

## **Wedded Bride 131**

### **Chapter 131**

"Shut up!" Gary snapped out his strict order. No matter what, Yvonne was a guest, and they were supposed to host her irrespective of personal matters. If they turned her away, the Lu Family would be rumored to be rude, unwelcoming and unfriendly. "Ye, she is your cousin. I'll leave the matter to your discretion."

In Gary's opinion, whatever Yvonne's purpose for this visit was, the problem should be settled by Autumn herself.

"Yes, grandpa." Autumn obeyed his order too.

But she knew exactly what the ground reality was. Even though it might seem like Gary was on Yvonne's side, he actually was not. In reality, he was laying down the facts and boundaries for Yvonne, by showing her that he was still entrusting Autumn with all the important matters. He also indicated that if at all she intended to stay the night, it would mean nothing. The only mistress in this house was Autumn. And if Autumn didn't want her to stay over, Yvonne had to leave.

But Yvonne was not smart enough to understand these subtle hints. Once she heard Gary's remark, she smirked triumphantly, as she thought that her efforts had born fruits. Before she came, she tried to lay down her trap and made several inquiries. And when she found out that Autumn was not at home, she decided to call Gary and chat with him, for a while, with an intention of making him like her. And her plans had succeeded as she thought, as it appeared to be.

Gary cast a glance at Yvonne, and said, "Rest assured, Miss Ye. My granddaughter is just a bit grumpy, please don't take it personally."

He then flashed a welcoming smile, "Since it's Yvonne's home, and you're Yvonne's cousin, please make yourself comfortable and feel at home. You can stay as long as you wish for."

Yvonne was delighted once she heard that, if not carried away. As she didn't get this one, either, she grinned, and thanked Gary, "Thank you, grandpa, for your generosity."

With now a displeased tone, Gary decided to be straightforward. He said with a frown, "Call me Gary, please. I am not your grandfather, Miss Ye. 'Grandpa' makes it sound like I have two granddaughters-in-law."

His tone was gentle yet his words wounded Yvonne's pride. Her heart felt like it was suddenly encased in ice as she was finally reminded that only Autumn was Charles's legitimate wife, who was accepted and loved by Gary.

"Yes, Mr. Lu...Gary." She quickly repeated while rectifying her mistake.

Yvonne had to be extremely cautious with her every move. It was almost like walking in a minefield, one wrong step could put her out of the house. Her purpose should not be exposed to the Lu Family, under any circumstance, before she made Charles fall for her. Although her moving in today may seem hurried, it was actually a planned and deliberate move. She only wanted to make Charles, and his family, too, start to like her little by little.

"Follow me, then." Autumn said coldly as she turned to Yvonne. The latter was displeased with her tone but still followed her command. As the door closed behind them, Yvonne suddenly changed her expression. In an arrogant tone, she addressed Autumn, "See? As long as I want to move in, I will move in! And I'm warning you, Autumn Ye, as we are now living under the same roof, you will behave properly around me. And irrespective of what I want to do, you will help me. Do you understand?"

Autumn let out a scornful chuckle. She sneered, "Under the same roof? Do you really think you're moving in?"

"Grandpa has made his decision and he decided to entrust me with this matter. If I say you're moving in, you are moving in and if I say no, you're not. But I do admire your courage and dedication. Just to carry out your stupid plans, you risked sending your parents away from your petty company, which was inches away from bankruptcy. You have some nerve."

Yvonne gave her a stink eye and sneered, "I don't give a shit about Gu's bankruptcy. If I can marry into the Lu Family, Shining Company will be mine. Then why should I care about my parents? But you better bear this thought in your mind: You're just a substitute, a fake. When I get married into the Lu Family, you'll be cast out. Although it might not be such a bad thing for you, as then, you will finally live with your dear grandmother again. Let's call it a win-win situation."

Autumn almost laughed at her naive words. She glowered at Yvonne, and snapped, "You really think you are making progress here, don't you? Come on, moving in does not mean a thing. And I'm clearly telling you, I am no longer going to be pushed around anymore."

Autumn was not afraid of anything or anyone now. The belief that her every decision would be supported gave her strength to move forward.

"Do you really think so?" Yvonne revealed an intimidating yet heinous smile. The very next second, from the corner of her eye she spotted Charles coming towards them and quickly fell down on her knees and pretended as though Autumn had hit her. She covered her cheek with a hand, and gazed at Autumn with teary eyes, "Sis, what happened in that shopping mall was all my fault. I misunderstood you and caused you great trouble. But now it's all in the past now, and I really wish you could be so kind as to forgive me. I have no other place to go now. Mr. and Mrs. Gu have left for a journey, and as they are not home, the servants are on vacations, too. But I can still stay in a hotel if you don't like the idea of me staying here...Why did you have to hit me..." She sobbed and stopped speaking.

Taken aback by Yvonne's little skit, Autumn was at a loss for words. Eyes wide open, she glared at Yvonne but couldn't understand what was happening. But the next moment, she heard Charles's voice from behind her, and in that second she realized what Yvonne was trying to do here.

"What is going on here?" asked Charles, as he shot a cold glance at Yvonne. The latter was perched on the ground, covering her untouched cheek with a hand, and looked up to him with tears in her eyes.

"Charles, I..." Yvonne stuttered, but suddenly stopped. She took a quick look at Autumn, to give an idea of being scared of her.

"What's going on here?" Charles turned to Autumn, eyes filled with impatience and seeking answers. He was distracted and felt at unease after seeing Yvonne in his house.

Autumn let out a resigned sigh, and explained, "My parents are out traveling and even the servants took a leave of absence, so there was no one to take care of her in that house. They want her to live with us for a while."

Hearing this, Charles wanted to say something. But before he could start, Yvonne was now back on her feet, and said to him, "Charles, I don't think it is a good idea. Yvonne doesn't like the idea of me staying

here, and I don't like it when I am unwanted. I... I can live in a hotel..." Yvonne sobbed as she prepared to leave.

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Yvonne followed Charles into the door, sitting beside him. Autumn arrived not long after, seeing Yvonne talking to the three of them, though she was not welcomed.

