

This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr Chapter 1026-1030

Chapter 1026 Proud and Complacent

“Yes, I’m certain!” Sonia nodded with a very serious expression, indicating that she had indeed learned enough, and she really didn’t need him anymore.

At the sight of her confidence, Toby shook his head with a laugh. “All right. I’ll leave it to you, then. Show me what you’ve learned.”

He wanted to see if she really didn’t need him anymore.

“Don’t worry, I won’t let you down.” She smiled at him, then turned around and began to carve the rest of the pumpkin.

Seeing that she was no longer paying attention to him, Toby patted her head lightly, then walked away with his arms crossed and leaned against the wall.

Sonia turned and glowered at him. “What are you doing?”

“Nothing. I’m just teaching an ungrateful person a lesson,” he replied with a shrug.

She shot him a glare. “Hey, who are you calling ungrateful?”

“I’m not wrong.” Toby unfolded his arms and spread them outward. “I just finished teaching you, and you pushed me aside now that you don’t have a use for me. If that isn’t being ungrateful, what is it? Not only that, but you don’t have a conscience either.”

“You...” Sonia was rendered speechless by him as his words seemed to make sense.

It was true that she pushed him aside after she felt that she had learned enough, and it was ungrateful of her to do so. All of a sudden, Sonia felt so embarrassed that her face turned red.

At the sight of her expression, Toby no longer had the heart to tease her anymore. He stepped forward and gently caressed her hair, messing up her hair that she had painstakingly tidied earlier once more. “All right, I was just teasing you. Don’t overthink it, okay?”

She pushed his hand away from her head huffily. “Go away. I don’t want to talk to you.”

“Really?” He narrowed his eyes.

She rolled her eyes at him. “If you still want to eat later, don’t disturb me anymore. Aren’t you hungry?”

Toby nodded. “A little.”

“Then move aside and wait for me to finish carving it so that we can eat.” Sonia waved him off, urging him disdainfully.

He laughed under his breath. "All right, I won't disrupt you anymore. Go ahead."

Seeing that she was so impatient, Toby retreated again and gave her space. After she watched him leave obediently, Sonia turned her wrist before she continued to carve the pumpkin with her head lowered.

However, she had thought that it would be an easy process as she had learned how to do it, but for some reason, it was not as easy as she had imagined. At first, with Toby guiding her, her movements were extremely smooth and skilled, but why did it become so difficult all of a sudden?

Every time she carved the pumpkin with the knife, she could feel a clear obstruction blocking her, and it was not as simple compared to when she had Toby helping her. With his help, the pumpkin was easily sliced away with the knife, but now that she was doing it alone, she clearly had to put in the effort to be able to cut the pumpkin off. In less than two minutes, she felt that her arm was turning sore, just like how she had felt when she was carving before Toby came back. What's going on? Sonia's hands stopped in their tracks as she looked down at the carving knife in her hand, as well as the pumpkin orchid that was almost completed, and began to space out.

When she tilted backward, the man leaning against the wall saw that she had suddenly gone motionless, and a glint flashed past his eyes as he asked with a smirk, "What's the matter? Have you finished carving?"

Sonia's red lips gaped. A moment later, she said sheepishly, "No."

"Then why did you stop?" The smile on Toby's face grew even wider.

Sonia's grip tightened around the knife as she fell silent. Why did she stop? Of course it was because she felt too tired.

Seeing that she had fallen silent and turned her head to look at her arm, Toby stepped forward with a smile and took the carving knife and pumpkin orchid from her. "All right, let me do it. Your arms are feeling sore, aren't they?"

Sonia looked at the man in surprise. "Why are you... You knew I would end up like this a long time ago, right? That's why you asked me if I was sure."

Toby didn't reply and lowered his head, saying as he began carving, "You're a newbie who has never carved before. Even if you have learned a little bit of the basics, you're still unclear on the amount of strength or the skills you need to carve something. That's why I was sure it won't take long for your arms to be sore, because I was like that at the beginning too."

"I see." Sonia pouted unhappily, her gaze falling on his hand.

As she watched the man gently carve off a piece of pumpkin, she asked again, "I could carve through the pumpkin easily when I first started, but how come it didn't work earlier?"

