

## **Wedded Bride 411**

### Chapter 411 A Horrible Man Over The Phone

"How could you be out here? You should be in your room resting."? Charles was upset and yet

shocked to see Autumn in the doctor's office. "Autumn, this child will be aborted, as we have decided

that after carefully considering your present poor health. We will have another baby when you are

physically and psychologically fit. Please do consider my advice."

"Irrespective of whatever is said and done, I will keep this baby!"? Autumn remained adamant.

Supported by Chris, Autumn moved towards the doctor and pleaded for her child's life. "It is my earnest

hope that I could carry my baby in my womb until delivery. My revered doctor, I place all my hopes

upon you to do what you must to keep it healthy!"

Autumn was too weak to speak any further. Upon seeing Autumn out of breath, Charles lost no time to

comfort her, "Autumn, for the time being, it is more important to cure your illness than to keep this baby,

otherwise, you could stand losing your life let alone bringing life."

"I am fully aware of the risk."? Autumn spoke to Charles as she began to sob, "I know I have been

mentally unsound and have been bringing you trouble and hurting you. I feel immense regret about it.

But this baby.. I can not afford to abort it. It is a life and I am the mother."

"You are being quite unreasonable!" Charles found it impossible to meet Autumn's wishes, as Autumn was, at that moment, too feeble to carry her baby any longer.

Chris and Sam added their advice, "Autumn, you better abort this child now. You will have another one when you regain your health, which would also be healthy for the baby."

"Autumn, as Chris suggested, you must take care of your health so as to produce a healthy baby."?

Sam regretted remaining silent about Autumn's abnormal behavior for the first time, which worsened the situation where Autumn was caught in now.

"Thanks for your kindness and concern. I understand your reasons and motivations." Autumn smiled at those present there. "But this baby shares my blood and flesh, a bond inexorable. There is nothing that will make me change decision and kill it. I need your fullest support as this may be my weakest hour."

"But what if....." Charles did not relent on the thought of beating Autumn unconscious before giving her an induced abortion, however... Autumn's following words put him in a dilemma.

Autumn spoke to Charles in an emotional tone, "Charles, as you know, my childhood was filled with hardships and ordeals, absent of Wendy's love and care. Wendy bore her grudge against me right onto

her death. Now I consider it a blessing to have my own baby towards whom I will render all my love.

How could I.. kill it without mercy.

Charles, it is also your baby. I doubt your willingness to lose it." ?Autumn's words shook Charles's

certainty. He began to reconsider his decision in silence.

She was carrying their first child. As it dawned upon him, he was... growing more and more hesitant to

lose it!

"Autumn, your desire to keep this baby is understood but risks both your health.... It may come into this

world with birth defects; you too would be mentally unsound to support it." Charles made his last

attempt to change Autumn's decision, however, if Autumn remained resolute... he would lend his fullest

support and help her till recovery and delivery.

"I will accept my baby, even if it is physically handicapped." Autumn's decision stood strong through

whatever everyone had to say.

At that moment, Charles also gave in and sought the doctor's suggestion, "Is there an effective solution

to her condition?"

The doctor was somewhat puzzled but promised to try his best.

The doctor put forth a question, "I can not assure you that this baby will come into being safe and sound, but I will exert every means to save it, so long as you are dying to give birth to it."

"Moreover, " the doctor paused and added, "you must take these points into consideration..."

"I will follow whatever instruction you give me as long as it helps me sustain my baby and it is beneficial for it!" Autumn said to the doctor earnestly.

"First and foremost, the drug, which was harmful to both your nervous system and your baby, shall be withdrawn immediately. You must also find out who administered this drug in your daily meal to forestall

this crime."

Those present nodded to indicate their approval. "We will make a thorough investigation on this back at home."

The doctor nodded and further went on, "Furthermore, you have to undertake more pregnancy tests than the ordinary expecting mothers. Once any birth defect is found, I will strongly advise you not to keep this baby but instead regain your health for another one. You are too young to worry about

repeated pregnancy."

The doctor, seeing the anxieties all over Autumn's face, sighed and said, "Since you are Doctor Zhao's granddaughter, I will offer you the best possible treatment for the sake of you and your child."

"I know. Thanks for your suggestion." Autumn's face turned as pale as ice. Fortunately, within one-week hospitalization, Autumn looked better. As the doctor said, Autumn would remain healthy, as long as she was off the drug and would not be troubled.

The day Autumn was discharged from hospital after recovery, Lu family and Zhao family awaited Autumn's arrival earnestly in Dream Garden.

However, Nancy was overcome with regret and guilt, as she embraced solace in the kitchen.

Nancy nearly ruined Autumn for the sake of saving her own son. Although she disliked Autumn, she had not thought of killing Autumn, much less an expectant mother.

Nancy was, at that moment, on the verge of a mental breakdown.

Nancy could not help but weep regretfully and guiltily in the kitchen as she recalled how the Lu family held her in high regard for so many years.

Gary was pleased to learn about his great grandson, however, it was she who nearly undid this family

bliss. How could she not be guilty?

At that moment, she got a violent blow, upon seeing the familiar phone number followed by the horrible

voice. "I was informed of.... Autumn's pregnancy. Now she may return in Dream Garden from the hospital."

"What evil scheme on earth are you plotting now?"? The mystery man over the phone was no less than a demon to keep Lu family under close watch, calm and collected.

Chapter 412 An Investigation

Nancy was ashamed of her role in assisting in this heinous crime, as she held on to the receiver in terror.

"You can relax and take a breath. I am not calling you to keep drugging Autumn." The mystery man over the phone said rather coldly, as he decided to switch to a wiser and safer course to take revenge from Autumn and sustain Nancy's role.

"Please spare me! Under no circumstance would I continue to harm a pregnant woman. Please... just send back my son as I have obliged to your previous requests." Nancy pleaded with overburdening guilt as she entertained a tiny glimmer of hope to run away from the mess.

"You don't need to worry about that, as you are allowed to discontinue from your current task."? The man continued to add in a detached tone. 'I will wait patiently and then give Autumn and Charles a stunning blow for my vengeance and satisfaction, ' he thought to himself.

"For the time being, all you really need to do is to take good care of Autumn. I will contact you if necessary." The man hung up the call after saying that. Nancy was eager to learn more, only to be left out of his devious plan.

Nancy felt rather powerless to deal with that.

"Nancy." Chris came to the kitchen, found Nancy burdened with tears, and asked anxiously, "Why such tears? Is everything okay?"

"I am fine." Nancy managed to reply with sense and reason, "I feel sympathetic about Autumn's trouble, as she should have been happy to be pregnant. Unexpectedly..."

Chris, with burning hatred, denounced the culprit, "I will teach the ringleader a good lesson!"

Chris sighed and continued, "Nancy, you can rest assured. Charles will find out the criminal involved very soon after conducting a meticulous investigation."

"Charles..." Nancy was struck with severe shock as she stammered, "An investigation will follow?"

'Such a big mess warrants a thorough investigation!' Nancy thought to herself as she was now worried and sick.

"Definitely, it is under way." Chris nodded gently. "I just came here to ask you to prepare more nutritious

dishes for Autumn as she is pregnant."

"Of course, it is my duty." Nancy nodded and offered, "I will buy a silky fowl to prepare a tonic for Autumn. It should speed her recovery."

"Thanks for your devotion! Nancy, I appreciate your concern." Chris added, "You will be well rewarded when Autumn gives birth to her lovely and healthy child."

"Chris, it is what I ought to do... it is my duty to take care of Autumn." Nancy was overcome with suppressing guilt, as she stood in Lu family's debts.

"Now I must go check if Autumn is feeling any better." Autumn was lying on the cozy couch, calm and collected, as she was fully aware of the advantage of being pregnant. She remained calm and tried to be happy even for the baby.



Thus, Autumn was within herself more often than not.

"My dear granddaughter, you are too strong for keeping this baby, even after considering your physical condition and the risks."? Amy expressed her concerns and anxieties.

