

This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr Chapter 1011-1015

Chapter 1011 Sonia's Concerns

After all, Charles was a friend and a brother figure to her. Secondly, Charles came this time to help her, so it was inappropriate for Toby to treat him like this. Of course, she was also in the wrong. She knew that Toby was a petty and jealous lover, but it never occurred to her to tell him about her eating out with Charles to prepare him for it.

Toby had probably said those things to Charles because he became jealous upon learning by chance that she and Charles had gone out together for dinner. Sigh, I have to learn the lesson and be more careful in the future.

Lastly, I have to tell him wherever I go lest he becomes jealous and does something off-putting. At the thought of this, she shook her head helplessly and sent the latter half of her message.

On the other hand, Toby had returned to the Fuller Group at this moment. As soon as he sat down behind his desk, his cell phone vibrated. Tired, he loosened his tie until it was loosely hung around his neck before taking his cell phone out of his pocket.

When he saw that it was a text message from Sonia, the look of weariness in his eyes was instantly replaced with a more spirited look. Obviously, she had become a source of mental strength for him. Whenever he saw her or anything about her, he would feel incredibly contented and energetic.

A faint smile curved his thin lips before he quickly opened the text message from her to read its contents. However, when he saw her message telling him not to say those things to Charles again, his smile faded visibly. In the end, his lips compressed into a straight line, and he was clearly in a bad mood.

Clutching his cell phone, he stared at the contents displayed on its screen with a dark expression and a sullen look in his eyes. How could she tell me not to say those things to Charles again? Does she care so much about him?

At this moment, he recalled how Sonia hadn't told him about Connor intercepting the spare parts. Instead of asking him for help, she turned to Charles and told the latter about it. Although he knew that she didn't go to him for some reason, he was upset at this moment.

At least he was upset with Charles being there for comparison. She keeps on saying that she wants to grow up on her own without relying on me, but it turns out that she's willing to depend on Charles! How is asking Charles for help growing up on her own?

His lips curled into a sneer. If she hadn't gone to anyone, he would've been willing to accept it when she said she wanted to grow up and solve problems on her own without asking him for help. However, he found it unacceptable that she had turned to Charles for help after saying so. It made him feel that he couldn't compare with an outsider in her mind despite being her actual boyfriend.

He closed his eyes while pinching his nose. After a while, he opened his eyes expressionlessly. With a terrifyingly chilly aura about him, he replied to Sonia's text message. 'Let's talk tonight.'

When Sonia read the text message, the smile on her face froze all of a sudden. Somehow, when she saw such a reply from Toby, she had a bad feeling, and her heart skipped a beat. Furthermore, she could tell the note of frostiness and anger in the sentence.

Am I imagining things? she thought uneasily while biting her lower lip. Her fingers went weak and trembled slightly as she typed her reply. 'Okay, but what are we gonna talk about? Why say "let's talk" all of a sudden? Did something happen to you?'

Usually, words like "let's talk" wouldn't be said aloud easily. Such words would only be said when there was a problem or a misunderstanding between a couple. In short, she had never heard of anyone saying "let's talk" under normal circumstances. Therefore, she couldn't help but wonder at this very moment if there was some misunderstanding between her and Toby that caused him to say that.

Rubbing the phone's screen with her thumb, she stared at the screen while waiting for Toby's reply. However, after a few minutes, the message displayed on her cell phone was still the one she had sent; there was no reply from him.

Because of that, she couldn't help but wonder if he didn't see her message or if he didn't reply to her message because he had something unexpected to deal with and didn't see her message. Or could it be that he deliberately refused to reply to my message after seeing it?

She didn't know what Toby's situation was at the moment. However, judging from the words "let's talk," she was somewhat inclined to believe that Toby had deliberately refused to reply to her message after seeing it. If that was really the case, there must've been a misunderstanding between them.

For a time, Sonia's mind was in turmoil. She bit her lip so hard that her lower lip turned pale and was almost pierced. If it weren't that she couldn't call him and ask him directly about it in Charles' presence at this moment, she would've actually called him and asked him what was going on.

