

Wedded Bride 1291

Chapter 1291 Take The Initiative

After Holley left, Rachel was determined to do something. Being stuck in a desperate situation, she had to find her own tricky way to win another chance for herself.

'Since she stands in my way, ' she thought, 'then I only need to wipe her out.'

Wanting to see him immediately, she phoned Bernard and eagerly told him to meet her in her house.

Because of the sudden demand, Bernard worried about what might have happened so he made sure to rush to her house. Lately, Rachel was stuck in a rather unstable mood—he couldn't help but be concerned for her. It was only when she was by his side that he could rest easy.

When he got to the door, it didn't take long before Rachel arrived as well. As soon as he saw her, he walked up to her, carefully examining her to find out if anything was wrong. Since nothing seemed off, he sighed in relief.

"Rachel, did something happen? Why did you call me here?" Afraid that Rachel was bottling something up, Bernard had to ask her to tell him.

"Nothing serious, it's just...

I've missed you," she replied, bashfully lowering her head. Although she moved with appropriate

shyness, her intense aura couldn't be ignored.

Without another word, Bernard pulled Rachel in for a tight embrace. It felt perfect enough that he thought it would be completely worthwhile to die as long as he had Rachel in his arms. At that moment, the world was silent. All he could hear was his own heartbeat mingling with Rachel's.

In a vast desert, she was his oasis.

Truly, Bernard had walked the desert for too long before he finally found her. After everything that happened, Rachel ended up being the missing piece to his fulfillment.

Warm in his embrace, Rachel carefully leaned up to kiss him. The very thought excited Bernard—it was the first time she had ever really taken the initiative to get closer to him. Suddenly, all his devotion and time as he waited for the girl was completely worth it.

The surprise only lasted a moment. Before long, Bernard kissed her back wildly. All he wanted to do was keep her warm in his hold—he was completely smitten as he indulged in their kiss.

After what seemed like a long time, it was difficult to part. Eventually, he did let go of her, still panting for more. With bright eyes spangled like thousands of stars, he kept them earnestly fixed on her.

The kiss undoubtedly turned her on. It wasn't very fierce, but it made her feel the pull of Bernard's passionate love.

Sharing in the moment, Bernard slowly caressed Rachel's cheek—he was addicted to her very expression. After some moments past, the atmosphere turned more and more ambiguous. At a certain point, the two were simply touching each other everywhere on their bodies.

After they unburdened each other from their clothes, Bernard picked her up as if she weighed nothing, and went into the bedroom. One would think they were both charmed to stick so close to each other.

As if on instinct, he gently lay her down on the bed and slowly climbed over her, kissing her forehead, her lips, her neck...

A flush of excitement crept up her skin and Rachel could barely hold her breath. Things were reaching a climax.

Like a marvelous display, they made love to the point of exhaustion.

The moment was ruined when Rachel suddenly cried out. Tears began running down her cheeks as if she was a child who had lost her favorite toy.

The sight frightened Bernard as he nervously asked her what exactly had happened. Eventually,

Rachel told him about the challenges the company had been faced with, especially because of Holley's suppression. Of course, all she said included deliberate exaggeration.

In the end, all Rachel could see was that she hated Holley—she had to count on Bernard to take her side because she literally had no other choice.

Seeing Rachel in anguish, Bernard couldn't help frowning as he felt for her.

Suddenly, a thought came to him, 'For sabotaging Rachel and making her suffer, Holley should be dead.

She can't exist in this world. She should disappear.'

For a moment, Bernard pondered once again. He was aware that he had to kill Holley, whatever the cost might have been.

"Don't worry. Soon enough, you won't have to deal with her anymore," he murmured as he held Rachel tight. With that, his eyes turned ice-cold and complicated.

Hearing his words, she asked, "Why did you say that?"

"Because, soon enough, there won't be any Holley anymore." Bernard's voice turned dangerously low

and Rachel felt like thunder had hit her.

Clearly, Bernard had decided to kill Holley—it was what Rachel wanted him to do. But fear emerged in

her. 'What if he gets caught? What if the police come after us?'

Moments later, she felt relieved, realizing that she would never get involved. Because Bernard loved

her so much, he would confess himself to protect her.

Staying in his arms, Rachel indulged in his steady breathing and let go of the possible future.

Over the next few days, Bernard followed Holley and worked on the plan. In the beginning, Bernard got

frustrated about how to kill Holley—as much as possible, he didn't want to reveal any kind of

murderous intention so he wouldn't be suspected of anything.

Recalling that Holley would head to a bar and drink for leisure every Friday night, he came up with an

idea.

'How can a person die without warning, ruling out the possibility of homicide?'

What if Holley died through overdose? There was already enough talk that the others knew that Holley

didn't have any self-respect—they wouldn't think that it was a murder.

Meanwhile, Nick stayed up in front of Cassie's house. At dawn, he lied down on the floor to sleep for a

while.

The sound of the neighboring door awakened him and he realized that he had stayed at Cassie's door the whole night.

At the same time, Cassie's neighbor gaped at the man who was sitting on the ground. "Poor lad, what are you doing here? Did you stay out here all night?"

The old lady's face was kind as she asked him.

Feeling a little embarrassed, Nick subconsciously stood up to answer, forgetting that his legs were numb—he fell down to the ground.

"Oh, your legs must be numb. Take your time and sit for a while," the old lady told him.

Her kindness made him bashfully scratch his head. Suddenly, the thought of Cassie not coming back in the night upset him.

"Lady, may I ask where the girl in this house has been?"

Looking at the old lady with hope, he thought maybe she knew.

In truth, though, he knew the old lady couldn't give him the answer. After all, she was only a neighbor,

not a relative nor a friend. Cassie wouldn't have told her where she was going.

Chapter 1292 . Fight

Unexpectedly, the old lady replied, "Cassie...Oh, I saw her once, last night. She was dressed up rather beautifully. She said she was going to a party and would be back home late."

'A party?'

Hearing the news, Nick was surprised before feeling relieved to know where Cassie was. But after pondering, he began to feel enraged about her behavior.

When he called her several times last night, she didn't answer him once. How could she stay out all night?

The more he thought about it, the angrier he grew. He realized that he didn't want to care about her any longer. Abruptly, he stood up and addressed the old lady, "Thank you. I'll be leaving, now."

Although the lady realized that the young man was upset by what he heard, she didn't know what she did wrong. All she could do was sigh as she watched Nick leave.

When he reached the car and prepared to start the engine, he hesitated.

What if something happened to Cassie? What if she couldn't make her way back home?

The thought left him uneasy. Eventually, he decided to stick around for a while. If she didn't come back

soon, he would go to the police.

Sitting in his car, Nick pulled out his phone and tried to ring her again, but her phone seemed to be unreachable.

