

Wedded Bride 361

Chapter 361 The Only Condition

"Come here, Yvonne." Wendy waved at Yvonne to come closer. She said to her daughter, "I want to ask you. Am I a good mother to you?"

"Mother, what are you talking about? Of course you're a wonderful mother." Yvonne felt goose bumps all over her. She wasn't used to Wendy talking this way and it was a bit scary. Something was wrong but she couldn't tell which. All she could do was walk towards her mother.

Simon was good to her before, but everything had changed since Aron reappeared in their lives.

"Let me tell you, your father now has Aron back in his life. He does not want us any more, " she said gloomily. "Not only that. He is going to give everything, the house, the car and the company... all to Aron."

"How could that happen?" Yvonne frowned and she said to Wendy, "Who does he think he is? All these things were supposed to be mine. I'll never let him have them. Over my dead body."

"That's it. That's my good girl." The conning mother pat the back of her daughter's hand and said, "Yes, mom will take all these things back for you."

"Mom... What did you mean?" Yvonne looked at Wendy nervously. Wendy whispered something to her

ear. Yvonne freaked out, almost jumping away. "Mom, are you crazy? How would you do this?"

"Don't blame on me for his unkindness. That's not my fault. Don't you want the family fortune for yourself?" Wendy sneered, "If you want it... this would be the only way. You just need to be tough and make the decision."

Yvonne fell silent and thought about it long and hard. Finally she nodded, "Okay, let's do this."

The next morning, Wendy called Simon to come home for dinner, saying there was something important to discuss with him. She said it sincerely and convincingly on the phone, that Simon finally agreed to it, for the sake of their marriage all these years.

Wendy swore to him, "I will agree to the divorce after dinner. No excuses, no conditions."

Towards noon, Wendy dismissed all the servants and even Yvonne was asked to leave them. She set a table, full of dishes and waited for Simon.

Wendy did not show anything different when Simon arrived. She greeted him as usual and said, "Go wash your hands and let's have dinner."

"What are you doing?" Simon looked at Wendy and frowned. "Don't think that this could get us back

together."

Wendy lowered her head, smiled bitterly at Simon and said, "I know. I only wish to see you so that we can say goodbye to each other in person. This is not an attempt to win you back. Yes, we are getting a divorce after so many years of marriage. Don't you think this is the perfect way to end it?"

Simon was speechless when he heard this from the woman he was about to leave. He sighed in frustration. They would not get to this point if Wendy had been a bit considerate.

He looked at Wendy, and said, "Let's eat dinner."

After taking a seat, Simon noticed there was no other person in the house. He was confused, so he asked, "Where is everyone else? Why is there no one at home?"

"I let them take the day off, because I wanted to talk to you and have you to myself. It's just two of us."

Wendy said casually as she filled a bowl with spareribs soup and handed it over to Simon.

"Here. I know that it's your favorite." Wendy smiled sincerely. She tried to savor the moment, as if they were just meeting each other for the very first time. Even Simon felt like time turned back to more than twenty years ago. When he first met Wendy, she often invited him to her place to have dinner. At that time, his favorite dish was spareribs soup.

"How is it?" Wendy smiled as she watched Simon take a sip of the soup.

Simon nodded slightly. He put down the bowl and said, "It's hard to remember after all these years how much I love this."

He looked slightly at Wendy, and asked, "Didn't you say there was something important that you had to tell me? Why don't you tell me now?"

This man's warmth was only for his wife from twenty years ago. But as time passed, he could no longer remember the love and affection he had for this woman, whose heart was so malicious that snakes and scorpion paled in comparison.

Wendy fell silent and hung her head low. Simon frowned. "If you don't want to say anything, then I'll speak first. Just sign this agreement."

He took out a document from his briefcase and said to Wendy, "You have devoted a whole lot of your days to me so I won't be too harsh with you. I have prepared an apartment for you and Yvonne to live in. And here is a bank card, which has a million dollars in it. In addition, I will be providing you 20,000 dollars alimony every month. That should be enough for you and Yvonne to live comfortably. And... You

may take your cars. You can also take with you all the clothes, jewelry and bags that you own. This is the biggest provision that I can make."

Simon considered this a very generous offer, but obviously the greedy wife was not all satisfied.

There was no change in the expression on her face. "Are you... in that much of a hurry to divorce me?"

Although she didn't admit it, Wendy was still trying to win Simon back. Twenty years of being together was extremely difficult for her to just throw away into the gutter. But unfortunately, Simon had made up his mind. "I thought we had made a deal."

He pushed the agreement towards Wendy. "Let's not waste each others' time. Please just sign it now."

"Don't worry. I'll sign it a bit later." Wendy sneered, as she said, "You hold my handle in your hand..."

How dare I not sign it?"

The man who was all but fed up looked at her coldly. "I hope you understand. It would not have come to this if it was not necessary."

"Actually, I called you today to have a nice dinner with you. We have been so busy that I can't

remember the last time we had the chance to sit and chat like this... And what's more, I just want to ask you how you knew about that." Wendy thought that she had kept many secrets and concealed a lot, but

now, after twenty years, she realized that she was really naive, expecting them to remain secrets forever.

"There is a saying, 'If you don't want people to know what you do, don't do it.' How did I get to know things that happened for so many years? Does it really matter?" Simon scoffed.

"Yes, it does." Wendy looked down at the spareribs soup and gently said, "If you want me to sign it, my only condition is this..."

Chapter 362 A Murder (Part One)

Simon frowned, but he finally gave in. "If you really want to know, then I will tell you."

He slowly took another sip of the spareribs soup. "When I was with you that year, I rarely visited our home with my then wife. However, when she was about to give birth to Aron, I went to see her."

Wendy remembered that time. She was also pregnant. Though she tried to keep him from leaving, not allowing him go out, he still sneaked out into the night when she fell asleep.

"Don't look at me that way." Simon then said, "No matter what, I was still the baby's father. Even if I didn't care about her, it's my responsibility to care for the baby."

Wendy just stared at her husband without saying anything.

Simon continued, "The doctor told me that she was in very bad shape. It could be because of something she may have eaten. She lacked the strength to give birth to the baby. The doctor also said, if she kept eating whatever it was that was causing her to weaken, she might miscarry the baby."

"However, I didn't think too much of it that night. I just thought that her death was caused by the difficulty of giving birth which she wasn't able to survive. When you moved into this house, I once heard you chatting with the maid, who used to take care of her. You gave her a large amount of money, letting her leave and never come back. Is that true?" Simon said it with hatred.

"You got it." She gave him a creepy smile. "Why don't you reveal another of my secrets? Since you have found out that it was me who murdered her. Why did you still marry me?"

Simon smiled bitterly. She was right. If he had acted accordingly after he discovered her secret, then they wouldn't be in such big trouble at present.

"At that time, I loved you so much. And I knew that your aim was to be with me. To be honest, it wasn't such a bad thing for me that Aron's mother died. The company was handed to me. That was why I didn't seek justice for her death."

Simon sneered, "Actually, that maid came back many times, asking for more money. Guess what? I

paid her. Without you knowing."

"What are you talking about?" Wendy's eyes widened with surprise. She had paid so much money to that maid, enough for her to enjoy the rest of her life without having to work as a maid ever again.

Never did she imagine that, the maid repeatedly came back and greedily asked for more money. It made her clench her fists in anger.

What made it worse was that Simon helped her. No wonder he found out the truth.

"Now you know everything. Hurry up and sign it."

Simon added, "I assure you, once you sign it, this horrible thing that you did will remain a secret, especially from my son."

"I'm afraid I can't sign it."

Wendy raised her head, with a sinister smile. Simon realized what had happened. He had quickly lost strength to rebuke her.

"You... you poisoned me?"

