

## **Wedded Bride 301**

### Chapter 301 Agreeing To Meet

Isla paused for an unusually long time before she mustered the courage to answer Jina's burning question, "Aron."

Upon hearing their daughter utter his name, both Jina and John were taken aback with shock. For a moment, they assured one another that they had heard the wrong name or that Isla was cracking an elaborate prank. But, when they noticed unwavering seriousness set on Isla's face, they realized that they heard it right, Aron was Isla's boyfriend.

"Have you gone crazy?" Jina looked at Isla, in shock as she has still not recovered from the blow. She asked, "Have you not received enough grief from him yet? And now you are going to walk towards the cause of your own unhappiness like a moth flies into the fire?"

"Mom, I have thought it over in depth and trust me have thought about all aspects of our relation before

I even considered taking it forward." Isla said to her parents with determination, "I want to be with Aron.

Besides, from now on, I will never have to go on a blind date as I am in a committed and happy relationship with Aron"

"You..." At this point, Jina was so angry that she involuntarily raised her hand, but she could not get herself slap Isla. "It is no wonder that Stephen told me he saw you staying with a man and then swore at you as a bitch. I was so annoyed with his nonsense talk that I almost had a fight with him that day.

After hearing your confession I feel ridiculous to have defended you in that manner."

Jina gave out a bitter smile. She continued to speak to Isla, "Why do you insist on being with Aron Gu?

Don't you think he hasn't hurt you enough for the pain to last a lifetime?"

John used to respect Isla's choice. But this time, he decided not to support Isla at all as he was dead set against the idea of Aron and Isla together.

"Isla, no matter what decisions you made in the past, I always supported you with blind faith and love.

But this time you have taken it very far!" John gave Isla a serious look as he continued speaking, "I

don't care about what has happened between Aron and you earlier. But now, after all of that history it is

impossible for you to share a relationship with him. There is just no way!"

"Daddy..." Isla frowned slightly. She knew she had to convince her parents but what she did not expect

was that, both her dad and mom would outright deny Aron a chance without hearing her out. This was

not a good situation to be in.

"Isla, I am warning you, for your welfare, you should break up with that guy the minute you can. I mean what's wrong with Stephen? You should not have picked a fight with him even if you really don't like him." Jina almost went crazy with rage.

"Mom!" Isla seemed to have become a little grumpy after drinking as much as she did. It had been quite a while since she lost her temper like today. She also then began to raise her voice, "You always praise Stephen as a good man, but how good is he really? Could you be so kind as to share some details?"

"He..." Jina went blank for a moment, but soon she came back to her senses and answered, "At least, unlike Aron Gun, he won't make out with your cousin when you have a relationship with each other.

Now that Aron Gu has returned for a reunion. Today I have to make something crystal clear in advance, I will never, ever approve of your relationship with Aron Gu."

Isla went blank when she heard such harsh words coming from her mother.

"You are crossing the line with your words, Jina. You can speak in an appropriate tone. Isla is not a little baby." John held Jina back, and pacified her.

"Are you sure she is not a little baby? Are you?" Jina said sarcastically, "How could she make such ridiculous decisions motivated without any reason and sanity if she is not a baby? That guy was engaged to be married to your daughter first. And right before their wedding, he broke up with your daughter somehow, and in no time was he about to marry Becky. And now after all that drama, he had changed his mind yet again to rekindle his relationship with Isla. I will be humiliated all over again if our neighbors and relatives come to know of this entire charade, you know? Besides, they might even mock me and cuss at me behind my back!"

"You are destined to live a hard and sad life if you always care about what others think of you." Isla too lost her temper as she responded to Jina, "Mom, you said you wondered what my reason was to break up with Stephen. OK, so I will tell you now."

Isla told her mom the incidents exactly as it happened on that fateful day. Finally, she looked into Jina's eyes, and said, "Mom, I admit that I am not young anymore, but you must understand that it is even my desire to marry a man of excellent character. After all, who hopes that their marriage will end up in a divorce? Keeping that in mind, do you really think I will lead a better life if I marry a man like Stephen?"

If your answer is still 'Yes', I will call Stephen right away."

John frowned upon hearing Isla's story, and asked, "You silly girl, why could you have just not told us such a serious matter?"

"Would it have made any sense had I told you the truth?" Isla had no choice. She knew her parents advised her to marry Stephen for her welfare. But they also didn't expect for such thing to happen with their daughter, either. Isla didn't want them to worry about her or feel guilty for such a failed match.

"Even considering this, it is unwise for you to be in a relationship with Aron." After knowing the truth, Jina felt deeply remorseful for all that she said, so her tone slowly mellowed down, "Our suggestion to marry Stephen was our fault, as we didn't exactly get acquainted with Stephen in haste. But Isla this does not mean that we approve of your relationship with Aron, in anyway."

"You..." Isla wanted to shout at her mother again, but her father stopped her in the nick of time.

Jina was always a woman who could be persuaded only by reason but not be cowed by force.

Therefore, if Isla continued to go against her, Jina wouldn't allow her to reunite Aron without any doubt.

Isla calmed down the moment John stopped her. She took a deep breath to get a sense of the situation

before she addressed her mother again, "Mom, I know you have a bias against Aron. So do I. But do

you know... If it was not for Aron who saved me that night, I can't imagine what terrible things would have happened with me.

True. Now you will say that his bid to rescue me can hardly make up for his bad behavior in the past.

But in fact, you should be clear that all the issues were caused by Becky who directed and acted the entire affair all by herself. Both Aron and I were the victims of her charade." Isla sighed with profound resignation. She sat next her to Jina, and said, "Mom, do you know that Aron came to look for me also when he was sick, too. It was stomach perforation. He fainted the moment he attacked Stephen away from there. Forgive me, mom. After that I was just unable to keep a hard heart and leave him alone. I want to give a chance to Aron, and rekindle our relationship for me as well. I was very happy when we were together. We had a spark and I wanted to see if that was still there. I really hope that you can understand the reasons behind my choice and support it. Please give Aron another opportunity like I did."

Jina was shocked beyond what she anticipated when she heard that Aron was in poor health when he helped her. She was a woman whose bark was worse than her bite. Although she had a nonchalant

expression on her face, she couldn't help caring about Aron's health. So she asked with hesitation,

"So... How is everything with him? Has he recovered completely now?"

No matter what had happened in the past, it could not alter the fact that Aron saved Isla. She was

grateful for his opportune timing of helping Isla out of politeness.

"He has almost recovered." Isla answered in a calm tone, "Mom, I have had a discussion with Aron. We

are planning to invite you to dinner tomorrow. Could you please oblige us and have the dinner with us?

I will be ever grateful. Please come even if it is just for my sake."

Isla held Jina's hands, and asked like a spoiled child. At first, Jina hesitated, but finally she gave in and

nodded her head. "Fine, I will attend this dinner in a bid to thank him for saving you. You will decide the

place, won't you?"

"Thank you, dear mom. I appreciate this." Isla kissed Jina on her face with happiness, "So I will share

the good news with Aron."

Isla was ecstatic to go upstairs to give Aron a call. She exhorted Aron again and again to behave well

in front of her mother. Although Jina agreed to meet Aron, she could never accept Aron Gu from her

heart.

## Chapter 302 I Can't Let It Go

Coincidentally, Aron was going to meet Isla's parents at Fu Ji Restaurant today. Sam and his parents arrived at Fu Ji Restaurant first, followed by Chris and Gary. Autumn and Charles arrived at around 6 pm and they were the last.