"Wow, Chris! Your skin looks so good! How do you take good care of it?"

Chris did not respond, remaining silent.

"Charles, I'm so jealous of you! You live such a happy life with my cousin. I wish I could be so lucky to find a good husband like you, " Yvonne continued.

Noticing that no one is paying her any attention, she turned towards Gary.

"Grandpa..." she said, stopping mid-sentence to correct herself.

"Gary, I've heard that you like playing chess quite often. Would you like to play chess with me right now?"

Gary, being the kind man that he was, didn't have the heart to decline her suggestion directly. "Sure, if you'd like to."

His response immensely lifted her spirit. "Sis, can you please carry my luggage to my bedroom? I'm going to play chess with Gary right now, " she said, turning to Autumn.

Autumn didn't know what to say in response.

She felt like Yvonne is treating her like a servant.

Upon hearing this, Charles stood up and offered to carry the luggage of Yvonne.

Autumn followed him as they entered a vacant room located on the first floor.

It turned out to be a room intended for a servant. Despite being small, the room proved to be clean. Autumn smiled, realizing why he allowed Yvonne to live in their house.

"Charles, I'm sorry, " she apologized unexpectedly.

Anyway, Yvonne was her half-sister, she thought that she was somehow responsible for the current situation.

"What are you apologizing for?" he asked, his face full of concern.

Autumn has acquired a habit of taking responsibility for other people. But he couldn't bear to see her put the blame on herself when she hasn't done anything wrong.

"My mom called to tell me that Yvonne would come here and live with us for a while. I didn't expect that she'll actually come here without my permission, seeing that I've declined her request, " she said, exasperated.

"Don't worry. It won't be long before she'll start packing her own bags, " he replied with a grim face.

He had tried to avoid meddling into their sibling relationship because he didn't want to cause any troubles. But after Autumn's confession, he didn't think he could mind his own business any longer.

Autumn smiled upon hearing what he said. She couldn't even imagine her reaction once she knew that she had to stay in the maid room.

Yvonne, completely clueless about the arrangement, was still playing chess with Gary, trying to curry his favor.

She deliberately took classes before paying a visit. But she was still very much a rookie compared to Gary who's already an experienced chess player.

Yvonne found herself losing the game within five minutes. "Gary, don't be such a bully. You might want to even the playing field since I'm just a beginner. Maybe you can try to let me withdraw a false move, " she said, beginning to act like a brat.

"Withdraw a false move?"

Gary asked, furrowing his eyebrows upon hearing her words. How could she ask for a chance to withdraw her false move? Her words left a bad impression, as it revealed how she can't even follow the basic rules of the game.

"Yes. That would be fair, " she replied, unaware of Gary's change of mood.

"Shall we move on?" she asked, smiling.

"No. We're no longer going to continue playing, " Gary said, standing up as soon as he finished his words. He couldn't bear playing a game with such a dishonorable person.

"It's time for dinner. Nancy might have already prepared something for us. Let's have dinner."

Nancy immediately started serving food upon Gary's request. "Excuse me. But you are sitting at my wife's seat, " Charles said as Yvonne sat beside him, trying to pour him a glass of water. Autumn stood behind her silently.

"I don't care about that. It's just a seat, " she replied, patting the chair beside her.

"You can sit here. You wouldn't mind sitting here instead, would you?" she said, turning to Autumn.

"But I care, " Charles replied in a stern voice before Autumn could start saying anything.

Uncomfortable silence immediately surrounded the dining room. Yvonne felt incredibly upset, not expecting that Charles would react in such a cold way.

Glaring at Autumn, she thought Charles wouldn't be so indifferent if it weren't for her. 'Why does she have to take him away from me?' she thought, holding a grudge against her sister.

Clenching her hands, she moved to another seat as she tried to control her rage.

The room remained tense as everyone continued to eat silently. No one dared to utter a word except for Charles who kept on refilling Autumn's bowl, reminding her to eat more. Though Yvonne was a guest, no one paid her any attention.

"Charles, when you go to work tomorrow, can you-"

"I'm sorry. But there's a rule in our family that we shouldn't talk while we're eating. So please stop talking to me. Understood?" Charles interrupted before she even began to finish her words.

She looked at him, her voice stuck on her throat. She forced herself to stop saying anything despite being extremely angry.

After they finished their dinner, Yvonne pulled Autumn aside to talk to her. Smiling, she urged her sister to help her get along with Charles. "I'm exhausted. I think I might need to take a rest. Can you take me to my room?" she asked.

"Sure. Follow me, " Autumn replied, nodding her head.

Autumn led her through the yard, walking towards the building located at the back. "Here we are, " she said, opening the door of the room.

Yvonne felt something was amiss. She walked in, horrified to see herself standing in the same room with the servants. "What do you think you're doing? Why did you bring me here?" she asked irritably, looking at Autumn.

"What the hell are you playing at? This is the maid room! Do you want me to live here?" she yelled further.

"Why? What's wrong with the maid room? Isn't it clean?" she said, laughing coldly as she went on.

### Chapter 133

In the past, Wendy had always taken Yvonne's side, and Autumn was the one that got bullied. But, now that she was in her own house and Wendy wasn't around to take Yvonne's side, Autumn was curious to see what Yvonne would do next.

"That's bullshit! I said nothing like that." Yvonne felt afraid and intimidated as she looked at the servants watching her. She turned around to walk towards the front yard and said, "Don't be so cocky. Just you wait! I'll go ask Charles; who gave you the right to do this to me? I wonder what Charles and Gary will think when they find out that you arranged such a room for me."

"You wouldn't want to do that, " Autumn said frigidly.

"Well, it sounds like somebody is scared." replied Yvonne She sneered as if she was finally holding something over Autumn. She had specifically told Autumn that she wanted a room next to Charles's, but instead, she got a maid room, which was far away from Charles's. How was she supposed to seduce him?

"Scared?" Autumn couldn't help but scoff. It was for Yvonne's good not to ask for a snub.

"If not scared, then what? Autumn, you'd better not forget that you're nothing but a bitch who stole my identity. You're making me stay in such a crappy room in my own house, I'll make sure you pay for this insolence!" Yvonne threatened.

