

## **Wedded Bride 101**

### Chapter 101

As the fire raged, there was noise everywhere — cries, screams and sirens. Everyone was frightened. The flames of the fire in the dark night looked like the call of death.

Andy had just arrived after finishing his work and saw the fire. He wasted no time to speak with Autumn and rushed into the hotel.

Autumn immediately followed Andy, but Sam grabbed her arm tightly. Sam didn't want Autumn to be in danger.

"What are you doing?" Sam had always been soft to Autumn, but this time he was stern.

"Let go of me! Cindy is in the hotel." Autumn had met Cindy for only one day, but cared a lot about her.

Sam held Autumn's shoulders with both his hands, fixed his eyes upon her and said, "Listen to me, stay here. I will safely bring Cindy out. Got it?"

"Sam! Sam!" Sam smashed his way into the sea of flames. Autumn's heart hammered in her throat.

Heavy smoke billowed from the top of the high-rise, and even blotted out the sky. Some people hurried outside with disheveled hair and dirty faces. Some people were even injured. Hardly breathing, Autumn stared at the burning building. She didn't want to see anyone get hurt in the fire.

The clock ticked with every second seeming like a century to Autumn.

Autumn knew the longer anyone stayed in the building, the greater the danger they were in.

The firemen blocked Autumn from the cordon, her eyes fixed at the entrance of the hotel. Some people came out. But not Sam, Cindy nor Andy. Some more people came out. Still not them...

Autumn was feeling like a roller coaster. Then dark clouds gathered and a heavy rain showered down upon the burning building. The leaping flames were extinguished in the downpour. The gods seemed to have heard Autumn's prayer.

Autumn's legs were so weak that she could hardly stand. Andy suddenly appeared at the entrance, holding Abby. Sam followed right behind Andy with Cindy in his arms. The moment Autumn saw the little girl, she felt a sense of relief then fainted.

Autumn wanted only to have a good rest and put aside all troubles.

The people around, the screams, the disaster... These had nothing to do with her now.

When Autumn woke up, it was the next morning. The head of the hotel had wasted no time apologizing for the previous night's accident, rearranging the accommodations and making compensations.

The hotel manager also apologized to the guests who were injured in the fire and promised to pay for the medical expenses.

Autumn slowly opened her eyes and saw the white ceiling of the ward. She swallowed to moisten her sore throat and moved a bit.

Autumn didn't get hurt in the fire, but she had developed a high fever because of the rain. Her fever had gone down a bit during the night.

She stretched out her hand, trying to reach for the glass of water on the nearby table. But a big hand picked it up first.

Autumn raised her head with difficulty and saw Charles's straight face. She was both thrilled and panicked. "Why are you here?"

"If I were not here, you wouldn't tell me that there was an accident, right?" Charles was both angry and anxious. Last night, he was on a video call with Autumn, but it was suddenly cut off. He called her back many times, but she didn't answer. He was out of his wits, and immediately searched for the local news

about Z City. He became all dizzy when finding out that there was a big fire at the hotel where Autumn was staying.

As it was very late then, Charles was unable to buy a plane ticket right away so he drove to Z City without telling his family. Not until he saw Autumn safe and sound was Charles's mind set to rest.

"I'm sorry." Autumn stared at Charles who looked terrible after a restless night. He had red eyes, messy hair and a stubble — totally different from the graceful gentleman that he was in normal circumstances. She was deeply touched as she realized how much Charles cared about her.

As soon as Autumn apologized, Charles held her in his arms. Words couldn't express what he felt at that moment. They were at ease when they felt each other's body, breathing and heartbeats.

Charles had worried about Autumn for the whole night and was finally reassured.

Tears streamed down Autumn's cheeks. Except for worrying about Sam and others, she also thought about Charles when she was in the fire.

If she died in the accident, would Charles be sad?

Now, she had the answer.

"It's okay." Charles patted Autumn's back to comfort her as he thought that Autumn was frightened by the fire. Seeing her crying, he didn't have the heart to scold her anymore. "Don't be afraid. Everything is OK now."

Autumn cried even more.

After going through the misfortune, Autumn finally realized that she had deeply fallen in love with Charles.

"Stop crying, babe." Charles consoled her in a soft voice and thought, 'Everything is fine now. Why doesn't she stop crying?'

At this moment, Charles's cell phone rang. It was from Gary. After Gary woke up in the morning, he saw the news of the big fire in Z City. He almost fainted and immediately called Charles. Gary now knew that Charles was in Z City, and asked, "How is Yvonne? Is she okay?"

## Chapter 102

Autumn was relieved after hearing Sam's words. She saw the bandage on his arm and asked, "Sam, did you get hurt in the fire?"

Autumn furrowed her brow. Sam was fine the night before, but now he was wounded.

"No big deal, it's a minor injury." Sam answered indifferently, "You must be hungry. Here you go. Have some breakfast. Since Mr. Lu is here, I'm leaving now."

"Sam! Sam!" Autumn wanted to know how he got injured, but Sam kept walking, not turning his head.

Charles grabbed Autumn's hand and helped her sit back on the bed. He said in a scolding voice, "You are a patient. You should take care of yourself."

"But Sam got hurt because of me." If it weren't for her, Sam wouldn't run into the flames to save Cindy. Autumn felt terrible that Sam got injured.

"I can see your point." Charles nodded. He regretted not being by her side when she was in danger.

He was also grateful that Sam was there at that moment. Otherwise, Autumn might have gotten hurt.

"Have breakfast and take a rest. I'll be right back." Charles got Autumn settled and walked out of the ward.

"Sam!" Sam was about to return to the hotel, but Charles stopped him. Charles felt he should thank him. "Thank you for saving my wife."

"No need to thank me. I didn't do it for you." Sam answered bluntly. After all, there was no one but the two of them there.

"I have to remind you, " Charles continued, "Sam, she is my wife. If anything happened to her, I would be by her side. I hope you have a clear estimation of yourself. Don't put her in an awkward position."