Toby raised his gaze and looked at her. "Obviously, it's because I was guiding you in the beginning while holding your hand. Rather than you, it was me who was putting in the strength to carve the pumpkin, which was why you felt very relaxed, and it became difficult for you after I left."

At this moment, Sonia fell completely silent. It turned out that she was actually the fool. It was no wonder that when she was with Toby, she managed to carve the pumpkin so easily without facing any troubles. It was all because he was exerting his strength behind her back. To put it bluntly, he had been doing all the work from beginning to end, and what she thought she had learned was just Toby deliberately making her happy. However, she had taken it for granted, thinking that she had really learned it by herself, and she became proud and complacent about it.

Sonia covered her face. "You must've been laughing at me earlier, right?"

Toby chuckled. "I wasn't."

"I don't believe you," she mumbled.

Toby blew the scraps of pumpkin on his hand away and said, "All right, I'm done. How does it look?"

As he handed the completed orchid over, Sonia's eyes immediately lit up at the sight. "It's gorgeous."

She took the orchid with a smile and placed it in her hand to have a look.

Toby was washing the carving knife to put it away. When he heard her words, his smile became wider. "It's good that you like it. If you have time in the future, do you want to learn how to carve? I can teach you."

"Okay." Sonia put the orchid on the side of the dish and nodded happily. "In the future, I'll make a beautiful carving by myself, and I'll never make a fool of myself in front of you again."

"Then it's settled. Let's go and eat." Toby took the plate from her.

Sonia didn't stop him either, and she trailed out of the kitchen behind him.

When they reached the dining table in the living room, Toby put the dishes down, then pulled a chair out and patted the back of it. Seeing that, Sonia walked over and took a seat. She knew that he had pulled the chair out for her. Sure enough, after she sat down, he went to the seat opposite of her and took a seat himself.

Once he was seated, he pulled out a napkin and wiped his hands, then glanced at the sumptuous dishes on the table. Suddenly, he asked the question he had been wondering about since he walked through the door. "Did something good happen today?"

"What do you mean?" Sonia poured a glass of mild-tasting juice for Toby and handed it over.

After he took the glass, he placed it aside and pointed at the feast on the table. "Usually, we'll only eat half of the amount here. Is there any occasion today?"

Only then did Sonia understand what he meant. He was asking if she was celebrating anything by preparing so many dishes. With a smile, she said, "Nothing good happened."

I just thought that you might be busy because you didn't answer my call this afternoon, and you've always been by my side recently without going to Fuller Group often, which made you so busy that you weren't able to answer the phone today. I felt a little guilty, so I decided to make a few more dishes to make it up to you. Quick, have a bite and see how it tastes."

Chapter 1027 Am I Important?

When Sonia placed some food on his plate, Toby felt that his heart was about to melt into a puddle. It was all because of the food she prepared. At first, he had guessed that she suddenly cooked so much because she had an occasion that she wanted to celebrate with him.

For example, getting the spare parts back was a good thing that was worth celebrating. For this reason, he was even going to suggest opening a bottle of wine.

However, she told him later on that she cooked so much not because she wanted to celebrate anything, but to make it up to him. She felt that he had left his work to accompany her during this period of time, which had caused him to fall behind in many things, and she was feeling guilty about it, which was why she prepared a feast to cheer him up.

In any case, she had prepared an entire table of food just for him. How could he not feel moved by that? In fact, he was so moved that he wanted to carry her back to the room and kiss her fiercely to show her how he felt.

However, they hadn't eaten yet, so he could only suppress this thought. After all, eating was more important, and it wasn't good for their health to skip a meal.

"I don't need to try it to know that it tastes good." Toby looked at the woman opposite him with a smile.

Sonia glared at him playfully. "Stop spouting nonsense. You haven't even tasted it yet."

"Even though I haven't tried it, I know it. I've always been confident in your skills, just like the way you believe in mine." Saying that, he picked up his utensils.

He wasn't just uttering these sweet words to make her happy. He meant everything he said. Although she had never studied cooking properly, her skills were sharpened by Jean's pickiness in the six years. Hence, she was quite good at cooking.

"All you can do is talk. Hurry up and eat." Sonia rolled her eyes at him, but there was a sweet smile on her face.

After all, she wouldn't be unhappy by the fact that he thought her cooking tasted good.

