

Wedded Bride 331

Chapter 331 Getting Sick

"What's the matter? Why do you look so weird and mysterious?" Autumn asked with a faint smile.

Because of Isla's hesitant look, she could feel in her gut that something was wrong. She didn't show it though, trying to cover her anxiety with a smile.

In fact, she was so nervous that she had clenched her fists.

"Autumn, I will only tell you what I know. But... it will be up to you to decide whether it is the truth or not." Isla replied with a stern look.

She actually believed Charles. But this matter was so fishy that she thought Autumn should know about it.

Autumn's heartbeat grew stronger. "Oh, Just say it. I'm fine, " she said soberly, taking a deep breath.

Isla looked at Autumn with concern. 'Autumn is just acting tough. She must be very restless inside and this must be killing her but she has to know, ' she decided.

"Do you remember when I mentioned to you that Aron was in Europe as well? He ran into Charles there, " she said, taking Autumn's hand.

"Did he?" Autumn replied between gritted teeth. "And what was Charles doing when Aron saw him?"

"He..." Isla stammered, not knowing how to say it. "He was in a jewelry shop with Leila and kept asking for Leila's advice. If Aron didn't know that Charles was married to you, he would have mistaken them for a couple. He bought a necklace there and then they left," she said bluntly after some hesitation.

Those were some of the most difficult words she ever had to say to someone.

Autumn's face turned deathly pale. "I... I see," she uttered, looking at Isla and forced a smile on her face.

"Autumn, are you all right?" Isla asked anxiously, noticing Autumn's face slide helplessly into hopeless sorrow. "I didn't want it to come from me, but I thought that you should know about it. Autumn, don't think too much. Perhaps he was picking up a gift for you. And cheer up. Maybe we can go out shopping. You shouldn't sulk here by yourself," she continued, holding onto Autumn's hand.

"I know," replied Autumn who was now feeling numb all over. Isla regretted telling Autumn the news seeing what it had done to her.

She knew Autumn well. 'If she comforts herself by crying or screaming out and losing her temper, I'm sure that she will feel better soon. She just needs to let off some of that steam. But now she... I'm really

worried about her.

She looks so calm as if nothing had happened. A little too calm, ' Isla thought, frowning.

"Autumn, I..." Isla tried to reassure her. "Isla, I'm a little tired and want to have some sleep. Please close the door when you leave, will you?" Autumn didn't let Isla say more, signaling her to leave.

"But Autumn..." Isla continued with much hesitation and concern. She wanted to stay with Autumn. It wasn't good to leave Autumn alone right now. But, Autumn already closed her eyes and shut the world out, having no intention of listening to Isla or anyone. "Well, okay, then get some sleep. Just call me if you need me, " Isla conceded.

Autumn made no response, so Isla left the room and closed the door gently. On her way out, she ran into Chris who had just come home. Isla grabbed her by the hand and pulled her to a corner. "Chris, Autumn is in a really bad mood now. Please keep her company if you're free. I'm worried about her. She might do something weird, so check on her once in a while, okay?" she said to Chris in a low voice.

"What's the matter with Autumn?" Chris asked, confused but curious. "What is it?"

Isla didn't want to tell anybody else yet. "Just check on her later and don't tell your grandfather about

this. He might worry unnecessarily, " she instructed.

Isla then left Dream Garden.

Chris planned to go upstairs to see Autumn, but stopped when she recalled that Isla told her to check on Autumn later. Dinner time came but Autumn didn't show up. So Chris went to her door to check on her. "Autumn, it's time for dinner, " she called, knocking at Autumn's door.

She stood outside for a while and knocked a few more times, but no one answered. She felt uneasy. 'Is she alright?'

Chris slowly pushed the door open, not knowing what to expect. The room was so dark that she couldn't see anything. She found the light switch and turned it on. There curled up in a corner of the bed was Autumn, with eyes closed and tears dried on her cheeks. She had cried herself to asleep.

She huddled in a heap as if she was having a nightmare. Chris walked up to her and called her name, but Autumn didn't respond. Autumn did not hear anything. Not until now did she realize that something was wrong with Autumn.

"No, no..." Autumn murmured in her sleep. No matter how hard Chris tried, Autumn didn't wake up.

"Stay with me.... Please... Don't leave me..." Suddenly, Autumn jumped into a sitting position and shrieked, eyes still closed. Then she fell back into bed as if nothing happened.

Chris, who witnessed the whole thing, froze where she was sitting and also let out a loud gasp.

Autumn's scream scared her out of her wits. She thought Autumn was possessed. When she realized what happened, she touched Autumn's forehead. It was burning hot. She started freaking out as she called the servants to come quickly and take Autumn to the hospital.

At the emergency room, the doctor told Chris that rushing Autumn to the hospital was a wise decision.

She would have been in grave danger had she been brought here one minute later.

'It has only been two days since Charles left, but Autumn already has a fever like this. I obviously didn't take good care of Autumn during his absence. I failed him.' Chris blamed herself, lowering her head.

"Chris, stop punishing yourself." Gary appeared out of nowhere and comforted her. Composed as he looked, he was also worried inside.

'Autumn is our family. We don't want to see anything happen to her, ' he thought.

"Grandpa, do you think that Autumn will get through this?" Chris asked nervously.

"Don't worry. God will favor the better person. She will be fine. It's just a fever." Gary reassured her.

Gary said that to pacify not only Chris but also himself. Then he kept praying for Autumn.

Chris was so anxious that she could hardly control herself from welling up. She wanted to call some people but she didn't know who. The only one she thought of was Sam, so she gave him a call. Soon

Sam arrived at the hospital.

"How is she?" Sam asked Chris.

Chris glanced at Autumn who was lying on the bed, trembling with pale skin. "It's my fault. If I should have known earlier, then she wouldn't have suffered so much, " Chris said, looking inconsolable.

"You silly little fool, it's not your fault, " Sam comforted her, stroking her shoulder. "Stay here and watch over her. The saline drip is running out. Don't forget to ask the nurse to replace it with a new one. I will talk to the doctor and ask about her condition."

"Okay, I will." Chris nodded. Chris didn't know what to do. 'Thank goodness Sam is here.' she thought, feeling relieved.

Sam found the doctor in the corridor. He reassured Sam that there was nothing to worry about. Autumn would be fine when the fever dissipated. Besides, the doctor added that her illness was caused by

excessive fatigue, getting a cold and possibly, some mental and emotional stress. Sam was relieved.

Nothing serious then.

The doctor cast Sam a reproachful glance, and said, "As her husband, you ought to pay more attention to her. You need to figure out what she has been thinking about recently and if there is anything bothering her. You must learn to resolve whatever issues you have with each other. Only in this way can she fully recover."

Although he was mistaken by the doctor as Autumn's husband, he didn't correct him. He just replied apologetically. "Well, I see. You are right doctor. It won't happen again."

Chapter 332 A Terrible Dream

Sam's face dimmed as he came out of the doctor's office. He was worried about Autumn because she always had to endure attacks, hatred and bitterness from so many people. Despite all that, she never complained to anybody about it. Her mild mannered nature was an open invitation to those who wanted

to cause her trouble.

"Is she all right? What did the doctor say?" Chris asked him with much worry. "Is Autumn going to be okay?"

"She'll be fine." Sam added, "The doctor told me that she was overwhelmed by work and caught a cold.

But don't worry. She will get through this. It will be easier to recover once the fever is gone."

He didn't tell Chris everything. Chris felt better after hearing his reassurances, but Sam remained wary of Autumn's condition.

"Mr. Lu." Sam approached Gary and said, "It's getting late. You should go home and rest. Chris and I will stay here and take care of her."

"Okay." Gary nodded and said, "Thank you."

"You are welcome." Sam asked his driver to drive Gary home, then he said to Chris, pointing at an empty bed, "Stop crying. If you won't, your eyes will be swollen in the morning. You look really tired. novelbin

You can have this bed and rest here."

"I'm fine." Chris said wiping the tears from her eyes. "Please stay and watch over Autumn for a moment. I am going to wash my face."

Then she left the ward. After washing her face, she called Charles. She wondered how Charles could fully concentrate on his work while his wife was so sick. Did he know that Autumn was rushed to the

hospital?

