

Wedded Bride 1281

Chapter 1281 Long Night

In Bernard's head, though, Holley didn't really have to thank him for anything. It wasn't like he was doing it for her—he was simply helping Rachel.

"I remember I told my colleague, Rachel, to contact you. Is everything alright?" Holley tentatively asked. She presumed that Bernard and Rachel were, at the very least, acquaintances.

'I don't think it's a smart move to hire him if he's attracted to Rachel. He could end up speaking for her...' Holley thought.

Not wanting to expose his feelings for Rachel, he merely said "yes" and nothing more.

Hearing that, Holley told herself that Rachel really wasn't so special to him and that she needn't be worried about anything.

"Well, sometimes, Rachel can't control her emotions and has bursts of anger. It's not so easy for you to get on with her, I assume? Maybe it's us who have spoiled her," Holley smiled and said.

Bernard's facial expression changed in a blink. Luckily, for him, Holley didn't even notice it.

Eventually, he came to realize that Holley didn't like Rachel at all—she probably even hated her. If it weren't because of that, she wouldn't try to put Rachel to shame before someone unfamiliar.

As he could recall, Rachel once did all she could to save Holley and almost lost her life when she managed to collect evidence. It seemed like it was nothing to Holley. 'What a kind and foolish girl she is...' Bernard thought.

Feeling too tired to speak with her, he just walked away. The action didn't seem unusual for his cool and quiet character, so Holley didn't think that anything was wrong.

Now, Holley enjoyed some good news—many shareholders she secretly contacted were willing to transfer their shares to her.

After her constant mergers and acquisitions, Holley's stocks increased up to forty percent, which happened to be five percent more than Rachel's. Five percent!

For Holley, the achievement was something to be celebrated. Her persistent efforts were finally paying off and she believed that it could be the day she had been waiting for for so long—her dream was nearly a reality. How could she not be giddy with excitement?

Unless Rachel could acquire Black's stocks, Rachel wouldn't possibly be able to fight back at that time.

Regardless, she wasn't expecting that Holley had already made a verbal agreement with Black.

Now, Holley knew what needed to be done—she had to reinforce the cooperation with Black.

An idea came to her.

When Black invited her to visit his place, she gladly agreed as she sensed that it was a good opportunity to enact her new plan.

When she arrived at his home, she learned that he was planning to cook for her.

'It's said that if you want to make a woman stay, you have to attract her appetite, ' Black believed.

"It's nice having you here, Holley. Please make yourself at home. What would you like to eat? Name it and I'll cook it for you." In spite of the situation, Holley couldn't help but burst into laughter when she saw Black wearing a cute, teddy bear-patterned apron. It was an adorable sight—he rubbed his hands on the apron and smiled awkwardly.

"Come on, this was the only one I could find."

"Wow, I'm amazed that you can cook. I'm looking forward to it—surprise me."

For some reason, Holley didn't have the heart to see him feel awkward, so she changed the subject.

"Oh, I'm flattered. But I'm afraid that you'll probably be disappointed. I actually haven't done it in a long while," Black smiled and said.

Not even Holley could deny that she was a little bit curious about Black's cooking skills, so she asked

him about his background. Much to her surprise, he told her about how and when he studied abroad.

He missed his hometown's dishes terribly but couldn't find any restaurants serving them. Eventually, he

learned how to cook them for himself.

After leading Holley to the sofa, Black went off into the kitchen to get to work while Holley poured them

both a glass of wine and set them on either end of the table.

As sly as a snake, she slipped some powder into his drink and gently swished it until the powder

completely dissolved.

With that, she walked into the kitchen and pretended to offer her help in preparing the meal, to which

Black stubbornly refused.

When all the dishes were complete, Black made his seat at the table and had Holley sit opposite to

him. Though the food looked and smelled absolutely delicious, she couldn't care about anything else

but the glass of wine and philter.

The situation had her turn into a nervous wreck. But thank goodness, he finally drank it up. With a sigh

of relief, Holley knew that it was show time.

In a few moments, Black felt hot all over his body—it was like his heart was literally burning. With that,

Holley confirmed that the philtre's effects were starting to surface.

To make sure that Black could get a good look at her cleavage, Holley undid another button of her shirt.

Gracefully, she walked toward him, bent down, and looked him in the eye.

"Are you okay, Black? You're not drunk, are you? Why do you look so flushed? Are you feeling hot

too?" After saying that, Holley put her hand on his forehead to see if it was a real fever.

The philtre was too strong, apparently, and Black couldn't resist the temptation any longer. Of course,

his male instincts were telling him to dominate the woman.

Sitting up, he grabbed Holley by the arms and roughly kissed her cheeks, jaw, neck, and finally, lips.

Holley pretended to push him off but failed as she deliberately made her clothes casually slip off.

Then, she pretended to push him away even harder, acting panic and scared.

"Stop it, Black. What do you think you're doing?"

Black kissed her lips again before she finished that sentence. She was happy actually, because that

was exactly what she wanted.

Black stood up and held her to the wall. She couldn't move a bit in his arms, and then she felt that he put his hands on her chest. With Black's rough kisses and rubbing, Holley couldn't help moaning, which made him more excited.

As it turned out, everything went according to Holley's plan.

The next morning, Black was stunned in shock when he woke up. Although he was naked and saw Holley lying naked beside him, he had no recollection about the previous night. Of course, anyone could figure out what happened with that picture he woke up to.

As Black grudgingly sat up, he did remember some good moments they shared. Getting up made him too dizzy and he thought, 'It must be a hangover. I drank too much last night.'

Finally awake, Holley sat up and opened her eyes. When the quilt slipped off her shoulders, she seemed to have realized what happened the previous night, making her shout in surprise and wrap the quilt around her again.

When she turned to look at Black, she had tears in her eyes. Since he was already awake, he could look at her attentively. 'It's okay, Holley, ' he thought. 'I won't leave you and I'll do my best to protect

you.'

As sobs started escaping her lips, Black turned to her and looked her in the eye.

"Holley...I'm so sorry about last night. It was my fault. I drank too much...so I really don't know what happened. But please trust me, Holley, I love you. I've loved you since the first time I met you. Now that we've been so close to each other, would you accept me as your boyfriend? I swear...I'll do anything for you, Holley. I love you."

Turning to face him, she looked at him tearfully. It wasn't now that Holley could really relax.

Now, Holley was absolutely certain that Rachel would never find any way to fight her back and match her—the last life-saving straw was on her side.

Chapter 1282 A Song For You

"I do believe you. As for what happened last night, I don't blame you. It was my own choice," Holley said and blushed.

Suddenly, something seemed to have occurred to her. She hastily got up from the bed, grabbed her scattered clothes, and got dressed.

"Oops! We'll have a board meeting tomorrow, but I haven't prepared relative documents and share certificates." Naturally, she brought up the meeting as she had planned.

As she headed straight for the door, Black also got up from the bed and hugged her from behind.

"Don't worry. You have me. I'll transfer my shares to you," he assured her.

"Is that so? It's too nice of you!" Holley exclaimed. She turned to face him, joyfully returned his hug and pretended to be touched by his words. Her arms wrapped tightly around his waist in a sweet gesture of gratitude, but her mind was in another place.

The next day that Holley had long waited for finally came. Confidently and impeccably dressed, she calmly waited in the conference room by herself.

When Rachel strutted into the meeting room, she was shocked to find that only she and Holley were there. 'All of the shareholders are supposed to attend the meeting, but only Holley and I are here. Did they reschedule it?' she wondered as she took a seat.

"Ms. Bai, you're wondering why the other shareholders didn't come, aren't you?" Holley asked. "I'm sure you'll know what's up after you see this."

With that, Holley pushed the paper across the desk to Rachel.

Meanwhile, Rachel felt a bad foreboding when she noticed the smirk on Holley's lips.

She quickly opened the document, only to find that the dramatic changes in the proportion among the shareholders.

