

## **Wedded Bride 291**

### Chapter 291 What's Your Relationship

"I know that you'll present your proposal first. So what?" Autumn asked, puzzled and cast a sidelong glance at Paula.

"Autumn, if I were you, I would drop out of the bidding now, lest it should be a disgrace." Paula taunted, smiling as if she had already won. "As a planner who is famous for copying, you have the gall to compete with Dark Blue Company! That's ridiculous. I'm telling you, Cloud Advertising Company's reputation has been irreparably tarnished. Thanks to you."

"Get your mind out of the gutter." Isla angrily stepped forward and ready to claw out at Paula but Autumn stopped her. Autumn looked at Paula coldly and said, "Paula, we compete with schemes and ideas, not lip service. What advantage do you get by mocking me? Stop dreaming!"

Then Autumn stepped closer. "Don't forget that you never beat me when we were at Cloud Advertising Company. Would you like me to recall it for you?"

"You..." Paula gritted her teeth furiously because what Autumn said was a fact that she could not refute. But she calmed down and said, "Don't count the chicks before they hatch. Let's wait and see who wins."

"Yeah, we'll see." Autumn replied confidently and pulled Isla away. Watching them go, Paula fiercely called out, "Humph, you're gonna be the ones who'll end up looking like trash today."

"Gosh, Paula is everywhere and constantly on you!" Isla said helplessly. "I warned you to be on your guard against her, but I didn't expect her to come after you all the time."

"I'm okay." Autumn smiled and said, "She just bickers with me once in a while. But she never really wins. I have nothing to lose."

"I just can't stand her attitude towards you." Isla complained.

Autumn held her hand, and soothed her, "Come on, don't let her get to you. It doesn't even work on me." Then she quickly put on a cunning smile and changed the subject. "Oh, by the way, why did you ask for a leave yesterday?"

"I..." Isla turned red and hesitated. Finally she said, "I had something to deal with..."

"What is it?" Autumn persisted in probing, making Isla's face even redder.

Then she stammered, "It's... It's about Aron. He was in the hospital yesterday and I went to look after him." Last night, Aron insisted that she went home. This morning, she got up early and came directly to

Giant Promise Company. She was worried about him.

"Didn't you say you would never be with him again? It hasn't been long. Or, have you forgotten that?"

Autumn was delighted to know that they were getting back together, but couldn't help making fun of

Isla.

"Autumn... " Isla was getting annoyed and elbowed her.

As they were talking, Andy came. Seeing Autumn, he went straight to her and greeted her, "Hi,

Autumn, why are you here in person today?"

"I was abroad when the previous proposals were made. That's why I couldn't come then, " Autumn

replied with a smile. "I'm back now, so I came. I wanted show the importance my company attaches to

this proposal."

Andy let out a debonair laugh and said, "After the proposal, you can come home with me. Your

grandparents are looking forward to your visit."

"Okay." Autumn slightly nodded. Seeing Andy and Autumn having a friendly familiar chat, all the people

present speculated on what relationship Autumn and Andy may have.

Paula was furious when she saw them laughing and talking. 'Why is Autumn so lucky? Almost all the

men are around her, and now Giant Promise Company's Boss is too familiar with her. That's not fair!

Her heart was about to burst.

"Don't expect me to play favoritism because of our relationship. I'm telling you, I'll be tougher on you.

Do you understand?" Andy joked out loudly and tried to put on a serious face.

"Rest assured, Mr. Xu, " Autumn laughed. "I'm ready for whatever you throw at me today."

"I'll go in the meeting room now. See you later, " Andy waved to Autumn and went straight into the meeting room. "Oh my god! How do you two know each other?" Isla asked excitedly.

"He is... " Autumn froze for a moment. 'He is? Abby is my aunt, so he is my uncle!' she reflected.

But at the thought of Andy's age which was about hers, Autumn could not call him uncle.

Isla did not know the relationship between Autumn and the Zhao family, so she kept asking.

But Autumn had pondered for a long while without answering. "What's wrong, Autumn?" Isla asked.

"Nothing, Andy and I... " Autumn was about to explain when she was interrupted by a heckle. It was, of course, from Paula. "It goes without saying that she is of course his lover. Hooking up with men, that's what she's good at besides copying, " she said loudly.

"Autumn, whatever your relationship with Andy is, you're going to lose today, " Paula went on confidently with a nasty sneer playing around her mouth.

"Talk nice, or I'll rip your mouth open." Isla's voice was aggressive and threatening. "Sure enough, a loser sees everyone else as the loser. Remember that not everyone is like you!"

"You..." Paula tried to retort, but the director of Giant Promise Company called them into the meeting room. Paula gave Isla a dirty look and said, "I'll deal with you later."

Then she walked into the meeting room with her folder, and Isla and Autumn followed.

Isla was still asking Autumn about her relationship with Andy when she walked in the room. "It's complicated, " Autumn said simply. "I'll tell you about it later."

Isla stopped asking.

Although only two companies, Dark Blue Company and Cloud Advertising Company, participated in the proposal competition, the meeting room was full of people. The tension was high and they felt the pressure as soon as they entered.

Autumn and Isla sat down opposite Paula who was giving them a scornful look. At this time. Andy looked at Autumn and asked softly, "Are you ready? I'll get them started if you're ready."

"We're ready now." Autumn answered.

Andy then motioned to his secretary behind him. The secretary nodded slightly, stood up and explained to Autumn and Paula, "In the last round of proposal competition, we were torn between your two companies, which is why we have such a competition today. Unlike in the past, this competition will be conducted in an open way, so that the losing company could clearly know why they lost."

Chapter 292 Paula's Stolen Scheme

After a pause, Coco, Andy's secretary turned to the audience. "All of you are judges except for the two companies bidding for this project. You each can vote for the company which you think has given the better presentation. The firm with the most votes will be our cooperative partner. Is everything clear?"

"Ok, now that you all know the voting mechanism... Let us all welcome the representative of Dark Blue Company to demonstrate their proposal first, " Coco announced, looking over to the direction of Autumn and Paula who were both nodding.

Paula glanced over at Autumn and smirked. Autumn had a bad vibe as her eyelids kept twitching.

Paula stood up with a confident air and began the presentation, sounding a little too enthusiastic. "Hello everyone, this is our scheme from Dark Blue Company..."

Paula waited for Autumn's reaction. She was dying to see Autumn's response when she saw that Dark Blue Company's scheme was the same as hers.

Paula showed the PPT slides and illustrated her scheme confidently. She had spent the whole night before figuring out the idea of this scheme. To her satisfaction, she finally saw Autumn's shocked expression. Then a panic-stricken Isla tried to get up to say something but she was stopped by Autumn.

Paula gave a triumphant smile as she continued to illustrate their scheme with PPT. The CEO of Dark Blue Company who was also present, frequently nodded at her, convinced that he had made a wise decision to let Paula take over this proposal.

As Paula and her boss were immersed in the joy of their imminent victory, they didn't notice that the staff in Giant Promise Company were looking at them with sour faces.

Paula naively believed that she would be the winner. But she had no idea that Cloud Advertising Company had already shown this proposal to Giant Promise Company before. Isla raised her hand to say something, but Autumn grabbed her hand and pulled her down.

"Autumn, this is..." Isla's voice was shaking. She wanted to cry out and let others know that Paula had

stolen their scheme, but Autumn told her to calm down.

"Take it easy. Don't forget that Giant Promise Company has already seen this presentation. Just wait to see their response." Autumn suggested, trying to hide her laughter. 'Only people at Giant Promise

Company and we know this scheme. How did Paula get this?' Autumn wondered.

She figured it out at the thought of Leila who had come to her yesterday. 'Could it be possible... that the two have joined hands to work against me?' she frowned at the thought.

Isla composed herself. 'The people working for Giant Promise Company aren't stupid. Let's wait and see. It's going to be an interesting show.' She gave a satisfied smile.