Upset and frustrated, he kept waiting in the car.

As time passed, Nick's patience started running out until a familiar figure started walking towards him.

Cassie was back.

The joy on Nick's face didn't last long. Just as he was about to step out of the car, he saw that Cassie was walking beside a tall man, talking, and laughing. She had breakfast in her hand as she looked up at the man with a warm smile on her face.

"Thank you so much for taking me home."

Cassie smiled at Cora's brother, Jordan Li.

"It's my pleasure. You got drunk on Cora's birthday, so it's only right that I take you home. It's getting late. I'll bring you to the hospital later. You'd better go back and get changed. I'll wait for you downstairs." As he looked at Cassie's smiling face, he was in a daze.

He had met Cassie a long time ago. Once, when he went to the hospital to see his sister, Cassie was there too. He had been already completely amazed by her beauty at first sight. However, he knew that Cassie probably didn't even remember him from then. Otherwise, she wouldn't have simply said "hello" when she saw him earlier in the morning. If it wasn't for Anna who insisted he take her home, Cassie wouldn't have let him do so.

As it occurred to Cassie that she would have to go to work later, she rushed upstairs.

As she made her way to her room, Jordan Li stared at her retreating figure for a long while.

From the car, Nick watched the exchange and saw everything—Cassie's smile and the loving eyes of the man toward her. Jealousy overcame him.

Not able to bear it any longer, he pushed the door open and got out of the car.

Step by step, Nick neared Jordan Li, who was still staring at where Cassie went, oblivious to Nick's approach.

"Who the hell are you?" Abruptly, Nick stopped right in front of him and demanded an answer.

Seeing a strange man look at him so sullenly, Jordan Li took a step back.

Sensing a strong vibe of hostility, he put himself on alert.

"Who... Who are you?" Jordan Li asked.

Because he didn't want to waste any time on him, he answered directly, "I'm Cassie's boyfriend. Who the hell are you?"

Jordan Li's eyes were wide with shock at Nick's words.

When did she get a boyfriend? Why hadn't Cora said anything about it?

In his mind, he didn't believe that the man was Cassie's boyfriend. Feeling uneasy inside, he ended up saying, "I'm Cassie's boyfriend. Who the hell are you?"

Irritated by his words, Nick was unable to contain his anger. With a shout of fury, Nick rushed forward a few steps and threw Jordan Li a punch.

It all happened too fast—Jordan Li wasn't able to dodge the heavy punch. And before he could wipe the dripping blood from his mouth, Nick's second punch came again.

Quickly blocking Jack's fist with one hand, he returned with a heavy hit with his free hand.

Getting a punch to his chest, Nick stepped back a little. But Nick couldn't calm down and shouted as he rushed forward, wrestling with Jordan Li.

"Stop!" shouted Cassie.

At this time, she just went downstairs and saw the frightening scene.

It left her shocked and speechless.

Even as she shouted, the two men were still grappling with each other and could not listen to her at all.

Left with no choice, Cassie ran up to them to try and separate the two.

But without any brute strength, she couldn't make them budge. Because she was standing so close,

Jordan Li almost hit her by mistake. At that moment, Nick rushed over and blocked the punch with his

body.

"Cassie!"

Realizing that he almost hurt her himself, Jordan Li immediately stopped and cried out.

Growing more furious, Nick landed Jordan Li a strong kick.

The impact landed on Jordan Li's abdomen and he fell to the ground, covering his middle, rolling on the

ground in pain.

"Jordan!" she cried out in a hurry. Shaking off Nick's hands, she quickly rushed over to check Jordan

Li's condition, completely ignoring the former.

"Cassie..."

As he stared into his empty hands, frustration and sadness flashed across his face.

Afraid that Jordan Li would get severely injured by Nick's attacks, she hurried to check his wounds.

In truth, Jordan Li was delighted to see that Cassie cared about him and deliberately put on a painful expression and struggled to call out her name with drops of sweat on his forehead. "Don't worry about me. I'm fine..."

Go to work now, you'll be late..."

"Never mind. Where does it hurt? Let me take a look." Cassie inspected him. If Jordan Li got seriously injured, how could she ever explain it to Cora? The thought worried Cassie. What if Nick got caught by the police? She couldn't let anything bad happen.

Secretly feeling pleased, he purposely said, "I'm alright. There's just some pain in my stomach..."

"Let me help you get into the car. I'll take you to the hospital," Cassie said as she struggled to help him step into the car.

Feeling like too much of an outsider, Nick merely stood aside. He wanted to help her, but Cassie just

pushed him away.

Chapter 1293 Wanted To Kill Him

"It's none of your business, so you'd better go."

It was clear that Cassie said that on purpose because she wanted Nick to leave for now. After all, he had many things to deal with in his own company. Meanwhile, she would be responsible for looking after Jordan because he was hurt by Nick. She could just say something to defend Nick from Jordan and ask him to not blame Nick for beating him.

However, Nick had completely misunderstood Cassie's good intentions.

His face dimmed. He felt dead inside, but he said nothing. He thought that since the woman he loved chose to be with another man, it was useless for him to stay with them and pester her.

Nick then felt that just now he had been too impulsive. It was true that it was his fault to punch another guy when he didn't ask Cassie who she wanted to be with first.

A self-mocking smile lingered on his lips. He laughed for he had overestimated himself and acted irrationally.

When Cassie heard Nick laugh, she felt that something was wrong with him today as she gazed at his receding figure, but she couldn't exactly tell.

"Your boyfriend is gone and he seems to be upset. I think you should go and soothe him," Jordan

tugged on Cassie's sleeve and said.

"Never mind. He's always like this, so you don't need to worry about him. Your wound needs to be

treated as soon as possible, so let's go to the hospital right now." Cassie then supported Jordan to get

into the car. After she carefully helped him sit in the passenger seat, she went to the driver's side of the

car as well.

At that moment, she felt as if someone was staring at her from behind. She subconsciously turned

around and looked back.

However, Cassie only saw Nick, who was in his car, looking ahead with an emotionless face. In the

next second, he drove away and was gone like an arrow in the wind.

Cassie stopped looking in disappointment. She didn't get a chance to talk to Nick, so she decided to

find him and make everything clear after work.

She got into the car and drove Jordan to the hospital. After a medical examination, they found that he

wasn't badly hurt and there was only a small bruise. When Cassie patched him up, she suddenly

realized that since Jordan got hurt, Nick must've also gotten injured during the fight.

With that thought in mind, Cassie hastened bandaging up Jordan's wound. She then told him that she had something urgent to attend to, and left without looking back.

A thoughtful expression painted Jordan's face as he watched Cassie leave quickly.

On the other hand, Cassie continued to walk until she reached a quiet corner, and then she took her phone out and called Nick. She waited for a while but no one answered her call.