She picked up the soup ladle and served him another bowl of soup. "You should drink more of this soup. I made it for you. You're usually much busier than me, so you must feel much more physically exhausted than me. This soup can help to tone your body, so it's good for you to drink it."

“All right.” Toby took the bowl of soup with a gentle expression. “What about you? You should drink some too.”

“I’m fine. I...”

“No.” Toby pursed his lips and said in a serious tone, “Since it’s good for the body, you should drink some too. I can’t just tone my body alone.”

Saying that, he placed his bowl down and filled another for her. He had already placed the bowl of soup in front of her, so she had no reason not to drink it.

Sonia took the bowl from him, not knowing if she should laugh or cry. “All right, I’ll drink it.”

“That’s more like it.” Toby lifted his chin and picked up his spoon as he began to drink the soup. It did taste good.

“Oh, right.” Suddenly recalling something, Sonia stopped eating and looked at him. “Connor has already sent the spare parts back. Were you the one who went to him and made him give them up?”

Hearing that, Toby placed his spoon down and lifted his head. “It was me.” He admitted it boldly.

Sonia bit on her lip. “As expected, I knew it was you. No one could do this except you, but... How did you know about Connor taking the spare parts from Paradigm Co.? I never told you about it. Did you really plant a spy in my company again?”

“Again?” Toby’s eyes narrowed. “Who told you that I planted a spy in Paradigm Co.? Or did you doubt me on your own accord?”

Either way, it made him feel a little uncomfortable. If it were the former, it meant that there was someone trying to get in the way of their relationship, but if it was the latter, it showed that she didn’t trust him.

Spotting the displeasure on Toby’s face, Sonia knew that her suspicion had made him unhappy. After all, no one would be happy to be suspected.

“I guessed it myself.” Sonia lowered her eyes, not revealing that it was Charles who made her think that way. If she did, he would probably get jealous again, so it was better for her to hide this fact in order to save herself from more trouble.

“Why did you think that I planted a spy?” Toby looked at her.

Sonia took a sip of the juice before replying, “When I treated Charles for lunch today, you knew about it even though I hadn’t told you anything. I also hadn’t told you about the interception of Paradigm Co.’s spare parts, but you also knew about it, so I had no choice but to wonder if you had planted a spy in my company again to report everything I did to you.”

“Your words do make sense.” Toby raised his chin slightly. “However, I did not plant a spy in your company. When you told me to get rid of the men I had planted in Paradigm Co., I did as you said, and ever since then, I don’t have any spies in your company anymore. As for how I knew you and Charles were going out for lunch, and how I knew that Paradigm Co.’s parts had been intercepted, it was all a coincidence.

My men have been watching Connor and reporting his movements to me at all times, which was how I learned that your company’s parts were taken away. After that, it’s obvious that I would monitor you.

I wanted to see how you would solve this matter, so I naturally had to figure out who you have contacted and who you went to for help. After all, we are lovers, aren’t we? Do I have to act like I don’t know if something happened to you? Am I supposed to ignore it?”

As she faced the man’s all-knowing eyes, Sonia’s red lips twitched. “So that was the case. I thought... I’m sorry, I misunderstood you. Please don’t be angry at me.”

She looked at him, her eyes filled with worry and guilt. She was ashamed and regretful of her doubts toward him. After all, they had promised to trust each other in the past, but this time, she had broken her promise...

Sensing Sonia’s uneasiness, Toby sighed softly. “I’m not angry, and I don’t care if you suspect me in these matters. After all, I do have a record, but there’s something I’m really unhappy about. Do you know what it is?”

She shook her head to show that she didn’t know.

Toby rubbed his brows, before he looked at her intently. “What I’m really upset about is the way you’re hiding everything from me. If you refuse to tell me when something this bad happens and would rather take the burden alone and ask outsiders for help instead of me, do you know how I would feel, Sonia Reed?”

The way he emphasized her name at the end of his sentence was enough to explain his anger about this matter. Sonia’s expression froze. She hadn’t heard him call her by her full name for a long time. She also understood that by using her full name, it meant that he was really angry with her.

Earlier that day, Brian and Charles had said that if Toby found out that she never told him anything nor asked him for help, he would definitely not be happy. She hadn’t realized it back then, but now that she was looking at Toby, she was speechless. Charles and Brian really had been spot on about the worst that could happen.