At present, Holley was the biggest shareholder with a 40% stake of Tarsan Corporation, while Rachel was the second-biggest shareholder.

Rachel's face immediately blanched when she saw the numbers. She was so shocked that she repeatedly flipped over the document with trembling hands.

'What's going on?' she thought.

Rachel looked down on her because Holley didn't have any shares in the company back then. Even though Holley had an excellent performance at work, Rachel never expected Holley to be a threat to her one day.

In Rachel's eyes, Holley was simply her errand girl.

Now, the tables had turned and she couldn't believe what she saw.

At this point, she truly regretted helping Holley get out of prison. 'Looks like she planned this a long time ago,' Rachel thought.

She flipped over the pages once again, and a shareholder's name suddenly caught her attention. It

was Black.

'Hmmm...' Rachel cocked one eyebrow.

'He has twenty-five percent of the shares. If I can manage to get his, maybe I can change the situation,

' she thought.

She was still in her thoughts when Holley's voice interrupted her musings.

"And oh, Ms. Bai, I forgot to mention that you will not be the president of this company anymore. I

guess I don't need to explain the document to you. As for the project we have argued about, I oppose

it. I'm sure you'll agree with me now, right?" Holley said in a triumphant tone.

"Holley, you've gone too far!" Rachel shouted. She could no longer endure Holley's arrogance towards

her. When she heard her provoking remarks, she wanted to scream at the vile woman and tell her to

get lost.

However, Holley just smiled. "Rachel, I think you should call me Miss Ye now. You said that I was just

your servant, but now I'm looking forward to the new relationship between us. How about you?" Holley

said coldly.

Holley's eyes were devoid of any emotion.

"Don't be so confident, Holley. I advise you not to jump to conclusions. You'll never know what can happen in the next second."

"I don't think so. I've waited for this day to come for far too long, and now I finally got what I wanted.

Oh, I'm going to throw a party tonight to celebrate my promotion. Do you want to come?"

That was the last straw for Rachel. She glared angrily at Holley once more, stood up, and slammed the door when she got out. 'If I continued to face that woman, I might lose control and rip her into a million pieces,' she thought.

On the other hand, Holley didn't give a damn about Rachel's feelings. She remained in her seat and reveled in the taste of victory.

Pleasure coursed through her when she saw Rachel leave like a deflated balloon.

'She looked rejected. Soon, I'll take charge of Tarsan Corporation. Rachel can't snap at me or insult me anymore,' she thought.

Still, Holley felt humiliated when she thought about how mean Rachel had been to her.

Thus, her next step was to give Rachel a hard time and pressure her to resign from Tarsan

Corporation.

At that moment, Rachel felt so frustrated at Holley's betrayal. She was dying to find someone to rant to, but she didn't know who to approach.

After she thought for a while, she realized that no one would want to keep her company except for Bernard.

And so, she called Bernard and asked him to come over. When she was done, she went to a bar downtown and waited there.

Finally, Bernard had arrived. When he spotted Rachel, she was by the bar counter and had gotten tipsy.

A guy tried to take advantage of Rachel, so Bernard gave him a stern look and scared him away. He then walked towards her and took the glass of wine from her hand.

A stabbing pain shot through his heart when he saw how distressed Rachel was. "Rachel, you drank too much. It breaks my heart to see you act like this," Bernard said miserably.

"You're here, Bernard," Rachel said with a giggle. She threw herself into his arms, but several seconds

later, she broke into sobs.

"You know what?" she started. "I've lost everything. Holley took everything from me. She is really a bad person. What should I do?"

Bernard glanced at the devastated Rachel, and he couldn't help but blame himself for being not able to do anything about it. He wanted to wipe off her tears and make her stop crying, but he didn't. He wasn't her boyfriend, so he thought that he wasn't in a position to do those things.

Apart from holding her tight, he couldn't find any other ways to comfort her. He couldn't even ask her to cheer up because she still had him and he would always be there.

The loud music bumped from the floor and reached to the corner where Rachel and Bernard were.

They both remained silent and looked dejected under the dim lights.

"Let me drink, Bernard. It hurts, you know?" Rachel said and pointed at her heart. "Fine. Now that you want to drink, I'll join you," Bernard agreed.

He gave back the wine glass to Rachel, and asked the bartender for a bucket of beer. When the bucket arrived, he uncorked a bottle and started to drink without saying a word. It seemed like drowning in alcohol could make him forget all his bitter and sad feelings.

They drank until midnight, and then Bernard staggered out of the bar with Rachel in his arms. She stopped crying, and he broke the silence.

"I want to sing a song for you, Rachel," Bernard said gently before he started to sing. It was the first time that he had sung a song for someone.

Even in the peaceful night, he was in no mood to appreciate the beautifully bright moon. All he wanted was to make his beloved girl happy and forget all the miserable things.

"Take me to your heart, take me to your soul, give me your hand before I'm old.

Show me what love is, haven't got a clue. Show me that wonders can be true.

They say nothing lasts forever. We're only here today.

Love is now or never. Bring me far away. Take me to your heart, take me to your soul. Give me your hand and hold me. Show me what love is, be my guiding star. It's easy, take me to your heart..."

At that moment, it was only the two of them. No problems, no other people.

His soulful voice reverberated throughout the empty street, and made the night a bit lovelier.

After that, Bernard drove Rachel home and escorted her to her unit. Afraid that she might have a

headache later, he went down to a nearby pharmacy. He bought some medicine before he went back to her condo.

Chapter 1283 The Supper

Bernard had meticulously prepared Rachel some honey water. Seeing her drunken state, he carefully supported her to sit up on the bed comfortably, so he could help her take medicine with the honey water he previously concocted to clear the effect of the alcohol. Laying her down, he hastily made his way towards the bathroom to get her a warm towel to wipe her face clean.

There was sadness and longing in his eyes as he watched her settle contentedly in the bed. And despite the mix of sweat and tears, which ruined her make-up, he still found her enchanting, heartbreakingly enchanting.

While Rachel had immersed herself in sorrow, Holley and her employees were having a blast.

A grand and sumptuous banquet was currently hosted by her, where all the employees and the shareholders of Tarsan Corporation were invited. Everyone looked happy and relaxed at the festive celebration as soft music dominated the venue. Soon, the entire Tarsan Corporation was informed about the change of ownership of the company.

"First, I would like to thank everyone for taking your precious time to attend this celebration at short

notice. From today onwards, I will be replacing Rachel, to be the CEO of the Tarsan Corporation. I am more than excited to consider this position. And in fact, I am looking forward to leading this successful company to greater heights. In the time ahead, I promise to do my best and progress with everyone here, to build a better Tarsan Corporation. Thank you!"

A thunderous round of applause filled the room after Holley ended her short but meaningful speech.

Everyone welcomed the new boss.

Glancing around at the employees, she felt satisfied with their reaction. A contented smile was plastered on her face. Now, everyone was informed that Rachel had been ousted from her position.

She wouldn't be able to enjoy her privileges and the respect of the company anymore.

In the middle of drinking and chatting, Holley felt everything happened was so unreal. She was totally in a daze. She still couldn't believe she finally realized her lifelong dream.

One by one, people came over to have a toast with her, and offered her non-stop congratulatory remarks, and she gladly drank with each one of them.

"Congratulations, Miss Ye. You are indeed a capable woman!"

She was praised by a shareholder who had sold his shares to Holley.

"Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Li. Thank you for your shares so that I can become who I am today."

It was the typical conversation between Holley and the shareholders. For the entire night, she was busy with conversing with everyone that came to her.

However, still some employees found it weird that Holley assumed the role of the CEO in an instant.

Plus, Rachel didn't attend this banquet. So they were more inclined to suspect that the two might have some conflict. But it wasn't a good idea to gossip about their boss in such a crucial occasion, so they just touched on this without delving into such a sensitive topic.

Moreover, this could be a good thing for Tarsan Corporation. After all, everyone knew how capable Holley was.

