

Wedded Bride 1311

Chapter 1311 At A Loss

What should she say? Should she deny ever hitting Leila? Or that she was beyond happy to have gotten his call? Or should she beg him to believe her?

Still speechless, Sheryl was at a loss. As she raised her head to meet Charles' eyes, a disheartened feeling came over her. Suddenly, any desire to speak for herself disappeared—it all seemed pointless because Charles no longer trusted her. A bitter smile crept up Sheryl's face.

Seeing the disappointment clear in his eyes, she still remained silent. Perhaps he had already confirmed her guilt. The thought made her turn ghastly pale, and her eyes dimmed.

The man in front of her didn't think she would respond with such silence. Was it only because she couldn't come up with any excuses?

Even Charles had to admit that he was thoroughly disappointed in her.

As the thought sank in, Charles' face fell, and his eyes seemed to be soaked in cold frost, void of any warmth.

"You should go back, now."

At that moment, Charles didn't know what to say either. All he knew was that he wanted her to walk

away.

"Wait."

Just as Sheryl was about to step back in defeat, Melissa spoke.

"Charles, now you've seen the kind of evil Sheryl is. Are you sure you still want to stay with such a woman? There are too many good women in this world for you. Don't allow yourself to be cheated by this witch."

Melissa's hate for her was truly endless. In spite of everything, Charles wanted his mother to stop with the hateful words. Even though Sheryl wasn't as kind-hearted as he imagined, he still loved her dearly, despite all her shortcomings—Charles still never thought of parting from her.

With all that has happened, Sheryl stood petrified by Melissa's words. Subconsciously, her head turned Charles' way, as the fear that he would agree with his mother set in.

Her legs seemed to turn wobbly and her chest felt faint. No matter how difficult things turned out, never did she think that there would come a time where she had to leave Charles—he was a light in her heart. No matter how dim the light turned, she swore she would follow it and go on with courage.

If a day came when Charles no longer loved her and decided to leave, her world would turn completely black. Would she be able to move on in the unforgiving darkness?

"Mom, stop," Charles said sharply, looking pointedly at Melissa. With that, Melissa pursed her lips shut.

At that point, Sheryl was basically numb. If only she could cover her ears and block everything out like a child.

"I'm leaving. Please rest well."

Her voice turned soft before she rushed out of the ward. As Charles watched her retreating figure, he had some kind of nagging feeling in his gut that Sheryl would disappear from his life this way.

It seemed that they would both simply gradually drift away from each other.

The unexpected sense of loss overwhelmed him. As much as he wanted to call out to Sheryl and pull her back into his arms, he couldn't speak as if there was something physically blocking his throat.

Meanwhile, Black's fists were clenched. He was entirely certain about Charles not surviving the car accident and yet, he was still up and breathing.

Still, Charles did get badly injured. Since he was stuck in the hospital, things grew more and more chaotic at Shining Company. With everything going on, Charles couldn't look after himself, let alone get

a chance to spend any more time with Holley.

However, beyond what Black could've expected, Holley was barely around, busier than ever. Any time he tried to reach her, he would receive no answer and if he did, it was always something offhand. Every time he visited Tarsan Corporation to see her himself, she was away.

It was immensely irritating and Black could only guess that she was still getting herself involved with the invalid jerk, Charles.

"Is Miss Ye in today? I have something to tell her," Black asked in a deep and scratchy voice. Wearing a long face, Black visited Tarsan Corporation again.

"I'm sorry, Miss Ye is not here at the moment. May I know if you've made an appointment?"

Black's complexion was rather frightening and the receptionist figured she had to use caution in responding to the man.

The words were like another slap in the face and so Black turned to leave, doing all he could to stop from freaking out. After standing outside the building for some time, he finally decided to go to the hospital himself and check if Holley was lurking around Charles.

Before entering the ward, true enough, Black heard Holley's voice indistinctly.

"Mr. Lu, I peeled an apple for you and put it on the side table. Remember to eat it later."

"Mr. Lu, let me help you sit up. Tell the nurse in charge to take a break."

"It's a beautiful day today. Shall I wheel you outside to enjoy the sunshine?"

The pleasant offers seemed endless and each one of her words was like a dagger piercing straight through Black's heart. Jealousy and anger overcame him.

Now, Black could hear absolutely nothing else apart from her gentle words—words that were especially for Charles.

Black's handsome face turned furious as he stared at the woman from outside the ward.

Like some kind of confirmation, he decided to pull out his phone and give her a ring. Almost like watching a leaning tower finally fall out of balance and crumble to the ground, Black watched as Holley took a look at her phone with a troubled face, and instantly rejected the call.

Black's jaw tightened, and he sneered as he walked away. Staying out there only seemed like an embarrassment at that point.

In the evening, Holley finally found the time to return Black's calls.

"Hello, Black. When you rang me earlier today, I happened to be stuck in a meeting, so I had to reject your call. Are you mad at me?" Clearly, she had no idea about all his efforts to reach her. Holley spoke on the phone too casually, as if nothing had happened.

In the past few days, she really did ignore him. But she still needed his stock shares, so she needed to keep in touch with him. If Black decided that he didn't have any feelings for her anymore one day, what would she do with herself?

"Really, now? You were at work? Weren't you on a date?" On the other end of the line, Black's face was ice-cold as he calmly spewed rather hateful words.

The cold sweat setting in, Holley felt guilt, panic, and anxiousness creep up her spine.

Trying to sound casual, she laughed before speaking. "You think too much. How is that possible? You have my heart, Black. I have no interest in dating anybody else. I've just been so busy at the company these days. I'll see you as soon as I can, okay? Don't be angry, darling."

"I want to see you tomorrow. I'll visit your office tomorrow morning." Without another word, Black hung up. It was the only way he could control his anger.

True enough, Black gripped his phone so tight and with so much strength that it could've just burst into pieces right then and there.

Holley couldn't deny that Black was using a strange tone over the phone. Could he have known something? Still, Holley shook away the thought. Nothing must have been wrong because he ended the call peacefully. Perhaps he had just truly missed her and had little words after not seeing her in so long.

After sighing in relief, Holley laughed at herself for over analyzing the situation.

The next day

At the office, Holley finally received the notice. "Miss Ye, Mr. Hu is in the building and wants to come up to see you now." The receptionist asked for her permission. "I know. Send him up here."

It was time to face him.

Chapter 1312 A Self-injury To Win His Trust

A little too smoothly than usual, Black entered Holley's office. As soon as he stepped inside, she raised her head and smiled warmly at the man. Even though he was in anger, the sight of her smile had him almost palpitate in amazement.

Determined to demand an explanation, he calmed himself down. Instead of dragging things on like this

for too long, he wanted to clear things up himself and put an end to it.

Holley, however, had no idea what was to come as she stood up and came over to give Black a warm hug.

"Darling, I missed you so much!"

Her affection seemed endless.

That, at least, made Black sneer. Slowly but decisively, Black shrugged off her hands and gently pushed her away from him.

"What's wrong, Black?"

The longer she looked at him, the worse feeling in her gut grew.

Because he was against the light, his expression wasn't too clear. Still, she could feel a cold air radiating from him.

"I think you can tell me that. I've seen how intimate you are with Charles. You were with him in the hospital, taking care of him, weren't you? That was the important meeting you were in when you rejected my call. And now you have the nerve to ask me what's wrong? Holley, what am I to you, huh?"

Tell me."

Unable to restrain his anger any longer, he howled at Holley with red fury in his eyes.

The accusation made Holley turn ghastly pale, her eyes full of panic.

Internally, Holley cursed the world. How could Black have known? What should she do, then? Thinking that the stocks were still in his hands, she decided that she had to do all she could to put him at ease.

With her goals so nearly achieved, she couldn't give up because of a blip like that.

As the gears in her head turned and worked faster than ever, she tried stringing together words that would make him cooperate with her.

