Wedded Bride 121

Chapter 121

Despite the frown on her face, Autumn made no response to Mr. Yi's piercing sarcasm. When it came to decision-making, she knew that Mr. Zhang had the final say.

"Isla!" Mr. Zhang shouted with a grim face.

Isla, who was just waiting nearby, came back quickly when she heard her name being called. "What's the matter, Mr. Zhang?" she asked, not knowing about the conflict that just happened.

"Isla, are you out of your mind? How can you recommend someone unreliable to our company?

Now, it's either you tell your friend to cancel her job application or someone might be laid off. Do you hear me?" he exclaimed, clearly exasperated.

"What happened, Mr. Zhang?" Isla asked out of confusion.

She looked back at Mr. Zhang as she gave Autumn a questioning look.

"Excuse me Miss, is she your friend?" Mr. Yi asked Isla unexpectedly.

"You'd better keep people like her at a distance or else you'll risk having your own reputation dented," he said politely, noticing how attractive she was despite being sharp-tongued and ill-tempered.

"Autumn has been set up, " Isla said, quickly understanding the reason for Mr. Zhang's anger.

He must have heard the rumor that had spread in the whole advertising circle about Autumn. "I have known Autumn for years and I can vouch for her integrity. She must have been discredited by others, but she is the last person who can do such a thing, " Isla said, defending her friend.

"How dare you talk back to me! Do you really want to be laid off?"

Mr. Zhang snapped, knowing that he would never have the courage to hire Mr. Yi's sworn enemy.

"I'm warning you. It's either she leaves or you two will leave together."

He snarled, pointing at Isla's nose, "Didn't you hear? Mr. Yi said that

Your friend doesn't have loyalty and integrity! Our company has no place for such a dirty rat."

"You.."

Isla, who was meant to argue for her friend, was stopped by Autumn in mid-sentence. "Forget it, " she said.

She was merely trying her luck today, but it turned out she didn't have much. Coming across Mr. Yi wasn't something she expected.

It wouldn't be worth it to lose Isla's job just for her sake. "I'll just go, " she said, realizing that she could do nothing about the current situation.

Before leaving, she caught Mr. Yi casting her a glance with a smirk on his face as if to say, 'You see, I said you'd regret about everything'.

He continued to talk, putting her down with his words. "Miss Ye, I don't think you can still build a career in the advertising industry. You are lucky that you're beautiful enough. You might be interested to apply to the entertainment club that I just opened. Maybe you might find your place there."

Mr. Zhang laughed along with Mr. Yi as soon as he stopped talking. They saw Autumn as someone hopeless who was left with no choice.

Autumn didn't say a word. However, Isla couldn't take it any longer. Taking Autumn's hand, she turned to Mr. Yi and said, "So you're Mr. Yi? Has anyone ever told you that you're ugly? In fact, you're too ugly

to make money in any of your business ventures. I suggest you should just stay at home in case your hideous face creeps people out."

"Isla, are you out of your mind?" exclaimed Mr. Zhang, taken aback by her words. Mr. Yi was one of the major clients of his company. He had always done everything to please him and treated him with utmost respect. That's why he couldn't believe that Isla could talk to Mr. Yi in such a rude manner.

"You...

Get out of my face! I don't want to see you anymore!"

He yelled at Isla furiously.

"Don't worry. This will be the last time you see me."

Isla removed her employee badge, forcefully throwing it in Mr. Zhang's direction. "You're blind as a bat! This company will go bankrupt sooner or later because of you. What's the point of wasting my life here? Goodbye! And just so you know, I don't want to see you again either!"

She said as she walked straight out of Dark Blue Company along with Autumn. She had left the company at once, without looking back and with no hesitation.

Once they got out of the company, reality dawned upon Isla. "Autumn, why did I become so impulsive? Despite Mr. Zhang's bad judgment, he offered a high paying job, " she said, starting to feel regret about her decision.

"You have always been impulsive, Isla, " said Autumn, who had long gotten used to her friend's moodiness.

"Given the situation, I think you should wait for Mr. Zhang to cool down. Only then could you return and extend a proper apology. Didn't you say that your company is short-handed at the moment?

I'm sure he'll forgive you and let you come back, " Autumn said, trying to comfort Isla.

"No, I will never take back what I've said once I've made up my mind, " Isla replied, turning down Autumn's suggestion.

"He did offer me a high salary. But I think I will eventually fall apart working for that kind of person. I'm not going back there since I've already resigned. Who knows? Maybe this is the universe's way of telling me that I should take a break from work, " she sighed, looking at Autumn.

"I think I can easily find another job even if I've decided to quit Dark Blue Company. On the other hand, I must say you are in a rather difficult position..."

"It's not a big deal, " Autumn smiled, trying to comfort her friend.

"I've actually thought about what just happened recently. It seems like I'm not cut out to be in this profession."

In reality, Autumn had thought about starting her own company. But she had always lacked a start-up capital.

"There's no need to worry about me, really, " Autumn said, patting Isla's face gently.

"Since you lost your job because of me today, let me treat you to dinner, " she offered.

"No, that's not enough!" Isla said, "Now that you've made a good match and married a rich person, you need to help me out when I can no longer support myself in the future. You will have to buy me dinner not only for tonight but also for the following days ahead. Do you understand?" Isla said, pretending to be serious.

"All right, all right. I get it. Stop teasing me, "

Said Autumn, torn between laughing and crying.

Isla, who came from Hunan Province had always enjoyed spicy food. She chose the restaurant for tonight. Autumn also liked spicy cuisine, but she found it hard to feel her tongue every time she ate out with her friend.

Autumn kept drinking lemonade to cool down her mouth while Isla kept eating with much gusto.

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Upon hearing Isla's words, Autumn shook her head with a smile. Her relationship with Charles was unbalanced from the beginning, but she hoped and tried to always be on equal terms with him.

"Are you done?" She asked softly and politely as Isla put down her chopsticks on the table.

"Yeah, I'm done. Let me drive you back, " Isla offered. As Autumn had no car, she either traveled by the subway or hailed a taxi every time. "You're Mrs. Lu now. You can't take the subway or a taxi every time you go out. You should at least have a car, which will give your husband more face, " Isla added her opinion.