Simon immediately realized what she had done. She poisoned Aron's mother and treat her own

daughter badly. Of course, she would do anything for her survival, without any consideration for morality or the simple basics of right and wrong.

"You're clever." Wendy stood up. Only she knew that the poison she put in the soup could make a person lose strength, and then die slowly and painfully.

"Wendy! You are the devil!" Simon cried out. "Is it not enough for you to kill her?! You have to kill me too? Sooner or later your evil deeds will catch up with you!"

"Huh?" Wendy laughed. "If I was afraid of that, How could I have had the guts to achieve this?"

"Let me tell you. Not only you two, but Bowen. I murdered Bowen too." This shameless woman hovered over her dying husband and squeezed a sinister smile on him.

"You..." Simon stared at her, frightened at what she would do next. He didn't know why she poisoned Bowen as well. The poor guy didn't do anything wrong to her.

"You are surprised, right?" Wendy jeered, "I can tell you everything, since you won't come out of this house alive anyway."

What Wendy didn't know was that Simon had dialed Aron's number. When the phone rang, Aron didn't want to answer it. However, it kept ringing and the noise irritated him. Finally, he answered the

telephone. It was the rude voice of Wendy talking in the distance that he heard. He was about to say something, but decided to stay quiet and listen some more.

"When we were still together as a couple, his father, Arthur, did not give his blessing to our marriage. I could feel that no one in that damn family liked me. Then I gave birth to Autumn. We were running out of money and life was starting to get difficult especially with our new baby. But Bowen... Oh, poor but stupid and proud Bowen." She paused, then continued, " He was too proud and unwilling to go back to his family to make amends. I threatened to break up with him but he didn't care. I was not ready to live a life of poverty with him so I had to get rid of him. People think that he died from depression, but the truth is that... he was poisoned to death... by me."

Aron couldn't believe what he just heard. He held the phone to his ear with eyes wide open and his heart beating fast. He never thought that Wendy spoke out the truth like that. He immediately pressed the record button, waiting for her to say more.

"Then let's talk about Aron's mother..."

Wendy excitedly paced around the room, complacent that the dying old man in front of her can do

nothing about it.

"When I was with you, I visited her once, in an effort to persuade her to leave you. But of course, we all know that she didn't agree. Instead, she told me that she would divorce you, but she would keep the house, the cars, your company, everything! And nothing for me! Could you believe it?" she screamed in Simon's face. "Was I insane to let her have it all? What about me? Stupid bitch had to die!"

Wendy's laughter was so demonic on the phone that Aron tightened his fists. This was the first time he knew that his mother's death was her doing.

"As to you, my dear..." Wendy turned back to look at Simon, smiling.

Simon's senses have gone fuzzy, but he still tried to sit straight, talking back to Wendy, "You vicious woman! Even if you kill me, never will you get my fortune. All of it will be rightfully given to my son. All of it! So you can stop dreaming my dear. Because it is never, ever going to happen!" He forced it out with all his remaining strength.

Upon hearing this, Wendy strode to him, grabbed his neck with both hands and tried to strangle him,

"That's why I have to poison you, my dear husband!!! I did this because of you, you pathetic son of a bitch! I did all of this to be with you! And you still decided to divorce me?!"

"Because of me? How deluded are you! Everything you do is only for your own benefit."

Simon laughed with both amusement and sadness. "Wendy, you are a greedy and selfish woman. All the things you have done were only to get yourself a better life. Just for you! Not for your family, not for your daughters, not for anyone! Stop regarding yourself as a selfless woman. You are nowhere near being selfless!"

Chapter 363 A Murder (Part Two)

"What's wrong with having the desire to lead a better life?" Wendy looked at Simon, puzzled. "As the old saying goes, 'Man struggles upwards; water flows downwards.' With my own efforts and persistence, I had the chance to live a happier life. Is there anything wrong with it? Would you rather see that, I made every possible endeavor to marry Bowen just to live a painful and miserable life with him?"

Simon didn't say a word. Wendy would never understand the definition of true love. Whatever he said to her fell on deaf ears. On second thought, he had better keep silent.

This insane woman would be difficult to have a dispute with.

"Why don't you say something?" Wendy sneered at him, and said, "Simon Gu, don't be a hypocrite."

You and I are one and the same. You decided to marry Aron's mother just because of her family's wealth, am I right? Weren't you also trying to give yourself a more comfortable life? You do not have the right to look down on me, you know."

"I'm totally different from you." Simon knew that his son, Aron, was listening on the phone this whole time. Unfortunately, he had run out of chances to make a clear explanation to his son. So at this untimely moment, he choose this way to tell him that he loved his son all his life.

"At that time, when I fell in love his mother, I didn't know who she was and what family background she had. I decided to court her as dictated by my true love for her. I really loved her. I still do, even though it's been many years. And I still feel sorry for what I did to her and our son." Simon smiled bitterly. As men speak kindly in the presence of death, he continued saying, "One thing that I regret most is that I was once obsessed with you. And that I helped you hide your crimes in order to get the shares of the company. Wendy Ye, you are a deluded and shameless poor excuse of a human being, with a general lack of emotion, remorse, kindness and love. You are a curse to humankind. How could I possibly have anything in common with you?"

"That sounds like a good explanation, right?" Wendy smiled with irony. "My beloved husband, at that

time, to be able to take over the company, you did help me hide my crimes. But later, you connived with me, letting our daughter marry Charles just to get the financial support from his company. In your heart, money and business have long been more important than family bonds. You had better admit that you and I are of the same kind."

Wendy's words got Simon as he lost himself in his thoughts. Yes, she was right. When did he become as evil as her?

He felt so terrible as he realized it.

He could not find a good enough reason to forgive himself. He responded in a cold tone, "There is no denying that I have done a few wrong things. But now, I have seen and done enough in my life. Wendy Ye, please hurry up. Just go ahead if you really want to kill me. Stop talking all this nonsense with me."

Aron, while listening to Wendy's revelation of her atrocities, had rushed off from where he was, all the way to the Gu family house. When Aron heard Simon's words on the phone, he finally understood that Simon only sought death in his mind because Simon did not want any more tragedies to fall on him.

But at that moment, he drove at top speed, terribly fearing that he could be too late to save his father

from certain death.

Only then did he realize that however he said that he hated Simon, he couldn't help crying now that he had found out that Simon could be slipping off to his death right at that very moment. Don't people say that 'blood is thicker than water'?

He dared not make any noise. He was afraid that Wendy would do harm to his father if she found out that he had been listening.

Then he heard Simon continue speaking to Wendy, "Everything ought to come to an end, especially with me. Wendy Ye, stop hurting other innocent people. Simple as that."

"Did you know? I really don't want you to fall into the wrong path." Wendy's smile was bitter. "I have been married to you for so many years. I still love you, but why have you given up and wanted to leave me? And why won't you leave all of your property to Yvonne. Is it just because she is not a boy?"

Wendy continued, "But it doesn't matter. After you die, the three of us can divide your property equally.

At least, we can get more than half of it with our combined shares. That's enough for me."

As Wendy touched Simon's face, she said, "Simon, we could have lived a peaceful life. But it is you who screwed up everything, so don't blame me for it."

Wendy saw Simon close his eyes. She said to him, "Yvonne is also your daughter. Hadn't you been so cruel, how could I have planned to kill you?"

She kissed Simon on his cheek without any nostalgia on her face. "Good bye, my love."

After hearing Wendy's words, Aron no longer heard Simon's reply. Then Aron understood that he was likely already killed by Wendy. Aron stopped his car on the roadside. He bent over the steering wheel and lost his control, "Noooooooooooo...." he screamed and broke down.

There was no time to tell his father that he didn't hate him at all.

He had no chance to tell that he had forgiven him.

He had a lot to say to Simon, but Simon would never hear what he wanted to tell him.