Arthur drew Amy back and countered, "Since Autumn has carefully decided to keep this baby after knowing all the factors, we should extend our fullest support and care in this delicate time. Moreover, I am a doctor who will always be around to help her throughout the pregnancy."

Arthur sat behind Autumn and expressed his concern, "How are you feeling now? Be sure to seek my help if necessary."

"I know and I am ever grateful for all your blessings. Thanks for your love and care." Autumn nodded and reassured Arthur, "My dear grandfather, I am feeling much better. You don't need to worry about me. I will be just fine."

Arthur knew he had no powers to influence Autumn's mind, even though he was laden with anxieties.

At the same time, Charles went upstairs to turn on the heater to ensure Autumn would remain cozy in the bedroom. Abby, who happened to be pregnant as well, was deeply affected by Autumn's experience.

"Well, you had better stop shedding tears as you may upset and scare Autumn." Abby was easily

moved. Andy was fully aware of her sympathy over Autumn's trouble.

Cindy edged towards Autumn and touched her belly naughtily. "Are you keeping a baby as my mother is?"

"You are too witty for your own good!?" Autumn replied with a beaming smile. But Abby lost no time in carrying Cindy away lest Cindy hurt Autumn carelessly, "Autumn, you better head upstairs and have some good rest."

"That is a good idea." Autumn was too feeble to hold her attention any longer.

As Chris was supporting Autumn upstairs, Andy edged towards Charles and asked, "Has the culprit... been exposed or not?"

"Not yet." Charles shook his head in dismay. Charles, but for reliable evidence, would not think ill of Nancy.

"Do you need my help with this?" Andy was willing to play his part in unveiling the crime and balancing the scales.

Charles, after a good while, decided to enlist Andy's help. "Be bothered to track down a man."

"Who is it?" Andy was challenged by a mission which was beyond Charles' reach.

"Ferry Fang." Charles had to entrust Andy with the matter. "I am powerless to hunt him down. I say this after trying all means possible. Thus, it depends on you."

Andy decided to try all sorts of back doors instead as Charles must have gone on the normal path already.

Charles found out earlier it was Ferry who visited Yvonne at the prison before Yvonne was missing.

Ferry's name was recorded, but Charles' efforts to locate Ferry led him to believe it was a dead end.

Charles had asked Autumn for an answer, but Autumn's memory was hazy. Charles, at that moment, had to rely on Andy's connection to link the missing gaps.

Andy voiced his support, "Okay, I will keep you apprised of the development."

After the departure of Zhao family, Charles, suspicious of Nancy, decided to buy food outside. Nancy, who was cleaning the house downstairs, saw Charles back home with food, being left nonplussed to speak to Charles.

'Am I.. suspected of drugging Autumn?'

Nancy thought to herself in terror.

Chapter 413 Inquiring

"Wake up, Autumn, it's time for dinner." After carrying the food upstairs, Charles entered their bedroom,

turned on the light and shook Autumn awake. However, Autumn, who had been sleeping for hours,

woke up in a daze and told Charles that she was not hungry and wanted to go back to sleep.

"Oh, please get up and join me for supper." Charles frowned. "Get out of bed and eat something, love.

Please don't forget, you're carrying our baby so now you have to eat for two people."

Their relationship was now treading on delicate grounds owing to Autumn's occasional outbursts which

were caused by her illness. Taking advantage of her sobriety, she apologized sincerely, "Charles, I'm

sorry for all the trouble I've been causing lately. It must be very hard on you, I am so very sorry..."

"Oh it doesn't matter, Autumn. Please forget all about it, " Charles interrupted her immediately, as he

looked into her eyes lovingly. "We're husband and wife, and you deserve everything I do for you."

"I mean it, my behavior was unwarranted for and I can't imagine what I made you go through on my

account." Autumn looked back into his eyes deeply. She was fully aware of how her illness had affected

those around her, and bearing that guilt in her mind, she wanted to express her apology to her closest

ones without losing control of her emotions.

"Look, Charles, if I lose my temper again, just leave me alone until it passes because I do not know what I am saying and it means nothing, " Autumn advised. "I really feel guilty about bothering you so much."

"Don't say that, " Charles said sadly as he helped Autumn sit up in the bed. "No matter how long or what it takes, I will find a way to cure you and help our baby be born safely, " he added firmly to assure her.

After only a few bites, Autumn put the bowl and chopsticks down. Her appetite had almost died. So

Charles helped her to lie down. And soon she fell in deep slumber.

In most cases, pregnant women gain a couple of pounds, but instead of gaining weight, Autumn was shedding weight owing to the stress and side effect from the medicines. Charles was heartbroken as he realized this.

In the early hours of the next morning, Isla came to visit Autumn. Tears welled in her eyes at the sight of Autumn, who was thinner than the last time she saw her. "Oh, dear, how haggard you seem. Damn

it! Who on earth has done this to you?"

Isla cried and cursed the unknown culprit, and then blamed Charles for not protecting Autumn completely.

The pregnancy was supposed to be a blessed period, but no one was happy about Autumn's pregnancy now. After cursing for what seemed like a long minute, Isla sat on the bed beside Autumn and asked her with red eyes.

"Now, Autumn, please tell me why are you so foolish as to insist on keeping this child after knowing what you do about your condition and the consequences?" Isla wept just at the thought of her ordeal.

Autumn had already been through rounds of people's incomprehension and advice. "You'll understand when you get pregnant."

It was because of a mother's unconditional love.

She looked expectantly at Autumn's tummy, where a life was growing. At the same time, she was worried about Autumn. Ambivalent feelings haunted her all the entire time.

Autumn instantly comforted her and told her that she was now actively cooperating with doctors and would be fine soon.

These words reassured Isla. She stayed with Autumn for a long time. By the afternoon, Autumn was caught in a bad mood swing again. She clamored for Charles to settle accounts, and asked Isla who she was.

Isla was upset and furious to see her like this.

Not knowing what to do in the situation, she had to call Charles. When Isla arrived this morning,

Charles went to the office to take care of things at office. He was in a meeting when he got the call from

Isla. As soon as he heard that Autumn was in bad condition, he hurried home, leaving the shareholders in the meeting room dumbfounded.

After a short while, the meeting room became very lively and the shareholders were discussing

Charles. As Leila, who pricked up her ears, heard that Autumn was pregnant, she clenched her fists tightly.

'Why? Why does Autumn come out and disrupt everything every time I get a little closer to Charles? It seems like nothing will work in my favor so as long as she is alive...' she cried out in her heart, feeling tired and helpless of being caught in this recurring situation.

'Now that Autumn is pregnant, how can I win Charles over from her?'

Suddenly, a shareholder sitting next to her with more information said, "Mrs. Lu really is pregnant, but so what? It is said that she is also ill now. Who knows whether the baby will be born safely or not."

"She's ill? What's wrong with her?" Leila immediately reached over and asked dripping with curiosity.

"Who knows?" The shareholder cast a quick judgmental glance at her, annoyed that she, a secretary, was eavesdropping on their conversation, abandoning all sense of hierarchy.

Leila hurried to explain, "Oh, I'm just concerned about Mrs. Lu's health. I did not know things were so serious. Sorry, I don't mean anything else by my actions."

She then sat back in her seat and called Charles after some hesitation. "Hello, Mr. Lu, this is Leila.

Where are you? Everyone is expecting you for the meeting. Will you be back?"

"No, I will not be able to come back. Please inform that the meeting has been canceled and will be rescheduled," Charles replied anxiously as he drove quickly, particularly worried about Autumn.

"Okay, sure, I'll pass on the message." With that, Leila hung up the phone, announced the news, and apologized politely to the shareholders in the room. Yet it still caused everyone to complain despite his personal emergency.



"What? How could he leave in the middle of the meeting? This is not the way to treat us."

"Yeah, I won't come to the meeting again if I am asked to. What a waste of time it is to come here!"

Leila took everyone away with a smile before she sat down in her chair and breathed a sigh of relief.

If what that shareholder said was true, then she just had to find out what disease Autumn had.