She didn't want to give up calling him, but only the busy tone was heard from the other end.

Her eyes gazed at the street as she wondered if Nick was busy and couldn't answer the phone. After she thought about it for a moment, Cassie decided to find Nick after work instead and see what was up with him.

A few hours later when it was time to get off work, Cassie finally got ready to leave. However, she was suddenly informed that she had to be on duty tonight.

Her job as a nurse required overtime sometimes and that was normal, but she happened to have plans today. Her mind was filled with Nick, so she was rather upset when she heard that she had to work some more.

An idea popped into her head. She immediately approached Cora to ask to switch shifts with her today, only to find that Cora also had to work tonight.

Sadness filled Cassie and she wanted to call Nick again, but someone tugged at her sleeve.

"Well, I'll go and visit my brother later and bring him some food. Do you want to go with me?" Cora asked.

"Your brother?" Cassie froze in an instant. "Isn't he home yet?"

"Who told you that he was home? He's in the hospital. You're so ungrateful. He was jealous and fought for you against another guy. How could you just forget him?"

"I thought that he only suffered minor bruising, but why is he in the hospital now?"

Cassie briefly remembered what the doctor said this morning, so she asked out of confusion.

"Well, it was a small bruise, but his stomach suddenly hurt when he was about to leave. It turned out that he had appendicitis. This couldn't have come at a worse time," Cora sighed. When Cassie heard this, she thought that his condition had nothing to do with her.

However, she still felt that she should visit Jordan out of courtesy.

Thus before they had to work again, Cassie went to the fruit shop near the hospital with Cora. Cassie bought some fruits for Jordan.

In the ward

"Thank you for your gifts. It's too nice of you to come here and see me. Cora, Cassie is quite busy and you shouldn't have bothered her..." Jordan said as he was touched by the gesture.

"Ha-ha, she isn't your wife yet, but you speak for her now. My dear brother, you've abandoned me!"

Cora joked. When Cassie heard that, her heart hammered in her chest and bright pink patches appeared on her cheeks.

She lowered her head and thought that what Cora said was nonsense.

She felt bashful and pushed Cora's arm with a glare. A playful smile formed on Cora's lips, as she knew that Cassie was just shy.

However, Jordan also felt slightly embarrassed. He realized that his sister knew that he liked Cassie.

He then thought that it was a good thing, because now he could ask his sister if Cassie had feelings for him as well.

But at that moment, Cassie was too preoccupied with thoughts of Nick. She had called him several

times, but to no avail. Therefore, she decided to find Nick tomorrow after work and check up on him.

Unease filled Cassie when she thought of Nick's receding figure a while ago. If she didn't figure out what Nick had been thinking, she might not be able to sleep well.

Now she was too worried about what Nick felt, that she totally forgot what she had learned from Leila.

Meanwhile, at around 8:00 p.m., a low-key but sleek Mercedes-Benz sedan quietly stopped at one corner of the sketchy road in front of a club. It was parked at the security camera's blind spot, and then the car door opened to reveal Bernard.

The phone in Bernard's hand vibrated, and it was a message from Rachel. "Are you sure you want to do this?" the text read.

Bernard thought for a while before texting back a "Yes."

After he sent the text, he looked up and saw Holley from the corner of his eye. His eyes glinted, but his face remained stoic.

Holley had gotten a special message that afternoon.

She knew that Rachel intended to buy shares from Alan, which proved that Rachel didn't give up easily.

Therefore, Holley employed a private detective who was also a private security personnel, to keep an eye on Rachel since then and prevent her from damaging Holley's interests.

Today, the private detective told her that he had found a new clue.

As expected, Rachel wasn't done yet and she still wanted to sabotage her. However, what most surprised Holley was that Rachel had pulled Bernard to her side and made him do everything for her.

She felt that she had underestimated Rachel as she never thought that Rachel had talked Bernard into betraying her.

Not long after Holley entered the club, her phone suddenly rang.

"Hello Miss Ye, I've spied on Bernard and I have something new to tell you. I found that he is following you and I believe that he plans to take action today. But you don't need to worry about it. I'll protect you tonight."

Chapter 1294 Danger

When Holley heard the private detective's words, she couldn't help but nervously look around to find out where Bernard was. Although the private detective was on standby to protect her, she still felt immensely insecure as the enemy was hidden in the dark.

She never thought that Rachel would one day want to kill her. Now, either Rachel or Holley would end

up dead.

Since Rachel was so heartless, Holley had no choice but to strike first.

When Holley knew Rachel's ill intentions, she also arranged a killer to make a little accident for Rachel.

Holley believed that the good news of Rachel being robbed and killed by the gangsters would soon come tomorrow as well.

Meanwhile, Bernard entered the club and pretended to see Holley by accident, so he acted a little surprised when he saw her. If Holley hadn't known that he and Rachel secretly connived, she would have thought that it was just an ordinary encounter.

Nervousness coursed through Holley. She couldn't feel completely relieved until she tucked her hair to the side and ensured that her private bodyguard was just a few meters away.

"Miss Ye, what a coincidence. I didn't expect to meet you here," Bernard greeted. He looked expressionless when he said those words. However, he continued his acting and went back to his usual grim face after he feigned surprise.

"Bernard? It's really a coincidence. Are you here for a drink too?"

Holley spoke as if she was shocked as well, as if they had met unexpectedly.

"The wine here is good. I like to come here," Bernard said. He then pointed to the wine cabinet behind the bar counter.

"It's really good. Would you like a drink?" To be honest, Holley was really curious about how Bernard planned to kill her tonight. After all, it was a Friday night and the club was crowded. She thought that Bernard wouldn't be that foolish to do such an illegal thing in public.

And so, how would he kill her in secret?

Confusion filled Holley's mind as she sat idly on the chair.

Suddenly, Bernard tapped her slightly on the arm to remind her that the bartender had brought them two drinks.

However, it wasn't until the bartender put the wine on the table and the glass made a faint sound that Holley seemed to wake up from her daydream.

Oh! Wine! If Bernard had added something to the wine to poison her, everything Holley was confused about before would be clear. At that moment, Holley briefly recalled the psychedelic drugs she had added to Black's wine last time. If the drug Bernard had added today wasn't of the same kind but a

different one...

"Sorry. I'm a little tired today, I lost my mind again," Holley said and tried to calm down.

"It's okay, I understand. Sometimes it's easy to get shocked when you're tired. You should rest more."

It seemed that Bernard had become a bit more abnormal now. Usually if he said something, his words never exceeded two sentences. But tonight he even showed concern for Holley politely, and it was quite strange.

Bernard's weird manners made Holley more alert. She lifted and touched the wine glasses, but never took a sip.

When Bernard saw that Holley didn't drink even a little, he grew more anxious. He originally planned to find a chance to add the chemicals into Holley's glass.