"This is... our scheme. I believe that our plan suits the corporate culture of Giant Promise Company and your activity theme. Therefore, I hope that your esteemed company can give our company the opportunity, " Paula concluded her presentation. Bill, CEO of Dark Blue Company, applauded first with a satisfied smile. But the rest sat still, looking at one another. Only when Andy clapped did they also start clapping but with much confusion on their faces.

"It seems that Miss Pan is well-prepared, " Andy said to Paula. "I'm flattered. Giant Promise Company



is our important client. We endeavor to work out the best scheme for you. It's good for both of us, "

Paula responded smiling.

Paula glanced at Autumn and smiled, as if her scheme had already been chosen.

"Mr. Xu, this scheme..." The people in the audience were not dumb and they all recognized the presentation. A staff member tried to point it out but Andy raised his hand and the staff member sat back down without saying a word.

"If you have any ideas, we can talk about them later. Now... isn't it Miss Ye's turn?" Andy looked towards Autumn. "Mr. Xu, you're a tolerant man. Miss Ye is infamous in this circle for her copying other's ideas. But now she dared participate in this bidding. I really admire her courage and your kind consideration." Bill said to Andy.

"Miss Ye, did you copy someone else's scheme this time?" Bill turned to Autumn with a sneer.

"Stop talking nonsense. Your scheme is..." Isla retorted. She was so furious that she almost spilled the beans. "Never mind. Arguing with you will only degrade myself."

"Did I say anything wrong?" Bill gave a sinister laugh. "Paula used to work in Cloud Advertising Company. Paula, tell Mr. Xu whether Miss Ye has copied someone else's ideas."

Paula glanced at Autumn, and then looked at Andy. "Miss Ye, I am sorry. But everyone knows about your plagiarism. If I were you, I would stay at home and lock myself from the outside world..." she said to Autumn, pretending to look embarrassed.

Paula expected to see Autumn's helpless look. But to her disappointment, Autumn still stayed calm.

"Mr. Wang, I only attach importance to a partner's competence. As long as the proposal is excellent, he or she could win my respect. Miss Ye hasn't shown hers yet. It's... improper for you to keep attacking her like that."

Those were big and heavy words coming from the CEO of a company that they were trying to impress.

Bill and Paula were slightly offended but they did not argue further. "Yes, you're right." Bill responded in an embarrassed voice, unable to look Andy straight in the eye.

"Miss Ye, you may now introduce your proposal on behalf of Cloud Advertising Company." Andy turned towards Autumn.

Autumn nodded at him, and then walked up to the projector. Paula leaned against her chair, waiting to see Autumn make a fool of herself. But when she read the content of Autumn's scheme, she was in

disbelief.

As Autumn proceeded with her introduction, Paula found that Autumn's presentation was completely different from what Leila had sent her. Confused, Paula quickly flipped through the pages. 'What the hell is this?

Has she prepared two presentations? How is this possible?' Paula's heart was beating faster.

During her presentation, Autumn did not even cast a single glance towards Paula. Paula's reaction was the least that she cared about. It lasted an hour and a half. She focused on expounding her scheme, which grabbed the attention of everyone in the room. When she concluded her presentation, the crowd jumped to their feet and erupted into a thunderous and prolonged applause.

Isla gave Paula a smug glance. She was delighted to see Paula's pale face.

"Miss Ye, this is much better than the previous one, " Andy said to Autumn, standing up and clasping his hands warmly. He emphasized on the words "much better".

"Mr. Xu, you flatter me." Autumn responded humbly and returned to her seat with her laptop.

Chapter 293 It's All Your Fault

'Why is Autumn's scheme not the same as the one I have?' Paula was wild with confusion, hands clenched into fists, breathing heavily.

"I admit that Miss Ye did a good job today But..." Bill stopped with a scoff. "Who knows if she stole this idea from someone else again? Our proposal is just as good. Compared to Cloud Advertising Company, it's safer for you to work with us. Mr. Xu, what do you think?"

Andy only responded with a sniff. He leaned his head backward and whispered in Coco's ear. He spoke in an extreme low voice that even Bill near to him couldn't make it out.

"Mr. Xu said that the previous rules are invalid and Cloud Advertising Company shall, from here forth, be in charge of the projects for Giant Promise Company directly, " Coco declared, as she nodded at Andy and stood up.

"Thank you, Mr. Xu, " Autumn said to Andy. "I hope that we'll have a harmonious and long running cooperation, " she continued, offering her hand.

"I look forward to that." Andy returned, getting up and shaking hands with Autumn. When he was about to leave, Bill and Paula stopped him.

"Mr. Xu, what did you just do? Why did you abandon the previous rules?" Bill asked Andy visibly upset.

"It's not fair to us."

"He is right, Mr. Lu, this is unfair, " Paula seconded, stepping forward. 'Although Autumn's proposal is better than mine, I still stand a chance to get this case. But now Andy changed the rules suddenly, '

Paula mused.

"You take her side only because of your relationship. This is unjust for us and downright

unprofessional. We had worked overtime on this scheme. I can't accept your decision." Paula

continued, crossing her arms.

When the rest heard this, they scornfully stared at Paula.

"It's true that Miss Ye is my relation. But if I really was partial to her, this meeting wouldn't have been

necessary. Miss Pan, I think that you know it better than anyone else whether you actually worked

extra hours on this scheme or not." Andy retorted.

"What do you mean?" Paula scowled at Andy. 'Has Andy learnt that I stole this scheme from Autumn?

That's not gonna happen, ' she assured herself, but in vain. She could hear the blood pumping in her

head.

"Miss Pan, I think it's better for you to stop digging further. Otherwise you'll put yourself in an very

awkward situation, " Andy replied coldly.

"We are not over yet. You must make it clear to me today." Bill grabbed Andy's arm. "You said before that this was a fair and open competition. But now you broke your word."

"Miss Pan, do you really want me to tell you the real reason why I didn't choose you?" Andy asked

Paula with displeasure. Andy didn't want to push her too hard. After all, she was a woman.

All of a sudden, Paula's face turned deathly pale. There were two voices arguing in her mind. In the end, she resolved to take the risk. "Yes. I want to know the reason, " she challenged.

"Anyway, I have the right to know why I lost."

"I suggest you'd better stop now. Otherwise you will regret your decision, " Isla said to Paula.

Paula ignored Isla and insisted in getting an answer. But when she saw Autumn look at her with pity, she knew that Andy must have learnt it.

However, it was too late to take her words back.

"The reason is simple. The scheme you showed today is exactly the one we received from Cloud Advertising Company in a previous presentation. The exact same one." And emphasized. "The date and time stamp on your PPT is still the day when they turned it in to me. Haven't you noticed that?"

Even Andy himself was too embarrassed to be the one rubbing it into Paula's face.

"Miss Pan, you're always saying Autumn plagiarizes. But now in my eyes, Dark Blue Company is the one who really copies the work of others. Be careful if you want to fool others with someone else's idea," he said to Paula, no longer hiding disappointment.

Upon hearing this, Paula lowered her head in shame. She didn't expect to be the center of such a fiasco. Everything around her started to blur. She could make out the people bunched together whispering and looking at her with disdain. When she looked up at Autumn, she saw sympathy and derision in her eyes.

"Paula, what's going on?" Bill asked in anger, gripping her arm. "Weren't you the one who told me that you were the perfect person to help us win this project? How could you fool us all with someone else's work? Did you think I was an idiot?"

"No, you have mistaken me..." Paula hurried to explain, holding Bill by the sleeve. "Mr. Wang, I have no idea of this. I..."

"Who else will know, except you?" Bill asked, shaking off Paula's hands. "You begged me to employ you, so I took you in out of compassion. But now look at what you have done. You not only made a fool

of yourself but made me a laughingstock. You have caused irreparable damage to my company! You

know what? I'm going to fire you. Besides, I will order you to compensate the loss this company incurs."