"Your house?" Autumn sneered. "It's my house now, so you will have to play by my rules. You either stay here and be quiet or you can crawl back to your own place. You'd better remember that, " Autumn retorted fearlessly.

"Just you wait and see. I'm telling Charles about this." Yvonne sensed a change in Autumn, as if she had turned into a totally different person. She didn't realize that it was Wendy and her that turned Autumn into the person she had become now.



Yvonne intended to look for Charles, but before she went any further, Charles walked in. She rushed to him and said, "Charles, look! My sister is making me stay in a servant's room. It is apparent that she doesn't want me to stay in this house. You must help me. She is becoming intolerable."

"Intolerable? How?" Charles pretended to be ignorant of the situation. "What's wrong with living here?" he asked Yvonne.

"Um-" Yvonne frowned, struggling to find the words to express herself. She couldn't tell him that she wanted to sleep next to his room.

"If there is no problem, please go to bed. Your sister and I are going to bed as well." Charles walked past Yvonne, and then he turned back and said to her, "Oh, it was my idea to let you sleep here, even though your sister thought it was too small for you. She even tried to change my mind about it. But at least it is clean, right? The rooms in the main building haven't been cleaned yet, but I have special people clean the rooms here every day. You will only be here for a couple of days anyway. Thank you for understanding, "

Charles said indifferently, as if he was actually telling her that she could leave anytime, if she didn't like it there. Hearing Charles's words, Yvonne realized that she had to accept it and take it for what it was.

Just as Charles and Autumn were leaving, Yvonne called Autumn in a rush, stepped up, and held her by the arm. Now that she couldn't sleep in the same building as Charles, she wouldn't let Autumn sleep with him either. "Charles, I have a request, but- I'm too embarrassed to say it."

Charles said seriously, "Don't say it then."

Looking at Charles, Autumn burst into laughter. "Honey, how could you say that? Stop teasing her, " she said.

She turned to Yvonne and held her hand. She believed that Yvonne felt as uncomfortable as she did. "My dear sister, you can say whatever you want. This is my home, which means it is yours as well. If you need anything, let me know."

Yvonne was filled with resentment, but she had to continue to pretend. She looked at Autumn and said in an innocent tone, "Sis, it's been a long time since we last slept in the same bed as we did when we were little. So- can you sleep with me here tonight? I'm scared to be alone."

"Did we ever sleep together when we were little? How come I don't remember?" Autumn mercilessly exposed Yvonne's lie.

"Of course we did." Yvonne wouldn't spare any effort to separate Autumn and Charles. She smiled and turned to Charles, "Charles, you will agree, right? I haven't seen my sister in a long time. We have a lot of catching up to do..."

"No, she can't." Charles rejected her request directly. "I'm sorry, I'm used to her being at my side. I'm afraid I won't be able to sleep if she isn't with me."

Yvonne didn't know how to respond to that. Charles took Autumn's hand and said, "Let's go, Miss Ye needs her rest."

When they walked out of the back yard, Autumn couldn't repress her laughter anymore and started laughing hysterically.

"Brother, what's up with Ye?" Chris wondered.

"She's fine." Charles looked at Autumn affectionately. It was the first time he had seen her laugh so heartily. It seemed Yvonne's existence wasn't completely meaningless after all.

He smiled and said to Chris, "I just told her a joke."

"What joke? Tell it to me too!"

"It's late. Go to sleep." Charles went upstairs with Autumn. Chris was left there alone, where she stood, gloomily.

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Charles didn't reply, but Yvonne took that as a yes. She went bouncing back to her room because she needed to get dressed up. She was glad that she could at least spend some time with Charles on the way to Shining Company. It was a good chance for her to seduce him. She thought that she would seize this opportunity.

She was beautifully made-up and she had also put on her favorite clothes. When she arrived at the front yard, she got an unpleasant shock. Charles had already left.

She assumed that Charles would wait for her, so she didn't worry about how she was going to go to work. But now...

When she saw Nancy passing by, she stopped her and asked, "Where is Charles?"

Nancy didn't like Autumn, but she found Yvonne also annoying. Yvonne was supercilious and impolite. Nancy glanced at Yvonne with scorn as she said, "Mr. Lu has gone to work. He said that he called a taxi for you. It will be here shortly. You can have your breakfast while you wait for it."

Nancy turned to leave when she thought of something and looked back at Yvonne, saying, "Oh, by the way, Mr. Lu said that if you are late he will cut your bonus."

Chris gave a chuckle of delight as she walked down the stairs. She heard what Nancy had said and was glad to see Yvonne standing there stupefied. She finally knew why Autumn smiled from ear to ear last night. Yvonne was like the dumb woman eating the bitter herb; she had to suffer in silence. Chris found the scene to be more enjoyable than hearing any jokes.

Yvonne heard Chris's chuckle and thought, 'It would be great if I could get a lift in Chris's car. After all, I can flatter Chris on the way to work. Sooner or later, she will be my sister-in-law.' Unfortunately, her dream didn't come true. Chris refused Yvonne directly, "I am sorry, we are not going in the same direction. You'd better wait for your taxi."

Then Chris shouted at the direction of the kitchen, "Nancy, where is my breakfast?"

"I am coming. I am coming." Nancy walked out of the kitchen and said, as she handed a thermos container to Chris, "Miss Lu, it's your favorite shrimp congee. Don't forget to have it."

"I know. I am leaving, " Chris waved goodbye to Nancy and hummed to herself as she left for work.

Yvonne was late for work, but she could only blame herself for it. When she found some free time, she called Wendy to complain about the humiliation she had suffered last night. Wendy frowned at Yvonne's complaint.

She thought to herself, 'I am so good at scheming. Why is my beloved daughter so stupid? Although I don't like Autumn, she is more like me. She is smart and she knows how to win a man's heart.' She sighed and said, "Yvonne, I can't help you with this. You must rely on yourself this time. I am always thinking of ways to help you, but you have to use your own way to seduce Charles now. If you have sex with him, I promise Charles will marry you. But you have to use your brain and make it happen."