"Put her in an awkward position?" Sam sneered, "Charles Lu, it is you who put her in an awkward position. If it weren't for you..."

"What?" Charles asked coldly.

"Never mind." Sam got frustrated. He had no right to intervene in Autumn's private affairs. If she didn't want to expose her true identity, he had to cover for her. "You must take good care of her. If you treat her badly, then you will have to go through me!"

"That is none of your concern!" Charles gave a scornful smile and said, "She is my wife. I will take good care of her."

Sam stared coldly at Charles and taunted, "You'd better."

Both Charles and Sam kept their conversation a secret from Autumn. Charles forbade her from leaving the ward unless she was allowed by the doctor.

"Charles, come on!" Autumn stared at Charles with a pair of innocent eyes, "I haven't seen Cindy after the accident. I want to know how she is."

"Cindy is the kid you saved that day?" Charles asked with a frown.

"That's right." Autumn nodded and said, "Charles, it must be fate. The moment I saw Cindy, I liked her very much. Besides, her mother looks like me."

"Fine. You can visit her." Charles finally agreed as he saw Autumn's eyes light up when she spoke of Cindy. "I'm coming with you." he added.

It was just a fever, but Charles was worried about her.

If Sam were not around during the fire, Charles might have lost Autumn. So he looked after her with utmost care.

"Okay." Autumn immediately agreed to that. When Autumn and Charles arrived at Cindy's ward, there was only Cindy there. "Cindy!" Autumn greeted her in a cheerful voice.

Autumn held Cindy in her arms. Cindy had a burned leg, and the wound was covered with a small gauze dressing. Autumn was distressed to see Cindy suffering.

"Does it hurt?" Autumn didn't know why she loved Cindy so much that she hoped it was her who got injured.

"Not any more." Cindy shook her head and looked at Charles in curiosity. She asked, "Sister, who is this uncle?"

"Hahaha." Autumn couldn't help laughing as Cindy called her sister but called Charles uncle. Did that mean she had to call Charles uncle too?

"Cindy, you either call me brother, or call her aunt. Do you understand?" Charles threatened Cindy with a straight face.

Cindy shook her head and answered in a serious manner, "No. My mom told me, I should call a man with beards uncle. And she is my sister!"

Charles sighed as he didn't know how to refute it. Autumn asked, "Cindy, where are your Dad and Mom? Why are you here alone?"

"Dad took Mom to go through some tests and asked me to stay here. Sister, I want to eat cotton candy..." Cindy stared at Autumn with a hopeful expression. All Cindy cared about was to feed herself.

Autumn turned to Charles. She was uneasy about leaving Cindy in the ward alone.

"I'm going to buy cotton candy. You stay here with her." Charles said calmly.

Before Autumn was able to tell Charles where to buy it, he had already walked out of the ward. By this time, Andy and Abby had come back. The moment Abby saw Autumn, she wept. "Autumn, if you and your boyfriend were not here, Cindy and I would have been burned to death."

Abby grabbed Autumn's hands and said excitedly.

"Abby, don't act like that. You are scaring Autumn." Andy pulled Abby back.

Chapter 103

"We are just friends. It just so happens that I have come to visit Z City, while he is here on business. Our meeting is totally coincidental," Autumn explained. "By the way, my husband is also here to see me because of the accident. Let me introduce you to him later."

Her eyes twinkled with pleasure when she spoke about Charles. It was too obvious that the couple were very devoted to each other.

Just as Abby was about to open her mouth, Andy secretly grabbed her arm and stopped her from saying anything. He said to Autumn, "With pleasure. It's a pity that we will be leaving tomorrow, but I have booked a room at Hong Fu Restaurant for tonight. We will be waiting for you two."

"That's very kind of you, but please don't bother," Autumn promptly refused. Although she was a bit upset about their leaving so soon, she managed to hold it back and said, "Cindy is injured, you better take care of her first and make sure to have good rest tonight."

"That's alright. We will take an afternoon flight, there is no hurry." While Andy was insisting on arranging dinner, Charles pushed the door open and came in. Everyone inside saw a man, over 6 feet tall, holding two marshmallows awkwardly. It was very amusing.

"Here you are, kiddo." Charles passed a marshmallow to Cindy as casually as possible, and gave the other to Autumn.

"So is this your husband?" Andy let out a smile and asked Autumn. Holding her marshmallow with embarrassment, Autumn shyly nodded her head and said, "This is my husband Charles. We got married a month ago."

She then turned to Charles, "And they are Cindy's parents as I have mentioned to you earlier." Looking up at him, she then asked playfully, "Take a look, don't you think that Abby and I look very much alike?"

"Sorry, but no." Charles shook his head seriously. In his opinion, Autumn was unique and nobody could compare to her in any way.

"How come...I think we are almost like twins, " Autumn muttered. When comparing Autumn with Abby, Andy fully understood and agreed with Charles. He had to admit that Autumn and his wife resembled each other, but only physically. However, Andy knew that Abby was the one for him. He was sure that he could easily pick out his loved one, even if they looked exactly the same.

He assumed that Charles might have been thinking in the same way.

"Charles, your wife has helped us a lot to look after Cindy these past few days. To show our gratitude, Abby and I have booked a table at Hong Fu Restaurant tonight. We would be very happy if both of you could come, " Andy warmly invited Charles.

From what she knew of Charles, Autumn was expecting him to decline. So she was caught by surprise when he agreed with no hesitation.

"She has not recovered yet and will still need some rest, but we will see you tonight, " Charles replied as he was taking Autumn back.

Autumn glanced at Cindy, who was on the bed enjoying her marshmallow, and reluctantly left with Charles.



After they had left, Abby sighed and murmured, "Sam is such an eligible young man, why didn't she choose him?"

"Why did you choose me from your many suitors then?" Andy asked her back.

"Because you are nice to me, " Abby replied without any hesitation. "I did have many suitors before marriage. But they were either after my family status, or my beauty. You were the only one who really cared for me. I was wise enough to choose you of course."

Abby blushed and said, "Moreover, even after all these years of marriage, you still love me and are devoted to me. Isn't that a hard evidence of my wise decision?"