However, Holley kept looking directly into his eyes, which showed her desire to talk to him. Moreover,

Holley never drank from the wine glass in her hand.

'Maybe she noticed my intention?' Bernard thought. Impossible. To avoid Rachel being involved, he didn't even tell her about this poisoning plan, let alone others. No one knew his plan.

At the same time, Holley planned to excuse herself to use the washroom, then leave from the backdoor. As a frequent customer of the club, Holley knew the owner well and clearly knew the club's layout. In addition, she wanted her bodyguard to stay and face in Bernard's direction. She couldn't take risks anymore.

"Sorry, I need to use the washroom first," Holley said. She tried her best to speak to him naturally.

"Never mind," Bernard said. He thought that this was now a good chance to act on his plan. Bernard felt a little at ease, but he still maintained an expressionless face.

Everything had gone smoothly according to Bernard's wishes. However, he inexplicably had a bad feeling when Holley stepped out of his sight.

Meanwhile, Holley reached the backdoor and went out. She drove away. But before she left, she sent her bodyguard a message which indicated that he could take action. However, Holley wasn't really interested in Bernard's life. She just wanted to teach him a lesson.

After Bernard looked around and ensured that no one was looking at him, he took out a small coin-sized bag from his pocket and quickly moved Holley's glass to his side.

Just as Bernard was about to pour the poisonous powder into Holley's glass, he felt a pat on his

shoulder. He tried to turn around and see who did that, but his hands were immediately twisted by that person.

"I guess what you wanted to add to the wine isn't good, right? Would you mind if I call the police to check it?"

The bodyguard leaned closer to him and whispered that to his ear.

Knowing that this person wouldn't be easy to deal with, Bernard thought about how to escape.

As soon as the bodyguard finished his words, Bernard leaned forward and poured the wine on the

table. The dripping sound made some people look at them, which distracted the bodyguard for a

moment. Bernard took this opportunity and quickly got out of the bodyguard's grip. He then hit the other

man's chest, and the bodyguard stumbled several steps backward due to the pain. When Bernard saw

that the bodyguard was too busy minding his chest pain, he rushed out the door.

However, Bernard heard the sound of the bodyguard chasing him, so he had no choice but to run fast

towards his own car parked at the entrance. As soon as he reached his car and got inside, he drove

away.

Bernard had previously checked the area's terrain so that he could escape faster. Thus, he got to choose the most concealed road, and left the bodyguard behind.

Now, there was only one thing Bernard thought about—his plan had been exposed! He realized that Holley never went to the washroom, she had escaped.

However, Bernard didn't have the time to figure out how his plan got found out.

Anxious thoughts filled Bernard's mind. 'Since Holley knew about my plan, she must have planned to hurt Rachel. Oh my God, Rachel is in danger!' he thought.

With that in mind, Bernard stopped his thoughts and quickly increased the car's speed to find Rachel.

They previously agreed to meet at Rachel's door after he had finished executing the plan.

Chapter 1295 Plan B

At full speed, Bernard rushed to the door of Rachel's house. He turned the knob but it was locked. As he stood by the door, he noticed that the lights were off inside.

Sensing that there was something wrong, he decided to break into the house. Inside, it was pitch black.

He felt for the light switch and pressed it on, but the lights did not work.

With the flashlight of his phone, he saw the living room was a mess. As he slowly moved towards the

center, he stepped on the shards of glass. He looked down. The shards came from the fluorescent lamps of the living room. 'So, that is why there are no lights.

But, where is Rachel?' Never in his life had he felt so worried. He quickly scanned the room. He wanted to find her as soon as possible. He was afraid to lose Rachel. He could not imagine his life without her.

Meanwhile, Rachel was hiding behind the heavy curtains of the guest bedroom. She was so nervous that her palms were wet and her breathing was quick. And because she was so afraid that her breathing could be heard, she slightly opened her mouth and breathed through it. Suddenly, she heard footsteps. This time, she could hear her own heartbeats racing. She feared Death who was slowly approaching her.

Earlier that night, she was waiting for Bernard's news in her room. She was so tensed that it heightened her senses of her surroundings.

As soon as she heard sounds coming, she listened very carefully if those were from Bernard. She knew so well how Bernard's footsteps sounded. Every time he came to see her, he was excited and nervous. So his footsteps sounded like one was heavy, the other was light.

However, the footsteps she heard were so light that no one could hear them unless one was

concentrating on the surrounding sounds. If she had not been so focused that night, she would not have heard them.

She immediately took off her shoes, slowly walked to the guest bedroom and hid behind the heavy curtains. Though she knew it was unsafe to stay inside, she didn't risk trying to escape. Her chances of staying alive was higher if she stayed put. Her other chance of survival was sending a text message to the police and hoping that they would arrive on time. Then, she put her phone in silent mode.

In just a few minutes, Rachel heard the main door open. The footsteps continued walking and went straight to the master's bedroom.

Hired by Holley, the killer had monitored Rachel's activities for quite some time. And, he had followed Rachel for a whole day. So, he found it unexpectedly not to find Rachel inside the house.

But, he was so sure that Rachel was there. He never saw her leave.

The killer thought that Rachel must had noticed the his presence and hid somewhere in advance. But, it didn't really matter to him. He would play her game of hide and seek. Anyway, he was pretty confident

he would find her easily in a small house.

The killer knew just how to do an "emotional warfare." The more moves he made around the house, the more panic Rachel would feel, thus the higher chance it would be for that woman to reveal her hideout.

Just thinking that there was a "cat" shivering somewhere made him feel alive and excited.

So, the killer went to the living room and began to smash the decors and furniture. The crime would look like a case of burglary.

But to his surprise, everything remained still. The cat-and-mouse game became more interesting.

'Hide well. I'm coming. I will surely find you in the end, ' the killer thought.

And the killer walked towards the other bedroom. By now, Rachel was in total panic. The footsteps, faint but steady, were getting nearer and nearer. Her breathing seemed to get louder. And because she was so afraid to be heard, she held her breath to keep silent.

Suddenly, she heard the main door open again. This time, she didn't study the footsteps anymore. She knew it was a big chance that the newcomer was the killer's partner. She just focused her remaining energy in staying alive by absolutely remaining still.

At the same time, the killer was also aware of the new presence. To avoid exposure, he hid himself. He

would wait for the right time to make his move.

Seeing the chaos, Bernard called Rachel's phone but she didn't pick up. After the second attempt, he stopped trying to reach her. Instead, he focused on his surroundings. This time, he saw the footprints.

He knew right away they didn't belong to Rachel.

His instincts also told him that both Rachel and the footprints' owner were inside the house.

Therefore, Bernard began to search every room carefully and quietly. When he entered the guest bedroom, he saw the curtain on the left side fluttered a bit, but there was no wind at the moment.