The more Yvonne thought about it, the more upset she got, so she changed the topic, "Let's stop talking about me. I am asking you, when you get back, teach Autumn a lesson. I want that little bitch to bend the knee."

"Okay, I promise you. Her good days will be over soon, " Wendy assured Yvonne with a firm compliance.

"How are you doing? What did she say?" Yvonne asked.

"Don't worry about me. I will take care of it. I'm warning you, you only have one chance. If you miss it, you won't have any more chances, " Wendy reminded Yvonne, "Okay. I have something to do right now. I have to hang up. You should try to play to the score tactically. If necessary, you can use the thing I gave to you."

"I see." When Yvonne hung up, she felt annoyed and perplexed.

When it was nearly time to go home from work, Yvonne went to the CEO's office, only to find that Charles had already left. Yvonne's hope of taking Charles's car to go home went up in smokes. She almost swore at him in anger.

When she turned to go downstairs for a taxi, Leila stopped her, "Autumn, why haven't you called me lately? Did I do something wrong?"

"No." Yvonne thought, 'I am only so eager to move into Lu family house because you have your eyes set on Charles.' Leila was just another pain in the ass for her.

"What's wrong with you? You look tired. Didn't you get any sleep last night?" Leila asked Yvonne, pretending to care for her.

It was impossible to have a good rest in a maid room.

She thought, 'If Leila found out what had happened yesterday, she should surely laugh at me.' So she said coldly, "Do you have anything else to say? If not, I am leaving."

"Wait a minute, " Leila held Yvonne's hand as she said, "Autumn, do you have any plan for tonight? I'd like to go shopping with you. It has been a long time since we went shopping and chatted over dinner."

"I don't think there is any need." Yvonne shook off Leila's hand as she sneered, "I am not free tonight. Moreover I will never have time to go out with you. Please don't act as if we are friends. We are not even acquaintances."

"I... What the hell did I do wrong?" Yvonne completely changed her attitude towards Leila, which confused her a lot.

She had no idea what Linda had said to make Yvonne so hostile towards her. She intended to ask Yvonne to dinner so that she could learn more about Mrs. Lu. Unfortunately, her plan failed.

## Chapter 135

Somehow she had a feeling that if Yvonne ever found out that she had feelings for Charles, she would have no chance at all.

"Is it strange for me to be here?" Yvonne sneered in a condescending manner this time. Those outsiders were worse than her. At least she could stay in Charles's house. Just as the saying goes, it is easy to fetch water when a river is near. She wouldn't let those women try to approach Charles.

"No..." Leila frowned. She didn't know why Yvonne disliked her so much, "Miss Ye, did I do something wrong? Why have you changed your attitude towards me?"

"Don't talk nonsense. Let me ask you, why are you here?" Yvonne didn't want to waste her time on Leila. She sneered, "What are you hiding behind you?"

"No... nothing." Leila was anxiously tongue-tied. She planned to visit Charles's home by surprise and didn't have any other purposes. She just wanted to see what kind of person Mrs. Lu was and remind her that Charles had a new secretary. But she didn't expect to see Yvonne here.

"Show me." Yvonne reached out to snatch the bag without hesitation. She knew Leila was hiding something. She could guess what was in Leila's mind, and she would never let her succeed.

Yvonne grabbed the bag from Leila and opened it. She froze completely at the sight of the men's suit. She took a closer look at it and realized that it was Charles's. A great rage aroused inside her. She asked loudly, "Leila, why do you have my brother-in-law's suit? What did you do to him?"

"I..." Leila was at a loss for words. Looking at Yvonne, who was burning with rage, she more or less realized why Yvonne had changed her attitude towards her. She had feelings for Charles too. Leila couldn't help but smile, coldly. She said deliberately in order to irritate her, "Mr. Lu left his suit at my home the night before yesterday. So I had it cleaned. Now I just want to return it back to him."

"Why did he go to your home?" Yvonne frowned tightly. Why? Why would Charles choose Leila rather than her? In what aspects was she any worse than Leila?

"The... the day before yesterday, we went to a dinner party. I had gotten a little drunk, so Mr. Lu drove me home, and I invited him in for a cup of tea. It's really nothing..." Leila explained immediately, "Miss Ye, don't overthink it. Mr. Lu loves Mrs. Lu very much. He will never do anything to hurt her. You don't need to be oversensitive."

"Did I say anything about that?" Yvonne shook Leila's hand off and said to her, "It's just a suit jacket. My brother-in-law will not mind it. You can take it back and throw it away if you like. You don't need to return it to him."

Leila soon grew flustered at Yvonne's words, "I can't do that. It's Mr. Lu's clothes. I must personally return it to him."

Leila reached out, trying to get the bag back from Yvonne. But Yvonne didn't let go and said, "It's just clothes anyway. I'll take it and return it to him for you. You can leave now."

When Autumn arrived at home, she found Leila and Yvonne quarrelling with each other at the gate of Dream Garden. She didn't expect to see Leila there. So she decided to find a place to hide herself, and watch them secretly.

"Give it back to me." Leila was angry and anxious. She didn't manage to meet Mrs. Lu, and she was being pestered by Yvonne.

Autumn was feeling thankful for Yvonne now. Otherwise, she would have ended up meeting with Leila there. She had been suspicious of Leila ever since she got the phone call from her that night. She was not happy about what Leila had done.

"Why are you so anxious?" Yvonne sneered, "Leila, don't think that I don't know what you are doing. Do you have feelings for my brother-in-law? Let me tell you this, don't even think about it."

"No, I don't." Leila was agitated.

Charles got off work and drove home. When he arrived, he found Autumn hiding in the distance, looking inside. He rolled down the window and asked her, "What are you doing here?"

He was curious why she didn't go inside the house and what she was waiting for.

"Hush, " Autumn said in a low voice to keep him silent. She pointed at the gate of Dream Garden and indicated Charles to go in first.

Charles turned around and saw Leila and Yvonne quarreling there. He frowned slightly and immediately understood why Autumn didn't go inside. He drove there and sounded the horn. Yvonne's eyes lit up at the sight of Charles's car, she walked directly towards him, "Charles, you're back."