With her hands clenched into fists, and her eyes unsteady, panic and fear surged through her like crashing waves.

"That's not true, Black. Let me explain.

Things aren't as they seem."

As she anxiously explained, drops of sweat started rolling down her temples.

In spite of his little outburst, Black's desperate eyes seemed to find a bit of light. Because he loved her so deeply, he had hoped that all he had seen was merely a huge misunderstanding. Even as he hoped

in his heart, he knew in his head that it was impossible.

In the end, though, he wanted to hear Holley out, unwilling to part with her. As long as he still had a place in her heart for him, he would do all he could to keep it.

Unknowingly, Black's eyes were full of expectation as he waited for Holley's explanation.

After swallowing down her panic, Holley calmed herself down to explain.

"You know that Tarsan Corporation and Shining Company are working together to finish a project, don't you? Well, Charles was basically disregarding it. I was afraid the project wouldn't push through, at the rate things were going. Because of that, I've been trying to get close to him."

Seeing that Black didn't seem to be buying it, she upped her act—her eyes turned glassy as if she could cry at any minute.

"Ever since I replaced Rachel as the general manager, all the employees refused to work under my control. They wanted to see me fail. Do you have any idea of the pressure I'm under? I just want this project to succeed. It'll prove that I'm capable, and I'll earn their respect. I hope to have a foothold in this company, Black. If you still don't understand, anything that I have done will be pointless."

Throwing away any semblance of grace she still had, Holley went and rushed into Black's arms as she sobbed.

Of course, Black was still in doubt. But he couldn't help his heart from going tender, seeing Holley hurting. Gently, he began to stroke her head, trying to comfort her, almost instinctively.

"Black...please believe me. I love you so much. I would never do anything to betray you."

Before he could even get a word out, Holley raised herself to kiss him on the lips, reaching for his mouth as if it was her only means left to breathe, like a fish gasping in the open air.

At that point, Black's head was a complete mess. It was as if he had forgotten why he visited her in the first place, and he didn't know if he should believe her words or what he had already seen. Speechless, he stood there numbly as he let Holley kiss him.

"Black, don't you love me anymore?"

Her voice was aggrieved as she continued to sob.

Black's indifference left her feeling like she was stuck in a crisis. What would she do if he refused to believe her? Though she helplessly grabbed onto his shirt, clinging onto hope, she didn't dare raise her head to meet his gaze.

As he watched her cry into his chest, Black still couldn't deny his doubt. The image of Holley being intimate with Charles was embedded in his mind and he didn't know if he could ever get rid of it.

In spite of that, he concealed the doubt in his eyes and tucked it away in the back of his mind before saying, "How could I not love you? I'm just not sure that you love me. How about coming home with me to see my father to discuss our engagement? If you do that, I will believe you."

The offer left Holley terrified. Surely, Rex would have to investigate her background. If he exposed her, she would be completely done then.

This time, however, there was no way she could refuse Black's offer. The only way to cease his suspicion was following through with his request.

"Okay. I will go to see your father. I will prove that I deserve your trust. I'm just...I'm really afraid that your father won't like me. Let's go home this weekend, alright? I will prepare for the meeting. I want to leave a good impression on him."

Holley knew that she had to delay the meeting as much as she could, taking things one step at a time.

For a moment, Black looked at her puzzlingly, wondering if he had really just misunderstood her.

Perhaps the only reason she didn't agree to meet his father in the past was that she didn't feel like she was prepared.

"Okay. We will go home over the weekend. I'll pick you up then."

Finally, he hugged her back, and Holley could release the breath she was holding. Wanting to believe her once again, he hoped with all his heart that she wouldn't let him down.

After heading back home, Holley racked her brain for ways to avoid meeting Black's parents. After all, agreeing with him on the spot was her only option.

Suddenly, an idea clicked, like a bulb that switched on. Of course, she would need to injure herself to win his trust.

If she was severely ill, enough that he would believe she couldn't walk, perhaps, Black wouldn't force her to meet his family so soon.

When she stepped into the bathroom, she used the cold water, soaking even her head to stimulate her nerves.

As time went by, she could feel her body stiffening in the cold. At one point, she couldn't feel a thing.

When she walked out of the room, she made sure not to dry off properly and simply waited until the

evaporation took any kind of warmth away. Eventually, she trembled terribly, numb all over her body.

Determined to get sick, Holley threw herself on the bed and fell asleep, regardless that she was soaking wet.

Unable to fall asleep well, she only grew dizzy and powerless. When midnight came, she lay awake in her bed, still feeling utterly cold.

As she waited for dawn, she kept her eyes open wide. The view from her window was of a dark night, a void full of mist. After a long while, the sun gradually rose, scattering the mist, shining light onto the world. From where she lay, Holley could feel its warmth.

Chapter 1313 Stop

Cassie couldn't remember how many times the busy tone had rang on her ear while she tried to call Nick. If she hadn't saved it under his name on her contact list, she would have suspected she had dialed the wrong number all this time. She tried one more time, and the same busy tone buzzed in her ear.

'Is Nick probably on a business trip abroad? Or is he just stuck in a business meeting out of the city?

Why is he not answering his phone? He couldn't be that busy. What is going on with you, Nick?'

Every day that Cassie couldn't get a hold of Nick, these questions kept bugging her. The nights were even worse. She ended up tossing and turning in bed, sleepless until it was time to get up again. His absence was mainly affecting her work focus. If she only had the courage, she would have left the work in the hospital and searched for Nick desperately.

But leaving was one thing, and finding him was another. She was clueless on where she would start looking. 'His office perhaps?' she thought. 'Or maybe his house?'

Cassie laughed at herself for overthinking. She had a feeling that even if she really went and found Nick, he might still avoid her.

"Hey!" The patient's annoyed voice snapped her back to reality. Apparently, Cassie injected her at the wrong place. "Oh my!" she gasped, shocked and quickly injected her at the right place. "I'm really sorry, ma'am," she apologized after it had been done. However, the annoyed patient started cursing, "Damn! You better be sorry! I would rather have another nurse attend to me when I end up sick again."

Cassie kept apologizing, but the middle-aged patient just didn't let her go. She held onto Cassie's arm and started to threaten her, "Take me to your director. I would like to speak with her about what you just

did. Such irresponsibility needs to be reprimanded."

Panic washed over Cassie's face. The head nurse had already given her a verbal warning for her poor job performance these past few days. If this patient really reported her to the head nurse, she would be in trouble and get fired.

At the thought of that, Cassie threw off the woman's hand and blocked her. "Wait!" she exclaimed.

The woman was suddenly taken aback but after she regained her composure, she got angrier and shouted, "You're just a nurse! What the hell are you trying to do? How dare you block my way! Don't you know the rules and regulations in this hospital?"

Cassie's face turned crimson in embarrassment, but she had no other choice. The woman was fiery and arrogant, but what she said made sense. Her words were like needles sticking into Cassie's heart, which made her almost breathless.

"I'm really sorry, ma'am. I didn't mean to come across as rude. I just hope that we could talk about this

peacefully," Cassie said. However, she couldn't persuade the patient to change her mind and she

dared not strike the woman. Cassie had no words to defend herself over this, but the last thing she

wanted to happen was to escalate this matter. Her leader would surely hold her responsible for her fault

and she might be sacked.

Cassie was very anxious. She kept apologizing and hoped that the woman would forgive her.

However, when the patient saw that Cassie was weak and harmless, she became more aggressive.

"That's it. Let's go!" She shouted louder, held Cassie's arm and started to pull her.

Cassie was quite small and she wasn't strong enough to push the woman away. Despite her

resistance, she was pulled ahead by that woman. What made her feel worse was that everyone's eyes

were now on them. Some patients and her colleagues were now looking at her and discussing.