Autumn said nothing but was pondering about what Isla said. She didn't mind taking these forms of transportation, but now she just had to consider whether it would cause Charles any undue trouble if people found out that Mrs. Lu often took the public transport.

Once they left the restaurant, Isla drove Autumn home. As the car came to a halt near the gate of Dream Garden, Autumn invited her in. "It is too late. I'll come to your house next time, " Isla promised while declining her polite offer with a smile on her face.

Autumn nodded slightly and prepared to get out of the car, but Isla stopped her, "Autumn..."

"Yes?" Autumn turned to her with an inquiring glance.

"If you do start a company, I can give you a hand, " Isla said, "Although I've spent a lot of money these years, I have some savings remaining. If you need it, I'll take it out especially for you."

"Thank you, Isla, this is very considerate of you. I'll call you when the need for it arises, " Autumn replied as she was touched and grateful for the offer.

Isla then drove away. And Autumn did not turn to enter her house until Isla's car was out of sight. Unexpectedly, she met Sam as soon as she reached the door. "Sam, what are you doing here at this time?" Autumn asked.

"I... I'm here to see Chris." Sam looked uncomfortable and almost unnatural. Chris didn't go to work all day today. He was afraid it was what he said yesterday that hurt her, and as he began overthinking it he became more and more worried and concerned. So the moment he got off work he bought some fruit and came to see Chris. Little did he know that Chris didn't go to work because of her injury until he met her.

Autumn nodded to him. Seeing that Sam's hand was still wrapped in gauze and cotton dressing, she asked with concern, "How's your hand? Is it serious?"

"No, " Sam smiled and answered, "It's bound to leave a scar, but that's alright."

"Oh, good," Autumn said in a comforting tone. Exactly in that moment, Sam noticed Autumn's diamond ring. "It's..." he asked, looking at her ring and feeling a sharp pain in his heart.

"This is... Charles and I got our marriage license just today. Now we are legally married, " Autumn explained, her face lit up with joy just with the thought of how special the day was.

"You... just got your marriage license today?" Sam asked as his eyes widened with shock and surprise. He felt the gloom of sudden regret. He was always too late and now he missed the chance to be with her, for eternity.

If he had just known that Autumn and Charles had not gotten their marriage license earlier, he would have done everything he could to take Autumn away, instead of overthinking every step of the way.

"Yes, " Autumn nodded and smiled. "We couldn't get a marriage license in the previous situation. But now I have told Charles absolutely everything and I am just not afraid of hiding it from him."

"You mean Charles knows who you are now?" Sam asked with a rather puzzled look.

"Yeah, he does," Autumn nodded. Then she looked at Sam and sincerely said, "Sam, I'm living and doing all well. Charles loves me with all his heart. I do sincerely hope that you find the perfect woman for you as well."

She hesitated for a moment before continuing, "Chris is a good girl. It is about time you thought about getting married."

Sam smiled, put out his hand to touch Autumn's head, but then realized it would be inappropriate, so he withdrew his hand with a wry smile. "It's good that you are doing well. As for my affairs... I'll think about them myself."

"But..." Autumn tried to persuade him, but Sam seemed unwilling to listen to her. She just had to give up.

"It's getting late. I should head home now. Have an early night." Uttering these words Sam left. Autumn, while watching his receding figure realized that he was very lonely.

Autumn heaved a sigh and entered the house. The atmosphere in the living room was cheerful. Chris, who was rather moody yesterday, was now holding Gary's hand and was laughing while talking.

"What is happening here? You look so happy, Chris, " Autumn asked and smiled, "How's your ankle now? I hope you changed the bandages on time."

"It's much better. It's just a sprain, Yvonne. It's nothing serious. Please don't worry, " Chris answered while putting a grape in her mouth. She pointed to the grapes neatly kept on the table, and said, "Try the grapes, Yvonne. It's so very sweet and delicious."

"Is the grape sweet or do you feel sweet?" Autumn passed a sly smile as she made fun of her. Chris was so delighted simply because Sam had come to see her. It was almost like she had forgotten that how determined she was to give up on Sam just last night.

"Yvonne..." Chris passed an embarrassed look at Autumn. She had not forgotten what she had said the previous night.

"All right, I won't talk about that, " Autumn smiled, "There's something... I want to tell you."

"What is it now?" Chris asked Autumn as she ate the fruit that Sam had so thoughtfully brought for her. At that point, nothing seemed to be as important to her as Sam's surprise visit.

"Charles... and I got our marriage license today." Autumn turned to glance at Gary as she did not know if Charles had told Gary about her true identity. Upon giving it a second thought, she realized that Gary had stopped calling her Yvonne these days and called her Ye as Charles did. With that she concluded that he might have know about it.

Sure enough, Gary didn't show any surprise, but Chris did. "What? Yvonne, you just got your marriage license today?"

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Chris blushed. Sam was handsome and evidently came from a well reputed and rich family. Indeed, Gary also thought Sam was an excellent candidate for a grandson-in-law. Most importantly, he appreciated his patience. He never complained whenever Gary wanted to talk or play chess with him.

"Oh, I just recalled that Charles needs to get his sutures removed tomorrow. Grandpa, why don't we eat out, celebrate and make a day of it?" Autumn suggested.

"Great idea!" Chris chimed in gleefully.

While Autumn was chatting with Gary and Chris, Charles and Leila were in the middle of a business banquet to lower the price. The other company's boss was as cunning as a fox. The negotiation had stretched out over a long time, yet it was not going anywhere, so this time Charles had to take care of it himself.

Jed Fang, their business partner, kept urging and pushing Leila to drink more wine. Despite Charles' presence, he laid his hand on her leg and then casually tried to move his hands onto her thigh.

Leila looked at Charles with unpleasant looks. She was angry but she couldn't say anything. She was waiting for Charles to defend her honor.

She had drunk a lot. She used to entertain business partners of Cloud Advertising Company with Ryan. Although her face turned red with wine, she seldom got drunk.

But today... seemed different.

Whenever someone urged her to drink she chugged her glass of wine. She was drunk a few moments into the dinner and was sitting there, ruefully gazing at Charles.

