

Wedded Bride 251

Chapter 251

"So essentially what you are saying is..... only if I break up with Rachel you will accept me as your father, right?" Edward looked at Chris in a rather cold tone and asked.

"Well yes." Chris looked at Edward and added, "Just drop the idea all together, I would never come to live under the same roof with Rachel under any circumstance."

"Chris....." Edward frowned, "What on earth did she do to offend you so much? And why are you so against her? You know, she always spoke up for you in front of me, trying to be nice with you. Why couldn't you show a little mercy and learn something from her? Whatever it is that is going on between you and her has clearly moved past, and instead of hampering our relation I think you should try to forgive her."

Edward sighed, " You are my daughter, Chris. And she is my future wife, so both of you are the most important people to me in my entire life. Why would you....."

"We come from different worlds, anyway, here's my request. If you can't oblige to it, then don't ask me for anything in return, I am very sure you will see through Rachel one day in the future....." Chris sighed, " Whatever, we can save our chat for that fine day."

"Chris, I....." Edward was trying to say something more, but Chris abruptly cut him off, "Grandpa raised me up, and now he is old enough, I think it is my turn to return the favor with gratitude and take care of him. You got Rachel so I should not worry."

Chris laughed and went on, "Well by the way, I have totally forgot to congratulate you now that you are going to get married next month. I..... I won't be able to attend your wedding."

Chris did not count on Edward to break up with Rachel because of her remarks, but just gave it a try. Judging from how Edward reacted, Chris surprisingly found that in his heart, she..... was actually not as important as Rachel.

Even though it was an uncomfortable reality, she could at least face it calmly.

Rachel was in a constant state of worry about Chris saying something inappropriate, so she hurried up to Chris as she saw her coming out, "Chris, your father really wishes that you come live with us, and so do I wish for the same with all my heart. I know we have had some misunderstandings between each other, but I am sure we can figure it out after you move in."

"Miss Bai. Give your thoughts a rest, I would not live with you. Now you can relax a little bit and stop putting on an act in front of me. I am well familiar with your age old charade." Chris sneered, "He have no idea about what kind of woman you really are, but I know it. You better behave yourself, otherwise I will not let it go this time."

"You....." Rachel was thrilled in heart, but she acted like nothing happened and said to Chris, "Don't get me wrong, I meant no harm. I really hope....."

"Rachel." Edward stopped Rachel as she was going to continue her drama, he had his own grievance after talking to Chris. He had no idea why Chris would ask him to break up with Rachel. "Let's go."

He thought to himself that he would not beg Chris to change her mind, rather wished he never had such a daughter.

Rachel was ecstatic and elated to see this, and even pretended to comfort Edward on their way back home, "Chris took things too hard now, just give her some more time. She will come round."

Edward did not utter a single word.

Once Autumn arrived in Japan, Hoda Masahiro himself came to receive her at the airport. He was delighted to see Autumn coming out through the departure terminal, so he put on a wide smile on his face and greeted her, "Miss Ye, it feels like I have waited a long time for your arrival."

"Mr. Hoda." Autumn responded with a slight nod.

"I have arranged for a couple of activities this evening, it's our last chance to relax. We have a plenty of things to do from tomorrow onwards." Hoda Masahiro smiled as he opened the car door for Autumn.

Before she entered the vehicle, he helped Autumn to load her luggage into the trunk, and then he said, "I'm so sorry as I had no idea what's your requirement and expectations are from a hotel, I did not book one. If you don't mind..... You can stay at my house."

"No, I don't want to trouble you." Autumn frowned slightly, she had already booked a hotel room before she got there. The hotel was the same one Charles was staying in, but as she heard Hoadah Masahiro saying this, she still felt..... uncomfortable. "I have already booked one, could you please drive me there."

"Oh, is that so?" Hoadah Masahiro glanced at Autumn through the rearview mirror with a blank face. When he heard the property's name that Autumn told him, he added, "Oh, that hotel is truly a good one."

Autumn smiled and said nothing more.

The hotel is situated in the bustling downtown, Hoadah Masahiro got off the car and took out Autumn's baggage as they arrived at the hotel. "Miss Ye, so..... I'll pick you up at night?"

"No, thank you for the offer." Autumn smiled as she added, "I would love to catch up with some work first, I cannot lift my spirits if we don't get the plan. I'll accompany you out after we get the plan and it would be my treat, how does that sound?"

"Since you insist so much I will not pressure you, but I have to still remind you of not being so tired, I'll pick you up tomorrow morning to get familiar with both the company and hotel's environment." Hoadah Masahiro was easy to persuade this time, he agreed on all the things that Autumn had requested.

Autumn took her passport to check in to the hotel, as she turned around she recognized Leila. She was dressing in a suit, which tailored to flatter her beautiful figure. All the men in the lobby could not help staring at her.

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"Autumn, why are you so worried about Mr. Lu? He is just away on official business." Leila sneered and went on to add coldly, "Oh, I see. Mr. Lu is such a brilliant man. You may lack of the sense of security to be with a man like him. After all, for most women, he is Mr. Perfect. But you don't have to worry, because I will keep him company to ensure that he would not do things that he shouldn't do. If you know what I mean. So take it easy."

Autumn did not like Leila talking like this. Leila was acting like a presumptuous guest squeezing herself into the host's role. Who did she think she was? 'I am worried because you always cast your covetous eyes on him.' Autumn said in her mind.

"Really? That would be great then. Thank you very much." Indifferently, Autumn said, "Then tell him to call me later when he finishes his work."

Then she hung up the phone. Autumn was getting tired of doing nothing, but soon remembered that she still hadn't had dinner yet. The thought of this made her hungry so she put on her coat and went out.

She should go and explore the area, try out the local culture of Japan since it was her first time to come here. Autumn went to an izakaya not far away from her hotel. An izakaya is a type of informal Japanese pub, where people prefer for after-work drinking. She chose a table and drank alone, enjoying her own casual moment there.

From time to time, some people would come to strike a conversation with her. Autumn would just show a soft smile, waving at them or shrugging her shoulders to tell them she was unable to understand what they were saying. Seeing this, they have no other choices but to walk away.