Many of the people who were dissatisfied with the domineering way Rachel managed the company regarded it as good news. It seemed that the public also took it as a positive change of the company, as reflected by the surging share price of the company after the broadcast of the information.

Black was accompanying Holley throughout the celebration. Worried that Holley would be drunk, he even offered to drink for her after she had too much to drink. That elicited some teasing from others,

who called him as the "guardian of the beauty."

Seeing her shining in the crowd, Black felt overwhelmingly proud and joyful. He even had the impulse to announce to the world that such an outstanding woman belonged to him.

The banquet geared towards its end as the background music ceased slowly and all the attendants started to leave. Holley was slightly drunk and was being held by Black. Then he assisted her to return to her hotel room.

"Holley, I haven't complimented you myself. Congratulations on being the new owner of Tarsan Corporation! This is my small gift for you." As he was speaking, he took out a nice-looking little box and scratched his head.

"Open it. I'm not sure if you will like it." Then he slowly placed the gift on Holley's hand, refusing to let her hand go as if he was enjoying the tender touch.

"Thank you." After a brief moment, she gradually opened the little box and was immediately drawn to what was inside. She sobered up the moment she saw the crescent-shaped necklace. It carried a mystical and elegant sense in it as the gem sparkled and glistened under her touch. It felt smooth and

soft. And that was simply amazing.

Turning her head up, she gave Black an appreciative and excited glance.

"This is gorgeous. Thank you so much for your gift. I love it." Holley grinned. Her smile was so pure that borne out of simple joy which attracted Black even more.

"Let me help you, Holley." Black leisurely drew closer to Holley, gently pinning her hair to the back of her ears, revealing her white and tender neck. She exuded a delicate sense of beauty, which seemed to mesmerize him. He was in a daze and seemed to have forgotten what he was supposed to do.

"What happened, Black?" It was when Holley asked that he finally realized he had stopped for quite a while. He was indeed captivated.

"Nothing," he said softly.

Black unraveled the necklace and circled it around Holley's neck. He gazed at the back of her neck and kissed on it as if stamping his mark on her. The air then suddenly turned romantic.

In Lu family's residence, Nancy had just finished clearing the kitchen.

Feeling sleepy, she stepped out of the kitchen, heading to her own room. But she was surprised to find

Sheryl coming down the stairs.

"Sher, why are you not sleeping by now?" Nancy asked curiously.

Sheryl sheepishly smiled as she answered, "Charles is coming home soon. And I want to cook supper."

"Let me do it. When Mr. Lu comes back, you can just bring it to him," Nancy suggested.

Sheryl shook her head and insisted that she would do it herself. "Nancy, it's already late. You should be resting now. I'll just cook some porridge that he likes."

"Well... Alright. Don't tire yourself too much," Nancy nagged at her, worried for her health.

After Nancy went back to her own room, Sheryl stared at her phone and dreamily fell into her own thoughts.

She received a call from Charles, just after she had showered and was about to hit her bed.

He spoke in a level tone, which made it hard for her to figure out his true emotions. But nevertheless, she felt elated. It was the first time Charles called her after the accident happened with Melissa. For her, even though he didn't talk about any serious matter, nor did he say anything caring or sweet, she just felt contented with the fact that he had called her.

The moment the call was ended, she hurriedly put on her coat and bolted out of her room, and soon

mentally planned to prepare him a delectable supper.

These past few days, he had been busy with both his company and his mother. Moreover, he wasn't even sleeping in his own house recently, and it was a really tough period.

As Sheryl concentrated in washing the vegetable, she was already contemplating about her plan in her heart that she would have a heart-to-heart talk with Charles. She wished to break the wall that was separating their hearts, and hoped that they would become close once again just like the way they were in the past.

A few minutes later, she was done cooking. She had prepared chicken porridge, which was easy to digest, and some sour radish that would act as an appetizer. She knew she had it planned well and believed that Charles would surely enjoy the meal. And she felt excited more than ever.

Chapter 1284 Get Out Of Current Situation

Knowing that Charles would drink porridge she made it for him, Sheryl couldn't help but feel elated and her face broke into a bright smile.

Half an hour later, the chicken porridge was done and Sheryl turned off the heat. As she made her way to the fridge to get some pickled radish, she heard Charles' car in the driveway.

Anxious to greet her husband, she rushed out of the kitchen and got to the front door. As she opened

the door, she saw Charles emerge from his car.

The lights in the yard were dim so she couldn't get a clear glimpse of his facial expression. Watching excitedly as he approached the front door, Sheryl called out cheerfully, "Char—" But suddenly she couldn't find her voice.

The indifferent, stern look on his face made her falter.

Having lived with the man for years, she instantly knew how he was feeling judging by his facial expressions.

Right away, she knew that he was upset.

The cold look in his eyes not only showed his displeasure but also sent a message to everyone around him to keep their distance.

Pressing her lips tightly together, Sheryl silently observed her husband. She wanted to ask him what had happened, but decided it was best for her to swallow her question.

Pausing in front of her, Charles stood still, his cold gaze fixed on her.

In the past, when she had made a mistake, he would pretend to be angry and cast a cold, reproachful

look at her, similar to this one.

But she could tell that he wasn't pretending this time. He was truly mad at her about something.

'What is he upset about?'

Sheryl asked herself, 'What did I do? Is he still angry at me for Melissa falling down the stairs?'

Is he going to act this way because of that?'

Sheryl sighed to herself in disbelief. This was absolutely ridiculous. Despite the accident not even being

her fault, she had apologized to Melissa, which had gone unaccepted. She had explained to Charles

numerous times that it wasn't her fault.

Sheryl felt like an outsider in that house. When anything bad happened in Charles' family, she always

took the blame, even though she had never done anything wrong. 'In Charles' eyes, his mother is

always right and I deserve all the unfair treatment I get.'

The more Sheryl thought about it, the more resentful she became. Biting her lower lip, she could feel

her teeth almost cut her skin. Anger began to simmer within her and she knew that even a small

confrontation would trigger it.

Suddenly, Charles frowned at Sheryl, crossed his arms in front of his chest.

"Can you behave yourself in public?" he spat. And Sheryl felt as though she had been struck with a sharp dagger. After the shock of his words subsided, Sheryl began to think through what Charles had just said to her.

'I don't behave myself?' she asked herself.

'How could he accuse me of such a thing? I did not poison Leila or cause Melissa to fall down the stairs, yet I'm being accused of both these things.' Sheryl had been through a lot recently. No one seemed to know or understand how distressed she was.

Yet, out of everything she had been through, Charles' remark hurt her the most.

'When did I hook up with other man?' she wondered, annoyed and confused.

Sheryl lifted her head and focused her gaze on Charles. "What do you mean by that? I don't understand," she said slowly, stressing each syllable.

Glancing at her, Charles responded in an icy tone, "You know what you did. Why are you asking me to tell you?"

'He is convinced that I've been flirting with other men. Even if I deny it, he won't believe me, ' she

thought bitterly.

Sheryl's rage knew no bounds. If she had a pistol, she would surely shoot Charles right then and there.

"Oh, yeah, you got me. So what? What do you want from me then?" Sheryl stubbornly raised her chin,

anger written all over her face.

Charles tensed at her words. With his eyes glued on her face, he detected the determination in her

eyes, making his heart ache even more.

'She admitted it.

What Irina said to Mom at the hospital is true. Otherwise, she would have denied it, ' he concluded.

Closing his eyes, Charles took a deep breath, trying to rid himself of the pain he felt. When he opened

them again, all emotion was wiped from his face. "Whatever," he said. Without sparing Sheryl a second

look, Charles turned around and walked back to his car.

Sheryl watched as he walked up to his car, opened the door and got in.

Instinctively, she reached out her hand and opened her mouth in an attempt to stop him. But when she

heard the engine start, she dropped her hand and the words froze.

The car quickly drove off like a gust of wind and disappeared in the distance.

