to this news. You've been gone for too long, Ian. By the time you return, the world is already in chaos.

Plopping herself onto the couch after leaving the dining room, Sophia turned on the TV but couldn't really focus on the show. She was a little tired and wanted to take a nap, feeling rather lazy, in general.

After sitting for a while, she lay down and stared at the TV. Barely a minute had passed when she closed her eyes again.

By the time John and Logan came out of the dining room, she had already drifted off, and John went next to the couch, watching her.

Matilda came over as well, exasperated as she commented, "Why did this child fall asleep here? She

should have gone to her bedroom and slept properly if she's tired."

Bending down, John carefully picked her up, and she extended her arms to place it around his neck,

murmuring softly under her breath, "You're annoying."

Tickled, John then peered over at Logan. "I'm bringing her upstairs.

Give me a moment." On his way

upstairs, he couldn't resist and planted a kiss on Sophia.

Although in a daze, she was still a little conscious, and she muttered, "Jerk."

"Yeah," he agreed. "I was really a jerk before this."

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John came downstairs and turned to Matilda. "I'm not sure when I'll be back tonight, so lock the windows and doors carefully."

"Don't worry," she assured, and he left with Logan.

Both of them arrived at Logan's clubhouse, which was a huge place with a basement in the backyard. It

was in the corner, and a flower stand was placed next to it. A few flower pots stood around it, hiding the entrance to the basement located under the tree.

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As it was already nighttime and this area was not open to guests, it was a little dark in the yard. Logan hadn't instructed anyone to install any lighting here for the sole reason that the basement was meant for sneaky businesses.

The entrance to the basement was covered with a wood plank, and a huge flower pot stood on top of it, but it was moved aside now. When the plank was removed, the entrance, which looked like a well with a rope ladder on the side, was revealed.

It was pitch black inside, but John took a step down without hesitation with Logan following behind.

About seven feet deep into the ground, they landed, and John whisked out his cell phone for light. The

place was quite spacious, and after scanning around with light, he found the person he was looking

for—a man thrown to the floor with his hands tied to his back.

Logan turned on the only light source in the basement, which was a low wattage light that emitted a dim

lighting, casting an eerie atmosphere to the place.

Looking around, John saw that there was nothing in this basement, so he hoisted the man up and propped him against the wall in a sitting position.

They didn't know if that man had fallen asleep or passed out earlier, but he slowly opened his eyes after

being shaken. With his eyes half-opened, he tried to adjust to the light in the room.

A little frustrated at the sight of the man, Logan stepped up and gave him a kick. "Open your eyes! Are you still thinking about sleeping at this time?" Then, he gave the man another kick on his chest, and that man grunted softly.

John raised his hand and patted his shoulder. "Be gentle. If you keep this up, you might send him on his way soon."

Logan went over his words and backed down, knowing that he was a person who didn't know his own strength. Subsequently, John lowered himself to stare at the man and saw that he was pale and rather weak.

"Why are you following Sophia?" he asked.

Chuckling lightly, the man answered, "Because she's pretty, and I like pretty girls."

The moment his reply reached Logan's ears, he came up and gave him another kick again, but it landed on his face, and John didn't say a thing this time. Almost instantly, blood trickled down his nostril, and he tilted his head, but as his hands were bound, he couldn't wipe it away. With an icy look on his face, John said, "If you tell the truth, you won't have to suffer that much. If you don't, you might not walk out of here."

It seemed like the man still had some integrity as he didn't utter a word, and John smirked. "I've seen more than enough of people like you who think that you can pull through if you just bear with it. That's amusing." Standing up, he went on, "I have countless ways to torment you to spill the beans, but I would still like to give you a chance in the beginning. If you speak up first, then we can all save the trouble."

Hesitating, the man then turned to him. "I like pretty girls, and I think she's kind of cute. I merely secretly

took a few pictures of her, and I'll just delete them if it really bothers you."

John sighed. "Forget it. Looks like you really don't plan to say anything." Spinning around to face Logan, who looked like he was not done manhandling the guy, he grinned. "Prepare some things for me and try to gather them. You don't have to do this yourself. I won't let this guy have it easy."

Gritting his teeth, Logan pointed a finger at that man and hissed. "Just you wait."

The Returning Ex Chapter 710

The list of things John wanted Logan to prepare was rather long, and he couldn't figure out how John wanted to use them in such a short period of time. Nevertheless, he still sent his men to prepare them, and they came out of the basement for a cigarette break while they were at it.

While they were shrouded in cigarette smoke, his men prepared the items requested by John one by one, but it wasn't complete as it was already late, and they couldn't find everything on the list. Placing everything into a box, they then showed it to him.

After a quick glance, John nodded. "Yeah, this will do."

The sky was completely dark now, and both of them saw the man trying to free himself from the ropes binding him when they returned to the basement.

"You better behave yourself!" Logan yelled and delivered him one more kick.

Helplessly, John hadn't noticed that Logan was so fond of hustling before this. In contrast to that, he was more composed than him. "Even if you can loosen the ropes, there's no way for you to escape," he

pointed out.

Unable to contain his anger, the man glared and spat. This made Logan, who always had a foul temper, exclaim in surprise, and he kicked him over. With one foot on the man's back, he sneered, "Damn it, you still have the nerves to challenge me at this time. You must be asking for it."

On the other side, John didn't intervene but opened up the box and picked out two items from it—a pack of slender, long nails and a bottle of transparent, unknown fluid. Uncapping the bottle and pouring out the nails from the pack, he glanced at Logan and said calmly, "Keep him still."

Logan looked at him and smirked. "Alright, just do your best. I assure you that he won't even have the chance to struggle."

Meanwhile, Sophia slept until midnight and woke up to use the bathroom. In staggering steps, she went into the bathroom and stared at the empty bed when she returned, realizing that John was not in bed.

Scratching her head, she peered outside the window and saw that his car was not in the yard, either. He probably went out, she reckoned.

Crawling back to bed, she recalled what happened during the day and figured that he must have left with Logan to interrogate that man. Seeing that it was already way past midnight and judging from that man's cowardly appearance, she thought that he didn't seem so capable and couldn't figure out why it would take them such a long time to deal with him.

As she had slept too much during the day, she was now wide awake and sat upright with her back leaning on the headboard.

Since John didn't send her a text nor give her a call, it seemed like he was assured of her situation here.

Hence, she sat there for a long while, and just as she wanted to lie down again because she couldn't wait any longer, her cell phone rang.

It wasn't a call, but a text message.

The vibration of her cell phone made her jump in surprise. It was already way past midnight, and the sudden vibration of the cell phone was very startling indeed.

Grabbing her cell phone, she glanced at it and saw that an unknown number had sent a zoomed-in picture of herself. She could tell that it was a picture taken secretly of her at the mall today.

With furrowed brows, she wondered what was the meaning behind the picture. Was it a warning saying that all her movements were being watched by this other person? After thinking about it, she replied with nothing but a question mark. Soon, she received another picture from the same number. It was still a picture of her, but it wasn't one from the mall.

This time, it was a picture of her at the entrance to her housing area. Before she could scrutinize the picture, she received another one, which was taken when she was at home, and it showed her watching TV in her own living room.

The Returning Ex Chapter 711

Stunned, it suddenly struck Sophia that something was amiss. The picture where she was watching TV didn't look like it was taken from outside the house. Judging from the angle of the picture, it was taken from the entrance to the living room.

However, there was no way she wouldn't have noticed it if she was on the couch and someone was taking a picture of her from the living room entrance. The more she stared at the picture, the more

terrified it made her feel.

After staring at it for a long while to no avail, she just couldn't figure out exactly when the picture was taken. Clutching her cell phone, she sent another text asking for the identity of the sender.

This time, the sender stopped replying, and Sophia didn't ask again, either. She was usually calm, and all the more she had to remain calm now that the other person wanted to cause her panic. Lying in bed again with her cell phone in hand, she couldn't go back to sleep no matter how she tried.

Her mind was clear and confused at the same time. There were many things she had to figure out and everything seemed clear, but she just couldn't understand it. Closing her eyes, she sighed. Forget it, I'll just stop thinking about it if I can't figure it out. She was never a person who made things difficult for herself, and thus, she continued to stay in bed in a half-asleep state.

When dawn came, she heard the sound of John's car returning, and she instantly awakened. Rushing to the window, she saw his car gradually coming to a stop in the yard, and he entered the living room in quick steps after hopping out of it.

Sophia waited a few moments and heard the sound of the bedroom door opening. Twirling around slowly, she remarked, "You're back."

Taken aback and still carrying the chilly morning air with him, John stopped in his tracks at the door.

"Why are you up so early?"

"Yeah, I slept too much yesterday and couldn't sleep at night." With her eyes fixed on him, she asked,

"Did you manage to find out anything from the man yesterday?"

Stepping into the bathroom, he answered, "A little."

Sophia's eyes flashed as she caught sight of a deep red spot on his clothing, which was probably a bloodstain, and went over to the bathroom door.

John, who wanted to take off his clothes, paused mid-air and turned toward her. "I'm taking a shower."

Leaning against the doorframe with arms folded across her chest, she said, "Well, I've already seen every part of you. Why are you embarrassed now?" The shameless way she was acting now resembled how John had been recently.

With pursed lips, he stared fixedly at her composed face, and finally couldn't take it anymore. "Stay in bed a little longer. You have to rest more so that the baby will develop healthily."

Shifting her gaze downward, it fell on the hem of his clothing. Although she had never really done anything evil before, she wasn't so timid that she couldn't even bear the sight of bloodstains. After a quick glance, she then turned and went back to bed.

After closing the door, John took off his jacket and revealed his white shirt underneath, which was

covered in tiny blood splatters. Logan was a really reckless person.

Fortunately, he wasn't the one

dealing with the man from the beginning, or else they would've ended up with a dead body last night.

John took off his clothes and chucked them into the bin before jumping into the shower for a thorough

wash. In fact, he was exhausted and hadn't slept much last night.

While he was in the shower, Sophia sat on the bed and stared out the window with her cell phone in her

hands. Even when she heard the sound of John coming out of the bathroom, she didn't look at him nor

moved an inch. With a towel draped around himself, he went through the closet and changed into his clothes as though no one was watching.

“I have something to show you,” Sophia declared after a long while.

“Huh?” John paced over and asked, “What is it?”

Passing over her cell phone, she said, “Pictures of me. Look, how do you like them?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 712

At first, John was a little nonchalant, but his face turned solemn as he looked through the pictures, especially when he came to the last one. Pausing, he told her to wait for a moment and left the room.

Knowing exactly what he was going to do, Sophia waited until he was gone before going into the bathroom and saw that he had thrown all the clothes he was wearing earlier into the bin, including his jacket and shirt. After she had seen that, she twirled around and went out.

Standing at the top of the staircase, she watched silently as John compared the angle of the last picture, trying to find out where it was taken.

In the end, he stopped at the side of the door panel and scrutinized the panel carefully. In just a few seconds, he picked something out from between the pattern gaps of the panel.

Sophia had already guessed it as well, actually. She didn't think that she would have missed it if someone stood that close to her and even took a picture of herself. So, that would only mean that she was being monitored. Despite that, she wasn't afraid and thought that the other party was rather capable.

Clenching the device in his hand, the look on John's face turned grim. Even though Husky managed to

sneak into the house last time, he was obviously not a proficient person in his job. On the other hand, this person proved to be a bigger threat than him although he or she had only reached their doors.

After staring at the panel for a while, he was now fully awake and saw Sophia when he turned around and lifted his head. As she stood by the handrail with a calm expression, the look on her face made him feel as though his heart was being crushed. It felt a little bitter and uneasy at the same time.

Ascending the staircase slowly, he paced over to her side and stroked her face. "Are you afraid?"

Sophia grinned. "There's nothing to be afraid of."

The edges of his lips curled up into a smirk, and he sighed. "Let's go back to the room."

When they returned to the bedroom, Sophia naturally crawled back into bed while John sat leaning on the headboard as he texted. Even though the buzzing sound of his phone vibrating wasn't noisy, it was considered loud compared to the silence she experienced last night. But it was exactly in this environment that she inexplicably fell asleep again peacefully.

After he was done sending his texts, John lowered his gaze and saw her curled up and sleeping soundly beside him. As he stroked her hair like she was a kitten, she must have been sleeping comfortably and wriggled closer to him.

Putting away his cell phone, he lay down as well and pulled her into his embrace. He closed his eyes and felt her belly. There was nothing, really, but he had an ineffable feeling that her belly had gotten bigger.

A relieved sigh escaped his lips, and his heart suddenly felt at ease.

And so, the both of them fell asleep until Matilda came knocking on their door.

It was John who woke up first, and he realized that it was time to start the day when he saw the time.

Opening the door, he looked at Matilda and whispered, "Let's wait a little longer. It seems like she didn't sleep well last night."

Matilda glanced into the room and nodded. "Alright, then I'll prepare breakfast and bring it upstairs. Tell her to wash up so she can continue sleeping after eating."

He nodded after a moment of hesitation. "Okay."

After Matilda went downstairs, he prepared a damp towel to clean Sophia's face, and she woke up with half-opened eyes. "Is it time to wake up?"

"Yeah, wake up and brush your teeth. Breakfast will be sent upstairs in a while, and you can go back to bed after eating. But don't sleep too much in the day, or you won't be able to sleep again at night."

Sophia shot him a look and murmured, "You're such a nag."

Chuckling, he said, "Yeah, I'm a nag, but only to you."

The Returning Ex Chapter 713

Scoffing, Sophia hoisted herself up before John helped her into the bathroom. As he watched her brush her teeth from the bathroom door with a gentle smile on his face the whole time, she peered at him from the mirror and snorted.

The way he looked at it, she didn't seem angry at all. Instead, she was just playing hard to get. Despite the fact that she had been rejecting him, her attitude toward him had obviously changed.

Recalling their past, John hugged her from the back and whispered into her ears, "Are you really not

considering marrying me again? I'll hold an even grander wedding for you."

However, Sophia didn't want to hear this and spat, "Buzz off."

Nibbling at her ear, he said, "There are, in fact, many girls who like me. Don't you feel threatened at all?"

Sophia dodged him and snorted. "Many girls? Yeah, right, like Isabelle." Almost instantly, John froze and the look on his face shifted. Isabelle was a topic that shouldn't be mentioned.

Sighing in frustration, he said, "There's really nothing between me and Isabelle. I wasn't considerate enough in the past and couldn't give you a sense of security." Spinning her around, he met her eyes with an earnest look. "But it won't happen again in the future, really."

Right now, Sophia didn't believe in these so-called promises as they were utterly meaningless. Shoving him aside, she snapped, "That's enough. Actions speak louder than words."

Just when she came out of the bathroom, Matilda happened to come into the room with breakfast.

Originally, Sophia wasn't hungry, but the smell of food made her decide otherwise.

Casting a look at John, Matilda said, "You'll be having your breakfast downstairs. I'm not serving you."

Silently, John watched Sophia dig in for a while before going downstairs with Matilda following behind.

Tilting his head to look at her, he told her, "Be careful here at home. I discovered a camera on the door panel. Looks like someone has been here."

"Somebody was here?" Matilda gasped in shock. "That person made it into the house?"

He was unsure about that. "That person probably made it to the living room. I'll get someone to install cameras at home, and you should keep a lookout on the people who are coming over because I'm afraid someone will sneak in. We really have to be more cautious about everything now."

Nodding, Matilda replied hurriedly, "Okay, I got it. These people are really capable, and they even have the nerve to come into the house!"

After that, John spoke no more.

When Sophia had finished eating and came downstairs with the dishes, John had already left the house and Matilda was standing at the door, staring intently at the door panel. The door panel was decorated with a retro carving and the color was a little darker. Hence, most people wouldn't have realized that a tiny camera was installed in between the gaps.

Seeing Sophia's appearance, she beckoned for her to come over. "Take a look here. They could even place a camera in a place like this. It really makes me wonder what these people are thinking about. Are they monitoring our lives?"

Even Sophia didn't know what the other party's motives were as she stood there and checked the door panel. "Even you guys have to watch out from now. I think these people are quite daring and we can't tell what they'll do next."

"Yeah, but don't worry. With all of us around, we'll ensure your safety."

Sophia grinned. Actually, she was not worried about her own safety at all. Perhaps this was because the ignorant were fearless. In addition, she had never encountered such a situation before, which made her even less afraid. After staying in her room for a while, she then went to the garden to move her body a

little with some light stretching without making any big movements. While she was doing her simple exercises, she looked around and remembered that one of the pictures she received on the previous day was taken when she was in the yard. That angle...

Slowly, she began to search around. As that picture wasn't taken from a particularly close distance, she gave a once-over at the opposite houses and could almost determine the approximate direction after that.

The Returning Ex Chapter 714

Soon after, a car stopped outside the house and someone got off. From the house, Matilda came out and stared at them. One of them who was older told her that they were sent by John to install the cameras.

Acknowledging them, Matilda hurriedly invited them inside. Since the whole house would be installed with the monitoring devices, it was considered as a rather major project and many workers would be needed for it. Sophia watched as these people went into the house carrying their tools. Then, she asked the older man, "Are all these people the employees of your company?"

Taken aback, that man hurriedly nodded. "Yes, yes. They're all my employees." He even added that he knew John personally and his company was also responsible for the surveillance system in his company.

"After-sales services are also guaranteed, so don't worry."

However, that was the least of Sophia's concern, and as she watched the workers, she asked in a different manner, "What I'm asking is, have all those workers been in your company for years?"

“Huh?” he blurted in confusion. Then, he racked his mind and shook his head. “One of them hasn’t. Initially, another employee was supposed to come. In the end, he had an emergency and found someone else to take over the job. That person is new here.”

Stunned, she pressed on by asking, “Who’s the one replacing the missing employee?”

That man stared at the workers who had already begun with the preparation work inside and pointed at one of them. “That guy; he’s the one. As Mr. Constance wants us to finish the job as soon as possible, and we don’t want to waste too much of your time, we brought more people over, and that’s the guy who came as a temporary replacement.”

Fixing her eyes on that guy who was opening his toolbox, she thought that there was nothing dodgy about him as he was wearing the same company uniform and hat as the others. A few seconds later, she nodded. “Alright, I got it.”

Seeing that Sophia didn’t have any further questions, the older man went into the house to start directing the job, leaving Sophia to stare at the temporary replacement with a concerned look on her face.

Matilda came out of the house after monitoring the workers and stood next to her. “What’s wrong? You don’t look too good.”

Pointing at that guy, she told her, “Maybe I’m overthinking, but that guy is a temporary replacement they found today and I keep having the feeling that there might be a problem with him. I’ve been

keeping a watch on him and he seems really sneaky. He's looking around stealthily, and something is off about him."

Immediately, Matilda remembered John's advice to keep a lookout on the surveillance workers as there might be someone sneaking in with them. Thus, she whisked out her cell phone and called John instantly.

Sophia stood at the side and watched the workers in the house, fully alert on the situation. When the call got through, Matilda hurried to the entrance of the yard and explained briefly the situation at home.

On the other end of the call, John was solemn. "Keep a lookout on your side. I'm going back now."

"Alright," Matilda answered. "There are many people here, so it's unlikely that anything will happen.

Don't worry too much." Without saying anything, John hung up and she took a deep breath before returning to Sophia's side.

As there were so many people in the house, someone could easily be up to some sneaky business in the midst of the job.

A little while later, Sophia chuckled and murmured, "That guy realized that I've been watching him."

"Huh? He even noticed you?" Matilda exclaimed.

Exactly. With so much preparation work to do, this guy actually noticed that I've been watching him.

Crossing her arms across her chest, Sophia said, "There's definitely something wrong with this guy."

Matilda was a little impressed with her. "You actually considered so much, and I didn't even think to ask any more questions."

The Returning Ex Chapter 715

A smirk spread across Sophia's face. Maybe it was because of the environment she grew up in, for she

would unwittingly consider more things in any situation.

Soon, John returned with Zack, and they both got out of the car quickly when it came to a stop at the front of the house.

“Are you alright?” John asked, standing next to her.

“I’m fine,” she replied and pointed to the guy with her chin. “There, that’s the guy. He was working rather slowly in the beginning, but when he noticed that I was watching him, he began to work seriously.”

Following the direction she was gesturing at, John glanced at the guy, but he couldn’t tell anything amiss with him. Since he had requested that there should be no blind spots in both levels of the house, it had turned out to be quite a big job, so many people were needed for it. With that many people around, the place turned out a little chaotic, and very little could be observed even if one tried very hard.

Zack took a look and went into the house, where the designer was also there and was checking out the best way to install the surveillance cameras in the most efficient manner.

Actually, they had been given the blueprint of the house and the initial design had already been prepared, but he still had to make adjustments based on the actual situation.

At first, Zack circled around the place, then he scanned the guy before slowly making his way next to him. Every move he made seemed proper, as if he was really inspecting if there were any problems with the tools which he had just laid out nicely.

With a smile, Zack struck up a conversation with him. "Hey man, how long do you think the job today will take? Do you guys have an estimation of the time needed?" The guy jumped at the sound of Zack's voice and he lifted his head to look at him. Chuckling awkwardly, he answered, "That depends on the designer, and if there will be any change to the initial design. Under normal circumstances, it can be completed by noon."

Nodding, Zack lowered himself and looked at his tools. "There are so many tools here. I don't even know any of it or what it is called."

Chuckling dryly, he replied, "You guys are working in the office, which is a completely different territory from where we work."

Raising his eyes at him, Zack asked, "How many years have you been in this industry?"

Startled, the guy peered at him and answered hesitantly, "Almost five years. I used to have a business of my own, but it went out. So, I'm working for bigger companies now."

"I see," Zack muttered. Then, he watched him inspect the cameras with a straight face.

John was watching everything from the yard before telling Sophia and Matilda after a while, "You can catch a break upstairs. Leave this place to me and Zack."

Thinking that the guy couldn't be up to any tricks in this tight situation, Sophia became bored and nodded as she grabbed Matilda's arm. "Let's go upstairs."

"Okay," Matilda muttered and followed her into the living room. Her head was already spinning from the people getting busy in the house.

When Sophia was leaving, she passed by that guy and spun her head in his direction. He happened to lift his head as well and their eyes met for a split second. In contrast to the blank look he had on his face,

she was carrying an inexplicable smirk on hers.

Her smirk made him pause in his tracks and stare at her. Calmly, she looked away and went upstairs with Matilda.

When they were in her bedroom, Matilda waited until the door was shut before asking, "Why did you smile at that guy? What's wrong? Did you sense something fishy?" Sitting by the headboard of her bed, she replied, "It's nothing. I was just curious about his looks, so I took another glance at him."

"Huh?" Matilda was speechless. Pacing over to the window, she sighed. "How did our lives turn out like this? I thought that everything will be fine while we wait for you to give birth to your baby, but look at all these endless troubles that keep cropping up one after another."

he Returning Ex Chapter 716

After giving it a thought, Sophia said, "Maybe someone doesn't want me to give birth to this baby."

Twisting her head and peering at her over her shoulders, Matilda could guess who she meant. If there was really someone who didn't want her to have the baby, there was only one person who came to her mind.

A few minutes later, Sophia's phone rang while she was sitting there on her bed. She glanced at the caller and frowned. Then, she rejected the call without hesitation.

Taken aback, Matilda asked, "Who's calling? Why aren't you answering the call?"

Letting out a sigh, she answered, "That's a spam call, and it has called me many times before, so I don't feel like picking it up."

Matilda merely acknowledged with an 'I see', and she didn't think anything else of it. Out of boredom, Sophia browsed the Internet on her cell phone and lay down on the bed again. Thankfully, she was always feeling sleepy from her pregnancy, so she could catch some sleep whenever she had nothing else to do. After she had Matilda help her to close the curtain halfway and block out the light on her side, she drifted off to sleep.

While Sophia was sleeping comfortably, her cell phone rang again. As she was still half-asleep, she picked up the call without even checking the caller when she fumbled for her cell phone.

The voice on the other end sounded cheery. "What are you doing, Soph?"

Because she didn't hear anything clearly, she didn't say anything in reply. However, her silence didn't dampen the spirits of the caller at all as she continued, "I'm just done cleaning up the house. Your sister is a really naughty child and always messes up the place, which reminds me of how you were when you were young. You were so obedient, a complete opposite of her."

Opening her eyes slowly, Sophia stared at her phone and hung up. What's in the mind of these people?

They even have the cheek to put up a show of fake family affection. After she switched off her phone, she rolled over and continued sleeping.

Meanwhile, John went into the living room and chatted casually with the supervisor. However, while he was speaking, he would peer over at that guy from time to time, and that made it seem like they were having a discussion about him.

It was clear as day to him that that guy was feeling unsettled. Even though it wasn't apparent that he was avoiding his gaze, the guy didn't have the nerve to meet his gaze directly either. John wasn't such a perfect judge of character, but he was sure that there was something suspicious about that guy, and he felt relieved that Sophia was sharp enough. Or else, this guy would have gotten away with some shady business on this day.

Following that, it probably hit that guy that something was wrong. Hence, he went to the supervisor and told him that he was feeling unwell, requesting to take the day off. It was obvious from the supervisor's face that he was unhappy about it as he said in an angry, hushed voice, "You're here to stand in for another person. Who is going to take your place if you're gone as well?"

Embarrassed, the guy said in insistence, "But I'm really feeling unwell and a little dizzy."

Waving him off, the supervisor sighed. "Okay, okay, say no more. Go back now since you won't be of any help even if you stay here."

The guy nodded and apologized humbly. "Thank you so much. I'm really sorry to have caused you trouble."

Zack, who was in the yard, watched as that guy came out of the house and placed the tools back into the car before walking toward the exit of the residential area. Grinning, he waited a few more seconds and trailed after him.

In the living room, John slowly spun around and instructed the workers to keep their noises down before heading upstairs.

Sophia was sound asleep, and she felt a kiss on her cheek before hearing John whispering to her, "I'm

sorry that I placed you in a plight.”

Initially, Sophia wanted to throw some sarcastic remarks at him.

Nevertheless, all those mean words

were gone when she heard his apology. Sitting on the edge of the bed, he leaned down and hugged her,

but she didn't avoid his touch.

The Returning Ex Chapter 717

Instead, Sophia merely rolled over and found another comfortable position. Frankly, she was already

awakened by John, and she was now only resting with her eyes closed.

Slouching over her, John muttered something so softly, as though he was speaking to himself but also

telling it to her at the same time. “Grandma had the dates checked and found a good day to have a

marriage registration. She said that marriages on that day will be lasting.

Even though I'm not a superstitious person, I would like to register our marriage on that day to have an

auspicious start.” He sighed. “I know that you're unwilling and you can't forgive me in such a short span

of time. And I also know that I hadn't treated you well before, but I've never, ever cheated on you. From

the beginning until the end, between Isabelle and I, there was only the arranged engagement and

nothing else.”

His voice was gentle and soft as he continued, “Even after the divorce, I wasn't thinking of getting

together with her. At that time, I was confused and merely wanted to live the best of my life. I didn't

consider having a fresh start with anyone. You have to believe me that I've never lied to you.”

Pursing her lips, Sophia listened to every word he said.

John stroked her belly and murmured, "Can you please give me a chance to make up for my mistakes?"

Releasing a heavy breath, she finally spoke, but she wasn't commenting on anything he had said. "I can't even nap in peace. You're getting more and more annoying, John." Her words took him by surprise and he broke into a light chuckle. Sliding himself next to her, he appeared happy as he said, "You've been awake this whole while and heard everything I said, haven't you?"

I'm telling you that everything I said is true. I've never, ever cheated on you." Then, he snuggled closer to her and gave her a kiss. "You weren't this heartless back then, Sophia. Look how upset I've become."

Opening her eyes, Sophia stared at him and said, "I see nothing, except for how you're becoming more shameless than before."

Staring into her eyes, he told her, "There's something I've been wanting to tell you. Those people who came from your hometown are doing very well now. They even called back home to ask if they could recruit more people, and they are all very grateful to you."

Sophia shut her eyes again. "They should be thankful to you, not me. This has nothing to do with me, actually."

With a hand over her belly, he whispered, "I did it for you; everything I do is for you."

John could now sweet-talk her every time he opened his mouth. In the beginning, it made her feel uneasy, but she was getting numbed from it now. Occasionally, she would try to change her mood and imagine how she would react if she had heard these sweet nothings before the divorce.

In the end, she was a little delighted to hear the words she had always wanted to hear but never did.

Despite the fact that the timing was completely off, the feeling of happiness remained unchanged. A long

while after she closed her eyes, she uttered, "Thank you."

Sighing, John said, "You're always avoiding me like this."

After that, she didn't say anything else anymore.

...

The installation of the surveillance cameras downstairs continued until noon, and Zack called to report

that he had caught the guy who got away. As it turned out, he was just another small fry paid to mess

with the cameras, but his cover was blown even before he could achieve anything.

"Okay," John replied, sounding composed. "I got it. Try to investigate him. See if you can find out who is paying him for the job."

The Returning Ex Chapter 718

Zack said okay and hung up, then John went downstairs to tweak the surveillance cameras.

Meanwhile, Sophia opened her eyes. D*mn. Being so vulnerable makes me sick. She went for her phone

and took a look at the date. The next checkup is around the corner. I bet they'll make their move then.

She sat up and tried to come up with something, and out popped a plan.

The tweak didn't take long, and the technicians left after that. Ms. Cannon went to tidy up, and John was

in the yard, making a call, then he came up. When he came in, Sophia was still lying on her bed. She was

getting less inclined to move around now.

John caressed her face. "I'll be going to the company now, but someone will be standing guard. It's fine,

so don't worry."

Sophia grunted. "Yeah."

John stared at her for a while before leaving the room. Instead of going to the company, he went to the mall and made a beeline for the jewelry store.

The shopkeeper was already waiting for him. "It's here." He was then led to the VIP room in the store.

After staying in the shop for about twenty minutes, John finally came out with his purchased item, and then someone called out to him.

He looked back to see who it was, and in came Isabelle. She was in her office lady attire and presumably just finished meeting her client.

She was moving stiffly after seeing John. "I saw you a while back and I wondered if I should say hi. And as you can see, I did." She flicked her hair back. "I hope I haven't caused you any trouble. It'd be a problem if we can't work together because of this."

John smiled. "It's fine. I don't mind it, so relax."

"Is Miss Flintstone doing fine?" she asked. "It's been a while since I saw her, so I was wondering about getting together with her."

John grunted. "She's doing fine. Are you here to meet a client?"

Isabelle nodded and looked down at the item John bought. "I see you're here for jewelry." She smiled.

"Yes." John then looked at the time. "Talk to you later. I have something to do."

"Okay. Bye," Isabelle said.

John went to his car and drove away. With a smile on her face, Isabelle saw him off, but when his car went out of sight, her smile was wiped away. She looked at the door of the mall coldly.

After some time, John came back to the company and ordered some delivery for lunch.

Zack came back when he was having his meal. When he saw John, he told him, "He doesn't know much.

Only thing he knows is that his employer only came to him this morning. They covered themselves up tightly, so he couldn't see their face." Zack sighed. "But he said his employer made the deal in the store across from their company. I've sent someone to retrieve a copy of the store's security footage. Maybe we can get some clues then."

"I see." John leaned back on his chair. "Keep an eye on the shadow bank. I think they're up to something."

"Don't worry," Zack replied. "Someone's already on it." He knew what John was thinking about. "By the way, Roselia said she hooked up with someone working in the shadow bank, but all she can do is wait.

The guy's really alert, so she can't do much for now."

John smiled. "It's already good enough that she managed to hook up with him."

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Zack sat down on a chair. "Sophia's smarter than I think. I couldn't have found out about this guy if it were up to me."

To that, John smiled. "She's always been smart. I used to think she wasn't, but now I know I was wrong."

She used to appear naive and dumb, but that was only because she loved him too much. That inevitably made her lose all personality, but after the divorce, her true character resurfaced.

"You look happy every time you talk about her," Zack commented.

John chuckled. "You'll know why when you fall in love."

"I wonder how frustrated Isabelle would be if she sees you talking about someone else so happily." Zack sighed. Then, he continued to say, "I looked into her again in case I missed something, but still I couldn't find any clue that points to her as the culprit. Unbelievable."

John squinted. "Maybe she is innocent."

"Maybe," Zack replied. "Or maybe it's because of my prejudice. I just don't think she's completely innocent."

John smiled. "Don't think too much about it. It'll affect your judgment." When he heard that, Zack gave him a look. "Did you never suspect her?"

John paused and stared at Zack. "Of course I did. She's at the top of the list."

On the other hand, Sophia and Matilda were taking a stroll that afternoon. Even though they were in their neighborhood, there were still bodyguards following them, much to Sophia's chagrin.

"Don't mind them," Matilda cooed. "Safety first, you know." Then, her phone rang, and Matilda froze.

She knew who the caller was without even looking, and she took a deep breath. "That must be Isabelle."

She looked at Sophia. "I haven't been calling her lately, so she's starting to call me back."

Sophia smiled. "Take the call. I want to know what she has to say."

Not much could be said on the phone. After Isabelle knew that Matilda was getting along with Sophia,

she couldn't denigrate her right in front of Matilda like they used to.

Matilda turned on her speakerphone. "Hello, Isabelle."

She didn't change how she addressed Isabelle, much to Sophia's surprise. Back then, Matilda used to

wear her heart on her sleeve and would show her contempt for those she disliked blatantly. So she's learned.

Isabelle sounded delighted, and she asked if Matilda had time. When Sophia heard that, she patted Matilda and nodded at her.

"I do. What is it?" Matilda answered.

Isabelle asked her out on a shopping session. "The mall's holding some great events."

"I see," Matilda replied. "I thought you're busy at work. Done with your business already?"

Isabelle sighed. "No, but then my work is endless, so I thought I should back off for a bit. I have my own life, and it's important that I relax sometimes." She giggled. "I just met a client, so I want to take a detour and avoid going back in the afternoon."

Matilda chuckled. "I see."

Then, Isabelle asked if she could go with her right away, and Matilda looked at Sophia before saying,

"Sure. I don't have much to do for now." Delighted, Isabelle said she'd meet up with Matilda at the entrance of a mall.

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"See you later." Then, Matilda hung up and sighed. "This is the first time I've heard Isabelle sounding so happy to see me. Say, I was dumb, wasn't I? Everyone thinks they can play me like a fool."

Sophia nodded. "Yeah, you were dumb."

Matilda's face fell. "Hey, you should be consoling me, not rubbing salt on my injury." She snorted. In response, Sophia giggled. A moment later, Matilda looked at the time. "I have to go back and change.

Let's see what she wants to pull this time."

When they came back into the house, Sophia went to her room, while Matilda went to change and dressed up a bit. "I'm going now," she told Sophia and went for her appointment.

Matilda still looked as elegant as she used to, and when she arrived at the mall, Isabelle was already waiting on the long bench at the plaza before the mall, looking pretty leisurely.

Matilda went up to her. "Have you been waiting for a long time, Isabelle?"

Isabelle quickly stood up. "Not really, Miss Flintstone. I went around for a bit." Then, she held Matilda's arm politely. "Let's go in and have a walk around." "Sure." Matilda didn't show her disgust.

The mall's stores were stocking up on the new season's fashion items, and with it came various events.

Matilda and Isabelle went shopping the whole afternoon, and Isabelle was generous enough that day, for she even bought two shirts for Matilda. Even though Matilda kept saying she'd pay for her own stuff because Isabelle's generosity came off wrong, Isabelle dismissed it. "It's fine, Miss Flintstone. You used to give me a lot of gifts, so consider this repayment."

Isabelle's overly warm welcome was making Matilda fidget, for she never saw Isabelle acting this way.

Halfway through their shopping session, Matilda looked at the time and called Ms. Cannon.

She wanted to know how Sophia was doing at home. "Make some snacks for her. She didn't eat much during lunch, and I don't want her to go hungry," she said.

On the other end, Ms. Cannon said she had thought about it, so she made some cake for Sophia, of which the latter had a few before going up to rest. "That's good to hear," Matilda replied.

Isabelle didn't look too good after hearing Matilda's call. She really cares about Sophia. There's no need to talk about something that trivial, but she did it anyway. Guess they're getting along well.

Matilda hung up a short while later.

Isabelle smiled. "Is Miss Gwendolyn down with something? You look worried."

"Oh, not at all. Her appetite's not working up, so I had to remind the housekeeper about it."

Isabelle nodded. "I see."

Then, Matilda continued to say, "I was going to call you in a couple of days and catch up over coffee.

Sophia couldn't eat much these days, so I'm worried about her. I was going to take her to the hospital for a checkup and catch up with you after that, but since you called me, here I am."

Isabelle perked up her ears at the mention of the hospital. "She's going to be hospitalized? That's serious."

Matilda looked around for a place to rest. "Not at all. It's just going to be a checkup. No hospitalization."

Then, she saw a milk tea shop, so Matilda changed the topic. "We've been shopping for a while now. You must be thirsty, so why don't we grab something to drink?"

Isabelle looked away. "Sure."

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They went into the shop and ordered something to drink. Isabelle looked outside and made a seemingly offhand statement. "Miss Gwendolyn seems to be walking oddly the last time I saw her."

Matilda chuckled. "Is that so?" she answered with a question.

Isabelle looked at her from the corner of her eye and smiled faintly. They went to have lunch after having their boba tea, and Isabelle treated her all the way. Matilda let her do what she wanted. When it was almost time, she made some small talk with Isabelle and hailed a ride home. John was already there and had lunch when she came home, while Sophia was on a recliner in the yard, looking relaxed.

John was looking in a certain direction in the yard, and when Matilda got out of the car, she heard him say, "You think it's here too?"

Sophia didn't look where John was looking. "Yeah, I think so. You might want to check if any unit was rented out and who the tenant is."

John nodded. "Yeah. I think that's about the angle, but I didn't manage to look into it closely."

Matilda went up to them. "What are you two talking about?"

Sophia quickly sat up when she saw Matilda was back. "You're back." She gave Matilda a look that said 'I need to talk to you alone'.

Matilda knew what she was trying to say. "Yeah, and I'm beat. I'll be in my room to change."

Thus, she went up first, then Sophia came after her. She stood at Matilda's room's doorstep and looked at Matilda as she changed clothes. "Did you tell her?"

Matilda looked up at her. "Yes. The moment I said I'm taking you to the hospital in a few days, she kept asking me about that. I wonder what she's thinking." Then, she gave Sophia a look. "And I wonder what you're thinking."

Sophia leaned against the doorframe languidly. "You'll know when it happens."

Matilda straightened herself up and tied her hair in a bun. "You and your little schemes. Be careful, will you? You need to remember that things are different now. Don't forget that you're pregnant, so don't do anything rash."

"Yeah, yeah, I know." Sophia looked at the shopping bags on the bed and went to pick them up. "You really love shopping. I seem to remember you buying a lot when you shopped with us."

Matilda glanced at the bag Sophia was holding. "Isabelle paid for it, so technically, she's the one who was shopping. That girl was really eager today. Probably the most eager I've ever seen."

Sophia smiled. "That's great, isn't it? You were nice to her, so she's nice to you now."

Matilda clicked her tongue. "That's because she wanted something from me. That's nothing to be happy about."

Sophia didn't make any comments. A while later, John came up and noticed the ladies chatting in the room. He went up to them. "What are you two talking about? Seems like a secret."

"Nothing," Matilda replied. "Just talking about Sophia's checkup." The mention of the checkup piqued John's interest. "I'll go with you." He looked at Sophia. "What kind of checkup will it be?"

Sophia stared at him for a while before answering, "Sure. Can't keep you out of the loop. This time it'll be a blood test and ultrasonography."

John grinned and came up to caress Sophia's face. "When will you be going?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 722

Sophia thought about it. "In a few days. I'll tell you by then."

“Sure,” John replied, and that was the end of the topic. Then, he talked about the surveillance camera technician and his employer. There was footage of the employer, but they covered themselves up tightly so nobody could recognize them. Not that it mattered though, for John went to check the surveillance footage of the road and knew where the perpetrator was staying. Zack was already trying to pinpoint the exact location.

Sophia listened to it for a while and stretched her arms, looking like she didn't care about this. “You guys carry on. I'll get some sleep. I'm beat.” Well, not really. I'm just lazy. Matilda nodded. “Sure. You need a lot of rest anyway.” John stared at Sophia, and once she got out of the room, he followed her back into her room. When Sophia was going to lie on her bed, John came in and grabbed her hand. “Wait up.”

Sophia looked back at him, surprised. “What's the matter?” After a moment's thought, John went to lock the door before coming back to her, his lips pursed, and he was fidgeting. Sophia looked at him, flabbergasted. Then, John took a couple of deep breaths and kneeled on one foot, then he took a box out of his pocket. By reflex, Sophia took a step back, shocked by what John was doing. He looked up at her and opened the box. Without even looking, Sophia knew what was in the box, or at the very least, she had a good guess.

John said softly, “I owe you this, so I'm paying you back, though you might not care about it anymore.” The diamond ring in the box was gleaming more brilliantly than her original ring, which was already

expensive enough. However, John didn't propose to her back then. He didn't want to marry her, so nobody cared about the proposal.

Sophia stared down at the ring John was holding, and she frowned. "Did you buy a new one?"

"Yes. It's custom made, and I just got it today."

Sophia stared at the ring for a while. Even though she didn't know much about jewelry aesthetics, she thought it must have cost a ton since the diamond was obscenely huge. Then, she snorted. "You didn't really have to buy this. It's a waste of money."

John didn't care about that. Now, he was still kneeling on one knee, and he proposed to her. "Give me another chance, Sophia. Please. Pretty please." He was humbling himself, begging for her forgiveness.

Sophia's expression finally changed, and she moved her sight from the ring to John. "What on earth are you thinking, John? I'm still the old me. Bad family background, barely educated, and I'm inelegant.

Didn't you hate that part of me? Why the change? Did an alien take over your body?"

John tugged at her hand. "I never really cared about that. I was just..." He didn't know how he should word his feelings for her back then. The only thing he disliked was her subservient attitude, not her family, education, or upbringing. Never once did he care about those. A long silence later, he said, "I just didn't like you being so weak. You used to see me as your whole world, so..."

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That wasn't too good of an explanation either.

Sophia frowned. "So you don't like me because I was nice to you, but now that I don't care about you,

you think I'm nice?" That was confusing for her. "Are you a masochist, John?"

John clicked his tongue. "Not exactly right." Still, he didn't know how to capture that feeling best. Since he couldn't word it well, John stopped thinking about it. "I used to be harsh to you, I know." He looked at Sophia. "But I'll make it up to you. Give me a chance, Sophia." Then, he took the ring out of the box, and Sophia pulled her hand back quickly. John froze, and he pursed his lips. "I'm not asking you to agree right away. I just need you to give me a chance. You can make your decision when you're ready, but at least give me a chance." He held her hand again. This time, Sophia clenched her fist, but she didn't try to break free, which made John smile. He opened her fist and put the ring on her finger.

Sophia didn't look too happy about this. Of course, she wanted to say yes after John humbled himself in this proposal, but she felt that something was missing. Yes, something's still missing. Every time she remembered the harsh treatment John gave her, a feeling of anger would rise up within her. She wanted payback for that.

On the other hand, John stood up slowly, delighted. He looked at her hand, and he smiled. "It's the right size. Glad I got it right."

Sophia looked at the ring, and she said solemnly, "I'm not agreeing to your proposal. Not everything can be smoothed over with an apology. I'm just giving you a chance."

John hugged her. "That's enough for me. I'm happy that you would give me a chance."

A while later, she closed her eyes and sighed. She was having a hard time processing her emotions, then

John left after a short while. He had something to do.

She sat on the bed and took off the ring, then Sophia looked at it closely. There was something engraved on the inner side of the ring.

She squinted at it and snorted. Childish. Her and John's initials were engraved on it. This is something inexperienced guys will do. Didn't expect John to be as childish as they are.

It would be hard to go around with a ring with such a big diamond, so she went to put it back into the box before going back to the bed.

Thanks to John, she didn't even feel like sleeping now. She was fully awake, so she stared at the ceiling, remembering all the things John did for her lately.

John was meticulous when it came to her, and he gave her all the care in the world. Everyone could see that. Even Sophia was wondering what he was thinking. John's change in attitude came off as bizarre for her. Before this, he never was nice to her, but after she was pregnant, he started caring for her. Sophia took a deep breath. This is just confusing.

Sophia turned around to stare at the window and thought about the checkup to calm down.

On the other hand, not long after John went downstairs, Zack came to meet him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 724

He was here to talk about where the employer was staying. "I've sent someone to check the houses in the neighborhood. They'll find the place they used to monitor you guys."

John sat on the sofa. "Take a seat. You can take it slow, Zack. It's fine."

Zack sat down and took out a name list from his pocket. "This is from Husky. Take a look. According to him, this is the only info he can get now." John skimmed through the list and smiled.

Zack smiled too. "Someone familiar is on the list." It was the same name Roselia told them. She said this person had been working in the shadow bank for a long while now. John stared at the name for a while. "See if you can get anything from this one."

"Noted." Zack then talked about the company's affairs. Nothing much happened there, for John had made his stance clear that he was only working with the Baileys, and they were talking about their companies' future. A short while later, Zack's phone rang. His subordinate asked him to go over, for they had found something out. "Alright." He hung up and looked at John. "They found something."

John looked up at him. "That's fast." Then, he went to tell Ms. Cannon that he was going out before leaving with Zack.

They went to another housing area in the neighborhood, which wasn't too far away. The people who were waiting for them quickly said, "It's here. We went around to ask, and they said someone rented a house with an exorbitant price, but nobody ever stayed there. Only a few people were here to move in something in the beginning, then nobody showed up ever again. The neighbors are concerned about their safety, and they told us the movers looked suspicious. They're worried some crime syndicate might take root here, so when we came to ask, they quickly pointed us in this direction." The subordinate led

Zack and John to the unit. “We called the property manager and said someone’s peeping on us and took photos without permission. He called the landlord, but the landlord said the tenant’s unreachable. Worried something might happen, the property manager opened the door for us, and there’s a lot of things inside.”

They came to the house after the subordinate was done explaining. The door was open, and the property manager was inside. It was an empty house, devoid of any furniture. Zack and John were led to a room, and in there, they saw a tripod propped up against the window. There was a camcorder on it and a camera beside it. Of course, there was also a small table with a laptop on it.

John smiled. “So the camera installed on my door must have sent the footage to this laptop.”

Zack went up to tinker with the laptop and found out the footage; Sophia, John, and even Matilda were in it. There was a lot of footage, but all of them were just about their daily lives. “I’ve called the police,” the property manager said. “They’ll come in a while.”

John didn’t care. “Sure. If the cops are involved, they’d lay low for a while.” There wasn’t anyone here for them to capture, and there was no point in taking the things here back with him. Thus, John thought it was best to leave it to the police. They were decent, so they could find out things that he couldn’t.

The Returning Ex Chapter 725

Since he was in a lot of the footage, John stayed back and waited for the police in case they needed his testimony. Zack wanted to stay as well, but since it was getting late, John asked him to go back. “You do

your stuff.” John patted his back. “There’s a lot of work to do. I can handle this on my own.”

Zack thought about it, then he left with his subordinate. On the other hand, John went around the house to have a look. He thought it must have been uninhabited, judging by its stark interiors.

The property manager knew who John was, and he followed him on his tour. “The owner isn’t a local, so he never stayed in this house. According to him, he wasn’t going to rent it out in case it was damaged, but the tenant said this house was only used as a warehouse. Since the tenant promised to keep the place intact and paid a high sum of rent, the owner agreed to rent it out. Understandably, he’s distraught about this case happening here.”

John smiled. “It’s fine. It’s probably just a peeping tom, so don’t worry too much about it.”

The property manager sighed. He was also upset about this happening in this area, for getting the police involved was embarrassing for him. Their company collected a ridiculous amount of maintenance fee here, but they failed to keep this place safe. All the homeowners kept lodging complaints after finding out about the case. They were all wealthy people, so the property manager didn’t want to cross them.

John went around and noticed some cigarette butts on a room’s windowsill. They must have been there for a while, for they were dried up. John smiled. “Now this is unexpected. Maybe they can help us.”

At the same time, Matilda woke Sophia up and told her about John’s findings. “It’s deserted though. Only some equipment is found.” That was good enough for Sophia. She went out to the yard with Matilda,

and Matilda pointed in a direction. “There. The camera in that room was facing us.”

Sophia pursed her lips. That place was exactly the one she told John, and she heaved a sigh of relief. “At least they found it.”

However, Matilda was dissatisfied with the results. “They’re lucky they got away.”

“They won’t be this lucky next time,” Sophia replied slowly.

Over the next few days, John was overwhelmed with work, and Sophia knew why. His work was intense to begin with, and now he had to look into her case. Of course he’d be busy, so she only told him about her checkup the night before.

John paused. “It’s tomorrow, huh? Sure. I’ll call Zack and ask him to handle the company for a bit.”

“You don’t have to go, really. I can do it myself.”

“No can do.” John lay down and caressed Sophia’s belly. “I have to see what our baby looks like.”

Sophia said nothing. If John had really accepted her offer, she’d be at a loss.

The next morning, John woke up first, and he told Zack to handle the company for a day before coming back to pick out Sophia’s getup for easy checkup. He even matched her shoes for her.

Still sleepy, Sophia turned around and went back to sleep. John went to soak a towel and came back to wipe her clean. When she finally woke up, they went to wash up.

The Returning Ex Chapter 726

Because of the compulsory blood test, Sophia couldn’t have breakfast, and John followed suit. Matilda didn’t care much about that, so she gulped down her portion, then they went to the hospital together.

Matilda posted a status on her social media on the way, but the caption was something stupid like ‘good morning’; the kind one would see on many ‘influencers’ posts. That reminded Sophia of something. “Did you add me on Facebook?” she asked Matilda.

Matilda looked surprised. “No. I hated you, remember? There’s no way I’d do that.”

Sophia looked confused. “Well, someone added me, and he never DMed me. Then, I saw him posting a photo of my store on his wall. I asked who he was, but I never got an answer. Seriously, who is he?”

Sophia couldn’t figure it out, but Matilda did. Then, she looked at John, and she chuckled. When Sophia heard that, she looked at her, then she glanced at John, and she saw him smirking.

Sophia took a while to process the information before she glared at him. “You again? How did you add me back? I thought you blocked me?”

Of course, John wouldn’t explain everything in detail, so he only grinned.

D*mn it. The door couldn’t stop him, and now he got into my friend list? Angered, Sophia didn’t talk to him anymore along the way. When John parked the car in a parking lot, Sophia and Matilda came out first.

Sophia looked at John. “Wait right here. I don’t want to see you for the moment. I’ll call you before the ultrasound happens.”

Matilda laughed and patted his shoulder. “Wait right here. Don’t push your luck, son. We’ll call you

later.” She guffawed and took Sophia away. Initially, Sophia wanted to smile, but she resisted it.

They had an appointment, so they sat down and waited for their turn. Halfway through, Sophia went around and noticed a lot of pregnant women waiting in the hallway. Matilda then started talking to a pregnant woman in her third trimester. Child talk could go on forever, so once they started talking, they didn't stop.

Sophia then went away, and then she saw someone she wanted to see—Isabelle, who was coming toward her as she held a bag and was looking casual. She was on the phone, and there was a frown on her face, but she didn't look angry. A short while later, she hung up. This is the ob-gyn department. I wonder what she's here for.

Sophia didn't move from her spot, and Isabelle noticed her a short while later, much to her surprise. Is it genuine though? Not that I care anyway, Sophia thought. Then, Isabelle went up to Sophia. “What are the odds, Miss Gwendolyn?”

Sophia looked back at her. “Are you here to see the obstetrician, Miss Bailey?”

Isabelle chuckled. “You jest, Miss Gwendolyn.” After that short chuckle, the smile on her face vanished.

They were standing in the corner, out of the attention range of the bustling throng. Then, Isabelle approached her and whispered, “I could ask the same thing, Miss Gwendolyn.”

Sophia flicked her hair, obviously showing off her diamond ring. “Take a guess.” Catching sight of the ring, Isabelle stared at it for a while, and Sophia smiled. “Oh, this is from John.” She showed her ring.

“How is it?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 727

Isabelle nodded. "Oh, it's nice." Then, she thought about the last time she met John and the bag of jewelry he was holding. So that was when he got the ring, huh? Sophia looked at her ring. "I think so too. John's really nice, isn't he?" She sighed. "You know how it is between me and John, Miss Bailey. Honestly, him giving me a ring out of nowhere shocked me. I thought he'd be dating someone else after the divorce. Lots of women want him, don't they? But he didn't." She chuckled. "He told me he isn't interested in anyone but me. And he especially hates those who try to cling onto him. So unromantic."

After she said that, she laughed. Even though she and Isabelle used to fight, Sophia stopped doing it after the divorce's exposure. Since then, she would stay polite every time they met. Even though she still disliked Isabelle, Sophia would never spite her this way. Thus, now that she was acting like this, it was a bit odd.

Isabelle only looked at her quietly. Meanwhile, Sophia was still smiling. "You're here to see the doctor, aren't you? I shouldn't be getting in your way then, Miss Bailey." She moved away, but Isabelle was still staring at her, unmoving. "Do you have anything to say?" Sophia arched her eyebrow mockingly, daring Isabelle to counter. Of course, her attitude was rubbing Isabelle the wrong way.

Isabelle could swallow her rude remarks before the divorce became public knowledge, for she was still

John's wife. However, she wouldn't take it lying down now that they were both single. "You think you're so great because you're pregnant?" Isabelle looked at her. I knew it! Isabelle knows about my pregnancy! Sophia had been thinking about every possible suspect who would hurt her, and Isabelle remained the prime one. Sophia barely had any friends or enemies, and among her enemies, only a select few would try to make her suffer a miscarriage. Among those, only one had the resources to hire a mercenary and rent a house at that price. Hearing that, Sophia raised her chin. "I don't think I'm great. I am great. Not everyone can be pregnant with John Constance's baby even if they want to." Sophia smiled. "You should know that the best." Isabelle still remained calm. "You never know who will have the last laugh, Miss Gwendolyn."

Sophia chuckled. Annoying someone was her forte. She knew what she should say and do to annoy someone, and so, Isabelle got seriously frustrated after hearing her chuckle. "Well, I know I'm having the last laugh. I mean, I managed to easily get something someone coveted for so long. Also, I heard that a certain someone has schemed for a long time to get that certain thing. Why shouldn't I have the last laugh?"

She's talking about John, isn't she? We were engaged, but then he married... her. Isabelle took a deep breath and got even closer to Sophia. "You'd better watch out, Miss Gwendolyn. You never know if you'll suffer a miscarriage."

Sophia looked at her innocently. "What are you talking about, Miss Bailey? Are you saying some sort of sick, twisted, and demented animal is out for my blood?"

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Sophia emphasized on the adjectives, and she stared straight at Isabelle. "But I'd advise that animal to be on the lookout. If it doesn't, it might just find itself cooped up in jail for its failed schemes. Poor, poor animal."

Isabelle frowned, agitated by Sophia's remark. Then, she put her hand on Sophia's shoulder and shoved her. "I'm going to do it anyway. What can you do?" she hissed.

Sophia took a few steps back when someone caught her in time. "What are you doing?" Matilda and John exclaimed at the same time. Immediately, Sophia looked back and saw Matilda holding her.

She was looking at Sophia nervously. "Are you alright? Are you hurt anywhere?"

It wasn't a hard shove, so Sophia was fine, then she looked in another direction and saw John coming in.

Isabelle saw him too, and she was shocked, her face paling by the second. Of course, she knew that John cared about Sophia more than himself at the moment, and he had the scare of his life after Isabelle pushed her. Then, he went up to them and held Isabelle's wrist before shoving her away. "What do you think you're doing, Miss Bailey?"

Isabelle staggered back a few steps before stopping. Still, she looked at John defiantly, albeit being a bit pale. "You've slandered me, Miss Gwendolyn. I don't think what I did was wrong."

Matilda frowned at Isabelle. "Do you have any idea what you just did, Isabelle?"

"Of course she does. She knows I'm pregnant, so she shoved me," Sophia answered softly, and she

dusted off the spot Isabelle shoved.

Isabelle covered her mouth, pretending to be shocked. "You're pregnant? I didn't know that."

Wow, she is a good faker. Sophia felt like laughing. Meanwhile, Isabelle kept on with her innocent act.

"How do you expect me to know about your pregnancy? You can't blame me for that. Yes, I did push you, but I never knew you're pregnant. I didn't know, and that's the end of it."

Sophia pouted and made an impression of her. "I didn't know, and that's the end of it. Good show, Miss Bailey, but you forgot about one thing. You see, I'm an evil queen to you, so of course I have a backup plan." Then, Sophia whipped her phone out. "Sorry, but I recorded what you said. Everything is right here." When Isabelle saw that, she froze, and Sophia laughed. "Never lie, Miss Bailey. You never know when it will bite you in the behind."

Then, Sophia turned to Matilda. "Is it my turn already?"

Matilda looked at Isabelle, upset, and she whispered, "Yes. That's why I'm here. You'll be up soon."

Sophia waved her phone at Isabelle and told John, "I'll leave this to you. It's my turn now." After that, she went to the consultation room with Matilda, humming along the way.

Matilda's face fell. "Why aren't you staying back to see what she has to say?"

"Why should I?" Sophia went to sit on a chair outside the consultation room. She would be up next. "I had the high ground, and I'm not the kind of person who'd ask for sympathy. You want me to back Isabelle into a corner because John's there to back me up? I'm not the kind of person who'd do that."

Isabelle's already fallen into my trap, and after what I did, John wouldn't believe her no matter what she says." She giggled. "So all I have to do is wait. I don't have to do this myself."

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The maximum effect wouldn't happen if she stayed back. However, Matilda was still upset about Isabelle's behavior, but Sophia had already forgotten about that. When the doctor called her name, she quickly went into the room. Since she was in the first trimester, no heartbeat could be heard yet. She could only undergo the blood test and ultrasound. The prescription came quickly, then Sophia and Matilda went to the blood test room for Sophia's blood test. When they went past the corner where Isabelle argued with Sophia, she and John were nowhere to be found. "Where did they go?" Matilda asked.

Sophia smiled. "It's fine. Not like they're going to f*ck, so relax." Matilda looked at her. "You're really straightforward, aren't you?" Sophia laughed. "We're all adults here, so no need to hold back."

They went to the blood sampling room, and after Sophia was done, they went to wait at the ultrasound room. That was when Matilda called John, and he told her he would be coming soon, then he hung up. "I wonder what they're talking about." Matilda looked curious. "Do they have to go outside? Is it something scandalous?" Nevertheless, Sophia didn't mind at all. She leaned back on her chair and stared at the number on the ultrasound room's screen. A long line was what she hated the most during a checkup. A short while later,

John came back, but he looked solemn.

Sophia looked at him. "Isabelle came with a group of people, didn't she?"

John frowned. "Is that so? I didn't notice."

Sophia sighed. "Look into it. I don't think she came here alone."

John stared at her. "Okay," he said. Then, the doctor came out to call Sophia, and John wanted to follow.

"No family members allowed," the doctor quickly said.

John frowned. "Why?"

The doctor thought John was familiar, and his intern quickly said, "I think it's Dr. Holt's relative."

Hearing that, the doctor quickly said, "Well, come in then. Miss Gwendolyn, lie down here and pull your shirt up.

John stood beside the ultrasound machine, but he knew nothing about it. After the doctor had applied some couplant gel on Sophia's belly, he started explaining everything in detail for John, like where the baby was, and when they would be hearing heartbeats. As John stared at the black dot on the screen, his gaze turned gentle. So that's my child. It's so... small. It doesn't even have a shape yet. Then, he smiled.

Sophia turned to look at him after a while. She had never seen him so gentle before. Maybe this is his paternal instinct. A few moments later, she smiled too.

Because of John's relationship with Dr. Holt, this doctor did a meticulous checkup and explained all about the growth of the fetus. Since Sophia couldn't see the screen, she could only listen to him. When

John came to hold her hand, he saw the diamond ring once he stared down. It wasn't a great match for her shirt, but John was happy anyway.

When the doctor was done with the checkup, John came out with Sophia. It would take a while before the results could be printed, so they sat down and waited. Matilda asked about the results, though there was nothing to talk about. It was too early in the pregnancy, so there weren't many details yet. All they could see was the fetus' growth.

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Matilda sighed. "I wasn't even this nervous when I was pregnant with John."

Sophia held her hand. "Don't worry. I'm fine."

Until now, Matilda could still feel chills running down her spine when she thought of what she saw earlier. "How can I not? I was worried sick. It'd be bad if you fell down." Now, John was also reminded of what Isabelle said earlier. She said she was innocent and knew nothing, and she only shoved Sophia because of what she said. However, John didn't care what Sophia said, even though he knew she had a sharp tongue. All he cared about was whether Isabelle knew she was pregnant.

Isabelle stubbornly denied it at first, but when he pressed on, she kept quiet. And her silence was the answer for John. In the end, he told her to stay away from Sophia, then Isabelle cried. What a pain. He hated it when she cried. It was annoying.

Sophia took her phone out and played the recording while they waited for the report. Nothing much could be captured, for the hospital was rowdy. And since her phone was in her pocket, she didn't manage to catch anything. Isabelle lowered her voice when she shoved her, so nothing was recorded.

Sophia knew that would happen, so she was only scaring Isabelle earlier.

John said, "Don't butt heads with her next time you guys meet. I don't want her to hurt you."

Sophia nodded. "I know. I'm not an idiot, so I'll back off once things start going awry."

Matilda sighed. "Why did she turn out like this? I thought she was just stubborn, but now she's downright obsessed."

Sophia didn't comment much. All along, she knew Isabelle was an obsessed woman, though that was every woman's trait. Most women were nostalgic, and once they fell in love, it would be hard for them to love someone new with all their heart. Besides, now that Sophia was divorced, Isabelle thought she had a chance, so she naturally wouldn't let go.

After a short while of waiting, John went to take the report, and they went back home. On their way back, John called his men and told them to see if Isabelle had brought or sent anyone to the hospital.

He knew Sophia was right; Isabelle couldn't have come alone. Earlier, once he was done talking to her, Isabelle drove away.

He wasn't sure if she left because she wasn't here to have a checkup in the first place, or that she was angered because of their argument. No matter what, he thought Isabelle should be investigated.

Sophia heard his phone call, and she smiled, for John finally took in her advice. At least that was much better than how he used to be.

He sent Sophia back home before going to his company. Before he left, he looked at the report and folded it carefully before keeping it.

Ms. Cannon had prepared lunch and was waiting for them at home. Since Sophia didn't have breakfast, she went to feast on her lunch in the dining room. John didn't have anything for breakfast either, but he had no time, so delivery it was. When he was on the way to his company, Isabelle texted him.

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The text was a waste of his time, for what Isabelle sent him was to ask him if he thought of her as an evil witch, which to John, was the same as asking if he breathed that day. He glanced at it and tossed his phone aside. What did she expect me to say? That she's an angel? She's evil the moment she pushed Sophia.

When he came out of the elevator, Zack was already waiting for him. "The Baileys made some huge orders. Here's the details." There was a huge stack of it. Zack used to be the one handling these, but since the amount was different now, the Baileys wanted John to deal with it himself.

It didn't have to be John. Indeed, he used to talk to Isabelle about the deal details, but after what happened between them, Isabelle asked her assistant to handle it most of the time, and her assistant would usually contact John's assistant, so the deals were handled by them.

Now, when Isabelle was switched back in and made some big orders, it was only natural for John to handle this himself. However, after what happened in the hospital, John thought it'd be hard to deal with the Baileys.

John grunted. "I see. Give me their purchase orders and see if it tallies with the stock in the warehouse.

And make sure the numbers are correct."

"Understood." Then, Zack gave John the purchase forms from the Baileys before leaving.

When he was looking through the forms, Isabelle called him, and he took it without hesitating. Before she could say anything, John said, "I'm looking through your order forms. I'll call you if I run into any problem."

John was trying to say that this call was strictly professional, so Isabelle couldn't talk about their personal affairs. A short while later, she replied, "Yeah, that's what I was going to say. The details can be overwhelming, so call me if you need anything, Mr. Constance. I'm handling the purchase now."

"Alright." Then, silence fell between them.

Isabelle didn't hang up at once. After pondering about it for a while, she said, "John, are we really—"

John hung up before she could even finish, much to her surprise. "Hello? Hello!" No response came, then she sighed. I never knew he could be so cruel.

When John was about to get off work, he saw Isabelle, but she wasn't here for him. Instead, she was here with her father. John was surprised to see her when he came out of his office, but she only glanced at him without saying anything, so he didn't say hi.

Seeing her so frequently was getting on John's nerves. Because of what happened that morning, the sight of her almost disgusted him. He went to Zack's office with some documents in hand, then when he

came out a few minutes later, Mr. Bailey had gone into William's room with Isabelle. After John was done, he went back to his office and looked at the time. The day's almost finished.

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Since his work was almost done, John tidied up and left once the clock hit five. At the same time, the Baileys came out of William's office, but John went to the exclusive elevator, ignoring them. He then went down without waiting for anyone.

William pretended not to see him and sent the Baileys to the elevator's doorstep, then they waited.

Upon glancing at the number on the elevator's screen, Isabelle retracted her gaze. When they went down and left the company, John was already nowhere to be seen.

Old Mr. Bailey made some small talk with William before leaving with Isabelle in his car, then he sighed after they closed the door. "John is still as distant as ever." Isabelle said nothing. A moment later, Old Mr. Bailey looked at her. "I don't understand. Why do you even like him?"

Isabelle looked at the company's gates, and she said defiantly, "I don't care. I love him. If it weren't because of his grandfather, he wouldn't have married Sophia. We would have gotten married instead, and he wouldn't have treated me so indifferently."

Old Mr. Bailey stared at her, and he changed the topic. "Your brother's parent-teacher meeting is just around the corner. You should attend it. His teacher called to say that he's been performing well, and he's really studious. I'm glad he is."

Isabelle sighed. "Sure, I'll attend it."

Then nobody said a word until they came across a red light. Suddenly, Old Mr. Bailey said, "Your brother is much, much younger than you are. You should help him when he starts working in the company.

You're his sister, so do your part."

Isabelle grunted in assent. "I understand."

At this, Old Mr. Bailey said nothing more, and the car drove off steadily until they got home. Upon

reaching, Old Mr. Bailey was going to get out of the car, but Isabelle wasn't. "You guys go ahead. I'll be staying here for a bit," she said weakly.

Old Mr. Bailey froze up, and he looked at Isabelle with a frown, but he left with the driver without saying a word.

Once Isabelle was left alone, she started frowning. Isabelle knew going with her father to Constance

Group was a rash move, and that she should calm down for the time being. However, John was cold

toward her in the hospital, and that made her afraid. She was worried John might think of her as a villain

if she didn't pop up enough. Moreover, calling him didn't work, so that made her nervous. Frustrated, she thumped the passenger seat.

On the other hand, John had come home, and Sophia was chilling downstairs after waking up from her

nap. John washed his hands before petting her head. "Still feeling sleepy?"

Sophia looked up at him, but she said nothing. When Matilda saw them from the kitchen, she smiled.

"The young ones are getting along well," Ms. Cannon remarked.

Matilda looked away. "They could have been in the first place, but I messed it up."

Ms. Cannon looked at her. "You aren't to be blamed."

Matilda smiled, but she didn't comment. While she was making dinner with Ms. Cannon, a guest arrived.

She saw a car stopping outside the yard, but she thought it was Logan or Zack, so Matilda didn't think much of it.

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When she looked up again, she saw William in the living room. Matilda frowned by reflex, and she muttered, "Why is he here?"

Ms. Cannon went to see who it was, and she smiled. "Why? You don't want to see him?"

Matilda sighed. "Not exactly. I'm just surprised." She then went back to the preparations, but Matilda would keep stealing glances at William. He was sitting on the sofa, chatting with the kids, looking happy.

Matilda fell into a daze. When they were in the Constance Residence, everyone would be chatting

happily as long as she wasn't around; she was a party pooper. Once preparations were done, Matilda

went out. "Dinner's ready, so take your talk to the table."

William was here for dinner anyway, so they went to the dining room together, but Matilda went to the yard instead.

Sophia came out a moment later and stood beside her. "What's the matter? Why are you evading him?"

Matilda smiled. "I am not. I'm just here for some fresh air."

Sophia smirked quietly. A while later, another car came in, and it stopped beside William's, much to the

ladies' surprise. As they watched the car door open, a woman came out of the car, and she waved at the

people in it before it drove away.

Matilda smiled mockingly. Sophia didn't know who that woman was, so she was surprised to see her coming up to her.

When the woman came to them, she smiled at Matilda. "Hi, Matilda."

Matilda let out a long sigh. "You're here. Come in."

Sophia blinked at her quietly as she walked toward the living room.

As the woman walked, she said, "I was planning on going to the Flintstone Residence, but then I heard you weren't staying there."

Sophia glanced at Matilda. "Who is she?" she mouthed.

Matilda looked at her from the corner of her eye and kept quiet for a moment. "Yolanda," she mouthed back.

Sophia's eyes widened. Yolanda? Why is she here? Then she smacked her lips. Ms. Bloom looks really elegant. She's calm and charming. Not even the current Matilda could match her in terms of vibe, let alone the old her.

When the ladies came back into the living room, Ms. Cannon seemed surprised that they were receiving another guest. "And you are?"

Her gasp attracted the men's attention, and when they came out, William seemed surprised to see

Yolanda there. "What brings you here?"

Yolanda looked surprised too. "Oh, you're here, too? I'm here to see Matilda."

John greeted her and asked, "Have you had dinner, Ms. Bloom? We're just digging in, so join us."

Yolanda waved him down. "You guys carry on. It's fine."

"Mom," John said. "Ms. Bloom is here to see you, so go talk to her."

Matilda went up to her. "Have a seat. Honestly, I'm surprised you'd come here."

Turning around, John grabbed his father's arm. "Let's carry on with dinner. I need to talk to you about the company."

William stopped for a moment before going back to the dining room with John.

Sophia smiled with pursed lips. These guys really know how to read the room. She didn't think she was needed in the chat between the older ladies, so Sophia went into the dining room too.

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John and Sophia looked at each other before going in. William thought something was wrong, so he wanted to call Matilda and Yolanda back, but John stopped him. Sophia smiled. John was just inviting Yolanda out of courtesy. He wasn't planning on her actually having dinner with them. It'd be awkward if Yolanda and Matilda were around the same table, so they ditched the plan.

Quickly finishing her dinner, Sophia went upstairs, but a while later, she called from the staircase, "Mom, did you see my plaid shirt? You kept it for me, didn't you?"

Matilda looked up in surprise. "It's in your cabinet!"

"I don't see it," Sophia mumbled. "Never mind. I'll look around." After a while, she came out again.

"Mom, do you know where the ultrasound report is? It's missing!"

John came out of the dining room. "It's in the cabinet. Try looking there."

"Oh." Before she could turn around, William had come out of the dining room after finishing his dinner.

Thus, she asked, "Done so soon, Dad?"

William paused for a moment before he answered, "Yes."

Sophia smiled. "Go over and sit with Mom, then. Have a little chat with Ms. Bloom." She then went to her room, not before she remarked as she walked, however, "I'm really getting forgetful these days. I keep forgetting where everything is. It's so frustrating." John looked up at the second floor and smiled. She can act well.

William and Matilda were fidgeting, especially Matilda. The way Sophia addressed her and William was embarrassing her.

William then sat before both of them, and he looked at Yolanda. "How's your leg looking? Can you move around?"

Yolanda smiled beautifully. "I'm fine. Just threw away my clutch, see. I can walk normally, but not for too long. And I can't stand for a long time either."

William nodded. "That's good to hear." Subsequently, he looked at Matilda, inexplicably sheepish. "You haven't had dinner yet, have you? Why don't you have something to eat first?"

Matilda stood up. "Sure. You guys carry on."

Afterward, John came over and sat beside William. "A few days ago, my dad told me he's worried about you. He wants to see you, but work got in his way."

Work got in his way, but he can make time to have dinner here? That surprised Yolanda a little, but she nodded. "I'm fine. The servants are taking good care of me." Then she continued, "I was thinking I should talk with Matilda, but my wound got in the way, so I had to delay it until today, but I didn't expect you to be here."

She was looking at William when she spoke, and he nodded calmly.

"Yeah. I'm just here for a meal."

A short while after Matilda started having her dinner, her phone vibrated—Sophia texted her. 'How does

it feel?’ Sophia asked. Feel what? There’s nothing but awkwardness. Maybe she was reading too much into it, but she thought Yolanda was looking at her weirdly, as if Matilda was her old, unreasonable self.

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A short while later, Sophia texted, ‘I think Ms. Bloom likes your ex.’ Matilda froze up. If even Sophia could see it, that meant she wasn’t imagining things. ‘I see,’ she replied, then Sophia stopped texting her. When Matilda was done with dinner, Yolanda was still there.

After thinking it over, she said, “You guys carry on. I’ll see what Sophia is doing. Maybe she needs help finding her stuff.”

At this, William only looked at her, saying nothing. After that, Matilda slowly went upstairs, and her

expression became gloomier with each step. When she came to Sophia’s room, Sophia was lying on the

bed, scrolling through her phone. At the sight of Matilda, she rolled and sat up. “What brings you here?

Aren’t you going to chat with them?”

Matilda hummed a placid response. “Hey, be careful. You’re pregnant, you know, so go slow.”

“Yeah, yeah.” Then she lay back down. “But if you’re not there, Ms. Bloom will be chatting happily with your ex.”

Matilda walked over and sat on the bed. “Whatever. I don’t care even if they want to sleep in the same

bed. It has nothing to do with me anyway.”

Sophia clicked her tongue. “And you say I’m forward. You’re the same, aren’t you?” Sophia sighed. “If

they do sleep together, you’d probably die of heartbreak.”

Matilda snorted. "As if."

Yeah, right, Sophia thought, but she didn't want to argue on this matter. "Why is Ms. Bloom here anyway? She says she's here to see you, but why?"

Matilda looked up and answered slowly, "She says there's a misunderstanding between us, so she wants to clear it up. I might be wrong, but I just feel like she's here because she knows William's here, not because she wants to clear it up with me. That's just a pretext. I've said everything when I went to apologize to her, so she doesn't really have to come here."

Sophia nodded. "Yeah. I could see she's not paying attention to you." Then she put her phone down.

"But I wonder if your ex knows that."

Matilda chuckled. "John's an idiot in relationships for a reason. His father's the same kind of guy, so he gets it from him. There's no way William can sense anything." Men and women functioned differently.

Men could be meticulous, but they didn't share the same eye for details as women. What women could see might be missed on men, so William failing to see through Yolanda was understandable.

Sophia looked back at her. "Tell me the truth. Do you want to remarry your ex?"

Matilda looked back at her and echoed, "What about you? Do you want to remarry your ex?"

Sophia blinked. "No. I won't ever lie about this. At least I don't want to remarry him for now."

A few moments later, Matilda answered, "I'll tell you the truth, then. I want to start over with him, but I think it's hard, so I'm giving up."

Sophia was surprised. "Why? You've changed for the better, so just put in some work, and you'll be dating him in no time."

Matilda shook her head. "If it's the old me, maybe, but not now. I can't cling onto him like some sloth now."

Sophia frowned. "That's not the only way to flirt. Maybe all you have to do is give him hints, and he'd be wanting you back."

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Matilda smiled. "Look at John. He clings onto you like a sloth on superglue, but still you aren't agreeing to his proposal. I'm scared. What if I have to go through that before he agrees to date me again?"

Yolanda left with William in the end, just as Sophia predicted.

Matilda and John sent them off, while Sophia looked out from the window. Looking at Matilda, she presented herself well, smiling and composed.

Sitting on the passenger seat, Yolanda rolled down the window and waved at Matilda. If they didn't know better, they'd think she and William were a couple.

As William drove away, Sophia shouted, "Hey, what are you guys doing? You can't let them leave together. Why didn't you hail a ride for Ms. Bloom?"

John laughed. "You'd do that, I'm sure."

Sophia snorted and went back to her room, while John and Matilda went into the living room. "Cheer up." He patted Matilda's shoulder. "Dad and Ms. Bloom are just friends. Don't you see that he looks calm?"

William did look calm, and he didn't show any signs of dating Yolanda, but Matilda still felt uneasy about it. Yolanda did like William, and she was a great woman, so Matilda thought that was it for her. "Yeah,"

she answered weakly. "I'll be going to my room now. It's been a long day."

John went upstairs with her. "What did Sophia say to you when you guys were upstairs?"

"Oh, I asked if she wants to get married to you again, and she said no. That's it."

John closed his eyes. "Forget I ever asked that."

They went to their own rooms after going to the second floor. At this time, Sophia was going through her skincare routine in the bathroom, and she was humming a tune. Going over, John opened the door and leaned against the doorframe. "Someone looks happy."

Sophia looked at him through the mirror. "Ms. Bloom's really elegant, isn't she?"

John nodded. "Yeah. She's soft spoken, too, so I think it's understandable if my dad likes her."

When she was done with her mask, Sophia looked back at him. "So would you want your mom to marry him again, or would you want your dad to marry someone else?"

John snorted. "Is that a trick question?"

He then thought about it seriously. If it was in the past where his mother was still an unreasonable, clingy, mercurial woman, he would want his father to marry Yolanda. William's mild-mannered personality was incompatible with the old Matilda, and it would only make her more unreasonable; he needed a gentler woman.

Coming out of the bathroom, Sophia went to sit on the bed and looked at her phone. "How's your investigation going? The Isabelle one."

John was pumped up at the mention of that. "How did you know she brought someone with her? She could have come alone." He looked at Sophia.

Sophia glanced at him through the corner of her eye, failing to stifle her laughter as she giggled. "There's a lot of things you don't know." She deliberately told Matilda to tell Isabelle about her trip to the hospital, and she had a feeling Isabelle would follow her. About her pregnancy, Sophia had a hunch that Isabelle had known about it for a while now. Considering Isabelle's love for John, Sophia's baby was a big threat for her comeback. As she thought of this, she wasn't sure whether Isabelle would hurt her baby out of jealousy, for she knew Isabelle as a smart lady who understood a lot of things many people failed to, thinking Isabelle would be more sophisticated.

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However, after the argument in the hospital, she thought Isabelle's love had dragged her down to the pit of obsession. Even so, she was still a dangerously smart individual. If she wanted to make a move on her, she wouldn't do it herself, so Sophia thought she must have had her men working with her, each playing their own part. Then she looked at John. "So you found out about her lackey?"

"Yes. She brought a guy. He didn't go for a checkup, and she didn't either. The guy left the hospital after she did."

Sophia nodded. "That proves my theory. Isabelle must have wanted that guy to hurt me." But... She clicked her tongue. "How dare they do this in broad daylight?" John frowned. "You might be reading too much into this. I don't think they'd do this." Even though he didn't know Isabelle that well, he thought she wouldn't do that, for Isabelle was a mild-tempered

woman, at least to him.

Sophia looked at him. "You don't know a lot of things, but you don't have to know about this. It's better this way." Once her mask was done, she went to wash her face and went through her routine's next section.

John stood on the veranda and called Zack to keep an eye on the guy Isabelle brought to the hospital with her.

Sophia sighed. All these annoying things keep coming. She lay down on her bed after her routine, and

John went out for a smoke. Sophia left a night light on in the room for him, and John leaned against the yard's stone table as he looked up gently at the room upstairs.

In a place hidden from his sight, someone was looking at John, the person's gaze complex. Isabelle

wondered why she came. She knew John was already living together with Sophia, but still she wanted to see it. Even so, she didn't know what she wanted to see.

She could see John from the back. His arms were crossed, and he was looking at the second floor's room.

Even though she couldn't see his face, Isabelle could imagine his expression; he had always been gentle toward Sophia.

Some time later, she took her phone out and called him, then she saw him looking at his phone for a moment and putting it on the table, obviously refusing to pick it up.

Isabelle gritted her teeth, and she knew she had crossed him today.

She knew John didn't believe a word

of her explanation. At this point, all he cared about was Sophia, and all he listened to was her. If Sophia

said she was evil, no amount of explanation would change his view of her.

Thus, she turned her phone off and waited for a while before leaving for her car that was stopped a distance away. When she got into her car, instead of leaving immediately, she just sat there and stared outside.

Murphy's Law, huh? She used to be terrified that the chance to date John, which she had worked hard for, would be for nothing, and her fear had come true. It was the worst development that could happen.

A while later, she clapped her face and took a deep breath. I still have a chance as long as they aren't married. Calm down. There's nothing to be afraid of.

When someone approached her in her sleep, Sophia's first reflex was to hug the person, but when she woke up a little, she turned around and faced John with her back.

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John hugged her from behind. "I've been holding it in, Sophia." Confused, Sophia kept quiet, then he said rather depressingly, "All I can do is hug you. Any man would find it hard to hold it in."

Sophia finally knew what he was talking about. She muttered clearly, "Well, you can sleep outside, then."

John quickly went into silent mode, and he lay down on the bed quietly, but Sophia couldn't sleep. She kept thinking of how he had taken care of her and how he didn't go out there to flirt. He must be holding it in hard.

Then she remembered the news about John leaving the bar with a woman, and she let out a sigh. It still

didn't sit well with her. Sophia didn't think much of it when the news first came out, but now it rubbed her the wrong way, so she pried his hand that was on her waist away. "Don't touch me."

John, still ignorant about this, was surprised. "What's wrong?"

Sophia put some distance between them. "Don't touch me. Leave me alone."

John misunderstood her. He thought she was doing this so he could hold his urge in better, so he smiled and lay on his back. "I can hold it just fine. It's been a long time now, so what's a month or two?"

Sophia ignored him. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath, forcing herself to sleep. Once John thought she had fallen asleep, he went over to hug her gently. Sophia wasn't asleep yet, but instead of breaking free, she frowned and held it in.

They were woken up the next morning by Sophia's phone. When she grabbed it and checked who the caller was, she almost smashed her phone. Why are they calling at this ungodly hour? She hung up and put her phone under the pillow, but the caller, refusing to give up, called again.

John looked at her. "Who is it?"

"Nobody." John could hear the anger in her voice.

Then he pulled her phone out of the pillow and saw that it was an unidentified caller. Seeing this, Sophia frowned, but she didn't stop him. A short moment later, John took the call.

Before he could say anything, the caller said, "Sophia, your sister has been dying to talk to you, and I couldn't stop her. I know it's rude to call this early, but your sister kept saying she wants to call you. I

hope you're awake."

Without needing to ask, John knew who it was now. He switched hands and kept listening.

Even though nobody replied, the caller didn't give up. "Your sister wants to sing a song. She said she'd sing you a song when she sees you." Then the woman told another girl, "Come on, Sophia's right here.

Sing her a song." Then everything went silent. It was obvious the girl was reluctant.

Then the woman mumbled something to the girl, but it was vague. And a girl called out to Sophia. Sophia heard it all, actually, but she kept her back facing John, and she covered herself in the blanket. John looked at her and sighed, then the girl on the phone started singing.

The Returning Ex Chapter 738

John hugged her from behind. "I've been holding it in, Sophia."

Confused, Sophia kept quiet, then he said

rather depressingly, "All I can do is hug you. Any man would find it hard to hold it in."

Sophia finally knew what he was talking about. She muttered clearly, "Well, you can sleep outside, then."

John quickly went into silent mode, and he lay down on the bed quietly, but Sophia couldn't sleep. She kept thinking of how he had taken care of her and how he didn't go out there to flirt. He must be holding it in hard.

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The Returning Ex Chapter 739

Even though he couldn’t see her, John could sense that the girl wasn’t too happy doing this, for her singing left a lot to be desired. Fortunately, she stopped after a short while. “Are you listening, Sophia?”

Of course, she got no reply, then the girl told the woman, “Nobody’s saying anything. I bet they aren’t listening. I’m not doing this anymore!”

John could hear the dissatisfaction in her voice, then he heard the caller hissing, “That’s your sister! I know she’s listening! She’ll talk once you’re done singing!”

Obviously, the girl wouldn’t comply, so she refused to sing. John could hear the sounds of argument, then he hung up and went to hug Sophia.

This call reminded him of Walter. He knew Walter must have talked it through with his ex. Once he failed to get Sophia back on his side, his ex-wife would try the emotional appeal. John sighed, and he recalled the state of Sophia’s hometown. He couldn’t fathom why Walter and his ex-wife would abandon a young Sophia and her grandfather in the slums.

“The chief called me yesterday. He said the road’s starting to get paved.” John smiled. “Since they want

to cut costs, all the villagers would pitch in once they have time, including the children and the elderly.

Some worked on the installation, and some sent food to them to save time. Your neighbors are all good people, Sophia.”

After a while, Sophia pulled the blanket away and took a deep breath.

“Yeah, and my grandfather’s really

kind. I don’t understand why his son and daughter-in-law turned out to be evil. It’s not fair.”

John patted her head. “Let’s not think about that. Fortunately, the evil couple has nothing to do with us

now, so we just need to take care of ourselves.”

This time, Sophia said nothing, merely pursing her lips. Since he had to go to work, John got up a short

while later. Then, he patted Sophia’s head. “You go back to sleep,

Sophia. Remember to take your

breakfast when you wake up.”

Sophia didn’t want to move, so she turned around and closed her eyes.

When John was done bathing, he

came to kiss her forehead before leaving. Breakfast was already prepared when he came to the dining

room. Spearing a piece of pancake, John thought of something before he fished for his phone and called

his subordinate. “Here’s a phone number. I want you to find out where the caller is, and I want their

every detail.” Then, he sent a number to his subordinate before finishing his breakfast.

After some time, Sophia heard John’s car revving up, then he left. She sighed, feeling frustrated. Her

phone beeped after a while, and she read through the message, though she deleted it shortly after.

Once Walter stopped appearing, his ex-wife came to harass Sophia. They shouldn't have gotten the divorce. If there's an Olympic event for tag-team shamelessness, they'd go beyond gold.

Sophia turned her phone off and lay on the bed, but she couldn't sleep after the call. Thus, she went downstairs after straightening herself out a little. Matilda was having breakfast when she came down, so she invited Sophia to the table. "Come here. I was going to take it upstairs, but now that you're here, have it while it's still hot."

Pacing over, Sophia looked at the food. "I want to go to the shop later. Wanna come with me?" It had been a while since she went to the shop, and she was feeling guilty about Robin handling everything.

The Returning Ex Chapter 740

Matilda nodded. "Sure. I can do that."

Looking at the choices available, Sophia went for the soup. There wasn't much in there, so she wouldn't retch. Breakfast didn't take long, then Matilda and her straightened themselves out before going to the shop.

Aside from Robin, Lincoln was also helping out in the shop. They were serving the customers, looking happily in love. Matilda and Sophia stood outside for a moment before going in, and Robin greeted them, thinking they were customers. Seeing this, Sophia smiled. "Business seems well, little lady."

Robin paused and looked up. "Oh, you're here, Sophia."

Lincoln was packing the desserts, and he nodded at Sophia. Sophia glanced at him before whispering to Robin, "Is he going to work with you now?"

Robin replied sheepishly, "He quit his job a while ago. His family wants him to run his own business, so he's helping me when he has time."

Sophia nodded and went to have a seat with Matilda.

Robin asked Lincoln to handle the customers for a while, then she came to Sophia. "How are you feeling recently? Better?"

Sophia nodded. "Everything's fine on my side." She looked at Lincoln again and noticed he was doing all the work adeptly.

Robin looked at him too, then she whispered, "I've met his parents, and he met mine. We're talking about our wedding date now. If nothing happens, we'll be getting married soon."

Sophia looked surprised. "Is that so? That's fast."

Robin scratched her head sheepishly. "I think we get along well, and everything else is alright, so here we are. It's fine, I guess."

Sophia nodded. "It is. Wow, so you're getting married, huh? I'll make sure to give you a nice present during your wedding."

Hearing this, Robin smiled.

Matilda looked around. "How's business looking?"

Robin quickly replied, "It's great. Logan ordered a huge amount of desserts, and it exhausted us. Good thing Lincoln can help, and he learns fast, so he can make some desserts himself."

Matilda nodded. "If it's possible, why don't you two run this shop?"

She looked at Sophia. "Sophia's belly's getting bigger, and she'll have to take care of her kid after it's born, so I don't think she'll have

time to run the shop. If I may suggest something, why don't you guys run the store? It'll be for the best."

Sophia thought it was a good idea, so she nodded. "That's a good idea. You guys are running the shop, so you'll be taking most of the profit, then."

Robin thought this wasn't fair for Sophia. The shop was dying when she handled it, but it managed to make a turnaround thanks to Sophia. Logan and John made their orders here thanks to her, or else the sales would slump. Robin didn't think she should take the lion's share of the profit.

Sophia smiled. "Look, I should be the one who apologizes. I'm not even putting in work, but still I get the profit. Don't think too much about it. If you think it's a good deal, then let's shake hands on it."

Robin looked at Lincoln. "Let me talk to him and see if he wants to."

Sophia nodded. "Sure. Your marriage comes first. Once you guys become a family, it's going to be much easier to make a decision."

The Returning Ex Chapter 741

Robin agreed, then she asked about Sophia's life. Aside from fine, Sophia didn't say much. After all, there was no need to talk about Isabelle's case to everyone. Sitting beside them, Matilda only chimed in a couple of times, and she would look at Robin occasionally before averting her gaze slowly. After a while, Matilda told Sophia that they should be leaving, or they'd be getting in the way of Robin's work.

Quickly, Sophia nodded. "Right, we should be leaving. Work hard, you guys."

Indeed, the store was getting crowded, and Lincoln couldn't handle it alone. Standing at the shop

entrance, Sophia waved at Lincoln before leaving with Matilda. Instead of hailing a ride, they walked along the sidewalk. Subsequently, Matilda commented, "Robin's a good girl. She knows where she goes wrong and manages to rectify them in time. You can keep being friends with her."

Sophia was surprised. "Huh, what are you talking about?"

Matilda smiled. "You're smart and naive at the same time. Forget it. It's fine if you didn't understand what I was saying. Just know that Robin's a friend."

Sophia was still confused. "Um, yeah, I know that."

Instead of going home, the ladies walked around and had lunch. Sophia had her guard up all the time, and she kept seeing if someone was following her. It was daytime, though, and nobody would hurt her at this hour, so they had a safe trip.

In the end, Matilda took her to a healthy food restaurant so Sophia could get all the necessary nutrients.

When they were about to go in, Sophia stared at the seafood restaurant across the street.

Matilda didn't know what she was thinking, but she went to hold Sophia anyway. "Seafood can wait until after your labor. For now, you should stay away from anything cold. Come on, let's have lunch here."

Sophia nodded and went into the restaurant with Matilda, but after a few steps, she looked back again.

Those two... They look familiar, but I might be seeing things. The ladies went to a room on the second floor, and it was a window seat.

The moment she went in, Sophia looked down and saw the pedestrians moving around. She pursed her

lips and looked at the seafood restaurant, but the people she saw earlier were gone, and they wouldn't be coming out so soon.

On the other hand, Matilda made her order and looked at Sophia.

"What are you doing there? See if you like anything on the menu."

"Okay," Sophia replied, but she stopped for a moment before coming back. After taking the menu, she said, "I think I saw Mrs. Bailey."

Matilda stopped and stared at her. "It's normal. She's probably meeting up with her friends."

Sophia frowned. "I don't think so. They're in casual wear, and they didn't look formal."

That surprised Matilda. She had come into contact with Mrs. Bailey many times, so Matilda knew she was just like the old her—arrogant, loved to put on airs, and had to doll themselves up before going out.

Matilda had never seen Mrs. Bailey in casual wear. "Is she alone?" Matilda asked.

"No." Sophia quickly ordered a few cuisines and handed the menu back to the waiter. "This will be it for now. And give us some water, please."

The Returning Ex Chapter 742

After the waiter had left, Sophia said, "I saw a guy with her. They met up at the front door for a moment before going in."

"A guy?" Matilda frowned. "You must be seeing things."

It was impossible for Mrs. Bailey to go out with a man. She was an arrogant woman who cared about her pedigree, so she would never go out with another man without her husband beside her. Sophia wasn't sure either, for she only had a glimpse. It could be possible she got the wrong person.

Taken aback, Matilda got to her feet and went to look outside the window, but there was nothing to be seen for the moment. "You must have gotten the wrong person," she mumbled. "I don't think she'd do that."

Sophia leaned back against the chair and played along. "I guess. I only had a glimpse, so I'm not sure. I'm getting stupider these days, and my eyes are playing tricks on me." Even so, Matilda looked on for a while before coming back to her spot. The waiter then came with their water, and Sophia poured a glass for her and Matilda. "You must have gotten along with Mrs. Bailey well."

Matilda picked her glass up. "Yes. I used to adore Isabelle, so I got along with the Baileys. That's why Mrs. Bailey has been polite to me." Not now she isn't though. Since their meeting in the shopping mall back then, she knew Mrs. Bailey disliked her, for she had gotten along with Sophia and ditched Isabelle. Sophia looked outside, and a plan hatched in her mind. "Do you know Mrs. Bailey's car, then?"

"Well, of course I do."

Sophia chuckled, and Matilda knew what she was thinking about, so she rolled her eyes. "You cheeky girl. But why do you care so much about her? Is it important?"

Sophia started putting on her puppy-eye look. "Aw, just take a look for me. I'll tell you once you come back."

Matilda shot her a sidelong glance, looking disgusted, but she stood up anyway. "Alright, alright, I'll go take a look. John's going to get mad at me if I don't follow your orders."

Why did you have to drag him into this?

Matilda went out, and Sophia went to the windowsill. A short while later, she saw Matilda exiting the restaurant and pacing around on their side of the street before going across it. After that, she did the same on the other side before she stopped to look around for a bit more. In the end, she looked up at Sophia and shrugged.

Sophia knew she didn't find anything, so she waved at Matilda, asking her to come back. Right when she came back into the lobby, Sophia saw someone coming out of the seafood restaurant. After a pause, she quickly snapped a photo with her phone.

It was Mrs. Bailey herself. She didn't wear any mask, though she was in casual wear. She came out alone and looked around her before going away.

Instead of paying attention to Mrs. Bailey, Sophia kept looking at the restaurant's door. Eventually, a man came out after Mrs. Bailey drove away. Sophia couldn't remember the face of the man she saw earlier, but she remembered his clothes, and it was the same as what this man was wearing.

Instead of taking his photo, Sophia recorded his every move. Just like Mrs. Bailey, after leaving the restaurant, he stood at the entrance and looked around for a while before straightening his clothes and leaving.

The Returning Ex Chapter 743

Matilda took a long time to come back up, and she looked dark. Sophia smiled. "You saw it?"

"Yeah. It's her, but it's not the car she's usually in."

Sophia nodded. "Did you see the man coming out after her, then?"

Matilda sighed. "Yes. He's the only one who followed her out."

A smirk tugged at the corner of Sophia's lips. "Okay. Let's dig in."

Their lunch was here, but they didn't talk much this time. Matilda looked down, and Sophia was thinking about something. Yeah, I didn't just cross Isabelle. I crossed the whole Bailey Family. Her whole family hates me. Isabelle's not the only one who'd hurt me. Instantly, Sophia felt more at ease after finding out the potential list of people who'd harm her. They went straight back home after their lunch, and Matilda went upstairs, obviously upset. Sophia lounged on the sofa, feeling calm. She watched some variety shows and had a glimpse of some no-name TV dramas before going upstairs to take a nap.

Although Matilda went upstairs, she wasn't sleeping and was merely sitting on her bed, feeling frustrated. Even though she used to be hot-headed and had a bad personality, she thought she wasn't evil. She liked Isabelle and her family, so she put a lot of love in making a connection with them. Now, when she found out about the truth of their family, she felt hurt. Earlier, Matilda was right at the lobby when Mrs. Bailey and the man came out, so she saw them clearly. The man looked like he was in his twenties or thirties.

Matilda knew the kind of person Mrs. Bailey was. She wasn't there to see a man because of any sexual problems, but for a deal. And coupling that up with all the disasters that befell Sophia recently, she had a good guess of the kind of deal it was. Before this, she was disappointed by Isabelle, but now she felt the same way toward the Baileys. Why did I like these snakes anyway? I was blind.

After a while of sulking, she fished out her cell phone and couldn't help texting John. There wasn't much to say except for what she saw today.

John didn't reply immediately, so she guessed he was busy. Around ten minutes later, he called her. "You saw Mrs. Bailey coming out with a young man?" He sounded surprised. Matilda sighed. "Yeah. They looked suspicious. I can't be sure about their deal, but keep an eye out. Mrs.

Bailey's vindictive, and she... Well..." Matilda stopped, not knowing what to say. "In any case, she just dislikes Sophia, so be careful."

"I see. No wonder..."

Matilda wondered why John was saying that, but the more she thought about what she saw, the more worried she was. When Sophia was still married to John, Mrs. Bailey would fly into a rage whenever Sophia was mentioned. She despised Sophia more than the old Matilda did, so Matilda was worried something might happen.

Since John had a lot of work, he didn't say much. "Don't worry, Mom. I'll take care of this." Then, he hung up.

The Returning Ex Chapter 744

Matilda spent a while calming down before she walked out of her room. When she reached downstairs,

Ms. Cannon told her Sophia had gone upstairs joyfully to sleep. Matilda had to say that Sophia was superhumanly calm. She didn't seem to have a care about anything in the world, but that was why

Matilda could relax. After that, she asked Ms. Cannon what she'd be making for dinner before going to the yard, and she remained there until John was back.

John drove into the yard and came out smiling. "Why the long face? If I didn't know better, I'd say you're

fighting with Sophia again.”

Hearing this, Matilda let out a laugh. “She’s pregnant. Even if I want to, it’ll be after she goes into labor.”

John came and wrapped his arm around his mother’s shoulder, then they went inside. “Dad asked why I was in a hurry when I clocked out, so I told him you’re feeling unwell. I think he’ll come over later.”

Matilda looked at him, surprised.

John smiled. “Don’t give me that look. Sometimes it’s okay to make a white lie.”

There was no need to be completely honest, or something precious might slip away. Sometimes, being cunning was required to grasp the precious things in life.

Matilda sighed. “I can never win, can I?”

Walking over, they sat on the sofa, and John asked about the matter with Mrs. Bailey.

Matilda didn’t know much aside from what she saw. There wasn’t any real evidence of them making a deal, but Mrs. Bailey in casual wear and meeting someone was already weird enough. That clue was enough for John to construct many possibilities, so he smiled. “Got it, and you ladies stay out of this.

Distract Sophia when she asks about this. I don’t want her to worry.”

Matilda nodded. “Sure.”

With that said, Ms. Cannon had already prepared and served dinner, so John went upstairs to wake

Sophia up, while Matilda helped set the table up. Later, she saw someone driving into the yard. Matilda

looked at the car and quickly looked away. Admittedly, she was happy. Subsequently, William came in and said, “Is it dinner time? I’m right on time, then.”

It wasn't after a while that Matilda came out and smiled at him. "Wash your hands, please. Dinner will be ready in a minute."

John came down with Sophia, who was rubbing her eyes, and the sight of William surprised her. "Oh, you're here, Dad."

William was surprised too, then a few moments later, he smiled. "Just passing through."

John smiled. He knew Sophia was getting used to calling William 'Dad.' They went to the dining room, and since everyone was here, it was a merry dinner. John and William

talked about the company, then they moved the topic to the baby.

William said he would go through the family tree to decide the baby's name.

Sophia didn't want to say anything, so she kept quiet.

Upon noticing her silence, Matilda interjected, "They aren't married yet, so Sophia's going to decide what the child's name is. There's no need for you two to get so worked up about it."

William was surprised to hear that. "You're still not going to marry John even when you're pregnant,

Sophia?" He glanced at John. "Just look at him. He's already giving it his all."

John agreed, "Won't you give me a chance? I have been giving it my all."

Sophia rolled her eyes at him. "You didn't give me a chance when I gave it my all."

The Returning Ex Chapter 745

John shut up, and William looked at Matilda, then he realized he had no grounds to talk about this, for

he also had the same relationship problem. Halfway through dinner, William's phone rang, and he

seemed to be surprised about the caller, then he glanced at Matilda.

Sophia noticed his change of expression, and she grinned. "Why are your employees calling you after work? So inconsiderate."

William laughed nervously. "You guys carry on. I'll take this call." He then went to the yard with his phone in hand.

Sophia smiled and went on with her dinner. "Ms. Bloom knows about Mr. Constance's every move, doesn't she?" she said.

Matilda looked at Sophia, surprised, and John shared the same sentiment. "You're saying that Ms. Bloom's the caller?"

Sophia wasn't entirely sure, for she didn't see the name. "Most probably," she concluded.

John looked at Matilda. "Maybe something came up. I think Dad's just helping her. You guys know he's a kind guy who'd help anyone. It's going to be the same even if it's not Ms. Bloom, so don't worry."

Sophia took a few pieces of meat. "You don't have to explain, you know." She didn't look at John.

"Nobody's saying anything, so you're just making things worse."

John sighed. "Fine then."

Matilda kept eating and said nothing.

Even though he was in the yard, William lowered his voice. "What is it?"

Yolanda smiled. "Nothing. You're done with work for the day, aren't you? I made dinner today, so come on over. I made your favorite."

William didn't want to hide anything, thus said honestly, "I'm at John's place, so I'll be having dinner here."

And then a dead silence fell between them. When he sent her home last night, Yolanda told him a lot of things before she went home. After so many years, Yolanda found out that William was her perfect partner, so she told him she wanted to date, no confessions or anything like that. Middle-aged people rarely did that.

That time, Yolanda felt shy, and she had a sheepish smile on her face all the time, but on the other hand, William felt awkward.

In fact, he told her last night that he only saw her as a friend. He did like her in the beginning, but he had let it go when they didn't date. Even after their reunion, he only helped her because of pity, nothing else.

He thought Yolanda wouldn't call him after what he said last night, or at the very least, not in the nearest period, but he thought wrong.

He sighed. "You go ahead without me." After a simple grunt, Yolanda hung up. As for William, he stood in the same spot for a while.

Sophia ate quickly, and she felt full after a while, then she leaned back against the chair. "Yummy in my tummy. Feels nice."

John poured a glass of water for her. "Don't go upstairs just yet. Let's take a stroll."

"Sure. And what's taking Dad so long? Do they really have a lot to talk about?"

Not knowing what to say, John shut up.

William only came back a while later, and John was reminded of something. "Oh right. Ian's shoot is almost done, so he's coming back soon. He's probably going to be the champion or runner up."

The Returning Ex Chapter 746

Sophia looked up at him. "How do you know about that?"

John froze. "Um, I asked Lorraine."

Sophia glanced at him from the corner of her eye, meaningfully. "Is that so?"

John nodded earnestly. "Yeah. How else should I know about it?"

William looked at him. "Our company just—"

"Dig in, Dad. You don't want to have the food cold," John quickly said. William then realized what John was getting at, so he said nothing else and dug in.

Matilda put her knife and fork down. "You guys carry on. I'm done." Then she left the dining room.

William looked up at Matilda. "Your mom is still unwell?" he asked John.

However, Sophia answered, "Yeah. She said she has difficulty breathing, and her chest feels stuffy. I wonder why."

John looked at her, his eyes smiling. He never knew Sophia was this smart. When they were done with dinner, he held her hand and went out for a walk, leaving Matilda and William in the house. Before they left, she looked back and thought, Hey, this is my house. Why do I get the feeling someone else is going to stay in it?

John held her finger. "Where's your ring?"

Sophia frowned. "Are you mad? Why would I wear that kind of ring in the house? It's ridiculous."

John didn't share her sentiment. "Is it? I think it's fine. I actually wanted it bigger, but the designer said it'd look weird."

Sophia rolled her eyes.

John then talked about Ian. "You're going to see Ian when he comes back, aren't you?"

Sophia calmed down and sighed. "Yeah. I have to." They had to, for they used to be great friends.

"I'll go with you when the time comes. Under the current circumstances, I can't let you go alone."

Sophia nodded. Indeed, it was dangerous for her to go out alone with the current state of things.

Halfway through their stroll, John's phone rang. His subordinate told him that they found some leads about Old Leopard.

From what they found, he used to be a swindler and a convict, but then he ditched that business and

chose to be a middleman in case he got caught. If someone wanted some beaters or killers, he'd hook

the clients up with the service providers and earn the commission from it. Old Leopard knew where to

hide, and he stayed in a secluded temple on some mountains.

After hearing the report, John smiled. "Isn't he the smart one? Do whatever you can and try to capture

him." The subordinate obliged, and John hung up. Then, he held Sophia's hand tighter. "Let's go to the park."

Sophia pursed her lips. She wanted to ask if there was any progress, but then she thought it'd be useless,

for the details she found out would be of no help anyway, so she dumped the idea.

Since they had gone out for a walk, only Matilda and William were left in the house. William asked if she

was feeling better, and it took her a few moments to reply that she was fine. Matilda was a bad liar, and

even the smallest lie would sell her out. Even so, she tried to stay calm so she wouldn't be exposed.

The Returning Ex Chapter 747

Glancing at the time, Matilda wanted to tell him to go back, for driving late at night was dangerous, but in the end, she swallowed her words. Deep down, she wanted to get along with William.

Before this, all she did was complain when they had any alone time. She'd either grumble about Sophia, the servants, the other Constance branch families, or William. Everything she could think of could be used as a complaining tool.

Sometimes William would console her, but sometimes he'd say nothing, for he was exhausted. Now that she thought about it, aside from her incessant complaining, she couldn't remember what they did during their alone time. So now she asked about his work and whether he had any troublesome business to settle. Matilda never cared about his work, but since she asked, William told her about it. He had a lot of problems related to work, but William chose the simplest ones. Matilda listened to him closely. "I never knew you had to face so many troubles."

William chortled. "I got used to it."

Matilda looked at him quietly. "I'm sorry for what I did. I know I've caused you a lot of trouble."

William looked back at her. Matilda's getup was different now; she used to adore the rich lady getup. It was elegant, but William thought it was too forced. She looked so much younger after giving that look up. Her casual wear and ponytail looked so much fresher to William. Then he said, "I'm partly at fault, too. It's not just you."

A marriage's end wasn't the fault of a single person, and Matilda knew that, but she didn't know how to

continue the conversation now. If William was to be blamed, then his only fault was being overly nice to Matilda, and it made her think life was supposed to be nice to her. Since Ms. Cannon had gone out, only they were left in the house. A while later, Matilda blurted, "Yolanda came yesterday because of you, wasn't she? Everyone could see that."

A look of awkwardness crept onto his face. "She might've had something to tell you, I think. She's just a friend. There's nothing between us."

Matilda caressed her leg reflexively. "It's normal even if you guys are dating."

William paused, then he grunted. He didn't know whether he still loved Matilda. After all these years, his love had been torn to pieces. Every time he thought of his marriage with Matilda, he'd be overwhelmed by a sense of exhaustion.

The first feeling he felt after the divorce was freedom. He could finally break free of that suffocating life, but he had a price to pay. After the initial high, William started feeling weird. Something felt missing from his life the moment he realized he'd never hear anyone nagging him anymore, and William wondered why he felt that way.

Then an awkward silence fell between them, and William was the first to give in. He stood up. "It's late, so I'll be going back now. Since you're not feeling too well, you should rest early."

Matilda said okay and went to send him off.

At this time, John and Sophia were walking nearby, and Sophia clicked her tongue after seeing William leave. "I have no idea what your dad is thinking. I think he still loves your mom, but then he didn't even

seize this chance to confess. I might be wrong about your dad's love."

The Returning Ex Chapter 748

Agreeing to her statement, John said, "Strange, for you to actually doubt your own judgement. I thought that would never happen to you because you hold such strong faith in your own opinions."

Nodding her head, Sophia said, "Well, it really depends. When it comes to rejecting the idea of getting married to you again, I'm quite determined with my decision. Other than that, it's all negotiable."

In the next second, John was speechless.

The moment William left, both of them casually walked back to the house.

Standing at the yard, Matilda saw John and Sophia walking back. "If he's not leaving, the both of you plan to spend the night elsewhere?" Matilda grinned.

Giggling, Sophia teased, "If that happens, I certainly don't mind spending the night elsewhere."

"Bah!" said Matilda playfully while darting a glare at Sophia.

Chuckling, Sophia let go of John and reached out for Matilda's arm.

"Take a good look at yourself. If you didn't want him to leave, you should have asked him to stay. Did you say something which is contrary to your heart's desire?"

Gazing at their backs from behind, John smiled broadly.

Though he knew he wasn't supposed to think that way, he still couldn't help but imagine—if only Sophia and Matilda's relationship was as harmonious as it was now, his life would be more than perfect.

The next day, John went to meet William in his office, as William often arrived much earlier than him.

Once they were both in the room, John gazed at William. "What's wrong? You didn't have a good rest yesterday?"

"Yep, I didn't get a good sleep last night, but it's alright. I'll take a quick nap when I'm free later. So what brings you here?"

Nodding his head, John said, "I was wondering if we can assign someone else to replace me as the person in charge to deal with the Baileys. Considering my current status, I don't think it's appropriate for me to approach them too much."

After thinking about it, William agreed, "To be honest with you, I actually thought of asking you to step down from it, but I was afraid that you'll misunderstand me for not trusting you. Anyway, since you have proposed it yourself, let's proceed to assign someone else, then."

Looking up at John, William asked, "Who do you think will be suitable for this post?"

Upon contemplating for a moment, John suggested, "Dylan?"

"That will work. Dylan doesn't have much on his plate now, so he'll be great for this post."

When a sudden thought crossed his mind, William asked, "Lately, Dylan had been on several blind dates, but none of them were successful, and Owen was driven up to the wall."

Surprised, John wasn't aware of what had been going on with Dylan. Ever since Sophia got pregnant with his child, Dylan was officially ticked off from his list of rivals in love. Regardless of the feelings Dylan had for Sophia, both of them were not meant to be, so John was no longer bothered about it.

Hearing that, John grinned. "Is Uncle Owen a little too anxious? When it comes to this matter, I don't

reckon we can rush things. I say, it's rather common to have unsuccessful blind dates."

With a sigh, William said, "Who knows? Both Owen and Jennifer seem very anxious about this matter. It seems as though they're hoping that Dylan will settle down immediately. If you ask me, I think they have gotten overboard with this, which is why Dylan isn't too pleased and is acting out of rebellion."

Since it was still early, John pulled a chair over and took a seat. "What happened to all the men in our family? It seems like things are never going our way."

Speaking of the devil, William suddenly thought of Yolanda.

Unsure what had gotten with Yolanda last night, she hailed a taxi to the Constance Residence and waited for him to return at the entrance.

Frankly, this was the first time William had encountered such a thing, thus didn't have any clue on how to deal with it.

Wasn't that a little too bold for a woman to do such a thing?

Previously, when he and Matilda got together, he was always the one who took the lead.

The Returning Ex Chapter 749

Like any other normal couple, William would pamper Matilda, and she would just enjoy being doted on.

Frankly, William wasn't used to meeting a woman who was this bold.

Standing at the entrance of the Constance Residence, they shared a brief conversation together.

In a straightforward manner, Yolanda confessed that she liked him, and in fact, had liked him ever since.

However, she didn't dare to approach him because he was married. Since he had officially divorced now, Yolanda felt that she could be open in confessing her love for him and no longer needed to hide.

From what he remembered, Yolanda was still the same as before—straightforward and direct with her speech and actions.

Many years ago, both of them had met on a blind date. At the end of their meeting, Yolanda said she would need some time to think it through.

Not long later, William realized that she had married another person instead.

When he questioned Yolanda's decision, she didn't hesitate to point out the fact that the person had better conditions than him.

Not surprised, she had always been the down-to-earth person he knew.

Rubbing on his temples, William agreed, "Indeed, what's our problem anyway?"

Without saying much later, John proceeded to his room as there was still work to be done after all.

The moment John took his seat, Zack walked into his room.

From the willy look on his face, John reckoned Zack probably had some new updates.

With his brows snapped together, John gazed at Zack.

As soon as the office door behind him was closed, Zack moved closer toward John and reported, "Boss, about Roselia, something happened yesterday."

"What was it?" asked John.

Taking out his phone, Zack showed John a video which was approximately a minute more.

In the video, there were several people, which included men and women.

At first, they were sitting in pairs and acted all lovey-dovey, kissing as well as fondling one another. A

while later, they were probably getting a little high, so one of them took out something.

Initially, John didn't know what it was, as it looked like little bottles. Displaying all of the bottles on the coffee table, everyone started to gather around. Someone had their backs facing the camera, so it wasn't able to capture the full picture.

Besides the motion images, even their conversation was recorded, as one of them could be heard saying the purity of the product was much higher this time, which would give a nice, mellow high.