The izakaya was near the hotel where she lived. Autumn was not much of a drinker and she knew very well her own drinking capacity. She stopped drinking as soon as she felt a little tipsy.

On the way back to hotel, Autumn made a call to Leila again who was in the car with Charles and David. Leila saw on her phone screen that it was Autumn calling. Instead of picking up, Leila hung up the phone. She thought that it was not convenient for her to answer the phone at that time. Actually, Leila hated receiving any phone calls from Autumn.

Charles had just met an important customer earlier and was forced to drink too much during the meeting -- a typical part of meetings with the Japanese. He had fallen asleep in the car when Autumn called Leila. David heard the phone ring and looked over to Leila. "Is that your boyfriend calling you? Why don't you answer the phone?" David asked curiously.

"Haha, you are being funny. How could it be possible? You must know that I even don't have a boyfriend," replied Leila with a smile. She paused for a while and then continued, "It is just one of my friends. She is hard up recently, so she has been pestering me several times to borrow money." Leila tried to sound convincing.

"Really?" David didn't say anything else and looked ahead. Though it was easy for him to identify that Leila was lying, he did not make a big deal out of it. Instead, David showed an all-knowing smile and said, "You are beautiful and you are a confident and capable woman. Surely there are many brilliant single men out there ready to make you their queen. But why don't you have a boyfriend yet?"

Obviously, David was smart enough to see through Leila's love and adoration for Charles. However, David hoped that he could enlighten her not to do anything inappropriate. He actually liked Leila's excellent abilities, which was an asset to the company.

"Because I am a picky woman. What do you think?" Leila replied jokingly. Charles was sound asleep beside her. She took this opportunity to steal glimpses and loving gazes at him. If only David wasn't around, she would touch his beautiful face.

"If you say so." David smiled as he heard this from Leila. "But I think maybe you should lower your standards a little bit. Look at Mr. Lu who comes from a notable family, smart and very handsome, yet he was willing to marry Mrs. Lu who is not, in reality, a very remarkable woman. But as you can see, he lives a very happy and sweet life with her," said David meaningfully.

"Yes, perhaps you are right," said Leila bitterly and looked away. 'How could Autumn get so lucky and marry someone like Charles? She is poor and comes from a family of questionable reputation. She isn't even that pretty. When it comes to beauty, I am way better in that area. It is really unfair.' Leila let out a sigh.

But as far as she was concerned, this game was far from over. She was confident that as long as she spent a lot of time with Charles, he would eventually notice her and fall in love with her.

Leila did not mind waiting for him... as long as she kept her focus toward her clearly defined goal.

"So I think people should not always be overly ambitious. After all a girl as lucky as Mrs. Lu is rare. There is only one Mr. Lu in this world and no one else like him is likely to come along. What do you think?"

David asked, staring directly at her. Though David was not sure if Leila would read between the lines and see what he's trying to tell her, he still gave it a try. His loyalty to Charles was remarkable. He didn't want anyone else to make a mess of his life.

When the car reached the hotel, David got off the car first. He opened the door for Charles and helped him out. Leila also held him at his other side. As they were about to reach the lobby, David's phone rang. It was from a customer who needed his help. David was trapped in a dilemma.

The customer asked him to deal with some emergencies. This required David to leave the hotel premises. David was now worried about Charles who was still completely drunk and unconscious. He felt uneasy to let Charles stay at hotel alone.

"What's wrong?" Leila asked seeing David frown. She was delighted when she learned that David had to leave to deal with some customer issues. They had been in Japan for a few days now, but she never got the chance to be alone with Charles. Now that Charles was drunk and unconscious, Leila would seize this perfect chance to get close to him. It meant that she could do anything she wanted to do to him.

It was even possible to have sex with him.

"Well, what should I do then?" Though Leila was rejoicing and was wild with excitement inside, she didn't show it. "Mr. Lu is totally drunk, and he needs you to take care of him. How may I take care of him if you have to leave?"

Neither Leila nor David knew how to deal with the situation. When they walked into the hotel lobby, Autumn had woken up from a nap as she was tired from the long journey. The couch was at the corner of the lobby so they did not see her.

Leila was making David's predicament worse. He frowned and hesitated. If he asked Leila to take care of Charles, Charles would be furious when he woke up to see that David had left him to Leila.

David was at a loss for what to do. After a bit of hesitation, David decided to take Leila with him. He was almost sure that something bad would happen if he left the two of them alone together. "Leila, help me carry Mr. Lu back to his room and then you have to go with me as well." said David.

"But Mr. Lu needs someone to take care of him. We can't just leave him alone." Leila's brows knitted into a big frown. "I am really worried about Mr. Lu. He is drunk. He needs to be properly looked after. Please let me stay with him."

"There is no need to worry about anything. Mr. Lu has already fallen asleep. What kind of care does he need? He will be fine. Nothing is going to happen to him, I'm sure." David replied calmly, determined to keep Leila away from Charles that night.

"David, I think I should stay here to take care of him instead of leaving him alone, " insisted Leila. She was getting irritated.

"Don't worry about him. I will be here to take care of him. Just go and do what you need to do." Autumn's voice came from behind them. She stepped between Leila and Charles and then held him. Surprised and embarrassed as she was, Leila stepped back. She couldn't look directly at Autumn.

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"Autumn, please listen to me....." Overcome with guilt, Leila felt the need to explain it to Autumn, but Autumn brushed her aside. She called the hotel security to help her carry Charles to his room.

Leila wanted to go with them, but David stopped her, "What are you following them for? We have to leave now."

He laughed mockingly at Leila, "The young couple is living a happy life. Why do you want to disturb them?"

Leila scowled and crossed her arms. There was nothing she could do.

Autumn managed to have Charles carried to his room. After she closed the door, she sat on the bed looking at her husband and let out a deep sigh. Then she took off Charles's business suit and started cleaning his face and body with a wet towel. This took her more than one hour. Afterwards, she felt like going back to her own room, but decided to stay. He might wake up and need something.