Sheryl stood outside the house motionless, her mind drawing a blank. But Charles' words kept swirling around in her head.

'Whatever!

Whatever!

Since he doesn't want to listen to me, I just have to leave it go. There's nothing I can do now, ' she thought.

As she stood there, a wry smile eventually climbed up the corners of her lips.

It wasn't until noon the next day that Rachel woke up. She didn't have a headache as she usually did after drinking too much. Since Bernard took care of her last night, she knew that he must have given her some medicine. It surprised her that he was such a caring man.

She was touched by his sweet actions. Although she didn't have feelings for him, she was glad to have someone love her so sincerely. Having dealt with many smooth-tongued deceitful men, she thought very highly of Bernard. It was clear that he was serious about her and wanted to cherish her, after all.

Unfortunately, he wasn't the one she loved or the one who could help her with her business.

A part of her wished that Charles could treat her the way Bernard did.

Rachel shook her head in an attempt to wipe that thought from her head.

Taking out her phone, Rachel opened WeChat, only to find the videos of the party held by Holley last night. It was the shareholders of Tarsan Corporation who had posted the videos and there were many reviews congratulating Holley.

As her eyes turned red with fury, the phone slipped from her hand and onto the ground.

"Holley Ye! This damn Holley Ye! I was so oblivious that I didn't realize how ambitious and evil she truly is.

Now I have no choice but to visit Black and try to butter him up to get his shares. That's the only way I'll be able to change the situation I'm in, ' she pondered. With a pensive expression, Rachel decided she would come up with a foolproof plan to win over Black.

She couldn't tolerate Holley being her superior, and she was impatient to get out of her current situation.

Suddenly, something occurred to her. She needed to pull herself together and not give up so easily. 'I must shoot my shot no matter how slim my chances are, ' she assured herself.

Wasting no time, Rachel went up to the wardrobe and began looking through her clothes, deciding what to wear.

'Today is my first time meeting Black. I must wear something that will make me look elegant and stunning. I need to impress him, ' she thought.

Finally, she found the perfect outfit—a blue strapless dress that would show off her shoulders.

Chapter 1285 Rachel's Intention

Half an hour later, Rachel was ready to go out. She looked great in a black dress, which emphasized her curvy figure. Make-up was applied delicately. And, she completed her outfit with her favorite stiletto heels.

At the Hu Group

When the Hu Group became an empire, its building became one of the landmarks of the city. The view of the city from the top was breathtaking. As Rachel stepped out of her car, she realized that she had never taken a good look at it before.

After passing through the doors and the security, she walked to the concierge and smiled at the young lady standing behind the counter. "Good morning. I am Rachel Bai from the Tarsan Corporation. I'm

here to meet Mr. Hu."

Rachel beamed at the receptionist as she spoke.

Anyone who saw her flashing her best smile would be thinking of her being an apparition of an angel.

And, the receptionist was not an exception. The young lady was so dazzled by Rachel's smiling face.

Without hesitation, she picked up the phone and dialed Black's private line.

The call lasted only for a couple of seconds.

"Ms. Bai, Mr. Hu is already waiting for you in his office. Please proceed to the fifth floor."

"Thank you very much."

The person who answered the receptionist's call was no one but Black. When the phone rang, he

already expected it to be Rachel coming to see him.

Whatever reason Rachel had in coming today was a mystery to him.

"Good morning, Mr. Hu. I am Rachel Bai. It's so nice to finally meet you!" Since it was their first

meeting, Rachel acted accordingly. She gave him her best polite smile. It surprised her to see how

young Black was. Knowing the wealth he amassed, she expected him to be in his mid-thirties or early

forties.

In a flash, many thoughts crossed Rachel's mind.

"Nice to meet you too. So, may I have the honor to know why you came here?" Black was surprised to see Rachel. Thanks to Holley, he knew so much about her that he didn't have a good impression of her.

Though he tried to look patient with her, inside his mind, he could not wait for the meeting to finish. His guard was up for any inappropriate antics the girl had up her sleeves.

"Well, I heard a lot about you. And, to be direct, I want to know why you didn't show up at the board meeting in the Tarsan Corporation the other day." Upon hearing her, Black already knew her intention.

Whatever her agenda was, he was one hundred percent sure that Rachel failed during the board meeting. And, she came to see him in the hope of gaining his assistance to achieve her own interest.

He almost failed to hide his evil smirk. He concealed it by forcing a polite smile. Then, he answered blandly, "I happened to be busy that day. So I decided to skip that meeting."

Understanding the underlying meaning of Black's reply, Rachel knew that he had no intention of supporting her over the board matter. But, she didn't give up easily. Using her charms, she started to move towards him. Black noticed right away the change in her.

There was also a sudden change in Black. His facial expression reflected his alertness in him. Before Rachel got too close, he quickly took a step back. A sign that he did not approve. A rejection.

Seeing Black's reaction, Rachel got irritated. At the same time, it made her confused. Black's actions were the opposite of the usual reaction she got when she worked her charms on men. She knew that men had primal urges and could easily be aroused by any sexual insinuations made by women. Then, what went wrong with Black? What she didn't know was not all men could give in so easily. She was right. Men had the urges. But men could also control themselves. And Black was one of those men who had control over their own bodies.

Aiming for another shot in the art of seduction, Rachel pretended not to notice what just happened.

This time, she flashed him her angelic smile. In a sultry voice, she said, "Mr. Hu, we are both the shareholders of Tarsan Corporation and we meet for the first time. Isn't it just right for us to get to know each other more? Why don't we go to lunch together? I hope you are available."

Knowing what she was trying to do, he was now on the verge of losing his patience. He realized now that it was wrong for him to treat her nicely and politely. It would have been better if he had told her from the start that there was nothing she could do to change his mind. And anyway, it was also

impossible to accept her invitation. He already had a lunch date with Holley.

To the best he could, he managed a polite refusal on Rachel's lunch invitation.

"Oh, perhaps another time then. Let's schedule it next time when you are not too busy anymore. To

make it easier to contact each other, why don't we exchange phone numbers?"

So disappointed, Rachel could not do anything anymore. Instead, she settled with getting a phone

number.

She never expected Black to be a tough guy. This was her first time to fail. Thus, she was starting to

doubt her charm.

As soon as she left Black's office, she was already planning her next moves. Black was her last hope.

All she had to do was find a way to get him. And, she had to do it fast! Or else, all her efforts would be

for nothing.

'Take it easy! Men have their weaknesses. I just need to find them. No matter how tough they are, I can

easily get to them and tame them to be my pets!'

In the following days, Black always saw Rachel in different sexy dresses. Once, he saw her at the gym

while he was working out in the exercise room. On another occasion, he saw her at the pool in her skimpiest bikini, waving at him.

Black felt really bothered and harassed. He saw through Rachel's cheap plan, but he did not say anything anymore. He felt that it would disgrace and anger her. So what he did the next time Rachel appeared in front of her was to quickly turn around and walk away.

Despite Rachel's best efforts, she knew Black didn't appreciate her. It made Rachel feel more puzzled.

At the same time, she felt more motivated to get him. She believed that no man could resist her beauty and charms. So the more insensitive Black reacted, the more eager she became to get him. She believed that one day he would lose. However, it was not until she saw the chilly expression in his eyes that she finally realized Black's mockery of her. Finally, she discontinued her plot.

All she did at the present was stay at home doing nothing. Days passed by and she could not bear the boredom anymore. Being alone for quite a long time was driving her crazy. At last, she decided to get back to Tarsan Corporation.

From being a manager, she was now only deputy manager. The demotion left her humiliated. It was another reason why she decided to stay at home. She could not bear the strange looks and snickers of

the employees. Those made her angrier. Moreover, she hated to work with Holley and listen to her.

When Rachel entered the building, staff already were everywhere, busy with their own work. She walked straight to the direction of her table, not gazing at the people around her.