When Yvonne came back home, she only saw the delicious but stone-cold dishes on the table that hadn't been touched. She then saw Wendy sitting on the sofa with a silly smile on her face, reading a magazine. She sat beside her mother with curiosity and asked, "Mom? Where is my dad?"

"Buried in the backyard." Wendy answered calmly. Barely looking up, turning the magazine, page after page.

Yvonne knew what would happen today after her mom ordered her and everyone else to get out of the house. Even so, she still felt very horrible. She asked warily, "Then... Just buried in the backyard?"

Wendy looked at Yvonne coldly, and asked, "What are you afraid of?"

"No, I'm not afraid. I just" Yvonne regretted asking the question. She now noticed that her mother looked so dreadful. But it was too late to stop her. She could only force herself to ask, "Mom, then"

What should we do next?" novelbin

"Next..." Wendy was about to say something when the doorbell rang. Hearing the bell, Yvonne quickly rushed to open the door to get away from the strange and gloomy atmosphere.

Aron stood by the door, out of breath and with an insidious expression on his face.

"What brings you here?" Yvonne blurted with hostility, acting as a cock in high spirits the moment she saw Aron.

"Where is Wendy Ye? Where is your mother?" he panted. "Let her come out here to face me!" Aron shouted at his sister. But Yvonne stood in the doorway deliberately to stop him from coming in. She shouted in return, "Who do you think you are? Is this a place where you can come at will? Get out of here now!"

Yvonne ordered him arrogantly but with a guilty conscience. Wendy just killed her father. If she let Aron come in, he would, no doubt, find some clues that lead to the murder of Simon.

"Get out of my way!" Aron's eyes were red with fury. Ignoring Yvonne, he directly shouted into the room, "Wendy Ye, you evil bitch! Come out and face me!"

Wendy didn't want to come out, but when she finally heard Aron's voice, she came out and stood in front of Aron calmly and asked, "What are you doing here?"

"Where is my father? What have you done to him!?" Aron came close to Wendy's face. "You had better show him to me right now. Or else, I will make sure that you suffer."

"What did you mean by threatening me like that?" Yvonne started shaking out of fear and guilt. She was too scared to say a word. But Wendy remained calm. For her, killing someone had gotten as easy as winking. How could she act so composed? She said to Aron, "He is a man who is restricted by nothing. He can go anywhere he wants. How can I stop him? Just ring him up if you are looking for him."

"I'm asking you what you have done to my father!?" Aron asked out of rage.

Chapter 364 A Murder (Part Three)

"You didn't hear me? I said that I didn't know where he was, " Wendy replied firmly. Wendy wondered why Aron had come here to see Simon, so soon after she had buried Simon's body. "What's your business here? Just tell me and I will forward your message to him when I see him, " she added.

"You poisonous and vile woman, aren't you tired of acting in front of me? Do you think that no one knows what you did? I won't say it again. Hand over my father now! Don't force me to come and look for him inside the house, " Aron threatened. Aron was desperately worried about Simon. Was he still alive? Had he been killed? He was nearly going crazy himself. Eager as he was to break in and find his father, he feared that he would see something that he wouldn't be able to bear.

Wendy's uneasiness increased. 'He must know something. Anyway, I can't slip into a panic, ' she told herself. "I'm not gonna say it again, either. I have no idea where that stupid man is. When he returned from Autumn's birthday party, he had a fight with me and then left. We had agreed to meet in front of the Bureau of Civil Affairs today, but he didn't show up. I kept calling him, but he didn't answer his phone. I really don't know where he is now. I was going to ask you to send a message for me and ask him whether... he still wanted to divorce me or not, " Wendy said calmly.

"Wow! That was impressive!" Aron sneered and gave a slow clap. "You killed him and hid his body and

now you are lying to me and acting as if nothing happened. Don't you feel any guilt?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Yvonne finally opened her mouth. She knew that it was time to stand up and defend her mother. After all, Wendy was the only one whom she could rely on now. "I really admire your rich but wild imagination. You even made up a story and tried to frame my mother. If anything happens to my dad, you are the murderer, " she continued.

"I don't want to waste my time on you, " Aron responded impatiently. Aron was trying to push Wendy away and get inside, but Wendy stood before him, as firm as a pillar and blocked his way.

"Aron, you're not a part of our family. If you keep forcing yourself to get inside, I will call the police and sue you for entering my house illegally, " Wendy warned.

"There is no need." Suddenly there was a voice behind Aron. All three of them looked towards the direction where the sound came. Aron turned around and caught sight of a police car outside the gate.
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"Mom, the police are coming.

What should we do now?" Yvonne with a pale look, whispered to Wendy, squeezing her hand.

Although Wendy was overcome with fear, she forced herself to calm down. "Don't panic. Take it easy, "

she said in a low voice.

Aron stood there silently, looking a little relieved at the sight of policemen. "Sir, we were just kidding.

Aron didn't mean that, " Wendy explained, as she walked up to the policemen.

"Oh?" the officer named Jack Zhang responded doubtfully, observing them discreetly. "Who is Wendy

Ye?" he asked.

"I am, " Wendy answered musingly. 'Did the police learn that I killed Simon? No, it's impossible.'

"Sir, may I ask why..." she went on carefully. Wendy became aware that these policemen didn't come

here for no reason.

"Someone called us. Now we suspect that you murdered your husband, Simon Gu. Please come with

us to receive further investigation. Thank you for your cooperation, " Jack Zhang said with a grim face.

Yvonne and Wendy both began to look uneasy.

"You must have made a mistake. My mom couldn't have killed my dad. It's not true, " Yvonne defended.

"You can't take her away!" She dashed toward Wendy and grabbed her hand.

"We will look into the case. Please don't interfere with our official business, " Jack Zhang said to

Yvonne indifferently. "Take her, " he told his subordinates, pointing to Wendy.

Wendy was composed during their conversation. She had known that this day would come when she decided to kill Simon. But she didn't expect that this day would come so soon.

"Sir, may I have a few words with my daughter?" Wendy said coolly, glancing over at Jack Zhang.

"Yes, you may. But be quick, " Jack answered.

Wendy gripped Yvonne's hand, and then they walked to a corner. "Mom, what should I do now? What will happen to me?" Yvonne kept asking. Her hands became cold and her voice was trembling.

"Calm down!" Wendy scolded. "You need to stay calm at this time. I will be taken away. Under this circumstance, you should compose yourself. Do you hear me?"

"Yes, I will compose myself, " Yvonne replied. "Mom, what should I do next?" she continued, after she settled down.

"After they take me away, you go to the back yard, dig out his body and transfer it to another place.

Remember, do it secretly and don't let anyone notice you. Otherwise, I will be as good as dead, "

Wendy whispered to Yvonne. "Also, dispose of the dishes on the table. There is nothing to worry about as long as you get these two things done, " she added.

"No, mom. I can't..." Yvonne shook her head, starting to sob. Overwhelmed by fear, she was a total mess now.

"Of course you can. You must do these for me, " Wendy encouraged. "Now we only have each other.

No one can help me except you. Do you have confidence in handling Aron alone?"

"But.." Yvonne stammered, looking troubled. After a long pause, she nodded at Wendy, "Okay, I will deal with them."

Wendy gave a satisfied smile at the sound of her words. "Are you done now? We need to go, " Jack Zhang urged, looking towards them.

"Here I am, " Wendy responded. "I'm leaving now. Take care of yourself, " she then turned to Yvonne, patting her shoulder gently.

Yvonne stood by the door, watching Wendy escorted by the police. "I called the police. Please let me go with you, " Aron said as he strode to Jack Zhang.

"Well, then you can come with us, " Jack agreed. He and Wendy got into the police van, and Aron followed behind them. When they arrived at the police office, Wendy remained silent and refused to

speak no matter what the police officer asked. She insisted on getting herself a lawyer.