"Charles, " Chris greeted while standing up first, as Charles and Autumn entered the compartment. She walked up to them, took Autumn's hand and sat her down next to herself. She was so nervous that she wanted to sit beside Autumn.

"Take a seat here, " Jamie said to Charles. Jane sat beside Jamie, silently. Perhaps she was worried that Charles might still be blaming her for her rude behavior towards Autumn the other day. She remained silent because she was afraid that she would say something wrong and destroy Sam's marriage to Chris.

As Sam had already ordered the food, they started to eat in a merry atmosphere. Charles drank with Jamie and they had a pleasant conversation. They almost finished their meal, but no one had mentioned anything about the wedding. Jane was starting to lose her patience.

"Don't forget why we came here, " Jane reminded Jamie in a low voice, pulling his sleeve with



hesitation.

"I know," Jamie nodded at her. "Mr. Lu, we came here to discuss Sam's marriage with Chris. I want to know your thoughts on the matter. If you agree, we can begin with preparations for their wedding. We have planned to fix their wedding ceremony next spring. What do you think?" Jamie said to Charles.

Sam's parents stared at the Lu family nervously. They feared that the Lu family might oppose to Chris and Sam's wedding, because of Jane's offensive behavior towards Autumn.

"Sam is our only son. When they get married, we'll treat Chris as our own daughter. We'll try to meet all your expectations," Jane added hurriedly.

"I consent to their union," Charles responded. "Now that Chris loves him, we will support her decision. You can take charge of their wedding affairs."

"I'm on the same page with Charles," Gary laughed with delight. "I'm old now, so I won't be of any help to you, but you can discuss the wedding matters with Chris." novelbin

In general, their meeting went smoothly. Chris acted in an amiable and sensible manner. When she heard what Charles and Gary had said, she felt very relieved.

On the contrary, back to Isla, things didn't go so well. Aron had come alone, without his grandparents

there. There were only four people in the spacious compartment, including Isla, her parents and Aron.

Aron waited for the Zhao family for half an hour in the compartment. Isla had urged Jina to leave home early, but it seemed like she was trying to be late on purpose.

"Sorry, we're late, " Isla said to Aron, as she and her parents entered the compartment. John nodded at Aron, while Jina wore a grim look on her face; she didn't even greet him.

"It's okay. Please take a seat, " Aron said, getting up. Aron was in a haste to pull the chair for Jina. After she sat down, he did the same for Isla. "Aunt, Isla, here is the menu. Please order whatever you like."

He turned to Jina and Isla, handing the menu to them.

Jina read the menu for a long time, and she saw that the food there was expensive. As she was still cross with Aron, she ordered the most expensive dishes. "Mom, that's enough. The four of us can't eat so much, " Isla advised Jina, as she noticed the price of the dishes Jina had ordered.

"I'm not done yet, " Jina replied, staring at Isla with dissatisfaction. "You haven't married him yet. Are you trying to save money for him now?"

"Mom..." Isla muttered as her cheeks reddened. 'I didn't mean it, ' thought Isla to herself.

"It's okay, Isla, " said Aron. He then turned to Jina and said, "Aunt, please feel free to order whatever you like."

Jina's heart gladdened when she heard Aron's words. She ordered several dishes before putting the menu back on the table. "I heard from Isla that you had a gastric perforation. Wine isn't good for your health. Just order some corn juice, " Jina said with a frown before John could reply, when Aron asked John if he would like some wine.

"Corn juice is fine, " John followed with a smile.

Isla and Aron rejoiced at Jina's words. At least Jina cared about Aron, which meant that Jina might also agree to their being together now.

After finishing the orders, Aron poured a cup of hot tea for each of them. "Aunt, please have some tea, " he said to Jina respectfully.

"Yeah, " Jina responded coldly. "Isla told me about what had happened that day. As her mother, I appreciate what you've done for her, even when you were in poor health. I agreed to dine with you because I wanted to thank you in person, " she continued with a serious look.

"Aunt Jane, please don't be so formal with me. I just did what I thought was right, " Aron returned

humbly. Aron had always treated Isla's parents in a humble manner. 'After all, I was the one to abandon

Isla first. I owe it to them. It's natural for them to be upset with me, ' he thought.

"But..." Jina raised her voice. "Although we are grateful to you, we'll never allow you to be with Isla

again, " she said in a firm tone after a moment's pause.

"Mom..." Isla turned to Jina with an embarrassed look, pulling Jina's sleeve in an attempt to stop her.

"Everyone thought that you were going to marry Becky, but suddenly you've decided to get back with

Isla. Don't you find that a bit concerning?" Jina continued as she shook off Isla's hand.

Isla almost lost her temper when she heard Jina's words. Aron gave her a quick glance and hinted at

her to compose herself. In fact, he was ready to be scolded by Jina.

"Aunt Jina, you're right. Isla is a good girl, " Aron returned calmly. "But I'm done with Becky. Isla has

always been the one I love truly. I swear that I'll treat her with love and care no matter what happens.

Please give me one more chance, " Aron pleaded.

"Give you one more chance?" Jina sneered. "We had already given you a chance, but you wasted it."

After a pause, she continued, "When your grandma got hurt, Isla had suffered a lot of humiliation. I

can't let that go."

### Chapter 303 Are You Crazy

"Mother, his grandmother has already apologized. She didn't mean to be unkind. Becky said that I seduced Aron and incited her to go to my office. Her judgement was clouded by Becky's flattery and made-up stories," Isla explained eagerly about the unpleasant incident. However, it seemed as if Jina wasn't listening to her at all. In fact, she didn't believe Isla; she thought Isla was lying.

Aron smiled as he said, "I am sorry for what Isla had to go through because of my grandmother. I should have told her that I trusted her and supported her. Aunt Jina, you can put a hit out on me or shout at me if you want. Whatever you want done with me, I will accept it. All I am asking for is your permission for taking care of Isla from now on."

Aron paused for a fraction of a second and then continued, "My grandmother told me the truth as soon as she woke up. Becky is a scheming woman. She has apologized to Isla personally the moment she found out about that. If you're not willing to let that go, I will do whatever you ask of me, "

Said Aron, as he stared at Jina with imploring eyes. Jina furrowed her eyebrows because Aron's polite attitude had caught her off guard. It was hard to say no to a gentleman like Aron. Jina didn't mind being his mother-in-law. Her resolution to object to Aron and Isla's relationship began to stagger. However,

the fact that Isla had suffered a lot and had been unhappy all these years made Jina headstrong about objecting to their union. Aron was the one who abandoned Isla, so he should be the one to make efforts to win her back.

Jina took a sip of water while she was thinking about how to punish Aron for Isla's hardships.

Before their conversation could continue, the waitress came in to serve the dishes.

As they had the supper, Aron occasionally put some food and soup into Jina's bowls. Jina's dissent was slowly driven away by Aron's consideration, bit by bit.

When they finished eating, Aron asked gently, "Aunt, would you like some dessert or something else?"

"No, " Jina sighed and said, "I am full. There is no need to waste money. It's not easy for you, youngsters to earn money."

She had already ordered quite a lot of dishes to air her anger at him. Usually she would order just the right amount of food needed. There was no use in wasting food as well as money.

Hearing Jina's words, Aron turned to John and expressed his regret, "Uncle, I am sorry I haven't been well in the past few days, so I didn't have a drink with you. When I recover, I will surely meet you for a

drink."

"That's okay, " replied John, smiling. It seemed like he had let go of all the negativity from before.

Men were easy to change their attitude towards a person even just after a drink or a cigarette together.