Fortunately, Charles slept like a baby all night. So she had a restful sleep herself.

Although Charles was drunk the night before, he woke up at the exact same time that he always did. He looked around and rubbed his eyes. He wanted to make sure that there really was a lady lying beside him. He squinted his eyes for a moment and looked closer. But then he caught the waft of a familiar scent. He was first relieved then was confused. Ultimately he jumped up with joy.

He grabbed Autumn into his arms and kissed her face. Autumn woke up and stretched herself, delighted to see Charles's smiling face. If only she could wake up like this everyday for the rest of their lives. She said to Charles, "Hey, you wake up!"

"Yep." Charles held Autumn in his arms. He didn't ask Autumn why she was here. He just started pouncing on her. But Autumn shook him off and said, "Let's get up and have breakfast. Hurry!"

"Let's just take our time." Charles panted and pressed on Autumn under his body, "Honey, I missed you so much....."

Autumn was about to push him away, because she had an appointment with Hoada Masahiro, and she would be late if she didn't get moving. But she understood his desire for her, and she couldn't bear to refuse him.

They both consummated their love during this beautiful morning intercourse. He entered her and tore her apart in a fiery flame of desire, almost melting her completely in his lustful blood.

"It was all your fault. Now, I'm running late." Autumn complained as she put on her clothes. Charles just lay in bed looking happy.

He didn't care that his wife was late. He didn't care about anything at that moment. He said to Autumn with a smile, "Where shall I pick you up later?"

"I don't know yet." Autumn buttoned up her blouse and said to Charles in front of her, "I'm running out of time, I really have to go."

Her phone rang just right after she said that. It was Hoada Masahiro. Autumn immediately answered the phone and got ready to go downstairs.

Before she left, she said to Charles, "Give me a call when you are finished with today's business."

"All right." Charles nodded slightly. He went to take a shower after she left. Of all the days he spent in Japan, it was the happiest as well as the most indulgent day.

Before Autumn came, Charles had been getting up almost earlier than cockerels and working his fingers to the bone. But today, it was the first time he didn't get up on time.

David and Leila had been waiting for Charles at the lobby. They had finished eating breakfast and still there was no sign of their boss.

"No, it can't be. I'm concerned about Mr. Lu. What if something went wrong? I have to see what happened." Leila stood up. She was both anxious and furious. She felt that Charles had become abnormal as soon as Autumn arrived.

"What are you going to do?" David firmly stopped Leila. Autumn was angry yesterday. He could tell simply by Autumn's expression that Leila had clearly crossed the line.

"I am going to fetch Mr. Lu, of course. It's really late. We still have many things to do." Leila replied, getting ready to leave.

"No need to hurry." David gave a smile, "Those things can wait. Just take your time."

"No, they can't!" Leila was getting irritated, "We came here for work, not for vacation. How could Mr. Lu do this?"

"It's rare to have Mrs. Lu come and join her husband during a business trip. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Mr. Lu had been working day and night and hadn't had a good rest these days. What would it matter if we let them get enough rest and have some good husband and wife time together?" David looked at Leila solemnly, knowing that what he said made her even more furious. "You should know you are just a secretary, so just do your job within your scope. Don't do or say anything that is none of your business. Do you understand?"

"You must remember that you have no right to change Mr. Lu's lifestyle. As his secretary, you need to be clear about your position and stick to the tasks that are handed to you." David was a bit frank, and he hoped she would be sensitive enough to think about it.

Leila gritted her teeth. She wanted Charles and Autumn to spend less time together. But hearing David speak like that, Leila dared not say anything back. Embarrassed, she sat down.

At around 8 a.m. Charles came in and had his breakfast peacefully. After that, he said to David, "Have my wife check out of her room and send her luggage to mine."

"OK." David answered. Having Autumn in Japan was a surprise and obviously, Charles was really happy about that.

"Mr. Lu, today we only need to check the site, what should we do with the remaining time?" David asked Charles.

"After the survey, both of you will be free to do as you please. All the expenses fall on me." Charles was in a very good mood as Autumn had already given him his morning treat.

"Mr. Lu." Leila looked at Charles and smiled, "I'm not familiar with anything in this country. I don't know how to speak Japanese either. Do you think you could accompany me and wander around the neighborhood?"

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Hoada Masahiro seemed to be completely different from their previous encounters, providing Autumn with constant reference to common topics including Japanese customs and culture. In all fairness, this inspired Autumn a lot.

They left the car behind at the entrance of Light House Company. Hoada Masahiro showed Autumn around to familiarize her with the venue including basic situations. Afterwards he should go back to the hotel. Turning to Autumn he said, "Miss Ye, this pre-tour of the company was intended to get you familiar with the venue. This should give you ideas for a wonderful presentation. Now that you have the advantage, please perfect the proposal and deliver a well-made presentation tomorrow. And please do not let me down."

"Mr. Hoadada." Autumn stopped Hoadada Masahiro and uttered, "I am highly confident that we can bring our proposal into fruition. You can rest assured. But there is a matter, I...."

"Miss Ye, we are friends. You are free to speak your mind to me." Hoadada Masahiro assured Autumn.

"There is the question of the budget. The budget that the Light House Company currently offers to us is extremely low. It being such a case, I would be financially straitened to work out a perfect proposal." Autumn pointed out the key problem directly, but Hoadada Masahiro took it calmly. "Don't worry, you will get your due so long as you drive this proposal to a complete victory. "

"Thank you, Mr. Hoadada." Autumn would accept the conditions gladly in order to improve the reputation of her company. However, Autumn would not let her employees including her planners be ill-rewarded for this proposal. They have to support themselves and their respective families.

Autumn gave a call to Charles after leaving Light House Company and learned that Charles had completed his business matters for the day. Charles drove over to pick her up and spend the rest of the day together.

They went shopping throughout the afternoon until Autumn felt too exhausted to continue. Sensing his wife's fatigue, Charles decided to dine somewhere before returning to the hotel.

Although Autumn was fully confident with her proposal, she thought there was something else to be improved after the investigation and scrutiny of the company and the hotel. After dinner and back at the hotel, Autumn decided to turn on her computer to perfect the proposal while Charles took a shower.