'So who is behind the curtain? Rachel? Or the killer?'

Bernard approached slowly. Then, he drew the curtains aside.

Panic-stricken, Rachel was unable to move when the curtains opened. The only thing she did was shut her eyes. When nothing happened, she slowly opened them. She saw Bernard looking at her. He hugged her. They both sighed in relief.

Then, Rachel motioned to Bernard that there was still someone in the house.

Holding Rachel's hands tightly, Bernard led the way out of the house.

The killer, hiding in a dark corner, realized it was Rachel's rescuer who arrived. He missed his best

opportunity. So, he could only watch them escape.

Prepared, Bernard fled the house with Rachel and drove directly to the airport.

Thinking of possible situations which might happen made Bernard prepare a plan b. If something wrong really happened, Rachel and he could fly to Australia.

And what happened that night made Bernard act on plan b. It was definitely Australia.

The moment the plane took off was the only time Bernard started to relax. However, it was short-lived when he saw Rachel's far-off expression. He definitely didn't know what to do.

Rachel recalled everything happening to her. Playing in her mind were all the countless regretful things.

Now, she was on her way to a new land. She felt confused and found her future bleak and gray.

The only person she could rely on was Bernard. For that, she pitied herself!

'Whatever the future has in store for me, one thing is sure. I won't give up! I promise I will return. I will get back what really belongs to me!'

The plane slowly flew to the clouds, and the loud roar of the engines remained behind. Just like

Rachel's regrets which were left behind.

The next day, Holley received the news that Rachel had fled. After sending someone to check the news out, she learned that Rachel and Bernard had gone to Australia.

Although Holley failed to kill Rachel, she was still satisfied with the result. There wouldn't be any trouble for her anymore.

Even if they came back one day, she was sure that she would have already established her power in Tarsan Corporation by then. There was no way for Rachel to overpower her anymore.

She could already imagine her becoming so powerful in the company. No one would ever try to cross or rebut her. That feeling absolutely fascinated Holley. She felt so light and wonderful after a long time.

She could finally walk in the company with her head held high, without worrying that someone would criticize her the next second.

However, she realized she celebrated too early. When she went over the company's latest updated equity statement, she found a surprising fact—Rachel sold all her shares to Rex Hu, Black's father, before she left.

Mentally computing the thirty-five percent shares of Rex Hu from Rachel and Black's twenty-five percent shares, they had sixty percent shares together. As a result, Hu's shares were twenty percent

more than her forty percent shares.

Chapter 1296 Be Away From Home

It meant that the Hu family owned the largest stake in Tarsan Corporation and could hold a general meeting of shareholders at any time to bring her down, just like how she used to bring Rachel down.

Holley became scared when she realized this. She feared that she would have the same fate as Rachel. Having received everything she'd wanted and enjoyed the glory, she was unwilling to lose what she'd gained.

Her only choice seemed to be to win Black's loyalty and get him to give her his stock shares.

She had treated Black coldly for over a week with the excuse that she was busy working. She wanted to gradually stay away from him. But now she would have to reach out to him again.

"Holley, are you busy again today? I haven't seen you for a few days. I miss you so much. Can I take you to dinner after you get off work?"

Black was calling her once again and this time, Holley didn't refuse him as she'd done before.

Attempting to regain the passion she had for him when they had started dating, Holley said, "I've finally finished my work. I miss you, too, Black. I'll be waiting for you after work."

When evening came, the pair met up. They hugged and kissed and acted like an ordinary couple deeply in love.

They decided that instead of going out for dinner, Holley would prepare a home-cooked meal. When they finished eating, Black cleaned up and washed dishes. Eventually, the pair went for a walk in the garden, hand in hand. As they slowly walked around, Holley felt satisfaction settle deep within her.

Leaning against Black's strong shoulder, she felt a sense of peace and safety.

However, the feeling quickly vanished when she recalled what had happened, including the humiliation and unfair treatment she had suffered through.

'Sheryl still lives happily with Charles. Why would I have to live with grievance with a fake face?'

Holley's hatred grew even stronger at the thought.

Now, no matter how nice and considerate Black was to her, she couldn't feel anything for him. Her only wish was for revenge and power. She needed to figure out how to get Rex's stock, as quickly as possible. If Rex didn't agree, that meant Black in fact controlled nothing useful and would therefore be unable to get her the stock.

What should she do?

Holley's mind was a mess. She prayed that the Hu Group was under Black's control. This man loved her so much. It would be so easy for her to take control of his shares.

But Holley had to face Rex. He was a master of trickery and deception, so she would need to be extremely careful.

What she could do was make sure Black kept loving her. As long as he was devoted to her, Holley could naturally take his shares of Tarsan Corporation when he someday took over his father's company.

Meanwhile, Cassie had been waiting impatiently to leave work. When work finally ended, she hurriedly gathered her things and prepared to leave. But suddenly, she saw Jordan walking toward her.

While she didn't know Jordan very well, she knew that he was Cora's older brother.

Many memorable things had happened the last time they'd met. Jordan had even gotten into a fight because of her, which made Cassie feel guilty and uneasy in front of him.

Seeing the man walking toward her, she paused awkwardly, wanting to ask him how he was.

Having had a surgery quite recently, Jordan walked very slowly. He carefully made his way toward

Cassie step by step. Behind his glasses, Jordan's eyes were glued to Cassie.

The passion in his eyes was difficult for Cassie to bear, making her even more restless.

"Jordan, how are you feeling?" Cassie greeted him, warmly.

Jordan felt a fuzzy feeling grow inside him as he listened to the beautiful girl asking about his health.

Smiling gently, he replied, "Just the wound hurts. It's no big deal. Thanks."

"Hmm, you had a surgery and should be on bed rest. By the way, make sure your diet is light. Don't eat anything oily or spicy," Cassie told him unconsciously.

Jordan felt more comfortable after hearing Cassie's words. It seemed that his wound didn't hurt that much right now.

"Are you going home?" Jordan asked, seeing that Cassie had changed into her "going out" clothes.

Cassie nodded and replied, "Yes. I'm going out once I get ready."

Thinking about going out made her anxious to see Nick. She needed to see him as soon as possible and perhaps wouldn't have time to go home beforehand.

Jordan closely examined Cassie's expression. Frowning, his face turned from joyful to cloudy. Pushing his glasses up the bridge of his nose, he smiled faintly and said, "Be safe on the way."

"Okay. Bye." Cassie nodded at Jordan and then hurried away to exit the hospital.

Deciding she didn't have time to go back home, she went directly to Nick's residence.

When she arrived at Nick's apartment, Cassie rang the doorbell. Not hearing any movement from inside, she rang the doorbell again and continued to wait.

Was Nick not at home? Confused, Cassie reached into her pocket for her cell phone to call Nick.