"What are you doing here?" Charles asked, inquisitively. To tell the truth, he was in an extremely bad mood to see Yvonne there. But in order to put an end to the problem completely, he had to endure her for a while.

Seeing Leila there, Charles became even more displeased. He and Autumn almost got into a fight because of her phone call that night.

"Charles, Leila came here to return your suit. She said that you left it at her home the day before yesterday. Why did you go to her home?"

Yvonne asked.

Charles glanced disdainfully at the clothes in front of him. Leila went to him before he could say anything. She said to Charles, "Mr. Lu. You left the suit at my home the night before yesterday. I've cleaned it. And I've come here to return it to you."

Leila smiled. She reached out to tidy her hair and continued, "Mr. Lu, I was thinking of bringing it to the company to return it to you. But I figured that people in the company would misunderstand us and it could harm your reputation. So after I thought about it carefully, I decided to come to your house and return it to you."

Leila explained her purpose for being there, pretending to be considerate.

Yvonne sneered and said to Leila: "Now that you've returned it. It's time for you to leave, isn't it?"

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"The bitch presumes to put everything over on others."

Yvonne was more delighted than others at how Charles had embarrassed Leila to her face. Chris grinned, "In line with the old saying, 'What is done by night, appears by day!' Miss Ye, by no means should you follow her footsteps."

What Chris had just said, completely confused Yvonne before she realized that it was actually a trap.



Autumn, back home, felt upset and apologetic, as she found her husband retired to his room.

"My love, why were you unwilling to come inside your own home?" Charles felt that he had to settle the matter with his wife, otherwise he would be spending a restless night.

"I was afraid..." Autumn replied shamefully, "All I wanted do was to try and keep my identity from her."

"Why?" Charles wondered, "Can you tell me why you are still so concerned about these matters?"

"I..." Autumn replied awkwardly, "Frankly speaking, both Leila and Yvonne have developed feelings for you. I even suspected Leila's motive of coming here was to find out who I am. I avoided seeing her because I wanted avoid giving her any chance of becoming a nuisance. I am not even sure what she would do if she discovered that I am Mrs. Lu. My step-sister alone is enough to annoy me, I'd rather have one less enemy."

"Is that all?" Charles felt a bit relieved, "Just say the word, and I will fire her immediately, so you don't have to worry about her at all."

"No." Autumn declined her husband's proposal at once. Although she was bothered by Leila, dismissing her from work would adversely affect her husband's company. Moreover, Leila entered into her husband's company on her recommendation. Firing Leila would be the last thing she would like Charles to do.

Charles sighed and said to his wife, "Forget about it all then! Just remember, you are the only one in my heart."

Autumn smiled and threw herself into her husband's arms, "Me too, undoubtedly."

As their relationship was solemnized, Charles wooed his wife beyond measure, with everyday spent in conjugal bliss.

Charles was holding Autumn tightly, ready to take liberties with his wife, when suddenly the door was pushed open by Yvonne, who said, "Gary sent me to call you two to dinner downstairs."

"Out!" Charles turned around with an irritated expression, as his wife shirked from his arms in embarrassment, fixing her hair awkwardly.

"Awfully sorry! Please forgive my ignorance.... I was just following Gary's order..." Yvonne's very countenance betrayed her hypocrisy.

Yvonne's unwelcome presence upstairs was, in fact, just to prevent Charles and his wife from further intimacy. She had lost her patience after her protracted waiting.

"Now I order you to get out. Can't you understand?" Charles's face turned paler than ever, however, Yvonne was totally ignorant of it, "Charles, I...."

Charles finally gave in to his anger, as he grasped Yvonne by her dress and pushed her out, "Your repeated presence in my room would only be met with my impoliteness. Do not forget that!"

"My sister, I..." Yvonne looked helplessly at Autumn, expecting her to say something in her defense, only to find Autumn's gentle smile, who said, "Since you are our guest here, you should not have come upstairs without our permission. Moreover, it is common courtesy to knock on the door before entering a room. How could you violate this rule?"

"I..." Yvonne was criticised inexplicably, as she swallowed her pride, unable to counter with any retort.

Yvonne succumbed to Charles's glaring eyes, and withdrew downstairs, leaving Autumn concerned.

"What is wrong?" Charles immediately sensed his wife's uneasiness.

"Nothing at all, except for a petty concern." Lately, she had been hard on her mother and step-sister, however, in consideration of her grandma, who was at their mercy, she had to relent.

"Are you worried about grandma?" Charles comforted his wife, "You can rest assured. I will send for your grandma to live with us as a companion to my grandpa as soon as possible."

"Bah!" Autumn replied, "That's not what I want!"

"What is wrong?"

"It would surely incur calumny and slander..." Autumn replied helplessly.

After dinner, seemingly ignorant of their encounter upstairs, Yvonne pestered Charles, "Charles, I was late for work this morning because the taxi didn't arrive on time. Tomorrow morning I will get up early to hitch a ride with you to work. To avoid any suspicion, you can drop me off from your car, in the vicinity of our company."

Charles looked up to Yvonne and replied coldly, "You had better go to work by yourself, because I am taking the day off work tomorrow."

#### Chapter 137

David was quite proficient. He quickly managed to find important information about buying out Cloud Advertising Company. He put the file on Charles' desk and said, "Mr. Lu, the person who I assigned to contact Ryan told me that Ryan was asking for a high price and he wanted to continue to work in Cloud Advertising Company. Will we still purchase it?"

"Of course we will." Charles was going to make Ryan pay for what he had done.

Since Ryan had liked bossing Autumn around in the past, Charles wanted to make him know how it felt to work for Autumn.

Charles wouldn't tell Autumn how to treat him. That would be her prerogative.

"This matter needs to be settled as soon as possible." Charles couldn't wait to give Autumn a big surprise.

Under Charles' authority, David sped up the acquisition. As long as the price was good, Ryan would certainly be willing to sell the company.

Most importantly, since Autumn left Cloud Advertising Company, the business of the company had been going downhill and they hadn't landed a single big case in a while.

Of course, that was mostly because of Charles.

Charles was processing some files when Leila came by. "Mr. Lu, your signature is needed on this file, " she said.

Leila was very professional and methodical at work.