The more Autumn worried about her proposal, the more she wanted to keep working at it. Charles came out of the shower to find her wife restlessly and anxiously staring at her computer screen.

"What is wrong?" Charles had a bath towel wrapped around his waist, the residual water dripping from his hair down to his muscular chest. This made Autumn look up and stare at him. Driven by lust, her heart started to beat faster.

"Nothing serious." Autumn shook her head to clear her mind and told Charles, "You can go to bed. I really have to complete this. For the sake of the company."

"Let me stay with you." Charles sat down beside her, looking over her shoulder and trying to understand what she was working on.

However, Autumn felt uncomfortable, as if being checked on by a boss.

"This is not quite reasonable under the context of Japanese culture." Charles immediately brought forth his suggestion after scanning the file in front of him, "Japanese culture is actually an offshoot of its Chinese origins with striking similarities. You should alter it like this...."

Charles offered many suggestions to improve the proposal. This impressed and inspired Autumn. Now she could perfect her proposal to her satisfaction. After careful and repeated alterations, she could address any issues and challenges.

"Why are you looking at me in astonishment?" Charles asked his wife with curiosity. His hair has dried after the time-consuming review.

"Nothing." Autumn smiled to Charles, "I just wonder why you seem more knowledgeable than I am regarding my planning. Your suggestions are beyond my reach, a surprise to me, indeed. I'm very impressed."

"No wonder." Charles caressed Autumn's hair and smiled, "Anyway, your client will definitely love and appreciate your proposal. Most planners try their best to make their proposal glittery and grand but not practical. A good boss knows what he expects of a proposal which should be both classy and.... more importantly, useful with highlights."

Charles paused and continued, "As your dear husband... I have long been picky with the proposals from my employees. Therefore, I am able to give you the most pertinent suggestions from a first-hand experience."

And with that, Autumn was enlightened by Charles's explanation.

With the proposal complete, Charles pushed Autumn into the bathroom for a refreshing shower, "Before delivering a wonderful presentation for your proposal tomorrow morning, you should take a shower and have a good rest."

After taking a shower, Autumn came out to find her husband lying on the bed reading a foreign language book. Charles dropped his book naturally at the sight of his wife drying her hair. He welcomed her into his arms and lulled her to sleep.

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Hoada Masahiro was waiting for Autumn at the entrance of the elevator, "Miss Ye, are you ready for today's presentation?"

"Well prepared!" Autumn nodded confidently.

"Today's proposal was intended to be about the decision-making of the public relations department, and surprisingly, it involves the judgement of the President. Thus it is more important to require your most careful and meticulous attention." Hoada Masahiro was nervous with sweat forming over his forehead, little expecting the presence of the President who took him by surprise. This made him question his own confidence in Autumn.

His career promotion depended on this presentation and it must be executed flawlessly.

"Miss Ye, this matter will make a major difference to my career. If you deliver a wonderful presentation today, you will be richly rewarded, otherwise, this may be the end for both of us." Hoada Masahiro told Autumn of the resulting consequence beforehand.

"You can put your mind to rest." Autumn replied with a gentle smile, "Let's go for it."

Autumn thought she had left nothing to chance, however, upon entering the meeting room.... she noticed the rather damp atmosphere there.

French windows were set on every side, the sunshine was slanting to create a warm glow and the oval meeting table was packed with participants, leaving a narrow space for her to pass through.

A grey-haired and hearty old gentleman occupied the first chair. His sharp and piercing eyes awed and intimidated everyone else in the room.

What Autumn least expected was to run into an old enemy there.

In the room, Autumn was greeted with Paula's sneer which caught Autumn a bit off guard.

"Autumn, take a seat here." Paula motioned Autumn to sit beside her with fake enthusiasm.

Autumn found it hard to decline Paula's offer, and Paula edged toward Autumn and then spoke sarcastically, "It has been long time since our parting."

"A long time, definitely." Autumn still managed a smile. "A big surprise to see you here."

"As I have told you previously, there will be a showdown between us. Autumn, all you have is an influential and wealthy husband! Know that I will beat you with my competence and ability today. I am superior to you because I rely on my own strength while you are nothing but Charles's mistress." Paula didn't stop her tirades.

Paula fully knew what she had done to get such an opportunity, but... before Autumn, she would not give in.

"I should remind you of one thing." Autumn shot back at Paula with full confidence, "I will ignore what you have just said, but your slander and lies are beyond what I can tolerate. Now keep in your mind that now I am Charles's legal wife. It is best for you to treat me with due respect and regard."

Autumn paused and continued, "It is justifiable for me to be financially supported by my husband. However, Charles will not give you a single cent because he has no reason nor obligation to. You are neither a relative nor his wife. You should know your place. Otherwise I will show you."

Autumn, after that, patted Paula's shoulder as a gesture of victory, and felt greatly satisfied with Paula being speechless.

There were five contenders who were to deliver their respective proposals among which three were from local companies. Although Autumn's Japanese was not so good, she could make a simple judgment of the three participants' presentations, which were pretty simple and bland, without highlights nor special features.

Paula was the fourth to deliver her presentation. It was much more wonderful than the previous three with the interpretation of Chinese culture and novel ideas mingled with local customs. Indeed, it was the best work Paula had ever done and she had a good chance winning the proposal.

After her presentation, she was met with a thunderous applause. This boosted her confidence and cast an aggressive look over at Autumn.

Autumn dismissed Paula's challenge and still gave Paula an applause.

Paula sneered and thought to herself that she would defeat Autumn with her excellent proposal if Autumn stuck to the set pattern which she had mastered through the long term they had worked together in Cloud Advertising Company.

Thereupon Paula returned to her seat, enjoying her moment.

Autumn was the last to give her presentation, which could be.. good or bad.

Autumn was confident of her presentation after seeing the previous four. She rose up, stood before the projector, and began to present the work that she had polished the night before.

At first, Autumn did not make eye contact with anyone in the room. For a brief moment she was tongue-tied. However, as the presentation progressed, she caught the attention of everyone focusing on her presentation without making a sound. This encouraged her to speak with logic and order.