Suddenly, Nick's neighbor, a young couple, emerged from the apartment next-door. Seeing Cassie, the woman smiled and greeted her, "Are you Nick's girlfriend?"

Feeling a blush creep onto her face, Cassie smiled. She didn't want to deny it, so she nodded and asked, "Do you know if he's home?"

"Er, last night when we came back from a walk, we saw Nick carrying a suitcase. It seemed like he was leaving on a long journey. Perhaps he didn't sleep at home last night," the woman answered.

"Okay. Thank you." Cassie was disappointed but didn't forget to express her thanks.

After the couple had left, Cassie tried to figure out where Nick could possibly be. Had he been away from home?

Taking out her cell phone again, she hurriedly called Nick.

After a few seconds of ringing, Cassie heard a beep, causing her to frown. Why wasn't Nick answering the phone?

Chapter 1297 The Proposal

Without a second thought, Cassie quickly put her cell phone away, walked down the front steps of the apartment, and immediately headed to Nick's company, Lansh Technology.

When she arrived, Cassie was stopped by a guard on the first floor.

"Can I ask who you are here to see?"

"I want to see Mr. Ge of Lansh Technology. I'm his girlfriend." Cassie didn't conceal her identity and told him straight-up.

Clearly confused, the guard stared at Cassie. 'I never thought such an introverted young man would be dating someone, ' he thought.

Although the security guard was curious about it, he still refrained from asking and merely replied,

"Okay, let me check for you."

After a moment, he hung up the phone and apologized, "The receptionist at Lansh Tech said that Mr.

Ge wasn't in right now. He's on a business trip."

The news made Cassie anxious and she urgently asked, "Did she tell you where he went?"

He could sense Cassie's worry, so he tried to comfort her, "The receptionist didn't say. But she said that

Mr. Ge would be back soon enough, maybe just in a few days."

'He left again!'

With that, Cassie was seething with rage. After all, she was Nick's girlfriend—how could he just leave

without telling her? He refused to answer the phone and she had no idea where he was. It was

infuriating.

"Thank you. I have to go now."

As she left, a scowl was evident on her face.

Looking up at the sky, she could feel the warm and bright sunshine. Still, the sunshine couldn't reach

her doomed heart.

At this point, she was at her wit's end. All she could do was wonder about what went wrong between

her and Nick.

As hard as she thought, Cassie still couldn't figure it out.

Holley and Black grew deeply attached to each other. After a few days, Black already had an idea to surprise Holley.

Although they hadn't spent much time together, the feeling she gave him was unlike that of any other woman—Black was certain that he had already fallen deeply in love with her and that he wanted to be with her for the rest of his life.

On that note, Black was determined to have a family with her so they could grow old together.

One of those days, while they were on their regular after-work date, Black brought out a whole bouquet of red roses for Holley before picking out a small box from his pocket, getting down on one knee, and staring at Holley with deep affection.

There was no surprise in Holley's heart at the scene, only panic. Of course, she couldn't reveal any hint of resistance. Instead, she pretended to be pleasantly surprised and touched as well as she was able to.

"Holley, I love you. I want to propose to you. We can build a family together. I will always love you and never betray you. Will you marry me?" When Black opened the box, Holley was faced with a shiny huge diamond resting inside.

After finishing his proposal, Black looked up at Holley with bright eyes, believing he would hear the answer he wanted.

At that point, Holley was barely keeping her smile intact. She didn't dare look at Black directly because she knew she would break her act if she did.

"This is so sudden... It all happened in a flash. I'm completely unprepared," she smiled awkwardly.

Truly, she was caught in a dilemma.

On the one hand, it was Charles who she loved, not Black, so it was clear that she couldn't accept the proposal. On the other hand, she urgently needed to secure Black's trust to gain his shares so she couldn't directly refuse him.

Put in such a spotlight, Holley was so nervous that her forehead was sweating, the droplets rolling down her temple, to her cheek, and to her jaw.

"I didn't just suddenly propose to you. I've been thinking about this for a long time. I'm sure that I want to spend the rest of my life with you. I hope you can give me this opportunity to take care of you for as long as I live."

As he firmly said it, he nudged the ring forward an inch.

"But I still think it's far too sudden. Give me a few days to think about it, okay? I'm sorry."

Without any other excuse to refuse him, she kept her answers vague.

Though he was disappointed, Black also knew that what he did was rather abrupt. All he could think to do was find another opportunity to propose to Holley. Encouraging himself, he thought, 'I must succeed next time. Holley will feel my sincerity and accept me.'

"Well, Holley, I respect your choice. I will wait for you as long as you need. Here, take the ring. You can put it on when you're certain about accepting me," Black said affectionately.

Taking the ring, she simply said, "Thank you, Black."

Chapter 1298 Running Away From Reality

On the way home, neither of the two spoke. The marriage proposal seemed like too much of an impact.

Originally, Black was certain that they were mutually attached, so Holley's rejection was completely unexpected. Now, he knew that Holley didn't love him as much as he loved her.

All the while, Holley's mind was also a mess. Of course, she was well aware that no matter how many days he gave her to think about it, she would never be willing to marry him. Charles was still the only person who she wanted to be with.

The silence in the car made her too uneasy as she wasn't sure whether or not Black was angry at her.

If he really was angry and directly handed his shares over to his father, Rex, what would Holley have left to do?

The atmosphere in the vehicle grew increasingly solemn until Holley opened her mouth, unable to bear it any longer.

"Would you like to stay for the night?"

As she said it, she merely stared at Black's hands on the steering wheel. If they weren't the only two people in the car, Black wouldn't have been sure that Holley was talking to him.

"I won't stay today. There's an early meeting at the company tomorrow morning. My house is closer to the office."

In truth, Black didn't have to go home that night. But without knowing what Holley really thought of him,

he couldn't spend the night with her.

What made Black feel even stranger was that he wasn't touched at all when he heard Holley's words.

Black's heart was numb unlike before, when his heartbeat would be racing, too difficult to calm down

after hearing Holley say such words.

Even Black had to admit that the proposal triggered a crack in their relationship.

Before stepping out of the car, Holley gave Black a deep goodnight kiss, which, at the very least,

managed to give him some confidence.

"Holley, I want to take you back home to meet my father this weekend. He's been expecting me to

introduce my girlfriend to him for a long time now. I want to take you home so he won't worry about my

marriage anymore."

Although she also felt uncomfortable to refuse a second unexpected request, Holley wouldn't dare go

with him to meet Rex.

In the past, Holley had already heard quite a lot about Rex. The Hu Group's development into the

current scale was entirely dependent on Rex's strategy of operation.

Undoubtedly, he was a scheming man. It was said that others were all too afraid to play any kind of

trick in front of him because they couldn't escape Rex's calculating eyes.