"Miss Zhang, here, let's drink some more, "Mr. Fang said to Leila while casually wrapping his arms around her shoulder. All through this meal, he spent most of the time urging Leila to drink and barely mentioned anything about business. Charles was about to explode with all the pent-up anger.

"Mr. Fang, about the price-" Charles said, but Jed Fang interrupted him immediately and said, "Mr. Lu, we are all having a good time here tonight. Why do you have to be such a spoilsport? As long as you make me happy and satisfied during this meal, lowering the price will be assured. Come, drink with us. Cheers!"

Jed Fang was tipsy. He raised his glass and stood in front of Charles and said, "Mr. Lu, drink this and I assure you I will be your friend. I will do my best to accommodate whatever it is that you seek."

"I don't consume alcohol, " Charles said abruptly in a cold tone.

"What do you mean?" Seeing Charles was merely a youth, Jed Fang sneered and said, "Are you looking down upon me and judging me harshly?"

"Don't be angry." Leila stood up and staggered to Charles. She said to Jed Fang, "Mr. Fang, don't get angry. I'll drink this glass of wine on behalf of Mr. Lu."

Leila was just about to grab the glass from Jed Fang but he ignored her. Heavily under the influence of wine, he poked Charles in the chest repeatedly, saying, "Who the hell do you think you are? Let me tell you a little something, I'm here only out of my respect for Gary-"

Before Jed Fang could finish his remark, Charles grabbed his hand and pushed it aside and said, "And I'm here because I truly respect your father."

Jed Fang was from a wealthy family. He was nothing by himself and so he solely relied on the reputation of his shrewd and respected father.

Charles had given him a chance but he just blew it and left Charles with no other choice. "Tell your father that I tried. Now as we can't possibly reach an agreement after wasting this entire evening I have to find myself another supplier."

Upon hearing Charles say he was going to find another supplier, Jed was shocked to his very core. In a moment of sobriety he stared at Charles and said, "I dare you!"

"You will know very soon whether I dare or not." Charles took his coat off the hanger with knitted brows and was prepared to leave.

He looked at Leila, who was sitting on the floor, and said, "Get up. I'm driving you home now."

"Okay." Leila exhaled deeply. She had done everything tonight to make Charles drive her home. Now she got exactly what she wanted.

Jed cursed behind them. The words he uttered were so filthy that Leila felt uncomfortable just hearing them. Charles strode away while pretending not to hear anything. Once they got in his car, Leila took the fall for everything that had happened at the table. "Mr. Lu, I'm sorry, " she said.

"Are you drunk? What are you apologizing for?" Charles simply ended the cooperation with Jed because he was a scumbag. Besides, he had already found a new supplier. Today's talk and dinner was a formality for senior Mr. Fang's sake.

"It's all my fault. I'm inexperienced. If Linda were here instead of me, things would have gone smoothly. You lost this huge supplier because of me. I majorly screwed it up, " Leila said apologetically.

"Enough. You don't have to take the blame." In an indifferent tone, Charles asked, "Where do you live?"

Leila tole him the address and briefly explained the directions. Charles didn't say a word after that. There was an air of awkwardness in the car. Leila was anxious to find a way to break the ice, because if it went on like this, Charles wouldn't even think of entering her apartment, let alone staying for tea.

Before Leila could figure out a way, the car had already stopped right in front of her building. Leila got out of the car and threw up at the roadside, or more precisely, gagged. She sneakily dug her fingers into her throat to reflex puke while Charles wasn't looking.

Charles wasn't soft-hearted exactly, but thinking that this was the first time she had been in such a situation, his heart melted. He took a bottle of water from the trunk and walked up to Leila. "Are you all right?" he asked with a concerned look.

At this very moment, Leila puked on his fancy suit. She finally saw Charles's worried face with knitted brows, only the concern was not for her.

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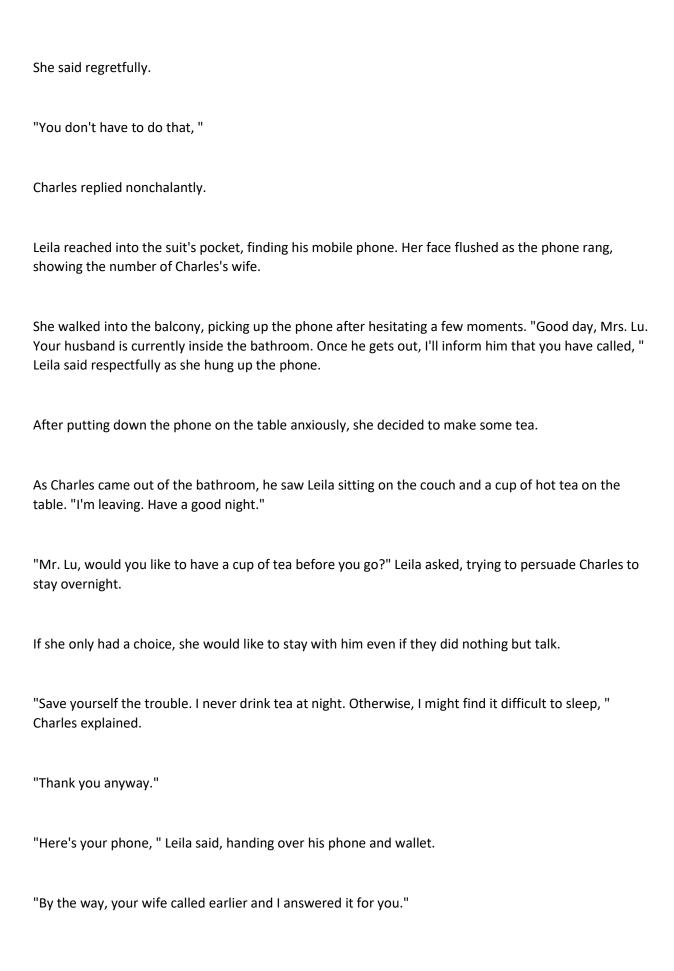
She had lived with her ex-boyfriend before she met Charles. When she finally found an excuse to break up with her ex-boyfriend, the guy packed all his belongings and walked away from her life. Now, she's left with an apartment that looked livable for a single lady.

"Can I use your bathroom?" asked Charles, taking off his business suit.