Hearing that, John understood what it was right away.

Casting a glance at Zack, John asked, "Are they the people from the shadow bank?"

Without hesitation, Zack nodded. "Yes. Rosalie tagged along with one of them and went to the place where they often gathered. Rosalie is indeed impressive. In such a short period of time, she managed to make it into that place."

Thinking about it, John asked, "All of them who were there, did they touch that stuff?"

Shaking his head, Zack replied, "Rosalie didn't. They are planning to make money out of it, so they won't just let anyone have a go with it."

Upon hearing that, John felt relief. "How's Husky doing?"

"About Husky the henchman, he's good at bootlicking, quick-witted, and quite versatile, so he's doing well overall. Recently, I've heard that he no longer needs to go around collecting debts anymore. All he needs to do is look through the list of debtors and arrange for people to collect debts. Other than that, there's nothing much he needs to do. I say, he's basically living a leisure life," reported Zack.

John hummed an acknowledgment. "I'm not too worried about Husky. I don't think there'll be anything

too serious. Then again, do warn him not to touch those things.”

With that, Zack took in John’s every instruction.

After they had finished discussing their next move, Zack left the room.

At the same time, Dylan walked in.

It had been a while since John had seen Dylan, as he had been busy in the office.

Besides, they rarely bumped into each other, and the only time they ever saw one another was down the corridor at a distance.

After work, John would immediately go off to meet Sophia, so there was no chance of running into

Dylan.

The Returning Ex Chapter 750

The moment Dylan walked in, he sat down on the chair across from John. “I’ve heard about the Baileys.

Why do you not want to deal with them yourself?”

Reaching out for the file on the table, John said, “Not exactly. I’ve been too occupied lately and can’t oversee everything.”

With a smirk, Dylan asked, “What happened? Did you have an argument with Miss Bailey or something?”

“Of course not,” denied John without sparing Dylan a glance. “Why would I argue with her? We’re business partners, after all. A cordial relationship is crucial for more wealth to come.”

Pressing his lips together, Dylan said, “I certainly don’t mind accepting this job. As for the Baileys, I’m afraid they may not be pleased. I’m sure someone will contact you once I’ve informed them about this arrangement.”

Chuckling, John said, “Mind you, I’m not sold to their family. It’s just a simple reshuffling within our

company, so we don't really need to care about what they have to say."

Saying that, John cast a quick glance at Dylan. "I've heard that your blind dates didn't go too well."

Leaning against the chair, Dylan stared at John. "Not everyone of us is as lucky as you are."

Confused, John asked, "Me? Lucky?"

Dylan nodded. "At least from what I see, you're one lucky fella."

Pursing his lips, John didn't delve into the meaning of that sentence.

"Come to think of it, I do have the devil's luck."

Smiling, John advised, "Anyway, you really shouldn't be that picky.

Who knows, sometimes, marrying

someone you're not familiar with might end up being the best decision you've ever made."

With the corner of his mouth curved up, Dylan gazed at John.

"Marrying someone unknown? The reason

you're saying this is because you've met the right person. Put yourself in my shoes—without knowing

what the future holds, I bet you'll make the same decision as I do."

Pressing his lips into a thin line, John blurted, "Probably."

Who knew? Perhaps he would turn them down directly.

At the beginning, when Matilda was arranging his marriage with

Isabelle, he had tried to know more

about Isabelle from indirect sources and even inquired about the Bailey Family. In the end, he had

agreed to the arranged marriage because he felt that her conditions seemed acceptable.

Not long after, when Old Mr. Constance chucked Sophia at his face, he was totally against it.

In regards to relationships, it was always easier to give advice than to take it. When it happened to

oneself, it would most likely tell a different story.

Rising from his seat, Dylan looked as if he was about to turn and leave, but hesitated. "About you and Sophia, how are things now? You haven't been back in the Constance Residence for a while, and I've heard that..."

Pausing for a moment, Dylan continued, "I've heard that you've got back together again?"

Hearing that, John's eyebrow twitched. Got back together again? he thought.

Probably not. Sophia is only giving me a second chance to make up for my mistakes, and it also depends on my performance. Sadly, she never agreed to marry me again. No plans for remarriage means she doesn't belong to me, which also means that we aren't officially back together again.

Staring at Dylan's back, John thought about it and replied, "Yes, we're back together again."

Nodding his head, Dylan walked toward the door and chuckled. "That's great. It's a good thing for people in love to be able to get back together again."

With that, he left the room and closed the door behind him.

Not knowing whether it was because of Dylan's strength or it was because of the wind, but the door was shut with a louder thud than usual.

Looking heavenward, John couldn't help but sneer.

Once Dylan returned to his room, he had probably contacted the Baileys to communicate on the reshuffling arrangements, and although it wasn't clear what they had discussed, John received a call from Isabelle a short while later.

Looking at the phone screen, John frowned.

Back then, he always thought Isabelle was someone with etiquette and had a sense of propriety.

The Returning Ex Chapter 751

As of now, John started to notice the annoying side of her. Clearly, he had been quite frank with her, but she chose to be ignorant of the situation. Annoyed by her continuous pestering, John was beginning to feel a flicker of irritation.

Feeling reluctant to answer the call, John waited for a little while longer. Once the line was connected, Isabelle's voice sounded from the phone. "John, I've heard of the changes within the Constance Group. Is it true that Young Master Dylan will handle our orders from now on?"

"I guess Dylan has contacted your company about it. I have a lot on my plate lately, so from today onward, he will be handling all matters with your company. Considering your company usually places bulk orders, it'll be better for both sides if there is a person in charge to oversee everything."

Lowering her voice, Isabelle muttered, "John, is it because of me?" With his brows knitted together, John chided, "What about you? We're business partners. I'm not someone who will allow anyone to affect my work." Obviously, there was a sudden change in his tone, and John sounded cross.

Hearing that, Isabelle didn't utter a word. Unwilling to go on with this matter, John concluded, "That's all I can say. Miss Bailey, I need to get busy now, so if you have any work-related matters, feel free to approach Zack. He'll be helping out with all the handovers, so don't worry. It won't affect your order delivery at all." Without waiting for a reply from Isabelle, John hung up the phone.

Putting his phone aside, John had a frosty look on his face, and he couldn't help but grumble, "How

annoying.”

After the call in the morning, John had been busy with work. When it was around noon, he grabbed his coat and took the elevator downstairs. On his way driving toward Sophia’s place, the traffic was a little heavy. When he stopped at the traffic light, his fingers were lightly tapping on the steering wheel without following a specific rhythm.

Following his usual habits, John gazed at the rear-view mirror and noticed something odd—in the lane next to his, there was a car situated about two cars behind him. Strangely, the window of the passenger seat was wound down, and a person stuck his head out, as though he was trying to catch a glimpse of something.

John couldn’t exactly tell whether that person was really looking toward his direction, but his behavior did seem kind of suspicious. In any case, regardless of whatever he was looking at, that certainly was a rather strange behavior. After giving some thoughts, John stuck his head out of the window and looked toward that person’s direction. Almost instantly, the person got back into the car and wound up the car window.

With a smirk on his face, John reckoned the person had failed to remain calm. In fact, John had checked on the rear-view mirror every so often—if there was a car tailing after him right from the start, he would have noticed. However, these people were probably experts, so there might be more than one car who took turns to follow after him.

Once the traffic light turned green, John took off. Without trying to get rid of the car behind him, John

drove at his usual speed, all the way to Sophia's place. At the same time, the car had followed after him and only drove off when it reached the entrance of the housing estate. As soon as John got out of the car, he called up his men. Upon reporting the car plate number, John commanded a thorough investigation on who was behind it. With that, he went into the house.

While Sophia and Matilda were having lunch, both were surprised to see John back this early. Taking his own set of cutlery, John exclaimed, "I just know that I can make it on time for lunch."

Gazing at him, Sophia asked, "Why are you back at this hour?" Darting a glance from Sophia to her belly, John blurted, "I'm back to see my son."

"Pfft." Sophia pulled a long face.

The Returning Ex Chapter 752

Laughing out loud, Matilda teased, "What a lousy excuse! You can just tell Sophia that you missed her.

Why are you being this shy?"

Chuckling, John said, "Actually, I thought she knew."

Without uttering a word, Sophia continued with her meal.

In the midst of lunch, John received a call. Previously, he had sent his subordinates a phone number, asking them to do a thorough background check on the person. As of now, they finally had some new findings.

Upon thinking about it, John walked out of the dining room.

Surprised, Matilda grumbled, "Is it even necessary to go out and answer the call? This fella, is he hiding something?"

With a snort, Sophia sneered, "He's probably chatting with some lady and is afraid that we will overhear

it.”

Glancing at Sophia, Matilda was speechless, but played along by nodding her head. “You’re probably right! That lady might be pregnant with his son, too. I’ll drill him later! That scumbag, don’t even think of giving him a second chance!” After a while, Sophia smiled.

Meanwhile, John was listening to his subordinates’ report. That phone number belonged to a housewife, and due to the fact that she wasn’t from this city, it took a while for them to track her down. For the purpose of gathering more information, they deliberately paid a visit to the place she stayed to understand the person better. They even sent a picture of the woman to John. Beside that, they mentioned that the woman lived together with her husband and daughter. Living at the borders between the city and countryside, their family conditions weren’t too well off. According to one of their neighbors, their family wasn’t that harmonious, as they could often hear them quarreling every other day. Then again, their neighbor was surprised to find out that these days, the whole family had turned all happy and harmonious, as if something good had happened. Without knowing her actual identity, his subordinates were only doing what they could to investigate her current situation, but her background was still unknown. After all, they were only given a short period of time. Apparently, this marriage was her second marriage. Without any friends and relatives, she came to live

in this place all by herself. Hence, his subordinates had yet to investigate her background and where she was originally from. If John was not in a hurry, they would continue to do a thorough background check on her.

Frankly, John wasn't too curious about what had happened to the woman in the past, so he rejected the offer and said, "This information is sufficient."

After giving orders to his subordinates to return and pull out from the investigation, John hung up the phone.

Taking a good look at the photo which was captured furtively, John noticed that the woman was doing grocery shopping.

From the photo, she looked ordinary and overall carefree.

Perhaps he was warped by his selfish motives, but John enlarged the photo and felt that the woman didn't quite look like Sophia.

Putting them together, it would be absurd to believe that they were blood-related.

After thinking it through, John deleted the picture and just stood there, holding his phone in his hands.

Once Sophia was done gobbling up her meal, she walked out of the dining room.

Standing in the living room, she gazed at John. The man was no longer talking on the phone but was seen standing there, contemplating something unbeknownst to her.

Walking toward him, Sophia stood right next to John. "What's wrong? Aren't you going to finish up your meal?"

Turning around to glance at Sophia, John opened his arms to embrace her. "You're done already? That's quick."

Trying to release herself, Sophia nodded. "Not really. It's just that you took longer than usual to finish

your call.”

Pausing for a moment, she continued, “What’s wrong? Who’s that on the phone? You don’t look good.”

Smiling, John joked, “Really? I thought I looked good. Anyway, it was nothing.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 753

With her brows knitted together, Sophia gave John a meaningful glance.

“You looked kind of upset.”

Pinching her face, John grinned. “Nonsense. I look happy whenever I see you.”

Just then, something crossed his mind. “Don’t wander off on your own for these few days. If you need anything, I’ll send someone over to get it for you. I was followed when I was on the way back just now.

They didn’t do anything, so I’m not sure what they were up to.”

Shocked, Sophia asked, “You were followed during broad daylight? What were they planning to do?”

Letting out a sigh, John said, “I’m not sure whether they were after me or you. Just in case, you’d better not wander off on your own and stay at home. Let me know if you need anything. I’ll send someone over.”

Placing her hands on her belly, Sophia nodded obediently.

At times, she might be stubborn, but this time, she had to listen to him.

She was no longer on her own,

as she had to bear a mother’s responsibility.

Holding Sophia in his arms, John said, “Let’s go. I need to finish my meal.”

As soon as they reached the dining hall, Matilda had just finished her dinner, but she looked kind of

enervated. When she saw both of them coming over, she excused herself, and went upstairs to rest for a bit.

Once Matilda had gone upstairs, Sophia remarked, "Since this morning, Madam Flintstone seemed rather lifeless. I don't know what's gotten into her."

Darting a glance at the staircase, John said, "I guess I'd better send my Dad a text about it. Honestly, I don't know whether they intend to start all over again or start going their separate ways."

With a sigh, Sophia commented, "I don't know about your dad, but for Madam Flintstone, I have a feeling that she's not over it yet. As their son, you really ought to do something about it."

Gazing downward from Sophia's face to her belly, John felt that to a certain degree, his child and him shared the same fate.

Once Matilda got upstairs, she lay on bed, not feeling too well. Confused, she didn't understand why she was feeling nauseous and even had the urge to puke.

With her eyes shut, Matilda felt a sense of emptiness within her. In a daze, she fell asleep and didn't even notice when John had left. By the time Matilda woke up, it was already evening.

After getting up, she had a quick wash. Taking her phone, she saw a message from William. In it, he mentioned he had heard from John that she wasn't feeling well, and was asking whether she had gotten better.

Feeling reluctant to reply, Matilda pretended she didn't see it. When she got downstairs, she saw Sophia sitting on the couch, and there were some snacks on the coffee table.

Holding a box of popcorn, Sophia was happily watching television with her phone placed at the side.

Walking toward her, Matilda told her, "Can you snack healthily? Eat more fruits."

Passing the box popcorn to Matilda, Sophia teased, "You've slept like a log! Are you pregnant too?"

Hearing that, Matilda gave a friendly slap on Sophia's shoulder. "What nonsense! I can see that you're getting too comfortable with me now, huh? You're no longer holding back."

"Mmh. It's going to be dinner soon. Considering that you've slept through the entire afternoon, you're going to get indigestion. Do you think you can still eat later?" Sophia said, her eyes set on the television.

Leaning against the sofa, Matilda sighed and didn't reply.

A while later, John came back from work. Stretching her neck to get a quick glimpse at the door, Sophia

noticed that William didn't come over with John.

Feeling disappointed, Sophia ignored John and walked toward the dining hall with her lips pursed.

On the other hand, Matilda had lost her appetite, so she decided to skip her meal.

Gazing at John, she said, "You go ahead and have dinner. I've taken a long nap, so I figure I should go out for a walk."

The Returning Ex Chapter 754

After staring at Matilda for a moment, John nodded. "Sure. I can tell that you're not in good shape. Go out for a walk then."

In her casual clothes, Matilda gave her hair a quick fix and headed out.

Heading to the dining hall, John took the seat opposite of Sophia.

"What's the matter? Are you feeling blue?"

"Indeed. I just don't get what your dad is thinking. He came over two days ago, and it seemed like his

attitude was genuine, but today, he is nowhere to be seen. Did you see the look on your mom's face just now? She hasn't been herself these two days, and he is to be blamed," Sophia complained.

Picking up the utensils, John said, "Well, it's really up to them, and I don't think we should intervene.

Besides, they are grownups. They know very well how to handle this on their own, so don't let it get you down."

Remaining silent, Sophia was still not pleased.

"Do you keep in contact with Dylan?" asked John abruptly.

Surprised, Sophia asked, "Dylan? Isn't he your brother? Why will I contact him?"

Lowering his gaze, John said, "I see."

"What do you suspect this time?" Sophia questioned as she rolled her eyes at him.

To that, John said, "Nothing much. I met him today. He seems to have quite a high opinion of you."

With a smirk, Sophia sneered. "Well, he's not blind. Anyone with brains will think highly of me."

Letting out a heavy sigh, John knew she was firing at him.

With that, both of them didn't continue with the topic. After eating too many snacks, Sophia didn't have a good appetite, so she just took a few mouthfuls. Even so, she still sat around and accompanied him till he finished his meal.

Without saying much, they cleaned up the dishes together and went out for a stroll.

As usual, John would hold Sophia's hand. Suddenly, he said, "Do you know? Initially, Grandpa didn't plan for us to get married."

Hearing that, Sophia wasn't surprised at all and just had a smile on her face.

Dumbfounded, John stared at Sophia. "You knew about it?"

Taking in a deep breath, Sophia gazed at the road before her. "I knew after we divorced."

In fact, no one told her about it. There was once when she sat in the garden, and she overheard the conversation between Dylan and his mother.

Both of them were too engaged in their conversation, so they didn't notice her at all. As a result, they shared many things without restraint.

At first, she was quite shocked to know that the initial plan was for her to marry Dylan.

However, because Dylan wasn't interested, she was asked to marry John instead.

At that moment, Sophia came to realize the reason why John resented her so much. At the same time, she began to understand him a little bit more.

Pressing his lips together, John noticed the blank expression on Sophia's face, so he opened up to her.

"At the beginning, Grandpa wanted you to marry Dylan, because already I had an engagement. Since Uncle Samuel and Uncle Edward were overseas, Dylan was the only one who was a suitable match."

"But Dylan is not willing," Sophia interjected.

After giving it some thought, John explained, "Not entirely. It's mostly because Uncle Owen and Aunt Jennifer were against it."

Nodding her head, Sophia muttered, "From what I see, there's not much difference."

Heaving a sigh, John went on, "Dylan is very obedient. Knowing that both Uncle Owen and Aunt Jennifer were against it, he had rejected the marriage right away. Grandpa had no other way, so he chose me."

Chuckling, Sophia didn't know what she was supposed to feel, but she said, "What a pity! Your perfect engagement got ruined."

Clenching her hand tightly, John confessed, "To be honest with you, I was upset in the beginning, but that was because of Dylan. It had nothing to do with letting go of my engagement with Isabelle. Enough said! Sophia, don't you know how I feel about you?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 755

Putting on a half-smile, Sophia didn't answer his question directly but said, "Back then, if you'd really got together with Isabelle, you'd probably live a happy life. Isabelle seems like an understanding woman and would be very submissive toward you. Your feelings for her would surely grow."

Standing still, John turned to face Sophia and stopped her from walking further.

Noticing the indifferent expression on her face, John told her in a serious manner, "In this world, there's no such thing as if. I've married you and fallen in love with you. This is reality now. There's no point thinking about what could have happened. Sophia, are you bothered by the past? How can you possibly be sure that Isabelle and I will end up happy? Back then, you were really submissive to me too, but I still didn't feel comfortable with you. Would it be any different if it was Isabelle? You're being really unfair to me."

Seeing that Sophia didn't say anything, John sighed. "Sophia, you need to know this—I only have you in my heart. Seriously, I don't feel secure at all knowing that you're thinking of those unnecessary things."

Feeling amused, Sophia almost couldn't hold in her laughter.

It was surprising to know that John would actually feel insecure as well. In regards to relationships, she thought only women needed a sense of security.

A few seconds later, Sophia impatiently acknowledged what he said. "Fine. Got it."

Slowly pulling her into a hug, John confessed, "Sometimes, I really don't know what to do with you."

What to do with me? Spoil me rotten then. What else? Sophia thought. After taking a stroll around their area, both of them went home, but Matilda was still not back yet.

Glancing at the time, Sophia said, "It's not exactly early anymore, but Madam Flintstone is still not back yet. Where could she have gone?"

Darting a side glance at the clock, John suggested, "Let's wait for a little while longer. She's probably in a really bad mood."

As soon as Ms. Cannon was done cleaning up, Sophia and John waited for Matilda while watching television.

Meanwhile, Matilda apparently didn't wander off too far.

Coincidentally, she bumped into someone, and they sat down in a cafe for a little chat.

In fact, Matilda wasn't too surprised when Yolanda would come over to see her again.

Matilda was well aware that Yolanda was really fond of William.

However, for these past few days,

William had been spending a tad bit more time than usual with Matilda instead.

Clearly, Yolanda didn't feel secure about it, so it was understandable that she would come all the way here just to understand the situation better.

Then again, the situation now had become rather amusing.

Matilda thought back to that time when she was still Mrs. Constance, she would often confront Yolanda boldly.

Now, the tables were turned. What an irony indeed.

Sitting down at one of the tables, both of them actually had their meals already, but they still proceeded to order some snacks.

As always, Yolanda was being straightforward. She said, "I know it's rather sudden for you to meet me abruptly, but after contemplating things again and again, I decided to do so. I apologize if this makes you uncomfortable."

Noticing Yolanda's sense of propriety, Matilda couldn't help but feel a flush creeping up her face.

Her attitude and behavior in the past was just plain terrible in comparison with Yolanda's manners.

Immediately, Matilda replied, "Not at all. Please don't think that way, because I don't feel any discomfort. Actually, I sort of expected you'll come one day."

With a smile on her face, Yolanda said, "Actually, I think I didn't do a good job in hiding my feelings. I

think anyone can easily tell. It just so happens that William didn't seem to get the hint."

Passing Matilda a cup of tea, Yolanda went on to say, "Back then, there wasn't anything between William

and I. He took care of me, all because I was injured and alone, so he took pity on me. Other than that,

there was nothing else. He is a magnanimous gentleman."

Lowering her voice, Yolanda then confessed, "But I started to have feelings for him. This is true and I don't wish to hide it from you."

The Returning Ex Chapter 756

With an expression that showed her clear conscience, Yolanda gazed at Matilda. "That time, both of you

weren't divorced. I hid my feelings to myself and I swear I had never pestered him or done anything that crossed the line, prior to your divorce."

Judging from her expression, Matilda truly believed in every word she said.

Then again, it also made her feel worse about her past self for being so mean toward Yolanda.

Thus, Matilda could only mumble her acknowledgement and remained silent.

Letting out a sigh, Yolanda explained, "Now that you're divorced, I think I have the right to stand up and confess my love for him. I can even boldly do something for him. Sophia, I wish to make this clear—I'm not the one who ruined your marriage."

Taking in a deep breath, Matilda agreed with her. "You're not. I know that."

Indeed, Matilda knew very well that the end of their marriage had nothing to do with Yolanda—it was all because of herself.

Then, Matilda lifted her head to gaze at Yolanda. "Anyway, the fact that you're here today means that there must be something else you wish to tell me, right?"

After a moment of hesitation, Yolanda's expression changed.

Meanwhile, Matilda took a sip of her tea, but upon remembering that it wouldn't be a good idea to drink tea at night, she placed the cup back onto the table.

Lowering her gaze, Yolanda opened up to her. "You're right. There's something else I wish to tell you."

Drawing in a long breath, Yolanda lifted her chin to gaze at Matilda. "I love William, and I wish to be

together with him. Matilda, there was a problem in your previous marriage, which is why it has resulted in this state. If you plan to get together with him again, the problem will still exist. So, can you please keep him at arm's length?"

Knowing the fact she was in no position to say that, Yolanda found it exceptionally difficult to spill the beans.

With a calm expression, Matilda stared at Yolanda. If it was her in the past, Matilda thought she would probably flip the table over by now.

"Actually, you should say this to William, because I had never taken the initiative to meet with him. If you're saying that we're being too close to one another, I think I still have freedom to do so. After all, both of you aren't officially together yet. Besides, you need to understand that William is the one who's taking the lead, not me."

Feeling defeated, Yolanda gazed at Matilda. "I know that. But if you don't have any feelings for William, I was hoping you will avoid or push him aside when he goes near you. After all..."

"I did," Matilda interjected.

Looking at Yolanda's dumbfounded expression, Matilda took in a deep breath and confessed, "I do have feelings for William, and probably deeper than before. Admittedly, I'm the one who caused the divorce, but it was never my intention. If it's possible, I still wish to get back together with him again."

At this point, Yolanda seemed to have run out of words.

Sitting up straight, Matilda declared, "I understand why you're here today. Then again, I wonder how I should put this—let's just say it's a fair competition between you and me now. Previously, I may have

had an advantage, but now that it's gone, I'll just try my best. Don't worry. In the end, if he chose to be together with you, I'll still give my blessings."

Hearing that, Yolanda didn't know what to say.

Glancing at the time, Matilda said, "It's late. I'd better get going. Otherwise, John and Sophia will be worried."

Taking her phone, Matilda stood up and bobbed her head toward Yolanda. After paying the bill, she walked out of the cafe with her chin lifted up high.

Fortunately, this cafe wasn't too far off from where they lived, so she could walk slowly.

On the way back, Matilda felt her heart sink gradually. Though she had put on a poker face, she was in fact feeling overwhelmed inside.

The Returning Ex Chapter 757

Considering that Yolanda had made up her mind and made it all the way here, Matilda wasn't confident in herself at all now that she had to go against the other woman. Standing at the yard outside, Matilda gazed into the house, wherein John and Sophia were watching television in the living room. Sophia was seen roaring with laughter, and she sounded even louder than the television, while John gazed gently at Sophia with a warm smile on his face.

At that sight, Matilda stopped abruptly and took in this scene. If she had treated Sophia better, Sophia and John would probably still end up like this. Also, William and herself might not have ended up divorced, and obviously, there wouldn't be anyone else who would compete against her for William. A while later, Matilda entered the house and looked at the both of them. "It's late. Aren't you both going

upstairs to rest?”

The moment Sophia saw that Matilda was back, she immediately turned toward her. “Where were you?

We thought of going out to look for you.”

Shrugging, Matilda said, “Nowhere. I was just walking about. The streets get quite busy during the night.

”

Hearing that, Sophia looked out the window, but obviously, she didn’t see anything special.

With a grunt, Sophia stood up. “Anyway, those don’t interest me.

Besides, I’m not a fan of crowded

places, so I’m better off staying at home.”

“Once this is settled, you can go out as you please,” John said as he rose up from his seat too.

As a matter of fact, Sophia really meant it when she said she wasn’t particularly interested in anything.

Based on her current mood, she would rather laze the day away.

Tapping lightly on her shoulders, John told her, “It’s late. Let’s go upstairs.”

Turning toward Matilda, Sophia said, “You’d better rest early too, and take care of yourself. Don’t think of anything unnecessary.”

Hearing that, Matilda smiled. “Alright. Hurry up and get some sleep.”

Humming a little tune, Sophia went upstairs.

Sitting down at the couch, Matilda couldn’t help but think of the way Sophia nagged her just now, which made her look very much like a real mother.

Frankly, this lady was a good person overall. In fact, Sophia was way better than she

thought—outspoken, kind-hearted, and even had a sense of propriety.

Leaning against the chair, Matilda took in a deep breath.

The next morning, when Sophia woke up, John was no longer at home.

Feeling a little lazy, she didn't want to move out of the bed and planned to idle away by lying on the bed.

Not long later, Sophia heard voices coming from the yard, and it seemed like a big crowd.

Rolling out of bed, Sophia walked toward the window and saw a few cars parked at the front of their house.

There were also a few people standing in the yard.

At the sight, she hissed before immediately going for a quick wash up. Fabian, that rascal! Did he actually inform Old Mrs. Blackwell about it? Still, Sophia didn't think that would be the case since Fabian didn't seem like the type who would talk unnecessarily.

The moment Sophia was done washing up, Matilda walked in.

In a lowered voice, Matilda told her, "Sophia, you'd better go down now. The Blackwells are here."

Putting on her clothes, Sophia asked, "Why are they here? They know I'm pregnant?"

Matilda nodded. "Of course. They've brought so many things, and they said it was all for you and the baby."

With a grin, Sophia whined, "Oh God, it's so intimidating, I simply can't handle this."

Leaning against the door, Matilda teased her by saying, "I guess nothing can be done now. They are all here because of you, so you'd better brace yourself."

Darting a side glance at Matilda, Sophia questioned, "Why do I have a feeling that you're taking pleasure in my misery?"

Matilda admitted it. "I hate to tell you this, but you're right. I'm actually bubbling inside. You've always been carefree, which is why I really can't wait to see the look on your face later."

Gritting her teeth, Sophia glowered at her. "Just you wait and see!"

Once Sophia was done dressing up, she immediately went downstairs.

The Returning Ex Chapter 758

Not only the matriarch of the Blackwell Family came, but also the Mistress of the Third Blackwell Family and several other ladies of the same family. Moreover, Old Mrs. Constance was also here.

The living room was full of commotion. Standing at the top of the stairs on the second floor, Sophia's mind buzzed when she looked at the goings-on below.

Matilda, who was beside her, patted her on the shoulder. "Warrior, come. To the battlefield you go!"

Sophia went slowly down the stairs. "Old Mrs. Blackwell, you're here." Old Mrs. Blackwell looked at Sophia, then she hurriedly said, "Do come down slowly. Take your time and don't rush."

Sophia's belly was still flat and wasn't showing anything. Thus, her movements were not affected at all.

Seeing Old Mrs. Blackwell acting like this, Sophia felt a little helpless. Then, she went over and greeted the Mistress of the Third Blackwell Family politely.

Not bothering to be subtle, that lady glanced at Sophia's belly and chided, "Look at you. Why didn't you tell us about such joyful news?"

Sophia smiled. "It's still quite early, so I didn't say anything. I wanted to tell everyone when everything's more certain."

Old Mrs. Blackwell reached out a hand to Sophia, who quickly went over to her. The old woman said earnestly, "I've actually gone to a fortune-teller before and he told me that you're a luck-bringer. This child will be a lucky one as well; I'm sure of it."

Sophia chuckled, not knowing what to reply. This kind of 'fortune' might have been said to appease the old woman, and Sophia felt that most people would not believe it.

Old Mrs. Constance chimed in, "Yes, the Great Master's prophecies will never be wrong."

Sophia continued to chuckle at that. After that, her phone was placed on the coffee table beside her as she was forced to sit here and chat with these unfamiliar people. Only after a while did Sophia's phone vibrate loudly on the coffee table. Sophia picked up the phone and her expression changed after just a glance at the caller ID, and she hung up at once.

Next to her, the two old women were still discussing pregnancy matters. When they saw what Sophia did, they were taken aback. Old Mrs. Constance asked, "What's going on? Sophia, why didn't you answer the call?"

Sophia smiled as she put the phone in her pocket. "It was just a harassing call. That's all."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded without thinking much about it, but after a while, the phone vibrated again.

Sophia pursed her lips, looking a little upset. Then, she stood up and said, "Please carry on. I'll go out for a bit to answer it."

Holding the phone, Sophia went to the courtyard and answered the call. A woman's laugh came from the other side of the call at once. "Soph, are you very busy? Why didn't you answer the phone?"

Sophia suppressed her volume, but her tone was exasperated when she replied, "Since you know that I'm busy and I can't answer the phone, why did you call me over and over again?"

The woman paused as if she was feeling awkward, but it was only a few seconds before she laughed

again. “You didn’t speak the last time I called you. Your sister didn’t hear your voice then, so she missed you. We’re hoping to talk to you now.”

Sophia immediately told her, “I don’t have a sister. Besides, I’ve told you this many times before. We have nothing to do with each other, so don’t bother me again.” The woman’s voice became quiet. “Soph, don’t say this. My heart aches at that.”

Who cares if your heart aches? Sophia’s voice was frosty. “Let me tell you that I know what you’re thinking about. Don’t think for a moment that nobody knows what you and Walter are planning. Dream on! I’ll never recognize you as my family.”

The voice on the other side sounded heavier. “Soph, I’m your mother. How could you talk to me like that?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 759

Sophia sneered. “I don’t have a mother. My mother died a long time ago. In this world, I don’t have any relatives. Not even one. They’re all dead.”

The woman on the other side seemed to be affected by the word ‘dead’. In a cold voice, she replied,

“Great, just great. Since you’re acting this way, then don’t blame us for what’s to come.”

Look, doesn’t this sound much better than before? Why are you putting on an act anyway? Isn’t it good to be true to yourself?

Sophia hung up the phone. Then, she simply stood there trying to recollect her emotions. Otherwise, the others would know that something was wrong with her as soon as she entered the house.

Thus, Sophia stood there for a long while. Before she could recover her wits completely, someone placed

a hand on her shoulder.

Matilda was standing behind her. Her voice was low and gentle as she asked, "What's the matter? Who called you? Is it someone you don't like?"

Sophia looked back at Matilda, pursing her lips. "Yeah. It's someone I don't like."

Matilda glanced at Sophia. "If there's any trouble, just tell us. We're here for you."

Shaking her head, Sophia then said, "It's not a big deal."

Matilda sighed. "Well, you've always had a mind of your own. You should know how to handle it best, so I won't press you anymore."

The two stood there for a while before returning to the living room. Indeed, the two old women were highly observant. Although Sophia tried to hide her emotions as best as she could, they still noticed something was up.

Old Mrs. Constance smiled at her. "Sophia, come over and tell me what's the matter. Why are you so unhappy?"

Sophia tried her best to make herself look normal. "I'm okay. I'm just a little tired. There's nothing else."

Matilda suddenly remembered that Sophia hadn't had a meal yet, so she quickly asked Ms. Cannon to get the latter something to eat.

On the other hand, Old Mrs. Constance stared at Sophia for a long time, but she didn't press her further.

At noon, John returned home. The group of people hadn't left yet because Matilda told them to stay for lunch.

As soon as John came in, he looked around and asked, "Where's Sophia?"

Matilda snorted. "Oh wow, you're looking for your wife first the moment you come in. There are so many people here, yet none are as important as your wife." Smiling, John continued, "Is she upstairs? Has she gone to bed?" Old Mrs. Constance replied, "Come, sit here and talk with us for a while. She looked a little tired, so let her go and have a rest first. We'll call her when lunch's ready." John thought about it for a moment, then he said, "I'll go up and take a look."

Old Mrs. Blackwell laughed. "I've never seen John acting like this. I suppose that even heroes fall for beautiful women."

John didn't bother to argue with her, for he simply smiled and went straight upstairs.

Sophia was lying on the bed, looking like she was asleep. Striding over, John tried to keep his movements as soundless as possible. He sat down beside Sophia and touched her hair, which made her immediately open her eyes.

John leaned over and asked, "Did I wake you up?"

Sophia didn't move. Instead, she just lay there, blinking up at him. "No."

Instinctively, John had a feeling that Sophia was upset about something. He thought for a minute before asking, "Are you not sleeping well? It must be the noise downstairs." Sophia simply repeated, "No."

John was now certain that Sophia was indeed in a bad mood. Thus, he asked softly, "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

Sophia closed her eyes and stopped talking this time. When he saw that, John gently left a kiss on her face before saying, "You should sleep for a while. I'll wake you when lunch is ready."

Covering Sophia with a quilt, he then went out of the room.

After shutting the door softly, he did not go downstairs but took his phone out and made a call.

The Returning Ex Chapter 760

The other person picked up quickly, and John told him, "Help me check the call log of a number."

He reported Sophia's number to the other party, who immediately agreed to the job.

Hanging up the phone, John stood there for a while before going downstairs. He was better at putting on an act than Sophia. Upon reaching the top of the stairs, a smile was already on his face.

The atmosphere downstairs was already pretty lively. When John came down, it became even better.

After all, he had a good sense of humor and was great at livening up the place too.

Old Mrs. Blackwell sighed. "Look at John. His people skills have improved by leaps and bounds."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "Yeah. As you can see, he's now able to sit down and talk with us. In the past, he would never do this."

John laughed. "Really? But I don't think I'm any different from before. I'm just the same." Then, he put

an arm around Matilda. "If we're talking about big changes, we should be talking about my mother. I'm sure you've noticed how much she has changed."

The two old women turned to gaze at Matilda. How could they not have noticed Matilda's change?

When Old Mrs. Constance came to visit the last time, she had immediately noticed it.

On this day, Old Mrs. Blackwell was also very surprised by this. After all, she knew the Matilda from

before when she visited the Constance Residence, and the younger woman was clearly not like how she was now.

Old Mrs. Constance stared at Matilda for a long while before nodding. "Yes, Matilda has really changed."

For some reason, Matilda felt a little bit embarrassed, so she only smiled and did not speak.

John continued to say, "Two days ago, my father came over for lunch after work. He also told me that he thought my mother has changed a lot and is completely different from her past self."

Matilda looked at John, unsure whether John made it up or if William really said that.

Taken aback, Old Mrs. Constance said, "Oh, so your father came here the other day when he returned home late. When I asked him, he said that he had eaten lunch. I had wondered where he had his lunch since he wasn't with a client."

John replied, "My mother felt a little unwell for the past two days, so my dad came to have a look because he was worried."

When he said this, everyone started imagining what it could possibly mean.

Matilda pursed her mouth, looking rather uncomfortable. However, John was completely expressionless as he spoke in a righteous and confident manner.

Old Mrs. Constance looked at Matilda. "I see."

John laughed. "I think that before there's any news from Sophia and I, my parents will get back together first. In fact, that would be perfect. When the baby is born, we will become a truly happy family."

Old Mrs. Constance smiled. "You're right. This will triple the joy that is to come!"

From her attitude, nobody really knew whether she truly supported Matilda and William getting back together or not. Still, Matilda felt a little relieved at that. On the other end, Sophia was still lying on the bed, but actually, she hadn't fallen asleep at all. Feeling a little irritable, she was upset that she couldn't fall asleep, yet she didn't feel like being awake.

As she lay in bed, her phone beeped on the bedside cabinet. With her eyes closed, Sophia fumbled for her phone and then looked at the notification on it.

The message was sent by the woman from before. It was some sort of threat, telling Sophia to not regret her actions and saying that she could destroy everything that Sophia had right now.

Sophia almost laughed out loud. What do I have now? Money? How is she gonna take my money though? It's all under my name, so how is she gonna make my money disappear?

Sophia deleted the message and then blocked the number. Then, she lay back down and put her hands on her belly.

As she hadn't yet given birth to the child, she didn't feel much affection for the unborn child yet.

The Returning Ex Chapter 761

However, Sophia could not possibly imagine leaving the child to someone else for two decades without ever asking about how the child was doing. She herself couldn't do it; she couldn't bear it.

So, it was nothing but a load of codswallop when the woman said that she had feelings for her. How could she not care about me for so many years if she really has feelings? No matter how many issues she had, they're all excuses.

Sophia closed her eyes; her head hurt.

After waiting for a while, John came up again. This time, he told her to go downstairs for lunch. He came over to help Sophia sit up, and then hugged her from behind. “No matter what happens, I’ll be here for you. Don’t be afraid.”

She didn’t struggle but simply leaned into her arms. Her voice was faint as she said, “I used to be afraid that my grandpa would leave me when he got old, and he really left. Then, I was afraid of divorcing you, and we really got a divorce. John, from then on, I have nothing to be afraid of anymore. I’m not afraid of anything.”

John felt a little heartbroken at her words. Thus, he hugged her tightly, saying, “I’m sorry. I will always be there for you in the future.” These words sounded very comforting to the ears, but Sophia didn’t really believe it. Sometimes, when one held too much hope in one’s heart, one risked losing it all.

Sophia went to the bathroom to wash her face before following John downstairs.

It was very lively in the dining room. The two old women acted as if it was their home as they called out to the others to come and have lunch. Ms. Cannon’s cooking was very good, so everyone was satisfied with what was laid before them on the table.

When Sophia and John came to the dining room, the two old women waved and asked Sophia to sit down.

Old Mrs. Blackwell lovingly looked into Sophia’s eyes and asked what she would like so that she could have everything moved nearer to her.

Sophia laughed aloud at this. "It's okay. Everything's fine by me. John is here. If I want anything, he can help me get it."

The old lady thought for a while before nodding. "That's true. If you're with a man, you shouldn't spoil him. You must give him orders as needed."

John grinned. "Grandma, if you talk like that, people will think you have a grudge against me."

"I do have a grudge with you. You used to treat our Sophia badly, and I know all about it." Old Mrs.

Blackwell stared at him seriously.

John took Sophia's hand in his. Holding it with both his hands, he said very solemnly, "I was too dumb before to understand what I did was wrong, and I did her dirty, but I'll never do that again. With so many people present, you can all be my witnesses as I say this today."

Matilda teased him, "Actions speak louder than words, so we'd rather see you actually treating her well.

Come, let's eat first. The more you talk, the more it affects our appetite."

The people around the lunch table burst into laughter. Indeed, the atmosphere was really good.

Old Mrs. Constance shot a few glances at Matilda. The latter did not talk much but kept her head

lowered to eat most of the time. However, she did look after Sophia tenderly throughout the meal and appeared much more levelheaded and sensible than before.

Then, Old Mrs. Constance glanced at Sophia again. The lady didn't talk much either. She would

occasionally look up at Matilda and smile at her.

It was obvious that the relationship between the two of them had really taken a turn for the better.

Everyone ate happily and chatted enthusiastically, so the meal went on for quite some time.

During lunch, Old Mrs. Blackwell had also mentioned Fabian. She said that Fabian had been rather dispirited lately and appeared particularly depressed. Sophia's godmother, who was sitting next to her, let out a sigh. "Let's not bring this up. It pisses me off whenever I think of this. Fabian is really thoughtless at times. It's just a woman. Yet he looks like there's no longer any meaning to his life and won't even listen to anyone. His father and I are honestly at our wits' end. We've said everything that we can think of, but it has no effect on him at all." Old Mrs. Blackwell sighed as well. "From the start, you shouldn't have stopped him. Now things have become even worse." To that, Sophia's godmother pursed her lips and answered, "Well, I didn't think so much then. But everything's too late now, so it's no use talking about that." As soon as this topic was brought up, the atmosphere at the lunch table changed slightly.

The Returning Ex Chapter 762

Sophia remembered how Fabian looked. He did appear as if he had gotten hurt in a relationship. I guess it doesn't matter whether one is a man or a woman. A relationship is like a hurdle; not anyone can get over it easily.

John spoke up next to her. "What's Fabian doing now? I haven't seen him for a long time."

Sophia's godmother looked at John. "I haven't seen him recently either. That boy comes and goes without leaving so much as a message. He doesn't even bother to sit down and listen to us talk. I really

don't know what to do.”

Sophia blinked. “He did actually send me messages these two days.” However, she couldn't make head nor tail of Fabian's seemingly random messages. Once, he suddenly asked her if she had eaten lunch yet. After Sophia replied to his message, all she got was silence.

Sometimes, she would even get a message from him along the lines of ‘take care of yourself’ in the middle of the night. When Sophia called him, the line would connect, but the background was relatively noisy. He said he was drinking outside. So, she thought that he had sent her the message in a drunken state.

Sophia's godmother was a little excited when she heard that Fabian had texted Sophia. “Did he really text you? This boy! I thought he had run away from home and no longer wished to contact us.”

Sophia thought for a while before replying, “I don't think so. Sometimes, I could hear that there were many people with him. He's probably having fun with them and he should be living well.”

When her godmother heard this, she pursed her lips. “He is taking it out on us. Looks like he's still blaming us for everything that happened.”

Thus, Sophia decided not to ask any further. After all, this was their own private matter.

When everyone had slowly finished lunch, they went to the sofa to sit and drink tea.

The young ladies who came were very shy. After chatting with Sophia for a while, they stopped talking.

Sophia didn't have a very outgoing personality, so she didn't have much to say either.

Upon seeing this, Old Mrs. Blackwell decided to bid them goodbye. Sophia stood up and went to support her, saying, "If you have time, come over and accompany me. I've been relatively lazy recently and I don't go out very often. Sometimes, I thought of going to see you, but when I think of having to ride in a car for such a long time, I just don't feel like moving anymore."

Old Mrs. Blackwell was surprised at her words. Then, she patted Sophia's hand and said, "You're in the early stages of pregnancy. There will definitely be a lot of discomfort. Just focus on taking care of yourself. If I have time, I will come over and see you. It's just that I'm quite old now and it's not so convenient for me to leave the house." After speaking, Old Mrs. Blackwell laughed at herself.

The car was parked at the door, and the people got into it one after another. Rolling down the window, Old Mrs. Blackwell looked at Sophia and said, "Go back in. Have a good rest."

Sophia stared at Old Mrs. Blackwell. "Okay, have a safe trip home." As Old Mrs. Blackwell's car sped off into the distance, Sophia stared at the direction for a while before suddenly saying, "I feel as if I've seen my grandpa again."

Later in the afternoon, Sophia called Fabian. She didn't say much except that he should come and visit her whenever he had time.

In the call, Fabian's voice was languid as he told Sophia how rare it was that she would think of him and that he was very pleased about it. Then, he said that he had time on this day, so he would come over to have dinner.

Sophia chuckled. "Okay. What do you want to eat? I'll get it ready tonight."

Fabian too laughed in response. "Whatever. I'm not very picky."

Sophia could vaguely sense that he was in a bad mood. Since she couldn't talk too much on the phone, all she could say was that she would wait for him at home. Then, she hung up the phone.

Nowadays, Sophia couldn't go anywhere, so she paced up and down the stairs. Finally, she stood in the courtyard stroking her belly.

Every morning when she woke up, she would think about how to spend the day. Every time she touched her belly, she would think about when she could finally get through it all.

The Returning Ex Chapter 763

Sophia thought her days were fairly tiring.

After standing around for a while, she turned around to enter the living room.

Matilda was standing at the entrance. She smiled at her and said, "What's up? Are you feeling..."

Before the word 'bored' left her lips, Matilda saw a man riding a motorcycle over to them at a very slow speed. The man had a helmet on, so she couldn't see his face at all, but she could see that he was holding something in his hand.

As he rode toward them, he turned to look at Sophia in the courtyard.

Matilda instinctively felt that something wasn't right. Thus, she quickly ran toward Sophia, who had her back to the man and didn't notice him at all. Matilda had no idea how she did it, but she rushed over and turned to block Sophia's body.

At that very moment, she saw the rider throwing something over at them from the corner of her eyes.

With no time to think, Matilda immediately held Sophia and protected her from the attack.

All she could feel was something sharp hitting the small of her back. Although it didn't hurt much, it would have terrible consequences if it were to hit Sophia on the same spot.

Sophia was startled by Matilda's actions. Before she could turn around, she heard the motorcycle accelerate and then the sound of it speeding away. Then, Sophia quickly turned around and asked, "What's the matter?"

Holding her waist with one hand, Matilda put the other hand on Sophia's arm. "Help me into the house first. I was hit by something."

When Sophia lowered her head, she saw half a brick on the ground. This half of a brick had obviously been buffed carefully in advance as it had many sharp edges. Sophia hurriedly helped Matilda into the living room, then she lifted her clothes. The small of her back was swollen and inflamed. Also, there was a small area on it that was bleeding slightly. Since Matilda was wearing clothing that was quite thin, it was natural for her to be injured from the impact.

Sophia frowned. "What really happened? Did someone come by the door just now?"

Matilda let out a sigh as she waved for Ms. Cannon to get some medicine to disinfect her wound. Then, she replied, "Well, there was a motorcyclist who obviously came for you."

Sophia was stunned by this. "But John has arranged for bodyguards to surround this place, right? How could this happen?"

Matilda chuckled. "Even bodyguards can't know this kind of thing in advance. It's alright now.

Fortunately, nothing serious happened." She looked at Sophia's belly. "If that brick had hit you, this

baby...”

When she said this, Sophia and Ms. Cannon fell silent.

After some thought, Sophia quickly grabbed her phone to call John, but John called her first.

Just as she picked up the call, John’s voice came over. “Are you alright? I heard that something happened at home.”

The speed at which he got the news surprised Sophia somewhat, but still she answered, “I’m fine.

Madam Flintstone was hurt though.”

John asked Sophia to wait, saying that he was coming home right away. Hearing the sounds of him leaving the office, Sophia hung up the phone.

Matilda was starting to feel pain at this moment. Just now, she hadn’t felt much pain, but now the aching had intensified. She thought that it was probably due to her age. Her body was not as agile as it

used to be, and now it had become worse having been hit by a brick.

Ms. Cannon helped Matilda go upstairs to rest, while Sophia waited for John downstairs.

John came back very soon. As the car stopped, he quickly opened the door and rushed over.

Standing in the living room, Sophia said quickly, “Don’t worry. It’s not a big deal.”

Upon seeing Sophia standing there safe and well, John was relieved. He said, “One of the bodyguards called me and told me about it. He had gone after that guy.”

The bodyguard’s reaction was quick enough. When he saw the man throw something into the courtyard, he quickly gave chase.

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Sophia nodded. “Madam Flintstone is upstairs. He hit her at the small of her back.” Then, she pointed at the item lying on the coffee table. “This was the weapon.”

John went over, picked up the brick and took a close look at it, noting how well-prepared it was.

Sneering, he then patted Sophia's head before turning around and going upstairs.

Sophia followed him into Matilda's room. The door was not closed, and Matilda was lying on the bed.

Her clothes were lifted up, exposing her back with a small bruise on it which was bleeding slightly.

John stared at the injured area for a moment before saying, "My men are chasing the guy, so rest assured that he will not escape."

Matilda replied, "It's fine as long as Sophia isn't hurt. That guy is too audacious to have done that."

John went over to sit on the side of the bed. Watching Ms. Cannon placing an ice pack on Matilda's wound, he said, "It was my mistake. I should have expected it, but I didn't."

No one could have expected this to happen, so the truth was that John could not be blamed at all.

Matilda smiled. "It's okay. We're considered very lucky that nothing terrible has happened."

John nodded without a word.

Then, Sophia looked at John sitting next to her. He had probably never encountered such a situation before, so he didn't know how to comfort Matilda. Except for being shameless in front of me, he's still the same as before.

Sophia told Matilda to get some rest, then she asked John, "Does your father know that you came back here?"

Looking up at Sophia, John answered, "I saw him near the elevator, so I told him briefly about it. I'm not sure if he'll come over later though."

Matilda said forlornly, "You two don't need to help me so much. I know how to handle my own problems."

Sophia stood by the bed. "We're not trying to assist you in anything. It's just that you got hurt, so it's only right that he comes and visits you."

After staying here for a while, John's phone rang. Glancing at it briefly, he went out to answer the call.

Sophia thought that it was probably his subordinate who had called. So, she sat down where John had been sitting and checked Matilda's injury. It wasn't too severe; Sophia had suffered quite a few of such injuries when she was younger.

After all, she had lived with a rural family whose life was rougher. It was natural to get into minor accidents and suffer small injuries like this one.

However, since Matilda and the others were from the upper echelons, they rarely got injured, so just about any injury was upsetting enough to them.

Lying on her stomach, Matilda said quietly, "You need to be careful. These people are really sick in the head. We really should teach every one of them a hard lesson."

William came by after work. He reached the house about the same time as Fabian. Looking a little anxious, he strode into the living room.

John was on the phone in the living room. Seeing his father here, he hung up the phone.

On the other hand, Fabian had a rather leisurely attitude as he jokingly commented, "Where's Sophia?

I'm already here, so why didn't she come to greet me at the door?"

He still had no idea about what happened earlier, so there was a silly smile on his face.

John stood up and faced the two of them. "Sophia and my mother are both upstairs."

Hearing this, William hurriedly rushed upstairs.

Surprised, Fabian looked at John. "What's the matter? Mr. Constance is looking rather anxious."

John sighed and briefly told him about what had happened in the afternoon.

The smile on Fabian's face faded. Frowning, he said, "Are you serious? Did you manage to catch the guy?"

John nodded. "Yes. I have him locked up right now. I'll go take a look after dinner later."

The Returning Ex Chapter 765

Fabian agreed. "Take me with you. I wanna go and see who's so bold to mess with you."

William, who had rushed upstairs, barged into Matilda's room.

When Sophia and Ms. Cannon saw this, they packed up and left the room tactfully.

Matilda originally wanted to get up, but she realized that it wasn't her injury that hurt; it was her entire back. She grunted with pain and lay back down again. Chuckling bitterly to herself, she said to William,

"Forget it. I'm not gonna be courteous and get up. I'll just lie here like this."

William went over, checked her injury and asked, "Does it hurt?"

Matilda shrugged. "How can it not hurt? But it's tolerable."

William sat down next to her. "You used to be so delicate, but now you don't care so much anymore."

In the past, if Matilda bumped into something ever so slightly, she would complain about it for a long time.

Matilda laughed at his words, her body shaking with the force of her laughter. "Indeed, I used to be really delicate."

When had she changed? Matilda herself too wondered about it before. Her change seemed to come at that very moment when she found out that Sophia was pregnant.

Long ago, she used to be a little princess. After marriage, she had turned into an old princess, and she hadn't found the right place for herself.

When she knew that Sophia was pregnant, she had a sudden flash of realization. She was going to be a grandmother soon, yet she still acted so senselessly.

Perhaps she had started to change then. Even though human growth was a slow process, she felt that she had literally grown up mentally at that split second.

Letting out a breath, William looked at the back of Matilda's head and said, "It would've been great if you were like this in the past."

Matilda paused; she didn't quite know what to say.

A brief silence enveloped the room as awkwardness descended upon them. Then, William said, "Do you need to go to the hospital? Are you certain it's just a superficial wound?"

Matilda thought for a moment before saying, "I think so. It was just a brief impact, so I don't think it'll be a big deal."

William sighed. "You really got me worrying."

I suppose I've always made him worry over me. When Matilda thought about it, she felt ashamed.

Ms. Cannon had made dinner, and she then came over to tell the two of them to come down to eat.

Matilda could still get up, so she got down the bed with William's support.

In the dining hall, John and Fabian were discussing what to do next in order to catch the mastermind behind all this.

With Fabian there, many problems could be solved a little easier. Sophia didn't have much appetite, so she only ate a little before going out.

When he saw that, John knew that she was feeling uncomfortable inside. Considering the fact that someone was out to hurt her, it would be strange if she didn't feel uncomfortable about it.

Thus, John did not eat much either. He came out to see Sophia standing silently in the courtyard. She really isn't afraid of anything.

John went over and stood beside her. "Don't feel upset about it. There won't be a next time."

Turning her head, Sophia looked at him and asked, "You've caught that guy, right?"

John replied, "Yeah, I have him locked up now."

Sophia nodded. "I'll go over there later as well. I want to see who it is."

John paused, his brows creasing together. "I don't think you should go. It won't be a pretty sight, and I'm afraid that you'll be upset afterward."

"Why would I be?" Sophia chuckled. "It's okay. Don't worry. I'm much stronger than you think."

After finishing dinner, Fabian came out as well and stretched. "Ugh, I had wanted to come and relax.

Who would know I'd encounter such a thing instead?"

William and Matilda finished eating together, then William helped Matilda go upstairs.

Meanwhile, John went over to William to tell him that he was going to bring Sophia out for a walk and told him to take care of the house for a while.

The Returning Ex Chapter 766

William naturally agreed, and John felt relieved.

He drove with Sophia sitting next to him, while Fabian drove his own car. Both cars sped toward the warehouse.

The man had been locked up the whole day and looked rather miserable now. When John and the others arrived, the man was so beaten up that his face was disfigured, swollen and bloodied.

However, there were no major injuries; all of it was just superficial wounds.

Sophia followed John into the warehouse and saw the man sitting in the corner, still in his motorcycle suit.

Waving his hand, John had his subordinates go over to pick up the man and place him on a nearby chair.

The man hung his head without speaking or looking at them.

Sophia didn't dare to approach him like this. So, she said to the subordinates standing at the side, "Tie him up. How can I go forward if he isn't tied up?"

The subordinates glanced at her before hurriedly tying the man to the chair.

It was then that Sophia finally dared to approach him. She grabbed the man's hair and lifted his head so that he looked up. However, the face was so distorted that she might as well not look at it.

She really couldn't recognize him as his features were all bruised and swollen. It was obvious that he was well and truly beaten up.

Sophia tutted. "I had wanted to come over and slap you, but now it seems that it's no longer necessary."

As she stared at the man, she went on, "So, tell me. Who instructed you to hit me with that brick?"

The man looked at her and snorted in a disdainful manner. Sophia commented, "This guy is quite tough, huh?" With that, she turned to look at John. "Hey, don't you have any instruments of torture or something like that? Don't tell me you only interrogate people by punching them."

John sighed, then he had his subordinates push a big cart over. It was filled with triangular forks, daggers, needles, hammers and the like. Sophia couldn't name most of them, but after she took a look, she found a dagger that was easy to handle. Pulling it out, she stared at the knife edge and thought it was pretty sharp.

Nodding in satisfaction, Sophia took a look at the man, then she pulled at his clothes and cut his sleeves open. This man appeared quite skillful with his muscular arms. He looks quite strong indeed.

Sophia smiled at him. "Handsome, won't you consider telling me? Otherwise, don't blame me for what's about to happen."

The man snorted again and didn't take her seriously. Hence, Sophia did not hesitate either and plunge the dagger down into his arm with a single stroke.

Grunting in pain, the man looked a little surprised at Sophia after being stabbed; even John and Fabian were stunned by her action.

No one would have thought that with a swift strike, she could make such a deep cut on the man's shoulder that blood spurted out at once.

Sophia didn't blink but merely backed away, mainly because she was afraid that the blood would get on her clothes.

The man who was still acting tough just now let out a few muffled grunts of pain, his expression turning for the worse.

Sophia looked down at the blood on the dagger and rubbed it directly on the man's clothes. Her tone was still the same as before when she asked, "Will you tell me now?" Fabian laughed beside her. "I did not expect that, Sophia. Apparently, you can be pretty tough during such critical times."

Staring at Sophia, John suddenly smiled. When they came over, he had been worried that it would be too gruesome for her and he was planning on letting her stay outside the warehouse. After all, she was a pregnant woman, so she probably had less courage to face such a horrific scene.

However, the results were really surprising.

The man lowered his head. It was clear that he was struggling to contain the agony he felt. Sophia's strike was so forceful that the muscles on that arm were split open. Blood coursed down the arm without any sign of stopping, and in just a moment, the man's entire arm was stained red.

Sophia put the knife against the man's other arm and said, "You should have good skills, right? I'm sure you've done some really unspeakable things in the past. So, tell me. Would you like me to cripple both your arms? Let's see how you can commit more atrocities without them in the future."

The Returning Ex Chapter 767

The man grunted. He said nothing but turned his head to look at Sophia. His eyes were bloodshot as cold sweat trickled down his forehead, but his expression still showed his stubbornness.

Sophia chuckled. Her voice was crisp as she said, "The way you behave makes me itch to hurt you."

With that, she plunged the dagger downward and made another clean cut into his other arm.

This time, the man didn't manage to hold back a howl.

Fabian clapped hard for Sophia, saying, "Amazing. I've really underestimated you. I think you can match up to me in this area."

He thought he himself was quite capable of torturing others, but now that he was looking at Sophia, he felt that they were well-matched.

This time, Sophia did not wipe the blood off the dagger. Instead, she lowered her head to look at the man's legs. Then, she aimed the tip of the dagger at the man's thigh. "The next one will be at this spot, okay?"

The man yelled, but before he could say anything, Sophia struck a third time.

The man's anguished scream was similar to a pig being butchered. John stood up to take the dagger from Sophia. "Check and see if the blood has stained your clothes."

Retreating back a step, Sophia immediately replied, "I've checked already. I'm fine."

The man tied to the chair started whining incessantly.

Staring at him, John then said, "This should be enough. He'll probably spit it out later."

Fabian burst out laughing. "This guy suffered all those beatings for nothing. Everything would've been fine if he had talked earlier."

Sophia looked around, then she found a chair slightly further away and sat down. Then, she blinked in a bid to look innocent despite her earlier actions.

John called his subordinates over to help the man stop the bleeding first. Those three wounds were

deep, so if blood kept flowing like this, the man would soon become unconscious from the blood loss, and they wouldn't be able to get anything out of him.

John's subordinates were a bunch of rough-edged brutes, so their movements were pretty aggressive while dressing the man's wounds, prompting even louder screams from him.

Sophia tutted. "How noisy." Then, she stood up and continued, "When he's quiet, tell me. I'm gonna go and check out what kind of place this is."

She didn't wait for the others' reactions but simply wandered around the place.

It was just a warehouse and there was nothing else. Sophia walked around the place and thought that it looked quite dilapidated. It was probably abandoned for a long time. After that, she walked to the entrance of the warehouse and looked outside; there were no vehicles passing by. This kind of place was really suitable for committing crimes. She smiled slightly.

After those three strikes, more than half of the displeasure in her heart had dissipated.

The injury on Matilda's body had really made her feel hot under the collar. After all, Matilda had led a sheltered and pampered life. Now that she had suffered because of Sophia, the latter felt remorseful about it.

As she stood at the door for a while, someone suddenly ran up and called out to her. The subordinate said, "Mr. Constance told me to stay with you. He said that you shouldn't walk around alone as he's worried that something bad would happen to you."

Sophia smiled and asked what was going on inside. "Did that guy start talking?"

The subordinate nodded. "He did say something, but he isn't very conscious due to being severely

injured.”

Sophia knew that she had acted too violently just now. The rage in her heart had prevented her from showing any mercy. Well, I don't need to be merciful when dealing with that kind of person.

After thinking for a moment, Sophia turned around and walked toward the warehouse.

Before reaching the door, she could already hear the wailing coming out from inside.

She tutted again. If he wants to act tough, he should maintain his act to the bitter end. Otherwise, he should have just given up earlier.

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Having undergone all that suffering, he still needs to tell us everything. That's just sad.

Sophia stood at the entrance of the warehouse and looked inside. The man had been pushed off his chair and was now lying huddled on the ground, his body covered in blood. A cigarette dangled from the side of John's mouth as he stepped down hard on the man's thigh wound. “And then?”

Seeing that the man refused to speak further, John applied more strength to his foot. The man screamed and then groaned. “Okay, okay. I'll tell you!”

Sophia stood at the door listening to him. The man said hesitantly that the person who instructed him to do this job would often ask him to do this kind of thing, but the previous jobs he had done were more complicated than this one. This job was much simpler; all he had to do was to hit a woman in the belly with a hard object. He originally thought that it was so simple that there was no need for him to spend much effort on it, but he didn't expect things to end up this way.

When John asked who hired him, the man yelled, "Old Leopard! It's Old Leopard. All I know is this nickname. His real name is no longer in use. Everybody now calls him that."

John laughed. "It's him again? I've already had him tailed, yet he is still able to act up. It seems that I need to discard some of my subordinates too."

Sophia felt bored. Now, she no longer needed to do anything, so there was no room for her to perform any further. Thus, she found a place to sit down by the door and took out her phone to call Matilda. She mainly wanted to ask the latter if she felt any discomfort, and to tell her to go to the hospital quickly if something felt wrong. After all, Matilda was no spring chicken anymore, so there might be some bad effects.

From the other end of the phone, Matilda said that she was fine, and she didn't need to go to the hospital. Sophia could vaguely hear William's voice asking Matilda if the water was too hot and if she wanted to drink it now. Laughing, Sophia thought to herself that sometimes, things might look bad on the surface, but it would turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Some of the best surprises were hidden within the worst situations.

Sophia waited at the door for a while. Shortly after, John and Fabian came out, saying that they had asked everything that they needed to ask. Sophia nodded. "Let's go then. Why don't we go and eat something first? I was upset just now and didn't eat much. Now I'm hungry."

Fabian laughed out loud. "You still have an appetite after all that? Wow, I really admire you." Most

women would be nauseous after witnessing the gory scene just now, but Sophia seemed to have a better appetite after watching it.

Not taking him seriously, Sophia just said, "That's not my blood anyway, so who cares? Come, let's go and grab a bite."

Hence, John and Fabian brought her to a restaurant to have some food. The two men hadn't eaten much earlier as well, so now, they accompanied Sophia to eat. Halfway through the meal, John made a call and asked a doctor to go over to tend to the man's wounds. Sophia had struck so violently that John found that the wounds were too serious for simple dressing to work. He was certain that they had to be stitched up by a doctor.

Meanwhile, Sophia didn't care about what John was saying on the phone. She simply ate her fill without saying a word. Then, she took the time to ask Fabian how he was doing.

Fabian replied thoughtfully, "Well, I'm fine. Not much has happened. I just spend my days relaxing and time passes quickly."

Sophia sighed. "This morning, Old Mrs. Blackwell and your mother came for lunch."

Realization dawned on Fabian upon hearing her words. "They must have said something, or else you won't be looking at me like this."

Sophia did not beat around the bush either. "They did, but they were pretty vague about it, so I don't know much. But after listening to them talk, I think that they were sorry and regretted their actions.

They just don't know how to reconcile with you."

The Returning Ex Chapter 769

Fabian chuckled quietly; his expression was slightly ironic. "What's the use of regretting their actions now that things have reached this point?"

Sophia pursed her lips, and she couldn't comment without knowing the whole picture.

After a while, Fabian exhaled. "Let's just go with the flow. I'm not hoping for much now."

Lowering her head, Sophia squeezed the glass. "How's that girl now?"

Fabian froze, then he looked at her. "She's okay. After leaving me, she's naturally having a good life." The resentment in his tone was so palpable that Sophia had nothing to say. I've no idea what happened, so how am I supposed to comfort him?

As they ate, darkness gradually fell outside. Upon answering a call, Fabian seemed a little flustered and hurried away. Sophia and John slowly returned to the car, but Sophia didn't want to go home. It was mainly because William was at home now, and she wanted to give him and Matilda more alone time.

Thus, after some thought, she said, "Let's just drive around for a while."

There was nowhere to go anyway, but John agreed, so he started the car and drove out. After driving around the city twice, Matilda called. Squeezing the phone, Sophia stared at it for a long time, and finally chose not to pick it up. I'll just pretend I never saw that call. John glanced at her, then he chuckled without saying a word.

When Matilda saw that nobody answered her call, she realized what was going on and sighed silently.

These two have really made things a little awkward by doing that! I'm already at this age now, yet I'm

stuck in a game that only teenage lovers will play. Ugh, how embarrassing!

William was also on the phone in the corridor at this time. At first, it was Old Mrs. Constance who had called and asked him why he was not home yet. He was afraid that Matilda would feel embarrassed, so he went to the corridor to answer the call. However, the door wasn't closed fully, so Matilda could still hear what he said. Old Mrs. Constance didn't press William about where he was staying the night. Instead, she only told him to drive carefully should he wish to go home later.

Then, William hung up the call before immediately answering another call. Matilda knew about this too.

During the second call, he suppressed his volume, but Matilda could still hear what he said. It was probably Yolanda on the phone. She was just making a random phone call to ask William what he was doing.

Matilda didn't really want to eavesdrop on them, mainly because she was afraid that she herself would feel distressed if she heard what they were chatting about, but as the voices drifted over, she couldn't stop herself from listening.

Fortunately, William was quite frank and told Yolanda honestly about where he was. He also explained that Matilda had sustained an injury and he was here to take care of her.

Pursing her lips, Matilda lay sideways on the bed facing the window. Her injury no longer hurt; it was in fact only a minor issue. Matilda was thinking about how to talk to William and have him go home. Back then, she used to be pretentious, but she was now different.

After waiting for a while, William hung up the phone and came in. He sat down by the bed without a word. Matilda thought for a moment, then she turned over to sit up. "I'm actually alright now."

William replied, "I'm waiting for the kids to come back. I'll worry if you're here alone."

Matilda smiled at him. "Ms. Cannon is here with me, so I'm not alone."

William's brows creased slightly. Usually, he didn't frown much, so the expression was quite obvious. He

looked at Matilda and asked, "Are you driving me away?"

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Stunned, Matilda quickly explained, "No, of course not. It's just that it's dangerous to drive at night, so if you go home now, you'll reach there earlier."

William withdrew his gaze and looked down at his phone. "It's late now anyway, so it doesn't matter whether I go back sooner or later."

Matilda stared at William, feeling inexplicable oddness in her heart. William used to be different. In the past, no matter what she said, he seemed to be too lazy to argue with her. He simply agreed and carried out her bidding at once. So it was uncommon for him to act like this. Matilda didn't know what to say, so she leaned against the headrest and waited for time to pass. On the other hand, William checked his inbox and read his mail. After a while, he felt uncomfortable sitting like that, so he turned and leaned against the headrest just like Matilda. The two of them each occupied half of the bed and sat there quietly. In fact, it was not dissimilar to the past. As a middle-aged couple, there wasn't much to say. In the past, they were like this at night too.

Matilda was usually the one who complained and nagged, and after she finished, silence would descend upon the room.

The two of them sat on the bed checking their phones respectively without a word. However, Matilda felt extremely uncomfortable now.

Now that I think of it, I really don't know what we were doing in the past. There were so many opportunities to be alone together, yet we only looked at our phones instead of each other.

Matilda thought for a bit and then said, "I really don't feel good for Sophia to stay here. She gets into trouble even just by standing in the courtyard. I don't think she should stay here for a long time. How about you discuss with your family for her to go back to the Constance Residence? The courtyard there is larger, and it's fine for her to move around however much she wants. There are also many more people there, so it will be more convenient to take care of her and safer too. Of course, this is just my own opinion. I'm just making a suggestion; it's still up to you and Sophia to decide."

William turned around and looked at Matilda.

Matilda felt slightly awkward under his gaze and hurriedly added, "This is just my opinion, and I'm just casually bringing it up. It's your matter after all, so I can't call the shots. If you're not willing, then just forget it."

William gazed at Matilda for a few seconds before suddenly asking, "Will you come over too?"

Taken aback, Matilda stared at him for a long while before coming to her senses and realizing what he

meant. Her lips parted slightly; her face felt uncomfortably hot. William's gaze was very focused on her; it was something she hadn't seen before. Matilda never knew that her heart could beat so fast. Her mind was instantly muddled by those five words. In fact, her mind kept playing over and over again those words 'Will you come over too?'. Even though William didn't explain what he meant by asking that, considering his expression, Matilda felt that she could accurately guess what he meant. After a while, she withdrew her gaze. Combing her hair with her fingers, she tried hard to look as calm as possible. "Me? Um, I'm not sure yet. If Sophia goes over there, I'll feel reassured knowing that you guys will take care of her. As for me, I-I..." She wasn't really able to finish her sentence. Actually, she didn't want to resolutely say no, but she was afraid of embarrassing herself.

Grunting, William got up from the bed and walked toward the corridor. For a moment, Matilda didn't understand what William meant by that. He seemed to be calling John, asking the latter when he would be back. Then he said that he would wait for them downstairs before hanging up the phone.

William didn't return to the room but stayed downstairs. Matilda drew in a few deep breaths. Did I say something wrong just now? I didn't say anything terrible, right? Covering her face, Matilda felt a little confused in her heart.

The Returning Ex Chapter 771

On the other side, John hung up the phone, looking a bit annoyed. He muttered to himself, "Why did he call at such a critical moment? Ugh, now everything's messed up." Sophia sat in the passenger seat next to him, which was slightly lowered. Her face was a little red.

Before the phone rang, John had already pressed himself on Sophia's upper body and longingly left a trail of kisses on her. Although he knew that he couldn't go overboard, he was still annoyed that such a passionate session was interrupted by a call.

Sophia relaxed for a while before she was able to calm down. She closed her eyes, a little annoyed at herself. Why was I so submissive? Why didn't I put up a struggle? Now it appears as if I've accepted him.

John put down his phone and said with some frustration, "Well, let's go back now. My father should be going home soon." Sophia adjusted her seat back to the normal position without a word.

John drove rather fast all the way back, and when they got home, they happened to see William smoking at the door of the living room. Sophia lifted her head to see Matilda's room was still illuminated with lights. Matilda hasn't slept yet, so what is William doing out here?

Sophia was a little dissatisfied with him. This man really doesn't understand romance at all.

She briefly greeted him and went upstairs to Matilda's room. Matilda was still sitting on the bed in a trance.

Seeing her, Sophia went slowly over to the bed. "What's going on between the two of you? I thought we'd created an opportunity for you today so that your relationship can improve by a single leap. Yet, one of you is upstairs while the other is downstairs. You really disappoint me for not making the most of this opportunity."

Matilda did not look at Sophia. Instead, she just sat there staring at her own knees without saying

anything. Sophia thought for a while before moving over to her.

“What’s wrong? What did he say that made you unhappy?”

“Nothing,” Matilda murmured. Impatience rose in Sophia’s heart as she said, “Then what the hell is going on? Why aren’t you speaking?”

It was a long while before Matilda lifted her head and looked at Sophia.

“I told him that I wish to let you go back to Constance Residence during your pregnancy because I feel that it’s unsafe here. T-Then...” She pursed her mouth, looking a little embarrassed.

Sophia raised her eyebrows. “Then?”

Matilda played with her hair in an effort to mask her mortification.

“Then he asked me if I’ll go over too.”

Sophia thought about it and then grinned. “What do you mean? Does he want you to go over or not?”

Licking her lips, Matilda answered, “I’m not sure if it’s just wishful thinking, but I think he does want me to go over.”

At this, Sophia clapped her on the back. “That’s awesome then! If you go with me, I’ll go. Honestly, I really don’t feel like going there, as I don’t like the people there very much. But if you go, I’ll consider going too.” She paused for a few seconds before grinning again. “I’m sure you want to go though. Look at your face! I can tell in an instant.”

Matilda tutted, then tried to make herself look more sensible.

“Balderdash! I haven’t even thought about it yet.”

Seeing Matilda’s reaction, Sophia couldn’t help but grin. “Carry on your act then.” She was a little

excited. Standing up, she did some light exercise and commented, “Very good, it seems that the opportunity we created tonight is rewarding.”

Matilda thought for a while and then said to her, "Just now, Yolanda gave him a call, but it wasn't anything that mattered. I think Yolanda is very gutsy. She knows how to fight for what she wants."

Sophia nodded. "Yeah. Although I've only met her once, I think that she's a decisive and competent woman. She'll get what she aims for without caring about what other people think."

Matilda nodded as well. Yolanda is really such a woman.

The Returning Ex Chapter 772

Matilda didn't think that before, but when William picked up the call just now, she suddenly marveled at Yolanda's drive and purposefulness. Such a woman could probably get whatever she wants, right? It's just that she wants William now...

Sophia turned around and looked at Matilda. "It's okay, don't worry. We're all here for you, and we'll be able to take her down."

Matilda was amused by her words. "You're talking like it's a war and not a matter of the heart."

Finding it funny, Sophia chuckled. "Well, even matters of the heart require proper strategies and plans to succeed. You're in an excellent position right now, so there's nothing for you to be afraid of. She's the one who should be afraid. If you become nervous now, you'll be giving her a chance to attack."

Matilda thought for a while, then vaguely nodded. "Okay, I got it."

John and William chatted for a short while downstairs before the latter left. He did not bid goodbye to Matilda but simply drove off instead. Standing at the window, Sophia almost cursed him out loud. This wooden-headed guy really doesn't

understand anything about relationships, does he? He's at such an old age now, yet he's still so obtuse.

Just thinking of the two of them makes me worried sick.

After a while, John came up and asked Matilda if she felt discomfort anywhere. Since Matilda's back was already applied with medication, she didn't feel any pain now. So, she said she was okay and then asked him what he and William were talking about downstairs.

Smiling, John looked up at Sophia, who was standing by the window, and said, "Nothing much. Dad wants me to bring Sophia back to Constance Residence. He said that it's safer there."

Matilda nodded. "That is true."

John then added, "Then, he also spoke about your situation here."

Matilda paused for a while. Before she could speak, Sophia spoke first, "What did he say? Quick, tell us."

Sophia looked like if she was dissatisfied with what William said, she would go and settle scores with him. John glanced at Sophia and said, "Don't be anxious. Come and sit down."

Therefore, Sophia slowly wandered over and sat down by Matilda's bed.

John went on to say, "Dad said that you have a good relationship with Sophia now, but she isn't on good terms with the others back at the Constance Residence, so she may not be able to adapt to life there if she goes back alone all of a sudden. He hopes that you'll follow her there. Besides, he said that he'd announce to everyone that he's the one who wants you back so that you'll not suffer any humiliation.

But I suppose he's too embarrassed to tell you all this, so he let me pass the message on. What do you think?"

An 'oh' left Sophia's lips as she quickly replied for Matilda, "Okay, sure. It's settled then. Madam Flintstone will go back. She will. Don't worry."

She then looked at Matilda. "Right? We'll go back together, right?"

Matilda pursed her lips, trying her utmost to contain the expression on her face before nodding.

"Alright."

Actually, everyone could see that she still had feelings for William. Her going back this time was the greatest opportunity for them to get back together.

Having said that, John and Sophia went back to their room. As soon as they entered the room, John

hugged Sophia and whispered, "I feel uncomfortable."

Sophia naturally knew what John was talking about. She patted John's hands that were holding her. "Go away."

As her voice was weak, it did not deter John at all. He didn't let go but continued to embrace her.

"Sophia, you like me too, right?"

Sophia exhaled. "Liking someone isn't the be-all and end-all, John.

You're a grown man now, so don't tell

me that you don't understand this. I'm already way past my teenage years, so all my choices are no

longer based on pure infatuation. I'll pick the most suitable one."

With those words, John was again disheartened.

The Returning Ex Chapter 773

Sophia broke away from John's embrace and changed the subject.

"When does your dad intend for us to

go back there? I don't actually want to go to the Constance Residence, but I suppose I can put up with it

for a while if it means I can play cupid for him and Madam Flintstone."

John thought for a while. "The sooner, the better. I'll start getting busy soon, so I'm worried if you're

both here. If you go over to the Constance Residence, there will be many people taking care of you there. That way, I'll feel more reassured."

Sophia had no opinion on where exactly she should spend her days. "I'll just follow whatever you guys plan."

John felt assured after hearing her words.

That night, they did not talk much. John went off to work the next morning. Just as Sophia finished her breakfast, someone came by and said that he was there to bring Sophia and Matilda to the Constance Residence.

That's incredibly quick!

The Constance Residence had everything that they would need, so they didn't need to bring anything.

The three of them got into a car and left at once.

William had probably told Old Mrs. Constance about their arrival in advance because she was already waiting at the door. Seeing Sophia coming over, a broad smile bloomed on her face.

Matilda was the first to get out of the car. She then helped Sophia get down as well.

Old Mrs. Constance looked at Matilda. "I heard you got hurt."

Smiling, Matilda stated, "It's not a serious issue. I'm okay."

Hearing that, Old Mrs. Constance sighed. "We'll get the family doctor to come and have a look later. No matter if it's serious or not, it's better to have it checked."

Matilda simply nodded. As Old Mrs. Constance looked at Sophia, her smile widened again. "Come, come.

Let's talk more inside. I've waited for you for quite a while."

Old Mrs. Constance took Sophia and Matilda to the main building, saying that Sophia would be staying in John's room. As for Matilda, Old Mrs. Constance thought for a while and decided that she should remain in the room that she and William once shared. However, Matilda frowned after learning about the arrangement. "May I have a different room? It's not appropriate for me to stay there now."

Old Mrs. Constance was obviously surprised by Matilda's unexpected reaction. But she simply nodded and replied, "Of course. How about that room right next to John's? You decorated that room, so I think you'll like it."

As long as it isn't William's room, I'm fine with any other room. Matilda nodded and agreed with the arrangement.

Shortly after, John's call came in. Sophia took a look at her phone and picked up the call. Without John asking, she said first, "I'm already at the Constance Residence, so don't worry."

John said he would come back at noon, but Sophia didn't understand why he wanted to return.

Regardless, she still agreed and replied, "Okay, then so be it."

Hanging up the phone, Old Mrs. Constance asked the two younger women what they'd like for lunch.

Sophia looked at Ms. Cannon. "I like everything that Ms. Cannon makes. I'm not picky about food." Ms.

Cannon laughed next to her. "Miss Sophia is really cooperative. She eats everything without me having to worry about her, so I'm sure this child will grow up well in the future."

Upon hearing that the child would grow up well, Old Mrs. Constance was delighted and laughed happily.

After chatting for a while, Sophia felt sleepy. Matilda was also a little tired, so both of them went upstairs

to rest.

Matilda went into the room next to John's, thinking to herself that she had once prepared this room for Isabelle. After Sophia moved into it, she was so angry that she couldn't sleep for several nights. It was thus unexpected that she herself moved into this room now. Sophia leaned against the door frame. "Not bad, I guess. This favorite room of yours is now your bedroom."

Matilda chuckled. "How ironic, right?" After speaking, she took out her phone, looked at it, and then sneered, "Look, this is even more ironic."

Isabelle had sent her a message and asked if she was angry because of the previous incident. Matilda pursed her lips and asked Sophia, "How should I answer her?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 774

Sophia directly took over the phone and said, "Give it to me. I'll reply to her for you."

Isabelle wasn't stupid. If Matilda said she wasn't angry at all, Isabelle definitely wouldn't believe it.

Therefore, Sophia replied that 'Matilda' was a little disappointed in her.

Isabelle didn't call but simply continued texting, saying that what she did wasn't intentional, but she later realized that her behavior was indeed inappropriate. So, she wanted to ask Matilda, Sophia, and John out for a meal in order to personally explain the matter to them. Sophia looked at Matilda, grinning. "She's inviting us three for a meal. Why do I have a feeling that she's trying to take us all down in one clean sweep?"

Although it was very untimely, Matilda still smiled. "Then, do you think we should agree to it?"

Sophia thought for a while before replying to Isabelle that they were quite busy now and suggested they plan for another time. Therefore, Isabelle didn't continue to pester either. She only said that she would invite them again in a couple of days. It was obvious that she was unwilling to give up.

Since Isabelle acted like that, Sophia felt that she had some ulterior motive. Isabelle is such a supercilious woman. How can I believe that she simply wants to apologize? Sophia handed the phone back to Matilda. "She'll look for you again in a couple of days. By that time, you should agree to the meal. I'd like to see what tricks that b*tch has up her sleeve this time."

After being informed, Matilda tutted. "In the future, you should watch your language when you speak in front of the child. Don't be so vulgar, as the child will imitate you. Understand?"

Grinning, Sophia answered, "Yes, ma'am."

John came back with William at noon. When they entered the door without seeing Sophia and Matilda around, they asked at the same time, "Where is she?" Old Mrs. Constance was sitting on the sofa, after which she looked up when she heard their question.

"Who are you asking about? Sophia or Matilda?"

John and William looked at each other. John laughed, while William looked a little awkward. John spoke

first. "I was asking about Sophia. As for my dad, maybe not."

William lightly coughed twice. "I guess I was asking about the two of them collectively."

Old Mrs. Constance withdrew her gaze and replied, "They're upstairs. They said they were a little sleepy, so I let the two of them rest."

Learning about where they were, John nodded. "I'll go up and take a look."

Old Mrs. Constance did not speak. After standing there for a moment, William hesitated a little before going upstairs as well.

Sophia and Matilda were indeed in their respective rooms. John saw Sophia as soon as he pushed the door. She was hugging the quilt and was sound asleep, looking the same as before. Softening his movements, John went to stand beside the bed.

Sophia was lying on her side. Despite her belly not looking obvious, John still felt that it was looking a lot bigger. Sitting down slowly, he reached out and touched it, which woke Sophia up. Seeing him, she immediately frowned. "Why are you so annoying? Must you wake me up the moment you come back?"

Laughing, John said, "It's lunchtime soon. Get up and wash your face. We'll go downstairs when you're ready."

Having been disturbed by him, Sophia couldn't sleep anymore. She continued lying on the bed as she stared at the window. "Isabelle said that she would like to invite us to have a meal and apologize for what happened before."

Hearing Isabelle's name, John was immediately irritated. "What does she want to apologize for? The best thing she can do now is not to appear before any of us."

"But I'm quite interested in what she has to say." Sophia smiled.

John turned and leaned against the headboard. He stroked Sophia's hair, saying, "Let's not talk about that useless stuff. Let me ask you this, now that you've moved in here, do you want to reconsider our remarriage?"

Sophia burst out laughing. "If that is so, then I'll move out later. After all, I haven't brought anything with

me, so it's easy for me to go back."

John hurriedly added, "It was just a casual question. Why are you so serious about it?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 775

Looking at him so cowardly, Sophia didn't care to speak anymore. Both of them went out after staying in the room for a short while.

Sophia went to the room next door to get Matilda, who wasn't actually asleep. Now that she was back here, she couldn't really get used to it, so she kept standing at the window looking out.

She had seen William and John coming back together. At first, she had wanted to go and greet them, but she felt that it would be a bit too abrupt to do so, hence, she had suppressed it.

Sophia did not knock on the door but opened it directly. "Come and have lunch."

Turning around, Matilda looked at Sophia and said, "Sure. I'll wash my face first and go down in a minute."

Sophia pulled John's arm. "Then we'll go ahead first." After speaking, she withdrew from the room,

closed the door, and then asked John, "Is your dad back yet?"

John didn't know what she was going to do, so he merely nodded.

Sophia patted John on the shoulder.

"Come, come. Let's go downstairs quickly."

As they went down, they saw William sitting next to Old Mrs.

Constance and saying something to her.

Sophia went down and greeted, "Hello, Mr. Constance."

Old Mrs. Constance laughed. "He came back with John and went upstairs but came down again without

doing anything.”

Hearing her words, William was mortified, so he immediately chided, “Mom, why are you...”

Sophia didn't care about his embarrassment but merely grinned and said, “Madam Flintstone will be here in a while. Don't be nervous.”

William had always been a levelheaded and composed man, but his face was currently flushed red at

Sophia's words, especially as nobody stood out to help him.

Standing up, Old Mrs. Constance invited Sophia to the dining hall.

Sophia nodded, a trace of amusement evident in her eyes. “Okay.”

They were about to move to the dining hall when Matilda came downstairs. Actually, she was also

feeling rather awkward. She was trying very hard to keep a composed look on her face.

William turned his head to look at Matilda, then asked after a long pause, “Have you gotten used to the place?”

Sophia was a little appalled at his question, but Matilda nodded. “It's okay.”

Old Mrs. Constance waved for them to go over. “Come on, let's have lunch.”

All of them went to the dining hall and sat down. Matilda still sat in her former seat. William came over and sat next to her side.

For a moment, Matilda felt rather uncomfortable, but after thinking about it, she felt that she was simply pretentious.

This is what I want, so why do I have to feel uneasy?

During the meal, Old Mrs. Constance reminded Sophia about some matters that she had to pay attention

to during her pregnancy. In fact, she had reminded her about the same things many times in the past.

But Sophia knew that Old Mrs. Constance was simply worried about her, so she listened patiently and nodded occasionally.

After talking to Sophia, Old Mrs. Constance turned her head and looked at Matilda. "The doctor will come over and check your injury soon. Although the injury isn't too serious, I'll feel better after he tends to it."

Matilda nodded. Then, she heard the man seated next to her ask, "Was the perpetrator caught?"

At the mention of this, John remembered Sophia's brutal methods. She was quick and ruthless in her strikes without so much as blinking once. This side of Sophia surprised him a lot. I guess a girl from a rural village has more nerve than other girls.

Sophia replied, "I've sorted him out. We can't let that kind of person go easily."

Old Mrs. Constance giggled. "Sophia, I'm relieved at how bold you've become now. You won't suffer being with John anymore in the future."

Nodding, John claimed, "She is the 'Mountain King' in our family now. I'm the one being bullied."

Old Mrs. Constance didn't care about him. "You deserve to be bullied. We won't feel bad for you even if you tell us about it."

Matilda simply lowered her head and ate with a smile. Turning his head, William glanced at her several times, but she didn't look at him either. He didn't really know what it was that he wanted to say, so in the end, he withdrew his gaze.

The Returning Ex Chapter 776

Old Mrs. Constance noticed William's expression clearly and sighed. After lunch, it was time for William and John to return to the company. Sophia and Matilda sat on the

sofa and didn't send them off. In fact, they didn't even look at them at all. Sighing, John said to his father, "Come on, let's go. Our statuses are about the same."

After the two of them left, the family doctor came over to check on Matilda's injury.

Indeed, it wasn't a severe injury. However, the force from the brick had caused Matilda to be afflicted with a lumbar sprain. The doctor said that using warm compresses on her lower back before going to bed at night would help. Other than that, she was fine.

Matilda nodded and thanked the doctor. As the doctor knew Matilda from before, he was really taken aback to see her being so polite. In the past, not only had Matilda never thanked him, but she had also ordered him around bossily. In any case, the doctor courteously responded to her and then left with the medicine kit.

Old Mrs. Constance said she wanted to go for a walk, and Sophia didn't want to go back to her room to lie down, so they pulled Matilda along to the back garden. It was quieter at the back of the residence. Perhaps the other mistresses of the Constance Family had gone out.

Old Mrs. Constance thought for a while and then stretched out her hand to Matilda. "This residence has always been crowded, but for some reason, it's never lively. After you two moved out, this place felt even more deserted."

Her words were accusatory in nature. "Look at how lifeless this place is! Yet, John doesn't come back all the time, and William keeps working overtime at the company all the time. I'm really at my wits' end. I'm

an old woman now. Don't they care about me anymore?" Sophia wanted to laugh a little. The matriarch of the Constance Family had also changed a little; she would never say such a thing before.

Matilda kept quiet and didn't say a word. After complaining a little about the loneliness, Old Mrs. Constance then turned around to glance at her. "Two days ago, when I went to the monastery, I happened to see your mother."

Matilda was stunned, for she did not expect that Old Mrs. Constance would talk to her. After giving it a thought, she said, "Really? My mother did tell me a few days ago that she intended to go to the monastery. I had wanted to go along, but I couldn't find the time." It was mainly because she was worried about Sophia.

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "Your mother has been worried about you. Even though she didn't say anything, I could tell that she is very concerned about you."

Matilda just grunted in response.

Old Mrs. Constance then found a place to sit down in the garden. Sophia didn't sit down with her but walked around nearby. Old Mrs. Constance said to Matilda, "Do you have any future plans?"

It was such a broad question that Matilda didn't know how to answer. I have no idea if this old woman is trying to stop me from getting back with William. Hmm... perhaps it was merely a question out of mere curiosity.

Matilda pursed her lips and replied, "I don't have any special plans right now. I'm going to take a step at a time and see how it goes. At my age, I should take things slowly and do whatever I want."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "Yes, you should do whatever you want." The old woman didn't say anything more, so Matilda really couldn't figure out what she meant. Sophia wandered around for a bit before coming back to Old Mrs. Constance and sat next to her. "Is Mr. Constance spending a lot of time with Madam Bloom recently? In fact, Madam Bloom had come over to my place the other day."

Old Mrs. Constance was startled. "Yolanda went to your place?" At the mention of Yolanda, Matilda narrowed her eyes but said nothing.

Sophia muttered to herself, "She said that she came to talk to Madam Flintstone, but I don't know what she wanted to talk about. Anyway, she waited for Mr. Constance to leave before she left with him."

Old Mrs. Constance smiled slightly. "Is that so?"

Matilda was not in the best position to express her opinion, so she didn't say a word about this.

The Returning Ex Chapter 777

Sophia leaned back in the chair. "When I met Madam Bloom for the first time, I thought she was quite sophisticated."

Nodding in agreement, Old Mrs. Constance uttered, "When she was younger, she was a gorgeous woman. Coupled with her good nature, she naturally had a lot of admirers."

Sophia was a little curious. "Then why is she divorced? Her ex-husband should be in love with her, right?

How could he bear to get a divorce?"

Old Mrs. Constance thought for a while. "I heard that her ex-husband cheated on her, and she caught

him in the act. She's a decisive woman, and despite the man begging her to stay, she walked away and never looked back. She was determined to go through with the divorce. They had a child, but the child was old enough, and the divorce didn't bring much negative impact either. After that, she lived alone." After a long pause, Sophia nodded. "She hasn't had an easy life either."

Old Mrs. Constance agreed.

Sophia looked at Matilda and thought that she might not be happy with this topic, so she swallowed back the words she was about to say.

After sitting for a while in the garden, they saw Lady Jennifer driving back home. She seemed to know that Sophia and Matilda would be here today as she wasn't surprised at the sight of them. Walking over to them with a smile, she greeted, "Hello, my dear sister-in-law."

This form of address made Matilda feel a little better. After all, Lady Jennifer's greeting gave her an identity within the family. She nodded and asked in response, "Did you go out?"

Lady Jennifer came over and found a place to sit down. "Yes, I went out and bought something."

Old Mrs. Constance looked at Lady Jennifer before asking, "How's Dylan doing recently?"

When Dylan was brought up, Lady Jennifer sighed deeply. Her gaze shifted to Sophia as she said,

"Honestly speaking, I've gotten over it. Whatever. Since this is not what he wants, then there's nothing I can do. It's not worth it if the matter causes havoc within the family every day."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "Dylan is all grown up now, so you really don't need to worry about him. He

should know what to do.”

Hearing that, Lady Jennifer couldn't help glancing at Sophia again.

Noticing that, Sophia frowned slightly.

She had a feeling that Lady Jennifer looked rather guarded against her.

Lady Jennifer replied, “Well, Dylan is quite a sensible one. I think I

might have nagged a little too much,

and he's bothered by it. If I stop nagging, perhaps he would go and find

a girl by himself. So, I guess I

shouldn't worry about it.”

Agreeing, Matilda tried to console her, “They're all grown up now and

have their own opinions, so

they're less willing to be controlled by us. Most of the time, we should

let them make their own

decisions, especially when it comes to relationships.”

Lady Jennifer nodded.

After staying in the garden for quite some time, Old Mrs. Constance

became a little tired. Sophia and

Matilda bade goodbye to Lady Jennifer and helped Old Mrs. Constance

to return to the main building.

Old Mrs. Constance initially wanted to go upstairs to rest, but the

butler came over and said that a visitor

had arrived.

All three women in the room were taken aback by the sudden news.

The butler continued to say, “The

woman said she's Madam Bloom and that you should know her, Old

Mrs. Constance.”

Sophia was startled, after which she frowned and looked at Matilda.

Yolanda has come straight here.

This woman is really bold indeed.

Surprised, Old Mrs. Constance murmured, “What is she doing here?”

Despite saying this, she had the

butler invite Yolanda in.

When the butler ushered Yolanda into the room, the latter was

stupefied at seeing Sophia and Matilda

standing there. Sophia immediately realized that Yolanda had simply wanted to visit Old Mrs. Constance and get on her good side and wasn't here to sabotage the relationship between Matilda and the Constance Family.

Yolanda looked slightly awkward as she said, "Oh, you guys are here too."

Nodding, Sophia explained, "Yes, we're here to stay."

Yolanda passed the gift she was carrying to the servant stiffly and then smiled. "I see. William hadn't told me about it."

The Returning Ex Chapter 778

After hearing Yolanda's statement, Sophia replied, "Perhaps Dad felt that it wasn't a big deal."

She could really change her form of address at any moment. Old Mrs. Constance raised her eyes and looked at Sophia, her lips curling up slightly.

Thinking for a while, Matilda said to Yolanda, "Have a seat. Don't just stand there."

Yolanda smiled half-heartedly but still sat down. She looked at Old Mrs. Constance and said, "I had wanted to come and visit you, but I was unwell, so I had to delay my visit."

Old Mrs. Constance noticed that Yolanda was indeed not looking too good and could tell that she was exhausted. "It's fine. I heard that you met with a car accident. Fortunately, nothing serious happened."

Nodding, Yolanda explained, "That reflexive sidestep of mine saved my life." Old Mrs. Constance continued to ask, "What did the driver say? They have to be careful in the future over this kind of thing." Yolanda's expression was slightly awkward. "Yes. Their recklessness may bring about terrible

consequences to others.”

Sophia was an expert at observing others’ micro-expressions. Yolanda is probably keeping something from us about the incident.

Old Mrs. Constance then asked about Yolanda’s parents. Yolanda said that they had only kept contact through the phone. Her parents didn’t agree with her divorce, so they had some ill feelings for each other. She didn’t even tell her family about getting injured in the accident. With this explanation, she successfully clarified that there was indeed no one to take care of her, so it was normal for William to go over to her.

After pondering, Old Mrs. Constance stated, “I’m sure that they love you regardless. The generation gap may cause differing opinions. You may not wish to listen to them, but you should try to understand where they are coming from.”

Yolanda said she understood. Then, she smiled and said, “But I think it’s good for us to keep a distance from each other. They won’t worry about me so much, and I won’t feel so irritated by them.”

Seemingly agreeing to her statement, Old Mrs. Constance said pointedly, “I suppose it’s essential to keep a distance sometimes. Since we should keep a distance from our parents, we should do the same with other people too, right?”

As soon as Old Mrs. Constance’s words left her lips, all the people present were stunned. Yolanda’s face turned pale in an instant. At her age, she would have to be really dull-witted if she couldn’t even tell the underlying meaning of those words.

To Matilda's surprise, Old Mrs. Constance actually advised Yolanda to stay away. She had always thought that Old Mrs. Constance preferred a woman like Yolanda. Although she was divorced, William was no longer young, so it would be ridiculous if he were to find a young woman as his wife. Besides, it wasn't in his character to be with a girl who was young enough to be his own daughter.

Sophia was startled as well but then quickly recovered herself and laughed. "Yes, Grandma is right. No matter who we are with, we must know our place." Old Mrs. Constance smiled at that simply because Sophia had called her 'Grandma'.

It was a long time before Yolanda pursed her mouth and agreed with them. Sophia could see through her discomfiture. In fact, she actually sympathized with her a little. Is it so wrong of her to fall in love with a man that we have to humiliate her like this?

But the problem was that Yolanda was really too brazen. If they didn't try to dissuade her, she might actually try to do something. Considering how William was like, it wasn't completely out of the question for him to become interested in such a self-assured woman.

Old Mrs. Constance had probably also thought of this. She had been feeling lethargic for quite some time, so after chatting with Yolanda for a while, she became even more sluggish and could no longer continue talking. As such, Sophia got up and said to her, "Grandma, let me help you go upstairs and rest."

Hearing that, Old Mrs. Constance nodded in agreement. "Yes, of course. I'm up in my years now, so naturally, I'm not as energetic as you young people."

As Sophia helped Old Mrs. Constance upstairs, she took a look at Matilda. Coincidentally, Matilda also

happened to look up. Their eyes met for a brief moment before both of them looked away quickly.

Sophia knew that at that moment, Matilda had understood what she wanted to convey.

The Returning Ex Chapter 779

Old Mrs. Constance's movements were slow, so Sophia had to match her pace. The two of them went toward Old Mrs. Constance's room, after which Sophia suddenly said, "That Madam Bloom appears to really like Mr. Constance."

"Even you can tell." Old Mrs. Constance nodded.

Laughing, she explained, "It's really too obvious."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded again and said earnestly, "To be honest, there isn't any fault that I can find in her. However, the matter between her and William has always been a thorn in my heart. That year, she was the one who abandoned William, so I feel uncomfortable every time I think about it."

Unsure of the incidents in the past, she merely gave a noncommittal grunt. When they went into the room, she did not leave at once.

Sophia helped Old Mrs. Constance get into bed, then she said, "But considering how we treated her today, won't Mr. Constance be upset if he finds out? Will he think that we're meddling in his private matter? Besides..."

Sophia hesitated before continuing, "Besides, what if he likes Madam Bloom?"

Laughing, Old Mrs. Constance glanced at Sophia. "Little brat, what do you want to find out from me? Just say it to my face."

Sophia grinned and replied, "It's nothing much. I'm just a little curious about Mr. Constance's stance on this. He's too placid, so I don't really understand him." Old Mrs. Constance thought about it. "Well, he is quite placid, I suppose. However, I've always thought that he's an open book."

For example, when William returned with John, John had gone upstairs first while he followed after a brief hesitation. It was obvious that he had gone and looked for Matilda, but he did not find her, yet he was too embarrassed to ask anybody.

Old Mrs. Constance saw it all clearly.

After he came down, he was embarrassed to speak so forthrightly, so he started complaining about Matilda, saying that she was such a picky woman that she probably couldn't adapt well now that she had suddenly moved in here. He kept saying how she might not be able to sleep well and how it was challenging to change her habits when she had become accustomed to them.

But all of it simply meant that Matilda would be unaccustomed to being arranged to sleep in a random room.

Old Mrs. Constance ignored him, but she naturally knew what he was trying to say. After all, they were divorced, so he and Matilda certainly could not sleep in the same room. Their relationship was rather different from John and Sophia's.

Sophia thought for a while before saying, "I thought it was obvious too, but as soon as Madam Bloom came, I'm not so sure anymore." Perhaps Yolanda was so proactive because she had privately interacted with William.

By then, Old Mrs. Constance was really drowsy, so she closed her eyes and said softly, "William... I didn't expect him to go down the same path as John."

Sophia stared at Old Mrs. Constance for a while before getting up and slowly retreating from the room.

She didn't go downstairs right away either. Downstairs is currently Matilda's battlefield. I bet she doesn't want anyone to disturb her now.

Hence, Sophia turned and went back to her room. She had nothing to do, so she just lay on the bed and checked her phone. Just now, she hadn't paid any attention to it, and now she realized there was an unread message from Ian. He didn't say anything outrageous, only that things were about to come to an end over there, and he wanted to see her when he came back.

Meeting each other was such a trivial matter that it didn't need to be said at all. Considering their deep friendship, she certainly should celebrate with him after his return.

Sophia stared at the phone for a while but chose not to reply. She put it down and leaned against the

headboard in a daze. Ian is a good man. Actually, she knew that if she got together with him, her life

would be pretty good. After all, Ian was kinder than John, so life with him should be stress-free. It was

just that feelings were something that couldn't be controlled. No matter how good Ian was, she wasn't able to harbor any romantic feelings for him.

After Sophia lay down for a while, she became rather drowsy. Just before she fell asleep, there was a

knock on the door, followed by Matilda entering. Sophia squinted at her. "Has Madam Bloom left?"

Nodding, Matilda came and sat by Sophia's bed. "We didn't talk much. She said she really didn't know that we'd come back here. I find this situation rather odd, so tell me, why did she come here today?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 780

“Why else?” Sophia turned to face Matilda. “She’s interested in your ex-husband, so naturally, she wants to assimilate into the family slowly. The first step would be to form good relationships with those in the Constance Family.”

Learning about what Yolanda might be planning, Matilda frowned. “She really is bold enough to do that. If it were me, I can’t do it. It feels so embarrassing.”

Recalling what happened, Sophia laughed. “Old Mrs. Constance was defending you just now.”

Matilda nodded. After some thought, she also lay down. “I was truly surprised. I thought that she doesn’t like me.”

Faced with her statement, Sophia replied, “You were really unlikable. But now you’re alright. What were you thinking of all these years?”

Matilda didn’t know what she herself was thinking about, for she seemed to be rather muddled before.

Sophia was feeling sluggish, so she fell asleep after some murmuring. Lying there, Matilda was lost in thought for a while before her eyes closed as well. The two of them slept well into the evening.

Old Mrs. Constance had awoken quite some time ago and was listening to music while drinking tea downstairs. Finally, she could not resist asking someone to go and call the two women to come down and have a chat with her. The servant came down after a while and reported, “They’re both asleep. I haven’t awakened them yet.”

The old lady laughed. “Okay, then let them sleep. Back then, when they were both at home, it had never

been as peaceful as now.”

Back then, Matilda was always looking for a chance to make things difficult for Sophia. Chaos had descended upon the family time after time, so by comparison, although it was much quieter now, it was also much more peaceful than before.

After waiting for a while, John and William returned. Old Mrs. Constance thought to herself that now John came home after work and William didn't work overtime anymore. She couldn't help laughing when she saw them entering the house.

As soon as John and William entered, they glanced into the living room. Old Mrs. Constance spoke, “You don't have to search around. They're both sleeping upstairs.”

John turned to go upstairs. “I'll go take a look.”

William looked as if he wanted to follow John, but Old Mrs. Constance stopped him and said, “You come here. We need to have a talk.”

Stopping in his tracks, William thought for a while before turning around. He came to sit opposite his mother. “Mom, what's the matter?”

Old Mrs. Constance took a sip of the tea and then said, “Yolanda was here today. Did you know about this?”

William was obviously startled at the news, for his brows creased as he answered, “She came here? I didn't know that. What was she doing here?”

Old Mrs. Constance pointed in a direction with her chin. “She sent that over and said she came to see me.” Smiling, she continued, “Why did she come to see me though? I'm just an old sack of bones.”

William turned to look where she was pointing and saw the gift basket of health products. His brows

were still furrowed together. “I didn’t know that she would come over. T-They—”

Without allowing him to finish his sentence, Old Mrs. Constance interrupted, “Later, I went upstairs to nap, so I have no idea what both of them talked about downstairs. If you want to know, you can ask Matilda or Yolanda.”

William exhaled sharply before muttering, “What did she come here for?”

Old Mrs. Constance’s voice was soft as she asked, “Ask yourself this, did you give her any hope?”

Hope? I hadn’t given Yolanda any hope. All this while, I have been quite clear about things.

Old Mrs. Constance paused for a moment, then asked, “You’re already at such an age, so I’m not going to nag you about this. However, when it comes to relationships, you shouldn’t drag it out like this. You need to be aware of who you like and who you want to be with. What are you so hesitant for anyway?”

William lowered his gaze. “About this matter, I don’t know what to do right now.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 781

William was a very sentimental person. If it weren’t for his feelings for Matilda over so many years, he wouldn’t have endured her attitude in the past. Later, his feelings for her were almost worn out, so he thought that it would be for the best if they got divorced. However, she had changed almost overnight.

When he saw her, his heart had pounded hard and fast for some inexplicable reason. He was no spring chicken anymore, so it would be embarrassing for him to tell anyone about it.

Anyway, it was an extraordinary feeling.

But if someone told him to reconcile with Matilda immediately, he wouldn't dare to do so either. The trauma of the past was still there. Even if she had changed, he didn't believe that she could change completely.

As he chatted with Old Mrs. Constance, Sophia and Matilda both came down the stairs, followed by John, who was looking quite amused.

Matilda mumbled as she came down the stairs, "I did actually wake up once but watching her sleep so well, I felt drowsy again and fell back asleep. I never sleep so much, alright? It has never been possible."

Sophia was a bit unhappy at that, so she swiveled around to look at Matilda. "How could you blame me for this kind of thing? You never fail to impress me." She was a little angry and added, "So what if we slept all afternoon? It's such a normal thing to do. Why do you have to make it sound like it's something extremely shameful?"

Matilda glanced at Sophia. "It's normal for you to sleep all day, but it's not for me." The two of them didn't look like people from two different generations; they appeared more like sisters instead.

When Matilda came down and saw William, she suddenly stopped in her tracks and greeted, "You're back."

Seeing her, William smiled. "It doesn't matter. You should rest when you're tired. No one will mind."

Matilda pursed her lips and didn't say a word. The Constance Family used to have many rules, but most of the rules were set by herself. Sophia was even scolded by her before for sleeping too much in the

afternoon. Now she herself was sleeping in the afternoon too. Even though no one said anything to her, and even Sophia didn't mind about it, she still felt rather mortified in her heart. It was like the pot calling the kettle black.

Since dinner wasn't ready yet, all of them went to sit on the sofa. Sophia leaned back on the sofa lazily, squinting as she listened to John talking about the company. She was a little absent-minded. After being lost in thought for a while, she pricked up her ears and heard John saying that he had finally caught the instigator behind Matilda's injury.

However, the man was probably not the ultimate mastermind but just another pawn. However, now that they had caught him, it would be easier to trace him to the mastermind.

Sophia sat up. "Is it Old Leopard?"

John nodded. "It's him. He is as slick as a man can be. The one that my subordinates had caught before was a fake. This guy knows that he's doing shady business and was worried that we would be looking for him, so he deliberately arranged for a stand-in to divert attention away from himself."

Laughing, he continued, "He's quite savvy. After being caught by my subordinates, he still pretended not to be the actual man himself. His acting skills are really something." Intrigued by the man, Sophia immediately asked, "Did you lock him up? I want to meet him."

John paused briefly. He immediately remembered Sophia's latest masterpiece and said rather helplessly,

"This man doesn't have a great physique. If you go, I think he'll literally die in your hands. Hence, I think it's best you skip this."

Hearing that, Sophia instantly became displeased. "Are you even listening to yourself? What are you

even saying? He got someone to harm me and even hurt Madam Flintstone. I have to go and see for myself who it is, right? My request is completely reasonable, understand?"

John was well aware of how silver-tongued Sophia was. He raised his hand and patted the top of Sophia's head. "Will you please let me deal with this matter by myself? Otherwise, I'll feel useless to have to depend on you for everything."

The Returning Ex Chapter 782

Sophia stared at John for a while and then said, "You are pretty good at acting now, aren't you?"

Seeing them bicker, Old Mrs. Constance laughed next to them. "Alright, alright. You two should deal with such matters behind closed doors. Come, come. Let's go and eat."

William went to help Old Mrs. Constance up, then all of them went to the dining hall.

It was uneventful during mealtime, but just when they were done eating, those from the Second

Constance Family came in. In fact, Master Owen, Lady Jennifer, and Dylan had all arrived.

Sophia hadn't seen Dylan for a long time. Therefore, she smiled at him and said, "It's been a while, but you haven't changed the slightest."

Staring at her belly, he commented, "You've changed a lot though."

Sophia took advantage of his words to stroke her belly and then smiled again at him.

Lady Jennifer took a look at Sophia, feeling much more reassured now. After all, now that she was pregnant with John's child, it was impossible for her to get together with Dylan anymore.

Previously, she had been paranoid about many possibilities, fearing that Sophia would get together with Dylan after separating from John. This caused her to argue with Dylan all day long, but now, she felt as if a burden had been lifted off her chest.

Sophia had initially wanted to go upstairs to rest, but now that the Second Constance Family was here, it wasn't appropriate for her to leave since most of them were here to see her. So, she graciously went over to sit on the sofa.

John came over and sat next to her, while Dylan sat down opposite them. The latter looked at Sophia and said, "Have you been feeling uncomfortable lately? I heard that it'd be a bit more unpleasant in the beginning."

Before Sophia could speak, John spoke first, "She's fine. I'm taking care of her, so she hasn't suffered too much."

Sophia turned to look at John. Does this have anything to do with him? This jerk is really shameless.

Dylan smiled. "Well, that's good then."

Deliberately, John asked, "How are your blind dates going? Haven't you found anyone suitable yet?"

Dylan didn't feel awkward at all but simply nodded. "You all know that I'm not a fan of blind dates. Since I'm repulsed by even the idea of it, naturally, I haven't found anyone suitable."

Exhaling sharply, Lady Jennifer said, "Fine, fine. We all know that, and we won't force you anymore. You can get married whenever you feel like getting married. We won't even ask about your girlfriend, okay?"

Dylan smiled faintly. "It should have been so a long time ago."

Master Owen glanced at Dylan and then looked at Sophia. "Sophia, you're now pregnant, so you should

be remarrying John soon. Both of you really have gone through a lot.” John slowly nodded. “I guess we’ll remarry soon.”

To be honest, John was uncertain about it. He used to be a very confident person. He was still confident now, but only in his work. When it came to his relationship, his self-confidence was suppressed by Sophia. He was completely insecure, especially when it was about the remarriage.

It wasn’t appropriate for Sophia to reject this idea in front of the Second Constance Family, so she smiled and said they weren’t in a hurry.

Lady Jennifer hurriedly said, “What do you mean by that? You’re now pregnant. Although it appears to be a very slow process, in fact, time passes in the blink of an eye. How can you wait until the child is born before planning your remarriage? You should take advantage of the time you have now and plan ahead.”

Without saying a word, Sophia smiled.

Lady Jennifer seemed to be unable to realize that Sophia was unwilling to continue with this topic. “The child must be born into a healthy and complete family. This is conducive to the growth of the child. Since everything has turned out this way, you two should remarry as soon as possible.”

Sophia did not speak, and the expression on her face remained the same, but there was no longer any trace of joy in her eyes.

The Returning Ex Chapter 783

Sophia was a little puzzled about what their definition of a healthy and complete family was.

Will the family be healthy and complete just because we have that piece of paper? It’s as if without the remarriage, the child has to lose either the father or the mother. But both of us are alive and well, right?

We're also looking forward to the child's arrival. Why are we not a healthy and complete family?

Sitting to the side, Dylan was aware of what was going on, so he quickly said, "This is Sophia and John's private matter, so we can't plan for them. They will think it through and decide for themselves. I'm sure no matter what their decision is, it will definitely be justified."

Lady Jennifer glanced at Dylan from the corner of her eyes and seemed a little unhappy. Old Mrs.

Constance said next to her, "Yes, they have to think and decide for themselves. We shouldn't meddle in their business. Any decision they make will be for the best."

Since Old Mrs. Constance said so, Lady Jennifer had nothing more to say. After a few seconds, Master

Owen changed the topic and talked about the company's affairs. Lady Jennifer looked at Matilda. "My dear sister-in-law, you've changed a lot."

Matilda played with her hair. "Really? I don't think so."

"It's really a big change." Lady Jennifer nodded. "I feel that you've become much younger all of a sudden.

Besides, I somehow think that you're no longer your past self."

Back then, when Matilda sat there, she had to put on airs and act like an aristocratic woman in her every move. But now, she was reclining on the sofa without caring for her image at all.

Laughing, Matilda replied, "I suppose so."

When there was a lull in the conversation, William looked over at Lady Jennifer and Matilda. These two people are actually chatting. I've never seen this happen before.

Matilda wasn't on good terms with anyone in the family back then. She was so full of herself that she

thought she was superior to others and was always slanting her eyes at them. Lady Jennifer was particularly at odds with her. So, it was a rare and surprising sight indeed for them to be chatting.