All of a sudden, she thought of Burke, one of her high school classmates. He had been loving her since

high school, but Leila refused to go out with him due to his ordinary family.

He was an obstetrician and gynecologist at Y Hospital. She may be able to extract some information

about Autumn from him.

After mulling over it for a few seconds, Leila gave Burke a call. "Burke, are you free this evening? Shall

we have dinner together?"

"This evening? Yes, sure! That sounds good. I'm free." Burke hurriedly agreed to her invitation, almost

desperately to meet Leila in a second. After all, he had regarded Leila as his goddess since high

school, and this was the first time she asked him directly out to dinner.

They arranged to have dinner at a barbecue restaurant. As soon as Leila arrived at the appointed

place, she saw Burke waving to her eagerly with a big smile on his face.

"You're so early!" Leila smiled at him.

"It's quite close to the hospital where I work. And I came right after you called me, " Burke replied.

"Order whatever you like."

Leila didn't care what to eat, so she ordered some dishes. "How about two bottles of beer?" she

offered.

"Sorry, I'm afraid I can't drink. I'm still on call." Burke frowned. "I asked for two hours off. I have to go

back to the hospital on duty after dinner."

Leila's face instantly turned dull on his refusal. Burke bewildered a little, but he would not disregard the

rules and regulations of the hospital. Asking for time off for an appointment was already a strict no-no.

He could not top that up with another violation.

"Leila, please don't be angry. I'll ask you out for a drink when I'm free. You know the hospital rules. I

really can't drink today, " Burke explained urgently.

"Okay, okay, fair enough. I won't force you to drink then, " Leila said helplessly. "I remember you are...

an obstetrician and gynecologist, right?"

"Yes... " Burke nodded awkwardly. He always thought that Leila wouldn't go out with him because of his profession, so he tried to make it clear, "Leila, there are more and more men who are obstetricians and gynecologists. Actually, it's not what you think... "

Chapter 414 The Evil Thoughts

"I am not going to call to account here today, " said Leila with her face drawn into a frown. After pausing for a moment, she continued, "Actually, I am here to inquire about a person and I hope with all my heart that you could help me."

Upon hearing this, Burke frowned. He stared at Leila for a few seconds before asking abruptly, "Is this why you called me here today?" He was very clearly stunned by her straight forward nature.

Shocked by his reaction, Leila reached out to the freshly baked marbled meat and dipped in generously barbecue sauce and wrapped it in a crunchy lettuce. She then pushed it against his lips with a smile almost seductively and said, "No, you misunderstood me. I just had this sudden urge to dine with you today. After all, we were classmates in high school and have known each other for a long time. For me, you are not just a friend but are like one of my family members. We all work in this city away from home. And you are the only one I can trust."

Right after saying this, Leila sighed and continued, "I know the hospital rules and regulations that bound you. But..." She paused strategically and finally said, "I always felt like I was different from others for you, and almost special I would like to believe."

He stared at Leila who seemed both upset and yet disappointed. Burke was unable to bear her looking like this, after all she was right. She had always been special to him. He hesitated for a quite a long while, but finally replied, "Leila, now that you are well aware about the regulations of the hospital, then you must know that we can't disclose any information about patients as it violates their privacy. If it ever comes to light someday, I will be held criminally responsible and risk losing my medical license. With such a big risk looming over my head I am really sorry. I can't do anything to lead there."

Leila was now getting agitated after realizing that she came all the way to meet him in person but only to be rejected. She never thought that Burke would decline her request. As she grew impatient to leave, Leila forced herself to calm down. If it weren't for Autumn, how could she come to him?

After cooling down, Leila smiled to hide her anger and disappointment.

"I understand. I know the patients' privacy should not be compromised with. But I really care about her and I am growing increasingly scared and anxious by the minute." Leila smiled subtly pretending to

hide her concern and continued, "You also know that it was Autumn who introduced me to Shining Company and helped me get a job. I heard from Mr. Lu that she is sick. I also asked Mr. Lu about her health condition, but he didn't find it important to tell me. I just want to know what happened. Perhaps I could help her in some way. After all I do owe her a great deal."

"Do you want to know about Autumn Zhao?" Burke asked with a smirk.

"Yes, I do." Leila nodded slightly almost like she was really worried. "Autumn is my benefactor. Now she is sick and I am really worried about her. I just want to know about her health condition. Of course, I mean no harm to her."

Leila revealed a bitter smile, gazed at Burke and said, "But if it is not convenient for you to release this information then please let's just forget it. It doesn't matter. I can completely understand."

Upon hearing this, Burke responded helplessly, "Leila, if you want to know about Autumn Zhao's condition, then I am afraid I really cannot possibly help you even if I could. It is beyond my reach as I also have no idea about it."

"How come?" Overcome with confusion, Leila asked, "I inquired and found out that she had all of the

physical examinations and tests conducted in the hospital where you work. So why could you not possibly help me?"

"There might be something you didn't hear." Burke smiled helplessly and explained, "Autumn is the granddaughter of Doctor Zhao and he did all physical examinations personally. He is the only one who knows all about her case clearly. No one can access any information about her except Doctor Zhao."

"Is there no other way to find out something about her condition?" Stunned by Burke's revelation, she didn't expect things to take such a drastic turn. If Burke couldn't do her this favor, then there was nothing she could do.

"Why are you so curious about what's wrong with her?" Confused, Burke finally poured out his growing doubt about her intentions.

Leila was amazed by his guts to ask such a blatant question, but she reacted almost immediately, "I just told you that I really cared about her. And I just want to know if I could help her. There are no two things about it."

"Well, with that said..." Burke hesitated for a few moments after considering what he was about to say and responded, "I heard that Autumn will return to the hospital tomorrow again for some intensive

physical examinations. I will be sure to keep an eye on her for you."

"Really? "Then I would be so grateful to you for this favor. Thank you, Burke." Leila smiled as she heard Burke's generous offer.

However, as she returned home, Leila still couldn't feel at ease. Rather she was growing more impatient and anxious now that the information about Autumn was kept confidential, it was difficult for Burke to stumble upon it, so she knew that she could only get it by herself.

The next morning, Leila headed straight to the hospital. At around nine o'clock, Charles drove to the hospital with Autumn. Seeing them there, Leila hastily evaded them and followed them from far behind. She saw that they went directly to the director's office, so she sneakily went there quietly.

The director was waiting for them in the office and had pushed all appointments of other patients for later. There were only three of them waiting in the office. Leila sat down on the bench outside the office, in an attempt to hear something from inside.

After finishing the physical examinations, Charles held the director's arms and eagerly asked, "How is she now? She had a relapse last night."

"Don't worry. I can tell that the baby is fine just by looking at the type-B ultrasonic." The director stopped for a while and said to them.

After hearing this, Charles held Autumn's hands tightly with relief and a cheerful expression.

"But..." After taking a long look at them, the director said, "Even though the baby is fine, I cannot be certain that something bad would not happen to this little baby. And also I observe that the baby is smaller than normal fetuses of the same age. Perhaps you need to provide the embryo with more nourishment to ensure optimal growth."

After saying this, the director put down the exam report and said, "I know you are the granddaughter of Doctor Zhao, so I have to be frank with you. I still strongly suggest you not to keep this baby, after all you are still quite young and can try again when you are in a better condition. And your present health condition is not very stable and ideal for having a child..."

"I know and I understand the risks." Autumn interrupted the director calmly and said in a firm tone,

"Now that I have decided to give birth to this child, I will not change my mind. Please don't try to

persuade me like this. I thank you for your concern about my health and the kind-hearted advice, but I



have made my decision and do not want to consider otherwise."

After hearing this, the director heaved a sigh and said, "Well, now that you are sure about what you want to do, I hope you and the baby will be fine and will lead a healthy life. But remember that you have to take physical examinations frequently. What's more, you have to maintain a good mood and avoid any stimulation altogether. Or there is no way your baby can be saved and moreover even your life will be at risk."

Autumn nodded slightly acknowledging the risks and said to the doctor gratefully, "Thank you. I will keep it in mind. Now we shall head back if that is all."