The hospital was a place full of gossips. If she still tangled with this patient, she would be overwhelmed

by the rumors even though the woman decided not to blame her.

Cassie felt more worried. She almost wanted to cry. 'This could not be happening, ' she thought, but it

was.

"Stop!"

That voice was so loud and strong that it attracted everyone's attention.

Cassie was almost teary-eyed as she lifted her head to see who that was.

'How could it be? Jordan Li?'

Cassie was shocked by the figure suddenly appearing. The last person she expected to see at this critical moment was Jordan. Was he here to save her?

His stance was warm and confident as he stood a few feet in front of them. "Ma'am, it's you! What a coincidence to meet you here today!" Jordan greeted in a charming tone and with a bright smile. He looked at Cassie with warm eyes, and winked, before he turned to her patient again.

The woman was shocked. She never expected that, of all times, she would run into her acquaintance while she was scolding a nurse. Now after she figured out who this fine young lad was, she was unsettled.

She certainly knew Jordan, who worked with her husband in the same office and was definitely of a higher rank than her husband was. Her husband had taken her to one of their company parties in the past, and she had the privilege to be introduced to this man before.

'Well, what is his name again?' she started to juggle back to that memory. 'Jordan Li, is it? Yes, that's him.'

The women quickly glanced at Cassie, who was unable to meet her eyes. 'Could it be that this nurse is

Jordan's girlfriend?'

She thought that there was a possibility, so she quickly shut up. She forced a smile on her face, hurriedly released Cassie and then walked up to Jordan.

"Oh, it's you, Mr. Li! I don't expect to meet you at this hospital. What a surprise!" The woman laughed so hard that other people barely saw her eyes, a total shift from her angry expression a while ago.

Cassie was left speechless with the patient's sudden change in emotions. It was like watching a wicked stepmother in a soap opera.

Jordan glanced at the woman, his eyes calm and unwavering.

He remembered this lady from one of their company parties, and her husband had introduced them before, so he believed she would listen to him. Considering this, he decided to step up for Cassie.

Jordan smiled, waved at Cassie and said, "Cassie, come here."

Cassie felt confused, but when she heard him call out to her, she felt relieved and quickly walked towards Jordan.

"Ma'am, let me introduce to you, Cassie. She is my friend." Jordan paused for a second on purpose

before he told the woman that Cassie was his friend.

The woman was quite clever and she understood Jordan's implied meaning immediately. She looked at

Cassie, smiled and applauded, "Mr. Li, Cassie is so beautiful and smart. You see, there are so many nurses in this hospital, but I only come to her. Well, it was just a misunderstanding. I'm so sorry for that.

There had been a mix-up."

Cassie admired the patient's flexibility. In spite of her shock, she forced a smile and apologized again,

"Ma'am, it's my fault. I was careless just now."

"Well, ma'am, if Cassie did anything wrong, please accept her apology. I've known your husband for years. So if you can forgive Cassie, I will owe your husband a favor and I'll buy him drinks next time,"

Jordan said, significantly.

"What's done is done. Don't worry about it. Cassie, come to my home with Mr. Li when you have time. I really have to go now. Bye!" Hearing Jordan's words, the woman knew clearly what she should say and

do. After saying so, she dared not stay and just left. 'I let Cassie go because of Jordan. Now that he owes me, he will help my husband when he could, ' she thought to herself. Anyway, she would lose

nothing.

Chapter 1314 I Have An Appointment

After the lady left, the other patients and hospital staff also went back minding their own businesses.

Cassie and Jordan were left standing at the hallway. "I'm really sorry." Cassie finally broke the silence.

"And thank you for helping me." She felt embarrassed about the scene earlier.

Looking at the beautiful woman's face with fascination, Jordan said in a slightly dull voice, "It's my pleasure. What a coincidence. I'm just discharged today. And you are not only my friend, but also my sister's best friend. So I think it's just right for me to help you."

"Jordan, I really don't know how I can repay you for what you did today. Thank you," Cassie said very solemnly and bowed her thanks.

Jordan felt amused, motioning with his hand to stop her. Pondering for a while, he said, "Well, if you really want to thank me, why not..."

"Why not?" Cassie repeated, feeling confused. When her eyes met Jordan's, her heart couldn't help beating faster.

Cassie always felt that Jordan's attitude towards her was a little unusual, but she could not figure out why.

"Why not invite me to dinner to show you're thankful?" Jordan finally said it. He was thinking of asking her out for a long time now, but he couldn't find the courage.

Cassie's heart beat faster at his suggestion, but soon she recovered. It was just a meal in order to thank him. It was very normal. 'What am I thinking?' she reminded herself.

So she nodded softly, "Okay, Jordan. When are you free? I'll treat you to dinner."

"Since we have the fate to meet today. How about tonight? I'll wait for you until your shift is done,"

Jordan quickly replied. 'That was smooth, ' he thought to himself.

Cassie felt a little unsure again. She said hesitantly, "But you have just been discharged from the hospital. Don't you need to go home and rest?"

"I've been all right for a long time. But Cora worried that I haven't completely recovered. So she asked me to stay in the hospital until today." He guaranteed her with a smile.

Hearing this, Cassie could only nod to agree with his invitation.

While getting off work, Cora greeted Cassie when she passed by her seat.

An idea suddenly crossed Cassie's mind at the sight of Cora. She decided to ask Cora, "Hey! There is someone inviting us to dinner. Would you like to go?"

Food had always been a magic word. Hearing there would be free food to eat, Cora became more energetic. She quickly held Cassie's hand and asked, "Which admirer of yours invited us to dinner?" Cassie felt a strain in her heart with Cora's reaction. She said casually, "Not my admirer. I wanted to thank someone for helping me out. So I'm going to treat him to dinner."

"You want to thank someone for helping you?" she repeated, stressing on the word "someone." Cora suddenly felt something unusual and asked with a smile, "Who is this knight in shining armor? Do I know him?"

"You'll know when we get there. Hurry up. We're going to the restaurant now," Cassie answered nervously.

Cassie and Cora waited at the entrance of the hospital. Cora saw her brother's car parked there, but initially didn't mind it.

She couldn't help wondering, 'Didn't Jordan go through the discharge formalities and go home in the afternoon? Then why is he still here?'

Cora said to Cassie, "Wait for me. I'll just say hello to my brother."

She walked towards Jordan's car and knocked on the window.

Jordan felt a little shocked when he saw Cora. He opened his window halfway down and gave her an unnatural smile. "Hey, Cora? Why are you here?"

"I was wondering why you were still here. Didn't you get discharged earlier this afternoon?" Cora couldn't help asking.

Glancing at his sister, Jordan did not want to tell her he had dinner plans with Cassie. He was afraid she would invite herself to tag along. At this moment, Jordan only hoped Cora could leave as soon as possible. If Cassie came out and saw her, she would probably feel shy and embarrassed.

While Jordan was thinking of how to let his sister leave, Cassie also came to his car.

"Hey, Jordan!" she greeted. "Sorry, we're a little late. Have you been waiting for a long time?" she asked politely.

That was when Cora finally understood everything. She looked at her brother with wide eyes, looked back at Cassie, and then suddenly started laughing.

"My dear brother, I was actually wondering if you had been waiting here for a long time just to pick me up. You were never so considerate before. Sure enough, you were waiting for Cassie! Why didn't you

tell me earlier?" Jordan felt embarrassed on what his sister just said. Cassie's face also showed a shy smile.

As Cassie had expected, all three of them got into the car. Jordan was really embarrassed at this moment. How could his sister be so clueless? Didn't she see her brother was dating? Why did she still decide to come?

Actually, Cora knew what her brother was thinking about, but her hands were tightly grasped by Cassie, whose strength made her dare not move even a little.

A few minutes later, they came to an upscale western restaurant. When ordering, Jordan politely asked Cassie what she would like to eat.