Chris was ready to lose her temper, ready to give him an earful. Charles had better answer the phone immediately.

Charles had just lost a program that day. To drown his disappointment, he had drunk some wine at a party. That was when his phone rang. Unfortunately he couldn't hear it because of the loud music.

Leila was enjoying the situation and persuaded him to drink a lot of wine, making sure that his glass was never empty. By the time the party was over, he had gotten quite drunk.

Leila took a lot of her strength to carry Charles back to the hotel. Looking at his handsome face, she wanted to stay with him in that moment forever.

"You know what? I love you so much." She lay beside Charles on the bed and lightly ran her fingers on his face, from his forehead, along the bridge of his sharp nose, down to his irresistible lips. Then she said, "I fell in love with you the first time I saw you. And I've been in love with you since. I have made great efforts to stand by your side and I won't give you to anyone else."

Leila looked at Charles affectionately. Charles was drunk and almost completely unconscious. She took this chance to voice our her feelings for him.

"Charles, I want to call you this way instead of calling you 'Mr. Lu.' I am jealous of Autumn every time I see you two together." Leila stretched out her arms and unbuttoned his shirt. "Charles, I have waited for this moment for a long time. Now... I have the chance to lie beside you while nobody bothers us."

Leila removed all her clothes and Charles'. Then she kissed him. Although Charles was drunk, he could tell that the woman beside him was not Autumn, so he pushed her away and fell asleep.

Charles pushed her so hard that she landed on the floor. Extremely frustrated, Leila picked herself up and yelled, "Autumn! What did you do to him to make him so loyal to you?"

She had tried so many times but failed every single time.

Charles' phone rang again. It showed on the screen that Chris was calling. Leila took the phone and turned it off.

She had in her hands the most perfect chance to finally realize her plans but she still failed. Here she was, alone in a foreign country with the man she loved, and still nothing was happening.

Chris was furious when Charles hung up on her and then turned off his phone. Not knowing what was actually happening to Charles, she sent him an angry message and exaggerated Autumn's illness

before she went back to the ward.

Meanwhile, Autumn had a very long dream in which what she feared the most had happened.

In her dream, Charles and Leila were walking together hand in hand, looking at each other in the eyes and smiling. She tried her best to catch up with them but she couldn't, no matter how hard or how fast she ran.

She yelled at Charles until she lost her voice but Charles didn't turn around to look at her.

Then she saw Leila, wearing makeup and looking sophisticated. It cast a sharp contrast against herself, a simple, dirty and tired woman. Leila sneered and said coldly, "Autumn, you have failed.

It is time to give up. I am now the only woman Charles loves. No matter what you do, he won't be with you anymore..."

"Autumn, Charles chose to be with you just for fun. He has never loved you. You have no right to be his wife, so you should get a divorce as soon as possible. Oh, and I'm pregnant. I will soon be Mrs. Lu and we will make many happy children together."

She saw Leila's swollen belly. Charles stood in front of Leila and touched her belly gently and affectionately, like it was the most important thing in the world. Then he put his ear against her belly to

listen to any sound coming from it.

Autumn grabbed his hand desperately and cried, "Charles, this is not true, this can't be true..."

She tried to pull Charles back to her side but he pushed her away heavily and said seriously, "Autumn,

I want a divorce. I love Leila. She is the one I should have married."

"Noooooo!" Autumn woke up with a scream. She found her clothes drenched in sweat and tears

flooding her face. The dream was so clear that it almost felt like it really happened.

"Autumn."

"Little Ye." Chris and Sam were glad to see her awake. They had just recovered from the fright they got

when Autumn woke up screaming again.

"Are you all right? Did you have a nightmare just now?" Chris wiped her face with tissue and asked with

concern, "How do you feel now? Do you feel better?"

"I'm all right." Autumn calmed down as she realized that Chris and Sam were keeping her company.

She told her that it was just a dream and it wouldn't happen in the real world.

"Little Ye, are you sure you are fine? Do you feel any discomfort in any part of your body?" Sam asked.

He worried that Autumn couldn't get over the mental and emotional distress.

"I'm fine, really." Autumn slightly shook her head and said to Sam, "I'm thirsty. Could you get me some water, Sam?"

Chapter 333 A Secret Trouble

"Okay, let me go get you some water now." Sam said with concern. He went to get water in the water room, came back and poured a glass of water for Autumn, who drank the water and then went back to sleep. She had no desire to talk to anyone or even say anything. Sleep was her safe space.

Chris was eager to know more about what happened to Autumn, but Sam stopped her. "She still needs time to recover so we have to give it to her. If she's feeling better tomorrow, we can discuss it then.

Poor Autumn, this one was probably too much for her to take."

Sam closed the door and just stood outside Autumn's ward. He was really worried about her. But he couldn't tell Chris.

The next day, the doctor made a thorough check of Autumn's condition. Fortunately her fever had receded and her body temperature had normalized. He advised Chris and Sam, "She has recovered from the fever and will be fine. To stabilize her condition further, I prescribed another injection of saline.

She is very fragile and feeble now, so you should exercise utmost care and gentleness when dealing

with her. Do not bring up anything that may stress her."

"Thanks for the reminder, doctor. Consider it done. We will take good care of her." Chris accepted the advice gladly. Chris brought Autumn something to eat for breakfast, but Autumn showed no interest.

She just lay on the bed, not moving one bit, looking out towards a far off place.

"Sam, what is wrong with Autumn? She looks troubled and really disturbed." Chris turned to Sam

looking for answers. Sam frowned. He didn't know much but he reassured Chris anyway, "Maybe..

Autumn is just feeling unwell. We don't know. But I'm sure rest is all she needs. She will be better after a good one. So you do not need to worry one bit about her."

After the saline injection, Sam was told to get the medicine and arrange the discharge procedure for

Autumn. After that, Sam accompanied Chris and Autumn back to Dream Garden. Sam was still not

satisfied with Autumn's condition so he gave Chris instructions. "Chris, you should make sure that

Autumn takes her meds as prescribed, especially at the correct times. If there is any issue or trouble at hand, you must let me know immediately and I will be here as soon as I can."

"Okay, I know what to do." Chris nodded gently and expressed her gratitude. "Sam, thanks a lot for

your efforts in caring for Autumn. We would not have done it properly without your help. You have done

a lot yesterday and today, and it must have used up a lot of your time and energy. You'd better get

yourself a good rest. I will take good care of her from now on."

"Okay, I am confident that you will. I am leaving then. See you soon." Sam turned around, got on his car and drove away.

"Have a safe drive, " Chris called out after him. After that, she went back to her house to find that

Autumn had already gone upstairs. At that moment, Gary came out of his room and asked about

Autumn's condition. "Chris, what did the doctor say? Is she going to be okay?"

"She's okay. Nothing serious, " Chris replied calmly.

"But there is something wrong with Autumn, I suppose."

"My thoughts exactly!" Chris expressed her concern. "I have called Charles many times, only to be

ignored. Finally, he turned his phone off. Something tells me that they may be having a very big,

serious fight."

Gary frowned. "You may go upstairs to ask her what she wants to eat and I will tell Nancy to prepare it

for her."

"It sounds good." Chris went upstairs to find Autumn lying on the bed in the darkness. She hadn't turned on any light. This sight saddened Chris. This once joyful room was now overcome with sorrow and hopelessness. Chris turned the light on and jumped into the bed. "Autumn, what on earth happened to you? Can you tell me please?" she begged.

"I am okay." Autumn forced a pale smile. "Maybe I have been too tired trying to keep fit. All I need is a good rest."

"Did you... have a fight with Charles?" Chris asked Autumn, who, at the mere mention of Charles, became subtly uneasy. She managed a smile, but the flicker in her eyes was lost. She weakly said to Chris, "How could you think of that? Charles is far from here. It is impossible for us to argue and disagree over anything!"

"Really?" Chris was not convinced. She still suspected a serious rift between the couple.

"Of course!" The quiver and forced enthusiasm betrayed her smile. "I am still too tired to continue. Could you please let me take a rest for a while?"

"Ok, take a rest, and remember to finish a bowl of porridge that I am about to ask Nancy to prepare for

you." Chris said calmly, looking back to express her concern, "Autumn, we are a family, so.... no matter what happens to you, Gary and I will give you our utmost support."