She wouldn't have been as puzzled and clueless as she was now. She could only make wild guesses on her own, but the more she guessed, the more flustered and anxious she became.

Charles noticed from the corner of his eye that something was wrong with Sonia all of a sudden. Sitting in the driver's seat next to her, he turned his head to dart a quick look at her. Then, he asked with concern, "What's wrong?"

Sonia clutched her phone to her chest while managing a weak smile. "Nothing."

"Do you think I'm gonna believe it?" Charles curled his lips. "We grew up together, so I know you better than Toby does. Whenever something happens to you and you don't want to talk about it, you'll force a smile like this. So, how could I not tell that you're lying?"

Speechless, Sonia hung her head without saying a word. Now that her lie had been exposed, what else could she say?

Just then, Charles' car happened to stop at a red light, allowing him to finally turn his head to look at Sonia. He asked, "Come on, what happened? Everything was okay just now. Why are you depressed all of a sudden?"

Putting her cell phone into her handbag, Sonia put her hands on her cheeks and massaged them. Then, she replied, "It's really nothing, actually. It's just that Toby and I were texting just now, and I sense that something seems to be wrong with him."

"Wrong?" Charles raised his eyebrows. "What kind of wrong?"

"I don't know." Sonia shook her head with a look of confusion in her eyes. "He texted me that we should talk tonight. Such words are only used when there's a conflict or a misunderstanding, but there isn't any conflict or misunderstanding between us. When he suddenly texted me that we should talk, I can't help but wonder if something went wrong in our relationship."

"I see." Charles raised his chin in comprehension. "Are you sure that nothing has happened between you two?"

"Nope, absolutely nothing." Sonia nodded earnestly. She and Toby had said goodbye to each other when the latter left home in the morning, so how could anything have happened between them?

"That's strange, then." Charles drummed his fingers on the steering wheel.

Sonia's eyes lit up as if she had found a bosom friend. She quickly chimed in, "That's right. You also think it's strange for him to say that all of a sudden, no?"

"Uh-huh," Charles mumbled. "Indeed, words like 'let's talk' won't be said when there's nothing wrong. He probably said so because something happened."

But since there's no conflict or misunderstanding between you two, you don't have to be worried. Perhaps he just wants to talk about business-related stuff. After all, Paradigm Co. has collaborations with some of the Fuller Group's subsidiary companies. Perhaps that's what he wants to discuss with you.

It's just that he didn't make himself clear, so you should ask him about it tonight," he said in an attempt to comfort her. In reality, he was anxious for Sonia and Toby to break up so that he would stand a chance, but even so, he wouldn't fish in troubled waters by stirring up trouble. Otherwise, he'd be no different from a homewrecker.

Chapter 1012 Sudden Change

Besides, he wanted the person he liked to be happy rather than expecting them to break up, and that the person who could make her happy would be another man instead of him. Even if he despised that man, he was willing to put in a good word for him.

After all, he was just a great and selfless man. Charles' thoughts were bitter, but he still had to be strong and deliberately praise himself inwardly. Only by doing this could he somewhat alleviate the bitterness and helplessness in his heart.

Sonia didn't know what Charles was thinking, but as she listened to his analysis of Toby, she felt that it was not impossible either. Toby's emotional intelligence had never been stable. Sometimes he was extremely perceptive, but other times he would be so dense that it was appalling. Perhaps she really had been thinking too much into it.

At that thought, she temporarily let go of her worries and smiled at Charles. "Thank you for comforting me. I feel so much better now."

"That's good." Charles nodded before reminding her anxiously, "Of course, it's best if there is nothing between you and Toby. If something happens, don't hide it and give yourself a hard time. If he ever bullies you or treats you badly, you must tell me, and I'll avenge you even if it costs me my life."

As he said this, his expression was extremely firm and serious.

Sonia felt her eyes sting with tears as his words moved her. "All right. Thank you, Charles."