"You see..." Putting his arm around her shoulders, Andy said, "You don't know what has happened between her and Sam, so you can't make those decisions for them. Besides, I think that Charles is a fine figure of a man, and he treats her very well. Don't you think they make a good couple?"

"Well...I agree." Abby nodded lightly, "All right, since they are already married, I'd better not meddle in their affairs."

She sighed and continued, "Thankfully, I found out just in time, that she got married. Otherwise, I was about to encourage Sam to propose to her."

"Come on, my dear..." Sometimes Andy felt that he just couldn't take his wife too seriously.

After coming out of the ward, Charles went to see the doctor. He was informed that there was nothing serious with Autumn, so he accompanied her back to the hotel.

When he saw the makeshift room arranged for Autumn, he packed up immediately and decided to take her away. Autumn refused at first. Although this single room was relatively cramped compared to the previous sea-view room, she thought it was sufficient enough for a rest. But Charles was quite unhappy about it, and said that it would be impossible for her to have a good rest in such an environment.

"Charles, actually I'm OK with it, " Autumn said with a frown, "The room is quite clean anyway, I think it's enough."

"No way." Charles replied softly, "Just forget about it and follow me."

He helped her pack the luggage, and brought her all the way to a seaside villa. Before Autumn could ask any questions, Charles walked to a nearby flowerpot, where he conjured a key out of the soil. Autumn was astonished by this.

"So... is this one of your houses?" she asked with astonishment.

"No, it's Eric's villa." Charles answered while opening the door, "He hardly has any hobbies, except buying houses across the country. This villa is his favorite. Speaking of which, he once invited us here to show it off. We grew up together, and I must say that the way he hides the keys hasn't changed in ages! I was only trying my luck today, and it's just where I have expected it to be."

"Are you sure this isn't inappropriate?" Autumn asked shamefully. After all, they were breaking into a private house, uninvited and unannounced. It didn't sound like a good idea to her.

#### Chapter 104

Charles excelled in many aspects; however, he was still just a rookie when it came to shopping with a lady. The both of them hardly got the chance to go shopping together in Y City. He was worried about Autumn's health condition and wondered whether she wanted to go shopping at all. He asked with the utmost care, "Are you bored? "

"Of course not!" Autumn smiled and held his hand, "I'm so glad that you can go shopping with me. "

It was getting colder and colder. Seeing as how Charles was wearing Eric's clothes, Autumn decided to buy him some new ones.

"Let's go there." Autumn pointed to a store selling suits and took him there. Charles had to follow her as he was unable to refuse her.

"Babe, I don't need clothes. We won't be here for long..." Charles said with a frown.

"Charles, come on!" While selecting suits on the shelves, Autumn spoke to Charles, "We must be causing Eric a lot of trouble by staying in his house, uninvited. And Eric's clothes are tight and not comfortable. Look at you, your ankles are exposed. I know the suits here are nothing comparable to your custom made ones at home, but at least they will be more comfortable than Eric's. What? You dislike my gift?"

"Of course not. What?" Charles finally understood Autumn's point and asked surprisingly, "You mean... you're buying me the suit as a gift?"

"Uh huh!" Autumn nodded. Charles had booked the plane ticket and the hotel in Z City for her. She had been wondering what she could give to him in return. Now was the time for her to get him something nice.

"Welcome! May I help you?" A shop assistant came up to them and offered in a flattering smile, "Lady, your boyfriend has a nice figure. I think these suits will fit him quite nicely. How about this navy blue one? Our changing room is over there."

"Alright. Charles, give it a try." Autumn pushed him into the changing room. It was hard for Charles to turn down the warm-hearted offer, so he took the suit and went into the changing room. Autumn's eyes lit up as soon as he walked out in the new suit.

Autumn walked to him and did up the button for him. She praised, "You look wonderful! What do you think of it? "

"Excellent!" The shop assistant said to Autumn, "He looks even more handsome in this suit than our model on the poster. It looks as if it were tailor-made for him. "

The shop assistant flattered Charles non-stop. Autumn ignored her and asked Charles, "Charles, do you like it? "

"I like anything you choose for me." Charles stated in a low and charming voice. Autumn almost believed that he was professing his love.

"Well, I'll buy it?" Autumn raised her head and asked for his opinion.

"Okay." Charles took the suit and was about to pay, but Autumn immediately stopped him and said, "I said, I'll buy it for you as a gift. Please let me pay for it."

Charles suddenly felt like a moneyboy. But on second thought, Autumn was his wife. Seeing the joy on her face, Charles decided to say nothing more and let her pay for it.

"You've just bought me a gift. I should buy something for you in return." Charles grabbed her hand as he offered, "There is a shopping mall in the front. Let's go there. "

"Charles, I bought the suit for you without expecting anything in return, " Autumn stated seriously with a frown.

"Babe, I didn't mean it that way. I want to buy something for you also, as I want you to be happy." Charles explained sincerely and continued, "Come on! Cindy is leaving soon. We can also buy something for her."

"Alright!" Upon hearing his suggestion, Autumn's eyes lit up as she dragged him to the children's department on the fifth floor of the mall.

Autumn couldn't help but imagine how Cindy would look like in the beautiful clothes and shoes they saw at the mall.

"What do you think?" Autumn showed Charles a pink princess dress and asked for his opinion. Charles just smiled, and said nothing.

"What are you smiling at?" Autumn was confused as she touched her face and asked, "Are there any stains on my face?"

"No." Charles stared at her and explained, "Your eyes light up when you speak of Cindy. I was thinking about... what you would be like when we have a baby in the future. You'll probably look even happier!"

Autumn blushed with shyness as she grunted, "I don't want to have your baby."

Charles laughed out loud. Autumn stopped for a moment, and thought about what he had said. A baby of her and Charles would be... adorable.

While Autumn was dwelling on that thought, a familiar lady's voice came from the entrance of the store. Before Autumn could clearly see who she was, the person threw herself into Charles' arms. She held Charles tightly and yelled, "Charles, you must be here for me, right? I knew you still love me."