"Thanks!" Autumn forced a gentle smile. As the door closed, Chris walked out of the room. Alone again, Autumn's smile gave way to her sadness.

Chris went downstairs to ask Nancy to prepare a bowl of nutritious porridge. Meanwhile, Charles woke from his stupor and found that his clothes had been removed. Who had been here and who took his clothes off him?

He tried to recall what had happened last night, in vain.

Not long after, Leila came to knock on his door. Charles was almost ready. He put on his suit and opened the door.

Leila entered his room with a big smile and a cup of honey water in her hand. She was now in a better mood than last night and showed her excessive attention to Charles, "Mr. Lu, since you are awake, you'd better drink some honey water. It is a widely known cure for a hangover. I asked the hotel chef to make you this cup of honey water just now."

"How did I return to... the hotel last night?" Charles was bewildered but he asked calmly and gently, completely unaware of last night's encounter.

"Well, of course, you don't remember a lot. You were so drunk last night. It was me who escorted you back to this room." Leila replied with great composure.

"So I....." Charles frowned with reference to his changed clothes.

"You were vomiting beyond measure. Your vomit-soaked clothes were removed by a hotel servant, as I was powerless to deal with that." Leila smiled to Charles. "We'd better go now. They are waiting for you to sign the contract as soon as possible."

"Okay." Charles drank a bit of honey water, He was about to to call Autumn and reassure her that he's fine, only to find his phone had been turned off.

Before Charles had time to ask, Leila began her explanation. "Mr. Lu, last night your phone kept ringing. I chose to turn it off for fear that if I took the call, I would be misunderstood. So to avoid arousing unnecessary suspicion, I thought it would be better. I also did not want to disturb you in your sleep. So you would not blame me for that, would you?"

"It doesn't matter. You can wait for me here if you want. I just need take a shower." Charles closed the

door, turned on his phone, and he was bombarded with unanswered calls and WeChat messages from

Chris. He immediately called back with much anxiety, "Chris, what did you mean by sending that

WeChat message? And how is Autumn doing? What on earth happened?"

Chris sneered, "Charles, it is shameful for you to call back just now. You should have answered my call

yesterday!"

Chris was unable to contain her anger, "You should have received my call to show your love and care

for your wife."

Pressed to know Autumn's condition, Charles asked without any explanation, "Chris, how is Autumn

feeling now?"

"I do not know." Chris replied in a tone of rebuke. "You had better go home to see to her needs befitting

a loving husband."

Charles frowned and explained, "Last night I was in a state of stupor, unable to answer your call. I

immediately called you back as soon as I got your messages."

Chris, after sensing Charles's anxiety, told him about Autumn, "She was hospitalized due to a very high

fever yesterday, but I called you in vain. Now I am beginning to suspect that you value your career over your wife!"

"Absolutely untrue!" Charles disagreed, as he was overcome with anxiety because of Autumn. "How is she feeling now? I hope nothing serious happened to her."

Chapter 334 What Reward Do You Want

"Her fever is gone." Chris gave a heavy sigh and said, "I noticed that Autumn has been unhappy recently. That's probably because you're not here. And it was worse that she got the fever without you around."

Chris heaved a sigh out of frustration and asked, "Brother, when on earth will you come back?"

"I am coming back today." Charles replied and hung up. Actually he made that decision right at that moment. He realized that all the agreements and all cooperation were of little importance to him compared with Autumn. He loved her and of all people, he should be the one beside her when she needed him.

He called Leila into his room and instructed her to book the earliest flight back. It beat her why they were suddenly going back in a hurry. But she soon realized maybe his hasty decision had something to do with Autumn. She gathered her courage and suggested, "Mr. Lu, we have an agreement to sign in a

few hours. Why don't we ...?"

"I have told you to book tickets. Do I have to repeat myself twice?" Charles raised his voice. He did not want to give up the agreement, but his desire to see his wife as soon as possible was much stronger.

"Yes, sir..." Taken aback and embarrassed, Leila nodded awkwardly. She wasn't used to being yelled at by her boss. With Charles watching her, she quickly switched on her smartphone and browsed online for available flights. The next available flight was not until after midnight. "Mr. Lu, the earliest flight available is sometime after midnight. We have plenty of time for the signing of the agreement before going to the airport. No need to rush, " she suggested.

"Fine. Go ahead and arrange today's schedule." Charles replied. He had checked to confirm it online and found that Leila wasn't lying. The next flight was indeed past twelve o'clock that night. He felt hopeless, like a flattened balloon.

Although he was still in Europe, his heart had already flown out to Autumn.

After the agreement was signed, it came as good news that the agreement they thought they didn't get was now theirs. Another victory. Charles was happy about that part and regarded the trip as worthwhile

and successful.

When Charles arrived at his partner's office, his partner complimented Leila on her competence and persistence, "Mr. Lu, we didn't choose your company as our partner. But your secretary Miss Zhang approached to us several times and that was why this partnership became a reality. She effectively showed us your advantage over the others. After an internal meeting, we reconsidered your company.

So ... she deserves credit for trying her best. You should give her a big bonus for this!"

Charles was astounded to know that Leila had made such efforts without his knowledge. Leila was too embarrassed to meet Charles' surprised gaze. "It was very kind of you to give me another chance. We look forward to having a pleasant and long standing cooperation, " she told the client. She was bursting with pride inside but was too shy to show it and just hung her head low.

"Indeed. We hope for a harmonious relationship ahead of us, " Charles agreed as he stretched out his hand. Handshakes were exchanged and pleasantries passed around before the meeting ended.

After they left the company, Charles turned to Leila and asked, "Why did you do that?"

"I ..." Leila grinned at Charles, her eyes sparkling. "Mr. Lu, I knew that it would please you, so I did what I could to realize what we came here for."

Leila continued after a short pause, "Last night, you had too much wine thinking that the agreement was a failure, so I took my chances and requested for reconsideration. I didn't really expect to pull it off."

"This time... I will have to do something to show you my gratitude," Charles laughed. "Tell me, what kind of reward do you want?" Charles didn't know that Leila had feelings for him. After all, that agreement was beneficial for the entire company.

Leila was delighted by Charles's offer. It took her quite a while to get over her excitement. She said to Charles, "I will think it over carefully. It's not common for you to make promises like that, so I will cherish this opportunity."

Charles replied with a smile, "Tell me when you have made your decision."

They went back to the hotel and packed their luggage. Luckily enough, they managed to take the earliest plane. And to Charles' satisfaction, there were no delays so the plane arrived as scheduled.

When they got out of the airport, Charles booked a taxi for Leila. He explained to her, "My family needs me, so I won't drive you home. Send me a message to let me know you have gotten home safely."

"Okay." As a sensible woman, Leila knew what she should do at that time. She smiled and said, "Don't worry about me, Mr. Lu. I am sure that your wife is waiting for you. Drive safely."

Charles replied with a smile and saw Leila's taxi off. He couldn't wait to get home, so he drove quickly to Dream Garden, only to find Autumn not at home. His grandpa said that she had left for work.

Autumn went to work as soon as she felt better as there were so many things that needed to be done.

Isla was competent and could very well be trusted, but she couldn't handle all the affairs by herself.

Moreover, staying at home only made Autumn's imagination run wild. And that was a worse punishment than being up to her neck in work. It was better to distract herself with it.

When Isla saw Autumn come, she looked at her in a weird manner, surprised to see her back so soon.

"I thought you were sick. Weren't you rushed to the hospital just the other day? I'm sure you are not fully recovered yet. Why don't go back home and rest some more?"

"I am used to being busy. You know that about me, don't you?" Autumn smiled at Isla and asked, "Are the materials ready?"

"Almost ready, " Isla replied causally. She was more concerned about Autumn's health and well-being.

Things at Cloud Advertising Company were still well within control. "Autumn, I don't want to interfere

with your personal affairs, but you ..." hesitated Isla.

"Isla!" Autumn interrupted in a stern voice, "I am not in the mood to talk about it."

Autumn looked serious, so Isla's face broke into a smile to change the atmosphere. "Okay, okay. Sorry

about that. In that case, don't hesitate to let me know if I can help with anything."

After lunch, she had dealt with the most urgent tasks, including the most important documents.