"You don't have to thank me." After the lights turned green, Charles retracted his gaze and started driving again. As he looked at the road ahead, he said, "You treat my parents as your second parents. In that case, I'm your brother as well. As your brother, it's natural that I have to protect you all the time. Caring for you is also my responsibility, so you don't have to thank me. This is what I should do for you."

No one knew how painful he felt when he admitted that he was her brother. If they could help it, nobody would want to be the brother of the person they liked either. However, he could only be her brother, and only the identity of being her brother could bring him closer to her without being pushed away.

Sonia didn't notice the loneliness and rue in Charles' eyes as he stared at the road ahead, and she was only moved by his words. With slightly red eyes, she replied, "I'm really glad to have a brother like you."

"Really? I'm glad. All's good as long as you're happy." Charles nodded.

That was right. Didn't he wish for her to be happy when he let her go? As long as she was happy, what was wrong with him being her brother? He could still achieve his original intention. He should be content just by protecting her as a brother.

While talking, they arrived at the place where they had an appointment with the bank manager, which was a private room in a hotel. When Sonia and Charles followed the waiter to the room, the manager was already sitting and waiting inside with a drink.

Upon seeing the manager, Sonia and Charles were both taken aback as neither of them expected the manager to arrive before them. They had even thought they were the first to arrive, but unexpectedly, the manager had arrived earlier, which made Sonia feel a little embarrassed.

After all, she was the one who had something to ask of him, and yet he had arrived earlier. What would he think of this? Would he think that she thought little of him despite having a favor to ask of him?

Sonia had a headache just from thinking about it. After rubbing her temples, she quickly stepped forward and walked to the manager before bowing. "Sorry for being late, Mr. Smith. The road was a little congested. I apologize for making you wait. I didn't expect you to arrive so soon."

Charles joined her by her side and apologized as well. "Mr. Smith, we're really sorry. Please forgive us."

If he refused to give them a loan because they were late, they would be doomed.

Brian Smith looked at the two uneasy people and put down the red wine in his hand, smiling happily as he said, "You don't have to worry. I just arrived not long ago as well, mainly because this place is close to my office."

I happened to finish my work and had nothing to do, so I just came here to have something to drink and take a break while waiting for you to arrive. Besides, you aren't late. There's still more than ten minutes before our scheduled time, so there's no need for the two of you to apologize to me."

Hearing Brian's words, Sonia and Charles looked at each other before breathing a sigh of relief. Although they knew that they weren't late, Brian had still arrived earlier than them, and they were the ones who had a favor to ask.

If he hadn't cared about the time and only thought that they were late as long as he arrived before them, they couldn't even refute it. After all, they had a request for him. Fortunately, Brian wasn't as unreasonable as they expected, and he seemed cheerful and relatively easy to talk to, so they would most probably get along with him easily.

Sonia let out a small sigh and straightened her posture before pulling the chair opposite Brian out and sitting down. Charles stood next to her and poured wine for the three of them, playing the part of her assistant. After all, he had tagged along this time to be Sonia's temporary assistant.

"Mr. Smith, I've already told you why I invited you out on the phone. This is the building plan of the Reed Residence and the property rights. Please take a look," Sonia said with a smile before opening the briefcase she had brought and taking out a stack of documents from it, which she handed to the man opposite her with both hands.

Brian took the documents from her and began flipping through them. Seeing that he was focusing, Sonia and Charles fell silent in order not to disturb him. For a while, in the huge room, there was only the sound of the paper flipping while Brian read the documents, and there was no other noise besides that. As there were many documents, he naturally took a long time to read through them.

After half an hour passed, Brian closed the folder in his hand and placed his hand on top of it as he raised his head to look at Sonia with a smile. "Miss Reed, I've mostly read through the documents. There aren't any problems."

Sonia clasped her hands together and smiled along with him. "Since that's the case, then my mortgage should be fine, right? As for the mortgage funds I mentioned on the phone before, is that—"

Brian suddenly raised his hand and interrupted, "Let's not talk about the funds for the time being. Before that, I want to confirm something with you, Miss Reed."