Meanwhile in another room, Aron turned the sound recording in to the police, which could be counted as a strong evidence. But Wendy hadn't confessed and Simon's body hadn't been found, so they couldn't declare Wendy guilty.

"Sir, is there nothing we can do now? She murdered my father. I can't let her get away with it," Aron asked shaking with anger, as his eyes turned red. "Take it easy. I have called in a warrant, and it can be issued in a couple of hours. Once we get the warrant, we can ransack her house. As long as we find the body, she will be brought to justice," Jack assured.

"What if the body got transferred somewhere else?" Aron asked as his cold sweat kept running down from his forehead.

Chapter 365 A Murder (Part Four)

"You can rest assured that I have my people keeping a close watch on the Gu family house. If anything happens, I will know at once," said Officer Zhang calmly. "Mr. Gu, I understand how you feel now.

Wendy Ye has been arrested. If she is a murderer, we will bring her to justice. Please leave everything to us."

"I see, thank you, Officer," said Aron in a despondent voice.

Due to various procedures, the case could not be immediately investigated. This was especially hard for him when he knew that Wendy clearly killed his father.

Meanwhile, Yvonne had been cleaning up the room for a long time, but she was too afraid to go into the backyard and do what her mother had asked her to do.

She was so worried about Wendy that, after some serious consideration, she decided to ask Autumn for help.

When the phone rang, Autumn was ready to go to bed. Her first thought when she found that it was Yvonne calling, was to ignore it. But after a dozen rings, she picked it up.

"What?" Her tone was cold and irritated, as if she was talking to an enemy.

"Autumn, I beg you to help me, " Yvonne blurted out. The annoying little half-sister had climbed down from her high horse, because, at this moment, the only person that she could think of who could help her was Autumn. At any rate, Autumn was Wendy's daughter, too, and she believed that she would never turn her back on Wendy.

Autumn paused, wondering if she had heard her wrong. "What did you say? You beg me?"

It surprised her that Yvonne, who had always been proud and defiant, would beg her.

"Cut the crap. I really need your help. It's about mom." Yvonne clutched the phone, her voice quivering.

Autumn frowned. "I was done with her days ago. She's your mom, not mine. If you call me for her,

sorry, I can't help you. I'm hanging up now."

"Are you really going to be so cold, Autumn Ye?" Yvonne cried quickly.

"Hmmm, Autumn Ye is not here anymore. Now, I am Autumn Zhao. I have changed my name on the

household register and my ID card." Autumn coolly relayed the fact to her. "It's late. I'm going to bed."

"Mom was taken away by the police!" Yvonne cried out fast. "You're my elder sister and the only one

who can help her now. I beg you to go and see her, please!"

Autumn was stupefied by the news. It took her a long time to react. "Why did the police take her

away?"

"You'll know when you see her. Autumn, please, help mom. I really can't lose her," Yvonne implored.

Out of kindness, Autumn finally got dressed and went to the police station.

It was already after midnight when she got there. Technically, she was not allowed to see Wendy at the

time, but Aron helped her, so she was permitted to see her for a short time.

"What... have you done this time?" Autumn got right to the point, staring at Wendy with frigid eyes.

Wendy's head was drooping, wallowing in hopelessness. She looked so different from her usual glamorous appearance, seeming much older than the last time Autumn saw her.

"Why are you here?" Wendy looked up at Autumn and said faintly, "Weren't you in a hurry to get rid of me? What are you doing here?"

"Do you think I wanted to come?" Autumn gave her a sneer. "If Yvonne hadn't called me and begged me, I wouldn't have come here at all. Come on, what are you under arrest for?"

"It's none of your business, " Wendy replied and looked away.

"Speak up! Or else, I'll leave at once, " Autumn scowled. "I don't want to waste my time with you here.

Do you think I wanted to come if it weren't for the fact that you gave birth to me?"

"I didn't ask you to come!" Wendy argued ungratefully.

Autumn got angry. "Looks like I shouldn't have come. Well, enjoy your stay here. I'm leaving."

If Wendy were not related to her, Autumn would not have spent time and energy for this crap.

"Wait." As soon as Autumn stood up, Wendy regretted saying that, so she immediately stopped her

from leaving. "The police brought me here because that asshole Aron framed me and accused me of killing Simon. If you get me out of here, I swear I'll never bother you ever again."

"Aron said you killed Uncle Simon?" Autumn frowned, deep in thought, 'Aron isn't a man who would lie.

How could he have accused her of murder if she hadn't done it?'

When she was about to ask Wendy the whole story, Wendy took the lead in defending herself. "Simon is my husband. How could I murder him? Aron hates me, so he set me up on purpose!"

"Where is Uncle Simon now?" Autumn asked.

"I don't know." Wendy shrugged her shoulders.

"When we got back from your birthday party the other day, we had a big argument and he said he wanted to divorce me. Since then, we have never seen each other again and only made a few phone calls. We were supposed to sign the divorce papers today, but I never got through to him, and his cell phone was turned off in the afternoon. I really don't know where he is now. I'm also worried about him."

Then she added miserably, "No matter how much I've done you wrong, you'll always be my daughter,

Autumn. You have to help me. Please"

Autumn looked repulsively at the person she used to willingly call mother and said, "If you really are innocent, I'll do what I can to get you out of here."

Then she turned around and left. Out in the hall, she saw Aron sitting on a bench. She hurried over to him.

With his head down, Aron looked so much at a loss and so depressed that Autumn did not know what to say. Hearing her footsteps, Aron looked up at her and forced a smile. "You've seen her."

"Yes." Autumn sat down beside him. "Are you... "

"Don't worry. I'm fine. This time I'll definitely make that bitch pay for her actions for blood. She must not be allowed to escape justice again, " Aron said, gritting his teeth.

"Aron, is there... a misunderstanding?" Autumn asked after much hesitation.

"A misunderstanding? What do you mean?" Aron couldn't believe what he was hearing.

"I know she goes overboard sometimes, but... I still don't think she could have done such a crazy thing.

I mean, this is cold blooded murder, we are talking about. So I wonder if there's something wrong."

Autumn summoned up the courage to speak her mind. Wendy, after all, was still her mother. "If there's no proof of her murder, do you think we can get her out of here? She's too old to be locked up like

that."

Chapter 366 Startled Truth

"Are you really... speaking in Wendy's favor?" Aron was dumbfounded, as he stared at Autumn in confusion as to what had brought on such a drastic change. "I don't understand you. Wendy was so mean to you when you were a child. Now she did such horrible thing, and yet you are trying to rescue her. Autumn, have you lost your mind?"

"Like it or not, she is my birth mother. I... just want to repay her debts, " Autumn responded in a composed tone but could not manage to conceal the embarrassment which was peaking through her expressions.

Autumn looked at Aron in his eyes and said in an hushed tone, "Besides, she is just a suspect. She hasn't been found guilty yet. Please let me bail her out."

"Sorry, I simply cannot allow that. This is a matter of a life, " Aron refused almost immediately. Before

Aron could explain his decision, Jack walked up to him and said, "The warrant has been issued now.

We are going to search her house for evidence, will you..."

"Yes, I will, " Aron interrupted before Jack could finish his sentence. It was clear Aron knew what he

was about to say. "Autumn, you must be sure that Wendy could not possibly be such a horrible person.

How about you join us?" he suggested, as he turned towards Autumn seeking her answer.

Upon looking at Aron's confident expression, Autumn started to doubt what Wendy had said. After

much hesitation, she stood up and replied, "Okay, sure I'll come with you."

On the way to Gu family house, Aron remained silent as he maintained a stern expression. Autumn

was extremely nervous, and her heart felt like it was pounding outside of her body. Doubts began to

seep into her mind as she started to question whether Wendy had told her the truth or not.