He was lucky enough that the shirt hadn't gotten dirty. All he needed to do was clean his suit.

"This way," Leila said as he gestured for Charles to follow her towards the bathroom.

"Mr. Lu, I'm really sorry. I promise I will clean your suit or I might as well buy a new one for you, "



"What? Why did you do that?" Charles exclaimed, forcefully taking his phone from Leila.

He's absolutely surprised that she did such a thing. He didn't think that Leila is ever capable of fiddling with his phone.

Leila was incredibly frightened to see Charles lose his temper. It took a few moments before she regained her composure. "Mr. Lu, I was just afraid that your wife might worry about you so..." she trailed off, not being able to complete her explanation as she started sobbing uncontrollably.

They said that tears are women's most effective weapon for defense. It's probably the reason why the scene somehow alleviated Charles's anger. "Never mind. Just don't ever do that again. Are we clear on that?" said Charles softly, attempting to comfort her.

"Yes, " Leila answered with tears streaming down her face.

She finally got a hold of herself, as Charles started to walk out of her apartment. Putting on a brave face, she willed herself to stop crying.

She stood still at the window, trying not to look sad, as she watched the car pulling away.

'I can't do this anymore. I better start making a move and make Charles fall in love with me, 'Leila thought, her eyes full of mischief.

She was satisfied to be Charles's mistress as long as he's there for her whenever she wanted him. She's confident that if she's able to keep him around successfully, he would eventually fall in love with her.

"Mrs. Lu, let's wait and see, "

Leila said to herself, laughing hysterically.

Charles had no idea what Leila said to Autumn on the phone. Rushing home, he arrived and saw that their bedroom door was opened. Thinking that Autumn might have slept already, he walked toward the bathroom. Before he got inside, the light came on unexpectedly.

Autumn sat on the bed, looking at Charles with an expression that was hard to read. "Where have you been?" she asked quietly.

"Why do you come home so late?"

He glanced at Autumn, trying to stifle his laugh. He thought how funny it was that she somehow looked like a dissatisfied housewife. "Why are you still awake?" he asked, sitting beside her at the bed.

Autumn ignored his question, looking at him blankly as she waited for an answer.

Guilt flowed over him as her wife continued to stare. "Alright, I know I should not have come back so late but I was invited to a business dinner that I couldn't refuse. I'm really sorry, " he said, admitting his mistake.

"Next time if I come home late again, please don't wait for me. You can go ahead and sleep, " he went on, trying to comfort her.

"What kind of business dinner did you have to attend?" she asked, remembering the voice from the phone call earlier.

She was certain that it was Leila who answered the phone in an ambiguous manner which further fueled her doubts.

"Not an important one. But I had to attend it, "he said, holding Autumn in his arms.

"From now on, I promise that I will tell you whenever I'm invited to this kind of business dinners."

Autumn frowned, still uncomfortable and suspicious. Somehow, there's a voice inside her that's not buying what he said.
"Were you there alone?" she asked further.
"Of course not. I had the company of the girl you introduced.
The one named Leila? I'm not really sure, "
Charles answered absent-mindedly.
"Haven't you always attended business dinners with Linda?
Why did Leila go with you tonight?" asked Autumn stubbornly.
"Linda took a day off today because she felt sick. Sooner or later, Leila would need to be able to deal with this kind of business dinners so I asked her to go with me, " Charles answered without even thinking.
"What's wrong? Are you jealous?"
"I called you earlier but Leila answered, " Autumn said frankly.
"She said you were doing something in her bathroom?
How did you end up in her bathroom?"
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"Oh. You like seeing me wear pink underpants, don't you? From now on, I'll make sure to buy pink underpants for your sake, " Charles said, teasing Autumn as he suddenly dragged her into the bathroom. He stood completely naked, having already taken off his clothes. Autumn felt uneasy, not used to seeing

him that way. "You..." she trailed off. "Put on your clothes!"





Despite Autumn's reluctance, he started to strip her off her clothes, his hands wandering all over her body.
Autumn, now fully immersed with lust, completely forgot the shyness she had initially felt. Charles started to enter and suddenly withdraw, stopping all of his movements. "Do you want me to continue?" he asked with a naughty smile on his face.
"You"
Autumn's face flushed deep red, unable to complete what she was supposed to say. She sighed, annoyed that he suddenly withdrew when he had already inserted the tip.
Charles couldn't help but laugh seeing Autumn pissed off. "Tell me what you want or else I wouldn't do it, "
He said, teasing Autumn further.
"What do you want?"
Charles kept asking, wanting to hear the words come out of her own mouth.
"I want"
She couldn't seem to tell him what she wanted, too embarrassed to say the word.
"Want what?"
What do you want?"

"Sex," she whispered, her voice almost inaudible.

Hearing her response awakened him, making him growl and start humping.

They did not stop until they reached their highs, making the night filled with lust and pleasure. As the water in the tub grew cold, Autumn started to drift off to sleep.

Charles was amused to see her asleep, surprised that she could drift off right after having sex in the tub.

Helpless, he wondered what he would do next.

Without waking her up, he started to bathe her with warm water, wiping her body with a dry towel afterward. Carrying her over to the bed, he laid her down beside him. He felt happy and content as he held Autumn in his arms.

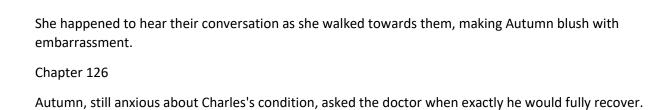
During the next day, Charles needed to visit the hospital to remove his stitches. Autumn got up early in the morning, setting up the alarm for Charles, while she went to the kitchen to prepare some breakfast.

She felt sore all over her body, uncomfortable with what she was feeling after their night full of pleasure. She brought the porridge that she made for Charles, intentionally putting wolfberry and pork kidney. "Eat this. It's full of nutrients and good for your kidney."

Charles almost slipped the spoon in his hand upon hearing her words. "Are you implying that I'm not good enough last night?" he asked with his eyes narrowed.

"Wasn't that enough? I might need to double my efforts tonight so you can erase all of your doubts, " he added.

"Charles, you're not the only one in this house. You might need to consider my feelings before you say anything like that. I'm single, you know, " complained Chris as she entered the dining room.