"Okay, take care." Leila hid away as she heard the noise inside and them approaching the door. The doctors warning keep cropping up in her mind. 'She could not be jarred or the baby and Autumn would be at risk. This sounds great!' Leila thought to herself.

Her mind was brimming with evil thoughts.

Just thinking about this opportunity, Leila burst into a sneer. 'What could happen if she gets irritated?'

Leila wondered with a wide smile.

"Leila?" Just then Burke's voice suddenly broke her out of vivid imagination and startled Leila. After

spotting Charles leaving with Autumn, Leila chuckled to herself. But she didn't expect to be caught off guard by Burke. She patted her chest to calm it down and complained, "Burke, you scared me to death!

Why are you sneaking around like this?"

"Hey, I also have a question for you. What are you doing here?" Confused and puzzled, Burke looked at Leila and felt weird about her unannounced presence.

"I... I came here for you." Leila found an excuse almost immediately.

"But my office is on the other side of the building. You knew that. So what are you doing here in this part of the wing?" Burke said as he pointed in the opposite direction to show his cabin.

Leila felt awkward as she heard this and said, "I honestly forgot and was lost when you ran into me."

Luckily, Burke did not ask about again but said, "That aside, why did you come to meet me today?"

"I..." Leila hesitated as she was unable to explain her situation. A few seconds later Burke suddenly changed the topic himself and said, "Well, you asked to learn something about Autumn yesterday right? She was here just a moment ago."

"Is that so?" Leila decided to dissimulate and asked, "Where is she now?"

"She left the premise just about now." Burke went on with his eye brow furrowed. "So I have inquired for you. It turns out that she was drugged by someone deliberately over the past few months. She also ingested this drug which caused some mental disorder. It is said that she couldn't be jarred. However, she is pregnant now. Her husband and her family members all suggested her not to keep this baby, but Autumn insisted on giving birth to this baby. It is quite a risk to her health and the baby."

Chapter 415 Autumn Was Irritated

"Oh, now I understand it all and their need to keep everything low-key." Leila sneered and thought that Autumn wanted to keep this baby simply to maintain her strong grip on Charles' heart.

"Yes." Burke sighed and said, "Actually, as a doctor, even I would have strongly suggested her not to keep this baby because of her poor health condition. Are you her friend? If you see her next time, please persuade her to abort the baby and it's for her own benefit."

"OK, I will do what I can." Leila nodded her head and said to Burke, "Wait, I have another question. If she gets irritated or has another one of her bad mood swings, what will happen?"

"What will happen? God I hope it does not happen. Both she and the baby would be adversely affected." Burke added, "All in all, it's too dangerous for her to be pregnant now. Please tell that to her and try to change her mind."

The doubt in Leila's mind was confirmed. She looked at Burke with narrow eyes and said, "I have to leave now. There is an important thing for me to attend. Thank you for letting me know."

"What? Wait..." Leila left immediately regardless of what Burke said. He didn't even know why she came all the way to the premise.

Leila took a file from the company, then went home and went to Dream Garden finally.

She wondered whether she could enter the house successfully because the last time she had visited, she had been blocked out by Yvonne.

Leila parked the car at the gate and rang the doorbell. Suddenly, she heard a woman's voice.

The people of Zhao family often went to Dream Garden for Autumn since she had fallen sick. Abby had seen Leila before and warned Charles because of her so Leila left a bad impression to her.

"Why are you here? What do you want to do?" Abby inquired her intentions rather impolitely.

"Do we... know each other?" Leila cast a glance at Abby with curiosity.

"You don't know me, but I know you. Just answer what you are being asked directly!" Abby commanded Leila to respond in a tough tone.

"I..." Leila was about to say something but Autumn came out from the house at this moment. Autumn looked at Abby with smile and asked, "Why are you here?"

"Mom made some porridge herself and asked me to deliver it to you." Abby said in a soft tone, "You shouldn't have come out of the house. The wind is too strong and you could catch a cold."

"It doesn't matter." Autumn answered, "I was feeling bored as I have been staying home for so long.

You needn't send it next time. You are pregnant and it's too tired to do this. If your husband knows that you always do these for me, he would get worried for you.

"No, he wants me to visit you every day so that I can have someone to talk with." Abby held Autumn's hand and said, "Let's go back to the house."

"Autumn." Seeing that Autumn didn't even cast a glance at her, Leila called her. But Autumn frowned in confusion when Autumn noticed her.

"What have you come here for?" Autumn took a deep breath to calm herself down knowing how harmful it was for her to get angry.

"I... have a file which needs Mr. Lu's signature. Is he at home?" Leila cautiously walked up towards Autumn. Leila wore a sweater with low collar, showing her shiny diamond necklace on purpose.

Autumn was shocked when she saw this necklace, thinking how she could afford something like that.

Knowing that her plan was working, Leila let out a smirk.

"Autumn?" Seeing Autumn go silent, Leila got closer to her to ensure that she could see that necklace clearly.

"What are you doing?!" Abby pushed Leila away and said to her, "I warn you not to come here again.

Charles doesn't need to deal with his work at home. You can solve the problem when he is in the company."

"This file is really urgent and Mr. Lu hasn't come to the company to work since Autumn got sick, so I... had no choice but come here to find him." Leila lied to Abby with a helpless expression.

Autumn pushed Abby aside and walked up towards Leila. Leila pretended an expression of fear, asking Autumn, "Are you OK?"

"Where did... this come from?" Autumn pointed at the necklace.

She knew this necklace because it was the same as the one Charles brought back from Europe during the business trip.

She still remembered that Leila followed Charles that time.

Autumn's mind was filled with many horrible doubts and Abby found that Autumn was about to lose her calmness so she supported Autumn immediately and said, "Calm down, Autumn. Think about the baby in your womb."

She shouted at Leila while persuading Autumn, "Get out of here right now!"

"What happened to you, Autumn?" Leila didn't listen to Abby's words, instead, she stayed put and tried to get Autumn irritated so that she would miscarry the baby.

So she pretended that she worried about Autumn.

"What happened?" Charles just got back after buying some fruits for Autumn and saw Autumn in distress. He threw all the fruits from his hands and ran to Autumn to hold her.

Without noticing Leila, he asked Abby, "What happened to Autumn?"

"Your secretary can tell you everything, " Abby said with anger.

Autumn hugged her head with hands while Charles cast a glimpse at Leila and realized what happened immediately.

He hugged Autumn and consoled her in a soft tone, "Calm down, Autumn. Tell me whether you were

irritated by Leila's necklace or not."

"Necklace, yes! It's the necklace!" Autumn grasped Charles' collar tightly and asked him, "Why does she have the same necklace as the one you bought me?"

"Calm down. Be careful and think about our baby." Autumn calmed herself gradually with the help of Charles' words. He stood up and asked Leila, "How did you get the necklace?"

Leila was a little amazed and then she answered, "I bought it for myself when I was on the business trip with you."

"Why did you choose the same necklace as the one I bought and wore it to come see Autumn? What were your intentions?" Charles asked her in a tough tone.

"Autumn, now you can see that Charles has nothing to do with that necklace. It's not like what you think." Abby consoled Autumn, "Let's go back to the house."

Abby took Autumn back to the room and cast a glance at Leila with anger, then she warned Charles, "If you don't deal with this trouble today, someday this woman could destroy Autumn."

Leila was frightened. When Abby and Autumn went back, she explained for herself to Charles, "Mr. Lu,



I didn't do that on purpose. I bought this necklace just because it was beautiful. I didn't expect that

Autumn could be so sensitive..."

Leila couldn't help crying and added, "I promise that I had no bad intentions for her. Autumn treats me

well so... why would I possibly try to hurt her?"

Chapter 416 Leila Got Fired

"Just stop your charade right here. I will not have any more of this drama!" Charles stared at Leila and

warned her, "This is my house, not Shining Company. Please do me a favor and do not to come here

unless it's urgent." He treated Leila as his secretary, it seemed that she thought of herself as Mrs. Lu-

to-be though. She wanted to replace Autumn. It finally dawned on him why Autumn so strongly disliked

Leila.