Seeing her brother acting so considerate, Cora snickered. She never saw him be so courteous around women.

Cassie felt a little embarrassed. Originally, it was she who invited Jordan to dinner. But now Jordan acted like a host.

At last, each person ordered his own favorable dishes and dinner was served.

While eating, Jordan had his attention to Cassie. He kept talking to her, making her a little uncomfortable. So as soon as he finished the last topic, Cassie immediately pulled Cora's hands, asking for help.

Cora knew it was a distress call, but she could not interrupt her brother's words obviously. After all, she knew that her brother was really fond of revenge. Jordan might have silently cursed her thousands of times during this meal. Cora forced a smile when her eyes met Jordan's. Jordan was still talking nonstop, and slightly nodded his head to acknowledge her.

All Cora wanted now was to finish the meal peacefully and then head back home.

"Cassie, how about going to a movie together after dinner? I know there's a good film on show recently.

You're sure to like it." Jordan's movie invitation took Cassie by surprise.

She didn't know how to respond.

'I just want to treat him to dinner to thank him. Why does he still invite me to see a movie now?' Cassie wondered.

She immediately kicked Cora's foot under the table, asking for help again. She didn't want to see a movie with an unfamiliar man.

"Oh, brother," Cora finally interrupted. "Didn't you just asked for such a few days' leave? There must be a lot of things for you to preside over in your department. We all have to get up early to go to work tomorrow. So we'd better hurry home after eating." Under Cassie's earnest hope, Cora could only open her mouth.

Jordan had cursed his sister too many times but he couldn't show it on his face. So he smiled and became gentler. He said, "Cora, I have nothing to do tomorrow. Besides, it's still early. The movie will finish before 11 o'clock."

Cora dared not speak again after hearing Jordan's statement. She knew that the gentler her brother was, the fiercer he might be in retaliation in the future.

Seeing Cora cut her tongue, Cassie could only say directly, "Jordan, I have an appointment later. So I couldn't see a movie with you. We could go to the cinema next time, okay?"

'Appointment?' The word stung like a giant bee. Jordan's heart sank. 'It's not early now. Why does she still have an appointment at this time? Who is she going to date? Man or woman? Is that her boyfriend called Nick?'

Chapter 1315 Holley's In Trouble

Jordan winked secretly at Cora.

Cora immediately understood his hint. She nodded slightly at her brother to let him know that she knew what to do.

She had to find out who Cassie was about to meet later.

After a while, Cassie had to go, so Jordan couldn't do anything but drive her home first. A gentle breeze accompanied their silent ride.

Soon enough, they arrived at their destination. Cassie turned to Jordan and her lips curved into a slightly guilty smile. "I'm sorry Jordan. It should've been my treat. I feel bad that I let you pay the bill."

Of course, Jordan didn't mind, but he took the chance to ask her out again and said, "That's okay. We can do this again. And you can pay next time."

However, Cassie immediately regretted expressing her guilt when she heard Jordan's words. It wasn't that she didn't want to pay the bill; it was because she wasn't interested in seeing him again.

However, she still answered politely, "Okay. Next time it's on me."

After a while, they bid each other goodbye and Cassie headed home.

Jordan's eyes looked stern as he watched Cassie's receding figure. He thought about who Cassie was

about to meet. Was it a man?

A voice suddenly cut Jordan's thoughts. "Jordan, you're really into Cassie, aren't you?" Even though

Cora probably knew the answer, she couldn't help but confirm.

Even then, her question was met with a long silence, but Jordan's breath hitched and his eyes avoided

hers.

When Cora saw the way Jordan reacted, she believed that she had gotten an answer of "yes."

Thus, Cora said, "Jordan, I'd like to help you. How about this? Tomorrow when I'm at work, I'll ask

Cassie who she met. I promise to tell you the truth when I find it out." She decided to help Jordan out to

make up for accidentally being the third wheel in her brother's date.

"Well, that's a way to go." Jordan gave her a gentle smile. Slight relief flooded Cora when Jordan

grinned at her. Hopefully, she'd get something out of Cassie soon.

At Holley's house

The bed was where Holley was confined for now as she had to stay home and recover.

Her body was so weak that she couldn't even manage to open the front door when the doorbell rang.

Her low energy level only allowed her to send Black a voice message on WeChat, which told him the door's pass code.

The voice Black heard in the message was weak and hoarse, which prompted him to worry about Holley before he even saw her. "Holley, are you okay? Are you sick?" he called out as soon as he stepped inside. He proceeded to the bedroom. The moment he saw her sprawl out on the bed, his face was filled with worry and concern.

Holley was so pale and her skin was as white as a sheet. Heavy dark circles hung below her eyes and she couldn't stop coughing. Her weakened state showed how terribly sick she was.

"I'm fine..." she choked out. However, her words were cut off by a fit of coughs. "It's just a cold," she croaked. Her eyes reddened and tears started to trickle down her cheeks.

Black hurried over to the bed and bent towards Holley so that she wouldn't have to talk so much anymore. Then, he went to the kitchen and got a cup of hot water.

He went back to her bedside and put his forehead against hers. The heat of Holley's burning skin made him worried and distressed, that he had forgotten what he originally went to Holley for.

"Stay away from me, you might get infected," Holley said as she nudged him gently. Black hardly heard

her as her voice was so faint and soft, like a kitten's.

When Black saw that Holley was still concerned over him despite her being sick, he was truly touched.

It made him even care about her more, that he wished he was the one sick and confined to the bed

instead. He hated that she had to go through all this.

"Holley, you've gotten a really bad fever. Let me take you to the hospital," Black said. He then grabbed

some clothes to help her get dressed.

"No, I don't want to go to the hospital. They'll give me a shot and it hurts me so much. I'm scared,"

Holley refused. She struggled to push away Black's arms. Black never knew that she could be this

childish but when he saw her squirm so hard, he felt how scared she was. Thus, he decided to

compromise.

"It's alright. We won't go to the hospital," Black soothed her. "But where's your medicine cabinet? I have

to get you some pills."

"It's in the cabinet downstairs. No, not that. Maybe in the store room. Wait, it's not there either. Oh

Black, I don't know. I don't remember where I put it."

Holley got quite upset when she couldn't recall where she had put the medicine. Her lips pouted and she looked like she was about to cry.

When Black saw her upset and desperate, he figured that the high fever must've been tormenting her with heavy dizziness. He immediately put her back down, covered her with the quilt, and went to find the medicine cabinet by himself.

Black finally made it to find it. He gave Holley some pills. And thanks to the side effect of drowsiness, Holley fell asleep soon.

After Black had watched Holley's sleeping form for a while, he gently pecked her forehead and tucked her in. Then, he went to the kitchen to make her some food.

It took him quite a while before he had made some congee. He put some minced pork and preserved egg, which filled the house with the delicious smell of cooked food. It made Black feel like he and Holley were like a family that lived a simple but happy life.

After he finished preparing her meal, he went to Holley to wake her up.

"Holley, honey, wake up. You should eat something."

He nudged her gently as he spoke in a voice full of tenderness, as if he had a precious and fragile

porcelain figure in his hands. He had to be gentle. Otherwise he might break it.

Meanwhile, Holley's eyes slightly fluttered open. A low, faint noise came out of her throat, and in that moment Black thought that she looked positively adorable.

Black helped her sit up and let her lean on his chest. He put an arm around her to keep her balanced, then took the spoon to feed her the congee.

It seemed that Black first pushed aside his plan of introducing Holley to his parents. For now, all he cared about was Holley's condition. In turn, Holley was extremely relieved that she didn't have to meet his parents yet, and the thought boosted her appetite.

A few moments later, she had finished the bowl of congee.

Black was also glad when he saw that Holley had regained some energy and was now in a good mood.

He took a thermometer, checked her temperature, and was pleased when it wasn't that high.