"But I'm still a little bit worried, "

She said with a frown on her face. It was his head tha got hurt! Better to be safe than sorry.

"Let's go. The doctor said I'll be fine, " Charles said, taking the prescription before going.

"I'm fine, " he said, trying to comfort her.

"We still have an appointment with grandpa for dinner.

We'd better hurry. We can't keep them waiting for us."

Those words alleviated Autumn's concerns as they headed to the restaurant. Upon arriving, they spotted Gary and Chris waiting for them in front of the restaurant. Autumn was surprised to see that Sam was also there.

"Come here both of you, " Chris said, gesturing towards them to sit beside her.

Though she hadn't fully recovered from the ankle sprain, she pulled a chair beside her for Autumn to sit on and gave her a meaningful wink.

Autumn found an excuse to go to the restroom. She also motioned for Chris to follow her out. Once they were out of the dining area, Autumn asked her, "What's going on?

Why is he also here with us?"

"Grandpa called him and extended an invitation. I didn't expect that he'd actually accept it and come over, " Chris replied, pleased to see him here. Autumn doubted her words, suspicious that Chris might have tried to convince grandpa to call Sam. "Yvonne, please help me. Now that you and my brother are happily together now, do you want to see me end up all alone? Besides, I won't stay home and be a bother to you if I have my own love life, " Chris said, holding Autumn's hand.

"Alright, I get what you're trying to say, "

Autumn could only agree helplessly.

She had already talked to Sam several times and found out that he did not appear to be interested in Chris at all. However, Chris liked him so much that she decided to lend a hand.

"Let's go back. They might be wondering where we are, " she said, pulling Chris's arm. As they walked back to the table, Autumn saw Sam filling a cup of alcohol for Charles. She immediately walked over to Charles and took his glass away. "Sam, Charles just had his stitches removed today. You can drink with him whenever you want but now, " she said, looking at Sam.

"I'll be fine, " Charles said, trying to take back his glass from Autumn.

"I drank a lot when we went to Z City. One drink won't matter, " he continued while putting the glass on the table.

"She has always been like this. Sometimes she gets overprotective," he told him.

Sam kept quiet and didn't say anything in return.

God knew how much he wanted to be treated the same way. He wanted Autumn to care about him that much. "I think it'll be fine to drink just a little, " he said, pouring half a cup. He didn't have the heart to fill the glass as she continued to stare at him.

Autumn had no choice but to let it go, seeing as Charles said he could drink and Sam said there's no harm in drinking a little.

During the meal, Gary kept talking to Sam, trying to know more about him. Sam continued to politely answer his questions. As it went on, Gary looked more and more interested in him.

"Do you have a girlfriend?" Gary asked Sam directly.

Everyone present froze for a second upon hearing his question. Sam, who was also shocked, took an instinctive look at Autumn seated across from him.

"Why are you looking at her? I'm talking to you, " Gary interrogated him further.

Sam and Autumn were out of words, finding the present situation uncomfortable. "I don't have a girlfriend, Mr. Lu. I thought you might have already known that." he finally replied.

"Then how do you like Chris?"

Chris almost choked drinking her orange juice upon hearing the question. "Grandpa, what are you saying? There are boys chasing after me and it's not like I won't be able to get married. How could you ask him such a question? You're making me feel embarrassed, " she said, wiping her mouth using the table napkin.

"There's no need to feel embarrassed, " Gary said, smiling.

"I think Sam is a decent young man. You've also known each other for a while and has shared some time together while you were abroad. You two seem to make a good match.

You can settle down together as soon as possible. What are you waiting for?" he continued.

Gary turned to Sam and explained, "You see, my granddaughter had no parents growing up. Charles and I raised her by ourselves. She was just a little girl when her parents passed away. Charles and I have been protecting her all these years, so she can be arrogant and willful sometimes."

Gary paused for a second and continued. "I understand that Chris may have a bit of a temper. But she's a kind-hearted girl.

If you choose to be with her, I ask only for one thing. Don't make her sad."

Chris felt a hot flush emanating from her face down to her neck. She was too embarrassed to raise her head and look at Sam. Despite being anxious, she couldn't help but feel giddy. She hoped Sam would reply in a positive answer.

During the time she was injured, Sam came to visit her almost every day. His care and concern for her warmed her heart, almost to the point of making her forget the cruel words he said to her before.

There was a long silence as Gary waited for a response. On the other hand, Sam kept quiet.

The old man couldn't help asking him again. "Sam, what do you think? Chris won't be left on the shelf, she..."

"Mr. Lu..."

Sam suddenly interrupted Gary. He didn't want to break Chris's heart. He couldn't help visiting her a number of times while she was recuperating from her injury. However, throughout that time, he was convincing himself that he cared about Chris because he saw her only as a sister and that the one he truly loved was Autumn.

He wanted to tell Gary that he did not have feelings for his granddaughter. He opened his mouth to say something, but his eyes fell on Chris, and no words came out.

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Gary sighed, reading the thoughts of her granddaughter. He knew she didn't want to put Sam in a difficult position. She had never striven for something she truly wanted. Gary wondered where she inherited that particular trait.

After Chris's clarification, Gary knew he could no longer say anything about the matter. The atmosphere during that night's dinner was filled with discomfort. After the dinner ended, Chris knew she had to go

ahead, having lost the mood to say goodbye. She was about to go to the parking lot when Sam stopped her on her tracks. "Chris, I have something to tell you."

Charles had never liked Sam. He knew that Sam never saw Chris in that way because Sam has feelings for Autumn. In an attempt to save Chris from getting more hurt, he stepped forward, trying to get in the middle of their conversation but Autumn and Gary stopped him from doing so.

"Don't, "

Autumn said, shaking her head.

Autumn had known Sam for a long time. She knew what kind of a person he was. Despite being undecided about his feelings, she knew he would come to realize that Chris was the best woman for him.

Gary felt the same way. "I believe Sam will come to realize his true feelings for Chris. It would be better for him to undo what he has done. Chris should be able to accept the consequence no matter what it is, "he told Charles.

Recently, Sam had been constantly visiting Chris, which led Gary to think about that there might be something there. Gary believed that if Sam really didn't feel anything, he wouldn't care for her as much as he did.