Knowing Isla was busy, she went to the hotel alone to discuss the details of the Giant Promise novelbin

Company's launch event.

When Charles arrived at the Cloud Advertising Company, Autumn again, wasn't in her office. His wife

was getting harder and harder to find. Isla happened to see him as she walked into the hall.

"Mr. Lu, I heard you have gone to Europe?" she mocked. "What brought you back so soon?" Isla

addressed Charles in a polite way, calling him "Mr. Lu." But her tone wasn't natural.

Isla thought Autumn had suffered a lot since she married Charles. She hated the fact that although

their marriage was happy, Autumn endured too much hate because of him. He was to be blamed for

the whole thing.

"Miss Zhao, where is my wife? Have you seen her?" Charles had driven from their house to the office.

He got increasingly annoyed when he found out that Autumn wasn't there either. He had no choice but to ask Isla for help.

Isla replied with a forced smile, "Mr. Lu, you are ridiculous. She is my boss. Do you think there is any need for her to inform me of her entire schedule? As for you, you are her husband. You should know where she is. Funny, isn't it?"

"I..." Charles was confused about Isla's double edged attitude. She sounded friendly, but there were hostile undertones of it. But he didn't care much about it. He thought, 'Isla is Autumn's good friend. If Autumn was unhappy, it's normal for her to jump to Autumn's defense. I admit, I haven't been a very good husband lately.'

He was eager to know the whereabouts of Autumn. So he explained, almost begging, "I arrived just now. Straight from the airport. My grandpa said that she had come to work. I didn't see her in her office and I can't get through to her phone. Please tell me where she has gone."

Isla didn't reply. "Miss Zhao, I know Autumn is not only your boss, but also your good friend. I am sure you know where she is," Charles continued asking.

Seeing him somewhat upset, Isla kind of felt bad for him.

On one hand, Autumn went through hell in the last couple of days. As Autumn's friend, she wanted

Charles to feel what Autumn had experienced. On the other hand, she knew that Autumn loved

Charles. If she found out that her husband had unexpectedly returned, Autumn would be happy again.

Isla was still struggling inside.

Charles began perspiring heavily as he urged her some more, "Miss Zhao, I don't know what has

happened during my stay in Europe. We couldn't have a real talk unless I find her. What's more, I heard

that she is not feeling well now. I am really worried about her. She shouldn't even have left the house.

Please help me find my wife."

Chapter 335 She Is My Girlfriend

Isla thought about it. Reluctantly, she agreed that Charles made sense. After all, nothing was more

important than Autumn's health. So she looked up at Charles with crossed arms and said, "Autumn

went to the hotel, Mr. Lu. I'm sure she'll be happy to see you. But please don't give her anything to be

upset about. She's been through a lot in the past few days."

"I got it, thank you." Charles smiled with gratitude. When he arrived at the hotel, he saw Autumn

standing in front of the stage, talking to one of the people there, giving instructions. Charles felt a surge in his heart, happy to see her standing there, looking fine.

Just as he was about to walk towards her, he saw a man approaching Autumn and looking at her with a big smile.

Autumn was discussing the stage arrangement with the hotel manager when Roger interrupted them.

He had instructed his assistant to learn about something about Autumn. Unfortunately even for a long time, it turned out to be fruitless. Lucky for him, he saw Autumn here today, so he grabbed the opportunity and walked over to her.

"Hey, what a coincidence." Roger greeted Autumn with a wide grin. He was overflowing with confidence in his smile and if Autumn wasn't already attached, he'd be a perfect match for her.

"You're..." Autumn looked at Roger confused, trying to figure out who he was.

"I..." Roger was stunned for a moment. He was not used to having people forget who he was after meeting him. It took him some time to absorb the fact and laugh it off. "It's me. We met at the hotel gate

the other day. I bumped into you. You don't remember?"

"Oh I'm sorry. Yes, I remember. How are you?" Autumn smiled but kept writing her thoughts on her note. The details of the launch event were the most important thing at the moment. "Is there anything I can do for you?" she asked, barely looking up.

"Oh, I just wanted to ask... about your foot. Are you feeling better?" Roger scratched the back of his head as he asked Autumn gently. "I saw you walk with a limp when you left that day, so I felt bad about it. I have been trying to find an opportunity to apologize, but I just could not find you. I didn't expect to see you here though. I suppose it's fate."

Autumn finally lifted her head to glance at Roger and smiled. But she did not slow down. "I'm fine.

Sorry, I'm really busy now and I have to leave if there is nothing else."

Autumn turned to go. But how could Roger let her leave? He had thought he'd never see her again but now they were both here.

He mildly blocked Autumn's way and said to her, "We are filming in this hotel. I am one of the supporting actors. And my name is Roger Han, so what's yours?"

"An actor?" She stopped when she heard Roger was an actor, not because she was interested in

actors, but on the contrary, it reminded her of Rachel.

She had no idea why she was very exclusive of people in the entertainment circle.

"Yes, I am." Roger proudly looked at Autumn, smiling. "What's your name? I want to invite you to dinner after we shoot."

"Hmm..." Autumn pretended to give it some thought. "No, thanks." She had no interest in actors. She probably even disliked them. "I still have something to do, and I don't think we need to know more about each other."

"You..." It was the first time for Roger to meet such an ungrateful woman; he suddenly got angry. "I said I wanted to invite you to dinner. What part of that did you not understand?"

Autumn struggled hard to free herself as she said, "Excuse me. I heard what you said. I'm just not interested. Now, let go of my hand."

She really was extremely busy and had no time for such a trivial thing. It was not that she hated show business itself, but... she found every person in show business she met to be annoying, self-centered and hypocritical.

"Did you hear me? I said get away from me." Autumn yelled at him, now completely irritated.

Roger looked at Autumn and sneered, "You'd better please me while I still have a little patience left in me. The fact that you caught my attention is a privilege for you. No woman has dared reject me and you will not be the first one."

"Is it so? Then I'd hate to break it to you. You think that you are so special, huh? You have to open your eyes today. And yes, I may be the first one." Autumn shook off Roger's hand with all her strength. She was already in a bad mood earlier and Roger just made it worse.

If it was a different day, Autumn might have rejected him politely.

Autumn's swing to ward off Roger was too wide and her feet weren't steady. After shaking off Roger, she almost lost her balance and started falling. Suddenly, a pair of hands caught her and moved her up to a steady position before pulling her into a strong embrace.

"Are you alright?" Charles asked gently.

"I'm fine, " Autumn answered coldly. She couldn't believe that her husband was there. However, she did not show any joy and even slid away from Charles' arms as if repulsed by his touch. When she had recovered from the confusion, she stood firm, and just stood there saying nothing. Charles got

surprised at his wife's reaction. This had never happened before.

He wanted to take Autumn home right away so he could ask why she was so cold to him. But first things first. He must ... deal with the shameless and obnoxious man in front of him.

"She said she didn't want to have dinner with you. Why is that difficult to understand?" Charles looked at Roger sharply.

"It's none of your business." Roger looked at Charles from head to foot. "We just had a little argument.

And who are you? Where the hell did you come from? Didn't your mother teach you not to poke your nose into other couples' business, "

Roger said shamelessly.

Now Autumn didn't like what she heard. She put her hands on her hips. "Excuse me. Where did you get the idea that we are a couple. Do you even know my name? You are having delusions boy!"

"Cut it out!" Roger stared fiercely at Autumn and said, "I'll get even with you later."

Seeing Charles keep Autumn behind him, Roger stepped forward and up to Charles. "Would you mind not meddling here? This is a personal thing between a man and a woman. Go find your own bitch! Get out of my way, or I'll beat you up now."

Looking at his back, Autumn could not help worrying about Charles getting hurt if they really started a fight.

"Did you just say... she's your girlfriend?" There was no expression on Charles's face; only he, himself knew that the anger in his stomach wasn't anything but suppressed and ready to burst. He urgently needed to go somewhere to vent.

This young bastard dared to covet Autumn. It's just like getting hit with the muzzle of a gun.

"Are you deaf or what? Do I have to say everything twice? If she is not my girlfriend, then whose would she be? Yours?" Roger said to Charles arrogantly.