Bill's fury thundered across the room.

Afterwards, Bill stormed out. Paula ran after him to explain to him but failed. Andy gave Paula a

momentary glance. 'She deserves this. She racked her brains setting up others and hurt them, but

ended up hurting herself.

No one will pity her, ' he thought.

Turning to Autumn, he smiled. "I have something else to deal with and I will leave now. Don't forget to

come by the house tonight for dinner."

"I will." Autumn nodded at him.

After seeing Andy leave the room, Autumn turned to Isla. They grabbed each other's hands and made

a little dance but quickly stopped as there might be other people watching. They started gathering their

things. "Isla, let's go back to the office." Autumn said with a wide grin.

"Okay boss!" Isla replied. When they were about to walk out the entrance, Paula dashed to them and



blocked their way. "You did this, didn't you? You organized all of it, didn't you?" Paula shouted at them.

"You callous little monster!" Isla retorted. 'This bitch needs to be socked in the eye to knock her back to

her senses, ' she thought. "You caused all of this. Why do you put the blame on us?"

"I didn't do anything wrong, " Paula sneered. "You have so much evil in you that you want to take

revenge on me, so you..."

"Go on, " Autumn said unafraid. 'Why do people always attribute their own fault to others, ' Autumn

thought, speechless.

"You did all of this, " Paula gave a cold look.

Chapter 294 The End of the Collaboration

"Come on, let's just leave. There's no point in arguing with such an unreasonable woman."

Autumn decided it wasn't worth continuing a conversation with Paula seeing as she hasn't done

anything but put all the blame on her.

"Stop! You have to settle this matter right now or else you'll regret it, "

Paula said, standing in front of them in an attempt to exert menace and might upon them.

"You don't really want to let us go, do you? Tell me. How far do you want this to go?" Autumn asked,

growing impatient by the minute.

"How dare you evolve such an evil scheme to me?" Paula spoke harshly. Paula, overwhelmed by a sense of distress, became fully unaware of her due punishment.

"You're the one who stole my proposal and yet you're the one who has the gall to demand an explanation now? Don't you think that's ridiculous?" Autumn scoffed, unable to hide her sarcasm.

She couldn't accept the fact that Paula continued to act so arrogantly and willfully to bring many a good problem upon her. novelbin

"Have you planned this with Andy in a conniving manner?

Have you guys grown tired of being in such a relationship made unknown to others?"

Appalled by Autumn's question, Paula replied with a sneer.

"Did Charles left you so sexually unsatisfied that you decided to just be a dirty slut?"

Unable to contain her rage, Autumn's hand shot out, before Paula could even see it, slapping across her face.

"I won't think twice in doing that again if you dare smear my name."

Autumn believed it was just reasonable to express her indignation.

"Why? Are you angry at me for saying the truth?" Paula said, trying to appear unfazed as she felt her face.

"You think I don't know? I've heard the conversation between you and Hoada Masahiro at the restroom.

You just won the Japanese case by deceit." Paula's face turned pale, shocked by Autumn's revelation.

"You...You were there the other day..."

She stammered, unable to find words.

"Go on, then. If you keep on spreading lies about me, I will make sure that I'm going to reveal your prized secret to everyone you know, " Autumn said, her words heavily laden with a threat.

This scared Paula into keeping silent.

"You know what? Since I'm such a good person, I might as well try to come up with a solution for you, " she said, sarcasm apparent in her tone. "I was reviewing the proposal in your hands when Leila came to steal upon your order yesterday. Unfortunately, she stole the outdated one. Now you know who to blame, " she told her with a smirk.

"I'll make sure that I'm going to publicize what you have done if I see you ever again, " Autumn said just as she was about to leave with Isla, threatening her on purpose.

"You..."

Paula stared at Autumn worriedly as she left, feeling extremely hopeless to receive such a threat.

She had no idea how to fix her problem.

She was so overcome with the loss of her job and the risk of compensation liability. With Autumn's threat adding to the mix, she couldn't help but feel utterly defeated.

After walking out of the entrance of Giant Promise Company, Paula received the call from Leila. "How is our plan going? I expect our plan's success!"

Still left in the dark, Leila grinned at the other end of the line, expecting Autumn's distress.

"Success?" Paula scoffed, clearly annoyed.

If Leila didn't steal the wrong proposal, she wouldn't end up losing the game.

"Well done! As I've told you, it was such a brilliant plan, " Leila said, unable to contain her excitement.

Feeling extremely agitated, Paula screamed at Leila for being such a fool.

"Can you not sense my anger? Our plan failed because you gave me an outdated proposal!"

"What?!"

Leila asked, clearly in disbelief with what she just heard. She had long anticipated Autumn's defeat that she couldn't even stomach the fact that their plan was totally unsuccessful. "How could that happen?"

The evidence is so clear..."

"Never mind. Our plan was spoiled beyond redemption, " Paula said, cutting her off.

"With that said, it's time to put an end to our collaboration."

Paula had ended the call before Leila could even respond, leaving her paralyzed in shock.

She couldn't even understand how she could have stolen the wrong proposal.

She made sure to copy the file straight from Autumn's computer. Is it even possible that Autumn knew their ploy beforehand?

The thought made her feel nauseous.

Clutching her hands, Leila became determined to get even with Autumn, unable to accept what just happened.

Autumn felt sick after leaving Giant Promise Company. She sneezed heavily, cold sweat running on her back.

"Hey, are you okay?" Isla said, expressing her concern.

"Did you catch a cold?"

"I'm fine, "

Autumn replied as she massaged her nose, feeling somewhat uneasy.

"Were you really able to record their conversation?"

Isla asked out of confusion.

"No. Not really, " Autumn said, shaking her head gently.

"I was too nervous to take a deep breath, much less record. I said that so we could trick her into

believing that we have the upper hand."

"Woah, that's some kind of trick you got right there, " Isla said in awe. "Imagine if Leila had been wise

enough to copy the updated proposal, we would have ended up in so much distress."

"I know, right? We would have really been in big trouble!"

Autumn was in disbelief, still overcome with lingering fear and shock. Had Leila met her end along with

such deceitful people in the middle of their business circle, her plan would've really failed even with

Andy's help.

She was certain Paula would make the event known to everyone, giving rise to a dire consequence, indeed.

It just so happened that luck was on her side that time. And she was more than thankful.

"This calls for a celebration. How about we go to dinner?" Autumn offered, overjoyed with their success.

Autumn was excited at her victory and about to begin a celebration, but Isla seemed unwilling to do so,

"Autumn, I am afraid not...."

"But why? Do you have something to attend to?" Autumn asked out of curiosity.

"Yes..." Isla said, nodding her head in response. "Aron will be discharged from the hospital today so I have to be there."

"Is that it? Hmm. It seems like you really care about Aron more than me," Autumn teased.

"Be quick. I guess we'll just have dinner afterward. Now I need go back to my company," she further added. The truth was she was really glad to see Isla reunited with Aron.

Chapter 295 Start Anew

Once Isla reached the hospital, Joanna was packing up for Aron. He was looking pale, almost like all the blood was flushed out of his body, after the fluid infusion was almost over.

She drew herself closer to Aron as she gathered up some courage and expressed her concern, "How are you feeling now? You look rather pale. Why don't.... you consider spending another night here until your condition stabilizes."

"I assure you I feel much better than I look." Aron passed a warm smile to Isla. Within the next second Joanna addressed Isla while packing up, "The doctor just now thoroughly checked Aron's condition, which confirmed his earlier diagnosis that Aron's has fully recovered and is ready for immediate discharge."

"Grandma, please let me help you with that." Isla was just moving forward towards Joanna to help her, but she declined the offer, "No, thanks. I think it is better if you talk to Aron, while I finish this quickly before going ahead with the discharge procedure with Mike. After that, we can begin celebrating Aron's excellent recovery by having dinner together."