Rachel continued as she cried, "Charles, when you broke up with me, I was so frightened. I've made up my mind. Whatever decision you may have come to, I won't let you go. Since you loved me once, I'm sure you will love me for the second time.

Charles, let's start anew, okay?" Rachel wrapped her arms around Charles' waist tightly as she raised her head and looked at him with a pair of innocent eyes.

#### Chapter 105

Rachel used to show off when she was with Charles. Autumn was forced to marry Charles and their wedding had not been made public yet. When Charles realized that he didn't love Rachel anymore, they broke up. But only a few people knew the news.

Lately, Rachel was seen alone in public several times, which prompted speculation about her breaking up with Charles. Fans were so happy to see them here.

"Isn't he the man who had an affair with Rachel? His name is ... Charles, that golden bachelor. They are a well-matched couple."

"Yeah. Although they have been together for quite a long time now, they remain glued to each other still. Most people would envy their deep love."

Rachel chuckled at the comments. A smile curved her lips when she saw Autumn turning paler and more furious. To her astonishment, Charles pushed her out of the way.

"Charles!" His behavior caught her off guard. It was very hard for her to believe that he would shove her to the ground. She stared at him, blaming, "You ..."

"Rachel, stop! Are you done with this nonsense?" Charles shouted angrily. He thought he owed Rachel because they had been together for several years. If he hadn't fallen in love with Autumn, he might have divorced her and married Rachel someday. But when he found that he no longer loved Rachel, he broke up with her.

Charles had put up with a lot of Rachel's misbehaviors in the past, which he wouldn't have tolerated from anyone else. Besides, he tried his best not to hurt her too much or make her lose face. But now she was wrong to do what she did in public. Charles couldn't forgive her actions in front of Autumn.

"What do you mean by nonsense?" Rachel wailed, "Charles, did I do something wrong? Why did you leave me?"

"We have broken up." Charles looked indifferently at Rachel as she cried and said, "Miss Bai, you'd better stay away from me."

"Broken up? I've never agreed to it." One might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. Rachel was there shooting a movie. When she noticed Charles and Autumn shopping for children's products, she was furious.

Although she had been with Charles for quite some time, they didn't have a sexual relationship. However, he had been married to Autumn for only a month, and they're already shopping for children's products. 'Is it possible that Autumn is pregnant already?'

Rachel glared at the direction of Autumn's flat belly, as her face burned with jealousy.

She got to her feet and grabbed Charles' hand, begging, "Charles, what did I do wrong? Please tell me and I will change. I love you very much and I don't want to lose you. Please, we can turn over a new leaf, can't we?"

"Let go of me!" Charles shook off her hand and warned, "Rachel Bai, quit it! We are over."

Charles' face exhibited uneasiness and impatience. There were excited fans who loved Rachel in the crowd. Seeing their idol insulted, they cursed Charles, "You, love rat. Our Rachel is so pretty and kind. How could you abandon her? Damn it!"

"I agree. Rachel, you are pretty and kind. You will find a better man. Break up with him!"

"Don't say something like that, " Rachel said crying, "There has been some misunderstanding. Charles and I just quarreled. You are my fans, so please don't blame him."

Rachel explained on Charles' behalf, which enraged her fans even more, "You will regret it, if you don't cherish such a good girlfriend."

"Of course. Our Rachel is good-looking and kind-hearted. Unlike most vain women who are greedy for money, she loves you, truly. It's incredible how this man abandoned and broke up with Rachel."

"Enough!" Charles looked at Rachel, frowning, "Rachel, I have been tolerating you. I said we should break up, but I also promised to make up for it. What's your purpose behind begging me to take you back today?"

"I ... I don't want to break up with you, " Rachel whimpered pathetically.

"But I am married now, " Charles sneered, "Even though you don't mind being a home wrecker, I won't accept you as my lover. I am faithful to my wife."

"You ..." Rachel had never imagined herself of being regarded as a woman lacking in self-respect. She hated Autumn more because of this, so she whined, "Did you leave me because of her?"

We have been together for many years. How could you break up with me because of a woman you barely know? Charles, she is only interested in your money, and you..."

Rachel continued as she seized Charles' hand, "I am Rachel, a famous star. Who is she? Is she younger, more beautiful or richer than me? Why would you choose such a woman like her rather than me to be your partner?"

Charles derided Rachel for being foolish. He put his arms around Autumn's shoulders, announcing his love for her, "In my heart, she is unique."

Then, without even looking back at Rachel, he turned to Autumn and said, "Let's go."

Chapter 106

"Don't worry about it." Charles stretched out his hand and touched Autumn's head. He continued, "You have me. I won't let anyone hurt you."

"Didn't you say that you wanted to buy Cindy some gifts? Let's go to another place." Charles took Autumn to another nearby shopping mall. While Autumn was choosing the gifts, Charles went to another corner and dialed David's number. He asked David to block all of tomorrow's box news on Rachel and him.

'Many passers-by must have taken pictures of Autumn. Nowadays netizens could easily search a person's information online. It's okay for me to expose our real relationship. But I don't want to put Autumn in any awkward situation, ' he mused.

"One more thing." After a short pause, Charles continued, "Contact all of our cooperative partners. Tell them to change their spokesperson immediately. If I discover that Rachel endorses any of their products, we will stop our cooperation with them instantly."

David frowned slightly and asked in an irresolute tone, "Mr. Lu, are you sure about this?"

"Do as I say." 'I have been giving her chances because I didn't want to destroy the status and reputation she has earned. Now that she doesn't care about these things, she can't blame me for what I am going to do.' He added, "Besides, tell those directors that Rachel isn't a qualified female lead. And ask them to refuse to work with her if she uses my or Shining Company's references."

David answered, "Okay, I will." 'This time Rachel must have really pissed off Charles. Otherwise, he wouldn't have made those decisions, ' thought David to himself.



He hung up the phone with an angry look. But when he turned around and watched Autumn picking out clothes, his anger faded away. 'She is the woman that I swore to protect for the rest of my life. I will never allow anyone to hurt her, ' Charles told himself.