When Charles signed his name, Leila didn't leave immediately. She asked, "Mr. Lu, there's a banquet tonight. Are you going alone or..."

"I'm not going." He was worried that Yvonne might bully Autumn in his absence.

Therefore, Charles decided to go straight home after work these days.

Leila didn't say another word. She was still embarrassed at what had happened yesterday. Only with hard work could she win back Charles' approval. That was the only thing that was on her mind.

She wasn't in a rush. As his secretary, she'd have plenty of opportunities ahead, to get to him.

It didn't matter what Mrs. Lu was like. The most important thing was whom he liked.

Autumn was still anxious to find a job. At the same time, Isla, who resigned from her position, was bothered by another problem.

After Isla quit her job, she visited her hometown. Knowing that she had lost her job, her family started to urge her to find a boyfriend. They kept saying that marriage was the most important thing in a girl's life; marriage was like a second life for girls, etc. They tried everything, but Isla wasn't convinced.

Isla was so annoyed by them that she only stayed there for two days and then went back to Y City. However, her mom didn't stop urging her just because she went back and had already fixed her a blind date in Y City.

"Isla, your aunt wants you to meet this man. No matter what you think, at the very least, you should go meet him. Or else, I will be very angry. You hear me?" Her mom shouted on the phone. She was purely a country yokel. It was early in the morning. Isla was still sleeping. But her mom's loud voice woke her up and nearly scared her off the bed.

"Mom, I told you I didn't want to think about this right now. Can you just let it go?" Isla scratched her head resignedly.

Her mom responded angrily, "No, I can't. You're my daughter. Who else would take care of you if I don't? All the girls your age in our village have gotten married. How am I supposed to show my face like this? Your aunt is the only relative we have in Y City. Although you have never contacted her, she still cares about you. After I told her about you, she got very concerned. The meeting will be in a hotel tonight. Your aunt has already texted you the address. Dress up nicely. Understand?"

"My aunt?" Isla sneered. Her aunt was married to someone wealthy, like a modern Cinderella story. After her marriage, she had stopped caring about her poor relatives, as if she was ashamed of them all along. That year, if it hadn't been for her, Isla wouldn't have ended up...

Isla forced a smile and said, "Mom, if you want me to get married, I can find someone on my own, any minute. But I don't want to get married yet, so please tell my dear aunt that I don't need her to fix me up with someone."

"Why are you being so stubborn? Your aunt said this man was perfect for you. Even if you don't like blind dates, at least meet him. I promise, if you don't like him, I won't push you anymore. Okay?"

"..." Isla sighed, but since her mom had promised, she agreed to go. "Fine, " she said.

"Okay then. I'll wait for the good news." Her mom hung up the phone happily.

Isla checked her phone and found a new message from her aunt.

Her aunt said that, she had saved the best man for her niece, since they were family. Isla had already promised her mom that she would meet the guy, so she went to the hotel. But when she got there, she found that her date hadn't shown up yet. The so-called excellent man was half an hour late.

On her way to the hotel, Isla had been wondering what the man was like. But when she saw him, she was utterly shocked. The man was so... not 'perfect'.

He was about 40 years old. When he smiled, the flesh on his face shook from left to right. When he sat down, Isla was worried that the chair wouldn't be able to take his weight.

The funny thing was that he reminded her of the humanoid pigman in the TV version of Journey to the West.

Before they started their self-introductions, the man got a phone call and answered it right in front of Isla.

"I'm telling you, she's beautiful. I shouldn't have gone to see the other girl with you. It was a total waste of time."

Isla was disappointed to hear that. She didn't even want to introduce herself to him anymore.

## Chapter 138

Isla showed a disapproving look. But seeing that his face was full of fantasy, she was reluctant to embarrass him. So she continued to listen to him. But the more he spoke, the more it felt weird.

"You can take care of the children at home. My parents like to do morning exercises. You can get up at six and prepare breakfast. After breakfast, you need to do the laundry first, because after that you have to go out to buy some food for lunch and dinner. Oh! And yes, my mother likes dessert. You need to make time for that. And make sure that dinner is ready by the time I get home from work."

She tried to recall what her aunt had told her. She was sure she was here on a blind date, not to apply for a job as a nanny.

But he seemed engrossed in his fantasy and couldn't stop talking about it. Isla assumed that he must be rich. It was said that most men who were good at earning money had some male chauvinist tendencies.

"Excuse me, How much is your monthly salary, Mr. Zhu? Oh, sorry, Mr. Huang?"

"Five thousand. It's a handsome figure, isn't it? If you are not satisfied with my salary, that clarifies only one thing, that you women are all vain creatures. And I won't be attracted to such women. But I like your hot figure and because of that, I will reluctantly give you a try."

Gordon was such an arrogant guy, he dared to judge Isla to her face.

Isla pinched her leg hard under the table. She felt pain, which meant that she was not dreaming. Then she must have gotten on a fake blind date, she mocked herself.

She had prepared three excuses to leave in case the blind date turned awkward. But she now threw away all that she had prepared beforehand.

The first excuse was to say that she did not feel well. But she feared that Gordon would take advantage of that by offering to take care of her.

The second excuse was that something urgent happened at home. But again, Gordon might just offer to go with her.

The third situation was that she would show her hands and they would fall out. But Gordon was a strong man, and she was only a weak woman.

So she had no choice but to wait until he ate and drank to his heart's content. Maybe then he would be happy and let her go easily.

But after Gordon finished the meal, he started dropping sexual hints, implying that there was a good hotel nearby and the breakfast there was very delicious.

However delicious the food was going to be, it would be impossible for her to have another meal with him.

"Thank you, Mr. Zhu, no, Mr. Huang. Thanks for your treat. I will let my Aunt know how our date went."

She was sure that she would never meet him again.

When Gordon saw the bill, he frowned. He reluctantly paid and grumbled that women always spent a lot.

But actually he ate the most during the meal. Such a sexist pig, wasn't he?

As soon as they walked out of the restaurant, Gordon grabbed Isla and put his arms around her, preventing her from leaving. The people around wanted to help Isla, but they were intimidated by Gordon's strong figure.