“I’m sorry, I...”

Sonia bit her lip and was just about to apologize when Toby suddenly interrupted her. “Sonia, there’s something I want to know. Am I actually important to you?”

His gaze was extremely serious as he looked at her. He genuinely suspected that he didn’t mean much to her.

All of a sudden, Sonia panicked and gripped her fork tightly. She instantly replied without even thinking about it, "Of course you are!"

If he wasn't important, she wouldn't even think about preparing this meal to make up for her neglecting him recently. However, his doubtfulness made her a little sad. At the same time, she wondered if she had really done a bad job, causing him to doubt if she actually cared about him.

Chapter 1028 A Past Concealed

"If it's so important, then why didn't you tell me? Why did you ask someone else for help when you could've come to me? Am I that unreliable to you?" Toby had no idea what Sonia was thinking. All he wanted was to make things clear with her.

Sonia didn't want Toby to think that he was unimportant to her. She shook her head. "No. I never thought of you that way. I didn't tell you because I didn't want to rely on you for everything. I told you about it, and you agreed.

I made it very clear why I didn't want to rely on you too much. I don't want to turn to you every time I run into something. If I do that, I'll lose my independence eventually. I'll turn into a woman who needs you to solve everything for her. I don't want that. And..."

"And what?" Toby pursed his lips. She did tell him her reason before and he supported her, but this was a bit too much. She didn't even tell him anything because she didn't even ask for his help, and it made him feel like an outsider. No, he was less than that. She'd rather ask an outsider for help, but not him.

"And..." She massaged her forehead. "I don't want everyone to think of me as a hapless girl who needs you for everything. I don't want them to think that my company only got this far thanks to you. I don't want them to see me as some sort of sidekick, like I'm just a side dish to the main course.

I want them to see me as an independent woman. I don't want them to think I got this far because of sheer luck instead of my own hard work. I don't want them to think Paradigm Co. got big because you helped me out instead of my own hard work."

She had a bitter look on her face, and her voice broke. "I never told you that, but it weighs down on me like a mountain. It's suffocating. Getting back together with you puts a lot of strain on me.

You have no idea how worried I am about the public's opinion. They'd say I'm not worthy of you because my family and company are in decline. They called me a common wench who got lucky. They also said that I'm an orphan and that nobody will help me when you argue with me and dump me."

A loud bang interrupted her.

Toby had slammed the table with his fist and shot up, the air around him turning ever colder. The look on his face was dark as a storm brewed in his eyes. "You're my girlfriend. I'll never let anyone call you an orphan."

Sonia smiled bitterly. "Yes. They won't do that in your face. I've never heard those comments ever since we reconciled, but you can't guarantee they won't say the same thing behind our backs."

Toby fell silent. He had no answer for that. He couldn't guarantee everyone would keep quiet. He couldn't control what they said in private. He might be powerful, but not powerful enough to find out what they were saying in private.

Sonia took his silence as an agreement, and she inhaled deeply. "See? Not even you can guarantee that. The comments have stopped now, but it wasn't always like this. Things were different six years ago. Much different."

"What?" Toby's face fell, his heart skipping a beat. "You mean they said that to your face six years ago?"

"Yeah. You haven't cared about me for the past six years. On top of that, my dad died, and my company fell into someone else's hands. I don't have anyone to back me up. I was alone and helpless.

Your stepmom, Tyler, business partners, and all the girls who love you laugh at me behind your back. They humiliated me all they wanted, all because you didn't care about me. Just because you didn't care about me, they insulted me all they wanted. It was a dark time. Perhaps the darkest in my life."

She brushed that past off as nothing, but he could feel something squeezing his heart. It felt like his heart was stopping, and his face paled. His lips trembled, and he croaked, "I'm sorry... I didn't know..." He had no idea about that.

He knew Jean and Tyler were borderline abusive to her in the past, but he had no idea everyone else was too.

Sonia shook her head. "I don't blame you. Nobody's gonna be stupid enough to bring it up with you. I was your wife after all. They weren't sure if you'd destroy them if you found out what they did, so they agreed to keep it a secret from you."