John seldom spoke when they were having supper, but he kept a watchful eye on Aron. No matter how

aggressive Jina was, he didn't look impatient. The way he endured Jina's treatment showed just how

much he loved Isla.

John felt greatly relieved by Aron's endeavor, so he agreed to give his beloved daughter's hand to Aron

from the bottom of his heart.

He muttered under his breath, 'Since Isla loves Aron, I will allow them to be together.'

"A toast?" Jina stared at John with obvious discontent and said, "Drinking is not good for your health.

Even when you regain your health, make sure to drink as little alcohol as possible."

"Okay." Aron said with a nod.

Jina finally got past all the unpleasant memories after seeing such obedience in Aron, although she

remained a little skeptical.

After careful consideration, Jina made up her mind to test Aron's sincerity.

After taking a sip of water from her cup she asked him, "Have you made up your mind about being with Isla?"

"Yes!" said Aron firmly, "Aunt Jina, I would like to be Isla's boyfriend and I hope that you will give us your blessing. Whatever you want me to do, I will do it. I will do as you ask." "

I didn't force you into anything. This is your declaration and I hope that you can keep your promise," said Jina with a sneer, "My request is very easy. Have all your property transferred into Isla's name. I mean your car, your house and your shares in your company. If you do that, I will have no objections with your relationship."

"What! Mother, are you crazy?" Before Aron could reply, Isla pre-empted him. She cried to her mother,

"Mother, I love him and not his money. Why would you even say something like that? "

Tears of frustration welled up in her eyes. Isla was worried that Aron would misunderstand her motives.

She loved Aron, just the person, not his money.

"Aron, what she said is not true. I don't want any of those!" said Isla, gripping Aron's hand when she

failed to read his eyes. Aron hesitated for a while and then asked, "Isla, I want to have a private talk



with your parents. Could you wait outside for some time?"

"No!" Isla replied with her eyebrows furrowed, "There's nothing more to talk about! Mother, I will be with

Aron whether you agree or not. If you insist on belittling me like this, you will lose me forever. I won't call you mother anymore."

Isla could feel the tears ready to burst out of her eyes. She was about to storm out of the room when

Aron stopped her. He gave Isla a hard pull, and urged her to stay. Jina replied to Isla unhappily, "You ungrateful girl! What I've asked for, is for you own good, right?"

"Isla, calm down. Stop acting like a baby!" Aron looked emotionless so it was hard to tell what he was thinking about. He gave Isla a pat on the shoulder and comforted her. "Give us a minute. It's okay."

"But..." Isla was persuaded by Aron's calmness, even though she was worried that her mother would make things difficult for them.

"What are you worried about? Am I a man-eating monster?" Jina scolded stiffly, "Aron hasn't refused my proposal, has he? Why are you so anxious?"

"Isla, you'd better get some air." John came in to mediate between them, "Don't worry. I am here. I will

help persuade your mother."

Aron persevered in a private talk. Isla finally compromised and left them to talk.

Isla's eyes were swelling up, so she went to the bathroom to wash her face and calm down. She wasn't

expecting to run into Autumn. Both of them stood there in amazement. As soon as they got over their

shock, they said in chorus, "What are you doing here?"

Autumn told Isla that she was here to discuss Chris and Sam's wedding with his family. Then she

smiled at Isla and said, "What about you? What are you doing here?"

"I..." Isla opened her mouth to speak, but before she could, the tears from her eyes streamed down her

face. She had a grievance against her mother. She thought to herself, 'Why do Aron and I have to deal

with such things all the time?

Four years ago, Becky came in between us; four years later, my mother is stepping in to keep us apart.'

"What has happened? Why are you crying?" Autumn was surprised to see Isla weeping. She comforted

Isla, but she needed to know what had happened.

Isla didn't restrain her sadness, because Autumn was her best friend. Within a second she was in

Autumn's arms, crying her heart out.

Autumn knew something bad had happened. The important thing right now was to wait until Isla stopped crying. After Isla stopped weeping and started to calm down, Autumn asked, "Will you tell me what has happened now?"

Autumn didn't force Isla to give a reply. She led Isla to the hall, seated her on the sofa, and asked a glass of water for her before she continued, "Why are you so sad? Did Aron do something wrong? Has he done something to make you unhappy?"

"No..." Isla hesitated for a second as she held the hot, disposable glass. Then she finally made a clean breast of the details about their meeting and complained, "Autumn, in your opinion, why did my mother do that? Is she so unhappy about my relationship with Aron? Her behavior ... has put me in a difficult situation with Aron."

Chapter 304 Not The Company's Shares

"Why are you being so upset over this?" Autumn was amused by Isla and said to her, "Don't you trust Aron?"

"No, I..." Isla was muddled by Autumn's question, she asked herself whether she really doubted Aron's ability to solve the problem.

The answer was, yes.

She didn't trust Aron from the beginning up to the end.

She kept saying that she believed in Aron's words, but in fact, from four years ago to the present day, she never really believed in his words.

It was the truth four years ago, and it would still be the truth four years later.

May be it was just as the old saying had suggested, "a bystander is always clear-minded". Autumn could clearly see what Isla's problem was. Isla never really trusted Aron from the beginning, up until the end.

"It's not that I don't trust him. It's... How do I say it?" Isla thought that Jina's conditions were quite excessive. She was afraid that after all the problems they had gone through to be together again, their hardships will have been in vain because of Jina.

"Autumn, It is so hard for me and Aron to come to this. From the moment I found out that he came to me even though he had stomach perforation, I've realized that he is the most important person in my entire life. I could never be with another guy, because no matter who I'm with, Aron would always be in my heart." This was the first time Isla had spoken about her feelings for Aron to another person, "But

you are right, I don't trust him, maybe it was because I don't trust myself. I always feel that a person as good as him would not even take a look at a Cinderella like me."

"You just think too much, " Autumn said straight to Isla's face and then continued, "What did you tell me when I was with Charles, why would it not workout the same way for you?"

"I..." You can never know how a person really feels unless you try walking a mile in their shoes.

Autumn understood Isla's hesitation, so she tried to comfort her, "Relax, Aron is a person worthy of your trust for life. You can wait and see. He will certainly handle this matter responsibly."

"Really?" Isla was asking Autumn, but also herself.

Aron sending Isla away with an excuse was actually for him to discuss this matter with his parents.

Aron asked Isla to go out for a while because she was getting very emotional.

"Since Isla has left, what did you want to speak about?" Jina sat up straight in a leading posture and asked Aron in front of her.

In truth, it didn't matter whether Aron would transfer his assets to Isla's name, she just wanted to test his attitude.

"Uncle John, Aunt Jina, a lot of things have happened in the past. I know that you've doubted my feelings for Isla, but now that I'm here, I'd like to talk about it with you." Aron frowned and told them how he was set up by Becky four years ago; he pushed himself to confess everything to the parents of the Zhao family. He paused for a moment and then said to them, "I'm not telling you this to escape from my responsibility, but I feel that... You have the right to know the truth. It's not that I didn't love Isla, but there was too much thing between us that we couldn't control."

John could not believe it when he heard this from Aron, according to his recollection Becky was a good person. He couldn't believe that a good girl like Becky could do such horrid things.

He frowned slightly and said to Aron in front of him, "Since it's already happened once, how can you guarantee that Becky won't try it again?"

John sighed and then continued, "We are just worried because Isla has suffered too much because of this. She got used to hiding the pain in her heart no matter what happened. As her parents, we just don't want her to suffer anymore."

"I understand what you are concerned about, but that is why I am here today, to solve this problem."