"I really, really like you. If you satisfy me tonight, I will consider marrying you tomorrow. I know you like it too. Your aunt has told me everything about you. You should feel lucky that I choose you."

What did her aunt tell him? Hearing this, Isla felt as if she was soaked in cold water and was left out in the freezing north wind.

But even though she was not that perfect, she would not let Gordon take advantage of her. She knew that it would be of no use to shout for help in public. She had to create a scene. How did one do that? She racked her brain, trying to remember every possible ways to fight against sex offender.

Yes, she had an idea. The most effective way was to smash the most expensive thing one could find.



She looked around the parking lot. The most expensive thing there was a Maserati and it was right in front of her. She calculated the maintenance cost in her mind, and weighed her innocence against the cost. She decisively smashed a hole in the car with her high heels.

"Arrgh!" The security guard shouted at her angrily and rushed over. He then called someone on the phone to inform about the accident.

A man in a suit rushed out from the restaurant. He glowered at the damage, then he turned to Isla and Gordon. He spat out, "Who is responsible for this?"

Gordon knew that it would cost tens of thousands to fix a Maserati and there was no way he could afford it. He pointed to Isla and said, "She did it. We don't know each other. It is just an unlucky day for me to meet her."

Isla immediately agreed, "Yes, I smashed it. I will pay for it. I can go with you to make the settlement."

It was the first time for the man in suit to see someone brave enough to smash someone else's car and willing to compensate for the damage.

"Miss, please take your shoes, I will take you to my boss. You can negotiate with him."

He expressed that the car was owned by his boss. Isla suddenly felt as if she had fallen into the tiger's lair after getting herself out of the wolf's lair.

She picked up her shoes, and found one of the heels broken. She put them on and hobbled along.

When she turned around, Gordon had already disappeared. Oh, this was the "good man" recommended by her aunt. She sighed.

Walking back into the restaurant, Isla had mixed feelings. The man in the suit brought her to a box. By the manner with which he knocked on the door, Isla assumed that the boss inside would be hard to deal with.

He knocked three times, and then paused to listen, then knocked again, as if he was sending a secret signal.

Then a cold voice came through from inside, "Come in."

Isla was already feeling shivery which intensified when she heard the unwelcoming voice. She took a peek, wondering who had made the air freeze with such a voice.

The man in suit opened the door and told her to wait outside. Through the crack in the door she could only see the back of a tall man.

There was also another man with an annoying voice, talking excitedly without any sense.

In contrast, the man whose back was towards her seemed very aloof. The two people inside were on opposite ends. One was acting like he was celebrating the New Year while the other seemed to be attending a funeral.

He gave off an atmosphere that someone had been dead thus everything around him seemed ghastly cold. When she tried to look closely, the door had fully closed.

The man in suit walked quietly towards his boss and whispered something.

The boss frowned and raised his eyelids. He was irritated by the interruption.

The man in suit nodded immediately. He knew how he should handle it. He carefully retreated and walked out.

"Miss, our boss will let it pass. You can leave now."

Chapter 139

Johnson was shocked. Although he had heard the tactics of Aron before, he thought that Aron was just a junior. Johnson wasn't used to his sharp, murderous eyes.

Johnson sat up and acted as the more senior one, looking Aron up and down carefully.

Aron was good looking, but he looked too reserved. This temperament did not show his age. Though Aron was young, he was a tough nut to crack.

His eyes were sharp and profound. Johnson felt very uneasy under his gaze, as if Aron could read his mind.

"Are you finished?" Aron said in a low and expressionless voice.

His tone was so firm that it intimidated Johnson, so he only nodded quietly.

"You are my elder, so I let you talk first. But now, you have wasted me twenty minutes so I will be brief. There are only two choices for you. You either resign or let go. It's up to you."

Johnson was so angry that he slammed his glass on the table. "How dare you?"

Aron held out his hand and his assistant immediately placed a file on it. He opened the file and took out a small piece of paper. He didn't pay much attention to what was written on it, but he was familiar with the style of the handwriting.

Upon seeing this, a woman quickly came to mind. 'What if I become a celebrity some day? My signature would be worthwhile then, so I have to practice my handwriting to a unique style so that no one could copy it.' He could hear the words she once said to him.

His assistant made an obvious cough to get Aron, who was absorbed in his thoughts, back to the present. Aron's eyes went back to being icy cold as he tightly and silently held the piece of paper.

Aron slammed the document file on the table. It contained record of Johnson's embezzlement and fraud all these years. All evidence was in there and Aron didn't have to say anything else.

Johnson was speechless, seeing the document. He never thought that Aron would find out. When he was about to explain, Aron had already put on his coat.

Aron's assistant pulled Johnson in a hurry and said, "Mr. Shen, my boss's point is very clear. Good nature is a source of wealth. There is no need for you to offend my boss because of someone else."

Of course, the so called someone else referred to Aron's brother who strove to drag Aron into the mire at any cost.

Johnson heaved a sigh. He did not expect that Aron would be so heartless, not caring about their long-standing relationship. Johnson was doomed any which way.

Johnson looked at Aron standing in front of him and said, "All right. Have it your own way." He sounded hopeless since nothing much can be done about it anymore.

"Well, then I have to thank you for your help, Mr. Shen." Aron buttoned his suit, and went on, "I still have work to do, so I have to leave now. My assistant will talk to you about everything else."

After that, Aron hastily walked out of the room. Outside, he saw Isla get into her car. After four years, he finally saw her again.

Aron clenched the small note and couldn't help smiling. He looked at the leaving figure of Isla and said softly to himself, "Long time no see. I have missed you so much."

Isla has felt very uneasy having smashed someone else's car. The next morning, she received a phone call from Aron's assistant, "Hello, is this Miss Zhao?"

"Yes, it is. Excuse me. Who is this?" Isla had just gotten up. She hadn't even washed her face and she was just about to make coffee.

"Hello. We met at Yummy Restaurant yesterday. My boss said that he wanted to meet you to talk about the compensation for the damages on his car. "Miss Zhao, are you free at noon today?" The man asked her politely.