Meanwhile, Aron ignored that line of talk and changed the topic as Isla had still not responded to Joanna's considerate offer, "Has your company's recent business endeavors concluded successfully?"

"It went very well!" Isla nodded with a content smile. She recalled the entire account of the day to Aron



with enthusiasm, "Karma has prevailed. All the injustices which happened to Autumn in the past finally paved the way to her present glory, honor and happiness."

"Is that how it is?" Aron replied with a smile as he decided to take advantage of Joanna's absence to speak his mind, "Isla, there is a matter.... which I want to discuss with you immediately."

"Please feel free to share what you have to say." Isla replied while peeling an apple for Aron as she was perched on the edge of his bed.

"So what I was thinking was that..." Aron mustered the courage to speak his mind, "Because of our eventful relationship, I want.... to marry you as soon as possible, and we are old enough to make the decision as well."

Aron released a sigh and continued to address Isla, "I hope to meet your parents and put an end to the negative relations we have been sharing, even though they may blame me for making you suffer so much."

"Are you.... serious?" Isla's judgement was clouded with doubt about Aron's sudden determination.

There is a long path spanning over sometime between a romantic relationship and a marriage.

However, Aron and Isla had just mellowed their romance long before getting married to each other

naturally and justifiably.

Meanwhile, just thinking about the impending doom of her parents disappointment with Aron, Isla became immensely upset.

"I have reflected and thought about it over and over again." Aron thought he deserved all the difficulties Isla's parents would impose upon him and would silently bear through it all.

Isla managed to nod indicating her approval, "Ok, I will arrange for a meeting between you all when I see fit."

Upon finishing Aron's discharge formalities, Mike and Joanna were just about to enter the room when

Aron nearly finished his fluid infusion. He was happy to see his grandparents warming up towards Isla.

After all, Aron's grandparents learned to respect their grandson's decision and determination to marry Isla.

Back home, Isla had proved to be of excellent help in the kitchen as she and Joanna prepped for a dinner feast. Joanna proposed dining at home and ordered the maid to buy some ingredients.

"Grandma, please go and take some rest and leave the cooking to me. You must be tired after all the

running around in the hospital." She thought Joanna was too old to bother with cooking.

"I just feel guilty that you have to slave in the kitchen to prepare a meal for us!" Joanna felt awfully guilty at the sight of Isla preparing the dinner.

Both of them did not relent, and Isla concluded their argument, "Grandma, why don't you give me a hand to present this delicious dinner?"

"It... sounds perfect." Joanna was willing to test Isla's cooking, as after all she did think of time when she would want to entrust Isla with the responsibility to take care of Aron whenever she passed away.

Despite cooking after a rather long time, Isla was adept at preparing braised beef brisket with tomato, bean curd soup and stewed pork with brown sauce—the three dishes not only full of depth with flavor but sophisticated, as well as two light vegetables, which won her the approval and satisfaction from Joanna.

"It is a delight and a surprise to see you cooking so well." Joanna began a conversation with Isla, who responded with a smile, "I came to Y City to begin my university life at the age of eighteen, and since then I have been living here. I would have resigned myself at the mercy of fast food and take-outs had I not learned to cook. Accordingly I also bought a recipe book to prepare and practice making some

homely traditional dishes."

"Sometimes the most simple looking dishes require the most practice and struggle." Joanna had initial disbelief and denial of Isla, because Becky was her perfect daughter-in-law. However the situation turned to Isla's advantage....

But Joanna remained doubtful of good company of Isla and Aron, as her misunderstanding toward Isla was melting away.

Meanwhile, she found that Isla was dripping with kindness and polite attention towards Aron during that period. Therefore a hint of prejudice gave way to her approval and inclination.

"You must be tired with your struggles here!" Joanna expressed her concern.

Isla responded with a calm smile, "At times. But I have always maintained the hope that everything can be handled better by being calm. During the long periods of striving and accomplishment, I can face hardships with composure."

"With reference to Becky, I wonder..." Isla found it hard to concentrate and cook properly after Joanna's mention of Becky disturbed and troubled her. Actually Isla had almost forgotten her existence.

"She...." Isla forced a smile, "Becky was my childhood friend who succumbed to short temper but her heart was in the right place. And I used to give way to her unconditionally in consideration of consanguinity, which contributed to her growing arrogance and aggressiveness leading to our current bad blood.

Isla smiled gently. However, Aron was her beloved who held more significance than her toys or hairpins. By no means would she share him with Becky.

"Now I have to dismiss Becky as someone who is insignificant after all those unpleasant encounters through the years." Isla replied with an indifferent smile, while pouring out the mushroom-seasoned vegetable, and asking everyone else to join for dinner, "Well done, please let us dine together."

On reflecting upon Isla boundless energy and magnanimity, she realized Becky was more evil than she had realized.

But now it was a thing of the past and she had to start afresh. She hoped in the following days Isla and Aron would live in happiness.

Chapter 296 In Grandma's Arms

As Autumn had made an appointment with Andy to have dinner with the Zhao family, she came to

Shining Company an hour before her shift to prepare. Inevitably, she ran into Leila at the entrance. And

Leila's face blanched at the sight of Autumn.

"Hi, Ye, here you are, " Leila greeted Autumn with an awkward yet surprised smile. It was evident from

her expression that, she knew Autumn must have known about her complicity with Paula, but

irrespective of that she had to greet Autumn warmly as always.

"Hmm, " Autumn just nodded to acknowledge her greeting without a pause. She felt that this was a

never ending drama which she could not tolerate anymore. She forgave Leila over and over again,

thinking she would turn over a new leaf, but it seemed that... she had been way too kind towards her.

"Leila." Autumn had already crossed Leila, but she suddenly turned around and called out to Leila.

"Yes, what's the matter, Ye?" Leila asked in a calm tone, but her heart was pounding out of her body

with nervousness. She clenched her hand in a tight fist involuntary as she tried to calm down.

"Oh, it is nothing important, " Autumn replied softly, "I just wanted to ask if you aren't used to being

here."

"No, I actually enjoy working here, " Leila hurried to answer with a frozen smile, "Mr. Lu is nice to me,

and my colleagues are very friendly as well."

"That's good." After much deliberation Autumn finally did not question her about stealing her scheme.

She wanted to consult Charles before she could decide what to with Leila.

With the year drawing to an end, Charles had been incredibly busy lately. In addition, owing to the loss of cooperation with Light House Company, he had to work harder to silence the board and ensure smooth functioning. Thus, on their way to the Zhao family, he told Autumn, "So from tomorrow on, I may not be able to see grandma with you as often as I'd like.

There are heaps of job that require my immediate attention in the company, and social engagements are almost arranged right up till the New Year's eve. But you can rest assured that I will come and see her with you when I have time. I hope that is okay with you?" he asked apologetically.

"That sounds reasonable, " Autumn answered in a considerate tone. She didn't mind it. After all, she could go to see her grandmother alone. But in fact what did worry her was that... it meant she would have to delay dealing with Leila.

With the company's affairs all hectic, it was not possible let alone realistic to recruit new employees.

Therefore, Autumn planed not to settle accounts with Leila until Charles was no longer busy.

"By the way, Charles, " Autumn suddenly realized something. She paused for a moment before continuing, "No matter how busy you are, don't forget about Chris and Sam. Aunt Jane and Sam met me, they hope to meet our family as soon as possible. You must make time."

"Oh that is no problem. I am certain I can accommodate that in my schedule, " Charles nodded.

Once they arrived at the Zhao family, Amy had just gotten the dinner ready and was setting the dishes down on the table. And she smiled as wide as her face could accommodate once she saw Autumn and Charles.

"Sit down for dinner, " Amy told them happily, which made Abby jealous. "Mom, every time Autumn comes, you cook for her personally, but you never make the time to cook for me at all. You've crossed bounds in partiality, " Abby complained in an injured tone. novelbin

"Stop complaining and just eat!" Amy ordered as she broke into a laugh. Then she turned to Autumn and softly said, "Eat up, child. I'll just bring soup and join you."