That night, both of them basked in each other's company. Black was contented when Holley needed him, and they had grown closer more than before. He thought that what they had now was beautiful and valuable, and it made him feel happy and at peace. All he wanted was for this to last forever.

"Thank you for taking care of me, Black," Holley said gratefully. She truly was touched by his tenderness that night. She looked into his eyes as she said those words, then burrowed in his chest.

No words came out of Black's lips, but he tightened his arms around her. His heart was full of love for this woman he held.

Black spent the whole weekend at Holley's place to take care of her, which made the couple feel closer to each other more than ever.

However, when Holley felt better and went back to work on Monday, she found that some nasty rumor about her had spread in the company. There were talks of Holley sleeping with other men to get business opportunities.

"It's hard to believe that Miss Ye had done those things. She's being slutty instead of putting the business first."

"So she was. Why would she be willing to do that with those raunchy men? It's disgusting!"

"Who knows? Maybe she's good in bed, and it's the only thing she could use to make up for her lack of management skills."

The people at work kept talking about Holley like that. Everywhere she went, she was bombarded with

those sneering, judgmental words and the disdainful, contemptuous eyes.

All of those drove her crazy.

She truly had no idea where those rumors came from and how it had spread around this quick. Her

eyes glinted dangerously. She wanted to know who was behind all this, and they would pay the price.

Chapter 1316 Ask Someone For Help

What was worse, other shareholders of the company flocked into Holley's office to criticize and accuse

her. She felt frustrated by all the strange eyes and harsh words that were directed at her.

"Miss Ye, you must have already heard some rumors about you in our company. We think that what

you have done has spoiled the reputation of Tarsan Corporation. You are no longer fit to sit in the

position of general manager at all," one of the shareholders demanded.

"That's right, Miss Ye. If you know what's best for you, you'd better take the initiative to give up your

position as soon as possible. Otherwise, you will drag yourself with embarrassment. We accept that

you may have no respect for yourself to be doing such inappropriate things, but we won't allow you to

damage the image of Tarsan Corporation nor affect the other shareholders' interest." The other

shareholders all nodded in agreement.

Holley was shocked and startled. She remained speechless in response to these malicious persecutions at that moment.

She could only keep apologizing and begging them to give her a little time to make a decision.

"I'm so sorry. But these rumors are all fake slanders. I will have this fully investigated to resolve this matter as soon as possible. I hope you will give me another chance. I will give you and Tarsan

Corporation a satisfactory answer." Looking around at every shareholder in the room, Holley assured them in a firm tone. But in reality, her heart was full of fear and in panic.

It didn't take long before the rumors had reached Black. He also knew that the other shareholders joined forces to press on Holley. This made him really angry. He thought, 'These old men are so shameless that they worked together to bully Holley, a weak woman.'

The office was gloomy when Black arrived Tarsan Corporation. Holley's sad and anxious face welcomed him as soon as he entered her office.

In fact, Black did not believe the so-called rumors at all. Holley was too beautiful and perfect in his eyes, and she couldn't be tainted. How could such a perfect lady do such a dirty deed for the sake of interests?

Someone must have designed a false accusation to Holley! He was almost sure of it.

"Holley, are you all right?" Black asked, his worried eyes set upon her. He noticed how Holley's haggard face, after she fell sick these last two days, became paler now.

"I don't know," she uttered. Holley's eyes looked confused, like a lost child, which made Black feel very distressed.

"I haven't done any of those things at all. I don't understand why people suddenly start accusing me.

Whatever I have accomplished today, I've put much effort to get to where I am. But now they force me to step down and leave the company." Holley could no longer force herself to laugh and pretend that she did not care. Her strong camouflage no longer existed at this moment. She felt her heart grow heavy as tears flew down silently.

The sight of a lady in tears was enough to have Black extremely anxious. He felt very protective of her.

He wiped Holley's tears away with his warm finger pulp and gently printed a kiss on her eyelids, quietly smoothing her wounds.

"Don't cry, Holley. Wait for me. I won't let you suffer in vain. As long as the company belongs to you, I

will help you to keep it. So just hold on," Black said firmly as he held Holley in his arms, gently striking her hair.

Black made up his mind. He would do what he could to help her.

Hearing his assurance, Holley knew that he would find ways to help her solve her current predicament.

Maybe he would ask his father, Rex, directly to help her. She felt a little relieved. After all, Black was always so considerate and kind to her. He almost satisfied all her demands.

After Black left Tarsan Corporation, he rushed back to his home immediately. He decided to persuade Rex to amalgamate shares. Only then could he take a stand in the company and continue to support Holley.

At the Hu family's house

"Yvett, is Dad home?" Black asked about his father as soon as he changed his shoes.

"Yes, he is in the study. Black, it's rare for you to come home. What would you like to eat tonight? I'll prepare it for you," Yvett said.

She was the housemaid of the Hu family. She had worked in this family for decades. She watched Black grow up and also treated him like her own child. Every time he came back, she would prepare a

lot of dishes for him.

"I have something to discuss with Dad. Don't worry about making anything special just for me. I'm easy." Before he could finish his words, Black rushed upstairs in a hurry.

"This kid!" she gasped. "He has grown up. Why is he still so rash?" Yvett muttered with a smile, but without any blame. It was all about spoiling the younger generation in her words. After giving it a thought, she figured Black liked steamed fish, so she should rush to the supermarket to buy a fresh fish.

When Black approached the door of the study, he restrained his impulse and gently pushed the door in.

Still holding onto the door knob, he called out, "Dad, what are you doing?" After entering the study,

Black consciously lowered his voice when he asked Rex again.

Black always felt that the study was a very serious place. He also had no idea why he would think so.

But he never dared to speak loudly whenever he entered the study when he was a child. He

remembered that once, after eating snacks outside, he was called into the study by his father. He

accidentally dropped a candy onto the carpet of the study, and his father's face turned black instantly,

which made him extremely scared. That thought made a smile flash across his face now.

Rex was writing calligraphy, but with his son bursting in unexpectedly, his pen stagnated, leaving a dark ink dot.

Rex didn't seem to care much about the ink dot. He just put down his brush and looked at his surprise visitor. "Why are you free to go home today? I thought you had already forgotten this home as you were too busy with those things in the company."

Black grinned and leaned on his father. "How could that be? I'm home now, right? I especially come home to accompany you, Dad," he stressed out.

Black always saw his father as a teacher or a friend. Rex had only one child. He had taught him how to run the business at a very young age and then handed over all his industries to him when the right time came. Therefore, their relationship was always good and peaceful.

"You're just talking nonsense. I'm your father. Do you think I don't know you? Come on, tell me. What do you want from your old man this time?" Seeing his son's abnormal appearance today, Rex knew Black must have something to ask from him.

"Dad, you really are smart," he complimented him with a smile. "I actually have one thing to ask from

you today." Black felt a little embarrassed when his father knew his real intention at a glance.

"Okay, spill it. Then I'll think about it." Rex really loved his only son. He always made sure to meet his requirements as long as they were not excessive.

Black took his chance. "Dad, I heard that you bought thirty-five percent shares of Tarsan Corporation before, which now makes you one of its major shareholders. Have you heard about the rumors in Tarsan Corporation these days? Holley, their general manager, has been slandered with ulterior motive. And now she is being forced to give up her position by the other shareholders." Black explained

everything to Rex.

Chapter 1317 I'm Serious

Rex had heard the rumors about the woman called Holley before, so he responded, "I know this thing.

What's wrong? Does this have anything to do with you? What do you want me to help you with?"

He wondered why his son suddenly cared so much about Tarsan Corporation's issues now. If his memory served him right, Black didn't care about the companies where he had shares in. He only cared about their family's company, the Hu Group.

"Dad, I'm serious this time. I want you to support Holley as a shareholder." Black finally stated his

request. When Rex heard his son's words, he suddenly looked meaningfully at his son.