"Yes." Isla replied briefly. She was not going to take to the woods or she would not have left her phone number. She promised the man to meet at noon as she happened to be free. She didn't have to go to work these days. "Okay. Please send me the address. But please give me some time. I will be there as soon as possible."

"That's okay. Well, see you later." The man hung up and turned to Aron, "Mr. Gu, Miss Zhao has agreed to meet you. But she said that she may be a little late."

"It's Okay, I understand." Aron did not care if she was late. He had been waiting for her for four years, so why would he care to wait a few moments more?

Aron held the note in his hand tightly. 'Isla, I will not let you walk away from me this time.' Aron thought.

After hanging up the phone, Isla immediately dressed up, put on a comfortable white T-shirt and jeans and drove to the address given by the man.

She was startled by the address given to her. For four years, she dared not go near that place, because she was afraid of recalling those painful memories. But she did not expect that the man would ask to meet there.

She struggled inward for a long while then decided that it was time for her to forget those memories and let go.

Standing in front of the hotel, she took a deep breath and then walked inside.

"Hello, Miss. Zhao, please follow me." As soon as she entered the door, she saw the man whom she met yesterday. He smiled and waved his hands at her.

"Where is your boss?" Isla felt weird because the man was alone. Didn't his boss want to talk about the damages and compensation? But why wasn't he there?

"My boss is waiting for you upstairs." The man in black suit pushed the elevator button and said to Isla, "Miss. Zhao, this way please."

Isla's head was filled with thoughts of something bad happening to her. She tried to brush them away. 'He is the boss of a big company, so he's not gonna do anything to me.'

She clutched her bag and walked into the elevator. "Excuse me." She turned to the man. "May I know your name?"

"You can call me Chou."

"Well, Chou." Isla looked at him and asked, "Is your boss angry?"

Isla felt ashamed. Although she left her phone number and she was never going to run away from her responsibility, she worried that she would have to pay a large amount of money.

After all... After all, she smashed a Maserati.

"Miss. Zhao, you don't have to worry. My boss has said that you don't need to compensate for the car. He won't go back on his words." Chou smiled and comforted Isla.

## Chapter 140

Isla never dreamed that she would see the man that she thought she would never see again. She panicked, fearing that he would run after her, all the way to her house. Having no way out, she called Autumn.

Autumn was about to take a bath when she heard her phone ring. She picked it up. "Isla, why are you calling me so late? Are you okay?" For a moment, no one answered. All she heard were the heavy gasps from Isla. Then she realized that Isla might be frightened. "What happened, Isla?" she asked, concerned.

Then she heard Isla's upset voice. "Ye, can I... come to your house tonight?" Isla asked.

"Sure. Where are you? I'll pick you up now." After getting Isla's location, Autumn immediately picked up her coat from the bed and prepared to go out. "It's so late. Where are you going?" Charles asked, stopping her.

"A friend of mine is in trouble. I need to use your car, Charles." Autumn quickly replied. In this case, Autumn found it really inconvenient not to have a car. Charles had to go with her because he was worried about her safety.

On the way to pick up Isla, Autumn briefly told Charles about her. Charles found her clearly worried and distracted.

In Autumn's mind, Isla was a cheerful person who seemed to be carefree all the time, so this unusual behavior made Autumn suspect that she was having a big problem.

Then she remembered the last time she saw Isla not being herself...

Before she knew it, they had arrived at the address given by Isla. "Is that her?" Charles asked. Hearing his question, Autumn looked out of the car and saw Isla huddled alone on the curb, looking upset and tired.

"Isla..." Autumn unbuckled her seatbelt and ran towards Isla. It was a bit windy but not cold. Isla was in a heap on the curb, looking pale.

"Isla, what's wrong with you? What happened?" Autumn helped Isla up and asked.

Upon hearing Autumn's words of concern, Isla burst into tears, but said nothing. Autumn took off her coat and put it on Isla to warm her.

"Let's get out of here first, " Charles told Autumn, opening the door of his car.

Autumn helped Isla into the car, and sat in the back with her. Isla was a sensitive person who had pride. She would never have called Autumn if she hadn't been desperate.

Back home, Charles said, "Stay with your friend tonight. I'll sleep in the study."

Actually, Autumn was about to suggest the same thing. "Thank you, " she replied, and gave Charles a grateful look. Then she helped Isla up the stairs.

Autumn found a pair of clean pajamas for Isla. When Isla lay on the bed after a bath, Autumn asked, "Isla, can you tell me what happened to you?"

"..." Since the light was off, Autumn could not see Isla's face. After a few minutes, Isla's voice came from the darkness. "He's back."

"He? Do you mean Aron?" Autumn uttered the name, knitting her brows. Isla didn't answer her, and Autumn knew she was right. She finally understood why sensible Isla was not herself.

Autumn knew exactly how devastated and heartbroken Isla was when Aron left. Perhaps only Aron could have made Isla that miserable. 'Why did he suddenly come back to Isla's life after all these years?' Autumn wondered.

Autumn did not continue to ask Isla because she knew Isla would not want to talk about this now. Autumn still did not know why Aron left without saying goodbye, but she believed that Isla would tell her one day.

"Let's just talk about it tomorrow. Good night. Sleep well, " Autumn said to Isla.

Isla didn't sleep well all night, causing her eyes to be swollen when she woke up the next morning. "Would you like to go downstairs for breakfast?" asked Autumn, who was up already.

Isla gave her a slight nod. She felt a little ashamed at the thought of her disturbing the Lu family, out of her wits last night.

Yvonne was downstairs when Isla and Autumn came down from the bedroom. As Isla came late yesterday, Yvonne had no idea that she was in the house. But now at the sight of Isla, Yvonne froze for a moment and then got angry.



'Who is she? Well, whoever she is, why should I have to live in a servant's room while she gets to stay with Autumn?' Yvonne complained quietly to herself.

"Sis, who is this?" she asked with a sneer.

No one answered her. Isla turned to Charles with a little embarrassment, and said, "Charles... sorry to have bothered you last night."

"It's nothing." Charles gave her a smile. He could see that Isla was a very important friend to Autumn. "My wife's friends are my friends. You can stay here as long as you'd like, " Charles added.