Aron smile and kept going on, " I have made things clear with Becky, I promise to protect Isla if she

continues to disturb her. I would not let her suffer more. I just asked Aunt Jina how to believe that I am serious about Isla, and she gave me some advice. If this can really give you confidence, then I will do it."

"You... What did you say?" Hearing what Aron said, Jina was too hard to believe, " Are you really willing to do this?"

"Yes, I do." Aron said humbly, "I have two real-estates in Y City, one of them I want to leave to my grandparents, but the other one, I am willing to transfer its ownership to Isla's name as soon as you want me to."

"As for cars and company stocks, I can give them to Isla as long as you will allow me to marry your daughter." Aron said it sincerely, so that John and Jina would trust him.

They looked at each other with a little hesitation, then Jina asked Aron, "Will your... grandparents allow this?"

"This is my own business, so I don't need their consent." Aron said gently, "When is it convenient for you? Let's finish the procedures together, so that I can bring my grandparents over to your house and

talk about the wedding. "

"It's just..." Aron hesitated for a moment, and then he said to them, "Uncle John, Aunt Jina, I don't have any problems giving everything to Isla, except for... the company's shares."

Looking at their concerned faces, Aron hastily explained, "It's not that I don't want to give her the shares, it's..."

Aron also had his own reasons. Although the company was operated by him, he was not the sole proprietor. When Mike and Joanna transferred their shares to Aron, it aroused great discontent from Aron's uncle's family. If Aron were to transfer his shares to Isla, his cousin would do everything in his power to destroy him.

After listening to Aron's explanation, Jina sighed and said, "You don't have it easy either."

She continued, "To tell you the truth, we don't really want anything from you. I just want to see how far you are willing to go for Isla. Now it looks like... Isla's dad and I can finally be at peace."

Jina laughed and continued, "But I have to warn you that if you let Isla suffer in the future, I will never let you go."

"Please rest assured, your daughter's happiness is in my hands, " Aron answered happily.



## Chapter 305 Confession

Aron and Isla's parents left the compartment, looking quite satisfied. Meanwhile, Aron was surprised to see Autumn and Isla sitting together. "Hey, Autumn. What brings you here?" he asked.

"Hey, Aron, " Autumn said, standing up.

"I happened to meet Isla while I'm dining here. We just had a chat for a bit.

Are you guys heading out now?"

"Yeah, " Aron answered with a smile.

"Thank you for keeping her company today. I appreciate it, " he continued, noticing Isla's plump reddened eyes.

"No worries, " Autumn replied.

"Bye, Isla!"

Isla nodded, smiling back at her friend. She couldn't help but feel uneasy after Autumn left. Curious as she was, she couldn't just ask Sam what had happened after she left the compartment in front of Jina and John.

"Aron, your uncle and I are going to drop by the supermarket to buy something. Take Isla to her

apartment, will you?"

Jina asked, looking at Isla.

"I will, Aunt, " Aron replied with a warm smile on his face.

After paying the bill, he noticed that Jina and John had already left. "There's a park nearby. Shall we take a walk?" he proposed, taking Isla by the hand.

Isla nodded her head in approval as she held Aron's hand. Bombarded by her thoughts, she decided to ask him a question.

"Did you agree to my mother's proposal?" "I did, " Aron replied.

"What?! Are you out of your mind?!" she exclaimed, looking at Aron in anger.

"Why did you do that?"

"Don't you think it's unreasonable?"

"I don't think it's unreasonable at all, " Aron replied calmly.

"Here's the thing. I've already spoken to your parents and they gave us the blessing for our marriage.

But I think there are still some problems between us that we should be able to resolve, " he continued,

holding Isla's hands as they sat on the bench.

"Don't get me wrong. I just feel that you don't have much faith in me.

Even your parents trust me more than you do, " he hurriedly tried to explain as he captured a hint of concern flashing across Isla's face.

She just stared at Aron in return, remaining silent.

"Four years had passed. But you have always been the one that I've loved. I have no doubts about it. I

will stay faithful no matter what you say or do to me. But I don't think you feel the same way. I just want to be able to talk about this so this doesn't put a strain on our relationship, "

He confessed, hoping that they could fix their problem.

"Autumn actually spoke to me about this, " Isla said with a bitter smile.

"I don't really know why I can't fully trust you. Perhaps it's because I don't really have much confidence in myself."

"I don't understand.

Why do you say so?" Aron asked, clearly dumbfounded.

"Look at you. You're a well-established man. You have everything in life you could ask for. How can you

possibly fall in love with someone like me?" Isla confessed, unable to look him straight in the eye. "I

guess I've always seen myself as inferior when I'm next to you. This is why I choose to leave when

Becky came into the picture."

She was more than willing to have a discussion with Aron, relieved to finally get the truth off her chest.

She knew they had to talk about this sooner or later. Otherwise, it might cause further damage to their relationship.

Aron didn't initially know how to respond, surprised to hear what Isla said. This had never crossed his mind.

After a few moments of hesitation, he decided to ask her a question. "Isla, do you know how Autumn and I got to know each other?"

"Not really, " she replied.

Autumn had slightly hinted about the history of their acquaintance, but she had always been ignorant of the details.

"Yvonne is my half-sister, "

Aron revealed, discomfort painting his face.

Shocked by his admission, Isla stared blankly at Aron as she realized that it must be difficult to hear what he was going to say next.

"My mother was Simon's rightful wife. He had nothing at that time so my grandparents opposed her decision when she decided to marry Simon. But despite everything, my mother still married him," Aron paused, collecting his thoughts.

"My mother initially managed the company by herself, supporting the company on her own. Simon betrayed her by having an affair with Wendy when the company's operations got better. This had a huge impact on my mother which led to her death soon after she gave birth. This was something that had stayed with me ever since," he explained with a sigh.

Isla felt incredibly sorry for Aron. She held his hand, not knowing how to console him.

It might have happened a long time ago, but she could sense in his tone how it had truly devastated him.

"I never got the chance to meet my mom. But my grandparents told me that she was an amazing woman. Simon immediately brought Wendy home upon her death. I had lived such a tough life from

that day on. Wendy even framed me, accusing me of stealing her things. After some time, my grandparents took me abroad. Things had been less hard for me ever since I moved, " he went on.

"Aron..."

Isla tried to comfort Aron, holding onto his hand.

"It's fine. It happened such a long time ago, " Aron said, trying to reassure her.

"My grandparents had treated me very well. But my aunt and uncle didn't like me very much. They thought I would take away their son's inheritance. So they urged my grandparents to send me away.

Fortunately, my grandparents paid them no attention.

That's why I am so grateful to my grandparents. I will never abandon them no matter what happens, "

he said, smiling as he continued.

"My grandpa was able to transfer his share to me when I turned eighteen. I've become the General Manager of the company ever since then. Because of that, my uncle had a fight with my grandparents.

I even remember him threatening to disown them."

"What happened ever since then?"

Isla asked, concern apparent on her face as she held Aron's hands.

"Later on, I was able to bring the company great benefits. Shareholders started to speak highly of me.

My aunt and uncle stopped giving me a hard time but they were still after my position. Others may be

jealous of my life but the truth is, I still think I'm not lucky as you are, " Aron said, smiling as she looked

at Isla.

"No matter what your parents do, they do it for your sake and they won't let others bully you. Just look

at my father..."

He said, trailing off mid-sentence as he smiled bitterly to himself.

Chapter 306 Meet Rachel Again

"So Isla you don't have to belittle yourself or even bring your own self down. Every family has its

skeletons in the closet. I love you, because of your kindness and sincerity. No one could replace you.