Toby pulled his chair back and went around the table. He approached Sonia and bent down to hold her, then buried his head in her shoulder and apologized profusely, "Sorry. I'm really, really sorry." He didn't stupidly ask her why she didn't tell him about it since he knew the answer himself. He was under hypnosis, and Tina was all he could think about. He probably wouldn't even help her out if she told him.

How Jean and Tyler treated her alone was enough to tell him that. He knew what they did to her, but he never did anything to stop it. He feigned ignorance about it. If he didn't even stop his family from pushing her around, there was no way he'd stop anyone else from doing the same thing. "I'm sorry, Little Leaf. I-I was a b*stard. A useless b*stard!"

Toby held her tightly. Sonia couldn't see it, but his face was contorted with hatred and fury. He would tear Tina apart if he could. If it weren't for her, he wouldn't have been hypnotized. If it weren't for her, he wouldn't have hurt the woman he loved. Yes, he didn't mean it, but it didn't change the fact that he did it.

He allowed his own family to hurt the woman he loved. That f*cking b*tch! When I find her, I'll make her wish she was never born, or I'm not Toby Fuller! He looked up, glaring into the distance behind Sonia, as if he could see Tina through it.

Sonia didn't know what Toby was thinking as she patted his back and looked down in silence. Sonia didn't tell him it wasn't his fault, or that he was not to blame. She might have forgiven him, but she still had some resentment.

Yes, she knew he didn't mean what he did. He was just hypnotized, making him a victim as well, but that did not mean he could be absolved from what he did. She still couldn't get over it. They hugged for a moment, and she pushed him away.

He stared into her eyes, and she smiled. "I wondered why they did that to me at first, but I figured that out after we got divorced."

Chapter 1029 Just What He Wanted

Sonia looked calmly into his eyes. "Because I was weak. Because I don't come from a good family. Because I'm an orphan. Because my husband didn't care about me. Because I had no one to help me. Because they only bully the weak."

I realized that, and I swore I'd get stronger. Not just myself either. I'd create a whole team of strong people to back me up. Nobody's gonna push me around if I have power. And I don't want to rely on anyone else for that. I can't trust anyone but myself."

She can't trust anyone but herself. Toby felt a little hurt. He clenched his fists and asked hoarsely, "You can't trust me either?"

Sonia averted her gaze, refusing to look into his eyes. She knew he was a little hurt. "Yes. Everyone's prone to betrayal. Some can even betray their own family. That can happen to us too. And besides, I told you one of the reasons is that I don't want to turn to you every time I run into something. If I do that every time, I'll eventually lose my independence. I'd be left for dead if you dump me again."

"I won't dump you!" His face fell, and he held her chin. Toby turned her head to him, forcing her to look into his eyes. "You just don't trust our relationship. You don't think we can see this through."

Toby hit the bullseye, and Sonia heaved a sigh. She stopped averting her gaze and stared at him. "Yes. I don't think we can see this through. Life isn't as short as you think. We might be in love now, but love has an expiry date. We have no idea how long our love can last. Three years? Ten? I don't think anyone can stay in love forever."

"I won't be so sure about that," Toby retorted.

Sonia froze for a moment, staring at him dumbly.

He rubbed her forehead and said gently, "My grandpa died when I was a kid, so you didn't get to see him. You don't know this, but he was in love with my grandma his whole life. So you see, there is someone who can stay in love with the same person their whole life. Just because you haven't seen it doesn't mean you can deny its existence."

Sonia's jaw dropped a little. "I-Is that so?"

“Of course. If you don’t believe me, you can ask my grandma about it the next time you see her. Ask her about their love story. You’ll see that I’m not lying.” He looked into her eyes.

Sonia bit her lip and stayed quiet.

Toby poked her lip. “Stop biting it. Doesn’t it hurt?”

Sonia shook her head. It didn’t hurt.

He patted her head and whispered, “Put a little faith in it, will you?”

“In what?” Sonia looked at him again.

He gazed into her eyes. “Put your faith in the fact that we can see this through. My grandpa and grandma were in love their whole lives, and they never got into any arguments. They saw their marriage vows through, so why can’t we do the same?”

Sonia looked down in silence. Yeah. Why can’t we? She wanted to feel confident, but she couldn’t. They had long lives ahead of them. Sure, they could make promises like it was nothing at the moment, but nobody knew what the future had in store.