They parked the car in front of the gate. Jack rang the bell, but no one answered. Even after waiting for

quite a while, no one opened the door. Jack authoritatively broke into the house without thinking once,

while Autumn and Aron followed him at a distance. They walked around but failed to find Yvonne. All of

a sudden, they were alerted by a sound coming from the back yard.

It almost sounded like someone was digging a pit. All the police officers including Jack rushed towards

the source of the sound. They turned on their torches, and the light landed on Yvonne. "It wasn't me. I

wasn't me. Dad, please don't be mad at me. It was all mom's idea. I don't want to do this to you. Please

don't haunt me, " Yvonne screamed as she trembled with fear, seeing the flashlight she instantly dropped the spade and held her head in her hands.

"Well, there is no need for any further investigation, " Jack said in a confident tone. "Please escort her back to the police station, " he requested his colleagues.

After staring at the panic-stricken Yvonne, Autumn realized that Aron's accusation on Wendy was not false. 'She did kill a man, " she thought to herself in shock.

Autumn was dumbfounded as she watched Yvonne being taken away by the police. 'Why did Wendy do this?

Simon was good to Wendy, provided well for their family and did almost everything she ever asked of him. Then how could she do such a horrendous thing to him?' she wondered in disbelief.

As she stood there almost paralyzed, Aron and the police officers dragged Simon's corpse from the pit.

Aron clenched his fists with his eyes brimming with tears as he looked down at Simon's lifeless body.

"Did you see it? This was what Wendy did to her husband, her partner and her soulmate. Autumn, someone who could even think of doing something so horrible does not deserve your compassion and I

hope you can remember that, " Aron turned to Autumn as he had broken down emotionally.

"I am so sorry," Autumn apologized, as she lowed her head in shame.

'I have been here, so I understand the pain of losing a family member. Even after being acquainted with this circumstance, I tried to speak good of Wendy. I must be insane,' she blamed herself bitterly.

"I was in denial. I hoped that by saying it was not true I could believe that she was not capable of such monstrosity. I... I'm really sorry for your loss and for putting my word for such a woman," she continued. 'I shouldn't have believed Wendy's words after all that she has done and said through the years. From now on, I will never meddle in matters where she was involved.' She had made up her mind.

"You don't need to apologize to me. Simon was not the only one... Wendy murdered," Aron revealed with disappointment. He played a sound recording. Autumn chocked up as she recognized Wendy's voice coming from the tape. Once she heard Wendy mentioning Bowen, she entirely broke down.

"Where... where did you find this?" she asked, as her face turned pale and her mind started churning.

"Is everything said on it... true?"

"You ought to have recognized Wendy's voice," Aron said rather coldly. "Simon called me right before

he died. Wendy had admitted all that she had done in the past. Do you know how terrified I felt as I heard all of this across the phone? I drove at a dangerous speed right from one end of the town to reach before it was too late. But despite all my attempts, I was unable to make it in time. She is such a wretched woman. Autumn, are you still trying to protect Wendy... even after learning all about what she has done?"

Autumn felt dizzy as she fell unconsciously on the ground with a thud.

She couldn't bear to accept the fact that Wendy was the cause of Bowen's untimely death. She never once thought that the murderer who ruined her life was in fact her own mother all these years. The moment she heard the truth, she collapsed. Her entire life seemed like a betrayal.

Aron drove Autumn to the hospital immediately, and then called up Charles. At that time, Charles was busy in a meeting. Soon after he answered the phone and learned of what had happened, he demanded the meeting be suspended.

When he heard that Autumn was admitted in the hospital, Charles rushed out of meeting, leaving his potential cooperative partners behind.

Leila followed Charles almost instinctively and asked with confusion, "Mr. Lu, where are you going in

such a hurry? The collaboratorS are waiting inside after they have come a long way to discuss

business with you!"

"Please help me and handle the situation. Autumn has fallen sick suddenly, and I urgently need to head

to the hospital, " Charles requested Leila while waiting for the elevator. Soon he stormed inside the lift

anxiously.

Leila gnashed her teeth, staring at Charles' back. 'Autumn, Autumn, it's always about her, ' she thought

with hate and disgust.

She too had learned about Autumn's real identity. 'She is a lucky woman. She first married Charles,

and now she has been acknowledged to be a part of a rich and respected family. How could I possibly

compete with that?

Now the most pressing thing is to appease those partners' discontent, ' she thought. Upon returning to

the conference room, she explained the situation to the dignitaries inside. At first some of them were

disappointed with Charles' abrupt behavior. But soon their anger subsided at the thoughts that Charles

had left them because of his wife's untimely sickness.

Most importantly, Leila provided a good service to them in an attempt to compensate for the sudden loss. She spent the entire night entertaining the partners. During this period, she drank with them, sang songs and by it all amused them. Although many partners tried to take advantages of her, she endured their cheap behaviors and maintained a warm smile for them.

Leila didn't return home to take some rest at daybreak until she took the last partner to his hotel.

Charles and the Zhao family were by Autumn's side the entire night. "Aren't you a doctor? What is wrong with Autumn? Why hasn't she waken up yet?" Amy asked Arthur nervously, as she grabbed his hand for some assurance.

"Didn't I just tell you? She has just sustained an emotional blow. She will gain consciousness soon after she has received adequate rest," Arthur explained patiently. Arthur looked at Autumn with concern.

'Even though she is in a coma, her forehead is wrinkled with worry and anxiety.

What happened to her? What made her break down like this?' he wondered.

"Sustained a blow? What's going on?" Amy murmured, as her eyes were filled with tears. "Did Autumn and you have a fight?" she turned to Charles with this natural doubt.

"No, I did not, grandma," Charles replied in assurance. "Please don't think too much. We will know

what is going on once Autumn wakes up."

Chapter 367 Hospitalized

Abby pulled Amy away and comforted her in a gentle and soothing voice. They all knew, crying would not solve any problem in fact it would just increase the anxiety about the precarious situation.

As sun started to set at dusk, Autumn gradually woke up. The first thought that greeted her was of Yvonne digging the body in the backyard and yelling in panic. She then recalled what Aron said to her, which made her heart fill up with guilt and regret for her initial reaction. Tears streamed down her cheeks the moment she opened her eyes.

Charles realized something was terribly wrong with Autumn. Even though she was wide awake, she did not utter a single word but instead kept on crying. Her heart began to hurt as the tears trickled down.

"Autumn, what's wrong love?"

Autumn didn't answer him, instead she continued sobbing. It was almost like the pain had blocked her from hearing him. As she came into her senses, she felt more guilty and embarrassed when she found her grandpa and other relatives standing around her all worried. "I'm sorry... It is all my fault."

Autumn kept apologizing and the tears did not stop either. Seeing this, Amy's heart was breaking with

pain as she did not know what she could do to help her. No matter how many times she tried to calm her down and speak her heart, Autumn just wouldn't stop crying. Charles looked at her with a worried expression, and then addressed them, "You have been here waiting for her since you came into the hospital. You must be tired. Why don't you go have some coffee and refreshments downstairs while I try to calm her down."

"But..." Amy was very worried as leaving her in this delicate condition was simply not an option. Before she could finish her sentence, Abby pulled her out of the room. She then said to Amy, "Mom, just let them be alone for sometime. I am sure Charles can handle this. She just seems overwhelmed by emotions. Give him some time to help her compose herself."

Within seconds, only Autumn and Charles were left inside the ward. Charles gently wiped the tears on her cheeks. "I am here with you. Please take a deep breath and tell me what happened? Please dear unburden your mind and put me also out of my misery?"

Autumn raised her head as she looked into his concerned eyes, more tears began to flow down her rosy cheeks. She finally gathered some strength as she began to narrate what happened the previous night. "Charles, I am feeling extremely guilty and overwhelmed about this. Even though it has been

decades since my father died, I found out the cause of his untimely death only recently. This is wrecking my peace. I'm not a good daughter..."