Do you understand me?" Aron said firmly yet gently while holding Isla by her shoulders. "Yes, I

understand now, " responded Isla, finally enlightened.

"Aron, no matter what happens in the future, I know that you can handle it."

"Yes, it seems that you have come round now, " said Aron, letting out a sigh of relief. He grinned,

feeling relieved seeing that Isla is no longer emotionally crippled. As soon as he sent Isla back, Aron

began to negotiate with his grandparents their meeting with Isla's parents.

"Have you made up your mind? You should be clear about everything this time, " said Joanna. Though

Joanna and Mike did not show any disapproval, they reminded Aron to think twice before making such

a big decision. After all marriage is one of the most important events in a man's life. Aron was no

exception. That big wedding fiasco with Becky had left a very bad taste in the mouth for Joanna and

Mike so much that the fear still lingered.

"Yes, I have thought about it for a long time. I know what I am doing." Aron replied to reassure his

grandparents. "I choose Isla to be the one I will spend the rest of my life with. It feels right this time. I

know that this is the best decision I have made my entire life. That's why I am going to need your

support.

"Very well. If that is where you stand then we will be 100% behind you on this. Like we always say, you

are a grown man now and you are entitled to your own decisions. We trust your sound judgement. We

have interfered with your love life before, and it brought you nothing but pain and agony. It almost killed

your grandmother! But..." Saying this, Mike furrowed his eye brows and paused.



"What, grandpa?" Aron knew that when this happened, his grandparents were about to say something really important.

"Aron, your uncle is coming back soon, " said Joanna. Joanna looked at Aron worryingly and continued, "Aron, you have been living with us for so many years and your uncle is not happy about it.

He thinks that we have paid too much attention to you or even spoiled you. That is why he doesn't want you to change your surname to your mother's. I am afraid that he'd give you trouble. So you should watch out."

"Yes, he is your uncle but he is also my son. Your grandma and I are no longer young. We are too old to poke our noses into your uncle's business. Anyway, you have to take care of yourself. I am worried about you, but we could do nothing to help you. The time will come when your grandpa and I will also have to leave this earth. Aron, you must understand us." Joanna and Mike couldn't help but feel sad that they were helpless in this situation. They should be living a peaceful and happy retirement.

Instead, their son married a vicious woman who was ready to give them hell. Had they foreseen that, they would have stopped their son from getting married to that woman. But it was too late.

Nothing they could do can turn back the time.. Nor could they do anything to fix the situation.

"Don't worry, grandma. I will take care of it. I know how to handle it." Though Aron was as helpless as they were when he heard this news, he had to accept it and figure out a way to deal with it.

He knew very well that he was about to face much trouble in the days to come.

"But if he is going to give you a hard time, you have to tell us. We won't just stand by and do nothing."

Joanna let out a sigh and then went on, "It is my fault. All our children married the wrong person. You mother shouldn't have married Simon and I didn't expect that he would betray her. Your uncle also married a vicious woman who has caused a turmoil within the family."

"Grandma, that's not your fault. You shouldn't blame yourself for that." Aron put his arms around his grandmother to comfort her. "It is late, grandma. You should go to bed and have a good rest. I will take care of all this. Don't worry."

"I will. Thank you my dear boy." When his grandparents went back to their bedroom, Aron went to his study room to resume and catch up on unfinished work. It was time for him to deal with it since he had be gone for quite a while.

Aron would not be intimidated by his uncle who was coming back soon. He didn't want to get his

grandparents to be caught in the middle of another major family drama. They were now too old to go through such torment.

The next day morning, when Autumn got up, she found Charles had already gone to work. He had been busy with his work these days and always went off in the early morning, not returning till late at night. Even if he came back early, he would only keep himself inside his office to work some more.

They hadn't had a good conversation in a long time.

But he had no choice since the company had gone through a serious speed bump. Though Charles always said that the cooperation with Light House Company was of no great importance, Autumn knew that he was under great pressure. However, Charles never complained about it to Autumn since he didn't want Autumn to worry.

"Autumn, the Giant Promise Company has made a remittance. Shall we discuss about the suitable venue today?" Now that Isla had cleared the air with Aron, she had become very cheerful. Taking a look at her arrangement, Autumn nodded slightly. "Okay, wait for a moment. Let's go somewhere nice after I send this email." replied Autumn.

"Okay. I will wait for you then." Isla nodded and sat down, waiting for her.

"How's it going? Did yesterday go well?" Autumn asked with a grin.

"Yes. We have handled it properly, " replied Isla. She blushed out of embarrassment and then went on to add, "I am really sorry. Please don't laugh at me."

"Hey, Isla. Don't say that! You are my best friend. Never regard me as an outsider." With a soft smile, Autumn reassured her.

When Autumn was ready, they headed off to an up and coming guest house. Giant Promise Company was going to hold a new product press conference here. Though it was a little bit far from the downtown area, it had beautiful natural surroundings. However, as Autumn and Isla arrived, they ran into Rachel.

She was dressed in a white skirt, looking very conspicuous. Though she wore sunglasses, she also saw Autumn immediately. With a sly smile, she rushed up and greeted her. "Wow, Autumn, you are also here. What a coincidence!"

Rachel took the initiative to greet Autumn first. Though Autumn wasn't very happy to see her, she did not intend to make a scene in public, so she also greeted her, "Hi! Shouldn't you be staying at home,

preparing for your wedding? What are you doing here?"

"Yes, my wedding is coming soon. But I still have to work. Don't you think so? Do you like this place?"

"Isn't it very beautiful?" Rachel gave a big smile. "I fell in love with this place when I came up here for the first time. It is very beautiful, isn't it?"

"Yes, it is beautiful." Though it was out-of-the-way, the place offered breathtaking views and a high-grade quality of service. Many celebrities would come here to spend the weekend with their families. It had become so popular that people had to book the rooms in advance.

Rachel had her nose in air and pretended not to know anything. Rachel smirked and said to Autumn,

"You could bring Charles here to spend a holiday. I will give you a discount."

She laughed grimly at Autumn who looked confused and then continued to explain, "Well, I almost forgot to tell you that this hotel used to belong to Edward. Now that we are going to get married, he transferred it to me. It's his wedding gift for me. Though I told him that there's no need for him to do that, he still went through the formalities secretly."

She giggled as she said this, which made Isla stare at her.

"Really?" Autumn smiled faintly as she heard what Rachel said. "It seems that he really loves you."

Then you have to cherish him and never do anything that you would regret." added Autumn.

"Of course, I will cherish him. And I won't do anything that I would regret." Rachel shot back. Rachel smiled and said, "I have considered this for a long time. Though I am a famous star now, I will get old someday, so it is a better choice for me to have my own business. I have posted out this news on my Facebook account and many people come here to spend the weekend. I am so happy."

"Well, then congratulations!" Autumn replied, still indifferently. She had an unfathomable premonition that Rachel would not leave the matter at that and she would definitely do something sinister.

"Well, why are you here today?" After she showing off her new wealth, Rachel finally asked the purpose of Autumn's coming. "If you are here to book a room, then regrettably, I can't help you. There is no room available now and the rooms have been booked from now until several days later. You can call me next time and I will reserve a room for you, then there is no need for you to come here in person."

Chapter 307 Why Are You So Mean

"Well, okay. But we did not come to check in, " Autumn said coolly. She had already known that the hotel was owned by Rachel at the moment, making it impossible for her to want to stay there for even a

night.

"Well, what you are here for then?" Rachel asked, looking confused.