What was more, Rex had a Mafia background and nobody dared provoke him. Not wanting his son to

get involved in that scene, he tried to gradually wash the Hu Group in the recent years, operating the company legally. Still, his history still scared people off.

Holley's past was not completely legal. She was afraid that Rex would figure out all her immoral actions in the past. If Rex had her unmasked, Black would most definitely leave her and she would no longer own Tarsan Corporation.

Hesitantly, Holley started, "I think...

It's not yet time. When the time is ripe, I'll go home with you to visit your father, okay?"

This time, Holley didn't dare look directly at Back's face. Because she was refusing him once again, she knew that he might get truly angry.

"What? Why not? Just come with me to see my father! Why can't you do that? I think the time has been right for a while now!"

It was unbelievable. Black couldn't understand why Holley wouldn't even grant him a small, insignificant request.

But how could Holley explain it to him? It was impossible to tell him that she never dared meet his father because she was too afraid of being exposed.

Faced with another rejection, Black was left utterly frustrated. He couldn't understand what was going through her mind. Was she dealing with personal issues?

The two were so close to each other inside the narrow space of the car, so much that even their breathing sounds were utterly clear and audible. In spite of their proximity, Black couldn't help but feel like she was drifting far away from him at that moment as if he couldn't touch even her shadow as he stretched out to reach her.

'Does she really love me?'

Looking at Holley, Black could only ask himself this question. Afraid that Holley wouldn't give him the answer he wanted, he was afraid to say it out loud.

Naturally, Holley didn't really love him back. In spite of everything, it was still Charles who was on her mind and in her dreams. How could she leave room in her heart for Black?

"Black, I'm a bit tired. You should go home early to rest. You still have an early meeting tomorrow, don't you?" Unfastening her seatbelt, she bid him goodbye.

Black finally realized that no matter how much he questioned her, she wouldn't give him an

explanation. All he could do was watch her get out of the car and walk inside her house before she shut the door closed.

Before Holley entered the house, she cast Black a pointed look and said, "Don't think too much. See you tomorrow."

No one knew if her words were meant to comfort or advise him.

Black nodded slightly, but his face remained stoic. The sound of the car engine being started was heard, and then he quickly sped away.

After Holley went to bed, she tossed and turned all night and couldn't fall asleep. She clearly felt

Black's stubborn love for her. If she kept close to him every day, seeing Rex would be inevitable.

Thus, she had to stop seeing him frequently and let them calm down first.

Chapter 1299 Cooperate

The next few days went by like a blur. Black rarely contacted Holley, but sometimes he couldn't control himself so he texted her. However, Holley's replies were aloof.

Soon enough, Tarsan Corporation had prepared to bid for a project. Holley had gotten busy every day, so her relationship with Black remained at a standstill.

This project's prospect was quite important to Holley. If they won the bid, it would certainly bring them a

great profit. Most importantly, it could open doors for them in that field. Thus, everyone at Tarsan

Corporation took the matter quite seriously and even worked overtime to collect data and prepare the files for the bid.

The day of the bidding came, and Holley went to the meeting room in the company of Party A. Upon arrival, she was surprised to find that Charles was also there. When Holley saw him, her heart hammered in her rib cage and she didn't even know how she got to her seat, but she sat down nonetheless.

While everyone prepared their presentations, Holley couldn't help but peek at Charles. His face was calm and cold, but his eyes brimmed with vigor. His sleeves were rolled up and made him look neat and efficient. He occasionally tapped the table with his pen, held by his fair-skinned and slender fingers. Holley even wanted to touch his fingers.

Charles also saw Holley, but he deeply hated her so he simply ignored her.

A few minutes later, the meeting came to the main point. Holley finally calmed down and concentrated

on Party A's speech. After all, this project was of great importance and Tarsan Corporation had done so much for it already. They couldn't make any mistakes when it was nearly completed, so Holley had to take it seriously.

After a while, Party A had come to a surprising decision that all the bidders never expected. Party A was satisfied by both the strengths of Charles' Shining Company, and Tarsan Corporation that Holley represented. They hoped that the two companies would join hands on the project and cooperate to produce the perfect plan.

The people in the room began to chatter among themselves because the final decision was quite unexpected.

Meanwhile, Holley secretly felt joyful about the news. Her eyes immediately darted to Charles, as she was worried that he would turn down Party A's decision. However, she thought that it would be impersonal of him so he had to agree, and this thought relieved her.

"I have no problem with this suggestion. Of course, it's up to Mr. Lu," Holley said. On the other hand, Charles didn't look too happy about the decision. He hated Holley a lot.

If it wasn't for her, his beloved wife wouldn't have suffered so much grievance and injustice.

If the two companies worked together to finish the project, he would inevitably have to contact Holley.

He found that unacceptable, but this project was truly important to him so he didn't reject it on the spot.

If he did so, Party A would feel embarrassed.

Thus, he just said that he needed to consider it before making a final decision. Then he left the meeting room and planned to go back.

At that moment, Holley smiled at the person in charge of Party A and hurried to walk out of the meeting room. She wanted to catch up with Charles.

"Mr. Lu, wait a moment."

Her high heels made walking a bit difficult, but she still followed Charles and hoped to stop him.

Holley's voice reached Charles and he felt annoyed. He didn't stop walking forward.

Still, Holley didn't give up and hurried more to catch up to him. When she did, she grabbed his arm and tried to make him stop and listen to her.

Now, Charles never thought that Holley would act improperly in public like when she grabbed his arm.

He forcefully wormed out of her grip and had to stop to prevent her from doing that again.

"Miss Ye, please show some respect. What can I do for you?" As Charles said those words, he didn't

look at Holley but raised his arm and checked his watch. He pretended to be in a hurry on purpose to

hint that Holley should be sensible and stop bothering him.

However, Holley finally seized a chance, so how could she let him go like he wished?

"Mr. Lu, don't you think Party A's suggestion is perfect? Won't it be a win-win for us if we cooperate to

finish this project? So what's your opinion about it, Mr. Lu?" Holley asked straightforwardly.

She wanted to know Charles' thoughts on the matter in advance.

'Ha, you don't know yourself well enough. You're so naive to think that I would be willing to work with

you,' Charles thought and cast Holley a sharp glance.

"I have no interest in a joint cooperation between Tarsan Corporation and Shining Company. Miss Ye, if

you have nothing else to talk about, I have something to do and need to go now."

As Charles spoke, he planned to walk around Holley and leave.

"Mr. Lu, please wait a while. I have something important to tell you. Can you give me a few minutes?"

At that moment, Holley saw that Charles' secretary had sorted out the files from the meeting and was

about to approach them, so she quickly stated her questions.

However, Charles didn't stop walking as he didn't care about what she wanted to say.