There were buzzing rumors about Charles and Rachel before, and almost everyone in Y City knew him.

Roger had just moved in for the opportunity in Y City so he didn't know Charles, nor did he know the relationship between him and Rachel.

Charles sneered and opened his mouth, "That's an excellent question! It is true, she is not my girlfriend, she... is my wife."

Roger nearly choked. It took less than a second before he started melting in his own awkwardness.

It was really difficult for him to fancy a woman in this new city. The one woman he liked was married.

The one time he pretended to be her boyfriend was in front of her husband. How humiliating it was!

Chapter 336 A Bad Joke

Realizing his blunder, he quickly turned the tables on Autumn, using his skills as an actor. "It's you who

have been lying! You never mentioned you were married when we got together. Shame on you!" he

declared, glaring at the woman with an added effect. Turning to Charles, he added, "Married women

tend to seduce men. You'll be better off distancing yourself from women like her, or you'll end up being

cuckolded."

Shocked, Autumn burst out, "Stop talking such nonsense!"

She could feel her face heating up. Autumn was horrified that a man she hardly knew could say such

cruel things about her.

She struggled for composure, feeling uncomfortable.

"I don't know you at all, " she told Roger. "How could you say those things about me?"

Trying to defend herself, she then turned to Charles to plead for understanding.

However, she was totally unaware that Charles had witnessed the entire encounter between them

without being noticed. This gave him a pretty good idea about Autumn and Roger's real relation.

"Women are flirtatious. I was 'Honey' when we were in bed. But the moment the affair is found out, she's quick to disassociate herself from me!" Roger said as he proceeded to further embarrass

Autumn, noting her discomfort. Turning to Charles, he tried to explain, "Bro, I really didn't know she was married. If I did, I would never have hooked up with her!" Then he added, "Let me give you a piece of advice if you want to avoid another scandal in the future... divorce her."

"Damn you! I'm going to kill you!" Autumn shrieked.

She wanted to get her hands on Roger just to teach the jackass a lesson. But Charles quickly kept her from lunging at the insensitive man.

Instead, he hugged Autumn tight and gently said, "Calm down. You don't want to rise to his bait."

"I don't care, " she sputtered. "I really want to get my hands on him."

A good reputation is crucial to a woman's social life. What Roger did and said was not only cruel, but truly disgraceful.

Charles felt slightly awkward with Autumn's outburst. "Don't worry. I'm on your side, " he said, holding

her tighter as he tried to comfort her.

Autumn might have considered herself fortunate to have married a man like Charles who was willing to protect her. She may have even believed that he was willing to help her deal with unpleasant situations, such as this one involving Roger.

But she chose to ignore Charles' comforting gestures and pushed him away. She looked at him with a cold smile and said, "You? You weren't by my side when I needed you the most!"

Still fuming, she spat, "Now you're saying you're on my side? Does that make any sense?"

Last night's dream had left Autumn distraught. And since her emotional turmoil was far from being resolved, she could not bring herself to be comforted by Charles, despite his ministrations.

"Autumn..." Charles moved to touch her.

He frowned slightly when she remained quiet. "I know you're angry with me. Let's just go home and talk about it, okay?"

She quickly answered, "There's no need to talk about it."

With a sad smile, Autumn said, "I don't think we have much to say to each other anyway. Besides, I'm busy."

Roger, who quietly stood in the sidelines, thought it was the perfect time to make his exit without being

noticed by the fighting couple. But just as he was leaving, Director Zhang passed by. When he saw

Roger, he pointed at the actor and blurted, "You!

What are you doing here? Your scene is next. Hurry up!"

Relieved at being able to escape, he answered quickly, "Okay, okay. I'm going."

Just as he thought he was free, Charles barked, "Stop! Where do you think you're going?"

Director Zhang heard Charles and turned around. He recognized Charles and the man's expression

unnerved him, so he hurriedly walked up to him. "Ah, Mr. Lu!" he said trying to mask his nerves. "It's

been a while since we saw each other. How are you?"

The director smiled slightly, adding, "How are things going with you?"

He considered Charles his God of Wealth and tried his best to please the man and avoid offending him.

Director Zhang held Charles in such high regard; he never dared say no to the man.

The scene caught Roger off-guard. He knew Director Zhang to be a man of respect and influence, but

here he was so courteous, almost timid, in front of Charles. He suddenly thought he was in big trouble.

"You're filming here, Director Zhang?"

Charles inquired with little interest.

"Yes, I am filming a new movie!" a delighted Director Zhang replied.

"And since you're here, let me express my gratitude to you, Mr. Lu. Without your assistance, we would never have gotten access to inspecting the premises and getting approval for its use. Thank you for your help."

The hotel was part of Eric's estate. Charles called Eric straightaway when the director sought his help to get permission to use the premises for filming. This enabled the director to shoot his movie there without a problem.

Again, Roger was taken aback when Director Zhang thanked Charles. His eyes started twitching as he wondered who this celebrity was that he had offended.

The director was about to add something when Charles interrupted.

"Is that guy one of your staff?"

He nodded towards Roger, a glint of annoyance in his eye, while asking the director.

Director Zhang turned towards the direction of Charles' eyes and saw Roger. At this, the actor wished

for a hole he could crawl into or for the ground to swallow him up. He had this bad feeling his acting career would come to an end before it even started.

Director Zhang smiled and answered, "Yes, he is one of my actors."

Clueless as to what happened between the two men, the director thought Charles simply wanted to get acquainted with Roger. He then thought that introducing the actor would earn him additional favors in the future so he eagerly motioned for Roger to come over. "This guy is a good actor. He's young but I am sure he has a promising future in the entertainment industry."

His enthusiastic words were meant to compliment the actor, but it just made Roger cringe.

"Good at acting, you say?"

Charles said with a smile that did little to cover his icy look.

"Yes, he is indeed an excellent actor, " Charles nodded, smirking.

Pleased at the words but oblivious to Charles' expression, Director Zhang added, "His acting skills are absolutely natural, almost flawless. It's as if he was born to be an actor."

He turned as he motioned Roger to come over, "Hurry up. Come and meet Mr. Lu."

The director pulled Roger. While the man may be a good actor, right now he didn't seem very smart, he thought. He was throwing away the chance to meet an influential man, as he stood to the side quietly.

"Mr Lu, I am Roger Han. Pleased to meet you, " he finally said, offering his hand.

Sweat beaded on his forehead as he tried to figure out what to do in their current situation.

He recalled what he told Autumn earlier and regretted his behaviour. Those words likely caused him what could have been a successful career and stardom.

"He's just a little nervous, " Director Zhang smiled apologetically.

"But you are absolutely correct. Roger is a reliable actor."

But Charles would have none of it. "Enough!"

He frowned, growing more impatient by the minute. He was sick of hearing the director praise Roger so he decided to stop him. He was tired of hearing how good of an actor he was.

Charles dragged Autumn until she stood in front of Roger. Slowly, voice dripping with menace, he told him, "Why don't you look at her very closely? Is she... your girlfriend?"

"I don't understand, " Director Zhang said in disbelief.

He looked at Autumn, nearly stammering as he quipped, "Are you kidding, Mr. Lu? How can she be

Roger's girlfriend?"

Chapter 337 A Useless Favoritism

Upon seeing Charles's displeasure, Director Zhang realized that something was wrong.

As a matter of fact, Charles was there to get his revenge at Roger, not to please him.

Roger was incredibly determined to be a huge inconvenience to Autumn as Charles' wife.

"I'm not asking you to talk. I'm only demanding an explanation from him, " Charles said, glancing coldly to Director Zhang.

Suddenly put on the spot with no room to escape, Roger found it hard to defend himself.

"Did you hear what I just said?"

Charles asked in contempt.

"What are you waiting for? Answer Mr. Lu!"

Director Zhang ushered, pushing Roger to talk.

"I..." Roger trailed, crouching before Charles.

He wasn't able to utter a word until he looked up to see Charles.

"Are you sure that she's your girlfriend?"

Charles grinned, challenging Roger.

"No..." he stuttered.

"Definitely not."

He finally confessed, hoping that Charles would forgive him.

"What did you say?"

I didn't hear it clearly, "

Charles asked Roger in disdain.

"Mr. Lu, I sincerely apologize. I admit my mistake. It was all my fault."