"Here is the thing." One has to be humble when trapped in an inferior situation. Autumn had no choice but to explain it to Rachel. "You might have known that there will be a launch event here by the Giant Promise Company. We are here for a preview of this venue today. We have to make the preparations for the stage backdrop and other relevant things. Could you please take us there?"

"I'm afraid not." Rachel turned Autumn down without even thinking, which got on Isla's nerves at once,

"What did you mean by no? Are you being difficult with us right now?" Isla said stepping forward towards Rachel.

"Isla." Autumn caught hold of Isla's hand, giving a sign to calm her down. Afterwards, she said to Rachel, "Miss Bai, could you explain more on what you said just now?"

The Giant Promise Company has paid the deposit to the hotel for the reservation. Are you trying to scrap the contract by preventing us to evaluate the site now?"

"Please calm down." With a slight smile on her face, Rachel continued, "The Giant Promise Company is a key client in this hotel. The last thing we would do is to displease them, isn't it?"

"Then why are you turning us down right now?"

"Miss Ye, I know there have been some misunderstandings between you and me before. But those things had passed, which I hope would not be distractions in the future between us. Don't you agree?"

What Rachel had just said only confused Autumn even more. Autumn could do nothing but keep her cool.

"The truth is that." With a smile on her face, Rachel said slowly, "As you know, I have taken over the hotel not long ago. So the decorations in the rooms remain as they are originally, which were done by the previous stylist. After all, we don't want to cause any delay to the guests' accommodation. That was why I have taken over the hotel without making any big changes. However, for the assembly hall....."

With a quick pause, Rachel continued, "It was Edward who used to take care of the hotel. So, as you can see, the style here is outdated for me. So I decided to redecorate it starting with the assembly hall..... It's being re-decorated right now. How could I show you around inside where it is such a mess at the moment? Letting you do the measurement inside would just stress you out."

"But....." Frowning slightly, Autumn had known that it would not go that easy. "What we need here is



just to get the size of the stage. It won't take us long. We will come out as soon as we could."

"No way!" answered Rachel firmly. "Miss Ye, I know it is your job to do that. I don't mean to be hard on you. But the stage inside had been demolished already. If you go inside... there will be nothing you can do. It's being painted by the way."

Before Autumn could say a word, Rachel preemptively said, "And you have nothing to worry about, with the decoration. The materials we are using for the decoration are the most environmentally friendly. It will definitely not create any issue in the coming launch event."

"Such a coincidence that it has to be redecorated today. Did you do it on purpose?" Isla did not like Rachel at the first sight. She had a strong feeling that Rachel was hiding the truth. What Rachel was doing was to stop them from doing the measurements.

"How could that be....." Pretending to be helpless, Rachel looked at Isla. "There is no doubt that we businesspeople want to increase our revenue. And we achieve it by improving our service. That is why we have planned the redecoration before. It is really... It hasn't been long since I have taken over this job. I did not know about the launch event taking place in the assembly hall until yesterday. However, the redecorating has already begun. I am really sorry for that."

"I don't think you really are. You are just being mean to us." Isla no longer wanted to hide her anger.

"Then how long will it take to finish the re-decoration?" Autumn was more calm than Isla. Though it was clear that Rachel was just being hard on them, there was nothing she could do. On the other hand, she knew it was of no help to fall out over this.

"Do not worry. I will keep an eye on the decorations and make sure that the workers finish the job on time. Well, it will take... almost half a month at least, " Rachel said dryly.

"Half a month? Are you kidding us?" The last thing Isla could do at the moment was to calm down. It was less than a month before the launch event. If the preparations for the stage backdrop and other relevant things weren't started as soon as possible, it would be impossible to finish it on time.

"I know there is not much time left. But unfortunately I couldn't help with that." Rachel said matter-of-factly. "And I will try my best to push the workers to work fast. Besides, someone will be sent to inform you as soon as the redecoration is finished."

With things as such, Autumn thought she'd better stay quiet. There seemed nothing she could do but to roll with the situation. It was totally bad luck to be stuck with Rachel on something like this.

Giving a glance at Rachel, Autumn said, "Miss Bai, then please inform me once the re-decoration work is done. Because we are really pressed for time."

"I understand. Don't worry about that." answered Rachel, nodding slightly. "I'm very sorry to let you down today. Your coming here was in vain."

"Pay no mind to it." Autumn tried her best to repress her anger and said their goodbyes. At the sight of them leaving, Rachel sneered, "Autumn Ye, the game has just begun. I will be watching when you separate from Charles forever. No one could ever touch what has already been in my hand."

"Autumn, are you going to let her get away with this?" The moment they got into the car, Isla couldn't help asking Autumn directly. "Rachel is deliberately being difficult to you. How could you act so polite to her?"

"What do you think? Do you think I have any other choice?" How could Autumn not feel the same way as Isla? But Autumn just could not come up with any other solution at that time. It was Rachel who had the upper hand this time. Autumn just knew, that Rachel would create trouble for her. "Of course I know that she did it on purpose. But there's nothing we can do, is there?"

With a sigh, Autumn said, "We can only hope that Rachel doesn't go too far with it. Otherwise, if the

preparation cannot be started on time after half a month, it will definitely be delayed."

They had no other choice.

"Come on, don't be upset any longer." "Let's get ready with what we can do first. As for the stage

backdrop..... let the stylist take his time to do the research on materials. And once we get the

dimensions of the stage, we'll work really hard to finish it, even if we work overtime. Three days might

be enough if we outsource it." Autumn tried to cheer Isla up.

"It seems to be the only way....." Isla nearly chimed in with Autumn. Both of them were upset by

Rachel.

It was weekend the next day, Autumn got up late that morning. And Isla was getting ready to go to her

hometown.

"Dad, Mom, are you ready now? Why didn't you have your things packed up earlier, knowing that we

set off today?" Isla said disapprovingly to her parents, who were frantically packing.

Chapter 308 Back To The Hometown (Part One)

"Don't push me!" Jina retorted, giving her daughter, Isla a dissatisfied glance. "We have lived here,

away from home for a long time. Do you think it's proper for us to return empty handed? Without

bringing our relatives any presents? That is unthinkable. Besides, we are going back to our hometown to celebrate your grandma's birthday. It's important to please her and honor her. Also, there is someone else who hasn't come yet. What's the hurry?"

"Huh? What do you mean? We are all here. Who else is coming?" Isla asked. 'Mom and dad are here.

Of course I'm here! Why did she say that?' Isla wondered.

"You'll know it soon enough, " Jina replied with a playful smile on her face. She turned around and returned to pack up their luggage.

Isla couldn't rest her mind, thinking about what her mother said. Right at that time, the doorbell rang.

She went to the door and opened it; there was Aron standing with a bright smile. "Aron! What are you doing here? Didn't I tell you that I was going to return to my hometown with my parents?" Isla wasn't very pleased.

"Is Aron coming in, Isla?" Jina asked, quickly walking towards the two. "Come in Aron. Glad you could make it. Isla, be a nice little lady and pour him a cup of tea. Please wait a moment. We still have many parcels to pack." Jina said to Aron with a warm smile.

"That's ok. Don't mind me." Aron returned the smile.

"Well? Why are you still here? Go get him some tea!" Jina urged, nudging Isla towards the kitchen.

After pouring Aron a cup of tea, Isla finally figured it out. "Wait... are you going to come with us?" she asked while handing the cup of tea to Aron.

"Yes, I am. Surprise!" Aron replied smiling, looking at Isla with affection.