"Mr. Lu, are you sure that you won't listen?" Holley moved two steps forward and asked. "Then I have to continue bothering you."

Even though Charles clearly wasn't interested, Holley still spoke to him regardless.

That only made Charles hate her more, but he didn't want the others to see him being leeches on and gossip about him behind his back. Thus, he had to relent and talk to Holley in a corner where nobody could see them.

"Mr. Lu, I hope that you can agree to cooperate with us."

After those words, Holley paused for a bit and seemed to hardly know where to start.

"Is this something important as you mentioned? I think we don't need to talk about this issue. I won't agree to cooperate or change my mind."

Charles was already quite distressed and put a hand on his forehead. He was in no mood to explain things to Holley in detail.

"Mr. Lu, listen to me first. Don't make a rash decision, please. It is said that business is business, so I

believe this project is also important to Shining Company. Otherwise, you won't care about this bid so much, right?"

It seemed that Holley had predicted that Charles wouldn't answer her question, so she added, "Mr. Lu, I hope you can think over about the proposed cooperation in terms of its benefits for both of us."

Chapter 1300 Consideration

The corner they were in was quiet as Holley saw Charles in deep thought. She thought of what to say next, but it seemed that she couldn't form the right words at that moment.

Holley slightly raised her voice to catch Charles' attention.

"Charles, you know I've been in love with you for a long time. You've been on my mind ever since I first saw you. I also know that you and Sheryl aren't happy right now. She's not suitable for you. You're not really in love, but just tied together because of a contract. So, I hope you can give me a chance to be closer to you. I admit that I have my own selfish motives for this cooperation."

Now, Charles originally didn't care about whatever Holley said at all, but when he heard this woman casually slander his marriage with Sheryl, he became so enraged that he couldn't even control himself

to act decently. In fact, he didn't want to listen to all her nonsense anymore.

However, Holley seemed to miss the obvious resistance and rejection in Charles' eyes as she continued, "Charles, our cooperation will benefit you in both work and in life, won't it? Our companies can even merge into one and grow stronger. If you divorce Sheryl, I'll marry you and leave Tarsan Corporation completely under your management. I can stay at home to teach and accompany our children."

"Shut up! Sher and I live a quiet, happy life now, which you don't need to comment on. Moreover, do you think I will like you? You don't need to waste your time and my time here anymore."

Without even bothering to be polite, Charles rejected Holley's advances and quickly walked away.

Everything Charles had said made Holley mad with rage. She clenched her hands into fists so hard that her nails dug crescent-shaped imprints on her palms.

Her eyes gazed at Charles' determined back as a cold smile graced her face. 'Just wait and see,

Charles. You'll soon come back and ask me to cooperate with you!' she thought.

Meanwhile, Charles returned to Shining Company. He contacted the head of the project and declined the cooperation between Shining Company and Tarsan Corporation. The head could only regretfully

say, "It's really a pity. We'll re-evaluate this project, but I hope that we can have a chance to cooperate with Shining Company in the future."

Charles also thought that it was a waste to have given up the project, but he got sick to his stomach when he thought that he had to work with Holley. Therefore, he thought that he made the right decision.

He also didn't understand how Holley had the confidence to say that he would divorce Sher and be with her instead. Although the company's development was very important, Sher's place in his heart was far higher than the company's.

But what Charles never expected was on the next day, rumors began to spread everywhere—Sheryl, the wife of the president of Shining Company, poisoned Leila, and pushed her mother-in-law down the stairs which resulted in a serious injury and hospitalization.

Such news was so absurd but it had spread quickly. Charles tried to trace the source of the news, but to no avail.

He could only trace the one who committed the libel and comfort his wife, which made him exhausted.

What made things worse was that the stock price of Shining Company crashed and plummeted sharply

due to the malicious rumors. A gap appeared in the company's capital chain, which put the company in a tense and critical situation.

The other shareholders of the company also questioned Charles and forced him to give them an account of what happened. In addition, they also required him to solve the company's problem as soon as possible.

During this difficult time, Charles had to work overtime every day even until midnight, and tried to find a way out of their current problems.

At that time, Holley suddenly came to visit Shining Company and took it upon herself to find Charles.

The phone on Charles' desk suddenly rang. The front desk called and when he heard Holley's name, he thought that it was when he previously rejected Holley that the rumor came out. Such coincidence made Charles suspect her.

It was clear that the rumor this time must have been designed by someone anonymous and this person's target was Sheryl and the company. Thus, Charles had employed private detectives to trace the source, but there were no leads yet.

At Shining Company

While Charles sat in his office, he reflected about all that things that happened recently. After a while, there was a knock on the door and his secretary came in.

"Mr. Lu, Tarsan Corporation's Miss Ye says she has an appointment with you. Should I let her in?" the secretary said politely. Charles thought about it for a while before he answered, "Let her in." His face remained emotionless.

The secretary nodded in compliance and then left.

A minute later, Holley arrived at the door of the president's office.

"Mr. Lu, hello," Holley greeted happily. As soon as she stepped inside his office, she greeted him naturally like they were friends and their unpleasant conversation before never happened.

There was no response from Charles. The real reason he allowed her to meet him today was maybe he could find some clues from what she was going to say to him.

If Holley really was the source of those rumors, he wouldn't spare her easily.

"Mr. Lu, would you mind having a conversation with me today?"

"Miss Ye, why did you come here to meet me?" When Charles glanced at Holley's fearless and

confident face, he grew suspicious of her.

"I heard that Shining Company had experienced a downfall recently. Mr. Lu, is that so?"

"Shining Company has indeed encountered some minor problems at present, but I believe these issues would be solved soon. They're not as serious as you said," Charles calmly answered. Holley's eyes glinted under the bright office lights at Charles' response.

If she hadn't kept a close eye on Shining Company recently, Holley would have easily believed Charles' words.

'Charles, you'll compromise with me soon,' Holley sneered and thought to herself.

"I came here today to discuss the project Tarsan Corporation and Shining Company were supposed to work together on last time. Although you previously refused to cooperate, I think you'll take this opportunity considering Shining Company's current predicament."

Confidence dripped from Holley's every word. She believed that Charles wouldn't refuse her offer this time because his company was in shambles.

Moreover, Holley had learned a lesson from their previous encounter. She didn't mention anything

about Sheryl and their relationship this time, but of course that didn't mean that she didn't want to be with Charles anymore. Instead, she opted for a slow and gradual approach. As long as the two companies would cooperate in the end, there would be plenty of time for them to be alone together.

Thus, she would have many chances to approach and attract him.

"What do you think, Mr. Lu? I think this project is worth the try. As long as our companies work together,

I believe we can maximize the benefits. So, do you agree to cooperate on this project now?"

At that moment, Charles didn't answer Holley immediately, but his eyes dropped and he decided to consider it.