After talking for a while, John's phone rang, so he took it out and glanced at it before getting up. "Excuse me, I need to answer the phone."

Sophia raised her brows and slowly followed John. He went outside while Sophia stood in the doorway.

She couldn't hear clearly, but she had a feeling that it was his subordinate who had called.

John didn't talk for long, and he hung up after less than a minute.

Turning his head, he saw Sophia standing in the doorway staring at him and asked helplessly, "What are you doing here?"

Faced with his question, Sophia blinked innocently. "Are you going out to see Old Leopard?"

John went over to touch Sophia's face. He spoke in a subdued tone, trying not to let those in the room hear him. "Yes, I'm going to take a look."

Enthusiastically, Sophia said, "Take me along, take me along."

Seeing how excited she was, John smiled. "It's too late in the day now, so you'd better wait at home. I'll

inform you about the situation there as soon as possible, alright? My subordinate said that the guy has already admitted to everything. He's the kind of crafty fox who won't suffer even a little. Just by verbally threatening him, he'll spill the beans. There's no point for you to go there."

Sophia was a little unhappy. "I just want to go over and take a look."

John touched her belly. "That kind of place isn't an appropriate one for a child. Even if the baby can only

hear the sounds, it's better not to let the baby hear them."

Looking down at her own belly, she recalled that Matilda had recently been nagging her a lot, saying that

the child could sense what was going on outside and that the child could hear everything as well.

Although she thought it was nonsensical before, upon careful consideration...

She hummed slightly; her expression was still rather upset. "All right, then I won't go."

John gently pinched her face. "If there are any problems, I'll tell you when I come back. I promise not to hide anything from you and tell you everything."

The Returning Ex Chapter 784

Sophia only agreed after a long pause. John knew that she really wanted to join in the fun, but she really shouldn't go. Putting his arms around Sophia's shoulders, he took her into the living room and told the others that he had something to do, so he would be leaving first. William, Matilda, and Old Mrs. Constance all knew what he was going to do, so they didn't probe any further and only told him to come back as soon as possible. John patted Sophia's head before turning around and leaving.

Sophia pouted, still looking unhappy. Seeing her unsatisfied look, Matilda beckoned to her. "Come and sit down."

Going over and sitting next to Matilda, Sophia grumbled to her in a low voice along the lines of John refusing to bring her out with him. Matilda stroked her back. "If you go over, he'll have to look after you.

You're now pregnant, so it's only right that you go out less."

Sophia pulled a long face and stopped talking.

Lady Jennifer looked at them both before laughing. "Matilda, your relationship with Sophia has improved

by a lot. I'm really envious. It would be great if I can have such a good relationship with Dylan's wife in the future too."

Chuckling, Dylan said nothing. Following that, Matilda looked at Lady Jennifer. "Sure, I believe you will.

You're good-natured, so it will be easy for you to get along with the younger generation."

With eyes filled with some kind of emotion, Lady Jennifer looked at Sophia. Sophia was feeling grumpy, so she only glanced at Lady Jennifer for a brief second before withdrawing her gaze. She didn't care to wonder about what the other woman was thinking.

As she was in a bad mood, she went upstairs shortly after. But she couldn't sleep, so she went to brush her teeth and then sat on the bed, checking her phone. It had been a long time since she watched Ian's talent show. Therefore, she decided to click into it, but after some thought, she closed the application.

Those who had watched the show commented about how depressed Ian had become. They were all wondering if his relationship was going downhill. After all, he had markedly mentioned his girlfriend a few times before, but later, he stopped bringing her up and became dejected. Thus, everyone inevitably guessed that there was really a problem with his relationship. But despite Ian's misery, the number of his fans continued to rise. Some of the fans liked this side of Ian. His persona of a melancholic and lonesome upper-class man caused many of his fans' imaginations to run wild.

After reading these comments, Sophia didn't feel like watching the show anymore.

Ugh... I don't care whether others like this side of Ian. I definitely don't like him like this, period!

To her, Ian should be a warm and cheerful guy.

Putting the phone down, she lay on the bed and put her hands on her belly. Her mind was rather blank as she stared at the ceiling. After a while, a knocking sounded on the door.

It was none other than Matilda.

Matilda came over and sat on the side of Sophia's bed, saying that she couldn't sleep. It wasn't early, yet it wasn't late either. Sophia turned her head to look at her. "What can we do about it? I'm also bored."

Sighing, Matilda suggested, "There are too few of us here. Otherwise, we can play poker."

At the mention of poker, Sophia remembered Logan. She and Logan hadn't gotten in touch for a long time. The guy used to like to play poker with her. But recently, he had disappeared off the face of the earth for some reason.

Sophia slowly sat up. "If you like playing poker so much, you should be able to get along with Logan.

When we have time, we should go to his clubhouse and play together." Despite all of Matilda's changes, her love for poker hadn't changed at all. She nodded. "Does Logan like playing poker too? Why didn't you say so before? We might've become friends long ago."

Sophia laughed. "I'll call him now. If we have time tomorrow, let's go over and take a look."

It would be terribly boring for the two of them to stay in the house every day. Matilda felt awful at the end of the day. Thus, Sophia picked up her phone and gave Logan a call.

The Returning Ex Chapter 785

It took quite a while for Logan to pick up. The background over there sounded a little noisy, but it didn't sound like people were playing poker. Sophia asked Logan where he was, to which he hummed and only said he was out without going much into detail. Sophia frowned. "It's so late now. Are you out alone?"

Only after brief contemplation did Logan reply, "Yes, I'm alone." If he had answered immediately, Sophia would have believed it. But he undoubtedly gave it a thought first, so she felt that he wasn't telling the truth. She asked, "Do you have time tomorrow? I want to go to your clubhouse to play some poker." Logan hesitated before saying, "Yes. If you're coming, I'll make time."

His reply caused Sophia to narrow her eyes. "Okay. We'll talk more tomorrow then."

After hanging up the phone, she tapped it on her palm. Her intuition told her that something was going on over at Logan's side, and it seemed that he didn't want to talk to her about it. Young Master Logan is obviously hiding something from me. As curiosity rose in her, she itched to know what had happened.

Matilda was still in Sophia's room, so she continued talking with her. It wasn't until her son came back that she left for her own room. She opened the door and went in without looking properly at the inside of the room. Closing the door after her, she went to the closet and took a set of pajamas out, then walked toward the bathroom.

Suddenly, there came a voice from the window. "Did you really not see me, or are you just pretending?"

Matilda almost jumped in shock as she whirled around to stare at the source of the sound. William was

standing at the window with an unlit cigarette in his hand.

The fright still lingered in Matilda's heart as she stared at William.

"When did you enter? Why didn't you move when I came in? You really scared me to death."

Her reply made William frown. "So, you genuinely didn't see me?"

Matilda put down her pajamas. "Why are you here? Is something the matter?"

William opened the window, then lit his cigarette. "Nothing. I just want to come over and ask if you're getting used to the place."

Going over to stand beside him, Matilda uttered, "Not too bad. After all, I've lived here for nearly three decades. Even if I haven't stayed here for some time, I'm no stranger to this house."

Satisfied with the answer, William nodded. "That's good." After some thought, he added, "I heard that Yolanda came here this afternoon."

Matilda said, "Yes, she was here. She said that she was visiting."

Learning that Yolanda visited, William awkwardly asked, "Both of you... What did you talk about?"

Matilda laughed. "Not much. The others had gone up to rest, so just the two of us were sitting downstairs. She didn't know that I'd moved in here and was quite surprised, so I briefly explained the situation to her."

William exhaled sharply. "Actually, you don't need to explain anything to her."

Startled, Matilda looked at the scenery outside the window, blinking a little. She didn't know why, but she felt a little thrilled in her heart.

After that, both of them didn't know what else to say and simply stood together at the window. It was quite late now. William finished his cigarette, then turned to look at Matilda. "You should rest now. I'm

going back to my room.”

Matilda nodded. “Right.”

William then turned around and left the room. When the door closed, Matilda let out a long breath.

What did William mean just now? Pursing her lips, she couldn't help but smile.

As for William, he went to take a shower after entering his own room.

When he came out, he noticed a missed call on the phone.

It was from none other than Yolanda.

William glanced at it, then threw the phone on the bed without any intention of calling back.

The Returning Ex Chapter 786

William went to put on his pajamas. Just as he fastened the last button, the phone rang again.

It was Yolanda again.

This time, William picked up the phone. “What's up?”

Yolanda was laughing from the very beginning. “Nothing, I just felt a little bored and wanted to chat with you.”

William gave a noncommittal grunt, after which Yolanda pondered for a while before saying, “I actually went to the Constance Residence today.”

Sitting on his bed, he replied, “I heard.”

Yolanda gave a rational reason. She said, “You took care of me for a long time when I was injured, so I thought that I should visit and show my appreciation.”

After brief contemplation, William replied, “No, you don't need to be so polite.”

Yolanda's tone was still cheerful. “I saw Matilda and Sophia over there. That surprised me.”

The truth was that she was trying to sound him out. William naturally understood her underlying intention, but he was a placid man and wasn't concerned about it. Hence, he simply went along with it and answered, "Yeah, the two of them will be staying here in the future."

Upon hearing his reply, she uttered, "I suppose that's for the best. Sophia is pregnant, so she'll get better care there." She chuckled and continued, "It's normal. Definitely normal."

Her self-comforting tone sounded somewhat reluctant.

With his brows pulled together, he sighed and said, "Yolanda, we haven't kept in contact for so many years. But we know each other quite well, and I've always seen you as a good friend of mine. So, I sincerely wish for you to live a good life, and I wouldn't like to drag you along."

Suddenly, Yolanda fell silent on the other end of the phone.

William went on to say, "I don't have any special feelings for you. It's okay for us to be friends. But I think I'm not able to go further than that." After some thought, he added, "Sorry."

It took a long time for Yolanda to speak. "So, you choose Matilda."

William replied with a sigh, "It has nothing to do with her. I just don't have any romantic interest in you.

She didn't influence me."

Chuckling in self-mockery, Yolanda pressed on, "Really?"

William had no idea what she meant by that, but she immediately continued, "So, do you like Matilda?"

William fell silent at once.

Do I like her? I suppose so, right? No matter how bad Matilda was, I couldn't deny that we have feelings

for each other after nearly three decades of married life.

As William didn't speak, Yolanda understood what his silence meant.

There was some regret in her voice as she said, "Can you and her go back to the way you used to be? If you're suitable for each other, you wouldn't have gotten divorced. No matter how much one changes, one's core character cannot be changed."

William didn't feel like talking about this. With regard to his relationship issues, although he acted indifferent and unruffled about them, he was actually very concerned in his heart. He said, "I won't lie to you about my feelings for Matilda. I do like her, and as for divorce, it's not all her fault. I was also responsible. As for how we'll progress in the future, I'm not sure about it yet. I guess time will tell."

Yolanda wanted to say something more, but William interrupted her, "Right, it's getting late now. You should rest early."

This meant that he wished for the topic to end here. Yolanda paused and only said, "Okay." William then hung up the phone. He put it aside as a dazed expression slowly crept across his face.

On the other side, John was explaining what had happened throughout the time he had been outside.

Sophia listened carefully, but she couldn't quite understand how everything was related.

John didn't want to let her know so much about the matter. After all, she was pregnant, so it was more important for her to take care of herself, for he could handle the mess single-handedly.

Therefore, when he finished speaking, he leaned toward Sophia and asked, "Sophia Gwendolyn, do you like me?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 787

Sophia was taken aback for a moment. She couldn't understand why he suddenly asked such a question

when they had been talking about something else. Frowning, she asked, “What’s the matter?”

Determined to get an answer, John said, “Why don’t you want to remarry me? I really don’t understand it.”

Sophia pursed her lips and looked at John with a serious expression. After mulling over it for a few seconds, she replied, “I do like you. Although you made me feel sad and disappointed many times, I can’t lie and say I don’t have feelings for you. As for not wanting to remarry you, that’s also a fact.”

After that, she withdrew her gaze. “I need a fallback plan. I think us staying this way is good for both of us. In the future, if you’re bored with me, you can still turn around and leave easily. As for me, I don’t have to suffer too much either. It will be a big blow to me if I get divorced again after remarrying you.” She could endure it once, but she didn’t want to endure it a second time.

John looked at Sophia with a complicated expression. “You just don’t have confidence in me.”

Sophia smiled. “It’s not that. The truth is that I don’t have confidence in myself. John, I don’t believe I can keep you by my side forever.”

Although she said this indifferently, there were still some regrets and grievances in her voice. John suddenly thought that he might have oversimplified things in his mind. The emotional damage he had caused Sophia throughout the past three hundred days could not be undone simply by multiple promises from him, or a few days of him being nice to her.

Sighing, John went over to hold Sophia in his arms. “Actually, what you don’t know is that I’m insecure when it comes to you. I’m also afraid that I cannot make you stay with me.”

Sophia pursed her mouth and said nothing.

Relationship matters were always complex. John did not possess a transparent character, and neither did Sophia. Both of them simply groped their way forward, so it was inevitable for them to stumble along the way.

Sophia knew that she was being quite pretentious for not agreeing to the remarriage, considering that John was already behaving this way and that she was already pregnant. However, she just wished to be reckless for once. In the past, she had been way too accommodating time after time, so this time, she wanted to put on an attitude.

The two of them didn’t say much after that. Sophia had wanted to sleep just now, but she was disturbed by Matilda. Now that she was becoming drowsy again, she really couldn’t hold up any longer.

John had Sophia lie down first while he went to take a shower. After John entered the bathroom, his phone rang on the bedside table. The sound of the water was too loud for John to hear the ringing.

Although Sophia was in a deep sleep, the buzzing of the phone caused the bedside table to vibrate as well, so she heard it loud and clear. Squinting, she took the phone over and connected the call without looking at who it was. “What’s the matter?”

There was no sound from the other end of the call. Sophia waited for a moment before urging, “Speak up.”

After two seconds, Isabelle’s voice drifted over. “It’s me.”

Sophia's mind was a little confused. "Who are you?"

She didn't mean it; she really didn't recognize her. Isabelle took a deep breath and repeated, "It's me.

Isabelle Bailey."

Sophia frowned. It took a lot of effort for her to wake up from her sluggishness. "Oh, it's you. What's the matter?"

Isabelle replied, "Where's John? I'm looking for him."

Turning her head, Sophia looked in the direction of the bathroom. "He's taking a shower."

Hearing that, Isabelle immediately said, "Forget it then. I'll call him tomorrow."

Sophia said nothing and hung up the phone at once. Ugh, why did she call in the middle of the night and disturb my sleep?

Sophia put the phone on John's side of the bed. Turning over, she closed her eyes and fell asleep.

When John came out quietly, he went to bed after changing into his pajamas. At a glance, he noticed that his phone had changed from its initial position.

The Returning Ex Chapter 788

After brief contemplation, John took his phone over and looked at it. It was apparent in the call log that

Isabelle had just called, and the call lasted less than a minute. Sophia had probably picked it up.

Setting the phone to silent mode and putting it back on the bedside table, John lay down and hugged

Sophia from behind. Sophia was clearly jolted awake from her sleep, hence, she huffed drowsily and reproached, "So annoying."

John went along with what she said. "It's so annoying that she called in the middle of the night without any discretion."

Sophia couldn't help chuckling. "You're more annoying for flirting around."

Kissing the back of her head, he whispered, "No, I didn't flirt around. I just want to flirt with you. I don't have the energy to bother about others."

Sophia couldn't be bothered to debate with him. Shifting slightly, she found a comfortable position and fell asleep. She slept so soundly that she didn't even know when John left in the morning.

When Sophia woke up, she felt very lethargic. She tossed and turned in bed but didn't feel like getting up. After lazing around for a while, the door opened, and Matilda sneaked in. She was still in her pajamas. When Sophia glanced at her ex-mother-in-law, she was somewhat surprised. "Didn't you sleep well? Your dark circles are so bad."

Matilda pursed her lips. "No, I didn't sleep well. There's something that I would like you to help me analyze. I couldn't understand it after pondering about it for the entire night."

Before she could tell Sophia what it was, the latter laughed. "What's wrong? What did your ex-husband do to make you so anxious?"

John had a meeting in the morning. Upon walking out of the conference room, he saw Dylan's office door open when he was heading toward his own office. But it wasn't Dylan who came out; instead, it was Isabelle.

As expected, Isabelle was now handing over all collaboration matters to Dylan, so it was normal for her to come out of his office. Upon noticing John, Isabelle seemed stunned. She then spoke first, "Hey,

John.”

John nodded, then looked at Dylan, who had come out as well. “I have a document to give you. Uncle Owen wanted to give it to you, but you weren’t here, so he left it with me.”

Dylan agreed, then looked at Isabelle. “Miss Bailey, this way, please.” He was facing the direction of the elevator, which naturally meant he was sending Isabelle off.

Hesitating, Isabelle then turned to face Dylan. “Young Master Dylan, you don’t have to send me off. I’ll go and say hello to Mr. Constance first.”

John had turned to push open the door of his office. He should have heard Isabelle’s words, but he didn’t react at all.

On the other hand, Dylan smiled. “All right. As you wish, Miss Bailey.” Isabelle nodded and walked toward John’s office.

John was already sitting behind his desk. He glanced at Isabelle and asked, “Is something the matter, Miss Bailey?”

Pretending to be calm, Isabelle came over to pull out the chair and sat down. “I called Madam Flintstone before. There must be a misunderstanding about the previous incident at the hospital. I was thinking that maybe we could have a meal together later. No matter how our opinions differ, consider it as an apology from me. I was indeed too impulsive back then.”

John slowly raised his head to look at Isabelle evenly without giving away what he thought. Then he said, “No need.”

Taking a deep breath, Isabelle said, “John, are you never going to forgive me? Yes, I did push Sophia a little at the time, and I was wrong for doing that. So, I apologize for that. But if you’re saying that I deliberately tried to harm her, I’m not going to admit to that because I really didn’t have such

intentions.”

John didn't want to talk about this matter. In any case, her explanation didn't amount to much. “We'll talk about this some other time. I'm a little busy right now.” These words were obviously meant to drive her away.

Isabelle naturally understood what he meant. She stared at him, and although her expression was still composed, frustration violently coursed through her veins.

The Returning Ex Chapter 789

Isabelle felt that she hadn't done anything heinous to warrant such an attitude from John. Besides, their relationship had been fine all along. Even though it wasn't especially great, he had always been gracious to her.

How could their relationship suddenly take a nosedive just after the incident at the hospital? He didn't even care to find out the truth and simply distanced himself from her just like that.

Isabelle pursed her mouth and took a few deep breaths before she stood up. “Okay, then please carry on with your work. I still have something to do, so I'll take my leave first.” John didn't say anything and only looked down at his file. Feeling a little embarrassed, Isabelle got up and gave him a last glance before leaving. Upon leaving the Constance Group, Isabelle felt irritated and uneasy in her heart. She didn't drive away at once but took out her phone and dialed a number.

On the other side, Matilda was rather surprised at the incoming call. Squeezing her phone, she looked at the number for a long time. At this hour, Isabelle should be at work, so where did she find the time to

call me? In the past, she was so busy she didn't even have time after getting off work. Yet now she's not busy anymore.

Matilda ruminated about the past before answering the phone.

Isabelle's cheery voice drifted over as she asked what Matilda was doing.

Matilda turned around to glance at Sophia, who was lying languidly beside her and nibbling on snacks.

Then, she told Isabelle that she didn't have anything going on and was watching some boring TV show.

Sophia turned to look at Matilda and gave her a thumbs up.

Isabelle replied that she still wanted to invite Sophia and Matilda out to a meal and asked if they had

time. Matilda turned to look at Sophia, who nodded.

So, Matilda agreed. "I think we're quite free today. But, Belle, aren't you busy over there? Don't you have a lot of work?" She remembered how Isabelle had kept turning a blind eye to her matters with the excuse of being busy with her work.

Isabelle said that it was fine. Then, she added, "I had too much on my plate previously, so I've handed some work over to others. It's too much for me to handle everything alone."

Matilda sounded quite happy for her as she said, "That's great. You shouldn't disregard your work."

Isabelle quickly set a time and place for the appointment and asked Matilda's opinion about it. Clearly,

she had planned it a long time ago. Matilda answered, "Sure."

Isabelle finally laughed. "Madam Flintstone, I'll have to trouble you to inform Miss Gwendolyn and John

about this. I'll wait for you at the restaurant tonight."

Matilda agreed and hung up the phone. As she put the phone down, Sophia took a bite out of her snack

and said, "Look, I told you that she'd definitely call you, didn't I? Isabelle is the kind of person who has a strong ambition to succeed."

It might also have something to do with the family environment. She came from a strong background, so she naturally felt that she should succeed in everything. If she were a little behind, she would feel discontented. Therefore, when Sophia intercepted John's interest back then, she must have been very unhappy about it.

Matilda leaned back in her chair. Both of them were sitting in the open space in front of the main building while eating snacks and basking in the sun. They couldn't be more relaxed right now.

Matilda said, "I didn't think she was like this before. I even thought that she coveted nothing and was very pleasing to the eye. Now that I think about it, it seems that I was really wrong."

Sophia asked about the time and place of the appointment, then nodded. "Go and tell John about it. I want to see what tricks Isabelle can pull with the three of us there."

Matilda nodded without speaking.

Old Mrs. Constance came out of the house and stood at the door looking at the two people sitting outside. The two women didn't notice her. They were huddling close together and giggling about something they had said. Old Mrs. Constance laughed too. If there was a little kid around, then life would be enjoyable.

Once again, John and William returned from work at noon, and neither of them felt bothered by it.

The Returning Ex Chapter 790

Sophia and Matilda were strolling about in the garden. William and John saw them at once when they

got out of the car, after which they stopped in their tracks. William stood next to the car and looked in Matilda's direction. "When your matter is handed over to Dylan, the Bailey Family's matters are also handed over to him. Although Isabelle is still the main person responsible for them, most of the work has been handed over to the business manager." John made a noncommittal grunt. "Really? I haven't noticed. At work, I'm not really interested in their family's matters."

William paused for a moment before asking, "Did that guy you capture say anything?" Turning his head, John looked at William. "He did reveal some of it, and I'm investigating now. I have a feeling that it has something to do with the Bailey Family. But it's just a feeling." William froze. Then, he frowned and asked, "Are you sure?"

After all, the Bailey Family was involved in business. Although they had many tactics and schemes, they probably wouldn't do such a thing. Even if they really had a dispute with the Constance Family, they would just lay some obstacles for the latter in the business circle instead of getting someone to do something so unscrupulous like this. It was simply not something people in business did. John considered for a minute. "It's only a guess. After all, I don't have any hard evidence right now that proves that it's the Bailey Family who is behind it. I'll continue investigating the matter."

William and John hadn't moved and remained standing by the car. Sophia and Matilda remembered that

lunch was ready by now, so they came back from the garden, only to run into the men.

Seeing them, Matilda couldn't help smiling at once. William stared at her, and the corners of his mouth twitched uncontrollably too.

But Sophia wasn't smiling. Instead, she slowly walked over to John's side and said, "Isabelle invited us to have dinner with her this evening."

John nodded as Matilda had called to tell him about this before. Stretching out his hand, he took Sophia's hand and held it in his palm. "She came to the company today and asked me as well, but I refused her. I didn't expect you two to agree."

Sophia chuckled. "I see Isabelle has learned how to tackle both sides." Walking up to William, Matilda asked, "Why did you come back at noon? It's too troublesome to come and go like this."

William didn't mind at all. "It's okay. The lunch break is quite long, so I have the time for this."

Matilda nodded in response. The four of them then walked toward the main building.

Old Mrs. Constance was standing at the door of the main building. She had wanted to go over to call Sophia and Matilda for lunch, but when she saw them coming over, she just stood there and watched.

The scene that unfolded before her had never existed before. Not only did John and Sophia have a bad relationship with each other, but Matilda and William had also never walked side by side so peacefully before.

It wasn't that the two of them had never had a walk like this in the past thirty years of their married life.

The point was that they had never been so agreeable with each other before.

Back then, when they walked together, Matilda talked most of the time while William kept quiet. But now, the two of them were talking and laughing together as they came over. Old Mrs. Constance had never seen such a sight in her life.

Sophia walked a little faster than the others. When she saw Old Mrs. Constance standing there, she knew that lunch was ready. Hence, she quickly said, "I'm starving. Quick, let's go and eat."

She was much more energetic than before. Upon seeing her like that, Old Mrs. Constance became more satisfied with her. She laughed and told Sophia, "Hurry up then. The food is ready." Then she looked at John and William. "I knew that you two would be back at noon, so I had the kitchen prepare your lunch too."

William was a little embarrassed as he smiled through pursed lips, while John did not have much reaction at all. After all, he had gotten used to being thick-skinned. During lunch, Sophia told everyone that she was going over to Logan's clubhouse with Matilda later.

The Returning Ex Chapter 790

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The Returning Ex Chapter 791

After a brief pause, John said, "Sure. I'm sure it's really mind-numbing to stay at home like this every day.

Logan's clubhouse has many interesting things to see, so it would be good for you two to go and take a look."

Hearing his reply, Sophia nodded. "When you guys get off work later, just come over and pick us up there."

John agreed. The rest of the meal was eaten in silence. This was, after all, one of the Constance Family's house rules.

Halfway through the meal, Sophia looked up at Matilda. Matilda also happened to be looking at her, so they could see the frustration in each other's eyes. They used to think that this was normal, but now they couldn't help but want to talk.

After eating for a while, William turned around and looked at Matilda. "Is your injury better yet?"

Startled, Matilda nodded before replying, "It's just a small wound after all. It got better after only a day."

William withdrew his gaze and commented, "You used to be so anxious about even a tiny bump."

Matilda couldn't hold back her laughter. "I used to be really pretentious. I felt that the world was against me if I even so much as bumped into something. So, I wanted to tell you and hoped that you would feel sorry for me."

Later, when she thought about it, she realized that it was pointless to tell him. The redness and swelling were gone in a few minutes. After worrying and busying over his work for the entire day, William had to come back home to sort out her trivial matters. He should be very annoyed by me back then.

William lowered his head and continued eating. Matilda didn't notice it, but his expression was rather brooding.

After the meal, the father-son duo was about to leave for work when John looked at Sophia. "Let me send you guys there."

This was a good idea, so Sophia and Matilda hurriedly changed their clothes, sat in John's car, and went to Logan's clubhouse.

On the way, Sophia called Logan to tell him they were going over, but to her surprise, Logan wasn't at the clubhouse. There was even some whining going on over at Logan's side.

Sophia frowned at this. "Logan, are you for real? I've told you that we're going over today. If you're not here, who are we supposed to play with?"

On the other side, Logan immediately said in a cheerful tone, "If you guys are there, I'll go back

immediately. Don't worry, I'll be there in a jiffy."

After saying that, he seemed to say to someone else, "I've something to do today. I'll talk about it another day. Let me tell you that I'll definitely come for you another day. You can't hide from me."

Sophia heard all of this clearly, and she was a little astonished. Logan's tone was malicious, so the other person should be someone he didn't like.

Sophia smacked her lips, thinking that it might be someone from the Morgan Family. However, on second thought, it didn't sound like it. If Logan met someone from the Morgan Family, considering his temper, he would probably roll up his sleeves and pick a fight right there and then. How could he just make do with threats?

Logan had already hung up the call, so Sophia had no choice but to put away her phone.

Frowning, she looked at John and asked, "Do you know what's going on with Logan? I feel like he is hiding something from me."

Seeing how curious she was, John merely smiled. "You can just ask him later. He really regards you as his own family. If you ask him, he will tell you."

Sophia exhaled. "I have a feeling that he's too embarrassed to tell me about it."

In the past, Logan would come to tell Sophia about his matters even if she didn't ask him. Since he hadn't said anything now, she believed that he probably wasn't sure how to tell her.

John turned around and looked at Sophia, then said, "I heard that Ian would have some time off for relaxation in the next few days. He'll probably look for you."

Sophia blinked. As the change of topic was a bit sudden, she didn't react at once. "Ian?"

After a brief pause, “Oh, right, Ian. Will he get some time off? He’ll definitely come back, right? After all, he doesn’t have many friends, so he won’t be going somewhere else. Besides, there are people here waiting for him to return.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 792

Upon hearing Sophia’s reply, John nodded. “When the time comes, we’ll go and pick him up. Also, I think we should tell him about us.”

Matilda snorted to the side. Recently, she and Sophia had been singing the same tune. Before Sophia could ask, she spoke first. “About you two? What about it?”

John blinked before replying evenly, “About us living together, and about Sophia’s pregnancy. Mom, what’s wrong with you? People would think you’re my stepmother for not knowing what’s up with us.”

He glanced at Matilda through the rearview mirror and added, “Have you never thought of me as your biological son?”

Finding his reply funny, Matilda didn’t hold back a laugh. “I think you’re the one who has never thought of me as your biological mother. I think that you’re nicer to even Yolanda than me.”

Stunned, John didn’t expect Matilda to think that, and in his defense, he said, “How is that possible? Why do you think so though? I don’t think I’m that nice to Yolanda.”

Matilda leaned back in her seat. “Think back to how you’ve treated me in the past. In any case, I feel that you have a better attitude when speaking to Yolanda.”

John laughed aloud. “Perhaps I spoke too harshly due to our differing opinions in the past, and perhaps

that's why you think that I'm nicer to Yolanda. Actually, that's not the case, for I was just honest about things. Although she had her selfish intentions, the situation between you and my dad wasn't great at that time either. My dad was truly exhausted by everything that was going on, so I was criticizing the way you handled the situation, not you."

Listening to his explanation, Matilda sighed. "I know that I was rather dreadful before and that your dad was pretty miserable back then." After speaking, she smiled a little awkwardly. "Your dad was too good-natured. I thought that it would be fine no matter how much fuss I kicked up. That was why I became worse."

Sophia sighed next to her. "John, how nice it would be if you had learned a thing or two from Mr. Constance. Then you wouldn't be begging to remarry me now." Hearing this, John laughed all of a sudden. "I'm to blame. This is my fault."

In the past, William had been too kind to Matilda, while he himself hadn't cared about Sophia. As a result, both father and son were faced with disastrous relationships. Faced with the situation, Matilda cracked up. "Sophia has a better character than me. Even if you're exactly like your dad, the two of you will only enjoy a better life, not worse."

Sophia grunted approvingly. "You're right about my character being better than yours."

Matilda couldn't hold back a snort.

Chatting happily, they arrived at Logan's clubhouse.

The people guarding the clubhouse's entrance knew Sophia and John, so the usher hurriedly greeted

them. “Young Master Jefferson said that he’d be here soon, so please wait for a moment.”

Sophia nodded, then leaned forward slyly. “Has there been anything abnormal about Logan recently?”

John took a look around and spoke to Matilda before leaving. Not bothering about Sophia, Matilda walked into the hall by herself and sat on the sofa.

Sophia was still huddled close with the usher with a look of surprise on her face. “He hasn’t been playing poker recently? Are you sure?”

The usher nodded thoughtfully. “Yes, he hasn’t played poker lately. He goes out every day and even starts paying attention to how he looks. I think Young Master Logan seems to be in love.”

Are you kidding me? How could Logan Jefferson, of all people, be in love?

Satisfied with the answer, Sophia grinned. “I think you must be blind. Your Young Master Logan wears gold chains whenever he goes out. Rest assured, no girl in her right mind would be interested in him.”

The usher pondered over it seriously. “Then I’m probably mistaken. He does wear the gold chains out all the time.”

Logan’s sense of what’s aesthetic is really incurable.

The Returning Ex Chapter 793

Sophia raised her hand and patted the usher on the shoulder. “It must be hard for all of you to follow such a leader.”

The usher grinned. He was on familiar terms with Sophia, so he wasn’t too reserved in his speech.

“We’re not sure what’s wrong with Young Master Jefferson in this area. We couldn’t get him to stop no matter what we did. Other than that, he’s a good boss.”

The people in this clubhouse had worked for Logan for quite many years. Logan usually had a happy-go-lucky attitude, and he was really decent to his subordinates. No matter what problem any of them met with, Logan would be the first to help. His temperament was obnoxious, but he was also really honorable and devoted. If he considered someone as one of his own, he would treat that person very well indeed.

As they were chatting, Logan came back. He stopped the car at the entrance, then got out and ran into the hall. He hadn't seen Sophia for a long time, so he really missed her. Rushing over to her, he was about to give Sophia a bear hug when Matilda hurriedly stopped him. Logan's movements halted in the air. His arms were still wide open as he turned to look at Matilda.

"You're here too?"

Matilda didn't answer his question but instead said, "Put your arms down. My Sophia is carrying a baby in her belly, so don't simply touch her."

Logan blinked, only to remember that Sophia was no longer who she used to be. Contemplating for a while, he then put his arms down.

Smiling, Sophia leaned over and hugged Logan gently. "Logan, why haven't you visited me these days? I'm so bored every day."

Hearing that she missed him, he chuckled before explaining, "Well, I've got a little something going on recently, so I'm a little busy. Moreover, I heard that you moved into Constance Residence. I don't like that place; it makes me feel uncomfortable. So, I didn't feel like going over."

Sophia knew that the Constance Residence was a little more conservative and uptight with all its house rules. Logan was far more casual at home and enjoyed lounging about, which was a big no-no over at the Constance Residence. Not only would Old Mrs. Constance be uncomfortable, Logan himself would not be at ease either.

Sophia mused about it before nodding. "I'll come to you when I have time then, and we can hang out together." She turned her head to glance at Matilda. "I've brought Madam Flintstone today to play poker together with you."

Logan and Matilda weren't familiar with each other, so Logan just nodded. "Okay."

Sophia turned around and walked toward the stairs, "Come on, let's play a round. It's been a long time since I played poker, and I'm raring to go."

It was rare for Sophia to take the initiative to play poker with Logan, so the latter quickly arranged for his subordinates to get the table ready.

Sitting down, Sophia shuffled the cards and then asked, "What were you up to just now? Was there something wrong?"

At the mention of this, Logan paused in his movements. He looked at Sophia and finally replied, "I had wanted to talk to you before about it, but I'm not sure how to tell you." Sophia was really taken aback by that. He actually has something that he isn't sure how to tell me? That's a first. She smiled. "How can there be something you aren't sure how to tell me? I'm all ears."

Logan cleared his throat. "Okay, so listen, I found something to do again. I'm really thankful to God for never letting me down. I thought I would never be able to recover in this life again, but guess what? Ha,

that b*tch is finally in my hands.”

Sophia mulled over it for a while. Which woman has Logan used ‘b*tch’ to describe before? She

attempted to guess. “Is it Leah? Or Sally?”

But Sally was still in prison, so it couldn’t be her. Is it Leah? Previously, Logan had said that he wanted to mess up Leah and Bryce, so did he really pull it off?

The Returning Ex Chapter 794

Startled, Logan waved a hand. “No. I don’t have time to bother about that b*tch right now, but after I’m done here, just watch how I’m gonna deal with her.”

Sophia said with a smile, “Do you have a new target? I can’t think of anyone else if it isn’t Leah.”

Logan leaned toward Sophia. “It’s that cop. Don’t you remember that cop who was here? She even pressed me down on the table right here. She has always been against me.”

Blinking, Sophia asked, “How did she fall into your hands? What happened?”

Logan didn’t know the details, but he knew that the cop seemed to be no longer a cop, although he wasn’t very sure about what happened. The woman now opened a gym and looked like she was going to run a proper business. After she switched careers, Logan was no longer afraid of her.

A few days ago, that woman was still there. But she was no longer there both yesterday and today.

Logan thought that she might have become frightened because he waited for a long time but didn’t see her.

Sophia frowned. “Why are you making life difficult for her though? Just because she used to come here

frequently to shut down your clubhouse?”

Logan stared at Sophia. “I knew that you would react like this.”

As they spoke, they started to play poker.

Picking up a card, he said, “I’m Logan Jefferson. Everyone has to show me some respect. But that b*tch!

She f*cking pressed me down on the table and the ground. Of course, I’m upset.”

Sophia sighed. “She was just carrying out her official duties. I’m certain that she did that because you were being uncooperative. If you were obliging, she wouldn’t have bothered to do that to you.”

Glancing at Sophia, Logan pressed his lips into a thin line. “I knew you would have this attitude, so I didn’t know how to tell you before.”

Sophia laughed. “I’m just saying it like it is. I really think that she did nothing wrong.”

Those who were enforcing the law were generally involved in serious matters, so naturally, they had to be sterner when carrying out duties. Logan’s egotistical attitude would definitely not sit well with the cops.

Dissatisfied, he snorted. “But I’m displeased about it. I’ve never been treated like that before, and I think that b*tch really has something against me. I used to be powerless against her, but now everything’s how I want it to be. I just want to make her life difficult now.”

Sophia was a little helpless at his stubbornness. “Well, you be careful and just vent a little bit then. Don’t cause anything huge.”

Logan pursed his lips. In his life, no problem could be considered huge. Anything that could be settled wasn’t an issue at all. He nodded. “Don’t worry. I’m not afraid of anything, and there is nothing I can’t

solve.”

Turning her head, Sophia glanced at Logan. Knowing that it was useless to persuade him any further, she didn't say anything at all.

Even if Officer Hunt was no longer a cop, she was probably not so easily bullied. Logan might not be able to take advantage of her.

Everything was ready for the game, so the four of them began playing poker. The usher often joined in their games, so he was very familiar with Sophia and Logan. He was asking why Sophia hadn't come for some time.

Sophia didn't want everyone to be aware of her pregnancy, so she laughed and replied languidly, “Lately, I've really been too busy. I'm needed everywhere, and my schedule is full every day.”

Faced with her explanation, Logan snorted. “Yeah, now that you have gotten yourself a man, you've forgotten all about your friends. Hey, speaking of men, do you know that Ian is coming back?”

Sophia pursed her lips. “I don't. Has he contacted you? When will he come back?”

Logan replied, “He should be back in a few days. It's mainly because Ian's mental condition is getting worse. My sister said that perhaps the pressure is too great on him, so she gave him two days off to relax. Hopefully, after resting, he will perform better during the finals.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 795

Sophia grunted and fell silent.

Initially, Logan was uncomfortable being with Matilda, for he wasn't close to her. Moreover, there was a generational gap between them. However, poker was a good game to bring people together.

After playing the game and chatting with each other for a while, the atmosphere slowly became warm.

Gazing at his cards, Logan said, "Madam Flintstone, watch out. I'm about to win the game."

Unperturbed, Matilda replied teasingly, "You should be the one watching out instead. I've won many rounds thanks to your contributions."

Logan guffawed. "You're right. I didn't expect that you're so skillful at playing poker. Please come here often when you're free because a competitive rival like you is hard to come by."

Unable to take it anymore, Sophia refuted, "Stop flattering yourself since you're lousy at this game.

Normally, your friends would let you win because if you lose, you'll pester them incessantly to keep playing. They have no choice but to lose intentionally. Trust me, it has nothing to do with your poker skills. I'm speaking the truth."

The servant, who was asked to play with them, giggled. "Miss Gwendolyn, you shouldn't be so straightforward."

Logan froze as his eyes widened. "Alright, you have successfully ignited my fighting spirit! No one shall leave this place before you can beat me to this game!"

Sophia and Matilda traded glances, obviously disdainful of his poker skills.

The truth was, Logan was really lousy at the game. After he said those bold words, he kept losing the game until he was left red-faced.

Seeing how embarrassed he was, Sophia chuckled. "Logan, will you be traumatized after this? Do you

want us to let you win?”

With a long face, Logan replied, “There’s no need for that. Show me what you’ve got. I’m going to win the game with my own skills.”

As soon as he finished speaking, his phone started ringing. Feeling impatient, he muttered and fished out his phone before answering it. When he heard what the person said over the phone, he froze for a moment and asked with a frown, “Really? No way. Did you get it wrong?”

After the other person replied to him, Logan pursed his lips, his expression serious. Eventually, he said, “Alright, I got it. Send me the address. I’ll go take a look when I’m free.” He then hung up the call.

Looking at him, Sophia asked, “What’s wrong? Did anything happen?” “Nothing,” Logan replied with a smile as he waved his hand. “Nothing is more important than this poker game we’re playing.”

Despite what he had said, he obviously became absent-minded as he kept losing and forgetting to make a move. Sometimes when it was his turn, he was seen in a dazed state. Staring at him, Sophia said, “Logan, go ahead if the matter is urgent. Judging from your current state, I don’t believe that it’s really nothing.”

Logan grunted. “It’s really no big deal. It’s just that someone got into an accident and was sent to the hospital. I’m just wondering why such a thing happened.”

Sophia was startled. “Someone is hospitalized? It’s a serious matter. If you’re worried about the person, just go over there. You don’t have to stay here for us. Since we’re close friends, I won’t mind it. We can keep on playing on our own.”

Logan smacked his lips and grinned. “Why should I be worried? The person isn’t a friend of mine. I’m just surprised that this happened to the person.”

After giving it a thought, Sophia put down her cards. "I think you should go. We don't feel triumphant at all since you keep losing. Just go and pay the person a visit."

The Returning Ex Chapter 796

Matilda agreed with Sophia. "Yes, you should go. You can only be relieved when you take a look for yourself."

Logan guffawed. "No, there's no need for that. I'm not worried at all."

Sophia leaned her back against the chair. "Then we're not playing anymore. Your poker skills haven't improved one bit since we last met."

Logan gazed at her from the corner of his eye and fell silent. Since the game was over, the servant resumed his duties. After they chatted for a while, Logan's phone started ringing again. He picked it up, tutted, and answered the call. "What's wrong again?"

Upon hearing what the person said over the phone, he scowled. "Really?" He then stood straight up and said, "Alright, where are you? I'm going now. I have to see for myself those people who have the guts to make a scene there."

After the other person replied to him, Logan hung up the call and turned to Sophia. "Sophia, feel free to continue the game. I have to go now. This matter requires my immediate attention."

Sophia nodded. "Alright, go ahead. We're comfortable on our own here. Take your time to settle the problem."

Logan grunted and turned to leave, the golden chain on his neck swaying as he walked. After he stepped

out of the room, Sophia rose and walked toward the window, where she could peer downstairs.

When Logan reached downstairs, he made a call. Upon listening to what the person said over the phone, he seemed irritated and paced around. A while later, he got into a car and drove off without a chauffeur.

Sophia turned around and locked eyes with Matilda. “Something serious must have happened. Logan is acting weird.”

Matilda chuckled and stretched her back. “It’s normal that he has his own secrets that are kept from you.” She then rose unsteadily and said, “This place looks amazing. I have to take a look at the backyard.”

Since Sophia wasn’t interested in a backyard tour, she remained seated and waited for Logan’s return.

As soon as Matilda left the room, her phone buzzed. Isabelle had sent her a message to tell her the number of the private room and the time for the meal. In fact, they had discussed it last night, so it wasn’t necessary for Isabelle to remind her one more time.

With her eyes fixed on the message, Matilda smiled and deleted it. Isabelle has lost her confidence. She’s slowly losing the qualities I like about her. Without replying to her, Matilda kept her phone and took a stroll around the backyard.

Meanwhile, Sophia was scrolling through her social media, still seated on the chair. A moment later, Isabelle sent her a text to tell her the time and location of the meal. The last sentence of the message read, ‘You have to come.’

Sophia snorted and imagined Isabelle’s expression when the latter sent this message.

What the heck is on her mind? She and John will never get together, but she’s acting like John is going to

accept her soon. In fact, she can't even be considered a homewrecker because John doesn't love her at all.

Just like Matilda, Sophia ignored the message and refocused on her social media.

On the other side, Isabelle clenched her phone as she was embarrassed that both Matilda and Sophia

ignored her. Gritting her teeth, she slammed her phone on the table.

After waiting for a bit, she went to the pantry with a cup in her hand.

She was well aware that she hadn't

been performing well at work recently. Her father had chided her about being not determined enough.

The Returning Ex Chapter 797

Isabelle had to admit it herself. Because of John, she was depressed in the past, and her work had been

affected now. In fact, she wished she could be a more resolute person, but it wasn't really up to her that

she fell head over heels for John.

After chugging a cup of water in the pantry, she rested a bit and turned to leave, whereupon she came

across Old Mr. Bailey, who was passing by the room as he was speaking on the phone.

Forcing a smile, she was ready to go out and say hello, but after only taking a step forward, she heard her

father saying, "Yes, they're going to have dinner together. The location is decided by Belle."

Isabelle froze and never called out to her father. Frowning, she gave it a thought and inched toward the

door. With no one else in the corridor, Isabelle could still hear his voice faintly, even though he was

speaking in a lowered voice. He said that Sophia and Matilda were going as well.

Naturally, Isabelle couldn't hear what the other person said on the phone. Following that, Old Mr. Bailey giggled and said, "I'm looking forward to what they can do."

After waiting for a while by the door, she heard that her father pushed open the door and entered his office. When it was all silent in the corridor, she slowly emerged from the door. Her family members were aware that she was going to have a meal with Matilda and Sophia. Judging from what her father had said, he was going to do something behind her back. Pursing her lips, Isabelle waited for a bit and returned to her office. Putting down the cup, she pressed her palms against the table. Upon pondering on it for a while, she decided to step out of the room and head for her father's office. At that moment, Old Mr. Bailey was going through a document, so he was surprised that his daughter came to look for him. "Belle, what's wrong?"

With an impassive expression, Isabelle walked over and took a seat. "Nothing. I've come to tell you that I'm going off work early this afternoon to buy a gift for John. Since I'm going to apologize, I have to appear to be more sincere." Old Mr. Bailey was startled for a moment before he nodded. "Alright, you can leave early."

After slight contemplation, Isabelle said, "I feel that the restaurant I've chosen isn't fancy enough. Should I book another restaurant? We still have some time." Gazing at her, Old Mr. Bailey replied, "There's no need for that. You don't have to take the dinner so seriously. Just be yourself."

Isabelle smirked. "Sophia isn't on good terms with me, so I don't want to give her the chance to find fault with me." She then added, "As you know, she's resentful of me. I'm afraid that she'll blame me for choosing a restaurant that's not good enough, and John might be affected by her."

With a frown, Old Mr. Bailey pondered on it for a moment and nodded. "Although I don't think it's

necessary, you can book another restaurant if you want to." Staring at his daughter, he questioned,

"Where's the new restaurant?"

Isabelle pursed her lips and replied, "I think the Japanese restaurant we usually go to is high-end enough.

Why don't I book a table there?"

Old Mr. Bailey grunted. "Alright, as you wish."

Isabelle flashed a smile at him. "Okay, it's decided then."

After chatting with her father for a while longer, she bid him farewell and left the office. Without closing

the door firmly, she stepped sideward and waited. As expected, her father made a call and told the other

person the address of the Japanese restaurant. He also reminded the person to be more careful.

Isabelle tipped her head back and exhaled slowly.

The Returning Ex Chapter 798

When Old Mr. Bailey hung up the call, Isabelle turned around and returned to her office. With her

thoughts all jumbled up, she plunged into her seat and scowled.

Dad didn't speak much over the phone just now, so I can't really pinpoint what their secret plan is. But

from how they kept the plan from me, I swear they're up to no good.

After sitting for a while, she rose from the chair, picked up her bag, and left the company. She headed

straight to Constance Company instead of buying a gift or sending messages to tell everyone that she had booked another restaurant.

Without going in, she parked her car across the road and gazed at the company's entrance. Since it was working time, only a few people passed through the door.

A long time later, the person she wanted to meet never appeared.

After giving it a thought, she fished

out her phone and called John, but he never answered it no matter how long the ringtone sounded. She

wasn't sure whether he was busy or he just didn't want to pick up her call. Even she was aware that she

had been overly pestering him recently. He must be sick of me by now.

In the evening, Logan returned to the clubhouse as he went upstairs while cursing. Earlier, Sophia and

Matilda had invited two more servants over to continue playing poker.

Although no money was involved,

the four of them were deep in the moment.

When Logan stepped into the room with a long face and saw the four joyful poker players, his fury

suddenly subsided. Catching a glimpse of him, Sophia inquired, "What's wrong? Why the long face? It's

hard to believe that someone could make you so angry."

Logan hummed and took a seat beside her. "It's no big deal. I just came across some annoying people."

Without probing further, Sophia refocused on the game. After sitting for a while, Logan appeared to be

in an uneasy state as he repeatedly crossed his legs, and he obviously never paid attention to the game.

In the middle of the game, Sophia asked him if she should make a certain move. After being asked, he

came to his senses, but he didn't even know what her question was.

His expression amused Sophia.

“What happened to you? You’re so unlike your usual self.”

Embarrassed, Logan smirked and assured her that everything was alright before rising from the chair.

“It’s a little sulky in here. I’ll go out for a walk.”

Sophia looked around the room. The windows were open, no one was smoking, and the air felt pleasant,

so there was no need for him to go out to breathe some fresh air.

However, she still said with a smile,

“Alright, go ahead and have some alone time to ponder on the issue.”

Letting out a sigh, Logan stepped out of the room. With her head lowered, Matilda remarked,

“Something is wrong.”

Sophia was caught off guard. “You mean my move?”

“No. I mean something is wrong with the man who just went out.”

Matilda laughed.

Sophia grunted. “There’s indeed something going on with him, but don’t worry. He’ll tell us about it later.”

When Logan was done smoking, the poker game in the room was over.

Two servants came out of the

room and greeted Logan. Normally, he would make a grunt in response, but he just ignored them now.

Walking over, Sophia leaned against the door frame and stared at him.

“Come in. I’m sure you have something to tell us.”

Logan snorted. “No, I believe there’s nothing I need to tell you.”

Despite what he had said, he shuffled into the room. Facing away from Logan, Matilda stood by the window.

The Returning Ex Chapter 799

Despite having said that he had nothing to tell them, Logan still mumbled, “Those scoundrels. One day I’ll teach them a harsh lesson.”

Hearing his words, Sophia chuckled. "I bet they're waiting." She then took a seat and said, "You went out for a long time. What happened?"

Logan took a seat as well and placed his arms on the table. "I was arguing with them, but nothing much happened." After fixing those two annoying people, he was still grumpy.

Sophia fell silent and waited for him to speak. As expected, he went on, "Well, some people were making a scene at one of my places, so I went over to teach them a lesson." With her eyebrows raised, Sophia said, "I'm surprised that there are scoundrels bold enough to offend your people."

Feeling uneasy, Logan took a look at her and smacked his lips. A moment later, he continued, "In fact, they didn't dare offend my people. It's just that something happened, so my people went to question them about it. Those scoundrels were arrogant, therefore I couldn't stand it."

Getting to the crux of the matter, Sophia asked with a smile, "What happened that you had to go over personally?"

In an instant, Logan was tongue-tied, while Sophia was staring at him with a faint smile. A while later, he replied, "Well, I just couldn't take it and went over to settle the problem myself." He was beating around the bush while scratching his head.

His embarrassed look amused Sophia. "Alright, I don't understand what you mean, and I'll stop asking.

Tell me about it when you're ready." After a pause, she said, "We're going to have a meal with Isabelle later. John will come over to pick us up."

Her words surprised Logan. “Why has she invited you to a meal?”

Oh yes, Logan isn’t aware of the grudges between Isabelle and me. However, Sophia didn’t want to tell him about it, for it was she who provoked Isabelle first at the hospital. Also, it was pointless to tell him about the argument between two women. She then replied, “Maybe she’s just trying to be an eyesore to us. It’s no big deal. Just a meal.”

Logan pressed his lips together. “You have to be careful of that woman. Maybe she’ll drop some poison in the food.”

Sophia giggled and teased, “Perhaps I should bring with me some sort of poison detector.”

Glaring at her, Logan said, “I’m being serious. Be more vigilant, okay?”

Sophia nodded. “Alright. I got it.”

Just then, John called her to say that he had arrived, so she and Matilda rose and went downstairs.

Having become friends with Matilda, Logan stood in the doorway and said, “Madam Flintstone, please come here more often so that I can practice playing poker.”

Matilda grunted and got into the car. Rolling down the window, she replied, “If I come here more often, I’m afraid that you’ll lose this clubhouse to me eventually.”

Seated in the car, John grinned. “It seems that you had fun here.”

Sophia waved her hand at Logan and then clapped John’s shoulder. “Let’s go.”

When the car started moving, she replied, “We had fun indeed, but Logan was acting strangely today. If he never wore the gold chain on his neck, I would have suspected that he went to look for a woman.”

Well, I guess no woman will understand his taste in fashion.

Her words amused John. After Matilda told him the address of the restaurant Isabelle had booked, John

grunted. “She had informed me about it through a message as well.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 800

Did Isabelle have to text the three of us to say the same thing? I don't even know whether I should describe her action as unnecessary or considerate, Sophia thought. Since it was time for office workers to get off work, the traffic was heavy, which caused them to be late.

When they arrived, Isabelle was already inside the private room. After Matilda pushed open the door, Isabelle immediately rose from the chair. "Madam Flintstone."

Matilda grunted before saying, "We're sorry for being late." Acting all considerate, Isabelle replied, "The traffic must be heavy at this hour. It's understandable that you're late."

Following that, John and Sophia stepped into the room without greeting Isabelle, as they were discussing Logan's mysterious matter.

John chuckled and said in a lowered voice, "Don't worry. Logan will tell you about it in two days. If you knew nothing at all, he probably wouldn't spill it. Since you were there and got to know a little of his problem, he will look for you when he needs someone to talk about his issue."

With an eyebrow raised, Sophia remarked, "You know him so well." As they giggled and spoke in a low voice, Isabelle was jealous. After shooting them a look, she said, "Please be seated. I've ordered some dishes. You can order more if you need to."

With that, she pushed the menu toward Sophia, who curled up her lips and said thanks.

When Sophia picked up the menu, John leaned in to her. Sophia gave him a look and went to Matilda

with the menu. “Madam Flintstone, let’s take a look together.”

John was startled for a moment and chuckled, his gaze brimming with helplessness and love.

Isabelle stared at him and thought, Why does he always smile so tenderly at Sophia? With a straight face, no one could tell that she was burning with jealousy.

While Sophia was going through the menu, Isabelle said, “Miss Gwendolyn, we had some misunderstanding at the hospital some time ago. I couldn’t control myself and laid a hand on you. I’m sorry. I didn’t know you’re pregnant. Fortunately, nothing serious happened, otherwise I would never forgive myself.”

Sophia shifted her attention from the menu to her face. With a smile, she replied, “It’s no big deal. If you never insisted on treating us to a meal, I would have forgotten about it.”

Isabelle nodded. “I know you’re magnanimous, but I feel really sorry, so I want to apologize to you personally.”

Although Sophia was smirking at Isabelle, her smile was hollow. In fact, she admired Isabelle for her readiness to give and take, for she could never be like her. If she were in her place, she probably wouldn’t contact the other party again. By severing ties with the people she didn’t like, she wouldn’t upset herself. Honestly, Isabelle’s action is making life hard for both herself and me.

After Matilda and Sophia ordered two dishes respectively, they passed the menu to John. “Come on. It’s your turn.”

With a smile, John replied, “That’s enough. Sophia’s favorite food is my favorite food as well.”

Sophia snorted. “You’re such a charmer, huh?”

John chuckled. "Are you trying to remind me I never said enough sweet words to you in the past?"

Pouting her lips, Sophia fell silent.

Having witnessed their interaction, Isabelle managed to keep the smile on her face.

While they were waiting for the dishes to be served, Isabelle picked up a glass of water and turned to

Sophia. "I know you can't drink alcohol, and John has to drive, so I never ordered any wine. With this glass of water, I apologize to you."

With a mild expression, Sophia took a look at the glass of water and lifted it in response, but she never seemed to have the intention of drinking it.

The Returning Ex Chapter 801

With the glass of water in her hands, Sophia said, "I have a smaller appetite now. If I drink any water now, I won't be able to eat anything later. So, I'd better not drink it now. Anyway, I accept your apology, therefore you don't have to mention it again in the future."

Isabelle shot a look at her glass of water and replied, "If you say so."

Matilda gazed at the glass and thought, The glass of water was already there when we arrived, thus it must be Isabelle who had prepared it. So, Sophia's concern wasn't unfounded. She then raised her gaze to examine Isabelle, who didn't appear to be flustered or guilty. Isabelle stared back at her with confidence. A moment later, she turned to John and talked about their recent business cooperation.

Most of the time, John listened to her without uttering a word, while making occasional grunts. It was apparent to the others that John wasn't interested in discussing work on this occasion.

As though she wasn't aware of it, Isabelle went on to talk about the stocks she would be buying from

Constance Company and even went over the details.

Bored by the conversation, Sophia rested her arms on the table and turned to Matilda. "On our way

here, I saw you staring at a new message without replying to the person. What's wrong? Was it Master William?"

Freezing on the spot, Matilda turned to her and said in a lowered voice, "Can we talk about it when no other people are around?"

Batting her eyes, Sophia chuckled. "Who are you wary of here?"

Although she was speaking in a suppressed voice, there were the four of them who were seated around a small table. Unless Matilda and Sophia were whispering in each other's ears, the others would hear them.

Indeed, after Isabelle finished talking, she heard what Sophia said.

Upon picking up a glass of water and

taking a sip, Matilda continued, "I'm not wary of anyone, but this matter should only be discussed in private."

Although there was nothing wrong with what Matilda had said, Isabelle still felt irked. Lifting her glass to shield her face from the others, a sense of resentment flashed across her expression.

When the dishes were served, they had to stop talking. While Sophia remained silent, Matilda reminded

her to take in a balanced diet. In a motherly manner, she talked about what food Sophia should eat more and what food the latter should refrain from having.

In fact, Matilda treated Isabelle in the same way before. Although Matilda could be annoying at times,

she was really good to Isabelle.

Gazing at them, Isabelle smiled bitterly, for what was supposed to be hers had now gone to Sophia. I

believe Sophia is born to be my archnemesis.

Isabelle drew a deep breath and put down her glass. From the corner of her eye, she could see John and

Sophia smirking at each other. With a content expression, Matilda looked smilingly at them.

They look just like a family. I seem to be the extra one here, Isabelle thought. She had wanted to save

them from her father's plot, but now she decided she wouldn't do it. At this moment, her concern

seemed laughable.

After she fell silent, the other three people seemed to be more relaxed.

The generational gap between

Matilda and Sophia seemed to have vanished, as they interacted like close friends. Being protective of

Sophia, Matilda would sometimes diss her son.

All of a sudden, Sophia reflexively grabbed the glass of water and picked it up. Seeing that, Isabelle said,

"This glass of water has probably turned lukewarm. Let's get another glass of water."

The Returning Ex Chapter 802

Sophia was startled. Although she wasn't thirsty, she was still surprised that Isabelle stopped her.

Upon finishing her words impassively, Isabelle lowered her head and continued eating her food.

John shot Isabelle a look as his gaze turned from cold to indifferent.

When the meal was over, certainly John wouldn't let Isabelle pay the bill. After making an excuse that he

needed to use the toilet, he left the room and headed to the cashier counter. Just when he was paying

the bill, Isabelle appeared from behind as she called out to him and said, “I knew you were coming here to pay the bill.”

John grunted and fell silent.

In fact, Isabelle wasn't here to snatch the bill from him, as the meal wasn't expensive. When the bill was paid, Isabelle stared at him and said, “Can we have a talk? I promise this is the last time I'd bother you.”

With a frown, John agreed to it. He really hoped it was the last time, for he didn't want Isabelle to keep pestering him. As a resolute man, he had made his stance clear, and he hoped Isabelle would forget him and move on as well. It's really pointless if this goes on forever. Standing in the doorway, Isabelle flashed a smile at him. “You seem to love Sophia very much.”

John let out a mirthless laugh. “I don't just seem to love her.” I love her with all my heart.

With a helpless expression, Isabelle continued, “John, I love you, and I know you're well aware of it. I also know that you don't love me back.” Suddenly, she laughed in self-mockery. “You have never loved me before, right?”

With a dispassionate expression, John turned to look at her. Isabelle smiled. “Oh God, this question sounds like an insult to myself.” Tipping her head back, she exhaled slowly. “But I wouldn't be resigned if I never asked this question. I just thought that maybe you'd loved me a little—”

“No,” John answered in a firm manner; his expression remained the same.

Startled, Isabelle locked her eyes with him.

John went on, "I have never loved you before. Even if Sophia never came into my life, I wouldn't have any feelings for you. At that time, I agreed to the engagement because I just thought that we'd be a good match since our families were equally wealthy, but I wasn't into you one bit."

With her lips parted for a while, Isabelle grunted.

Gazing at the heavy traffic, John continued, "I was really sorry that I had to cancel our engagement, but other than that, I didn't feel regretful or sorrowful."

Isabelle pressed her lips together for a moment and said, "You didn't love Sophia initially, right? But after you were married, you slowly fell in love with her. If she never existed, we'd have gone down the same path."

John snorted, even though he didn't mean to be derisive. Thinking of something, he said, "If I had fallen in love with her after we got married, we wouldn't have divorced." When they were still married, Sophia was the perfect wife as she took good care of him. But at that time, he was disdainful of her. It was until he lost her that he realized that he had fallen in love with her. That realization dawned on him too late that he had to work extra hard to win back her heart.

With her gaze lowered, Isabelle appeared upset. "I'm just not resigned. I'd always thought that without Sophia, perhaps we'd have turned out differently."

John frowned. Maybe things would really have turned out differently, but nobody can be sure.

Then, John turned to her. "Even if we got together in the past, I wouldn't have been able to give you the life you desired. I don't love you. Do you get it?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 803

Isabelle understood the hidden meaning behind John's words. Since she wasn't the love of his life, he would never be passionate toward her. Even if they got married, their lives would be as tasteless as water. Even so, she would want to try if she could make him fall head over heels for her.

After a pause, she nodded slowly. "Alright. I understand what you mean, and I know what to do."

They decided to stay at the cashier counter. A moment later, Sophia and Matilda came out of the room, chatting and smiling at each other as if they didn't mind what John and Isabelle were talking about.

Turning to John, Sophia asked, "Are you done talking? Can we go now?"

Isabelle faced away from Sophia and wiped her tears with her hand.

With a milder expression, John pulled Sophia toward him. "Yes, we can go now."

Without giving Isabelle a glance, Sophia and John walked down the stairs and reached for their car.

Walking up to Isabelle, Matilda gave it a thought and clapped her shoulder before leaving the place.

Upon wiping off the tears from the corners of her eyes, Isabelle gazed at John's car. As the car started moving, through the window, she could see Sophia saying something to John. While John's expression remained calm, Sophia guffawed.

Why does he love this kind of woman? I don't get it. Up until now, Isabelle still didn't think she was inferior to Sophia. Although she could understand John's choice, she remained unresigned.

After waiting for a bit, her phone started ringing. Her father called her to ask where she was. Without

telling him her location, she replied that the dinner was over, and she was ready to go home now.

Without getting the answer he wanted, he questioned again, "I'm asking where you are. Didn't you say you are going to have Japanese cuisine?"

Isabelle inquired, "What's wrong?" Seeing as her father remained silent, she pursued, "Are you at the Japanese restaurant? Aren't you supposed to be in the company? Are you having dinner over there?"

Old Mr. Bailey heaved a sigh. "No, I was just asking."

Isabelle's gaze turned dim, but her voice remained calm as she questioned, "Oh, why are you curious about where I am?"

As though her father was lost for words, he fell silent while Isabelle waited patiently. A while later, he let out a sigh. "Forget it. Come home now."

With a sweet voice, Isabelle replied, "Okay." When the call ended, her expression turned dark.

Meanwhile, seated in the car, Matilda scowled. Until she couldn't take it anymore, she asked, "Do you think Isabelle really dropped something into the glass of water?"

Hearing that, Sophia grinned. "I believe so, but I don't think it's anything lethal. Perhaps it's just some laxative. She wouldn't have been stupid enough to try to kill me at that point."

If anything really happened to me, she would have been the prime suspect, Sophia thought.

John grunted. "Yes, maybe she was just trying to pull a prank." Isabelle seems to have gotten over our relationship, so I don't think she would try to kill Sophia.

Matilda said, "That's good."

When they reached Constance Residence and stopped the car, they saw William speaking on the phone in the garden.

Sophia gently pushed Matilda and said, "Go talk to him. Maybe he's waiting for you." Upon finishing her words, she spread her arms and stretched her back. "I feel so sleepy after having dinner."

The Returning Ex Chapter 804

Walking over, John took Sophia's hands and pulled her toward him. "Let's go back to our room and sleep."

After pondering on it, Matilda decided to stay on the spot.

A moment later, William turned around and saw Matilda, who appeared to be forcing a smile in embarrassment. Seeing that, he quickly said something and hung up the call. Going over, he said, "I thought it would take you a long time to finish dinner."

Matilda replied, "It only took us a short time to finish dinner. Moreover, Sophia felt sleepy, so we hurried home."

Without going back to the main building, William invited her to have a stroll with him. In fact, they had lived in this mansion for thirty years, so they were familiar with all the places, but they rarely took a walk around here in the past.

Even though they were divorced, the atmosphere was pleasant and Matilda didn't want to return to her room so quickly, hence she nodded. "Sure. It's good to have a walk after dinner."

Following that, they walked toward the backyard and passed by the house of the Second Constance Family. At that moment, Dylan happened to be standing outside the entrance. Seeing William and Matilda, Dylan was surprised and called out to them just like before.

While William's expression remained indifferent, Matilda was feeling uneasy, for she was no longer a part of the family.

Old Mr. Bailey was at home when Isabelle returned. Seated on the couch, he stared at his daughter and inquired, "Didn't you have dinner with them?" "Yeah, I had dinner with them." Upon putting down her bag, Isabelle took a seat on the couch and stretched her back. "I came home after dinner."

With his eyes fixed on her, Old Mr. Bailey questioned, "Didn't you go to the Japanese restaurant as you had said?"

Isabelle replied, "No. I told John I wanted to go to another restaurant, but he didn't like that place, so we met up at the original restaurant." Pretending to be clueless, she asked, "Dad, why are you harping on this issue?"

Old Mr. Bailey said it was nothing and fell silent. Leaning against the couch, Isabelle seemed to be exhausted. Taking a look at her, Old Mr. Bailey said, "Rest if you're tired. You've been busy today."

Isabelle grunted and rose from the couch. Before she reached the staircase, Dexter came home and tossed his bag on the couch, apparently displeased.

Halting her steps, Isabelle asked, "Dexter, what's wrong?"

Dexter replied that he was in a bad mood and slumped into the couch.

Old Mr. Bailey seemed to know

what was going on with Dexter, so he turned to him and persuaded, "Are you tired? Just go to your room and take a rest."

Since Dexter had turned seventeen, he started becoming rebellious. He said, "If I take a rest now, I won't be able to finish my work, and you'll start nagging me."

Old Mr. Bailey frowned. "I nag you because you're not working hard enough. Do you understand that your sister and I are having difficulty managing the company? We'll have to rely on you in the future."

Displeased with what he had heard, Dexter snorted. "Why must you rely on me? If I'm not going to take over the company, will it be closed down?"

"What the heck are you talking about?" Old Mr. Bailey stood straight up.

Dexter rose as well and yelled, "Didn't you say that Isabelle would marry a capable man, and they'd help me manage the company? Since the man is so resourceful, you can just pass the company to my sister and him. I don't want the company anyway. I can't even finish my homework now, but I still have to listen to your complaints about company issues. While other kids can go on vacation during holidays, I have to go to summer school!"

The Returning Ex Chapter 805

Upon finishing his words, Dexter panted for a bit and continued, "I don't feel happy at all, so please keep the company to yourself! I'm not going to take over it!"

With her lips pressed together, Isabelle had wanted to console him.

Upon hearing what he said, she

stopped her pace. Dexter is exhausted. I know he's more burned out than I am.

While the adults had their own personal time, Dexter's timetable was filled with activities against his will.

Old Mr. Bailey stared at him. Although he was a hot-tempered man, he had never laid his hand on his children. Perhaps he was too incensed at the moment that he raised his hand and slapped his son. "I dare you to say that again!"

Dexter's face was jerked to the side from the force. Shocked, Isabelle scurried over. "Dad, what are you doing?"

With his eyes fixed on Dexter, Old Mr. Bailey snarled, "Go back to your room now! If you dare say you're not going to take over the company again, I'll fix you!"

Isabelle took her brother's arm and said, "Let's go to your room, Dexter. Aren't you tired? You should take a rest."

Dexter slowly raised his head and glared at his father for a moment before going upstairs with Isabelle.

Reaching the room, Isabelle told him to relax. In fact, she wasn't sure how to console him. Having gone through the same path before, she didn't have an easy life as well when she was younger, as she had to learn many different skills every day.

Born into a rich family, apart from enjoying the material wealth, they also had to take up their responsibilities. Since Dexter was destined to take over the company, he had to learn many business skills.

Gazing at him, Isabelle said, "Dexter, I know you're finding it difficult now, but there's no way around it.

When you grow up, everything will be fine."

Seated on the bed, Dexter remained silent.

After thinking for a bit, Isabelle turned to leave, but before she could step out of the room, Dexter called out, "Isabelle."

Turning around, Isabelle asked, "Yes?"

Dexter raised his head and looked at her. "Are you happy?"

The question rendered her speechless. Am I happy? I suppose I'm not happy.

On her way home after dinner, she thought about what she was left with currently, and the answer was she had nothing. John said that even if they got together, their lives would be as bland as water.

She thought that if she could be as lively and carefree as Sophia, would John fall in love with her?

Perhaps she was too obedient, and her characteristics didn't stand out that John wasn't attracted to her.

Moments later, Isabelle gazed at Dexter and said, "Honestly, I'm not happy at all. But Dexter, I have no choice."

Seeing as he fell silent, Isabelle left the room. Standing in the doorway, she gave it a thought and walked toward the staircase.

Still infuriated, Old Mr. Bailey took a seat on the couch and calmed himself down. Then, he fished out his phone and made a call.

When the call was connected, he demanded, "Tell your men to come back. They didn't go to that place, so you don't have to wait anymore." After finishing his words, he hung up the call.

With an impassive expression, Isabelle leaned against the wall and eavesdropped on her father.

Meanwhile, John and Sophia lay down on the bed after washing up. Since Sophia was taxed out, she immediately closed her eyes.

Just then, John's phone started ringing. Upon taking it over, he sat up on the bed and connected the call.

"What's wrong?"

With a lowered voice, Zack said, "Husky told me that he saw the shadow bank's boss yesterday. Husky is in charge of the accounts now, but the boss would show up once in a while to check the books."

John grunted. "Does he remember what the boss looks like?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 806

Zack said, "He does. He'll meet us and draw the boss's face for us."
John replied, "Alright, just make the arrangement on my behalf. Call me if anything happens."

After the call ended, John put down the phone and scowled. They had found the boss thought to be in charge of the shadow bank before this, but the person was apparently just a puppet. The bank has to be controlled by other people behind the scenes. It's good enough that we've ascertained one of them now. Facing away from him, Sophia seemed to be asleep.

John extended his hand and stroked her head. When all the problems are settled, I believe she'll agree to marry me again. Slowly lying down, he couldn't have a shut-eye. Right then, he thought of the person Isabelle brought with her to the hospital. The person has to be Old Mr. Bailey's subordinate. His conversation with Isabelle a while ago reminded him of that person. Old Mr. Bailey's subordinate... I have an idea now...

The next morning, Sophia was still asleep. Leaning against the bedhead, John remained by her side while texting a message. Turning over, Sophia opened her eyes and asked, "What time is it? Why are you still here?"

Lowering his head, John replied, "Oh, you're awake. It's still early. I can go to work later."
Sophia stared at his phone. "Who are you texting a message to? You look serious."

Gazing at his phone, John said, "My employee has sent me a message to talk about work matters."

It was apparent to Sophia that he didn't want her to know, so she stopped asking. Turning over, she picked up her phone and scrolled through her social media. Even if Sophia was awake, John got out of the bed carefully and went to the bathroom to wash up. After he came out, he got changed while saying, "The doctor will come over later and give you a check-up."

Sophia grunted. "Okay." She then went on, "How are our fellow villagers doing?"

John nodded. "They're doing okay. Two more people came over two days ago. I've given them jobs."

Fortunately, he was running a big enterprise, and there were many vacancies at the warehouse, so he managed to offer the villagers enough jobs. Thinking of that, he smirked. "Those people have said they wanna meet you to say thanks personally."

After slight consideration, Sophia said, "That will do. I wanna meet them too. They've come to the city for a long time, but I haven't managed to meet them."

John stopped buttoning up his shirt and replied, "Alright. Holidays are just around the corner. By then, I'll go with you."

Sophia replied, "Okay."

When John had dressed up, he kissed her and said, "Take care of yourself." Upon finishing his words, he turned to leave.

Sitting up slowly, Sophia gazed at the door and beamed. John is so tender to me, to the point that I don't even know how I should respond to him. Upon getting out of the bed, she washed up and lay down again on the bed.

When she stroked her belly, she couldn't feel any bulge, but she thought that her belly was different from the past. Having a kid inside my stomach is such a miraculous experience.

Bored but not hungry, she picked up her phone and continued scrolling through her social media.

Moments later, she decided to call Logan to tell him that she planned to throw a welcome back party for

Ian, now that the talent show was over.

It took Logan a long time to pick up the call, and when the call connected, she could still hear him cursing someone else.

The Returning Ex Chapter 807

Sophia chuckled. "What's wrong? Who has offended you?"

Logan grunted and replied over the phone, "Nothing. I'm good."

Putting aside Ian's welcome back party for the moment, Sophia said with a smile, "What happened? You don't sound okay."

Logan replied, "I... Err..." Suddenly thinking of something, he decided not to tell her about it. "Forget it.

I'm fine."

Feeling helpless, Sophia said, "Logan, you've been acting strangely recently. In the past, you were a straightforward man. Nowadays, you always beat around the bush and can't even speak properly."

Logan was startled. "Really? I don't think I've changed."

Sophia clicked her tongue. "You were not like this in the past. You were a decisive man."

Logan fell silent for a moment before saying, "You're right. I've been indecisive recently. I wasn't like this

in the past. No! I have to get back to my past self, the ever confident Young Master Jefferson!" Before

Sophia could speak, he continued, "I know what to do now. Sophia, I have something else to do now. I'll get back to you later."

Sophia called out to him, as she hadn't talked about her plan for Ian's welcome back party yet. However, Logan ignored her and hung up the call. Clenching her phone, Sophia was still baffled as to what had happened.

What has gotten into him? Why has he been acting weird lately? After giving it a thought, she decided to call Robin.

Since it wasn't busy at the shop, Robin picked up the call and said in a relaxed tone, "Sophia, yes?"

Sophia asked, "Are you with Lincoln?"

Robin giggled. "Yes. Business has been good for the past few days, so we've been quite busy."

"That's good." After a short moment of contemplation, Sophia asked her if Logan had paid a visit to the shop recently.

Thinking of something, Robin replied, "When I brought my mom to the hospital for a check-up some time ago, I came across Logan."

Sophia was surprised. "You saw Logan at the hospital?"

Robin grunted. "Yes. However, I don't think he was there to see a doctor. Furthermore, as a rich man, he must have direct access to the doctor, so he doesn't have to line up like the rest of us do."

After thinking for a bit, Sophia nodded. "I wonder if Logan has been struck with some kind of embarrassing illness, so he went to see a doctor alone. Perhaps that's why he's too shy to tell me about it." Well, it's really awkward to ask him about it.

After a pause, Robin told Sophia that her wedding date with Lincoln had been decided, and they would soon book a venue and get some wedding photos taken. When the invitation cards were ready, she would send them to John and her personally.

Hearing that, Sophia quickly congratulated her.

Since Lincoln wasn't around, Robin heaved a sigh. "I feel like I'm being pushed forward now. I don't even know what I want anymore. Anyway, there's nothing I can do about it." Her words sounded helpless.

After some deliberation, Sophia replied, "Perhaps you're just feeling lost before the marriage. I'm sure you'll get over it after the wedding. Since this is going to be a big change in your life, it's normal that you're unsure what to do."

Robin smiled. "Maybe."

Since customers started streaming in, Robin had to serve them.

Normally, there would be many customers in the morning.

Not wanting to bother her any further, Sophia said goodbye and hung up the call. Getting out of the bed, she got changed and went downstairs.

The Returning Ex Chapter 808

After having breakfast, John went to work, while Old Mrs. Constance and Matilda stayed downstairs.

When Sophia came downstairs, Matilda walked over and said, "I had wanted to wake you up, but John said that you had awakened, and you'd come downstairs when you're hungry."

Sophia nodded. "I wasn't hungry, so I didn't want to move."

Gazing at Sophia's belly, Matilda said, "You have to exercise moderately. When I—" She caught herself, for she didn't think she should say this here.

Previously, Old Mrs. Constance had insisted that Matilda and William should be separated, even though she also helped fend off Yolanda. However, Matilda wasn't sure what was on her former mother-in-law's

mind, so she decided against saying what she had wanted to say to spare them the embarrassment.

Standing in the doorway, Old Mrs. Constance had heard what Matilda said, but she just took a look at her without responding.

Since Sophia had gone to the dining hall to have her breakfast, Matilda decided to follow her. In fact, she had to return to Flintstone Residence later. Since the Flintstones had found out that she had stayed over in Constance Residence, her mother called to ask her what happened. Well, it's hard to explain this matter over the phone, so I'd better go back and tell them. Maybe my mom doesn't think it's appropriate for me to come here, since William and I are divorced. I could sense that she didn't approve of my action, Matilda thought. Previously, she didn't read too much into it, but after the phone call, she had to agree with her mother. Since she and William were in a complicated relationship currently, they might invite some gossip from outsiders if they kept in touch too frequently.

Looking at Matilda, Sophia said, "Have your family members called to ask why you're staying here?

Maybe they're upset or something." She had just recalled what happened with the Flinstones previously.

With a smile, Matilda told her honestly, "I think so. My mom didn't sound too happy over the phone, so I'm going home to talk to her later."

After taking a look at Old Mrs. Constance, Sophia shifted her attention back to Matilda and said in a lowered voice, "Well, you can take this opportunity to go back and find out what your former husband thinks of it."

Startled, Matilda batted her eyes, as she never thought about it before. Sophia grinned. "Based on my observation, he still has feelings for you. But you've been progressing too slowly now, and it's not helping to get you remarried with him. So, I think you can give it a try."

Since it wasn't the time to get embarrassed, Matilda pouted her lips and asked, "Do you think it'll work?"

With a serious expression, Sophia replied, "Yes, you have to trust me. Don't worry. I'll help you observe your ex husband's reaction over here."

After some consideration, Matilda found her suggestion feasible, so she nodded. "Alright. I'll go home and find out what my family members think of it. Then, I'll call you to discuss what to do next."

Sophia nodded, and their agreement had been reached. After breakfast, Matilda packed up some stuff and went home.

Standing in the garden in front of the main building, Old Mrs. Constance heaved a sigh. "Actually, Matilda has become a really nice person."

Sophia chuckled. "Well, you reminded me of her past self. She was really unbearable."

Old Mrs. Constance guffawed. "I could never have imagined that both of you would get so close to each other one day."

Tilting her head, Sophia smiled. "I didn't expect that either. In the past, I really hated her, but at the same time, I knew that she just didn't like the fact that I had married John. I could tell that she wasn't a bad person by observing her interaction with Isabelle."

Compared to the Bailey Family, the Constance Family was richer and more powerful. So, Matilda treated Isabelle well because she really liked her, rather than because she wanted to butter her up.

The Returning Ex Chapter 809

Since Matilda was willing to treat Isabelle well without any ulterior motive, it proved that she wasn't a bad person in nature.

Sophia let out a sigh. "She had lived a lavish life all this while, so she'd become too willful. After what had happened, she had reflected upon it."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "Yes, William overly doted on her in the past."

At the mention of William, Sophia went on, "I wonder if Madam Bloom had told Master William about her visit some time ago. I could tell that she was really embarrassed that day."

Turning to Sophia, Old Mrs. Constance said, "Stop beating around the bush. What do you really want to say?"

Sophia guffawed. "I'll be direct with you since you've said so. This is just a question I want to ask for myself. Since I couldn't get the answer from Matilda, it's getting unbearable for me."

Old Mrs. Constance smirked. "Just ask away."

Gazing at her, Sophia questioned, "Between Yolanda and Matilda, who do you prefer?"

After giving it a thought, Old Mrs. Constance frowned. "I don't have a bias toward any of them. I love the fact that Yolanda is a straightforward woman, but I can't really forget what happened in the past. On the other hand, Matilda was a hot-tempered woman previously, but she really loved William. There are both good and bad sides to them. Now, I don't want to interfere in their lives. William will make his own decision."

Upon finding out her stance, Sophia said, “You’re right. They have their own lives to live after all.”

After they chatted for a bit, Matilda called Sophia to tell her that the Flintstones didn’t want her to stay in Constance Residence. After the divorce, she had nothing to do with William anymore, so if they still lived together, they were bound to invite gossip. Moreover, the Flintstones were worried that if William brought home a woman he loved one day, Matilda would be put in an embarrassing situation. Also, Sophia would receive good care at Constance Residence, so Matilda really shouldn’t go back again. This was the best arrangement for both the Flintstones and the Constances. After some consideration, Matilda had to agree with her family members. If she stayed in Constance Residence, and William really brought home a woman one day, she would be humiliated. Also, if William told her that he had found a woman he loved, and demanded that she should move out, her reputation would be ruined. Sophia grunted. “Alright. Maybe you should stay in your own home. Don’t worry. I will stay here to observe William and give you updates frequently.” Matilda smiled. “Okay. I’m not going over today, since I don’t have much stuff there.” After they chatted a while longer, they ended the call. Honestly, life here is boring without Matilda, Sophia thought. She then decided to leave the main building to take a stroll around the backyard. Right then, she saw a car coming over from afar. After pulling over, Dylan got out of the vehicle quickly, while Sophia kept walking toward him. Seeing her, Dylan halted his steps to wait for her to reach him. Then, he inquired, “Why are you taking a

walk alone?”

Sophia flashed a smile at him. “I’m bored, so I’ve decided to take a stroll alone. Although I’m pregnant, I don’t really need an escort, do I?”

As they walked toward the backyard, Sophia asked why he had returned at this hour.

Dylan sighed. “I’ve been a little muddle-headed recently. I brought home a document last night, but I forgot to take it with me this morning when I went to work, so I had to come home again.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 810

Sophia chuckled. “I feel you. I have a shorter attention span nowadays.”

Dylan lowered his gaze to look at her belly. “It’s because you’re pregnant. Do you feel tired all the time?”

After saying she was alright, Sophia gave it a thought and went on, “Do you still go on blind dates?”

Dylan said no and then pondered on it for a moment before asking, “When are you going to remarry John? Will you hold a wedding party?”

Sophia giggled. “Well, I haven’t thought about it. I don’t even know when that will happen. We’ll see.”

Her words startled Dylan. “You haven’t thought about it? When your belly becomes bulging, it’ll be inconvenient for you to hold a wedding.”

Sophia grunted. “I’m fine with the situation we’re in now. To me, a wedding isn’t necessary.”

When they reached the house of the Second Constance Family, Lady Jennifer was ready to go out. Seeing Sophia and Dylan together, her expression changed. Staring at her son, she questioned, “Why have you come back at this hour?”

Dylan replied, "Oh, I forgot to bring a document with me, so I came back to get it."

Lady Jennifer nodded and turned to Sophia with a hollow smile. "Sophia, are you taking a walk?"

Ignoring her supercilious smile, Sophia grunted.

Turning to Sophia, Dylan said, "Be careful. I'm going in now."

Sophia waved her hand at him and continued walking toward the backyard.

Remaining on the spot, Lady Jennifer glared at Sophia's figure for a while before turning around to follow

Dylan into the house. Upon stepping into the living room, she questioned, "Why were you together with her? Where did you meet up?"

Surprised, Dylan turned around to face his mother. "Weren't you going out? Why did you come back in?"

Ignoring his questions, Lady Jennifer went on, "What did the two of you say on the way here? Come on.

Tell me what you talk about whenever you meet up with her."

Dylan laughed in disbelief. "Why are you still wary of her? Don't you find it ridiculous?" Upon finishing his words, he went upstairs.

Relentless, Lady Jennifer followed him and said, "I'm not wary of her. I'm just asking what the two of you normally talk about. In the past, you rarely talked to her, but now it seems that you've gotten closer to her."

Heaving a sigh, Dylan halted his steps and whirled around. "She's pregnant. What are you still afraid of?"

With an uneasy expression, Lady Jennifer replied, "Who told you I'm afraid of her? I'm not afraid of anyone."

After staring at his mother for a while, Dylan turned to enter his study.

Rooted to the spot for a moment, Lady Jennifer tagged along and changed her tactic by talking about Sophia. “Although Sophia and John haven’t remarried, they seem to be on better terms than in the past.

So, it doesn’t affect them much even if they’re not remarried yet.” Upon finding the document, Dylan whirled around and saw his mother, who was leaning against the door frame while she went on to say, “She’s still dependent on John. If it weren’t for John’s generosity, she would still have been the bumpkin girl. So, she hasn’t changed fundamentally.”

Looking at his mother, Dylan questioned, “If I gave in to Grandpa and married Sophia instead of listening to your advice at that time, what kind of life do you think Sophia and I would be living now?”

Flabbergasted by what she heard, Lady Jennifer growled, “Why are you even asking this question?

There’s no way that you and her will get together!”

Dylan let out a sigh. “Why can John be together with her but not me?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 811

Dylan laughed in a hollow manner and said, “You always say that Sophia is of no help to me. Look at John. He’s never gotten anything from her, but he’s obviously living a happy life. Now look at what kind of miserable life I’m leading.”

Startled, Lady Jennifer told her son in puzzlement, “There’s nothing wrong with your life. You’re single, so you can pursue any woman freely. Your life is as great as John’s. I’d even say that you’re living a greater life than him.”

Feeling helpless, Dylan shook his head. “How did you come to the conclusion that I’m living a better life than him? I don’t feel happy. In fact, I’m jealous of him.”

Lady Jennifer consoled him by saying, “Dylan, don’t worry. You’ll come across a better woman...”

Not wanting to listen to any of that anymore, Dylan decided to leave. After moving past his mother, he halted his steps and said, “As a matter of fact, Sophia has never been into me. It’s her who isn’t interested in getting together with me, not the other way round. You have to understand that.” With that, he stepped out of the room.

Rendered speechless, Lady Jennifer stood in the doorway of the study and gazed at her son’s figure from behind.

Meanwhile, Sophia was reaching for the bamboo forest. She was surprised that the place had been cleaned up, so the hill trail now looked pretty clean. In a slow manner, she walked up the hill. In fact, she didn’t have a particular destination in mind. She simply decided to take a stroll because she was bored.

As a pregnant woman, she shouldn’t strain herself, so she had to move slowly. Normally, it would take her only ten minutes to reach the top of the hill, but on this day, it took her thirty minutes to reach the clearing on the crest.

To her surprise, there was a wooden bench over there. She chuckled and wondered who was so considerate to install such a thing here, for it wasn’t there the last time she came. Walking over, she took a seat on the bench for a rest.

A moment later, her phone in the pocket started ringing. When she fished out her phone and checked the screen, her mood turned bad in an instant. What a relentless and shameless person.

She directly declined the call. It wasn't the same number the person used to call her previously, but she figured that it was the same person based on the location of the caller. A while later, the person sent her a message to tell her to stop hiding and pick up the call. The person even said that she couldn't solve the problem by going into hiding.

Sophia almost laughed in exasperation. There's nothing to settle between that woman and me. Upon blocking the number, she remained on the seat to enjoy the breeze on the hill.

After her call was rejected, the woman was now standing in front of Sophia's own house with her luggage on her left and a young girl on her right. The young girl didn't seem willing to come here, so she kept some distance from the woman and faced away from her. Ignoring the young girl, the woman kept shouting into the house until the neighbors came out to reprimand her in displeasure.

With a smile, the woman said, "I'm the mother of the house owner. I'm looking for her, but she isn't willing to meet me. She just wants to live a good life on her own and doesn't want to provide for me."

Not believing her words, one of the neighbors told her, "Stop shouting because no one is going to come out. She has moved out of here for quite some time."

The woman was stunned. "She's moved out? Do you know where she is now?"

Naturally, the neighbors had no idea where Sophia was, so they all said they didn't know and returned to their own homes.

The Returning Ex Chapter 812

Unwilling to give up, with her arms akimbo, the woman remained on the spot and muttered, "I can't believe she's moved out. What a heartless b*tch." The young girl turned to her. "Can we go now? This is very embarrassing."

"There's nothing to feel embarrassed about. When I get enough money from your sister, you'll enjoy a great life and understand I'm doing this for your own good." Since Sophia did not live here anymore, it was pointless for the woman to keep waiting. Therefore, she grabbed her luggage and left. All the while, the young girl kept a distance from her, apparently unwilling to be seen close to her.

As the woman was walking, she mumbled, "I must have been blind to have fallen in love with your useless dad. He just wants me to do all the work. If he had tagged along, we wouldn't have to be so taxed out. What a b*stard! When I have enough money, I'll dump him immediately!"

Ignoring her mother, the young girl slowly walked out of the residential area. However, they had nowhere to go. Standing on the main road where the traffic was heavy, they seemed to be mismatched with the city.

A moment later, the young girl walked up to her mother and said, "Mom, since we can't find her, we should just go home. We don't even have a place to stay here."

The woman put down her luggage and said through gritted teeth, "I'm not going home. Go back on your own if you want to. I will never leave this place before getting money from your sister!"

When John came home from work but didn't see Matilda, he was startled. William hadn't come home because he had attended a social gathering. Meanwhile, Sophia was lying on the bed and looking at her phone in the bedroom.

John pushed open the door and took off his jacket. "Where's my mom?"

Without turning to him, Sophia replied, "Her family members don't think it's appropriate for her to stay here, so they've asked her to go home."

John froze, as he never thought about it before. After thinking for a bit, he found that his mother's family members had a point. Nodding, he said, "I wonder how my dad will react when he comes home and finds out about it."

Sophia pursed her lips. "I'm looking forward to his reaction as well." After John got changed into casual clothes, his phone on the bed started ringing. Since he was already seated on the bed, he picked up the phone and answered the call. As the person on the phone was speaking in a low voice, Sophia couldn't hear what the person was saying. A short moment later, John rose and demanded, "Wait a minute. Will you speak slower?" As he was speaking, he left the room.

Sophia was surprised and turned to look at him. Who is on the phone? Why did he have to go out? After staring at the doorway for a moment, Sophia retracted her gaze, for she was no longer curious about John's secretive behavior.

Standing in the corridor, John scowled as he listened to what his subordinate said and replied, "Alright.

Just settle this matter directly. You know what to do, right?"

Surprised, the subordinate paused for a moment and inquired, "Aren't you and your wife going to face

her?”

John snorted. “There’s no need for us to meet her because she has nothing to do with us.”

After a short period of deliberation, the subordinate said, “Got it.”

John reminded him. “Don’t be too harsh on her. Just try to chase her away.”

The subordinate grunted in agreement and hung up the call.

With a darkened expression, John turned to look at the door of the bedroom for a moment before going downstairs. He thought that after he taught Walter a lesson, the latter would go back to discipline his former wife. To his surprise, however, Sophia’s mother valued money more than her own life.

When he was done with smoking a cigarette, Old Mrs. Constance told him that dinner was ready.

The Returning Ex Chapter 813

Before John had to go upstairs to call Sophia, she had come downstairs. Since William was still at the social gathering, and Matilda had returned home, the atmosphere during dinner was somewhat quiet.

Looking at the seats William and Matilda usually sat on, Old Mrs. Constance lamented, “I miss the time when all of us could sit together and have a meal. Without them, it just feels incomplete.”

Sophia flashed a gentle smile at her. “You can tell Master William to bring Madam Flintstone back. By then, we’ll be able to have dinner together again.”

Nibbling at his food, John went along by saying, “When dad comes home later, I’ll ask him what he plans to do.”

Darting her gaze between Sophia and John, Old Mrs. Constance put on a smile without uttering a word.

As soon as John finished eating, his phone on the table started ringing. Upon taking a look, he picked it up and left the dining hall.

Sophia happened to catch a glimpse of the screen, and she knew that the person was John's subordinate.

Pouting, she watched John disappear from the living room. Then, she tutted and said, "He's been busy for the entire day."

Picking up a piece of tissue, Old Mrs. Constance wiped the grease off her mouth and replied, "Don't worry. I'm sure he's really busy with work and not hiding anything from you." A moment later, she added, "Given his temperament, I don't think any other woman will fall in love with him."

Sophia arched her brow, thinking that Old Mrs. Constance didn't really understand her grandson.

Although John was hot-tempered, he was rich and handsome. These two qualities could eclipse the flaws in his temperament and make any woman fall for him.

After stepping out of the living room, John picked up the call. With a lowered voice, the subordinate reported, "Sir, something happened."

John grunted, not feeling surprised. "What's wrong?"

The subordinate sighed. "I guess the woman had figured that we would handle the problem like this, so after we captured her, she started throwing a tantrum. Just now, when we were not paying attention, she crashed her head into the wall. Her head is now drenched in blood, but she wouldn't let us help treat her. The young daughter she has brought with her is now bawling. We don't even know how to handle this situation."

Since these two people are related to Sophia, we aren't sure how hard we can go on them, the subordinate thought.

John laughed. "Well well, she's quite a daredevil. Is her injury serious?"

The subordinate replied, "It isn't serious, but she's making a fuss and demanding to meet Miss

Gwendolyn. Since she's Miss Gwendolyn's mother, we're afraid that if we treat her too harshly, Miss Gwendolyn will blame us later."

After a moment of consideration, John asked, "Where are you now?

I'm going over." I didn't expect that

the woman would threaten to kill herself. It seems that she's

determined to get some money out of us,

John thought.

After the subordinate told him the address, John grunted and hung up the call. When he was reaching

for the car park, he suddenly thought of something and stopped in his tracks. After hesitating for a bit,

he turned around and returned to the living room.

At that moment, Sophia and Old Mrs. Constance were coming out of the dining hall since they were

done with dinner. Seeing him, Sophia said, "Oh, you're done with the phone call."

John inquired, "Do you want to follow me to a place?"

Startled, Sophia asked, "Where are you bringing me to? You look serious."

With a slight frown, John replied, "We're going to meet a person. I think you should show up."

After staring at him for a while, she seemed to have figured who they were going to meet, so she nodded

and said, "Alright. I'll go with you."

When Sophia went upstairs to get changed, Old Mrs. Constance gazed at him. "What's wrong? Is that some serious matter?"

“It isn’t so serious,” John answered. “It’s just that one of Sophia’s relatives wants to get some benefits from us. Since Sophia isn’t willing to give in, the person is throwing a tantrum.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 814

Old Mrs. Constance was stunned upon hearing that. “I can’t believe such an evil soul exists in this world.

Why don’t you just give that person some money? I’m afraid this problem will escalate if it drags on.”

John heaved a sigh. “It isn’t so easy. The person is greedy.”

Indeed, he had thought about giving the woman some money to brush her off. After all, she was Sophia’s mother. However, he knew that if Sophia found out about it in the future, she would blame him. She was the woman he loved the most, so he didn’t have the courage to take the risk.

After Sophia got changed, she came downstairs. Appearing to be clean cut, she said, “Let’s go.”

Her outfit amused John, for she looked like a fierce woman who was going to get even with someone.

In a lowered voice, Old Mrs. Constance told John, “You have to keep watch on her. Sophia may put her guard down when dealing with a relative. If something goes wrong, that person may harm Sophia. You have to protect her.”

John nodded. “I understand. Don’t worry.”

Without waiting for John, Sophia reached for the car park. In reality, she wasn’t keen on meeting that woman. She just wanted to settle the problem as quickly as possible. If this matter drags on, it’ll remain a thorn in my heart, Sophia thought while waiting for John by the car.

Coming over, John stroked her face and said, "Don't be agitated when you meet her later. Whatever happens, I'll settle it for you."

Sophia grunted gently. In fact, she didn't need his help as she could settle this on her own. I'm not afraid of anyone.

While they were on the way to their destination, Sophia kept trying to recall her mother's name. They hadn't met for years, and she didn't have any fondness for her mother at all, so when she tried to think of her name, she realized that she had forgotten it.

Just then, the sky started turning dark. A while later, rain began pouring down rather than starting with a drizzle first. As she observed the movements of the wipers, her mother's name suddenly came to her mind.

Kay Smith. Oh yes, the woman's name is Kay Smith. It's such an easy name to remember, but it's taken me a long time to recall it, Sophia thought.

They were heading for a farmhouse instead of the warehouse in the suburbs. The house looked small and shabby. When John pulled over, the subordinate, who had been waiting in the yard with an umbrella, came over.

After John got out of the car, the subordinate said, "She's inside. She's exhausted, but she still won't shut up."

The subordinate then passed an umbrella to Sophia, who took it over, drew a deep breath and reached for the house. Standing just outside the yard, she could already hear a woman bawling and cursing in a hoarse voice inside the house.

After pausing for a moment, she pushed open the gates and walked forward. The farmhouse should have

been built a long time ago, as the building was in disrepair, and there weren't even any lights on.

Upon calming herself down, Sophia stepped into the house and immediately saw a kitchen. Obviously, no one had used the kitchen for a long time. Although the kitchenware was nicely arranged, the whole place just looked like a mess.

She then turned into a corridor that was lined with two rooms. The woman's voice came from one of the rooms. With a heavy heart, she neared the room, which didn't even have a door. Inside the small room, a woman was seen tied to a wooden chair. The woman was wriggling her body. Although her voice had turned hoarse from all that yelling, she still wouldn't stop cursing. Standing in the doorway, Sophia stared at her. The wound on the woman's head remained untreated.

Her head was drenched in so much blood that her features couldn't be seen clearly anymore, which was quite a frightening sight to behold.

The Returning Ex Chapter 815

Meanwhile, someone was crying in another room, which had a door. At that instant, Sophia knew who was inside.

After cussing for a while, Kay noticed the person outside the room. Not recognizing Sophia, she started scolding her.

Sophia laughed. Look. She is my mother, but she doesn't even recognize me when we're face-to-face.

Then, the woman told Sophia, "I'm not going to get my wound treated. I want everyone to see how Sophia treats her own mother. She's told her people to beat me up. I'm sure that monster will go to hell when she dies!"

Staring at her mother, Sophia waited for her to stop cursing before saying, “Who says I’m going to treat your wound? Dream on. I’m just here to see what you have up your sleeves. That’s why I even bothered coming all the way here.”

As soon as Sophia spoke, Kay knew who she was. Stunned, she gazed at her daughter. When Walter and her ran away from home, Sophia was still a young kid who had just started learning to walk. At that time, their family was poor, so Sophia was thin and dirty, looking like a typical country bumpkin.

Back to the present, the woman before her eyes was beautiful and curvy. Although Sophia was dressed in simple clothes, it was apparent that she was a rich woman now. Licking her lips, Kay said, “Soph, you’re finally here. I miss you so much.”

Just like an excellent actress, tears started streaming down her face after she finished speaking.

However, Sophia wasn’t affected one bit. Knowing that her mother wasn’t sincere, she just glared at her.

After wailing for a while, Kay writhed and demanded, “Soph, release me immediately. Let me take a good look at you.”

Sophia never moved a muscle. Just then, John came over and stood beside her. Placing his palms on her shoulders, he persuaded her to leave it to him. “You’ve seen her now. Why don’t you wait outside? I’ll handle this.”

When Kay saw John, she immediately realized his identity, so she kept calling him ‘son-in-law’ in a dearer manner than when she was calling Sophia. She kept squirming in an attempt to drag the chair toward

John. Unfortunately, not only did the chair not move one bit, but she had also lost her balance and fallen sideways.

Sophia just looked at her coldly without trying to help. Seeing as they never made a move, another

subordinate in the house wasn't even sure if he should help her up.

Rather than leaving, Sophia stepped into the room and walked up to the woman. Lowering her head to

look at her, she said, "Kay, you must have been suffering for years."

Kay's arm hit the ground just now, so she was groaning in pain

currently. Hearing what Sophia said, she

paused for a moment and replied, "I'm doing okay. Your sister is in another room. Why don't you go

meet her? She's always wanted to see you."

Sophia put on a glacial smile. "I don't have a sister. Since the death of my grandpa, there were no more

relatives of mine left in this world. I bet you don't know how much I hate you and Walter. Even in my

dreams, I thought about how I could kill the two of you. I thought that I would never have the chance to

do so, but I didn't expect that you would bring your daughter with you to look for me. What do you think

I will do to her?"

Kay was stunned for a moment as her lips twitched. Looking at Sophia in disbelief, she warned, "Soph,

she's your sister, so you must not harm her!"

Sophia snorted and turned around to enter the other room, which wasn't locked. Upon opening the

door, she saw a young girl inside.

The young girl wasn't tied up, but she was afraid to get out.

The Returning Ex Chapter 816

With her eyes filled with tears, the young girl curled up in one corner of the room. Seeing Sophia, she

trembled in fright. The young girl, who was only ten years old, hadn't experienced this kind of ordeal before, so she was frightened. Walking up to her, Sophia crouched down.

With a fearful expression, the young girl stared at Sophia as her tears streamed down her face. She doesn't look like me at all. No one could have guessed that we were born from the same mother, Sophia thought.

Knowing Sophia's identity, the young girl stammered, "I-I didn't want to come. S-She forced me to come with her. I was at school when she requested a leave for me." As she was speaking, she avoided meeting Sophia's eyes.

However, Sophia didn't like the way the young girl shifted all the blame to her mother. If she really didn't want to come, Kay would never have been able to threaten her into doing so. With an impassive face, Sophia extended her hand and clenched the young girl's chin to make the latter meet her eyes.

Horrified, the young girl shrieked hysterically.

Hearing that, Kay became flustered in an instant. "Soph, don't hurt your sister!" With a hoarse voice, she yelled in a way that was almost unintelligible.

Ignoring her, Sophia exerted more force on her hand, which caused the young girl to scream louder.

Kay kept yelling until she couldn't help but start bawling. In a weakened voice, she pleaded, "Blame it all on me if you hate me. Don't hurt a young and innocent girl..." A young and innocent girl? I don't think so, Sophia thought cold-bloodedly. She remembered that when

Kay gave her a phone call and made the young girl call her 'sister', the young girl did as she was told.

When Kay asked the young girl to sing for Sophia, she obeyed the order as well.

If she really didn't want to be dragged into this, she shouldn't have played along with Kay in the first place. Now that they're not able to extort money from me, she's claiming this young girl is innocent?

That's ridiculous, Sophia thought.

As Sophia clenched the young girl's chin even harder, the latter's face was now practically covered in tears.

Standing in the doorway, John kept watch on Sophia, for he was afraid that the young girl might harm her. Well, it seems that it's the other way round now. Gazing at Sophia, John felt sorry for her.

Whatever problems she had to face, she would always tackle them bravely. Even if she had to deal with these nasty people, she wouldn't seek anyone's help. Perhaps it was because she was used to relying on herself. Without any support in the past, she had learned to solve all the problems on her own. It was a good quality that she possessed, but it made John feel sympathetic for her.

Afraid that Sophia might kill her, the young girl shouted, "Mom, come here now! She wanna kill me! She

wanna kill me!" As her chin was gripped, she couldn't speak clearly.

Terrified, Kay bellowed, "Sophia! Don't hurt your own sister!"

With a cold expression, Sophia extended even more force on her hand, which caused the young girl to wail in pain.

Hearing her daughter's plight, Kay was flustered and kept begging Sophia to stop. A while later, when

she still heard her daughter screaming, she couldn't help but start scolding Sophia.

However, her accusations against Sophia sounded rather unfounded, as they had never lived together before. All she could say was that Sophia was a monster who was cold-blooded enough to harm her own sister.

When she was done with reprimanding Sophia, she gave it a thought and started blaming the Gwendolyn Family instead.

Initially, she was scolding Walter Gwendolyn. Then, she slowly shifted her blame to Sophia's grandfather.

"He's such a useless old fart who didn't have enough wealth for his own son. Otherwise, Walter and I wouldn't have to run away from home!"

The Returning Ex Chapter 817

When Kay was cursing Walter, Sophia didn't find any problem with it. She even thought that Kay was right, as Walter really was an incapable and irresponsible man. However, when Kay started cursing her grandfather, Sophia could no longer tolerate it. Standing up straight, she turned around and went back into Kay's room.

Ignoring the fact that Kay was her mother, she directly landed a kick on her. "Watch what you say! You have no right to scold my grandpa. If you dare say that again, I'll kill your daughter." Sophia expended all her force when she kicked Kay's thigh, which caused the latter to gasp in pain.

Keeping her mouth shut now, Kay glared at Sophia, who gritted her teeth in a fury. Licking her lips, Kay understood that she had said the wrong thing, so she kept calling her 'Soph' and then said, "She's your sister." With her tears flowing down her face, Kay wailed, "I have to admit that your dad and I have done

the wrong thing, but your sister is innocent, so please don't harm her." Looking down at her, Sophia said, "Then she has herself to blame for being your daughter."

With teary eyes, Kay simply looked at Sophia; perhaps it was because she had shouted for a long time that she couldn't utter a word now. After staring at Kay for a while, Sophia found the blood stain on her face unbearable to look at. She hesitated for a moment before returning to the young girl, grabbed her arm, and pulled her up. Terrified, the young girl cried again. Feeling impatient, Sophia demanded, "Shut up and follow me." When they reached the other room, she hurled the young girl to Kay's side.

Seeing that her mother was lying on the ground, the young girl cried harder. Sophia threatened, "Why don't the two of you go to hell together? This is a suitable location for burying two corpses." Not understanding that Sophia didn't really mean what she said, Kay kept yelling no and said, "T-This is illegal. You can't do that to us."

Sophia grinned. "Now that I'm pregnant, I fear nothing. I'm telling you, even if I get imprisoned, I have my own ways to get out." Gripped by fear, Kay stared at Sophia. The young girl didn't really understand their conversation, but she knew that they were in a perilous situation. Unfortunately, she could do nothing but sob. Sophia eyed them coldly. No matter how sorrowful these people on the ground appeared to be, she remained unfeeling.

Just then, John came over and pulled her into his embrace. "Alright. Let me handle this for you. Don't be too angry with these people. It's not worth it."

Sophia's eyes were fixed on the mother and daughter who were hugging each other on the ground. In a glacial voice, she threatened, "If the two of you wish to stay alive, get the hell out of this city by tomorrow. Otherwise, I will go hard on you."

Upon finishing her words, she took a deep breath to calm herself down. She was too agitated that her stomach felt unwell. Stroking her belly, she tried to stabilize her emotions before turning back to John.

"Please handle them for me. Leave no mercy for these people. Just throw them out of here."

After saying okay, John left the room with her and helped her get into the car. Then, he returned to the room.

Inside the car, Sophia leaned against the seat as her expression turned impassive. Since her stomach still felt uncomfortable, she drew a deep breath and brushed her face with her hand.

The Returning Ex Chapter 818

Sophia wasn't crying. Rather than feeling sad, she was just a little tired. Just when she thought she could live a happy life with John, her biological mother came to trouble her. Before long, John came back into the car and stroked her face. Without Sophia having to ask, he said, "They're leaving tomorrow, and they've promised to never harass you again. Don't worry."

Sophia grunted in response.

Knowing that it was useless for him to say anything at this point, as no one could console her except for herself, John simply heaved a sigh. "Let's go home."

When the car started moving, Sophia exhaled slowly and said, "From now on, I have no more relatives. Perhaps I should celebrate."

John turned to her, who was gazing out the window with an indifferent expression, as though she wasn't the one who said that just a moment ago. Then, he pulled her hand toward him and gripped it firmly.

"You still have me."

Sophia didn't give him any response.

When they reached home, the sky had turned dark. After the car was parked in the garage, John helped Sophia get out of the car as they held hands and headed for the main building.

At that moment, William was smoking in the yard just outside the main building. Clueless about why they had gone out, he greeted them when he saw them. "You're back." John grunted and kept walking toward the living room with Sophia. Just then, William said, "Your mom returned to her own home."

Stopping in his tracks, John turned to look at his father, whose expression was uneasy. William said after a cough, "Well, your grandma told me that your mom had left." In disbelief, Sophia gazed at William, who was seen with a bashful expression at such a mature age.

Before John could speak, Sophia said, "Yes, she's gone back to her own home because her family members don't want her to stay here. Given her identity, it's inappropriate for her to live here, and they're worried that your life will be affected, so they've asked her to go home."

Surprised for a moment, William then nodded. "I see. That's why she left."

Exhausted, Sophia turned to John. "Will you stay here to chat with Master William? I'm going to take a rest now."

Worried about her, John insisted on sending her to her room before coming back down.

When Sophia stepped into the house, she turned to look at William, who appeared to be anxious.

Although she was in a bad mood, she was still amused by the look on William's face.

After John brought Sophia to the bedroom and made her sit down, he returned to his father.

Upon giving it a thought, Sophia fished out her phone and sent Matilda a message. It took Matilda a long time to reply to her. When her message came, she said that she was in a difficult situation. Sophia didn't quite understand the message. As a straightforward woman herself, she decided to give Matilda a call.

When the call was connected, Matilda inquired in a lowered voice, "Sophia, what's wrong? Why are you calling me at this hour?"

Sensing that Matilda was accompanied by someone, Sophia asked, "Where are you? And what are you doing? I'm bored, so I wanna chat with you."

Matilda replied, "Oh, I'm outside with a friend."

Why didn't I know that she has other friends? After some deliberation, Sophia questioned, "Why are you still outside at night? It's dangerous."

Matilda answered, "You're right. I'm going home soon." Since she was a little busy, she told Sophia that she would call her back later.

Sophia grunted and said, "I'll wait for your call."

The Returning Ex Chapter 818

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Matilda answered, "You're right. I'm going home soon." Since she was a little busy, she told Sophia that she would call her back later.

Sophia grunted and said, "I'll wait for your call."

The Returning Ex Chapter 819

After Matilda hung up the call, Sophia leaned against the bedhead and thought that something must have happened to her. Putting down the phone, she started spacing out.

Her stomach felt much better now. It seems that I was really too agitated just now. Anyway, the problem between Kay and I have been settled. From now on, I have nothing to do with her anymore. Hopefully, I won't see her again for the rest of my life.

A while later, Matilda gave Sophia a call. When the call was connected, she let out a sigh and lamented, "It's killing me. Fortunately, you made the effort to call me just now, otherwise I wouldn't have an excuse to leave."

Sophia laughed. "What's wrong? What happened to you?"

Smacking her lips, Matilda replied, "After I returned home, my mom said it was embarrassing for me to keep pestering William, as the Constances would look down on me. So, she'd arranged a date for me."

"What?" Sophia asked in shock. "You mean your mom made you go on a date? Well, she's really eager to marry you off again."

In fact, Matilda's mother didn't say it was a date. She just thought that Matilda had too few friends, so

she decided to introduce a suitable man to her daughter. Since she didn't make it clear that it was a date, it was hard for Matilda to reject her.

Earlier, the man called Matilda to ask her out. She didn't want to go, but the man's attitude was rather sincere. He just said that he felt bored after having dinner, so he decided to ask her out for a walk.

Thinking to make it clear to the man that she wasn't looking for a new boyfriend, she agreed to it.

Feeling curious, Sophia asked, "What does the man look like? In comparison to Master William, who is more handsome?"

Matilda burst into laughter. "Well, I'm not going to make a comparison between them." The man is gentle and he speaks in a slow manner. It seems that he's a mild-tempered man, Matilda thought.

After thinking for a bit, Sophia smirked. "Well, I think I will try to expose it to Master William that you went on a date, and I'll observe his reaction. When he found out that you had returned home, I could see that he was flustered. I'm not telling this to console you. It was how he really reacted."

Matilda laughed. "Really? I'm surprised."

Sophia grunted. "Alright. You'll stay in your home for the time being, and I'll continue observing Master

William. Since John could make the effort to make up with me, I believe that Master William can do the same. Just wait for him to go pick you up."

Meanwhile, John and William were having a chat in the yard in front of the main building. John had

decided to tell his father why he and Sophia had gone out.

William nodded. "It's hard for us to console her since this is her own familial matter. If she thinks this is

the best way to settle the problem, then let her be. I truly feel sorry for her. She had been living with her grandpa, so she didn't have any fondness for her parents. Otherwise, she wouldn't be so steel-hearted."

"You're right," John said. He had visited Sophia's hometown before, so he knew that her living conditions were poor.

In the small village, most young men and women had left. With only old people and young kids around, life in the village must have been hard. One of the villagers told John that Sophia had learned to wash clothes and cook food since young. During harvest season, she would help her grandfather out in the farmland.

The harsh life she had to live eroded her yearning for her parents. Now that she had decided to make such a decision, no one had the right to say she was wrong.