Sonia was still silent. Toby knew she still couldn’t believe they could see their relationship through. He sighed in silence, but he could understand why. Nobody could see the future. She had no reason to believe his promise. “It’s alright.” He held her head and pulled her closer to him.

He said softly, “You’ll see that you can trust me. I’ll show you. You won’t lose this war of love, but that’s for the future. Let’s not talk about that for now. We should go back to what we were talking about. I know you don’t want to rely on me because you want to grow. I had no idea you care about what the public thinks about you, and it’s my fault. I’m your boyfriend, but I have no idea what you’re worried about. I’m sorry.”

Sonia shook her head. “It’s not your fault. I didn’t tell you. Of course you don’t know what’s happening.”

“I’ll keep a closer eye on you. I won’t let this happen again.” He bent over and kissed her head. “And just ignore what the public says. Don’t let them get to you. So what if you’re not from a good family?”

That’s not why I’m dating you. And I don’t think you’re not worthy of me. I don’t care about what you can or cannot do. You’re the best girl for me, and nobody’s better than you are.”

Sonia was amused. “What are you talking about? Of course there’s somebody better than me. A lot of people are better than me.”

“But you’re still the best to me.” He cupped her cheeks and looked into her eyes seriously.

Sonia felt her face burn from how serious he was. She couldn’t help it. He was praising her so much. It was embarrassing, but she felt a little happy too. I must be going mad.

"I mean, you're the best girl for me. You don't have to care about what the public thinks. I know they won't stop judging you, and I can't stop them. I mean, I can, but I can't do it for life. They won't stop judging you, but that only stems from their envy. Why should you care about the opinions of the people who envy you? The more you care about what they say, the more you'll feel insecure. You'll start to feel insecure about our relationship, and that's what they're waiting for."

Sonia looked up at him. Yeah. Why haven't I thought of that? All I thought about was how the public's opinion made me uneasy. I started thinking that maybe a regular girl like myself isn't worthy of Toby. I thought we can't be happy, since there's a big gap between us. I keep wondering if I'm a good match for him, but I never thought that they were only judging me out of envy.

They're just trying to bring my self-esteem down, and if I continued down that route, I'd leave Toby by myself without them even doing anything. They're gonna call me stupid. They couldn't get Toby no matter what they did, but I got him without doing anything, and I threw him away. Of course that's stupid. Yeah. I'm stupid! Sonia smacked the back of her head.

Toby was about to see if she had hurt her head, but Sonia pulled his hand down and looked at him. She finally relented. "Sorry. I've never thought of that. I—"

"I know," he interrupted her. "And that's why you care so much about what they think. You never stopped to think why they judge you. Everyone on our level is bound to be attacked. It's inevitable. Even someone like me gets judged a lot. The public kept telling me that I'd be worse than any regular guy if I hadn't been born to the Fullers and inherited the company. They said I'd be worse than they are."

Sonia's jaw dropped. "Someone actually said that about you?"

"Yep." He nodded. "And all out of envy. Only guys who are on the bottom of society's ladder don't get envied, so I never tried to stop them. I don't care what they say either."

They'll just think they're right if I gave a damn. You don't have to care either. Don't push yourself just to prove them wrong. They won't stop. They'll just think they hit you where it hurts most. They'll think they have a chance at me."

Chapter 1030 Nobody Else

Sonia was silent for a while. "Yeah. Maybe I was too hung up on that. I was drowning in their comments for years. It has stopped now, but it left a mark. I just couldn't brush it off."

"And now you can." Toby patted her head.

"Yeah, now I can. You talked me through it. If I still can't brush it off, I might kill off our relationship eventually."

"Don't say that." He frowned in displeasure and put his finger against her lips.

She took his hand away in amusement. "Lighten up. It's just a joke. Don't be so uptight about it. I didn't say anything that bad."

“But you mentioned ‘killing our relationship’. That’s bad enough,” he said solemnly. “It’s not a good word. I want us to be safe and sound.” The last time she fell down a cliff left a traumatic impression on him. He had thought he lost her. From then on, he refused to let her risk her life, or he might do something really drastic just to save her.