“Confirm something with me?” The smile on Sonia’s face froze as she suddenly felt uneasy.

How could she not be uneasy? She thought that since he had said that the documents were fine, then she would naturally get the mortgage she wanted as well.

However, just as she was about to succeed, he suddenly suppressed the topic for the time being to ask her something else instead. How could this situation not make her nervous? In fact, she even began to worry if her mortgage would be rejected this time.

Next to her, Charles had not expected that what was about to be a smooth and successful event would have such a change. He couldn’t help but frown, wanting to ask Brian what he meant by this. Was he making a fool of them?

Seeing that Charles was about to stand up unhappily, Sonia panicked, her expression faltering, and she hurriedly tugged on his sleeve under the table, causing him to turn his head and look at her. Sonia shook her head at him, indicating that he should not act impulsively in case they made things worse.

Chapter 1013 The Cruel Reality

After all, they were the ones who had a favor to ask. Even if it felt like the other party was deliberately playing with them, they had to remain patient. Otherwise, if he got angry and walked away without lending them any money, they would’ve really come in vain, and Paradigm Co. was in urgent need of money now.

Charles understood the meaning behind Sonia’s gaze and suddenly recovered from his anger. After taking a deep breath, he calmed down and nodded, indicating that he would not be impulsive anymore.

Upon seeing this, Sonia let go of his sleeve, then smiled at Brian and asked, “Mr. Smith, the thing you want to make sure of, does it have anything to do with me asking you for a loan?”

“Yes, and no.” Brian shook his head and nodded.

Sonia frowned in confusion. “What do you mean?”

Brian lifted the glass of wine before him and drank a sip before replying leisurely, “Miss Reed, you’re asking me for a 200 million loan.”

Saying that, he put up two fingers. “This is not a small amount. On our end, we also need to withdraw funds from a few of our branches in order to get the amount you need in a short time.

The most important thing is that you’re asking for a non-recoverable loan. You might not be able to buy your villa and the land back, so even if the two combined is worth 200 million, the interest we can earn is much less as it is a non-recoverable loan, and there is not much profit. In short, this transaction is an unprofitable business for our bank.”

Sonia nodded slightly. “So, you are saying...?”

“I need a reason to prove that I wouldn’t lose money with this deal, even if I don’t make a profit. Otherwise, I really can’t approve this loan. Should the bank directors hold me accountable, I wouldn’t be able to bear this responsibility,” Brian said, sighing.

Sonia hummed in reply. “That would certainly be the case. However, what kind of reason do you need to prove that this deal wouldn’t be at a loss?”

“That’s simple. I just need a few affirmative answers from you.” Brian smiled at her.

Coming to a realization, Sonia agreed, “All right. Please ask.”

Brian took a sip of wine. “You’re an easygoing person, Miss Reed. All right, I’ll ask. If you need such a large sum of money, why didn’t you ask President Fuller for help? Why come to our bank instead?”

This question made Sonia purse her red lips.

Next to her, Charles couldn’t hold it in and asked, “Mr. Smith, does this question have anything to do with us asking for a loan?”

This happened to be what Sonia wanted to know as well. Now that Charles had asked, she immediately turned to look at Brian, waiting for his answer.

Brian laughed. “Of course it does, because now everyone knows the relationship between Miss Reed and President Fuller. But now, you’ve bypassed him and come to our bank for a loan.

This makes us have to think more about whether there is a problem with the relationship between the both of you. This might be something that you might not want to hear, but to be frank, the current Paradigm Co. is not qualified to borrow hundreds of millions of funds from our bank.

First of all, Paradigm Co. is no longer a listed company, and secondly, it has internal and external troubles, and the flow of funds is unstable. Which bank would dare to lend to such a company confidently? Tens of millions may be fine, but hundreds of millions of money must be discussed at a board meeting, and the request may not even go through. Do you understand, Miss Reed?”

Sonia’s face paled a little, making it clear that his straightforward words had impacted her. She knew as well that Paradigm Co. was currently mediocre, and it was in a very tricky position. However, knowing it and hearing it from someone else were two different things, and it made her feel extremely awkward.