Autumn selected a pink blue dress, and she asked as she held the dress, "Charles, do you think will Cindy like this dress?" Charles nodded and replied, "If you think this one is fine, then take this."

Autumn took another pair of blue jeans with a belt which was of a different style to that dress. This one looked cool. She raised her eyebrow and said, "But I also like this one."

"Then, take them both." Charles took a doll and then paid the bill. He walked up to Autumn and said smilingly, "Let's go. We don't have much time now."

When Charles and Autumn arrived at the entrance of Hong Fu Restaurant, they met Andy, Abby and Cindy, who was in Andy's arms. When Cindy caught sight of Autumn, she asked Andy to let her down. She hugged Autumn as she joyfully asked, "Pretty big sister, did you miss me?"

Autumn answered with a bright smile on her face, "Of course I did. I haven't seen you for half a day."

"I missed you too." She then kissed on Autumn's cheek.

Andy and Abby came forward to greet them with a smile, "Well, let's go inside."

They walked into the compartment which they had booked in advance. Andy said smilingly as he gave the menu to Autumn, "Please, order whatever you like. Sam called earlier to say that he would arrive later for he has something to deal with and he asked us to eat first."

Autumn nodded, "Okay." She was at ease in Sam's absence.

Autumn and Cindy sat close together to order the food. Charles placed Autumn's tableware nicely and poured tea for her. Noticing this, Andy said, "Mr. Lu, you treat your wife so well." 'Even though this is small act, it shows Charles' affection towards Autumn.' He continued, "Your wife is a fair and amiable

girl. I was wondering who would be lucky enough to win her heart. To my surprise, she is already married."

Abby had accepted the truth that Autumn had gotten married. As she reflected on how affectionately Autumn had treated Cindy, she said with a smile on her face, "Mr. Lu, you should try harder on having a baby. Your wife likes kids very much. If you two have a baby, it would look cute."

'Autumn is beautiful, while Mr. Lu is handsome. Their kid will surely be pretty, ' Abby pondered.

Autumn's cheeks flushed as she was about to say that they had no such plans for children right now. However, Charles replied as he held her hand, "I will try harder."

Autumn's face turned redder when she heard this.

Cindy gazed at Autumn and asked with a grin, "Pretty sister, are you going to bring me a younger brother?"

Autumn was amused by Cindy's innocent and cute look. She said, "Sweetheart, if I have a baby boy, you will have to call me aunt."

After pausing for a moment, Cindy said reluctantly, "Then I don't want a younger brother anymore."

Cindy's words set them roaring with laughter. At that moment, the door opened. Sam stood outside the door, with an embarrassed look.

Their laughter subsided immediately in the compartment. Sam greeted, "I'm sorry. I am late." Andy hurried to get up and walked up to him. He took Sam by the arm and intended to seat him on a spot. He said, "It doesn't matter. Take a seat. We arrived just few minutes ago."

Sam sat down and squeezed a smile towards Autumn. After hesitating for a moment, Autumn asked gently as she stared at the wound on Sam's hand, "Sam, how is... the wound on your hand?"

Sam replied with a light smile, "I'm feeling better."

An uncomfortable atmosphere filled the whole compartment. Andy started first, "To protect Cindy, Mr. Lin got hurt. You two are the saviors of our daughter. I will return the favor back one day. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help."

"Mr. Xu, I just did what anyone in my place would do." Sam said with a light smile, "We both like Cindy very much."

Andy said seriously, "No, we will keep your kindness in our mind. We will leave tomorrow. But we will return to Y City soon. Perhaps we will meet each other again in Y City. Please contact me if I can be of any help."

Autumn had never expected to see this family again in the future.

Chapter 107

Autumn had no idea of what Abby was thinking about. Cindy was going to leave Z City the next day, so Autumn played with her for a while.

"Will you miss me, sister?" Cindy asked Autumn with a hopeful expression as she also knew she would be leaving soon.

"Of course I will." Autumn stretched out her hand and pinched Cindy's chubby face. "Will you miss me, Cindy?"

"I will call you as soon as I arrive, " Cindy answered assertively.

The dinner did not end until 10 PM. Charles and Sam, who had disliked each other before, had their arms around each other's shoulders as if they were good buddies.

Autumn drove Charles back to Eric's villa. Charles turned into a different man after getting drunk. He followed Autumn and acted like a spoiled child, which was very surprising to Autumn.

"Charles, behave yourself!" Autumn demanded with profound resignation. He was tall and strong. It would be difficult for her to get him upstairs if he didn't cooperate with her.

"Babe, I'm so happy now, " Charles murmured.

"Alright. I know you are happy, " Autumn temporized. Finally, she managed to lay Charles on the bed in the bedroom upstairs. Charles fell asleep very soon.

Autumn rarely had the opportunity to see Charles sleeping. He closed his eyes with a smile of satisfaction. Autumn sighed as she went to the bathroom. She cleaned his face with a warm and wet towel. Then she struggled hard to take off his clothes and clean his body, despite her shyness. It was already the early morning. She took a quick shower and lay beside him, exhausted.

The alarm clock woke Autumn from her deep sleep. She opened her eyes, dumbfounded as she saw Charles's enlarged face. She could even see his pours. His sexy, lazy voice sounded in her ear.

"Are you up?" Charles pulled her into his arms and kissed her cheek, satisfied.

He knew what he would be like after getting drunk. When he woke up and saw his naked body, he figured Autumn must have been exhausted after last night. He didn't want to wake her up, so he didn't move, but instead, stared at her face in silence.

He then realized that his right side was getting numb.

Autumn wanted to get off the bed and make the breakfast, but Charles growled with a frown, "Stop moving!"

As Autumn moved, he was on pins and needles in his right side. However, Autumn misunderstood him and dared not move at all.

She pulled the duvet over in embarrassment. She had planned to travel alone and didn't expect Charles to come, so she had only brought nightgowns. Charles could clearly see her cleavage.