He knew that Black almost never pleaded for anyone. Who was this Holley? How did she make Black help her?

"Holley? Who is she? Is it worth your pleading for her? You should know the rules of our family. I only help our own family members and Holley isn't one of them. She doesn't deserve my help," Rex said with contempt. It was clear that Rex hated Holley with the way he spoke.

When Black heard his father's words, his face turned cold and he looked seriously at Rex. He originally didn't want to reveal his relationship with Holley in such a sudden situation. He wanted to formally introduce her to his father, but now it looked like he had to break his plan.

Rex glanced at his son, and realized that he wanted to tell him something serious. His eyebrows shot up and curiosity got the better of him.

"Dad, Holley...

She is my girlfriend. She's also the only woman I want to marry in my life. I don't want her to be sad, so Dad, please help her," Black claimed. His voice was quite firm, and his eyes shone with love for Holley.

Truly, Rex was amazed. This was the first time he had seen his son speak so solemnly about a woman.

He knew that his son was deeply in love with this lady.

Before, Black used to be surrounded by many women but he never cared much about them. Falling in love was rare for him. But as Black's father, he was still worried if the woman his son met really loved him.

If this Holley was honest and decent, Rex would be happy about their relationship. However, if she wanted to get money and rights from Hu family, he knew that in the end Black would suffer and get hurt.

Whenever he thought about his son getting cheated on, he felt extremely uneasy. He didn't want to see his son be played around. He suddenly felt the need to find someone to investigate this woman named Holley.

"Dad," Black called when he saw that his father had been quiet for a while.

Black's voice brought Rex back to reality, and he lowered his eyes. His face looked unreadable.

At that moment, Black felt uncomfortable. He couldn't guess what Rex had in mind.

'What if Dad refuses? I won't give up. Besides, he has never refused any of my requests since I was a

child. I'm sure I'll succeed if I ask sincerely, ' Black thought and encouraged himself.

"Really now?" Rex asked. "Why haven't you talked about her before then? Maybe you're just on a whim," Rex said as he picked up his cup on the table. He slowly took a sip and waited for his son's answer.

"Dad, I really love her. I want to spend my whole life with her. I can't bear to see her have so much difficulties. Dad, I beg you. Please help me," Black pleaded.

He even tugged on Rex's sleeve and looked at him with sad eyes.

The way Black looked at him made his heart turn soft.

In fact, Black had been quite independent and capable ever since he became an adult. He seldom asked for help from his family.

It had also been a long time since Rex saw his son fully rely on him. He remembered when Black was still in primary school, he would shake his arm to beg him to go with him to a parents' meeting. No matter how busy Rex was at that time, he would always promise his son that he would go when Black used those begging eyes.

At that moment, Rex's eyes showed a hint of nostalgia.

Now, his son had grown to be quite the dashing adult. But today, he came to beg his father for a woman. Different thoughts and emotions suddenly hit Rex's heart at once.

"Okay," Rex said. It seemed that no matter what the case, he couldn't bear to refuse his son's requests.

"Thank you, Dad!" Black exclaimed. He was so overjoyed that he wrapped his father in a hug.

"You're an adult now, so stop acting like a three-year-old child. Take your hands off," Rex said with a laugh. Black did, but he really was thankful that his father decided to help him.

When Rex and Black went out of the study, Yvett had already finished preparing dinner.

"What did you talk about that took so long? You can go wash your hands and eat dinner now," Yvett said and started to set the dinner table. After everyone was ready, they all sat at the table and enjoyed their meals.

It was a simple dinner on a peaceful night, but everyone in the family was happy.

When they were done eating, Rex went to a private corner and called one of his most trusted subordinates, then ordered him to do a background check on Holley.

Meanwhile, Black immediately went to his room after dinner and couldn't contain his excitement to call

Holley.

Soon enough, Holley picked up the phone and Black told her everything that had happened before she could even say a word.

"Hello, Holley. I have great news! You don't have to worry about being forced by those shareholders anymore. I've convinced my father to help you. You know he has Tarsan Corporation's shares on hand. We can merge our shares together to support you."

"Really? I... I never expected that. Thank you, Black. And please extend my deepest thanks to your dad. I really don't know what to do without you," she said.

However, this was all a pretense. In fact, Holley had already guessed that Black would willingly help her to solve the problem. She just didn't expect that the good news came so fast.

"It's just a small thing. As long as you're happy, I'm happy," Black said earnestly. He really felt proud when he thought that he helped and protected Holley.

"Thank you so much, Black. I love you." Holley showed her love directly. "I love you too. Let's rest early.

As for the shareholders' meeting tomorrow, we'll see," Black responded.

They chatted for a bit and said more affectionate words to each other for a while, before they

reluctantly hung up the phone.

When the call was done, Holley's eyes sparkled under the light. She couldn't wait for tomorrow's meeting.

At the Tarsan Corporation

The next morning, Holley felt light and worry-free. She happily applied on the perfect makeup look, changed into a formal dress, and arrived at the Tarsan Corporation conference room early.

She knew that many shareholders had waited for her to make a joke out of herself in the meeting in a few minutes, but she believed that today would be different. She was confident that they'll be blown away in surprise, and her lips curved into a contented smile.

Chapter 1318 Greater Danger

Holley arrived at the conference room ahead of time. Soon, the other shareholders arrived one after the other, Black included.

Holley began her statement first. "Okay, everyone. Let's get the ball rolling. We'll start the meeting. All shareholders sitting here can speak freely. Of course, it is better to speak one at a time instead of talking over each other." And then she turned her head to one shareholder next to her and said, "Mr.

Liu, please. You may start." As soon as Holley finished talking, a commotion broke out in the conference room.

Looking around the conference room and glancing at everyone, Holley found that these shareholders all held a stirring look. Deep inside, she couldn't help but sneer and began to look forward to their performance after hearing Black's speech.

"Now that Miss Ye has asked me to start, I'll go straight to the point. I, as well as the other shareholders gathered here, all agree that you are no longer suitable to be the general manager of Tarsan Corporation." Mr. Liu paused, as if he was trying to organize his thoughts.

And then he continued, "First of all, Tarsan Corporation's performance has not significantly increased since you were appointed, which indicates that you may have some shortcomings in your ability to lead the company. Second, there has been a lot of rumors recently on how you are seducing other businessmen for profit, which has greatly damaged our company's image and interests. And last but not the least, we all have seen your performance since you came to our company. You are often absent from work without any valid reason. I don't think that should be a company leader's performance."

Finishing his words, Mr. Liu didn't wait for Holley to speak as he went directly back to his seat. His

arrogant face was full of triumph, as if he had seen Holley's embarrassing ending.

As soon as Holley let other shareholders to make a speech, each of them expressed that Mr. Liu's speech could represent them and there was no need to repeat their statements. They let Holley to just go to the voting stage.

"Well, since you have nothing more to say, let me say something." Holley stood up from her seat and put her hands on the conference table. Her pushy look made others dare not look at her directly. The shareholders avoided her stare as they prepared to listen to what she was about to say.

"As for what Mr. Liu just said, I'd like to make an explanation. As a matter of fact, Tarsan Corporation's profit increased by thirty percent during my tenure. You can check the relevant statements after this meeting.

As for the reason why you do not often find me at the company, I'm sure everyone is aware that Tarsan Corporation and Shining Company are currently working together on a project. I need to communicate with their head and monitor the progress of the project.

Of course, I am also troubled by the recent rumors circulating about me. But I promise that those

rumors are absolutely ridiculous. And I will actively resolve them as soon as possible to minimize the adverse impact on the company's image."

Holley answered the problems posed by Mr. Liu one by one. But the other shareholders didn't care about her explanation at all. All they wanted was to get rid of her.

When the voting began, almost all the shareholders voted against Holley.