Gary would be very happy if they ended up together. If not, at least they should know how to be able to make things clear.

Charles stopped talking despite the frown in his face.

"Let's go home first." Before getting in the car, Gary made sure to leave a reminder. "Sam, Chris has a sprained ankle. It would be the best if you could drive her home after you're done talking."

"Sure, Mr. Lu," promised Sam. He asked Chris to get inside his car but she refused to follow his order. "We can just talk here. I want to go home right after," she said stubbornly, still standing outside.



Fine. She was fine with this. Sam could never be able to get over his ex. He loved his ex so much that he would never fall in love with someone else.

She decided to accept everything and stay by his side in silence. But when she found out that his ex was her sister-in-law, she thought she might have a chance.

He had only been in Y City in less than two weeks! Why did he want to go back to America?

Chris couldn't understand why.

His ex was now married to someone else. Was that it? Was that really hard for him to accept?

"Is it because of her?" Chris asked, swallowing her bitterness.

She had to ask him the question to know the answer. Otherwise, she would never be able to get this out of her mind.

"You already know the story between your sister-in-law and me. I truly love her but she is married to your brother now. I don't have it in my heart to distract her any longer seeing as she's so happy with Charles, "he admitted, not wanting to conceal his thoughts.

"I didn't have the courage to stand by her side and protect her during those years. She has suffered a lot because of me. I would only put her in a difficult position if I stayed in Y City. My mother is also in poor health, so I need to go back to America to take care of her, "he continued.

"It doesn't matter whether you stay or not. Why do you always have to put yourself in a difficult position?" Chris asked, clearly frustrated.

"She's already married. Why can't you just accept that and move on? Do I really mean nothing to you?"

"Chris, I know that you have loved me all this time. But you have always known that I love her and I have always considered you as my sister. Sorry, but I couldn't do this. That would be unfair to you, "

He said, extremely apologetic. "Unfair?" Chris laughed hysterically. "You think that would be unfair to me, Sam?!" She yelled. "When we were staying in America, I knew you loved someone else but I told myself I would wait for you. Then you went back to Y City and found out that she's married. Now you want to go back to America because of this. Have you ever tried to look at yourself in the mirror? You are a coward, Sam. I look down on you." Chris told him, giving up. She had devoted all of her heart to Sam but he had always taken it for granted. Fine! She could admit to herself that she had been blind before. But from now on, she would stop caring and paying him any attention. "I'm tired. I want to go home." she said as she turned her head, forcing herself not to look at Sam. Seeing her pale reflection in the window brought her to tears. Stubborn as she may be, she must force herself to admit that her heart was broken and she needed to move on. "Chris, would you look at me?" Chapter 128 He had basically tried out all of the entertainment projects with Chris in the amusement park. At last,

Each of them occupied one small passenger cart of the ride. Slowly and steadily as it ascended upwards, they looked down at the beautiful and picturesque city as it glittered through the night lights. Chris suddenly asked as she turned herself towards Sam, "Sam, if... you met me earlier, would you have fallen in love with me then?"

they got onto the giant Ferris wheel.

Perhaps all girls who carried the torch would ask such a question. Often when girls came down to asking this question it simply meant they had been in despair.

Despite knowing that this question would not bring any peace or reason to the fore, she still wanted to know why Sam didn't like her beyond friendship.

She stared at Sam silently yet impatiently, waiting for his answer, any answer that would put her out of her misery. When Sam looked at her, he saw her eyes were brimming with tears while twinkling with expectation. He didn't want to hurt her further and lead her on, so he mustered the courage and said, "If... if I could forget her, perhaps I would have a crush on you." 'It's just a hypothetical question. It doesn't matter if I do lie to her.

Besides, I wasn't really lying. I do have some feeling for her and these feeling that I nurture for her are beyond what one would develop for their friends, ' thought Sam to himself.

Chris's eyes brightened slightly with hope once she heard his response. Once the Ferris wheel reached its peak, Chris suddenly called out, "Sam." He had been watching the night sky with the bright moon. As he heard Chris call out his name, he turned to look at her. All of a sudden, his lips were touched by Chris's. Her kiss was light and tender.

Sam froze almost immediately. Once he realized what was going on, Chris had leaned back into her seat.

There was a tale revolving around a Ferris wheel. The tale stated that if a couple kissed when the Ferris wheel reached the top, they would get married and lead a happy life. This tale gave innocent girls yearning for love faith by believing in this ridiculous saying, little did Chris also put her faith in this story.

Once they got out of the Ferris wheel, they acted awkward around one another. While Sam went to get his car, Chris waited at the entrance of the amusement park.

Sam drove her to the Lu Family house. They did not exchange one word through the entire ride back.

As they pulled over at the gate of Lu Family house, Chris said to Sam, "I... I will go inside."

"Bye, " Sam answered pretending as if nothing had happened that night. He didn't get out of the car and he waited for Chris to enter the door before driving off.

Chris was distracted as she waltzed into the living room. Autumn was worried about her, so she had been waiting there since she came home. As soon as Chris came in, she walked up to her and asked her with a concerned look, "Chris, what is going on? What did he say to you?"

"Yvonne..." She threw herself into Autumn's arms, with her tears running down her cheeks. She muttered while sobbing, "He is leaving."

Autumn asked as she gently stroked Chris's back, "What? Where will he go?"

'I never heard about this. Why would he not tell me that he is leaving?' Autumn was confused and full of doubts.

"He intends to return to America." Chris tried to give up on Sam, but she just failed.

'What could I do even if I don't want to give up on him? He just doesn't like me at all, ' Chris thought to herself.

Autumn continued to pacify her, "Come on. Don't cry." "Why did he suddenly decide to go back?"

"He... he said that his mother was not in good health, so he had to go back to America to look after her. He may never come back." Chris was grieved at the thought that she might not see Sam ever again. She felt like everything was ruined and was in a mess. She didn't know what to do anymore.

Autumn gave a sigh and thought to herself, 'Perhaps it's not a bad news. He saw Chris every day and still he didn't realize how important Chris is to him. Once he leaves and does not see her, he might realize that Chris is always the one who he has really loved all along.