She felt all eyes were boring at her through her back. If looks could kill, she would have been dead right now. Also, harsh talks circulated once again in the work area.

"Look! Our deputy manager, Rachel Bai, has already returned. Does she really need to come back today? She stayed away for a long time. Does she still care about the company?" The mockery came from a female staff. She used to be Rachel's assistant but was treated very badly. She was never spared even from just small mistakes.

"Look, watch your mouth. The last time somebody talked badly of her, she reduced the poor guy's salary. Anyway, she is here now. So, stop questioning her devotion to the company. Perhaps, she dealt with something personal that has kept her busy for quite some time." Trying hard to convince the girl to leave Rachel alone, the male colleague couldn't stop himself from giving the ex-assistant a piece of advice.

"Have some nerves to speak up! Don't be a coward! She is no longer our general manager now! She doesn't have the right to order us to do whatever she wants anymore. Why should we still be scared of her?" However, the ex-assistant couldn't help but continue to rant. But this time, with voice lowered down when she thought of that poor guy.

Meanwhile, in her office, Rachel walked back and forth, trying to calm herself. But no matter how hard she tried, she could not will herself to settle down. She was displeased with her new office. This was too small for her liking, and made her depressed. The smell also disgusted her.

To lift her spirit up, she picked up her phone and sent Black a message.

"Good morning, Mr. Hu. I found a very cozy restaurant nearby. Are you available this afternoon? Maybe we can have lunch there together."

A few minutes after sending the message, she was still not in the mood to work. Instead, her attention shifted to the phone, waiting for a reply.

Not even a single page was finished reading. She even tried to sleep. But still, no luck! Worse, there was no reply from Black. This almost made her die of boredom.

'Staying here is not also a good idea. I should probably just go home,' she thought to herself, as she

played with her face making different expressions. Then, she jumped to her feet, grabbed her handbag and left her office.

When she reached the parking lot, she spotted Black. She was really surprised to see him here. Before she could call him out, she saw Black approaching a woman and pulling her in his arms tightly.

Rachel's mouth opened wide as shock registered. She was unable to speak nor move.

When the woman looked up at Black's handsome face, she clearly saw who she was. To her amazement, the woman Black was embracing firmly was no other than Holley!

Chapter 1286 Silly Woman

Suddenly, it dawned on Rachel that the reason why Black wasn't interested in her was that Holley had gotten to him first and he was totally fascinated by her now. Rachel wondered what tricks Holley had used to make him so obedient to her.

As she brooded over her hatred toward Holley, a crazy idea slipped into her mind. 'What would a world without Holley be like?' she pondered. If Holley was no longer in the picture, then there would be nobody standing in her way.

Staring at the ground of the parking lot, Rachel daydreamed about this for a while. When Black and

Holley got into the car, they left immediately, leaving Rachel in the spot alone.

She stood there for a long time and could feel panic start to consume her.

'Have I lost my chance to defeat Holley?' she wondered, feeling desperate.

Rachel felt like a broken doll, vulnerable to the wind and with nothing to keep her upright.

Suddenly, she remembered a man.

Alan Zhao of Goldstar Company.

She had sex with him in order to ensure the cooperation between their two companies. From then on,

he had always wanted to sleep with her again. He sent her message after message requesting to date

her, but she had rejected him, each time with a different excuse.

Now it seemed as though he was the last card in her hand.

Given that Alan Zhao was so infatuated with her, it was likely that she could persuade him to buy the

share in Holley's hand for her. He wouldn't decline this small request.

After thinking over this new plan, Rachel called Alan Zhao immediately.

"Hello, is this Mr. Zhao? It's Rachel. I'm sorry I've been so busy. However, I'm free this evening if you'd

like to meet up."

Having been rejected by Rachel so many times, Alan Zhao had become rather annoyed and lost interest in her. But Rachel's invitation caught him by surprise and aroused his interest once more.

"Oh, Rachel. Tonight will work perfectly. I'll ask my driver to pick you up," Alan Zhao said warmly.

"See you."

That evening, Alan Zhao's driver picked Rachel up and dropped her off at a hotel.

He left Rachel with a room key and left immediately.

Before driving off, the driver cast a contemptuous look at Rachel. Evidently, he had assumed she was

Alan Zhao's mistress.

While Rachel hated seeing this expression, she knew she couldn't do anything about it. Admittedly,

what she was going to do wasn't far off from what a mistress would do.

Taking a deep breath, Rachel attempted to clear her mind as she walked slowly upstairs.

Alan Zhao hadn't arrived at their hotel room yet, so Rachel decided to have a bath. When she emerged

from the bathroom, he had just arrived.

The steam of the bathroom made Rachel's face red. Water was dripping from her long wet hair and her

skin looked tender and soft. Alan Zhao was hooked immediately.

He embraced her tightly and kissed her aggressively. As the saliva dripped from her mouth, he became even more aroused.

Trying to ignore the disgust she felt toward him, Rachel reciprocated his kiss. After a while, she felt like she wouldn't be able to catch her breath when he finally released her and went to the bathroom.

As Alan Zhao disappeared behind the door, Rachel's face dimmed, revealing a disgusted expression.

The taste of smoke that lingered in his mouth made Rachel sick, which worsened when he began whirling his tongue around in her mouth. Closing her eyes, she tried not to think about it.

In order to get through this, she would need to recollect Charles' face again and again in her mind. But she was frightened because she found that Charles' face had become a blur. His face and figure were beginning to disappear from Rachel's memory.

Immediately, she checked the photos of Charles and her on her phone. He looked so gentle and kind.

Rachel carefully looked at his smile, the hair on his forehead and the affection in his eyes, trying to remember every detail about him.

It seemed that this was the only way for her to build up the courage to face life nowadays.

In that moment, Alan Zhao emerged from the bathroom and walked toward Rachel, who quickly put her phone away.

"Mr. Zhao, you've finished bathing?" Rachel said with a sweet smile.

With no patience for small talk, he took action at once. He immediately began kissing her lips and grabbing at her breasts violently with his hands. The smell of his breath overwhelmed her.

Although the volume of the television was up, it did nothing to cover up their groans or the sounds of their love making.

With her arms around his shoulders, she closed her eyes as her soft body swayed along with his movements.

The room felt hot and stuffy even though the air-conditioner was on.

Alan Zhao was a little violent. Rachel ached as he pulled her hair forcefully, her face burning. Letting out a sound filled with both joy and pain aroused his desire to attack Rachel even more violently.

As they made love, their burning desire grew stronger.

When they finished, lying in his arms, she explained to him the poor situation she was in and how

Holley had greatly restricted Rachel's authority in her own company.

Alan Zhao was immediately very interested. He had heard Holley's name once before but didn't expect her to be such a capable woman.

He was impressed by how Holley had become allies with other shareholders of the company and secretly deprived Rachel of her authority.

While his interest in Holley grew, Alan Zhao's desire for Rachel decreased. He was starting to become impatient with Rachel who could only complain to him.

Suddenly, he realized how silly Rachel was. As the CEO of the company, she shouldn't have been overpowered by her subordinate so easily. What was more ridiculous, Rachel hadn't even realized what was happening before it was too late. Alan Zhao couldn't help but assume that Rachel was simply a silly woman with a beautiful exterior.

But Holley was different. She was tricky, cunning and seemingly a very capable woman. Thinking about her, Alan Zhao couldn't help but smile lustfully.

Realizing Alan Zhao hadn't yet responded to her, Rachel snuggled closer to him and said sweetly, "Mr.

Zhao, did you hear what I said?"

"Of course. You were framed by Holley and became her subordinate, right? What are you going to do now? Do you want to regain your position in the company?" Alan Zhao asked Rachel, his tone laced with indifference.

"I was hoping you could buy Holley's shares for me. Would you do that?" Rachel asked softly.

Looking at Rachel, Alan Zhao resisted his impulse to laugh at her. 'What a silly and clueless woman!

Why would she think I'd spend so much energy and money just to buy the shares for her?' he mocked

Rachel secretly.