As everything went smoothly as they expected, these shareholders all showed a satisfactory smile.

They felt triumphant with the results. As soon as they thought they had gotten the victory, Black slowly stood up.

He posed, "On behalf of my father, Rex Hu, and myself, I would like to make a statement on this meeting." Black's sudden interruption caught everyone in surprise. "I think Holley Ye is fully qualified for the position of general manager, so I express my support for her." Deliberately pausing for a while, Black added, "I want to note that my father and I have more than half of the company shares together, plus the shares in Miss Ye's hands, I think the meeting can now be concluded."

Black's arrogant face seemed to say "you'd better shut up" to those shareholders. Holley couldn't help but think how badass that move was.

Hearing Black's statement, the other shareholders were speechless at that moment.

The atmosphere in the conference room dropped to freezing point. Of course, Black and Holley were still in a good mood. They were even happily observing everyone else's expression.

Standing tall and proud, Black continued, "In view of the absolute dominance of the shares I hold in Tarsan Corporation, I will now announce directly that Holley Ye can continue to be the general manager of Tarsan Corporation. Any objections?"

All the other shareholders in the conference room were silent, with forbearance and a blue face.

After all, other shareholders knew from Black's words that his father, Rex, the "cunning old fox" of Hu Group, also supported Holley. All the shareholders there were afraid of Rex and the power of Hu Group. So, even if they had objections, they would not choose to fight against Hu Group.

At the end of the meeting, all the shareholders came out of the conference room in shock and frustration, like a beaten cock. At last, only Black and Holley were left inside.

Seeing the door of the conference room had been closed, Holley happily went to Black and kissed him.

He quickly responded, starting it gently with intensity growing every second. Their lips and tongue were

intertwined for a time.

"I'm really happy. Thank you, dear," Holley finally whispered. Their faces were still very close to each other. They could clearly see each other's reflection from each other's eyes. It was like a whole universe gently pouring onto them.

"Congratulations, Holley," he cheered.

Holley and Black were smiling happily. "Did you see that looks on their faces?" he asked.

"I did. Thank you," she replied. At that moment, the empty meeting room was filled with laughter.

At the same time, the employees of the company saw a large group of shareholders coming out of the conference room with a blue face. Employees all had the spirit of gossip. They already had some guesses about the results of the meeting from those shareholders' expressions. But they still did not understand how Holley had won so many votes.

Shortly afterwards, an employee got the first-hand information. It was said that Black merged with his father's shares to keep Holley's position as general manager.

Some young girls began to be excited. It was just as romantic as a plot in a TV series. Black, a handsome CEO, saved the woman he loved from her predicament.

So these employees came together in groups to discuss fiercely the story of Holley and Black. After all, in these young girls' eyes, Black was a wealthy and handsome businessman. Now it seemed that he was also affectionate. Black's image in these girls' heart grew taller in an instant. At this moment, these girls completely forgot that a fierce meeting ended just now.

"Wow, I envy Miss Ye very much!" one of the girls commented. "Mr. Hu is a formidable bachelor and his eyes are on her. She is so lucky!"

"Yes, so many shareholders have been defeated by Mr. Hu. Now I worship him very much."

"From now on, every time Mr. Hu passes by me, my heart will beat faster. He's so charming."

The company was full of discussion. Black suddenly became the most famous and distinguished shareholder in Tarsan Corporation.

Although the storm passed smoothly this time, Holley still felt deep uneasiness. She knew that the people who spread those rumors behind her was like a time bomb, which might burst into greater danger at any time.

Chapter 1319 To Investigate

Holley had to find out who started all those rumors to slander her.

She made up her mind to have it all thoroughly investigated without involving Black. If he was a part of the investigation, he would have the chance to find those horrible things she had done before. She couldn't let that happen.

So Holley secretly hired a group of private detectives to help her with this matter.

After letting the detectives know about the details, Holley gave them clear instructions. "I need you to find out who started the rumors. The sooner, the better. But please do it in secret. Don't let anybody else know what you are doing. It will also save you some trouble during the investigation. And you'll get paid once your job is done," she assured them. Holley put emphasis on the importance of secrecy, in case Black would know.

"No problem, Miss Ye. We'll get to the bottom of this as soon as possible. Once we acquire some clues, I'll let you know immediately," one of them promised.

Holley was glad to know they were on the same page.

She supposed that the rumor starters wouldn't just leave things like this. They definitely had ulterior motives. Fortunately, Holley already had these detectives now. Once they found those evil people, they could let her know if they were really planning something.

After the long day, Holley went to a fancy restaurant to have dinner with Black.

For one thing, she wanted to thank him for his support and help during the whole time. Also, they hadn't had a romantic date for a couple of days, so she wanted to make up for it.

"Cheers!" they said in unison as they proposed a toast. Their glasses with red wine slightly collided, which added to the romantic atmosphere.

"Honey, thank you for all your help. I really appreciate it." Holley held her glass, intently watching Black with his gentle smile, which made the moment more lovely and sweet.

"Somebody is going to be drunk," Black smiled back as he made his little joke. Holley just finished sipping her wine and responded with a sweet smile. Suddenly, Black thought of something important.

"Holley, when I asked my father for help that day, I told him you were my girlfriend," he started. Holley listened intently. "Last weekend you were ill, so I didn't mention it. Since everything is going well now, would you like to go back home with me to see my father?"

Black thought this was the perfect time to bring it up.

"Of course. I would love to meet your father. Anytime, when he is convenient," Holley answered without

hesitation. Deep inside, she still wasn't ready for this. She didn't expect Black would bring it up today.

She was a little scared of meeting Rex.

But she couldn't refuse him this time. Since Rex already knew about her, it was only a matter of time before they got formally introduced. Besides, no matter whether she went to see him or not, he would definitely inquire about her background anyway. In this case, she might as well go back home with Black. At least it would make her look polite.

The most important thing right now was that she should come up with some good excuses to make Black keep trusting her, even after Rex revealed her ugly past. She believed love could make people blind. As long as Black was still crazy about her, she could easily deceive him.

Holley was relieved after she thought this through. However, when she accidentally looked up, a familiar face came into view. Holley's eyes grew wide as she saw Alan walking towards their direction.

As he got closer, Holley feared that he might reveal what she had done. It took her a lot of efforts to impress Black as a perfect lady. She couldn't possibly let Alan ruin all this.

Thinking about this for a while, Holley decided to say "hello" first. She planned to dominate the entire conversation to leave Alan with a few chances to talk.

So she faked a natural smile and said, "Hi, Mr. Zhao! What a surprise!"

Alan was startled by Holley's sudden greeting and stopped at the table.

It took a moment before Alan realized what happened. Holley's appearance only reminded him of how she tricked him a few days ago in the hotel. He still contained a grudge against her because of that.

Alan gave Holley a cold stare, that even Black sensed their little tension.

After a few seconds, Alan responded in a sarcastic tone, "Oh, Miss Ye. Glad to see you."

Then he noticed the guy who was sitting opposite her. Seeing that Holley was with such a tall and handsome man, Alan somehow felt a sense of envy and jealousy.

But he thought Holley was just fooling around with some inferior, random guy. So he didn't intend to take this guy as someone she was seriously dating.

"Holley, would you mind to introduce us?" Black suddenly inquired in a low voice.

"Oh, of course," Holley replied, almost automatically. "This is Alan Zhao. We have cooperation in business. Mr. Zhao, this is Black Hu, one of the shareholders of Tarsan Corporation, and my boyfriend."

This was the first time that Holley had introduced Black as her boyfriend. He was so thrilled that his

heart pounded quicker in his chest, like someone was playing a romantic melody with a drum. It felt so beautiful and sweet.

Alan initially thought of giving them a hard time by throwing a sarcastic and insulting speech on their faces. However, he changed his mind after hearing how Holley introduced Black.