"I..." After seeing Charles' disgusted expression, Leila choked up realizing what a big mistake she had

made. She was anxious and thought to herself, 'I shouldn't have come here. Besides, if I knew Charles

would mind me buying the same necklace that he bought for Autumn, I wouldn't have done that to

provoke him to anger. My action today was so reckless and miscalculated. Fortunately, I brought a

document with me. It's a reasonable excuse to explain my visit.' She took out the document from her

arms and said fawningly, "Our factory will halt the production unless you sign this document. So I had

no option but to come here. If it was not an emergency, I would not have bothered you this way."

Charles scanned the document and signed his name fleetly. After handing over the document to Leila

and notified as he wrinkled his forehead, "Take this document back to the company. I will call the HR

Department to handle with your handover. There is no need for you to go to work tomorrow." He wasn't

expected that Leila would take out a document, which increased his disgust at this manipulative

woman. Although she was a qualified secretary, Charles insisted on dismissing her. After all, there was

no need to risk Autumn's happiness and their baby's safety to make her stay in his company. It wouldn't

take much time to find another good secretary.

Leila froze and was shocked at Charles' announcement. It was not appropriate for her to buy the same

necklace as that one Charles bought. However, she thought there was no need to make such a big

deal about it.

"Mr...." Mr. Lu, what do you mean? Why are you asking me to quit my job over this? Did I do something

wrong?" Leila stood still and asked in surprise even though she knew exactly what had happened.

"What do you think of it?" Charles retorted angrily, "Do you think you can stay in my company after

what you have been doing?"

"Did you mind my visit today with the same necklace as Autumn?" Leila was surprised Charles would fire her over this, so abruptly. She mulled, 'I have been doing my job well since the day I joined as his secretary. I am sure I have created a very favorable impression. Why is he so cruel and decisive? If I am fired, how could I get close to him and make him fall in love with me? I won't be resigned to his decision.'

"Mr. Lu, I... I explained what just happened. I bought the necklace simply because I liked it. The business matter was urgent, so I came here. I didn't mean to hurt Autumn, nor did I intend to disturb you. Please give me another chance, " Leila begged Charles as her eyes welled up with tears.

"I am not a fool, " Charles said as his lips twisted mockingly. "Autumn told me you had feelings for me. I thought she was just suspicious and intimidated. But your behavior today..."

As soon as he saw the necklace around her neck, Charles finally realized Leila wasn't an innocent and simple-minded woman. He recalled David's words on the day when he changed a light bulb for her and confirmed his guess. Leila was manipulative and good at scheming. So it was necessary to fire her. It

was late but it was better than never.

"Mr. Lu, I can explain..." Leila said quickly. When she found Charles was already leaving, she stepped forward and hold his hand. Charles shook her hand off and sneered, "If anything untoward should happen to Autumn, I will show you what I am capable of doing."

With those words Charles turned to go back to Dream Garden and never looked back. Leila stood there, her heart filled with despair. Her good days were over and her dream to be Charles's partner had failed miserably. She was now left with no hopes or even a job.

After a few moments' consideration, she grinned broadly as her fingers pinched the document. The scorn was written all over her face. 'I won't give up easily. Autumn, such an ordinary woman, doesn't deserve Charles. She shouldn't marry him. He will be mine soon.'

She was determined to have Charles as her lover or husband.

It had hardly been moments since Leila turned to leave when two strong men wearing black suits stood right in front of her.

She frowned and thought, 'Is it possible for them to rob me in broad daylight? I guess they won't.' So she didn't feel frightened.

"Who are you? Get out of my way, " Leila said loudly. The whole scene of getting fired by Charles made her frustrated. Someone standing in her way intensified her anger. If she were strong enough to fight with the two man, she wouldn't have spoken politely. Instead she would have cursed them.

"I told you to get out of my way. Do I have to repeat my words?" Leila urged impatiently as she pushed the two men with all the force she could muster. They didn't move as if they were pitted on the ground as anchors. It was obvious that Leila was not strong enough to move them by even an inch.

One of them said to Leila indifferently, "Miss Zhang, our boss wants to see you. Please come with us."

"Your boss? Who is your boss?" Leila asked in surprise. She didn't think she knew any boss except

Charles. When she hesitated to go with them, the two men simply carried her to the car swiftly before she figured out what was happening.

Although there were passers-by, they watched it happen and ignored Leila in trouble. No matter how loud she shouted, they just ignored her voice.

Once she got into the car, the two men wearing black suits each held one of her hands. She couldn't move. Besides, her eyes were now covered by a black cloth. Without seeing anything or knowing

anything, she was gripped by fear and anxiety.

She was all in a flutter. The only sound she heard was the operation sound of the car engine.

Still trying to figure out who had captured her against her will, she thought, 'I didn't offend any powerful

influential person, did I? No, it's not possible.'

"Hey! Who the hell is your boss? Just tell me something!

Where are you taking me?"

Leila kept yelling out and struggling to break free in hopes of relieving her anxiety when she realized

the car was moving. However, no matter what she asked, the two men didn't reply.

Her heart was pounding faster and faster as each minute passed. It was indeed a torment for her to

wait in the darkness and uncertainty.

She couldn't help thinking, 'Who am I to meet? Who on earth was it?'

"Here we are, " The car stopped and one man wearing a black suit said. He helped Leila get off the car.

Minutes later, they stopped walking. Leila heard him say, "Boss, we have brought the woman you

sought."

"Okay, you guys can get out of here." The voice was strange. Leila considered for a long time and

finally accepted that she did not recognize him. Her body began to shake and her voice was trembling.

"You... Who are you? Why did you bring me here?"

Leila did not dare to take the blind fold off in fear that if she saw his face, she might be killed off.

As the footsteps came nearer and nearer, Leila turned more and more anxious. After a long silence, the man standing across her, said flatly, "Relax. I brought you here to help you."

The man stretched his hand to untie the black cloth wrapped around Leila's eyes. There was a moment of blinding pain after seeing the light. Leila covered her eyes with her hands until her eyes eased back.

She found she was in a commodious warehouse. The voice echoed back from the walls.

There was a dim light hanging over the ceiling.

Leila looked at the man talking with her. He was wearing a shiny suit. He had a long, curved scar on his good-looking face, making him look fierce. She was curious about why he had such a scar, but she

concealed her expressions. 'If I rile him accidentally, he will kill me, ' she thought to herself.

"It's ugly, isn't it?" he said unhappily with a sneer. "Don't be so nervous. I won't kill you. You can trust me."

It calmed Leila's nerves a bit. But she didn't know why the man had brought her here in such a manner.

Thinking about his intentions was useless, so she asked him directly, "What do you want to do? Why did you take me here? I don't know you. Did you mistake me for someone else?"

After she blurted out a series of questions, the man laughed. "You don't know me, but I know you."

After speaking, he turned away from Leila. Leila stood still and stared at the man. She knew she shouldn't trust his words, she had no choice though. He suddenly turned back and said to Leila, "I just want to ask you, do you want to be with Charles?"

"Of course, with all my heart!" Leila replied without hesitation.

She thought of being Charles' mistress or wife day and night, every day. Those thoughts consumed her.

Chapter 417 Are You Suspicious Of Me

This was all she ever dreamed of and all she wanted for herself.

"Well, that sounds right." The man smiled grimly and pinched Leila's chin, taking a glimpse at her face under the dim light. A second later, he said with satisfaction, "You look pretty. I like it."

Leila remained motionlessly since she was gripped by fear not knowing his intentions. She was afraid the man would snap her neck if he got irritated and was not pleased by what she said.



Slowly, the man put down his hands and loosened his grip. Gazing at Leila, he addressed her in a vicious tone, "If you really want to be with Charles, then you have to listen to me and follow my directions carefully, or..."

However, before the man could finish his sentence, Leila interrupted him after seconds' hesitation. "Are you serious? Do you really get a way to let me be with Charles?" Though frightened, Leila still wanted to ensure if the man was telling the truth.