When their discussion about Sophia was over, William finally couldn't take it anymore and asked what happened with Matilda.

John replied, "Oh, her mom thinks that it's inappropriate for her to stay here. Moreover, she's afraid that if you bring home someone you love one day, it'll be embarrassing for Mom. So, rather than waiting to fall into such an awkward situation, her mom told her to go home to spare the two of you the trouble."

The Returning Ex Chapter 820

William chuckled. "Her mom has a lot to worry about, doesn't she?" John looked at his father. "Of course she's worried, since this is a legitimate concern. When that really happens one day, it'll be humiliating for Mom. I think her mom has a point."

Falling silent, William tucked his hands into his pockets and looked into the distance.

After a pause, John asked, "Did Aunt Yolanda contact you recently?" Startled for a moment, William grunted. "She did call me, but it was nothing important. We simply had a chat. She said that she was bored being alone."

Initially, William didn't pick up her call, as he found it awkward. Since Yolanda still had feelings for him, he decided that he should reject her in a steadfast manner. If he kept giving her hope, it would do no good for the both of them.

Later, however, Yolanda sent him a message to say that she didn't have any friends at her place to have a chat. So, she just wanted to talk to him, and it was not because she still had feelings for him. She said that she didn't like to pester. Since William had made himself clear, she knew what she should do.

Also, William knew that Yolanda was a straightforward woman. Since she had said so, he decided to talk to her so that he wouldn't be seen as a petty person.

John nodded. "I see." He didn't give a comment, nor was he in any place to give a comment.

William felt awkward at the mention of Yolanda, so he added, "There's really nothing between Yolanda and me. Since she's said she's gotten over me, I believe she means it."

John grunted. "I think so." What was done couldn't be undone, so it was pointless for him to harp on this issue.

After staying in the yard for a while longer, they returned to their own rooms.

When John opened the door, he saw Sophia curled up on the bed, apparently asleep. Standing beside the bed, he lowered his head to observe her. With her body curled up, Sophia looked somewhat pitiful.

Then, John entered the bathroom to wash up. When he came out and saw her still in the same position, he heaved a sigh before getting into the bed carefully, and pulled her into his embrace.

Sophia didn't seem to be having a good dream. With her brows furrowed, she appeared to be sorrowful.

Touching her glabella, John tried to comfort her. "Relax. You're in a safe place."

Sophia called out 'Grandpa' in her dream.

Feeling sorry for her, John hugged her tighter and let out a sigh. He was worried that he could never heal the trauma she had suffered from in her younger days.

Sophia didn't sleep well for the entire night. At the break of dawn, she opened her eyes and saw John beside her. Getting out of the bed carefully, she put on a shirt and left the room. She decided to take a stroll in the backyard.

At this hour, all the other people were still asleep, so the atmosphere in the mansion was rather quiet.

After stepping out of the house through the backdoor, she headed for the bamboo forest.

In the morning, the bamboo leaves were covered with dew. Sophia slowly walked up the hill, but before she could reach the top, she was already panting heavily, so she decided to halt her steps. Seeing a rock nearby, she took a seat on it for a rest.

A while later, she heard footsteps from further up the trail. Unafraid, she kept staring at the road. When she saw the person coming over, she smiled. "Well, you've woken up pretty early."

Seeing her, Dylan was surprised. "Why are you alone?"

Sophia replied, "Oh, I couldn't sleep, so I decided to have a walk."

The Returning Ex Chapter 821

Walking up to Sophia, Dylan replied, "I couldn't sleep as well. It felt really boring to be on the bed, so I

decided to come take a walk.” There was some morning dew on his hair.

Since the rock was large enough to accommodate two people, Sophia asked, “Do you want to take a rest?”

Dylan gave it a look and took a seat beside her.

Gazing at the view beyond the bamboo forest, Sophia commented, “It’s my first time seeing this view in the morning. It feels good.”

Dylan flashed a smile at her. “I’ve seen the view countless times, so I’m rather used to it now.”

After a pause, Sophia said, “John told me that you’re responsible for dealing with the Baileys now. Has it been troublesome for you?”

“Not really.” Dylan smacked his lips. “After I took over the responsibility, the Baileys assigned someone else to deal with me. I wonder why.”

Knowing the reason behind that, Sophia pressed her lips together without uttering a word.

Dylan continued, “Isabelle came to our company some time ago. After a chat, I found her to be a pushover. She didn’t seem to have her own opinions.”

His remark surprised Sophia, for she had always believed that Isabelle was an opinionated person.

Then, Dylan went on to say, “Perhaps it’s got something to do with the environment she has grown up in. After all, she’s a woman, and she has a brother, so she’s destined to not take over the company. She’s just managing the company for the time being.”

Although Sophia didn’t understand Isabelle’s family matters, she knew that the latter had a brother.

After giving it a thought, she asked, "Isn't it wonderful to have a daughter and a son?"

Dylan nodded. "It's indeed great to have a daughter and a son at the same time, but to the Baileys, maybe a daughter isn't so important."

Sophia fell silent, for she thought that men were only valued more than women in the village, as men were needed to work on the farmlands. Since men were strong, they were naturally in a more preferable position.

Sophia knew that was the norm in the village, but she didn't understand why the same thing happened in the city.

Dylan chuckled. "That's just how I feel. Maybe that's not really the case."

After sitting for a while longer, Dylan had to go back. Not wanting to return yet, Sophia insisted upon staying here. Nodding, Dylan told her to be careful and turned to leave. Moments later, Sophia's phone started ringing in her pocket. She thought it was John, but after checking the screen, she was surprised to learn that it was Logan instead. It was really unusual for him to call her at this hour, so she immediately accepted the call. However, the caller was one of Logan's subordinates instead of himself.

The subordinate was speaking in a lowered voice. Apparently, he decided to call Sophia without Logan's knowledge.

Frowning, Sophia asked, "What's wrong?"

"Miss Gwendolyn, can you come over to the clubhouse? Our boss is throwing a tantrum, but no one is able to calm him down," the subordinate said.

Feeling surprised, Sophia questioned, "Why is he mad? What happened?"

Having no clue himself, the subordinate replied in a hushed tone, “I think he was beaten up. I can see there’s a bruise on his face, but I dared not ask him about it.” Sophia stood up straight. “He’s beaten up?” She could never believe that Logan was harmed. Given his temper, even if someone had the guts to attack him, he would surely retaliate immediately.

The employees at the clubhouse were stunned that Logan came to the place in the morning and started breaking everything for no reason while cursing in an incomprehensible manner. Since he was rarely so incensed, the employees didn’t dare approach him nor ask him what happened.

The Returning Ex Chapter 822

After Logan hurled away his phone, one of the employees caught it and went away to call Sophia in secret, trying to seek for her help.

As Sophia was walking down the hill, she said, “Alright. I’m going over. Is he still making a fuss?”

The employee replied, “Yes. It’s lasted for a long time. I thought he would take a rest when he was exhausted, but he just wouldn’t stop.”

Sophia was amused. It’s really tough for the employees of the clubhouse. I can’t believe that Logan was harmed though. Well, this is some exciting news.

When Sophia returned to the mansion, John happened to be looking for her. He knew that she would go to the bamboo forest. After Sophia told him what happened to Logan, she said she had to get changed and go to the clubhouse.

Upon learning that Logan was beaten up, John was surprised. “There’s no way he’s attacked. Given his temper, he would have taken revenge on the spot.”

Excited, Sophia said, "That's why I have to go over to find out more." Then, she stepped into the living room and went upstairs.

Standing on the spot, John gazed at her figure from behind. It seems that she's forgotten what happened yesterday. That's good.

Without having breakfast, John and Sophia got changed and headed for the clubhouse. As expected, Logan was still making a scene. Two servants were guarding the entrance to block out other outsiders. Seeing Sophia and John, the servants rushed over and welcomed them in as though they were their saviors.

Walking in, Sophia could already hear Logan's grumpy voice. Oh wow, he's been making a fuss for a long time, but his voice is still loud and clear.

Afraid that Sophia might be harmed accidentally, John led the way while she followed behind him. When they entered the hall, they could see all the mess on the floor. It seemed that Logan was truly infuriated, for he had broken up valuable items like crystal glasses, porcelain vases, and some jade ornaments that were originally displayed in the cupboards; even the animal-shaped ornament on the counter was hurled to the ground. The broken ornament was neither made of jade nor glass, so it was apparent to Sophia that Logan was truly incensed.

Inside the room, Logan was cursing things like 'a**hole', 'brainless', 'trash', and so on. It was hard to comprehend what he was trying to say. While he was cursing, he was still breaking things up.

Sophia tutted. "I didn't know he has so much stamina."

Placing his palms on her shoulders, John said, "Wait here. I'll check on him."

When the door was opened, Logan was seen with reddened eyes, his expression ferocious. Basically all the items in the room had been destroyed. Near the entrance, some servants were keeping watch on him, but no one dared to approach him.

Standing in the doorway, John called out to Logan, who was kicking a couch repeatedly. The table had been turned over, and the room looked like a tornado had swept across it.

Hearing John's voice, Logan slowly came to his senses and turned to him. Since he was still infuriated, he didn't sound very friendly. "Why are you here?"

John stepped into the room and took a look. "Why are you so mad? Are you trying to demolish this place?"

After looking around, Logan suddenly raised his leg and landed a kick on a table.

The Returning Ex Chapter 823

The table was already broken. After the kick, it became disassembled completely. Incensed, Logan

snarled, "D*mn it! I've never been treated like this before!"

When the sound of things being broken stopped, Sophia walked in and said with a smile, "Logan, you have a pretty loud voice. I could hear you cursing from outside the room."

Seeing her, Logan was startled for a moment and turned back around reflexively.

Despite his swift movement, Sophia could catch a glimpse of the bruise on his cheek. It seems that he was really beaten up. The sight amused Sophia. After that, she took a look at the mess and shook her

head. “Even if you break all the things here, it doesn’t solve any problem. Logan, it’s really not worth it that you’re so enraged.”

With his arms akimbo, Logan blurted, “If it weren’t for the fact that she... she...” He couldn’t finish his sentence.

With a raised brow, Sophia said, “Come on. We’ll go out and have a talk. Tell some people to clean up this place. If you don’t stop now, your business will have to close down.”

Logan never moved a muscle. Walking over, John took his arm. As though he had found an excuse, Logan followed him out of the room.

Sophia gesticulated at the servants, who got her hint and went over to clean up the place.

The three of them then went upstairs to a room. After opening the window, Logan placed his palms on his hips and took a deep breath. It was apparent to the other two that Logan hadn’t fully vented out his anger after breaking those things up.

After closing the door, Sophia walked up to him and stared at him in a serious manner. Knowing that she was trying to examine his bruise, Logan looked away in uneasiness and snorted.

Unable to hold it back anymore, Sophia burst out laughing. “Logan, there’s some ‘dirt’ on your face. Let me help you wipe it off.”

Logan dodged her. “Stop mocking me. You know what that is on my face.”

Sophia guffawed. “Please tell me who was brave enough to do what we’ve always wanted to do but never have the courage to act on.”

Logan drew a deep breath. "I'm telling you, if it weren't for the fact that she's injured, I would have landed a kick on her and sent her to hell." After a pause, he continued, "Just ask around and you'll know that no one has the guts to treat me like this. Even Bryce Morgan did not dare to touch me when I was making a scene at his home. No one has ever laid a hand on me before! It's really the f*cking first time! What the heck?!"

Despite his incoherent language, Sophia finally understood what he was trying to say. Keeping the smile on her face, she asked, "How did you get hurt? Didn't you dodge the attack?"

Infuriated, Logan replied, "You have no idea what was going on. I didn't expect that when we were having an argument, she would suddenly attack me. I was caught off guard."

Unable to hold it back as well, John burst into laughter.

Smiling in a helpless manner, Sophia thought, Sometimes, Logan is really adorable. Then, she took

Logan's arm to make him face her in an attempt to examine the bruise on his face. In fact, it wasn't serious, but it had become conspicuous after some time. Raising her hand, Sophia helped massage his bruise. "Does it hurt?"

Without flinching or anything, Logan replied, "Not really."

So, he isn't badly hurt. He was throwing a tantrum simply because he was humiliated, Sophia thought.

She closed her lips tightly so that she wouldn't burst out laughing. After calming herself down, she asked,

"The person who hit you... Was it Officer..."

Sophia had wanted to ask if it was Officer Hunt who hurt Logan, but she suddenly recalled that the latter was no longer a policewoman.

Understanding her doubt, Logan replied, "Lola Hunt."

Sophia asked, "Oh, was it her who hurt you?"

Gritting his teeth, Logan growled, "Who would have the guts to do this other than that b*tch?"

Recalling that Robin told her before that Logan was at the hospital some time ago, Sophia questioned,

"Was she injured? Did you pay her a visit at the hospital some time ago?"

Logan seemed startled that she knew this, for he looked embarrassed for a second. "I wasn't there to visit her. I just wanted to find out whether she was dead. I heard that she almost lost her life during a mission. After that, her family members didn't want her to continue working as a policewoman, so they made a fuss at the police station every day to get her to quit." Pursing his lips, he continued, "Two days ago, she was injured again. I was thinking that since she was hurt again after such a short period of time, I had to find out if she could survive. I wasn't paying her a visit. You have to understand that there's a fundamental difference between these two scenarios."

Standing on the side, John questioned, "Why are you explaining so much? The more you explain, the more it seems that you're hiding something."

Rendered speechless, Logan decided not to utter a word again.

Sophia found it novel, for she had never seen Logan in such a state before. Staring at him, she said, "But you've really gone overboard today. If you're not happy, you can tell us about it. It's much better than,

say, going mad and breaking things up. Now you have to repurchase all the things you've destroyed.

What's the point of it?"

However, she could understand why Logan reacted in such a way, for he had never experienced this kind of humiliation before. Gazing at his bruise, she concluded that it didn't really need any treatment.

On the other hand, she was curious about what happened between Lola and him. Leaning on the window sill, she looked at Logan and asked, "What did you tell Lola when you went to the hospital some time ago?"

After shooting her a look, Logan replied, "I didn't say anything to her. I was just there to ascertain whether she was dead or not. What do you think I'd tell her? Would I give her a consolation or something?" His haughty expression was rather annoying.

Sophia felt that Lola must have been resentful of him for a long time, so the latter snapped and attacked him at that moment.

After taking a look at his wristwatch, John said, "You haven't had your breakfast, right? Let's go find a place to eat. I have to go to work later."

Hearing that, Sophia nodded. "Right. In order to look for you, we didn't have our breakfast. Let's go now.

It's time you've calmed down."

With a long face, Logan followed them out of the clubhouse as they looked for a restaurant. After finding an eatery that was bustling with diners, they took a seat outside.

In a bad mood, Logan didn't have any appetite to eat. Ignoring him, Sophia ordered three breakfast sets and gulped down a glass of milk.

After holding it in for a long time, Logan began rambling again. "I'm telling you, no man will ever fall in

love with that tomboy. I think she'll live the rest of her life alone." At that instant, Sophia and John traded glances and smiled at each other.

In fact, Logan didn't need anyone to reply to him, as he just wanted to keep babbling on his own. After a snort, he continued, "You have no idea how arrogant that injured woman was at the hospital. Who does she think she is? I just didn't want to bring myself down to her level. Otherwise..."

The Returning Ex Chapter 825

Raising his hand, Logan rubbed his thumb and forefinger together. "I could kill her any time, you know?"

Not responding to him, Sophia and John just let him keep rattling on. After the restaurant owner served the food, Sophia stopped listening to Logan and started enjoying her food.

Upon rambling for a while longer, Logan lowered his head and looked at the food on the table. Having made a fuss for a long time, he had expended most of his energy.

Smelling the aroma of the food now, he realized that he was hungry.

Pressing his lips together, he gazed at the other two and saw that they were not willing to respond to him. After giving it a thought, he decided to keep his mouth shut and started nibbling at the food.

Finding it amusing, Sophia smiled.

When they were done with having breakfast, John had to go to work. Since Sophia had nothing else to do, she decided to follow Logan back to his clubhouse. Then, she called Matilda to invite her to come over.

Though surprised at first, Matilda then agreed to it.

Seated in the private room of the clubhouse, Sophia gazed at the still grumpy Logan and asked, “How did you and Lola fall into an argument? What made her decide to punch you?”

Agitated at the mention of the fact that he was punched, Logan said, “I didn’t put my guard up since she is a woman. Otherwise, she could never have harmed me.” Hearing that, Sophia nodded repeatedly. “Yes, you’re right. I’m asking what the argument was about that she had to lay a hand on you.”

At that instant, Logan couldn’t recall what the argument was about. He just said many nasty things to her. Lola has always been resentful of me. I have a feeling that she had wanted to hit me for a long time.

That b*tch is seriously a daredevil.

Logan replied, “I can’t remember. Maybe I said something like she deserved to be injured. I said many things, so I couldn’t remember clearly. With one arm broken, that woman jumped up and hit me. If it weren’t for the fact that she’s wounded, I would have landed a kick on her, which would have prolonged her stay in the hospital.”

Sophia nodded and praised him instead. “Fortunately, you didn’t really harm her. A real man doesn’t lay his hand on a woman.”

Logan’s face twitched. “What do you mean by that?”

Sophia chuckled. “I’m saying you’re a gentleman.” After making Logan sit down, she continued, “Relax.

Why are you being so uptight? Since the matter is over, you should stop thinking about it.”

The matter is over, but I’m not done with her. Other than my four sisters, I had never been punched by

another woman before. What the heck! I was stupefied when that happened. That was totally out of my expectation. After she hit me, she even called me a piece of trash. I can still remember vividly her tone and her contemptuous gaze at that moment. Given the short distance between us, if I really kicked her, she wouldn't have been able to dodge it. After giving it a thought, I decided against doing it. Some time ago, she was trying to catch a thief and eventually managed to bring him back to the police station. However, she was wounded during the process. If it weren't for the fact that she was injured, I would have taken revenge on the spot, Logan thought to himself.

A while later, Matilda arrived at the clubhouse. With her hair tied in a ponytail, she was clad in casual clothes, looking lively. Walking up to Sophia, she said, "I'm going to meet that man later."

Understanding what she meant, Sophia asked, "You mean the man your mother has introduced to you?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 826

Matilda nodded. "Yes. He said that he had accidentally split the curtain in his home yesterday, so he wanted me to choose a new one with him. Initially, I didn't want to go, but my mom agreed to his request for me, so I'm left with no choice now."

After that, she gave Logan a glance. "What's wrong with him? He seems displeased." At that instant, she noticed the bruise on his face, so she frowned. "Did he accidentally bump into any object or something?"

Sure enough, no one would have imagined that Logan was attacked. Even his father doesn't dare to lay a hand on him, for Logan will certainly retaliate. Why would anyone have the courage to punch him in the

face? Sophia thought.

Logan turned to look at Sophia, who replied, "Oh, after we had breakfast, he crashed into the glass door because he wasn't paying attention. You can see how hard he hurt himself."

Having no idea of what had happened earlier, Matilda trusted her words. After examining the bruise, she commented, "Poor thing. The bruise looks serious."

Feeling uneasy, Logan touched his face and looked away. Since he was in a bad mood, he didn't suggest playing poker even when they were around.

Sitting beside him, Matilda said, "I'm surprised that you didn't invite us to play poker today."

After letting out a sigh, Logan replied, "No. Considering the state I'm in, I'll be destroyed by the rest of you in the game."

Matilda laughed. "Even if you're energetic, you will still be destroyed by the rest of us." When she didn't get a response from him, Matilda was surprised.

Logan wasn't a man who would accept criticisms. Normally, when he was criticized, he would rebuke that person immediately. It was rare for him to simply fall silent after being mocked.

Staring at him, Matilda decided against voicing her doubt, even though she was curious.

Knowing that Logan wasn't in the mood, Sophia started asking Matilda about the man the latter was going to date.

Looking embarrassed, Matilda replied, "It isn't a date. We're just going to meet up and have a chat. Seriously, this is not a date."

Amused by the look on her face, Sophia said, “Since the both of you are adults, it doesn’t have to be said out clearly. Even if you don’t think it’s a date, the man may think otherwise. What if he thinks that you’ve agreed to go out with him because you’re somewhat fond of him? What will you do?”

Upon heaving a sigh, Matilda said, “Yesterday, I made it clear to him that it was my mom who had arranged the date, and I wasn’t looking for a boyfriend. However, he said that he could understand the situation I was in and insisted that we could start getting in touch as friends first.”

With her lips curled up, Sophia shook her head. “This man is smart. I have a feeling that if you keep in touch with him, you will be put at a disadvantage.”

Matilda was a rather simple-minded woman, while the man was obviously a sophisticated and experienced man, so she probably wouldn’t be able to gain an upper hand in their contact with each other.

Not minding it one bit, Matilda replied, “It’s fine. I don’t intend to get in touch with him frequently anyway. I just want my mom to stop nagging me now.” Then, she went on to talk about the man’s background.

The man was divorced. After his former wife fell in love with a foreigner, she brought their kid with her to settle in another country. He had remained single for many years now.

Although he ran a successful business, his achievement wasn’t comparable to William’s. While William inherited the company from his father, the man started from scratch. Hence, the man could be considered to be more successful compared to other entrepreneurs.

Upon learning his background, Sophia grunted. "It seems that he's a nice guy."

Matilda laughed. "Whether he's nice or not, I won't get together with him." Although the man is polite and gentle, he just lacks a certain quality that I like. Anyway, he's not my cup of tea, Matilda thought. A while later, her phone started ringing.

The Returning Ex Chapter 827

The man called to ask where Matilda was, and that he was going over to fetch her.

After clapping Matilda's shoulder, Sophia pointed at herself. Looking surprised for a moment, Matilda then nodded and told the man that she was going with a friend.

Listening to their conversation, Sophia could tell that the man was taken aback. Quickly composing himself, he agreed to it and said he would arrive shortly.

After the call ended, Sophia turned to Logan. "Logan, you should get some sleep. It's obvious that you never had a shut-eye last night. Matilda and I are leaving soon."

Since Logan was indeed exhausted, he nodded. He didn't have a proper sleep last night, and in the morning, he was punched in the face by Lola. Up until this point, he still couldn't believe what had happened as his mind was buzzing.

After examining Logan's expression for a while, Matilda finally realized that something was amiss.

Usually, he isn't like this.

Just then, the man arrived at the clubhouse. Before leaving with Matilda, Sophia turned to Logan. "Stop thinking about it and take a good rest, alright?"

Logan nodded. "Got it. Go ahead. I need some alone time."

When Sophia and Matilda stood by the car, the window was rolled down. At that instant, Sophia could see the man in the car. He looks alright. I guess he's younger than William by a few years. As a successful middle-aged man, he's rather charming.

When the man saw Sophia, he was stunned. Since Matilda said she was coming with a friend, he thought that the person was of a similar age as Matilda. However, he didn't expect that her friend was a young lady.

Upon getting into the car, Sophia said hi to the man, who smiled in response. "Hi. I'm surprised that you're Matilda's friend."

Leaning close to Matilda, Sophia draped her arms around the latter's shoulders. "Madam Flintstone is young at heart, so we became good friends quickly."

With a smile, the man stepped on the gas pedal.

Moments later, Sophia fished out her phone and sent John a message to tell him what was going on.

Surprised, John questioned, 'Are you serious?'

'Why would I be lying? I'm in that man's car right now,' Sophia texted.

After a while, John replied, 'Got it.'

Amused, Sophia believed that John understood what she was trying to say. After putting down the

phone, she turned to look at Matilda, who appeared to be uneasy. It was apparent to her that Matilda

still couldn't be herself in the man's presence.

When they reached a street lined with shops on both sides, the man pulled over in front of a shop that

sold only curtains. After getting out of the car, he said with a smile,

"I'm not familiar with curtains, so I

hope the two of you will help me choose a nice color."

Knowing that the man had an ulterior motive, Sophia nodded. "Alright. Let's get in. What does the

interior of your house look like? I have to look for a matching curtain.” Upon fishing out his phone, the man showed them the photos of his house’s interior. Judging from the photos, he lived in a nice house with exquisite decorations. Sure enough. Otherwise, Matilda’s mother wouldn’t have her eye on this man, Sophia thought. After stepping into the shop, Sophia and Matilda started looking around, while the man followed them. In fact, he was a really nice guy. When Sophia and Matilda were having a discussion, he would give his view. It seems that he does have a high standard of living, Sophia thought. Time went by quickly as they looked around. After taking a look at her wristwatch, Sophia went somewhere else to give John a call.

The Returning Ex Chapter 828

Sophia asked John if he wanted to have lunch with her. Knowing what she was trying to do, John smiled and asked for her location. After Sophia told him her location, John said, “I’m going with my dad.” Amused, Sophia replied, “That’s great.” After the call ended, she turned to look at Matilda and the man, who were still trying to choose a suitable curtain. They look like a couple trying to choose a piece of furniture for their home. I’m curious to know how William will react when he sees this. It’s so exciting! Sophia thought. Meanwhile, Matilda and the man still couldn’t decide which one to buy. As a woman, she would naturally want to compare prices between a few shops before she could make a decision. Walking over, Sophia said, “Oh, it’s the afternoon now. Why don’t we have lunch first? We can come back later.”

The man took a look at the time. "Oh, it's lunch time now." Turning to Matilda, he asked, "Shall we have lunch now?"

Matilda grunted. "Alright. Let's go." Mainly, she was worried about Sophia. Since Sophia was pregnant now, she would get hungry easily.

After leaving the shop, they walked along the road for some time until they found a proper restaurant.

Since no one was paying attention to her, Sophia took a photo of the restaurant and sent it to John.

Then, she kept her phone and followed them into the place.

Since it was lunch time, the restaurant was packed with people. The waiter told them that there was no more private room left.

That's great! We don't want any private room. Sophia nodded. "It's fine. We'll take a table in the hall."

Seeing as there was an empty table by the window, they walked over and took a seat. Upon gazing out the window, Sophia found the location strategic, as she could look at the moving crowd outside the restaurant.

After the waiter put down the menus, Sophia said with a smile, "Please order your favorite food. I'm fine with anything."

While the other two were going through the menu, Sophia sent another message to John, who replied promptly, 'We'll arrive shortly.'

Smirking, Sophia felt that she had put in effort to try to mend the relationship between William and Matilda.

After they ordered some dishes, the waiter left. Looking at the man, Sophia asked, "What's your name?"

Coming to his senses, the man replied, “Oh yes, I’ve forgotten to introduce myself. My name is Richard Drake.”

Upon learning his name, Sophia nodded. “Hi, Mr. Drake.”

Gazing at them, Richard inquired, “How did the two of you become friends? I’m really surprised.”

Batting her eyes, Sophia replied, “Oh, actually, she’s my mom.”

Hearing that, Richard was astounded. He knew that Matilda was divorced, and she had a son, but he wasn’t aware that she had a daughter as well.

Sophia guffawed. “Well, she’s my mother-in-law, so she’s practically my mom as well.”

Richard said, “Oh, it’s no wonder that I find you familiar. I’ve read about your news before.”

Sophia laughed in a mirthless manner. “I’m sure you had read bad news about me.”

“No no no, it’s just a piece of unbiased commentary,” Richard hurriedly explained. “Anyway, you look more beautiful in real life than the photo in the news.”

With a smile, Sophia thanked him. When the waiter was serving food later, Sophia finally saw John’s car.

John pulled over in front of the restaurant and got out of the vehicle, followed by William, who apparently had no clue why his son brought him here.

When William turned to look into the restaurant, Sophia immediately shifted her attention to the waiter, who was putting down the dishes on their table.

The Returning Ex Chapter 829

Failing to notice Sophia and Matilda, William followed John into the restaurant. In a puzzled manner, he

asked, “Why do we have to come all the way here to have lunch?”

Without responding to his father, John looked around. In fact, it wasn’t hard to locate Sophia. Seeing her,

John grinned and turned to his father. “Dad, why don’t we—” Oh excellent, he’s seen Mom, John

thought.

With a serious expression, William was staring in the direction of Matilda, frowning all the while.

After giving it a thought, John took his father's arm and said, "Why don't we take a seat first?"

Although William was displeased, he let his son pull him toward an empty table.

After glancing at John from the corner of her eyes for a while, Sophia pulled Matilda's sleeve. "Hey, I see someone familiar."

Matilda replied, "Oh, who is it? Do you wanna say hi to the person?" Sophia smacked her lips. "I think I'd better not." With that, she pointed in the direction of William secretly.

When Matilda turned around and saw William, she immediately turned her head back. Lowering her head, she said in a lowered voice, "Sophia, you framed me!" Laughing, Sophia clapped Matilda's shoulder. "I'm not framing you. Look, this is the perfect opportunity to test William's love for you."

Seeing the secretive behavior of the other two, Richard smiled.

"What's wrong? What is it that I'm not allowed to hear?"

Gazing at him, Sophia replied, "Oh, it's no big deal. It's just that I saw my dad."

Staring at her, Richard was taken aback, as he hadn't managed to understand what she meant.

Sophia didn't give an explanation. Since the main players were all around, her job was done, so she

lowered her head and continued nibbling on her food.

On the other hand, Matilda did not dare to look at William. Although she had done nothing wrong, she

felt somewhat guilty being with another man.

When John was seated, he started ordering food. Without looking at Matilda, William questioned, “You know your mom is here?”

With his brow raised, John didn’t shift his attention from the menu.

“Sophia did tell me they are here, but I didn’t know they are accompanied by a man.”

After the waiter left, William looked in the direction of Matilda in a stealthy manner.

Knowing that William was in the same place, Matilda appeared to be uneasy.

Then, William shifted his attention to the man opposite of her. Well, he looks ordinary. Are they dating or what? Her preference for men is questionable. At least she should look for a more handsome man.

This man here is so average. A moment later, William retracted his gaze and crossed his legs. “Now I know why your mom went home.”

Leaning against the chair, John replied, “Maybe her father is eager to marry her off. After all, Mom isn’t young anymore, so she can’t waste any time.”

Pressing his lips together, William felt silent.

Meanwhile, Matilda was so flustered that she didn’t respond to Richard when she was asked a question.

The look on Matilda’s face made Sophia laugh. It seems that I don’t have to do anything now. Upon finishing her food, Sophia rose from her chair. “I’m done. The two of you, please continue chatting. This is my first time here, so I wanna look around.”

Without reading too much into it, Richard nodded. “Alright. Be careful.”

Chuckling, Sophia turned to leave. When she passed by John, she clapped his shoulder, which made him giggle.

The Returning Ex Chapter 830

On the other hand, William sported a somber expression. Upon taking a glance at William, Sophia left the restaurant. After waiting for a bit, John rose from the chair as well and stepped out of this place.

Outside the entrance, when Sophia saw John, she quickly asked, “What was your dad’s reaction when he saw Matilda? Was he angry? Or was he jealous?”

Smirking, John raised his hand and stroked her head. “We’ll see. I’m not sure what he makes of it.”

Pouting, Sophia complained, “I can’t believe I have to worry about their love life.”

Upon looking around, John said, “I don’t think we can have our lunch here anymore. Let’s look for a new restaurant.”

After Sophia and John left, William remained seated as he waited for his food to be served. John knew that he wouldn’t stay here for long, so he only ordered a few dishes. Looking at the food on the table, William had lost his appetite. Picking up a fork, he jabbed it into the food, but he then put it down again. Leaning against the chair, his expression was impassive.

Meanwhile, Matilda also wasn’t in the mood to enjoy her food as she was gripped by uneasiness.

Noticing her unusual behavior, Richard asked with a smile, “What’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?”

Letting out a sigh, Matilda replied, “I’m good.” After a moment of contemplation, she gazed at him and said, “I saw my ex-husband.”

Startled, Richard questioned, “He’s here?”

Matilda nodded. “He’s not far from us.”

Grinning, Richard said, "It's no wonder that Miss Gwendolyn left in a hurry."

At that instant, Matilda didn't know what to say. In fact, this wasn't really an embarrassing situation. All she had to do was go over and say hi, and the matter would be over. However, she couldn't bring herself to do it.

After looking around, Richard noticed William as well, even though he didn't know him. Since William was a man who liked to keep a low profile, he would normally shun interviews, and there were not many news articles about him, so Richard simply found him familiar. He noticed that William never touched his food, and he seemed to be displeased about something.

After staring at William for a while, Richard laughed and said to Matilda, "I think your ex-husband saw us as well."

Of course he saw us, because Sophia had asked John to bring his father here. Certainly, they would make sure that William would notice me the moment they came into this restaurant, Matilda thought. Licking her lips, she hesitated for a bit and said, "Can you wait for me here? I'll go over and say hi."

Gazing at her, Richard said, "Do you want me to go with you?" Matilda shook her head. "There's no need for that. I can do this on my own." If he comes with me, the situation will be awkward, seeing as we're not in any relationship. If I bring him to see William, it will make him misunderstand things.

Without insisting, Richard grunted. "Alright. I'll wait for you here." Upon rising from the chair, Matilda walked toward William, who was seen with an indifferent expression.

Standing by his side, Matilda summoned her courage and said, "What a coincidence."

Without turning to her, William remained in the same position. Still, Matilda decided to take a seat and continued, “I saw John just now. Why did the two of you come all the way here?”

Locking his eyes with her, William composed himself and replied, “John insisted on bringing me here. I guess he did it intentionally.”

With an embarrassed expression, Matilda licked her lips. “The man is just a friend who needs my help.”

At this point, William understood that Matilda wasn’t dating the man, since Sophia had tagged along.

The Returning Ex Chapter 831

William nodded. “I see.”

Matilda went on to say, “I’m sorry that I left your home the other day without informing you. My family wanted me to go home immediately.” Forcing a smile, she said, “Nevertheless, I don’t think you care about this.”

Without continuing this topic, William raised his chin to point in the direction of Richard. “Are you dating him?”

“No no no,” Matilda explained hurriedly. “I’m not dating him. He’s just a friend.”

William turned to glance at Richard again, who happened to look in his direction as well. As a confident man, Richard flashed a smile at William, whose expression remained glacial.

After a pause, William said, “Why didn’t I know you have this friend?” Behaving like a cheating student who was caught red-handed by the teacher, Matilda answered in an honest manner, “We got to know each other two days ago. My mom said he’s a nice guy—” Noticing

that she had said it in an inappropriate way, Matilda caught herself and rephrased her words. “Well, since I don’t have many friends, my mom told me to try to make new friends and... that’s what happened.”

Why do I feel that the more I explain, the more it sounds suspicious? Eventually, Matilda decided to keep her mouth shut so that the misunderstanding wouldn’t worsen.

William gave her a dispassionate smile.

Lowering her head, Matilda noticed that he had never touched his food. At that instant, she wasn’t sure what he made of the situation now. Is he angry with me? But he doesn’t look like it, even though he seems different from his usual self. Matilda was perplexed.

Honestly, since they were divorced, William didn’t have a reason to be mad. At any rate, Matilda wouldn’t dare to think that he was jealous.

Seeing as Matilda never returned, Richard finished his food and walked over. Feeling more confident than William, Richard said, “Hi, Mr. William. I’ve always wanted to meet you.”

Not knowing who Richard was, William gazed at him and asked, “You are?” He sounded rather impolite, as he didn’t even greet Richard.

Not feeling embarrassed at all, Richard grinned and introduced himself. Upon hearing his introduction, William nodded in a perfunctory manner. “Hi.”

Feeling uneasy, Matilda turned to Richard and questioned in a lowered voice, “Why did you come over?”

Speaking in his normal volume, Richard replied, “Since you were not coming back, I decided to come over instead.” The smiling tone in his words sounded like it was a banter between a couple.

After staring at Richard for a while, William slowly relaxed his furrowed eyebrows.

Upon finishing his words, Richard asked Matilda, "Are you done with lunch? Do you want more?"

Matilda shook her head and said she didn't need more.

Standing up, Richard continued, "I'm done with lunch as well. Let's go."

Before Matilda could speak, he

looked at William and added, "Mr. William, please enjoy your food. We'll take our leave now."

Then, he took Matilda's arm, and she rose as well. After picking up

Matilda's bag, Richard said, "I think

the color of the last curtain we saw was pretty nice. Don't you like that as well? Or do you like the light

blue one?"

With her arm grabbed by Richard, Matilda turned to look at William without responding to him.

Just like how he had been seated since the beginning, William ignored them and remained silent.

Meanwhile, John and Sophia were having their lunch in an adjacent restaurant. Before they could finish

their food, Sophia received a message from Matilda. 'We're done with lunch. When are you coming back?'

The Returning Ex Chapter 833

Meanwhile, Logan was awake. He was standing by the window in his room as he was trying hard to live

down the humiliation of being roughed up by a woman. Because of that, he couldn't keep his eyes shut

and sleep. Instead, he smoked one cigarette after another until he started to feel a little dizzy. Then, he

opened up the window while standing there, wanting to think out loud.

However, nothing came out of

his mouth because his mind was blank.

Soon, a waiter approached Logan to inform him about the arrival of Matilda and Sophia. In response,

Logan replied, "I see. Just tell them that I'm asleep. Sophia knows her way around here." Feeling moody, Logan was hoping that someone could lend him a pair of ears to confide in, but he subsequently had a change of heart as he only wished to keep to himself.

After the waiter headed outside to receive Sophia and Matilda, Logan went to his bed and lay in it. At this moment, he received a message on his phone, which he chose to ignore when it rang once earlier. Now that he was lying in his bed, he finally decided to reach for his phone to check out his message. It turned out that it was a message from one of Logan's subordinates when he couldn't be reached via calls.

Upon skimming through the message, Logan angrily swore to himself. "Damn it, b*tches! Who the hell gives two hoots about her?!" Then, he tossed his phone aside and turned around in bed, wrapping himself in his blanket as he closed his eyes. There is nothing sleeping can't solve. After all, that's the only moment that I can be free from all this disturbance.

In the meantime, Sophia and Matilda came to a private lounge, where they were served with fruits and tea before the waiter excused himself. After that, Sophia held Matilda's arm and said, "Alright, so what happened back there?"

However, Matilda scratched her head in confusion and replied, "I'm probably as baffled as you are right now. In fact, I don't even know where to start either." Sophia said with a smile, "Come on! You're the one who went through that. How can you not know anything?"

Indeed, Matilda had no idea where to begin as everything seemed normal when she ran into William back at the restaurant. Nonetheless, she couldn't help but have a hunch that their coincidental encounter was a key to something important, even though she didn't know what that might be.

Noticing Matilda's expression, Sophia decided not to press on further with her questions as she could tell that the former was still in shock from what had just happened. The next moment, however, Sophia crossed her legs while sitting in the chair. "Actually, the way I see it, it wasn't much of a big deal. You only just bumped into your ex-husband while dining with a friend. What's wrong with that? Furthermore, what exactly could your ex-husband do anyway? It's not like you both are planning to rekindle old flames, so he really doesn't have a reason to be mad at you." After hearing Sophia's point, Matilda agreed with her and responded with an affirmative grunt. "You're right. What could William do even if Richard and I were more than just friends? Who is he to be angry about that?"

"Yeah, exactly." Sophia gazed at Matilda and added, "Show him your backbone. You're to blame for how things ended up for you and your ex-husband, but you're a woman after all, so that makes it okay for you to be reserved."

As she said that, her words reminded her of herself and John. She suddenly found herself similar to whom she advised Matilda to be. Meanwhile, William and John were on their way back to their company. While his father didn't say a

single word, John was suddenly amused by a thought that flashed across his mind. He then said, "It seems that someone isn't happy to see Mom dining with another man."

After a brief contemplation, William directly admitted it. "Well, that definitely didn't sit well with me."

John smiled and said, "Well, what was there that you could have done?"

After all, both of you are

divorced, and it's her freedom to be anyone. You can't do anything."

William looked askance at John. "And you sound like someone watching and gloating from the sideline."

In response, John only pursed his lips. "Actually, I used to think that Mom was likely going to end up

spending her days in solitude for the rest of her life if she ended up getting divorced with you, judging

from her age and previous personality, but it looks like I was wrong. I didn't expect getting into a second

relationship was so easy for her."

The Returning Ex Chapter 834

William only responded with silence until the car pulled up outside the company. When he opened the

car door and stepped out of the vehicle, he finally said something. As he stood next to the car, he

answered, "Yeah, it's pretty easy for her."

At first, John didn't catch on to what William meant, until a few moments later when he realized his

father was answering his earlier question. Nevertheless, he only smiled and entered their company with

William.

In the afternoon, John was swamped with work, so he couldn't find time to check on William. Still, he

knew the latter would probably be moody considering the incident that happened earlier in the day. It

was only until the evening that John was finally able to settle all his work.

Then, he stretched himself and gave Sophia a call to ask where she was, to which he was told that Sophia and Matilda were still at Logan's club, where they were planning to have their dinner. Upon hearing that, John quickly replied, "Count me in. I'm joining you ladies!" Sophia chuckled and replied, "But if you come here, there will be no one else at home to keep Old Mrs. Constance and Mr. William company. For that, I doubt you'll be spared from their naggings."

Unconcerned, John answered, "Well, it's not like my presence is going to make the house a lot more crowded. So, I'll be fine."

After a brief contemplation, Sophia agreed to that, thinking that she was in no position to turn him away since they were on Logan's turf.

Upon hanging up the call, John tidied up his desk and waited until it was time to leave work. As he made his way to the corridor, he ran into William, who happened to be stepping out of the pantry with a glass in his hand. When William saw his son hurriedly leaving, he asked, "Hey, what's the rush? Is it time to go home already?"

"Sophia and Mom are eating out, and I'll be joining them," John said. William pursed his lips and nodded a few seconds later. "Well, that means your grandma is going to be alone at home."

John raised his eyebrow and asked William a question instead of responding to the latter's statement.

"Are you going to stick around for overtime work?"

William responded with an affirmative grunt. "I don't seem to have a choice either. There is just too much on my plate." The man's voice was filled with helplessness and dismay, but John didn't seem to express his concern about that. Instead, he only told William that he would be setting off soon before heading toward the elevator.

As William stood behind and watched his son leave, he couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by mixed feelings. It looks like we're going back to the old days where there was just me and the old lady at home.

Meanwhile, John proceeded to make his way to Logan's club, which was crowded with people. At the same time, Sophia and the others were about to enjoy a mouth-watering buffet as the chefs were busy preparing various types of dishes. When John entered the lounge, he happened to see Sophia messing around with Logan as she tried to take pictures of herself with the man, who looked miserable.

Nevertheless, Logan covered his face to show his resistance, even though the bruise on his cheekbone wasn't that obvious and could be taken care of by a beauty filter app. Still, he was reluctant to give in, covering his face while dodging the camera, but because Sophia was pregnant, he tried to avoid struggling too violently by only covering his face. In the meantime, Sophia only gloated and gleefully laughed, showing no signs of hiding her 'evil' intention.

At the same time, Matilda was busy serving the dishes on the table without even bothering to look at them. She only reminded Sophia, "Watch out, Sophia! You're pregnant after all. And you, Logan. Can't you just give in to her and let her snap some pictures? Look at her! She is getting carried away because of you!"

Mom just seems like a biased parent. At the sight of their interaction, John was amused. While Logan was shouting in resistance to avoid Sophia's camera, the lady still insisted on aiming her phone at him to snap some pictures.

As soon as John entered the lounge, he approached Matilda. "Is there anything I can help with?"

Upon looking up at her son, Matilda responded with a smile and replied, "Oh, here you are. Well, everything is fine, so just sit down. We can eat anytime soon." Then, she turned her attention to Sophia in a helpless manner. "Quit messing around, both of you. Get over here now."

The Returning Ex Chapter 835

Sophia looked down at her phone to browse through the pictures she had just taken before she decided to knock it off when she was satisfied with the results. Then, everyone else sat around the table just as their delightful conversations started to lighten up the atmosphere. Meanwhile, Sophia ordered two bottles of fruit juice since she should keep off alcohol. After that, she told John to take a few pictures and post them onto his social media. Knowing what Sophia meant by that, he obediently went ahead and did as he was told.

During dinner, Sophia didn't say anything much, but Logan was beginning to get carried away as he began to run his mouth off after getting a little tipsy in spite of his initial quietness. After all, he couldn't forget about the humiliation he suffered from being beaten by a woman, so he went on and on about that non-stop.

Nevertheless, John appeared more interested this time, asking Logan how Lola ended up being hospitalized. In response, Logan squinted and pondered on it. "I heard she ran into an illegal racer who had just snatched someone's bag away. She interfered and retrieved the bag, but the thief came back to retaliate with more men. In the end, she found those people out of her league and ended up suffering a fractured arm." Then, he added, "Even so, she managed to take the thief to the police station anyway."

Upon hearing that, Sophia shot a gaze at Logan, wondering why he'd speak for her. Why did this guy stand up for her if he doesn't like Lola so much? What about the previous insults that he made toward her?

In the meantime, Matilda responded with an affirmative grunt and said, "How honorable she is! I like her!"

Logan pouted and said, "So what? She's a barbarian who is impossible to be reasoned with.

Furthermore, I'm sure you're not going to like her hideous and menacing look. If you see her in person, you'll know what I'm saying."

Matilda then gazed at Logan. "Wouldn't you feel safe to have someone like her by your side? The society needs more of those like her with an unshakable moral compass deep inside her."

Logan snorted. "Hmph! I beg to differ! She is nothing but a feisty woman! Otherwise, I would have just killed her."

Says the man who got punched in the face anyway! How 'threatening' he is! Sophia thought to herself.

Then, John continued to ask, “What went wrong between you and her? She put up with you previously when things turned ugly for you both, so what made this time an exception? Was it because you said something that pissed her off?”

Logan glared at John and answered, “When does she ever like anything that comes out of my mouth? But I don’t know what exactly went wrong and pissed her off, to be honest.”

This guy is really talking way too much. Sophia then chimed in with a question, even though she was engrossed in enjoying the delicious food. “I bet you must have said something that offended her. What did you tell her before she gave you a punch in the face?”

Upon hearing Sophia, Logan started to recall what happened in a serious manner. Before she hit me, we mentioned something about my club. Then, Lola told me to watch out, saying that she was aware of the illegal activities going on right here before she warned me to stay away from drugs.

Well, she surely looks like the kind who likes to preach to me because she wouldn’t stop lecturing me about how those things could ruin thousands of lives. Besides the drug addicts, many police officers sacrifice their lives for the sake of curbing drug trafficking, and all this could have been avoided if it weren’t for shameless people like me.

Then, Logan tried to recall what happened next. What did I say after that? Oh yeah! I told her that we didn’t force them to go down this path. That’s right! Those few words were what pissed her off so much that she punched me in the face, even though her other arm was in a cast. Jeez! I must say that her fist really did pack a punch!

On the other hand, William was still in the office when Old Mrs. Constance called him to ask why he still hadn't come home.

The Returning Ex Chapter 836

William answered with a gruff voice, "I'm staying back for overtime work. Just a little busy recently."

Old Mrs. Constance responded by letting out a sigh. "What's going on now? Why am I now back to being alone at home again? With John, Sophia and you away, I don't even have anyone I can talk to during dinner."

William forced a smile and replied, "Well, we never talked during our meals anyway."

"Do you seriously think that way? Times are different now than before," Old Mrs. Constance retorted.

William opened his mouth, ready to speak his mind, but he soon decided to swallow his words. What do you mean different? How different has it become?

Meanwhile, Old Mrs. Constance only complained in a helpless manner and proceeded to remind her son to take his meals regularly amidst his busy schedule.

In response, William responded with an affirmative grunt before shifting his eyes to the food that had gone cold on the desk. At the sight of that, his gaze instantly darkened. Upon hanging up the call, he leaned back in his chair and let out a heavy sigh. Well, I've already got myself dinner, but I'm just not in the mood to eat right now. Then, he reached for his phone and browsed through his social media news feed, only to see John's post. Since his son rarely posted anything on his social media, William decided to take a closer look at the picture, in which John and his friends were seen enjoying a buffet.

As William noticed the smiling faces of Sophia and Matilda, he was soon reminded of the man he saw earlier that afternoon. What's his name again? Uh... Oh, yeah. Richard. What a common name! I guess that's why I can't remember it.

After looking at the picture for a while longer, William's mood was entirely ruined as he could no longer concentrate on skimming through his documents. In fact, he had been thinking about giving John a call and pretending to ask what he was doing. However, his rational mind stopped him from doing that since he knew he had to stay behind and finish going through the papers. As he kept dwelling on the matter, the man couldn't help but feel more frustrated and helpless. Soon, he laid his phone down and closed the file on his desk. Fine! Fine! I guess I'm done with reading all these papers. How can I, with my current mood?

A few moments later, the phone on his desk buzzed and he quickly grabbed it, only to be disappointed when he looked at the screen. It turned out that it was a call from Yolanda, which he was unwilling to answer at first, but since he didn't have anything else better to do at that moment, he hesitantly picked up the call. Judging from the noises in the background, William could tell that she was probably watching television at home as he could hear someone talking in the background. When the call connected, she asked what William was doing, to which he answered, "I'm doing overtime work now." Yolanda paused and asked, "Are you still in the office now? Have you had your dinner?"

William then shifted his eyes to the untouched food on his desk, but he went on and answered with a 'yes'.

Yolanda replied, "I see. Maybe you should save your work for tomorrow if it's not too urgent. After all, you don't want to stress yourself out."

Of course, it's not urgent, but I can't think of anything else better to do when I get back to my empty home, and that'll only annoy me even more. That is why I'm here, trying to distract myself while wisely making use of my time. Despite his thoughts, William only gave a brief reply to signify his acknowledgement. Then, he asked Yolanda whether there was anything she needed.

While Yolanda initially had something she wanted to talk to William about, she answered no after a brief contemplation and brushed it off. Instead, she merely told him she was bored. Shortly after that, she hung up the call because she didn't want to bother William any longer since he was still at work.

At the same time, William put down his phone and spun his chair around while sitting in it, crossing his fingers on his knees as he gazed outside the window. The city is so lively and busy at night, but I don't seem to feel any of it at all.

After quite a long time, he finally took a look at the time and decided that he should go home. I guess I'm going out like a light right after a shower when I get back. Upon packing his stuff, he proceeded to leave his office, only to be stunned by something before his eyes just as he stepped out of the elevator.

The Returning Ex Chapter 837

Yolanda was seen entering the lobby with a thermal flask in her hand. The moment she saw William, she

heaved a sigh of relief. "Phew! I was afraid that you would be gone before I got here. My effort would have gone to waste in that case." She then raised her thermal flask and said, "I made you some soup." Knitting his brows, William stared at Yolanda. "What brings you here at this hour?"

Yolanda replied with a smile, "Well, since you are doing overtime, I bet ordering a food delivery was probably how you settled your dinner, but how can that compare to some homemade cooking? That's why I made you this." There was a couch and a table in the lobby, so Yolanda looked at it and said, "If you're not in a rush, why don't you sit down and enjoy the soup? I spent quite some time making this, and I'd hate to see it go down the drain."

Hmm. What kind of gentleman would I be if I insisted on turning her down? At the thought of that, William went to the couch with Yolanda and sat down, whereupon the lady opened the flask and revealed the mouth-watering chicken soup within it. Then, she poured some of the soup into the cap and gave it to the man. "Come on. You need to try my cooking. Chicken soup is my forte after all."

William looked down at the soup and took a sip. While he had initially lost his mood to eat, the soup seemed to whet his appetite after he took a few sips of it. Then, he nodded and complimented her cooking. "Not bad! Not bad! The taste is simply awesome!"

Yolanda was amused as she replied, "I'm glad to hear that. At least all my hard work is worth it."

As both of them sat there and talked about company matters, William eventually finished the soup

before he closed the thermal flask. “Thank you so much for coming over.”

Yolanda then put away her thermal flask. “Don’t mention it. I’m free anyway, so it’s not really troublesome to me.” Both of them continued to sit down and chat for a while before they finally decided to leave.

While William drove Yolanda home, the lady told the man that she would like to learn how to bake.

Therefore, she asked William whether there was any pastry he preferred in particular so that she could make and deliver some to him next time.

Upon hearing her words, William was caught in a trance as he was reminded of Matilda. Matilda was used to a comfortable life. Although her cooking wasn’t terrible, she wasn’t good at it either. Back then, she wanted to make me some pastries. Instead, she just ended up making a mess in the kitchen. In the end, she failed to make something presentable, and she even got so angry at herself. At the thought of Matilda’s frustrated look back then, William chuckled.

Stunned by William’s response, Yolanda gazed at William and asked, “What is it? What’s so funny about the thing that I just said?”

Soon, William snapped out of his trance and replied, “Oh, it’s nothing. I was just reminded of something funny in the past.”

Yolanda paused, staring at William as she asked, “Really? Did it have anything to do with baking?”

William responded with a noncommittal grunt, while Yolanda’s expression darkened upon seeing that.

He must have been thinking about Matilda.

For the rest of the ride, neither of them said anything until they arrived at Yolanda's house. As soon as the car pulled over, she got off the car and hesitantly looked back at William. "There is a movie that's showing recently. I'd really love to watch it, but there is no fun in watching it alone. So, when are you free, William? Perhaps we can watch it together."

William let out a sigh. "Well, I'm a little busy with work recently, and I doubt I can find time for that. So, just count me out for this one. Maybe you can watch it with your friends or someone else. I figure I will be considerably occupied these days."

Yolanda pursed her lips and replied after a pause, "Okay then, I guess I'm not going either. I don't have a lot of friends anyway, and I really don't feel like watching it alone."

William only looked at her with a smile. After that, he didn't continue the topic. Instead, he simply told her, "It's getting late. Rest well."

The Returning Ex Chapter 838

Yolanda pursed her lips and responded with an affirmative grunt while waving at William. As the man drove away, she only stood in place with her eyes glued to his car. Meanwhile, William was looking at Yolanda from the rear mirror just as the reflection of her figure slowly diminished and disappeared out of sight. A few moments later, he revealed an indifferent expression on his face.

Well, I'm not going to fall for Yolanda's last few words. It might have seemed like she was backing down, but I know that she was trying to pressure me. This is why women like her are never my cup of tea. She is making it seem like I'm the reason she can't go for a movie. Does she really think I'm too dumb to read between the lines after all my years of experiences in the commercial world? She is going to have to try

harder to make me fall for that.

Soon, William arrived home, only to find that John and Sophia were still not back, while Old Mrs.

Constance had already hit the hay upstairs. He threw his necktie aside and sank back in the couch. After

a brief contemplation, he finally gave in to his curiosity and called his son up. At that moment, John

happened to be having a great time while playing poker with the others.

When John answered the call, William was able to hear Matilda rejoicing in her victory before Logan

grumbled, "Come on! Why is it me again? Where is my blackjack?"

Matilda laughed and said, "You still have a lot to learn, kid."

John smiled, waiting until Matilda had finished her words before he asked William a question. "What's up?"

Upon overhearing the conversations in the background, William made a guess. "Are you guys playing a card game right now?"

John replied, "Yeah. Since everyone is here, we'll just play for a while."

Matilda's laughing voice was accompanied by the sound of the cards being slapped onto the table.

"Money, money, come to Mommy!"

Sophia patted John and told him, "Pay for me."

John nodded and said, "Alright. It's on me."

Logan then snorted unhappily. "This isn't fair. The three of you are family, and you guys ganged up on me!"

Meanwhile, William was tongue-tied upon overhearing Logan's words in the background, forgetting

what he initially wanted to say. At that time, John asked, "Are you still in your office?"

"Nah. I'm already home," William replied quietly.

"I see. Then, you should probably get some rest by now. We won't be back that soon for tonight," John

answered. To that, William reluctantly responded with an affirmative grunt.

After John hung up the call, Sophia smiled and asked, "What's wrong?

It looks like someone is getting desperate."

John shook his head. "I don't know, but he sounded moody."

Upon hearing that, Sophia asked John how William looked when he left earlier this afternoon, to which

John took a while to recall and replied, "He looked normal at that time.

There is a lot you have yet to

learn about my dad. He is a man of pride who'll never show his feelings.

Therefore, he always looks calm

on the outside."

Sophia chuckled and casually gave her opinion. "And I suppose you got that from him, didn't you?"

John was slightly taken aback as he gazed at Sophia and said, "I'm calm?

Come on! You're slowly killing

me!"

At the sight of the couple's interaction, Logan began to complain.

"Alright! Alright! Enough of that

lovey-dovey speech, you two! I'm still right here."

John raised his eyebrow and gently pinched Sophia's cheek. "Okay,

okay. I suppose we forgot about this

poor single guy here who just got beaten up by a woman. Let's be

more considerate to him."

As soon as he heard that, Logan felt a stab of pain deep down inside

before he started grumbling once

more, "I just didn't want to stoop to her level. If I hadn't held back, I

would have taught her a lesson the

hard way."

In response, Sophia brushed him off and replied, "Yeah, yeah. We heard you loud and clear. Now, let's get back to the card game."

Time flew as everyone was absorbed in playing cards. Soon, John's smoking addiction began to kick in, so he stood up and said, "Give me a moment. I'm going outside to smoke for a bit." While Sophia actually didn't mind that, John didn't want to smoke beside her either.

The Returning Ex Chapter 839

After all, Sophia was pregnant, and John had to be mindful for the sake of her and the child. With the cigarette box in his hand, he stepped out of the lounge and headed downstairs after a brief

contemplation. Lighting up a cigarette, he headed outside the building. By the time he started smoking, he found himself right at the exit, gazing at his car that was parked in an empty space beside the club.

As John glanced across the space, he paused in surprise, for he had seen someone sneaking behind his car. There is no other car in this place, and neither is my ride parked in front of a shop or something.

That guy definitely seems suspicious, sneaking behind my car.

With the cigarette in his mouth, John walked toward his car trunk and lowered his gaze, only to find nothing unusual. Soon, he crouched to feel the chassis of his car, which he soon felt something attached to it. After multiple attempts to remove it, he was finally able to detach the item from the chassis.

Then, John returned to the lobby, hoping that he could have a better look at what he had just found with the lighting, only to find that it was a covert listening device. I can tell from its tiny size and exquisite look that this is not something that we get to see every day. Upon briefly studying the device, he proceeded

to head upstairs. Then, he placed it far away from him before making a call since he wasn't sure whether that device was activated. After the call, John returned to the lounge and saw the three of them eating fruits while complaining about their frustrating losses in the card game. As soon as John came back, Sophia sat up straight and said, "Alright, I think that's enough for me. I'm getting a little tired, and my poor back is aching now."

John replied, "Alright, let's take a break for a short while. After that, we'll be heading home right away."

As an observant person, Sophia immediately asked, "What's wrong? Is something bothering you? Or was there something that you saw when you went outside just now?"

"Oh, nothing." John smiled and added, "It's just work. I've already told Zack to come here anyway so that we can talk about it."

After hearing that, Sophia didn't say anything more.

Not long after that, Zack arrived, but John didn't invite him to the lounge. Instead, he went outside to meet him, which caused Sophia to frown in confusion while staring at the door after the man left. "He is acting suspicious. Is it just me or is there something wrong?"

Matilda smiled and said, "Come on! What is there to worry about two grown men?"

Yeah, yeah. That's very 'reassuring'.

After that, the few of them continued to sit there and talk about Lola until John returned and told everyone that it was time to go home. Then, Matilda helped Sophia up and said, "I'll take a cab home myself, so both of you can go home straight since I know it's further for you guys to travel. Don't worry about me. I'll be fine."

“Alright then. Stay safe. Send me a text when you get home.” John gave in this time.

Matilda left soon, while John and Sophia casually headed downstairs. At this time, Zack had already left, whereas John appeared to be waiting for someone else to come and pick them up. Noticing John’s behavior, Sophia asked in bewilderment, “What’s wrong? Why can’t you drive your own car?”

John answered, “Oh, something is wrong with the car, and it won’t start. I just tried it. So, I guess we’ll just have to leave it here for the night. Then, I’ll get someone to come and have a look at it tomorrow.”

Sophia didn’t read too much into it as she nodded. “I see. Alright then.” After getting into the car with John, Sophia looked at his car in the rear mirror while wondering what had happened to it. The car seems fine. He drove it here and left it there for only a few hours. So, what could have possibly gone wrong with it? This is confusing.

When John and Sophia got home, William was still awake. He was seen sitting on the couch with the television on, but he was apparently not paying any attention to it. John was surprised to see his father when he stepped into the living room. “Oh, you’re still up, Dad.”

John turned around in a distracted manner and answered, “Yeah, I’m not really tired yet right now.”

Soon, Sophia came in, and she nearly burst into laughter when she took a look at the time.

The Returning Ex Chapter 840

Dad may be a good actor, but his frustration and loneliness are still all written on his face. Despite that thought, John only replied, “Okay. It’s getting late. You should get some rest now.” After that, he

proceeded to take Sophia upstairs, while the lady looked back down at William.

At that moment, William was seen crossing his legs with an irritated look on his face. Nonetheless, she only smiled and headed to the bedroom with John. After closing the door, Sophia laughed out loud and said, "Did you see your dad's face? I told you. It must be something to do with what happened earlier this afternoon."

Soon, John took off his jacket, replying with a grunt in a distracted manner. Meanwhile, Sophia went to grab her pajamas before heading toward the bathroom. "By the way, what went wrong with the car?"

Upon hearing that, John paused and answered, "Oh, nothing much. It's just that the gear knob seems to be jammed." He brushed Sophia off with an excuse to dispel her doubts, knowing that it wouldn't help even if she knew about it. Furthermore, he was also certain that Sophia would retaliate in a fit of rage considering her fiery temperament. He wouldn't want her to be involved in this even during normal times, not to mention the fact that she was pregnant at the moment. Fortunately, Sophia responded unsuspectingly with a noncommittal grunt as she went on to take a shower. In the meantime, John pondered on it for a while before he stepped out of his room and stood in the corridor to make a phone call.

Humming, Sophia came out of the bathroom when she was done, only to be surprised that John was nowhere to be found. Then, she opened the door slightly and peeked outside before she finally saw John talking on the phone at the end of the corridor. At that moment, she only pursed her lips and closed the door after a moment of contemplation.

After applying some skin products on her face, she lay in bed shortly before John came back in. She only closed her eyes, listening to John's movements as he went to take a shower. Soon, he lay beside her, whereupon she turned around and had her back facing him as she told him, "Please stay safe."

As John had just settled himself on the bed, he was stunned by Sophia's words for a while before he finally caught on to what she meant. Then, he hugged her from behind and told her, "I will. Don't worry. I'll be fine."

Meanwhile, Sophia only responded with silence, since she knew that John was capable of protecting himself. After all, he is a veteran who has accumulated years of experience in the commercial world, so he should have built his own clout. Therefore, I should put my faith in him and believe that nothing can hurt him.

In the meantime, William sat in the living room downstairs for a little while more before he switched off the television. Then, he went on to find himself a bottle of red wine and drank some of it. He didn't finish it all but instead only drank two glasses of it. After that, he left the bottle of red wine and the glass on the table in the living room and went upstairs.

While the red wine wasn't that strong, William was beginning to feel a little tipsy after drinking two glasses of it in quick succession. When he got back to his room, he got changed and instantly collapsed onto his bed without even taking a shower. Before he dozed off, he took a glimpse at his phone and saw nothing but a message from Yolanda wishing him good night. At the sight of that, he clicked his tongue and tossed his phone aside before he shut his eyes and slept.

The next day, Sophia woke up late, only to find that John had gone for work. After that, she headed downstairs in a relaxed manner, only to see Old Mrs. Constance sitting in the living room. The old lady, who saw Sophia coming down, beckoned to her. "Come here. I have something I want to ask you." Sophia quickly approached the old lady. "What's the matter?" With a confused look on her face, Old Mrs. Constance sat in front of Sophia and asked, "Did you guys see John's father when you both came back last night?" Sophia nodded and answered, "Yeah, he was watching TV downstairs." When she heard that, Old Mrs. Constance hissed, "The maid told me that there was a bottle of red wine left open. There was still half of it inside, but neither of us here drank it. So, I wondered if it was him who drank the wine when he came back last night. Anyway, I don't understand why he'd drink half a bottle of red wine in the middle of the night. Was he in a bad mood?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 842

Thus, Sophia said, "I just called Madam Flintstone and was told that Richard will be paying her a visit later in the afternoon."

Her reply apparently surprised John as he asked, "Oh, really? He is going to the Flintstone Residence?"

Sophia replied, "That's right, and it doesn't bode well to you either, does it? Anyway, I've been thinking of a way to do something about it, but since I can't be involved directly, is there anything you can do to ruin the plan?"

John paused for a while and answered, "I'll see what I can do, so don't worry. Everything will be fine. As long as Mom doesn't give in, Richard doesn't stand a chance at all." Although John's words made sense to Sophia, she still had a bad feeling about how things would play out.

Richard is just way too friendly and amiable. I'm afraid it's only a matter of time that Madam Flintstone falls for him if they keep hanging around with each other. While Sophia was known to act on her emotions rather than rationality, she still hoped that William could rekindle the old flames with Matilda, despite his unpleasant attitude at times. After all, she would love to see a happy ending, in which the divorced couple could be back together.

Meanwhile, John appeared to be busy with work, so he didn't say much until he hung up the call. He then put away his phone and turned around, gazing at the warehouse, where the captives were kept. It seems that we've made some positive progress in the past two days. Let's take a look at who we have here.

Nevertheless, John patiently stood outside the warehouse until someone came closer and patted his shoulder. "Long time no see, Mr. Constance. Don't you have anything you want to say to me?" Upon hearing that voice, John looked back, only to find Roselia behind him. She was dressed in a sexy outfit, and she smiled at John in a seductive manner.

However, the man only responded by knitting his brows. "You ought to be careful about the bank. Now that those few people have gone missing, suspicions are bound to be aroused, so please keep a low profile."

Roselia laughed it off as she slipped her hand off John's shoulder to his arm. "Aw, are you showing your care for me? Don't worry about me. I'll be extra careful."

Feeling a certain dislike toward Roselia's flirtatious attitude, John furrowed his brows even more. At the same time, Roselia waited for the man to respond, shooting a gaze at him before she finally took her

hands off him. Then, she hugged herself and stood beside John as she began to speak in a different tone.

“Look, my life would have been poorer if we didn’t meet each other, but at least I wouldn’t have to live in danger and fear. It really makes me wonder what I’ve done to deserve that from you, John.”

After a short hesitation, John said, “How much do you want this time? I’ll get Zack to take care of it in a jiffy.”

Roselia shifted her gaze to John, slowly revealing a smile. “Why is it that money is the only thing we ever talk about every time? Tsk! Tsk!” Nonetheless, she soon changed her tune and said, “Anyway, perhaps there really is no one else who knows me better than you do.” After that, the lady turned around and revealed her curvaceous behind, walking away while waving at the man. “I’m leaving first. After all, I’m in a high place now, and I can’t risk blowing my cover being away for too long.”

Meanwhile, John didn’t say anything as he watched Roselia’s figure moving further away before he entered the warehouse. The surveillance camera that was dismantled yesterday turns out to be an imported product, built to be waterproof and shockproof. Whoever managed to get his hands on something so advanced like this one was definitely no ordinary person. Then, John was instantly amused when the next thought crossed his mind. Although this piece of tech might have a long list of impressive features, its specificity is probably going to be its dead giveaway. At least, we can begin with where it was acquired.

Later that morning, Zack sent a message that detailed his investigation on the device’s origin. Hmm. It

looks like the GPS system in this thing was specially ordered from overseas. I guess everything will come to light with a little investigation.

Soon, John entered the warehouse and saw several captives there. While some of them were awake, the rest were either asleep or unconscious. Besides, there was also a person tied to a chair who seemed to have just taken a terrible beating.

Standing at his spot by the entrance, John instructed one of his men and said, "Bring this person to me.

I'd like to have a word with him in private." As soon as the person was taken out of the warehouse, John

was instantly reminded of the time that Sophia came here.

The Returning Ex Chapter 843

Sophia really went further than I expected last time, and I was wrong to think that a lady couldn't do

something like that. Chuckling to himself, John proceeded to head toward the empty space in the

courtyard. As far as I can remember, Sophia said I should have no problem getting the answers I want

with the right interrogation method.

So, I guess how fun this game can be depends on how extreme my measures can get. Knowing that he

was in a race against time, John quickly acted by bleeding his victim first as he deemed this would be

more effective than to ask him questions before the torture.

Screaming and moaning in agony, the man immediately gave in before John could say anything. "I'll talk!

I'll talk!"

After hearing that, John put away his knife while ignoring the man's bleeding palm. "Okay, I'm all ears.

Let's see whether your answers can make me happy."

At that open-ended demand, the man instantly froze, for he didn't know what to say, until John drew his

knife once more and put the cold blade to the earlier wound. "Talk!"

The man then gibbered incoherently in response. “O-Okay! Okay! I’ll t-talk now! I’ll t-tell you everything I know.”

The man began by revealing his position as a manager in the shadow bank. Then, he mentioned that he had no part in Robin’s previous abduction, though he was aware of the incident since he was the one who handled the transportation for the kidnap, as well as the mortgage in acquiring it. He went on to tell more about the vehicle, which was given by someone to clear his debt. Even though the ownership hadn’t been transferred, the van was already considered as an asset that belonged to the shadow bank.

Therefore, despite the proper procedure to transfer the ownership should have been done first, no one seemed to be bothered by it as they went on and used the vehicle.

When they returned with the vehicle, it was still in a good condition, but it was soon taken away and disposed of a day later. Since the asset no longer existed, the ownership transfer didn’t matter anymore.

The manager quickly clarified that he had actually brought this to the attention of the top management, only to be ignored. He was then left hanging as he was too timid to ask further for a response. In fact, he had always been aware of the other businesses that the shadow bank was involved in, but because of his limited power, there was no way he could learn more about them in detail. For the sake of his lucrative pay and bonus, he had decided to turn a blind eye to the shady activities his company had been involved in more often than not.

After telling everything he knew, including his superior’s affair, the manager finally ran out of things to tell as he didn’t know what else John wanted to know. Soon, he broke down in tears and begged, “Please!

This is all I know! I swear I just told you everything!”

John nodded and passed the knife to one of the men beside him.

“Alright, I heard you.” Then, he took a

look at the time while walking toward the exit. “Tend to his wound and interrogate the rest to see what

you can find out when they wake up.”

Upon hearing John’s instruction, his men assured him that they would take care of the job and keep him

posted on something useful. Before John left the place, he looked back at his men and added, “As for the

bug, I want to know everything about the buyer.” It was only after that did he finally hit the road and

head back to his office.

Meanwhile, William was having a meeting when John swung by his office. Upon arrival, he saw no one

there; there was only a pile of documents on his father’s desk. Staring at them, he couldn’t help but

furrow his eyebrows. That’s quite a huge pile of papers. Is he trying to tire himself to death? In the end,

he decided to sit down and wait for William’s return.

Some time later, William finally got back to his office after a long meeting. As he opened the door, he was

stunned to see John inside. “Oh, you’re here. I heard you went out.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 844

“Oh.” John didn’t want William to know about those matters. So, he quickly changed the subject and said,

“Sophia just called up earlier. She told me that Grandma has just invited Richard to go over for a meal.

This doesn’t sound like good news to me.”

William paused, then he turned around to get behind his desk. “Why is it so? It’s an opportunity for both

of them to bond, so how is that bad news?”

John then came closer and stood before the desk. “Is that really what you think? Well, I’ll level with you

since you put it that way. I think you're right. Grandma seems to like Richard a lot. Besides, Mom has also become much more easy-going than before, and she seems younger. Also, Sophia told me that Richard is into Mom, so it's only a matter of time that they become an item after hanging around with each other a few more times."

With a calm look on his face, William only responded with a noncommittal grunt. Meanwhile, John only stared at his father, chuckling a few seconds later as he nodded.

"Alright then, I'm not going to say anything more since everything is fine by you. Anyway, I shall leave you to your work, and I'll attend to mine. Things are piling up recently."

Then, John left with a smiling face, while William buried himself in work and began reading the documents. It was only after the door was closed that he slowly looked up. Soon, he closed the file on his desk and thought to himself, So, my son really thinks I'm alright when I say I'm alright?

Unbeknownst to William himself, however, Matilda was not the only one who had changed.

On the other end, John thought to himself, What's wrong with Dad? He always used to side with Mom,

but he isn't doing what he should be doing at this critical moment.

John then returned to his office and

proceeded to go through all his documents. Halfway through his work, he caught sight of William passing

through the corridor since his door was left ajar. William was empty-handed, and he appeared to be

going elsewhere in a hurry. At the sight of that, John chuckled in amusement, for he knew that his father

could never stand by and pretend as if nothing ever happened.

After William left his office, he drove to the Flintstone Residence. As soon as he pulled over somewhere

opposite the residence, he saw Richard's car slowly approaching. Wait a minute. I recognize this car. Well, it's definitely not some luxurious car. At the thought of that, William shook his head, but he didn't know why he wasn't happy with Richard. When Richard's car got closer to the entrance, the front gate was opened, so he drove inside.

After that, William took a cigarette out and lit it while staring at the building. Deep down, he knew the lunch wouldn't end so soon with Richard's visit. Therefore, he waited until he reckoned it was about time they should be done before he gave Matilda a call.

It took Matilda a while to pick up the call, which William deemed she must have left the others to find a corner of the house where she could answer the call since he didn't hear anything but silence in the background.

"Hey, are you busy at the moment?" William asked.

"N-Nope. Not at all," Matilda stammered.

William sighed and asked, "Are you going to have your lunch soon?"

"Oh, I'm about to have it soon. It's about time for your lunch break, isn't it?" Matilda nervously asked as she didn't know what else she could say.

"Yeah. I'm away from the office to deal with some business, but it's taken care of," William replied, to which Matilda only responded with an 'oh'.

Then, William gave his suggestion. "Well, we should catch up during a meal or something. We didn't talk about that when we bumped into each other at the restaurant yesterday."

Matilda paused, leaving William hanging. As he didn't receive a response from the woman, William

chuckled and drew his own conclusion. "It's okay if you're not free."

While William said that in a tone that sounded indifferent on the surface, Matilda could sense his

disappointment. Thus, she bit her lips and asked, “Where are you now? It’ll likely take me a while to get there.”

Upon hearing that, William was taken aback, but he quickly snapped out of his momentary surprise and answered, “No worries. Just take your time to get ready, and I’ll head over to pick you up.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 845

Matilda agreed and added, “I’ll give you a call soon.” After that, she hung up the call, while William put away his phone, staring at the residence’s front gate with a smile. In the meantime, Matilda took longer than usual to dress herself up. In the end, she picked a long dress with a plain color and tied up her hair, looking especially elegant. Once she was done, she immediately gave William a call and told him her location.

William said, “Alright. I just happen to be someplace nearby. I’ll head there right now.” After driving around the area for a bit, he pulled up outside the Flintstone Residence for Matilda to get into his car. As soon as he started the engine, Matilda asked, “Where are we going?” In fact, William had already figured out where they should go while waiting for Matilda. “You’ll know when you get there.”

To that, Matilda responded with silence while typing a reply to Sophia’s message. Being a busybody, Sophia was curious to know whether William had made his move, so she texted Matilda to find out about it. In fact, the message had been received back when Matilda was still at home, but she couldn’t find an opportunity to reply. Besides, Old Mrs. Flintstone was unhappy when Matilda told her that she needed to go out, instantly showing her daughter a long face. In the end, Richard defused the situation, saying that he didn’t mind that. After all, he understood

Matilda's situation to settle an urgent matter, so he patiently put an end to the conflict. While she wasn't sure whether Richard sensed anything wrong, she was certain that Old Mrs. Flintstone had smelled a rat.

Mom may be old, but she is shrewd. I bet she probably knows something fishy is going on when she saw me excusing myself to answer the call. At the thought of that, Matilda couldn't help but feel intimidated by her mother's imminent wrath.

As a matter of fact, her mother was fed up with her, especially the time when she stayed in the

Constance Residence. Besides, she also accused Matilda of being too impulsive as the latter only had

herself to blame for the dilemma she landed herself in. At the thought of that, Matilda suddenly

understood why Old Mrs. Flintstone was so angry with her as she was able to recognize her recklessness

at last. Nonetheless, Matilda couldn't bring herself to turn down William, just like how the man was

unable to turn his back on her back then, despite her unreasonable demands. Still, she could finally heave

a sigh of relief after getting away from Richard. When she thought of the situation earlier, she was

reminded of the intense awkwardness she felt when Richard was around.

When John was ready to leave for lunch break, he swung by William's office to check on him, only to

realize that he wasn't back. Besides that, he noticed the documents on his desk, and one of them was left

open. Upon noticing that, he reckoned his father must have left when he was going through the papers

halfway. After staring at that document for a moment, he left his office and hit the road, making his way

back to the Constance Residence.

As soon as he got out of his car, John headed to the car park, where he saw no signs of William's car. It looks like he is still out there. I guess it's not hard to figure out what is keeping him occupied for so long.

Knowing where William had gone, John walked away and headed to the house when he ran into his Aunt Jennifer, who happened to be coming out of the garden.

Noticing her elegant outfit, John deduced that she was going somewhere. When she caught sight of John, she was surprised too, but soon, she chuckled and said, "Oh, John. It looks like you're getting closer and closer with Sophia. Look at you, coming all the way back here just to check on Sophia during lunch break."

After greeting her, John didn't say anything much, to which the woman responded with a grunt. "I'm not trying to nag, John, but you and Sophia need to get remarried. Without marriage to bind you both, anything could happen."

John pouted and said, "Well, the way I see it, marriage is not as important as having a child. That piece of certificate won't make a difference if the worst case scenario happens, but things will be different if we have a child."

Lady Jennifer stared at John and chuckled. "Haha. How open-minded you are!"

The Returning Ex Chapter 846

John only nodded in front of Lady Jennifer in silence and headed straight to the main building. While Old Mrs. Constance and Sophia were nowhere to be seen downstairs, the maids were busy cooking in the kitchen. After scanning his surroundings, he proceeded to head upstairs to the bedroom. As soon as he opened the door, he realized that Sophia was sound asleep in the bed, so he quickly tiptoed into the room so as to not to wake her up.

Then, John slowly walked closer to Sophia and sat beside her while caressing her hair. Ian's vacation has been confirmed. Although it's not a long one, the break should be enough for him to get all the rest he wants. When he comes back, it'll be time for us all to talk about the matter.

Meanwhile, Sophia was sleeping so soundly that John's presence didn't even wake her. At the same time, John was leaning against the nightstand when he received a text message from one of his men about the answers they had gotten from the interrogation. 'Those people are not a part of the top management, so there is nothing much useful they can provide.' Despite the limited information, John still had what was needed to move on to his next target. After sending a reply to show his acknowledgement, he put down his phone.

Then, John noticed Sophia's phone on the nightstand and he reached for it, noticing a missed call from Logan. That call only lasted only a few seconds. Although he initially wondered whether the call was mistakenly made, he quickly dismissed the thought and put it behind him. After that, he continued to keep Sophia company until the maid came up and informed him that lunch was ready. It was at that time that the knock on the door woke Sophia up. When she opened her eyes, she caught sight of John beside her, which scared her quite a bit.

John then got off the bed. "It looks like you were really tired. You slept like a log."

When John helped Sophia up, she said, "Well, it was a great nap. I'm feeling so much more refreshed right now."

Then, John helped Sophia fix her hair while replying, "I'm worried about you, girl. You shouldn't be sleeping too much."

Sophia answered, "Alright. Let's get downstairs. I'm starving after a nap."

John was amused by the lady's response as he found her lovely and adorable. As both of them walked down the corridor, they ran into Old Mrs. Constance who happened to step out of her room. When the old lady saw her grandson, she didn't seem surprised and merely asked, "Didn't your dad come back with you?"

In response, John chuckled and hesitated for a while before he said, "Dad? He is probably with Mom right now."

Old Mrs. Constance and Sophia were taken aback, and the latter beat the former to it as she asked,

"Really? So, that means Master William has made his move?"

Although John was unsure about Sophia's question, he believed William was very likely to be with Matilda at that moment. "I think so."

That triggered Sophia's gossipy nature at once. Hastily, she reached for her phone. "I have a phone call to make, so I'll join you guys later." Her sneaky behavior amused Old Mrs. Constance, who jokingly said,

"You're acting as if both of them are having an affair."

Sophia burst into laughter as well after hearing Old Mrs. Constance's words. "Well, I'm too curious to find out how things are going on over there."

After that, John helped Old Mrs. Constance walk downstairs, whereas Sophia stood in the corridor and called Matilda. It took a while for Matilda to answer the call, and when the call connected, Sophia had a weird feeling, but she seemed to have detected a certain awkwardness in Matilda's voice. "What's the

matter, Sophia?”

“Hey, who are you with right now?” Sophia asked in a hushed tone. To that, Matilda responded with silence, which Sophia quickly understood what that meant. Then, Sophia laughed it off and asked, “What’s wrong? I thought Richard was going over to dine with you? Did you stand him up?”

On the other hand, Matilda was scratching her head, wondering how she should explain this to Sophia.

Oh gosh! How am I supposed to put this?

Sophia waited for a while but heard no further response from Matilda. Soon, she figured the latter was

perhaps in a difficult situation to answer a call. Therefore, she merely gave an affirmative grunt and

added, “Alright, I’ll leave you to it first. We’ll talk again soon.” Before she hung up the call, Sophia cheered

Matilda up by saying, “You can do it! I have faith in you!”

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Seemingly awkward, Matilda faked a cough and brushed Sophia off with a nonchalant grunt. It was only

then that the call finally ended. Upon hanging up the call, Sophia happily chuckled while making her way downstairs.

At the same time, John and Old Mrs. Constance were seen sitting at the dining table, apparently waiting

for Sophia’s arrival. However, John could guess what had likely happened when he noticed Sophia’s

smile. As the lady sat down beside him, he caressed her hair with his palm. “Are you satisfied now?”

Sophia replied, “Yeah, but I still think Master William could be a little more aggressive. Anyway, things seem to be going well for them both right now, and if everything goes as planned, we’ll eventually see

the happy ending we want. After all, they're mutually in love with each other, so I really don't understand why they're acting like they don't care for each other."

Old Mrs. Constance agreed with Sophia as she turned her attention to John. "Exactly. If your dad can be like you, he'll probably have already remarried Matilda."

After hearing his grandmother, John shifted his gaze to Sophia and said, "If you can be as easy-going as my mother is, we'll probably have remarried." In response, Sophia stuck out her tongue at him with a smile. Because of Matilda's matter, the three of them had a rather enjoyable lunch.

After lunch, John decided to spend their leisure time by taking Sophia for a walk around the Constance Residence. Since he didn't have any topic to talk about in particular, John mentioned Lady Jennifer to Sophia since he had run into her just now. In that instant, Sophia was reminded of Lady Jennifer's sour look when she saw her with Dylan previously. Although Sophia knew Lady Jennifer was concerned that Dylan couldn't find a girlfriend because of her, she wished for her to know that she would never be with Dylan even if she wasn't pregnant. After all, she still had a sense of shame, regardless of how others viewed her. People say we become wiser as we age, but it looks like that is not the case with Lady Jennifer. I can't believe she still dwells on that matter.

John let out a sigh, wondering when Dylan would ever find a girlfriend. Sophia pondered for a while and answered, "He'll find the right person when the time comes. What's the point of those around him getting so anxious for him?"

John then turned around and gazed at Sophia with a smile without saying anything much. As the couple continued to walk further, Sophia finally revealed her opinion. "You guys read too much into it. Look, I'm

not dumb, and I know what I'm doing."

After taking a stroll around the residence, both of them eventually settled down on a bench in the backyard. With his hand placed on Sophia's tummy, he said, "It's about time for your check-up soon. Let me know ahead so that I can take you to the hospital."

Sophia leaned back on the bench and replied, "No need for that. If you're busy, you should attend to work first. Madam Flintstone and I can handle it."

Then, John held Sophia's hands and rubbed her palms. "Nothing is more important than taking you for a check-up. I want to be there with you and watch our child grow up." Then, he turned around and gazed at the lady. "I'm serious and determined this time, and I want you to know that. I mean it even when I said those words to you earlier on."

Oh jeez! His cliché confession is giving me goosebumps. Despite that thought, Sophia answered, "Alright, I heard you loud and clear. You've been a good boy lately, anyway." Time passed by quickly, and John realized it was about time for him to leave. Therefore, he walked Sophia back to the main building and drove back to his office. Much to his surprise, he still hadn't seen William back, making him wonder how much longer his father's lunch was going to take.

After that, John sat in his chair and reached for his phone, only to see a few messages from his men about the interrogation. Upon skimming through each of them, he deleted all the messages and put his phone down. A few moments later, Zack came over and told him, "Boss, we've done a check-up on your car, and it's perfectly fine. It appears that the culprit didn't do anything else to your car besides attaching the bug to it."

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John responded with a nod and answered, "Noted, but please do something about the rest of the parts, even though they're fine."

Upon hearing that, Zack knew what John meant by that. "Alright, I know what to do." After that, Zack turned around and headed toward the exit. The moment he opened the door, John saw Dylan walking past in a hurried manner with some documents in his hands. He then took a look at the time and realized it was still their lunch break. Therefore, he decided to step out of his office and follow Dylan to his room just as the latter was opening the door. As soon as Dylan unlocked his room door, John asked, "You look busy. Have you taken your lunch?"

Stunned, Dylan looked back and gazed at John with a smile. "Oh, I'm not always this busy, except today, so I merely cut my lunch break short."

The next moment, John entered Dylan's office as if he was going into his own and sat down. "Your health should come first. After all, work will never get completely done, so take a break when you have to."

Dylan curled his lips upward and went along with John's words. "Yeah, work just keeps coming."

Soon, John changed the subject and said, "Actually, there is something that I've been rather curious about. You told Aunt Jennifer that you have a crush on someone, whom she happens to know as well. Do you mind telling me who she is?"

Dylan chuckled and said, "Come on! Don't tell me that matter has been bothering you ever since the day I brought it up?"

John crossed his fingers on his lap. "Well, it does come across my thoughts once in a while."

Dylan stared at John and asked, "No offense, John, but are you scared of something?"

John didn't deny Dylan's suspicion right away but gave him an explanation instead. "I'm not actually scared but just curious and worried at the same time." Then, he added, "Well, I believe you should know what I mean by that. I'm not worried about anything that could go wrong between you and the person I'm thinking of. Instead, I'm just a little concerned that you might have unknowingly put this person in a tight spot." John let out a sigh and went on to say, "After all, you probably know what kind of a person Aunt Jennifer is better than any of us. Therefore, I'm saying I just want to stay out of unnecessary trouble."

Dylan paused in that instant, knowing he would have never realized his mistake if John hadn't reminded him to be subtle. It seems that I have really neglected the possibility that my ambiguous explanation could put Sophia in trouble. No wonder Mom didn't seem happy when she saw me and Sophia together last time. He then sat down and sighed. "I see where you're coming from. This is my bad. I should have been more considerate."

Upon hearing Dylan's reply, John seized the opportunity to make his point known as he gazed around the office. "Look, we're all still young, and we can never get away with our work, which means we're probably going to spend the rest of our life here in the office. So, you should probably go see the outside world more often and get to know more people along the way while you're still young and passionate."

Dylan closed the file in his hands and said, "I see. Alright, you've made your point, and I know what to do now, so say no more."

John nodded with a smile. "Perfect! Well, it looks like you're going to bury yourself in work for a while

from now on, so perhaps I should leave you to it.” After that, John stood up and slowly walked out of Dylan’s office. I guess that should do. After all, we’re all adults, and I trust he is mature enough to read between the lines for that.

When John returned to his office, he left the door open and waited for William’s return until lunch break was almost over. It was only then that he finally saw William passing by his office in a calm and collected manner. As William walked past his son’s office, he turned around to meet John’s gaze and gave his son a smile.

Noticing his father’s delightful look, John began to act like the nosy Sophia and stood up once again to make his way to William’s office. Then, he closed the door and stared at William for a while.

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Shooting his son a gaze, William didn’t react impatiently like he usually would. “What’s wrong? Why are you staring at me like that?”

John then stood before William’s desk and continued staring at him.

“So, I assume you had lunch with my mom just now. That means you met her, right?”

In the face of a question like this, William would usually avoid answering it due to embarrassment. This time, however, he seemed to be acting naturally as he directly responded with an affirmative grunt.

Taken aback, John confusedly asked, “You went to the Flintstone Residence, didn’t you?”

William looked up and met John’s gaze. “Nope.”

John was instantly baffled. “If you didn’t go to the Flintstone Residence, how did you meet up with Mom?” After saying that, he took a brief moment to ponder on the situation. Then, he glared at his

father. "Don't tell me Mom stood Richard up just to go meet you?" William didn't respond, but even so, John could guess what the answer would likely be. After a few moments of silence, John clicked his tongue and said, "You both are really..." He intentionally left his sentence hanging.

In the meantime, William took a look at the time and said, "Alright, it's time to get back to work. So, you might want to go back to your office now. I'll be busy in the afternoon."

Oh yeah, that's for sure. You have a whole stack of papers waiting for you to go through. Maybe you shouldn't have gone for such a long lunch break. John nodded and said, "I suppose you intend to remarry Mom, right? Actually, I believe things will work out better for you if you'd directly express your thoughts instead of sounding out Mom's thoughts. After all, Mom is quite a straightforward person herself, so there is really no need for you both to beat around the bush." Nevertheless, John's opinion was met with silence as William only quietly looked down at his papers. It looks like my advice goes in one ear and out the other, so maybe I should save my breath. After that, he walked out of his father's office, suddenly chuckling when something crossed his mind as he stood at the doorway.

Meanwhile, Sophia returned to her room and lay in her bed, scrolling through her phone to kill boredom.

Soon, she found Logan's missed call and was reminded of his recent bad mood due to the humiliation he suffered from Lola. Therefore, she immediately gave Logan a call, and her friend took a while before picking it up. Then, she heard the man's deep voice. "Hey, Sophia." Sophia responded with a grunt and caringly asked, "I'm sorry that I missed your call earlier because I was

asleep. How are you feeling now? Still upset?”

In fact, Logan wasn't upset but was rather bothered by the matter. He then told Sophia that he had gone to the hospital earlier that day to confront Lola for what she had done to him, only to find that she had been discharged. Because of that, he didn't feel happy about it. Then, he decided to try his luck and headed over to Lola's gym in the hope that he could bump into her by chance, only to be disappointed once more even though he had already anticipated the chance of failure. However, as he was leaving the gym, he saw a few men armed with sticks arriving at the place.

Logan was no stranger to trouble, so he could immediately tell that these people were here to cause trouble.

Standing at the exit, he was hesitant to interfere, but he soon gave up the idea when he recalled Lola's menacing look. After that, Logan hit the road, and as he drove from the gym back to his club, he kept convincing himself that Lola must have made herself some enemies. Thus, he now thought that it was considered normal for someone to go looking for her. Putting aside the sensitive nature of her profession, she was bound to make some enemies due to her personality.

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That must be the reason why someone wants to mess with her. She probably deserves that for being an idiot! Preoccupied with those thoughts, Logan had returned to his lounge at his club with an overwhelmingly heavy heart, but even he couldn't explain why. Logan then paused for a short while and asked, “Are you free today? I'm a little bored here, so do you want to come over?”

Sophia knew Logan wanted someone to lend him a pair of ears, so she accepted his invitation without much hesitation. "Sure, I'll be on my way now. Just give me a moment." Soon, she proceeded to get changed and set out, but this time, she didn't ask Matilda to come along since she figured Logan wanted to have some privacy when confiding. It would be better if she went alone.

Therefore, John sent some bodyguards to tag along with Sophia as they escorted her to Logan's club. At that moment, Logan was eating in his lounge with a table full of beer bottles but only a few side dishes.

Upon entering, Sophia happened to see Logan pouring himself a glass of beer with a resentful look on his face. She then took a quick glance across the table and asked, "Is this your lunch?"

When Logan saw the lady, he pointed at the empty seat beside him. "Come. Join me."

Although Sophia had already taken her lunch, she decided to go along with Logan since he was in a bad mood. After that, she sat down beside him and helplessly glimpsed at the beer bottle. "You should keep off alcohol, especially when you're feeling down. There is no telling what you might do if you get carried away." Sophia grabbed the beer bottle and put it elsewhere.

The next moment, Logan stared at his beer for a few seconds, but he eventually took in Sophia's advice.

After taking a bite of the side dish, he put down his knife and fork. "The world would be a better place if every woman could be like you, Sophia."

Amused by her friend's response, Sophia burst into laughter. "You'd be bored to death in a world full of women who were cloned like me." Soon, she grabbed a fork and took some of the dish for herself. "The

diversity of characters is exactly what makes the world a beautiful place.”

Logan smacked his lips while eating. “I don’t understand why a nasty woman like her ever exists.”

Sophia looked down at her dish, eating while answering Logan. “To be honest, Lola is not a bad person.

You only hate her because you both got off the wrong foot.” Then, she chuckled quietly and proceeded to

mention Matilda. “Look at me and Madam Flintstone. We both used to be at each other’s throats, but

look at us now; we’re just like besties! Do you really think Madam Flintstone is a bad person from the

beginning? I don’t think so though. Despite our differences, the moment I saw how she treated Isabelle

with kindness and gentleness was the moment I started to believe that she is someone with a pure heart.

It’s just that the way we view things was different.” When she talked to Logan, her voice was exceedingly

gentle. She knew what Logan was getting worked up for, and it was simply because of those petty

grudges that had been building up in him since back then. Now, he was merely thinking of ways to vent

his frustrations caused by the humiliation he suffered some time ago.

Although the only time that Sophia and Lola met didn’t exactly end well in the past, she knew Lola did the

right thing since the latter was only following the correct law enforcement procedures. While an outsider

would likely compliment Lola for doing a great job, Sophia knew Logan’s pride was preventing him from

getting over his humiliation.

Upon hearing Sophia, Logan looked up at her in a doubtful manner.

“Why do I have a feeling you’re siding with that b*tch?”

Sophia nodded and replied, “I think so too. I guess I must say that I’m perhaps a little biased toward Lola,

but you need to understand something, Logan. Our life would be so much different if it weren't for them." After that, she added calmly, "Our society only prospers in harmony because of them. Think about the money your club is making every day. If the law enforcers like Lola hadn't done their job, would you have gotten this far?"

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Logan sniggered and answered, "Wow! 'Wise words'! 'Wise words'! What else can I say? I feel as if I'm back to those old days in school, where I'm sitting right beside the teacher's favorite student who makes me look even more like a jerk."

Meanwhile, Sophia only placed her hand on Logan's shoulder and said, "You're not a jerk. You're just spoiled."

Logan responded with silence as he guzzled the beer in his glass. At the same time, Sophia knew she mustn't take it too far, fearing that her kind words of advice would frustrate her friend and backfire instead. Therefore, she decided to stop talking and continued to sit beside Logan in silence after taking some more of the food. She wasn't hungry after all, so she stopped after merely a couple of bites.

Logan contemplated things briefly before he reached for the beer bottle again. Nonetheless, Sophia didn't stop him this time, knowing that her words had just gone in one ear and out the other. For that, she didn't want to upset him anymore by saying something he didn't like to hear. On the other hand, Logan quickly fell into a drunken stupor as he went on to drown his sorrows. However, Sophia didn't send for the waiter. Instead, she merely sat beside him and scrolled through her phone.

Soon, Logan collapsed on the table with his eyes shut. In his drunkenness, he swung his arm and knocked over a glass onto the floor, shattering it. The loud crash woke him up. He then opened his eyes and looked around him, whereupon he smiled at Sophia. "You must be thinking I'm a piece of trash, Sophia."

Sophia paused and quickly answered, "Of course not."

Logan sniggered and said, "I'm not a shameless man, and I know I'd be a nobody if it weren't for my old man and my four capable sisters, along with their husbands." He then leaned back on his chair with his eyes closed as he looked like he was falling asleep again. Even so, he wouldn't stop complaining. "She was right. My mouth is as big as my ego, yet I'm the one everyone despises. Thus, I'm only a king in my own world, and that's nothing to boast about."

Upon hearing Logan's words, Sophia blinked, seemingly able to guess who said those words. As Logan's voice drifted into silence, Sophia knew he must have dozed off. This time, she didn't wait. Instead, she quickly called for the help of the waiters.

When the waiters came in, they felt helpless to see Logan in a drunken stupor. Then, they told Sophia about Logan's usual behavior. "Young Master Jefferson's temper has been rather unpredictable lately. He is usually seen quiet in one moment, but he would then begin to mutter things to himself in another."

Sophia leaned against the door and replied, "Something has been bothering him recently, and he just doesn't know how to take the load off his chest."

Soon, the two waiters came over and carried Logan out of the lounge. "He's never been like this before. Honestly, we're all worried about him."

Sophia sighed and said, "He'll be fine after some time."

Everyone hits rock bottom at a point in life. Logan's ego has grown too big, and I'm actually glad that someone knocked him down to size. At the thought of that, Sophia couldn't help but feel grateful to Lola for what she had done. After all, she couldn't believe that this lady managed to humble someone as uncontrollable as Logan and teach him a lesson on behalf of this stubborn brat's father.

While Logan was taken to his room, Sophia went downstairs and sat in the lobby. There were barely any customers at the club in the day, so the waiters didn't have a lot of work to attend to. Feeling bored, Sophia beckoned to two waiters and said, "Well, since we're all free, let's play a card game to kill time." Since they knew Sophia, they didn't mind going along with her and proceeded to play the game. As soon as they got their hands on the deck of cards, they heard the club's door being opened, followed by the sound of someone dragging his luggage. Nonetheless, Sophia couldn't care less about that as her eyes were glued to the cards in her hands.

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After distributing the cards, Sophia said, "Alright, here we go. Let the game begin."

As soon as she finished her words, she felt someone walking up toward her. Then, she heard a chuckle. "It looks like you're really free." Upon hearing that voice, she paused, falling into a trance as she kept staring at her cards while blinking. Why does this voice sound so familiar? A few seconds later, she slowly turned around and sized the person up from toe to head.

"The look on your face is scaring me," Ian said with a smile.

Then, Sophia put down her cards and stood up. "Why didn't you tell us ahead that you'd be coming back?"

Ian passed his luggage to the waiters and told them to put it aside first, then he sat down beside Sophia and picked up the cards. At the same time, he answered, "I just want to give you guys a surprise."

This is surprising indeed. If only I had seen this coming, Sophia thought. Then, Ian gazed at the two waiters and said, "Come on. Let's continue." As both of them also knew Ian, they looked back at him and focused on the cards in their hands. Soon, it

was Ian's turn to show his hand. As he made his move, he asked Sophia about Logan. "Where is Logan? I

haven't seen him here. Why are you here alone?"

"Oh, he is taking a nap upstairs," Sophia answered.

Surprised, Ian asked, "But you're here. So, why is he still sleeping upstairs rather than coming down?"

Um. This is a long story, and it's going to take me a while to explain everything to him. Sophia didn't know

where to start regarding Logan's bitter history with Lola, so she only gave a brief reply. "Well, that guy

drank a little more than he could handle when we were eating just now, so he ended up getting knocked out."

"I see." Ian nodded in response, putting an end to the topic.

Upon finishing the game, the two waiters, who were able to cleverly read the situation, put away the

cards and left. Meanwhile, Ian turned around and gazed at Sophia with a confused look as his eyes slowly

moved from her face to her stomach. Noticing that, Sophia asked, "Oh, can you tell? It has only just

started not long ago, so it's still not that obvious, is it?"

In fact, Ian had already learned about Sophia's pregnancy from Logan. With no idea where things stood

between the two of them, the unsuspecting Logan happily explained the entire situation to Ian. While

Sophia's pregnancy should be a good news that was worth celebrating, Ian didn't seem to share the joy

with everyone else.

After thinking hard for a while, Ian finally figured something to say. "I bet being pregnant isn't easy."

Sophia placed her palm on her stomach. "Everything feels fine now. At least I can still move freely at the

moment, but I guess the same cannot be said a few months later."

Ian pursed his lips and moved his gaze toward the table. In that instant, he seemed as if he was trying

hard to think of what he could talk about with Sophia, and the lady was starting to feel a little awkward

due to his reaction. Therefore, she quickly changed the subject and asked, "Have you eaten? Perhaps I

could get you a little something."

Indeed, Ian hadn't eaten anything as he had been on the road after packing his stuff since early this

morning. It wasn't until he arrived at Logan's club that he could finally slow down and relax. Upon

hearing Sophia's kind offer, he nodded and said, "Well, I haven't taken my lunch yet because I was

planning to have it with you guys, but it seems like I got here a little too late."

Then, Sophia stood up to call the waiter so that he could get something for Ian, but after doing that, she

turned around to look at Ian again and said, "Why don't you just have something light for lunch first and

save it for dinner? We can all gather and have a proper meal then. What do you think?"

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Although Ian was hungry at that moment, he was not in the mood to eat as he was bothered by the fact

that Sophia was pregnant. At the thought of that, Ian lost his appetite, so he only responded with an

indifferent grunt after hearing Sophia's question. "That's fine by me."

After instructing the waiter to prepare the food, Sophia continued to stand in place, wondering how she

should face Ian. We both used to be close to each other, so why do we feel awkward now that we meet again? What has really gone wrong?

Meanwhile, Ian could tell that Sophia was feeling a little awkward, so he wasn't comfortable with that as well. I only just left for a short period of time, but I can't believe so much has changed while I was gone. If

I had known this is how the matter would end up, I wouldn't have left Sophia to join the competition.

Nonetheless, there is no turning back now.

Sophia stood in place for a few moments. Then, she came closer to the couch and sat down but kept her

distance from Ian. After clearing her throat, she asked, "How was your competition? Has your latest

ranking been announced?" Since Ian was a candidate highly recommended by Lorraine, it shouldn't be hard for him to secure a good place in the rankings.

Ian clicked his tongue and replied, "They only told me to take a break for two days since they need to assess the forum comments and vote counts before making any further announcement about the ranking."

Despite her confusion, Sophia had a rough picture of what Ian was trying to tell her in her mind. "I wish you the best of luck in your competition! May you secure a job in an established company and prove your worth to the Morgan Family."

"My family actually contacted me when I was in the competition," Ian said with a smile.

In fact, Bryce was the one who had contacted Ian back then because he wasn't happy to see his son on

TV. He viewed Ian as a disgrace like his mother. Initially, he called Ian to make him give up on the competition, but when his persuasion failed to sway his son, he began to lose his temper. Seeing that

reaction of his, Ian was afraid that the old man would come over in a fit of rage to cause a scene. Later, his phone had been kept away from him, and as time went by, he no longer bothered to return Bryce's missed calls or respond to his messages.

This time when Ian came back, he didn't inform any of the Morgan Family members because he wouldn't like to see them.

At the mention of his family, Sophia instantly knew what she could talk about. In order to get herself out of the awkward situation, Sophia decisively brought up the matter about Sally. Ever since Sally was detained, Leah had been trying to pull every string she could to get her off the hook. Nevertheless, the incident somehow took a turn for the worse as the victim refused to let things slide. Therefore, Sally was still in custody, even though Leah had spent a fortune on getting her daughter out. When Leah subsequently realized there was nothing else she could do, Sally was forced to plead guilty.

As for Simon, he hadn't returned to his office yet. Due to his rebellious nature, he had been laid off by Bryce and grounded at home. Irritated by that, the man swore to oppose his father by indulging in a life of nightly debauchery.

According to what Logan had learned, Sophia knew that the Morgan Family had been in constant disharmony. Therefore, Bryce, whose health was originally in poor condition, had been regularly asking his doctor for check-ups and consultation due to the stress that had been caused by the disturbances.

When Logan told that to Sophia, he gloated gleefully and rejoiced in the Morgan Family's misery, thinking that they deserved what was coming to them. After all, Bryce had made countless mistakes that he

shouldn't have made in his youth. Thus, Logan reckoned that karma had caught up with that old man.

The Returning Ex Chapter 854

Despite learning about the Morgan Family's disharmony, Ian appeared to look unbothered. He would have felt elated as well if he had heard about these things when he was younger, but now, all these just sounded like nothing more than gossip to him. Therefore, he'd rather spend his time on something else rather than those people that he didn't like.

As Ian was beginning to let go of that matter, he had made up his mind to cut ties with the Morgan

Family, wanting nothing to do with them ever again. He then leaned back on the couch and sighed. "The

Morgan Family will have to count on Sean from now on." No one else but Sean can help the Morgan

Family get back to its feet. Initially, Dad kept on nagging Sally and Simon to study hard for the sake of the company. What a pipe dream!

Meanwhile, Sophia had hardly heard of anything about Sean, merely knowing him as a man who kept a

low profile as she never saw a picture of him even on the news. Then, she was reminded of an interview

that she had seen somewhere, which was related to Sean. True to his character, that man only answered

nothing more than what he was asked. A man like him always seems to have a hidden agenda, but I guess

the Morgan Family would prosper under his leadership if he were to step up. Soon, she curiously asked,

"When your brother leads the Morgan Family, I wonder if it'll be a bad thing for the three of them."

Upon hearing Sophia's words, Ian thought about it in a serious manner before revealing a smile. "I doubt

things are going to end up too terribly for them, even though their life won't exactly be a good one from

that point on.”

As soon as Ian finished his sentence, Sophia’s phone rang and interrupted their conversation. She answered the call, which turned out to be from Matilda to ask her where she was. Upon taking a glimpse at Ian, she told Matilda that she was at Logan’s club. Deep down, she was hoping that Matilda could come here and get her out of this awkward situation. If only Matilda was here to get me off the hook.

At that moment, a waiter came over and served the noodles for Ian. Matilda seemed to have heard his voice, for she then chuckled and said, “I’ll be there in a minute.”

Once Sophia hung up the call, she put down her phone and explained to Ian. “It was John’s mom. She has been treating me well lately, and we’ve both buried the hatchet.”

“Oh.” A preoccupied look appeared on Ian’s face. “It seems that a lot of things happened when I was away.”

After hearing his words, Sophia hated to guess what Ian was implying, so she only responded with a nod.

For the next few moments, silence ensued as Sophia leaned back on the couch and shifted her gaze elsewhere. Meanwhile, Ian began to enjoy his noodles while looking at his phone, seemingly checking out a text message that was just received. Witnessing his frown, Sophia couldn’t help but wonder if something serious happened. Perhaps it’s some update about his competition. I suppose Ian has been having a hard time fighting all alone for the sake of his future.

In the meantime, Matilda arrived at the lounge not long after their call, but when she saw the man beside

Sophia, she quickly came closer to have a look, only to realize that it was Ian. Surprised, Matilda asked, “You’re back, Ian?”

Ian put down his phone and looked up at Matilda. "Today is a holiday for me, Mrs. Constance."

Matilda nodded and replied, "Oh, I see. I bet you could use a break too." Then, she looked around her and asked in confusion, "Where is Logan? Why don't I see him?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 855

Sophia proceeded to tell Matilda the same reason she told Ian—that Logan was drunk and asleep. In

response, Matilda replied, "Oh, I see. But why would he drink in the day? What's wrong with him?"

After hearing Matilda's question, Sophia only smiled in silence as she didn't know how to put it to

her. Soon, Matilda sat next to her and asked, "So, what're we going to do now? Just sit here all day?"

Sophia looked up at the ceiling and sighed. "That's a good question. I have no idea what we could do to kill time."

Not long after that, Matilda seemingly figured out a way to kill time, so she beckoned to one of the

staff and said, "Let's play poker. Come and join us."

Sophia helplessly stared at Matilda. "You're quite the gambler, aren't you?"

Matilda shot a gaze at Ian and asked, "Care to join us?"

At the same time, Ian was just done with his meal. "Sure, why not?"

Meanwhile, Sophia was beginning to think that playing poker was, in fact, not a bad idea, or they

would be bored to tears while waiting for Logan to wake up. Before heading over to the game room,

Sophia told another staff to check on Logan. That dude has been out like a dead man since the

moment he was carried to his room. I doubt he is going to wake up anytime soon.

As the four of them began to play their game, the atmosphere was instantly lightened up. Shortly after the first round started, Sophia received a call from John, which she didn't bother looking at before answering it because she was too engrossed in the poker game. Nonetheless, John didn't say a single word after the call connected until Sophia called out to him.

"Are you there, John?"

At that moment, Ian was stunned as he paused and gazed at her with a glacial look on his face. It turned out that John had been away from his office for some official business and was planning to go straight home after that. Thus, he was calling Sophia to ask her whether she had any cravings so that he could buy them on the way.

Sophia responded with an affirmative hum. "Oh, I'm now at Logan's club. Ian is back, and we're planning to eat out tonight. So, why don't you join us?"

John was alert when he heard Ian's name, whereupon he replied with an indifferent grunt. "I see.

That's soon." A few seconds later, he added, "Anyway, I'll be on my way to meet you guys." Sophia

then put her phone down and placed one of her cards in the center just as Ian suddenly chuckled in a nonchalant manner.

In the meantime, Matilda shifted her gaze to Ian and said, "John's dad and I think you should be the one to decide on the child's name. We all agree that you should make the call. In fact, it seems to us that John is getting really desperate, but I told him to calm down so that he doesn't ruin everything."

On the other hand, Sophia only kept her eyes on her cards without looking at Matilda, knowing what

Matilda was trying to imply. While those words were meant for Ian to hear, Sophia decided it would be best for her to play dumb since she didn't want to put her foot in her mouth.

As soon as Matilda had her turn, she suddenly paused when she heard footsteps walking up the stairs, yet she wasn't alone because Ian could clearly hear that too. The next moment, Ian had his eyes glued to the door that was left open until John showed up as both men quickly locked eyes with each other.

Soon, the two of them didn't seem happy, although John appeared to have the upper hand in the mental game by acting magnanimously. He then turned his attention to Sophia and stood beside her, placing his hand on the back of the lady's chair. "Why did you stop?" At that time, the worker, who was playing together, volunteered to give up his place, allowing John to participate in the game. In response, John smiled and said, "I'll be glad to take over."

Upon witnessing John's reaction, a complicated look appeared on Sophia's face as she couldn't help but look at Matilda, who seemingly pursed her lips at her to indicate the same feeling that she shared with her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 856

The ladies were tired of the card game but were forced to play along after hearing John's response.

While his turn happened to come before Sophia, John intentionally went easy on the rest as if he wanted to just show his hand all at once. At times, he even asked Sophia which card she was looking for as he was willing to give up what he had, even though it might come in handy. Although Sophia

humored him at first, she was soon rendered speechless when she realized John was serious.

Meanwhile, Ian was only seen with a glacial look on his face ever since John sat down. Seemingly noticing that, Sophia found her awkward situation becoming even worse than a few moments back when she was alone with Ian.

After the first round, Sophia was slowly finding herself at the end of her rope. This is not a game but

his one-man show! At the thought of that, she dropped her cards on the table and said, "I think I

need to stop. I can't take it anymore; I'm too tired to continue." At the same time, Matilda could also no longer stand John's cocky attitude as she said, "That's

enough for me too. This is getting boring."

In the meantime, Ian stood up and walked toward the window, opening it before taking a pack of

cigarettes out of his pocket. Upon seeing that, John immediately seized Sophia's hand and said, "Let's

get some air outside." Sophia instantly caught on to John's intention, knowing that he wasn't trying

to embarrass Ian but instead wanted her to stay away from the smoke.

While Sophia had never

really felt disgusted with the unpleasant smell, she decided to go along with John for the sake of her

unborn child. "Alright."

Soon, Matilda followed the two of them and left, leaving Ian alone in the room. Nevertheless, the

latter didn't bother to turn around, only standing by the window as if nothing ever happened.

As John and Sophia made their way to the exit downstairs, they passed by the crowded main hall,

where Matilda stayed behind and texted someone. On the other hand, John held Sophia's hand and asked, "Since when is Ian back?" Slightly frightened by the question, Sophia answered, "O-Oh, it was this afternoon." It was only then that John's mind was put to ease as he now knew that Ian had just been back not long ago.

At the same time, Matilda was texting Richard when the latter was asking her out for a dinner date. Before Matilda could respond further, Richard told her that he would like to have her company as he was a little bored. His answer seemed to hit Matilda in her soft spot, instantly rendering her tongue-tied just before she was going to turn him down. Soon, the man directly gave her a call, asking what she was doing and whether she was busy. Since it was about time for dinner, Matilda stammered, "U-Um. I-I'm actually with some friends now." Richard paused briefly before he candidly asked, "Oh, is William there too?"

Since she just stood Richard up for William, she was nervous to hear the man's question. Therefore, she anxiously explained, "N-No! No! He is not. I'm now with my son and my daughter-in-law, along with some of our friends." Seemingly contemplating, Richard inquired, "I see. Where are you guys now? Am I welcome to join?" Richard's question put Matilda in a difficult position, where she didn't know how to turn him down. While she paused for a few moments in silence, Richard stubbornly waited until she responded. In the end, Matilda reluctantly gave in and told him the address of her current location.