"Mom, are you crazy? Why did you ask Aron to come with us?" Isla called out. 'Mandy had also just come back to our hometown. The relatives think that Aron would be marrying Becky. This time, her family will attend grandma's birthday. Once they see Aron, they will be pissed off.' Isla mused.

"There have already been enough our rumors. You just want to use Aron to provoke Mandy." Isla continued with dissatisfaction. "Aron, don't listen to my mom. Just go home now." Isla turned towards Aron, pushing him to leave.

'This is crazy. I can't let that happen, ' Isla told herself.

"Isla..." Aron replied tenderly, grabbing Isla's hand. "It's okay."

"Did you heard that? Even he doesn't mind it, why are you so nervous?" Jina glanced at Isla, slightly irritated at her daughter. "I just want to let those bitches know that my daughter isn't an old maid. Didn't

they laugh at you and say that you couldn't find a boyfriend? I'll tell them that my daughter is going to get married and her boyfriend is the perfect man."

Jina was a proud woman. After Becky had stolen Aron away from Isla, most of their relatives and neighbors said that Isla deserved it. After that, Mandy went back to their hometown to give out invitations. Their relatives buttered her up and spoke ill of Isla. Now Aron was finally back together with Isla. Jina couldn't wait to show everyone that her daughter was the most brilliant girl in the world and she was much better than Becky.

"But mom, it's not a good time..." Isla scowled at her mother. "Dad, do you agree on this too?" Isla turned to John for help.

'I don't need to show others my happiness.

If Aron comes with us, it will be extremely awkward for him. Many people will ask him about Becky.

Aron will feel embarrassed, and I don't want to see that, ' Isla pondered.

As John was about to speak in Isla's favor, Jina gave him a piercing glance. "Isla, your mom is right.

Now that you and Aron have decided to get married, he has to face this sooner or later. Your grandma's

birthday is a good chance for that. I am sure that she will be glad to see him." John persuaded Isla. He didn't want to displease his wife.

"Oh Dad..." Isla pouted her lips and crossed her arms.

Her last hope was Aron. "Leave now. Ignore what they said, " she turned to Aron, pushing him to the door.

"Stop!" Jina said to Isla in a commanding tone, gripping her hand tightly. "You can't let him leave, do you hear me?"

"Mom please..." Isla begged. "Why do you want him to go with us? If Aunt Mandy came back, she would go nuts!"

"So what? Let her go nuts. Peanuts, walnuts, coconuts, I don't care." Jina sneered. "Your aunt had always bragged that her daughter would marry a rich man and she always rubbed it in my face. Now it's my turn to return the favor."

"Do you naively think that your aunt wouldn't give you a hard time if we didn't bring Aron with us? It's like waiting for a white crow. Bringing Aron to our hometown is the best way for both of us. We can take this chance to make it clear to everyone. Otherwise, the lies will continue and they will keep harassing



us."

"But..." Isla said, raising her eyebrow. "It doesn't matter. I have to do this, for you." Aron interrupted Isla,

holding her hand.

"Well, don't think of it too much, " John comforted, as he walked up to Isla. "We're ready. Let's go."

Aron grabbed the luggage from Jina's hand, and helped her put the parcels and other luggage in the

trunk. "Cheer up. Your grandma will get angry if she sees you pulling a long face in front of her." Jina

said to Isla while putting her hand on Isla's shoulder gently. She couldn't help but notice Isla's worried

look.

Isla kept reassuring herself on the way. But when they arrived at her grandma's house, she was so

nervous, her hands becoming cold and sweaty.

Aron helped Jina with her parcels. They had bought lots of gifts and special products on their way.

When their neighbors noticed who had just arrived, they walked out of their homes and flooded into the

Zhao family house. Some looked at Aron's car with admiration and envy, while some stared at Jina's

clothes. Jina generously handed out presents to the neighbors, receiving many thanks and praises

from them.

#### Chapter 309 Back To The Hometown (Part Two)

"Is Isla back?" Kay asked enthusiastically. Although Isla was reluctant to speak with her, she couldn't avoid greeting her neighbor in a civil manner. "Yeah, I'm back, Kay. How have you been lately?" Isla asked, barely forcing a smile on her face.

"I've been doing all right, " replied Kay, who was well known for having a big mouth in the village. "Our Isla is such a beautiful girl. You look just like what your mother when she was about your age, " Kay praised, gripping Isla by her hand and observing her carefully.

"Do I? Thank you, " Isla replied pleasantly. "You're looking very young as well, " continued Isla.

"You always speak out pleasing words just as you did when you were a little girl, " Kay said and laughed, amused by Isla's compliments. "Isla, you will be thirty after New Year, right?" she asked.

"Yeah, " Isla answered. "I will turn thirty next year, " she continued. Upon hearing Kay mentioning her age, Isla had guessed what Kay was going to say next.

"Are you still single?" Kay asked. "I don't mean to lecture you, but for a woman, marriage and having a child are the most important things. You're not getting any younger. You should marry a good man so

that your parents won't worry about you, " she continued while taking Isla's hand, when Isla didn't respond.

"You're right. I will get married as soon as possible, " Isla returned patiently. She nodded or answered in agreement, no matter what Kay said to her. She just hoped that Kay could finish soon and leave her alone.

"Your parents have worked so hard all their lives to provide a good education for you. You should return their favor and help them to stop worrying about you. Am I right?" Kay went on as she saw Isla nodding, "I happen to know someone who is about your age. If you agree, I will arrange for you to meet him if you are satisfied with him."

She sighed, then continued, "The man is 35 and he is a carpenter with a handsome earning. Two years ago, his wife died. Now he lives alone with his son. He heard that you came home, so he asked me to inquire about you."

"I understand that it will be your first marriage, but you ought to lower your expectations, after all, you're

not very young anymore. He said he would try his best to satisfy your needs, " Kay persuaded before

Isla could respond.

Isla wasn't very young, but she was pretty and hadn't been married before. Therefore, many men in the village had asked Kay to be their matchmaker.

"Kay, I..." Isla tried to refuse. "Kay, stop winding up my daughter, that carpenter is a cripple. If you think so highly of him, you can save him for yourself. After all, you are a widow," Jina broke in before Isla finished her sentence.

"You..." Kay was so angry that she struggled to form a complete sentence. "You're such an ungrateful woman. I was just trying to help Isla. She is almost 30 and still unmarried. If she doesn't get married soon, she will be the subject of the entire village's gossip and ill-willed rumors. Can't you see that?"

"That's none of your business," Jina replied, pursing her lips. She was aware of the fact that many people in the village labeled Isla as a loose woman because she had past her best age for marriage and had still not been married yet. They thought that Isla was incapable of finding a decent husband.

Despite what the others had said, Jina was still fairly optimistic about Isla's future.

She was convinced that Isla would marry a good man sooner or later.

That's why she had asked Aron to come along with them, that way, their neighbors would stop belittling

Isla's image.

'Unlike most women in this village, my daughter must... get married to an excellent man, ' Jina thought.

"I know what you've said about Isla behind our backs. I'm warning you; you'd better stop being nosy.

Isla has a boyfriend. If you don't have anything to do, at least, you should pay more attention to your own children's affairs, " Jina warned her.

The neighbors surrounding there sunk into silence dumbfounded. As the Zhao family had lived in poverty, they were despised by the villagers. Later, Mandy had gone to the college in the city and married a rich man. People in the village had been eager to please Mandy, and meanwhile, bullied Jina. This time, Jina could stand tall before them.

"She has a boyfriend? Where is he?" Kay asked scornfully. She didn't believe Jina for one moment.