Chapter 1287 Infertility

Was it simply because they indulged their affair too many times, enough that she developed such delusion?

Despite the fact that Rachel offered him an impressive romantic experience, in his mind, Alan only laughed at Rachel's stupidity—he would not satisfy her demand as she hoped. All he offered was a spoken promise. "Alright, shares are not a big deal. I'll arrange a meeting with Holley to buy her shares."

Upon hearing this, Rachel gained some hopefulness and it made her day.

"Thank you, Mr. Zhao."

Suddenly enveloping Alan in an embrace, Rachel kissed him excitedly.

Of course, Rachel was delighted to know that she had Alan's help. With his support, she could certainly

take back the company. Unfortunately, she was not aware that as soon as he left the hotel, he rang up

Holley immediately.

"Hello, Miss Ye? This is Alan. I was wondering when you would be available—I have some information

that may interest you."

It took Holley a moment to recall that Alan was the general manager of a company of the average scale

as Tarsan Corporation.

Because of his nasty habit of staring at women with creeping eyes and flirting with basically any woman

he met, she already had a vague impression of the man. With such little business talent, chances were

that he was simply a man slumbering in the tender land.

On that note, Holley wasn't inclined to meet Alan. Moreover, she didn't believe he knew of any crucial

secret—he was simply making something up to take advantage of her.

"Oh, Mr. Zhao, I'd love to, but I'm really busy these days. Why don't you just tell me what it is over the

phone?"

Even with her response, Alan wasn't phased—he was convinced that he could somehow make it happen.

"As for the secret, it's better to discuss it face to face. Talking over the phone isn't so convenient, is it?"

So, when are you available, Miss Ye?"

This time, Alan was completely certain that Holley would agree to come. Conquering such a woman sounded incredibly engaging.

Alan's little excuse sounded hilarious to Holley. 'Please, is there really anything that can't be discussed on the phone?' Without any more time to waste on him, Holley merely claimed to be busy and hung up the phone immediately.

Unsurprisingly, Holley didn't take it seriously and just went back to her loads of paperwork. Ever since she became the general manager, she was put in charge of far more business than in her previous position. Fortunately, Rachel got used to assigning all the hard tasks to her. That served as good training for her to adapt and gain competence in handling the work with ease.

Yet, soon after, her phone rang. Once again, Alan was on the other end of the line, testing Holley's patience.

After a long while, she eventually picked up the phone.

The way Holley abruptly hung up the call left Alan irritated. Because he was in a rather high rank, people usually treated him with appropriate respect. No one would dare do what Holley just did to him.

After a second thought, however, he decided to forgive her—a beauty like Holley deserved such privilege.

"Miss Ye, I do sincerely hope to share some news about Rachel. Are you sure you don't want to meet and discuss things, face to face?"

Initially, Holley didn't mean to take it so seriously. But once she heard Rachel's name, she was engaged instantly—she couldn't help wondering if Rachel was causing trouble to her again.

"Well, Mr. Zhao, I suppose I can try to make it." It was very clear to Holley that Rachel was a silly woman and wouldn't succeed at achieving her clumsy goals, no matter how hard she tried. Still, her curiosity drove her to accept Alan's invitation.

"I'll see you tomorrow at Red Leaves Club. I'm looking forward to meeting you, Mr. Zhao."

With that, all Alan could do was think about his meeting with Holley and let his imagination run wild.

After a while, Holley called Black to inform him that he didn't need to pick her up the next day because she had her own arrangements.

Black was a little too close to her. From her perspective, however, Tarsan Corporation was already under her control so he was no longer considered a valuable asset. Still, she couldn't simply shoo him away so she had to distance herself from him gradually.

Meanwhile, at the hospital, Cassie made inquiries about Leila's ward.

In order to be in charge of checking on Leila, Cassie had her shifts switched with her colleagues'.

It was the first time Cassie ever went so far to stick her nose into someone else's business, so she was inevitably feeling nervous. As she went about her normal round, she went to the front of Leila's ward and prepared to knock when she heard Leila talking to someone, making her freeze in her place and wait.

Apparently, Leila was on the phone.

"What are you talking about? The poison had components that could lead to infertility?"

Incredibly angry, she suddenly raised her voice. "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Clearly, Leila was almost pissed off to death. When the bastard was selling the medicine, he was completely sure that it had no side effect at all. So of course, she was reassured and bought it.

The doctors told her that the rest of the poisonous matter had already been extracted so that her body could start recovering. They only needed her to stay in the hospital a few more days for observation.

However, since she was in the hospital, Leila felt that there was something wrong with her body. The first symptom was her unusually prolonged period, which she didn't regard as anything serious at first because she never got it regularly, anyway. It might have been just because she was taking a lot of medicines and getting treated at the hospital.

Since the other day, she had been experiencing a dull pain in her underbelly with an increasing amount of leucorrhoea—an indication of gynecological symptoms. But when she consulted with the gynecologist, she was told that nothing was wrong with her body. That night, the pain in her belly escalated but the doctor just kept telling her the same thing—everything was fine.

After experiencing so many troubles back and forth, Leila began to truly believe that something was off.

The medicine seemed to put her in a worse condition so she thought, perhaps, the problem was in the

drug.

Perturbed, Leila called up the salesman. But even he explained that such reactions were only temporary. The medicine was smuggled from foreign countries so, in truth, he had no idea about its components. All he knew about was the abdominal pain that could occur after taking it.

Hearing his vague answers, Leila didn't believe the guy anymore. Judging from his ambiguous statements, she could tell that he was holding something back.

After she insisted on questioning him repeatedly, he got embarrassed enough to admit the drug's biggest side effect—it could lead to a woman's lifelong infertility.

'Lifelong infertility?!'

Leila was outraged.

Almost crushing her cellphone in her hold, she was shocked speechless. Infinite fears came surging toward her like huge waves.

Never did she imagine that she would be given such outrageous news.

After all, what could be more damaging than infertility for a woman at her age who had not yet been

married or given birth to a child?

Leila's face turned ashen as her lips trembled—she couldn't say a word.

Because she was frozen speechless, the guy on the other end of the line could only hear her gasps for air. Although he wanted to try and console her with kind words, he was too afraid that Leila would snap at him again so instead, he hung up at once.

Chapter 1288 Rumors

'I deserve this...I tried to set up others but I ended up getting myself into trouble. Now, I can't ever be a mother. I can't have children in this lifetime...'

At this thought, Leila felt her heart grow heavier. As she recovered from her grief, she intended to whip harsh remarks at the guy on the phone only to find that he had already escaped the situation and ended the call.

Even when she called the number back, nobody answered the phone.

Suddenly, her pale face was overcome with anger. Her phone made a loud bang when she threw it against the wall. It broke into cracks and crashed onto the ground.

Despite that, she was still too upset. Glancing around the room, she ended up just grabbing a pillow and throwing it at the door.

Suddenly, she heard a knock from the other side.

"Come in!"

Leila shouted testily.

It was Cassie. When she heard some shouting coming from the room, her hand which was on the doorknob shook slightly.

Pushing open the door, she stepped inside and subtly surveyed the room. Politely, she said, "Miss Zhang, it's time for your regular check-up."

Still engulfed by anger, she turned around and yelled at the nurse, "What's wrong with you? Don't you have anything else to do? Clearly, I'm not sick. I don't need a stupid check-up."

Having heard Leila's conversation over the phone, Cassie wasn't freaked out by the former's fiercely rude response. Otherwise, she would probably be shocked and irritated.

While Leila was on the phone, Cassie had been standing just outside the door. Even though she grasped snippets of Leila's conversation, she had figured out why the patient had gotten ill.

'It turns out this was all Leila's doing. She poisoned herself and framed Sheryl. Now, she's infertile

because of the poison. Even if she deeply regrets it, she can't do anything to change the fact, ' Cassie brooded.