Sonia bit her lower lip, her face looking extremely strained.

Meanwhile, Charles’ face darkened even more. “Mr. Smith, I’ve mostly understood what you’re saying. You mean to say that if the relationship between Sonny and Toby has changed, then this loan will not be approved today, right?”

Sonia clenched her palms and looked at Brian, who nodded and said, “You’re right, Mr. Lane.”

Her eyes widened with agitation. “But why? Mr. Smith, I don’t understand. Why does my relationship with Toby matter when I’m borrowing money to the point where it could affect everything?”

She could not figure it out at all.

Brian looked at Sonia, who couldn’t accept his words, and pushed his hands downward in the air. “Calm down, Miss Reed. As I said just now, Paradigm Co. doesn’t have the capital to borrow hundreds of millions of funds, and you said you need 200 million.

Do you think that if you didn’t have your relationship with President Fuller backing you, our bank would agree to meet with you to discuss this matter in detail? Not only us, but other banks wouldn’t agree as well, and they would only find a reason to reject you the moment they receive your call explaining your intentions.”

Sonia’s red lips twitched as she fell silent, suddenly unable to find the words to say. His words were irrefutable. Indeed, Paradigm Co. was not qualified to borrow such a large sum of money, so banks would naturally refuse her from the beginning rather than agreeing to meet with her to discuss matters in detail.

At that time, she was just happy that the bank had agreed to meet up and had never thought about why the bank would agree so quickly without even considering.

If she had thought of this detail at the time, the current situation wouldn’t be so embarrassing, would it? In any case, she was now in an awkward in-between situation.

She had been in high spirits when she arrived, thinking that she would definitely be able to successfully take out a loan to solve Paradigm Co.’s current predicament, but reality had given her a heavy blow and made her aware that things were not going as smoothly as she thought, and that the opportunity she thought she had fought for with her own abilities was actually because of Toby in the end.

Now that she thought about it, it was funny. She had always believed that she could solve things without relying on Toby, but now, the facts told her that even if she didn’t want to rely on him, she was still forced to as many people were only willing to contact her because of him, or she wouldn’t even have the chance to talk to them. It really was ironic.

Sonia was not the only one feeling irritable at the moment—even Charles had nothing to say at this moment. Beforehand, he didn’t expect this either. He was also aware that she didn’t want to rely on Toby for everything, so he knew exactly how she felt now after knowing the truth.

Charles turned his head to look at her with a look of worry in his eyes, and his mouth moved, as if he wanted to say something to comfort her. However, even though the words were at the tip of his tongue, he couldn’t say it. He had no idea what to tell her. If he brought Toby up, she would probably feel even worse, but if he didn’t, there was nothing to say.

Sigh... What should I do? He rubbed his forehead, feeling frustrated.

On the opposite side, Brian took a sip of wine, not knowing what Sonia was thinking, but seeing that she was not in a good mood, he could roughly guess her feelings.

If she didn't ask Toby for money, it meant that she definitely didn't tell him about this meeting and had decided to come by herself. When she came, she was still spirited and confident, but after she listened to what he said, her entire demeanor turned glum.

He guessed that Sonia thought he was here because of her invitation, not because of Toby, and now that she knew the truth, her mood took a turn for the worse. After all, he had seen many young managers in some companies, and he knew what they were thinking.

He was aware that they all wanted to settle things with their own abilities, but when they learned later that they didn't do anything, but relied on their connections to settle matters instead, it was natural for them to feel crestfallen.

He could understand how it felt. When he was young, he wasn't a bank manager, but only a humble clerk. He had wanted to acquire a drawdown with his own strength, but after he succeeded, he didn't have the time to celebrate before the other party told him that the reason the funds were given to him was for the sake of the senior who was backing him.

Naturally, he didn't feel pleased with the knowledge. Sonia's current predicament was just like what he had gone through when he was younger.

Chapter 1014 Sonia's Reasons

Hence, it made Brian feel a little more empathetic. At that thought, he looked at Sonia, his expression becoming a lot kinder, making him look like a kind elderly man instead of a businessman who was here to sign a deal.