Upon hanging up the call, Matilda quickly made her way to the exit and waved at John and Sophia, who were taking a walk not far away. When both of them got closer, she said without waiting for them to ask, "It's Richard. He is coming." Sophia paused, feeling surprised to hear Matilda's words. "What's he going to do coming here? Didn't you tell him that you're with us? Didn't you let him know that we're busy?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 857

Desperately, Matilda replied, "Yeah, I did, but he told me he was bored and would like to have some company. So, I didn't know how I could turn him down." Indeed, this is a tricky situation. Sophia nodded and sniggered. "Richard is probably crazy over you, or he wouldn't insist on coming at the expense of his pride."

Matilda pursed her lips while recalling the conversation she had with Richard earlier. I believe I've made myself clear enough, whereas Richard gave me his word that he'll respect my will and treat me as a friend. Since Richard had already made his point, Matilda had no idea how else she could clarify her stance because that would only make her look petty and mawkish. When Sophia and John exchanged gazes, the man said, "Well—the more, the merrier, since we're all celebrating Ian's return, I suppose it's not a bad thing that he is coming either." Meanwhile, Ian was seen coming downstairs together with Logan, who was wearing his pajamas with a drowsy look that was accompanied by his unkempt hair. Although Logan was still feeling a little tipsy, he instantly sobered up at the sight of his friends in his club. He said, "Let's go to the

restaurant right opposite and enjoy a nice meal, everyone.” Soon, he added, “Now that Ian is back, we’re going to have some fun.” Despite those exciting words, the man didn’t seem to be exhilarated at all.

As soon as he finished his words, Matilda’s phone rang. While everyone else thought it was a call from Richard, Matilda appeared awkward upon taking a look at her phone. A few seconds later, Sophia beat everyone to it and responded with a chuckle. “Let me guess. Your ex-husband is calling, right?”

Matilda didn’t answer Sophia’s question but instead went to a corner and picked up the call. Indeed, the caller was none other than William, who was asking her out for dinner. In that instant, Matilda found herself in a dilemma because she didn’t want Richard and William to meet each other, but at the same time, she was afraid that her former spouse wouldn’t be happy if he learned that Richard had dinner with them later on. Confused and disturbed, she chose to give William the address of Logan’s club and told the man that they were going to celebrate Ian’s return before she went on to invite him along.

On the other hand, William happily accepted Matilda’s invitation without thinking too much. After a few moments of hesitation, Matilda unwillingly made up her mind and told William that Richard would also be there, as she wouldn’t want Richard’s sudden appearance to surprise William and give rise to any unnecessary conflict. Upon hearing that, William paused and replied with an affirmative hum. “Oh, I see. That’s fine by me.”

Even so, Matilda pursed her lips, feeling insecure to think what would happen when the two men met each other. After that, she had a flashback about her lunch with William the day before, during which both of them didn't manage to sort out their relationship issues face to face.

In fact, she had been looking for an opportunity to talk about their relationship problems throughout their lunch. Besides, she also wanted to ask William his opinion about getting back together, but unfortunately, she couldn't bring herself to say those words out that were forming at the tip of her tongue.

Deep down, she knew that she would have brought up her wonder if this had happened when she was younger. Unlike her younger, blunt self, Matilda had become more wary and bashful in expressing her feelings.

With her eyes on Matilda, who was on the phone, Sophia nudged John with her elbow and mischievously said, "Look at your mom! She looks just like a shy little girl, doesn't she?"

John then wrapped his arm around Sophia's shoulder. "Since when have you become such a busybody?" Sophia laughed in amusement while Ian's gaze fell upon John's arm before he headed outside.

Logan scratched his head and said, "Give me a moment. I need to get myself refreshed right now. It still feels like the whole world around me is spinning."

The Returning Ex Chapter 858

Shortly after Logan was gone to get himself refreshed, Richard arrived. Meanwhile, Sophia shifted her gaze across everyone else and reached for her phone. "I'm going to give Robin a call and invite them both to come over. Since we're all friends here, there is no reason to leave the two of them out." John smiled in agreement but was aware of how things could go wrong with so many people present at the same time. While the restaurant was just opposite Logan's clubhouse, they all left their rides right where they were parked and crossed the road straightaway.

In the meantime, Matilda decided to stay behind and directly said she wished to wait for William.

Upon hearing William's name, Richard couldn't help but feel a little shocked, even though he subtly tried to hide his feelings. After a brief pause, he smiled at Matilda and volunteered to wait with her.

"Oh, I'll stay behind with you then. You're probably going to be bored waiting here alone."

Sophia shot a gaze at Richard, finding him quite a chivalrous gentleman. As the rest of them made their way to the seafood restaurant, John sat beside Sophia and ordered some snacks before wiping her fingers with some wet wipes. "God knows how dirty your hands were after touching those cards."

Sophia laughed it off and replied, "Oh, I almost forgot about that." Helpless, John opined with a smile, "Well, I hope our son doesn't pick up all your bad habits."

Sophia was instantly rendered speechless by John's reply. I thought he was going to have a word

with Ian and resolve their differences like two mature men, but it seems that I was wrong to think that way. He just won't stop putting down Ian in an implicit manner. For that, I must say that it's a bad call to invite John along.

Soon, Sophia took her hands off John and stood up. "I think I'll get outside and wash them." Before she made for the door, she looked back and added, "You don't have to come along. I can handle this."

As soon as she finished her sentence, she stepped out of the dining room and headed to the restaurant's exit, instead of the restroom. Not long after that, she saw William showing up from a distance, recognizing his car that was parked near the entrance of Logan's club.

Then, Matilda and Richard quickly came out of the club and approached William, who was standing beside his car. From where Sophia was standing, she was unable to see William's expression, but nonetheless, she convinced herself to rest assured since they were all mature adults. Therefore, Sophia only hugged herself and stood in place, observing the three of them greeting each other at the entrance of Logan's club. Occasionally, the three of them tended to turn around during their conversation, giving Sophia a chance to glance at their expressions. Are they really good actors, or are they really getting along with each other well?

A few moments later, Robin and Lincoln showed up as Sophia quickly waved at the couple and beckoned to them. At the same time, Matilda happened to see Sophia at the restaurant's entrance, whereupon she patted William's shoulder. Meanwhile, William seemed to be able to catch on to

what Matilda meant, nodding before both of them headed toward the restaurant.

On the other hand, Richard was left behind them just as Sophia noticed his perplexed expression and quickly shot a gaze at William. Oh jeez! It appears that things are likely going to turn ugly during dinner later. With all these complicated relationships, lighting up the atmosphere is going to be super tricky.

While Sophia was contemplating deep down, Robin and Lincoln walked closer to her with their hands holding each other. It was then that Sophia's eyes fell upon the ring on Robin's finger.

At the sight of that, Sophia smiled and asked, "Have you taken care of all the invitation cards?"

Robin responded with a chuckle and took a stack of invitation cards out of her handbag. "I'm going to give them out to everyone later."

The Returning Ex Chapter 859

Sophia took one of the invitation cards and flipped it open before a wedding picture of Robin and Lincoln came into view. Although the picture looked like it had been edited before, their smiles seemed rather sincere and genuine. Then, Sophia kept the card and said, "Congratulations!"

Upon hearing that, Robin smiled in embarrassment just as Lincoln thanked Sophia, whereupon they made their way to the dining room. Meanwhile, the room was filled with a strange atmosphere, while John and Ian had zero interaction with each other, holding a glass of water in their hands.

At the same time, Logan began to start whining and complaining again, but this time, it wasn't about

Lola. Instead, he was criticizing and berating the Morgan Family. Nonetheless, he seemed less cranky and angrier, unlike the time he was cursing Lola previously. Even so, Logan was seen swearing and condemning the Morgan Family with all kinds of strong language. However, Ian behaved as if he didn't hear anything at all, with his eyes staring at the air blankly.

Later, Sophia noticed John curling his lips upward to reveal a cunning smile. What's this guy really up to? On the other hand, Logan could barely contain his excitement when he saw so many faces. In that instant, he immediately put all his frustration behind him and started greeting the others with a smiling face. "It's been a while since the last time I had a party so crowded. We're going to have so much fun tonight!"

As soon as he finished his words, Logan pressed the bell to send for a waiter and start ordering.

Then, he behaved even more enthusiastically than the waiter as he explained every single dish on the menu in detail.

Although Logan's humorous behavior managed to amuse Sophia, she knew the reason behind her friend's excitement. Logan has always enjoyed being around people. Despite his recent despondency, it looks like this crowded occasion is doing well in lifting his mood.

Meanwhile, the waiter only waited in silence until Logan was done introducing and ordering the dishes. Then, he looked at Logan with a smile and said, "You look especially delighted today, Young Master Jefferson."

Logan then waved at the waiter and instructed, "Yes, indeed. Please prepare the dishes at once."

Watching that, Sophia grabbed the glass on the table and took a sip of water. He is happy indeed, but I bet someone else isn't. Shortly after that, Robin stood up and announced her wedding day to everyone, which was just around the corner. Then, she proceeded to distribute her invitation cards to each and everyone present, while they congratulated her and Lincoln.

With the invitation card in his hand, Logan stared at it for a long while and sighed in a helpless manner. Soon, he shifted his gaze to Ian. "Alas! I don't know when it's our turn to give out our wedding invitation cards." Nonetheless, Ian only shot a gaze at him without saying a single word.

Noticing the man's glacial look, Sophia knew her friend wasn't happy about it. At this time, Matilda chimed in and said, "Ian shouldn't have any trouble looking for a girlfriend. He is one of the most popular candidates in the music contest, so you can imagine how many girls are crazy about him."

Logan grunted in a nonchalant manner as he tried to play dumb before Matilda. "How dare you compare me to Ian?! Are you doubting me?"

Seriously, Matilda nodded. "Yeah, that's exactly what I'm saying."

As Logan seemed to lighten up, he shifted his attention to Sophia. "Look at this lady, Sophia. She is bullying me again!"

Amused by Logan's response, Sophia burst into laughter along with Matilda, who gazed at William.

The Returning Ex Chapter 860

William was surprised to notice Matilda's change as well. She used to be a stuck-up lady who didn't have much to talk about, even with someone her age, but now, she is making jokes with Logan. It feels like she has become a different person. Meanwhile, Richard didn't chime in since he wasn't close with them, but even so, he tried to fit in and laughed with everyone when they joked.

As soon as the wine was served, Logan happily filled in the glass of every gentleman present. I know they're all driving home later, but how can they not drink on this special occasion? After that, William took off his vest and said in a relaxed tone, "I'll get someone to take care of my car. Man! If this is not the best occasion to get drunk, then when should it be?"

Logan replied, "Of course! Come, help yourself! If you're too drunk to move, you could always bunk down in my room."

That's thoughtful of him! Matilda turned around and gazed at Richard. "This is a wonderful occasion, so you should drink some as well. When we're done, just get someone to pick you up."

Richard responded with an affirmative hum. "Oh, don't worry about me. I could take a cab back anyway, plus my home isn't too far away either."

Now that I've taken care of these two old men, the rest shouldn't be much of a problem. Soon, Logan ordered some fruit juice for the ladies in the room. Before the dishes were served, he raised his glass up high and began an artistic speech. As he sincerely started his opening, he first talked about the negative doubts that had always revolved around him. Then, he told everyone about his simple yet

unhealthy social life, which was full of fair-weathered friends, until he met some true friends when his life took a turn for the better. After that, he went on to talk about Ian, Sophia, John, and Robin, but before he mentioned Matilda, he gazed at her and embarrassedly chuckled. "I need to be honest with you, Madam Flintstone. I never really liked you because the hatred was mutual, and I could see that." A few seconds later, he added, "Tell us, pretty lady. Did you ever tell John to stay away from me back then?"

Matilda covered her face and giggled with a soft voice. "Tell me about it! Guess what? I don't even like who I used to be either." As for Logan's question, Matilda directly admitted it and said, "I was afraid you'd be a bad influence for John."

Logan snorted in response, behaving like a child as he answered, "Do you really believe your son was a good boy all along? Come on! You should have probably spent more time with him."

Soon, he shifted his gaze to William and realized they didn't know each other well since they had only met a few times. Even though he didn't like Matilda back then, Logan harbored no grudge toward William, thanks to the latter's easy-going nature. Therefore, he didn't mention how close he was to William, only stating his mature behavior. Nonetheless, he was hoping that he could be more light-minded like Matilda.

On the other hand, William responded with a nod. "Yeah, I think it's time for me to change too." After that, Logan mentioned Lincoln and Richard, whom he barely knew anything about since they had

only met once at his own club's entrance. However, he courteously welcomed Richard to swing by anytime for fun. Meanwhile, Lincoln had been considered by Logan as one of his own close friends since he was marrying Robin. After mentioning everyone, he finally sat down and sighed. "By the way, Ian should be in the limelight today. I'm sorry that I stole it, Bro."

The Returning Ex Chapter 861

Upon hearing Logan's words, everyone was amused, bursting into laughter. While Logan was a regular customer as well as a VIP member of the restaurant, they were prioritized and quickly served the moment the dishes were done. In the meantime, Sophia was drooling when she caught the scent of the delicious food, feeling as if she could swallow a horse. John then placed some shrimps into Sophia's bowl after peeling off the shell. At the same time, Ian was sitting opposite Sophia, taking a quick glimpse at the couple before he took his eyes off them and never looked back again. He seemed to be rather busy, for his phone had been vibrating non-stop. Nevertheless, he only checked it out once in a while, which Sophia reckoned had something to do with his competition.

Meanwhile, Logan never mentioned anything about the Morgan Family or Lola again throughout dinner, probably knowing that it would rain on everyone's parade to talk about the matter.

In order to lighten up the atmosphere, Logan tried to get Lincoln and Robin to talk about something funny that had happened amidst their wedding preparation. In response, Robin proceeded to reveal

that preparing for a wedding wasn't as easy as it seemed because it was exhausting and time-consuming. In fact, the preparation had given her a headache until now, as she had only just realized there were so many things to consider. She then went on to describe how tired she was when she and Lincoln shot their wedding photos the other day. After that, she asked Sophia how long their photoshoot took back then. Sophia smiled and told her friend that she couldn't really remember but later added that their photoshoot didn't take long because John wanted to save the trouble and ended up going for the most basic package. While wedding photoshoots were usually taken outdoors, this wasn't the case for the package they chose. For that, Sophia blamed John for taking their wedding lightly. At that moment, John felt a twinge of pain upon hearing the lady's bitter complaint. He then held Sophia's hand and promised her a maternity photoshoot when her tummy grew bigger. As he said that, he appeared to be sincere and genuine.

Robin nodded and said, "Both of them are so sweet and lovely. I guess the photoshoot doesn't matter much, anyway." Soon, she smiled and added in a helpless manner, "I'm so envious of them."

Matilda asked, "What're you talking about? You've found your soulmate, haven't you?"

Robin turned around and looked at Lincoln before changing her tune. "Yes, I have."

Shortly after that, the few men began to have a toast while chatting with each other. Nonetheless,

Sophia found it weird to see William and Richard getting along well with everyone else except each other. Besides that, the same thing was going on between John and Ian, as both men didn't seem to have any interaction at all, although they appeared to hit it off with the rest.

At the sight of that, Sophia only chuckled in response, knowing that she could have prevented this from happening. I guess inviting John here is a mistake. Soon, Robin came closer and asked Sophia about her pregnancy. While Robin asked a lot of questions in detail, Sophia deduced that her friend was planning to have kids after marrying. At that time, Lincoln leaned closer as well, hoping to learn more about pregnancy. Since Sophia and Lincoln had barely known each other, she believed that Robin's fiancé was a good man, judging from the past few times they met.

Halfway through the meal, Logan started a new topic about the competition that Ian was in. As he hadn't watched the show before, he curiously asked Ian how it was like to be a part of the competition. Then, Ian briefly introduced the program but was soon seemingly distracted by something that crossed his mind. Gazing at Sophia, he said, "Well, I actually regret taking part in this competition, but it's too late to turn back now."

However, John acted as if he didn't hear anything, only focusing on placing food on Sophia's plate.

With a pair of smiling eyes on his face, he gently said to Sophia, "Here you go. Take some vegetables, and stop drinking fruit juice, or you're going to get hungry again soon."

The Returning Ex Chapter 862

Logan was baffled by what Ian meant, so he asked in surprise, "What's wrong? Did you not perform well? That shouldn't be the case because I heard from my sister that she'd make sure you secure a good ranking."

Nonetheless, Ian only responded with a nonchalant chuckle as he guzzled down the glass of wine.

The moment he raised his glass, his eyes seemed as if they were filled with desolation and helplessness, but when he put it down, the look on his face went back to an indifferent expression.

Meanwhile, Sophia pretended as if she didn't understand what was going on, only looking down at the dish while eating it. Deep down, she thought this dinner would be a torment to someone else but soon realized that she could no longer stand the drama. While the men idled around in their casual chat, Sophia headed to the couch and sat there with Robin and Matilda.

At the same time, Richard cast his eyes on Matilda and took them off shortly after that, only to be noticed by William, who happened to be staring at him. Refusing to give up in the mental game, he met William's gaze with a glacial glare. While William's gaze seemed rather apathetic, he appeared as if he was demonstrating his authority to Richard.

Unhappy, Richard started to make his move by raising his glass before William. "I've heard a lot about you, Mr. Constance. Let's have a toast!" Meanwhile, William didn't flinch but instead raised his glass as well and toasted Richard. Then, both men guzzled down their wine and showed each other their empty glasses.

As the men continued to dilly-dally, Sophia eventually ran out of patience and returned to Logan's clubhouse with Robin and Matilda. Feeling slightly worried, Matilda went to William before leaving the room. After she seemingly whispered in William's ear, he looked up at her with a smile and told her not to worry. A few moments later, she approached Richard and courteously told him to enjoy himself because she didn't want him to feel left out. It was only then that she finally walked out of the room with Sophia.

As soon as the door was closed, Sophia heaved a sigh of relief with a laugh. "Oh gosh! You have no idea how terribly I was suffering back there. Look at what they've done to a dinner that was supposed to be relaxing and enjoyable! I felt so awkward at a few points back there when those few gentlemen kept interrupting each other. Ugh! Why can't they stop fighting each other?! Maybe I really shouldn't have invited John along!"

Matilda soon echoed Sophia's words and said, "Well, I shouldn't have invited Richard to come along either. If I had known we'd end up in this awkward situation, I would have just turned him down from the beginning." Upon hearing Matilda's reply, Sophia didn't bother comparing the two scenarios, even though she reckoned the atmosphere was more awkward with William and Richard.

They are two fully grown middle-aged men, so how could they still behave so childishly?! That really blows my mind away!

As soon as the ladies made it to the room at Logan's clubhouse, Sophia tiredly collapsed onto the

couch, whereas Matilda was absorbed in Robin's invitation card. With her eyes finally glued to the wedding photo of Robin and Lincoln, she said, "You both genuinely make a perfect match! Look at how sweet you are!"

Robin smiled and said, "Yeah, that's what many people say."

Matilda then stared at Robin for a while and complimented her.

"Actually, I know you're a good person."

In that instant, Robin was overwhelmed by a strong surge of mixed feelings, which she couldn't even explain herself. In the meantime, Sophia was lying on the couch, talking about Robin's wedding until she unknowingly dozed off.

The Returning Ex Chapter 863

When Sophia came around, she was instantly disgusted by someone reeking of alcohol. She then instinctively pushed that person away and told him off, only to hear John's laughter. "Haha. It looks like someone is still wandering in her dreamland. How could you not recognize me?"

Soon, Sophia opened her eyes widely, finding herself alone in the room with John. Since when did everyone leave? How did I not realize that? After that, she slowly sat up straight and spoke in her defense. "You're reeking of alcohol, so how was I supposed to know that it was you?!"

John sat beside her and let out a long sigh. "Alas! That dinner back there was an unpleasant one."

Sophia chuckled in contempt and replied, "You are responsible for ruining it too, so stop complaining!" After that, she proceeded to ask, "By the way, who did Madam Flintstone leave with

just now? Master William or Richard?” Nevertheless, John told her that he couldn’t remember, as he didn’t bother paying attention to that since they were leaving just when he arrived. However, he believed Matilda left with William judging from his father’s gleeful attitude and Richard’s moody appearance. Besides, Matilda’s obvious behavior also suggested that way, in John’s opinion.

“Well, everyone was already getting a little tipsy toward the end, but maybe Dad and Richard took it a little too far when a simple toast became a battle of egos. Dad was the first guy Mom noticed out of the two staggering drunk men. Soon, it became even more obvious when she got closer to help him walk, nagging him for drinking more than he could handle. After all, I bet Mom still cares for Dad deep down.”

John didn’t understand any of this previously until he witnessed Matilda’s caring behavior.

Nonetheless, he reckoned he wasn’t alone, as Richard should also understand what that meant. After a while, Sophia followed John out of the room, finally deciding to ask John upon hesitating for a long while, “Where is Ian? Is he drunk?”

John responded with a sarcastic grunt and asked, “Look at me. Do you think there is any chance that he is in a better state than I am?”

How cocky he is! As for Logan, Sophia didn’t bother asking about him, probably thinking that he was back to being drunk again. When they got outside of the clubhouse, they saw Zack, who had been waiting beside his car. As soon as he saw Sophia, he politely greeted her. “Long time no see, Sophia.”

Oh, how long was that ago when we last met?

Witnessing Zack's new hairstyle and outfit, Sophia couldn't help but ask herself how much he had changed. I wonder what else is new about Zack? His girlfriend, perhaps? Soon, Zack opened the car door for Sophia and John to get into the car and proceeded to start the engine. "Your car has been sent for repair, boss. It looks like it'll take a few days." However, his words were met with silence as he quickly noticed John leaning back on his seat with his eyes closed. A few moments later, Sophia asked Zack how his job had been. Feeling more relaxed when talking with Sophia, Zack responded with a laugh and shared his happy work life with her, including the pay raise that John had given him earlier. In that instant, Sophia peeked at John and realized that he was seemingly asleep, so she asked Zack in a hushed tone, "What's wrong with John's car?"

Sophia's question caught Zack off guard while the latter stammered in a panic. Not long after that, Sophia smiled and asked, "Come on! What's so secretive about it?" Upon taking a turn at the junction, Zack answered, "Um. Well, it's just a simple scratch, so I was told to send it for repair."

Hmm. That sounds fishy! Apparently, both of them didn't discuss a cover story, which is why they're giving two different versions of answers. Nevertheless, Sophia only replied with a prolonged and affirmative hum. "Oh—I see!" Even so, she didn't expose Zack but instead kept quiet. In the meantime, Zack was relieved to see Sophia backing down, fearing that she would press ahead with her questions. Therefore, he decided to keep quiet and say nothing more.

The Returning Ex Chapter 864

Soon, they arrived back at the Constance Residence as Sophia directly woke John up. "Wake up.

We're home." Having fallen asleep, John slowly opened his eyes when Sophia nudged him. Then, he revealed his red eyes, trying to make sense of everything going on the moment he woke up.

After that, Sophia proceeded to get out of the car and headed toward the house, leaving John behind in an unconcerned manner. When she passed by the car park, she peeked in that direction and realized that William's car was nowhere to be seen. With a mischievous smirk, she thought, It looks like someone is having a second round tonight.

Meanwhile, Zack directly drove off since John could walk by himself. Then, Sophia and John quietly tiptoed and made their way to their bedroom upstairs because they didn't want to wake Old Mrs.

Constance. While Sophia grabbed her pajamas and was about to brush her teeth, John's phone rang.

However, he was too drunk to pick it up as he was lying in bed at the moment.

After a brief hesitation, Sophia turned around and reached for John's cell phone in his pocket. She

then sniggered and answered the call, only to hear Isabelle's voice.

"John, I have something I'd like to tell you."

Sophia asked straightaway, "Yeah, fire away."

Isabelle was stunned to hear an unfamiliar voice before Sophia laughed it off and said, "Well, I suppose it's not surprising for you to find me by his side at this hour, is it?" What's so important for

Isabelle to call me at this ungodly hour?

After a brief moment of silence, Isabelle apologized and hung up the call, leaving Sophia baffled. In

the end, she decided not to wake John up for that, although she couldn't stop wondering whether

Isabelle really had something important to talk to him about.

Isabelle then went on to brush her teeth as well as wiping John's face and hands before she hit the

hay too. Since John was an early riser, he habitually woke up on time as he usually would. At the

same time, he unknowingly awoke Sophia, but the lady only squinted and said, "Isabelle gave you a

call last night."

John paused for a while and mumbled, "Urgh, not again. What does this annoying woman want from

me?" Even though her eyes were shut, Sophia curled her lips and smiled gleefully, amused by John's

response. That's what makes me love this man so much!

John rubbed her head with his palm. "Close your eyes and sleep, baby. I need to go to work now."

Sophia responded with an affirmative hum and asked in a nosy manner, "Hey, take a look and see

whether your dad is back, would you?"

Indeed, it didn't occur to John that he should check on his father. As he walked into the bathroom, he

said, "Isn't it a good sign if you don't see him around? Furthermore, I bet he probably spent the night

at Mom's place, from the looks of things last night."

Soon, Sophia fell asleep and realized it was almost afternoon the next time she woke up. At that

moment, she felt hungry and weak, so she quickly went about her morning ablutions and made her

way downstairs.

At this time, Old Mrs. Constance was sitting in front of the TV while sipping some tea. As soon as she saw Sophia coming down, she looked up at the former and berated her. “You people are getting out of control. Earlier on, I still had William to keep me company, but now, everyone just leaves me alone at home.”

Sophia laughed in amusement as she went on to joke with Old Mrs. Constance. “Maybe you should tag along with us next time.”

Old Mrs. Constance rolled her eyes at Sophia and said, “No thanks, you can count me out. I doubt I can keep up with young people like you guys.”

As Sophia entered the dining area, Old Mrs. Constance followed right behind her and confusedly asked, “William didn’t come back home last night, did he?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 865

Sophia responded with an affirmative hum and said, “Well, I guess that’s not a bad thing either.”

Old Mrs. Constance frowned. “That brat must have bunked down somewhere else.”

Despite the old lady’s harsh words, Sophia knew what Old Mrs. Constance meant by that. In fact, John and his father had one thing in common, which was that they were both nostalgic and faithful men. Besides spending the night at Matilda’s place, it wasn’t likely that he was playing around with other women some place else. I guess Old Mrs. Constance understands that anyway.

In the meantime, John arrived at his office and attended a meeting after taking care of his work.

Before the meeting began, Dylan, who was one of the attendees, was approached by John with a question. “Have you been in touch with the Bailey Family lately?”

Dylan was caught by surprise upon hearing John's question. "Y-Yeah, of course. Their orders just keep coming."

John rephrased his question. "That's not what I meant. Let me put it this way, perhaps. Have you been in touch with Isabelle lately?"

Hearing his question, Dylan replied, "Um. Nope. I only kept in touch with her at first due to business, but not anymore after that."

John responded with a nod to signify his acknowledgment. While he didn't explain the purpose behind asking that question, Dylan didn't seem interested to know either. As soon as the brief meeting was over, John ran into the Bailey Family's employees but saw no signs of Isabelle. Upon taking a glimpse at those people, he turned around and went back to his office.

After the meeting, John was starting to get busy as he had quite a number of things waiting for him to take care of. When it was almost noon, he received a call from one of his men who told him that they had managed to track down the buyer of the bug they had discovered earlier. Then, he was told that the buyer was someone ordinary with barely any property in possession. This person lived in a normal-looking household situated somewhere between the city and the suburb. As all the information hinted, there was no convincing reason for this buyer to acquire such an advanced covert listening device. Besides, John's man also told him another strange discovery that this mysterious person had neither a business nor a job, which meant that he had no source of income at

all. Nevertheless, the balance in his savings account had never been reduced by a single penny, which indicated the possibility that this person's life had been assured. Thus, he didn't have to use his own money. Now, this is getting interesting! John laughed at the thought of that, knowing that whoever was helping out this buyer had a hidden agenda. For that, he ventured a wild guess that the culprit had disguised as a civilian when committing crimes. Soon, John said, "This is getting interesting."

After that, John instructed his man to investigate the culprit's recent whereabouts and anyone else he had ever met. Besides, he also told them to focus on the places that he had been to before. Justice always prevails. Let's see how long he can keep his tracks covered because I swear I'll get to the bottom of this matter.

Upon hanging up the call, John stepped out of his office and headed to William's office. Man! I've been dying to hear some stories from Dad throughout the morning. Thanks to my busy schedule, here is finally my chance! Meanwhile, William was passionately engrossed in his work, even though he appeared to be busy.

When John opened the door and walked in, William looked up and shot a gaze at him. Upon witnessing his father's reaction, John couldn't help but think there was something fishy that William was hiding from him. After all, William didn't always behave like that, so John approached closer and stood before him. Without saying anything, he merely just laughed and stared at William, making the latter feel uncomfortably awkward.

The Returning Ex Chapter 866

After a short while, John asked, "Were you with Mom last night?" William avoided John's question, only giving his son a dossier and said, "Go back and read through this file."

Unable to contain his curiosity, John laughed it off and urged for an answer. "Just answer my question. Yes or no? Hiding it from me is only going to make you look even more suspicious." In the face of such a direct reply, William seemingly knew that there was no way he could dodge John's question anymore. He then faked a cough and ambiguously told John that he was a little too drunk the night before.

John nodded and got to his main point. "When do you plan to remarry Mom?"

William didn't avoid his question this time and was seen pondering in a stern manner. "I think that depends on your mom."

Oh, I see. Judging from William's answer, John reckoned his father had a plan deep down, so he decided not to bother him with any more questions and left with the document. In that instant, he suddenly felt envious of William because he knew Matilda would agree to remarry if he directly proposed to her. Too bad Sophia isn't like my mother. I have no idea why she keeps turning me down for that. At the thought of Sophia's stubborn rejection, John couldn't help but feel dismayed.

Can't she observe me after we get remarried? I still don't feel confident, even though I had the upper hand in the mental game against Ian last night.

When it was time to leave work at noon, John took William's ride and returned home together. As

they were halfway home, William's phone, which was placed in the center console between the driver's and the passenger's seat, started ringing. Then, John quickly picked it up and saw an incoming call from Old Mr. Bailey.

Nonetheless, John wasn't surprised about that, thinking it was normal considering the connections between the two families. Therefore, he directly answered the call and turned on the loudspeaker.

Upon taking a glimpse at the screen, William said, "Hello."

Old Mr. Bailey said, "President William, are you free to talk?"

With a smile, William answered, "Sure, I'm done with work anyway."

Old Mr. Bailey replied with an affirmative hum. Instead of talking about work as expected, he asked,

"Are you free to have dinner together at night, President William?"

William was surprised by the strange invitation. He chuckled and asked, "What's the matter? Is

there anything wrong with our work?"

Faced with the sudden question about work, Old Mr. Bailey quickly clarified his intention. "Ah, no!

No! Nothing to do with work. It's just that we haven't met in a while, so I thought that we should perhaps catch up."

After hearing Old Mr. Bailey's insistent invitation, William couldn't seem to find a way to turn him

down, so he accepted it in the end. "Sure, let me know where and when." On the other hand, Old Mr.

Bailey didn't decide right away but instead promised that he'd keep William posted on that later on.

As soon as the call disconnected, John turned his attention to William and asked, "It sounds like you're the only one he has invited. Could he have something he wants to talk to you in private

about?”

Nevertheless, William himself was also confused about Old Mr. Bailey's intention. He contemplated briefly and answered, “It beats me, so I'll find out what he wants to tell me by then.”

Apparently, the complicated relationship revolving around Sophia, Isabelle, and John had taken a toll on the affiliation between William and Old Mr. Bailey, for both men hadn't contacted each other for a while. Even when it came to official business, they'd have their assistants take care of it more often than not.

Soon, they arrived at the Constance Residence, only to find that Sophia was away. At the same time, Old Mrs. Constance was listening to some music in the living room, only glimpsing at the two men from the corner of her eyes when they returned.

The Returning Ex Chapter 867

Thinking that Sophia was upstairs, John immediately went ahead to check on her. Nonetheless, he heard Old Mrs. Constance casually saying, “Save your energy. Sophia went out.”

John paused in a trance. “What? She's out? For what? Did she go out alone?”

Old Mrs. Constance wasn't exactly sure what was going on, so she only said, “Sophia seemed to be leaving in a hurry, but she told me she got a call from Logan asking for help.” She then leaned on the couch and added, “Anyway, Sophia told me that she'd be fine. So, just relax.”

In that instant, John knitted his eyebrows. Logan seems to be surrounded by all kinds of trouble most of the time. How can he drag Sophia into his mess now, considering her current state?!

The next moment, he turned around and scuttled out of the living room, standing outside the main building while giving Sophia a call. The first call he made was unanswered, which unnerved him even more, urging him to make a second call.

A few moments later, Sophia finally answered her phone as her voice was accompanied by the noise in the background. Soon, John asked her where she was, to which Sophia sighed and replied, "I'm now at the police station. Logan is in some kind of trouble, so I came to bail him out."

Stunned, John asked, "What's wrong with him?"

While it wasn't the right moment to talk about this, Sophia said, "I'll tell you more later on. We're a little busy with some procedures at the moment."

John pondered for a while and uttered, "Wait for me there. I'll be on my way." Before Sophia could respond further, John hung up the call and headed straight to the car park without telling Old Mrs. Constance and William.

Although the police station was rather far away from the Constance Residence, John arrived at his destination smoothly without a hitch, thanks to the green lights along the way. Then, he pulled up outside the police station, only to see Sophia and Logan waiting at the entrance. While it seemed like both of them were already done with the procedure, John quickly got out of the car and approached the two of them. At that moment, Logan was seen with a long face so resentful that no one had ever seen before.

John stood in front of Sophia and asked her, “What happened? How did you guys end up here?”

Sophia peeked at Logan with a sigh. “Well, we’ll talk about this when we get back.” In fact, she was doing that to protect Logan’s pride because she didn’t want him to feel embarrassed in front of John.

After all, the matter that had happened was something he wasn’t really proud of.

John nodded and said, “Alright, get in then.” Soon, they hit the road and headed back to Logan’s

clubhouse, saying nothing all the way as the atmosphere was filled with an oppressive silence. When

they arrived, Logan instantly stepped out of the car and got into his club. Meanwhile, both John and

Sophia continued to sit in the car as John asked the same question again, “What happened just

now?”

Sophia immediately burst into laughter. “Haha! This is really embarrassing for Logan!”

In fact, Sophia had been trying her best to keep a straight face back at the police station due to the

solemn occasion, despite the hilarious matter. She then added, “Do you remember the gym that Lola

runs? Logan previously went there to mess around, but Lola didn’t bother to entertain him.

Therefore, everything was peaceful until Logan went there again earlier today. This time, Lola

flipped out and berated Logan in the most humiliating way you can imagine, but our little friend’s

pride would never allow him to swallow it. So, Logan retaliated.

But don’t get me wrong because he didn’t hit anyone. Instead, he wrecked some gym equipment

before Lola called the cops to arrest him. Considering Logan’s bad history, the law enforcers never

really like him. Thus, there was no way he could get away with it for vandalizing someone else's property."

The Returning Ex Chapter 868

Unlike his latest arrest, Logan had always turned to Lorraine for help every time there was a spot check at his clubhouse that put him in trouble. Nevertheless, Sophia deemed he brought this upon himself since he was the one who went looking for trouble. While he was too ashamed to reach out to his sister for help, he called Ian a few times, but to no avail, which he reckoned the latter must be having a hangover. Therefore, he had no choice but to ask Sophia to help him out.

Needless to say, Sophia knew Logan was probably ashamed of himself, noticing his silence when she paid his bail. Meanwhile, John sniggered with his eyes falling upon the club. "Is he wrecking stuff again in there?"

Sophia leaned back on his chair and said, "That's none of my business. He can do whatever he wants to his own property, so I'm going to just take a rest for now." Nonetheless, Logan didn't vent his anger out by wrecking stuff but instead locked himself inside his own room.

While the waiter, who put an ear to the door, heard nothing but silence, Sophia and John showed up outside his room a few moments later. Then, the waiter pointed at the room door and helplessly shrugged his shoulders. Upon witnessing his reaction, Sophia smiled and knocked on the door. "It's almost noon, Logan. Do you want to join us for lunch? Come on, let's have lunch together."

Nonetheless, her words were met with silence. Soon, John came closer and asked, “Perhaps you could take your time to calm down while we get the dishes ready. By then, you can come out and join us. What do you say?”

Leaning against the door, Sophia tried to comfort her friend. “Come on! This is actually not much of a big deal. You’ve always gone in and out of the police station anyway. The only difference is that I’m the one who bailed you out this time instead of your sister.” She paused and asked, “Or is it because you’re worried that you’d look bad in front of me? Does pride really still matter considering how close we are?” Sophia asked that question with a chuckle in a relaxing manner.

After a short while, Logan’s voice was heard from inside the room.

“Why would I be worried about that? I already look bad enough in front of you.”

Sophia raised her eyebrows upon hearing that. “Come on! How could you say that to yourself? This is just a little setback.” Then, she added with a gentle voice, “Okay, why don’t you tell us your frustration during the meal? Share your problem with us.”

Logan responded with a noncommittal grunt. “Nah, I’m not hungry.” John placed his hand on Sophia’s shoulder and nudged her before both of them exchanged gazes.

Soon, Sophia said, “Alright, stay inside since you’re not hungry. John and I will make a move once we’re done eating here.” After saying that, she purposely emphasized the next sentence. “We’re now heading to the game room.”

Soon, Sophia shifted her eyes to the waiter and raised her voice to make sure Logan could hear what she was saying. "Please prepare us a few dishes. Just make the meal simple because we'll be leaving as soon as we're done." While the waiter cooperated by responding in agreement before leaving, Sophia was grateful that everyone was smart enough to read her implicit message.

In fact, the game room was the usual place where Logan had his meal. It was a spacious room with a table for card games, as well as a dining table in the corner. Therefore, Sophia and John decided to head over there and wait, but before the dishes were served, Logan showed up.

With a gloomy expression on his face, Logan entered the game room and walked toward the table before he sat down alone. Upon witnessing that, Sophia and John looked at each other with a chuckle, whereupon John approached Logan and sat beside him. Staring at Logan, John smiled and said, "Come on! I'm sure you came across something else far more serious than this one, yet you've never looked so dejected."

The Returning Ex Chapter 869

A few seconds later, Logan responded with an angry voice. "You know what? That b*tch really just likes to make me look like a clown! I swear I'm going to wreck her gym one day! That b*tch had better watch out for the rest of her life."

Meanwhile, Sophia couldn't control herself and burst into laughter. "You're taking it a little too far, Logan. Why must you pick on Lola out of all the officers who have given you a hard time?"

Logan opened his eyes wide and said, "What do you mean I'm taking it too far? Yeah, you're right.

There have been a number of officers who have come and given me a hard time, but she is the most stuck-up cop among them all. Every time Lola showed up, she had to pin me on the table. Darn it! No woman has ever treated me like that!"

In fact, when Lola first pinned him on the table, Logan had secretly sworn to himself that he would make this lady pay for her arrogance one day. Nevertheless, this day never came, yet Logan was humiliated by Lola again and again. At the thought of that, he could barely keep his anger contained.

As Sophia tried hard to keep a straight face, she propped her chin on the table and stared at Logan's frustrated look. "Logan, could Lola actually be a curse that's stuck with you for the rest of your life?"

"That's bullsh*t!" Logan continued to say, "I tell you what. I'll be sure to teach her a lesson sooner or later. Just wait and see!"

Sophia raised her eyebrows in disbelief. Oh gosh! This brainless brat has no idea about the odds that are stacked against him at all.

Soon, the waiter started to serve various types of dishes, even though it was agreed that they would have a simple meal. Nevertheless, the waiter didn't seem to be surprised either, when he noticed Logan's presence. In fact, Logan had been known for being childish since he grew up in a family of ladies who spoiled him until the salt wouldn't save him.

Meanwhile, John called back home and realized that Old Mrs. Constance and William had taken

lunch. As William was the one who answered the call, he responded with a nonchalant grunt. “I knew you wouldn’t come back and join us.” John pulled William’s leg and made a joke. “Are you saying that you regret that? Because if you had known I wasn’t coming back, you would have gone for lunch with Mom.”

William responded with an apathetic grunt and hung up the call. After that, he stood at the door, hesitating for a while before he gave Matilda a call. In the meantime, Matilda had a word with her mother at the Flintstone Residence about her relationship with William.

At that moment, Matilda didn’t seem comfortable, realizing that she was to blame for her divorce from William. Now that she had learned from her mistakes and was reconciled with William, everything seemed to be just on track to her. Nevertheless, Old Mrs. Flintstone didn’t see eye to eye with her on that because she wasn’t happy with the Constance Family’s adamant attitude about the divorce. Although Matilda might be at fault, the Constance Family had treated her a little too harshly. Therefore, she didn’t think they deserved to be the ones to decide whether William and Matilda should remarry. However, this didn’t change her impression of William. Instead, she was just afraid that the Constance Family would take advantage of Matilda’s easy-going nature by making the ultimate call about remarrying. For that, she feared that this wouldn’t be beneficial to Matilda’s future. Matilda’s mother tried to advise her by saying, “I think you could really try to work things out with

Richard. Although he may not be as well off as William, it seems to me that he is quite a reliable man.

In fact, he is also a thoughtful man, just like William.”

Upon hearing that, Matilda felt helpless as she had been explaining to Old Mrs. Flintstone again and

again that things wouldn't work out for her and Richard. Nonetheless, the old lady refused to give in

and insisted that her daughter wouldn't know without trying.

The Returning Ex Chapter 870

Both mother and daughter went on and on with the discussion without coming to any conclusion. As

the two of them found themselves in a stalemate, William's call came in and interrupted the

argument.

Upon reaching for her phone, Matilda stared at the screen, hesitant to answer it in front of Old Mrs.

Flintstone, not because she didn't want her mother to know that she had been keeping in touch with

William, but because she was afraid that she would find out that William had spent the night before

with her.

Squeezing her grip around the phone, Matilda decided to decline the call and pursed her lips. “Mom,

I want to be in control of my own relationship. Look, I'm not some young teenage girl anymore, so

just let me decide my own fate for once.”

Old Mrs. Flintstone helplessly sighed and justified her action by explaining, “I know I'm crossing the

line, but that's all because I don't want you to go down the wrong path.”

Upon hearing her mother, Matilda felt disheartened as she said, “Mom, I'd still want to try even if it

could be a wrong path to take. Otherwise, I think I'm going to regret not taking it.”

Staring at Matilda, Old Mrs. Flintstone criticized her daughter's headstrong nature. "Everyone is talking about how much you've changed, but it seems to me you're still the same old you. You're stubborn as always."

Matilda awkwardly smiled, standing up while holding her phone tightly. "Yeah, I get it, Mom. I'm a middle-aged woman, and it's not like you don't know that. I've been stubborn my whole life, so it's kind of a part of who I am right now." Soon, she added, "Mom, I have a call that I need to answer right now, but you're probably not going to like it. So, maybe I should excuse myself."

After listening to her daughter's words, Old Mrs. Flintstone immediately knew who was calling. She then reacted impatiently with a long face. "Okay! Okay! I get it. Go ahead then!" Despite her mother's frustration, Matilda was still thoughtful enough not to upset her mother by answering William's call in front of her. Therefore, she stepped outside her house and returned William's call.

In a matter of seconds, William answered the call and asked, "Were you in the middle of something when I called just now?"

Matilda sighed and answered, "I was having a word with my mom, so it wasn't really convenient for me to pick up the call."

William nodded and asked, "I see. Have you eaten by the way?"

"Of course, I have. Lunchtime is almost over," Matilda replied. After that, William couldn't think of anything else to talk about as he only just wanted to hear Matilda's voice, even though he didn't have

a topic in mind. Meanwhile, Matilda didn't know what she could say, so she brought up what they had gone through the night before. "You were drunk last night. I was about to flag down a cab and take you back to the Constance Residence, but you grabbed my hand and told me you didn't want to go back home." This man has never been this stubborn ever before. At the same time, Matilda decided to make it clear to Richard since he was watching from the side.

Therefore, she decisively took William home with her. Although William had always known where Matilda lived, he had never once visited her place of residence. Despite being drunk, he browsed around the house and pulled Matilda's leg. "It looks like you've been managing well ever since we separated." Later that night, William slept in the guest room while Matilda stayed up until the next morning. At that moment, she was overwhelmed by complicated mixed feelings, as she didn't know how to explain them.

After a few moments of silence, the atmosphere slowly became a little awkward until William started talking again. "I guess I was really a little too drunk. I can't remember a thing about the part where I went to your place."

Matilda explained, "You were indeed drunk, yet you were reluctant to go back to the Constance Residence. I didn't know where else I could take you, so I brought you back to my place."

While William had no other intention, he quickly responded after hearing Matilda's explanation. "I see. I must have given you a lot of trouble last night."

"No, not really," Matilda answered.

The Returning Ex Chapter 871

William wrapped his fingers around his phone tightly and probingly asked, “So, are you and Richard really...?”

Even without William saying the last few words, Matilda knew what he was trying to ask. So, she let out a sigh and said, “There is nothing complicated between me and Richard. We’re just friends at the moment.”

As her answer turned out to be the same as his hunch had been telling him, he replied, “I’m glad to hear that.” Despite his brief reply, those few words meant a lot to Matilda. Hearing no response from the lady, William added, “I think you and I have both changed a lot lately.”

William’s words filled Matilda’s mind with a billion question marks. What’s he trying to say? Soon, William continued to say, “I didn’t handle it well in sustaining a healthy marriage life, so I guess I was also responsible for our separation back then.”

Matilda only responded with an affirmative hum, not knowing what else to reply to William’s words.

Since when has this guy learned how to sweet-talk his way out? The man’s sincere confession made Matilda’s face blush in bashfulness. Shortly after that, William took a deep breath and suggested a plan, “Maybe I should pay a visit to the Flintstone Residence someday.” While Matilda was caught in a trance upon hearing that, William asked, “What about tomorrow? Would it be okay for me to visit in the evening?”

Matilda was tongue-tied as her mind frantically searched for the right answer to reply. Gosh! I didn’t

expect him to tell me that he'll be coming. What am I supposed to say? What's the meaning of this?

Before Matilda could respond, William said, "I'll take that as a yes. See you tomorrow evening." After

finishing his sentence, he took a look at the time and concluded their conversation, "It's about time now. I need to get going for work. Bye!"

Meanwhile, Matilda only responded with an 'oh', despite a long contemplation. After William hung

up the call, she stood in place and raised her eyebrows in confusion.

What's William up to? He said

he is coming to the Flintstone Residence, but why?

In the meantime, William arrived at his office and saw John talking on the phone near the safe exit.

Surprised, he approached his son just as the latter sensed his presence.

Then, John turned around

and revealed a glacial look when he noticed it was William. In that instant, he said to the phone,

"Alright, I get it. Bye."

After putting his phone away, he gazed at William and asked, "Did you just arrive?"

William's gaze then fell upon his phone for a while as he asked,

"What's wrong? Why did you have to

talk over the phone in the corner so surreptitiously?"

John laughed it off and replied, "Oh, come on! You're just overreacting.

It was just Logan. He landed

in some trouble and was detained at the police station, but he doesn't wish anyone else to know too

much about it."

William nodded in agreement since it seemed to him that Logan was a regular visitor who went in

and out of the police station. Therefore, he didn't find anything surprising about that, but still, he

asked, “Was it because of his hangover from last night that he ended up creating a mess?”

John smiled and said, “Oh, of course not. He was all sober this morning. It’s just that he accidentally caused some damage to someone else’s property and failed to reach a consensus with the owner on the compensation, which was where the police were involved.” While John’s explanation sounded logical, it didn’t arouse William’s suspicion. Meanwhile, William didn’t read too much into it, so he only nodded. “I see. Alright. I’ll get to work first.”

John didn’t say a word in response. It was only after William left that he revealed a glacial look on his face. When it came to the afternoon, John drove away from his office to meet a partner for a discussion regarding some procurement details. Although the rendezvous wasn’t too far away from the Constance Group, John was caught in the middle of a heavy jam somewhere near the junction with a traffic light due to a terrible car accident. As a result, the traffic was paralyzed, and all the cars were stuck on the road.

The Returning Ex Chapter 872

John soon wound down the window and stuck his head out to investigate his surroundings. At the same time, several frustrated drivers directly got out of their cars and stepped forward to find out more about the crash. When they passed by John’s car, he could notice the helpless look on their faces and their irritated sighs. John was not a busybody himself, but it seemed that Sophia had rubbed off on him; after all, this

time they often hung around each other. Therefore, he opened the car door and stepped out of his car. After locating the crash, what came into John's sight was a victim in a school uniform lying down in a pool of blood. While the traffic was heavily congested, the ambulance needed some time before arriving.

Meanwhile, John remained still, noticing a car right beside the victim as a man, who seemed to be the driver, was standing next to the vehicle in bafflement. He was seen instinctively explaining to the bystanders that he was driving normally when the boy suddenly appeared in the middle of the road.

Then, he pointed at the surveillance camera and vouched for his innocence. "You could take a look at the surveillance footage, and you'll know that I didn't cause this."

Nevertheless, no one seemed to be interested in hearing his defense as they were all desperate for the victim to be taken to the hospital.

At that moment, John stared at the boy lying motionlessly on the ground, so he wasn't able to see how injured the victim was. A few moments later, the traffic began to clear shortly before the ambulance arrived on the scene. Then, the paramedic team quickly approached the victim to examine his injury.

As the victim was placed on the stretcher and carried away, John managed to catch a glimpse of the boy's face. Although there were initially bloodstains on it, they were all wiped off by the paramedic team members. In that instant, John frowned, finding that face familiar as if he had seen that boy somewhere else. As soon as they entered the ambulance, the paramedic team quickly set off for the

hospital, escorted by the traffic police ahead of them.

Like many other bystanders, John headed back to his car and drove off. The moment he opened the car door and got in, the face that he had just seen earlier rang a bell.

Wait a minute! That boy is Isabelle's brother, Dexter! I first saw him back when Isabelle and I were getting engaged. At that time, he looked very much younger.

At that moment, John paused for a short while before he closed the car door, driving off as soon as the traffic ahead cleared. When he drove past the crash scene, John took a quick glimpse at the traffic police officers taking a statement from the driver before he moved on.

Soon, John arrived at the rendezvous and began the discussion with his client. However, it didn't take long for both parties to come to an agreement, thanks to the client's easy-going attitude. Then, John gave an excuse that he had to leave for something urgent and moved along. Upon hesitating briefly outside the café, he decided to call Isabelle and told her what he saw. Meanwhile, Isabelle, who had no idea what she was going to hear next, felt surprised to receive John's call. "John, what's up? Is there anything you want to tell me?"

John clicked his tongue and answered her question, "I saw a car crash at the junction just now, so you might want to give Dexter a call and see where he is now." As soon as John said that, Isabelle quickly caught on to what he was trying to say, so she instinctively argued back in denial. "Nah, that's definitely not Dexter. He is in school right now."

At the same time, John wasn't quite sure about what he saw since he hadn't seen Dexter in a while.

Well, I only just caught a glimpse of the boy's face. Maybe that wasn't Dexter but his doppelganger.

Then, he responded with an affirmative hum and said, "Okay, good then." Without anything much to say, John proceeded to hang up the call.

The Returning Ex Chapter 873

On the other hand, Isabelle was beginning to feel worried deep down as she recalled that John had seen and known Dexter. He must have seen someone who looks exactly like Dexter, or he wouldn't have called. At the thought of that, Isabelle quickly called Dexter's school to confirm her suspicion.

Nevertheless, her brother's teacher appeared to be unaware of the matter. "Dexter said he wasn't feeling well, so he was permitted to leave the class and rest in the infirmary, but we don't know where he really went after that."

The teacher's reply unnerved Isabelle even more, so she quickly asked the schoolteacher to help find Dexter. After that, she made another call to Dexter, but to no avail, as no one picked up the phone. Soon, she anxiously stood up and left her office in a hurry, running into Old Mr. Bailey in the corridor.

At that time, Old Mr. Bailey happened to be discussing some important matter with his assistant in a solemn manner. When he saw Isabelle in a panic, he knitted his brows and asked, "What's wrong?

Why do you look so panicky?"

Isabelle had no idea why her fingers wouldn't stop shivering. She then gazed at Old Mr. Bailey and told him her concern. "I can't reach Dexter. I'm worried about him."

Nonetheless, Old Mr. Bailey appeared unconcerned about that as he waved his hand. “That little brat is probably hiding somewhere because he is upset or something. He’ll be fine after a while.” After that, he summoned his assistant to his office and walked away, but not before telling Isabelle something. “That spoiled kid needs to learn how to appreciate his good life and stop creating trouble!”

While Old Mr. Bailey dismissed Isabelle’s suspicion, she still couldn’t put her mind to ease. After brief contemplation, she decided to leave the office and make her way to Dexter’s school. On her way there, she received a call from the teacher, who told her that Dexter had just gone missing and that the school had dispatched the other teachers to search for him. Overwhelmed by her panic, Isabelle picked up her pace and arrived at the school gate to see Dexter’s teacher waiting for her. Then, she was told that the security footage showed Dexter leaving school by himself.

Although there were blind spots around the school that the surveillance cameras failed to capture, Dexter’s silhouette could still be seen in the footage. Thus, it was confirmed that the boy left the school by climbing over the wall. Soon, Isabelle was reminded of what John told her over the phone. So, she quickly left the school and drove to the hospital. While the hospital was crowded with people, she left her car in front of the entrance and rushed to the emergency department. At the same time, the emergency room was in chaos as every medical staff member was busy with their job.

Then, Isabelle quickly seized the hand of one of the nurses and asked whether there was a boy who had been admitted to the hospital due to a car accident. The nurse looked at Isabelle and calmly replied, "You must be his family member. Great, we've been trying to contact his next of kin, but to no avail. Here, this way." The nurse stuck out her finger and pointed somewhere, whereupon Isabelle immediately ran in that direction. While there were many doctors and patients in the emergency department, Isabelle went straight to the corner with the most medical personnel. After that, she could vaguely hear from one of the doctors that the patient needed some epinephrine along with some other medical terms she couldn't understand. Thus, she only shoved them aside and set her eyes on the patient in the bed shortly before she froze in shock. Oh my gosh! It's Dexter! In that instant, Isabelle was shaking from head to toe as she couldn't even properly speak. "W-What's going on? S-Shouldn't he be in school?" Then, she snapped out of her trance and seized the doctor's hand. "Please save him, doctor! Please! We can pay you no matter how much you need. Please just save him!" Nevertheless, the doctors only took her aside and continued to rescue the dying victim.

The Returning Ex Chapter 874

Isabelle staggered backward as she held onto the cart next to her. Then, she reached for her phone with her shaking hands and gave Old Mr. Bailey a call, which the man took a while to pick up. Upon

answering the phone, the first thing that Old Mr. Bailey asked was where she was. “Where the heck are you now? I’ve been looking for you. There is a document we need to talk about.”

Before Isabelle could respond, her tears started rolling down her cheeks, but Old Mr. Bailey kept urging her to return. A few moments later, Isabelle faked a cough and said, “Dad, I found Dexter.”

Old Mr. Bailey paused for a long while and responded in a deep voice, sounding very unhappy. “And? What’s wrong with him this time?”

Isabelle fought back her tears. “Dexter was caught in a traffic accident. Please get here as soon as possible.”

After a moment of silence, Old Mr. Bailey directly hung up the call. Meanwhile, Isabelle was seen wiping her tears, not knowing when they rolled down from her eyes. Soon, one of the doctors suddenly said, “Oh gosh! This is not good!”

Startled by those words, Isabelle immediately got closer and asked, “What’s wrong?! What’s going on?!” Nevertheless, the doctors were too busy to answer her as the nurses took Isabelle further away to keep her from interfering with the doctors. Feeling her limbs going weak, Isabelle staggered backward and leaned against the wall. Soon, the emergency department was filled with noise, with more patients arriving. In that instant, Isabelle felt dizzy, recalling bits and pieces of memory about Dexter. Dexter was the closest person to me and the only person who treated me with sincere kindness in the family. At the same time,

Isabelle was also aware of what her grandfather and father were up to, disappointed about the fact that the two elderly valued their own interests more than the family. Grandpa and Dad have always hoped for me to find someone reliable to help Dexter in the future, but they're only doing it for the sake of the family's reputation. But Dexter was a young little boy with a pure heart, and I could feel that he genuinely wanted what was best for me. In fact, Isabelle had secretly heard Dexter arguing with Old Mr. Bailey as he wanted their father to stop taking advantage of his sister. Then, the boy went on to tell the man that he wanted to be in control of his own life and that he didn't need someone else to help him pave the way. The reason he said that was because he wanted Isabelle to live a happy life since he knew his sister wasn't happy at all. As her mind was filled with all those memories, she covered her face and broke down in tears.

Soon, Old Mr. Bailey arrived and nervously made his way to the emergency department. While the rescue was still ongoing, Isabelle overheard the doctors discussing some kind of drug that they believed Dexter had drunk before the accident. Meanwhile, Old Mr. Bailey lost control of his temper and made a fuss there and then, demanding the doctors to save his son in a menacing way. Isabelle seized Old Mr. Bailey's hand and said, "Dad, let's get out of here and stay out of the doctors' way."

Old Mr. Bailey's eyes turned red as he suddenly gave a slap to Isabelle's face. "What's wrong with

you? Is this really what you want for your little brother?" Meanwhile, Isabelle was confused with Old Mr. Bailey's reaction, covering her face with her palm while gazing at the man.

With a menacing look on his face, Old Mr. Bailey said, "I know what you're thinking, but let me be honest with you. You're not getting a single penny of my fortune even if anything happens to your brother. I'd rather give it all to the Second Bailey Family instead of an animal like you. Your brother is dying, so how dare you gloat over his misery?!"

Isabelle frowned and said, "No. Since when did I ever gloat?" Nevertheless, Old Mr. Bailey was too stubborn to bother about her reasoning. Then, he turned his attention to the doctors and threatened them in a loud voice, "You guys had better do everything you can to save my son! Otherwise, I'm going to make sure each of you here regrets it for the rest of your life!"

The Returning Ex Chapter 875

At the sight of Old Mr. Bailey's threat, one of the nurses called for security, while Isabelle wiped her tears and stepped outside. Then, she was greeted by rows of seats that were full of people sitting on them. At the same time, she also noticed their worried faces, even though they tried hard to cling to their rational mind and waited for the doctor.

It was only Old Mr. Bailey who kept making a scene and got in the way of the doctors. Nonetheless, Isabelle couldn't care less about that. She walked to a corner and hugged herself while leaning against the wall. At that moment, she could hear buzzing in her head, feeling her temple twitching wildly.

Not long after that, the security guards arrived and subdued Old Mr. Bailey, manhandling him as they passed by Isabelle, but she didn't even bother to look at her father. At the same time, there were rescued patients who were escorted out of the emergency department. Some of them were transferred to the Intensive Care Unit, while the others were taken to the general ward.

All of them made it. At the sight of that, Isabelle pursed her lips and clung to a glimmer of hope deep down. After a while, the doctors came out, and one of them, who was involved in rescuing Dexter, turned out to be someone Isabelle knew. Therefore, she quickly approached the doctor, who stared at her and apologized with a faint voice. Upon hearing that, Isabelle blinked in response. "Oh, is he going to the ICU? No worries, I'll make the payment right away." The doctor let out a sigh and said, "I'm sorry. We couldn't save him. Nonetheless, he didn't die from the injury he sustained from the traffic accident. Instead, it was something he consumed earlier that killed him—we believe it was pesticide. Anyway, we'll need to wait for the test result for further confirmation about that."

Isabelle was taken aback by the doctor's answer. "Pesticide?!" The doctor then asked her a question, "Did the victim suffer from any kind of mental illness, such as depression?" Upon pausing for a moment, the doctor added, "He came around halfway through our rescue and told us that he didn't want to live anymore." Isabelle paused in a trance. "D-Depression...?" She shook her head in denial. "N-No. This can't be. He was healthy. Why would he not want to live? Why would he want to die?" As soon as she finished

her words, she broke down in tears.

It was at that moment that Isabelle began to recall the signs, which might have indicated that Dexter was calling for help. Unfortunately, no one knew he was broken on the inside. No wonder Dexter was always complaining about how tired and unhappy he was because no one really cared about him. His life was all about cram school because of the expectation he needed to live up to in order to stand out. He said he wanted to rest, but everyone dismissed that as a complaint and paid no attention to it. Overwhelmed by her guilt, Isabelle burst into tears. Meanwhile, the doctor told Isabelle that Dexter's body would be taken to the morgue and promised to keep her posted on the autopsy result as soon as the testing was done. After that, the doctor excused himself as he still had a lot of work to attend to.

Upon hearing the doctor's words, Isabelle leaned against the wall and slowly crouched on the floor.

In the meantime, Old Mr. Bailey, who was forced out of the hospital, stood outside in the chilly breeze as he came to his senses a bit. He then shoved off the guards and said, "Take your hands off me! I'll just wait here."

While the place was crowded with people, the security guards gave in and let go of the man in order to avoid further conflict. However, they continued to stand there and watched Old Mr. Bailey because they were afraid that the man would lose his temper and make a scene again. Shortly after that, Isabelle came out with a gloomy look on her face. In that instant, Old Mr. Bailey quickly walked up to her and asked, "How is your brother?"

With half her face swollen, Isabelle could feel slight numbness in her gum. She then stared at Old Mr. Bailey and proceeded to tell him the bad news. "The doctor said Dexter might have committed suicide by drinking pesticide before the accident." "Nonsense!" Old Mr. Bailey snarled in rage, "Why would he commit suicide? He is going to own the whole company sooner or later. So, why would he ever want to die?" After saying that, his eyes that were staring at Isabelle changed.

The Returning Ex Chapter 876

Isabelle knew what her dad was implying. Two days ago, they got into an argument because of Dexter. It was not a grave problem; she merely thought that the Bailey Family had been putting too much pressure on her brother. During the exchange, she only advised Old Mr. Bailey to give Dexter some freedom.

Old Mr. Bailey probably took it the wrong way, thinking that she didn't want to see Dexter succeed and was unwilling to hand over the company leadership. Nobody wanted the incident to happen. Am I at fault now? She stared at him incredulously. "Am I such a vile person in your eyes?"

His eyes were red, and one could tell that he would collapse at any moment. When Isabelle closed her eyes, she felt the world spinning around her as well. When John reached home that evening, he told Sophia about Dexter's car accident. She was shocked by the sudden news. Even though she did not know Dexter personally, she heard of the guy a few times from her conversation with Isabelle. In the past, when Isabelle walked past the entrance of Sophia's place, she always told Sophia that

she was sending Dexter to cram school, which proved that they had a good relationship. Sophia quickly asked, "How's he doing? Is he safe?"

John personally felt that Dexter would be alright. Even though Dexter's injuries appeared serious and he lost a lot of blood, his car was likely moving at a slow speed at the intersection. Therefore,

John replied with his assumption, "He should be fine."

At dinner, William returned to the Constance Residence. John recalled that Old Mr. Bailey had a

dinner appointment with William tonight. However, now that Dexter was involved in an accident, it made sense that the dinner had to be canceled.

William heard about Dexter's situation as well. He said that he wanted to wait until Dexter was

discharged, and he would arrange for Dylan to make a visit with some gifts. Even though the two

families did not have an amicable relationship in private, the Constances had to fake the appearance due to their business relationship.

After everything had been arranged, John woke up the next morning only to be hit by unexpected news. He received a call, informing him that the hospital had failed to resuscitate Dexter, leaving him frozen in disbelief for some time before mumbling into his phone, "Alright. I got it."

When he hung up, he was still paralyzed and fazed.

He's gone. A young man's life is lost, just like that.

Feeling awful, John recalled his impression of Dexter. In his memory, Dexter was always cheerful; he was young and had his entire life ahead of him.

Since Sophia was still asleep, John did not wake her up. He tiptoed to wash up and pack in silence before going down the stairs, where he met William, who had been informed of the turn of events. Looking glum, he took a look at John. "I've had my breakfast, and I'll head to the Bailey Residence. As I will be late to the office, I want you to host the morning meeting on my behalf."

John agreed to it. "Alright. Will do."

William sighed. "He was a great kid. Who would have thought that..." Indeed, no one saw the tragedy coming. That morning, Old Mrs. Constance did not come down for breakfast. According to her, she didn't get a good night's rest last night, and she would only have breakfast later.

William and John gathered their stuff and parted ways. The former went to offer his condolences at the Bailey Residence, and the latter went to work. The morning meeting dragged on a little. When John was done with it, he noticed two missed calls from William. He hurried back into his office and called William, who was still at the Bailey Residence. He lowered his voice and asked, "What's wrong? I'm just done with the meeting."

William sighed. "If you are free, you should pay a visit. Isabelle is crushed, and she said she wanted to meet you."

John agreed to it, as he believed that at times like this, he had to overlook Isabelle's past actions. Not only that, he was the person who notified her of Dexter's accident yesterday.

The Returning Ex Chapter 877

He assumed that Isabelle wanted to get more details about the accident from him. Therefore, he

checked the time and replied that he'd head over at noon. Then, he inquired with William about the situation at the Bailey Residence and was greeted with a sigh. "It's chaotic here. Now, the elderly in the family are breaking down from the news. It's a huge blow to them, so of course they couldn't handle it."

Mrs. Bailey had fainted a couple of times from crying, and Old Mr. Bailey slumped down defeatedly.

Even though he refused to meet most people, he was open to meeting with William. From the morning, he pulled William to the side and started rambling about some recent happenings in Dexter's life. He was probably baffled by the tragedy, and he more or less blamed Isabelle for the young man's death.

Although John was unfamiliar with the dynamics of the Bailey Family, he thought of Dexter's death

as an accident, which was unfair to be pinned on Isabelle.

William did not elaborate more on the phone and told his son that more would be discussed when

they met up at noon. At first, William had a bad impression of the Baileys. However, Dexter's death

was very upsetting, and he promptly put aside all his grudges from before.

After John was done with his work, he made a call to Sophia. At that time, she was up, had breakfast,

and was taking a stroll in the garden. He reminded her to be careful on her walk because she was always rash, leaving him worried.

She agreed and sounded like she stretched her limbs. Next, she briefly asked about his work and

wondered why he'd think of calling her in the middle of the day.

He sighed and could not bring himself to tell her that he was lamenting over Dexter's passing, which evoked a yearning for the sound of her voice. Instead, he told her that he had been busy in the morning, and when he finally had some free time, boredom crept in, and he thought of calling her.

She nodded at the response. "Okay. I'm doing fine over here. You should get busy."

After hanging up, she took a seat at the bench in the garden, scrolling her phone mindlessly and checking some local news. She had not been checking the news for some time. Even as she dived back into it, it did not elicit any excitement for her anymore.

Within a few scrolls, she paused and frowned as she stared at one of the articles. Since the article mentioned the Baileys in its title, she became extra interested in it. She tapped on the article and read it carefully, almost scrutinizing every word in it. After reading, she placed her phone beside her on the bench as she fell into a daze.

Last night, John said that Dexter would be fine. In just a day's time, Dexter succumbed to his injuries.

The report made her feel awful, and she disliked negative news, especially at this moment in time.

He was so young and had a bright future with limitless possibilities ahead of him!

On the other side, Old Mrs. Constance waited for a while but did not see Sophia coming in. Hence,

she asked a servant to help her to the garden, where she could see Sophia from far. Sophia sat on the

bench with her head lifted toward the sky. For some reason, she looked melancholic. Seeing that,

Old Mrs. Constance hurried over. "Sophia turns out that you're sitting out here!"

Sophia straightened her back and looked at the old lady. "Oh, why are you out here?"

Old Mrs. Constance took a seat beside her. "What happened? I sense that you're unhappy."

Sophia laughed gently and explained, "I'm not unhappy. I saw a news article about the Baileys just now, and it made me a little sentimental."

Old Mrs. Constance was still in the dark about Dexter's death and simply assumed that Isabelle had caused some trouble again. She patted Sophia's hand and comforted her, "Don't upset yourself

because of Isabelle. You're fine with John, and that's all that matters."

Sophia stared at Old Mrs. Constance. Soon, she hugged the old lady's arm and leaned against her.

"Grandma, you have to stay safe and healthy."

The Returning Ex Chapter 878

Sophia was reminded of her grandpa, who had lain sick in the bed in his final moments, leaving the world in agony and worry. When he drew his last breath, he was still mumbling her name. It was a painful memory that she tried not to recall.

At noon, John made another call to her after he took a break from work. Thinking that she still didn't know about Dexter's death, he excused himself from lunch at home due to some 'work matters'.

Sophia said, "Alright. Have you heard about the incident that befell the Baileys?"

From her question, it was obvious that she knew about Dexter's tragedy. John became quiet, which

Sophia took as a silent agreement. She let out a low sigh. "How did they lose him? Didn't you say that the injuries weren't serious?"

John didn't know how it happened as well. He told her the truth—that he would leave the office soon to visit the Baileys. William had been there for the entire morning and didn't return, so he wanted to check out the situation. Sophia nodded on her end. "Sure, go ahead. Since you are business partners, it's only appropriate that you visit them." They kept the conversation brief. After the call, John skipped lunch and drove straight to the Bailey Residence. The entire family was in disarray and was surrounded by an awkward air, full of crying and wailing. All the relatives of the Baileys congregated in the living room, where they made a commotion. It was hard to tell if they were truly grieving.

At the time, William was in Old Mr. Bailey's room upstairs. John made a call to his dad in the living room, and William asked him to go up.

Now, everyone from the First Bailey Family fell ill from the shock.

Therefore, the Second Bailey

Family sent some representatives to help manage the relatives who flocked over upon hearing the news. Since the servants in the residence recognized John, they did not block him from heading upstairs.

The door to Old Mr. Bailey's room was open, and John headed straight into it. He saw the old gentleman seated on the bed and appeared aged. His hair seemed to have greyed over the night.

William was standing near the door, and when he saw John, he gestured for him to meet Isabelle.

John stared at Old Mr. Bailey for a while but did not know how to comfort him. In the end, he turned

and headed to Isabelle's room. Knowing which room was hers, he went up and knocked.

Isabelle was alone in the room but did not respond to the knocking. John could only call out to her, "Isabelle, it's me."

When she heard his voice, she quickly shuffled over to open the door for him. She was in a terrible condition, her eyes swollen and her hair unkempt, totally different from her usual image. She turned her body sideways, making way for him to enter the room, before closing and locking the door.

He turned around to face her and sighed. "My condolences." She went to sit on her bed and asked, "How was Dexter doing when you last saw him yesterday? Did you witness the entire accident?"

John told her no and suggested that she check the traffic camera with the traffic police. She shook her head. "Our family went over to check the footage. The police said that it was Dexter who ran the red light and crashed into the other car."

At this moment, Isabelle sobbed a little as she recalled the doctor's diagnosis. According to their doctor, Dexter was suffering from psychological issues. The root of this unfortunate accident was the Baileys' dismissal of Dexter's change.

She pressed on, "I just wanted to know how he was acting at that moment. Was he very determined to face death?" The thought of that made her cover her face, and tears rolled down her cheeks. "It's all my fault. It's my fault for not noticing the changes in him."

The Returning Ex Chapter 879

John had no idea about Dexter's personal struggles and was at a loss for words to comfort Isabelle.

She sobbed quietly for a while before wiping her tears away in a hurry. She asked him in a whisper, "Are you here alone?"

Not knowing what she meant by this, he explained, "My dad is in your dad's room." She nodded and lowered her voice further. "John, you need to be careful. Be careful, got it?"

He still didn't get what she meant by that, so he stared at her intently without a word. However, she didn't want to elaborate and merely added, "Tell Sophia to look out too."

Then, the two sat there in silence before someone came knocking at the door, informing them that Mrs. Bailey wanted to jump out of the window to take her life. The servants could not seem to stop her. She must have been triggered to an extreme, which caused her to act out violently; she had knocked down a few servants who were there to help. Isabelle was calm upon hearing that. She tidied her shirt and opened the door without a word to walk to a room on the other side of the corridor.

John stepped out after her and immediately heard some crying mixed in with the commotion on the other side, which reminded him of the scene at Old Mr. Constance's passing. The memories that flooded his mind also included a sudden recollection of Sophia's family issues. Farewells in life and death are definitely an inevitable challenge for every mortal. Consumed by the agony of losing her child, Mrs. Bailey screamed at the top of her lungs about wanting to meet Dexter. At that moment, her thoughts were nothing but muddled. But sadly, Old Mr.

Bailey had no time to care for her; he didn't even bother to walk out of his room to check on her.

John briefly went over to check on the situation before heading to Old Mr. Bailey's room. William was still there to comfort Old Mr. Bailey, who was silent but appeared to be an empty husk even if he did not break down like his wife.

Looking at the mess, John felt that he had nothing to contribute anymore. Since he had not had lunch, he excused himself to get some food and return to the company. William understood that things were crazy and noisy at the Bailey Residence, an environment that John disliked the most. He nodded at his son. "Sure, you can leave now. I probably will leave a little late."

John headed downstairs to leave, but he stopped at the entrance to take a last look. On the second floor, Mrs. Bailey was standing beside a window and crying her heart out. Sighing, he felt that despite his dislike of the Baileys, he could only feel pity for them. He drove back to the company, and right when he stepped out of the elevator, he immediately received a call from his subordinate. According to the report, there were some changes at the shadow bank today. Something must have happened because the members were meeting up at the shadow bank.

Husky was good at catching the right timing. When the others were busy greeting each other at the shadow bank, he took the opportunity to record a video with his phone from upstairs. The video was transferred to one of John's subordinates, who enhanced the quality of the video to display the

clear features of the attendees.

John never thought that Husky was dumb. The guy simply was not utilized fully. Look, Husky has now proven his smarts!

Feeling satisfied, John commented that the commotion at the shadow bank was the perfect opportunity to catch the masterminds.

After the call, he returned to his office. Due to a reduced appetite, he didn't order lunch and simply sat there.

Soon, Zack opened the door to John's office and was shocked to find his boss chilling in the chair.

"What's the matter? You look tired. I have a document pending review here, but it's not super urgent."

John grunted and asked, "Have you had lunch?"

Of course, Zack had his lunch. He stared at John in surprise. "Wait, you haven't eaten lunch?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 880

Despite having no appetite, John knew that he would go hungry later in the afternoon without lunch.

Even so, he was not in the mood to eat alone.

Zack laughed and suggested, "I'll order takeout, and we'll eat together."

John didn't reply as Zack walked toward the door. He opened it, but upon giving it some thought, he paused and turned around to add, "It's true, boss, that ever since you got back with Sophia, you've become warmer. I like you more than before."

John snickered to mock Zack's observation. With the exception of Sophia, he did not care about anyone taking a liking to him.

When Zack was gone, John leaned into his chair and picked up the document for a quick look.

However, his mind was only full of Isabelle's words from before.

At that time, her expression was sorrowful but solemn. It was likely not a coincidence that she warned him about his safety.

He thought of it as a concerned warning. Isabelle must have known something but was not in the position to speak out. Therefore, she could only send me a reminder. A piece of information that she knows but is reluctant to reveal must be related to the Baileys. He fished out a cigarette pack from his pocket, from which he took a cigarette and placed it between his lips. He did not light the cigarette and left it hanging there.

Lately, too many events happened at the same time, affecting his focus on work even though he was physically present at his office. He gave up and began to sort through the thoughts in his mind, one after another.

At home, Sophia took a short nap in her room and was woken up by a call from Logan. He sounded unhappy and asked for her whereabouts, to which she almost laughed out loud. "Aside from home, where do you think I could go?"

He grunted and asked if she wanted to go out. Before she could reply, he grumbled, "Ian said that his break is almost over, and he'll head back to training tomorrow. Look, he doesn't even have many days off, and we couldn't even meet up."

Learning about the news, she was shocked. "What happened? Why does he have to head back so soon?"

He snorted. "Yeah, it's too soon, isn't it? Give it a count—it's only been a few days! I even rang up my

sister about this, but she told me to quit asking questions. What do you think that means? Can't I even ask? What's wrong with asking?"

Not knowing how to respond, Sophia sighed. "There are probably some issues on the other side.

After all, the competition has reached the final round. Maybe they just wanted Ian to return earlier for more training."

Although the competition ranking was predetermined, the competitors had to put on a reasonably good performance to convince the audience. To that, Logan merely snorted in dissatisfaction.

Next, he asked if Sophia had the time to meet up because he wanted to host a dinner for Ian. From the beginning, the three of them got along well. During their previous meal together, there were too many guests present, and the three of them did not have much chance to chat. This time, Logan specifically arranged for the three of them to catch up over dinner. After some hesitation, Sophia accepted the invitation. During their last gathering, the atmosphere turned awkward due to John's actions. It made Sophia feel bad and especially sorry toward Ian, for it was obvious that he lost his appetite after seeing John's behavior. The dinner, which was intended to welcome Ian's return, had lost its original purpose.

Frankly, Sophia had thought of making it up to Ian by choosing a time to treat him to a meal. However, she had not anticipated Ian's swift return to his training. Therefore, she instantly told Logan that she had time to meet. Logan soon picked his clubhouse as the venue for the gathering. Before this, the trio used to hang out at the clubhouse most of the time. Perhaps, they all felt the most comfortable over there.

The Returning Ex Chapter 881

After a quick chat, Logan hung up, and Sophia went to change into another outfit before heading downstairs. Old Mrs. Constance was nowhere to be seen on the first floor, so Sophia assumed that she was resting in her room. Before she departed, she reminded the servants to inform Old Mrs. Constance about it when they saw her in the house. Whenever Sophia wanted to leave the house, there would be someone to chauffeur her around—John made all the thoughtful arrangements for her. She rode a car to Logan’s clubhouse and found out that Ian was not there yet.

Logan sat in the main hall of the clubhouse, and the gold chain on his neck had been taken off. Holding it in his hand, like chanting a Rosary prayer, he fumbled with the beads on the gold chain. Sophia burst into laughter at the comical sight and walked up to him. “Why, why have you finally decided to take off that heavy gold chain of yours!” He looked at her and slapped the gold chain onto the sofa beside him, accusing in an angry tone, “None of you understand this! This gold chain is a status symbol. You peasants!” Sophia didn’t know that a gaudy and ugly gold chain could be seen as a status symbol. She took a seat and picked up the gold chain to scrutinize it, which was when she got taken aback by the weight of the item. It appeared expensive and valuable. Anyway, the gold chain appeared cheap due to its sheer volume. When one put the chain on, it looked like a fake.

She touched the beads on the chain and admired the excellent craftsmanship. Due to frequent wear

by Logan, the surface of the beads was quite worn out. She asked him curiously, “Why did you take it off? I used to tell you to take it off, but you never wanted to.” Hearing that, he looked a little uncomfortable. Why did he take it off? It was all because Lola taunted the chain itself. Last time, she pointed a finger and reprimanded him with all sorts of harsh words. Finally, when she ran out of words to insult him, she turned her attention to the huge gold chain on his neck. She continued to offend him by saying that he was a tasteless nouveau riche, parading around with a dog collar on his neck. The dog collar insult triggered him to almost lose control of himself and retaliate.

To be honest, Lola’s opinion had been jokingly mentioned by Sophia and Ian before, but Logan didn’t take it too seriously when he was laughed at by his friends. However, when Lola was the one to insult him, he boiled with rage and refused to tolerate it. Every single word out of that stupid b*tch’s mouth makes me jump in anger! The mere thought of Lola’s face made him feel like rushing up and punching her.

Still simmering in resentment, Logan ignored Sophia’s question and sat there with a long face. She stared at him for a while and laughed out loud because she could almost guess the reason behind his puzzling anger.

It took some time for Ian to arrive at the clubhouse. He entered the place while making a call on the phone, looking busy indeed. When he saw Sophia waiting, he stopped and briefly wrapped up his conversation. She tried her best to relax her expression as she waved at him. “Hello!”

He flashed a smile at her and took a seat beside them. “What’s up, Logan? You look upset.”

Sophia answered on behalf of Logan, “Yeah, he has been acting this way for two days. Someone just met his match.”

Without interference from other guests, the three of them finally could enjoy a hangout in a comfortable atmosphere. Ian chuckled as he stated, “Is it even possible for Logan to meet his match?”

That’s surprising. During my absence, I have no idea how many things happened out here.”

Logan pursed his lips and was reluctant to bring up Lola, so he changed the topic. “Let’s go. Let’s head to the private room. I’ll have my staff prepare some food and drinks.”

No one was really hungry at the time of the meeting. In fact, it was more like a gathering around the dining table for the sake of chatting.

The Returning Ex Chapter 882

Logan was indeed a master at creating the perfect atmosphere—he ordered the staff to set up a grill.

Even if one was not hungry, he or she could take a few bites along with the others, and barbeque always went well with alcohol. The three of them went up and sat down around the table.

Ian poured some juice for Sophia and said, “When I first left for the training, everything was still fine. After my return, I found out that you’re going to be a mother. I’m not even sure if I should be happy for you or feel sad for myself.”

His words made her feel uncomfortable and awkward. Therefore, she lifted her glass of juice, looking straight at him. “I have always considered you as a good friend. You always show up when

I'm at my lowest point, and you lend an ear to the hidden feelings that I have never shared with anyone else. From that moment onward, Ian, you have become a special existence in my life. But..."

She looked down at the glass in her hand and gulped the juice in one go. Since she was prohibited from consuming alcohol, she substituted it with juice. "But my heart belongs to someone else."

Yes, it was true that her heart belonged to someone else. Although the man was a horrible jerk, she could not forget him.

The first awakening of love took time to die down, and one's first love was hard to forget.

Sitting beside them, Logan stared intently at the two for a long time in silence. After a pause, Sophia added, "Ian, you're a great man. You're awesome. It's me who is out of your league. I'm sure you'll meet a more suitable lady."

Ian smiled bitterly in a self-mocking fashion. "No matter how great I am, you still won't fall for me."

She was rendered speechless by his remark. At that moment, Logan let out a sigh. "When did this thing start between the two of you? Why did I have no idea about it?" Of course, a dimwit like you, who only knows how to indulge in life, will never develop a keen observation of anything.

Logan's interference cut short the topic of conversation. Ian looked at his friend and laughed. "At first, I thought you'd fall for Sophia."

Stunned by the remark, Logan hurriedly waved to dismiss the possibility. "Nah, don't ever say that. I

don't like women at all—they are too troublesome. Whenever I see those biological beings called 'women', I'd feel sick inside."

Sophia did not miss the opportunity to make fun of Logan. "Ian, look out for Logan!" Logan

immediately glared at her and announced, "I don't like men either! Sophia Gwendolyn, don't make that joke! I'm a straight male."

The expression on his face became complicated as he added, "But, it's true that the women around me are all abnormal. I'm too traumatized from dealing with them. I'd rather spend my life alone and bathe in endless wealth. Isn't that better?"

Sophia could not stand Logan's funny comments anymore and burst out laughing. I wonder what Lola did to Logan to traumatize him!

Their dinner kicked off perfectly, and everyone was enjoying the lovely atmosphere. While chatting and eating, Sophia suddenly recalled the tragedy of the Baileys and briefly updated the other two.

Nowadays, Logan was in no mood to keep up with the news. When Sophia told him about Dexter's death, he was completely baffled. "Dead? He's dead?"

Logan obviously had not snapped out of it yet. He met Dexter a few times—it was almost impossible not to know about the Young Master of the Bailey Family. In those rare meetings, he remembered

Dexter as an outgoing and cheerful guy, with eyes that curved into a crescent shape when he smiled.

Since Logan had a bad impression of Isabelle, in comparison, Dexter seemed more agreeable in his eyes. Never had he thought that a young man would pass away all of a sudden. Feeling wistful, he sighed. "That's a pity. I think that he's way better than his sister. I heard that Old Mr. Bailey placed

all his hopes on Dexter. Although he's young, he's learning a lot of things."

The Returning Ex Chapter 883

At an early age, Dexter was introduced to the real business world by his father, who clearly wanted him to inherit the company. Now that Dexter was gone, everyone wondered if Old Mr. Bailey could survive the blow.

At the mention of Old Mr. Bailey, Logan was reminded of Elder Mr. Bailey and grimaced. "That old man is quite ancient. After sending away his grandson, I'm afraid that he might not be able to stand the blow and pass on as well."

In Sophia's memory, Elder Mr. Bailey was not a mentally weak person. Even though he was at a ripe old age, he still looked tough and hardy. In his younger days, he must have been a decisive and determined person.

In his solemn eyes, one could detect a hint of unrelenting look, from which one could imagine that the family death was only a setback and not a fatal blow to him. On the other hand, Old Mr. Bailey's situation was concerning.

The topic of Dexter's passing was too heavy and dampened the mood, so they promptly dropped it at this point.

After downing two glasses of wine, Ian turned to look at Sophia. "Are you really not planning to remarry John?"

Having faced the same question multiple times, she felt helpless. Every time she told them that she had no such plans yet, they would be confused by the answer.

To be honest, she believed that it was fine not to remarry. Marriage was nothing but a piece of legally binding paper. Even with that paper, her previous marriage with John didn't work out. That was the reason she gave up hope on the ceremonial aspects of marriage.

After thinking for a while, she explained, "I'm not sure what will happen in the future. But for now, I do not have any plans for remarriage. I'd rather stay this way for the time being because I'm quite comfortable with our current way of interaction. If we get along well, we'll remain together; if not, we will part ways. That's simpler, right?" It's enough to navigate the siege of marriage once in life. I genuinely have no interest in getting myself back into it, only to escape again later. That'd be too tiring.

To that, Ian smiled and replied, "Your decision is, technically, not very surprising. It reflects your personality."

Sophia moved the conversation along and asked Ian why he was heading back sooner than expected.

After all, he had first told them that he wanted to take a few days' breaks to have a mental reset.

He leaned back into the chair and stared at the wineglass in front of him as he let out a long sigh.

"It's even harder for me to get out of my rut over here."

Frankly, he needed to figure things out on his own, and no one else could help him with that. When

he took a break from training, he found out that the environment out here was very distracting to

him, contrary to his expectation.

Filling his glass with liquor, he guzzled everything without hesitation.

"It's best for me to leave." He

added, "Before I came back for the break, I was scheming and plotting. I would be lying to say that I've never had a dark side. Everything on earth is nothing more than plotting to get what you want. So, I thought that as long as I could be merciless, I'd get everything I wanted."

At their previous dinner meetup, he noticed that John was really good to Sophia. In response, she glanced at him occasionally with an annoyed but affectionate look. Upon seeing that, Ian slowly let go of his dark thoughts. No matter how he schemed and plotted to break them up, he could still predict the final outcome. With Sophia's personality, she might have ended our friendship if I continued. I suppose I've always been a rational man who knows how to analyze the situation. It was true that he felt unfair and dissatisfied. However, if he allowed for those negative feelings to reign and mess things up to the point of no return, it would not be worth it.

Therefore, he seriously thought over his situation last night. After much deliberation, he made the decision to leave. At least, back at the training and the competition, the stress and pressure would shut out the noises in his head.

The Returning Ex Chapter 884

When Ian was back to training, he felt more relaxed. As for William, he returned to the office in the afternoon but arrived rather late. Instead of heading straight to his office, he went to John's.

John happened to finish reviewing and signing a document, after which he leaned into his chair and pinched between his brows in fatigue. William walked up and sighed before dragging a chair and

sinking into it across John. Seeing his father, John immediately asked, “Is everything settled at the Baileys?”

Faced with John’s sudden question, William pursed his lips. “There’s no way to settle things. It’s so messy over there.” Among the members of the First Bailey Family, everyone was in shambles except for Isabelle.

The Second Bailey Family had been long oppressed by the First Bailey Family, which placed them in an unfavorable position. When the tragedy happened, they could not help to run the family as relatives from close and far all flocked to the Bailey Residence to join in the chaos. Thus, things began spiraling downward at the Baileys.

According to William, the hospital would release Dexter’s post-mortem report with the toxin analysis by tomorrow. At that time, they would know the exact cause of death. When the paperwork was settled at the hospital, it would be in time for Dexter’s burial. Since Dexter was too young, the family could not arrange a grand funeral for him. The most they could do was to invite relatives over for a simple ceremony. Then, they’d pick a grave plot to bury him.

Earlier today, Old Mr. Bailey rambled to William about various bizarre topics, further proving that he was grieving over his son’s death. In the midst of the ramblings, he even mentioned John.

In his perfect plan, he envisioned John and Isabelle married, which would help the Bailey Family greatly. When the Baileys’ business was in Dexter’s hands, it would grow and expand—Dexter

would end up more successful than his father.

Knowing that Old Mr. Bailey was under distress, William didn't take his words seriously or retort.

There was no chance for John and Isabelle to date at all because Sophia was pregnant. Judging by

John's attitude, he was determined to stay with Sophia.

Despite that, Old Mr. Bailey seemed to have momentarily forgotten about the reality as he immersed in his fantasy, babbling about his perfect plan. Finally, it was Isabelle's entrance that stopped his fantasy.

Whenever William mentioned the Baileys, he would sigh in pity. "Who would have seen this coming?" The death of a young kid would be a devastating blow to any family.

John nodded in agreement. After some thinking, he inquired, "How about Elder Mr. Bailey? How is he holding up?"

William frowned and fell into deep thoughts before replying, "Elder Mr. Bailey has not shown up once. According to Isabelle, he seems to be resting in bed due to grief." Learning about the old man's condition, John grunted and turned the direction of the conversation.

"I heard that when Elder Mr. Bailey was younger, he was a very tough guy who commanded fear in the business world."

William gave a slight nod to acknowledge that and elaborated, "Elder Mr. Bailey was more persistent than your grandpa in his younger days. He was a merciless man indeed."

There was a reason that their relatives showed up to witness the tragedy without any hint of sorrow. In the past, Elder Mr. Bailey acted coldly and mercilessly, leaving no room for empathy and

negotiation, which gradually sowed the seeds of resentment among his relatives.

At the mention of Elder Mr. Bailey, William suddenly recalled something and added, "I remember that a long time ago, based on your grandpa's account, his nephew fell very ill and urgently needed a huge sum of money for treatment. That family was at the end of their wits and came to Elder Mr. Bailey for help."

The cost of treatment was astronomical to an average family. But to the Baileys, that amount was a drop in the ocean.

Out of desperation, the family offered Elder Mr. Bailey their house. They even went as far as to promise him free labor in his company to repay his kindness if their child received the treatment and survived.

The Returning Ex Chapter 885

William sighed and continued, "From what your grandpa told me, that family knelt down in front of the Bailey Residence but failed to gain the sympathy of Elder Mr. Bailey. He even ordered his butler to chase them out."

There were more anecdotes than this incident. After Elder Mr. Bailey became successful, his ego grew as well, and he was irritated by all his relatives. He was mean in his speech and picked on their sore spots.

It was Elder Mr. Bailey's right not to lend any money to his relatives. However, as a relative, even if he was unwilling to lend the total amount, it would not have hurt him to lend a small sum to reduce the family's burden.

After the lending incident, Elder Mr. Bailey's reputation among his relatives immediately tanked.

Even so, he did not care about others' opinions of him. After all, he was revered whenever he went, and he had privileged access to everything he did. Reputation was worth nothing to him, and so he couldn't care less about it.

Hearing that, John chuckled disapprovingly. "Wow, he must have been mentally tough." An average man could never be as merciless as Elder Mr. Bailey.

Feeling a little worn out from a whole day of chaos at the Bailey Residence, William felt as if his head was going to explode at any moment. After a short chat with John, he said that he needed to leave work early today and have a good rest at home. John smiled. "What's up with the Baileys? Why did they keep leaning on you when things went south?"

William smacked his lips in response. Old Mr. Bailey is not a well-connected man; his current connections were mostly thanks to Elder Mr. Bailey. On top of that, he's not adept at socializing.

After a tragic incident like this, he needs someone to talk to, but he could not find anyone around him to rely on. His entire day of rambling only proved that he doesn't have any close friends to confide in.

Seeing that his father did not reply, John urged him, "Alright, get home early to rest. You don't look too good either."

William grunted but paused when he was about to leave. Turning around to look at his son, he appeared to be puzzled. "By the way, when I was leaving the Bailey Residence, Isabelle came out to

send me and told me something odd.”

After learning about what happened, John was stunned. “What did she tell you?”

William thought about it and confessed, “She wanted me to tell you to bring Sophia on a honeymoon and leave the city for an extended time.”

Nodding slowly, John continued to stare at William. “I know what she meant.”

However, William did not bother to ask John about the details. At that moment, he did not want to

think anymore. Nodding at John, he turned around and left.

The moment the door was shut close, John crossed his arms and placed them on the desk, his gaze

darkened at the thought of the dangers lurking around.

On the other hand, William did not immediately leave for home. He made a call to Matilda, asking

where she was. She replied that she was at her own place, and he promptly left for it.

Before this, he had once stayed the night at her place. Therefore, he found his way over easily and

knocked on her door. His presence was a surprise to Matilda, but she still made way for him to enter

her place.

When he walked in, he re-examined each corner of her place. She was staying at a small apartment,

and the entire place was not very spacious. However, she had everything she needed there, and the

place appeared very homely.

He took a seat on her sofa and stared into her eyes. As a result, she perched at the door and

wondered why she felt uncomfortable in her own place.

At the Bailey Residence, the commotion finally died down in the evening. Isabelle had a raging

headache and had no choice but to order the family doctor to send some aspirin to her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 886

The family doctor remained at the residence to monitor everyone's condition. Elder Mr. Bailey was in a bad state, but Old Mr. Bailey was doing even worse. The doctor handed the aspirin to Isabelle and reminded her, "If you're not in extreme pain, you should stay away from it. Pills are not good for your liver and kidneys."

She flashed a wry smile at him. "I have no choice now. There are too many matters waiting for me to deal with."

Next, she took the aspirin, but before the effect kicked in, Mrs. Bailey found her way over, crying and claiming that she heard Dexter. She even invited Isabelle to go with her and look for Dexter.

It had been a full day of wailing and hallucinating for Mrs. Bailey. To be honest, Isabelle was quite surprised at her mom's great stamina, which was a rare sight. She reached out to hug Mrs. Bailey and comforted her in a low voice, "Mom, please stop acting this way. If Dexter sees you like this, he won't leave in peace."

Mrs. Bailey covered her face, her voice hoarse from the crying. "If he's worried about us, why did he choose to leave in the first place?" Isabelle did not know how to answer her mom. At this point, any word from her would only evoke more sadness.

Mrs. Bailey slumped onto the floor. "Everything in this house belongs to him. We've prepared everything for him. How could he leave us without warning?" Standing in front of Mrs. Bailey, Isabelle lowered her head and stared on as tears rolled down her

cheeks. Now, both her head and her eyes were in pain. She reached out to lift her mom up, but upon consideration, she retracted her arms. “Go ahead and let it all out. If crying makes you feel better, you should release all your emotions.”

Dexter had no channel to release his frustration, which led him to take his own life. Tired of comforting her family, Isabelle stopped doing so and went over to the window.

The relatives who came visiting today had gradually left the grounds. Compared to the others, Isabelle’s mind was very clear; she could tell that none of her relatives was sad at all. Not only that, some of them probably felt gleeful about the unfortunate situation.

Earlier, when Isabelle went downstairs, she overheard the conversations among her relatives. Some snorted and said that there was no point in accumulating wealth when the family lost their heir. If the family did not have inheritors and offsprings, wealth would essentially become useless papers and meaningless numbers.

They’re not wrong. What’s the point of earning money? If only they had not pressured Dexter, if only someone told him to live his life as he wished, he would have still been safe and sound.

The Baileys had accumulated enough wealth in Elder Mr. Bailey’s time; there was no need for Dexter to further expand the family business. Even if Dexter had no skills to offer, their family had enough money to guarantee him a life of luxuries.

Isabelle reminded herself to stop thinking about the what-ifs, for the more she ruminated, the more devastated she felt.

A while later, she heard some noise from the corridor. Elder Mr. Bailey came out of his room with the help of a servant. Upon thinking, she decided to head over and check on him. Although he was not in good shape, he was at least faring better than her dad. He could still walk around, but his son was lying in bed.

Elder Mr. Bailey walked down the corridor slowly. He looked like he had just cried, and the wrinkles on his weathered face deepened. Isabelle walked toward him in silence.

He glanced at her and waved a little, seemingly at a loss for words. Whenever Isabelle saw him, she would feel some complicated emotions in her. However, no matter how hard she tried, she could not identify the source of her feelings.

With the servant's help, he went downstairs and headed into the backyard. She remained standing in the corridor of the second floor with a blank expression. Soon, she spun around and ran into her grandpa's room at full speed.

The Returning Ex Chapter 887

The door to Elder Mr. Bailey's room was closed. Isabelle turned the handle a few times and found that it was unlocked. She pushed the door open and entered the room with the door wide open behind her.

Firstly, she went over to search the storage under the headboard, but her efforts yielded nothing.

His room was slightly larger than others, so she quickly scanned around and went through the items in his wardrobe.

His wardrobe was huge but did not hold a lot of clothes. There was a safe attached within the

wardrobe on the left.

She stared at it intensely, but without the password, she dared not attempt to break into the safe recklessly. After staring at it for some time, she had no choice but to close the wardrobe doors and leave the room.

At the same time, Elder Mr. Bailey took a seat at a bench in the backyard. At his old age, he could not withstand such a huge blow. However, he was much more rational than his son. He understood that even if he gave up his life, he would not change the reality of Dexter's death. The only thing he could do was to adapt to it. Nonetheless, the process was a difficult one.

He ordered the servant to leave him alone for him to enjoy some solitude. The servant did not stay too far away from him and chose a spot under a tree to wait. Soon, he took out his phone and made a call, which was picked up in no time. In a lowered voice, he questioned, "Have you found the person?" The other party sounded apologetic. "Not yet. But our men are still out there searching. Once we find our target, we'll inform you right away."

He grunted as the sadness disappeared from his eyes in a flicker. "Those men might not be successful in their search. You'd better make some early arrangements to move the inventory. I have a feeling that something bad is going to happen." There was a pause from the other side. "Is that so? We've been doing this for a long time, but nothing has ever happened."

Elder Mr. Bailey let out a sigh. "Move the inventory. Better to be safe than sorry."

The other party agreed and promised that the process would be error-free. The promise was unnecessary because they gained Elder Mr. Bailey's trust for not exposing anything over these years. The call was very brief, and only important points were brought up. Finally, the other party expressed their concern for Elder Mr. Bailey. He sighed and told them that he could survive this ordeal and that they shouldn't be worried. At last, he promised to bring Old Mr. Bailey over to familiarize with the operations when both of them were free. After the call, he stared at the sky and felt frustrated. Aside from Bailey Corporation, he was running other businesses concurrently. In his original plan, those businesses were to be handed to Dexter after he turned eighteen. That plan was down the drain now, for he could only wait until Dexter's funeral was done before he could bring this up with Old Mr. Bailey. Sitting there, he felt a mix of upset and resentment. After a while, Isabelle came out to the backyard, her eyes red from crying. She sat beside him to offer words of comfort, telling him not to be sad. "There's no point crying over spilled milk. What we need to do now is to take care of our health." He turned to look at her with a bit of helplessness. If only Isabelle had successfully won over John, everything would have been different. As if she didn't understand the look in Elder Mr. Bailey's eyes, she sighed as tears welled up in her eyes once more. She told him, "The hospital's report will be out tomorrow. I'll head over to collect it, but I'm so scared to know the actual cause of death. I think Dad and Mom can't handle it; they're already at their limits now."

The Returning Ex Chapter 888

Elder Mr. Bailey stared at the room in front of him and sighed. "Yes. After the huge shock, I think they need time to get over the grief. After all, at their age, the greatest fear is to see young ones die before them."

Isabelle nodded and lifted her hand to wipe away her tears that were about to roll down. "Nobody saw it coming, and we never thought that Dexter would do that. Honestly, I can't imagine how much pain he was in. If only we noticed the signs earlier."

Elder Mr. Bailey fell into silence for a while before commenting, "That kid was not resilient enough.

A family like ours has our fair share of riches and luxury, and because of that, we will also be placed under more stress than the others! None of us have it easy. In fact, when your dad was younger, he grew up under tons of pressure. I could even say that your dad led a more tiring life than Dexter. But look, he bit the bullet and sailed through the storms. Now, he has built a good life, and our company is well-managed under his leadership."

Hearing her grandfather's remark, Isabelle immediately slipped into silence. Elder Mr. Bailey stared at the main building with a hint of wistfulness. "If only Dexter had your personality. I know that you had it rough over these years. But you survived it, didn't you?" She turned around and shot him a glance. "But I..." However, she did not finish her sentence. But I am tired too. I feel suffocated every single day. Anyway, she understood that Old Mr. Bailey did not place all his expectations on her. Therefore, when the time was ripe, she would have the chance to taste freedom. It was hope that allowed her to endure everything.

As for Dexter, he had probably been thinking of his bleak future and decided that life was hopeless.

That was probably the reason he downed that bottle of pesticide before the car crash. Last night, she dispatched someone to run a search by the roadside. Indeed, they found a bottle of pesticide that looked new and was probably discarded not long ago.

Not wanting to continue the topic of conversation, Isabelle turned around and supported her grandfather. "Grandpa, let's go back. If I leave you all alone here, I will be worried."

Giving no reply, he merely stood up and followed her back to the main building. She assisted him to enter his bedroom, where he sat down on his bed with a gloomy face. Then, she scanned the room and asked, "Grandpa, do you have your medicine with you? It's best if you keep some medicine close to you. I'm really worried about you."

Elder Mr. Bailey waved his hand dismissively. "It's fine. I'm all good. Don't worry about me. Instead, visit your dad and check on his situation. Life has to go on; nothing good comes from grief."

She nodded. "Alright. I'll head over now. If anything happens, just call us over."

Since Elder Mr. Bailey didn't reply, she stood up and left his room.

When she closed the door behind

her, she leaned against the door frame, her sorrowful expression all gone. She did not head over to

Old Mr. Bailey's room but instead retreated to her own.

After work, John called Sophia and learned that she was not at home; she was at Logan's clubhouse.

He instantly checked who was with her, thinking that Matilda was there, but his guess was wrong.

Staying on the call, he proceeded to ask her what she was up to at the clubhouse.

With no intention to hide, Sophia informed him about Ian's training later. She and Logan wanted to catch up with Ian before he returned for training. John mumbled, "Didn't you guys just meet up recently?"

Sophia's tone immediately turned icy. "How dare you bring that up? Our meetup last time was full of your drama."

John inhaled through his mouth. "How could you put the blame on me? My dad and that fella named Richard both created trouble. Why do you only pin it on me?" Ah well, this man doesn't even spare his dad when he's in a crucial situation. Sophia felt a mix of admiration and disdain toward him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 889

Sophia smirked before mocking, "You're really something." Anyway, John reminded her to stay put, informing her that he would pick her up at the clubhouse soon and send her home.

She turned around to look at Logan and Ian, who had both blacked out from drinking. Thinking that there was no point staying here, she agreed to John's idea. While waiting for John, she called the clubhouse waiter over to take Ian and Logan back to the room. Next, she smoothed her shirt and went downstairs. Crossing her arms and leaning against the entrance of the clubhouse, she stared blankly at the stream of cars out there. Soon, John arrived before he got out of his car. When he noticed that she

was standing at the entrance, he jogged over and immediately asked, "Where's Ian?"

Annoyed, she stole a glance at him. "Why? Do you miss him?"

John snorted in a childish fashion. "I was just asking. I wanted to see if that man is still clingy to you all the time."

Not bothered to entertain him, she chided him, "Get lost! Do you think Ian is at your level?"

Since the other two men were unconscious from drinking, there was no need for Sophia to bid

goodbye, so she followed John to his car. The moment they were seated, John muttered, "Wait."

She froze in the middle of fastening her seatbelt and turned to stare at him. He was focused on the

rearview mirror, squinting his eyes and losing his relaxed expression from before. She was confused

by the change in him, hence, she inched closer to him. "What's the matter?"

He merely replied that it was nothing, but his eyes remained focused on something in the rearview

mirror. A while later, he took out his phone and made a call. From his conversation, she learned that

he noticed some abnormality in a car behind him. Because of this he requested for his bodyguards to

intercept the vehicle in the middle of his trip back home.

In fact, it was confirmed that John had arranged for some bodyguards to follow Sophia around, and

the men should be nearby. The other party seemed to have taken his order in the call because he

ended the call and started the car.

Sophia stared at the rearview mirror, curious to know which car was trailing behind them. However,

she could not tell at all. Perhaps the stalker is too skillful. Sophia initially thought that she was sharp and could notice any fishiness. Even after scanning the few cars behind them carefully, she still could not identify the problematic stalker. In the end, she gave up and leaned into her seat, staring at the flow of traffic in front of her.

John drove steadily without getting affected by the stalking car behind. Sophia didn't even know if his bodyguards managed to intercept the car that was following them. Throughout their entire journey home, there was no commotion at all.

After the car was parked at the underground garage, she emerged from the car and turned to look at John, who was leaving at the same time. "Did they manage to stop the car?"

He walked up and put an arm around her shoulder. "Probably. Let's forget about that for now and have dinner. When I'm free after dinner, I'll check the situation with them."

She noticed that John was reluctant to discuss the topic and therefore stopped pressing on. She could not get to the bottom of everything anyway, and it didn't matter if she was in the dark on this matter.

On the other side, Isabelle received from the hospital a post-mortem report with the analysis of the toxins in Dexter's stomach, after which she sat in her car for a long time. Although she had foreseen this outcome, the moment she faced the reality presented by the report, her heart still wrenched and ached.

She could not possibly drive in her bad condition, therefore she ended up hailing a cab back home.

The Bailey Residence was totally different from yesterday; the family was chaotic last night but eerily quiet today.

At home, Isabelle slowly walked up the stairs and looked around when she reached the top of the stairs. Everyone else was in their respective rooms. They were cooped up, and their meals were brought up by the servants. After some thinking, she finally headed to Elder Mr. Bailey's room.

The Returning Ex Chapter 890

Elder Mr. Bailey's room door was locked from the inside. Isabelle knocked a few times before she heard his low voice from within. "Who is it?" Sighing, she announced, "Grandpa, it's me."

It only took a while for him to unlock the door. He appeared to be in a better condition than last night and was probably the first member of the Bailey Family to accept the harsh reality.

Isabelle walked in and took out the post-mortem report, which she handed to him. He was initially confused as he received the report, but he soon understood what it was and let out a sigh. "That kid... Why did he take things too hard?"

Feeling regretful, Isabelle replied, "About Dexter... I think that we should probably hide this incident from the public."

At the moment of speaking, Dexter's cause of death was announced to the public as the fatal car crash. If they revealed that Dexter died of suicide, Isabelle feared that it would make the Bailey Family look bad.

Elder Mr. Bailey agreed with her suggestion and nodded. "Let's not tell anyone then. The truth will

only be shared among our family members. You've settled all the paperwork at the hospital, haven't you?"

Faced with his question, she nodded. "I've settled that. Dexter is now placed at the morgue; the hospital asked if we want a cremation there or do we prefer to bring his body back ourselves?"

Elder Mr. Bailey gave it some consideration and concluded, "Just get a cremation out there. Don't bring his body back. As a farewell, we'll visit him for the one last time on the day of cremation. If we set up his coffin at home for the funeral, I'm afraid that your parents wouldn't take it too well."

His explanation was quite reasonable, therefore she agreed to it. "Alright then, I will take care of this."

Just as she was about to turn and leave, a thought popped up, and she looked at Elder Mr. Bailey.

"Grandpa, if you have the time, do take a walk outside. Don't lock yourself up in the room. When I look at you now, I feel quite worried."

He forced an unconvincing smile at her. "Don't worry. I've lived a long life, and I've seen a lot. I can handle this."

Isabelle sighed and turned to leave for real.

Around noon, Elder Mr. Bailey was helped by the servant to go on a stroll. Isabelle waited until he was gone before she came out of her room. Next, she hurried into his room, where she opened his wardrobe and stared at the security safe.

Earlier, she had spread a substance on the keys of the safe. With a small torchlight, she carefully

pointed the source of light on the keyboard pad. Finally, she could make out a few keys, but she just needed to figure out the right combination.

She tiptoed over to the window to take a look at the garden behind the residence. She saw Elder Mr.

Bailey walking around the garden with the assistance of the servant. Feeling assured, she went back and started attempting to unlock the safe.

Her first two attempts were incorrect, which heightened her nervousness. She carefully entered a combination for the third time but still got it wrong. At that moment, the safe suddenly sounded a loud and jarring alarm.

Isabelle quickly took a shirt from the side and draped it over the safe before shutting the wardrobe door. The alarm sounded weaker after doing that, but it was still audible.

Feeling afraid and shocked, she ran over to the window and stared out. Oh, thank God Grandpa is quite some distance away. He probably did not hear a thing. The alarm went off for about a minute before ceasing.

Then, Isabelle went back to take off the shirt from the safe and tidied up the stuff in the wardrobe.

Then, she closed the wardrobe doors and slid out of his room. However, at the door, she saw a servant standing and staring back at her. "Miss, what happened?" She casually tidied her hair and replied, "It's not a big deal. It was just something in Grandpa's room.

I don't know why it suddenly made a noise, but I've turned it off now." The servant didn't think much of it and turned to leave. Isabelle could finally heave a sigh of relief.

It was clear that the safe could not be opened anytime soon. However, she felt that Grandpa probably would not even think of the safe for the time being.

The Returning Ex Chapter 891

Isabelle tidied her hair and slowly headed downstairs. Instead of walking out to meet Elder Mr.

Bailey, she decided to take a seat on the living room sofa.

Leaning onto the sofa, she looked a little dazed. Since when did she first notice something wrong with Elder Mr. Bailey?

Technically, she had first noticed the signs from Old Mr. Bailey. After that, through her observation and eavesdropping, she realized that her dad was only acting on the orders of her grandfather.

Distressed, she covered her face but could not think of anything else. Sometime later, Elder Mr.

Bailey returned from his walk. One could tell that after some walking, his spirits were lifted even though he was worn out by it.

Seeing that, she quickly invited him to take a seat for a chat. The main reason she did so was out of fear that he would go upstairs and accidentally find out about the security safe incident.

Without much thought, Elder Mr. Bailey took a seat following her suggestion. She took the chance to ask him about how to deal with Dexter's funeral proceedings. Although he passed away young, they still needed to observe some long-held customs for his passing.

The old man turned his head and stared out for a long time before saying, "Just place his urn at the funeral home. He's too young, so it's not the time to bury him yet."

Based on traditional customs, since Elder Mr. Bailey and Old Mr. Bailey were both alive, Dexter should not be buried before the elders. Isabelle had no clue about these customs, nor did she care.

They didn't treat Dexter well when he was still alive. What's the point of obsessing over the details after he's dead?

She simply grunted an agreement and suggested that her grandpa advise her dad whenever possible. According to her, her dad would not listen to anything coming from her. But he had always respected Elder Mr. Bailey, so he would likely accept any advice from him.

Elder Mr. Bailey took a glance at her and appeared both relieved and satisfied. "You're the most filial, and I've not misjudged your character. You're such a good kid."

She stared at him momentarily and slowly looked down. "It's my duty." After they stayed in the living room for a while, a servant came down from the second floor to report that Mrs. Bailey was going through another meltdown. Powerless, Isabelle stood up and followed the servant up the stairs.

At the top of the stairs, she stood still and slightly turned around to take a peek at Elder Mr. Bailey.

He placed both of his hands on his walking stick and was deep in thought. A while later, he took out his phone from the pocket. However, he didn't send any text or make any calls. It seemed that he was only checking something.

Seconds later, Isabelle turned around and proceeded to her mom's room. Mrs. Bailey was indeed traumatized so much that she started babbling nonsense, claiming that she could see Dexter searching for her and crying.

Right now, Mrs. Bailey was sleeping separately from her husband. Both were in bad condition and could not be placed in the same room out of fear of trouble.

Isabelle went up to give her mom a hug. In a low voice, she comforted her mom, “Think of Dad. If you keep acting like this, how is he supposed to live the rest of his life?”

Upon hearing that, Mrs. Bailey promptly burst into tears. “Why would I care about that? He forced my son to take his own life!”

She continued crying hysterically. “If he had not pressured Dexter, would Dexter be forced to commit suicide? My son would have still been alive. It’s all his fault! It’s their fault!”