"You little foolish girl. It had nothing to do with you. Please stop blaming yourself." Charles again

delicately wiped her tears. "The only person who deserves all the blame and hatred is Wendy. She caused this. Why must you take responsibility for her and bear this pain?"

"No, you don't understand..." Autumn hated herself for associating herself with Wendy and referring to her as her mother. She had done so much for that ungrateful lady who only took things away from her and caused her hard. She was worried that if Bowen were alive, he would blame her for this.

"I know." Charles comforted her lovingly. "You are pressuring yourself too much, Please just rest.

I will handle the situation. You just concentrate on getting better."

If Zhao family knew the cause of Bowen's death, they would definitely follow home, let alone Aron. As

Wendy had done so many crazy things, Charles would seek justice for all victims.

If Wendy was alive, she would continue to affect Autumn with her negative grip. She must be put into

prison, for all the crimes she had committed, she deserved to be punished.

He made this decision while talking to Autumn and sensing her pain. But he did not let any of this reflect on his face as he maintained a mild expression. "Take some good rest. I'll go buy some of your favorite food for you."

He then helped Autumn lie down. Soon after Autumn fell asleep, he came out of the ward. The moment he got out, all her worried relatives came forward and surrounded him. "Charles, how is Autumn? Is she okay? Did someone hurt her?"

Please tell us what happened..."

"Yeah, please hurry up and put an end to our never ending concerns. Tell us what happened."

Charles stood right across the Zhao family and told them everything Autumn had just said, including what Wendy had done in the past. He knew one thing for certain, from their expressions, Wendy was now about to face some huge problems, or maybe even a disaster.

He sighed as he continued, "She blamed herself for even that. She feared that after hearing that, you might get angry at her and leave. That's why she remained so quite, her thoughts were suffocating her."

Tears began to well up in Amy's eyes as she heard all of that. She hated Wendy with all of her energy,

but she also felt her heart ache thinking about Autumn's traumatic experience. "She's a child for thinking this way... That poor girl must understand this has nothing to do with her."

"Grandpa, grandma, I'll just head out and buy her some food. She hasn't eaten anything for quite some time now. Please do head back inside and take care of her, " Charles said to them as he felt grateful for their presence and support.

"Okay, you go ahead and don't worry about her." Arthur agreed. While other than him, Abby expressed her clear anger at the situation. She clenched her fist hard, and furiously said, "I cannot believe that my brother was poisoned to death by that wretched woman! She will be punished, I will not rest till the day that happens."

Actually it was quite easy for Andy to give Wendy a hard time in the police station as he had a strong connection with the policemen. Abby was about to call Andy, but Arthur interrupted her. "I will handle this."

"But... dad!" Abby wanted to solve this case herself to seek vengeance for her brother's murder.

"I have made up my mind." Arthur frowned as he stopped her from speaking any further. He then

entered the ward, only to find Autumn asleep. However, her brows were furrowed slightly, as she seemed to be having a nightmare plagued by her concerns.

Arthur sighed, just thinking about how much she had suffered. Such a pitiful girl!

"Don't!" Autumn yelled out as she woke up from a terrible nightmare. In a reflex movement, Arthur immediately came forward and asked her what happened.

"What's wrong child? Were you having a nightmare?"

"Grandpa..." As soon as she saw Arthur, tears began to flow down her pale face again. Only after he comforted her for a long time, did she eventually calm down.

"You foolish child, I think you just have one flaw..." Arthur sighed as he continued, "You are used to bearing all responsibilities and blaming yourself... Why don't you care about yourself more?"

Autumn didn't respond. She felt guilty about it.

Charles wandered around the hospital, but was disappointed to find out that none of the foods was suitable to her taste. In the end, he drove to a restaurant nearby and bought some food for Autumn. He also ordered some appetizers and other dishes for the relatives waiting in the hospital. While he was waiting for the food to be prepared, an unexpected voice surprised him. "Mr. Lu, is that you?"

"Leila? What are you doing here?" Charles asked in shock as he turned back and noticed Leila.

"I was just about to head to the company. Before going I came here to grab a quick bite. Yesterday evening, I entertained those clients and gave them company for the entire night, then after a two-hour sleep, I just came out. How about you?" Leila deliberately mentioned the clients to let him know, that the trouble caused by him was perfectly resolved by her.

"Thank you so much..." Charles seemed embarrassed upon hearing that. "Yesterday, Autumn was admitted in the hospital. She just woke up so I came here to buy her some food. Thank you again for taking care of business like that."

"That's my job. You don't have to thank me really..." Leila said that with smile, "You just take care of Autumn and concentrate on her well being. All things in the company can be handled by me for now. If my future boyfriend treats me like this, I will be an extremely happy woman."

Chapter 368 A Visit

"She is my wife, of course I will devote all my attention to her. What would you like to eat? Please order it. It will be my treat as a gratitude for your work yesterday, " Charles said with a warm smile.

After choosing several dishes, Leila took a seat next to Charles and chatted with him. This meeting was

purely a coincidence. However, for Leila it seemed like destiny to meet him in such a fateful manner.

She was truly happy.

"Well, Mr. Lu, how is Autumn feeling now?" Leila asked abruptly.

"She is just fine. Just some small issues. She will recover soon," Charles answered with optimism.

"Now I should head back to the hospital to check on her. Until she was discharged from the hospital, I

will be absent in the company. I hope that... you can help manage all business affairs."

"Mr. Lu, don't worry about the company. Everything will be just fine," Leila responded with an assuring

smile. 'This is a good chance for me. I should not let it go,' she thought. "Mr. Lu, how about I come to

the hospital with you? I'm worried about Autumn's health too. After all, she is my savior," she casually

mentioned her idea.

"That seems absolutely fine," Charles agreed to her request. As the food Charles had ordered was

packed and ready to go, he also prepared to leave. "How did you get here?" he asked Leila.

Leila had driven there but since since she could not find a parking spot near the restaurant, she had to

park it slightly far from there. "I grabbed a taxi," she lied conveniently as she tried to conceal her

delight as to how well the day was going in her favor.

"Well, then I can give you a ride till the hospital, " Charles suggested immediately. Just when he drove past a flower shop, Leila asked him to pull over and wait for a second. As she insisted, Charles had no choice but to make the stop. She then got out of the car and came back with a bunch of beautifully fresh and fragrant flowers. As she entered the car, she wore a content smile on her face.

"Actually you really didn't have to bother with such a gesture. She will be released from hospital quite soon, " Charles said.

"It's impolite to visit someone empty handed, " Leila responded with a bright smile. "Autumn has always treated me so well and she even helped me find this job. Now she has fallen sick, how could I possibly visit her empty-handed? After all, she is hospitalized now."

"It is true that she introduced you to my company. But you have stayed on working with us owing to your excellent work performance, " Charles said as he praised and appreciated her work.

Leila let out a sweet smile as she heard him acknowledge and appreciate her efforts. As they arrived, Charles parked his car right outside the hospital building. He then walked upstairs, as he lead Leila who was right behind him. "What took you so long?" Abby asked with a frown, as Charles entered the

ward.

"I went all the way to Autumn's favorite restaurant and bought her favorite food. Grandpa, grandma, please have some food too. There is some for everyone, " Charles explained. "Well, Autumn..." he turned to Autumn, as he took out the food and helped her sit up.

"Do you know who I ran into at the restaurant?" he continued, maintaining suspense.

"Who?" Autumn asked. Autumn was feeling much better and stronger already after Arthur comforted her.

"Please come in, " Charles said as he glanced at the door with a grin.

Leila entered the room with the giant bouquet in her hands. "Autumn, how are you feeling now?" she asked, looking at Autumn with a big wide smile.