Clearly, Cassie wasn't fond of Leila. If Nick hadn't asked her to do him the favor, she wouldn't have even set foot in the ward.

"Miss Zhang, please cool down. You should take care of your health for our own sake. Nothing should be more precious to us than having good health. What do you say?" Cassie said with a slight smile.

Her words drew the patient's attention. Suddenly, Leila raised her head and stared at Cassie, standing there, clad in her nurse uniform.

'I feel like someone has said those words to me before.

You should take care of your health just for your own sake. Nothing is more precious to us than having good health.

Oh, I remember now. It was the guy I called. He only said that the infertility was a possible side-effect.

There is still a chance for me. I need to keep taking good care of my body to get better. I can't give up, even if the chances are slim.

Besides, there are so many fertility hospitals and specialists out there. I believe I'll be fine, ' she told

herself.

Much relieved, Leila tried to regain her composure until a calm look took over her expression.

"What's your name?" she asked abruptly, looking up at Cassie. As Cassie replied, she made sure to put on a courteous smile.

"Miss Zhang, please call me Cassie. Can we start now?"

Internally, she sighed in relief, realizing that Leila was less hostile to her. 'It'll be much easier to get some useful information out of her.'

As Cassie began examining Leila, the latter actively followed her instructions—she even asked the nurse some questions about her illness, which Cassie answered, as long as they were within her reach.

Half-way through the examination, Leila began, "Cassie, you must have met many patients. Have you ever met a barren unmarried woman?"

When she heard this, Cassie guessed that Leila's biggest fear was her infertility.

Without stopping what she was doing, she naturally replied, "Having the baby is a woman's biggest

ordeal. They want to have children even if they're afraid of the pain during labor. But I've met some infertile women and some of them ended up failing to get married due to their infertility. Some who got married ended up getting a divorce. Anyway, it's pretty much a disaster for those who can't have children."

Upon hearing this, Leila started to feel uneasy. 'I haven't gotten married yet. All I want is to marry into the Lu family. I've spent so much time and energy on Melissa. If I still can't marry Charles, I'll probably break down, ' she mused.

"If the couple can't have the baby, then they could adopt one..."

Why would they get a divorce?" Leila asked, trying to sound as casual as she could.

With a shake of her head, Cassie sighed, "The adopted children aren't related to them, after all. Of course, they want to have their own children. No matter how much you treat them like family, they're still someone else's children."

When she heard that, Leila's face instantly darkened.

After taking a look at her, Cassie continued, "Miss Zhang, you're so beautiful and young. I'm sure that many women are always envious of you. I'm sure you won't have this problem."

When Cassie spoke, Leila's face dimmed even more.

"Oh, Miss Zhang, I heard that you're close to Charles Lu's mother. The Lu family is one of the most notable families in our city. I have a cousin who wanted to work in Shining Company but failed because of its high demands from its employees. If we knew some superior in that company, my cousin could get a job there."

What she heard made Leila perky.

"I do know Mrs. Lu. She treats me like her own daughter. We're very close," she smugly responded.

"Is that so? I can't believe that. I'm so lucky to have met you, Miss Zhang. It would mean the world if you could do my cousin a favor," Cassie flattered her with expectant eyes.

"Of course. When I leave, you can always contact me," Leila agreed without thinking twice.

Hurriedly, Cassie said, "You're too nice, Miss Zhang. If you can help my cousin get a position in Shining

Company, my family and I will be so grateful to you."

All of a sudden, a thought came to her. With a hesitant expression, she added, "Oh Miss Zhang, I

wanted to ask you something...but I don't know if I should say it..."

"Tell me, what do you want to know?" Given what happened, Leila was quick to treat the nurse like her friend.

After getting on alert and glancing around to make sure no one was around, Cassie drew nearer and deliberately whispered, "Miss Zhang, I heard that you were admitted to the hospital because you were poisoned and that it was Charles Lu's wife who did this to you. Is that true? How could she do such a horrible thing to you? What an awful woman..."

Of course, the topic interested Leila. If Charles hadn't asked her to keep this to herself, she would have already told everyone that Sheryl poisoned her.

"You're right. That woman is cursed. She poisoned me and pushed Charles' mother down the stairs.

Until now, Mrs. Lu is stuck in bed," Leila said with interest. "What?"

Cassie covered her mouth with her hands in shock. "Charles' wife pushed his mother down the stairs? I never would've thought she would do so much wrong."

Chapter 1289 What A Vicious Woman

"Right. When I used to visit the Lu family, I witnessed that woman treat Melissa badly and not paying her mother-in-law her due respect."

"Why didn't Charles divorce that evil woman?" exclaimed Cassie. Realizing the volume of her voice

was too loud, she lowered it and continued, "I'm sorry for being overly excited. Please keep this conversation we've had today just between us."

"No worries. She's done so many terrible things that even if this gets out, she deserves it," said Leila disdainfully. "Charles was trying to divorce her, but she clung onto him like a parasite. She was lucky enough to give birth to two of his children. It was for their sake that Charles didn't go through with the divorce."

"In my opinion, a horrible woman like her doesn't deserve to be a mother," Cassie added to back her up.

"Exactly!" said Leila. Her face darkened as she thought about her own condition. "She's just a lucky dog. One day, I'll make her regret it,"

she added viciously, her face contorting into a cruel frown.

Cassie instinctively stepped away from Leila and hurriedly cleared away the tools. "The examination is over; you've recovered well. I'll have to check on the other room. See you later."

"All right." Leila smiled at Cassie and said, "Visit me whenever you can. I'm very bored."

"Okay, I will. Now have a good rest."

After leaving Leila's room, Cassie heaved a huge sigh of relief.

What a vicious woman! Even Cassie, an outsider, sensed how dangerous she was.

Before entering the room, Cassie had nearly heard the entire story already. She was wise enough to have recorded Leila's phone conversation outside the door. It was solid proof.

Cassie wanted to know more about it, so she went inside to talk to her and listen to her side of the story. After their conversation, Cassie was amazed by Leila's viciousness and was sure that Leila herself was the evil one in the story.

She couldn't wait to forward the news to Nick, since she had finished her mission exceptionally. With the recording, it would be easy for Nick to turn on Leila.

However, she still had several patients to check on, so she would have to wait until after work.

Leila's vicious face emerged in her mind again; she shuddered and quickly walked to her office.

When she finally finished work, Cassie called Nick. However, as she was about to tell him the news, a colleague came to talk to her.

"I'll find you after work. I need to go now, but I'll see you soon," Cassie uttered hurriedly, ending the

phone call.

The colleague had come to invite her to karaoke to celebrate her birthday.

The two colleagues were close and she had even given Cassie birthday presents in the past. The offer was too hard to refuse, so she accepted the offer. As for Nick, she could meet him when the party was over.

Meanwhile, at the Red Leaves Club, Alan continued to wait for Holley and was becoming more and more impatient. When she finally arrived, he said enthusiastically, "Miss Ye, it's been a long time since we last saw each other. You're a hard woman to meet with. How have you been?" Alan reached out his hand to initiate a hand shake.

"I'm good. Busy, indeed. Anyway, I'm glad to see you today."

Before letting go of Holley's hand, Alan subtly ran his fingers across her palm.

Holley noticed this and felt disgusted.

"Mr. Zhao, you said that you were going to tell me a secret. What is it?" asked Holley, a little annoyed.

"There's no rush. Let's eat and drink first. Then we'll talk about it," said Alan, grabbing her waist and

leading her to her seat.

Holley had no choice but to suppress her anger in order to eventually hear Alan's secret about Rachel.

Their meal together was pure torture. Alan had coaxed her into having a few drinks and kept putting his nasty hands on various parts of her body.

After some time had passed, Alan leaned in closer to her, his hand caressing in-between her thighs, like a cold snake. Holley was extremely disgusted and had the sudden urge to run away.

"Miss Ye, you look more beautiful every time I see you. My heart almost melts at the sight of you," said

Alan, smiling at her lasciviously. She could practically see the hormones bursting out of his eyes.