"Let me help you, " Autumn said, as she got up and followed Amy into the kitchen. "Grandma... "

She called out and then paused for a moment before she added, "Please don't go through the trouble of making so many dishes every time I come. Otherwise, I'll always be worried and pressured about



coming here."

"Don't listen to Abby, " Amy said and patted Autumn on the arm. "I haven't taken care of you for so many years. While I still have the strength to move, I want to do whatever I can for you. Even if it is just as small as a meal, I will be happy." Amy earnestly expressed her love and guilt towards Autumn, and at last she couldn't help weeping.

She somehow became very emotional while facing Autumn.

"Please don't cry, grandma, " Autumn comforted her as she wiped Amy's eyes. "I'm just worried about wearing you out. I only meant to look out for your welfare and nothing else."

Autumn could feel the overwhelming level of love and care from the Zhao family, and now she was getting along well with them so the awkwardness had dissolved.

"I'm okay, " Amy stopped tears and her face lit up with happiness. "Let's join everyone else for dinner."

Then Autumn helped Amy serve the soup. Emily, blind, soon went back to her room to rest after dinner.

Not wanting to disappoint Amy, Autumn ate much more than she usually did. And she went to see

Emily after putting the bowls and chopsticks in the kitchen.

She opened Emily's door, but found the room in a state of pitch darkness. "Grandma, " she gently called out and apprehensively inquired, "It's so dark. Why not leave one light on?"

Upon hearing Autumn's voice, Emily quietly smiled and answered, "I can't see anything anyway. So it really makes no difference whether the light is on or not."

Autumn, hearing what Emily said, felt a pinch of pain. If there was any treatment that could cure Emily, she would pay whatever it took, but now... It was not a question of money.

In the face of what was destined, there was nothing anyone could do.

"Are you crying, Autumn?" Emily asked, almost like she could sense Autumn's pain. She then reached out and took Autumn's hand and said, "I will die sooner or later. I don't want you to be sad about it."

"I wish you could be with me always, grandma, " Autumn said, holding Emily.

Every time Autumn thought about Emily's illness, she had a rising sense of hate towards Wendy in particular. It was after all Wendy's fault that Emily missed the last window for treatment.

"Silly girl, " Emily sighed and now wrapped her arm around Autumn. She also wanted to spend more time with Autumn, but since she knew that was not possible, she decided to accept the reality

gracefully. She hoped sincerely that Autumn too could accept it, so that when she died, she might not

feel too grieved.

Autumn felt like she was transported back to her childhood. She was reminded of days when Emily would hold her in her arms, slowly waving a large fan to drive away mosquitoes. Emily also narrated many strange stories and also sometimes taught her ancient poems. Every time she lay in Emily's arms, she felt safe and comfortable.

Even though Emily was very skinny now... Autumn still had the same feeling of security in her arms.

"Well, you're married. Stop acting like a spoiled child," Emily beamed, "I want Charles and you to live happily ever after, okay?"

"Hmm, I know we will," Autumn replied in a low tone. Then she reluctantly left Emily's arms. Realizing that Emily was a little sleepy, she said, "Get your rest, grandma. I will see you tomorrow."

"Okay," Emily said. Autumn tucked Emily in and left the room. Meanwhile, in the living room, Charles and Andy were sitting on the sofa talking about work. Abby, unable to get a word in, sat next to Andy and listened to their conversation silently.

"Is she asleep now?" Amy asked softly, as she glanced at Autumn.

Chapter 297 Late Night Call

Autumn nodded to Amy's question and responded, "She is very tired and is already asleep. Grandma, thank you so very much for taking care of Emily these days. I cannot begin to express how grateful I am!"

"Sweetheart, we are a family. Don't be so civil to me, " Amy returned with a tender expression, as she grabbed Autumn's hand, and then they sat on the sofa.

"What are you two going on about?" Autumn asked Charles and Andy with Cindy now in her arms, who had eaten some fruits.

"Just some stuff about the collaboration, " Charles answered with a warm smile. "How is Emily doing?" Charles asked with concern.

"Well, she is still the same. The illness has not gotten worse or better, " Autumn replied in a low tone.

'As there are no treatments for Emily's illness at this stage, I will spend as much as time I can to keep her company. I'm... losing her, ' Autumn said to herself in grief and disbelief.

"Well, " Charles attempted to change the topic as he noticed her dejected expression. "You asked me to find a good school for Cindy. And now I have found one, " he turned to Abby.

"Is that so?" Abby responded with happiness glimmering in her eyes. Lately she was very stressed and

worried, in the recent past, about finding an appropriate school.

"This is his business card. Please do call him directly whenever you find the time, " Charles said, as he handed over the visiting card to Abby.

"Thank you!" Abby responded with gratitude, as she took the card. "Autumn, we have booked a hotel to celebrate your birthday next month. We would like to throw a party. As for the media... If you don't have

any issues, I will contact reporters from different media houses too, " Abby requested Autumn.

"No problem. It all sounds okay, " Autumn returned with a little nod in acknowledgement. 'Oh finally the day has arrived when I will disown Wendy and be rid of her from my life forever, ' Autumn thought with relief.

"Oh it is pretty late now. We should head home, " she continued. The drive from Zhao family's residence to Dream Garden was quite a short one. Autumn and Charles arrived home within minutes.

Upon reaching, Charles directly went upstairs to check on mails, while Autumn walked up to Chris.

"What's ?up? You look in low spirits, " she asked, seeing Chris sitting on the lounge absently.

"Autumn, " Chris said as she took a moment to get over from her daze after hearing Autumn's voice.

"You're back. I have to discuss something with you, " she continued.

"What is it, Chris?" Autumn asked with concern as she took a seat beside Chris.

Chris glanced down at her coffee with a scowling expression. "Is this about Sam?" Autumn guessed to nudge her as she noticed Chris's hesitant look.

"Yes, it is..." Chris answered in a sad tone. "After Aunt Jane picked on you in your company and stirred all that chaos, I had a fight with Sam. And today I did not receive a single call or message from him. I don't know..." she struggled to complete her sentence as she glanced at her phone with an injured hope.

She was scared that maybe he did call and it was her phone that was not working.

"He hasn't contacted you all day, so you're worried that he may be angry with you, is that it?" Autumn asked bluntly. 'This is quite strange. Sam seems to care so very much about Chris, why would he behave like this? Even Jane came to apologize to me, then why didn't he come to Chris?' Autumn wondered.

"Autumn, I know nothing that happened was his fault, but I still snapped at him. I felt sorry and guilty for

what happened with you. After all, you were ambushed by Aunt Jane after a misunderstanding caused by me. But now I am feeling insecure and uneasy as he hasn't contacted me all day. You must think

novelbin that I'm a stupid girl, " Chris tried to smile despite all the stress clouding her thoughts, after nodding at Autumn.

"I think it is safe to say you are stuck with Sam for this lifetime for sure, " Autumn giggled as she cracked a joke to lighten the mood.

"Autumn, please don't make fun of me..." Chris said bashfully.

"Please don't overthink for another moment. Sam was probably extremely busy today, and so he couldn't spare enough time to contact you. Don't worry, " Autumn comforted Chris. "Also yesterday Aunt Jane came to my company again but this time she apologized to me sincerely. It seems that she is quite pleased with you. Now I hope you see what is happening? There is absolutely no need to worry."

"Did she?" Chris brightened her eyes in surprise. She had not expected that Jane would apologize to Autumn.

"Of course she did, " Autumn replied with a warm and reassuring smile. "When have I ever lied to you?"

Please don't act so immature again. Also don't forget to go to your work tomorrow, will you?"

"You got it, " Chris answered with excitement. "Does Charles... know this?"