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But it was the President who invited her, and it seemed impolite to refuse. Thus, Autumn reluctantly nodded her head, "I am honored." She lied.

After Mr. Seiten left, Hoda Masahiro went to Autumn jubilantly. "Miss Ye, you've done an excellent job today. The President speaks really highly of you. It had been the best choice I have ever made in my life, letting you make the project plan."

After the proposal meeting, his supervisor told him immediately that his promotion had become a sure thing.

"You are welcome, Mr. Hoda. It has been my honor to do so." With a faint smile, Autumn said, "Well, about the budget....."

"No problem, we'll talk into the details later at the party." Hoda Masahiro smiled happily, patting Autumn on her shoulder slightly, "I have to go now."

Suddenly, Autumn did not feel well in her stomach. She had no idea whether it was due to the raw food or not. She went to the restroom.

Sitting in one of the cubicles, she thought of sending Charles a text message with the good news, but decided to just tell him in person. After a while, there seemed to be some noise in the restroom. Autumn heard the sound of the door being locked. She heard Paula's voice first, "Hoda Masahiro, how dare you fool me? "

"How could that be?" Then the obscene voice of Hoda Masahiro followed, "You asked me to recommend you, and I did it. But it was true that Autumn did much better on the proposal. It was the President himself who made the final decision. I could not be the one to blame, could I?"

"You....." Paula furiously clenched her teeth. "What you've promised me was that my company would win in the proposal meeting, but what just happened now? Even worse, I lost face in front of Autumn once again. Aren't you afraid that I'd tell everyone what you've done?"

With a sneer, Hoda Masahiro said, "Paula dear, how could you take it so seriously, what a man says during sex? I did say it to let you participate into the proposal meeting. But it would be too much for me if the failure was due to your lack of skills, wouldn't it? I could not stop you if you want to spill the beans, at all events..... I won't be the only one losing face, you will too."

Autumn held her breath, trying her best not to make a sound inside the cubicle. No wonder Paula was here. Such a dirty deal turned out to have been dealt behind her back. Autumn never thought that a person like Paula, who was so proud, could painstakingly go through such things in order to beat her.

"You....." Paula raised her hand, intending to slap Hoada Masahiro. She had paid a high price, but it turned out to be a futile one and she just could not help but explode in anger.

Hoada Masahiro caught hold of her hand the moment she tried to land it on Hoada's face, "Miss Pan, there is no denying it that you're really good in bed, but..... you lack the working ability though, not to mention your horrible temper. I do hope that we have nothing to hide next time we see each other."

"In your dreams." Paula felt numb with hatred. Unfortunately, she could do nothing but clench her fists.

Hoada Masahiro was unwilling to waste his time on Paula. He was clear in his mind, that what he had done with Paula was just for fun and could not be taken seriously.

After walking out from the restroom, he would still be the one with glory in front of everyone. He was the Hoada Masahiro who would be met with congratulations and surrounded by admiring peers. Thanks, obviously, to Autumn's great performance.

But that was not the case for Paula, who had paid a high price.

With the noise of Hoada Masahiro and Paula's roaring argument, Autumn couldn't help shaking her head. Why were there so many stupid girls in the world, having a fancy that they would be rewarded as long as the price to pay was sex? But what those girls did, unfortunately, would only be looked down on and despised by men.

Autumn came out of the cubicle after making sure that there was no one else in the restroom. Thinking of what had just happened, She left the Light House Company, with a heavy heart.

Without a dress for the cocktail party in the evening, Autumn had to buy a dress for the moment. She picked a white dress, which was not too eye-catching, but decent without doubt. Wandering in the cocktail party, Autumn did not see Paula, but Hoada Masahiro was walking towards her.

"Miss Ye, look at you, how gorgeous you are tonight." Looking at Hoada Masahiro's face, Autumn could not help remembering the conversations that she overheard in the restroom. It was very difficult for her to face him and act naturally.

In her mind, she felt really sorry for Paula.

Paula, who always had a good opinion of herself, with good looks and matching working skills, had been hoping to find a rich husband all the time. However, she made a dirty deal just to beat Autumn, even..... gave her own body to a scumbag, who turned his back on her in the end.

What a pity.

"Am I? Thanks!" With a slight smile, Autumn asked Hoada Masahiro, "Have you seen Paula?"

"Paula?" Autumn saw a bit of nervousness in Hoada Masahiro's eyes when she mentioned Paula's name. But he quickly recovered and answered with a smile, "The party tonight is also the industry exchange meeting. Everyone here are elites from all over the world. Miss Ye, you would not have had the chance to come, not to mention Paula. Well, you are the honored guest of the President, so....."

With a smile, Hoada Masahiro continued, "Miss Pan is not in a good mood today. She might have gone back to the hotel to rest a bit. Miss Ye, although it goes well on the proposal, I hope that you take it seriously, after all, the following implementation is still very important."

"I will." Autumn nodded slightly. She thought it was just an ordinary party, but beyond her expectations, there were a lot of things going on at the same time. Autumn had been wondering before, whether she would meet Charles here.

"Excuse me, I'll go over there and say hello. Let's talk about the budget later." Hoada Masahiro left before Autumn had any chance to say anything. Autumn could do nothing but wait.

The host of the party was famous in Japan. However, Autumn seemed to be lacking interest for it. The moment she almost fell asleep, the voice of Mr. Seiten came from behind, "It is boring, right?"

"Mr. Seiten." Autumn stood up quickly and said, "No, I just couldn't get used to parties like this at the moment."

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"I don't quite understand what you mean." Autumn wasn't foolish, she surely understood what Hoada Masahiro meant. What went beyond her expectation was that he still had the nerve to say this to her even after what happened between him and Paula in the restroom.

Eyes filled with pent-up desire, Hoada Masahiro stared straight at Autumn. "This is my room card. I will wait for you in the hotel room tonight, " he said as he slipped the card into her hand. "Keep it."

Truly getting angry this time, Autumn looked at him coldly. "Sorry, Mr. Hoada." she said. "I'm a dumb person. Could you please... make it clear for me?"