Charles gradually recovered and then realized that Autumn got him wrong. He couldn't help but tease her, "Don't move! Otherwise, I can't bear it anymore. "

Autumn blushed all over with shyness and stayed in his arms without breathing. She heard his heartbeat, and then his giggles.

"You fooled me!" Autumn then realized that she had been fooled. She got exasperated as she sat up, grabbed a pillow and threw it at Charles.

She was so embarrassed.

The sunlight filtered down through the half-covered curtains to the brown wood floor. They heard the sound of waves crashing in the distance from time to time. A romantic atmosphere had developed in the room.

Charles caught the pillow, threw it away and held Autumn in his arms.

"Let me go!" Autumn wriggled around in his arms as she was discontented with his joke.

"Stop moving! I can't bear it any longer. I mean it!" Feeling Autumn's soft body, Charles felt a warm current rush through his body.

However, Autumn was too angry to get his point. She tried to push him away and said, "Charles, let me go! "

"Stop it, it's not funny anymore!" Autumn tried hard to push Charles away, but she didn't expect her nightgown to fall down from her shoulders. The sea wind blew past her, and she felt a bit cold.

Charles kissed her neck without hesitation.

The kiss was like an electric shock to Autumn. She wanted to run away, but was so involved in his kiss. "Charles!" She whispered, trembling like a leaf.

Charles had kissed her before. But this time, Autumn felt that something was going to happen.

Charles' hand moved down to her waist as he kissed her forehead softly. He pushed her gently so she fell on to the mattress.

This time, Autumn's mind was at rest when Charles held her. She didn't push him away as she didn't want to. She hated to admit this, but she was looking forward to something.

Charles thought Autumn would stop him, so he waited for a long time. But to his intense surprise, she didn't.

#### Chapter 108

After releasing their passion, Charles Lu lay back on the bed and held Autumn Ye in his arms. It felt natural that they were able to finally do it, but somehow the place where they did it didn't feel right.

'I must get this villa from Eric Guo when I go back.' Charles thought to himself.

Autumn felt extremely exhausted. The sore between her legs reminded her of what had just happened. She wondered how she became so daring today. She leaned on Charles's shoulder, feeling extremely content.

Leaving everything else behind including Wendy Ye and Yvonne Gu felt like such a leap of faith. It struck her how she was able to completely give herself to Charles and finally become his woman.

"What are you thinking about?" he asked. Charles held Autumn in his arms, curling her hair with his fingers.

"Nothing..." Autumn said with a slight flush on her cheeks. She was so daring just a few moments ago, but now she seemed to have forgotten how to get along with Charles.

"I think you should rest first and take a shower, " Charles said as he turned over. Just as he was about to get out of bed, Autumn grabbed him and asked, "Are you going to leave?"

'We just had our first time today. Is he going to leave me?' She thought anxiously.

"What's up?" Charles asked, affectionately touching Autumn's nose. "I'm going to make you some breakfast. You will definitely get more tired today. I have to make sure you're physically and spiritually prepared."

Autumn's face flushed further. She wrapped and pulled the quilt over her face, muffling her screams.

She felt so embarrassed that she couldn't even look at Charles.

Seeing Autumn's reaction made Charles burst into a roaring laughter.

Fortunately, a house helper frequently visited the villa to re-stock the supplies and make sure that fresh food would always be available. Charles struggled awkwardly as he tried to fry two eggs. He wondered how their house helper seemed to do it effortlessly.

Charles stood in the kitchen, a frown visible in his face. Frying eggs seemed to be the biggest problem in his life at the moment.

Autumn caught the burnt smell while she was upstairs. Putting on Charles's shirt, she decided to go down to the kitchen barefooted. Seeing the two burnt eggs, she couldn't help keeling over with laughter. "Is this the breakfast you made for me?"

"Let me try again." said Charles, clearly embarrassed.

Charles took the remaining eggs left in the refrigerator. However, Autumn stopped him before he even began trying to cook again.

Charles did not refuse Autumn's help this time. He thought he might ruin frying the eggs if he's going to do it again. He leaned against the door, watching Autumn boil some noodles while skillfully frying the eggs. The kitchen was filled with the aroma of food not long after.

Charles opened the floor to ceiling window facing the sea, allowing the salty sea breeze to flow freely inside the house. As they sat in the dining room eating their noodles, Autumn suddenly raised her head and asked Charles. "I heard that there's a temple in Z City. People say it looks breathtaking. Would you like to go with me this afternoon?"

"Okay, " said Charles, agreeing without any hesitation. "Go upstairs and get dressed. I'll wash the dishes in the meantime, " he added.

Autumn dressed comfortably, keeping in mind that they might be doing some mountain climbing. With her hair tied and a baseball cap on, she looked glowing from head to toe.

"Let's go." said Charles offering his hand. She walked in front of him with a huge smile on her face. For a moment, he secretly thought of carrying her back to the bedroom. Thinking that she might find the thought ridiculous, he tried to curb his urges with a great effort.

After arriving at their destination, Charles bought their entrance tickets while Autumn stood aside waiting for him. Charles became incredibly pissed when he started seeing men hitting on Autumn. Seeing his reaction, she gave him a light kiss on the cheek.

They started to go up the mountains after entering the door, restraining the playful look that's visible on their faces.

Autumn wanted to visit the temple to honor Granny. She's a devout Buddhist who has always wanted to come to the temple so she can worship the Buddha and burn some incense. Unfortunately, Granny's ailing condition didn't allow her to make it happen, that's why Autumn decided to come to fulfill Granny's wishes.

They say things only work when you believe in it with all your heart. She sincerely hoped that everything will go well with Granny.

Like typical lovers, Autumn and Charles walked hand in hand to the top of the mountain. Even if there's a more convenient way of going up the mountains, they chose to walk beside each other without any complaints.



"Would you like to hop on my back and be carried for a while?" Charles asked Autumn out of concern.

"Thanks but I'm alright, " she said, turning down his offer. "There's only a third of the journey left. It is too dangerous to do that on such a steep mountain path."