"That's very kind of you to say, Mr. Zhao. Thank you." Holley wriggled in her chair to get rid of his dirty hand.

Alan, as sly as a fox, saw through this and became even bolder. While he whispered dirty jokes into her ear, he reached underneath her shirt and ran his hand over her breasts and back.

Their close proximity made Holley feel extremely unsettled.

This old bastard! Holley cursed him in her mind. She desperately wanted to push him away, curse him right to his face and escape this suffocating room. There was not a single second in which she wanted

to stay.

However, she had no choice but to face Alan, fake smile and all.

Having had multiple glasses of wine, Holley started to feel nauseous.

"Mr. Zhao, I'm sorry. I'm not feeling well; I need to go to the bathroom. Excuse me." Seeing that Holley's

face had turned pale, Alan waved his hand to set her free.

As Holley left the table, she exhaled deeply and slowly made her way to the bathroom. When she

arrived and saw her flushed cheeks in the bathroom mirror, Holley splashed water onto her face to cool

down. She stood by the sink for quite some time trying to suppress her nausea.

Taking a few deep breaths, she left the bathroom and began to make her way back to Alan. She

walked slowly in order to delay facing Alan again. What a despicable man!

As Holley approached their table, she quickly put a happy look on her face.

"Mr. Zhao, I'm sorry for keeping you waiting," she said cheerfully and they resumed eating.

After they had finished their meal, Holley tried mentioning Rachel again and, this time, Alan told her the

secret.

"Rachel asked me to buy your shares and then transfer them to her, so that she could buy Tarsan Corporation back. Now you know. Are you surprised?"

Chapter 1290 Intentional Assault

When Holley heard what Alan had said, her face was immediately devoid of any expression. She looked unreadable except for her cold eyes that gave away her anger.

A cold smile graced her lips. 'I never expect that Rachel hasn't given up yet. But she's still so foolish that she even believes Alan, a disgusting man. No wonder she can't be successful, ' she thought.

At that moment, Holley filled with anger and sympathy for Rachel.

Meanwhile, Alan's hands roamed around Holley's body again when he saw that she was lost in her thoughts. He first touched her neck, and when Holley didn't resist, he continued to move his hands down.

Suddenly, Holley stood up from the seat and vigorously shook off Alan's hands. "Mr. Zhao, please stay away from me," she said and looked at him with disgust.

However, Alan was not pleased when Holley stopped him. He grabbed her chin and turned her face towards his. "Who do you think you are? I advise you not to be shameless!" he hissed.

Holley struggled to get out of his grip, and when she did, she mercilessly said, "I don't need you to

judge who I am. Now that you have told me the big secret, I don't think I need to stay here anymore.

Mr. Zhao, goodbye." After Holley finished her words, she turned to leave.

Anger steamed out of Alan and he quickly grabbed Holley's hand to stop her from leaving.

"I didn't expect you to be so ungrateful. I just reminded you to be careful of Rachel. It's for your own good, but you want to kick away the ladder now? I'm warning you, Holley Ye. Since you don't know how to respect me, let's wait and see!" Alan shouted.

"Mr. Zhao, you must be kidding me. I'm not ungrateful. I just realized that I didn't need to be kind and generous to a lecher. You just want to have sex with lots of women. In fact, I think it was nice of me to patiently listen to all your nonsense for such a long time!" Holley yelled back.

It was already a hard night for Holley. She didn't want to tolerate Alan anymore, so she poured out all her anger and disgust towards the man.

No matter what Alan said, Holley just left after she finished her words. The clicking of high-heeled shoes on the glossy tiled floor gradually faded away. And soon Holley left.

Even though he was mad with fury, Alan couldn't do anything but stay quiet in the private room. At this

point, he really regretted his choice to talk to Holley. If only he'd known that she was so merciless, he would've helped Rachel buy the shares to make her the owner of Tarsan Corporation. At least Rachel was gentle and pleasant unlike Holley.

Whenever Alan remembered the things that happened today, he became angrier. He vowed to never give up! Whatever he suffered today would someday be returned to Holley.

At the door of Emperor KTV

Cassie's vision was blurry as she was so drunk. After a night of talking, drinking, and singing with her colleagues, she felt her consciousness slowly slip away.

At that moment, she and Cora leaned on each other's bodies.

"You're both drunk, do you mind if I take you home first?" said one of her male colleagues.

Cassie waved a hand to refuse her colleague's offer and called a taxi. When the cab arrived, she and Cora helped each other get inside.

In the cab, Cassie vaguely remembered that she had to meet Nick later. She wanted to tell the driver the address, but she couldn't remember where Nick lived.

At that exact moment, Cora already told the driver her address, and the taxi drove forward to the

house's direction.

At Nick's home

It had been all night since Nick returned home and waited for Cassie. He called her several times, but

no one picked up his call.

'Cassie said she would visit my house, but why isn't she here yet?' Nick thought. 'Could it be that she

got delayed?'

When he thought of more possible reasons, he dialed Cassie again. But still, no one answered.

Thus, Nick had no choice but to call the hospital service desk.

"Cassie had already finished her shift," the staff at the desk responded. After that, Nick thanked the

staff and hung up the phone

When he heard what the staff said, he was a bit anxious. Cassie left the hospital and didn't come to see

him. Did something come up with her?

As soon as he thought of that, he put on his coat and shoes, and then went out of his house.

Nick drove to Cassie's home and rang the doorbell several times when he got there, but no one came

to open the door. After a while, he decided to wait in front of Cassie's house and wait until she came back.

The next morning, Holley immediately went to Rachel's office and told her what Alan had done last night.

"Rachel, are you stupid? Maybe Alan thought you were, so he dared to tell me your plans."

Wrath coursed through Rachel's veins when she heard what Holley said. She never thought that Alan betrayed her, and especially in such a short time.

'Alright Alan, since you decided to hit first, don't blame me for striking back!' Rachel angrily thought.

Now, she was glad that she still had the evidence of Alan's smuggling, which was previously taken in the hotel. It was supposedly a last trump card for the worst case scenario, but it seemed that it could be handed directly to the police now.

As for Holley, Rachel felt her hatred for the woman reach its peak when she looked at her aggressive appearance. Rachel's eyes glinted dangerously.

"Don't stare at me like that. Do you think no one knows what you've secretly done? Rachel, no one can help you now. Do you think you can go all out?" Holley provoked. Holley's words only fueled Rachel's

anger even more. Rachel stood up and looked at Holley's smug face.

"Even if Alan betrayed me, are you sure you will be the final winner?" Rachel said with a cold smile.

"Do you think you can change everything now? Rachel, I really don't know how to describe you now.

Pitiful? Or naive? I think I need to remind you who owns Tarsan Corporation now. You are not the

owner! It is I, Holley! From now on, you only deserve to be below me! Do I make myself clear?" Holley

said in an increasingly arrogant tone.

At that point, Rachel was so angry that she stared at Holley and wished that she could rip off the

revolting smile of her face.

If she had a gun in her hand right now, she would surely aim it at the vile woman in front of her. She

would rather die together with her than let her live a good life.

"Holley, don't forget that you were just one of my slaves before! And you are still the most disgusting

slave ever!" Rachel screamed. "So what?" Holley casually said back.

"Now, you are my slave! You have to listen to my orders!"

"You!"

Fury had filled Rachel to the brim that she tried to slap Holley, but the woman grasped her hand in time.

A sardonic laugh escaped Holley's lips when Rachel tried to break free.

"You want to slap me? Are you even qualified to slap me? To be honest, I'm afraid everyone in the company will hate you if I turn myself against you. So be a nice lady. It's for your own good. Or else, I could sue you for intentional assault. Don't be stupid anymore, okay?" Holley said mockingly. She then let go of Rachel's hand and left with a triumphant smirk.

As Rachel watched Holley leave her office, she still shivered with anger.