"Of course I am not joking, " replied the man with a sneer. "I promise you that you could be with him within half a year as long as you would follow my words. Just wait and watch, " he added.

"Okay, I will make the deal with you." Leila replied without any hesitation, when she heard this assurance from the man, especially as she got fired today and had not other hope.

Now that Charles dismissed her, Leila had no chance to get close to him at all. If she wanted to be with him, the only choice was to obey the man standing in front of her. He was the last straw that could save her from drowning alone.

"What do you want me to do?" Leila asked in a resolute tone; she had made up her mind.

She would like to do anything as long as she could be with Charles.

"Good girl, I like the sound of your determination!" After hearing this from Leila, the man patted her face

with great content. "Go back and submit your resignation letter. Finish the handover procedure today

itself. Then you could go back home and have a good rest. But you have to keep your phone alive all

day long and I will call you if necessary. Remember that."

"That's it?" Shocked by the man's words, Leila widened her eyes as she didn't expect things would be

so smooth. She did trust the man a moment ago, but now she began to be suspicious as to how things

could unfurl in her favor so simply.

"Are you doubting me?" The man looked severe as he sensed the growing suspicion in her eyes.

"The most annoying thing in my life is to be suspected by others. And I don't hope it will happen again,

" he said in a harsh voice.

"No... That is not what is happening." Leila hastily explained. She was frightened by the man's fierce

eyes and she was so afraid that she would annoy him which could lead him to kill her.

"That's enough." The man turned back impatiently and added, "Just follow my words. Don't try to

badger with Charles during this period. I will call you when it is necessary and do not try to contact me otherwise."

"Lead her out, " said the man in a loud voice. As soon as he finished speaking, the large iron gate opened while two men in black suit walked in, and started taking steps towards Leila.

Just when they were about to cover her eye with a black strip of cloth, Leila blurted out in a hurry, "How can I contact you, if the situation warrants it?"

"There is no need for you to contact me. I will call you. That is all that you need to know, " replied the man indifferently. As he was done with his sentence, the man said nothing more and remained silent.

Leila could do nothing but let them cover her eyes. Soon she was taken into a car and when she got off the car, she found she was right under the Shining Company in line with the next step she had to take.

She was pushed out of the car and soon the car vanished from her sight. It was so quick that no one would have noticed.

If it weren't for the black strip in her hands, she would suspect that everything she had just experienced was a dream.

"Leila, you are finally back. There are many works piled up waiting for you. What took you so long?"

David complained to her as she showed up. However, Leila just put down the files in her hands and responded, "Well, David, I..." She paused for a bit and said, "I have to go through the handover procedure now."

"What are you saying? Handover procedure?" David was confused by what he heard. "What do you mean?" he asked, his face puzzled.

"Nothing. Never mind, " replied Leila to cut the chat short. Instead of explaining to David, Leila packed up her things and went directly to HR Department.

The handover process was smooth and it only took her a few minutes since Charles had already notified the HR manager in advance to speed the process.

After taking her box filled with personal items, Leila walked out slowly. As she went away, Leila looked back at Shining Company longingly.

Even though she stayed here just for a short time, she had taken this place as her home. After all she did her work with utmost dedication and sincerity. Now she was forced to leave, and she felt hard to part from this place. After all her beloved man was there and not with her.

But Leila assured herself that she would come back sooner or later. And she vowed to herself that the day she would return, she would be Charles's wife, and the landlady of Shining Company.

Therefore, there was no need for her to dwell over this and grieve.

At the thought of this, Leila let out a sigh of relief.

At Dream Garden

It took Autumn quite a while to calm down since she was pushed today also. Charles took the dishes that he ordered from the restaurant into the bedroom.

When he got in, Abby was chatting with Autumn in the room. She had calmed down which also relieved Charles somehow.

"Autumn, come over here. Eat some food." Charles put the dishes down on the table right beside the bed and said softly.

Abby rolled her eyes at Charles to show her discontent as Charles entered. Obviously, Abby was angry about what happened today.

All this could have been avoided if Charles was more careful.

"Abby, I..." Charles turned to Abby as he looked hesitant. "I want to have a talk with Autumn alone, " he

finally said. After a small pause, Abby nodded slightly and then walked out the room.

After Abby left, Charles took a bowl of soup for Autumn and said gently, "Have some soup. Don't just eat vegetables. Slurp up the broth."

Silent, Autumn said nothing. Though she was clear that Leila bought the necklace herself and she even did all of this deliberately, Autumn still lost her mind at that time simply because she cared about Charles so much.

Instead of being impatient, Charles just sat beside quietly and got another bowl of soup for her. Once Autumn finished eating, Charles did not clear away the plates immediately and instead said, "Autumn, do you feel better now? I want to have a small chat with you."

Though Charles knew well that Autumn may not understand what he was going to say, he was determined to try his best or Leila would always remain like a thorn deep in Autumn's heart and it would cause her to explode at any time.

Leaning on the couch in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, Autumn was enjoying the sun bath. After Charles finished speaking, Autumn replied leisurely, "What do you want to talk?"

"Leila. I want to talk about it with you." As Autumn heard this name from Charles, Autumn felt astonished but soon she calmed down. Hesitating for a few seconds, she then turned to Charles and said seriously, "Well, then let's talk and get over with this."

After all, it had to be solved sooner or later.

Moving closer to Autumn, Charles started first, "Autumn, I didn't know anything about the necklace until today. Please do not pay any heed to it."

"I know and I understand everything. You do not need to explain anything, " replied Autumn in a low voice. Though she was in a bad mental space, she was now able to distinguish truth from false.

It was obvious that Leila strived to irritate Autumn. But it was fortunate that Charles went back in time, or she would be deceived.

"We quarreled several times because of Leila, and I always said that you may overthink about it. But I found that you were right today. It was me who was too careless."

'Now that I have made the mistake, I have to rectify it and take good care of Autumn since she has been wronged for such a long time.' Charles thought to himself.

Upon hearing this, Autumn still kept silent and said nothing. All she cared about was her baby and she

would protect her baby from hurt at any cost.

"Autumn..." Charles held her hands gently and went on, "I just received the call from HR Department.

They told me that Leila has been suspended from office. And we have no common ground with her

anymore."

Chapter 418 Nancy's Trouble

"You..." Autumn was amazed and also happy somehow with his decision of firing Leila. There were

many deals for him to manage, and Autumn thought he was a little too impulsive to make such an

arbitrary decision.

"Don't you think you are being too impulsive to make such a decision?" Autumn frowned and balmed

him instantly.

"Not at all. I am sure everything will be fine." Charles answered in a delicate tone. "Now our baby and

you are the most important things for me and I'm willing to do everything required for your welfare and

happiness."

"But..." Autumn was still worried.

"Don't think too much. It will all be okay." Charles stroked Autumn hands and said, "From now on, no



matter what Leila says or does to you, please don't believe her. You can't be provoked to get angry or emotional for your and baby's health. Do you understand?"

Charles added, "I can't always ensure that Leila won't cause trouble for you any more but you can just remember that no matter what happens, you can control yourself and trust me. Okay?"

"Okay." Autumn nodded her head and said, "I will remember that."

After consuming her meal and having this warm chat, she was so tired and she fell asleep on the bed almost immediately. Nancy was sitting in the sofa staring blankly when Charles went downstairs. He wanted to ask Nancy whether she had something to do with Autumn's disease or not, but...

He decided to give her a chance to confess her guilty to him by herself.

"Is Autumn all right?" Chris asked him while she was also heading down.

"She just ate the meal and fell asleep. Where are you going?" Charles asked Chris out of curiosity.

"My dad just came back and I'm going to visit him. Charles, Autumn's condition is not so good, so please spend more time to give her company." Chris was concerned about Autumn so she gave Charles a suggestion.

"I know." Charles nodded his head slightly and said, "She almost lost control today and after that I am

not going to take any more chances."

He said this on purpose so that Nancy could hear it. Then he saw Nancy suddenly sit right up straight and get restless.