"Don't get upset, Miss Reed. This is a very realistic question. A person who has no ability, connections, or support can't get far in life. I hope you can understand," he comforted.

Sonia knew that he was saying these words for her own good, but she still couldn't accept it. It felt as if all of her efforts were just a joke. Even though she had worked hard and struggled, what others saw was not her efforts, but the influence behind her. Her so-called efforts were worthless in the face of this influence and weren't even worth mentioning.

"Sonny." At the sight of Sonia biting her lower lip with a pale face, Charles became even more worried.

At the same time, he also blamed himself for not being as powerful and formidable as Toby, and that he could only remain unchanged, so he had been unable to develop the Lane Family even further. If not, he could easily help her solve any problems she faced instead of letting her fall into an awkward situation like she had now.

"I'm fine, don't worry." Seeing the concern in his eyes, Sonia forced a smile at him, indicating that she was all right.

However, Charles could clearly tell that she was faking a smile and lying that she was fine. He knew that she must be feeling miserable, but he didn't know how to comfort her.

After taking a breath, Sonia calmed her thoughts and looked at Brian with a smile. “Mr. Smith, thank you for enlightening me. Indeed, I feel upset to hear you say that as I always thought that you promised to meet me because of my conditions and not because of anyone else.

However, you told me that you came to see me not because of me, but because of my boyfriend, and that I’m not qualified to meet you. To be honest, it was a huge gap from my expectations.”

“I’m really sorry.” Brian still apologized.

Sonia hurriedly waved her hand. “No, you don’t need to apologize to me. In fact, I should thank you for telling the truth. Thank you for waking me up and letting me understand that I am far from being strong or qualified enough to let others prioritize me. Now, I would like to thank you and give you a toast.”

Saying that, she picked up her glass of wine and stood up.

At the beginning, she was really happy to hear that the bank was willing to meet with her and had truly felt that they agreed because of her. For this reason, she did feel complacent and thought that she was now strong enough to succeed in whatever she wanted to do. She had never thought deeply about whether it was really her who had been powerful or if it was because others knew that she had Toby backing her.

Hence, Brian’s words had reminded her that she was actually not as strong as she thought she was. The reason why she could succeed in whatever she did was actually because of the person supporting her, not because of herself, and that others were treating her well because of the person backing her and not out of respect for her.

After all, to these people, if she didn’t have Toby supporting her, she was just a little ant and was far from being qualified to make them happily do whatever she said.

It was his words that woke Sonia up and made her see the true nature of things now. Otherwise, she would remain clueless and think that everything was going well because of her own strength.

In the end, if she became more blindly confident and even got ahead of herself, it would be even more terrifying. After all, a conceited person had no way to accept things that were different from their imagination.

If she really became conceited and overly self-confident in the future, once she learned that her success was not because of her own capability, but because of Toby, she might have a breakdown and even do something unthinkable. There was no need to say more about how terrible it was to meet someone conceited.

It was really fortunate that Brian appeared and gave her a wake-up call, making her understand how weak she actually was, and that her so-called success was just an illusion. Because of that, she could reflect on herself even better and prevent herself from becoming an arrogant person in the future. Hence, why wouldn’t she want to thank him?

Brian could tell that Sonia's gratitude was sincere and not mere lip service, which improved his impression of her. His smile turned kinder as he raised his glass and accepted her toast. "Thank you, Miss Reed. In fact, you don't have to thank me. I only said that for the sake of my business."

"I know." Sonia took a sip of wine and replied with a smile, "You're doing it for your business, but similarly, you've also enlightened me, so my gratitude isn't contradictory."

He laughed heartily. "In that case, I'll gladly accept your gratitude."

"Of course." Sonia nodded with a smile.

When Charles saw her smiling naturally without a trace of the gloom she had shown earlier, he breathed a sigh of relief and picked up the bottle of wine to refill their glasses.