"What are you doing here?" Autumn snapped immediately with a displeased expression. Abby could sense Autumn's displeasure, but she remained silent and continued to observe her.

"I happened to meet Mr. Lu and heard that you were not keeping well. So I came here to check on you. I hope that is okay, " Leila replied. "How are you now? Are you feeling better?" she asked again with a slight smile, as she put the bouquet down on the side table.

"Don't worry. I'm still alive and kicking, " Autumn answered sarcastically. Leila's face flushed red with embarrassment as she did not know how to respond. "I'm tired. And I would like to get some sleep, " Autumn said, as she turned her face away.

"Autumn..." Charles called out, raising his eyebrows in shock. He could not understand why Autumn was so hostile towards Leila. "Please don't be like this, " he continued, trying to speak in Leila's favor.

"Well..." Abby said to Leila, glancing at her. "Thank you for visiting and also for the thoughtful flowers. But Autumn is tired now and would like to rest. How about you... come some other time?"

Leila gave Charles a pitiful glance. When she sensed the guilt in his eyes, she felt content. "Autumn, please do take rest. I will leave now, " she said to Autumn.

Charles escorted Leila to the entrance. Before Leila left, he said to her apologetically, "I'm sorry for that, her behavior was uncalled for. She has been very emotional lately. Please don't mind her."

Since a few days Autumn had been bad-tempered and paranoid, which was starting to bother Charles.

"I'm fine. Mr. Lu, please get back to Autumn. She needs you. I will see you later!" Leila responded, looking at Charles with apprehension.

"Bye!" Charles replied with a weak smile. As he turned around, he was stunned at the sight of Abby furiously standing across him. "Follow me, " Abby said before Charles could utter a single word.

Abby took him to the end of the corridor near the window. "Who is that woman?" she asked with growing concern and anger.

"Her? She is Autumn's former colleague. Later, Autumn introduced her to work in my company and now she is my secretary, " Charles replied. "Why would you ask me that?" he asked in confusion.

"Secretary?" Abby responded with a sneer. "Charles, don't think Autumn is a fool. It's very evident, that woman is harboring feelings for you."

"That is not possible, " Charles said with a confident smile. "Autumn knows Leila very well actually. She wouldn't have introduced Leila to my company if she didn't trust her."

"Didn't you just notice the tension in the room? Autumn clearly did not want to see her, " Abby said as she furrowed her brows. "Anyway, there is one thing that I hope you can remember at all times. Autumn isn't an orphan. You better treat her well. Otherwise, I won't forgive you, " she warned him.

"Besides, if you are ever caught having an affair with Leila, I will not let you go, " she added.

As soon as she finished her sentence, she headed straight to the ward. Charles stood there still, lost in

thought. 'Leila and I? How could that be possible?

But now that Abby mentioned this to me and Autumn does clearly dislike Leila, I will try to avoid Leila under every circumstance except work. In this way, Autumn will not be bothered.'

Just as he was heading to the ward, he received a call from David. David told him that there was something important waiting for him to deal with. "I will come back as soon as possible, " he agreed after a long hesitation.

He went to Autumn's ward and said he had some business to deal with immediately. With her permission, he rushed to the office.

He called Chris and asked her to give Autumn company. Chris arrived within a few minutes at the hospital with Sam.

To ensure Chris and Autumn could speak freely, the Zhao family left the ward. "Autumn, why are you in hospital again? What did Charles do now?" Chris sobbed, her eyes full of tears and fear.

"It's not his fault at all." Autumn defended him. "Please don't cry. I'm fine, really, " she assured Chris with a reassuring smile.

Chapter 369 Worse Than Death

"How are you feeling now, Autumn? What is wrong?" Chris asked question after question anxiously.

"Please do tell me if you aren't feeling that well."

"I'm fine really. Please don't worry, Chris." Autumn said, "By the way, what brought you here all of a sudden?"

"Charles told me you were hospitalized. Oh my god, did he take care of you well? Autumn, I swear I will teach him a lesson later." In a short span of time, Autumn had been brought into the hospital twice. In

Chris' view, Charles, as husband, had failed to protect his wife from harm's way, and she was quite unhappy about the situation.

"Are you really okay, Autumn?" Sam also inquired, as he stood behind Chris.

"I'm really okay. You both please don't worry any further. It's nothing a little rest won't fix, " Autumn answered. She suddenly realized that so many people had come to visit her and showing her with love and care ever since she got admitted. And a wave of happiness and gratitude washed over her.

"Autumn." While the three of them were talking, Arthur knocked at the door and came in. "I have something that needs my urgent attention. Could you please stay with Autumn here, " he requested

Chris and Sam.

"No problem, she will be just fine with us, " Chris replied with a warm reassuring smile.

Arthur thanked them, and left the hospital to go to the police station. When he arrived, he found Aron there. There was no doubt that Wendy was a murderer, and was to be sentenced to life.

Aron saw Arthur and hurried to greet him, "Doctor Zhao, hello, what are you doing here?" Aron seemed to have been through a lot overnight. Arthur walked up to him, patted him on the shoulder and said, "I heard about your father. I'm sorry for your loss, Mr. Gu."

"Oh, it's okay." Aron forced a smile. He was no longer bitter about his father's death. The fact that he helped the culprit get caught had something to do with it. "Doctor Zhao, you're here for... "

"I found out about Bowen, " Arthur said in a morose tone. "Autumn has been sick and hospitalized because of this. I'm here to see Wendy. There is something... I'd like to ask her in person."

"Is Autumn feeling any better now?" Aron left immediately after he sent Autumn to the hospital the previous night. And he had been at the station all night following up Wendy's case and had no time to think about her condition.

In fact, now he regretted saying those harsh words which upset her.

"Yes, she is fine now, " Arthur assured him. "I want to meet Wendy right now. Could you please help me with that?"

Aron nodded as he agreed to help out. Somehow, through his strong connections he managed to buy

Arthur ten minutes of visitation time with Wendy. Wendy had already known that her situation was only getting worse with each passing minute. And when she saw Arthur, she just cast him a lazy glance, giving a sense of despair and sadness.

"Wendy Ye, someone is here to see you, " a policeman yelled out at Wendy and then reminded Arthur,

"You only have ten minutes with her."

"I understand, " Arthur replied as he turned to Wendy. "Do you have anything to say to me?"

"Say to you? What are you expecting me to say to you?" Wendy returned his question with a question and smirked.

She then looked sideways at Arthur and said, "You see, I'm done. There is nothing left to say or do here. What do you think I have to tell you?"

"Tell me about Bowen. About what happened back then... " Arthur looked at her imperturbably and demanded an answer, "Did you really murder him?"

An unnatural look flashed across Wendy's face, and she looked away almost instantly in an attempt to

hide her face. "You already know what happened, " she said, "Then why would you ask again?"

"I want to hear it directly from you. Did you... murder Bowen?" Arthur threw the question again, hoping

for an answer.

"Yes, I did. Are you happy after hearing that?" Wendy cried out impatiently, "I did murder him. So

what?"

"But why did you do that?" Arthur clenched his fists so tight that his fingernails began to dig deep into

his flesh. Only the pain was helping him remain calm and suppress the burning rage in his heart, or he

would not be able to control himself and kill Wendy right in that instant. "Bowen was desperate to be

with you, he would have done anything to make things right. He loved you so much. How could you

have the heart to kill him?" he snapped at her.

"You say he loved me?" Wendy let out a sneer as she stared at Arthur with disdain. "Yes, he did love

me, but love is not enough to put food on the table. I grew up among the poor, and money is the most

important thing for survival. I know I'm good-looking and that has always been my biggest asset and

boon. I was with Bowen only because he was from a wealthy family. I hoped at some point I would have access to all that money to lead the good life I always dreamed of, but you... you broke my dream mercilessly and shattered it into a million pieces."