As the saying goes that distance makes the heart grow fonder, ' Autumn pondered.

"Chris, listen to me." With a serious look Autumn said to Chris, "I know that you like Sam a lot. But you must have noticed that Sam behaved like he isn't into you. I really want to help you but I don't know where to start. You are at the age where you want to get married and even grandpa has been looking forward to seeing you get married. Now with Sam leaving, if you meet some proper men, you can try going on dates with them. It will not do you any harm and you may end up making friends if there is no chemistry. What do you think?"

"I..." Chris intended to refuse her advice, but she then realized that Autumn's words made sense. 'I can't wait for Sam for the rest of my life.' She went on, "Well, Yvonne. I will listen to you."

"I will help you through with all of this." Autumn added as she patted Chris's shoulder, "It's late now. Go to bed soon!"

Once Autumn saw Chris enter her room, she went to the yard and called Sam. As soon as Sam answered the phone, she scolded him in a loud tone. Before she hung up the call, she told Sam, "Just wait and watch! I will find Chris a man who is much better than you. You will regret giving up on Chris, like this."

Sam still didn't admit to having feelings for Chris. After pausing for a while, he said to Autumn, "I have always treated Chris as my sister. I will be more than happy for her if she can find someone she loves and who loves her back."

Autumn cried out in anger, "Sam, you bastard!" "You left me, and now you intend to do the same thing to Chris. So many years have passed yet you have remained a coward. I truly despise you!"

Autumn had understood why Sam had chosen to leave her. Until now she had never blamed him for leaving her alone in that manner. But when she had learnt of his plans to treat Chris in the same manner, she just could not get herself to forgive him anymore!

She took this chance to blurt out all the feelings and words she had bottled up about him. She had waited a long time to say all these words. She even swore to herself that she would find Chris a better boyfriend and would let Sam repent.

Autumn hung up the phone angrily and returned to her room.

Charles had been in a video conference, so he didn't pay any attention to Autumn when she came in. One he finished the meeting, he found Autumn sitting on the bed with a furious look. With growing concern, he hurried to ask, "What happened? Who pissed you off?"

"Nobody, " she replied coldly. "Charles, listen to me carefully. From today on, if you meet any excellent bachelors, don't forget to consider them and keep in mind for Chris. I am sure that Chris can find a better man than Sam."

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After she sent Charles out of the house and was entering her bedroom, she took her bag out while preparing to go out, she received a strange overseas call. Autumn hesitated for a few seconds before ultimately receiving the call. "Hello?"

"Hello! Long time no see!" Autumn couldn't help trembling as she recognized the voice coming from the other side of the phone. This person had once treated her as her own daughter, but when she heard the news that Autumn had fallen in love with Sam, she kicked her away and moved abroad to live with her son.

This part of Autumn's life was the worst and it was also the days that she never wanted to recall and relive ever again.

Autumn clenched the phone in her hands while her breath turned heavy with fear. A sneer came across on the phone. "What's wrong? You dare not to talk to me?"

Jane also received an overseas call several days back, knowing that her son went back to find Autumn which enraged her further more. 'What a bitch!' Jane cursed to herself.

Jane could not even imagine let alone accept that Sam still couldn't forget Autumn after being away from her for so many years.

"Why didn't you say hello and greet me respectfully after all I am older than you?" Jane went on speaking as her voice sounded cold yet angry on the phone.

Autumn forced herself to calm down in that moment and greeted her politely, "Hello, Aunt Jane."

She used to call her Aunt Jane.

But it seemed that Jane did not appreciate and seek her kindness at all. Instead, Jane laughed grimly and said to Autumn, "I dare not to be your aunt. You better call me Mrs. Lin."

"Well, Mrs. Lin." Autumn called her obliging to her wish. It had been many years since the heart-rending incident, but Jane still bore grudge and hatred towards Autumn. Yet Autumn could not figure out the reason why Jane despised her so much. Was it just because she had fallen in love with Sam earlier?

"Mrs. Lin, time is precious. So please be brief if you want to have a conversation right now. I still have my work to catch up on." She was not the submissive girl anymore who would bear Jane's inexplicable scolding for no rhyme or reason.

"Wow, it may seem that you have transformed into a mighty strong and courageous girl now. How dare you assume that tone while being impatient with me?" Jane grinned with dissatisfaction and added, "Autumn, I must tell you that Sam is my son and he will only listen to me. He abandoned you once before because of me and he will do it once again."

It sounded like Jane was angry. She thought Autumn would be upset when she heard this, while Autumn came to understand why Sam was in such a hurry to go back to his mother.

'Jane lied to Sam about being sick in order to force him to go abroad with her. And now she is about to play the same very trick after so many years.'

She pondered, 'But I'm married to Charles. What's more, I suppose she like Chris. Why would she ask Sam to leave Chris, causing her such pain?'

"Mrs. Lin, I am afraid that you have a massive misunderstanding here. Sam and I..." Autumn was going to explain the entire situation to her. She had to do this especially for the sake of Chris's happiness.

She had been abandoned in a similar manner, so she had experienced the pain which had almost driven her to death. And she hoped Chris would not have to experience the very same ordeal.

But before she could explain everything, Jane interrupted her and burst into a sneer. She sarcastically and scornfully said to her, "Autumn, do you think just because I am abroad I don't know what is going on there? Yes, it is true that Sam hasn't forgotten you after all these years. Even then you cannot expect to get married to him and be a part of my family. I can tell you now that as long as I am alive, you will never get the chance to marry my son. I will discipline my son, but I am afraid the one that truly needs disciplining is you. I will teach you a lesson if you keep seducing my son!"

"Mrs. Lin, I..." Before Autumn could finish her sentence Jane hung up the phone, leaving the busy tone to Autumn.

Autumn furrowed her brows and felt upset by the entire conversation. Her beautiful and motivated mood had been thoroughly destroyed by this call.

Autumn was dumbfounded in the yard when Chris rushed out.

Now that Mrs. Lin was abroad, she couldn't have heard the news about her recent encounters with Sam. And it was impossible for Sam to tell Jane everything. Perhaps Jane had arranged someone to keep a watch on him. Or it must be someone else who wanted to slander her reputation.