Isabelle helped to comb her mom’s hair. “There’s no point crying about that now. From now on, you need to take good care of yourself. We can’t have another family member harmed. Do you know that I’m at the brink of breaking down?”

Mrs. Bailey looked up at Isabelle, tears strewn across her face. Finally, she reached out to hug Isabelle and started sobbing. Soon, Elder Mr. Bailey came up from the living room, passed by Mrs. Bailey’s room, and peeked in.

The Returning Ex Chapter 892

Isabelle patted her mother carefully as if she was consoling a child while the latter looked like she was in a daze as her sobs slowly died down.

However, Elder Mr. Bailey’s facial expression remained indifferent as he turned around and left after giving them a few glances.

After Elder Mr. Bailey’s figure disappeared from the doorway, Sophia slowly turned around before sneaking a glance.

She helped her mother to her bed and tucked her in before coaxing her gently so that she could rest well.

Then, Sophia left her mother's room before she tiptoed toward her father's room.

Old Mr. Bailey's room had always been left wide open as they were afraid that he might be too harsh on himself and do something stupid.

This time, however, Sophia noticed that the door to Old Mr. Bailey's room was closed slightly as Elder Mr. Bailey and Old Mr. Bailey sat inside.

It seemed like her grandfather had been trying to lecture her father for a while now as he continued giving advice, but her father refused to say anything.

Finally, Elder Mr. Bailey sighed and lamented, "If Sophia is still together with John, things wouldn't have turned out this way."

At that, Old Mr. Bailey looked like he finally came back to his senses.

Elder Mr. Bailey's voice sounded cold as he continued saying, "If John had married Belle, this obviously wouldn't have happened to our family."

Old Mr. Bailey probably never expected Elder Mr. Bailey to mention this as he pondered for a moment before agreeing.

However, Old Mr. Bailey's voice was hoarse and sounded as if he was really stricken.

Elder Mr. Bailey added on again, "Back when Belle was engaged with John, I could already see that you stopped being so strict toward Dexter. However, you have put a lot of pressure on Dexter after that because John married another woman. At that time, you couldn't tell if Belle's future husband would help Dexter or not, so I believe that was why you became strict on him."

Isabelle, who was standing by the door, frowned. The way Elder Mr. Bailey worded himself made it sound like everything that happened was John's fault. Or, one could say that it was John's fault for not marrying her. It's easy for a person's mind to start getting confused after a shock, so Isabelle felt like her grandfather's thought was starting to get extreme. Still, Old Mr. Bailey didn't say anything. Elder Mr. Bailey said again, "Dexter shouldn't have gone down like this. Now that our family lost another inheritor, it would surely affect the company." Old Mr. Bailey sighed with a hint of a sob. Then, Elder Mr. Bailey mumbled to himself, "If only John had stood firm in his stance. Then, he wouldn't have gotten seduced by another woman and would have been a part of our family." It seemed like Old Mr. Bailey was starting to conform to Elder Mr. Bailey's thoughts, taking his father's stance. To be honest, Elder Mr. Bailey had been thinking about the plans for the future that he had plotted together with Old Mr. Bailey yesterday. The plan was that after John married Isabelle, he would help Dexter out so that Dexter's career perspective would get better, and through that, the Bailey Family's company would be able to progress further. This was something that they had decided on earlier, and it was plotted when Isabelle got engaged to John. However, who would have expected Sophia to show up in the middle of all this? Isabelle couldn't stand it anymore. Those two in the room were obviously confused after getting

stricken, as nothing that they were talking about made sense. Without wanting to listen further,

Isabelle turned around and returned to her room.

On the other hand, Sophia and Logan were sending Ian off to his car. Although the reason why he was leaving this time was similar to why he left back then, it felt different this time.

After staring at Sophia for a while, Ian suddenly smiled. "I wonder if you would have already become a mother the next time we see each other again."

Right then, Sophia frowned slightly. However, she broke into a grin after that. "Nah. It shouldn't take so long."

The Returning Ex Chapter 893

Still, nothing was for sure. It could be possible that they wouldn't have any chance to meet each other again, as Ian's schedule would be packed if he got signed by an agency after a successful debut.

Logan, who was standing next to them, patted Ian's shoulder. "Work harder and come back as a champion to show those losers in your family what you're capable of achieving."

Ian smirked at that. "I'll try my best."

Finally, when he was about to enter the car, Logan asked, "Did your mother try to contact you? I mean, you're quite famous now, so she probably saw your competition."

Ian paused before turning around to Logan and nodded. "Yeah. She did contact me, but she didn't say much. She just told me to do well and don't be too harsh on myself so that I'll feel better no matter what result I might end up with."

Logan started lamenting, "To be honest, she still cares about you."

Ian hummed in agreement. "I'm planning to visit her after my competition."

By then, it was almost time for Ian to leave.

After taking a last glance at Sophia, he lowered his gaze to her stomach and said, "I'll be leaving now.

Remember to take care of your body."

Sophia didn't know why, but she suddenly felt reluctant.

She'd gone to send Ian off for his competition the last time as well.

However, she was filled with hope at that time.

Sophia and Logan stood in silence as they watched Ian's car drive away.

Then, Logan tutted. "To be honest, it would be nice if you end up together with Ian."

Sophia gave Logan a side-eye. "Shut up."

What did he take me for?

She can make her own choice, alright?

The two of them headed back to Logan's clubhouse. However, Logan received a phone call before they could even sit down.

Sophia couldn't clearly hear what the person on the other end of the call was talking about, but she knew that something bad had happened from Logan's facial expression.

Immediately, Logan stood up and started cursing before he told them to wait and that he would go over to kill those fools himself.

Seeing that he was leaving, Sophia gave him a look. "You should go do your things now. I'll be fine here."

Then, Logan nodded and rushed out without even having the chance to say anything.

Sophia was left alone at Logan's clubhouse. She'd initially thought that Logan would return soon, but he didn't.

So, she ended up contacting Matilda, asking her to come over to Logan's clubhouse to play poker together and got two other people to join them. Matilda was quick to agree, saying that she would be there as soon as possible.

Suddenly, Sophia gasped. "What happened to you? Why do you suddenly sound like a teenage girl in love?"

Matilda snapped, "Don't be silly! Don't you know how old I am?" Instead of answering, Sophia started giggling. "You're a middle-aged woman in love, then."

During the afternoon, John contacted his underling and told him that the car that was tailing him yesterday was found, but they had no choice but to allow the car owner to leave as he didn't have any concrete evidence.

Since John's underling had been working with him for a while now, he obviously knew what to do next.

That night, they followed the lead and continued investigating the car's driver and found something.

The driver had a criminal record where he was jailed for a period of time for engaging in fistcuffs a few years back.

There was also something suspicious about this case.

According to some, it was a fistcuff; however, others claimed that an illegal transaction happened and got raided, so these people said that it was a fistcuff so that things wouldn't get out of hand.

Rumors wouldn't just spread without any reason, and John was willing to believe that these rumors indicated that something wasn't right, so he got his underling to continue investigating what happened back then.

Right after he hung up, Dylan entered the place.

The Returning Ex Chapter 894

Dylan told John that the Baileys were planning to cremate Dexter at the hospital and asked if they wanted to send two people as representatives.

Recalling what Isabelle told him previously, John nodded. "I'll go with my father."

John's answer was what Dylan had in mind as well. Yesterday, William had been over at the Baileys for an entire day, so it was apparent that they were on good terms. Since this was about the Baileys, it was better if William showed up instead.

After that, Dylan changed the topic and started talking about the changes in positions in Bailey Corporation.

It seemed like Isabelle had officially left Bailey Corporation.

From what the assistant that Dylan always did his transaction with told him today, someone else would be handling the collaboration between the Constance Family and the Baileys.

Learning about the arrangements, John was surprised. "Since when did you find out about this?"

Dylan replied, "I received the news today, so the changes will probably happen between these two days. We had gotten in contact with the Baileys two days ago to discuss the stock inputs, but they didn't tell us at that time that they're changing the person in charge until today."

John nodded slowly. "Alright. I understand now."

The Baileys had been having serious family disputes since yesterday. By right, they wouldn't have had the mood to make these changes.

Then, John waited until Dylan left before he got up, went to the windowsill, and took a pack of cigarettes out from his pocket.

He had already gotten most of the things that he wanted to know after brutally beating up that person locked in the garage during these two days.

However, most of their information was in pieces and didn't connect with each other.

Still, John was sure that shadow bank was related to the Baileys, and it was probably their side hustle.

It was just that he couldn't understand why the Baileys would operate a shadow bank in the dark for no reason when their company was already so successful.

Isn't it a good thing to operate a legitimate business?

Although John could slightly understand why they would make their moves on Sophia, he couldn't understand this no matter how hard he tried to think about it.

The Baileys were probably displeased that he humiliated them for Sophia, so he indirectly caused the Baileys to direct their anger at Sophia.

Then, John continued pondering before he summoned Zack over and asked him to investigate the Baileys since it was easier to do so now that they were in a mess.

Therefore, Zack immediately agreed. He couldn't help but feel annoyed with the Baileys, possibly because of the dispute between

John, Isabelle, and Sophia, so he had been feeling like investigating whether anything was going on with the Baileys.

Zack got worked up all of a sudden and left after agreeing to John's request, leaving the latter confused as to why his assistant was so worked up.

After a while, he gave Sophia a call.

However, she was busy playing poker with the others.

This woman is really getting more and more comfortable with her life now.

John couldn't help but feel jealous of her.

Sophia didn't have much time to talk nonsense with John, so she told him that she was doing well

and asked him not to miss her too much.

Then, John asked, "Have Ian left?"

Sophia muttered, "Yeah, he left."

Suddenly, John grinned. "I initially thought that you'd be really sad about it, but it seems like I

thought too much about it."

Hearing his statement, Sophia snorted. "Why should I be sad about it?

He's going to snatch the

champion for the competition, and we should be happy for him."

Then, John nodded and changed the topic by asking her who she was playing poker with.

Obviously, John was trying to find a topic to talk to her, so she only paid lip service.

However, John was surprised. The fact that Logan wasn't there to play poker was shocking.

Sophia paused at the mention of Logan. "Logan probably had something to do as he rushed out after

receiving a call."

The Returning Ex Chapter 895

Hearing Sophia's reply, John chuckled. "What could he be in a hurry for?

He never really cared about

others all this while, though."

Sophia didn't know much about this, but she vaguely felt like it was probably related to Lola, as she

was the only person who could get on his nerves.

Logan had finally met his nemesis.

To be honest, Sophia really wanted to meet Lola, as she was probably not an ordinary person to be

able to force Logan to this extent.

Although Lola wasn't a police officer anymore, she was probably still a headstrong woman.

As Sophia was in an intense game of poker, she couldn't keep up talking to John, so she hung up after brushing him off.

Matilda grinned when she saw Sophia placing her phone down.

"You've really shown me a new side of my son. Honestly, he never acted like this in the past."

Sophia replied, "Master William looked like a quiet person in the past, so what happened that day during the meal really opened my eyes."

After that, the two of them gave each other a look and started laughing.

What happened during the meal that day was so creepy that it made them uncomfortable thinking about it.

After they started playing for a while, Logan came back buzzing with excitement.

When he saw them playing poker, he came over and immediately said, "Count me in as well! Come on!"

From his tone of voice, Sophia could figure out that Logan probably gained a little something during this time.

Just now, he'd left in a hurry. Now that he was back, although he didn't intentionally try to express

anything, she could faintly sense his happiness.

Sophia gave him a look from the corner of his eyes before teasing, "What happened? Was Miss Hunt really nice to you?"

Logan harrumphed at that. "Her being nice doesn't really differ from how she usually acts."

Then, his facial expression became awkward when he realized what he had just said and started

trying to cover up for himself. "I didn't look for her! Why would I do that? I won't waste my time on a woman like her."

Sophia and Matilda shook their heads at the same time and burst into fits of giggles.

Then, Sophia snickered. "I wonder what happened to Miss Hunt that actually made our Young

Master Logan run out in such a hurry without even wearing his gold chains."

Logan's face actually started turning red.

After stuttering for a while, he wasn't able to say anything that made sense, so he warned Sophia,

"Sophia, you better not tease me like this. Shouldn't you be on my side since I'm so nice to you?"

Faced with his argument, Sophia blinked before replying, "I won't tease you anymore. Come on,

Logan. Tell us what you managed to get from Miss Hunt."

Logan's expression immediately turned upset. "Sophia Gwendolyn, I can't believe I used to treat you so well!"

Sophia started laughing. "You should share if something good happened so that we can all be happy.

It's been a long time since I've seen you in a good mood anyway."

Glaring at Sophia, he uttered, "What are you even talking about? I've always been in a good mood."

Immediately, Sophia retorted, "I really should have taken a picture of your face previously so that you can see how depressed you look."

Matilda spoke up as well. "Indeed, you looked like you weren't in good condition previously. It was

as if there's a person that owes you a few million and refuses to pay you back."

This time, Logan looked surprised. "Really? Did I look like that? But, I never felt like that, though."

Then, he started chuckling.

The attendant that was next to Logan had already stood up to give him his seat.

The Returning Ex Chapter 896

Logan started shuffling the cards after sitting down.

After a round of poker, Sophia asked Logan again, "Why did you leave just now? Be honest with me.

Did something happen to Miss Hunt?"

Logan's facial expression started looking awkward as he could never lie to Sophia. A while later, he

finally answered, "I didn't really go out because of her. It's mainly because my men got into a fight

with someone else, so I wanted to help them out, but it coincidentally happened in her gym. I mean,

does it even count as doing it for her? I don't think it does. What do you think?"

However, Sophia didn't know what to say, so she chuckled indifferently. "Whatever you say."

It seemed like Logan felt like what he said wasn't convincing enough, so he tried to back himself up.

"You guys should know that I dislike that b*tch and would be over the moon if anything happens to her. Unless I'm insane, there's no way that I'll help her sort things out."

Sophia and Matilda didn't say anything and continued playing in silence.

In contrast, Logan

continued complaining while he played, "No man would probably fall in love with a woman that

tries to act like a man by acting strong. I mean, it's not like she can handle it when something like

this happens. Haha! Once you start being nice toward people like her, she'll start climbing all over you. If someone less of a gentleman met her, she would have been done for."

Sophia had always known that Logan was childish, but what happened today was really an eye-opener.

After Logan finished nagging, Matilda remarked a while later, "Since you hate Miss Hunt that much, just ignore her, then. Doesn't it solve everything if you just avoid her? Why would you want to stick around with people you don't like?"

Immediately, Logan didn't know how to answer her. Sophia gave the speechless Logan a look before she put a stop to their quarrel. "Alright, alright, let's just focus on the game and stop discussing about her."

The conversation finally ended there.

Maybe because Logan was in a good mood, he didn't complain much even when he lost and paid up straightforwardly during their next matches.

A few rounds later, Sophia finally got tired of the game and stopped. Logan, who used to complain that he still hadn't played enough, didn't say anything as well.

Suddenly, he thought of something and started smiling.

Seeing that he started smiling out of nowhere, Sophia looked speechless. "Come on, Logan. Just spit it out if you really want to say it. We won't tease you anymore, so stop holding it back."

Logan hesitated, for he really wanted to spill it out.

Then, he exhaled. "So, because that b*tch makes me feel unpleasant, I got my men to watch over her place and inform me once she shows up so that I could go pick on her. However, right when she

appeared today, someone else had already shown up to find some trouble with her.”

Since Logan’s men didn’t know what to do in that situation, they gave Logan a call, and he dashed out without any second thought.

When he got there, another group of men were in the gym and were threatening Lola to wreck the entire place.

These people were similar to Logan. They also held grudges against her because they were captured by her previously and wanted to get their revenge now that she wasn’t an officer anymore.

Obviously, Logan was pissed off when he saw what happened.

Although he agreed with what they said, how dare these people try to beat him to it?

Immediately, he forgot the grudges between him and Lola and pounced on the thugs.

Initially, Lola was planning to do what she did to Logan on these gangsters.

However, she was taken aback the moment Logan pounced forward.

The Returning Ex Chapter 897

Logan didn’t bother to acknowledge Lola.

Since he was notorious for his status as Young Master Logan, all of the thugs knew who he was and were shocked when they saw him before they started demanding what he was trying to do.

What am I trying to do? Logan didn’t know as well, for he just ran out without even thinking about anything.

However, since he had already arrived, he obviously couldn’t retreat now.

Hence, he strutted around and got his men to throw those troublemakers out of the gym while Lola

stared in shock at the side.

Still, she was once a police officer and was a reasonable person, so she thanked him after those gangsters left.

There wasn't any hint of unwillingness, and she actually looked genuine.

Right then, Logan didn't know why, but he felt his heart skipping a beat.

Before Lola thanked him, she had never been nice to him even once. Now that she looked and sounded way gentler, Logan couldn't help but feel awkward as he initially came to insult Lola.

He wanted to reprimand her by telling her that she deserved all these men causing her trouble and that it was time for her to introspect her attitude; however, everything he wanted to say was stuck the moment she thanked him.

So, Logan only went out to help Lola scare away those troublemakers and didn't attempt anything else.

He couldn't even understand his actions when he was on his way back. However, he felt a tiny bit of happiness.

The thought of himself helping that woman when she was in trouble made him feel proud.

Logan felt like he had finally reformed as he was constantly beaten up by Lola in the past.

At that moment, a prideful feeling bloomed across his heart.

Logan's lips couldn't help but turn up at the thought of this while Sophia glanced at him from the corner of her eyes.

Oh gosh! I'm tempted to take a mirror and show Logan his own facial expression right now. How is

his facial expression any different from the facial expression of a teenage girl in love?

At the thought of him possibly falling for the ex-officer, she sighed mentally.

She figured that Logan had gotten himself wrapped around the finger of a woman way more powerful than his four sisters.

Logan looked hyped up after he told them what happened, as he started pacing around. "Why don't

we get everyone to gather over for a nice dinner?"

Then, he proceeded to complain that their previous meal together was so tasteless that he felt

terrible. Sophia thought about how Logan did look like he wasn't in good condition during the last meal.

Moreover, Logan indeed didn't manage to be on his game due to those four men trying to fight each other indirectly.

Logan was a person who would consistently execute his plans, so he immediately got Sophia to contact John and got him to come over tonight.

It seemed like he had forgotten how awkward it was during their last meal, as he even asked Matilda

to contact William and Richard, claiming that it would be merrier.

However, Matilda immediately said, "Mr. Drake is probably busy, so I'll just ask William to come over."

It was obvious whose side Matilda was on.

Since Logan wasn't close to Richard anyway, he nodded. "Sure, anything works."

With that, he ran out of the private room and instructed the staff to start preparing dinner. It felt like

the old Logan was back again.

Sophia was leaning on the table as she couldn't help but feel like smiling.

It seems like Logan's mood is completely dictated by Lola recently. A while later, Sophia contacted John and told him to come over for dinner. However, he hesitated and explained that he might be busy tonight.

The Returning Ex Chapter 898

Sophia wasn't really adamant about it, so she said it was fine if he was busy and couldn't come, since it was just a gathering for dinner; it wasn't really important anyway. John grunted in agreement. "I'll see if I can finish up earlier so that I can head over right after that."

Although Sophia didn't ask him what he was going to do, she still reminded him to be careful. John grinned at that. "Don't be worried. No one would dare to touch me." Since he was confident about it, Sophia felt way more relieved. After she hung up, she glanced over at Matilda. It seemed like Matilda hadn't contacted William yet. In fact, she looked rather conflicted. Sophia questioned with a hint of a laugh, "Why hadn't you called him yet? Are you shy?"

Matilda pushed her hair back. "I just don't know what to say to him." If John could come, Matilda wouldn't have to call William as he might be able to bring William along with him.

Sophia started laughing. "Why don't you know what to say? Aren't you two quite close now? Just tell him to come over for dinner. I don't really see anything wrong with that."

To be honest, Matilda felt like she was overthinking about it as well. She wasn't like this in the past and she wouldn't have felt awkward to ask William to come over for dinner. After taking a deep breath, Matilda took her phone and stood up. "I'll go out to make the call."

Sophia didn't say anything but merely sighed after Matilda left the private room. Previously, she did tell Matilda to put on a bit of a show, but Matilda's acting was obviously a bit too much now. She still needed to take the initiative sometimes.

After Matilda left the private room, she stood next to the window sill in the hallway. To be honest, she didn't know why she felt bashful. The last time William went to her place, he had asked her something ambiguous. He asked Matilda whether the Constance Residence or her own place was nicer.

Matilda didn't know how to answer him back then, so she said that it was fine either way. To that, William smiled and told her that her place looked homely, and it made him feel like coming over to stay as well. Matilda could feel her heart thumping away the moment she heard him. She was afraid that she might be overthinking it, but she felt that she wasn't overthinking at the same time.

The conflicted feeling made her feel anxious at the thought of calling William. This was something that she had never felt before even when she was young. Back then, Matilda wasn't really satisfied at the fact that she had to be engaged with William. However, it wasn't because she didn't like his looks or that she wasn't satisfied with his family background. Instead, it was because Matilda knew that William was in love with Yolanda.

She didn't want to become another person's replacement, so she had never planned to accept the proposal in the first place. Nevertheless, everyone in the Flintstone Family kept telling her that

William was a great person, so she could only accept his proposal since she didn't have any back up plan as well.

Hence, Matilda and William embarked on their marriage life without any foundation in dating, and they only started getting to know each other after their marriage. Even till the very end, Matilda couldn't figure out whether she really loved William, or that she just treated him like her own family.

After hesitating for a while, Matilda finally decided to call William. The call was quickly connected and William's calm but gentle voice rang out. "What's up?" Matilda tried to make herself sound as natural as she could. "Do you want to come over for dinner tonight?"

William grinned at that. "Of course."

Matilda continued, "I'm at Logan's clubhouse. Sophia is here as well." However, William paused before his tone changed slightly. "I thought that it's just us two."

Immediately, Matilda felt her cheeks heating up.

The Returning Ex Chapter 899

She coughed. "We figured that it would be merrier if everyone were to eat dinner together."

William replied, "Oh, sure. I'll head over after work."

Matilda immediately hung up after that. Then, she started regretting what she did. What an embarrassment. Why did I blush? Why was I being so awkward and shy when I'm already at this age?

William chuckled lightly after he hung up. Even across the phone call, he could still sense Matilda's

awkwardness. In fact, he could even imagine her facial expression right then. That thought amused him greatly.

After placing his phone down, he continued reviewing his documents before getting his assistant to come over and instructed them on things to do so that he could leave.

By the time he finished arranging everything, it was already almost time for him to clock out.

After packing up his stuff, William went to John's office and wanted to ask him if he wanted to leave together.

However, John had already left.

William didn't think much about it as he figured that John was probably heading toward Logan's

place already, so he took the elevator and went downstairs.

After getting out of the elevator to the hall, William halted when he saw Yolanda sitting on the couch

in the hall. It was obvious that she was waiting for him.

However, Yolanda didn't notice William as she was busy looking at her phone, so William walked

over to her. "Why did you come over?"

Yolanda's head snapped up immediately before she smiled. "I was just passing by your company and

I came over to wait for you since I figured that it was almost time for you to clock out. Let's have dinner together."

Without hesitation, William rejected her. "I can't today since I've already promised Matilda to have dinner together."

Yolanda paused. Although she tried her best to suppress it, her facial expression still changed as she

noded. "So, you're meeting her?"

William grunted. "Yes. That's why I won't be able to have dinner with you today."

Then, Yolanda stood up. "That's fine. I'm alright with it anyway. You guys have fun, then. I'll head home now."

After that, William walked out of the hall together with Yolanda. He did not offer to send Yolanda home but simply drove away and left, while Yolanda stood by the side of the road and watched as William's car vanished into the distance.

William would never reject her so firmly in the past. He was always that good man that would do his best to help others out.

It was normal for him to reject dinner with her like this time, but driving away without giving her any second glances while she was still standing by the side of the road was something that would have never happened in the past.

It seemed like William was really adamant on cutting ties with Yolanda this time.

The dishes were already served when William reached Logan's clubhouse and Matilda was the person he saw the moment he entered the private room.

Matilda was calling someone while she stood next to the window sill in the room. Everyone else was quiet.

As Matilda was facing the window, she didn't know that William had reached.

When William stopped at the entrance of the doorway, he overheard Matilda speaking. "I'm slightly busy right now so I might not be free tonight."

There was a pause as the person on the other end of the call was probably speaking before Matilda replied, "I'm not really sure about that as well. Let's discuss this later on."

From the way that Matilda spoke, it seemed like she was holding back by being polite. In fact, she sounded hesitant.

Suddenly, William thought of Richard, so he headed over toward Matilda and spoke up without lowering his voice. "What's wrong? Who are you talking to? Let's go eat dinner now."

Immediately, Matilda froze and turned toward William while the man grinned with an innocent expression on his face.

However, Matilda wasn't angry. She was simply taken aback. After glancing at William, she said into her phone, "I'm going for dinner now. We will discuss this later." Then, the call ended.

The Returning Ex Chapter 900

William didn't ask Matilda for the name of the person in the call. Instead, he simply placed his arm gently around her shoulders and followed her to the dining table. Sophia stared at them and curled her lips into a smile. This was her first time seeing the public display of affection between a middle-aged couple, and it was surprisingly sweet! Feeling embarrassed, Matilda sat down and took a sip of water.

Logan was especially enthusiastic on this day as he greeted William. Also, he inquired about William's preferred dishes and told him to order anything from the menu by himself.

William did not have any particular dish he wanted in mind. However, he specifically reminded everyone, "I thought that today's dinner was only between me and her, and I happened to think of a good restaurant which serves tasty dishes. I wanted to bring her for a taste, but she ended up telling me that it is a dinner gathering."

It was a loaded remark, and Sophia could not help but burst out giggling at him. “Master William, do you mean to say that you’re feeling quite disappointed? You must be dying to spend some quality time alone with Madam Flintstone.”

in a great mood tonight, let’s have some fun together. Both of you have a lot of time to spend together in the future. There’s no rush!”

Her words made Matilda feel embarrassed. On the other hand, William only chuckled and agreed.

“You’re right.”

Matilda silently let out a sigh. At that moment, she could not identify the mix of emotions in her; it was a somewhat sweet feeling, mixed with some joy and a tinge of excitement.

While having dinner, William asked for the reason behind John’s absence, to which Sophia replied

that John seemed to be busy dealing with some matters.

Her answer stunned him because he could not recall delegating much work to John. Logically, there was no reason for John to work overtime, but he remained quiet on this.

The cheeky Sophia only took a few mouthfuls of food before bringing up a random topic. She told

everyone that she had had a meal with one of Matilda’s friends—Richard Drake, but she didn’t have

any chance to dine with any of William’s friends yet. Of course, she was secretly referring to Yolanda

Bloom.

Matilda looked up and stared at Sophia, for she had instantly understood what she meant.

Meanwhile, Sophia chuckled and acted naturally as she sighed and said, "Didn't Madam Bloom contact you lately? If she did, why don't you bring her over to have lunch or dinner? I haven't had a meal with her before, but I heard that she's nice."

Sensing the hidden meaning behind Sophia's words, William placed his fork down and replied after some serious thinking, "I don't meet with Yolanda a lot as well. If you want to acquaint yourselves with her, I can help connect you."

Sophia hurriedly waved her hands. "Gosh, if you don't meet with her often, there is no need for us to befriend her. We thought she's your friend, and that's why we wanted to get to know her."

That made William smile. "Well, we're not super close. It's just that she was met with some trouble before and I lent her a helping hand. Other than that, we don't interact much with each other."

He seemed to have explained a lot in a few sentences. Beside them, Matilda lowered her eyes and quietly ate the food. No one could tell if she registered what William had just said.

During the dinner, Logan started a long gossiping session. This time, his scope of gossip went

beyond the Morgans; he even brought up the name of Lola Hunt.

Before this, whenever he mentioned Lola, he would jump around and call her names. This time, he

didn't get agitated, and Sophia even noticed a hint of cockiness from him. He looks like he has

succeeded in carrying out some fishy business!

Logan explained, "No matter how strong a woman is, in the face of power, she is still weak.

Sometimes, the display of her strength is to mask her fragile inner selves. At the end of the day, she

wanted protection. She yearned for the arrival of a hero who could provide her with a sense of security.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 901

After Logan’s dramatic speech, Sophia felt goosebumps all over her, then she mocked him in a whisper, “What’s wrong with you? Why the sudden speech? Are you triggered by something?”

He tousled his hair and replied, “Nah, I was simply expressing my real thoughts in front of you all.

Look at that expression! You make me feel embarrassed of myself!”

Does he even know what it is to be embarrassed? She was taken aback when he shed his lackadaisical behavior from before. Now, he started to look like a real man.

Sophia then said, “Go on. I feel that you have a lot to tell us.”

Logan started chuckling. “I felt that I had a lot to tell you before this, but your interruption made me lose my train of thoughts. I’ve forgotten what I wanted to say now.”

Thus, Sophia lifted her glass and said apologetically, “Alright, alright. It’s all my fault, but your sudden dramatic speech really shocked me.”

Logan laughed jovially at her reply. On this day, he seemed to be in a great mood because the smile had never left his lips, as if he had never been down in the dumps days ago.

Without Richard’s presence and the secret competition between John and Ian, the dinner went on smoothly. Due to the age gap between William and the other two youngsters, he did not talk to them much. Most of the time, he turned to chat with Matilda.

To be honest, Sophia had some understanding about William's background. After all, she spent a year under the same roof with him. Before this, William was reticent. When he was with Matilda, she talked more than he did all the time. But now, sitting beside Matilda, he clearly had more to talk about compared to her; he was even telling her about some company matters.

Sophia had the feeling that she and Matilda were the same—they were clueless when their partners talked business. However, William didn't seem to care much about that.

Every married couple must have their own way of communication. Sophia thought that William and Matilda appeared to have figured it out.

At the end of the dinner, John finally showed up. The guests were full and chatting with each other in the private dining room.

Most of the time, William was talking to Matilda and Sophia with Logan. Even though the two pairs didn't exchange conversations with each other, the atmosphere was comfortable. The moment John pushed the door open, he noticed the people in the room, which surprised him. "Dad, you're here too?"

Sophia shot a glance at him. "What are you implying? Of course Master William will be here."

On the other hand, Matilda had lost her awkwardness from before and asked John what he had been up to, and why didn't he head over with Sophia. John grunted and took a seat beside Sophia. "There were some issues at the factory warehouse, so I went there to inspect. Didn't we just transfer a

number of employees to that warehouse recently? I had not visited for a long time, so I made a special trip there today.”

William knew about the transfer, and the fact that those employees were from Sophia’s hometown.

Thus, he nodded. “Are they adjusting well?”

John leaned back and replied, “Yeah, it seems so.”

Sophia, however, knew that John was lying; he was probably off to deal with a different issue. Since

he was lying, there must be a compelling reason for him to do so. After he took a seat and chatted

with the rest for a while, he looked at Logan. “What’s up with you today? You look pumped.”

Logan was a little surprised by John’s observation and stared back. “Do you all think that I’m extraordinarily happy today? But I am feeling normal just like any other day.”

“No, no, you’re different.” John went straight to the point. “Compared to your mood a few days ago, there is a huge change in your condition today!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 902

Sophia chuckled and stared at Logan. “See? I’m right.”

Then, Logan puckered his lips and gave up. “Alright. Maybe it’s true that I’m happier compared to a few days ago. You guys must be right.”

After that, he gave it some thought and realized that he seemed to be feeling much more relaxed and calm compared to a few days ago. John spun around and fired another question. “Is it because Miss Hunt has been nice to you?”

Upon hearing that, Sophia immediately exploded in laughter and looked at John. “Why did you suddenly pop such an important question out of nowhere?”

John nodded with a smile. “By the look of it, my guess is correct.”

Beside them, Logan looked a bit flustered and didn't answer John. Sophia curled her lips into a smile and changed the topic of conversation, asking John if he had dinner and if he wanted to order some food here.

John didn't have much of an appetite, and considering that everyone else was done with dinner, he replied, "That's fine. We'll see how it goes after we get home. I don't really have an appetite now."

Not long ago, he visited the warehouse and carried out some gruesome acts that led to his loss of appetite at the sight of food. Sophia didn't press on, and the group chatted for a while until it was time to part ways.

However, Logan was still in high spirits and even called for a round of poker. Sophia noticed that John looked tired, so she turned Logan down, promising him that she'd return when she was free. To that, Logan nodded understandingly, but he still didn't give up. "Okay then. I will find someone else to play with me." He was obviously still riding the high. The words from Lola Hunt's mouth are surprisingly influential.

With that, Sophia left with John, while William drove Matilda back. When they were saying goodbyes at the entrance, Sophia hinted at Matilda with a look in her eyes. She was sure that Matilda would get it.

Matilda stared back at Sophia and beamed; of course she knew. Then, the two women waited until William and John had wrapped up their short conversation, after

which Sophia followed John into his car and cautiously stretched. It was still early, but she was extremely sleepy.

On their way home, she drifted into sleep in the passenger seat. In the middle of their journey, John turned around and looked at her with resignation on his face as his eyes darkened.

When they arrived, Sophia was brought up to the room in John's arms. The moment she was put into bed, she rolled around and almost fell asleep again. However, her mind was still on another issue.

Thus, she checked with John by asking, "Has Master William arrived?" John smiled at her. "We've just arrived home ourselves. How is it possible for him to arrive at the same time if he is sending Matilda home? Stop thinking and go to sleep."

Sophia then mumbled something unintelligible and fell asleep. She had a good night's sleep and woke up early the next morning, mainly because John was up early too.

It was the day of Dexter's cremation. John and William would have to be present as the representatives from the Constance Family. Even so, Sophia was still fixated on the lingering question and wanted John to check if William was home for the night. Feeling resigned, John caressed her hair. "Okay, okay. Don't be anxious about it. I'll go take a look now."

Sophia's guess was proven right—William did not come home last night. Therefore, John made a call and informed his dad that Dexter's cremation was in the morning, which meant that they had to leave early for the event. William replied that he had packed everything and was ready to go. The two then agreed to meet at the hospital.

Sophia clearly overheard William's response through the phone and wanted so badly to ask if Matilda had woken up as well. However, her eagerness was stalled by the realization of the inappropriateness to joke around William, who was older than her. She could joke with Matilda without any worries, but she could not do the same with William.

The Returning Ex Chapter 903

When John hung up, Sophia quickly shuffled over to ask him, "Does this mean your dad and your mom are back together?"

John gave it some serious consideration and looked at her. "I feel like Dad keeps going down the road I once walked."

She did not immediately understand his meaning and stared at him blankly, to which he added, "I feel that Dad is going to move over to Mom's place in a few days' time."

Upon hearing that, Sophia chuckled joyfully. If that really happened, William would indeed be following John's footsteps. Anyway, that would also prove that the old man was truly in love.

John didn't have the time to have breakfast because Dexter's cremation was set at an early time.

After packing his stuff, he was ready to leave in his car. Old Mrs. Constance happened to be awake too and she walked out from her room just as he was about to leave the house, and the two ran into each other in the corridor.

She felt very upset and sorrowful about Dexter's passing. "Drive slowly and be careful. Nothing matters more than your own safety now," she advised.

He nodded. "Don't worry. I know." Old Mrs. Constance also noticed that he was alone, so she looked confused. "Where's your dad? Isn't he going with you?" John smiled and said, "Dad must have spent the night at Mom's place. We'll meet at the hospital."

She was taken aback for a second, obviously not prepared for that, but she soon nodded. "I see.

Alright. Drive slowly and stay safe."

After leaving the Constance Residence, John headed straight to the hospital, where William was waiting at the entrance. They met up and walked over to the crematorium at the back of the hospital.

Members of the Bailey Family trickled in as well. The relatives who were present earlier during Dexter's crash to gossip were all absent on this day. Those who showed up were from the main family and the branch family, so it was not a huge crowd. Mrs. Bailey was sobbing and gasping with Isabelle at her side to support her. Among Old Mr. Bailey's business partners, only the Constances were present. One could only wonder if the others were specifically told not to attend. Dexter's body was wheeled over from the morgue for a final farewell with his family. Mrs. Bailey didn't manage to go over and take a look before she collapsed onto the floor. Seeing that, Old Mr. Bailey simply waved and gestured at Isabelle to bring her mom to a side. Next, he went over alone to take a final look at Dexter. William and John stood at a side and felt heartbroken to witness the scene. Standing beside the

gurney, Old Mr. Bailey flipped open the white cloth draped over Dexter's body and stared at his son's lifeless face for a long time. Finally, he sighed and weakly lamented, "My child, why were you so foolish?"

The family was not given ample time for the farewell before the hospital authority was told to wheel the body to the crematorium. Two staff members came over and they wheeled the gurney to the destination, but not before informing the family that Dexter's ashes would be ready to be brought home in half an hour's time.

Despite everything that the mortals strived for in their lives, everyone would eventually end up as nothing but ashes in a tiny box. Old Mr. Bailey stared in the direction of the crematorium for a long time and suddenly started crying while covering his face with his hands. At the moment, he seemed to have reached a realization as he muttered, "Dexter, I'm sorry." However, the apology arrived too late. After the gurney was wheeled away, Mrs. Bailey fainted from her crying and those of the branch family helped to move her onto a chair.

Isabelle walked over slowly to the guys and stood beside John. "Thanks for coming." Not knowing what to say, he could only offer his condolences, which she accepted with a nod. Then, she asked him in a low voice, "Did anything happen to you and Sophia lately?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 904

He looked at her from the corner of his eyes and lowered his voice as he said, "Nothing at the moment. Did you find out about something?"

Isabelle could not come up with a reply because it was not true that she had found any clues.

Previously, she had only overheard some conversation between her grandpa and her dad, and she did not hold any substantive evidence aside from that. So, she only shook her head at John's question. He gave it some thought before asking, "Does your family have a side business?"

She blinked at him. "I don't know about that." What she said was true. However, in her vague recollection of the conversation between her grandpa and her dad, they seemed to be talking about another business other than their current company.

That day, Elder Mr. Bailey did not make things very clear and Isabelle could only retrieve fragments of things from the conversation, which was unhelpful to piece the puzzle. Therefore, she was put on the spot when John asked her about it.

He looked around them and lowered his voice further. "Since you gave me a reminder, I will return your favor by being upfront with you. Your family seems to be running a shadow bank that dishes out microloans. It feels suspicious."

She immediately furrowed her brows. "Suspicious?"

John could not tell her more than that. Due to his status as a business partner, he could only release limited information to alert Isabelle.

On the other side, Old Mr. Bailey was still crying uncontrollably with his face covered. Isabelle had no choice but to hurry over and comfort him.

There were a lot of deceased who underwent cremation at the same time. When the Baileys stood there and witnessed the other families crying their hearts out, they finally had a taste of the

mundaneness of death. Every day, there were many people who crossed the bridge to the afterlife, and with that, their families suffered with grief. Half an hour later, Dexter's ashes were sent out from the crematorium. What was left of him was nothing more than bone fragments. The Baileys had purchased an urn, which they placed his ashes in and wrapped it up nicely.

As Dexter's parents were heartbroken, they were in no condition to proceed to the funeral home. Therefore, the task of sending Dexter's ashes to the funeral home fell onto Isabelle's shoulders. John volunteered to drive her there. "I'll drive you there. You don't look like you can drive." She nodded gratefully at his offer. "Thank you." The group left the hospital and Isabelle went into John's car. They soon drove out of the area. During the trip, Isabelle continued asking John about the topic. "You mentioned that our family has been running a shadow bank. Where is it located?" Instead of answering her, he asked another question. "Do you really not know about what your dad or your grandpa did in secret?" She gave it some careful consideration and answered, "I have a gut feeling, but I have no way to prove my guess." It was surprising enough that Isabelle willingly shared her inner thoughts with John, so he said, "Okay. I trust that you really don't have an idea." She hugged Dexter's urn and gently said, "Ever since Dexter left us, I have been carefully examining our family. I feel that our way of life, or perhaps the dynamics of our communication, is extremely toxic."

Then, she sighed and lowered her voice. "Sometimes, I really feel that it's not easy for me to survive until today. Perhaps I should feel thankful that I was born a girl. If I were a boy, I probably would have ended up with a fate like Dexter's."

It was true that Old Mr. Bailey had been putting restrictions on Dexter and forcing things on him.

Since young, Dexter did not have much personal time for himself. His hobbies and everything he did in his life were laid out based on his dad's plan.

In the past, Elder Mr. Bailey also actively participated in interfering with Dexter's life. Step by step, the two men of the Bailey Family tried to mould Dexter based on their preferences. The thought made Isabelle tear up once more. "My poor Dexter. If only I had noticed the signs earlier, he would not have ended up dead."

The Returning Ex Chapter 905

John turned around and took a look at Isabelle. "You cannot be blamed for this. No one saw the tragedy coming. Plus, I believe that you have your own struggles too." The mention of her struggles made her choke up, and the grievances that had been hidden within her emerged. A long pause later, she let out a sigh and fell into silence.

John drove them to the funeral home, but he did not follow Isabelle in. Instead, he waited for her in the car, watching as she dragged herself into the funeral home with Dexter's urn. He leaned back into his seat and took out his pack of cigarettes to light one for himself. There were lots of people stepping in and out of the funeral home. They performed rites, cried and even hired pastors to bless the dead through elaborate services. John retracted his gaze, feeling a little uncomfortable because the scene reminded him of Old Mr.

Constance's funeral. At the time of his grandpa's passing, the Constances also invited a pastor to perform the services at home and made a huge deal out of it.

To him, the need to obsess over funeral details was questionable. The funeral rites were said to be for the deceased, but it was nothing more than a show for the living. He didn't wait too long before Isabelle emerged after she had settled the paperwork. Obviously, she had cried during the process and was in a low mood. Thus, he handed her a napkin and she thanked him for it.

Then, the two left in John's car. He drove at a leisurely pace and the car crawled on the road. After a while, he casually threw out a question. "Are you going back to the Bailey Residence or the company?"

The reason he asked her was to probe for more information. Indeed, she told him the truth. "I'm no longer working at Bailey Corporation. I have resigned from all my duties."

If she could be honest with him regarding her status in the company, her answers from before must be true as well. Then, he feigned a puzzled look. "Why did you quit your job? Are you thinking of taking a break at home?"

To that, she shook her head. "I didn't resign on my own will. It was the result of a discussion between Dad and Grandpa. They told me not to show up at the company for the time being, but I am unsure of the exact reason behind it." John sent her all the way to the Bailey Residence. Her parents were already home and a servant was

perched at the entrance, whom he assumed to be waiting for Isabelle. She got out of the car and thanked him. To that, he nodded and urged her, "Go in and get some rest. You must be exhausted."

The conversation between them ended. After she went into the house, he started his car and drove away to the company. At the Constance Group, John heard that William was in and he immediately headed over to William's office.

Instead of bringing up the Baileys, he asked if William had spent the night at Matilda's place, to which William flashed a smile. "Why are you getting as inquisitive as Sophia?"

John nodded. "Perhaps when two people are together for some time, they would become more and more alike. Don't change the topic though. Were you with Mom last night?"

William nodded back. "Yeah. It was too late and I didn't bother to come home."

What a lame excuse. It wasn't that late when we finished dinner.

However, John merely suggested,

"To be honest, you can consider moving in with Mom. I think it will be more convenient for you and it will solidify your stance. Mom will probably feel more secure, and Grandma will be more forgiving when she sees you moving in with her daughter."

William frowned and gave it some serious consideration. "Your suggestion sounds reasonable."

John almost burst out laughing, for he felt that he had given William a way out. If William had to bring up the idea of moving in with Matilda himself, he likely would be hesitant to do so due to the embarrassment. Lifting a brow, John felt amused. "Give it some consideration. I'll go get busy now."

After that, he left William's office and returned to his own, but there was nothing much for him to work on. Tasks were delegated and it was not a busy season. Thus, he sat and waited in the office for a while before Zack entered with a file in his hands.

The Returning Ex Chapter 906

At first, John thought that the file was work-related, but when he flipped it open, he realized that it was a report of the investigation they ran on the Baileys. It was too complicated, so John only skimmed through it before saying, "Just leave it here. I'll slowly go through it. It's so thick!"

Zack clicked his tongue at the comment. "Yeah, the Baileys have too many issues. I sent someone to investigate and opened a can of worms. How annoying! They even reported some insignificant details to me."

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John grunted. "Yeah, you've put in a lot of hard work."

Zack was obviously tired as he replied, "I'll leave you to deal with this. I'm heading back now—there are piles of work waiting for me."

John sat in his chair for a while and made a call to Sophia. It took her some time to pick up the call, and she inquired if he was done with the Baileys. Frankly speaking, John didn't need to do anything for the Baileys except for showing up. Thus, he replied, "Yeah, there's nothing to deal with anymore. I just wanted to know what you're doing."

She told him that she wanted to meet with Matilda, for she couldn't hold back her need to gossip and wanted to check with Matilda about the events from last night.

To that, John reminded her to be careful on the road. He agreed that she should meet up with Matilda, or else she'd be bored to death at home. Now, Sophia found good company in Matilda and they could chat with each other to relieve their boredom. The two didn't chat further and hung up. At home, Sophia went downstairs and ordered the bodyguard to drive her to Matilda's place. Their car finally entered the highway halfway down the mountain when the driver warned, "Mrs. Constance, sit tight. I'm going to accelerate."

She immediately understood his meaning and turned around to stare at the cars behind them.

"There's something wrong, am I right?"

The driver reported, "Two cars are targeting us, one from each side. Hold tight."

In the next second, the driver floored the accelerator and the car flew along the highway. The momentum threw Sophia back against the seat. She clutched tightly onto her seatbelt with one hand and placed the other on her belly. After some time, she finally noticed the two cars trailing behind them and hurriedly made a call to John.

With her speaker on, she explained their situation to him. The driver chimed in and reported that he could not get rid of them. Based on his tone, he sounded unconfident. John immediately turned solemn and ordered the driver to head into downtown. Also, he assured them that he would send someone to help out right away and reminded the driver to keep him updated of his location.

At the back, Sophia felt a little afraid; she was mostly worried that something might happen to the

baby she was carrying. Even though she had not reached the latest stage of pregnancy, she had suffered a lot during this journey. Please don't let anything happen to the baby.

Following John's orders, the driver headed downtown and even actively searched around for intersections with traffic lights in order to get rid of the two cars behind them. However, the two cars were acting crazy and didn't even stop after they accidentally scraped against other cars in the chase. The driver mumbled, "They probably want to ram into us." Sophia grunted helplessly. If the two cars rammed into them with enough force, she might actually lose the baby from the injuries. John seemed to have overheard the driver's worried comment and kept asking for their location.

The driver was apparently an experienced bodyguard because he slid around the traffic like an eel.

Downtown, there were more traffic lights. Then, Sophia saw there was a green light that was turning red soon, so she quickly screamed, "Look over there!" The driver understood her meaning and accelerated. It went without saying that it was dangerous to drive at that speed in downtown area.

The Returning Ex Chapter 907

Sophia shut her eyes in panic as she sat in the accelerating car. Finally, when the yellow light was about to turn red, their car dashed past the intersection. Right when the car crossed the line, the lights at the intersection turned red.

The two cars chasing after them appeared tempted to run the red light. Thankfully, the traffic in the other direction at the intersection started to move at their green light and blocked off the road, forcing the two cars to stop in front of the red light.

Sophia sensed that the driver let out a sigh of relief after the ordeal, his cold sweat visible on his sideburns, which clearly showed the level of danger they had faced just now.

Sophia turned around and stared at the back, confirming that the two cars were not following them anymore. After that, she informed John that they were safe for the time being. However, he was still worried, so he ordered the driver to pull over so that they could get out of the car and hide somewhere else.

The driver scanned the surroundings and chose to pull over in front of a small grocery store on the street. Then, he asked Sophia to head out and wait at the entrance of the store. She heeded his advice and thought to herself, No matter how psychopathic those stalkers are, they likely won't have the guts to publicly harm me at the grocery store's entrance that's full of people. Thus, she hurried over and hid herself well in a corner.

Soon, John arrived there, running as he called her name. Hearing that, she shuffled out from her hiding spot. He looked like he was in great shock. After all, he had been on the phone throughout the situation just now, so he knew about their brush with danger. After checking her from head to toe, he even caressed her belly. "Are you hurt?" She shook her head. "I consider myself lucky that I'm safe." Then, she took out her phone to show him photos she took of the two cars during the car chase. He took a quick look and noticed that the car plates were clearly legible, but they were probably fake. Anyway, he transferred the photos from

her phone to his and gave her another hug. “You must have been scared. I’m sorry for arriving late.

It’s all my fault.”

Indeed, Sophia was scared out of her mind; even her body was still shaking uncontrollably. Just now, in the car, she had prepared herself for the worst—that she’d die with the baby in her.

In the midst of the danger, she wondered how John would handle that tragic outcome. A tragedy like that would likely crush his world. Putting that thought aside, she took a deep breath and said, “I’m

not scared about anything else. I only worry about the baby.”

John pursed his lips, cupped her face in his palms and gave her a light peck at the corner of her lips.

His voice was soft, tinged with a hint of self-blame. “I’ll send you home now. Let’s not leave the house for the time being. I’ll find the mastermind behind this. Trust me.”

Of course she trusted him, so she nodded. “Okay.”

Then, John brought some men with him. They stayed in their cars that were parked in front of the

small grocery store. After that, he ordered the rest of the men to follow the previous driver in search

of the two cars just now. As for him, he’d drive Sophia back home.

During the trip, they sat beside each other, silent. When they arrived at the Constance Residence,

Old Mrs. Constance was sunbathing at the entrance. When she saw them home, she was surprised.

“Didn’t you just leave home? Why are you back so soon? And John, you’re back as well. Is there anything?”

John chuckled. “Yeah, I left a file at home so I have to pick it up. Mom is not at home, so she wanted

Sophia to head home first. She'll drop by later."

He purposely kept the incident just now from Old Mrs. Constance for fear of agitating her. The old lady didn't think much about it and nodded. "Alright. What a surprise! I thought something had happened."

Sophia flashed a smile at her. "We're good! What could happen to us? Everything's fine."

Then, John helped Sophia back to their room. The moment they stepped into the room, they immediately received a call from Matilda, who asked about Sophia's delayed arrival. She had been waiting for Sophia but no one showed up.

The Returning Ex Chapter 908

Sophia clutched the phone tightly and regulated her breathing as she replied in a weary voice, "Do you want to head over here instead? I'm back at the Constance Residence. Just now, on my way to your place, I almost got into an accident."

Matilda was shocked and hurriedly checked with her what had happened. "You almost got into an accident? What accident? How are you now?"

At the same time, John still had to leave in a hurry to investigate the incident. Thus, Sophia merely waved at him and shifted her focus back to Matilda. "Just now, someone chased after my car. Those people could be after me, but thankfully we got rid of them at the end."

Despite Sophia's breezy explanation, Matilda started to feel a chill down her spine and she quickly

asked, "Where's John? Does he know about this?"

Sophia replied, "Yes, he knows about it. He drove me home just now, and he was so scared."

Feeling extremely worried, Matilda said, "Wait for me at home. I'll be there soon."

With that, she hung up on Sophia. Then, Sophia let out a long sigh and placed her hands on her belly;

the aftershock still lingered around her. Those people are really psychopathic! How could they bring

themselves to do that? After panicking for a while, she suddenly felt rage building in her. Those

animals probably knew about her pregnancy. Even so, her pregnancy did not stop them from

harming her. What a bunch of barbarians.

Upon giving it some thought, she took out her phone and made a call to Logan, which he picked up at

lightning speed. From his tone, she could tell that he was still feeling the high from last night, for he

still sounded pretty happy when he said, "Sophia, what's up? Do you miss me?"

She was not in the mood to entertain his shenanigans, so she cut to the chase. "Logan, I have

something to talk to you about."

When he heard her, he paused for a bit and his tone changed. "What's the matter? You sound

serious. Did anything happen?"

She briefly updated him about the car chase just now, to which he was shocked and hurriedly asked,

"Are you okay now? Did you get injured?"

Sophia replied, "I'm fine now because we managed to free ourselves from the chase. John is now

investigating the information behind the two cars. Logan, I have a personal favor to ask from you—I

want to know if this incident is related to the Baileys."

Even though she was being vague, Logan could tell what she was after. She probably wanted to ask

him if this incident was related to Isabelle Bailey. Thus, he immediately replied, "Sure. I'll send someone to look into it. Let's see if it's done under the orders of that b*tch."

Feeling complicated, Sophia somehow felt that this incident was not something that Isabelle was capable of doing. Even so, there was a slight possibility that she had provoked Isabelle to a breaking point, and coupled with Dexter's death, Isabelle lost control of herself and acted on the grudges between her and Sophia.

Logan inquired, "Did you share your suspicion with John?"

She answered, "No. Logan, I'll be honest with you. I keep feeling that my suspicion is wrong, but if I don't test it out, I would feel dissatisfied. That's why I want your help to look into it. As for John, I don't want to mislead him with my unverified suspicion."

Logan grunted in agreement. "Alright, got it. Don't sweat about it. I'll definitely look into this matter.

Whoever dares to harm you is stepping over me as well. She'd better be prepared to be torn into pieces!"

Feeling touched, Sophia cheered up and she expressed her gratitude. "Logan, thank you."

He clicked his tongue and said, "There's no need for 'thank you's' between us!"

The call didn't go on for very long. After that, Sophia heard the sound of Matilda's footsteps from the stairs.

The Returning Ex Chapter 909

Matilda called out to Sophia when she was walking on the staircase.

"Sophia, are you in your room?"

Sophia answered as the door to her room was opened. "I am! Right here!"

Matilda made her way over and saw Sophia the moment she entered her room.

Sophia looked like she was in good spirits, though her face was pale, so Matilda asked, "Are you not feeling well?"

Sophia shook her head and forced a smile. "I'm fine. Nothing bad happened, fortunately."

Matilda walked into Sophia's room and sat on her bed before grabbing Sophia's hand and placing it in her own. Then, she patted her hand. "I was terrified! Who would dare to be so inhumane to do something like this?!"

Then, Sophia took her phone out and showed Matilda the picture that she had taken earlier.

"I snapped a picture of those two cars, but I suspect that the car plates are fake," Sophia said.

Matilda inched closer to look at the picture clearly. "This is a clear shot, but most of the people that do these kinds of things would usually use fake car plates." Pursing her lips, she then turned toward Sophia. "Do you think that Isabelle did this?"

The one person that crossed Matilda's mind was Isabelle as Sophia's social circle was small and there weren't really many people that she could offend.

Moreover, the only reason why she crossed the Baileys was because of John.

Sophia frowned. "I don't think Isabelle would do something like this, but I can't completely rule her out at the same time." Then, she continued, "I've already gotten Logan to investigate it for me, so let's see what he'll get. Although I don't think that it's possible, it's better if we still do a thorough

investigation.”

Matilda nodded before lowering her voice and said, “If Old Mrs. Constance still doesn’t know about this, let’s not tell her.”

On the other hand, John was driving. However, instead of returning to the company, he headed toward the warehouse where those men that he captured were locked up there.

John sent the image that Sophia had taken to his underlings and asked them to interrogate those men if they recognized these two cars.

Those men had been locked in the warehouse for a few days without any food or drinks, so even if they were initially stubborn, they had started to lose their cool after not getting enough supplies.

John didn’t want to see those people, so he chose to wait outside. After he finished a cigarette, one of his men came out and whispered something into John’s ear.

However, John’s facial expression remained unchanged. He even let out a faint chuckle before he replied, “Got it.”

Then, he walked toward the side of the road from the warehouse and took his phone out.

Isabelle was in her room when she received the phone call.

Although Dexter was already buried, the atmosphere in the house was still depressing as her mother’s cries echoed through the house every night, while her father was depressed and refused to eat, even though he didn’t cry.

Isabelle felt like if things were to continue like this, she might be sending her parents off next.

However, even she herself wasn’t in a good condition as she sat on her bed and stared into nothing, so she was taken aback when John contacted her.

After accepting the phone call, John spoke up before Isabelle could say anything. “Isabelle, something bad almost happened to Sophia as she was chased by two cars when she went out today.”

Isabelle was stunned. “What are you trying to say? Why are you suddenly telling me this? Are you suspecting that I’m the one behind it?”

John wasn’t suspecting Isabelle. “I just want to ask you whether your family had a butler that suddenly resigned without any reasons?”

Isabelle frowned as she couldn’t remember much about it. “I think so.” John chuckled. “He was driving one of the cars that wanted to ram into Sophia today.”

Moreover, that butler appeared at the shadow bank.

The Returning Ex Chapter 910

Isabelle paused; something wasn’t feeling right.

Her parents’ breakfast was sent into their room this morning by the housekeeper and Isabelle saw

Elder Mr. Bailey heading into her father’s room after she finished her breakfast and was heading upstairs.

She had been sensitive toward Elder Mr. Bailey’s actions lately, so she slowly inched closer.

Initially, Elder Mr. Bailey tried to get his son to snap out of it as Bailey Corporation’s operation couldn’t go on without him.

However, Old Mr. Bailey simply sighed. It was understandable for him to be unable to recover from something like this for a period of time after all.

A while later, Elder Mr. Bailey stopped and suddenly added, “Just watch. Our company will progress even further.”

Still, Old Mr. Bailey drowned in his sadness as he mumbled softly, "It won't. My hope is gone along with Dexter."

After a pause, Elder Mr. Bailey continued, "Belle is still here. We can still place our hopes on her."

Isabelle stood by the door and heard that clearly.

A few seconds later, Elder Mr. Bailey went on to say, "It's not like we reached a dead end on John's side as well. Just do as you see fit."

Isabelle didn't understand what Elder Mr. Bailey meant back then, but now that John told her about

what happened to Sophia earlier, she suddenly came to a realization.

Isabelle opened her mouth, but she didn't know what to say. Before she could utter a word, John

asked again, "Do you know where that butler went after he resigned?"

Isabelle pursed her lips. "I don't know."

However, Isabelle suddenly recalled her father trying to probe where she was going to go when she

asked John and Sophia out for a meal and arranged for people to stand on guard in front of the

restaurant. Why would he do something like this? He must have been against someone there, and

now, Isabelle could easily figure out who they were against back then.

Since both her father and grandfather prioritized John a lot, they naturally wouldn't do anything to

him, so the only person left was Sophia.

Isabelle admitted honestly that she disliked Sophia; she really disliked Sophia to the point that she

even hated her.

However, she wouldn't try to kill Sophia as she still had her humanity within her, and it was

impossible for her to do something like that. Even back then when she pushed Sophia in the

hospital, it was only because she was really triggered by what Sophia said.

John's cold voice rang out again. "That butler appeared at the shadow bank."

Isabelle took a deep breath before replying, "I really don't know about this."

However, she could already connect all of the scattered information. Isabelle could feel her mind buzzing and she didn't even remember how she ended the call in the end.

A while later, she got up and went outside.

Elder Mr. Bailey was standing downstairs with his walking stick without any servant with him when

Isabelle walked over to him. "Grandpa, why are you standing here all alone?"

Elder Mr. Bailey snapped back to reality. "It's nothing. I just came out to have a breather as I felt too cooped up in the house. I wonder how the company's operating now."

After pondering for a moment, Isabelle answered, "I don't know if Uncle will be able to manage the company's operation, but now that we are not going over to the company, they're probably struggling."

Elder Mr. Bailey chuckled. "It's fine. Your uncle had always relied on others since your father had always been taking care of him. If there wasn't anyone around to help him, he might have already risen up to take over our family business earlier, so this is a good chance for him to start honing his skills."

However, Isabelle changed the topic after thinking for a while. "I rejected my mother when she told me that she wanted to set me up for a blind date previously because I still had feelings toward John,

but when I think about this now, it's impossible for me to wedge in between John and Sophia anymore. Moreover, now that our family has ended up like this, I believe that going on that date will be helpful for our family. Why don't you guys arrange it over the next few days?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 911

Elder Mr. Bailey was stunned as he turned around to face Isabelle. "You don't like John anymore?"

But I thought you've always liked him?"

Isabelle sighed. "I was in denial back then, but I finally understand now. It's useless when my love toward him is just one-sided. Since he doesn't like me, there's no use liking him anyway. Moreover, I'm already tired. I just want to find someone who loves me back."

Then, Elder Mr. Bailey raised his hand and patted Isabelle's shoulder. "You shouldn't rush it. Some things will come even though it might take a little longer."

Isabelle glanced at Elder Mr. Bailey's face before she continued, "But I don't want to wait any longer.

I've been waiting for so long and I don't know how much longer I should wait at this point. I'm exhausted. If my date goes well, an addition in the family can also lighten up the mood in the family and my parents might be able to walk out from what happened to Dexter. It might actually be good for the family."

The old man sighed. "Belle, a blind date is really not as easy as what you think. I've asked around my family friends, but none of their children stand out, so even if you were to be matchmade with them, you might not find the person that you're looking for."

Isabelle smiled at that. "I don't ask for much. It's fine as long as they're nice to me and keep me close at heart. I don't really care about anything else as we all shouldn't be too ungrateful. It's alright if they don't stand out."

However, Elder Mr. Bailey shook his head. "You don't get it, Belle. Your father and I are already old and we need someone to take over the family. Now that Dexter is gone, we can only rely on you now.

Feelings can't bring you to places, but your strengths can, so there's no way that you can settle with someone ordinary."

Isabelle chuckled awkwardly. "I'm just a woman, so what can I even do? I already feel guilty even when I hear you talking about it."

Still, Elder Mr. Bailey went on saying, "Why do you even feel guilty about it? So what if you're a woman? Women can take over their family's business as well. Look at the four Young Ladies of the Jefferson Family; aren't they handling the family's business well? On the contrary, Logan Jefferson is literally an embarrassment of their family."

Isabelle didn't say anything about Logan.

Although she used to look down on Logan and felt that the Jeffersons really failed to raise their son well, she now felt like she had no right to judge other people's family. The Baileys had always thought that they had been providing a good upbringing to their children, but they ended up forcing Dexter to his demise.

Then, Elder Mr. Bailey tried to console Isabelle by saying, "Don't worry too much and rest well. I'll tell you what to do next. Rest assured, Belle. What you want will surely be yours."

Although Isabelle didn't say anything further, she felt like Elder Mr. Bailey's condition was worse than her father's condition; her father was sick physically, but Elder Mr. Bailey was sick mentally.

After Elder Mr. Bailey stood there for a while, a few servants came over and Isabelle immediately called out for the servants. "You guys should take Grandpa for a walk since today's weather is great.

He should take a walk to strengthen his body anyway."

Elder Mr. Bailey agreed after thinking about it, so the servants supported him as they walked toward the garden in the backyard.

After they left, Isabelle immediately turned around and headed to the second floor as she attempted to unlock Elder Mr. Bailey's wardrobe again.

The last three attempts back then had failed, so she wanted to try two more times.

After scanning through all of the possible combinations she could think of in her mind, she tried the first combination.

However, the first combination was still wrong. Isabelle was frustrated. She didn't dare to try to unlock the wardrobe three times on this day as the security alarm was too loud.

After pondering for a while, Isabelle tried the second combination. This time, however, after she entered the second combination's number, she pressed on the unlock button and the door to the safe sprang open.

The Returning Ex Chapter 912

Isabelle was shocked and she couldn't snap out of her daze for a moment.

A while later, she opened the safe. There were many document files in the safety lock, so much so that she was taken aback.

Taking her phone out, Isabelle took a few document files out and started snapping pictures of it.

She didn't have the time to figure out what these document files were about as she tried her best to snap as many pictures as she could before placing the document files that she took out back according to their original sequence.

Although Elder Mr. Bailey was old, he was still a detailed person, so he could easily notice when the placements of the document files weren't the same as before.

After tidying up the wardrobe, Isabelle closed the door to the wardrobe and took a deep breath before leaving Elder Mr. Bailey's room and rushed back into her own room. Then, she started examining the pictures that she took after locking the door to her room.

Isabelle noticed that some of these documents were financial receipts. Instead of professional documentations, these looked more like internal documentations. Moreover, the amount for these financial accounts was too large. It was obviously abnormal. Although the purchase details were stated on the documents, Isabelle couldn't understand what was being purchased as everything was replaced with codes.

The more she looked through these documents, the more she realized that something wasn't right, so she sent John a message to meet up later that night after thinking about it.

Isabelle wanted to discuss what she found with John, and she couldn't find anyone else to talk about these matters to right now.

However, it seemed like John hadn't noticed her message as he hadn't replied to her yet.

Then, Isabelle hesitated for a moment before she headed to her father's room.

Old Mr. Bailey was standing by the window sill and looking outside.

Although he still looked

depressed, his condition was slightly better than a while ago.

Isabelle went in and walked over to her father's side. "Dad, have you eaten yet? Let me get you

something to eat."

However, Old Mr. Bailey shook his head. "It's fine. I don't have any appetite."

Isabelle pursed her lips before saying, "You are our family's pillar, so you have to stay strong."

Then, Old Mr. Bailey turned toward Isabelle. "Belle, I can't hold on anymore. I'm already old and the

family will be relying on you in the future, so you mustn't let us down."

What he said immediately made Isabelle recall the past. That was what her father used to tell

Dexter.

Although Dexter never said anything, he appeared to be happy every time he heard his father say

that.

Isabelle could feel Old Mr. Bailey placing all of his expectations that he used to have for Dexter onto

her.

Although he was still saddened about what happened to Dexter, he couldn't help but shift the same

expectations onto Isabelle.

However, Isabelle didn't reply to him as she didn't know what to say.

Even though she could

understand her father's thoughts, she couldn't agree with his methods.

After accompanying her father for a while, Isabelle heard her mother's wailing, so she immediately

ran toward her room while Old Mr. Bailey stood unmoving next to the window sill. He looked as if he hadn't heard anything at all.

Her mother was sitting on her bed and wailing loudly while her servant stood next to her, at a loss of what to do, so Isabelle told the servant that she could handle it and asked them to leave.

Then, Isabelle walked over to her mother's bed after the servant left. She felt her heart aching when she saw her mother's condition.

Mrs. Bailey used to be a high spirited person that would narrow her eyes with disdain every time she saw anyone, but now, she had become a timid person that wouldn't look at others in their eyes.

Isabelle sighed as she sat at the side of Mrs. Bailey's bed before saying, "Mom, I understand that you're sad, but you need to stay strong. If something really happens to you, our family will really break down."

The Returning Ex Chapter 913

Mrs. Bailey was covering her face as her voice turned hoarse from crying as that was all she had been doing recently. Her world shattered, after all.

However, Isabelle grabbed Mrs. Bailey and held it tightly. "Mom, Grandpa and Dad said that they'll need me to support the family from now on, but how can I hold on if anything happens to you as well?"

Immediately, Mrs. Bailey stopped crying before she stared at Isabelle and turned around abruptly.

Although Mrs. Bailey's face was teary, her facial expression had completely changed as her eyes

widened. "What are they trying to do with you now? Haven't they learned their lesson? Look at what they've done to my Dexter?! How dare they put their expectations on you now that Dexter is gone?!"

Do they still want to ruin more lives?!"

Isabelle's expression was one of helplessness. "I did tell Grandpa that I'm afraid that I won't be able to manage it as I'm already under a lot of pressure, and I don't want to do it, but maybe Grandpa and Dad have no other choice anymore."

Mrs. Bailey gritted her teeth. "All these people talk about is family and profit. Is the money that they've earned all these years not enough for them to spend?"

Then, her mother tidied her hair and wiped off her tears before looking at Isabelle. "Belle, you can't

end up like your little brother, okay? You're the only one that I have left now. Don't listen to them, and don't live for them. Instead, live for yourself."

Then, tears started falling from Mrs. Bailey's eyes again. "I know that you've been sick of this in the past. You've been just as unhappy as Dexter was, and I won't force anything on you anymore. What matters the most is you being happy."

It seemed like Mrs. Bailey had thought things through a lot after what happened.

After that, she spoke to Isabelle in a serious manner. "If you really love John, just fight for it without caring about anything else. Life is too short for you to worry about others, so just try hard to fight for what you want and what you like."

Isabelle immediately cut her off. "No, no, no. I don't like John anymore. He's about to have a kid after

all. If I continue going after him, I might need to suffer other people's criticism in the future.

Moreover, with my qualifications, I am able to get someone who loves me."

Although Mrs. Bailey was taken aback by what Isabelle said, she still felt relieved as she commented,

"It's good that you stopped being so stubborn. To be honest, I don't think John deserves you."

Isabelle grinned at that. "Yeah. He doesn't deserve me."

During the evening, John received the news from his underlings that they managed to find out the

cars that were tailing Sophia, and as expected, they were using fake car plates.

Right now, both of those cars were abandoned at a rubbish disposal centre in the suburbs.

This was similar to Robin's previous kidnap; the cars that were involved were also abandoned.

However, instead of going over himself to check the cars, John only instructed his men to check if

there were any valuable leads from the car, even though the chances of that happening was slim.

After all, since they had been identified, they would surely get rid of anything that could be used as evidence against them.

John was still in his office when he looked at the time and noticed that it was about time for him to clock off.

He had replied to Isabelle's text earlier and agreed on a place to meet up. It seemed like Isabelle had

something that she wanted to tell him, so John contacted Sophia and vaguely told her that he was

meeting Isabelle to discuss something.

Still, Sophia sounded as if she didn't care as she grunted and replied,

"Alright then. I'm fine on my own anyway."

John didn't know why, but he felt slightly irked.

Why isn't Sophia jealous at all when I told her that I am going to meet Isabelle? Is she really not worried?

John didn't feel good, but this feeling was finally suppressed when he saw Isabelle.

The Returning Ex Chapter 914

Isabelle was dressed modestly this time; a complete change from her previous flashy outfits.

The two of them chose to meet up at a cafe and ordered nothing else but coffee.

This meant that none of them were planning to stay for a long time. John took the initiative to speak up first. "What happened? What do you want to tell me?"

Isabelle pushed her phone forward. "I don't understand what these are, so can you investigate them for me? It's hard for me to do it alone."

However, John stared at Isabelle instead of her phone. "Are you sure that you trust me?"

Isabelle nodded, and she sounded genuine when she said, "Look at me. I have no one else around me and you're the only one that I trust at this point."

Isabelle looked lonely as she leaned back onto the chair and continued to say, "To be honest, I don't have a lot of friends. I never had any free time since I was young to begin with, so I never had the chance to actually befriend anyone."

Isabelle was raised as a debutante and her movements were restricted, so she wasn't allowed to express herself nor mingle with other people. Although Isabelle joined many dinner parties with Mrs. Bailey, they all had their own objectives. One

could say that debutantes that often joined dinner parties had their own agendas, and none of them really treated each other as true friends.

Hence, Isabelle had been seriously reviewing herself for these past two days, and she realized that she wasn't as good as Sophia in some aspects.

Sophia had Ian, as well as Logan, who would do anything for her. Last night, she suddenly recalled Logan tearing the gown that she wanted to get that one time because of Sophia.

Although she was really pissed back then, she couldn't help but feel envious of Sophia when she thought about it now.

Logan was notorious for his short temper that not even his father could control, but he had always treated Sophia nicely and protected her well.

There were many things that made Isabelle realize that her life was way worse than how she imagined it to be now that she thought about it.

Finally, John took Isabelle's phone and started looking through it. He was overwhelmed by the sheer amount of information from the pictures.

The amount in the purchase accounts were obviously abnormal and the purchase details were encoded so that they couldn't tell what was being purchased. This meant that they wanted to keep the details of whatever they purchased hidden.

John immediately looked up at Isabelle. "Where did you get these from?"

However, Isabelle stared at John for a while before answering, "I got it from my Grandpa."

John frowned before he reminded Isabelle, "Do you know that the things that I will find out might implicate your entire family?"

Still, Isabelle chuckled. "Even if you don't, it will still happen soon in the future."

They wouldn't be able to escape unscathed after doing something on a large scale like this; they would surely be exposed sooner or later.

Instead of getting caught off guard and exposed by others, it was better if she got someone that she trusted to investigate it. That way, she would at least be still in control. After John took Isabelle's phone and transferred all of the pictures into his own phone, he told her, "I'll inform you first hand if I found anything and I'll give you some time to sort it out."

Isabelle nodded at that. "Alright. I understand."

Since the both of them had already finished what they wanted to talk about, they both left the cafe and went their respective ways.

When John got back to the Constance Residence, Sophia had already finished dinner and was sitting in the garden.

Hence, John left the house to look for her. From afar, he could spot Sophia stretching her arms lazily.

The Returning Ex Chapter 915

This woman really doesn't care about me meeting Isabelle today. Sophia really looked like a pregnant woman with her small baby bump as John walked over after staring at her for a moment. "You didn't wait for me to eat dinner together."

However, Sophia gave him a look. "How old are you? Do you still need me to wait for you? Are you saying that you won't eat if I don't wait for you?"

John smacked his lips. "I met Isabelle just now and we talked a lot." Still, Sophia only replied by grunting.

Not getting the reaction he wanted, John added, "I didn't expect Isabelle to actually trust me that much."

Sophia chuckled at that. "She doesn't only trust you, but she loves you as well."

This made John feel better as Sophia sounded slightly jealous. So, he reached out to pinch Sophia's cheek. "Are you upset about it?"

Sophia chuckled again. "You're overthinking it. I'm just teasing you." Then, she pushed John's hand away and started walking toward the house as she asked, "What did you guys talk about? Since you want to tell me about it so badly, I'll do you a favor and ask you about it."

Immediately, John pouted as he felt that displeasure again.

This woman just wouldn't react in the ways that I expected her to. All she did was to reply to me with those perfunctory words.

Still, John briefly explained about the document files that Isabelle showed him.

Although Sophia didn't really understand, she was still surprised. "Is there anything wrong with the documents?"

John grunted. "I suspect that it might be related to the shadow bank." He still remembered investigating the driver that tailed him and finding out that he was locked up due to a fight.

However, there were also claims that they were in the middle of an illegal transaction.

If that transaction was real, it would be kept under wraps as well and it would surely be related to those accounts they saw earlier.

Hence, it was possible that the Baileys were the one who established the shadow bank in the dark.

Or rather, they were just using the shadow bank as a cover to do illegal transactions behind it.

Sophia looked bored. "So, you're saying that Isabelle isn't involved with those from the Baileys that wanted to harm me, right?"

John nodded. "It should be."

Sophia sighed. "This is all your fault."

When he heard that, John felt wronged. How would he know that nodding and agreeing to an

engagement in the past would cause him so much trouble now?

It seemed like everything was settled after he married Sophia for a year and completely cut off all

connections with the Baileys.

After he got divorced, he never did anything to cross the line with Isabelle, so he couldn't

understand why the Baileys would stir things up because of him again.

Sophia blinked as she pondered on the matter for a moment before she got bored.

The thought of what happened between Isabelle and her made her head hurt, so she waved him off.

"Stop it. I'm done with it already. I'm fine as long as you can manage to handle everything." Then,

Sophia caressed her baby bump. "I don't have time to think about anything other than this kid in my tummy right now."

John nodded and reached out to caress Sophia's tummy as well. "You just have to take care of

yourself and the baby. Just leave the rest to me."

Their conversation ended right there and John went to eat while Sophia accompanied him as she

was bored.

However, John went out halfway to give his underling a call and instructed them to investigate if

there were any illegal businesses at the shadow bank. Sophia had her phone in her hand and she twirled it around until John finished making his call before saying, "I can't believe that Isabelle actually asked for your help for something like this."

The Returning Ex Chapter 916

Isabelle really placed a lot of trust on John. He is practically going against the Baileys after they tried to harm me, but Isabelle actually went and gave John information about her family's illegal activities and let him investigate it. Although she wasn't doing anything wrong, Sophia couldn't help but wonder what Isabelle was even thinking about. John felt like laughing when he looked at Sophia.

Why would she suddenly say that? John couldn't figure out if she was jealous or not.

However, after thinking about it, John explained, "She could only ask for my help as she couldn't investigate it herself, and she didn't have any friends. Moreover, I think she has other plans, and she thinks that doing this might be doing me a favor."

After all, John had already known about the shadow bank and was already investigating it, so it was only a matter of sooner or later before he would find out about what the Baileys were doing.

If Isabelle took the initiative to provide John the information that she had, she would be doing him a favor and he might actually let them off the hook since he wasn't a ruthless person.

Sophia nodded in agreement. "I used to think that Isabelle was an airhead, but I guess she's pretty smart after all."

John didn't comment at that and simply smiled.

After he finished his dinner, the two of them went back upstairs. Right then, he received a phone call from his underlings. Since John was already in his pajamas, he decided to just answer the call in the room.

Sophia wasn't interested in listening to what John was talking about on the phone, so she took her pajamas and went into the bathroom. However, John was still on the call after she was done.

It seemed like the issue at hand was serious as they had been talking for a while now.

Sophia had no choice but to listen as well when she lay on the bed. On the other hand, John was standing by the window as he held his phone with one hand while he placed his other hand on the window sill, tapping away.

From what he was saying, it seemed like they were tailing one of the drivers and managed to find their hiding place.

Then, Sophia seemed to have caught Husky's name being mentioned before she slowly sat back up.

The amount of information from John was huge, and Sophia couldn't piece everything together as she didn't know much, so she waited patiently.

After John hung up, Sophia spoke up. "Where did you take Husky? Isn't he with Logan?"

John contemplated for a moment before he answered, "A lot happened in between, so let me tell you all about it after everything ends."

Indeed, it was hard to explain when there were too many twists and turns in the story.

Sophia immediately waved her hands after she heard him. "It's alright. Don't explain it to me. I don't want to know if it's too complicated."

Sophia had no patience for complicated matters now as she just wanted to slack off and enjoy a simple life.

John smiled at that before he ruffled her hair and went into the bathroom.

After he had taken his quick bath, he went on the bed and hugged Sophia.

That feeling of discomfort returned again. However, this time, he felt physically discomfited. It was impossible for any man to stand not being able to do anything when he had such a beautiful woman in his arms every night.

John spoke up weakly. "Sophia, I don't feel good." His voice sounded gruff, tinted with a hint of playfulness.

Sophia immediately caught on to what he was implying as she slapped his hand that was caressing her body. "You better keep yourself in check. Your son is watching you."

Immediately, John pouted and started acting pitiful. "But I'll have to wait for so long."

However, Sophia closed her eyes. "If you really want to do it, you can try doing it with other people."

John glared at her. "What are you even talking about?!"

Great. What she said had instantly killed the mood.

Although it was still early, Sophia felt drowsy already, so she fell asleep not long after.

The Returning Ex Chapter 917

John waited for a moment before he got out of bed.

After checking his phone, he changed into a new outfit before heading out of the room.

Sophia didn't even know when John had left as she only realized that there wasn't anyone sleeping next to her when she turned around.

However, Sophia's mind was still drowsy, so she went back to sleep thinking that he got up to go to the toilet.

When Sophia woke up again, it was already the next day.

She opened her eyes drowsily to see John lying next to her sleeping soundly.

Sighing, she wasn't able to figure out whether what happened last night was a dream or not.

She couldn't sleep anymore, so she got up quietly and made her side of the bed before going downstairs to walk around.

The air in the morning was fresh. As Sophia stretched her arms, she made her way toward the backyard.

On the other side, Dylan was walking out slowly and looked like he was about to head out.

Sophia was surprised. It was too early, and most people would still be asleep at this time.

Then, she waved and greeted Dylan. "You're leaving really early."

Dylan was surprised when he noticed Sophia, but he still smiled and nodded. "I need to settle something, so I have to head out earlier."

Sophia smiled as she walked toward Dylan before she said, "It's too early! I bet you're going on a date."

Dylan paused at that before he turned around to stare at Sophia, who had already walked past him.

Pursing his lips, he initially wanted to say something, but he chose not to when he realized that

Sophia was already a distance away from him.

There were some things that didn't really make a difference even if he didn't say it, so he might as

well just not say anything.

Sophia only walked about in the backyard and ran into Lady Jennifer coming out when she walked past the house of the Second Constance Family while returning to the main building.

The two of them weren't really near each other, so they gave each other a look when they walked past each other.

However, Lady Jennifer immediately turned around and acted as if she didn't see Sophia.

Hence, Sophia dropped the idea to greet her.

John was heading downstairs when Sophia returned to the main building.

He looked refreshed and didn't look like he went out in the middle of the night.

Sophia raised her hand and waved toward John before purposefully asking, "Did you sleep well last night?"

John smiled. "No, I didn't. I was suffering last night, but you couldn't help me."

Sophia couldn't continue the conversation any longer due to what he said, so she snorted.

"Shameless."

Old Mrs. Constance was already in the dining room, and she called out to them when she heard

those two. "Come eat your breakfast! Sophia, I didn't expect you to get up so early today."

Sophia went over and sat down on a chair before she replied, "I didn't even get up that early. I saw

Dylan heading out already when I was going downstairs. It seems like he got up really early."

However, Old Mrs. Constance wasn't surprised that Dylan left so early as she explained, "Oh! I heard that Dylan met a girl that he liked recently, and they have been hanging out during these two days,

so he probably went to meet her for breakfast.”

Both Sophia and John were surprised. Sophia then immediately asked, “Did he meet her through a blind date?”

Old Mrs. Constance frowned and thought of a moment before she shook her head. “I don’t think so.”

Dylan was against blind dating, so it was unlikely for them to meet under that circumstance.

Since they didn’t meet through a blind date, Sophia contemplated for a moment before saying, “He probably met her on his own. I guess he’s serious this time.”

John, who was sitting in front of Sophia, gave her a look. “Hopefully he’ll be able to get the girl this time so that we don’t have to worry about him so much.”

Sophia started chuckling at that. “You’re worried? It seems to me that you’re just watching the show from the sidelines.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 918

After John stared at Sophia for a moment, he decided against saying those things in his mind. He then went to work after he finished his meal. However, he suddenly took a detour and headed toward the shadow bank instead of his company.

The shadow bank was located in a sketchy area that was in the middle of an old residential area. It wasn’t a big place and could be easily overlooked. The shadow bank was located in one of the factories here and there was probably no one working right now at this point of time, since they would only start their operation during the afternoon, according to what Husky told him.

John stopped his car by a side and stared in the shadow bank’s direction before he noticed that the

door was locked and no one was entering or leaving that place. He had managed to capture a few men that were working here previously and some of them revealed many of the illegal operations going on in the shadow bank after they failed to withstand his interrogation. Most of the operations were about how to compound more interest so that the loanee wouldn't be able to clear their debts and had to give up their collaterals. To be honest, this shadow bank's loan amount wasn't huge and couldn't be compared to other loan sharks. However, due to the strict management of the shadow bank, all of these people were terrified after they revealed it's inner operations. John did release a few men after managing to force information out of them, but all of them had run away as they were afraid of being pursued by those of the shadow bank. He couldn't help but feel that things were funny as he wondered who was behind the shadow bank that would terrify these men to this extent.

After observing for a long time and noticing that there weren't any movements, John went back to the company. Back at the office, he took out all his documents on the Baileys. There were too many documents of all sizes as they did the investigations in detail. John went through everything and crossed out the irrelevant points while he listed the rest separately. Doing this alone took him the entire morning. In the end, he got dizzy staring at all these documents. Zack thought about John as he passed by his office when he wanted to go out for lunch during lunch break. Noticing that John was frowning while reading a document, he inched closer. However, he

smacked his lips when he noticed that it was about the Baileys. “The Baileys are really problematic. I mean, look at this, and this! They were even exposed for evading taxes back then. Although they claimed that they had paid everything, do you really think that they would have paid if they weren’t exposed? Also, look at this, they got complained by the netizens for selling defective products. The Baileys really aren’t as nice as we thought.” John nodded. “Many fishy things happen in large family conglomerates.”

Then, Zack stared at those little notes. “However, what happened to the Baileys’ son was too bad. He was a smart and nice student in the eyes of the lecturers and students in his school. No one would have expected him to end up like this. From that, we can tell that a certain family had been involved in too many wicked things.”

John stared at the notes before he pointed at one of them. “Look at this. It’s about the change of Bailey Corporation’s insiders that you found. It’s abnormal that many of the high ranking elders had resigned from the internal levels of the company without any reason during these past few years. Moreover, the Baileys have many projects in different places, but according to their company’s profitability, they weren’t supposed to be able to get so much funds.”

Even John himself didn’t know that the Baileys were involved in so many fields and made so many investments in secret. Moreover, they wouldn’t be able to support their spendings just by solely relying on Bailey Corporation’s income.

Zack had never noticed this in the past, but he started looking at it in detail after John pointed it out.

He nodded, looking astonished. "You're right. I thought that the information that the man gathered wasn't useful, but I now realize that something is fishy."

The Returning Ex Chapter 919

John stared at the content of the documents before taking his phone out and comparing it to the pictures that Isabelle took.

Then, he narrowed his eyes and grinned. "I think I just matched something."

Zack took John's phone over to take a look, but he couldn't understand it. "What is this? A-Are these encoded? It looks like purchase details, but it doesn't look like it at the same time. Why are they not even named properly?"

John took his phone back right then before keeping it. "Alright. Don't you want to go eat lunch? Let's go together, then."

However, Zack was taken back. "Aren't you going back to the Constance Residence? I thought that you usually go back to have lunch with Sophia."

John sighed at that. "I'm probably not going back today as I still have things that I want to settle."

After sneaking a few glances at John, Zack nodded. "Alright. Let's go together, then."

On the other hand, Old Mrs. Constance was somewhat surprised when John didn't return home for lunch. In fact, even Sophia didn't expect it.

However, she could still understand it as John was probably busy. Earlier, the family doctor had come over and done a checkup for Sophia. He told her that everything

was alright.

Although her stomach wasn't getting bigger yet, the baby's heartbeat could still be heard if one listened attentively.

It was Sophia's first time listening to a baby's heartbeat, so she got excited and started recording it with her phone.

However, she felt sorry for John as well. It would have been great if he was here, for he had been thinking about this child all along, but he still ended up missing the chance to listen to his heartbeat for the first time.

After the checkup, Sophia lay on her bed to rest, but her phone suddenly rang a while later. It was a call from Logan.

There was a hint of a smile in Sophia's voice when she accepted Logan's call. "Hey, Logan."

However, Logan didn't laugh and he seemed like he wasn't in a good mood. Before he spoke, he tutted. "Sophia, I need to tell you something. Remember when you asked me to investigate Isabelle?"

Well, I did ask my men to investigate it thoroughly, but it seems like—" "It wasn't Isabelle, right?" Sophia interjected.

Logan exclaimed, "Yeah. The results of the investigation showed that Isabelle really wasn't involved."

Sophia chuckled. "I just knew about this as well. The cars that tailed me weren't related to Isabelle."

Logan gave another 'oh', and he sounded surprised.

According to his understanding, this had to be Isabelle's doing.

Sophia didn't know this, but he was so pissed off when he found out that Isabelle wasn't involved.

He even kept asking his men if they had gotten it wrong, while his men could only laugh wryly.

However, it was the truth, and the results would be the same no matter how many times they were to try to investigate it.

Then, Sophia continued to say, "Although Isabelle isn't involved, there's still something fishy about the Baileys. John is looking into it too."

Logan seemed to be relieved at that. "You're right. Since Isabelle isn't involved, the others must be.

None of the Baileys are good people."

Sophia felt like laughing, for Logan was way too prejudiced. Still, even though he might be biased sometimes, these people could be really good friends.

Sophia thanked Logan for his help before she asked, "How have you been these two days?"

To be honest, Logan's days had been just like usual. Not having anything worthy to mention, he muttered, "It's fine. Just like usual."

After Sophia pondered on it for a moment, she asked again, "Have you been seeing Miss Hunt recently?"

This time, Logan froze and went completely quiet.

The Returning Ex Chapter 920

With his reaction like this, Sophia could guess the answer. She sighed silently, and then said,

"Actually, I think Miss Hunt is pretty good. Don't always give her trouble. There is nothing wrong with her maintaining social order in the past."

Logan felt a little uncomfortable at her words. After a while, he said, "Got it." He obviously didn't want to talk about Lola, so he changed the topic and asked about John's investigations on the Bailey Family.

Of course, Logan knew that John was investigating the Bailey Family's affairs. After all, John was the

one who had taken Husky away from Logan's clubhouse. However, Sophia didn't know much about John's investigations, since he hadn't told her anything at all. After thinking about it, she said, "I think he should have gotten a lot of information. If you want to know, you can ask him. There's also something else I want to ask you, Logan. Why was Husky dispatched to John?"

Logan grunted before saying, "John asked for him. Although Husky usually appears frivolous, he is actually quite bright."

Sophia didn't know whether Husky was bright or not. All she remembered was the last time when Husky was lying in ambush at her home and later got beaten up by herself. In any case, he must have been stupid at that time.

However, judging from John's previous conversation with her, Husky probably provided him with a lot of information. So maybe whether he was stupid or not depended on what situation he was in.

After a brief contemplation, Sophia said, "John found a lot of information this time, and it seems that Isabelle has also provided him some assistance. She is probably different from the others in the Bailey Family."

Logan had a really bad impression of Isabelle, so he spat when he heard this and said, "That entire family is rotten. It's impossible for Isabelle to be the only good one out of the bunch. You should ask John to be careful. She might be putting on an act."

When Sophia heard that, she laughed, but she also knew that Logan had their best interests at heart, so she nodded. "Okay, got it. When John comes back, I'll tell him."

Since Logan was done reminding Sophia, he didn't say much else. He still had something to do, so after mumbling some more about how rotten Isabelle was, he hung up. Leaning against the bed, Sophia smiled to herself. When Logan hates someone, his hatred runs really deep. I wonder if there will be any change of heart when it comes to Lola.

On the other hand, after John ate with Zack, he told the latter to return to the company alone. Then,

John drove to the shadow bank by himself.

Now that the gates of the shadow bank were opened, he could see people going in and out of it. They were all burly men. These people looked like the kind who would go around collecting debts. From their figures and appearances, all of them looked vicious and savage. John parked the car aside and looked over there. At first, there were only a few people going in and out, and it seemed that there was nothing particularly out of the ordinary. But after a while, a car drove directly into the shadow bank.

Then, someone came out from it, stood at the door and looked around warily. Thinking that no one was paying attention, he hurriedly closed the main gate. Their actions were so obvious that it was easy to see that there was something fishy about them.

John took out his phone and sent a message to his subordinates. Then, he waited for a while.

Although the car did not come back out, it was already time for work, so he drove away.

After he returned to the company, he read all the documents in his hands, and then held a meeting.

When the meeting was done, there were a few unread messages on his phone. The overall message

was that his subordinates were already tailing the people whom John had noticed at the shadow bank.

The Returning Ex Chapter 921

The rest of his subordinates also sent messages saying that they found more information regarding the middle-aged man who had no income but was living well in the previous investigation. What they found out was that he had contacted the housekeeper who had followed Sophia by car. The information was fragmented and all over the place, but it could be pieced together over time.

John acknowledged the messages and said that he would make arrangements here to make those subordinates obey his orders. He was a little busy all afternoon and didn't care much about the shadow bank.

When he got off work in the evening, he took out his phone and sent a message to Husky. Husky quickly replied, saying that they were all ready to move. Then, John asked if he and Roselia had met.

Husky reassured him and replied that he did meet up with Roselia that afternoon. John felt relieved at that. After all, Roselia was very smart, so John felt at ease when it came to her.

After communicating to Husky about everything, John drove home. The car drove into the Constance Residence, but before it was parked in the parking lot, John noticed Sophia and Dylan.

The two of them were talking while standing in the yard. Judging from Sophia's expression, they seemed to be chatting happily. Dylan had his hands in his pockets and his body was straight. In this

way, he appeared to match Sophia perfectly.

At once, John felt uncomfortable in his heart. Stopping the car, he pushed the door open and hurried over. He was still some distance away from them, but he immediately called out, "Dylan, you came back quite early."

Taken aback, Sophia turned her head to look at John, then she said with a little disgust, "Obviously, you're the one who is back late. Tell us the truth; did you go out to have fun?"

John came over to hug Sophia's shoulders and replied with a smile, "Where would I go to have fun when you are at home? I really wish I don't have to go to work and just accompany you here every day."

Sophia raised her eyebrows as she looked at John. For some reason, she had a feeling that he was talking to Dylan. This man is really something. After getting upset over Ian, now he's beginning to get upset over Dylan. Doesn't he feel tired at all?

Dylan's expression did not change the slightest. Instead, he just stared at John, saying, "When I left the company, I saw you sitting in the car making a call. I thought you would be back soon, but I didn't expect your phone call to be such a long one."

Just great. Dylan has learned to pick a fight now too. John looked at him with a slight smirk, then he answered, "Yeah, I made a call and talked to the people at the warehouse. There were quite a number of details to hash out with them, and so the call was rather long." John's explanation was so serious that it somehow made them feel that something was wrong.

However, Dylan didn't care about it so much, so he simply nodded.

"Okay. Then I will go home first.

You guys should also go back for dinner."

Sophia nodded at him. After Dylan had left, Sophia looked at John.

"Who did you call for so long?

Were you discussing things with Isabelle again?"

Initially, John wanted to explain, but his gaze fell on Sophia's face. He didn't know why, but his

explanation remained stuck in his throat all of a sudden, and his answer came out ambiguous. "It's

all business talk."

In this way, he seemed to be indirectly admitting to what Sophia said.

Sophia snorted. "Yeah. I sure

believe that you guys have business to discuss." After saying this, she changed the subject. "Okay,

let's go now. Dinner's about ready."

John felt a little uneasy in his heart. Initially, he had thought that if he gave such an answer, Sophia

would grab himself and ask what he had chatted with Isabelle about. In fact, he thought she would

force him to get right down to the details.

But in the end, Sophia didn't do anything of that sort. She was really nonchalant about it, so much so

that he felt extremely troubled and uncomfortable.

Pursing his lips, John went back to the main building with Sophia. It was already time for dinner, and

Old Mrs. Constance had even planned to get a servant to go call Sophia over.

The Returning Ex Chapter 922

Smiling, Sophia greeted Old Mrs. Constance before entering the dining hall. John looked at Sophia's

smile, feeling terribly perturbed. Why is she not jealous?

It had never been this difficult for him to make someone jealous before.

Even after racking his

brains, it seemed that he couldn't even get Sophia to be a tiny bit jealous.

It was an awful feeling. No matter how difficult the things he faced in the business world were, he had never been so incapable of getting what he wanted. William didn't come back on time this night, so Sophia brought this up during dinner. At the side, Old Mrs. Constance said, "Maybe he went to Matilda's place." Taken aback, the corners of Sophia's mouth twitched. "Mr. Constance is quite fast at this."

Old Mrs. Constance looked a little helpless. "These two have to experience a divorce before learning the truth about marriages."

John glanced at Sophia for a moment. After all, Old Mrs. Constance's words were appropriate for their situation too.

However, Sophia didn't think about herself. She simply nodded and replied, "But I think this is good too. In the future, the two of them will be more aware of what they should do to get along better in their marriage."

Old Mrs. Constance grunted with approval. "Considering their progress, I believe they should be remarrying soon." Her gaze shifted back and forth between Sophia and John. "Don't think that I'm nagging, but now that both of them are going to remarry soon, when are you two going to consider this as well?"

Sophia chuckled. "Well, let's put this aside for now. I'm not in a hurry anyway."

For some strange reason, John spoke up as well from the side. "Yeah, I'm not in a hurry too."

Startled, Sophia turned to look at John. After a few seconds, she smiled and nodded. "I see."

John's heart constricted all of a sudden. Then, Sophia added, "That's great. The two of us have finally reached a consensus."

Old Mrs. Constance didn't know exactly what was going on between the two, so she simply sighed. I

can't talk to them about remarriage. After bringing it up, these two look as calm as toads in the sun, and I'm the one who becomes exasperated instead.

The atmosphere turned rather awkward, and no one said a thing.

When dinner was over, Old Mrs.

Constance asked someone to support her and go take a walk outside.

Sophia carefully stretched her

body. "I've taken a walk just now, so I want to go up and lie down now. I feel so tired."

John immediately told her, "I'll go up with you."

Sophia turned to glance at him. "Okay, sure."

Looking cool as a cucumber, she didn't appear angry, nor did she ignore John either. However, it was precisely because of her calmness that John felt really uneasy.

When the two returned to the room, Sophia changed her clothes, then lay on the bed and took out

her phone to flip through the news casually. Hesitating for a moment, John went to sit on the side of

the bed. "How did you feel at home today? Is the baby well-behaved? Did it make trouble for you?"

It was clear that he was shooting in the dark for something to talk about.

Sophia moved her gaze from the phone to John's face. Her expression remained the same as usual as

she replied, "Everything's fine. The baby is behaving very well. At least I don't feel any discomfort

for now. The family doctor has said that my belly will slowly get bigger, and that I may become more tired soon.”

It appeared as if she really was not angry over John’s improper words at the dinner table just now, but for some reason, John hoped that she was unhappy. After all, if she was unhappy, it would show that she cared and that she was jealous.

But this woman had no reaction at all. What exactly is going on? John waited for a while, but he was at a loss for what kind of topic to talk to Sophia about.

The Returning Ex Chapter 923

At this moment, John’s phone vibrated twice, so he took it out and looked at it before getting up. He said to Sophia, “I’ll go to the study room. You should sleep early. I need to take care of something.”

Sophia didn’t look at him either as she grunted. “Carry on with your work.”

Then, John left the room. After a few seconds, Sophia put down the phone and pulled a long face.

This jerk is giving me an attitude today! I suppose it has really been a long time since I’ve dealt with him. Now, he’s forgotten where he stands!

She got up to wash, then came back to the bed and turned off the lights. There was nothing particularly interesting on the phone, so she might as well sleep.

Meanwhile, John didn’t stay in the study for too long. He only made two phone calls, read two messages, and then checked a few documents sent by his subordinates.

When he came back from the study, he froze as soon as he opened the bedroom door.

Sophia had turned off the lights and gone to bed.

Moving toward the bed without turning on the lights, John whispered to Sophia, but there was no response from her. She really didn't feel discomfort in her heart since she could fall asleep so early.

Sighing helplessly, John softened his footsteps as he went to the bathroom to shower, then came back and lay on the bed.

Sophia was lying with her back to him. As John continued to think about the past, he pulled her into his arms. The woman turned over out of habit and leaned into his arms. She then seemed half-awake as she raised her head and muttered, "You're quite cold." After saying that, she rubbed up against him before getting into a comfortable position and falling asleep again.

Raising his hand, John touched her head and whispered, "You're a really difficult woman. Why is it so hard to make you jealous?" He didn't know if Sophia heard it, but there was no response.

Although Sophia slept well on this night, John felt quite distressed; unnecessarily distressed.

The next day, John woke up first, but Sophia was still sleeping. He kept his movements quiet throughout the time he was in the room. After a quick morning routine, he went downstairs.

Old Mrs. Constance didn't come down on time on this day. He heard from the servant that she didn't have a good rest last night, so she would come down late for breakfast. So, John was the only one at the dinner table.

William didn't come back last night at all. It seemed that he had listened to John's suggestion and really planned to live with Matilda from now on.

The phone rang while John was eating. It was none other than Isabelle. She said that she had found some documents stored by her grandfather and wanted to send them to John when she had the time.

Now that she was no longer working in the company, she had all the time in the world. She asked John when he would be free so that they could set a time for her to hand over the documents.

Since John had several meetings on this day, he wasn't sure if he would be free at noon. So, he thought for a while and said that he could meet up with her after work. Isabelle didn't sound very panicky about it either and agreed to it.

After breakfast, John left for work. He was really busy with work all day. Since he had been too laid back some time ago, he had a lot of backlog to finish at this time. For the whole day, he didn't think about anything else and didn't call Sophia either. It wasn't until the evening that he stopped his work and took a deep breath. Checking his phone, he realized that Sophia didn't call him either. Does she truly think that I would be fine, or does she not care about me at all?

Actually, John had wanted to make Sophia sit down for a talk and ask her about last night, but without that marriage certificate, he kept feeling that he wasn't in the position to ask too much out of her.

Who says that the marriage certificate is useless? Look at how useful it would be right now.

The Returning Ex Chapter 924

After John was done with his work, he got into his car and left the company. He had already started the car and drove for a while before he remembered what Isabelle said to him in the morning.

Taking out his phone, he called Isabelle.

Isabelle answered immediately and said with a laugh that she had been waiting for his call.

Driving toward the Constance Residence, John told her that he would go home for dinner first, then come out again later to meet with her and then check out the documents that were with her.

Isabelle agreed and told him that there was no hurry. So, John did not hurry either and drove home.

Sophia and Old Mrs. Constance were sitting on the sofa watching TV. It was a variety show they were watching. John didn't know what was so funny about it, but the two of them were rocking back and forth, laughing their heads off.

When John came in, Sophia turned her head and glanced at him before standing up. "You're back.

We can start dinner then. We were just waiting for you."

John was a little tired, so he didn't really have much thought about other things. After he went to wash his hands, everyone sat down to eat.

Before dinner was over, the butler came and announced that Isabelle had arrived. Startled, John turned to look at the butler and asked, "Is she here? Where is she?" The butler said she was right at the door.

Old Mrs. Constance glanced at John, and then said to the butler, "Since she is here, we need to let her in. Please invite her in."

The butler went off to do as told right away.

Sophia lowered her head and continued to eat the food in her bowl. While she didn't say a word, her expression had turned somewhat frosty.

Isabelle came in with the butler. Upon seeing that they were still eating, she said apologetically, "I'm sorry. I thought you'd finished dinner. It seems that I came too early." Old Mrs. Constance said that it was okay. Then, she said, "Please wait a moment then. You're here for John, right? Is there something you need from him?" Isabelle replied, "I need to talk to him about something." John turned his head and asked Isabelle to go outside and wait for a while, saying that he would be done with dinner soon.

As Isabelle went out to sit on the sofa in the living room, John glanced at Sophia. She had finished the bowl of food in a few bites and was wiping her mouth expressionlessly. Old Mrs. Constance lowered her voice next to John. "What's there for you two to talk about that you even invited her to the house?" John blinked. "We indeed have some things to discuss, but it's all about company matters. Don't think too much; it's nothing." Sophia put down her napkin and stood up. "I'm done here. Please carry on. I'm going out for a walk." After that, she wandered out of the dining hall and even greeted Isabelle when she passed by the living room.

Isabelle stared at Sophia and nodded in greeting. Upon leaving the main building, Sophia noticed that it was a little dark outside. Thus, she decided to walk toward the back part of the residence. Dylan had packed up and was just coming out. It seemed that he was leaving again. Upon watching Sophia come this way, he stopped. As she came up to him, he told her, "It's dark out here. Try not to wander outside for too long." Sophia nodded. "Are you going out? It's so late now though. Are you going to go on a date?"

Dylan frowned slightly. "It's not a date. I'm just going out to meet a friend."

Sophia chuckled. "If it's a friend of the opposite sex, you should take the chance to interact well with

her. After all, you rarely go out to specifically meet someone."

Dylan stared at Sophia. "I didn't expect you to understand me so well."

Passing by him on her way to the back part of the residence, Sophia added, "I don't actually

understand you very well. It's just that you usually don't seem to make many friends. I'm just

guessing."

Dylan turned halfway and looked at Sophia's pregnant figure stepping away from him, then he

smiled to himself after a long while.

The Returning Ex Chapter 925

After John finished dinner, he came out and called Isabelle upstairs, and the two of them went to the

study. Isabelle had followed what she did before and taken more photos of the documents in her

grandfather's safe.

In addition to the financial receipts and sales details, there were some other things like mortgage

contracts which she didn't really understand. Looking at the contents of the mortgage contracts,

they all seemed to involve large assets such as real estate, vehicles and the like. Also, there were some reselling contracts.

In short, all of this was quite complicated, and Isabelle could make no head nor tail of anything.

John transferred all these photos to his phone before he transferred them to the computer to zoom

in more closely.

There really was a lot of complicated information. Moreover, there seemed to be some current

accounts and overseas transactions. In short, the scope involved was quite broad.

John frowned. "Your grandpa's arm is rather long, isn't it?" Isabelle didn't know much about these things. So, she pulled out a chair and sat next to John, merely staring at the photos. "You know, when I see all of this, I'm really scared. I'm especially scared that one day all of this will be revealed, and the Bailey Family will be done for."

The more complicated her grandfather's issues were, the more worried Isabelle became. Besides, the old man had gone secretly to her father's room these past couple of days, and the two of them had been discussing something in private.

Elder Mr. Bailey was getting up in his years. If there was really some mysterious business in his hands, since Dexter was no more, he would either transfer it to Old Mr. Bailey or Isabelle herself. Since Elder Mr. Bailey didn't talk to her but went to see his son frequently, Isabelle felt that Old Mr. Bailey should be his target. Old Mr. Bailey had always been close to his family, and he was also easily persuaded. Thus, it was understandable that Elder Mr. Bailey chose him.

Sophia strolled around for a long time outside. She waited until it was all dark before returning to the main building slowly.

Old Mrs. Constance was sitting in the living room downstairs. The TV was on, but Old Mrs.

Constance was clearly not watching it. Her expression was a bit serious, and Sophia didn't know

what she had in mind. When she saw that, she went over and greeted Old Mrs. Constance first.

“Grandma, why haven’t you gone to bed yet?”

Startled, Old Mrs. Constance turned her head to look at Sophia. Her expression became a little

complicated as she said, “Come. Sit with me and watch TV for a bit.”

Sophia paused briefly before going over to her. Usually, Old Mrs.

Constance kept a very regular

routine. At this point in time, she should be resting upstairs.

Sophia sat down with a smile. “What’s going on? Isabelle hasn’t left yet, has she?”

Old Mrs. Constance sighed, but she still found an excuse for John.

“They should be talking about really important things.”

Sophia didn’t counter Old Mrs. Constance but simply went with her

words. “I guess so. I think John

would not have the courage to bring Isabelle home to do other kinds of things.”

As soon as Old Mrs. Constance heard Sophia say something like this, she knew the latter minded

Isabelle’s presence. She sighed. “This boy is too wayward. You just wait. I’ll help you deal with him.”

Sophia didn’t say anything else. Keeping silent, she just sat next to Old Mrs. Constance, and both of

them stared at the TV, but it was clear that neither of them was actually watching.

After sitting for what seemed to be a long time, John and Isabelle hadn’t come down yet. Sophia

couldn’t help but stand up and tidy her clothes. “Grandma, I’m a little tired. I’ll go up and rest first.”

Sighing, Old Mrs. Constance wanted to say something, but Sophia had already gone upstairs.

When she came to the corridor, she glanced toward the study door that was tightly shut. The sight of

it made her face darken. Without a word, she then turned back to her room.

Usually, Sophia would fall asleep when her head touched the pillow. Now, however, after showering and changing her clothes, she tossed and turned in bed for a long time, but the usual drowsiness was missing.

The Returning Ex Chapter 926

Sophia finally sat up and stared at the door. That jerk John still isn't back yet. How much does he have to say to Isabelle?

By now, she actually had an urge to go over and take a look, but her stubbornness caused her to suppress this impulse. Maybe the jerk is waiting for me to go over to the study room. I'm not gonna fall into his trap!

So, she took out her phone and scrolled through it for a while, but there was nothing noteworthy or interesting on it. Finally, she put the phone down, turned off the lights, and went to sleep with her head covered.

John had indeed been discussing matters with Isabelle. Both of them looked through the documents that Isabelle had photographed.

The business in the hands of Elder Mr. Bailey seemed to be a huge business network.

Upon looking at these things, Isabelle became more and more frightened.

She covered her face and said, "Considering how big this business of Grandpa's is, it would be really easy to get into trouble. By then, the Bailey Family will be done for." Judging from the current accounts, her grandfather's income was so huge it was quite terrifying.

Such a big matter would certainly be leaked out one day. There was no such thing as a wall that was impenetrable. If the business were to grow, the structure of the personnel inside had to be larger also. When the number of people involved increased, the probability of the whole thing being leaked would increase as well.

Isabelle was not a bold and daring person. When she thought about this, her limbs started to tremble.

John saved everything on his computer, then he turned to look at her. "You have to be calm now and not let the cat out of the bag. If you panic now, it will be difficult to carry out the subsequent tasks."

Holding her hands together, Isabelle calmed herself down and nodded. "I know, don't worry. I won't drag you down."

The two chatted in the study for a long time. It wasn't until John took a look at the clock that he realized it was already late. "Oh, it's late now."

Isabelle looked down at her watch as well. "Ah, I didn't even notice the time." She stood up and continued, "Well, you should rest. I'll leave now. Sorry for bothering you for so long."

Then, Isabelle and John came out of the study together. John thought for a while before asking, "Did you drive here by yourself?"

Isabelle nodded. "Yes."

John smiled. "Okay. Drive safely."

After that, he followed Isabelle downstairs, but when he came to the stairs, he stopped in his tracks when he saw that Sophia was not downstairs. He told Isabelle to be careful on her way back home, then he turned and went back upstairs to his bedroom.

Pushing the door open, John sighed when he saw that the room was dark.

Although it was indeed very late, he and Isabelle had been in the study all this time. How could

Sophia fall asleep knowing that?

John couldn't understand her at all.

After standing there thinking for a while, he finally turned around and left the room. At this moment,

Old Mrs. Constance was walking up the stairs. When she saw John coming out of the room, she frowned.

John walked toward her, but before he could speak, he heard Old Mrs. Constance ask, "How much did you have to discuss with Isabelle? Did you really have to talk until so late?"

John said, "I didn't pay much attention to the time, but there was indeed a lot of stuff. We were analyzing while discussing at the same time, so things dragged on for quite a long time. I know it's indeed rather late." After saying that, John hurriedly asked Old Mrs. Constance, "Did Sophia say anything to you?"

Old Mrs. Constance rolled her eyes at him. "Think for yourself. Of course, she said that she

understood why you had to do this. What else could she even say?"

She turned and walked toward

her room as she spoke to John at the same time. "Don't shoot yourself in the foot. Sophia hasn't remarried you yet, so you'd better behave."

The Returning Ex Chapter 927

John stood there, sighing deeply. Of course, he understood everything perfectly well. It was just that he still held a grudge.

Last time, when Ian came back, he was so angry he couldn't sleep well at night. Naturally, he wanted

to make Sophia jealous this time.

However, Sophia didn't react at all despite him feeling that he had used all the tricks up his sleeve.

The more Sophia acted like this, the more displeasure he felt in his heart. He couldn't control himself wanting to prove that he still had a place in Sophia's heart.

Just like that, John stood there for a while before finally turning back to the room.

He didn't keep his movements quiet this time. In fact, he deliberately made loud noises when he went to the bathroom to shower.

The truth was that Sophia wasn't sound asleep and was only half-unconscious. Thus, his noises woke her right up. She slowly sat up and shouted at the bathroom, "Are you crazy? Why are you making such loud noises?"

Pushing open the bathroom door, John leaned out of the bathroom.

"Oh, I'm taking a shower. Did I wake you?"

Sophia glared at him wordlessly and lay down again.

Now, John was already done with his shower, so he quickly turned off the bathroom lights, came out, and lay on the bed. "Isabelle brought a lot of documents over to show me today. I didn't pay attention to the time and worked until this late."

Sophia didn't want to talk to him at all, so she closed her eyes without saying a word.

After John finished speaking, he waited a long time for Sophia's reply that never came. So, he put his arm around her, which she quickly shook away. "Go to sleep. Why are you talking so much?"

Knowing that Sophia was not sleepy yet, John continued, "Actually, I think Isabelle is also quite pitiful. You have no idea how chaotic the Bailey Family is now. Her brother..."

Before he finished speaking, Sophia turned her back to him. "What a load of nonsense."

John paused; the remaining words were stuck in his throat. He wasn't angry though. Since Sophia was giving him a bad attitude, he felt that it was possible that she was jealous. So, a little bit of joy rose in his heart.

John sometimes felt that he was rather strange in the head. Why do I like Sophia being upset at me?

After waiting for a moment, John lay down completely. He mumbled to himself, "Actually, I used to think that Isabelle was quite pretentious, but now, I think she has her own difficulties that made her like that." In short, she was an unfortunate soul as well.

Sophia rolled her eyes, knowing that John could not see her. Is this jerk actually complimenting

Isabelle in front of me? Is he brainless or what?

Seeing that Sophia still ignored him, John really couldn't continue with the topic anymore, so he simply added, "Well, it's late now. Good night."

On the other side of the bed, Sophia stared into the darkness for a long time. In the end, her mind became a little confused, so she simply chose to close her eyes and stop thinking.

When morning came, Sophia woke up earlier than John. She sat up in a daze. After a while, she got up to carry out her morning routine. When she came out of the bathroom, she did not wake John, but went downstairs by herself.

The air was very fresh this early in the morning, so Sophia went to stand in the open space in front

of the main building.