"It's simple, " he said, "I will provide you with all the additional funding you need. You just have to come to my room tonight. Do you understand?"

To Autumn's absolute horror, Hoada Masahiro touched her hand as he passed her the room card. She felt so disgusted over the fact that he took advantage of her with such a gesture, goosebumps appearing all the way to her arm. But before she had the chance to respond, a pair of hefty hands suddenly shove Hoada Masahiro's hand off.

The force made Hoada Masahiro scream, losing his control, "Who are you? Let go of me!"

Tonight, Light House Company would be holding a big event. As the new director of the company, Hoada Masahiro got carried away with the weight of his position. But when Autumn looked sideways and saw Charles coming to her, she regained her confidence and vigor.

It was tempting to give in to the thought of money. But Hoada Masahiro was her partner, Autumn did not want to offend him.

However, seeing that Charles had shown up, Autumn gained confidence that he would handle it for her no matter what happened.

"Don't you understand? I'm asking you to let go of my hand!" Hoda Masahiro said.

It looked like that Hoda Masahiro's hand was about to break but Charles had no intention of letting him go. He was delighted to see Autumn unexpectedly. But Charles couldn't stand seeing Hoda Masahiro taking advantage of his wife.

"Charles, let him go."

Autumn shook her head gently, trying to tell Charles to spare Hoda Masahiro. After all, they were in a party where formality must be prized. They had to give Mr. Seitan respect even though they find Hoda Masahiro ill-mannered. It would be such a huge disgrace if trouble would ensue.

"Are you deaf?" Hoda Masahiro said, looking like his brain was cut out circulation as he did not recognize the relationship between Autumn and Charles. "Let me go." "Who do you think you are to put your finger into my pie?" he asked as he kept trying to tell Charles to let him go.

"Let me tell you that this is none of your business. So why are you here pretending to be some hero to save her?"

Autumn felt uncomfortable upon hearing what he said.

"What do you mean?" Charles asked, dumbfounded.

"So you have her agreement, huh?" Charles found it unbelievable. He couldn't hide the confusion and disappointment from his face.

"Of course!" he exclaimed as he looked at her.

"Autumn, why don't you explain it for me? Don't forget what I have promised you..."

Sensing that Autumn might not be interested to talk, Hoda Masahiro threatened to drop his cash bribe. "Mr. Masahiro, I have always respected you as a partner at work. I hope you better take back what you just said," Autumn said, looking at him with furrowed eyebrows.

He sneered back at her, not caring about the opportunity that Autumn had given him to apologize. "I mean it, Autumn. I really do admire you," he reiterated.

Charles dropped his hand before his voice died down, throwing a sudden punch that hit Hoda Masahiro's face hard. Hoda fell ungracefully, lying awkwardly on the ground.

The commotion brought everyone's eyes towards them.

"You..." Hoda said, trying to talk.

Realizing that things were getting worse, he calmed himself down to avoid causing a scene. He had just won the position of general manager, he couldn't afford to screw it all up. He gritted his teeth, angrily staring at them in a near distance.

Oddly enough, he found himself more angry at Autumn. If it wasn't for her hesitation, these things wouldn't have happened.

Hoda Masahiro stood up, looking at Autumn with a certain coldness.

"Miss Ye, don't ruin my appreciation for you."

Autumn decided not to respond hastily, resisting her anger. "Mr. Hoda," she started. "I believe that your wife is behind your virtuous achievements. I think you should better be careful not to destroy your family."

Hoda was rendered speechless, not knowing what to say in return. He didn't even have the chance to respond as Mr. Seiten's voice echoed through the crowd, his voice sounding very serious. "What's going on here?"

Hoado Masahiro acted respectfully in front of him, restraining his arrogance.

"Mr. Seiten, " Autumn greeted him modestly, acknowledging his presence.

His eyes lit up as he saw Charles standing behind Autumn, greeting him in excitement. "Mr. Lu, I can't believe you have made it, " he said, shaking his hands.

"Of course, Mr. Seiten, " he responded.

"How could I not come to the industry exchange meeting when it's hosted by you?" Charles said, managing a weak smile.

"I'm so glad that you're here! I was thinking that if you didn't come, I would fly to China to visit you next month, "

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"I have met Miss Ye before, and I knew that she was capable and hardworking. But what I didn't expect is that... her personality would be so different from her ability. Miss Ye came here and told me that she thought the budget given by Light House Company was way too low. And she hoped that that I would convey her suggestion to provide more funding. She then gave me a room card and promised that she'll do anything for me as long as I do her this favor."

Seeing that Hoado Masahiro was tarnishing her image with such a vicious lie, when in fact the room card was actually in her hand, which became an essential evidence, Autumn was growing more and more impatient to explain. As the people's suspicion grew, she was about to break down.

"Don't be scared. Everything will be okay." Charles stood behind Autumn, as he cast a cold look at Hoado Masahiro, who was pretending to be the victim.

Moments after he comforted her, Autumn felt less worried.

Even though she was still upset, she was not intimidated by the situation anymore.

"Mr. Seitan, you know that now I'm in my forties, and I have a happy family. My wife has also been exceptionally good to me, I won't do anything wrongful to betray her trust. To be honest, I am quite disappointed and appalled by what Miss Ye has done." Hoada Masahiro pretended to laugh bitterly as he continued to narrate his fabricated story, "Then I refused her offer and tried to return her room card back. However, Mr. Lu misunderstood my intention and hit me. That's the entire scene."

After Hoada Masahiro said that, he turned at Charles and added, "Mr. Lu, it is all actually a mistake. Please don't bear it in mind. While Miss Ye is indeed beautiful and many men might want to woo her, I am not one of them."

Charles still didn't say anything, which made Hoada Masahiro feel a pinch of guilt.

Autumn felt wronged. She immediately explained to Mr. Seitan. "This is not true! Please listen to the reality of what actually occurred!"

Do all the men act like this? Even though they have a gentle, loving and dedicated wife waiting at home for them, they still wish to seek pleasure outside of those sacred walls. And once their affairs come to light, they pretend to be the victim and conveniently shift the blame onto others.