The name "Black Hu" was a little familiar to him. He seemed to have heard it from someone before. He was not sure who and when. He pretended to casually look at Black's face again, and confirmed that he definitely saw him before somewhere.

But Alan could not recall the specific occasion when they would have met. He also tried to juggle into his memories but failed to collect any useful information about Black.

Actually, Alan had met Rex and Black several times in some banquets before. Rex and Black were usually the center of people's attention in those kind of occasions. Alan was a nobody. It was hard for him to get close to these distinguished people. So it was natural that Alan couldn't recognize Black.

However, Alan was a discreet and tactful man. Even though he didn't know who Black was exactly, he supposed Black must be some big shot businessman. So he had to be polite today.

'This woman is lucky she is with Black. It wouldn't be wise to make a scene in front of him,' Alan

thought to himself. Next time when Holley was alone, he would definitely give her a hard time.

Since that day Holley fooled him in the hotel, Alan had been thinking about getting his revenge.

Even though Alan remained silent, his look and attitude still struck Black as arrogant. His patience was running out. After a while, Black reluctantly reached out to shake his hand.

"Nice to meet you, Mr. Zhao," he said.

"Nice to meet you too. I'm sorry, what do you do again?" Alan used his usual condescending tone in response.

Black didn't like to answer questions like that. Because almost after every time he let other people know about his background, they came to butter him up, making him feel uncomfortable. So he decided not to tell Alan the truth, but only gave him a vague reply.

"I am just helping my father with his business."

Alan nodded. It was obvious that he was going to meet someone else; he didn't want to waste time with them. Besides, he would prefer not to see Holley right now; this woman could easily irritate him.

"Oh, you two must be having a date right now. I'd better leave you two alone. My table is over there. I

have to go now. See you."

"All right. Bye."

Holley and Black simultaneously bid him goodbye.

Chapter 1320 Secret Investigation

The episode of meeting Alan was not taken seriously by Black and Holley. A moment after Alan left, they had their attention back to dinner.

After carefully cutting the steak on his plate, Black put it in front of Holley intimately in exchange for her steak which had not been cut. Whenever he did these trivial things, he lowered his head silently, making everyone around him feel at ease.

Even if Holley didn't really love him, she thought that Black was really charming.

"Thank you. The steak here really tastes good. You should eat more, Black," Holley said. She couldn't help but comment after watching Black help her cut the steak and pour the red wine.

Black silently looked at Holley. Under the light of the restaurant, her face appeared softer as some loose hair gently fell at her temples.

Reaching from across the table, Black couldn't help but gently tuck Holley's hair behind her ear.

Electricity seemed to zap him in shock when his finger touched her earlobe carelessly, the current

directly flowing to his heart. After his finger left her hair, he felt his heart gently sighed, regretting that only a trace of residual warmth remained at his fingertip.

Black felt like he needed to breathe. He reached for his wine glass and shook the liquor in it gently before he took a sip, a trace of hazy drunkenness in his eyes. Staring back at Holley, he could feel a certain force asking him to touch her face.

When she turned her head to look at him with confusion, he couldn't help but hold her gently and print a kiss full of sweet wine on her lips.

Holley blushed shyly and pushed Black back to his seat. Although she was satisfied with Black's infatuation with her, public display of affection was never her thing.

"Oh, you haven't told me what your father likes. Tell me. So when I come to visit him, I'll make preparations in advance," Holley said, hoping to change their focus to something else.

"My dad likes tea. You can bring him some tea next time," Black advised. "He will like you. Don't worry," he then assured her.

Tonight, Holley not only introduced him to others, but also took the initiative to mention going to visit his

father. These made Black feel very happy and reassured. Any last doubt and suspicion he had about

Holley now disappeared.

After dinner, Black drove Holley home.

The streets were already empty and quiet. A few stars lit the dark sky. As the car stopped in front of

Holley's house, they were still reluctant to say goodbye to each other.

"Would you like to go upstairs for a cup of tea?" Holley finally broke the silence, blinking her eyes at

Black. After all, it was too late. So Holley's words had a clear indication.

"Okay," Black agreed without any hesitation. Her invitation made him excited. He began to look forward

to whatever possibility the night might hold for them.

"Take a drink first." Holley handed Black his cup of tea and sat on the couch beside him.

This was the first time that Black had come to Holley's house. He looked around the whole room

curiously. It was a simple room, not even well lit. The wall printed in gray was just as quiet as Holley. In

Black's eyes, Holley was perfect from top to toe. She deserved more than this.

"Holley, would you like to move in with me? We could live together." The question came expectantly.

Being in a small warm room with Holley, Black suddenly felt the impulse to ask her. The truth was that he hoped to see Holley every morning when he woke up. He never wanted to be separated from her again.

"What? You're asking me to move to your house?" Holley was shocked by Black's offer. She had never thought about it at all. And if she lived with Black, it would be inconvenient for her to do some things.

"I'm used to living here. We can just meet every day," Holley replied. "It doesn't matter if we don't live together."

Hearing Holley's response, Black didn't feel much regret. After all it was just a whim that came to his mind.

"Okay. I wish we could get married soon, so we could stick with each other every day," Black softly whispered in Holley's ear as he held her closer.

Holley's ears felt a tickling sensation as Black exhaled inside her ear. She put out a hand to cover his mouth.

Like the most common flirting between couples, Black was determined to tease her more. He began to exhale at the sensitive parts of Holley.

Holley felt Black's hands as they gently stroke her back, pulling her closer. Too close that the

temperature of their bodies began to rise as she felt his weight on her.

Holley then shyly laughed as she pushed Black away. "Take a shower first. Anyway, it will be a long

night. There's no need to rush."

As if he never heard her, Black leaned over again and kissed Holley deeply. He was not willing to go to

the bathroom to take a bath until both of them were panting.

Holley was left sitting on the couch when her phone began to ring all of a sudden. She took it out and

the name of her private detective displayed on caller ID. She subconsciously looked at the bathroom

and confirmed that Black was still enjoying his shower. She then quickly stepped onto the balcony to

answer the phone.

"Hello. How is it going? Did you find any clues?" Holley asked in a low voice. She didn't want to make

any noise that would have Black looking for her.

To Holley's surprise, the private detective was not calling about the investigation's progress but a piece

of bad news.

"Miss Ye, we found a problem during our recent investigation. Apparently, someone is already investigating the information about you. I think it is necessary to let you know, so I called you right away."

Hearing this news, Holley felt like she was struck by lightning. Who would bother to investigate her now?

'Could it be Black?' she immediately thought. Maybe Black didn't completely believe her explanation last time. He may still thought she had an abnormal relationship with Charles. 'Impossible!' She immediately contradicted her thoughts. Black's performance these days didn't show that he still doubted her.

'Could it be Rex?' Black just told his father that he was in a relationship with her. Why did he act so fast to investigate her?

Holley was in a state of perplexity at that moment. A lot of things were running on her head.

"Do you know who is investigating me secretly?" Holley finally asked the private detective after she snapped back to reality.

"Right now, we don't know who that is yet. As soon as we find out, we'll tell you," the private detective

answered.

Holley wanted to ask a few more questions. However, she heard Black suddenly speak from behind her. Shocked, she immediately hung up the phone.

"Holley, what are you doing on the balcony? It's cold outside. Come inside," Black said after finishing the shower. Black wiped his hair as he walked towards Holley. But he didn't expect to see her hang up the phone in panic. He immediately became suspicious.

Holley turned around, but she couldn't hide the trace of panic that registered on her face. She smiled unnaturally and explained, "It's a little hot inside, so I came out and answered the phone." Walking towards Black, she offered, "Here, let me help you wipe your hair."

Black was keenly aware that something was wrong. Holley looked more than surprised to see him. He asked, "Who were you talking to just now? Who?" Black stared Holley in the eye looking for the answer, hoping he could directly see through her heart.