Autumn took a little bit of rest as she sat on the big stone by the road. After a moment, she stood up and told Charles that they should get going.

It took them two full hours before reaching the top of the mountain. She made no complaints about the exhausting journey despite having blisters on her feet. The panoramic view of Z City made her feel like it was all worth it.

The mountain breeze gently blew over their faces while the temple chimes calmed them both.

#### Chapter 109

As birds were chirping a melodious and soothing song in the temple's courtyard, Autumn and Charles felt a sense of calmness and peace wash over them. While they were slipping into a deep slumber of tranquility, an old monk approached them and said to Autumn, "Lady, I can feel that there is some built-up confusion in your heart. Why don't you drop by the backyard? You may be able to find an answer to your dilemma there."

The monk then firmly turned on his heel and walked in the opposite direction, leaving Autumn standing there. She hesitated for quite a while before she finally walked towards the backyard along with Charles. In a stark contrast to the courtyard, where a horde of pilgrims were gathered, the backyard was secluded. With a suspicion look, she pushed an aged door open.

The voice of an old person came across from behind the door, "Lady, has something been bothering you lately?"

The voice sent shivers down her spine. She froze in the spot for a second, and heaved a deep breath before entering. "Yes, great master. Can you please help me?"

"Do you see the bamboo container on the table? Why don't you draw a stick first?" Autumn spotted the container as soon as he finished the sentence. She randomly drew a stick out of the lot and told the monk, "It is draw number 29, master."

"A good draw, but not the best." The old monk pondered over the pick and after carefully choosing his words of wisdom, he said, "Your fortune is not bad as you have accidentally made a good match. But I must take this opportunity to remind you that honesty is the best policy, especially for couples. You should put more faith and trust in people around you. Only once you do that will you find that everything goes in the right direction for you."

Autumn shuddered on hearing his words. Brief as they were, the fortune-telling he gave and the advice he offered had really hit the nail on the head, and struck Autumn as true.

'Does this mean that I should just be honest and frank with Charles about my secret?'

She just couldn't make up her mind in that moment. After paying the fee, she left the room. Upon seeing her face, Charles could sense her unrest and tensing up. He comforted her, "It is just some cheap tricks, don't take it seriously or pay heed to it."

Not knowing what to say, Autumn just did not respond to his attempts to comfort her. The monk's warning was weighing on her mind the entire trek down the mountain.

That night, Charles received a call from David. There was an emergency that required his immediate attention. So the couple had to call off their trip abruptly.

"Ye, you can stay here and finish the rest of our trip if you want to. I can go back myself. Your air ticket is reserved for the day after tomorrow anyway." He didn't want to spoil this trip for her, not one bit.

Autumn shook her head while packing the luggage and said, "It really doesn't matter, I just want to go back with you."

"Ye..." Charles firmly took her hand into his, looked into her eyes and promised, "Let me assure you, I will travel with you whenever and wherever my schedule allows in the future, okay?"

"Perfect." Autumn was glowing with a bright smile and said, "A promise is a promise!"

"You can trust me." he assured. Charles then helped her pack all their belongings up. They hurried back to Y City that very night.

They arrived at Dream Garden by dawn. Even their servants were still in bed. Slowly and silently, Autumn tiptoed up the stairs to avoid waking anyone in the whole house.

Charles walked behind her carrying her suitcase upstairs. He gave her a big warm hug and said, "I'm going to the company now, you better get some sleep."

"Won't you take a break and have some rest?" He had been driving all through the night and had to now leave for work without a single moment of rest. Autumn was really worried about him.

"No, I'm fine, " Charles slightly shook his head and said, "It is quite a complicated matter this time and I need to attend to it right now. So please don't sit up for me tonight as I may have to work overtime. Go to bed early and catch up on your sleep. I will sleep in the study if I'm late."

"... Alright." Knowing that there was little that she could do to help him in this situation, Autumn said nothing further to avoid causing him any trouble.

However, even being so drained she just couldn't fall asleep after Charles left for work. So instead, she went downstairs to prepare breakfast for the entire family. A moment after she put the food on the table, Chris was coming down, yawning. "What's for breakfast today, Nancy?" she asked. "It smells so good in here..." she then exclaimed.

"I have cooked your favorite shrimp wonton..." Autumn responded. Soon after hearing Autumn's voice, Chris sobered up at once. She cheerfully ran to Autumn and hugged her with excitement, "Yvonne, thank goodness you're back! I was waiting for your arrival."

"Let me have a look at you, are you okay?" Chris took her hand in hers and checked her from head to toe. She breathed a sigh of relief after being assured and checking for herself that Autumn was safe and sound. "God only knows how worried we were about you. Grandpa and I were getting frantic after

learning the news that the hotel you stayed were caught on fire. What a relief to know that you are safe and far from harm now."

"I'm perfectly fine. Let us sit down and catch up over breakfast," Autumn smiled and said, "I'm just helping out and taking the credit. The wonton was already prepared and put in the fridge, I just had them cooked."

"Why did you not take some rest since you've just got returned?" Chris frowned and continued to inquire, "And where is my brother?"

"He has some emergency company affairs to deal with right now." Autumn answered while passing a bowl of wonton to Chris. Chris took it and grumbled, "What on earth has been happening recently? Sam has been away for days without uttering a single word, and now my brother is acting this way, too."

Although she was whispering and muttering to herself, Autumn felt guilty about the whole scene.

Of course there was nothing going on between Sam and her. But if Chris knew they had been together over the last couple of days, she would most definitely misunderstand them.

So Autumn decided to not respond. "Just enjoy your wonton and remember you have to go to work later." she said in an attempt to change the topic.

Chris left for work soon after the breakfast. Autumn then retired to her room and took a long and relaxing bath. While lying comfortably in her bed, she started to check the job information out.

Considering her qualifications and work experience, it should ideally be easy for her to find a job.

Now that she had fulfilled her dream and traveled to Z City, it was about time that she settled down and returned to work.

But strangely, despite having sent out her resume, she had received no interview invitations.