That's why Dakki, the imperial concubine, was blamed for letting Shang Dynasty perished.

Autumn felt like a voiceless victim of the situation. She wanted to explain, but it seemed like Mr. Seitan had made up his mind to stand by Hoada Masahiro.

"Miss Ye." He gave her a cold glance. There was no appreciation in his eyes, but only indifference. "I used to appreciate you and your nature. But now, I only see woman motivated by money. Even though I have spent many years in business, I thought I had gained enough experience to tell right from wrong. However, I guess I have misjudged you. You are a greedy woman."

Seitan then whispered something to the assistant behind him, and then faintly said, "To tell the truth, I do really like your proposal. How about I buy it from you? But the following execution will have nothing to do with you, what do you think?"

Hoada Masahiro smiled as he stood beside him.

Autumn felt extremely disgusted at the thought of what had transpired. She tried desperately to hold back her tears, trying not to care about the suspicion from surrounding people. After a long time, she finally uttered some words as she addressed Mr. Seiten who was sitting across her, "Mr. Seiten, I have always respected you. For me, it is a great privilege to have the opportunity to work with big companies like Light House Company."

She then continued, "Before coming to Japan, my team and I worked day and night, in a bid to ensure that the project will be perfect. I cherish this opportunity and respect myself, so I would never do such shameful thing. Please believe me."

Autumn noticed that a shameless smile wiped across Hoda Masahiro's smug face. He was sure he would be the one to come through as victorious in this little game of tricks he played.

Words seemed meaningless at a time like this, which made Autumn feel distressed.

"When Mr. Hoda came to China, he had already expressed his interest in me. But I refused his invitation. I admit that I did ask him to increase the funding. It was simply because the budget given by Mr. Hoda was really too low. To make do with that budget, I'd have to invest my own money, let alone making any profit from it. So I had no choice but to ask for more funding." She tightly clenched the card in her hand, as she tried to control her feeling, and slowly said, "What I didn't expect was Mr. Hoda would ask me to sleep with him in exchange for these additional funds. I know that you certainly don't believe what I am saying, so you can go and check the customer name of the room. Then everything will be clarified."

When Hoda Masahiro heard Autumn narrate the truth, there was no trace of panic or guilt setting in on his face. Instead, he said with ease, "Well, go and check it quickly. I also want to my innocence to be proved as soon as possible. Otherwise, my wife will lose her temper once I go back home."

Autumn was stunned for a moment. Then she realized that Hoda Masahiro must have used her ID card to reserve the room. She recalled that it was him who used to reserve flight ticket for her. Thinking about this, she could not help but blame herself for being so stupid.

Mr. Seiten stared at the two with a blank face. Indeed, as he had worked many years with Hoda Masahiro, he knew somewhere in his heart that what Autumn was saying was true, given that Hoda Masahiro was not a man of honest means.

However... today was an important day, and as Hoda Masahiro was the manager who was recently promoted by him. As the host, he could not allow himself to lose face by being unable to judge an employee properly.

If he helped Autumn, it would mean that he recognized what Hoda Masahiro had done to her. It would also mean that a scumbag was working in his company. Mr. Seiten was sensitive about his reputation, so he could never allow that to happen.

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"Have you seen it? Whatever you say, no one will believe you here. This is the consequence of refusing my offer, " Hoda Masahiro slyly whispered to Autumn as he walked past her.

"You..." Autumn muttered, as she gritted her teeth. "Mr. Lu, I am sorry for what happened. I have some ideas on some collaborations between Light House Company and Shining Company. How about we go and have a chat in private?" Mr. Seiten turned to Charles, while ignoring Autumn.

"Wait a minute, " Charles finally opened his mouth after silently observing the entire charade unfold, noticing that Hoda was nudging Autumn to leave.

He had been patiently waiting as Hoda tried to frame Autumn. Not until everyone present was convinced of Hoda's story did he intend to expose the whole lie. In this way, Hoda would feel ashamed and guilty of his actions.

"Mr. Lu, what's the matter?" Hoda asked, as a hint of concern flashed across his face. Charles was the only uncertain factor he hadn't considered. Somewhere in his mind the fear grew that Charles would ruin his plan. And once he heard Charles's voice, cold sweat started to run down his wrinkled forehead while his eyes began twitching.

He had a bad feeling.

"This matter isn't over, not yet anyway. Why are you in such a hurry to shoo her away?" Charles asked with a confident sneer hinting at the fact that there was something Hoda was hiding.

Upon hearing this, Hoada became anxious. "Isn't that matter solved? She is a woman. It's indecent to put more pressure upon her. Mr. Lu, please just let it be, " Hoada responded with a smile pretending to be calm, even though he was bubbling with fear and anxiety inside.

"But when I walked in, I saw you slip a room card into her hand. Besides, you even threatened her to serve you well if she wanted more project budget allotted. I don't know why Mr. Seiten has even accepted such a subordinate, " Charles said with confidence.

"Mr. Lu, " Seiten tried to stop Charles, as he looked a little angry. However, at this point it was impossible. Charles did not respond.

"Mr. Lu, what is it that you want from me?" Hoada couldn't help but frown as resigned to his fate. "You're taking this too seriously. I am just a man and please remember no one is perfect."

"How about this? As long as you let me go this time, I will return your favor in any way I possibly can, " Hoada whispered to Charles after he walked up to him.

"What is the budget he offered you?" Charles gave a cold laughter and turned towards Autumn.

When Autumn was working on event scheme the previous night, he kept her company. It was then easy to say he was well equipped to roughly assume the expenses this event needed. Autumn was stunned, and then she blurted the budget as she had been told.

It was a small figure which was much lower than even half of the budget Seiten had slotted. Seiten's face turned red with displeasure for he realized that Hoada must have planned to misappropriate the rest of the fund.

Even though Seiten was discontented with Hoada's actions, he still had no intention of berating him in front of all the esteemed guests present there. "Mr. Lu, it is not a big deal. I think that we should talk about our cooperation matters. Don't let this small hiccup ruin your mood, " Seiten tried to persuade Charles, after passing Hoada a reproachful glance.