A name suddenly popped up in her mind. Was it Wendy?

Though she was Autumn's birth mother, she had always been vicious and unkind towards Autumn. And she would sacrifice her for the sake of Yvonne's happiness without a blink.

Autumn would not be surprised if it was Wendy who had been calling and informing Mrs. Lin.

"Chris, what are you going to do?" Autumn stopped Chris and found her eyes were filled with tears. She recalled that Sam was leaving by the morning flight, so perhaps Chris wanted to see him off one last time.

She wanted to... She wanted to send off the man she miserably loved.

"Yvonne, I am going to the airport. I want to send him off." She remembered that she had set an alarm clock, but it did not ring this morning. When she woke up, she was already late for the airport.

"Okay. I will take you to the airport, " said Autumn. Chris's ankle was sprained, so it was not easy for her to drive by herself. Autumn decided to send her there personally. As soon as the car stopped in the parking lot, Chris ran toward the airport in a desperate rush.

Though she gathered all of her strength, she staggered all the way.

Autumn parked the car and followed her in. She saw Sam holding Chris who was now bathed in tears. Autumn just went and silently stood beside her.

It took Sam a long time to comfort and console Chris. He said something to her, then Chris glanced at Autumn and walked aside, wiping her tears silently.

Chapter 130

"Autumn, you were all over my mind in my youth. Though I must admit that I am still in love with you. I can see that Charles and you are leading a happy life together and that he really loves and adores you. And I don't want to disturb you. You can always think of me as a coward because I don't know how to deal with my feelings for you but to escape." Sam smiled bitterly yet with acceptance. Autumn had already gotten over him during the time he went away. She realigned her priorities and adjusted herself to prepare for a new life and become a better woman. And so finally she did find her prince charming and was now leading a happy life.

It was about time for him to try to forget her and move forward.

He couldn't fall in love with another woman before he completely got over Autumn, from the bottom of his heart, as it would be unfair to the other woman.

"As for Chris..." He paused for a second and continued speaking, "If I forget you someday, I will definitely try to love her. But I'm not sure..."

When this day would come, if it would come at all? He didn't know anything for certain.

"But I can't let Chris wait for you." Autumn said distantly, "A woman's time is very precious, especially her youth, this time will never return. You cannot just ask her to stand there and wait for you indefinitely."

"Yes, I completely understand what you mean." Sam sighed and said, "My mother has not been keeping well. I need to go back to visit her and help her improve the condition of her health. When she is better, I will definitely come back, and give a chance to both Chris and me."

Sam smiled, "But please don't tell Chris about this now. I am not sure when I will come back. And... I would really like to surprise her."

"Ok, that sounds good." Autumn nodded in approval. Mrs. Lin had been in bad health? She highly doubted it because when she cursed her on the phone, she sounded like she had all the strength and energy to bear life alone. But Autumn chose to say nothing about it. She didn't want anyone to think that she was trying to create a rift between Sam and his mother.

Autumn smiled and said to Sam: "Then... I hope you have a pleasant trip."

Autumn walked away, leaving the last minutes for Sam and Chris to talk. She went back to her car and waited. A few moments later, she saw Chris approaching the car with red eyes. But this time Chris's eyes were not red from crying, in fact she was calm. Autumn asked: "Where are we going now?"

"Yvonne, can you drive me to the company office?" Sam had left the company for Chris to manage in his absence which would be a while. So she decided to go to the company and get a head start on the work.

Autumn dropped Chris at the office and then she drove Chris's car around. She wanted to find a suitable job. But once they heard and recognized her name, their face paled immediately, stated that their company had enough workforce and could not hire more people. Autumn also knew why she got such a reaction from every place she approached for a job and yet she could do nothing about it.

Autumn drove back to the company to pick up Chris once she got done with work. They later went to the supermarket and picked up some fresh ingredients to make dinner at home. What they didn't know was that there was an uninvited guest waiting for them at home.

"Yvonne, when did you learn to cook?" Chris was curious about how well Autumn could cook and she kept nudging her and asking her questions about it.

"Actually, cooking is not half as difficult as you think it is. When you marry someone in the future, probably you will also learn how to cook too." Autumn said with an assuring smile.

"Oh, forget about it. I don't think I can cook. The last time when I simply tried to cut and prepare fruits, I almost cut my finger off. Look at my hand, the nasty scar still remains." Autumn took a close look at her hand and saw the scar on her first finger. She couldn't help laughing at her story.

They walked into the house while talking and giggling like little girls. As they entered through the front door, the whiff of perfume greeted them. A woman wearing the perfume rushed at them before they could realize and she addressed Autumn: "I miss you so much, Sis."

It was Yvonne.

Soon after rushing and ambushing Autumn, she hugged her and reached out to pinch her around Autumn's waist. Bitch! How dare she refuse her request! Did she really think she had no other way?

"Why are you here?" Autumn frowned and pushed her off. She abruptly questioned Yvonne who was standing across her.

"Simply because I miss you." Yvonne smiled sweetly, "So I called aunt and uncle and told them that I would love to stay here with you for a while. Sis, we haven't talked with each other properly since you got married..."

"Have we now?" Autumn swept aside Yvonne who was trying to touch her indifferently, "To be honest, we didn't talk a lot in the past also, did we?"

Yvonne's expression and posture suddenly changed. She stood in front of Autumn and in a disappointed tone she said, "Sis, aren't you happy to see me and welcome me here?"

Before Autumn could say anything, Yvonne began to shed tears. "Sis, if you don't want me stay here, I can leave right this instant."

She looked aggrieved, standing there by herself. If some one who did not know her see her standing there like that, they would definitely pity her and think Autumn was bullying her.

Autumn was annoyed. She had refused Wendy's request. But she didn't expect that Yvonne would offer to go to her home directly. What a shameless action.

Chris had a bad temper. She sneered before Autumn could say anything further, "Don't act like you have been very close to my sister-in-law. I simply despise double-faced people like you the most. When you set her up in the shopping mall, I didn't know you were close."

"That was a big misunderstanding." An unnatural look flashed across Yvonne's face. She rushed to Chris and defended herself, "At that point, I really thought she had torn the clothes. I was even kind to her and generously offered to pay for it."