“Alright, alright. I’ll stop.” Sonia noticed how much he was frowning. She knew he cared a lot about this, and she wouldn’t challenge him. Going with the flow was the best thing to do now.

He slowly stopped frowning after she stopped bringing that up. “It’s great that you’re brushing their opinions off. It’s the only way we can live our lives without any burden. We don’t need that negativity in our lives. It’s a sad life to live according to someone else’s wishes. The only people who’ll be happy about it are them, and not us.” He held her tightly, patting her head and kissing it.

She leaned against his chest. Sonia said nothing, but she was listening to him.

Toby eventually stopped, then he looked at her. “If you don’t care about the public’s opinion anymore, you won’t feel too much pressure asking for my help now, will you?”

I know you still won’t do that, since you have your reason to settle this yourself, but you know you don’t have the power to settle your problem yourself, don’t you?”

Sonia looked at him again, and she was reminded of what Brian and Charles told her in the hotel. She shook her head. “I... Yeah, I know.” She didn’t know much about the business world or how to survive in it. Sonia was just a newbie, and she had no organization to call her own, nor did she have any connections.

They were important elements to survival in business, but she had none of it. There was no way she could solve anything on her own. She didn’t want to admit it, but that was the truth. She was in a bad condition. All she had was a company. She might be the boss of it, but that alone wasn’t enough to take her into the center of the business world. She couldn’t even deal with the D-listers of the business scene either.

Toby cocked his eyebrow. He was surprised that she would admit her powerlessness so easily.

Sonia caught that, and she pouted unhappily. “What? Surprised I’d say that?”

Toby nodded. “Yes. You probably don’t know this, but you’re actually a stubborn woman who’d push herself to the limits. I thought you wouldn’t admit it, but...”

She snorted. “Yeah, but I have to face reality. I can’t deal with it on my own, and that’s the truth.”

Toby smiled. “Why didn’t you tell me about it then? Why didn’t you ask for my help if you know you can’t settle it on your own? I know why you want to do it, and I support it, but you need to at least have enough strength and a big enough team to deal with your problems without my help.

However, you still have some way to go before you can stand on your own, and yet you hide things from me. That's just pushing yourself, and it'll only make things worse, you know that?"

Sonia lowered her eyes. "Yeah. Of course. I can't deal with it on my own for now. I'll only make it worse." Brian and Charles had told her that as well. She had taken some time to think it through and realized that it was true. That was the reason she admitted to that so easily.

Toby was surprised she got over that so easily, but only for a moment. Since she could understand that she had nothing, it was natural she would think about the future. It was a good thing, as that meant she could accept what he had to say more easily. "Why didn't you tell me then?"

He pretended to look serious. "You'd rather ask Charles for help, but not me. Do you have any idea what that feels like? It feels like you don't see me as your lover. It feels like you think Charles is more important than I am. Do you have any idea how it feels to be less to you compared to an outsider like Charles?"

"That's not what I meant." Sonia shook her head quickly. "I never asked Charles to help me. I never had any plans to do that."

Toby froze for a moment. "Really?"

"Yeah."

"So how did he know about the case about the parts?"

"Did you forget? Charles is a director-in-name at Paradigm Co., and he was the one who hooked Paradigm Co. up with Dwells. My company's guys would tell Charles that someone took the deal from us, and that's how he found out," Sonia explained. Toby was getting angry, and she had to defuse him.

Oh, that's one question answered. I see. He had no idea this happened. "So you didn't ask for his help?" he asked, pursing his lips.

She nodded. "Of course. He came to Paradigm Co. after he found out about it. He asked me if I could handle this. I couldn't, so he gave me a suggestion."

"What kind of suggestion?" Toby squinted.

She rubbed her head against his chest. "He suggested that I use collateral to get a loan from the bank and throw money at the problem. I accepted his suggestion and used the Reed Residence's deed as collateral. I called Brian, the president of Bank of Caruna's Seafield branch."

"So you went to see Brian after you had lunch with Charles?" He looked at her.

"Yes." She nodded. "And he approved the loan. I got it half an hour ago. I was about to give it all to Daphne and have her handle everything about the missing parts, but you got the parts back for me before the loan was approved. So I guess this is extra money." She smiled. Sonia looked like she was happy to get the money, as if it was a windfall.