After a moment, Old Mrs. Constance came down as well. She walked slowly to Sophia, and then asked, "Did you not sleep well?"

Sophia turned her head to glance at Old Mrs. Constance. "How could I not sleep well? My sleep was great."

She was clearly bad at acting, for Old Mrs. Constance smiled helplessly. "If you mind it very much, just tell John about it. If you don't tell him, he will never understand. Men and us women think differently."

Sophia stared into the distance before she replied, "No matter how different we are, he should know in his heart what should and shouldn't be done. The more he acts like this, the more thankful I am that I haven't remarried him yet."

The Returning Ex Chapter 928

Old Mrs. Constance was taken aback by Sophia's words, and she stared at the younger woman wordlessly.

John came down after a while. Since it was still a little early, breakfast wasn't ready yet, so he came over and stood beside Sophia.

Stretching his arms, he looked for something to talk about. "Why did you get up so early today? You usually sleep a lot nowadays."

Sophia answered, "I went to bed a bit early yesterday."

John nodded. After a while, he continued, "Your pregnancy checkup is just round the corner, right? I'll go with you."

Sophia didn't protest about this matter either, so she agreed with him.

Meanwhile, Old Mrs. Constance went back to sit in the living room. She found a magazine and started to read it.

After standing beside Sophia for a while, John felt like he had reached an impasse with her. Thus, he then turned around and went to the living room.

Old Mrs. Constance raised her eyes at him. "What's the matter? You hit a wall?"

John pursed his lips. "I don't know if I should be happy or upset now."

Sophia's attitude had really affected his mood. It wasn't about her being happy or not. He just didn't know whether he should be happy about it.

Old Mrs. Constance beckoned toward John and had him sit down. Then, she lowered her voice and said to him, "What was yesterday about? Why did you ask Isabelle to come over?"

John pursed his mouth and spoke after a few seconds of silence. "I didn't ask her to come over. I

originally wanted to meet her outside. Perhaps she was too anxious about things, so she showed up here herself."

Old Mrs. Constance frowned. "You and Sophia haven't remarried yet. If you do this now, does that mean you are not planning to keep this wife and child anymore?"

"Why would I think that?" John's eyes widened. "Did Sophia say something to you?"

Old Mrs. Constance shook her head. "She didn't say anything, but women understand each other

even without saying anything. You really shouldn't do such things.

Right now, you can't outdo her at

all. So what are you getting at by doing such a thing?"

John felt distress coursing through his veins, which made him very uncomfortable, and that made

him sigh. "I just wanted to prove something."

Old Mrs. Constance snorted. "You're a smart man, yet how could you make such a stupid move at this time? Even if you want to prove something, you can't use this approach. It will only make Sophia stray away from you. It appears that you still don't know enough about women."

John's expression was a little aggrieved. Then, he turned his head and glanced at Sophia, who was still standing in front of the main building.

Indeed, he could not outdo her. This woman has become more and more heartless. She wasn't like this before.

When it was time for breakfast, John diligently served Sophia. He put the vegetables into Sophia's bowl, passed the milk to her and even cut the ham for her.

Sophia was a little disgusted by his behavior, so she turned to look at John and said, "If you have something to say, just say it to my face. You don't need to act all chivalrous here."

Taken aback for a moment, John quickly explained, "I have nothing to say. Why is this considered chivalrous? I'm just trying to be nice to you."

Old Mrs. Constance almost wanted to cover her face in mortification.

This stupid boy! She had always felt that John was rather thoughtless when it came to relationships, and she knew that one day he would suffer. Now that he had really suffered, she thought that he would slowly learn something from it. But why does it seem that he's just becoming more and more stupid instead?

After breakfast, John went to work again. Sophia wanted to go out for a walk, so the two of them walked to the parking lot together, then Sophia turned to walk to the back garden by herself.

However, John was a step faster. He stepped up and embraced Sophia in his arms. Sophia's belly was

slightly bulging now, so John held her loosely.

He bowed his head and kissed her on the forehead before taking the initiative to admit his mistake.

"I was wrong about what happened yesterday. I forgot to consider your feelings. Please don't take it to heart. I promise I won't do it again."

The Returning Ex Chapter 929

Sophia blinked. "What happened yesterday?"

It was a straight stab to the chest.

Sighing, John looked at Sophia. "I feel really sad when you pretend not to care." He placed his

forehead against Sophia's forehead. "I just wanted you to be jealous, but why is it so hard? You have no idea how sad I was yesterday."

Sophia gave him a push. "Hurry up and go to work. Why are you being so dramatic?"

With that, she walked toward the back garden by herself. After a few steps, she couldn't help but lift

the corners of her mouth. Not only did this man lose his IQ, he even became more and more childlike.

Sophia really couldn't believe that the honorable young master of the Constance Family would also

play such tricks. People would laugh if they knew.

Still, she didn't exactly feel pleased the previous day either. She was so upset that her chest still hurt.

When John arrived at the company, Zack came in as soon as he entered the office. The latter looked a

little excited as he lowered his voice and said to John, "There is going to be a deal over there today."

John replied, "You should know what to do."

Zack rubbed his palms together gleefully. "Don't worry. Just wait for my good news." Then, he turned around and went out.

John squinted, his expression cold. Sitting down behind the desk, he took out a document. Just after reading two pages of it, the phone rang loudly. It was Husky who called, saying that he had obtained some documents and would send them to him at the soonest possible. After that, John asked him about Roselia.

Husky paused before saying, "I don't know. She provided me with an address yesterday. I went there to steal something, and a security guard came over halfway. Miss Stone went to divert him away. I didn't see her again after that."

John replied, "How could you attract security when stealing something?"

Husky felt a little wronged, so he shook his head quickly as he spoke. "No, I didn't attract security.

Yesterday, Miss Stone stole the key and gave it to me, so I went there to steal something. They have strict patrols over there and they do it every day. It couldn't be avoided at all. So, Miss Stone came over and diverted the security away."

After a short moment, John said, "Fine. You can contact Roselia later. See if you can find her, but don't create any more trouble."

Hanging up the phone, he continued to organize the company's matters and was busy with work until noon. The front desk receptionist then came over and gave him a package, telling him that someone had handed it to her and said it was for John.

John quickly opened the package and took a look. It was a name list with phone numbers. This is

probably what Husky found on the previous day.

Then, John carefully went through the list before calling Zack over through the internal line. He gave the document to Zack and told him, "Investigate all these people in detail."

Zack was stunned when he saw the list. "Did Roselia and Husky find this?"

John nodded. "Roselia is much more capable than we thought. Partnered with Husky, these two are really something."

Zack took the document over and said, "I've checked the location and time of the deal today, and I've reported it. If the deal goes on as intended, they should be caught red-handed."

When John heard that, he smiled. "Did you tell them to prevent the other party from turning it into a brawl again? This time, we must check whether there really are any goods involved."

Zack nodded. "I've told them about it. Don't worry. If we really catch them, they will definitely not be able to escape."

At this moment, John looked at the time. "Okay, it's time to get off work. Let's have lunch together."

Zack raised his eyebrows. "Aren't you going back to have lunch with Sophia? You haven't been back for two days straight. Won't she be angry?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 930

John leaned on the back of the chair and let out a long sigh. "On the contrary, I really wish for her to be angry, but that woman is so open-minded now. Even though I stayed in the study with Isabelle till late into the night yesterday, she wasn't even mad about it. In fact, I was the one who became mad about it."

Shocked, Zack stared at John. “What did you and Isabelle do in the study so late at night?”

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John took a document from the table and threw it at Zack. “What could we do? What else could I do with her? Obviously, we were discussing business matters.”

Zack hurriedly avoided the attack and then waved his hand. “Okay, okay. I get it. I get that you were discussing business matters. I’m sure you didn’t have time during the day, so you had to discuss at night right in front of Sophia. The two of you closed the door, right? There were only two of you, right? It’s okay. I’m certain that both of you were innocent and did not harbor any indecent thoughts. You guys didn’t do anything wrong. You don’t need to explain. No explanation needed. I totally understand.”

Zack clearly understood nothing, for every word he said was like a knife that stabbed at John’s heart, making him stand up angrily.

Seeing that, Zack hurried to the door. “Don’t be angry. I swear we’re of one mind. We still have to deal with those people in the Bailey Family, so we can’t have infighting.”

John stared at him. “I guess you don’t want an increment, eh?” Back at the Constance Residence, Sophia was sitting in the garden, a little confused. Actually, there was nothing going on between John and Isabelle; she knew that. She could also somewhat understand why John did what he did.

Thus, Sophia reflected on herself and wondered if she had acted too apathetically recently. Is that

why John was acting so childishly? But shouldn't two people who have been together for a long time behave this way to each other? Did he really need to use Isabelle to upset me? He clearly knows that I'm not on good terms with Isabelle. Sophia sat there for a while until her phone rang. It was Matilda who had called.

Sophia laughed immediately upon receiving Matilda's call. Before Matilda could speak, she asked, "How was it? Have you been having a good life recently? Has Mr. Constance moved to your place for good?"

Matilda was at a loss for words. After hesitating for a long time, she said, "Why do you ask so much?"

Sophia laughed again. "I wanted to ask you a long time ago, but I haven't had the time to. You're totally asking for it by calling me yourself." Then, she continued asking, "Did the relationship between you two improve? Have you thought about when you will remarry?"

Matilda went along with Sophia's words by saying, "The two of us haven't talked about remarriage yet. William came to my house yesterday. I don't know what he talked about with my mother, but perhaps the matter of remarriage has to be delayed for a while more." Matilda sighed and continued, "After all, our divorce wasn't that long ago. If we remarry so soon, it may not look appropriate on the outside."

Sophia sighed as well. "You two are really something to divorce and then remarry so quickly. It's like you think this is all a joke."

Matilda was a little displeased. "How are you in a position to criticize me? Look at you and John.

After your divorce, you still live together. You even have a child with him now, but you still refuse to remarry. You guys treat this like a joke more than us.”

Sophia put her hands on her belly. “Yeah, maybe we won’t remarry even after the birth of our child.

I’m thinking about how to answer the question our child would ask in the future about why we’re not husband and wife.”

When she heard that, Matilda’s eyes widened at the other end of the phone. “Are you honestly not gonna remarry him even after the child is all grown up? Let me tell you this; you really can’t be so headstrong. If you really wear out John’s patience one day, you’ll definitely regret it.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 931

Sophia chuckled to herself, but she also knew that Matilda was right. Of course, she couldn’t assume that John would love her forever, so she shouldn’t continue to be willful like this. After all, she had to give the man the respect he was due.

Then, Sophia looked up at the sky. “Let me think about it, but John hasn’t performed very well recently. Let me observe him some more.”

Matilda then asked Sophia if she was bored at home. She said she wanted to come over to see her.

For sure, Sophia was more than happy to entertain her, so she immediately said, “Come over. I’ve been sitting in the garden alone in a daze for quite some time now. Come and lend me an ear so that I can vent to you about John. Otherwise, I really don’t have a shoulder to cry on.”

Matilda laughed exasperatedly at what Sophia said. Then, she sighed and grumbled, “It’s good that I

understand you. If I don't, I would really be pissed off by you." After she hung up, Sophia continued sitting in the garden.

A moment later, Lady Jennifer had packed up and was walking out of her own yard toward the parking lot. When passing by the garden, she obviously noticed Sophia, but she didn't look at her and just passed by with her eyes staring straight ahead.

Leaning on the chair, Sophia naturally saw Lady Jennifer as well, but Sophia's temperament was such that she wouldn't be polite to anyone who wasn't friendly toward her.

The two of them were aware of each other's presence, but neither of them spoke.

Then, Lady Jennifer walked to the parking lot and opened the car door. She couldn't help herself but glance back at Sophia. The latter was leaning on the chair with her head slightly raised. She was clearly basking in the sun and looked very comfortable.

Lady Jennifer's expression was a little complicated as she stared at Sophia for a long time before getting into the car and driving away.

If Dylan married Sophia back then, the house might already be full of kids running around, she thought. But then, one couldn't think too much into this kind of thing; it would only make him or herself feel distraught.

Lady Jennifer sighed after a long while.

After some time, Sophia got up slowly. She walked toward the main building and came to an area not far from the main gate when Matilda's car drove over. Sophia immediately replaced the frosty

expression on her face with a grin as she walked over.

As the main gate opened, Matilda drove in and parked her car in the parking lot. Then, she got out of the car and looked at Sophia. She snorted a bit before her gaze landed on the latter's belly. "You look bigger than before."

Sophia touched her belly with both hands. "I too feel like I'm much bigger than before."

Thinking about it, she realized that she had been carrying the baby for more than three months by now. Time really flies. In just a few months, I will be able to meet the child in my belly.

Matilda came over and touched Sophia's belly. "So, you have to think thoroughly about when you will remarry John. There will be problems if you don't remarry him before the child's registration."

Sophia nodded. "I know. Let me observe John's performance some more."

John hadn't performed well last night, but he had spoken so sadly this morning at the parking lot that his words had made her go all soft inside.

After that, Matilda followed Sophia to the main building. Sophia brought William up and asked

Matilda if he had promised her anything when he moved in with her.

Matilda frowned. She said that she still didn't quite understand how things had developed up to this point.

In fact, William had suddenly called her a few days ago, saying that he had drunk too much while socializing outside, so he had asked her to pick him up. This kind of thing had happened before, so Matilda didn't think too much into it and simply drove over to pick William up.

In the end, William refused to go back to the Constance Residence. He hummed and hawed, begged

and pleaded before ending up at her house.

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Then, William stayed in Matilda's guest room that night.

Although Matilda didn't think it was appropriate, she didn't consider it a big deal either.

However, who would have thought that William would go directly to her place after getting off work the next day? He even brought his clothes over, obviously intending to stay there for longer.

Matilda couldn't deny that she felt rather ecstatic at the thought. By doing so, William had actually made some things clear. To Matilda, she secretly felt that she had won the fight against Yolanda again.

Then, William went to the Flintstone Residence again and talked to Old Mrs. Flintstone. Matilda didn't know the content of the conversation because she was not there, and her mother did not tell her about it either. But judging from the older woman's attitude toward William afterward, the two of them seemed to have had a good conversation. Matilda looked a little embarrassed after talking about this. Meanwhile, Sophia laughed next to her. "Great, your relationship is developing very fast. You two are progressing even faster than me and John."

Matilda sighed. "You're so pretentious, and John is so stupid. It goes without saying that you two would be slow." Her words were clearly an admonishment to both of them.

Sophia grinned. "It's mainly your son who is stupid."

Matilda followed Sophia into the main building. When she saw Old Mrs. Constance, awkwardness crept across her face. but Old Mrs. Constance simply smiled upon seeing her. "I'm guessing that William was with you for the past two days."

Matilda tucked her stray strands of hair behind her ear. "Yes, he was with me."

When she heard that, Old Mrs. Constance laughed. "It seems that I have to find time to go and visit your family. It's been a long time since I saw your mother. I really have to talk to her about some things."

Matilda's face went completely crimson. At her age, she still needed her elders to fret over her marriage. How embarrassing!

The three of them sat down in the living room. Old Mrs. Constance took the opportunity to ask whether William was busy with the company recently and whether he had gone home on time.

Matilda nodded. "He hasn't socialized much recently, and he comes back every day after work."

At that, Old Mrs. Constance sighed. "He never came home on time when he was living here with me.

He said he was busy every day. Sure enough, those were all excuses. It was indeed based on his willingness to come home."

The corners of Sophia's mouth curved upward before she realized it. Old Mrs. Constance had also changed a lot. It was not only Matilda who liked to act all prim and proper in the past, but Old Mrs. Constance as well. Now, she actually knew how to make fun of others.

Old Mrs. Constance chatted for a while before checking the time. "It seems that John will not come

back at noon today.” After saying that, she glanced at Sophia. “What did you two talk about outside this morning? Did you break his heart again?”

Sophia hurried to clarify herself. “I didn’t say anything! He was just being dramatic by himself.”

Old Mrs. Constance’s gaze landed on Sophia’s belly. “Sophia, I know my own grandson very well. If

he doesn’t like you very much, he wouldn’t do what he’s doing now.

John has been headstrong since

he was a child. So, it really isn’t easy for him to do all this. It’s not possible for you to expect him to

be particularly empathetic and emotionally aware overnight.”

After pausing for a while, the old lady added, “Also, you have to give him some kind of response. If

you let him run around like a headless chicken trying to please you without getting any reaction

from you, he will definitely become tired.”

Old Mrs. Constance’s speech was rather amusing, which earned laughter from both Sophia and

Matilda.

Thus, Sophia nodded. “I understand. I’ve also reflected on myself today.

Indeed, I might have

overdone it.” She just wanted to vent all the grievances she had suffered in the past.

But now that she thought about it, it was actually pointless to do so.

The more she vented, the more

pretentious she would appear to be.

The Returning Ex Chapter 933

It was totally unnecessary. Old Mrs. Constance knew that Sophia had a clear head, and she was quick

to pick up hints. So, Old Mrs. Constance said nothing more.

Also, Matilda stayed for lunch.

While eating, Sophia mentioned that she met Lady Jennifer, but neither of them said hello to each

other.

Old Mrs. Constance shook her head helplessly. "I'm sure things will improve once Dylan finds a girlfriend and settles down. To be honest, there's no need to be so hung up on these things. They're too narrow-minded, to say the least."

Sophia took a shrimp and peeled it. "I'm not hung up on it. Anyway, I've never had a good relationship with them, so I think it doesn't matter how I behave toward them."

Old Mrs. Constance thought about it and commented, "Actually, I used to think that you and Dylan are a very good match."

Matilda quickly said, "Mom, don't say that. If John hears this, he will be angry."

Her address of Old Mrs. Constance as 'Mom' was so natural that both Sophia and Old Mrs. Constance didn't pay much attention to it.

Old Mrs. Constance smiled to herself. "I'm only saying this in John's absence. I definitely wouldn't dare to say this if he's here." Then, Old Mrs. Constance continued, "You should be aware that at that time, John's grandfather was seriously ill, and he was worried about Sophia. At first, he actually wanted to entrust Sophia to Dylan's family. At that time, Dylan didn't seem to be against the idea, but he went back and discussed it with his parents, who were unwilling to accept her. Dylan had always listened to his parents, so he came over to reject the suggestion. But when he rejected it, I could see that he was a bit hesitant."

At this, Old Mrs. Constance smiled again. "To be honest, considering Dylan's attitude back then, if

John's grandfather had insisted on him marrying Sophia, Dylan would probably agree to it. The boy is kind and compassionate."

Old Mrs. Constance then glanced at Sophia before adding, "But later, John's grandfather discussed with him, and he agreed first, so we thought that since he had agreed, then we should not press the issue with Dylan."

Sophia pursed her mouth and did not speak. Meanwhile, Matilda said, "Yes, yes. At that time, John was the one who suggested breaking off the engagement with Isabelle. I didn't agree to it back then, but John straight up went to the Bailey Residence and broke it off. I was so angry that I argued with him over this matter. He told me then that he had no feelings for Isabelle, and he didn't feel sad to lose her."

Matilda laughed at herself and continued, "I was quite dumb back then. At that time, John had told me very clearly that he didn't like Isabelle, but I was the one who insisted on matching them together. Then, I kept talking about how great they were together in front of you, as well as how John had always said he felt reluctant to break up with Isabelle. But the truth was that John never said that."

Blinking, Sophia thought about it. Matilda had indeed said many times before that John was reluctant to break things off with Isabelle and he regretted his decision. However, she had never taken it seriously and assumed that Matilda was just saying nonsense. After they chatted for a while, Sophia's phone rang. She fumbled for it and took a look, then flashed the screen at the two older women. "It's from John."

Old Mrs. Constance and Matilda both smiled. "Sure enough." Squeezing the phone, Sophia thought for a while. "I'll go out and pick it up. We're gonna talk for a bit."

Old Mrs. Constance waved her hand. "Go, go. We don't really want to hear what you two have to say. I'm sure it's nothing more than sweet nothings that young people say to each other."

Actually, Sophia didn't want to say those sweet nothings to John. She just wanted to talk to him about the things that had been brewing in her heart over the past two days.

John had looked so pitiful in the parking lot this morning. Thinking about it now, she still felt a little bit uneasy and regretful of her attitude toward him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 934

Sophia treated everyone around her very well, except for John, whom she was pretty harsh toward.

While sitting in the garden earlier, she had been reflecting on this. People were often like this; they often treated those whom they cared about or those who cared about themselves harshly. On the other hand, they were more tolerant toward other people around them.

This was not a good thing.

Sophia took the phone and walked outside the main building. By then, the call had stopped.

So, she called John back.

John immediately picked it up over there. With a smile, he asked her what she was doing. Sophia's voice sounded very gentle as she told him that she was having lunch with Old Mrs. Constance and Matilda.

John was smart enough to tell from Sophia's voice that she was showing him some leniency. So, he quickly explained why he didn't go home at noon on this day. He said he was eating out with Zack.

Sophia chuckled. "I know. I understand that you're busy over there. It doesn't matter. In fact, you don't have to come back at noon all the time. Your break isn't that long; don't waste it travelling back and forth."

John lowered his voice. "But I want to see you." His flirtatious words came anytime and anywhere, and Sophia was already used to it. So, she simply said, "We can do video calls instead."

She sensed that John was standing up and leaving his initial position. Then, there was some sort of echo over there before John began to speak again. "I may have to be in frequent contact with Isabelle soon. She has investigated some matters about her grandfather, and the two of us have to share the information. I'm telling you this in advance because I'm afraid you'll be upset about it."

Hmph. Will he stop communicating with the person if I'm unhappy about it? Still, Sophia didn't voice out what she thought. Instead, she took a deep breath and said, "I hope you two will talk in front of me in the future. It's not that I'm worried about what you'll do. I just felt really uncomfortable and I couldn't sleep well last night."

John laughed as soon as she said this. Finally, he felt that a burden had been lifted from his heart. As he agreed, he tentatively said, "Then I will meet her in the Constance Residence right in front of you, okay?"

Sophia laughed. "Of course, if Isabelle is willing." But she had a feeling that Isabelle would not be willing to do so.

The phone conversation went well. Although they didn't talk much, the atmosphere was good. John and Sophia hadn't finished their meals respectively, so they hung up after a few more words.

Squeezing the phone, Sophia felt a little better in her heart. Hence, she turned around and went back into the house.

On the other side, John held his phone and stood in front of the restaurant for a while.

Shortly after, he saw someone wandering toward his car. The man walked to the car, stopped, and looked around.

As a result, he saw John standing in front of the restaurant. Taken aback, the man hurriedly pretended to straighten his clothes before turning around and leaving. John almost laughed out loud. Where do these people come from? All of them are so rubbish at what they do. They have given the game away even before doing anything. Then, he took out his cigarette case, removed a cigarette and held it between his teeth, but he did not light it. On the contrary, he simply stood here and continued to stare after the man, who walked for a while before literally running away.

John waited for a moment and saw that there was nobody following up on the incident. So, he turned around and entered the restaurant.

Waiting inside, Zack was already feeling a little bored. When he saw John coming in, he was just about to speak when John said, "After lunch, get someone to obtain the footage from the surveillance camera on my car and investigate the guy who went near it."

Zack reacted quickly. "Are there still people who dare to tail us? I'm sure they don't know what's in store for them, or they wouldn't have dared."

The Returning Ex Chapter 935

John didn't say anything else, nor did he worry about anyone sabotaging his car. Since his car was equipped with a 360-degree surveillance system, he would check it every time before getting into the car. Still, he frowned and commented, "Elder Mr. Bailey seems to have found out something."

After all, a bunch of people in the shadow bank had suddenly all disappeared.

Elder Mr. Bailey was not yet senile. All he had to do was to think about the people he had been targeting recently and failed in doing so, then he would have his answer to his question of who was going up against him.

When John returned to the company after lunch, he noticed Isabelle waiting in the company lobby.

Startled, he looked at Isabelle and asked, "Why are you here? Is something wrong?"

Isabelle smiled. "There's nothing wrong, but my heart is not at ease. So, I came over to chat with you.

Maybe I'll feel better then."

John frowned. "You'll give the game away like this."

When she heard his reminder, Isabelle was startled, and she immediately explained, "I was at home.

Fortunately, they haven't doubted me so far."

John didn't speak any more and walked directly to the elevator. After thinking about it for a moment, Isabelle followed him.

She was really not feeling well inside. Earlier, her grandfather went to talk to her father again. This time, they had closed the door and discussed something with each other inside for a long time.

Isabelle tried to eavesdrop outside, but there was not a sound coming from inside. The two of them were behaving so guardedly that she felt they must be talking about something terrifying.

At that thought, Isabelle shuddered in her heart.

Later, her father left straightaway. Isabelle had wanted to follow him, but she was really afraid of being discovered. So, after sitting around at home for more than an hour, she finally came to visit John.

Isabelle felt that her grandfather probably knew that she was visiting John, because when she left, he had let out a somewhat relieved smile.

Now, Isabelle was following John to his office. Zack glanced at her several times with a displeased expression. No matter how Isabelle behaved now, Zack still didn't like her. His dislike of her was deeply ingrained, and ever since the divorce between Sophia and John, nothing had changed his perception of her.

Isabelle didn't look at Zack at all. Instead, she sat on the sofa in John's office modestly, trying to make herself practically invisible.

Zack followed them into John's office, took a chair and sat across from John's desk. In fact, there was nothing particularly important for him to be there. He just took a random document and discussed it with John. The truth was that he just didn't want John and Isabelle to be alone in the office together.

He couldn't bear to watch such a scenario happen before him even more than Sophia.

It wasn't clear whether Isabelle knew of Zack's intentions. In any case, she just sat there motionlessly without a word.

John knew what Zack was doing. So, he glanced at the latter intermittently with an amused look.

Zack mouthed at John, I'm helping you. To that, the latter merely nodded and said nothing.

Zack was indeed helping him. If Sophia knew about this, she might not quarrel with him, but she would definitely ignore him again. His situation with her now was really rather precarious.

As Zack couldn't possibly discuss the documents all afternoon with John, he was finally left with nothing to say. Hence, he stood up and straightened his clothes, then said to John, "Mr. Constance, I'll take my leave first."

John grunted in response.

After that, Zack turned around and walked out, but he stopped in his tracks when he came to the sofa. Looking at Isabelle, he suggested, "Why don't you follow me to the meeting room, Miss Bailey?

I'll have someone serve you some fruits and pour you a cup of tea." Since Zack had said so, no matter how bold Isabelle was, she couldn't possibly disagree. So, she quickly stood up and thanked Zack.

The Returning Ex Chapter 936

Zack smiled innocently. "It's okay. We're partners after all." As he led Isabelle out, John laughed out loud. Although Zack was sometimes a little obtuse, he was quite quick-witted most of the time.

John had no idea how long Isabelle stayed in the Constance Group since he had been busy with his work until it was time to clock out.

As he left the office, Zack came out of his office as well, and the two of them met in the corridor. John asked him, "Where's Isabelle? Is she still here?" Zack frowned. "Wait a minute. I'll go take a look." After all, it was impossible for him to pay strict attention to Isabelle's movements all afternoon.

Then, Zack went to the meeting room and glanced in before shaking his head toward John from a distance away. His gesture meant that Isabelle had already left. Thus, John just nodded and went on to clock out.

When he drove home, Matilda had already left the Constance Residence, while Sophia and Old Mrs. Constance were strolling outside. The two of them were laughing about something they had said.

Standing next to the car door, John looked at the two of them over there, and his heart suddenly softened at the sight.

Actually, this was not the first time he had seen this scene before, but in the past, he had resisted Sophia from the bottom of his heart. So, whenever he saw her, he felt very irritable, which was why it was unlikely for him to remember anything that was good. Sophia hadn't noticed John, so in the end, he walked over to them.

At this moment, Dylan's car drove in. He got out of the car and came toward the garden as well.

When John walked to Sophia's side, he turned his head and saw Dylan coming over. Laughing, he put his arm around Sophia and touched her belly with his other hand somewhat unconsciously. Then, he

said to Dylan, "I didn't even see you behind me. Did you change your route when you came back today?"

Dylan replied, "I had something to do today, so I drove here using another route."

Nodding, John turned around and said to Sophia, "Did the baby behave today?"

In response, Sophia laughed. "Now, the baby is definitely very well-behaved, but the doctor said that it will start to become naughty when it is a little older."

John's expression was gentle as he replied, "When that time comes, I'll tell him to stop bullying you."

Sophia felt that what he said was a bit nonsensical, so she couldn't be bothered to give him a response.

Sitting beside them, Old Mrs. Constance couldn't take it anymore. She smacked her lips and commented, "John, you used to be a cold and unfeeling boy. I really can't get used to you being like this now." After saying this, she turned and glanced at Dylan. "Dylan, are you used to seeing John like this?"

Smiling, Dylan said nothing.

After that, Old Mrs. Constance looked at everyone. "Right, we should all go back for dinner. You're all dismissed."

Although she said this, Dylan was the only one who was heading another way. The other three people were going back to the main building together. Thus, the four of them separated into two groups which moved in two different directions.

Dylan took a few steps before glancing back at the others. Now, he could see that John was putting his arms around Sophia's shoulders and saying something to her. Sophia was obviously repulsed by

what he was doing and tried pushing him away, but to no avail. Meanwhile, Old Mrs. Constance was laughing next to her. The three of them looked really harmonious together like that.

A while later, Lady Jennifer had come out of the living room and saw Dylan standing here. Walking over slowly, she stared at Sophia's direction, and then said, "Come in and eat. What's so good about this view anyway? You'll enjoy this in the future too."

Still in a daze, Dylan opened his mouth to say, "If I hadn't rejected her outright back then, maybe all this would have been mine."

Stunned, Lady Jennifer's eyes widened, and her mouth fell open.

The Returning Ex Chapter 937

Lady Jennifer looked like she wanted to say something, but after a pause, she swallowed those words and just sighed. "Right, let's go in now. Didn't you say that there's a girl you're interested in?

Why don't you bring her home and show her to me one day?"

Soon, it was time for Sophia's pregnancy checkup, and John took a day off work to accompany her.

This time, Matilda didn't come along, and it was John who accompanied Sophia.

John took a back route this time and found a doctor he personally knew. So, they didn't have to line up like the others.

When the two arrived at the hospital, they were straight away arranged to go in for an examination and a blood test.

The examination was done very speedily, and they ended the checkup by seeing the doctor once more. As Sophia had no major problems with her pregnancy, the doctor just told her to go back and take good care of her health.

After Sophia came out of the doctor's office, she thought for a bit and said to John, "Wait for me here. I'm going to the restroom."

John didn't think too much into it and simply agreed. Then, he followed Sophia toward the direction of the restroom and stopped outside.

The restrooms in the hospital were relatively large, especially the ones near the gynecologist department. The female restroom area was very spacious. When Sophia entered, there were a number of people inside.

Most of them were pregnant with big bellies. Compared to these people, her belly was still considered quite small.

Sophia was walking toward the toilet when someone came toward her.

The woman was wearing a hat and a face mask. When she came over, she raised her eyes and glanced at Sophia before quickly withdrawing her gaze. It was this sudden glance that made Sophia feel that something was not right.

She had come to the hospital several times for pregnancy checkups now, and so she had encountered many strangers. Whenever someone subconsciously glanced at a stranger, there would not be any emotion in their eyes.

However, when the woman looked at her, it looked as if she was confirming something. Her eyes had paused upon Sophia for a while.

Sophia's life hadn't been peaceful recently, so she was rather wary about her environment.

Therefore, she subconsciously got a little further away from this woman. Then, she walked a few

steps toward the people on the other side. Putting up her guard, she paid that woman a little more attention.

As the woman came nearer to Sophia, the former's footsteps slowed down for some reason.

Sophia lowered her eyes to glance at the woman's hand, which was digging around in the pocket of her clothes.

Sophia's reflex reacted faster than her comprehension. Before she realized what was going on, she had already dodged aside as that woman suddenly drew something out from her pocket and stabbed it toward her.

This woman's movements were fast, but Sophia dodged even faster. So, the item in that woman's hand ended up stabbing the girl next to Sophia, who screamed in shock and pain.

Outside, John had heard the scream. Without any time to think about it, he rushed in.

Sophia reacted quickly as well. When she saw John, she immediately pointed at the culprit who was about to escape and shouted, "It's her! Grab her quickly and don't let her run away!"

John was at the door of the restroom, so that woman must pass by him if she wanted to escape.

Hastily, John glanced at her before reaching out a hand to grab her. The woman reflexively ducked to avoid him. However, after she did so, she could no longer keep her figure, and the pillow underneath her clothes at her abdominal region flew out at once.

It turned out that this was not a pregnant woman at all.

Nobody knew how long she had been in the restroom pretending to be a pregnant woman.

Even at the sight of that, John didn't stop but immediately raised a leg and aimed a kick at the

woman, who ducked again and just narrowly avoided his kick. However, the kick landed on her hat, which flew away together with the wig.

Not only was this person not a pregnant woman, but he was not a woman at all!

The Returning Ex Chapter 938

Sophia was taking care of the girl who had been stabbed. The girl sat on the ground, sobbing her heart out.

The pain was not particularly bad, but it was inevitable that she would be in shock.

Sophia looked at the syringe on the ground, unsure what was in it. A lot of people were watching at the entrance of the restroom. After all, two men fighting at the door of the women's restroom was a shocking sight to everyone. The women in the restroom pointed at the man wearing a skirt and screamed, "Hurry up and catch him! This man is a pervert!"

The man knew he couldn't escape, but he selfishly wanted to drag others down with him. Thus, he took a switchblade out of his pocket and snapped the blade open.

Glancing at Sophia from the corner of his eyes, John saw that she was not injured, so he heaved a sigh of relief.

Seeing several burly family members approaching the door, the man made a sudden decision and launched himself at John, his switchblade aimed at the latter's chest. John had learned close combat before, so this little trick wasn't enough to take him down. Twisting his waist a little, he sidestepped the attack and then kicked at the man's lower body. The kick was swift and powerful.

The man had originally leaped over with his arm outstretched, so his body was still in mid-lunge due to inertia. Therefore, John's kick landed exactly where he wanted it to. Sophia closed her eyes. The sight of where the kick landed made her feel goosebumps all over.

As expected, the man screamed in agony, and with his scream came the clattering of the switchblade landing on the floor, which was completely drowned out by his scream. The men at the door rushed over and pressed him to the floor at once.

John hurried to Sophia's side and looked her up and down. "Are you okay?"

Pointing at the crying girl who was still holding Sophia's arm, she said, "Hurry and take her to the doctor. I don't know what's in the syringe." But it probably isn't anything good.

When the people outside heard this, a few men hurried over and carried the girl out.

On the other hand, John held Sophia in his arms. In fact, he was still rather scared. Who would have thought that there would be an ambush here of all places? Danger was really everywhere.

Sophia touched her belly and let out a long sigh. "Fortunately, I'm alright. I was frightened to death."

Due to her being harmed by others a few times before, she had become paranoid about the intentions of those around her. Thanks to that, she managed to escape this catastrophe unharmed.

The hospital was in an uproar over here, and the police had already been informed. John didn't want

Sophia to stay around, so he hurriedly took her away.

The two drove all the way home. When they arrived, John helped Sophia into the living room of the

main building. Sophia was still a little fearful as she sat down on the sofa, but she was in a much better condition than the last time when someone drove and chased after her, trying to crash into her car.

Old Mrs. Constance saw Sophia's troubled look and hurried over. "What's wrong? What happened during the examination at the hospital? You don't look too good." Of course, John couldn't tell Old Mrs. Constance what happened at the hospital, mainly because he was afraid that she would overthink and become worried. Thus, he simply said, "Sophia is a little carsick."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "Pregnancy comes with a myriad of side effects. Drink some water, then quickly lie down and rest. You'll be fine in a bit."

Sophia nodded and went along with what John had said. "Yeah, I feel a little nauseous. Maybe I ate too much in the morning."

The old lady laughed. "It's good to eat more. The baby will be better developed then. What did the doctor say?"

Naturally, the examination results were all good. The doctor said that the development of the fetus was normal, so they had nothing to worry about and only needed to continue to nurture it till its birth.

The Returning Ex Chapter 939

John's expression remained dark. After Sophia went upstairs, he told his grandmother that he had to go to work. However, after driving his car out of the residence, he did not head for the company. In

fact, on his way to his destination, he gave Isabelle a call.

Isabelle was surprised that John was calling her. At that moment, she was seated on the couch in the

living room, and her grandfather was just some distance away.

Hearing the phone call, Elder Mr. Bailey turned to Isabelle, who then showed the screen to him and said, "It's John."

Upon learning that it was John's phone call, he nodded in delight and said, "Go on. Talk to him."

With an embarrassed expression, Isabelle rose from the couch and pointed outside.

Thinking that she was shy to be talking to John over the phone in front of him, her grandfather nodded.

After stepping out of the house, Isabelle picked up the call. "Yes?" John then told her what Sophia had encountered previously and asked her if anything was amiss with her family members.

Startled for a moment, Isabelle gave it a thought and said, "Something does feel off for the past two days. My grandpa and my dad would always have discussions behind closed doors. I tried to eavesdrop on their conversations, but I couldn't hear anything." Hesitated for a while, she then continued, "I've been trying to look for a chance to talk to my dad. I hope to persuade him to give up those family businesses and turn over a new leaf. John, please understand what I've been going through. By then, I hope you'll forget your grudges with my family members."

In reality, John wasn't set on destroying the Baileys. Upon pondering on it for a while, he said, "You can have a talk with them first. It's best that they could let go of those businesses. But Isabelle,

there's something I need to warn you first. If I find out that your family members were the culprits who harmed Sophia, I hope you'll understand me no matter what I will do in retaliation."

After falling silent for a short period of time, Isabelle hung up the call. Clenching her phone, she turned around to return to the house, but to her surprise, her grandfather was watching her from behind the French windows.

When she returned to the living room, her grandfather did not seem to be as benevolent as before.

Staring at her, he said, "You finished talking pretty quickly."

Isabelle nodded. "He called to ask me something. It's nothing serious."

After a moment of silence, her grandfather said, "Belle, please don't disappoint me because we can

only rely on you now. However, you should know that you can't make our family thrive on your own. Do you understand what I mean?"

Isabelle had wanted to say she didn't understand him, but meeting with his eyes, she did not dare to speak her mind. Eventually, she nodded slightly.

Satisfied with her response, her grandfather grunted and went on to say, "There's a new movie

that's showing now, so you can try to ask John out to watch it. I heard that Sophia had been confined

at her home waiting for childbirth, hence she won't be able to tag along."

Isabelle had wanted to refute that if Sophia weren't going, John would refuse to go as well, but after

some consideration, she nodded. "Alright. I'll give it a try."

Elder Mr. Bailey continued, "Your dad has gone to work. I can see that he's exhausted having to face

those problems at the company, but he has to endure the hardship.

Belle, please help alleviate your

father's burden by finding a capable man so that our family will thrive again."

Turning around, he went upstairs as he said, "I've spent all my life building up the company, so it cannot be destroyed while I'm still alive. After I pass away, it will be up to you. I won't be able to worry about it by then."

The Returning Ex Chapter 940

With a helpless expression, Isabelle stared at her grandfather's figure until he disappeared from the stairs.

After the phone call ended, John called his subordinate to instruct him to investigate the incident at the hospital. He also asked him what happened after the transaction.

The subordinate replied that when the transaction took place, the people working for the shadow bank were caught red-handed. However, those people were sly as they didn't bring the goods with them. As for how the goods would be traded, the subordinate hadn't found any lead yet.

John's interest was piqued when he heard this. Now I'm curious how they're going to make the transaction happen.

Upon hanging up the call, he drove to the warehouse, which used to be desolate in the past. Now, the place was crammed with people. The number of people confined in this place was enough to occupy a few tables to play poker. If Logan and Matilda found out about it, they would be elated, John thought.

When Sophia awakened from her sleep, she no longer felt fearful. Touching her shoulder, she

recalled how the woman was jabbed in the same place. How did they even come up with this kind of ruthless move? They're really relentless. Sitting on the bed, she waited for a bit and went downstairs.

Matilda had arrived with a basket of fruits, which were said to be beneficial for a pregnant lady, but she hadn't had any idea what happened to Sophia. Seeing her, she immediately went to the kitchen to wash the fruits for her.

In a dazed state, Sophia took a seat and picked up an apple, but after taking two bites, she put it back down.

Matilda hadn't noticed Sophia's unusual behavior and mentioned that she came across Jennifer on her way here. Unlike her attitude in the past, Jennifer was treating Matilda in a more hospitable manner now. She even asked her when John and Sophia would remarry.

At the mention of this, Matilda guffawed and said, "I guess Jennifer is concerned about you."

Leaning against the couch, Sophia grunted. "Sometimes I feel that Lady Jennifer is more concerned about me than she cares about her son."

Heaving a sigh, Old Mrs. Constance said, "After John and you remarry, Jennifer will stop worrying about it."

No matter how I try to change the topic, it will always be about John and my relationship, Sophia thought. Recalling how swiftly John managed to protect her from the person who was trying to harm her, Sophia felt that he did provide a sense of safety for her.

If she missed John again, she didn't think she would ever encounter a man as compatible. After letting out a breath, she replied, "I'll think about it."

Matilda pursed her lips and asked, "How are you even hesitating if John is the person you're remarrying? Don't you know there are many women out there eager to marry him?"

Hearing this, Sophia burst out laughing and questioned, "Don't you know there are many handsome men out there eager to pursue me?"

Unable to hold it in anymore, Old Mrs. Constance chuckled. "Despite the age gap, the two of you are funny together. If Sophia were ten years older, she could well be your little sister."

Giggling, Matilda said, "In the past, I really found her irritating, but now I'm very fond of her. I don't even know what's wrong with me."

After the banter with Matilda, Sophia felt more energized. Then, Old Mrs. Constance told Matilda to stay there to have dinner together and teased, "Tell William to come home tonight. I haven't seen him for such a long time that I don't even remember what he looks like now."

Since William moved into Matilda's house, he hadn't returned to his own home for a long time, as though he had no intention of coming back.

The Returning Ex Chapter 941

With a bashful expression, Matilda replied to Old Mrs. Constance, "I told him to come back sometimes, but he said it was inconvenient to come back and forth." It's just an excuse, Sophia thought. Tutting, she said, "You don't have to come up with an excuse for him. We know that he's reluctant to leave you."

Rising from the couch, Old Mrs. Constance said, "I gave your mother a call just now. She said that she would be free tomorrow, so I'm going to visit her and have a talk with her."

After a moment of hesitation, she continued, "Matilda, I don't regret forcing you to divorce William.

Perhaps it was because of the divorce that you had some free time to ponder on how to get along with him. After this incident, I'm sure the two of you have learned what it takes to maintain a happy marriage."

Nodding, Matilda replied in a serious manner, "After the divorce, I was really resentful and didn't know what to do with my life. Later on, I realized that I'd learned a lot during the process. Perhaps this was what I had to go through before I learned how to appreciate the one I loved."

Her experience was similar to that of Sophia's because she also believed that her divorce from John was a blessing in disguise.

After they were separated, they realized that they were most compatible with each other and that they still loved each other. If they were to spend the rest of their lives together, they had to learn how to get along so that their love would last longer.

Since Sophia still appeared to be unhappy, Matilda suggested that they should have a walk around the place. After taking a stroll for a while, they came across Virginia from the Third Constance Family.

Sophia rarely had the chance to talk to Virginia because the latter always kept a low profile in the mansion.

Virginia was a soft-spoken woman. Even during family gatherings, she would rarely say anything.

Meanwhile, her husband, Samuel, had a disposition that was similar to hers; they both looked kind-hearted.

Seeing Matilda and Sophia, Virginia flashed a smile at them and said, "Matilda, you're back."

Matilda nodded. "Are you going out?"

After heaving a sigh, Virginia replied, "It's really boring to stay at home all the time. Since the weather is nice today, I'm going to meet up with some friends and shop around."

Sophia said, "I'm envious of you because I'm not even allowed to step out of this place."

Staring at Sophia's belly, Virginia replied, "I'm the one who should be envious of you, not the other way round. There will be a new member coming to our family soon. I'm sure the atmosphere around the house will be lively by then."

At the mention of this, she continued, "I've been wondering when John and you will remarry. I

missed the days when we were able to spend time together as a family. This place is huge, with only a few people living here. Sometimes, it can feel desolate."

Matilda had to agree with her. In the past, after the men had gone out to work in the morning, only

some women were left in the house. At that time, she was a pretty haughty person, so she would

rather stay in the main building with Old Mrs. Constance than interacting with other people. Her life

back then was simple, but it was also boring.

Since Virginia wasn't in a rush, she stayed there to have a chat with them. Gazing at Sophia's bulging

belly, she said, "After John and you divorced, I could see that he was really anxious. There were times when I caught him spacing out in the garden. He didn't look pitiful, but he was definitely lonely. At that time, I knew that he regretted divorcing you." Not knowing any of those, Sophia asked with a smile, "When did that happen?"

After giving it a thought, Virginia replied, "It was during the period of time after the news of your divorce was exposed, and you moved out of the house."

The Returning Ex Chapter 942

Virginia said, "John is a man of few words, so he'd rather keep his problems to himself. But Sophia, I can see that he really cares about you. It's hard for a woman to find a man she loves. Will you give him a chance?"

Sophia wasn't sure if Virginia was persuading her because the latter had learned that she had no intention of remarrying John. However, after hearing what Virginia said, she seemed to recall a vague memory and was moved by it.

After Virginia left, they kept walking around the place as Sophia said, "It's lunchtime now. I'll ask whether John is coming home to have lunch."

Covering her mouth, Matilda chuckled. "Alright. You'll call him, and I'll keep walking." Upon finishing her words, she turned to leave.

After Sophia made the call, John hurriedly picked it up because he was surprised that she was calling him.

Hesitating, Sophia grunted. "Do you think the Civil Affairs Bureau will be open tomorrow?"

It's Saturday tomorrow, so the Civil Affairs Bureau will be closed. Startled for a moment, John then replied, "The bureau's employees don't work on the weekends, so the place will not be open tomorrow." Sophia nodded. "Alright. Forget it."

Coming to his senses, John quickly stopped her from hanging up the call. "Why are you asking about the Civil Affairs Bureau? Are you going there tomorrow? The employees there are not going to work tomorrow. If you're free, we can go now." Without uttering a word, Sophia listened to him.

Seeing as she never replied to him, he rose from his chair and said, "I'm going home now. Get ready and wait for me."

Hearing this, Sophia burst into laughter. "What's with the fuss? It's lunchtime now, so they're surely taking a break."

After taking a look at his wristwatch, John replied, "It's fine. I'll go home now and have lunch first.

When the break is over, we'll go to the bureau. It won't take too long." Without replying to him, Sophia hung up the call.

Still holding the phone, John was stupefied for a while and then burst out laughing. Oh God, are we going to register for marriage? I still can't believe that she's changed her mind!

Rooted to the spot, John didn't even know what to do next. He only regained his senses when Zack came in with a document. Circling around the table, he clapped Zack's shoulder and said, "I'll leave the rest to you now."

Before Zack reacted to the situation, John had left the office. Stepping on the gas pedal, he rushed

back to his house at full speed. A short while later, he returned to the mansion and parked his car in the garage.

After getting out of the car, John strode toward the main building.

When he reached the garden in

front of the main building, he could see that Sophia and Matilda were watching the television with

their legs crossed on the couch. Sophia was enjoying the plate of fruits that was placed on her lap.

It seems that she hasn't been traumatized by what happened at the hospital in the morning. After

staring at her for a while, John started chuckling.

Before he entered the living room, Sophia shot him an impassive look and quickly shifted her

attention back to the television.

Absorbed in the drama, Matilda giggled and clapped Sophia's shoulder.

"Don't you think that guy is foolish?"

Sophia grunted. "Indeed. He was okay initially. How did he become so foolish?"

Stopping in his tracks, John wasn't certain whether Sophia was talking about the guy in the drama or

himself. After waiting for a bit, he said, "It looks like an interesting drama."

The Returning Ex Chapter 943

Stunned to hear her son's voice, Matilda turned to John and asked,

"How did you reach home so quickly? Did you cross any red lights?"

Not interested in discussing how he got home in a short period of time, John placed his hands on the

back of the couch and said, "If I knew you're here, I would have asked Dad to come home as well."

With her eyes still fixed on the screen, Sophia said, "It's fine. Your mom called Master William just

now. He said that he's not coming back in the afternoon because he's busy, but he'll return home in the evening."

Smiling faintly, Matilda never uttered a word.

Standing behind the couch, John ran his fingers through Sophia's hair.

Seeing as she never

responded to him, he stretched out his hand to pinch her face.

Suppressing her urge to laugh, Sophia remained silent.

Unable to take it anymore, John leaned close to her and said, "I'll go upstairs to get changed now. Are you coming with me?"

Trying to make herself sound calm, Sophia replied, "No. Why should I go with you?"

After a pause, John went on to say, "Aren't we going out later? Of course we'll have to get changed."

Bursting into laughter, Sophia turned around to eye him. "We're going to have lunch soon. After that, we'll go."

Sophia didn't try to change the topic, implying that John didn't misunderstand their conversation over the phone. Smiling, he circled around the couch and took a seat beside her. "Alright. We'll go after lunch."

Not understanding what they were talking about, Matilda turned to them. "Why are you going out later? As a pregnant lady, Sophia should stay at home."

Before Sophia could speak, John hurriedly said, "We're going to the Civil Affairs Bureau later."

Astounded, Matilda gazed at Sophia with widened eyes. "Are you going to register for marriage?"

Sophia didn't give her a definitive answer. "Oh, we're going there to have a look."

What is there to look around the Civil Affairs Bureau? Looking at her son from the corner of her eye,

Matilda said, "Congratulations, my son. Your wish has come true."

With a bashful face, John thanked his mother.

When Old Mrs. Constance came downstairs later, she was surprised to see John at this hour because

it wasn't time for him to get off work yet. Moreover, she was puzzled to see the excitement on his face.

As she was going down the stairs, she asked, "Has anything good happened at work that you've rushed home to tell us about?"

Shaking his head, John smirked. He hadn't been so happy for quite some time now.

Seeing as John never replied to her, Old Mrs. Constance turned to Sophia, who seemed to be absorbed in the drama and oblivious to the others.

A moment later, Matilda said, "John and Sophia are going to remarry later."

With her eyes widened, Old Mrs. Constance asked in disbelief, "Really?" Not believing what she had

heard, she walked up to Sophia and asked, "Sophia, have you really made up your mind? Have you decided to remarry John because of our persuasion?"

Shifting her attention to the old lady, Sophia said in an impassive manner, "I'm just going to the

bureau to have a look. At this moment, I'm not sure what my next move will be."

Despite what she had said, Old Mrs. Constance understood that she simply didn't want to say it out

in a clear manner, but she was a kind woman with a soft heart.

Grinning from ear to ear, Old Mrs. Constance clapped her hands and said, "Alright. After you leave,

I'll tell the housekeeper to buy more ingredients from the supermarket. Since this is a happy day, tell

my other sons and their family members to come here as well. We'll celebrate it together. Oh, my goodness, I'm so happy! We haven't had such a joyful time for a long time."

The Returning Ex Chapter 944

Upon finishing her words, Old Mrs. Constance paused for a moment and smacked her lips. "In fact, I had wanted to look for an auspicious day for you to register for marriage."

John hurriedly interrupted her. "There's no need for that! Today will do. This is an auspicious day."

Obviously, John was afraid that Sophia would regret her decision if this dragged on. Seeing this,

Matilda and Old Mrs. Constance giggled.

Sophia's lips curved into a smile while she gazed at John.

When lunch was ready, they took a seat around the table in the dining hall. In an excited tone, John

asked Sophia whether she wanted another wedding ceremony. After all, their divorce was made

known to everyone, so he wanted a grand wedding to inform the public that they were going to remarry.

However, Sophia wasn't interested in a grand wedding or whatsoever, therefore she said, "With a

baby in my womb now, I feel exhausted all the time, so I don't want to spend time worrying about a

wedding. We have to live our own lives, and we don't have to display our affection to the public."

In the past, she would want to show off her love with John to Isabelle, but after all that had

happened, she didn't find it necessary anymore. With a baby in her stomach, she didn't have to show

anyone that she was loved.

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "I'm glad that Sophia has become more mature now." When a person becomes mature, their life will be stable as well. I'm sure John and Sophia will be able to spend the rest of their lives peacefully.

Nevertheless, John felt that without a wedding, it was unfair to Sophia. After staring at her for a while, he said, "Alright. I'll respect your decision. After the child is born, we'll go on a honeymoon." They didn't have a honeymoon when they got married for the first time. At that time, the idea of a honeymoon never even occurred to him. He thought that he was already kind enough to hold a wedding for her. Thinking back, he was regretful that he maltreated her.

After giving him a grunt, Sophia said, "We'll see." It was apparent to everyone else that Sophia didn't care what came after their remarriage, so they changed the topic and started talking about John's work. Old Mrs. Constance told John to delegate more work to his employees. As Sophia's belly was growing bigger, she needed him to spend more time with her. In the past, work was John's top priority, and he rarely cared about Sophia. This time, Old Mrs. Constance hoped that he had learned his lesson. Understanding what his grandmother was trying to say, John nodded. "When I'm done with the work at hand, I'll delegate more work to my employees. Nothing is more important than Sophia now." Without responding to him, Sophia kept nibbling at her food. In comparison to how excited the others were, she seemed to be impassive.

After lunch, John went upstairs to get changed, while Sophia stayed in the living room to watch television.

When John was done getting changed, he paced around Sophia, but he didn't dare to urge her to hurry up. Seeing as Sophia never responded to him, he then talked to his mother and kept mentioning the time.

Sophia and the other ladies never saw John like this before. It seemed that he was really anxious.

When Sophia was done watching the last episode, she rose from the couch and stretched her

shoulders. Without uttering a word, she walked up the stairs.

Seeing this, John followed her closely.

After getting into the room, Sophia walked up to the wardrobe, whereupon John leaned close to her

and said, "I've picked out a dress for you. Look at this. Do you like it?"

There was a dress on the bed which was chosen by John when he was getting changed.

Sophia turned to take a look at the dress. I see... He picked one of my favorite dresses.

The Returning Ex Chapter 945

Sophia then looked away. "Thanks."

Thinking that she liked the dress he had picked out for her, John

smirked. "Do you like the dress I've chosen?"

Sophia grunted and closed the wardrobe, whereupon she directly got changed into the dress in front

of him. With her clothes on, her bulge wasn't conspicuous, but after she took off her clothes, it was

obvious that her belly had grown larger.

Grinning, John stretched out his hand to stroke her belly. "Your belly has grown bigger. It feels like

only a short period of time has passed."

Gazing at her own belly, Sophia said, "John, not long after we were divorced, you told me you wanted to remarry me. What were you thinking?"

John was startled as he never expected that Sophia would mention this.

At that time, Matilda took a sneak shot of their divorce certificate and sent it to the Baileys. There were rumors that he and Isabelle had gotten together, so her reputation had been affected negatively. With the photo in their hands, the Baileys threatened John to expose the fact that he had divorced Sophia.

In fact, John wasn't willing to do that because he understood Sophia very well. If the fact that they were divorced were exposed, it would be hard to win her heart again.

When he told Sophia he wanted to remarry her, she rejected the request directly.

After hesitating for a bit, John turned around and hugged her from behind. "I felt terrible at that time. Previously, I found you very irritating, but after you left, I realized that I couldn't live without you."

Smiling faintly, he continued, "The situation wasn't in my favor. It seemed that I was forced to sever ties with you. Then, I asked myself how I would feel if you were no longer part of my life. I thought I would feel terrible."

After a pause, he went on to say, "Sophia, perhaps at that time, or even earlier than that, I had fallen in love with you, but I wasn't aware of that fact myself."

Upon adjusting her dress, Sophia whirled around. "Alright. It's time to go."

When they arrived downstairs, Matilda and Old Mrs. Constance were discussing what to serve for dinner. It seemed that they were serious about the gathering in the evening.

John held Sophia's hand and walked toward the car. Not long after the car moved out of the

mansion, John received a call from Isabelle, whose voice sounded rather dispassionate. "John, I have

two tickets for a blockbuster movie. Do you want to watch it with me?"

Hearing that, Sophia frowned, but she didn't utter a word.

Since John had turned on hands-free mode, his expression changed when he heard this. In a cold

voice, he questioned, "What are you thinking?"

Isabelle chuckled and said in a milder voice, "Don't get me wrong. I don't mean to pursue you or

anything. It's just that I have two tickets with me now, and I don't have any other friends, so you're

the only one I can think of."

Seeing as John remained silent, Isabelle let out a sigh. "Alright, I get what you mean. I'll ask around if

anyone needs the tickets. I don't need them anyway."

After a pause, John asked, "What is the time slot for the movie?"

Startled for a moment, Isabelle then replied, "It's in the evening. We can have dinner first before

going over to the theater."

John inquired, "Two tickets, right?"

Isabelle quickly gave him a grunt.

Following that, John said, "Alright. Give me the tickets then. I'll pass you the money later. Sophia

hasn't stepped out of the house for a long time, so I'd like to watch a movie with her."

Sophia was trying to hold back her laughter. Apparently, John was trying to embarrass Isabelle.

The Returning Ex Chapter 946

But John is in cooperation with Isabelle recently. Is it really okay that he's treating her like this?

Sophia thought.

Isabelle fell silent. In order to keep teasing her, John asked, "Isabelle, are you listening?"

Coming to her senses, Isabelle replied in an embarrassed voice, "Alright. I'll pass you the movie tickets later."

John grunted. "Okay. Thanks." Upon finishing his words, he hung up the call.

Seeing what happened, Sophia guffawed. "You were so shameless!"

John said with a snort, "I think she was with someone."

Hearing this, Sophia was startled. "What do you mean?" After giving it a thought, she said, "You

mean someone was listening in on Isabelle's conversation with you?"

At least, that was how John felt because Isabelle talked in a different way, and her action was a little strange on this day.

After a moment of deliberation, Sophia still couldn't understand what was going on, so she just nodded. "I think so."

When they reached the Civil Affairs Bureau, they were relieved to see that the place wasn't crowded on a Friday. Since this wasn't an auspicious day, only a small number of people came to the bureau to register for marriage or file for divorce.

Remained in the car, Sophia stared at the bureau's entrance for a while and then laughed. "John, do

you remember the date of our divorce?"

John nodded. "Yes." Of course I remember that. It was a more memorable day than when I first got

married.

Chuckling, Sophia turned to face him. "It was Valentine's day." John wasn't aware that it was Valentine's day; he simply remembered the date. Then, he pulled her hand toward himself and held it firmly before saying, "We won't divorce again after today."

A while later, they stepped into the bureau and went through the legal procedures to get married, which were familiar to them. After all, it wasn't their first time here. With all the necessary documents ready, it didn't take them a long time to register for marriage.

Holding the marriage certificate in her hands, Sophia looked at it for a moment and burst into laughter. She said, "It's so easy to get one." It is so easy to get a marriage certificate, but it is so hard for two people to fall in love.

Cupping her face with his hands, John kissed her and said, "Mrs. Constance, please take care of me from now on."

With a calm expression, Sophia replied, "You should be the one taking care of me instead. Also, you'll have to obey my orders from now on."

John burst out laughing. "Alright. I'll obey your orders. You'll be the chief commander of our family."

After the call ended, Isabelle turned to face her grandfather with a helpless expression.

Elder Mr. Bailey's face had turned glacial because he had heard what John said over the phone. He then scoffed. "What a jerk."

Pursing her lips, Isabelle said in a lowered and aggrieved voice, "Grandpa, I've tried, but he's rejected me."

Her grandfather waved his hand and passed her the movie tickets. "Forget it. Just take the tickets and make your own decision."

Apparently, he was displeased because the fact that Isabelle was embarrassed was also a slap in his

face. After all, Isabelle represented the Bailey Family.

After taking over the movie tickets, Isabelle hung her head low and sighed. "After all we've been through, he still doesn't love me. I guess he'll never fall in love with me."

Not wanting to hear any of that, her grandfather waved his hand again. "Alright. Go now."

Then, Isabelle shuffled out of the room.

After Isabelle left, Elder Mr. Bailey closed the door and walked up to the wardrobe. Upon unlocking the safe, he took out a document from it.

The Returning Ex Chapter 947

After going downstairs, Isabelle slumped into the couch and composed herself.

In fact, John's response over the phone was within her expectation.

Although she had figured that

John would reply in such a way, she still felt somewhat sullen. John wasn't aware of the situation she

was in, so he was practically speaking his mind. That was what made her feel dejected.

After giving it a thought, Isabelle fished out her phone and sent John a message. She asked him when

he would be free so that she could pass him the tickets. However, John didn't reply to her. It wasn't

certain whether he didn't see the message or he didn't feel it was necessary to give her a reply.

Clenching her phone, Isabelle fell into her own thoughts on the couch.

She was disheartened, but the

feeling wasn't so unbearable; it was just a sulky feeling.

A long while later, she picked up her phone and tapped on Facebook.

Since she did not have many

friends, the content on her Facebook wasn't aplenty. Whenever she was bored at home, she would scroll through the app to take a peek into other people's lives.

A moment later, she caught a glimpse of John's post that was posted half an hour ago. It was a photo of a marriage certificate, and the caption read, 'Happiness'. After staring at it for a while, Isabelle frowned and then relaxed her brows. It wasn't a surprise to her. Since Sophia was pregnant and John had been doting on her, it was just a matter of time before they got married for the second time. After closing the app, Isabelle let out a long breath and then chuckled in self-mockery.

Upon registering for marriage, John didn't return to the company. He went home, posted the picture on Facebook, and kept staring at the marriage certificate. Since Sophia was exhausted, she washed up and slumbered off on the bed. With the certificate in one hand, John ran his fingers through her hair with his other hand. I'm beyond happy. A short period of time later, he lowered his head to observe his wife and felt dejected because while he was excited, Sophia appeared to be impassive. She's too calm.

At this moment, John found his own behavior strange. Back then, when Sophia told him she didn't want to remarry him, he felt disheartened. Later on, he became sullen that she never felt jealous. Now that they had remarried, he was crestfallen that she wasn't excited at all. He felt that he didn't even understand himself anymore.

Perhaps it was human nature that once one acquired something one desired, one would crave more.

A moment later, John put down the certificate and lay down beside Sophia, who was sound asleep.

Perhaps it was out of her instinct that she snuggled up to John in her dream. Smiling, John pulled her into his embrace and closed his eyes.

It was evening when they opened their eyes after a good sleep.

The living room was bustling because William, his brothers, and their family members had gathered in the main building. At this moment, all of them were seated in the living room and having a chat.

When John and Sophia went downstairs, all of these people turned to them in unison.

Sophia didn't mind being around so many people, but she felt bashful being watched by them.

Draping his arm around her shoulder, John put on a smile and greeted his relatives.

Old Mrs. Constance had changed into new clothes, and she looked lively. Matilda beckoned at Sophia and told her to eat the fruits she had prepared for her. Sophia grunted and walked toward Matilda.

With a joyful expression, Jennifer greeted Sophia and asked her about the result of her medical check-up.

The Returning Ex Chapter 948

Still in a dazed state, Sophia gave it a thought and replied, "The result is okay."

Unlike her usual self, Jennifer chuckled and said, "Oh well, you're well cared for here, so I'm sure your baby will be fine."

She then turned to William and said, "William, have you come up with a name for the baby? You

have to get a boy name and a girl name ready so that you won't be flustered when the child is born."

Looking at Jennifer, William said, "We'll name the baby according to our family tradition. I think we should hold a discussion one day to come up with a good name." Since Sophia didn't mind having her child named by other people, she remained silent.

Then, Jennifer turned to Dylan and urged, "John's child will be born soon, so you have to hurry up as well."

In the past, Dylan would never respond to Jennifer about this topic, but on this day, he grunted and said okay.

Satisfied with his response, Jennifer grinned from ear to ear.

Meanwhile, Jennifer shot a glance at Sophia, who was oblivious to her suspicious stare because she had never engaged in any immoral interaction with Dylan before. She wondered why Jennifer was so terrified. Sometimes, she found her laughable.

Noticing that, Old Mrs. Constance glared at Jennifer until the latter felt embarrassed and retracted her gaze.

Following that, Old Mrs. Constance beckoned to Sophia and told her to go over.

Holding Sophia's hands, Old Mrs. Constance said, "I'm glad that you'll give birth to a child soon. I haven't been so happy for a long time. In the past, I thought that I was wrong to be the matchmaker for you and John. Now, it seems that it was the best decision I've ever made."

Understanding the hidden message in her words, the others traded glances and shifted their

attention to Jennifer. Embarrassed, Jennifer hurriedly said that Dylan was in a relationship currently, and he might bring the woman home someday.

Dylan didn't refute his mother because he wasn't interested in this topic.

On the other hand, Sophia didn't want to argue with them. Now, she didn't even want to respond to

John, let alone Jennifer.

Still holding Sophia's hands, Old Mrs. Constance kept praising her.

Knowing that his mother was

displeased with what Jennifer had said, Owen quickly complimented Sophia as well.

Seated beside Sophia, John remained silent.

Lowering her head, Sophia noticed that John had put on his wedding ring. Then, she looked up to

observe John, who really seemed joyful about their second marriage. It was apparent that he was

serious about getting together with her again.

Following that, Sophia reached out and held his hand firmly. Although she never uttered a word,

John understood what her gesture meant.

When Old Mrs. Constance was done praising Sophia, she went on to talk about Samuel's kids, who

had been staying in a foreign country and never seemed to have the intention of coming back.

After a sigh, Old Mrs. Constance said, "It makes me feel anxious that they're not in a hurry to get married."

Samuel guffawed on the side and replied, "Mom, actually, I'm anxious as well, but I know that it's

pointless to rush them, so I just pretend that I'm not flustered.

Nowadays, young people have their

own plans and ambitions. They're different from the older generation."

The Returning Ex Chapter 949

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "I guess we should just let them do whatever they want." After a pause, she said, "I'll talk to your late father about it later so that he'll be as happy as us in heaven."

At the mention of Old Mr. Constance, the others fell silent.

Startled, Sophia thought about her own grandfather, who was most fond of kids. When they lived in the village, he would help take care of other kids. If he were still alive, he would be elated that Sophia now had a child of her own.

At the thought of this, Sophia became disheartened until dinner was ready. Perhaps she shouldn't have thought of the past because her mood was affected.

After everyone was seated around the dining table, Old Mrs. Constance thanked Sophia in delight as this gathering was made possible because of her.

Holding Sophia's hand firmly, John giggled. It was apparent to everyone else that he was overjoyed.

Although Sophia had a long sleep, she still felt pretty tired. During the meal, all of them were having a casual chat, but Sophia never said anything. Worried, John turned to her and asked, "What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

Sophia shook her head. "Maybe I just didn't rest well. I still feel tired."

Stroking her head, John suggested, "When the dinner is over, we'll have a stroll together."

Sophia grunted. "Okay."

After shooting them a glance, Dylan hurriedly retracted his gaze. Without saying anything, Sophia finished up her food pretty quickly. Seeing this, John hurried up

and gobbled down his food as well. When they were done with their meals, they rose from the chairs.

While Sophia remained silent, John apologized to the others and said that they had to take a walk because Sophia felt a little uncomfortable.

All of them understood that Sophia needed special care currently. Old Mrs. Constance said, "Alright.

Go for a walk as it is good for her health. Since we're a family, you don't have to apologize to us. After the stroll, just go back to your room and take a rest. You don't have to come back here to keep us company. Your health is the most important thing now. Please take good care of yourself."

Since his grandmother had said so, John held Sophia's hand and stepped out of the dining hall.

Without all the noise, Sophia felt much better as they walked toward the backyard.

After giving it a thought, John asked, "Do you want to have a walk around the bamboo forest?"

Looking in the direction of the bamboo forest, Sophia replied, "Okay." It seems that she isn't interested in anything. Holding her hand, John sighed and stepped out of the backyard. Since Sophia's bulge was pretty big now, John had to be extra attentive to her.

Nevertheless, they never walked up to the crest of the hill as they stopped halfway. Afraid that Sophia would exhaust herself, John kept patting her back. "Alright. Let's stop here. We shouldn't go up."

In fact, they wouldn't see more of the view on the hilltop, so it wasn't necessary to keep going up.

Halfway up the hill, they gazed at the mansion. The street lamps had lit up, and the night view was magnificent.

Feeling cold because of the breeze, Sophia thought for a bit and snuggled up to John. She was rarely so spontaneous in getting close to him, so John was elated and wrapped his arms around her.

Kissing her cheek, he asked, "Do you feel cold?"

Without dodging it, Sophia kissed his lips and smirked. "I don't feel cold now."

The Returning Ex Chapter 950

In fact, John could be pleased easily. Seeing as Sophia was beaming at him, he could feel that his heart was filled with happiness. Her smile seemed to have the ability to cast away all his worries and sorrows.

As they were enjoying the night view, the phone in John's pocket suddenly buzzed. With his hand still draped around her shoulder, John fished out his phone and checked the screen.

It was Isabelle's message. Actually, he had read her previous message as well. What he said over the phone sometime earlier was intended to mock Isabelle, but he wasn't really interested in getting the movie tickets from her. If he wanted to watch a movie, he could buy the tickets himself, so it wasn't necessary to meet up with her and get her tickets. However, Isabelle had sent him another message to ask when he would be free to retrieve the tickets from her. John had wanted to ignore her, but Sophia caught a glimpse of the message and said, "If you want to reject her, just make it clear to her. Ignoring her message isn't a good solution."

Since she had said so, John decided to obey her order and replied to Isabelle. He wrote that he didn't want to watch the movie anymore, so she could keep the tickets to herself. After that, Isabelle never

sent him any message again. It seemed that she understood what John meant.

Turning around, Sophia encircled John's waist with her arms and pressed her face against his chest.

In a muffled voice, she inquired, "Aren't you and Isabelle collaborating now? Aren't you afraid that you'll offend her?"

In reality, John didn't think he was in a business partnership with Isabelle. Even if she never provided any information to him, he still had other ways to get the information he needed. Since

Isabelle had an ulterior motive, she was willing to share the information with him. Hence, he didn't think it was cooperation because Isabelle needed him more than he needed her. Therefore, he didn't care if he would offend her in any way.

Lowering his head, John planted a kiss on Sophia's forehead and said, "It's fine. If you don't like her, I won't even talk to her."

Looking up at him, Sophia chuckled and said, "How did you figure out that I don't like her? I thought you weren't aware of this."

John smiled back at her. "It's written all over your face. How would I not know?" He had found out about it when Sophia mentioned Isabelle after the divorce.

Sophia snorted and said in a soft voice, "I thought you didn't understand this."

Hugging her tightly, John replied, "I just didn't want to complicate things in the past."

Sophia opened her mouth, but after some consideration, she decided to keep her mouth shut. She

could go on and on if she started rattling on the past, which was a waste of time.

Then, they just stayed in the bamboo forest and enjoyed quality time together. Just then, John received a call from Logan, who happened to find out that they were remarried through John's Facebook post.

Clearly not surprised, Logan giggled and asked when they would gather and have a celebration. In

fact, Logan's reaction came a little late this time. In the past, he would always give his friends a call

as soon as he saw some good news about his friends on Facebook.

However, on this day, he only

discovered John's post a long time after the latter posted it.

Tiptoeing, Sophia shouted into John's phone, "Logan, your reaction is a little slow this time. Have

you been spending time with Miss Hunt for the past few days?"

Without the slightest embarrassment, Logan guffawed. "Well, yeah.

She'd fallen into some trouble

recently, so I went over to help her settle it. She cried and begged me for help, therefore I couldn't

ignore her."

The Returning Ex Chapter 951

After a pause, Logan continued, "Well, it is because I'm a magnanimous man."

Seeing as Logan kept bragging about himself, Sophia couldn't take it anymore.

Chuckling, John said, "I heard that Miss Hunt's gym is pretty popular now. Many of her former colleagues are regular customers as well."

At the mention of this, Logan snorted. "Who cares about those brainless people?" Certainly, Logan

would never forget how those police officers treated him before.

Although Lola was the most hostile

among them, the other officers were not kind to Logan as well. Hearing this, John persuaded him by saying, "Actually, you can try to get along with them. They don't mean to pick on you, so you don't have to be resentful of them. As a businessman, it is crucial for you to be on good terms with the police."

As a proud man, Logan didn't think he needed to have a good rapport with the police to be a successful businessman, hence he said, "I don't have to be friends with them. I am a capable man who can achieve anything I want in life. Don't you see how pretentious those people are? Honestly, I'm not interested in getting friendly with them."

John sighed, but his voice still sounded joyful because he was in a good mood. "Logan, you're overly confident of yourself. If you never change, you'll suffer a setback one day."

He was speaking from experience because he was a self-assured man himself, but he suffered countless failures trying to win Sophia's heart. Now, he had learned his lesson, for he knew that a man had to give in sometimes.

Without a similar experience, Logan wouldn't understand what John was trying to tell him, so he said assertively, "I'm telling you, I was born with confidence, so no one could ever give me a setback.

I have no regard for anyone whatsoever."

Unable to stand him anymore, Sophia put on a mirthless laugh and said, "Alright, Logan. We shall meet up one day and have a meal together. It's pretty windy here, so we have to hang up the call now."

Hearing the sound of the wind over the phone, Logan grunted. "Alright. We shall talk another time. I

just wanted to congratulate you after seeing John's Facebook post."

Upon finishing his words, he hung up the call.

Smacking her lips, Sophia said, "I think Logan will fall for Miss Hunt one day."

With a smile, John put down his phone and hugged her. "Have you noticed that Logan mentions Miss

Hunt all the time now? I have known him for a long time. Although we don't contact each other

frequently, this is the first time I see him acting like this."

Sophia blinked and gave it a thought. Indeed, Logan never mentioned any woman in front of her

before, but now his emotions could be stirred up easily because of Lola.

Could it be that Logan's love for a woman develops in a reverse manner? Maybe he has to hate a

woman before falling in love with her. This is an interesting process.

Come to think of it, it is the

same case for John, Sophia thought.

However, initially, her relationship with John wasn't as hostile as the one between Logan and Lola.

As John's admirer, she treated him really well.

A while later, when they were sure that the family dinner was over, they began walking down the

hill.

When they reached the backyard and were about to return to the main building, Samuel, Owen, and

their family members happened to be coming out of the house.

Seeing Sophia, Owen walked over and sighed. "After your child is born, all of us will be one

generation older."

The Returning Ex Chapter 952

Samuel went along by saying, "Yes, I can't believe that we'll be one generation older soon. It's said that time waits for no man. We have to admit that we're old now." Slightly annoyed, Jennifer said, "Well, William and his wife haven't expressed their opinion yet. When our son has a child of his own, we'll then be grandpa and grandma."

Displeased about the innuendo in Jennifer's words, Owen shot his wife a look and chided, "Stop it.

It's a joyful occasion today. Why did you have to make it unhappy for everyone?"

Jennifer glared back at her husband, but she didn't dare utter a word. Walking over, Sophia flashed a smile at them while John engaged in small talk with the relatives.

Without looking at John and Sophia, Jennifer turned to speak to Virginia. Her petty action was pretty embarrassing for Owen. Nevertheless, John and Sophia didn't mind it one bit.

Jennifer's action was too childish, as Sophia had never offended her before. Moreover, there was nothing immoral going on between Sophia and Dylan. It was petty and unreasonable of her to keep picking on Sophia.

When the small talk was over, John and Sophia returned to the main building.

At this moment, Old Mrs. Constance, who was accompanied by Matilda, was standing at the entrance of the main building. Matilda didn't seem to have any intention of leaving, so she would most likely stay over.

Thinking back, Sophia realized that just like herself, Matilda remained silent most of the time during

the dinner. Perhaps it was because she didn't have the courage to voice her opinions, since she was no longer married to William. Therefore, a marriage certificate could be useful sometimes.

Seeing as John and Sophia were approaching her, Matilda put on a smile. "You're back. I had wanted to bid you farewell before leaving."

Surprised, Sophia inquired, "Aren't you staying over tonight?"

Slightly embarrassed, Matilda replied, "No. I should be going."

At this moment, William was nowhere in sight.

Old Mrs. Constance went along with Sophia by saying, "It's late now. You should stay here tonight."

Unwilling to do so, Matilda said, "I think I should go home. Actually, I'm fine with staying here, but

I'm afraid that there will be gossip about me again." Most importantly, she was afraid that her

mother would reprimand her for acting inappropriately.

Old Mrs. Constance sighed. "Alright. I'll have a talk with your mother and see how we can settle this issue."

Trying to tease his mother, John gazed at her and asked, "Why don't I send you home?"

Hearing this, Matilda was startled, and her expression turned uneasy.

Sophia immediately pinched his waist. "Stop it. Are you trying to make it worse for your mom?"

John guffawed. "I was just asking. I knew that my mom wouldn't agree to it."

Just then, William came downstairs with a bag in his hand. With a calm expression, he walked up to

Matilda and said, "I've packed up some clothes. Are we leaving now?"

He's even packed up enough clothes, Sophia thought. Darting her gaze between Old Mrs. Constance and John, she burst out laughing.

Trying to make fun of them, Old Mrs. Constance said, "My son is a grown man, so I don't think I can make him stay. Just go now. Matilda is bashful to stay here, while William is thick-skinned enough to follow her home."

With her face turned red in embarrassment, Matilda clapped William's shoulder and said, "Why are you bringing clothes with you? You only have to send me home." Unabashed at all, William replied, "What do you mean I only have to send you home? We're going back to your home together."

The Returning Ex Chapter 953

Seeing as Matilda was blushing, Sophia put on a smile and rested her palms on John's shoulders.

"Alright. Stop teasing them. Please be careful on the road. I'm exhausted, so I'll take a rest with John now."

John nodded at his parents and followed Sophia upstairs.

When they returned to their bedroom, Sophia started chuckling. "Your parents have fallen in love again at such a mature age."

Walking over, John pulled her into his embrace. "I also thought I would only be able to make you fall in love with me at an old age. I had done all I could to win your heart. If you never agreed to get together with me again, I really wouldn't know what to do next." Sophia snorted. "What do you mean you wouldn't know what to do next? You have many fallback girls anyway. Just give Isabelle a call, and she'll come over immediately."

At the mention of Isabelle, John felt helpless.

Hugging Sophia, he said in a sweet voice, "Don't mention her all the time. I really have nothing to do

with her. She's not as good-looking and mild-tempered as you are. I'm not blind, so why would I love her?"

Sophia chuckled and clapped his hand. "As if I'd believe your sweet words!"

Leaning close to her, John said in a masculine voice, "But you like to hear it, don't you? As long as you like it, I'll keep being the honey to your ears."

After Sophia stared at him for a while, her lips curved into a gentle and bashful smile.

John hadn't seen her smile like this for a long time. Moved, he cupped her face and kissed her lips.

Strictly speaking, it was their wedding night. Things started getting out of control since the kiss

happened. After a romantic bath, John carried Sophia up and placed her on the bed as they continued making out.

Since Sophia was pregnant, John had to be extra careful. After he came, they lay down on the bed together.

Panting, Sophia felt that she was taxed out. They hadn't had such an intimate touch for a long time.

Moreover, with a baby in her stomach, she was pretty frail currently. Then, John pulled her into his embrace and gently kissed her sweaty forehead. There were many

things that he wanted to tell her. He wanted to say sorry, and he loved her, but he felt that no words could ever describe his true feelings for her.

When Sophia managed to regain some energy, she hugged him back and said, "John, this is the last chance for you. If you betray me, I will never forgive you again."

Patting her back, John said in a tender and resolute voice, "I will never betray you." He had learned

his lesson.

While Sophia was in a dazed state, John got out of the bed and put on his clothes. Then, he picked up a hairdryer and helped her blow-dry her hair. Following that, he took out Sophia's pajamas from the wardrobe and helped her get dressed. Eventually, he covered her with a quilt and said, "Have a rest.

I need to handle something."

At this moment, Sophia had dozed off. After waiting for a bit, John stepped out of the bedroom and entered the study.

After that, he fished out his phone and saw that his subordinate had sent him a message. Standing by the window, he tapped on the message and read it, then he snorted. Usually, people who dared to commit a crime were intelligent. John had been wondering why the transaction had been busted, but no illegal goods were found at the scene. So this is what happened.

Although Elder Mr. Bailey was old, he hadn't become senile. He had come up with a clever way to make the transaction happen without getting caught.

The Returning Ex Chapter 954

John tossed his phone up in the air and caught it repeatedly. After giving it a thought, he decided to send his subordinate a message. Basically, he taught them what they could do if faced with a similar situation in the future.

Then, he took a seat in front of his computer and reread the files Isabelle had sent him some time ago. It was difficult to track the other party's account since the money was transferred from overseas. However, some regular patterns could be deduced, like how frequently the money was transferred.

Since there were many files, it was until the middle of the night when he managed to finish reading all of them.

Knocking on his forehead gently, John rose from the chair and returned to the bedroom. Sophia's sleeping position had changed as her legs stuck out from under the quilt.

After a sigh, John adjusted the quilt for her and lay down beside her.

A moment later, Sophia draped her arms around his waist and mumbled, "You're slow."

John giggled at the words Sophia had uttered in her dream. Perhaps it was a sign of her reliance on him. Gratified, John hugged her back and grinned before he dozed off as well.

While John was filled with happiness, Isabelle was in a miserable situation.

During dinner, Isabelle's mother, Philippa Bailey, was sobbing again. She said that she recalled the times when all her family members could enjoy dinner together. Now that Dexter had passed away, she was sorrowful that her son's usual seat was currently empty. Her sorrow was understandable, but she cried so frequently that Elder Mr. Bailey and her husband had grown impatient with her.

Holding her mother's hands, Isabelle said, "Mom, stop living in the past and think for your own future. You still have your own life to live."

Philippa brushed her tears off without uttering a word. Having lost her appetite, she was sent back to her bedroom by the servant.

When Isabelle was having dinner, Elder Mr. Bailey started nagging her by telling her to warm up to

John. He hadn't found out that John and Sophia had remarried. Isabelle had wanted to break the truth to him, but her father also persuaded her to look for a capable man to alleviate the family's burden, even if that man couldn't be John. Therefore, Isabelle kept her silence as she felt helpless.

When dinner was over, she returned to her own bedroom in a listless manner. Just then, her father appeared at the door and asked her how she had been getting along with John.

Staring at her father, Isabelle replied, "John has remarried Sophia." Old Mr. Bailey was startled for a moment and nodded. "It's a shame, but it's no big deal."

For that moment, Isabelle didn't understand what her father meant when he said it was no big deal.

Gazing at her father, she said, "Since John is remarried, I won't be able to get together with him.

Moreover, I think we're not really compatible."

Before her father could speak, she went on to say, "John is married with a kid now. Even if I really love him, I don't want to be his child's stepmother. I will feel aggrieved."

With her eyes fixed on her father, she continued, "It's not like John is the only man in this world. If I want, I can always look for a better man."

After eyeing his daughter for a while, he sighed. "I know you're good enough for a capable man. But

Belle, your grandpa and I don't have much time left."

Leaning on the windowsill, he gazed out the window. "After Dexter's death, I can feel that my health has deteriorated. For the past few days, it was really difficult for me at work. I'm old now, and I have to admit this fact. I wish I could give you more time to look for a perfect partner for yourself, but I'm afraid that before you can find one, I'll be too frail by then."

The Returning Ex Chapter 955

Pursing her lips, Isabelle pondered on it for a moment and said, "Actually, we still can rely on Uncle Ernest."

Old Mr. Bailey laughed at her words. "It's not that I look down on Ernest, but he's really an incompetent man. I've worked with him for many years now, so I know that he's incapable of leading the company. Without your grandpa and me, the company would have gone bankrupt a long time ago."

Her father had engaged in countless business negotiations before, so his persuasion skills were excellent. Hence, it was improbable that Isabelle could win the argument with him. Knowing this full well, she decided to keep her mouth shut.

Understanding that this was unfair to his daughter, he said, "When you're able to make our company thrive again, you can do whatever you want by then. Belle, sometimes, we have to make sacrifices for the common cause. Moreover, it's not really a sacrifice for you. You still love John, don't you?"

Isabelle was rendered speechless by her father's irrationality, so she pressed her lips together without responding to him.

Knackered as well, her father said, "I hope you'll take my words seriously. You have to learn to accept your fate." Upon finishing his words, he turned to leave.

Dejected, Isabelle remained seated on the bed for a while before she rose and reached for the door.

Seeing that no one was in the corridor, she snuck out of the room and headed to her mother's room.

At this moment, Philippa was asleep with a photo album in her arms. Traces of tears could still be seen on the corners of her eyes.

Pulling the photo album out of her arms, Isabelle put it down on the bedside table and stared at her mother for a while. With a helpless expression, she turned to leave the room and reached for her father's study.

There was still a small gap at the door. Perhaps her father and grandfather didn't think that anyone would be moving around the corridor in the middle of the night, so they didn't close the door properly.

Isabelle stopped in her tracks not far from the door and listened in on their conversation.

Her grandfather said that he would bring her father to the shadow bank the next day. He even consoled his son that the latter didn't have to be so nervous, since the employees at the bank had known him.

With a frown, Isabelle thought for a bit and returned to her own room. Clenching her phone, she was hesitating whether she should tell John about it. However, thinking of John's previous message, she became dispirited in an instant.

After a moment of hesitance, she decided not to send the message. Putting down her phone, she slumped into the bed and spaced out.

At that moment, she felt that she was put under immense pressure, and her life was starting to get out of control. Lying on the bed, she slowly dozed off.

In the latter half of the night, she suddenly awakened in shock. Since the room was dark, she

couldn't figure out what happened to her for a moment.

A while later, she sat up on the bed and realized that she hadn't gotten changed nor removed her make-up. Spacing out on the bed for a while, waves of grievance started overwhelming her out of nowhere.

It was out of her control that her eyes were swimming with tears, yet she obstinately stopped her tears from streaming down her face. Never before in her life had she found herself in such a miserable state, gripped by a sudden surge of mixed feelings.

What if no one ever truly cares about the way I feel? Then my life will be truly hopeless...

Brushing her tears off, she entered the bathroom and turned on the light. Standing before the washbasin, she looked at her own reflection in the mirror.

Her make-up had been messed up from all the crying, even though she still looked okay. However, in her current state, she appeared to be nothing but dispirited and discomfited.

Staring at herself in the mirror, she found herself pitiful.

The Returning Ex Chapter 956

This was the first time Isabelle would describe herself as pitiful. Unable to sleep anymore, she left

her room in an attempt to go downstairs to get a bottle of wine.

Reaching the staircase, she suddenly stopped in her tracks because someone was entering the house

at that instance. Startled for a moment, she then reflexively moved to the side to hide.

After that person stepped into the living room, he waited for a bit before turning on the light.

Instead of going upstairs, the person took a seat on the couch.

Isabelle stuck out her head and realized that the person was her father. He was clad in tracksuits, so

he appeared younger than his usual self. However, his gray hair was an indication of his old age.

Seated on the couch, Old Mr. Bailey placed his palms on his knees and took a rest. A while later, he fished out his phone from his pocket and started texting a message.

With a frown, Isabelle couldn't understand why her father had gone out in the middle of the night.

After he was done with sending the message, he rose from the couch. Seeing this, Isabelle decided to sneak back into her room. Leaving a gap at the door, she stayed there to listen to what was going on outside.

Her father entered Philippa's room, and after a few minutes, he came out of the room. Standing in the corridor, he let out a long sigh.

The sigh was so loud that Isabelle could hear it in her own room. She knew that her father was upset. Basically, everyone in this house was distressed.

However, since the tragedy had happened, there was no use crying over spilled milk. Hence, they had to learn to accept this fact. Rather than living in misery, they should look forward to the future.

A while later, her father returned to his room and closed the door. Opening the door, Isabelle gazed out at the corridor. Naturally, she was disheartened as well, but she couldn't bring herself to pass the evidence of her family members' wrongdoing to John.

Rather than saving herself, she had to make sure that her family wouldn't suffer from a downfall because if that happened, her mother would certainly go mad.

The next morning, Sophia was still asleep when her phone started ringing suddenly. It turned out to be John, who was already at work.

After he was done with a meeting, he decided to call Sophia and told her that her fellow villagers wanted to meet her because they had to thank her personally. At the mention of this, Sophia recalled that she had promised to meet them one day. However, due to her pregnancy, she could be forgetful sometimes. The sun was already up in the sky. Hearing what John said, she sat up on the bed and grunted in agreement.

Following that, John continued, "I'll go home to have lunch with you. After that, we'll meet those villagers. Please get yourself ready."

With her eyes half-closed, Sophia grunted. "Okay."

When the call ended, she spaced out on the bed for a while and then lay back down.

Recently, she would always get a good night's sleep. Perhaps she had reached a point in her pregnancy when she could be comfortable in her current state.

After sleeping on the bed for a while longer, she was awakened by the housekeeper, who had come in to serve food to her.

Getting out of bed, she entered the bathroom to wash up and got changed. Then, she put on some make-up to make herself look more energetic and took a seat to start enjoying her food. With her phone placed on the table, she was scrolling through some entertainment news.

Just then, her phone started ringing again as Isabelle was calling her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 957

Realizing who was calling her, Sophia was startled as she stared at the screen.

Isabelle wasn't a close friend who would call her up to have a casual chat, so she had to have an ulterior motive for making this call.

Sophia intentionally ignored the call because she knew that Isabelle would make another call.

As expected, Isabelle called her for the second time. Sophia picked it up and said in a languid voice,

“Yes, Miss Bailey?”

Isabelle smiled and said in a pretentiously calm voice, “Miss Gwendolyn, I’m sorry for calling you at

this hour. Due to business matters, I get into contact with John pretty frequently these days. When I

left the Constance Residence that day, I didn’t get to bid you farewell.

Thinking back, I find my

behavior really impolite, so I’d like to offer you my apology.”

Sophia suppressed her laugh. This is getting interesting. It has been a few days since the gathering.

Why would she wait for such a long time and mention this to me suddenly? Putting on a mirthless

laugh, she said, “If you never mentioned this, I would have forgotten about it.”

After a pause, Isabelle continued, “I’ve learned from John’s Facebook post that the two of you have

remarried, so I’d like to congratulate you as well.”

Sophia grunted. “John had pestered me for a long time for this. After giving it a thought, I didn’t

think I should let some other women snatch him away from me. Since I didn’t have any fallback guy

at that time, I decided to agree to his request.”

Sophia’s words were mean. In fact, she had left behind her grudges against Isabelle, but as soon as

they got into contact, she couldn’t contain her urge to mock the other person.

Perhaps they were born to be each other’s arch-enemies. She thought she had left the past behind,

but the moment Isabelle called her, she couldn't control herself not to hurt the latter's feelings.

Isabelle was rendered speechless upon hearing that. She had always known that Sophia wasn't someone who would mince her words. Before the call, she had thought about the scenarios she would come across. She thought that no matter what Sophia would say, she would be able to keep on conveying her message. Unexpectedly, she was put in an embarrassing situation only a brief moment after the conversation started.

After a sigh, she tried to speak in a softer voice. "I am just worried that you'll misunderstand John and me. It has always been a business collaboration between us and nothing else."

Sophia grunted in a perfunctory manner. "Well, John had told me about this before. I have never worried that something is going on between you and John because he's promised that he'd never betray me, and I trust him. He said that other than me, he wasn't interested in all other women in this world."

Isabelle was unable to tolerate her harsh words anymore. In an embarrassed voice, she said, "Alright. Since John has made it clear to you, I will say no more. Please take a good rest. See you."

After the call ended, Sophia tossed her phone to the side and snorted. She didn't have the appetite to have her breakfast moments ago, but after the call, she was suddenly able to gobble down her food. Upon finishing her food, she picked up the food tray and went downstairs.

At this moment, Old Mrs. Constance had returned to the house from a walk. After she was helped by

the servant to take a seat on the couch, she said, "I heard that Dylan and his girlfriend are going to have lunch with his mother. I hope they'll get married soon, otherwise Jennifer will never stop complaining. I couldn't even enjoy my food last night. Did you hear all the innuendos in her words? I was really pissed off."

After passing the food tray to the servant, Sophia took a seat beside the old lady and said, "I'm sure after Dylan gets married, Lady Jennifer will stop being so irritable."

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Old Mrs. Constance let out a sigh and helplessly shook her head. "But I have a feeling that Dylan is only doing this because they made him. I don't want him to regret it later on in life just because of their impatience."

Nevertheless, Sophia felt the other way and disagreed with Old Mrs. Constance, thinking that Dylan wouldn't take something like this so lightly. After all, they were talking about a matter that would concern Dylan's future marriage. Therefore, Sophia comforted the old lady and said, "Relax, Old Mrs. Constance. They're both mature adults, and they should know to take this matter seriously."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded, even though she still looked a little worried. "I hope so."

With nothing else better to do after waking up from her beauty sleep and having breakfast, Sophia

decided to get some fresh air outside when she was done chatting with Old Mrs. Constance.

Meanwhile, Jennifer was happily taking a walk around the courtyard as well, humming while

swinging her arms freely in a relaxing manner. When Sophia saw her, she didn't choose to shy away

but instead headed to the courtyard straightaway.

In the meantime, Jennifer showed a smile when she saw Sophia, much to the latter's surprise. Then,

she greeted Sophia from afar and said, "Hey Sophia, out for a walk again? Oh, I see your tummy is

getting bigger and bigger. Have you confirmed whether your little one is a boy or a girl?"

Nonetheless, Sophia acted as if she didn't hear Jennifer's voice, only responding when she got closer

to the latter. "It's good to see you out here for a walk too, Aunt Jennifer. You look jolly today."

Jennifer reacted with a smile as she didn't look unhappy about Sophia avoiding her question a few

moments ago. She then replied, "Yes, I'm out here to get some fresh air before heading back to the

office for lunch with Dylan and his girlfriend later. I heard she is a decent girl, and I have a feeling

things are going to work out for them."

Sophia pouted and smiled, replying with an affirmative hum. "Okay, good to know that." After that,

she continued to make her way to the courtyard, but Jennifer showed no signs of leaving Sophia

alone. Thus, she walked alongside Sophia and said, "Dylan told me that he had known this girl for a

while. In fact, he's been having a crush on her all along, but his shy nature just got in the way, so he

didn't confess his feelings. I subsequently discovered that and confronted him before he finally

admitted it. Haha. He is such a little boy, isn't he? What's the shame in admitting your feelings for someone you have a crush on?"

Ugh. Is she implying something to me? Fine, I'm not going to spend all day thinking about that. I never gave two hoots about anything she ever said anyway, so why should I care this time? At the thought of that, Sophia decided to ignore Jennifer's every word like she usually did.

However, Jennifer didn't seem willing to give up. Instead, she continued to speak to Sophia in a sarcastic tone. "I heard Dylan's girlfriend is quite an outstanding lady. She was raised in a wealthy family, so you can imagine how well-mannered and well-educated she is. Besides, her good looks are what make her a perfect match with my precious boy, Dylan. I doubt he is ever going to find someone else like this lovely girl that will make me satisfied and happy."

Jennifer continued to follow Sophia around the garden while going on and on about how outstanding Dylan's girlfriend was. Eventually, Sophia grew tired of listening to that, finding Jennifer's stubborn persistence annoying. Therefore, she said, "How is Dylan's work, by the way? I heard that the Third Constance Family's children would be back from overseas and join the company soon. Considering their experience abroad, I bet they'll likely be offered a good position each."

As Sophia expected, Jennifer immediately kept her mouth shut upon hearing about work. After all,

John already held a higher position than Dylan did in their company. Therefore, it wouldn't sit well with her if the Third Constance Family returned and got on an equal footing with Dylan. Chuckling gleefully, Sophia didn't continue to elaborate further as she deemed she had made her point clear.

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Jennifer then tried to excuse herself. "Oh, it's about time. I suppose I should get changed and set off soon. Goodbye for now, Sophia. Stay safe."

Sophia nodded while keeping a straight face upon seeing Jennifer's reaction. At the same time, the latter stopped in her tracks, turning around before heading back into the house as her fake smile faded away. Soon, Sophia came to understand why Matilda used to ride roughshod over Jennifer. Someone has to do something to keep her mouth shut!

At the thought of that, Sophia suddenly missed Matilda, finally learning to appreciate Matilda's genuineness after she had changed for the better. Although Matilda was more mild-mannered than before, Sophia still believed that this lady was revered and feared for her previous reputation.

Sophia continued to sit in the garden until John came back home in the afternoon. Then, both of them held hands together and returned to the main building. Upon seeing John return, Old Mrs.

Constance didn't seem surprised as she sat down with her grandson and said, "So, it seems that your dad isn't coming back for lunch. Does he have it alone or with Owen and Samuel?"

John looked at Old Mrs. Constance in surprise. "Haven't you figured it out, Grandma? How would

Dad possibly settle lunch by himself or with Uncle Owen and Uncle Samuel? He is with Mom now.”

Clicking her tongue, Old Mrs. Constance replied, “Oh yeah. Why haven’t I thought of that?”

Sophia laughed in amusement, suddenly finding John and his grandmother adorable and lovely.

Soon, lunch was ready, but Sophia wasn’t hungry yet. So, she sat there and watched while Old Mrs.

Constance and her grandson had their lunch. Later, the conversation slowly revolved around

Jennifer when Sophia began to complain about how she had been bragging about Dylan’s girlfriend.

John burst into laughter and said, “Haha! People tend to brag about what they lack, so let’s just

ignore them and move on. Life is short, so don’t let their words put you down!”

Sophia chuckled and said, “Haha! I can’t stop thinking about the speechless look on her face when I

told her that Uncle Samuel’s children would be back to join the company after all her bragging!” She

then gleefully added, “The next time she ever tries to brag about Dylan’s girlfriend again, I’m going

to shut her mouth up by talking about work.”

Old Mrs. Constance shook her head in a helpless manner. “Perhaps only you and Matilda have a

knack for humbling her.” Nonetheless, Sophia reckoned there was a slight difference between their

dominances over Jennifer. While Matilda usually fast-talked her way out unreasonably, Sophia

relied on her wits to knock Jennifer down to size more often than not.

After a delightful meal, Sophia and John took some rest before John took her to a warehouse under

the Constance Group, which had become a workplace for those who left their villages to make a living. Since John had already informed them about their visit ahead, he and Sophia were expected to go to the workers' quarters, where John directly took her to meet them.

Buddy quickly ran up to Sophia when he saw her. "Oh gosh, Sophia! You look like you've put on weight...." Before he finished his sentence, he soon realized that what he saw might not be what he thought. Wait a second! She didn't put on weight! She is pregnant. Soon, everyone else came closer and asked, "Are you pregnant, Sophia?"

Sophia nodded while placing her hand over her tummy. "Yeah, it's been more than three months since the last time I went back to my maternal home."

The rest of the people smacked their lips and said, "How could you not say anything about it back then? You went up the hill and visited the cemetery by yourself. Anything could have happened at any point."

Sophia laughed it off and said, "Come on! I'm tough, and you guys know that. You all were with me as I grew up, after all." In fact, Sophia was indeed tough, having shouldered her family's burden even when she was a little girl, unlike any other child.

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Soon, John had someone arrange the chairs outside the workers' quarters for everyone to sit down.

Then, Sophia caringly asked them whether they were happy and used to the job. In response, the workers nodded and replied, "We have a stable job here, unlike our hometown, where we had to stay home during the winter.

Besides, we make a lot more with our current job. Apart from that, there is nothing much we can spend on other than a few bottles of beer since the rules around here have made our lifestyle more disciplined and frugal. Furthermore, we're given gifts during every festive season, which we think is a lot better than working in our hometown."

Upon hearing their feedback, Sophia heaved a sigh of relief. At this moment, Buddy said, "There are a few ladies from my village who are asking whether there are any more vacancies left by chance. If there are, they'd like to come over."

Unable to decide, Sophia shifted her gaze to John, who answered, "Well, the kitchen could use some extra hands, so perhaps you could bring this matter to your supervisor's attention. If he says yes, that's your green light to bring your people here."

Buddy happily smiled and said, "Wow! Sophia, you're really our lucky star! Our life wouldn't be so much better if it weren't for you."

Feeling touched, Sophia answered, "It's the least I could do to repay everyone's kindness."

Back then, the villagers would help out when they saw Sophia and her grandfather busy handling their crops. Because of that, their kindness had since etched in their minds in the years to come.

Meanwhile, Buddy gazed at Sophia and said, "I heard your dad returned to the village after all of us left. I was even told that he wants to sell the house."

Sophia responded with a smile. "That's up to him. I don't really care anyway."

Upon hearing Sophia's reply, the others didn't seem to look happy. "Well, he should have at least considered what the others would think about his decision before going about it. That ungrateful b*stard had better pray no one blows his deal when someone wants to buy that house."

In fact, Sophia couldn't care less about Walter's deal to sell the house since she had decided to put the matter behind her and move on. He can have the house all he wants. I'm not planning to go back there anyway since it's empty. Walter wants a better life, so just let him be! After all, cutting ties with him is all that matters to me.

John held Sophia's hand and placed it in his palm. "Just let things play out the way they will. After all, there is really nothing much he can do either. Look at him now! He is so poor that he needs to desperately sell the house for cash."

Buddy sighed and said, "I heard he's been having a tough life recently. Some of us said they've seen him working at the construction site."

While John had previously found out that Walter had been struggling to make ends meet, Sophia curled her lips and answered, "I don't care how much struggle he is having in his life because what I care about is how well you guys are living."

Putting her point that way, she managed to distract everyone and change the subject. Meanwhile, the rest of the people began thinking about making more money for the sake of their future and their children.

After chatting for more than an hour, Sophia and John decided to make a move since everyone else

still had work to do. As they got into the car, Sophia sentimentally opined, “I’ve never had a smile on each and every one of their faces before. You have no idea how it’s like to live with uncertainty back in my hometown, where people have to suffer because they can’t put food on the table. Who would have thought that the luxury of talking about the future together would turn into reality today?”

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With a gentle smile, John fastened his seat belt. “So, I guess that should ease your mind, shouldn’t it?”

Sophia nodded in response. “Yup. Thank you.”

Still smiling, he said, “Come on! You’re talking to me like I’m your boss. Just be yourself.”

Nevertheless, Sophia didn’t say anything else as they made their way toward the Constance

Residence. Since the warehouse was situated in a rather remote area, they happened to pass by the

suburb while heading to the city. Therefore, John decided to swing by the Bailey Family’s shadow

bank and have a look, but before he arrived at his destination, he saw a car that belonged to the

Bailey Family parked right outside the building.

Wait a minute. No one from the Bailey Family really drives this car.

Soon, John managed to recall

having seen that car back at the Bailey Residence when he was there to call off his engagement with

Isabelle. Hmm. They must have probably thought no one recognizes it, and hence are not afraid to

show it in public. Well, the car looks a little old, but I can still remember it.

After that, John pulled up by the roadside and shifted his gaze to Sophia. "Wait for me here. I'll be right back." Despite feeling surprised, Sophia only nodded in silence, while John took a cap from the backseat and put on a coat before he got out of the car. Then, instead of approaching the vehicle, he stood from afar and set his eyes on the registration plate, returning to his own car a few moments later. It looks like my suspicion is correct. Someone from the Bailey Family has come to the shadow bank.

After running through a few possible suspects in his mind, John could only think of Isabelle or Old Mr. Bailey. After all, he knew that Elder Mr. Bailey had to pick between Old Mr. Bailey and Isabelle to take over his business since Dexter was gone. Isabelle didn't send me a text message about this, so this is likely not her. Therefore, that makes Old Mr. Bailey the only one left suspicious.

At the thought of that, John sniggered. It seems that Elder Mr. Bailey is running out of options. He may be aged, but Old Mr. Bailey isn't exactly young either. Ever since Dexter passed away, Old Mr. Bailey had been broken and devastated deep down, even though he still looked like he was in high spirits to stand up to his father.

Well, everything seems to suggest that the Bailey Family is really at a dead end. Nonetheless, when John thought about Dexter, he couldn't help but feel sorry for him. That poor little boy's days would likely be tough if he were still alive. Upon getting into his car, John took off his jacket and hat, fastening his seatbelt before hitting the

road. When Sophia realized they had left the place far enough, she asked, “What happened?

Something wrong with the car?”

John responded with an affirmative hum and added, “It looks like it belongs to the Bailey Family.”

Upon hearing about the Bailey Family, Sophia widened her eyes and asked, “What? Why would they be there?”

Not knowing how to explain the situation to Sophia, John ambiguously replied, “Something is definitely off.”

As soon as she heard that, she instantly knew John was probably hinting that it wasn’t convenient

for him to talk too much, like his usual attitude. Therefore, she only asked him a simple question, “Is

it going to affect us in any significant way?”

In response, John smacked his lips and answered, “Not really. So, don’t worry.”

While the conversation ended with John’s final reply, he dropped Sophia off at the Constance

Residence and drove off right away.

What’s the hurry? Meanwhile, Sophia stood in the car park, letting out a sigh as she watched John’s

car moving away. This guy just never takes a break! After a long day, Sophia felt tired and decided to

take a catnap in her room.

Upon waking up from a short nap, Sophia was surprised to discover that she had a missed call,

which turned out to be from Isabelle. Well, well! This lady obviously hasn’t learned her lesson at all

since the last time she called.

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How can Isabelle forget about that so soon? With the phone in her hand, Sophia hesitated for a while

and eventually gave up the idea of returning Isabelle's call. After all, she wanted nothing to do with Isabelle. What purpose did it really serve her for calling me the last time? As if I have nothing else better to do than consorting with the likes of her. At the thought of that, Sophia decisively deleted all of Isabelle's call logs and moved on. Soon, Sophia headed downstairs and realized that Old Mrs. Constance was nowhere to be seen. After looking through every corner, she brushed off the thought and sat in front of the television.

A few moments later, her phone rang, and she thought Isabelle was calling for a second time. What's wrong with this woman? Why didn't she get it after the first missed call? Where is her sense of shame for calling me a second time? Nevertheless, Sophia was instantly taken aback as soon as her eyes fell upon her phone screen because it turned out that the caller was in fact Logan.

Sophia picked up the phone and asked with a smile, "What's up, Logan?"

"Is John at home now? I can't reach him. Is he busy at the moment?" Logan asked.

Sophia couldn't help but feel surprised. "He is not home right now. At this hour, he should be in the office. You said you couldn't reach him. Do you mean no one answered the call when you phoned him?"

"Yup, I made a few calls in fact, but none of them reached him," Logan replied as he responded with an affirmative hum.

"Maybe he is in a meeting or something," Sophia said after pondering for a short while.

Logan sounded a little hesitant when he indifferently replied, "Oh." Then, he hung up the call after a brief pause.

Meanwhile, something didn't seem right to Sophia as she reckoned Logan's unusual nonchalance.

Nevertheless, she continued to watch the television until she finally changed her mind and decided that it was better for her to give John a call. While the phone was ringing, no one answered the call, so she continued to call a few more times, but only to no avail. As she started to feel a little panicky, she quickly gave Zack a call but failed to reach him as well. This is rather odd.

Eventually, Sophia grew more and more anxious, as she could no longer sit still and enjoy watching TV. She then stood up and gave Logan a call once more. A few seconds later, Logan quickly picked up the call and responded with a hesitant voice. After that, Sophia immediately asked, "What happened to John? I can't contact him either."

Logan smacked his lips and answered, "John is fine, trust me. The reason I want to speak to him is that Husky is in some kind of trouble."

Knowing that Husky was one of John's right-hand men, Sophia knew something was definitely wrong. If Husky is in trouble, that means John could be in trouble too. Then, Sophia anxiously asked, "What happened to Husky?"

Logan sighed and replied, "Husky is now lying in the hospital. He is in a critical condition at the moment, and it looks like he has been assaulted."

For a long while, Sophia didn't say a single word as she pondered. Husky must have blown his cover

when helping John in his investigation. If anything happens to Husky, John is bound to be dragged into the mess. The thought of that only served to unnerve Sophia even more. Thus, she quickly said, "Logan, please reach John for me. I want to know how he is right now. I'm a little worried about him."

As the calmer person of the two, Logan comforted Sophia and reassured her everything would be fine. "Don't worry. John is tougher than you think, plus he's got a lot of bodyguards to protect him."

Despite saying that, Logan promised her that he would find out about John's whereabouts by sending his men to the Constance Group and the Bailey Residence if John wasn't in his office. "I'll keep you posted on what I find. So, just relax and stop overthinking." Soon, Sophia was reminded of the bank that she and John passed by earlier today. Wait a minute! Could this have anything to do with the car that John investigated when we were at the bank?

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Did John go back to the shady-looking bank and investigate the matter further? At the thought of that, Sophia quickly told Logan about the bank that she and John passed by earlier that day. "I think John could be there."

Learning about the possibility, Logan was silent for a few seconds before he answered, "Alright, I know what I should do now."

After both of them chatted over the phone for a while, they ended the tele-conversation, whereupon Sophia made her way to the living room with her mobile phone. While she was too restless and

anxious to sit still, Old Mrs. Constance happened to enter the house at that moment. Seeing the old lady, Sophia walked up to her and greeted her. "Grandma." Upon noticing her worried look, Old Mrs. Constance appeared to be a little taken aback. "What's wrong with you, girl? You don't look so well. Tell me what happened." Sophia touched her face and asked, "Do you have Dad's number, Grandma? I just went through my contact list and realized I don't have his number."

Old Mrs. Constance stared at Sophia in a trance and asked, "What's wrong? Do you have something you want to talk to him about?"

Sophia nodded, as she had no intention of hiding her concern. "I've been trying to reach John, but he didn't pick up the call. So, I just want to know whether he is in the office at the moment."

Assuming that Sophia was trying to keep tabs on her husband, Old Mrs. Constance laughed in response. "Haha. I see what you're worried about now. Where else could he be beside his office?"

Despite saying that, she instructed the maid to bring her phone and showed William's number to Sophia.

After jotting down William's number, Sophia immediately left the living room and headed outside to phone William. Meanwhile, Old Mrs. Constance smiled and shook her head in a helpless manner while telling the maid her opinion. "I can't get enough of these two little kids. They're lovely, aren't they?"

The maid echoed her words with a smile. "Isn't that a good thing? That means they're close to each other."

Old Mrs. Constance responded with an affirmative hum. “Yeah. They are, indeed.” Then, she quickly put that matter aside and sat down on the couch, watching television since it was already on.

In the meantime, Sophia stood at the entrance while calling William. After waiting for a few moments, William finally picked up the phone and asked, “Hey Sophia, what’s up?”

In response to his question, Sophia answered in a hushed tone before getting straight to her point.

“Dad, is John now in the office?”

William replied, “Uh... He is not in his office at the moment. I was told that he was going to pick you up at the Constance Residence. Then, he was back here for a while until he went out again a few moments after that.”

As soon as she heard that, Sophia’s bad hunch felt stronger than before, but nonetheless, she

revealed nothing more than the fact that she couldn’t reach John.

At the same time, William wasn’t suspicious about Sophia’s anxious behavior as he smiled and said,

“Maybe he is just in a meeting with a client or something. So, just relax, Sophia. Have some faith in

John. He is a grown man, and he is absolutely capable of taking care of himself.”

After hearing William’s reassurance, Sophia responded with only a few words, followed by an

indifferent grunt before hanging up the call. At that moment, she couldn’t stop worrying about John

as she had never failed to reach John before. Deep down, she was tempted to leave home and find

John herself but quickly gave up the idea when she was reminded of her pregnancy. I can’t just

impulsively run off like that. Who knows what danger could be waiting for me outside? If that happens, I'll find myself in a very disadvantageous position. Therefore, all I can do now is just to wait.

Ironically, waiting was the most torturous moment for Sophia, as her worry and fear kept haunting her until she decided to call John again later that evening. After ringing for a long while, someone finally picked up the call.

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Feeling strung up after all the unsuccessful calls, Sophia was suddenly caught in a trance when someone picked up the phone on the receiving end. Overwhelmed by her nervousness, her mouth stiffened as she failed to speak the words that were forming at the tip of her tongue.

On the other side of the call, John asked, "What's the matter, Sophia?"

As she tried hard to fight back her tears, she uttered, "What's wrong with you, John?! Why didn't you pick up the damn call throughout the afternoon?"

John responded with an affirmative hum and chuckled. "Oh, my phone was on silent mode, so I didn't hear your call."

Oh come on! If only I could slip my hand through our screens and give him a slap in the face. Sophia then slowly organized her thoughts. "Tell me honestly. Is there something wrong on your side?"

Logan called up and told me that Husky is lying in the hospital right now. I heard he is in a critical condition too."