Having been offended Charles, Roger further realized that he was overwhelmed by a growing sense of regret and emptiness. "I found Mrs. Lu attractive so I asked her out. But she rejected me immediately. I had no choice but to lie to you because you saw us at that very moment. I hope you and your wife can forgive me for any trouble I may have caused."

"You think I can do that? It's impossible for me to forgive you!"

Autumn scorned, knowing full well that she could not simply forgive him because he enjoyed flirting with young ladies.

"I admit my mistakes, Mrs. Lu. Please give me a chance to redeem myself!"

Roger pleaded earnestly.

Feeling useless, Director Zhang tried to intervene. "Roger, you picked the wrong woman to offend. Now you have to suffer dire consequences!"

He was tired of dealing with Roger anymore.

Roger took advantage of Rachel's connection and used his acting skill to get the role of the supporting actor. But now, everything seemed to have come to an end.

"Autumn, the decision is yours."

Even if Autumn was still furious, Charles decided to let her handle the situation.

"Mrs. Lu, I ask for forgiveness. Please give me another chance. I promise not to do it ever again."

Roger begged, still wanting to keep his role in the play even if it meant losing his pride.

Overcome by Roger's insistent pleading, Autumn sighed and finally gave in. "You'd better behave yourself," she said, words filled with threat.

Roger chuckled to himself, pleased by the absolution. However, Charles wanted to give him a lesson.

"Director Zhang, " Charles said, looking at him.

"Don't you think it's not a good idea to keep an actor with that kind of character? He would surely ruin

your TV play." "You're absolutely right, Mr. Lu. I'll remove him in order to maintain the TV play's

reputation, " Director Zhang immediately replied.

"That sounds good, " Charles said, smiling in response. "I wish your play a big success!"

"Thank you."

"But Mr. Lu..." Director Zhang's voice trailed off, giving Charles a flattering smile. "I feel that I should tell

you something, " Director Zhang added.

"Go ahead, tell me."

Charles immediately felt like there was something wrong.

"Roger got the role in my play because of Rachel's strong recommendation. As you know, Rachel is the

most influential actress because she married Edward. If she hears about Roger's removal, I'm afraid

she will be difficult on me, " Director Zhang said in a whisper.

"Don't worry, I will get rid of her upon your call."

Convinced, Director Zhang said in response. "Now I can rest assured that you will handle it."

Charles and Rachel left after a few moments, with Charles disturbed by the knowledge about Roger's connection to Rachel.

After realizing that Charles had left, Roger immediately called Director Zhang. "Director, please keep me in your play. We both know that I have great acting skills. I promise I'll exert more effort, " he pleaded, touching his hands.

"I believe that you're a good actor but I'm sorry. You really have to go."

Letting go of Roger's hands, he continued further. "You lost your role because you've offended Mr. Lu.

Don't worry, you will get your salary. But I'm afraid you won't be needed here starting tomorrow."

"How could you treat me like this?!" Roger exclaimed, refusing to accept Director Zhang's decision.

"Signing the contract means my role was confirmed. I can sincerely apologize to Mr. Lu later. It is really unfair of you to treat me this way!"

"Don't you understand?" Director Zhang asked, looking at Roger in disbelief.

"The person you offended is the most powerful and influential man in Y City. I would rather give you compensation than contradict him."

He explained. "Besides, Mr. Lu will cover the compensation and there will be nothing to lose for me."

Director Zhang paused and continued, "You know what? It's really unfortunate for you to provoke Mrs.

Lu. I can't do anything to save you this time. You have to bear the consequence of what you did."

"But you have to take into consideration Rachel's strong recommendation!" he said in an attempt to

change Director Zhang's decision. Roger had no choice but to mention Rachel because she's famous novel

actress with long-standing reputation.

Upon seeing Director Zhang's troubled and worried expression at the simple mention of Rachel, Roger

thought that the director began to soften. "Director Zhang, all I want is to act on the play. We should

end this argument once in for all. Don't you think?"

"I agree. Let's not talk about this anymore, " he said, nodding his head. "But I must say this. Your

connection with Rachel is worthless because of what you did to Mrs. Lu."

Looking Roger straight in the eye, Director Zhang decided to tell him, "Do you know that Rachel has

upset Charles before and ended up losing every role in show business? Now you will suffer more than

Rachel did."

Chapter 338 A Quarrel Between The Couple

"What are you talking about? This is impossible!" Roger was shocked and just couldn't wrap his mind around the news he just heard from the director in such a short span of time.

Director Zhang then addressed him directly as he was starting to get reluctant to continue the conversation, "I had told you what I was supposed to say. And I won't let you go if I have any way to mend the situation, because I also realize that it is equally hard to find a suitable actor on such short notice. But I just couldn't find a way to help you in this entire mess. Why did you have to offend Mrs. Lu? How did you dare to act so irresponsibly? Anyway, you better conduct yourself well."

Director Zhang then left as he finished his warning, leaving Roger alone there, astonished and yet angry.

Roger was stunned for a long time until his assistant came to find him, asking him in a shocked yet flurried voice, "What happened here? I was just gone for a few minutes. The crew told me that you have decided against acting in this movie. Is that true? Why? You have to reconsider your decision."

His assistant tried his best to convince Roger to change his mind. "Do you know how famous Director Zhang is and what many actors would give to be a part of his film? Don't be capricious at such a critical time, this could be a game-changer in your career. Roger, please listen to me. Let us go, apologize to

him and if things work in our favor he will be generous enough to give you another chance."

He tried to pull Roger out of shock and into momentum as he finished putting his proposition forward.

However, Roger was sure that it was too late for him to make any amends. In fact he knew what he

could do right now was to ask Rachel for her help. She was the last straw he could draw out of his

deck.

Roger glanced at his assistant and said, "Call Rachel right this moment. I have some other plans and

for that I have to meet her tonight. Hurry up and go now!"

"Roger, be practical. This is not the right time or even the place for you to think in that direction. Please

focus on your work. This decision will shape your future career in this industry." The man tried to

convince him as his brow furrowed.

"Stop blabbering here, I did not ask for your advice. Go ahead and do as I asked. I know what I am

doing with my career, " Roger impatiently yelled out. Anxious with a hint of anger, he was like an ant on

a hot pan.

After coming back from the hotel, Autumn insisted on going back to office while Charles was reluctant

to let her go in that moment. "Autumn, I think we are in desperate need of a chat. Please don't even think of going to the company now. Let's head home first," Charles said in a firm tone.

Before Autumn could respond, Charles just led her into the car and drove home. Once they got back to their bedroom, Charles held her and helped her sit on the bed carefully. "Sit down here as I finally can take a good look at you." He said in a tender tone, as his eyes were brimming with concern.

Reaching out, he touched her forehead to check her temperature to ensure her fever had run its course, and luckily it was gone which made him feel relieved. "Why are you so stubborn? You are sick and you are running a high fever. After knowing that you were insisting on returning to work. Why don't you take care of yourself?"

"What I do and how I conduct myself are none of your business. There is no need for you to worry about me," Autumn snapped at him in a cold tone. Autumn was still angry with Charles and with that residue feeling she was determined to let him know with some harsh remarks. "I am an adult and I know exactly what I am doing. I will take care of myself. You don't have to bother worrying about me."

"Autumn, you..." Charles was hurt and taken aback by her cold attitude. This was the first time she was mad at him since they got married, so Charles had no idea on how to handle the situation. He initially

thought of hitting her to ensure she would not be domineering. However, it was just an unrealistic thought since he could not bear to hurt even an inch of her.

"Autumn, don't be so mad at me. Can we not talk like adults? Why are you being so indignant?"

Charles was unable to figure out why she was so mad at him, so he just asked her point blank. "If it is because I didn't come home the day you fell sick, then I would like to sincerely apologize to you. I am so sorry, love. I was so busy with work that I didn't receive your call. But I did return the second I got the news. Can you please forgive me? I promise that I would not make such a mistake next time and I will take good care of you, okay?"

Charles held her hands as he pleaded for her forgiveness. However, Autumn shook his hands off almost immediately.

"Just do what you have to do. I will take care of myself. You don't have to waste anymore of your valuable time on me." Agitated, Autumn felt upset as she recalled the dream which she had several days ago. The dream was so surreal that just the thought of it made her upset.