"What happened?" Chris asked. Charles told everything to Chris. She was shocked and then blamed

Charles, "You were too careless. I felt that Leila had some bad intentions the very first time I saw her.

But you let her be your secretary for such a long time. Luckily Autumn wasn't hurt by her this time,

otherwise you would be left with regret forever."

"I have fired her so you can stop blaming me now. The situation is under control." Charles sighed. "All I

want to do now is to find out who put the poison into Autumn's food or drink so that I can prevent him or

her from committing more stupid mistakes which have affected her life."

Nancy's body got stiff. At the moment she heard Charles' words, she really wanted to tell Charles that

she did that.

But she could not muster the courage to do so as she recalled that her son was still in that man's hand.

After Chris left, Charles gave a glimpse at Nancy, then he let out a sigh of disappointment.

He was really disappointed with Nancy. If she didn't confess her guilty as soon as possible, he wouldn't give her another chance.

He called Andy and asked what he had found about his lead.

Andy told Charles that it would be clear in three days.

Charles decided to give Nancy three days. If Nancy didn't confess in three days, he would talk to her directly. Then, Nancy wouldn't have any chance to draw any mercy from him.

Charles went to the company at dusk because he had too much work to manage. Before he left, he told

Autumn not to eat the food at home as Abby would send dinner to her.

Autumn nodded her head in approval.

She felt much comfortable after a nap so she went downstairs and happened to catch a glimpse of

Nancy crying quietly. She wiped her tears as she saw Autumn and asked her, "Are you hungry Mrs.

Lu? Shall I make some food for you?"

"No, thanks. I'm not hungry." She picked up an apple from the table and took a bite. Seeing Nancy

stand beside her restlessly, Autumn said, "Sit down please. There are only us in home so you can just

be relaxed. It's so weird to talk to you like this."

"No, thank you, Mrs. Lu." Nancy rejected and added, "I have to go to the kitchen and prepare food now."

"No, you needn't do that." Autumn explained, "Only I will eat dinner at home tonight and Charles said that Abby would send food to me so you don't have to prepare it."

Then she patted the seat beside and said to Nancy, "Just talk to me for some time."

Nancy hesitated for a moment and sat down finally. Seeing Autumn's swollen belly, she felt like being seized by different thoughts.

"Nancy, grandpa told me that... you seemed to have got married before you came to Lu family. Is that true?" Autumn asked her in a low tone.

"Yes, it is." Nancy let out a bitter smile and said, "I was too young then and was cheated by a bad man as I believed his lies. I married him after we came across each other but the life thereafter was a torture for me. I had to take care of his family and was always hit by him without any reasons. Then I got pregnant and he treated me much better and I innocently believed that he would treat like that forever. But I was wrong. Everything changed after I gave birth to my son."

My husband was addicted to gambling and he lost all the money we had. Then he compelled me to make money for him. In order to stay away from him, I came to this city and began to work for Lu family about twenty years ago, " Nancy said painfully.

"So... do you still give him money every month?" Autumn asked her.

"Of course not!" Nancy said in a harsh tone, "The second year I came to Lu family I fell sick and didn't give him money on time and he came here and beat me up. Luckily, Gary helped me to divorce that man after he found out about how I suffered all through these years. Gary employed a lawyer for me to get my son back. It was really inconvenient for me to bring him up while working here, so I rejected his kind offer."

"Where is your son now? He is about thirty, right?" Autumn continued asking her, "Has he ever come to visit you?"

"Visit me?" Nancy sneered and answered, "His father has said many ill things about me which made him hate me with all his heart. He refused to see me every time I went back with gifts. So I can only see him secretly for so many years and I am content just to know that he is doing well."

Autumn felt sorry for Nancy as now she knew Nancy's story. She remembered that she heard Nancy mention her son when Nancy answered the mysterious call.

"Nancy..." Autumn frowned and said, "On the eve of the Spring Festival... I heard what you said on the phone."

Nancy was shocked and Autumn explained to her immediately, "Don't misunderstand what I said please. I didn't do that on purpose and I only heard that you needed money. So you needn't worry..."

Chapter 419 Be On Leave

Autumn explained to Nancy, "I don't know what happened between you and your son, but you are a member of the Lu family. So if you are in trouble, remember to seek Charles' help. I believe he will give you a helping hand without any hesitation."

Autumn thought it was Nancy's status of housemaid that impacted Nancy's relationship with her son after a long separation.

"You..." Nancy trailed. She was overwhelmed with remorse and regret for her crime, because especially, Autumn gave her the red envelope to relieve her trouble at the Eve.

"Your kindness is too big for me to accept!" Nancy was shameful, "I remember my not having made it

easy for you when you married into Lu family. You have every reason to hate me instead!"

"Your concern is absolutely unnecessary!" Autumn looked at Nancy in bewilderment. "You deserve my support, as you are a devoted member of this family. Be sure to ask for our supports in case of any trouble!"

Meanwhile, Abby's arrival was announced. Nancy promptly opened the door for her without wasting a moment.

Abby suspected Nancy of drugging Autumn and escorted Autumn back to the bedroom and warned her, "Autumn, you better keep Nancy at a distance."

"May I ask the reason?" Autumn was perplexed and said, "I was just chatting with her. I think there is no harm in doing so."

"Please pay heed to my advice. Nancy may be a suspect, " Abby spoke in anger.

"It is not possible!" Autumn smiled and explained it to Abby, "Nancy has devoted herself to Lu family for so many years. I find it impossible to believe that she drugged me. If Charles heard what you just said, he would become offended."

"Autumn, you are too kind!" Abby sighed. "Drop the matter. Come, let's enjoy the meal."

Abby feared Autumn would be hurt by someone with ulterior motives, as Autumn expected nothing but good from others.

Charles occupied himself with public duty, when David entered his office. "Mr. Lu, I do not see the advantage of your absence in so many businesses."

"I have to remain absent from the office due to the present instance." Autumn's poor condition, at that moment, affected Charles deeply. Charles spoke to David while packing his documents, "You have to take care to maintain our company's day to day operation. You need to bring some important documents to Dream Garden for my signature. I will come back when Autumn is better."

"I know what to do." David nodded and managed to ask Charles, "Mr. Lu, may I... take the liberty to ask...."

Charles guessed what was in David' mind and replied, "I have dismissed Leila to put an end to the rumors and avoid Autumn's unnecessary suspicions."

Charles rose from his chair and continued, "You and Alice have to survive this layoff period till the time someone else is appointed for the post. If Leila comes to make trouble again, you should be able to



handle it."

"It is my duty." David escorted off Charles. Charles arrived home shortly after Abby left. Nancy gazed at Charles in the living room. Assuming that Nancy wanted to speak to him, Charles asked, "Nancy, do you have something to tell me?" Nancy was pacing forth and back, looking worried.

"I..." Nancy was about to speak but ended up swallowing it. She said, "Nothing. I will cook something for you if you are hungry."

"No." Charles shook his head. He was disappointed to see that Nancy was still not ready to admit her mistake, "Nancy, from now on, you are not allowed to cook. Just carry on with the cleaning job instead."

"Why? Is there anything wrong?", " Nancy asked. Charles gave an order to Nancy right away. Nancy realized that her crime got exposed finally.

"Just do as I order you." Charles dismissed Nancy roughly and then went upstairs to find Autumn. After taking a bath, Autumn changed into a pair of pajamas and lied on the bed reading a parenting book.

Charles took off the suit and asked Autumn, "How are you feeling this afternoon? Any sign of pain anymore?"

"I am feeling fine." Autumn shook her head gently. "Have you completed your work in your office?"

"Too many tasks to complete! I have brought documents back home to work on. You go to sleep first. I

have to work overnight," Charles replied gently.

"It, indeed, pains me to see you work overnight!" Autumn felt guilty for that. Had it not been for her poor

condition, Charles would not have taken leave from office.

At that moment, Isla was given the full authority to run Cloud Advertising Company. As for Shining

Company...