She didn't ponder over this matter further. However, that night Chris treated her in a rather odd manner after returning home from work. She didn't greet her, and after a glance at her she avoided making any eye contact with her. Autumn found all of this quite unusual.

"Chris, do you have a few minutes?" This scene upset and bothered Autumn. She thought about it throughout dinner and so she decided to ask Chris for an explanation. While Chris was about to go upstairs, she stopped her and said, "I really want to talk to you."

#### Chapter 110

Chris did not add anything and just remained silent. She didn't want to suspect Autumn in this manner, but her gut feeling led her to believe that Sam must have been with Autumn in Z City. She knew one thing for certain, that Autumn wouldn't betray Charles. But for another, she couldn't help feeling angry and betrayed with Autumn at the thought of Sam.

With a bitter smile, Autumn continued defending herself, "You must be mad at me because of him." She explained, "Chris, Sam and I are in the clear. I ran into him on the airplane. I went there as a tourist while he was on a business trip. It was a mere coincidence that we were staying in the very same hotel."

"That doesn't sound like a mere coincidence, " Chris impatiently said as she was incredibly distraught with Autumn. She continued, "Yvonne, HKind Group has no cooperative company in Z City. How could he possibly go there for a business trip? He went there because of you."

With raised eyebrows, Autumn asked, "Are you certain of this?" She was taken aback by this vital piece of information, for she never expected that Sam would have lied to her about this. 'Now, Chris just won't believe me anymore. Everything I say will sound like an excuse fabricated to defend myself.'

"Of course, I am. Or you can ask him in person." Chris continued while staring at Autumn, "Yvonne, although you sleep and share the bed with Charles every night, Charles has not touched you yet. Is it because of Sam that you refused to indulge and share a sexual relation with my brother?"

Hearing this, Autumn was anxious and her face flushed into a bright pink. She recalled what had happened the previous morning. As Chris noticed the sudden flush on Autumn's cheek, she was assured about her guesses. She snorted, "It seems that my assumptions are true!"

She stammered, "What... what are you talking about?" As she took a moment to come back to reality and her senses, she tried to explain the situation to Chris in a hurried manner, "You misunderstood us. Sam and I are just friends..."

Autumn wondered whether she should tell Chris about what had happened the previous morning in a bid to prove that she had no feelings for Sam. She decided to just proceed, "Chris, I had dated Sam, but that was in the past. The only one I love is Charles, and I just want to spend the rest of my life staying with him. As for Sam... I don't care about the feelings and thoughts he harbors for me. All I want to say is that I'm done with Sam."

Chris was surprised and yet glad after hearing every bit of what Autumn said. With eyes wide open with shock, she asked, "Do... you mean all of it?"

Autumn nodded with her pink cheeks, "Of course I do."

Chris's mind was still wavering with doubt. Still concerned about Sam's wound on his hand, she asked, "But... what about the wound on his hand?"

"At the time the hotel caught fire, a mother and her daughter we had gotten acquainted with had been trapped inside. While trying to save them from the raging fire, he got injured." Autumn paused for a moment, and then continued, "That grateful family then treated Sam and me with dinner in a bid to thank us, and your brother were there too."

As soon as Autumn finished her sentence, she heard the soothing voice of Charles's voice. "What are you girls talking about? I heard you mentioning me."

Autumn was delighted to see Charles. She asked, "How come you have come home so early?" She was mentally prepared to sleep alone as Charles had repeatedly told her that he had a lot of work to deal with and it would consume the whole day and possibly the night as well. Now, it wasn't even 9 pm and he was already home.

Charles replied with a slight hesitation, "Things went more smoothly than I expected, so I came home early." Autumn did not notice or sense the hesitation. Charles held her in his arms tightly and kissed her on lips as though Chris wasn't there at all. He then asked Chris, "What were you talking to Yvonne about?"

Observing their good chemistry, Chris had no intention to continue her interrogation. In a hurry, she said, "Nothing that important really." With a grin she looked at them and added, "I won't interrupt you. You can continue!"

Chris turned around and went away from there as soon as she possibly could. Autumn turned to look at Charles and sweetly asked, "Have you had dinner? How about me cooking some delicious food for you?"

"Unfortunately, I have already eaten dinner." Charles with a little smile asked, "Was Chris giving you a hard time?"

Charles had heard part of their conversation. To help Autumn get rid of Chris's question, he had walked up to her deliberately. Autumn replied as she shook her head, "It was just a mistake."

Soon they walked upstairs holding hands. While Charles entered the bathroom to take a quick shower, Autumn received a call from Wendy. The second she received the call, Wendy's screeching and yelling voice came from the other end. Without one pleasant greeting and nothing good to say, Wendy was busy calling her an shameless and ungrateful bitch. She continued cursing Autumn and calling out the most indecent cuss words at her. Hearing this, Autumn just strengthened her grip on the phone. Even though she was accustomed to all of this it never ceased to hurt and bother her. But this time the tears did not fall from her eyes.

Wendy picked up a louder tone as she finished abusing her, "Autumn. I asked you to stay away from Charles, but look at what you are doing instead. You are now travelling around with him. Are you not taking my words seriously?"

Autumn remained silent, leaving Wendy the only one in the conversation. Then, she heard Wendy's voice retaliate with a sneer, "Don't you want to get your grandma back?"

Once she heard Wendy mention her grandma, Autumn couldn't resist her anger or hold back her tears anymore. It broke her, a little bit more. She walked to the balcony and cried, "What do you want? She is my only family and I'm your child too, you know? I have never complained about the way you have always been partial to Yvonne. I made concessions with her as you required. Now, the only thing I want is to have my grandma back with me. Why won't you satisfy my little wish?"

She had endured and suffered so much for long, in silence without the support of her family. She had almost died in that fire, but Wendy who was her mother didn't even care to check if she was injured, if she was okay but instead blamed her for traveling with Charles.

She trembled with rage as tears trickled down her cheeks. She shouted at Wendy through the phone, "Wendy, tell me the truth. Are you really my birth mother?"