"Today is Isla's grandma's birthday, why didn't you bring him with you?"

"Why told you that he wasn't here?" Jina retorted with a cheeky smile on her face. She had been waiting for this moment.

Jina looked around, and found Aron standing around the corner carrying the gifts in his hand. "Aron,

come here, " she called, looking towards Aron.

Aron put down the bags, and shook off the dust on his hands. "Aunt Jina, what's up? There are still some gifts in the trunk, " he said after he walked up to Jina.

"Aron, I'd like to introduce you to someone. This is Kay, " Jina introduced with a gloating expression.

Jina look Aron up and down. 'He is handsome, he knows how to dress well and his car look quite expensive, ' she thought with satisfaction.

As Isla observed Jina's smug look, she suddenly understood why Jina had insisted on bring Aron here.

"Hello, Kay, " Aron greeted.

Kay gazed at Aron with jealousy. She felt a sense of deja vu, like she had seen him somewhere before.

She observed Aron discreetly. "This... is Isla's boyfriend, " Kay responded, looking embarrassed.

"Yes, he is, " Jina nodded. "Didn't you say that only a married man would be interested in Isla? See?

My daughter is an excellent girl, " Jina said proudly.

"Aunt Jina, if there isn't anything else, I will excuse myself first. I need to carry those presents from the trunk and put them in the house, " Aron said respectfully, with a charming smile.

"I will help you, " Isla followed. She finally found an excuse to get away from there. "Aron, sorry. I didn't

think that mom..." Isla apologized to Aron.

"Really, I'm cool with this. You don't need to feel sorry, " Aron reassured her with a smile.

Chapter 310 Back to the Hometown (Part Three)

"Have you seen him? Isn't my son-in-law a handsome young man? He is much better than that

carpenter, isn't he?" Jina asked Kay, putting on a smirk. "I advise you to pay more attention to yourself.

Don't bother yourself with my daughter's marriage, " Jina continued triumphantly.

Kay stared at Aron in confusion. He looked very familiar, but she couldn't recall where she had met him

before.

Jina walked away to greet other neighbors complacently. "Today is my mother's birthday. Please join us

for dinner if you're free, " she said to them, as she gave some gifts away.

'The more, the merrier, ' Jina thought to herself with delight.

"Sure!" the neighbors responded. They still looked down upon Jina, secretly, even though they took

gifts from her.

Soon Jina had finished handing out all the gifts. When she was about to go inside, she heard the

honking of car horns from a far distance. She turned around and caught sight of Becky and Mandy

inside the car.

Dressed like a highborn lady, Mandy greeted neighbors with a smile while getting out of the car. Her eyes, however, were full of contempt.

She always considered herself to be superior than the rest of them. Every time she came back, it would remind her that once she wasn't a rich lady but just a country bumpkin from the impoverished mountains.

That's why she rarely came back.

This time only Becky and Mandy showed up. Mandy's husband had only come here once; at his wedding ceremony with Mandy.

"Mom, I'll go inside first, " Becky said to Mandy. Becky had driven Mandy here. As soon as she got out of the car, she saw Aron's car and felt uncomfortable. Now she just wanted to hide and avoid being seen by somebody else.

"Wait, Becky. Come here, " Mandy stopped Becky, gesturing with her finger to come to her. Mandy was sensitive about her reputation too. Therefore, she had intended to show her daughter off to the neighbors. However, Becky walked into the house directly as if she didn't hear Mandy's words.



Mandy gave an awkward smile. However, the neighbors weren't annoyed at Becky's impolite behavior.

"Becky looks more beautiful day by day. Last time you wrote to us and called the wedding off. What happened?" someone asked.

"Well, about that..." Mandy said hesitantly, looking a little embarrassed. She didn't know what to say to them. "They delayed it for an important reason. I will inform you of their wedding ceremony later, "

Mandy explained.

"Why did you decide to postpone it all of a sudden?" the neighbor continued. "Mandy, I am telling you that you must urge Becky to get married as soon as possible. You know our traditions. See, Isla is almost 30 but she is still unmarried. You can't let Becky follow her bad example, " she advised.

"Yes, you're right. I will talk to her later, " Mandy returned. Mandy felt like she would end up spilling the beans if she stayed there. "Well... I need to see my mother. I've missed her so much. I will see you

later, tonight, " she said.

Mandy was in a haste to get inside the house. "I get it now, " Kay cried out while patting her thigh, as she looked at Mandy's back.

"Kay, what's wrong? What are you trying to say?" a few neighbors asked, as they walked up to Kay.

"I know where I have seen that man. Did you forget him? He came here with Isla four years ago. We were told that they were going to get married, " Kay said with a sneer.

"Now I remember him. At that time, they were in an intimate relationship, but then, didn't he fall in love with Becky?" a woman asked.

"I finally understood why Mandy looked awkward when we mentioned Becky's wedding. Isla stole her son-in-law, " Kay went on with a grim laughter.

"She's always trying to show off in front of us. This time she's made a fool out of herself."

"They have a complicated family relationship."

'It seems that I will... see an interesting show in their house tonight, ' Kay thought with a cheeky smile.

Becky understood that Isla must have brought Aron here. Although she tried to hide her feelings, but all her efforts were in vain, the moment she saw Aron and Isla standing in front of her hand in hand. She was fixated on their hands; clasped to each other like an unbreakable bond.

"Becky..." Isla greeted with an embarrassed expression, trying to withdraw her hand. Aron, however, tightened his grip to keep hers from pulling away. Before meeting Becky, the happy couple had carried

all the gifts and presents inside and placed them near the Christmas tree. Isla wanted to take Aron around for a walk around the village to show him the progress they had made in just the past two years.

"Here you are," Isla continued, feeling a little embarrassed still.

Becky glanced back at them shortly and walked straight past them without stopping.

She was basking in the agony of humiliation. 'Aron looks so happy with Isla. In the four years that we had been together, not once have I seen him smile like that.'

"Why did you do that?" Isla blamed, frowning at Aron. "You know that you're just going to hurt her even more. Can't you just..."

"I can't!" Aron said firmly. "I have waited for four years for this. Now I can finally hold your hand in front of everyone. Why should I let go of your hand for the sake of some insignificant person?"

After a moment's pause, Aron went on, "What if she can't get past it, like ever? Do you want me to hide my feelings in front of her forever? Does that mean that I can't hold your hand or share an intimate moment with you in her presence?"

"I don't mean that. I..." Isla muttered. 'Well, I give up. You wins, ' Isla thought.

"Come on. Didn't you say that you wanted to show me around?" Aron softened his voice.

Soon Isla walked out of the back door with Aron. Mandy was having a conversation with Jina in front of the door when Isla left; she wasn't able to see Isla before she went out with Aron.

The big lake behind their house was a sight to behold. The scenery there was absolutely breathtaking.

"Jina, I've brought two dresses for you. I hope that you will like them, " Mandy said to Jina. Mandy had married a rich man, but she was still a mean person from the heart. Every time she came back, she only brought them something she had previously used, such as her tonic or the old clothes she no longer wanted.

She never bought any of gifts for them.

Jina used to turn a blind eye to her impolite attitude, but since Becky had framed Isla, she couldn't force herself to tolerate her anymore. "No, thanks. You should keep these good clothes for yourself. I am just a simple country folk who doesn't deserve your expensive clothes. If I really need new clothes, my son-in-law will buy them for me. I don't need yours, " Jina returned with a sneer.

"You... are so ungrateful, " Mandy said with discontent.

"What's going on?" a voice crept in from behind. They looked and found Bette standing in front of them.