"I told him all about it and he seems to be fine with Jane." Autumn replied. 'She still behaves like a child. I was so scared because she had a concerned and unhappy look as though the world has come crashing down to an end. And now within minutes she is overjoyed, ' Autumn thought to herself.

"Thank you, Autumn, " Chris said cheerfully. "Okay so now I will head upstairs to have good night's sleep. And tomorrow morning I will head straight to the company."

"Good night!" Autumn replied gently. After she saw Chris run upstairs delightfully, she went to the kitchen and poured a mug full of milk for Charles. As Autumn knocked at the study door, Charles was engaged in a video conference. She pushed the door open, and stood beside him quietly.

"You didn't eat properly during the dinner. What happened? Is there too much of stress from work?"

Autumn asked with concern tenderly, handing the mug to Charles once his conference was over.

"Yeah, I had quite a hectic today, " Charles sighed, as he leaned back into his chair with a fatigued

look.



Autumn couldn't bear to look at Charles this way. She walked behind him, and massaged his temples, in a bid to provide some relief.

"I'm feeling better, " Charles said to Autumn, gripping Autumn by her hand after five minutes. "I still have a pile of papers to read before I can sleep. Please you go to sleep, I will join you after finishing them."

"Don't stay up very late. You look very exhausted, " Autumn said in a soft tone. She felt that she could not help Charles beyond leaving him alone so that he could devote his attention and finish it fast.

"Please don't forget to drink milk, " she reminded him.

"Got it, " Charles nodded. Around 2:00 am, he finally finished all his pending work and dragged his exhausted body to the bathroom. After taking a shower, he got into the bed.

As soon as he got into the covers, Autumn cuddled him in her arms. "Did you just finish your work?"

Autumn asked in a drowsy voice.

"Yeah, " Charles replied, as he held Autumn closer to his chest with relief. "Why are you still awake?"

"I couldn't fall asleep without you, " she answered, moving closer to Charles.

Upon hearing this, Charles gave a content smile. "Have a good dream, " Charles said to Autumn with affection as he kissed her forehead.

It was true that Autumn was accustomed to sleeping with Charles. Within minutes of him getting into bed as she started dreaming, she was awakened by Charles's phone.

Charles received the call with a frown once he realised it was from Leila. He recognized her voice from across the line. "Mr. Lu, I'm sorry to disturb you at this hour. Is it convenient for you to speak?"

"What is happening?" Charles asked with concern.

"You asked me to prepare documents for tomorrow's meeting with our clients, but I found that one was missing. Do you have it? If you don't, I will work out another one, " Leila explained. Autumn could hear exactly what Leila said. Even though she had called for work, Autumn still felt uncomfortable.

"Are you talking about the price sheet? I have only one copy, " Charles replied.

Chapter 298 I Have Drunk Too Much

"Yes, you are right. That is what I was referring to." Leila responded with excitement and then added, "I am sorry, Mr. Lu. I should not have bothered you with something so trivial."

"It is fine, Leila, " replied Charles indifferently. Charles didn't say anything else as he knew that Leila was diligent with her work, so he was just relieved to have such a hard working employee. "It is quite

late now. Please go back to taking some rest, " added Charles briefly.

However, as Leila heard this from him, she felt so cheerful by his warm and caring words though he didn't mean to. "Okay. Then good night, Mr. Lu."

As soon as she finished her sentence, Leila hung up the phone, as her heart felt like it was beating outside her body uncontrollably.

In fact, she deliberately called Charles to gauge the situation. She knew very well that Autumn may persuade Charles to discharge her from her duties. Therefore, she had to take a few extreme steps to establish her importance.

After Charles ended the call, Autumn adjusted her posture, turning back to him while Charles held her from behind gently. They fit perfectly in the arms of each other like a jigsaw puzzle. "Did I wake you up?" He whispered to her in a soft tone.

"No, " replied Autumn quickly in an indifferent voice. Indeed, she was very envious, but she just didn't know how to express what she felt so she decided to remain silent instead.

"What's wrong? You sound unhappy about something." Charles could sense her mood change, but he

couldn't figure out what had happened to cause it. He asked Autumn several times before he finally got an answer out of her. "It is past midnight. What was the matter that could not wait and needed your attention at this hour? Did she really have to call you at this time?" Autumn did not reply directly but said politely.

However, Charles understood her perspective. Upon hearing it, he did not know whether to laugh or cry. "Well, I will explicitly tell her not to call me at night next time, okay?" He tried to comfort Autumn who was acting like a pampered child in the moment.

Charles coaxed her as if she was a brat within a few moments Autumn finally was comforted. "Let's sleep now. It is quite late. You still have to go to work tomorrow morning."

The next morning when Autumn woke up, she found that Charles had left for work. Within a moment, a feeling of emptiness filled the room as she realized Charles was not there.

Meanwhile, all employees were highly motivated and jumping with joy and high spirit as they realized they had successfully won the project from Giant Promise Company. They were eager to have a party in the bar while Autumn also didn't want to decline their request as she was worried that she would dampen their enthusiasm towards work.

Autumn immediately called Charles to share the good news while she was also determined to join the celebrations at the party and then she would go home soon.

Isla still had not told her parents about what happened with Aron and her. As Isla had not disclosed her relationship with Aron, she didn't want to take him to meet her parents just as yet. And she was also invited to attend the party tonight with her colleagues.

Perhaps, they had all worked so hard for a long time, so it was about time to reap the rewards. They all wanted to vent their emotions in the bar, some were even dancing like maniacs on dance floor almost like they had transformed into different people.

The colleagues were just about to invite Autumn and Isla to join them on the dance floor, but they dropped the idea as Autumn was married while Isla already had a boyfriend, so they might not be comfortable dancing with another man.

Both of them perched on top of the high stools along the bar counter and ordered two cocktails and chatted with each other. It had been so long since the two of them found the time to sit down like this and talk. Somehow, gradually they started talking about Andy as Isla was also curious about his

relationship with Autumn.

"In fact, it really is not as complicated as you would think, " said Autumn indifferently as she took a small sip of the cocktail. However, she did not like the taste of the cocktail as it was very strong and only tasted of alcohol. "So he is my uncle-in-law, " replied Autumn.

"Uncle-in-law?" Astonished, Isla looked at Autumn and asked, "I simply cannot tell if you are serious or you are just joking. He looks very young, almost the same age group as you. How is it be possible?"

Autumn knew that Isla would be confused about it, so she told Isla the story about her family. She expected Isla to be shocked about this news, but to her surprise, Isla slammed the counter in utter joy and said in a cheerful voice, "This is just wonderful! Autumn, congratulations! Finally, you can get rid of Wendy from your life! I am so very happy for you!"

Taken aback by Isla's reaction, Autumn laughed cheerfully. "Don't get so excited now."

"Autumn, I am truly so happy to hear this. You have an amazing family now!" Isla revealed cheerfully

and went ahead to add, "Well, so now it turns out that you come from Zhao family, so your surname is actually Zhao?"

"Yes. I share the same last name with you now." Now, Autumn was also infected with her happiness as she said, "Perhaps we are also connected by blood ties from a hundred years ago."

She joked with Isla and as they smiled look into each other's eyes with sheer gratitude and happiness.

But soon Isla gazed at a corner, and started pointing in that direction with astonishment. "Autumn, look!

Is that not your sister Yvonne?"

"What? Where is she?" Clearly, Autumn was also stunned. She turned back, to find Yvonne in the crowd while Wendy was standing right behind her. Upon seeing them, Autumn's eyebrow furrowed slightly. 'Why are they here?' she wondered.

"What are they doing here now? Can't I have one happy moment to myself." Autumn frowned as she tried to figure out what they were doing there.

"Who knows?" Isla responded with a disdainful look as she really detested them with all her heart. After Yvonne walked into a balcony with Wendy, Isla turned to Autumn and said, "Let them be. Soon they will no longer be related to you. They will be just strangers. Don't pay heed to them. Do what you want to do."