After Brian thanked Charles, he looked at Sonia and said, "Miss Reed, you haven't answered me yet. Why do you want to borrow money from our bank instead of President Fuller?"

Charles sat back in his chair once he was done pouring the wine. He then looked at Sonia as he wondered how she would answer the question. Would she answer truthfully or find another excuse?

She twirled the wine glass in her hand and did not answer immediately. Instead, she remained silent for a long time before she replied, "Actually, the reason is quite simple. I just don't want to rely on him."

"Oh?" Brian raised an eyebrow. "You don't want to rely on President Fuller?"

"Yeah."

"Why?" He straightened his posture and asked, "Could it be that you and President Fuller aren't intending to tie the knot?"

"Of course not." Sonia shook her head. "I've already told him that as long as our relationship doesn't change, we'll definitely remarry, but just not for the time being."

"Since you will eventually get to that step, what do you mean by not relying on President Fuller?" Brian swirled his glass as he asked, "He's your lover and future husband, so isn't it normal for you to rely on him?"

Sonia caressed her wine glass and looked at the bright red liquid inside with a faint smile at the corner of her mouth. "Mr. Smith, you're also aware that I manage a business by myself. If I was single, or a helpless woman, I would naturally have no qualms about relying on him. However, I don't want to be weak and helpless.

I want to make Paradigm Co. thrive, and I want to return the company to its former glory with my power, so I can't rely on him. I don't want outsiders to think about me being Toby's woman instead of my capabilities whenever Paradigm Co. is mentioned, and that I relied on Toby to prosper Paradigm Co. For me, that is unacceptable."

"I see." He nodded. "I understand your troubles, Miss Reed. Indeed, no matter the industry, there will always be more constraints and concepts for women compared to men, and women have to give up much more."

Chapter 1015 Charles' Advice

Sonia nodded profusely, agreeing with Brian's words.

"I just don't want others to look down on me and say that I can't do anything without relying on men, but..." She supported her forehead with a wry smile on her face. "But now I discovered that I've been relying on Toby all the time, and there are not many things I have done by myself. It's ironic."

"Don't say that." Charles patted her on the shoulder, not wanting to see her doubt herself.

Brian took a bite of his food before saying, "Miss Reed, you dwell on things too much."

"What?" Sonia's hand that was propping up her head jolted before she lifted her head to look at him. "Mr. Smith, what do you mean?"

"Miss Reed, how long have you been managing Paradigm Co.?" Brian raised his hand, interrupting her question.

Sonia didn't know why he was asking this all of a sudden, but she replied without hesitating, "It's been almost half a year."

"Then, have you studied management before you took over Paradigm Co.?" Brian asked again.

Sonia shook her head. "Of course not. Since I was young, my hobby has never been in business management, but my father respected my wishes and didn't force me to inherit the company when I grew up.

Even when I was still in my teens, he decided to find a professional manager to manage Paradigm Co. after he retires so that I can pursue my hobbies without being tied to the company. Unfortunately, before he could find a suitable professional manager, my father..."

A sad expression appeared on her face, and she didn't finish her sentence.

Brian rubbed his chin. "So you were completely rushed to take over Paradigm Co., and you hadn't learned anything about management before that?"

"Yes." Sonia let out a sigh. "Speaking of which, I know you'll find this funny, but I basically learned everything about managing by myself. Charles and Toby have taught me some things, but they have their own jobs, so they can't be teaching me all the time. Hence, there were many times that I was completely clueless. Fortunately, I was still able to hold onto Paradigm Co. and did not let the company go bankrupt in my hands."

“In that case, you’re quite talented, Miss Reed. As a novice, even if you can’t bring Paradigm Co. back to its peak for the time being, you were still able to stabilize the company, and that’s already a very remarkable feat.

That’s why I said that you dwell on things too much. You’re too focused on not relying on President Fuller so that outsiders wouldn’t look down on you and think that you rely on men to support Paradigm Co., but have you ever thought that you are just a newcomer instead of a veteran who has been familiar with business management since they were a child?” Brian looked at Sonia.

She was taken aback by his words.