"My lovely wife, what are you murmuring?" Autumn loved to talk idly with Charles when she was sound.

"Today I learned of Nancy's dire troubles when chatting with her."

"Chatting with Nancy?" Charles was displeased to hear that and asked Autumn calmly, "I don't think

you need to chat with her."

"I am too bored not to kill time by chatting with her from which I found the relationship between Nancy

and her son.... is not quiet smooth. Is it true?" Autumn asked Charles.

Charles nodded gently. "Nancy's son was left to her husband when they divorced. Now, he is thirty

years old and still unmarried. Over and above, he is indulging in gambling and smoking. His father did not educate him well. The son is making every attempt to demand money from Nancy."

"Her ex-husband and son are definitely bringing misfortune upon Nancy." Autumn expressed her sympathy towards Nancy.

"My lovely wife, all you need to do is to take good care of our baby." Charles said to Autumn, "Please do not bother about others' businesses."

"I am just killing my time." Autumn talked to Charles, "Thanks to Nancy, a devoted member of our family, I find it tolerable to stay at home."

Autumn mentioned it to Charles, "At the Eve, I heard Nancy made an anxious call downstairs. From the call, I learned of Nancy's family trouble, so I gave her the lucky money my family gave me to relieve her from the situation."

"You mean.. Nancy was in need of financial help?" Charles asked thoughtfully.

Chapter 420 Mystery Man's Request

"Yes, " Autumn mumbled with a slight nod. "Yes, I gave Nancy the money. She initially refused it, but eventually accepted at my insistence. I suppose she is really in trouble."

Charles frowned, feeling annoyed and anxious at the same time. "Why didn't you tell me when you first

learned about it?" he demanded. His mind was racing. If Nancy did something to hurt Autumn for money, he wasn't letting her off lightly.

Autumn tried to defend herself. "But it wasn't a lot of money, so I didn't feel the need to tell you." She was becoming upset, too. "Besides, if Nancy didn't tell you what was happening to her, it must be because she felt it was none of your business."

"You don't..." Charles paused after looking at his wife, then sighed with resignation. "You don't know that, Autumn. If only you had told me this, your condition might not have gotten so serious, " he pointed out, trying to be careful not to make his wife more worried.

"What are you saying, Charles?" Autumn asked, puzzled. "I'm saying this now hoping you'll pay more attention to Nancy and see for yourself if she needs any help, " she added.

Charles exhaled. "I know..." Then rubbing Autumn's shoulder, he told his wife, "Go on to bed. I still have some work to finish."

She nodded, somewhat relieved, and said, "I see. Good night, Charles." Autumn fell asleep after browsing through a parenting book.

Charles lost track of time while immersed in work. It was the middle of the night when he decided to get a glass of water downstairs. Unexpectedly, as soon as he came downstairs, he saw Nancy slip out of the house quietly. He debated with himself for a moment, but decided not to follow her.

It was February and the night wind was near freezing that it cut through the marrow. Nancy clutched her coat tighter to ward off the cold as she walked to the gate. There she saw a black car and got in.

She was blindfolded and driven to a warehouse where Leila had previously been taken.

It was warm inside the warehouse, yet Nancy could still feel the chill seeping through her bones.

Once the blindfold was removed and she had adjusted her vision, Nancy saw a mystery man sitting in front of her. Reacting in panic, she tried to push him away, but another man in a suit, standing beside her, stopped Nancy.

"Where's my son?" she shrieked. "Where did you lock him up?" She held back from hitting the man, but continued to shout, "I want to see him now! You said I could see him."

The man snorted then ordered, "Bring him here!" Nancy stumbled back as two burly men brought in someone beaten almost beyond recognition. They threw him in front of the mystery man like he was a rag bag.

Nancy rushed forward. "Brent! Brent, can you hear me? Brent!" she kept calling out, while shaking him.

Although he was black and blue, and most of his face swollen, Nancy recognized her son and cried while cursing his captor. "You awful man! I gave you the money as you asked. Why did you still do this to my son? Does retribution not frighten you?" she hissed.

The mystery man merely scoffed at Nancy. "Retribution? Humph! If justice or retribution exists in this world, Autumn Zhao should have long been dead, " he spat.

As furious as she was over her son's condition, Nancy stared at the man and wondered why he hated Autumn so much.

She had only known Autumn for a short time, but she could sense she was kind and had a good heart.

'How could Autumn be involved with a man like this?' she thought.

"See this scar on my face?" The man pointed to his face. "This is Autumn's doing! She killed my girlfriend and disfigured me. So I will make sure she pays double!" he growled. He was breathing heavily in anger, and this added to Nancy's fear.

"I don't know what your problem is with Mrs. Lu, nor do I want to know, " she declared, her voice

steady. "I've given you the money you wanted and did what you asked me to do, against my conscience. You should now keep your word and let my son go," she said. "And from now on, I refuse to do anything that will harm others. You can't expect me to do that again."

"Is that so?" the man said with a sneer. He flicked his hand, and as quickly, one of his henchmen kicked Brent in the stomach. The pain brought Brent to consciousness.

"NO! What are you doing," Nancy screamed as she tried to hug her son. "Stop! Stop it!" she cried out.

In tears now, she begged, "All right. Please stop hurting him. Let him go, please."

"So you want to save him from me?" the man jeered. He grabbed Brent by the hair to give Nancy a better look at her son's bruises and pained expression.

She bowed her head with resignation, tears streaming down her face and begged again, "Please, please let him go. He can't bear it anymore. If you keep torturing him, he will die."

Nancy knelt in front of the man and kowtowed. She was left with no choice now. "I beg you. If you let him go, I will do anything you ask."

"I'll take your word for it," the man said sharply before releasing Brent's hair. He stood up and looked down at Nancy. "I need you to do one more thing for me."

Nancy felt very relieved to see him let go of Brent. "What do you want me to do?" she asked.

To everyone's surprise, Brent, who was slumped on the ground, suddenly lunged at the man's leg and clung to it. "Please let me go, Mr. Fang! Take her in my place instead." He pointed to his mother and said, "She has a great deal of money. Keep her here, she will do whatever you want."

His eyes were wild, his face throbbing. "I'm useless to you now. Please, let me go," he groaned.

Nancy could not believe what she heard from Brent.

After all she did to save him, following orders against her will, coming without hesitation even as she feared for what could happen and this was how he was going to repay her?

In exchange for his freedom, he was now asking the enemy to put his mother, the one person doing everything to save him, in living hell. 'Is this really my son? Is this the man I tried to save at all costs?'

Nancy thought painfully.

She stared at him, face and spirit broken, suddenly realizing he was not worth what she had to go through to spare him. Nancy staggered back.

The man kicked Brent and ordered, "Get him out of here!"



As the two thugs picked him up to drag him away, Brent kept shouting to his mother, "Mom! Help me, help me! I can't go through this anymore, Mom! Help me."

He was 30, a fully grown man, but he sobbed like a child who could not be consoled.

The man turned to Nancy, dark eyes boring into hers. "So, can we talk about helping each other now?"

He gave a sinister smile while ordering Nancy to sit. He sat down first and waited as Nancy hesitated.

She took a deep breath before sitting opposite him. "What is it that you want me to do?" she asked.

"It's quite simple, " he started, and took out a small pack that contained a drug which he pushed

towards Nancy. "I want you to find an opportunity for Autumn to take this." His gaze never left hers. "If

you pull this off, I will release your son."

Warily, she took the package. "What kind of medicine is this, " she inquired. Her heart was racing at the

prospect of doing something really bad to harm Autumn.

"It's a drug that induces abortion, " he replied. He then let out an evil laugh. "She's out of her mind

anyway, so she'll lose that baby sooner or later. Let's just say I'm helping her make it sooner, " he

snorted.

Nancy gasped, her eyes turning wide in horror. "You want me to kill the child she's carrying, " she

whispered.

The man's eyes gleamed in delight. "That's right. Don't tell me you can't do it! Remember what you said, " he said gruffly. "Let me help you. Think about your son. I'm sure that's enough incentive to do what I'm asking."