Isla's bid to relieve Autumn who was still a little unsettled, as she kept one eye on them to be aware of

what they were doing. After about half an hour, Yvonne walked out with Wendy, but neither one of them

had noticed Autumn sitting there. Shortly afterwards Yvonne left the room and Rachel also walked out.

Rachel stopped at the doorway, as she paused to wear her sunglasses and then walked out with an arrogant stride.

Upon seeing this, Autumn's mind was boggled as she was sure they would not get in touch with one another after the entire debacle on Rachel's birthday. But now it turned out Autumn was wrong.

After getting out of the bar, Wendy maintained a poker face all the while. Yvonne frowned slightly, looking severe. "Mom, do you think Rachel is telling the truth, I mean should we believe her? Is Autumn really going to do this?" Yvonne asked with a concerned expression.

"Yes, I really think she is not lying to us. It could be true, " Wendy responded in a serious tone. After pausing for a few seconds she burst into a sneer. 'Do you think I will leave the matter at that, Autumn? This is so absurd. I will not let it happen.' Wendy thought to herself.

"But I think it will be good news for us if Autumn really goes ahead with her plans. After all, we also intended for the same thing to happen..." said Yvonne. Rachel was a famous star and had strong



connections with entertainment journalists. As she had received the news directly from them, then it must be true.

However, before Yvonne could finish her sentence, she was interrupted midway by Wendy. "Don't have such a one-track mind. Timing matters the most. It would not have been good news for us if she is going to do that at such a critical time. But let's just wait and watch. I know she is just waiting to break all the relations with us, but there is no way she can do so."

Yvonne remained silent. She had suffered many hardships in recent past and now she simply followed Wendy's directions and words.

Furious yet indignant, Wendy bore a grudge on Autumn. She was waiting for the right opportunity to release her wrath upon Autumn.

Autumn's good mood had gone down the drain after she saw Yvonne and Wendy in the bar. She felt uneasy, and with that excuse and she got out from the bar. As she was about to go home, she happened to receive a call from Sam.

"Hello, Autumn. This is Sam. I need you to do me a favor."

"Hello. What's the matter?"

"I am in front of the fountain of Eaton Square. Could you help me bring Chris here?" Soon Autumn realized what he intended to do, so without a second of hesitation she promised to help him. She would absolutely love to be the peacemaker.

The moment Sam hung up, she called Chris. Indeed, Chris was in a bad mood as she didn't see Sam when she went to the company.

"Hello, Chris. Where are you? Are you at home now?" Autumn had figured a full proof way to bring her all the way to the fountain, so she said ahead, "Chris, I have drunk too much and I have sprained my ankle. Could you please come to pick me up? I am feeling helpless."

"Autumn, are you okay? Where are you? I am coming to get you right away." Chris asked her with concern.

After giving her the address, Autumn hung up the call. She did not intend to hang around and hinder Sam's plan so, instead she drove to Shining Company. Charles was still working an extra shift, so she bought some snacks to him as she was worried he would go hungry without another meal.

Chapter 299 An Accident Designed By Leila

The building was so quiet that one could hear the sound of footsteps before they could see someone

coming. Upon getting that head start, Leila spotted Autumn walking in the direction of Charles' office, she immediately rushed to his office with a cup of coffee.

"Would you like a cup of coffee, Mr. Lu? You seem tired and it looks like you could do with a pick-me-up right about now." In a clumsy movement, Leila pretended to drop the coffee all over Charles' pants. She then squatted between his legs to clean the mess she deliberately created and apologized, "I'm so sorry, Mr. Lu."

Leila then let out a helpless and grieved expression but she was indeed quite happy.

"Just hand me the tissue. I can clean it myself." Charles tried to push Leila away because he was too embarrassed to have her touch his body in this manner. It all seemed so inappropriate to him.

Right at this moment, Autumn swung open the door and saw them two in a rather compromising position.

Charles was sitting back in the chair while Leila was kneeling against the floor and wiping his pants.

They looked very intimate with each other, so Autumn couldn't help suspecting Charles had betrayed novelbin

her.

"You are..." Autumn couldn't exactly clearly see what had happened because the table was blocking her view, but she saw Leila kneeling there and that was enough to spark a doubt. She couldn't help but doubt the nature of the relationship between Leila and Charles. Leila sneered secretly for successfully delivering her trick while Charles was panicking. In a bid to explain everything he said, "Autumn, don't misunderstand. It isn't as bad as it appears."

"We were not doing anything." Leila pretended to get up hastily to explain to Autumn but fell into Charles' arms. Charles tried to support her but he too fell on the ground with her because of her sudden weight.

Leila was ecstatic secretly but she put on the show of being sorry and embarrassed as she apologized to Charles, "I'm sorry, Mr. Lu. I didn't do all this on purpose."

Keeping up the charade, yet reluctant to leave Charles' arm, she tightly grasped him. Charles frowned and said, "Fine. You can stand by yourself now."

"Okay..." Leila responded with reluctance. She then stood up slowly, noticing Autumn looking at her with piercing cold eyes.

"What are you doing here, Autumn?" Charles stood straight and walked up to Autumn.

"Do you mean that you don't want to see me here? So much for surprises." Autumn was annoyed and now lost her cool even though she knew Leila did this on purpose.

"What are you saying?" Charles tried to explain the entire mishap to her and said, "That is not what I meant and you know it!"

"Please believe Mr. Lu. I'm sorry, Autumn. This is all my fault." Leila stood here like she was wronged and added, "It's all my fault. I dropped coffee on Mr. Lu's clothes by accident so I wanted to clean it for him. I didn't mean for this to cause a problem between both of you!"

"Just shut up!" Autumn shouted at Leila impatiently as she saw through her vain plan. Autumn understood Leila's nature more than she realized. Even though she looked innocent on surface she was nothing but an evil woman in reality.

"I..." Leila pretended to be frightened but internally she was really happy with how the night was unfolding.

Earlier, no matter how much trouble she had caused to Autumn, she had never lost her temper. But now she was annoyed. Leila believed she had found Autumn's weakness.

"Autumn, this is enough!"

Charles was already exhausted from all the work. What happened now was simply an accident in his eyes. He wondered why Autumn was getting so overworked over something so trivial.

Autumn had never behaved like this before.

"Enough?" Autumn looked at Charles in amazement. In that moment, she felt Charles had changed because now he was dismissing her and asking her to remain silent in front of another woman.

A sudden impulse to tell Charles what Leila had done earlier gripped her suddenly, but she gave up the idea upon seeing Charles' face.

She smiled bitterly and said, "I know you haven't had dinner yet, so I brought over some food for you. I did not intend to bother you, I am so sorry. I need to go now."

Autumn put the food aside on the table and left Charles' office almost immediately.

"Hold on, Autumn..."

Leila tried to call her back and explain the situation but Charles held Leila back and said, "Leave her alone."

"But..." Leila added with a aggrieved expression, "Mr. Lu, I think Autumn must have misunderstood our relationship. Please let me explain what happened to her."

"No, that is not required of you." Charles said indifferently. He wanted to give Autumn some time to calm down before he would explain to her what had happened once he went back home.

"I think you should say some kind words to your wife." Leila pretended to give some thoughtful advice and added, "Autumn is just like a little girl..."

"Enough!" Charles got impatient and asked, "Don't you have your own business to deal with? Stop meddling in my relationship and making the situation worse than you already have with your clumsy behavior!"

"Yes I do..." Leila answered reluctantly and left Charles' office.

The second she walked out of his cabin she revealed her evil face immediately. She felt so happy and content to plant that misunderstanding in Autumn's mind but her relationship didn't get any further development.

She then sat down to decide and plan how to manipulate the delicate situation further.

"Leila!" David returned with food as Leila was mulling over her devious plans. David cast a glance at

her and asked, "Did Mr. Lu's wife come to the office just now?"

"Yes, she did. So what happened?" Leila felt distressed every time she heard anything about Autumn.