Charles blinked in confusion. “Mr. Smith, if you have anything to say, just say it. It’s making us antsy if you beat around the bush like this.”

Sonia nodded.

Brian laughed. “All right, since you say that, then I won’t beat around the bush anymore. Miss Reed, what I mean is that you’re a mere newbie who has just started to manage the company and not a veteran who has studied business management since young, so you don’t need to burden yourself at all.

You can rely on President Fuller and seek his help without any worries. Because you’re new at this, the outside world will not find fault with you relying on President Fuller. On the contrary, if you relied on him even though you were a veteran, outsiders would look down on you and think you’re incompetent.

In fact, the business world is quite tolerant to novices, but you just don’t understand this yet, Miss Reed. You thought that the business world was cruel from the beginning, and you weren’t aware of its other side. That is why I said that you dwell on things too much.”

“That’s...” Hearing that, Sonia completely froze as she fell into a daze all of a sudden.

Clearly, his words had a huge impact on her as she had never thought about it that way.

“Mr. Smith, you’re trying to tell me that I can rely on Toby without feeling helpless, and I don’t have to care about what other people think, right?” Sonia bit her lip and looked at Brian.

He nodded. “Yes. As I’ve said before, you’re new to the business world, and the business world is quite tolerant. We wouldn’t criticize a novice for relying on someone else for support, because every newcomer starts their business like this. Before they inherit the company, they will have someone supporting them. That’s why, Miss Reed, you can rely on President Fuller.”

Sonia’s red lips twitched, and she was just about to say something when Charles suddenly sided with Brian. “Sonny, I think Mr. Smith is right. Toby is your lover, and you’ll get married to him in the future, so you can indeed rely on him for his help.

Don’t think that relying on him to solve things is a result of your own incompetence. You’re a newcomer who is still learning, and you don’t have a strong influence yet, so there are many things that you can’t solve.

If you can't solve them, you naturally have to rely on others for help. Didn't we come to Mr. Smith for his help today? Since you're willing to look for Mr. Smith, why not look for Toby? He's the person you're closest to, and you don't even need to pay for his help."

He didn't like Toby and didn't want to speak on his behalf at all, but now, he had to admit that Toby was the person who could help Sonia the most. Hence, he didn't mind putting in a good word for him.

Sonia looked at Brian, then at Charles. Brian was an outsider, so she was not surprised that he would say this. However, now that Charles had joined in, she had no choice but to care. Could it be that she was wrong for insisting on doing everything by herself?

As if sensing her thoughts, Charles patted her on the shoulder again. "Of course you aren't in the wrong, but the premise is that you are still a newcomer. If you are a veteran who has been dabbling in business for a long time, it's absolutely right for you to insist on solving things by yourself.

On the contrary, if you were a veteran, but you still rely on others all the time, then others would look down on you. But, since you're new, you can rely on others. This is how every industry treats newcomers, and I can't believe I've forgotten this even after doing business for so long."

Saying that, he couldn't help but smack his forehead.

At the sight, Sonia laughed. "Do you think that I should rely on Toby as well?"

"It's not that you should, but at your current state, you have to rely on others, because your current capabilities aren't strong enough, and you can only rely on others to grow stronger in a short period of time.

If you take your time, how long would it take? Have you ever thought about it? Besides, have you ever considered if Paradigm Co. can afford to let you develop slowly?

I don't think so. Paradigm Co. needs to thrive as soon as possible, which means all your work in the future would be highly difficult. For newcomers like you, that would only make you more confused. If you don't rely on others, you won't even know what to do. Only by depending on someone else will you not lose your way in the future and make the wrong decisions."

As he said this, his expression was serious and solemn.

"Sonny, depending on Toby to solve some problems isn't shameful, nor would it lower your status in your relationship with him, let alone make you feel that you will lose the ability to do things on your own. In fact, when you ask him for help, take a good look at his solutions and methods and learn from them.

Accumulate your experience and treat him as your own mentor. After all, he is unparalleled in the business world. With him as your teacher, you will grow even faster."