John answered, "Oh, so this is what it is about. Husky is injured, but he is fine. We don't know what really happened yet because he is still unconscious, but we believe he was exposed when he was searching for Roselia." Roselia is now my biggest headache. I'm not really worried about her safety since she is quick-witted, but the only way I can entirely put my mind to ease is to find her.

Meanwhile, Sophia kept quiet for a short while and brought up her concern. "Are you in danger, John? Please! You really need to watch out!"

John laughed it off and reassured Sophia. "Come on, I'm fine! Furthermore, my men are here with me, so I doubt anyone can even lay a finger on me for the time being."

While her husband's reassuring words seemed to ease her mind, she contemplated briefly and asked, "Can you be back early tonight?"

Faced with her question, John let out a sigh in response without saying anything. However, Sophia understood what that meant. Then, the man continued to say, "I'm a little busy today, and I'm afraid I'll probably be back late tonight. So, don't wait on me. Go ahead and sleep early."

Knowing that John was indeed busy with his work, Sophia helplessly said, "Alright, I'll leave you to it, but please stay safe! Okay?"

With a smile on his face, he answered, "I heard you loud and clear. Don't worry about me. Take care."

After the call ended, Sophia patted her chest and heaved a sigh of relief. Darn it! That nearly gave me a heart attack!

Sophia set her eyes outside the window and decided to take a walk around the garden. She then sat on the bench, where she could clearly have a good view of the car park. Not long after that, the Second Constance Family returned in their car. Oh, it's time to leave work. After a short while, she saw the Third Constance Family returning as well. In that instant, Sophia sighed in a helpless manner. William is now with Matilda, and John isn't coming back anytime soon. So, that means Old Mrs. Constance and I are alone in the house. I guess I finally have a taste of what Matilda used to go through back then. Sophia continued to sit in the garden until the maid came to inform her that the meal was ready. Upon seeing Sophia return alone, Old Mrs. Constance asked in surprise, "Is John still not back yet?" Sophia nodded her head and said, "Oh, don't wait on him. He says he'll be staying back for work tonight." Old Mrs. Constance let out a sigh and stated, "Alas! After a few days of short-lived liveliness, we're back to square one once more." Nevertheless, Sophia responded with silence, heading to the dining table before settling down for the meal. Soon, the two ladies filled the dull atmosphere with awkward silence as they quietly ate their meals. After that, Old Mrs. Constance sat on the couch, while Sophia headed upstairs to her bedroom. Then, she lay in her bed and scrolled on her social media news feeds but was too distracted to go through them. In the end, Sophia decided to give Logan a call, hearing his nervous voice the moment he picked up the call. It looks like Logan is in the middle of something.

Sophia then asked Logan where he was, to which he stammered and said, "I'm away from home."

Upon hearing his reply, Sophia let out a sigh, feeling tempted to pull Logan's leg, if only she was in the mood to do that. I bet this guy must be licking Lola's boots right now, but I'm not going to say that out today.

Soon, Sophia proceeded to make her point known. "I don't know what's going on with John, so can you talk to him and find out what help he needs? Logan, you're the only one I can trust right now. I wouldn't impose on you if I could do this myself. Please, I'm worried about him."

Logan sighed and replied, "Relax! I just spoke with John, and he knows what he is doing. Come on, have some faith in both of us! John and I are buddies. I've got his back!" Then, he added, "John is way tougher than you think, so don't let your wild imagination scare you. Just take good care of yourself because you're going to live a happy life after everything is over."

Logan's reply gave Sophia an obvious hint that John hadn't been completely upfront with her about what he knew regarding the Bailey Family, which was why she didn't know where things stood between him and them. Is the investigation coming to an end already? After ending the call with

Logan, Sophia felt better, even though she still couldn't shake off her nerves. Then, she lay down and switched off the lights, trying to fall asleep as soon as possible. Maybe everything will be over the moment I open my eyes to find John by my side.

Although Sophia sleeplessly tossed and turned in bed at first, she eventually dozed off without

herself knowing it. Nonetheless, her sleep wasn't exactly a peaceful one as she could vaguely hear strange sounds. At the same time, she unknowingly stretched out her hand toward the empty space beside her in bed, trying to feel John's presence, but to no avail. Although she believed nothing would likely happen to John since he was protected by his bodyguards, she was still bothered by a bad feeling deep down.

The next morning, Sophia woke up and found herself alone in the bed. John didn't come home last night. She then sighed and slowly sat up straight. Upon reaching for her phone, she saw a message from John telling her to rest assured as he was safe and sound. After that, she heaved a sigh of relief and went about her morning ablution since it was still early. Then, she returned to her bed and sat on it before sending John a message. 'What are you doing right now?' A few seconds later, she received a call from John, hearing his first response.

"Good morning. You're up early, by the way."
Sophia tried to reply with a calm voice. "I went to bed a little earlier than usual last night, and I can't seem to fall asleep right now."

John comforted her and said, "It was midnight by the time I finished my work, so I decided to stay in my office until the next day because I was afraid I would have woken you up if I had gone back. Don't worry about me. I'm fine."
Curious, Sophia asked, "So, what kept you busy last night?"

In response, John hesitated and answered, "Wow! Let's just say it was an eventful day."

In fact, he had visited Husky when the latter was admitted to the hospital before searching for Roselia. Despite her quick wit, John knew that Roselia must have also blown her cover in the process of helping Husky distract the patrolling guards. Therefore, John could never stand by and do nothing. In the end, he spent the whole night looking for her. As John began his search around where Husky was found injured, it didn't take him much time to discover Roselia's whereabouts. Those amateurs made it easy for us, so I guess I gotta thank them. While Roselia was deemed to be smarter than Husky, John believed that she would be able to dispel all suspicions with a convincing explanation. Even though the people in the shadow bank were all cautious and wary, they couldn't find any evidence to prove that Roselia was a mole. Nonetheless, they didn't really trust her either to let her run free by herself. Therefore, they decided to keep her under their thumbs. Fortunately, Roselia was not severely injured when John and his men arrived and found her the day before.

The Returning Ex Chapter 966

That woman is indeed resourceful, knowing how to save herself by resorting to flattery. John organized his thoughts and said, "Ever since Husky was hurt yesterday, I've been pulling my weight around to find out who put him in the hospital." Sophia nodded in agreement and asked, "Have you found that out then?"

John responded with an affirmative hum. "Yup, we have a lead on that, but we need Husky to wake up before moving on." Before Sophia could respond further, John changed the subject and said, "By

the way, I got a call from the hospital and was told that Husky is fine despite his severe injury. He should be able to come around today and will be advised to rest after this.”

You’re quite the slippery b*stard, Husky! Thank God you managed to fool your attackers by playing dead when they almost killed you. I can’t help but wonder who else is better than you when it comes to tricks and shenanigans.

Meanwhile, Sophia decided to give up pressing on upon noticing John’s reaction. After chatting for about ten minutes, Sophia could tell from his voice that he was tired, so she told him to get some shut-eye since they could talk about it when he came home in the afternoon. Feeling tired as Sophia thought, John listened to her and said, “Alright, I’ll get back to my nap then. You should too.”

Upon hanging up the call, Sophia gently massaged her temples, slowly lying down in bed. Beat and frustrated, she felt helpless as she knew her usual self would have made her way to see John right away. After all, she was a decisive person who’d act instead of dwell on her worry. That’s who I am.

In the meantime, John was in the office, having arrived earlier that morning to rest there after he was done with his work elsewhere. After calling Sophia, he didn’t go back to sleep right away but instead proceeded to go through the stack of files on his table. I need to take care of all these papers before I go out later.

A few moments later, Zack came in with a cup of coffee, just as John noticed the tired look on his face. He shot a gaze at Zack and said, “If there is nothing else important in hand, go get some rest.”

Zack came closer and gave the coffee to John. "It's alright, I'm good. I don't want to struggle waking up from a nap. Here, get a boost with your coffee."

John took the coffee from Zack and took a sip. "How is everything with Roselia?"

Hearing the question, his assistant sighed and replied, "Not much. That woman is a quick thinker.

What could have happened to her? Other than her sorry look, she is perfectly fine. There is not even a scratch on her." As soon as he finished his words, he sadly added, "I

used to think Husky was

shrewd, but it seems that he barely compares with Roselia."

"Take care of the people in the warehouse, would you?" John curled his lips and instructed.

Zack nodded in response. "Those people can give us the answers we want. So, I say we should focus on getting what we need and move on."

John responded with an affirmative hum and added, "Sure, we can't keep feeding those people in the warehouse like that. We have way too much on our plate, and that's the reason why we shouldn't interfere with this matter."

Sitting there for a while, Zack realized that his superior began to look a little more serious to get

back to work. It seems that he still has tons of papers to go through. I guess that's my cue to get

going now. Upon letting out a sigh, he stood up and left.

Meanwhile, the sun was already up by the time John finished reading all the documents. Feeling a lot

more energized after drinking two cups of coffee, he put away his documents and continued to sit in

his chair for a while before he got up and walked out of his office. Soon, Zack happened to pass by as

he ran into John in the corridor. At that moment, Zack knew what John was up to even without hearing what his boss was going to say.

The Returning Ex Chapter 967

As both men headed toward the elevator, John asked, "Is everything ready?"

Zack nodded in response. "Ready when you are, boss."

At that moment, they ran into William, who happened to come out of his office. When he saw both of them in decent attire, he couldn't help but feel a little surprised. There is no fieldwork today, plus

John has a meeting to attend later, so where exactly are they going?

Just as William was about to

step forward and find out, the elevator door opened, whereupon John and Zack walked inside.

While William didn't manage to get to John in time, he soon felt a vibration from his phone a few

seconds later before realizing it was a message from his son. 'I have some important business to

take care of, so I'm going to take a leave today. Anyway, the documents you need are ready on the table in my office.'

For the next few moments, William only stood in the corridor, quietly staring at the elevator until he

snapped out of his trance and made his way to John's office. I don't remember seeing John coming

back yesterday, and it looks like he is going to be missing again for the whole day. With his brows

furrowed, William pondered in John's office for a while, trying to figure out what was going on. John has never acted so strangely.

In the meantime, John sat in the car right beside Zack, who then made a call. Due to the loud audio

volume, John could clearly hear what the voice from the receiving end was saying. "Husky has come around, and he seems to be of sound mind. At the same time, Roselia has also given her statement to the police. So, what are we going to do about that?" Before Zack could say anything, John chuckled and replied, "What kind of question is that? Just deal with it like you normally would." Zack understood what John meant by that, so he said, "The people in the hospital have already lodged a police report for Husky. As for Miss Stone, I suppose we should let the police know about her as well."

In fact, it was obvious that whoever hurt Husky wanted him dead. For that, the hospital's management had decided to involve the police even without John saying anything. While Husky didn't seem to be in a fit condition to give a statement the day before, John believed that the police would soon visit him once more. Since Husky is going to get exposed, there is no need for us to hide Roselia anymore. We might as well let the police deal with her too. Meanwhile, the person responded with an affirmative reply upon hearing Zack's words and hung up the call. Then, John leaned back on his seat and pinched his forehead. "What's the status with the shadow bank now?"

Zack quickly replied, "A little bird told me that Old Mr. Bailey went there again earlier today. I believe it's about the business that Elder Mr. Bailey wants to pass down to him in the past two days. Thus, he is trying to get to know the people there more." "That's good news," John smiled and said.

After a brief pause, something seemingly crossed Zack's mind. "You weren't home last night. I bet Sophia is worried sick about you."

"I know she is, but I also believe she knows what we must do," John answered while blinking.

Sophia may not know the entire story, but she should have a rough picture of what's going on. At the very least, she should be able to piece the puzzles together after noticing John's unusual behavior

last night. Because Sophia was known to be a smart lady, Zack had never dared to underestimate

her. Thus, he was convinced that Sophia must have figured out something. After brief

contemplation, Zack asked, "What did Young Master Logan say?"

Upon hearing Logan's name, John laughed in amusement and answered, "Well, he sent me the bank's

interior layout last night, and I wonder how he got his hands on something like that."

Zack nodded. "Young Master Logan's clubhouse has everything you can imagine, so I'd say any intel

from him is quite reliable."

Meanwhile, Sophia only just woke up and realized that she was alone with Old Mrs. Constance in the main building.

The Returning Ex Chapter 968

While both ladies stared at each other with boredom, Sophia appeared rather disturbed and

preoccupied. Meanwhile, Old Mrs. Constance insisted on having Sophia's company while watching

TV, knowing that the latter was bothered by something else when she noticed that she couldn't keep her eyes on the TV.

Therefore, the old lady tried to comfort her. "I guess John didn't come home because he was

probably just caught up in work last night. Don't overthink, girl. I know my grandson, and he has never cared about anyone else more than you. Other than his job, you're like the whole world to him."

After hearing Old Mrs. Constance's reply, Sophia realized that she had been misunderstood. Thus, she smiled and explained herself, "I never suspected that John would do something like that to me.

I'm just a little worried about his health instead. He's been busy the past few days, and I wish he could have some rest."

Old Mrs. Constance paused and nodded in agreement. "Yeah, you're right. John is just like his father.

When William was younger, he would forget about sleeping and eating for the sake of work.

Sometimes, I don't really understand what the boys are thinking. It's not like we're short of money, so there is really no need to push yourself so far."

Soon, the old lady looked outside and added, "I'm old, and I've learned to get over a lot of things

along the way. After all these years, nothing else matters to me except health. Every time I think

about your grandpa, I can't help but feel sad and heartbroken. He wouldn't have left us so soon if

only he had taken care of his own health well when he was younger.

While dying is easy, those who

are gone will never know how much pain we have to go through every day."

Sophia pursed her lips as she quietly listened to Old Mrs. Constance's words.

Ever since her husband passed away, she has always looked so tough, like she has already accepted

her bereavement. I guess I was wrong to think of her as an invincible older lady who never felt a single bit of pain.

In that instant, Sophia finally understood Old Mrs. Constance's true feelings.

Despite the tough expression she often puts up, she is broken on the inside. Why would I even think that it was easy to get over the death of someone else we love so dearly?

Sophia held the old lady's hand and sighed while the latter shifted her gaze to the former. "This is why I want the both of you to spend more time on those precious moments in your life. You can't turn back time. So, don't waste it, only to look back and regret it later. After all, life is short, and it's not worth living a life that's all about work."

Nodding in agreement, she uttered, "I understand, Grandma." As both of them continued to sit and talk for a few more moments, Matilda arrived and was seen holding a bag of fruits. She then called out to Sophia at the doorstep, "Hello, Sophia. Did you miss me?" Sophia turned around and saw Matilda, who instantly put a smile on her face. "Hey, it's good to see you. What took you so long? I thought you would have arrived long ago." She stood up as she was about to help Matilda carry what she was holding. Nevertheless, Matilda backed away and said, "It's alright, I can handle it. This is too heavy for you." Soon, the maid quickly came closer and carried the item. After that, Matilda gazed at the maid and said, "These are Sophia's favorite grapes. Please wash them for her." She is starting to act like this is her home.

After giving everything to the maid, Matilda came to the couch and sat down. "I went back to the Flintstone Residence and stayed there the whole day. But guess what? I can't help missing you guys, so I bought some fruits and swung by." Then, she stared at Sophia's face. "What's wrong with you, girl? You don't look so happy." Sophia touched her face in confusion. "Really? I guess I'm just tired because I didn't have a good rest last night."

At that moment, Old Mrs. Constance jokingly chimed in, "John stayed back for work last night and slept in the office after that, but our little girl, Sophia, doesn't seem happy about that."

The Returning Ex Chapter 969
Matilda laughed it off and said, "This is just the beginning of your problems, and there will be a lot more coming in the future. So, you should be like me and learn how to let go. Sometimes, things can be hardly evitable, and there is nothing they can do about it." In fact, William had also stayed in the company before when he got too busy back then. As a workaholic, he would even be missing from home for a few days in a row. Needless to say, that didn't sit well with Matilda, as she argued with William and told him she didn't want a married life like that. Although William made a promise to change every time, he still did the same thing again and again.

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When arguing and complaining didn't seem to work, Matilda began to get over it and accept the unchangeable fact. It was at that moment that Matilda realized that she had also made sacrifices in

those days before they separated.

Sophia responded with an affirmative hum. "I called John this morning, and he said he might be back earlier today."

Hearing her daughter-in-law's words, she grinned as she said, "Both of you are still young. When you reach my age, you probably won't care whether he comes back."

Old Mrs. Constance sat there with a chuckle. "Are you sure that's really how you feel? William basically goes to your place every day. So, I'm pretty curious to see the look on your face if he doesn't show up one day."

Faced with the funny comment, Matilda paused before she burst into laughter. "Oh, come on, Old

Mrs. Constance! You didn't have to embarrass me."

After that, both ladies laughed in amusement while Sophia sat aside and forced a smile on her face.

John hasn't sent me a text since he called this morning. I wonder how he is doing over there. A few moments later, Sophia was reminded of Isabelle's missed call the day before. Could that woman have something she wanted to tell me?

Soon, it was noon by the time Sophia and Old Mrs. Constance were about to be done with their chatter. At that moment, Old Mrs. Constance felt a little sleepy, so she had the maid help her walk to the bedroom. Meanwhile, Matilda made her way to the kitchen to see what they were cooking for lunch.

At the same time, Sophia headed outside and gave Isabelle a call, but to no avail, as no one picked up the phone. Is this revenge from her? Fine, I'm not going to call back anyway. Unwilling to give in,

Sophia refused to phone Isabelle a second time. Nonetheless, she couldn't shake off the thought that Isabelle might have had something she wanted to tell her the day before. Perhaps she no longer thinks it's important to say what she wanted to after the missed call. Then, Sophia took a look at the time and pondered. It's almost noon. I guess maybe I should call John up to check on him.

Soon, John answered the call and responded with a calm voice before Sophia could ask her question.

"I'm a little busy at the moment, but I'll be back by noon. So, don't worry."

After hearing his reply, Sophia's mind was finally put to ease. She then said, "Your mom is here, so perhaps you could invite your dad along as well."

In response, John gave an affirmative reply with a confident voice. Knowing that he was busy, Sophia hung up the call without saying much and went back inside the

house. Feeling much better, she went to the kitchen and looked at Matilda, who was busy preparing lunch. "I'm going to take a nap now, so I'll see you all later."

Matilda responded with an affirmative hum, without even looking at Sophia. "Sure, go ahead. I'll let you know when it's time for lunch."

"Alright," Sophia replied, standing still for a few seconds before she headed upstairs. As soon as she returned to her room, she reached for her phone and called Logan to thank him. I don't know what Logan did or said to John last night, but I guess I owe him my thanks for having my back.

The Returning Ex Chapter 970

It took a few moments until Logan finally picked up the call. Hearing the noise in the background,

Sophia held back what she was planning to say and asked, "Where are you, Logan? Are you playing poker in your clubhouse or something?"

Logan answered, "Oh, no, no. I'm away at the moment. Are you coming over right now?"

Chuckling, she made a guess about his whereabouts. "Are you now at the gym?"

"Ugh..." Logan sounded panicky upon hearing her question, which indirectly confirmed Sophia's suspicion. Soon, she smacked her lips and said, "I knew you'd be there. Tell me. Are you there to ask for trouble or help out?"

Logan paused, whereupon he tried to brush the question off by replying in a softer tone, "Neither.

I'm here because I have some serious business to discuss with that woman."

Sophia curiously asked, "Oh, what kind of serious business do you have with Miss Lola? Could you perhaps enlighten me?"

Sniggering upon hearing her sarcastic query, he questioned his friend, "Come on! Can't you have a little faith in me? I wouldn't be here if I didn't need her help. Darn it! I..." Before Logan could

continue his words, Sophia heard a woman's voice in the background. "Logan? What the heck brings you here again?" Needless to say, Logan didn't go on to finish his sentence.

Upon hearing that, Sophia chuckled despite knowing that it wasn't a good time to do this. "It seems that your kryptonite is here."

Logan whispered, "Come on... She is not even qualified to earn that title." After listening to his soft

reply, Sophia mischievously dared her friend to say that out louder deep down.

As soon as Logan finished his words, Lola's voice was heard again.

"Stop wasting my time, Logan!

State the purpose of your visit and get out of my face!" Thinking that Sophia might have heard that,

Logan couldn't help but feel a little embarrassed.

Therefore, Logan was driven by his pride and raised his voice. "I'm telling you, b*tch! You'd better stop giving me an attitude, or I... Ouch! Ouch! Stop acting so violently! What a shameless brute! Can't you talk like a civilized person?! You... Ouch! Ouch! It hurts!"

Nevertheless, Sophia didn't hang up the call but instead continued to listen to what was happening on the other side. In that instant, she felt her mood lifted without even herself knowing why.

In the meantime, Lola managed to subdue Logan with a shoulder lock behind his back as he began to feel numb in his right shoulder. Soon, the man instinctively groped Lola's shoulder with his left hand, only to recall her previous injury. Her injury needs several months to recover, which means her joint is probably still hurt. At the thought of that, Logan reluctantly let go of his hand.

Although Logan went easy on her, Lola didn't hold back her strength, locking his shoulder with a powerful grip while forcing him into submission. She then went on, saying, "I'm grateful for your help the last time, but you're seriously pushing your luck. I've warned you to stay away from my gym. You're not welcome here at all, so get lost!"

Losing his temper, Logan angrily talked back. "Let go of me, you b*tch! I'm not going to stoop to your

level, so don't make me hurt you! Moreover, I'm here for some serious business. Thus, you'd better let go of me!" After saying that, he caught a glimpse of his phone with a frustrated look on his face, trying to reach it with his left hand. Despite his frustration, he tried to answer Sophia with a calm voice, "I'm a little busy right now, Sophia. So, let's talk again later. This b*tch..."

The Returning Ex Chapter 971

Logan instantly kept his mouth shut, as the pain was so overwhelming that he could no longer act tough. Then, he let out a sigh and said, "I'll give you a call when I'm done." Before Sophia could respond, Logan immediately hung up the call. After that, he turned his attention to Lola and stopped struggling. "You don't want to force me to get physical, so let go of me right now!"

Refusing to stoop to his level, Lola shoved him aside and sent him staggering a few steps backward.

Upon keeping his footing, Logan adjusted his attire and gazed at the woman in disgust. "Look at yourself. Are you really sure that you're a woman? I bet no man will ever set his eyes on you."

Nonetheless, Logan quickly swallowed his words when he met Lola's intimidating gaze since he wasn't looking for a fight with her anyway. "There is a proposition that I'd like to make. I know you've been investigating a case that has something to do with illegal gambling, prostitution, and drug dealing. Considering how much you hate them, I have a lead for you that might help."

Although she was no longer a law enforcer, Lola was still rather sensitive toward crime-related

issues. She then stared at Logan and questioned him, "What's wrong? You want to turn yourself in?"

Logan sniggered and replied, "Why would I do that? I'm a legitimate business owner." Soon, he got himself a chair and sat down, crossing his legs. "I know a place where the people there are using their money-lending service as a facade to disguise their drug-dealing business. Besides, I have some evidence that can prove their financial hanky-panky. So, what do you say we work together?"

Nevertheless, Lola was unwilling to meet Logan's gaze as she looked away from him. At the same time, she also felt a slight pain in her injured shoulder from overly exhausting it when she manhandled Logan a few moments ago.

Massaging her own shoulder, she swung her arm around and said, "Why would I accept your proposition when reporting about criminal activity is your civilian duty in the first place? Don't tell me you have no idea about that at all."

Logan responded with a nonchalant grunt and said, "Okay, in this case, that means there is no room for discussion anymore. Furthermore, you're not the officer you used to be, so there isn't really a need for me to give you my lead." As soon as he finished his words, he stood up and headed outside while Lola sat still in silence.

Although Logan deliberately slowed his footsteps, he eventually arrived at the doorstep without hearing Lola's response. In a fit of rage, he pointed at the woman and cursed her, "You b*tch..." However, he swallowed his words from the tip of his tongue and said, "You have no idea what you're

doing, lady.”

Lola looked askance at him. “What’s wrong? I thought you were leaving.”

Staring at Lola, he began to act like a rogue. “I changed my mind.” He then returned to Lola’s side and said in a disgusted manner, “You ingrate! Is this really how I’m repaid for the great favor I did you the last time?”

Lola ridiculed Logan and replied, “I could take care of those guys myself, with or without you.

Furthermore, I’ve already thanked you, so what do you want from me?”

Logan sniggered and said, “Take care of them yourself? How? With your own fists? Do you really think those guys would be a gentleman like me and go easy on you because you’re injured?”

While Lola stared at Logan, the man suddenly realized he should probably rephrase his words. So, he added, “I don’t bully women. If you were a guy, I’d probably snap your neck by now.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 972

Lola was not interested in Logan at all, so she turned her gaze away. After that, she found herself a place and sat down while massaging her injured shoulder in silence.

Only after stealing a few glances at Lola did Logan say, “What I told you is true. I really have the evidence. If you’re willing to listen to me, we can work together. Look at it this way. You want to fight crimes, and I wish to get rid of someone in there. So, our goals are aligned at some point.”

He slowed down in his speech. “Plus, this is a win-win situation for us. Did you not feel regretful that

you didn't manage to expose my hideout? I'm now giving you a chance, after your career change, to expose a hideout yourself. This den is even bolder than mine. When the time arrives, I'll show you their financial statements. Then, you'll finally know how large their business volume is."

Learning about the possibility, she was momentarily silent.

Unfettered, Logan continued rambling, "Last time when I was here, I saw a colleague of yours around. He was quite mean to you, and I overheard everything he said. I think he was right. Look at you, it was good that you quit. After all, you've never had any significant achievements in the past.

Right? Part of the reason people mock you is because of your lack of accomplishments."

Suddenly, Lola turned around to glare at him with a threatening gleam in her eyes.

Logan's mouth was agape, and he finally shut up after his long speech.

At noon, John went home on time.

He even got changed, and it was obvious that he freshened up because he looked clean.

As for Sophia, she was still scrolling her phone upstairs.

After greeting Matilda downstairs, John went up to his room.

Because he was tiptoeing around, Sophia, who was buried in her phone on the bed, didn't notice the sound of him opening the door.

He left the door slightly ajar and peeked at her through the opening.

From his angle, Sophia's bulging belly looked very obvious.

She tied her hair into a simple ponytail and was dressed in a monotone casual outfit, looking rather motherly and gentle.

Instead of walking in, John crossed his arms and stood at the door, admiring his wife. She must have come across something amusing on the phone.

Sophia furrowed her brows, relaxed them, and started grinning. His lips curled up into a grin as he thought to himself, This young woman is getting more interesting by the day.

After a few minutes of waiting at the door, John realized that Sophia was still immersed in her phone. Therefore, he had no choice but to push the door open and enter the room.

Her reflexes were relatively slow. When she turned around and noticed John coming in, she quickly got out of bed and went up to him, giving him a soft embrace without a word.

With his wife in his embrace, he chuckled silently, and along with his chuckle, Sophia could feel minor vibrations across his chest. He said, "This is the first time you are acting this clingy."

Indeed, it was a first.

Before their divorce, Sophia was very observant—she knew that John disliked her, and therefore, she never clung to him.

After the divorce, she probably held grudges toward him, so she became cooler and treated him with no emotions.

Technically, this was the first time she flirted with John.

He hugged her and gently rocked her body. "I'm fine. Don't worry."

Looking up with teary eyes, she said, "You didn't pick up your phone or come home last night. Do you know how terrified I was?"

John cupped her face in his palms and kissed her. "I had some matters to deal with last night, and I set my phone on mute. I didn't hear the notifications."

Then, he pinched her face. “It was late at night. I was tired and worried that I’d wake you up if I came home, so I decided to sleep at the office. Why are you worried about me? No one could harm your husband.”

Sophia stared at him for a long time before muttering, “Yeah, if only you were as invincible as you claimed.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 973

With Sophia in his arms, John kissed her on the forehead. The two snuggled for a while before heading downstairs.

It was time for dinner. The two of them saw Matilda wiping her hands and ready to go upstairs to inform everyone.

Sophia said, “Mom! Hasn’t Grandma come down?” Sophia’s way of addressing Matilda made her jump in shock.

She smacked her lips with an awkward expression and replied, “You should just call me Madam

Flintstone. That way, I won’t feel any gap between us. If you call me Mom, my heart will jump, and I will feel as if I have aged.”

Sophia laughed jovially at Matilda’s funny response. “Not only you, I feel weird calling you Mom as well. Great, Madam Flintstone it is.”

Feeling a little amused by how odd the conversation could go between the ladies, John asked, “Do I need to call you by your name as well?”

Matilda glared at him. “What for? Don’t you want to be my son? Or you don’t see me as your mother?”

Faced with his mother's chain of questions, he quickly shut up and regretted his decision to butt in. I should have listened without interrupting.

Matilda turned to Sophia and said, "Your grandma hasn't come down yet. I'm going upstairs to notify her." Upon saying so, she turned her body slightly to walk around John and Sophia to the second floor.

After stepping down the stairs, Sophia carefully stretched her limbs. "By the way, did Logan contact you last night?"

John grunted before answering, "Yeah, he gave me some valuable clues. Even though he is all over the place and acts carelessly, at the crucial moment, he plays an important role."

At the mention of Logan's character, Sophia immediately broke into a smile. "I think Logan is at Miss Hunt's place now. I can't explain why, but I feel that those two have something going on."

John pursed his lips without replying.

To be honest, he had had a discussion with Logan about Lola. Even though she had made a career switch, she used to be part of the police and had some support behind her. Getting Lola onto their side to help would be much easier than dealing with the matter themselves.

John and Sophia waited in the dining room. Soon, Matilda returned with Old Mrs. Constance.

The old lady looked as if she had just woken up. With Matilda's help, she carefully descended the stairs.

When they were coming down, Sophia overheard them talking about the Flintstones, which

reminded her that Old Mrs. Constance had wanted to pay a visit to the Flintstones.

Indeed, when the two women appeared, Old Mrs. Constance announced, "I will head over to the Flintstone Residence in the afternoon. Matilda will stay home. Sophia, do you have anything you crave? I can buy you some when I'm out."

She's treating me like a kid!

Not having any cravings, Sophia shook her head. "I don't particularly crave anything. I'm fine. There are too many fruits at home, and I'll have those instead."

Old Mrs. Constance smiled warmly at her. "We didn't treat you well in the past. That's why I wanted to make it up to you now."

Grinning, Sophia suggested, "If you want to make it up to me, just have John do it."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded, and her gaze swept through the locked hands that Sophia and John placed on the table.

She clicked her tongue and remarked, "From what I see, John is really treating you like a princess now. Ah, how good it is to be young!"

Not only did John and Sophia not feel shy, but they also tightened their grip on each other's fingers.

Seeing how lovey-dovey the young couple were, Matilda laughed out loud from the side. "These two are resembling each other more and more. From their temper to personality, they grow to resemble each other."

Sophia started laughing as well. "Well, I have a better temper than John."

Hearing a comment about himself, John pinched her hand. "Whatever. As long as you're happy, you can say anything you want about me."

The atmosphere at today's dining table was obviously better than last night's. The four of them ate and chatted merrily. During the meal, Old Mrs. Constance did not forget to check with John. "Why didn't you come home last night?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 974

Old Mrs. Constance seemed to be schooling him on behalf of Sophia as she added, "You can't keep doing this. Sophia is pregnant now. You can't leave her alone at home like this. No matter how busy you are at work, I do not believe that you need to work this late into the night."

John nodded without explaining what he had been up to last night. To his grandmother, he only said, "I won't do that anymore. From now on, I will try to leave work earlier and come home to keep her company."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded in satisfaction and looked at Sophia. "This fellow has made a promise here. If he breaks his promise, you can talk to me. I will deal with him for you."

Sophia instantly knew that Old Mrs. Constance was acting this way on purpose to soothe her anxiety from last night.

She nodded gratefully and said, "Okay, Grandma, I will come to you for help if he breaks his promise. Just don't favor him by then."

Old Mrs. Constance gave her grandson a warning stare. "Don't worry. I've got my walking stick ready. If he neglects you, I will definitely beat him up."

John smiled and shook his head at the cute scene without a comment. The amicable atmosphere made it a lovely lunch for everyone.

Compared to last night, Sophia clearly had a better appetite. After lunch, she suddenly recalled something and turned to ask John, "By the way, Dylan has a girlfriend now. Do you know what she looks like?"

John frowned for a moment. Meeting Dylan's girlfriend was out of the question when he did not even have the time to meet with Dylan over the past two days. Thus, he pursed his lips and replied, "I heard that Aunt Jennifer went to the company two days ago to have lunch with Dylan's girlfriend. I only knew about it through Dad and I didn't get to meet the girl."

Beside them, Matilda interjected, "Don't sweat about it. When you meet your Aunt Jennifer, she will tell you all about it. You don't even need to ask; she will blurt out everything."

That sounded about right, Sophia thought. As she chuckled, she said, "Yeah, you're right."

After lunch, John stayed around for a bit longer.

The four of them chatted for some time before Sophia started to feel drowsy.

Then, John followed her back to their room and lay down beside her like he was about to coax a child to sleep.

He even tapped on her shoulder rhythmically and gradually lulled her to sleep.

She was lying on her side and her belly protruded in an obvious way.

At the sight of it, he placed his hand on her belly and caressed it.

For now, they still could not feel any movements of the fetus. I wonder how this little fellow is doing in there?

Leaning down, he gave her a kiss on her forehead before slowly making his way downstairs.

Now, Old Mrs. Constance was already on her way to the Flintstones, so only Matilda was lying on the couch watching TV.

She appeared bored out of her mind.

When John was back downstairs, he informed her, "It's about time for me to leave. I'll be off now."

She nodded. "Can you be home on time tonight?"

When John heard that, he hesitated for a while and cautiously answered, "I'll try my best."

She grunted. "Now that Sophia's pregnant, you need to give her what she needs. A pregnant woman tends to overthink. You spend too little time with her and that will make her sad."

John let out a frustrated sigh. "Alright. I got it."

After the brief chat with Matilda, he promptly left the Constance Residence.

When his car went into the highway, Zack was waiting for him there. Then, John pulled over, and Zack came up to take his place on the driver's seat.

When they were done switching positions, Zack started the car and continued driving John to his destination.

During the journey, Zack started a conversation. "The police have recorded Husky and Roselia's statements. Also, someone went to check on the place Roselia was held yesterday. For now, we have narrowed down our targets to a few men, but we could not get a hold on the exact situation yet.

Anyway, I believe that the police have started to make their move."

He added, "I talked to Roselia just now. She told me that there's some inventory hidden in the

shadow bank. Their people probably planned to have Old Mr. Bailey count the inventory during the operations handover to him. However, after Husky and Roselia's incident, I wonder if they'd quickly

transfer the stuff away from scrutiny.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 976

It was obvious that Mrs. Bailey could not remain in the same city. The Bailey Family was going through a lot of ups and downs, so there was no guarantee that the media outlet would drop a bomb and report on Mrs. Bailey’s breakdown. With that in mind, Isabelle planned to send her mom as far away as possible.

After deciding on a few places, she waited for her father to come home before proposing her idea to him.

He replied without hesitation, “If you want to send her away, go ahead. Looking at her now, everyone at home is greatly affected by her behavior.” After he said that, she smirked when he wasn’t looking. See, this is the true color of the Baileys.

They didn’t care about how Mrs. Bailey was going to live her life after she moved out. Everyone saw her as a burden that they wanted to get rid of as soon as possible. At the thought of that, she reminded herself to not dwell on these people because it would only make her despair.

Then, she asked him, “When do you think is the best time to send Mom away? Should we do it after the hundredth day of Dexter’s death?”

He waved at her in objection. “The earlier the better. There’s no need to wait until then. At that time, I fear that she is going to act even crazier.” When Isabelle heard that, she nodded at him. “If so, I will make the arrangements accordingly. I’ll send her away within the next two days.”

Even after she said that, her father did not bother to inquire about where she planned to send her mom to. Instead, he merely grunted. "I'll let you take charge of this." At first, before meeting her dad, she had wanted to discuss with him where to send her mother to. She had selected a few places, but she could not decide on one. However, judging by his unbothered attitude now, she knew there was no point asking for his opinion. Hence, she slowly sighed and answered, "Got it."

At the Constance Residence, Sophia and Matilda watched TV for the entire afternoon at home. In the evening, John indeed returned home on time as he had promised. Not only that, he came back with William and Logan in tow. The moment Logan stepped into the house, he started giggling in a silly way while staring at Sophia.

"Sophia, did you miss me?"

Sophia immediately recalled the interaction she overheard between Logan and Lola on the phone; the one where he got berated by Lola. Then, she flashed him a smile and fired back, "Oh, you're back from Lola's place?"

Logan's expression contorted at the mention of Lola. "Don't bring her up! That annoying b*tch! When her arm is healed, she'd better be prepared to fight me!"

Sophia knew that Logan was all talk and no game; this was something that she had observed throughout their friendship. Thus, she nodded at him dismissively. "Sure, sure, everything you say is right. Lola just can't leave you alone, right? She coddles you and even had to beg you so that you'd help her out. Without you, her life would be turned upside down. She can't live without you!"

The mocking attitude in her tone was beyond obvious, which made Logan's face twitch. "Can't you at

least say something that cheers me up? Seems like all my love for you is worthless.”

Sophia chuckled and said, “Aren’t you happy at what I said just now? I embellished everything for

you. How else do you want me to frame it?”

Then, John tapped Logan’s arm. “You can’t beat her. She will make you die from frustration.”

Upon thinking about it, Logan took a seat beside Sophia and asked,

“I’m going to have dinner here

later. Do you mind it?”

She shook her head at him. “I don’t mind. It’s useless to say that I mind.

You are already here, so it’s

impossible for me to throw you out anyway.”

Look, another attack from Sophia! Logan decided to keep his mouth shut from now on.

Sophia looked at his defeated expression and laughed at him.

Everyone described Logan as someone cool and unbothered, but now,

Sophia witnessed the cute

side of Logan. It was a type of cuteness that transcended his age; one

that was mixed in with a little

bit of silliness.

As for William, he immediately went to the kitchen upon arrival, where

Matilda was busy cooking

with the help of a servant.

He leaned on the doorframe silently and admired her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 977

During this time, William and Matilda’s living situation was akin to

cohabitation.

Since there was no housekeeper around, she had to do everything on her own.

Every day, he would find her preparing dinner in the kitchen when he

got home from work.

To be honest, he really liked the current arrangement.

In the past, Matilda was a bad cook, but her culinary skills had improved drastically now, and that came as a surprise to William.

After working for a while, Matilda turned around and saw that William was back. She smiled at him.

“Why are you standing there? Go join the others in the living room. It’s quite smoky and oily here in the kitchen.”

He beamed gently at her. “I just want to stand here and look at you.” This old fella finally learned how to sweet-talk at this age. She then nodded at him. “Alright then, you can look on if you want. If you’re really bored, you can help us out too.”

To her surprise, he actually took off his coat, flung it onto the sofa and entered the kitchen. “What do you need help with? Just tell me.”

There was nothing much for William to do. After all, the servant was quite helpful and skilled.

Matilda turned around and scanned the kitchen before gesturing at the servant to leave, telling her,

“Leave it to us.”

The servant was taken aback by the suggestion.

Earlier, she noticed that Matilda’s personality had changed. Now, even William seemed to have turned into a new person.

Matilda noticed that the servant was taken aback, so she tapped her on the shoulder. “You can

continue your work out there. Leave the cooking to us. It’s fine.”

After deliberating for a while, the servant left them alone.

Matilda grabbed an apron for William. “Come here. Time to put on your battle armor.”

He accepted the apron and looked at it with a smile.

Then, he obediently put on the apron and asked, "What's next? Give me the orders, boss."

Matilda almost burst out laughing at his comical behavior. After that, she patted around herself and

checked her surroundings in an attempt to look for something.

Looking mildly confused, he asked, "What are you looking for?"

To that question, she laughed and replied, "I'm searching for my phone.

I want to take a photo of you right now."

He didn't mind it, so he handed his own phone over. "Use mine to take the photo."

So, she received his phone and took a photo of him in the apron.

Next, she stared at the photo for a bit. After some consideration, she decided to upload the photo to

his Facebook account on his phone.

His account was set to private and he did not have many friends on the site. There were only some

family members and long-time friends.

After posting, she tapped out of the app and placed the phone back into his pocket. "Now, what we

need to do is to get these dishes done."

He nodded cooperatively. "Alright. I'll do it."

They worked well together and started getting busy in the kitchen.

In the living room, Sophia stared at the kitchen for a while and tapped on John's shoulder, gesturing

at him to take a look. She lifted a brow in amusement. "Look at your parents and how close they are

now!"

Logan was the first to turn around and take a look, after which he smacked his lips. "Sometimes, I

feel that John has walked down the same path as his dad."

Then, he elaborated on his previous remark. "Before this, John was really cold and distant. After

going through the divorce and remarriage saga with you, he has mellowed out. Same happened to

his dad.”

Still staring at the kitchen, Logan went on to say, “At first, John was a very firm and cold character.

After the divorce and even before the remarriage, he has clearly changed a lot and resembles

nothing like before. He has become more easygoing, talkative and friendly.”

John smiled helplessly. “Perhaps we are fated to be a family.”

John shared the same experience with William in marriage. However, his own challenges surfaced

earlier in the marriage. As for William, his marital issues didn’t arise until he was in his middle age.

The Returning Ex Chapter 978

After chatting for a while, John wanted to head upstairs.

Sophia could tell that Logan followed John back home to discuss serious matters, so she waved at

them and said, “Just go. Don’t mind me.”

When John heard that, he stood up and caressed her hair. “When I’m done with my stuff, I will spend

some time with you.”

She nodded at him. “Alright. I know.”

When John went upstairs, Old Mrs. Constance happened to return from her stroll.

Just now, she saw John’s car returning to the residence. When she failed to see him around, she

directed her gaze toward the second floor. “Did he go upstairs?”

Sophia nodded. “He has something to work on. He’ll stay upstairs and we can call him for dinner

later.” Then, she added, “Logan is here as well.”

Upon hearing that, Old Mrs. Constance nodded. “That kid’s here. It will be very merry at dinner

later.”

And she was right. Logan was a chatterbox who could not stop talking for a second.

Old Mrs. Constance took a seat on the sofa and let out a long sigh.

“That kid from the Jefferson

Family... I wonder what type of girl he would be with. He’s too lively! I previously even tried going through the profiles of all the girls of his age, and I could not find a match for him!”

Sophia blinked playfully at her. “Grandma, dating isn’t a black-and-white issue. What we think of as a bad match could be someone he prefers. It’s not something we can be sure of from the get go.”

Sophia was right indeed. When Old Mrs. Constance heard that, she looked at Sophia warmly. “Yes, just like you and John. No one had thought that John would be the one clinging onto you.”

At the start of their marriage, Sophia was clearly on the weaker side. Everyone knew very well that even if the marriage led to true love, Sophia would have loved John more than the other way round.

After all, John was too arrogant and too rational. He simply wasn’t an emotional man.

However, the more everyone believed that to be the case, the sooner reality proved them wrong.

None of them had anticipated that John would be the person who was most reluctant to publicly announce his divorce.

Finally, he was the one who lowered himself and insisted on moving in with Sophia.

Over and over, he requested for a remarriage, even going as far as to impregnate her.

His pathetic image right now was a drastic shift from his arrogance and coldness in the past.

To sum it up, love wasn’t something that could be assessed rationally.

In the kitchen, William and Matilda were busy preparing dinner, but it sounded like they were fooling around because rounds of laughter could be heard. Sophia stole a glance at the kitchen and saw William's smiling face through the glass panel at the kitchen.

Now, she could tell that he was truly happy because his eyes were lit up with joy.

Staring at the couple, she felt happy for Matilda. After some ups and downs, the man whom Matilda loved had picked her in the end.

It was by no means an easy journey for either of them. Matilda used to be a drama queen. Since William was still sticking around for her, it proved that they were each other's true love.

After a while, Matilda and William were done with the dishes and they served the food with smiles.

Later, Sophia noticed that Matilda had sneaked her hand into William's pocket to fish out his phone.

William didn't mind it at all. He wiped his hands with a paper towel and headed over to join the group in the living room.

Then, Sophia stood up and went over to Matilda. The two of them stood at the kitchen's entrance as

Matilda checked William's Facebook notifications.

Feeling curious, Sophia peeked over her shoulder and noticed that William had posted a new photo

to his profile, which garnered a lot of likes and comments.

She stared at the photo for a moment before grinning knowingly. "You posted this purposely for

Yolanda to see, didn't you?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 979

Matilda merely chuckled without giving a reply, which was a silent admission to Sophia's guess.

Sophia smacked her lips. "That's good too. Now that you have declared your relationship with Mr.

Constances' cooperation, I believe that Yolanda will know what to do next."

Then, she placed her hand on Matilda's shoulder. "I'm a little curious though. Did Yolanda contact him lately?"

With her eyes fixed on the comments, Matilda's lips curled upward. "She has been calling him, but she's a smart woman and did not say anything problematic in the call. They simply chatted with each other like friends."

In the beginning, Matilda would take the chance to speak beside William during such phone conversations in order to make her presence clear to Yolanda.

For the first few times, Matilda could sense Yolanda's awkwardness in the presence of a third person.

However, after a couple of times, when Yolanda called William, she'd ask if Matilda was around and even greet her.

Yolanda was very skilled and impeccable in her act, which was something observed by Matilda.

On the other hand, Sophia was a little perplexed. "If she acts this way, you can't even accuse her of behaving out of line."

"That's the point," Matilda replied. "This is exactly why it's hard to deal with her."

From the start, Yolanda behaved as if she was innocent and was not going after anything.

In contrast, Matilda only knew how to make a scene to get William's attention in the past. It backfired and made him think of her as an unreasonable woman. After that, Sophia had nothing more to say, so she stared at William's Facebook timeline.

In the comment section of the photo, they could spot Yolanda's comment.

She sent a smiling emoji with a comment that read, 'You look kinda handsome in an apron!'

There was nothing wrong with the comment, but Matilda definitely felt uncomfortable reading it.

If it was a friend who had left this comment, Matilda would have been fine with it. But knowing

Yolanda, she definitely had an ulterior motive.

Sophia reached out to take William's phone as she gestured for Matilda to join William with a lift of her chin.

Matilda immediately understood once she looked at Sophia, who urged her once more with a smile.

"Go over."

Hence, Matilda tidied her hair and walked over to William, who was seated beside Old Mrs.

Constance and was chatting with the old lady.

When she went over, William peeled a tangerine for her.

Sophia quickly pointed William's phone camera in the direction.

During the conversation with Old Mrs. Constance, William peeled a section of the tangerine and fed it to Matilda.

If this had happened on a normal day, Matilda would have felt shy and insisted on not being fed.

However, she accepted his loving gesture this time.

Standing at her spot, Sophia took a video of the interaction and posted it to William's Facebook.

She hadn't planned to insert any caption, but right before she posted it, she deliberately added two

cringeworthy red heart emojis.

This should make it clear, right?

After she was done with posting, Sophia tapped out of Facebook and headed over to join the group with William's phone in her hand.

Taking a seat beside Matilda, she shoved the phone into Matilda's hand.

Matilda immediately took the phone and silently pushed it back into William's pocket while talking with him.

All the while, Old Mrs. Constance's gaze was darting between Matilda and Sophia, her lips curling into a smile.

Sophia accidentally met her eyes. Of course, she knew that Old Mrs. Constance was a shrewd lady and she definitely saw through their trick.

Perhaps, William was totally aware of it as well.

After all, when Sophia was filming William and Matilda, she did not hide her action at all. It was

possible that William had noticed her taking the video. Even so, he did not stop her, which meant that he must have tacitly approved her move.

A while later, Sophia went upstairs to call John and Logan down for dinner.

The two grown men were huddled together in the study, poring over a pile of documents.

The Returning Ex Chapter 980

Having no interest in what they were reading, Sophia stood at the door and called out to them. "Hey there, you two handsome fellows. Time for dinner!"

Logan grunted. "Handsome fellow? You must be calling me."

John closed the file. "Yeah, yeah, she's definitely calling you." Then, he left the study, taking Sophia's hand in his as they walked out.

Logan gave them a sideward look. "Do you need to do that in front of me? Why are you doing that even at home? Does no one at home tell you off for acting lovey-dovey?"

After glaring at Logan, Sophia turned around, hugged John and kissed him. "I'm holding my husband's hand and kissing him in my own house. What's wrong with that?" She snorted and added, "Why don't you get a girl for yourself too?"

Logan cried out, "What's with you? Are you laughing at me for being single? Alright, just you wait.

One day, I'll bring my girlfriend to meet you. I will show you how capable of a man I am!"

Sophia didn't bother to reply to him because he was always good at bluffing. By now, she knew that her friend was not good at anything, except for bluffing. The three of them went downstairs for dinner. Halfway, Logan lowered his head and saw the interaction between Matilda and William. The couple was talking about something and smiling at each other. At the sight, Logan drew a sharp breath. "You all! You never care about my feelings. If I had known about all the public displays of affection I would be seeing here, I wouldn't have come here for a free dinner!" The older and younger couples both act the same way!

At dinner, everyone sat down and listened to Old Mrs. Constance announcing the outcome of her discussion with Old Mrs. Flintstone. They obviously had a family meeting at the Flintstone

Residence to discuss Matilda and William's relationship.

This time, Old Mrs. Constance had a smooth discussion with them. The two families had finally

reached a common understanding and no one objected to Matilda and William's remarriage.

Despite the agreement, the Flintstones had some reservations on their side. The news of John and Sophia's remarriage was not made public yet, but Sophia's belly was growing by the day, so the news would break sooner or later.

A couple that had divorced each other and got back together again would make a great love story. It would be a tale of them going their own ways, only to find their way back to each other after twists and turns. However, if both father and son decided to remarry their former spouses, the public discourse would look very different. When the two went through divorce one after another, and somehow decided to remarry at the same time, people would think that they were treating marriage as a joke.

According to the Flintstones, they believed that nothing too impactful would happen between William and Matilda anytime soon, unlike John and Sophia. Therefore, they proposed to keep the relationship between William and Matilda a secret first, and the families would not make a public announcement about it for the moment.

Old Mrs. Constance could understand the Flintstones' concern. Now, she looked at the older couple and asked for their opinion, "What do you think about this?" William's expression remained calm as he nodded. "It makes sense too. With or without the public announcement, our relationship will not change. At this age, both of us are not bothered about the formalities anymore. Everything's fine as long as we are happy with each other."

Matilda agreed. "I think so too."

Old Mrs. Constance blinked at her. "If so, let's move on to the next question. When are you two going to register your marriage? Or are you still planning to wait?"

Faced with the tough question, Matilda pursed her lips and kept silent. William stared at his mom and frowned a little. "Mom, I should be the one who's popping the question."

Something clicked in the old lady's mind and she immediately clapped in realization. "Ah! I've talked too much! I asked her without thinking much about it. Yes, when it comes to remarriage, you should be the one asking her."

William glanced at Matilda with a defeated look and said, "I had wanted to bring up this question with you tonight, but now that we're on the topic, I can't shy away from it."

The Returning Ex Chapter 981

William put down his fork and knife to fumble around in his pocket. Beside him, Sophia blinked and inched closer to whisper into John's ear. "Could your dad have bought a diamond ring to propose?"

John stared at William's action and smiled. "I guess so."

On the other hand, Logan's face was twitching at the sight of the progression of events. I am too thoughtless. I shouldn't have come for dinner! Not only was he mocked by Sophia, he was forced to watch the lovey-dovey scenes of the two couples. What did I do to deserve this?

Indeed, William took out a brocade box from his pocket. Anyone could tell that it was a ring box with one look.

Matilda was shocked at the sight of it. At this age, she had not expected to be presented with a ceremony like this.

The two of them could have discussed the remarriage between themselves in private, and that would have been good enough for her. Proposals and diamond rings were not part of her expectations.

Under everyone's expectant eyes, William found it hard to go down on one knee to propose. Thus, he could only open the box on the table, push it over to Matilda, and stare at her.

His question was simple too. "Let's remarry, okay?" Logan instantly lifted his hands to shield his face.

On the other hand, Matilda's face was blushing from the proposal. Without any fuss, she took the diamond ring and put it onto her finger.

Frankly speaking, she had a lot of diamond rings, but they were all left behind at Constance

Residence after the divorce. She bought most of the rings for herself and William had only given her one ring at the start of their marriage.

Despite that, she never wore the ring he bought. After all, it was a gift from many years ago and was already out of style.

Now, she stared at the diamond ring on her finger for a moment. Smiling, she gave a reply shorter than his question. "Okay."

Old Mrs. Constance sighed at the proposal. "Girl, you are going to blame me. If I had not brought it up hastily just now, William might have given you a better proposal later tonight."

Matilda waved her hands to show her objection. “You shouldn’t say that. We’re getting older now and there’s really no need for a proposal. Everything’s good as long as we share an understanding and have an open talk about it.”

At the same time, Sophia took a look at Logan. “Logan, why are you covering your face? Is it because you can’t stand watching as a singleton?”

Logan slowly lowered his hands and scrambled for an excuse. “It’s not that I can’t stand it. I’m simply feeling shy.”

Then, Old Mrs. Constance took the chance to turn her focus onto Logan. She stared at him and said,

“Logan, don’t blame me for talking too much. You’re not young anymore. I’m doing this because I see you as family. Come, tell me if there’s any girl you’re interested in right now.”

In response, he hurriedly waved his hands. “Grandma, don’t you know me? I’m wild and free—not the type that fancies being tied down. For now, I’m not interested in finding a partner.”

As if he was afraid of being mocked by Sophia, he quickly added, “But if I wanted to, it would be easy to get someone! Girls are going to line up for me.”

What a shameless fellow! He has the guts to say anything at any occasion without discretion! Sophia thought.

Knowing that Logan was trying to joke his way out of the conversation, she sighed. “Your family must be getting worried about you, aren’t they? I understand that young people nowadays prefer to enjoy a longer period of freedom, but there are certain things that should be done at the right age.

Think of it; when you grow older and finally decide to marry a woman who’s in the same age range,

the two of you will be too old to even think about having children and raising them. You won't have the energy for that!"

Logan forced a laugh and was a little lost at how to continue the conversation around this topic.

Seated beside them, Sophia felt like laughing at the sight of his embarrassed expression. She waited for a while before chiming in to help Logan. "Grandma, you can't rush a marriage. Perhaps it's just not time yet. When the right person comes along, this matter will be settled in no time."

The Returning Ex Chapter 982

Old Mrs. Constance nodded at her remark. "You're right. A marriage can't be rushed."

With Sophia's help, the conversation about Logan's marriage finally came to an end.

Logan rubbed his hands and appeared flustered. Obviously, he was feeling extremely uncomfortable eating together with them this time. In the past, he never cared much about public displays of affection, but now, every time he came across it, he would feel a little bothered.

This was especially because his sister called him two nights ago. In the call, Lorraine told him that their father's health was not well lately, and that he had been talking about his only wish—to see Logan getting married.

Lorraine sounded nice over the call. Neither did she get angry nor order him to do anything about it.

However, the call left Logan feeling bad.

It was true that his father's health was declining. Their family doctor even lived in the room next to his in order to monitor his condition.

Old Mr. Jefferson had always been talking about Logan's marriage, but Logan never saw it as a big deal.

When the topic was brought up again under the current circumstances, Logan felt it differently.

The dinner at the Constances' place didn't go on for long. When it was about to end, John and Logan both stood up.

Sophia knew that the two had other matters to tend to, but Old Mrs. Constance did not understand the situation. So, she looked at John and Logan. "Why did you two finish dinner in a haste? You didn't eat much either."

In response, John took a napkin to wipe his hand. "I'm full now. Plus, I don't want to overeat at night.

I've been suffering from indigestion over the past two days."

Logan nodded and grunted in agreement. "Yes, yes, we'll have indigestion. It's better to eat less."

Sophia almost laughed out loud. Of course, she knew that Logan was definitely not suffering from indigestion; he merely found the conversation at the dinner table difficult.

After hearing their explanation, Old Mrs. Constance did not object to them leaving.

Therefore, John and Logan both went into the study upstairs.

Upon thinking about it for a moment, Old Mrs. Constance looked at Sophia. "I have a feeling that

John and Logan have some important matters to deal with. Look at them! They obviously plan to discuss something serious."

Sophia agreed but feigned ignorance. "I know nothing about it. I never ask John about his work."

A few moments later, Old Mrs. Constance nodded slowly. "Right. You don't need to care about what is happening at his work. Just focus on your health and your pregnancy."

At that time, Sophia was done with dinner too. She chatted a little with Old Mrs. Constance before putting down her fork and sat there to keep them company.

Matilda was talking to William about a situation at her place. It sounded like there was a leaking pipe somewhere around.

She said that she wanted William to help fix it when they head back later.

When William heard that, he said that he had wanted to fix the leak the previous day, but he had failed to find any wrench. Otherwise, he would have already settled it. During the chat, Sophia leaned into her chair and observed the older couple.

Their communication style right now was much better than before. Matilda could finally converse like a normal person, while William sounded warmer and had become a caring husband.

Happy to witness the harmonious relationship, Old Mrs. Constance smiled throughout their conversation with a hint of relief and joy.

When everyone was done with dinner, they moved over to the sofa and chatted more.

Matilda and John ultimately planned to return to their place. They had little interest in staying the night at Constance Residence.

When Old Mrs. Constance found out about it, she smacked her lips and asked, "What's wrong with

staying here? Is it inconvenient for you two to get lovey-dovey?"

Matilda caressed the diamond ring on her finger and replied, "Why would we need to get

love-dovey at this age? It's simply more comfortable for us to stay at my place. After all, both of us are not legally remarried yet."

They have been using their status as an excuse over and over again, Old Mrs. Constance thought to herself.

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Old Mrs. Constance didn't want to say anything anymore.

After the four of them chatted for a while, Matilda and William had to go.

However, the two of them only informed Old Mrs. Constance and Sophia before they left as they weren't planning to go up to tell John about it.

Old Mrs. Constance grinned as she told Sophia, "Look at those two. They are way more inseparable now compared to when they were younger."

Then, Sophia turned toward Old Mrs. Constance and asked, "Grandma, do you want to go out and walk around? I'll help you."

Indeed, it wasn't quite healthy to just sit down here after having their meal.

After contemplating for a moment, the old lady nodded. "Alright. Let's go."

On the other hand, William and Matilda were in the car on their way out of the Constance Residence when William asked, "You posted on Facebook with my phone?"

Matilda grunted as she leaned back on the seat. "I posted twice, in fact."

William smiled at that. "How's the reaction? Are you satisfied?"

In response, Matilda harrumphed and took William's phone before opening Facebook and showing

him the comments under the post. “Do you think that I’m satisfied with this response?”

William glanced at his phone from the corners of his eyes without paying much attention to the comments before he nodded. “It’s not bad. Many have seen me getting tamed by you.”

Then, Matilda took the phone back and didn’t say anything else as she stared at Yolanda’s comment.

A while later, William reached out to grab Matilda’s hand before intertwining their fingers together

as he questioned, “What’s bothering you?”

Matilda replied, “Didn’t you see Yolanda complimenting you?”

However, William chuckled. “That’s what’s bothering you? Isn’t it normal for me to get

compliments?” Before Matilda could say anything, William added,

“Block her if you’re not happy about it.”

Caught by surprise, Matilda turned toward William. “What did you just say?”

William repeated his words. “If Yolanda being my friend irks you, just block her. It’s not like I have to keep in touch with her anyway.”

After staring at William for a moment, Matilda spoke up. “Don’t try to test me. I’ll really do it if you

allow me to. I’ll really block her immediately.”

Still, William chuckled before nodding. “Just block her. If her presence really affects our relationship,

you can do it.”

Giving William another long look, Matilda lowered her head and started tapping on the phone

before unfriending Yolanda.

Since he had already made it clear, it wouldn’t be fair for him if she didn’t do it.

Immediately after unfriending Yolanda, Matilda could feel a weight in heart being lifted. Now, she

could finally breathe in relief.

Right then, the corners of William's lips turned up. "Feel better now?"

"Mmh. Yes. I feel way better now." Then, she pinched William's hand.

"It would have been great if you were like this back then."

However, Matilda wasn't one to hold grudges about these.

William exhaled. "I was inconsiderate and egotistical in the past, but this won't happen again in the future. Don't worry about it."

Matilda couldn't help but be amazed at how well-behaved William was on this day.

After they got home, Matilda took William's phone again as she wasn't assured.

The comments were still increasing. Then, she checked his friend requests to see that Yolanda

hadn't sent him a friend request yet. She probably didn't know yet that he had unfriended her.

Matilda couldn't help but feel excited as she wanted to know how Yolanda would react.

On the other hand, William didn't really care as he changed into his sleepwear and lay on the bed after washing up.

A few moments later, Matilda scooted over to him. "What if Yolanda sends you a new friend request?"

William was speechless as he reached out to pinch Matilda's cheek.

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He treated her as if he was talking to a little girl. "I'll let you check my phone everyday, alright?"

In response, she moved away from him. "Hmph. She can still call you."

William immediately laughed. "I really can't do anything about that. Even if I delete her contact, she'd still have my number saved."

Matilda too, knew that she was being ridiculous. After pursing her lips and contemplating it for a moment, she returned William his phone. "You must tell me if she tries to contact you in the future."

"Alright, alright," William answered without any hesitation.

His attitude really made Matilda feel more assured.

Then, she lay down and pondered for a moment before saying again, "About us remarrying, just pick a time to go to the Civil Affairs Bureau to claim our certificates again. It shouldn't be a hassle."

William turned over and hugged Matilda. "Alright."

On the other hand, Isabelle had already decided on a place, and her men were efficient enough to arrange for Mrs. Bailey's departure the next day.

Mrs. Bailey hadn't started packing up, and she was surprised when she saw how anxious Isabelle was. "Belle, I can't leave so soon as I haven't made any preparations yet."

However, Isabelle started packing up Mrs. Bailey's luggage for her. "It's alright. You'll stay at the hotel first when you get there and I'll send the butler along with you. After helping to rent a house and let you settle in, he'll return again."

After saying these, Isabelle stood up and turned toward Mrs. Bailey. "After I settle everything at my end, I'll go look for you."

Right then, Mrs. Bailey's eyes reddened as she stared at Isabelle and asked, "Are you unhappy here?"

If you don't like staying here, let's just leave together. Don't care about those responsibilities as the job to take over Bailey Corporation shouldn't have fallen onto you in the first place."

Isabelle went over to hug Mrs. Bailey. "I've already gotten a plane ticket for you and the butler is already done packing up. A car will be there to pick you guys up when you reach, and I've already booked the hotel."

At that moment, Mrs. Bailey frowned slightly before she lamented, "Why are you in such a hurry?"

However, Isabelle didn't say anything. Instead, she dragged Mrs. Bailey's luggage downstairs after packing all the necessary documents as well as clothings.

Meanwhile, the butler was already waiting at the entrance of the house. He could already be counted as an elderly now, so he couldn't help but feel his heart ache when he saw Mrs. Bailey getting weaker as time passed by.

Moreover, Dexter technically grew up under his watch as well. The thought of him made the butler's eyes redden.

Then, he asked Mrs. Bailey if she wanted to visit Dexter at the funeral home.

However, Mrs. Bailey decided against it after opening and closing her mouth for a moment.

She wasn't in a good condition to visit Dexter, and he probably wouldn't want to see her like this anyway.

To be honest, Mrs. Bailey knew that her condition was bad. Still, Dexter's death had been nothing but a disaster for her; her entire world had been shattered and it couldn't be rebuilt anymore.

Mrs. Bailey didn't sleep the entire night as she pondered on what happened in the past and what would happen in the future. What could she do to pick up on her life again?

Then, she recalled what Elder Mr. Bailey said when he was on the second floor the previous day.

She knew that she still couldn't walk out of it, but all of the others in the family had already gotten over it.

Now, she knew couldn't fit into this family any longer.

What happened to Dexter had become a scar in Mrs. Bailey's heart, and it would scab over and over again, never healing itself.

However, it seemed that almost everyone in this family had already forgotten about his existence.

It was as if they all wanted to remove the traces that Dexter was once alive.

After Isabelle sent Mrs. Bailey and the butler into the car and told them to be careful, she sighed in

relief as she watched the car drive out from Bailey Residence.

The Baileys would no longer have any relation to Mrs. Bailey from now on.

The Returning Ex Chapter 985

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Isabelle sent John a text message after Mrs. Bailey left.

Although she didn't know if John would read her message or not, she had already told him

everything that she should.

In the meantime, Elder Mr. Bailey had already gone out. Not knowing where he went, Isabelle

waited for a moment before she entered his room.

She had used the spare keys to open his door before going to the wardrobe and unlocking the safe in

the wardrobe with ease.

All the document files in the safe were still there.

Isabelle looked around and noticed that there were a few newer documents. However, most of these

were details of overseas accounts as well as some purchase details.

After noting them down briefly, she noticed that the sales had recently reduced.

At least, it was way less than the previous number of accounts.

Still, the overall sum of the purchase amount was still a large amount. This time, Isabelle didn't take pictures. Instead, she placed the document files back after skimming through it.

She couldn't really gauge what her father and grandfather were discussing recently.

Lately, Elder Mr. Bailey had been going out frequently late at night and only returning during the early hours of the morning, probably to do things that he didn't want others to find out about out there.

Isabelle went out of Elder Mr. Bailey's room and locked it before returning to her room after checking the document files.

When she reached the second floor's staircase, she saw that her grandfather had already returned and was now downstairs.

However, he didn't look like he was in a good mood as there was a hint of anger on his face.

Initially, Isabelle wanted to greet him, but after glancing at him and noticing his expression, she figured that she shouldn't get herself into trouble.

Thus, she turned around and went back to her room while the old man continued standing downstairs.

A while later, a servant came over and informed him that Mrs. Bailey had left.

Elder Mr. Bailey was already in a bad mood in the first place, so he immediately slammed his

walking stick on the ground with anger evident in his voice. "It's better if she leaves anyway! She had probably been bringing us so much bad luck with her crying everyday!"

The servant didn't dare to say anything and retreated immediately as the old man waited for a moment more before sitting down on the couch.

Since Isabelle didn't go downstairs and there weren't any servants around him, Elder Mr. Bailey had no one to talk to as he sat in silence for nearly half an hour before his son contacted him.

Elder Mr. Bailey immediately answered the call and asked, "What did they say?"

His son's gruff voice rang out. "They didn't say much. Just that we might not be able to protect some of the guys anymore, so we might need to go ourselves."

Then, Elder Mr. Bailey cursed before he grumbled, "All of them swore that they won't let anything leak out, but look what happened now?"

However, his son didn't say anything on the other end. After all, this happened before he took over the shadow bank, so it wasn't really related to him, and he wasn't in a place to make any comments about it.

Still, the old man was pissed off as he mumbled to himself before asking, "Did you get someone to check the hospital? Also, do you know where that woman is now? I can't believe these bunch of fools really allowed themselves to be infiltrated. They've really wasted my time training them back then!"

Old Mr. Bailey sighed. "I haven't checked the hospital because I'm afraid that it might cause unnecessary trouble, since we still have other troubles happening here on our end."

When he heard that, the old man nodded in agreement. “We must calm down. The more urgent it is, the more we shouldn’t lose our cool.”

After contemplating for a moment, Old Mr. Bailey suggested, “I’m afraid that we can’t protect some of the men anymore. What’s most important right now is to think of a way so that they won’t expose us.”

Elder Mr. Bailey lamented, “I initially wanted you to take over the business, but who would have expected that so much trouble would arise before you could actually take over.”

After Elder Mr. Bailey finished speaking, his son replied, “I can’t help but feel like we are being targeted by others.”

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Elder Mr. Bailey nodded. “Of course we are being targeted. Nothing has happened to this place all these years, but problems suddenly started arising during this time. I knew that something was wrong when so many of them went missing at the same time previously.”

Initially, the old man wanted to pass everything to his son so that he could settle the upcoming issues, but he was still too slow.

Since the two of them couldn’t reach a conclusion from their discussion, Elder Mr. Bailey could only ask his son to continue holding on and act according to the situation in case anything happens again.

On the other hand, after John left the company in the evening, he received a phone call from Isabelle, telling him, “I’m at the cafe in front of you.”

Taken aback, John turned toward the cafe in front of him.

However, the sunlight was reflected by the cafe's glass windows, so he couldn't see who or what was inside the cafe.

After pondering on it for a moment, he started heading toward the cafe.

Isabelle was sitting at the corner of the cafe instead of by the window.

When John entered, she waved and greeted him. "Here."

Then, he quickly walked over and sat in front of her before waving off the waiter that came over. "I'll be leaving soon."

In response, the waiter nodded and left.

Isabelle stared at John before she asked, "Are you scheming something recently?"

John wasn't planning to lie to her. "I am. It is actually ongoing right now."

When Isabelle heard that, she chuckled. "It's related to my family, am I right?"

John stared at Isabelle. "I didn't get to tell you what happened previously, but the man that I arranged to slip into the shadow bank was beaten half to death by your grandfather. He lodged a police report immediately after he was sent to the hospital. Now that the police are onto this, I can't stop it anymore."

However, Isabelle didn't look like she was bothered by it at all. "Oh, I see." Then, she bursted into laughter. "It's fine, John. I'm not here to interrogate you. I just want to know your progress so that I can plan to leave earlier if I can."

This time, John stared at Isabelle in surprise. "You're leaving?"

Isabelle leaned back onto her seat before she exhaled deeply. "To be honest, there's no need for me

to stay here to ward off trouble with them when they don't even need me. Moreover, my mom will go insane if something happens to me as well."

What she said made sense, so John nodded. "If that's your decision, I would advise you to leave as soon as possible. Now that the police are involved, this entire situation is out of my control and it might escalate anytime soon."

At that moment, Isabelle looked conflicted as she stared at John. However, John wasn't one to shy away. "What else do you want to say?"

Isabelle retracted her gaze right then before she asked a few moments later, "John, when you're investigating my family, have you ever hesitated for a moment, considering that we had an engagement in the past? Or rather, have you ever felt like dropping everything and letting them go considering our relationship all these years?"

John chuckled at that before he replied, "Why would you ask something so naive?"

Although he didn't answer her directly, it was enough to answer the uncertainty that Isabelle had.

Running her fingers through her hair, Isabelle nodded. "Okay. I understand."

Then, the conversation ended, and John got up. "I'll be leaving now. Sophia is waiting for me at home now and she might nag at me if I'm late."

Isabelle initially wanted to get up after she placed her phone down and kept her stuff, but when she heard what John said, she stopped and sighed. "You're really a heartless person, John Constance."

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However, John didn't reply to that and left the cafe. Then, he walked across the road without stopping and drove away.

Meanwhile, Isabelle stood at the entrance of the cafe and watched as John's car left. As she stood there, she wondered to herself what kind of terrible things had she done in her past life for her to end up falling in love with a man like this? Also, what kind of merit did Sophia accumulate in her past life for a man like this to fall in love with her?

On the other hand, John drove straight toward home after he left. When he parked his car at the parking lot and got down, he spotted Sophia standing by the little trail heading toward the backyard with Dylan standing next to her. The two of them looked like they were in the middle of a good conversation as John headed toward them. "What are you guys talking about?"

Sophia exclaimed when she saw John, "You're back!" A smile bloomed on her face almost immediately.

At the same time, Dylan turned over to give John a look before commenting, "I recall you leaving the company earlier than I did though."

John placed his arm on Sophia's shoulder. "Oh, I had to go settle something while I was on my way back."

Then, Sophia hugged John's waist before telling Dylan, "You should go back now. It's almost dinner time anyway. Goodbye."

She waved at Dylan before the two of them started heading back to the main building. Halfway walking, John asked, "Why are you so curious about Dylan's girlfriend?"

Sophia chuckled. "You really know me."

At that, John immediately asked, "What did Dylan say?"

However, Sophia didn't know how to answer his question as Dylan had never directly answered any questions about his girlfriend. All he said was his mother was being too anxious and was assuming things based on rumors.

When Sophia heard him, she couldn't understand what he was trying to say at that moment.

Was he saying that he had a girlfriend, but they hadn't been discussing marriage yet? Or could it be that the girl did exist, but they weren't in a relationship?

Sophia sighed. "I think you'd better ask Dylan this yourself when you see him. I'm not really sure what his answer to me meant."

"Hmm... So he didn't answer you directly?"

Sophia nodded. "He didn't."

John smiled at that and didn't say anything else.

Now, Old Mrs. Constance was the only person at the main building when they both got back.

When Old Mrs. Constance noticed that John was back, she immediately stood up and headed toward

the dining room as she remarked, "Looks like work's over for the day."

John replied, "There's still some left, but I listened to your advice and came home early."

At that, Old Mrs. Constance turned around and grinned before she went on to say, "I'm just hoping

that the baby inside Sophia can come out soon. Our house is just too empty and cold now."

William and Matilda didn't bother coming home after their visit on the previous day. Well, they probably wanted to enjoy their life together anyway.

However, the contrast of how merry it was the previous day and how quiet it was this day made Old

Mrs. Constance feel uneasy.

So, John went on to caress Sophia's stomach. "It's happening soon.

Look, Sophia's stomach has

already gotten so big.”

Then, Old Mrs. Constance went and sat down on a seat before she took her chopsticks. “Ask about the gender of the baby the next time you guys go for the checkup so that I can start preparing the outfits.”

John nodded. “Alright. I’ll remember to ask.”

Now that there were less people at the dining table, it was relatively quiet as they ate. Then, Old Mrs.

Constance asked John how his work was.

However, there wasn’t much going on at the company as John had been busy with other stuff recently.

Then, Sophia looked up to see John and asked after contemplating for a moment, “I heard that Husky

was admitted into the hospital previously. Is he alright now?”

John smiled at that. “He’s fine. That guy’s healing ability is monstrous and he is eating pretty well now.”

Previously, John’s man did call to inform him that besides not being able to move around freely,

Husky was still a glutton just like usual.

The Returning Ex Chapter 988

Even the nurse had been tortured by him mentally.

Initially, the doctor warned Husky to watch what he would be consuming as he was injured badly,

but in the end, he couldn’t take it anymore, so he forced the nurse to buy him braised pork; a lot of it.

All of John’s underlings were quite surprised when John took Husky in, as the guy was obviously too

impulsive, and these types of people would easily make mistakes.

However, though Husky’s character made him easier to make mistakes, it would also make other

people lower their defences around him. For example, his success in sneaking into the shadow bank itself this time was evident enough to show what he was capable of. Sophia recalled that time Husky trespassed into her house and tried to pull a sneak attack on her. That man is really dumb sometimes. Still, sometimes, it's easier for these people to do something great.

Then, John mentioned Roselia and said that although Husky and her got into trouble together, Roselia managed to get herself out of trouble, unlike Husky. Roselia shouldn't be underestimated as a woman as she had a seductive body and was a smooth talker, so it was easy for her to manipulate them to protect herself. This was Sophia's first time hearing John mention Roselia, so she was confused. "Who's Roselia? Is she working together with Husky?"

It was only now that John realized that he had never mentioned Roselia to Sophia before, so he explained the situation after contemplating for a moment. "Roselia is a girl that I met previously and she infiltrated the shadow bank along with Husky this time." He paused at this as his facial expression turned conflicted before he added, "Remember the previous scandal about me leaving the bar along with a girl? That was Roselia."

Sophia stopped eating right then as she stared at John without saying anything. Immediately, John knew what she was thinking about, so he hurriedly explained, "Roselia is just my worker and there's nothing between us. I can swear to you."

Then, Old Mrs. Constance glanced at the two of them before she spoke up. "You should bring her back some day to let me see her. After all, she had helped you and we should express our gratitude."

Hearing that, John turned toward his grandmother and explained himself further. "I did pay her for working for me, so it doesn't really count as helping me. We don't have any personal relationship besides being work partners."

Old Mrs. Constance nodded. "I believe that what you said is true, but I still want to meet her."

Naturally, John couldn't keep Roselia hidden from Old Mrs. Constance forever, so he had no choice but to agree. "I'll find some time and bring her over."

Then, Old Mrs. Constance turned toward Sophia. "Alright. Don't worry. Grandma will help you out."

However, Sophia wasn't worried. Instead, she was just irked.

To be honest, John's previous scandal had always remained lodged in her mind. Although she never mentioned it, she had always remembered it.

Now that she finally knew the truth of it, she was relieved as she had no reason to confront John about it previously. This time, however, she had finally come across a good reason to do it.

Thus, Sophia nodded. "That's good. You should invite this Roselia girl over someday. I also want to see if she's indeed that girl in the scandal."

John smiled helplessly. "Why won't you believe me?"

To that, Sophia didn't answer, as this wasn't something that she could just explain.

It wasn't that Sophia didn't believe John, but she preferred facing the truth on her own.

After the mention of this topic, everyone gradually fell silent.

When they were done eating, John suggested taking Sophia out for a stroll.

Old Mrs. Constance said that her head hurt, so she excused herself and went upstairs with a servant's help.

On the other hand, Sophia went out along with John after a moment's thought.

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While the two were headed toward the backyard, Sophia asked, "How did you and Roselia get to know each other?"

John thought about it. "I actually met her at a bar. You pissed me off so much once that I went to the bar and got drunk. That was when I ran into Logan as well as Roselia."

Sophia recalled that as well. That happened a really long time ago. At that time, Logan was sent home by John after he drank too much. She'd even tried to ask Logan what happened, but Logan passed out after he drank too much alcohol.

Then, Sophia nodded. "I see."

John went on to explain, "Roselia hangs out in the bar a lot, and she has met many different types of people. Utilizing these kinds of people would be the most advantageous to us. Moreover, her good looks are a plus point."

Roselia's success in infiltrating the shadow bank was a prime example of this.

However, Sophia didn't say anything and continued walking. At the same time, Lady Jennifer walked out, looking like she was dressed up to go out. Also, Sophia noticed Dylan behind her, looking just like how he was usually dressed.

Lady Jennifer immediately grinned when she saw John and Sophia as she greeted them. "Oh hello!

Fancy seeing you two taking a walk out here."

John greeted her as well before asking, "Are you guys heading out?" It seemed like Lady Jennifer was waiting for John to ask her that as she immediately said, "We are going out to meet Dylan's girlfriend and have dinner with her. I mean, it's nice to go on dates when you're still young."

Standing at the side, Sophia couldn't stop herself from asking, "Aunt Jennifer, why are you going along if they're going on a date? Are you going to be the third wheel?" Lady Jennifer couldn't come up with a response to Sophia's question. Meanwhile, Dylan felt like laughing as he stood behind her.

He had already told them to just stay at home, but his mother was stubborn and insisted on asking the girl out for dinner.

Until now, Dylan could still remember what happened the last time everyone gathered for a meal together, and the thought of it alone made him feel embarrassed. At the same time, Lady Jennifer had already lost her excitement, and she looked tense as she tried to explain herself. "I'm just tagging along as I don't have anything to do at home."

Sophia didn't say anything in response. There were some things that should be said just once as an effective retort, and speaking too much might cause things to backfire. Initially, Lady Jennifer still wanted to talk, but now that the atmosphere between them had become tense, she smiled awkwardly before taking Dylan along with her. After the two of them left, Sophia burst into fits of giggles while John was feeling speechless. "You'll only feel agitated if you keep trying to compete with them." Sophia shook her head. "Nah, I actually feel good. I'm in a good mood now that I managed to come

up with a retort against her.”

When John heard that, he only smiled before lowering his head and pulling Sophia’s hand to hold it before they walked around the backyard.

When they almost reached the main building, John’s phone suddenly rang. When he checked it, he saw that it was a call from Isabelle.

John was confused as Isabelle had already met him during the evening and told him everything that she wanted to say.

After Sophia glanced at his phone, she suggested, “You should answer it. She might want to tell you something important.”

Hence, John answered the call without any hesitation.

Immediately, Isabelle started talking. “John, the police came over to my house. Is something happening? Please tell me if that’s what it is so that I can prepare to leave now.”

Sophia was surprised as she listened in; Isabelle sounded off.

Meanwhile, John was also hesitant when he heard that the police went over to the Baileys. “I’m not really sure what happened, but I suggest that you should hang around to see what’s going on.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 990

Isabelle sighed. “The situation at my house isn’t looking good and I really don’t want to stay here any longer. I just want to understand your progress now so that I can leave as soon as possible if everything’s going on smoothly.”

After considering things for a moment, John asked, “Will your grandfather and father allow you to leave?”

This was indeed a good question as Isabelle was the only hope of the main branch of the Bailey

Family now that Dexter was gone. Mrs. Bailey had left, and only her father would be left in the family if Isabelle were to leave as well. Thus, John knew that Old Mr. Bailey and Elder Mr. Bailey would definitely disagree if Isabelle wanted to leave. Isabelle fell into silence before answering, "I have my own ways." John paused for a moment before he suggested, "You need to think about this carefully as it would be a huge problem if what your family is doing is exposed. If you don't want to get involved in this, it would be better if you can leave as soon as possible."

Then, Isabelle sighed before telling him that she understood and hung up. After staring at John's phone for a moment, Sophia questioned, "What happened? Is Isabelle leaving?" John grunted before he explained, "The Baileys are involved in too many aspects and I still can't fathom everything, but from the information that I have gathered right now, they will be in serious trouble if they get exposed."

Everyone in the Bailey Family might get affected? It must be a very serious matter to affect the entire family like that. At that thought, Sophia nodded as she lamented, "The Baileys are really audacious, huh?" Indeed, even John was amazed with what Elder Mr. Bailey could do sometimes. How could someone so old still be so greedy for wealth? Had he ever thought of how many people in the Bailey Family would get affected by what he had done? It might not have mattered to him, since he could close his

eyes and leave all the responsibilities to the others just because he was old, but what about his family members?

After John brought Sophia back to the main building, he accompanied Sophia to watch some animations on the couch before they returned to their room. However, a mere few minutes after John entered the bedroom, Zack's phone call came, so he had to go to the study room.

Sophia sighed as she changed into her pajamas. It felt like John had returned to how he was like during their first marriage, being busy as always. Then, she lay on the bed and started scrolling through the news on her phone. There wasn't any interesting news recently besides those in the entertainment section.

As Sophia sat on her bed and pondered for a moment, she recalled the talent show that Ian joined previously. It had been a really long time since she last watched it, so she couldn't help but wonder about his progress now. Then, Sophia started looking it up before realizing that the show had already reached its final stage in the championship.

It had been a long time since she last contacted Ian, and they hadn't talked much the last time he came back. Still, it felt to Sophia like they had already talked everything out. However, it was impossible for them to return to how they were in the first place even when the problem was already resolved.

Sophia randomly tapped on the newest episode and started watching the show. Ian's condition was getting better now and he had returned to how he was last time, quiet and slightly distant. Then,

Sophia scrolled through the comments below to see that many netizens had good things to say about Ian.

Ian was promoting himself as a gentle prince. Although this wasn't the fastest road to gain more fans, he still had a solid fanbase. During the start of the show, Ian had been singing sweet love songs, but he had been venturing into different song genres during these few episodes. For example, he sang an explosive rock and roll song during the latest episode. This was Sophia's first time seeing Ian going all out singing on the stage as he had always been gentle and restrained, so she couldn't help but feel sad when she heard his heart-rending singing.

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Sophia wondered how many things Ian kept to himself as he was so used to shouldering everything on his own.

To be honest, Sophia felt bad for him as he was probably like this due to how he was brought up as a kid.

After watching the show for a while, she sent Ian a text message to wish him luck for the championship, even if he might not see it.

Then, Sophia placed her phone down. She was starting to feel drowsy, so she got up to wash up before going back to the bed to sleep.

Right when Sophia was about to fall asleep, the door to the room opened.

John was surprised when he noticed that the room was dark. So, he slowly tiptoed to the washroom to wash up before rummaging through the closet to change into his pajamas. When he was done, he

lay on the bed and hugged Sophia.

That was when she spoke up. "That's quick. I thought that you would only return during midnight."

John froze. "Did I wake you up?"

Sophia mumbled a 'no'. Soon, John's hand started groping around until Sophia got annoyed and

whacked his hand. "Aren't you tired?"

However, John kissed her from her back. "I can get even more tired."

Sophia tried pushing him away, but it was impossible as he wasn't about to accept 'no' for an answer

despite the fact that he didn't sound pushy about it.

After her failed attempts, Sophia, who was already tired, said, "I am about to fall asleep already, so

you should just do it on your own."

Nevertheless, she didn't expect him to actually do it on his own without caring if Sophia was going to respond to him or not.

Finally, Sophia got slightly pissed off and pinched his cheeks. "You shameless man! Aren't you embarrassed of yourself?"

John lowered his head to kiss her before he chuckled. "How could we have a child if I get

embarrassed over stuff like this?"

By now, he clearly understood that there was no point keeping his dignity during times like these.

Just like last time, John didn't dare to put too much strain on Sophia, so he let her off after he

managed to get himself off.

After releasing Sophia, she immediately turned around and fell asleep while John went to bathe

himself before coming out with a bucket of water to help Sophia to clean herself.

When he reached her stomach, he couldn't help but lean over to kiss it.

Hopefully, the little kid had fallen asleep just now and didn't hear them in action.

After doing all that, John lay down on the bed as well. He was really tired now.

Then, he took his phone and sent a text. When he received a reply, he muted his phone and fell asleep as he cuddled Sophia.

Sophia woke up late the next day. Even though she didn't go along with John last night, she still couldn't help but feel tired.

John was already gone when she woke up, so Sophia took her phone and started going through her notifications before seeing a text message from Logan, asking her if she had seen the news.

He was probably trying to tell Sophia that something she was interested about was on the news.

Instead of replying to Logan's text, she immediately went to the gossip section of the news and found something that caught her eyes.

According to the news, someone reported witnessing illegal transactions going on in a private factory in the suburbs and the police actually found a huge amount of illegal things after raiding the place.

Sophia went through the entire article to see what were the illegal objects involved, but it wasn't mentioned in the news.

Initially, Sophia was still feeling groggy, but she immediately freshened up after reading the news, so she hurriedly gave Logan a call.

Logan accepted Sophia's call almost immediately. On the other end of the call, he started giggling before Sophia could say anything. "Have you seen the news? Are you happy? Do you feel excited? Do you?"

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Sophia immediately interrupted Logan. “Logan, you need to tell me what’s going on first. I don’t really get it as the news never explained anything specifically.” Logan tutted. “I can’t believe you don’t understand it when even I managed to comprehend everything clearly.” Then, he continued to say, “The Baileys’ shadow bank was reported with claims that they were doing illegal transactions, so the police raided the place and found illegal stuff.”

Sophia urged him to go on. “What kind of illegal stuff?”

Logan chuckled. “Remember the last time Lola raided my place wanting to find that thing? That’s what they found at the shadow bank.”

Sophia pondered for a moment before she gasped. Seriously? They are really audacious!

However, Logan went on to say, “But still, the shadow bank isn’t under the Baileys as they were only pulling the strings from behind the scenes. The real perpetrators aren’t related to them at all, so it’s hard to drag the Baileys through the mud even though it has been exposed.”

Sophia didn’t really understand the connection between all these, so she said, “Oh... If the shadow bank is gone, what are you guys going to do with the Baileys after this?”

Logan contemplated things for a moment. “Although the shadow bank is gone now, the Baileys still have financial dealings with them, so there will still be leads leading to them. It’s just that it will be hard to find them.”

All of the cash from the shadow bank was channeled to the Baileys through overseas accounts. Since the Baileys had business overseas as well, it would be normal for them to have overseas transactions, so it would be hard to try to pin the matter of the shadow bank on them.

Sophia ran her fingers through her hair. "So you're saying that we need more time before we can take down the Baileys completely, is that right?"

However, Logan chuckled again. "We can't be sure, as there are also other variables that might affect the Baileys."

Suddenly, Sophia recalled those things that Isabelle mentioned during the phone call on the previous day.

The variable that would affect the Baileys might actually be Isabelle. After that, Sophia started chatting with Logan about Ian.

Logan hadn't been contacting Ian as well, for the latter was still in the middle of a fierce competition, so he didn't want to bother him. Still, he had heard that Lorraine had mentioned that Ian was doing great, and his votes were really high as he managed to attract the crowd's attention. Hence, it was definitely possible for him to come out victorious.

When Sophia heard what Logan said, she felt relieved.

This proved that all of the efforts that Ian had made previously didn't go to waste, and he could finally walk with his head held high in the Morgan Family.

However, Logan added, "Recently, there have been people exposing dirt on Ian, and most of them were about his origins."

It seemed like his mother's information was leaked. Still, Lorraine assured him that they had paid

people to cover up the news the moment it was leaked, but they couldn't be sure if these information would be dug up again if Ian were to get even more popular in the future.

Sophia sighed. "Of course it would be. Which famous celebrity doesn't have dirt on them? Putting aside those meddlesome netizens, even his opponents would try to find dirt on Ian so that they can oppress him."

This was something that every budding celebrity would have to go through.

After this, Sophia hung up as it was time for her to get out of bed, and Logan seemed like he was busy as well.

Then, Sophia got up to freshen up and went downstairs to eat her breakfast.

Matilda had already arrived by now, and she was chatting with Old Mrs. Constance downstairs.

When she spotted Sophia coming down, she waved and greeted her. "Come, come. The dishes are still warm, so you should eat your breakfast first."

After that, Matilda continued talking to Old Mrs. Constance. "I'm not really sure, but everyone has been talking about it. The police went over to the Baileys' place yesterday as there were claims that someone in their family went to the shadow bank before, but it's probably not related to them as there hasn't been detailed news about it."

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Everyone had different opinions, but they were all reasonable ones, so there was no need to argue with each other.

When Matilda put it like this, Yolanda had nothing else to say. All her escape paths were easily blocked by Matilda.

Sitting on the sofa, Sophia laughed at Matilda's words. She said that even though Matilda had changed, her old personality remained, as in that she was still so formidable and spoke so mercilessly.

Matilda sighed. "It's true that an opponent like Yolanda makes me very irritable."

After all, Yolanda had been around them for a long time in her marriage to William. When they were not yet divorced, the two had quarreled all day about Yolanda. Now that she recalled that period, she still felt that it was really upsetting.

After the divorce, Matilda was unsure about what kind of relationship went on between Yolanda and William. She originally wanted to ask William about it, but now that she thought about it, she didn't feel there was a need to do so anymore.

Some questions were pointless and would only make oneself unhappy. After that, Old Mrs. Constance said, "I asked William about it after you two got divorced. He said that he didn't like her."

Matilda smiled. "I think so too."

Sophia could feel Matilda's unhappiness about this matter. Thus, she immediately changed the subject and talked about how she saw Dylan and Lady Jennifer going out the previous day. Then, she told them about the mean words she had said to Lady Jennifer.

Old Mrs. Constance and Matilda both laughed.

Then, the old lady looked at Sophia and said, "Your Aunt Jennifer already has negative opinions

about you. If you speak to her like that, she may become even more dissatisfied about your attitude in the future.”

Sophia didn't care about this at all, so she chuckled and replied, “Since she doesn't have a good impression of me and I don't expect her to change her mind, there's not much difference whether she likes me or not.”

Not long after she said this, the subject of the conversation arrived at the main building. Lady

Jennifer had come over with a smug expression on her face. Her laughter rang out before she even

entered the door as she called out, “Oh, everyone is here!”

Sophia suppressed her volume and whispered to Matilda, “Look, she must be here to show off about

that dinner she had with Dylan's girlfriend yesterday.”

Although Matilda quirked the corners of her mouth, she looked composed as she said to Lady

Jennifer, “Yeah, I just came here not long ago. Come in and sit with us.”

Lady Jennifer came in, swaying her hips. Then, she sat directly opposite Sophia.

Without waiting for the others to ask, she spoke first. “I had dinner with Dylan's girlfriend yesterday

and came back quite late. I came back to clean the house and slept rather late, so I didn't wake up

early today. I've just eaten and thought of coming out for a stroll, so here I am.”

No one asked her anything; she said everything herself.

A moment later, Old Mrs. Constance asked, “How did the dinner with Dylan's girlfriend yesterday

go? What was the conversation like?”

The smile on Lady Jennifer's face was a bit fake. “It was pretty good.

That girl is nice, and I'm very satisfied.”

Sophia really wanted to roll her eyes. What's the use of you being satisfied? The main point should be whether Dylan was satisfied.

Unexpectedly, Matilda voiced Sophia's thoughts out loud. "What does Dylan think about her?"

Taken aback, Lady Jennifer quickly said, "Dylan is also satisfied. He likes that girl very much. He told me that he has liked that girl for a long time."

In response, Sophia looked away.

It wasn't that she looked down on Dylan's so-called girlfriend, but what he said to herself before was rather at odds with what Lady Jennifer was saying now.

She really didn't like people lying in front of her.

After that, Matilda and Old Mrs. Constance didn't say anything anymore.

Lady Jennifer muttered to herself, "I'm thinking about inviting the girl's parents out. The two families should sit down and have a good talk. As the girl and Dylan are about the same age, I'm sure that her family also wishes to talk about marriage."

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Sophia hurriedly said, "That's great. You have to hurry. After the two of them get married, they'll go on their honeymoon and spend some time together, and then they will try for a baby. Now is the perfect time for them to get married."

Matilda turned her head and looked at Sophia. For some reason, she had a feeling that Sophia was not actually thinking in the best interests of Dylan's family; there was a trace of mockery in her tone.

Lady Jennifer grunted. "I think so too."

With four women sitting here and chatting away, the performance that Lady Jennifer was putting on became more and more entertaining. Lady Jennifer kept the topic revolving around Dylan's mysterious girlfriend, who was praised to high heavens by her. The woman refused to let anyone get a word in at all as she continued to prattle on and on by herself.

The maid had prepared a platter of fruits and brought it over to them. Sophia sat cross-legged on the sofa, eating the fruits and listened to Lady Jennifer's one-man show. In her heart, she was pondering over the Bailey Family's affairs.

John had been so busy these days, and she thought that he should be making plans regarding the Bailey Family. Since she didn't know much about the shadow bank, she had no way to analyze the situation in detail.

There was no way for her to predict when the matter could be resolved, and it was also impossible to foresee what else the Bailey Family would do next. These were the reasons why she felt frustrated.

Lady Jennifer had been talking for a long time, but Sophia couldn't remember what she said at the end. As it dragged on, Old Mrs. Constance really couldn't stand it anymore, so she said that she would go upstairs to rest. It was only then that Lady Jennifer stopped talking.

Sophia had eaten a lot of fruits, so she decided to go out for a walk. Grabbing the opportunity, Matilda said quickly, "I'm also going for a walk."

Then, she looked at Lady Jennifer. “Would you like to come along? Let’s go for a stroll.”

Lady Jennifer had talked so much that her throat felt dry. Truth be told, she actually didn’t really want to take a walk with them. Hence, she thought for a while and replied, “It’s almost noon now. I’m going home.”

Sophia thought to herself, You should have gone home a long time ago. All of us had to watch your solo performance all morning.

Everyone wasn’t in the mood to listen to Lady Jennifer, but she didn’t seem to get the hint at all.

Then, the three of them walked out from the main building; Lady Jennifer went home, while Sophia and Matilda went to sit in the garden.

After they sat down, Sophia asked again, “So, what’s the situation with Yolanda?”

Matilda sighed. “I think she’ll go to the company to look for William.”

Sophia thought that it was a very likely move. Since William and Matilda hadn’t gone through the formalities of legal remarriage yet, this was the last opportunity that Yolanda could grab. If she

didn’t do so, it would soon be too late for her to fight for William.

After contemplating things for a while, Sophia said, “Why don’t you go to the company at night to check it out? Don’t give her any chance to take control of the situation.”

When Matilda heard this, she felt rather impatient. Perhaps Yolanda didn’t have to wait until

William got off work at night. In fact, she could actually go look for him during noon break.

Mulling over it, Matilda checked the time and finally said to Sophia, “Sophia, you stay here. I’ll go out and check on the situation over there. I’ll drive William back, and we can have lunch together later.”

Sophia burst out laughing. "Fine, go quickly then. We do have to make sure everything is foolproof."

Straightening her clothes, Matilda quickly got up and headed toward the parking lot. She drove the car by herself. There was quite a distance between the house and the company, so the journey took some time. By the time she arrived, it would be the exact time for William to get off work for noon break.

Matilda drove rather slowly to the entrance of the Constance Group. When she got there, she stopped the car somewhere nearby, then got out of the car and headed to the cafe opposite the company. After ordering a cup of hot cocoa, she sat down, watched the company entrance opposite her and patiently waited.

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When it was almost time for Constance Group's lunch break, Matilda took out her phone. She intended to call William and tell him that she was waiting for him here. However, before the call got through, she saw a cab stop at the entrance of Constance Group. The one who pushed the door and got out of the car was the very person Matilda had come here to guard against.

Laughing all of a sudden, Matilda put the phone back into her bag, then slowly got up and walked to the entrance of the cafe. By now, Yolanda had entered the lobby of Constance Group.

The employees were leaving one after another as the elevators sent waves after waves of people to the ground floor. However, those who came out were all office workers.

Yolanda sat down on the sofa in the lobby. After waiting for a while, she finally saw John and William coming out of the elevator together. She quickly stood up with a smile on her face.

“William!”

Both John and William were startled to see her there and stopped in their tracks.

William frowned at her. “Why are you here?”

Yolanda laughed. “I’m just passing by.”

John didn’t leave. Instead, he stood still, looking like he was waiting for William. Yolanda blinked at

William and suggested, “Let’s have lunch together. I went to the hospital for a body examination

today, and the doctor said that I’m recovering pretty well. I

remembered how you cared for me in

the past, so I think it’s time for me to show my gratitude.”

William’s expression did not relax. “You want to have lunch together?

But today, I’m...” Before he

could finish his words, someone came in from the entrance of the lobby and a familiar voice rang

out. “William! Are you on your lunch break now?”

Taken aback, William raised his eyes, only to see Matilda coming his way. In a flash, his serious

frown disappeared from his face. Then, he waved at Matilda and called out, “Why are you here?”

Matilda went over and instinctively wrapped her hands around

William’s arm. As the two held

hands, she turned to look at Yolanda and put on a surprised expression.

“You’re here too?”

Yolanda smiled at her. “Yes, I went to the hospital just now, and I passed by here when I was going

home.”

Nodding, Matilda then turned to look at William again. "I also passed by the company and thought that it should be your lunch break now, so I wanted to ask you to go back to Constance Residence for a meal together. Besides, Sophia called me just now and said that she and Mom have been feeling bored at home all day. She asked if we're going back at noon. You guys should be free, right? Then let's go back and have a meal together."

John hurriedly spoke up next to her. "Yes, the house has indeed been a bit too deserted."

William nodded as well. "I just mentioned this to John a while ago. I intended to drive home to pick you up, but I didn't expect you to come here."

When they chatted like this, Yolanda became a little awkward as she stood there. Matilda waited until the conversation ceased before turning to look at her. "Why don't you come along too? It'll be livelier with more people around."

Yolanda hurriedly waved a hand. "Since you guys are going back for lunch, I won't bother you any further. Go on. I'll be going home then."

Matilda nodded. "Okay, we'll say our goodbyes here. We'll leave first."

After coming out of the company together, William didn't drive but got into Matilda's car. John drove his own car, and the three of them left from the company entrance. Yolanda stood on the side of the road, watching the two cars disappear one after another as her expression slowly became complicated.

Back then, William would not reject her outright. Now, it seemed that she really had no more chance to be with him.

She waited for a while by the road. When a cab arrived, she got into the car and gave her home address. Then, she leaned into her seat.

Actually, she also knew that she had been too persistent. She should have known better and gotten over it much earlier.

What she was doing was simply like scratching a scratch-off lottery ticket.

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Better luck next time—this was what Yolanda had been constantly telling herself. In fact, Yolanda should have stopped scratching the figurative lottery ticket after the first word was revealed.

However, she was the one who couldn't let go. She had to scratch until all four words were being revealed in front of her before she was willing to give up. So, she was the one who had been embarrassing herself.

Yolanda exhaled and smiled at herself self-deprecatingly.

On the other side, Matilda sat in the car and hummed happily. Smiling helplessly, William commented, "You look so happy."

Matilda turned to look at him. "Aren't you happy? The two of us were fighting for you just now.

Don't you see how popular you are?"

William stretched his arms and replied, "Come on. Can this really be considered as 'popular'? I'm scared stiff."

Matilda simply smiled without a word.

The two cars parked one after the other in the parking lot of the Constance Residence. Sophia was still sitting in the garden over there. Seeing them arriving, she slowly came over and glanced at

Matilda. "Did you see her?"

Matilda nodded. "What a coincidence. I didn't expect that I would really bump into her there."

When they heard that, William and John instantly realized who they were talking about. Shaking his head helplessly, the former turned his head and said to John, "Let's go inside. We'd better not participate in the topic these two women are talking about." If we're not careful, we'll really stir up a hornet's nest here.

John didn't say anything but followed William to the main building first, while Sophia and Matilda sat in the garden for a while.

Then, William took the opportunity to ask John about the Bailey Family's situation. He had also noticed that it was very likely that the Bailey Family's affairs had everything to do with John.

John grabbed an orange and peeled it slowly. "Honestly, nobody can blame me for what's happening to the Bailey Family. They were too ruthless in what they did to us. If they hadn't provoked me, I wouldn't have bothered with them."

If they hadn't tried to cause harm to Sophia, John would never have bothered to investigate the shadow bank's affairs. Naturally, it would then be impossible for the domino effect to happen and the subsequent problems to occur.

William didn't question John any further on his intentions. Instead, he just asked, "Are you sure you can destroy them with the shadow bank?"

The shadow bank itself could be destroyed, but John's target was not the bank. Rather, he was targeting the entire Bailey Family. If only the shadow bank was ruined, it was highly likely that Elder

Mr. Bailey would continue to harass them.

Hence, the ultimate goal was the Bailey Family, not just the shadow bank. If this were in the past, it

would have been difficult for John to destroy the Bailey Family. But now, considering what happened to Dexter, disorder had descended upon the Bailey Family, and it was much easier for John to take advantage of the chaos.

William thought for a while and sighed. "Although I don't know exactly why you are going up against the Bailey Family, I believe that they had probably gone overboard toward you in the past." He sighed again and continued, "To be honest, I don't think too highly of the Bailey Family as well."

Elder Mr. Bailey and Old Mr. Bailey were too arrogant and domineering for their own good, and they were too petty as well. Although businesspeople were all calculating in their own ways, most of them were good at hiding it, and so others were not offended. However, over at the Bailey Family, it was so blatant that it got on people's nerves.

John didn't speak any more. When Old Mrs. Constance came down from upstairs, she was very happy to see them both coming back. Even though most old people enjoy the peace and quiet, Old Mrs. Constance was not like that. She liked the liveliness of having her children and grandchildren around her, all joyful and happy.

Sophia and Matilda were still in the garden, chatting away as Matilda told the former everything about seeing Yolanda at Constance Group.

Sophia smacked her lips. She said, "I admired Madam Bloom before, and I admire her even more now. Fortunately, you went there today. If you didn't, who knows how things would have turned out?"

“Yeah.” Matilda also sighed. “Say, she hasn’t given up even until now. I’m really a little worried that after I remarry William, she’ll linger around as before.” She didn’t even want to imagine that kind of life.

In response, Sophia sighed. “This matter should still be handled by Mr. Constance. It’s actually not that good for you to always come forward to resolve it.” After all, Yolanda’s goal was William, and if William completely extinguished her hopes, there would definitely be no subsequent problems from her. Matilda nodded. “Yes, that’s the truth indeed.”

At the mention of that, Sophia remembered Isabelle, so she said, “I used to think Isabelle was trouble, but compared with your case, I think she’s nothing at all.” Even though Isabelle was quite headstrong, if Sophia verbally stimulated her, she would visibly flinch a little. However, Yolanda was clearly very adaptable to any kind of situation. It was not enough to simply stimulate her with words as she wouldn’t mind much. Sophia fell silent for a moment, and then said, “So you two shouldn’t delay your remarriage. After the remarriage, you will become the legal wife, and it will undoubtedly put some pressure on Yolanda.”

That went without saying. Matilda did also take this into consideration. Halfway through their discussion in the garden, they looked at the time before deciding to go back to the main building. Lunch had already been served there, ready to be eaten.

Old Mrs. Constance smiled when she saw Sophia and Matilda coming back with their arms slung around each other. "Look at you two, looking just like a mother and her daughter."

John leaned on the back of his chair, his mouth curved up slightly. "Yeah, and I'm like the stepson."

Some things just couldn't be compared; one would feel upset about it. In the past, Matilda was kind to John and treated Sophia harshly. Now, it was completely the other way around.

Everyone sat down and started to eat. While they were eating, William and John started talking about work. They also briefly mentioned the recent supply situation at Bailey Corporation.

William said that the person in charge of Bailey Corporation had recently been replaced by Ernest Bailey, the second son of the Bailey Family. It could be that Old Mr. Bailey was too busy, so he had handed over some of his authority.

However, Ernest clearly didn't have the bold character of Old Mr. Bailey. He was too conservative, and because he was afraid of losing money, many of the partnerships that they originally wanted to negotiate were temporarily shelved by him. Moreover, the amount of purchasing from Constance Group had also fallen sharply recently.

William said that he had met Ernest before, and that man had also come over. Compared with the fearlessness of Old Mr. Bailey, Ernest was much more cautious. However, he was a little too vigilant, hence restricting the company's expansion and development.

At that, John smirked. Old Mr. Bailey mainly wanted to take over the shadow bank, so he had completely ignored the company. At the same time, he had terminated Isabelle's position at the

company. He probably intended to pull her into the shadow bank business as well. Now, he was just waiting to get thoroughly acquainted with the business before pulling Isabelle over.

However, they had forgotten that Isabelle might resist after being oppressed for such a long time.

Sophia couldn't figure it out, so she looked at William and asked, "Does this mean that Old Mr. Bailey doesn't care about the company now? I remember that he used to hold the company with an iron grip, but now he's willing to delegate power to his brother. It's really confusing to me."

William thought for a while before replying, "Maybe he felt that his time and energy are limited, and with what happened to Dexter, he may not be able to handle everything at once." William was not very clear about the specifics. The Bailey Family was really chaotic now, and there were also problems with the company's internal structure. It would not be surprising if Old Mr. Bailey could not handle everything alone.

When they had finished discussing the Bailey Family's affairs, Old Mrs. Constance mentioned Matilda's remarriage to William. She told William to choose a suitable date, take leave from the company, and go to get the legalities settled with Matilda.

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Matilda took the opportunity to say, "Yeah. I looked at the calendar earlier, and I think tomorrow is good."

William didn't even hesitate before nodding. "Then I'll find some time tomorrow for us to go over and sort out the legal stuff. We'll prepare the documents tonight."

Sophia almost laughed aloud beside him. Matilda is really anxious indeed.

Old Mrs. Constance thought about it and said, "Then both of you go and sort out the legalities tomorrow. When you come back in the evening, call your two younger brothers and their families over to have a celebratory meal together. We celebrated just a few days ago over John's matter.

Now, it's your turn. I wonder if they'll be shocked."

William smiled. "It doesn't matter if they don't join us for the celebratory dinner. In any case, the two of us don't really care."

Indeed, Matilda didn't care about these people. All she cared about now was just Yolanda Bloom.

There was still some time after lunch, so everyone sat while chatting in the living room.

Sophia suddenly felt like her belly had moved a little. Frowning, she stroked it with her hand, but nothing else happened. As she wasn't that far along in her pregnancy yet, it was likely not a fetal movement and simply some gas. However, it was a very strange yet novel feeling to her.

John suddenly reached out and stroked Sophia's belly.

At that, Sophia smiled at once. How great would it be if there aren't so many frustrating issues happening around us?

The TV was turned on. While the others were chatting. Sophia stared at the TV, but her mind was occupied by other matters. By the time the child is born, the Bailey Family's matters should have been resolved, right?

After sitting in a daze for a while, Sophia's phone, which was placed next to her, vibrated with an incoming message. She didn't think much about it as she picked it up and glanced at it, but much to her surprise, it was a message from Isabelle.

Isabelle had always called Sophia if she had something to say. Perhaps she was afraid that Sophia would not answer, so she had sent a message instead.

The message contained two words. 'Be careful.'

Staring at these two words for a moment, Sophia then handed the phone to John.

At that time, John was still chatting with William and Matilda. William was saying that he had looked up the family book and had chosen a few names for John's child, but he had not decided on it yet and wanted John and Sophia to decide on the best one.

After talking to William, John picked up Sophia's phone. When he saw the message, his expression turned serious.

Surprised at the sudden change, William looked at him. "What's the matter?"

John smiled, trying to make his expression look calm. "Nothing."

Pursing his lips, the smile on his face dimmed a little as his eyes turned frosty.

When John went back to work in the afternoon, he called Isabelle, but she didn't answer her phone.

Surprised, he called Isabelle twice more in a row, but there was still no answer over there.

The call went through, but no one answered the phone. This rarely happened before.

John hesitated for a moment and thought that Isabelle was probably just busy right now. Since he couldn't reach her now, he planned to call her again later. Hence, he simply put this matter away temporarily.

There were a lot of things going on in the company, so John was busy all afternoon. When it was almost evening, he suddenly remembered Isabelle, so he quickly took out his phone and called her again. It was the same as before; no one answered the call. Only then did John feel that something was wrong. Isabelle said that she was leaving before, but according to her character, even if she really was leaving, she would definitely call him first to notify him. Thus, something was very wrong for her to suddenly disappear off the face of the earth while her phone was still contactable.

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After contemplating for a while, John drove straight to the Bailey Residence before it was time to get off work.

The Bailey Residence was much quieter than before. John still remembered the time when he had come to break off the engagement. At that time, when he drove to the entrance of the Bailey Residence, he could already hear the sounds of laughter coming from inside.

Now, however, the Bailey Residence was so silent that it was as if it was uninhabited. John waited at the entrance for a bit, but the butler did not come. So, he had no choice but to get out of the car and ring the doorbell at the main door.

It took a while before a maid came over. Because she recognized John, she was a little surprised to see him. She spoke in a soft voice and asked him who he was looking for.

John thought for a while and said, "Is your Young Lady at home?"

The maid shook her head. “Young Lady Isabelle isn’t here. She went out at noon.”

The maid’s answer meant that Isabelle had not returned since she left home at noon. This surprised John even more, so he hurriedly asked, “Did she go out alone? The two of us agreed to have dinner together. I called her but no one answered, so I came to ask.” The maid thought for a while and replied, “She wasn’t alone. She went out with Elder Mr. Bailey.”

Leaving with Elder Mr. Bailey but not coming back all afternoon? In his heart, John could almost guess what was going on. Then, he continued to ask the maid through the iron railings, “Then, is Elder Mr. Bailey home?” Startled, the maid nodded. “Elder Mr. Bailey has already returned. He came back quite early, actually.”

Good. John felt that his hunch was right. Something had probably happened to Isabelle. It was possible that Isabelle did something and was discovered by Elder Mr. Bailey. After all, the old man was very shrewd, and with Isabelle’s less-than-perfect aptitude, she couldn’t manage to stay hidden for long.

Nevertheless, John was not particularly worried. After all, Elder Mr. Bailey still regarded Isabelle as his hope for the future, so he probably wouldn’t treat her too badly. John didn’t enter the Bailey Residence but drove away instead. On the way, he called Zack and asked him to get some people to monitor the Bailey Residence and see if they could find Isabelle. Surprised, Zack asked John what had happened to Isabelle.

For now, John had no definite explanation for it. He could only guess that she was locked up by Elder Mr. Bailey, but he had no way to say for sure whether it was true or not and he still needed to verify it.

Since Zack thoroughly disliked Isabelle, he didn't sympathize with her even though he knew she might be in trouble now.

After giving instructions to Zack, John checked the time. Pondering over it for a while, he decided to go back to the Constance Residence. After the last time he didn't return all night, Sophia seemed to be traumatized by the incident. She would always wake up suddenly in the middle of the night and fumble around to her side unconsciously. When she found him by her side, only then would she go back to sleep.

John knew that Sophia was worried about him. Hence, he had also reflected on it and decided if there was nothing important in particular, he would go home on time. Everything he had done was for Sophia's safety in the future, but he knew that he couldn't ignore her current feelings simply for the sake of her future.

When John arrived home, Sophia and Matilda were both in the Constance Residence and were taking a walk in the garden.

When Sophia saw John's car arriving from a distance, she quickly walked toward the parking lot.

Sitting in the car, John watched Sophia's movements very carefully. Exhaling slowly, he felt that

Sophia had probably forgiven him and wholly accepted him again. As he hurriedly got out of the car, he then walked two steps toward Sophia, but the latter had already rushed over.