"Mr. Seiten is right, " Hoda added, looking worried as he knew that Seiten would berate him soon. Irrespective of that, he tried to get past it. "Please don't waste any more of your valuable time on this trivial matter."

"This wasn't a big deal, but..." Charles said with a cold smile.

"But there is one thing you don't know. Autumn is my wife. So do you think I need to sacrifice my wife's dignity to get more budget? Or... do you think that my wife will cheat on me because Hoda is more handsome and attractive than me?" Charles said to Hoda and Seiten, after he walked up to Autumn.

Charles's words flung the crowd into heated discussions. Many people in Y City had learnt that Autumn was Charles's wife. But now they were in Japan.

"Mr. Lu, you must be kidding, " Hoda responded, as he couldn't believe what Charles had just said. He knew that Autumn was a married woman, but he didn't expect in his wildest dreams that her husband was Charles. 'That is not possible, ' he coaxed himself.

Upon observing that Autumn remained silent, Hoda realized that Charles was telling the truth. All of a sudden, he felt that everything had been ruined. He was at an advantage, but now tables had changed.

"Mr. Lu, you..." Seiten stammered, with fear and regret. If he had known about Autumn's identity, he wouldn't have treated her like that. "This was a mistake. Had I known that Miss Ye is your wife, I..."

"Mr. Seiten, " Charles interrupted him immediately, as he stared at Seiten in his cold eyes. "I always support my wife's work. However, under no circumstance will I allow others to bully her. Today I came here with an intention to talk about our cooperation, but..."

After a pause, he continued, "Shining Company will no longer have any association or work with your company. Besides, we will stop your scheme, so you can find other partners."

"Let's go, " Charles said to Autumn as he firmly gripped her hand.

Autumn nodded in approval. After learning that Charles was Autumn's husband, the crowd understood that Hoada had lied. No one in the world who was in their right mind would cheat on a rich and handsome husband to an old, ugly and wretched man.

Besides, anyone who showed up at this event was not poor. Autumn had no reason to sell her body for this.

"Mr. Lu, " Seiten called, while trying to make Charles stay. "What happened today is just a mistake. I promise you that no such thing will happen again, " Seiten swore.

"We have been looking forward to working with Shining Company. And today I finally got a chance to talk to you, I..."

"Miss Ye, please help me explain to Mr. Lu. All of this is just a massive misunderstanding, " Seiten turned to Autumn, noticing his words had failed to influence Charles's mind.

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"I..." Autumn glanced at Charles and turned to Mr. Seiten, "The one thing I have never done and do not plan to do is to interfere in Charles's business, so..."

Seiten was anxious and just when he was about to speak again, Charles did not give him the chance and addressed him directly, "From today onward, all the subsidiaries of Shining Company will cease to cooperate with your company."

Seiten was shocked as he saw Charles and Autumn leave. He could not maintain his composure and suddenly slapped Hoada Masahiro. "When you provoke somebody, open your eyes and see clearly. You've brought me so much trouble. You are fired now get out of here!"

Seiten was trying to maintain Light House Company's reputation through this industry exchange meeting, and when finally he saw such a big opportunity it slipped right through his fingers. Seiten was going to have a nervous breakdown as he recalled how the event had unfolded.

"Mr. Seiten, this is really....." Hoada Masahiro did not know how to explain himself, "Please give me another chance and I will make it up to you."

"Get out of my sight now, I don't want to see you anymore." Seiten did not want to waste another second talking to Hoada Masahiro.

Autumn was not so happy after coming out of the hotel. "What is it? Are you unhappy because you lost the cooperation?"

Charles smiled and asked Autumn while gripping her hands.

Autumn shook her head immediately. "No, though I was unhappy about losing the cooperation, after all I did end up wasting so much of my time and effort, but... I also feel it was unfortunate to cooperate with this kind of person. I was just thinking about how you lost an important partner like Light House Company, do you think it was worth it?"

"My silly girl." Charles stroked Autumn's hair and said to her, "You are my wife, and everything I do for you is worth it."

"But..." Autumn still wanted to continue her rant, but Charles would not let her continue. "Well, it really doesn't matter if I earn a little less."

Upon hearing Charles say so, Autumn did not say anything further, as they took a stroll in the streets of Japan before returning to the hotel.

Once they reached the hotel, Leila came over at once, but then she was a little shocked to see Autumn standing beside Charles. She did not look so good but still greeted them, "How was it, Mr. Lu?"

One of the most important agendas for their trip to Japan was the cooperation with Light House Company. She forced herself to ignore Autumn and share a few words with Charles.

"We will be terminating all cooperation with Light House Company starting today, and I will take all responsibility for it." Charles said to Leila. As soon as he finished speaking, David who was lagging behind caught up as he heard about what they were talking about. He felt confused but decided not to say anything.

But Leila was indifferent, she frowned as she heard what Charles had to say. "Mr. Lu, You know better than I do about how much cash flows between Light House Company and us. How could you give the cooperation up so easily? And have you forgotten why we came to Japan in the first place?"

After Leila said this, Autumn felt more guilty. Charles had sacrificed so much for her, but she felt that she was always dragging him down like an anchor instead.

"Leila, what are you talking about!" Charles frowned as David sternly said to Leila, "Please don't forget who you are. Is this your position to say something like this?"

"I..." Leila realized what she said was inappropriate. When she saw the serious look of Charles, she was suddenly shook. She apologized at once, "Sorry, Mr. Lu."

Charles did not say anything, but Leila just continued speaking, "I was only worried about the company's development and spoke solely out of concern, after all..."

"Are you done?" Charles looked at Leila with a cold look and said, "This is my business, which has nothing to do with the company. Remember who you are and speak within that limit. If you cross the line again, I will not spare you."

Leila was a very capable and hardworking woman, but if she interfered with such attitude all the time, Charles would not tolerate it.

"David, please pack up our luggage. We are going home." Charles walked past Leila while holding Autumn's hand, how Leila hoped that was her hand Charles's was holding.