"You..." Finally her words got to Charles and he got irritated, so he laid a hand on her and bit her

shoulder, gently.

"What are you trying to do? Let me go." Autumn soon blushed out of embarrassment, as she tried to push him away. How could they talk in such a manner?

"I remembered that you told me on the phone you wanted to have a baby with me, right? Well, I think that is a great idea. I am also looking forward to starting a family. I can't wait anymore and I think we should start trying." Soon after he finished his sentence, Charles kissed her affectionately, as he fought back Autumn's resistance.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Even though Autumn was angry with him, she gradually calmed down, as she began to enjoy his sweet and tender kisses with her eyes shut.

"I want you, Autumn, " whispered Charles in a soft voice into her ears. That night, they had sex over and over again, from dawn till dusk. Autumn, exhausted and drained, begged for mercy. "Charles, let us call it a day. I am so tired now, " she bashfully said with her cheeks rosy as she gently pushed him away.

Autumn tightly wrapped herself in the quilt, in an attempt to stop Charles' next advance. "Charles, you are really a lovelace, " complained Autumn, with only her head popping out the heavy quilt.

He grinned as he heard this from Autumn. The next second, he pulled back the cover from Autumn quickly and asked, "Are you sure that is what you want me to do?" he asked as a sly smile took over his face.

In the absence of the cover's security, Autumn blushed again, as she gripped his hands. "No, Charles, " she mumbled in a low and weak voice.

Squinting at her, he smiled like a cunning fox. But then Charles loosened his grip as he could sense Autumn's tiredness from her eyes.

He held her while Autumn was still subconsciously aware of his every movement.

"What are you going to do, Charles?" Autumn asked him vigilantly. She was scared that he would make fun of her.

"Autumn, don't be so nervous. I just want to take you for a shower." He laughed at her who looked so very faint. He held her gently and at this point it was easy for him to sense her tiredness and sore expressions. Somehow, Charles began to feel sorry for Autumn whose eye brows were knitted into a frown as he realized he had been a little more rough than usual when he was having sex with her.

"I am sorry, Autumn. Did I hurt you today?" After testing the water with his fingers he took her into the bathtub. All of a sudden, Autumn felt her exhaustion vanish as the her body soaked in the hot water.

"Is the water okay?" Charles asked her, as he began to rub her back gently. Even they were a legally married couple and had sex multiple times, Autumn still felt adventurous. She grabbed the towel from Charles, and said, "I can do it."

"Don't move. Let me help bathe you." Charles insisted on bathing her. Slowly and gently, Charles rubbed her body. He then dried her down after the shower which made Autumn felt like a pampered brat. A feeling of happiness surged up in her heart.

"Well, done." Charles turned off the hair drier and said to Autumn, "Now go back into bed and take some rest. I will take a quick shower and join you very soon."

Indeed, he finished his shower within ten minutes and then got into bed, drawing her into his warm embracing arms. "Autumn, can we talk now? I am so eager to know why you were angry with me.

Please tell me."

It was normal for a newly married couple to quarrel.

Charles heaved a sigh, as he stroked her hair affectionately and continued, "I am your husband. No

matter what happened and what you were thinking, I hope you know you can tell me. If I did something wrong, then you should tell me so that I can correct myself and improve our relationship. But you shouldn't just remain mad at me without saying anything. What do you think?"

Autumn, lay in his arms quietly, as she contemplated on how to express her feeling.

"Charles, I..." She suddenly sat up, and looked at him with sincere eyes. But then she hesitated to speak.

"What are you trying to tell me, Autumn? Just say it without thinking so much. It is just me." Charles asked her and as he simply wanted to understand her. Therefore, he urged Autumn to say something as he was growing anxious.

Chapter 339 A Trade-off

"During your overseas business trip... did you happen to meet Aron in Europe?" Autumn finally decided to talk it over with Charles and put an end to the matter, otherwise, this would forever bother her.

"Did I meet Aron? I did not." Charles expressed his shock as he answered her question.

"Aron..." Autumn managed to blurt out what she knew, "Aron told me that he found Leila and you in a jewelry store. Moreover....."

"Oh, now I understand what was bothering you! " In one swift moment after hearing her, Charles leaped off the bed and immediately took out two boxes from his briefcase and handed it over to Autumn,

"Open them and be prepared for a surprise."

"What are in these boxes..." Upon opening the boxes, Autumn was pleased, relieved and surprised to find the bracelet and necklace she had been admiring for a while.

"Why don't you try them on? Charles urged, "As Leila was your colleague and a woman, I thought she would be able to help me choose jewelry that you would like. With that in mind, I asked her to accompany me into the store."

Charles sighed, "Out of all the possible things, this is rather unnecessary for you to quarrel with me over something so trivial!"

Autumn's face turned red with embarrassment and guilt. "I misunderstood you..."

"You should come to me directly for the truth. I hope in the future you will not be so hasty as to believe anyone who says something in a bid to harm our relationship!" Charles then considerately made a suggestion to Autumn affectionately, "You are too jealous."

"I will not do it next time." Autumn acknowledged her mistake and also managed to reveal her

nightmare to Charles for him to interpret what it could mean, "The other night, I had a dream that you chose to marry Leila as she was carrying your child, which led to our separation. I really..."

The nightmare remained with Autumn like a lingering fear. Charles tried to minimize the effects with comforting words.

Rachel and Edward slept together. After midnight, Rachel put a sleeping pill in the cup of milk which Edward had a habit of drinking every night, she then trusted with Roger, while Edward was unconscious and completely unaware of her betrayal.

Rachel's fear of being dogged steered the path to her being paranoid and excessively careful. Rachel knocked on the door, only to be pulled in by Roger.

"What happened? Is everything fine? It is impudent for you to demand an urgent meeting with me in such a manner, as there could be nothing as serious as ever..." Rachel took off her sunglasses as she expressed her disappointment, "I will be the one to contact you if necessary. Such sudden meeting may cause suspicions."

Rachel allowed Roger to be a submissive and meek sex partner. She would abandon him if he

continued to act against her will.

"Rachel, I..." Roger held Rachel tightly and implored, "I was denied the role in the film."

"Take it easy, no more of such spineless actions." Rachel pushed away Roger impatiently. She took pains to trust with Roger, only to find that Roger was busy complaining and nagging. "Get down to business!"

"I..." Roger looked at Rachel with a serious expression, "I encountered Charles Lu and his wife today."

After that, Roger saw an increasing astonishment and excitement on Rachel's face which she could not conceal.

But Rachel tried to control her shock and approached Roger with a casual attitude, "Really? It being such a case, this has nothing to do with me! It is a waste of time for you to recount the event."

"Rachel, I know how deep you were involved in this love game." Roger sneered, "Your relationship with Charles Lu was sensationalized. But he married Autumn Ye while you married Edward Lu. I do believe you have long been waiting for an opportunity to get even with Charles Lu for leaving you in the manner that he did."

"Such a fancy flight of your imagination!" Rachel found it unnecessary to share her private life with

Roger, who was no more than a sex partner to her.

Rachel kept her relationship with Charles to herself, and was unwilling to disclose it to anyone especially Roger.

"You should have doubted the truth behind these fragments of news doing the rounds in our show circle. And your excessive concern about such trivial matters gives rise to my suspicion of your ulterior motive behind such plans!" Rachel rebuked Roger abruptly abandoning all sense of subtlety.

"You should be thankful for my kindness and not insult my intentions. Please do not misunderstand me." Roger expressed his stand and support for Rachel, "I am bound to help you teach him a good lesson in a bid to make up for your grievances."

"Really? I am thankful for your consideration and gratitude. But I do not need your help." Rachel sneered, "I do not think it is necessary to pursue this matter, as now I am leading a peaceful, comfortable and happily married life. Moreover, please do not act on my behalf anymore. There is more aversion than warmth in your so-called kindness."

Roger was hurt and taken aback by Rachel's indifference, but he immediately thought of the perfect

way to approach Rachel, as he learned through cyberspace that Rachel offending Autumn had ended up with her losing many good roles. It was Charles' prestige, power and good standing in the society that once jeopardized Rachel's acting career.

