

Chapter 177

Simon did not reply and strode out.

In the courtyard, Simon followed the mother and son from behind. He let the little guy get into the car first as he needed to talk to Sharon.

The two of them stood face to face next to the car. For some reason, when Sharon saw him, she felt some sort of pressure on her chest.

When Simon noted her unusual reaction, he could not stop himself from asking, "Who made you unhappy?"

"I'm not unhappy." She shifted her gaze. She did not realize that she had displayed her emotions on her face.

Simon took out his hand that was originally in his pants and lifted her chin. "Is it because I didn't ask you to celebrate for Penelope?"

Sharon was slightly dazzled. Did this guy know how to read minds? It was such an unpleasant feeling to be seen through! 1

She pushed his hand away and said stubbornly, "No."

Looking at her awkward face, the man could not help but curl his lips. "If I had told you earlier, would you have come to celebrate with her?" 1

Sharon pressed her lips together. Penelope did not like her, so if she came to the party, neither of them would be happy.

So was that why he did not ask her to come? He simply did not want her to suffer the wrath of his sister?

She did not believe that he was so kind, but his words made her feel better nonetheless.

She was itching to ask why Rebecca was here as well. However... Rebecca was always so popular with the Zacharys. Would it make her sound like she was bothered if she voiced this question?

She lifted her head to look at him and shook her head. That was good enough for an answer to his question.

"You said you'll tell me something on the phone today. Did you find out the person who posted the article and photos?" She suddenly remembered her main purpose for coming here and asked this instead. [1](#)

Simon's eyes darkened. "Yeah."

"Who? Is it Howard?" Sharon asked immediately after.

A sharp glint flashed across Simon's lowered eyes. However, his gaze cleared up very quickly. He uttered one word from his lips, "No."

He did not lie to her. It was not Howard.

Sharon was stunned. She looked at him in disbelief. No?

"Who is it then?" She could not believe that anyone aside from Howard would try to expose her like this.

"It was... one of the female employees from the marketing department." When Simon said that, he furrowed his brows

subconsciously. This was the first time he lied to a woman. 1

Sharon was puzzled after hearing his answer. "Someone from the marketing department? I don't even know anyone there. Why did she do that?"

The man clenched his hand into a fist and pressed it against his lip. He coughed lightly. "She said she was jealous that you're dancing with me, and also about you... forcefully kissing me to seduce me. In order to teach you a lesson, she hired someone to look into your past." 2

Sharon did not say something for some time. The anger in her heart slowly changed into discomfort. She also seemed to be in a bit of a predicament. "H—How is that a forceful kiss? I didn't seduce you either..."

Her voice was getting lower and lower. It was because she was thinking about the night when they were at the hotel...

"It must have seemed that way to her, maybe the others think so too." The man noted the suspicious reddening of her cheeks. She was at a loss—wanting to explain but not knowing how to start.


He curled his thin lips. He did not know that a woman could change her expression so many times in such a short time. It was rather interesting.

"So how are you doing to take care of this, President Zachary?" Sharon let out a depressed sigh. She could only blame herself for drinking the spiked alcohol and kissing him in front of everyone during the anniversary dinner.

"I fired her, of course. How can I let such a petty person stay

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in the corporation?" His black eyes were narrowed. She would never see Howard in the company anymore.

As for Fiona, he told her he would not call the cops on her for the sake of his dead brother. He hoped that she would take this as a reminder to stop causing more trouble.  3

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Sharon did not expect that he would fire that person so quickly. She originally planned to ask for the person's name, but it would be meaningless for her to pursue the matter if she was already fired.

Besides, she had quit her job, so she would not be able to hear the things people would say about her anyway.

"You're not angry?" The man looked at her, feeling a little amused.

"I was never angry." Sharon looked away, clearly not being honest.

Simon stared at her fair side profile for a while, his eyes darkening unconsciously, and then he raised his hand to brush the hair around her ears to the back. He said in a low voice, "You should take your son to the apartment first, I will head over after celebrating Penelope's birthday."

Sharon pushed his hand away. "It's okay, you can celebrate with Penelope here. You should stay the night here and don't disturb my parent-child time with my son." She opened the door and got into the car.

Seeing her slightly arrogant look, he raised his eyebrows. Had he been spoiling her too much recently? 2

Sharon got in the car and asked the driver to drive them away. She waved goodbye to the man outside through the car window.

Sebastian rolled the car window down and said loudly to him, "Dad, don't come to bother me and Mommy!" 1

The tall man stood there, watching the car carrying his wife and son out of the gates of the Zachary household. He suddenly felt an urge to follow them.

However, he was obliged to celebrate Penelope's birthday since she was like a mother to him.

The car was already some distance away when Sharon could not help but look back. She kept feeling uneasy in her heart.

"Mommy, do you not want to leave dad? Can't you be away from him for even a minute?" The little guy saw her looking back reluctantly. He crossed his arms across his chest and pouted his tiny mouth, looking very dissatisfied.

Sharon was amused. "You're pouting so hard that I could hang a towel on your lips."

Sebastian broke character for one second, hugged his mommy's arm, and buried his head in her arms. "Mommy, didn't you say that having me is enough?"

"Yes, that's true."

"Are you not happy to have me with you now?"

"Of course I am. As long as you're with me, I'll be happy no matter how difficult things get."

"If that's the case, you can just ignore my dad. Grandpa said he is going to marry Miss Lawrence."

The smile on Sharon's smile stiffened and her heart tightened suddenly. So, was Rebecca able to celebrate Penelope's birthday because she was about to become a member of the Zachary household?

She finally understood. Douglas must have asked her to move out to make space for Rebecca.

What she did not understand was how Simon could behave so calmly in front of her as if nothing had happened.

He just spewed some nonsense about going back to the apartment later too!

She was suddenly furious—she felt as if she had been fooled.

Rebecca ended up staying for dinner at the Zachary household. A birthday should be a happy and lively event. She certainly did not expect Penelope's birthday party to be so dull. Not only was it boring, but it was even depressing.

Fiona was the one doing the bulk of the talking that night. Simon did not say anything except wishing Penelope a happy birthday in the beginning.

Finally, after dinner, Fiona asked the servant to bring the cake to the table.

"Penelope, you should eat cake as it's your birthday. Everyone, come taste Rebecca's cake and see how she did."

Penelope still had a nonchalant look on her face. If one did not know any better, they would think that it was Fiona's birthday and not hers.

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Fiona distributed the cake herself. "I know you guys don't like cake normally, but today is a special day so you have to at least take some."

After she said that, she looked at Simon and said, "Simon, especially you. It was no easy job for Penelope to raise you. You have to thank her properly on her birthday."

Simon looked at the cake in front of him. Normally, he would never touch this kind of cream-covered food.