"I greeted her but she didn't respond. She looked like she was in a terrible mood. Do you know what possibly happened here?" David puzzled and yet worried. He had never seen Autumn like this.

"Why are you so concerned about her? Do you have a crush on her? Is this what this is about?" Leila asked him with a sly smile.

"Don't just speak utter nonsense!" David snapped back with a frown.

Leila returned to her own seat and started dealing with the files.

Autumn didn't go home after leaving Shining Company. She didn't know where she should go as she was overwhelmed with emotions.

She didn't know what exactly bothered her so much. 'Was it because the 'accident' planned by Leila?' she wondered.

She then negated this idea immediately. Somehow, she felt she couldn't control her emotion and

couldn't help getting worried even though she knew in the bottom of her heart that Charles would never



cheat on her.

She hung outside for a long time before she returned to the desolate house.

Neither Charles nor Chris had returned home.

She sat in the sofa quietly without turning on the light, waiting impatiently for Charles to tell her that she

couldn't bear Leila any more and what had led her to feel this way. She desperately wanted to clear the air.

"Good night! I'll leave now." She was in a daze until she finally heard Sam's voice entering the house.

"Okay, I'll call you first thing tomorrow." Chris entered the house after saying her goodbye to Sam. She was scared as she turned on the light and found Autumn sitting in the sofa almost lifeless.

Chapter 300 You Know Him

Chris was totally immersed in happiness after Sam's grand proposal, so much so that she didn't even notice Autumn's apparent displeasure. "Autumn, how could you join hands with Sam in his elaborate plan and lie to me?" Chris turned to Autumn as she grabbed her hands.

"What is wrong? Are you not happy now?" Autumn asked as her thoughts came back to reality with a smile. She was immensely happy for Chris despite her foul mood.

"Of course I'm happy..." Chris blushed away as she recalled Sam's proposal for the tenth time. 'My happiness is now beyond words, it knows no bounds. It is my dream to marry Sam and it seems like I have waited long enough for this day. Today he finally proposed. Now I feel like I am the happiest girl in the whole wide world,' she thought to herself.

"The second you told me that you have broken your ankle, I rushed in such a hurry and in that time I came without any make-up or wasn't even dressed appropriately. I'm pretty sure I was looking my very worst yesterday," Chris complained shyly.

"You're really a little silly girl," Autumn said with a wide smile reflecting her blessings and happiness to the happy couple, as she glanced at the big diamond ring Chris wore. "It does not matter what you look like or even what you wear. Sam will love you any way," Autumn comforted her as she lauded their relationship.

"Autumn, is something bothering you? You seem a little preoccupied," Chris asked with concern. She could sense that Autumn was upset and something was eating at her today.

"I'm just fine," Autumn assured her. The split second Charles entered the house, he let off a sigh of

relief at the sight of Autumn. Chris forgot Autumn's low spirits immediately as she caught sight of him.

"Charles, look at this..." she said, as she ran to him cheerfully, showing him her gigantic ring.

"Sam proposed to me today, " she repeated her story with more excitement than before.

"Did he now? It was about time!" Charles responded. Even though he was speaking to Chris, his eyes were fixed on Autumn who was standing behind her.

Autumn slightly lowered her head to avoid Charles's stare. She was now mad at him.

"Yes, he did, " Chris answered gladly. "Charles, when will you have time?"

"Why do you ask that? Are you so impatient get married?" Charles joked. 'I can't let Autumn keep sulking about this, ' he thought to himself. "I know this. Tell Sam that I will meet him at Fu Ji Restaurant tomorrow night, " he told Chris.

"Thank you Charles, " Chris responded with a bright smile which lit up her entire face. Chris then went upstairs delightfully.

While Autumn silently went upstairs as well, Charles followed her. As Autumn entered their room, she turned around with an intention to close the door. However, Charles stopped her. "Are you still angry with me?" he asked Autumn.

Autumn was a little angry with him, but she shook her head. "Don't you have to deal with your business in the study tonight also?" she asked in an irritated tone.

"I finished all my work in the office, " Charles answered. Autumn let go of the door and turned around to enter the room.

Charles maintained a close distance from Autumn. "Why are you following me?" Autumn asked impatiently, as she found Charles hovering behind her.

"Please don't stay angry. What you saw was simply a mistake and it led to a misunderstanding, "

Charles explained, ignoring Autumn's anger and embracing her.

"Was that what it was?" Autumn asked with anger. "I know what happened was a mistake, and you're clear with her. But do you know..."

"Come on, " Charles said coaxingly. "I won't let it happen again. Please don't ignore me like this. Just hear me out and believe in what I say!

You have no idea how busy I have been these past few days..."

Charles told her that he had been occupied in his business and felt exhausted recently. "Then just hop

into a warm shower and prepare to sleep." Autumn said as she mellowed down.

She intended to let it go this time as she knew her husband was in the clear and had no ill intentions.

But she made up her mind to talk to Charles about Leila soon.

Charles fell asleep soon after a shower. Right at this moment, Jina was quarreling with Isla at home.

"You must explain the scene to me. Why were you dissatisfied with Stephen?" Jina yelled at Isla

furiously. Jina had a bad temper. Once she learned that Isla had broken up with Stephen and hit him,

she blazed with anger. "You agreed to go on a blind date. I found you so many good boys and you

finally found someone you didn't exactly dislike. But look at what you have done. You dumped him and

even picked a fight with him. Are you out of your mind?" Jina bellowed with rage.

"Stay calm. Let Isla tell us what happened in her words," John intervened. "It's all your fault. You

shouldn't have doted on her. Do you know what Stephen said to her? He said that she was..." Jina

turned to John, as she snapped at him for no apparent reason.

"What did he say?" Isla asked, as she was now turning red with rage. Isla initially didn't get angry when

Jina scolded her. 'I hit him first,' she thought. But when she heard that Stephen had attempted to

slander her reputation, she couldn't control her anger anymore.

"He..." Jina stammered. Stephen's words were so indecent and coarse that she couldn't even think of uttering them in this tense moment. "Don't mind what he said. Just tell me your thoughts. Are you going to go for a blind date or not?" Jina asked in rather serious tone.

"No, I most definitely not, " Isla replied with conviction. She had initially planned to tell Jina and John that Aron wanted to meet them. But as soon as she got home, Jina blamed her for beating Stephen. So she had no chance to talk about this and clear the air.

Upon hearing Isla's words, Jina was stunned. "What... What did you just say?"

"Mom, I said that I will not be on a blind date, " Isla answered in a cool yet resolute tone. "After going for several blind dates, I realized that it's not a good idea. Therefore, I have decided that I will not go for it again. Life is too short to waste my time on things that make me uncomfortable..."

"What are you thinking about?" Jina asked, scowling at Isla. "You're almost 30. What is your plan for the future if you go on to refuse blind dates? Is your ambition to be an unmarried maid? A spinster? Just look at you now! You've come home reeking of alcohol."

Isla had had a few more drinks than usual in a bar to gather the courage before going home.

"Isla, your mom and I did not force you to go on a blind date. You had given your consent. I mean after all it was your decision. But now..." John furrowed his brow. "You make it sound like we forced you into committing a bank heist. I know that you don't like this method. But I hope you understand the only reason we pressured you was because we were thinking about your future."

"I know and I understand that," Isla responded with a little nod. "Mom, dad, I refuse to go on blind dates because I have a boyfriend," she continued after a long pause where she chose her next words carefully.

"What?" Jina and John asked at the same time, as they glanced at each other in confusion and shock.

"When did you get a boyfriend? What is his name? What do his parents do? How old is he? Tell us everything!"

Overcome with joy and relief, John and Jina bombarded Isla with a series of questions. "You both know... him," Isla said to Jina after hesitating for a while.

'I know the guy?' "Who is your boyfriend?"

Jina asked with confusion as she raised her eyebrows.