Roger staked his career turnabout upon Rachel's unabated resentment toward Autumn which he was determined to exploit for the growth in his career.

"Is that so?" Roger replied slyly in a bid to manipulate her, "I intended to flirt with Autumn to avenge your grievance. But now that I see that you do not care, I will leave the matter alone."

Rachel was definitely attracted to Roger's offer, but she remained well poised to maintain a safe distance from Roger, "What do you mean? I doubt your efforts in flirting with Autumn would work, as Autumn naturally plays it low upon you. She does not seem interested in you."

"I stand a good chance to woo her! After all I do have the reputation and name as a lady killer" Roger was somewhat offended by her remark and he expressed his objection, "I am handsome and smart enough to draw her attention!"

"Can you really make it?" Rachel still doubted his capabilities and intention.

"Please trust me!" Roger took the advantage to influence Rachel, "Now I was denied the supporting

actor which Director Zhang previously offered me in consideration of your influence. Now you have to talk him back into reemploying me!"

"Give me the entire account of what happened!" Rachel thought to herself if Roger could bewitch Autumn into losing her fidelity, she could do Roger this small favor in return.

"On the condition that you offer me another role." Roger wasted no time in negotiating with Rachel.

Rachel was convinced and would grant Roger whatever he requested as long as Roger was of help to get rid of Autumn, "As long as you serve my end, you will receive handsome rewards."

"Do not take back your words!" Roger was excited at the prospect of his career's revival. He had to be granted another role at the realization of Director Zhang's being adamant about firing him.

Rachel accepted the condition gladly, waiting for Roger's recalling the detailed account of what had happened.

Roger smiled to Rachel, "The other day I bumped against Autumn during an interview with Director Zhang, which evidently hurt her. I asked my assistant to take her to a nearby hospital for treatment, but she declined my offer."

Chapter 340 Inducement

"I saw her again when I was shooting today. Then I approached her and said hello. I first thought that she came looking for me. Sure enough, when she saw me, she came over and asked whether I wanted to have dinner with her and maybe have a chat over coffee after." Roger was quite good at turning black into white.

"And then? What happened after that?"

Rachel became excited. Finally she had found the best way to get even with Autumn.

"She's beautiful, so I talked with her for quite some time. But I didn't agree to go out for dinner with her.

I had another scene to shoot later that day." Roger pretended to sigh, then said to Rachel, "Later on, when I was about to continue shooting, Charles Lu showed up. When I saw his face, I remembered that some recent online reports and I realized that Autumn was his wife.

I was curious at that time. Why would a married woman want chat with me?" Roger frowned.

"No matter how hard I tried to explain, Charles Lu did not believe anything that I said. He just believed what his wife told him. Unlucky for me, she was pretending to have been wronged and kept crying. He even convinced Director Zhang to fire me. As for everybody else, they all sided with Autumn and only believed her. So here I am, really desperate." Roger sighed again as he looked at Rachel with pitiful

eyes, "Is it because I'm not a woman?"

Or is it because I can't cry and show my vulnerability?"

Director Zhang did not dare offend Charles Lu. That's why he fired me." Roger stared at Rachel firmly,

"Rachel, you know that it is because of Autumn, that bitch, that I am now jobless. You have me at your disposal. Say the word and I will give her a hard time!"

"Roger, let's make a deal," Rachel said with delight. Rachel believed every bit of his tale.

Roger smiled, pretending to be sincere, then said, "Rachel, we are friends, you should know. If you need my help, just say it out. Don't use the word 'deal', please."

"That's two different things. I think we should make it clear. If you can help me, I will also do you a favor. As they say, 'You scratch my back and I scratch yours.'" Rachel thought it was better to have everything clear. She didn't want to owe other people anything.

"Okay, then say it to me." Roger paused for a while, and then said, "I will do everything I can to help you, as long as the opportunity presents itself."

Rachel sneered coldly, then said, "Well, according to your story, Autumn definitely likes you. Is this

really true?"

"It might be true."

Roger said that hesitantly, "But I cannot assure you that 100%."

"Okay, it could be enough." Rachel was convinced that this was a rare opportunity. She then motioned

Roger to come closer. "I need you to seduce Autumn, in any manner. Do whatever you have to do. And

if you can get her naked and take photo of it, that would be perfect. If you succeed, you'll get a special

reward from me."

Rachel became extremely excited, just thinking of that scene — a naked photo of Autumn. She then

would lose both, fortune and honor, and end up with nothing.

"Ummm... I think that would be pretty difficult."

Roger winked, waiting for Rachel to give him a reasonable price for such a task.

Rachel knew what Roger was thinking. What a weasel! This relationship was built solely on personal

and selfish interests. But as long as Roger was useful to her, she wouldn't be stingy to him.

"So you have just been fired by Director Zhang, is that right? I have a friend who is also a director.

Though he is not yet very famous, he is gaining popularity now, highly recommended and applauded

for his genius work. He is now planning a new series and he is looking for the right actor for the main character. If you can help me with what I'm asking, I'll introduce you to him. How do you think of this deal? It's a good deal. Consider it well. Besides, I don't have much time and I can't stay here too long."

Rachel was a an expert when it came to manipulating people. It was no different with Roger.

She then stopped talking and waited for him to open his mouth. She knew that he wouldn't want to miss this opportunity.

Sure enough, Roger asked excitedly, "Is it true? Are you serious?"

"Sure." Rachel nodded firmly, "Does it look like I'm joking right now?"

"Ummm..." There were two characters for his consideration. One was the leading character and the other not. Roger chose the former one and said to her, "Deal."

Rachel flashed a smile on her face. "Good boy. Then I will call him right now."

Rachel called her director friend and told him about Roger. After a few minutes of chit chat, it had been decided and Roger got the leading role. The rising actor couldn't help but get excited and almost jump up. Rachel softly patted on his shoulder and said, "Okay, my part of the deal is done. Your turn."

Remember to complete your task. If you do it well, I'll have better things for you in the future."

"Oh..." Rachel thought of something and continued, "If you have something for me to do to achieve this faster, just let me know."

"Okay." Rachel was about to leave but Roger instantly hugged her and whispered in her ear, "Don't leave too soon, stay with me for a while..."

Rachel pretended to refuse for a second, but what the heck. Roger was still very attractive. They ended up sleeping together.

After that, Rachel got up and put on her clothes like nothing happened. She reminded Roger, "You'd better complete the task I gave you as soon as possible. Director Li has another movie to shoot within this year. If I like your work, I'll recommend you to him as well. As an actor I think you already know that anyone who stars in his movies is sure to become an A-list celebrity."

"Do you mean..." Roger became excited even more.

"Yeah, so try to perform well, " Rachel replied, clipping the last button of her blouse. Now fully clothed,

Rachel went straight home. She was a little anxious as to what awaited her but was immediately relieved when she noticed that Edward was having a sound asleep.

When Autumn woke up in the morning, she got herself ready and headed downstairs. She was surprised to see a group of people sit in the living room. When they saw Autumn they hurriedly went to her. "Autumn! Are you okay? How do you feel? Are you feeling better?"

"I'm fine." Autumn immediately reassured them. She didn't want them to worry about her. "Grandpa and grandma! What a pleasant surprise! What's going on? What brought you here?"

"You haven't been home for several days. Your grandma missed you so much." Arthur smiled, "Today I have some spare time so I brought them here to visit you. Gary said that you were sick. Why didn't you let us know? Call us the next time, or your grandma will be upset, not knowing what's going on with you."

Arthur said, waving a finger at her. Autumn was happy to know that there were people who cared a lot about her.

"I'm fine now. Grandma, don't worry about me." Autumn hugged her grandma and asked softly, "How about Emily?"

"She's okay. Nothing new." Amy sighed and changed the subject back to Autumn. "You are really fine

now?"

"Yes grandma, I'm fine now. Stop worrying about me." Autumn then realized that she hadn't been to their home for a long time and felt sorry. However, she quickly said to them, "I'm so sorry. I know you made all this effort to come see me. But I have to go to work now. I will be back and spend some time with you after work. How does that sound?"

"Sounds great!" replied the elderly visitors. Amy was happy as a child. She asked Autumn with a grin,

"What do you want to eat, dear?"

"I'll buy some on the way back home."