Her eyes were now filled with resentment. "I did kill Bowen, but it's all on your head."

Wendy's face did not reflect one ounce of regret even after being behind bars. She was always such a selfish and wretched woman: she would do anything to get what she wanted, even if meant sacrificing her love, relatives and dignity.

"We could see through you and your intentions from the first day. That's why we didn't approve

Bowen's relationship with you," Arthur roared in a deep voice, "How could we allow a woman like you who has no morals, no dignity to marry into our family?"

"Oh, was that really how you saw it?" A content sly smile cropped up on Wendy's face. "It's a pity that

Bowen loved me so much that he would do anything for me, including disowning you. He clearly did not feel so strongly towards your family..."

Arthur clenched his fists more tightly as he watched her smug smile. "He was so nice to you. He would have done anything for you, all you had to do was ask. Why did you have to kill him?"

"Because I wanted you to suffer. Does that sound right?" Wendy burst into a shout of laughter as she watched Arthur's shocked expression. "You didn't allow me to marry into your family, and then I killed Bowen and made you miserable for all your lives. How was that for revenge?"

"You crazy woman!" Arthur yelled at her. He just could not contain his emotions. He got up with a sudden thud and with all his energy slapped the table angrily. Wendy, however, did not show any signs of fear as she looked at Arthur coldly. "Don't forget that you are at a police station. I advise you to consider your idea of hitting me again. I will be extremely happy if you get the cell next to mine."

"Rest assured. I am not as stupid as you are. I won't hit you physically but I will hurt you in places that will injure you far more as from in there you will not be able to do anything," Arthur sneered. He knew Wendy was deliberately provoking and manipulating him. He took a deep breath as he took his seat again. "Then what about Autumn... Is she not your daughter? Why are you so cruel towards her?" he continued interrogating her.

"She?" Wendy said wrathfully, "Hmm, I'd rather even consider her as my daughter! Whenever I see her face, I immediately think of Bowen. Her existence is a constant reminder that I lost."

She then impatiently concluded, "Arthur, I'll tell you this, you are not only the cause of Bowen's death but also Autumn's suffering. You're the real one to be blamed. Your choices led us here."

Arthur smiled coldly as he attempted to intimidate her, "You think I don't have ways to torture you when

you're under arrest? I'll tell you this, Wendy, I have countless ways... to make your life in prison worse than death. Everyday you live and breath, you'll wish I pity you and murder you instead... "

"You... How dare you threaten me like this!" Wendy's eyes widened in horror. She knew Arthur was capable of doing exactly what he described. "You won't do that to me. I am after all Autumn's mother.

She won't let you go if you ever do that to me!" she tried to warn him away.

Chapter 370 A Funeral

"You should be ashamed of yourself to mention Autumn before me!" Arthur observed coldly, "Once

Autumn learned about what happened between Bowen and you, she fell sick leading to her

hospitalization. She will be more than pleased to see me teach you a good lesson."

"Wendy Ye, you are old enough to face consequences like you being sentenced to life in prison." After saying that, Arthur left abruptly, leaving Wendy nonplussed.

"Arthur Zhao, stop right there! You can not treat me like this, leaving this conversation hanging. Come

back and finish this chat. I will fight you till the end; remembering only revenge will satisfy me!" Wendy tried her best to negotiate with Arthur, but was left hanging helplessly behind bars.

Meanwhile, Aron gathered the strength to attend Simon's funeral where a few had gathered to offer their condolences and pay respects. Wendy and Yvonne both were jailed. Aron was paralyzed with terror upon realizing that he had to part with his father for ever. Isla tightened her grip on Aron's hands in a bid to express her care and love, "Take it easy, I am right by your side."

Aron forced a wavering yet weak smile after a while, filled with unsaid sorrows and regret.

The formalities concluded gracefully. Aron bent down against the new tombstone, declining Isla's request to keep him company. "Isla, please go back. I want to stay here alone for a while. This is something I have to do..."

"But...." Isla's mind was brimming with anxiety and concern.

"You don't need to worry about me. I will be just fine." Aron added, "The relationship between my father

and me was beyond repair. It was filled with quarrels and disputes till the very end. And now that he is dead, I want to communicate with his soul and make peace."

"Ok, I can wait for you outside." Isla acceded to Aron's request, leaving him alone. Aron pulled out a bottle of beer, uncovered it, and poured it out to pay respect to the dead soul. "I remember you were fond of this particular beer. And you can appear in my dream to thank me for that."

Aron kept on yammering in front of the tombstone all alone, the affectionate words flowing from tip of his tongue towards his departed father.

"Our bad blood drove me to see you no more. And I regret that I did not try to fix our relationship. I never thought something like this could happen..." Aron began to open up, "You were as good as dead even when you were around."

"At that time, I was dying to grow up, and drift away from your shadow. Every time I was asked something about you, I would fall silent. I always had mixed feelings about our relationship. Now that you are forever gone, I have plunged into the depth of sorrow!"

Aron mistook his overflowing tears which streamed down his face for cold rain.

Indeed, he loved his father more than anyone else and he just came to realize it.

"I was reluctant to answer your calls." Aron forced a smile. "But for not answering, I would forever feel the burden of regret and guilt."

Had he not answered, he would have been left in the dark about Wendy's heinous crime.

Had he not answered, he would not have listened to his father's last charge.

Had he not answered, he would not have realized.... his father loved him the same way, always had and did till his very last breath.

"I was too anxious to lose a second while speeding toward your home, only to lose the last meeting with you." Aron was filled with suppressing guilt over his failure to rescue his father.

Aron looked at the tombstone from the one side where "The Tombstone of Late Father, Simon Gu" and "Erected by Aron Gu, his Beloved Son" were graphically inscribed.

Aron's attention was drawn to the smile on Simon's portrait and said, "My departed father, could you please forgive me?"

Aron felt guilty over his failure to speak his mind to Simon while he was alive.

Aron, overcome and overwhelmed with emotions, kept opening up to his father's departed soul.

All of a sudden, a voice came up from behind him, "Aron, your late father would bear no grudge against you. Please rest assured."

Aron turned his face only to find Autumn, standing behind him across the cypress, with a yellow chrysanthemum in hand.

"What brings you here? Were you not in the hospital?" Aron looked at Autumn in bewilderment.

Autumn laid the yellow chrysanthemum before the tombstone as she paid her respects and explained to Aron, "Sorry, I was just discharged from the hospital and that's why I was late for your father's funeral service."

"It doesn't matter. You came and that is what counts..." Aron replied with a gentle smile and expressed his gratitude, "I am thankful to see you offer your condolences."

"It is honor-bound." Autumn felt an overburdening helpless sense upon seeing Simon's portrait, "Aron, your father.... I am truly sorry to learn of his death."

Aron looked at Autumn as he composed himself. "His death has nothing do to with you. I am sorry for all that I said earlier. "

"Anyway, It was Wendy, my dishonorable mother, who brought this misfortune upon Simon, your late father. You are free to vent your anger at me. It is justified and I understand where those emotions come from and what your intentions are..." Autumn tried her best to dispel Aron's reasonable feelings.

Aron tried to push away Autumn's guilt, "Autumn, you are also a victim, and are in no way liable for any mistake. Your presence is a gratification to me."

In Aron's mind, Simon did not get along with Autumn. Despite that, Autumn came to offer her condolence filled Aron's heart with happiness.

Autumn paid her respect to Simon as he died, even though Simon while he was alive treated her miserably.

Autumn kept Aron company in the cemetery until the evening. Death spares no man, whether you are rich or even poor. It comes when it must.

Autumn, who was not in the mood to return to Dream Garden, drove directly to Shining Company, buying dinner along the road, only to find Charles absent in the office.

Leila was not there either.