

Wedded Bride 421

Chapter 421 No Discussion

"Are you out of your mind?" Nancy cried out. She looked at him in shock and added, "I can't do that!"

Nancy shoved the medicine back at him and withdrew her hands quickly. "You can't make me do that, "

she said shakily. "Nothing you say will make me do it."

The baby was the only thing that kept Autumn sane. If Nancy added the drug to her food, she would

again have violent mood swings and be totally out of control.

"This is not up for discussion, " the man said, rising from his chair. He stuffed the drug into Nancy's

pocket, brought his face close to hers and whispered in her ear, "Don't forget your son is still in my

hands. If you want to spare him from any more torture... you'd better do as I say. Otherwise, " he

threatened.

But Nancy was agitated. "I really can't do it, " she pleaded. Her face etched with worry, she tried to

explain, "Mr. Lu already suspects that I poisoned Autumn before. So he has forbidden her to eat the

food I prepare. Instead, he asks people from the Zhao family to send her meals. So I have no chance

to do as you ask."

"That's not my problem. It's yours, " he retorted. With a devious smile, he said, "You have what you

need. How you accomplish what I want done is your business. But let me remind you that I am not a patient man. So, don't make me wait too long, " he warned.

His threat, the tone of his voice, and his look all frightened Nancy. He patted her on the shoulder before telling her, "You can go now. I'll take care of your son for you."

He gave instructions to drive Nancy back to Dream Garden. As soon as he left, Nancy groped for the packet of medicine in her pocket, her hand shaking.

What was she going to do? Nancy was now worried for Brent and Autumn. But did she have a choice if it was the only way to save her son?

It was already three o'clock in the morning when she got back home. Charles was still up, waiting silently for Nancy's arrival. He watched her in the dark to make sure his presence went unnoticed.

As soon as he saw Nancy enter the house and head to her room, he went off to bed.

The next morning, Nancy prepared a large breakfast for the couple. She greeted Charles, trying her best to be cheerful. "Good morning, Mr. Lu." She pointed at the food laid out on the table. "Time for breakfast!"

Autumn was already up, getting ready for her hospital appointment. She saw breakfast was everything she liked and wanted to have some before leaving. But Charles held her back, saying, "Did you forget what you're going to do this morning?" He looked at his wife. "You're going to have a physical examination so you can't have breakfast before that."

Autumn felt slightly dejected after hearing Charles' reminder.

Nancy gave a sad smile and then turned to Charles, "Well, you can have some breakfast."

But he shook his head. "No, thank you, " he told Nancy. Charles got their coats, helped his wife into hers and said, "Let's go! It's time to leave for the hospital."

They've been visiting the same hospital for her previous pre-natal check-ups. Charles usually waited in the hallway while Autumn was getting examined inside the doctor's office. This time, he came across Leila, who was walking hand-in-hand with a man, with a huge smile on her lips. He thought the man she was with looked like a doctor.

Charles wanted to ignore the couple but Leila noticed him immediately. She did hesitate for a bit before finally walking up to him. "Hello, Mr. Lu. Are you here for Autumn's physical examination?" she asked.

"Ah yes, " Charles, looking a bit confused, replied. "Is this man your..." He was suddenly wondering

when Leila got a boyfriend, not that it was any of his business.

"Oh, I'm sorry, " she apologized. "Let me introduce the two of you." Leila smiled and pulled the man to her side before saying to Charles, "Yes, he is my boyfriend. We were classmates in middle high school and just got back together a few days ago."

Turning to Burke, she said, "And Burke, this is my former boss, Mr. Lu." Burke extended his hand for a handshake, which Charles accepted.

"A pleasure to meet you, Mr. Lu. I'm Leila's boyfriend. I've heard a lot about you, and I want to thank you for all your help, " Burke said politely. He was very pleased that Leila agreed to be his girlfriend just the night before and that she came to the hospital to pick him up after work. Burke could not believe how lucky he was.

"Oh, really?" Charles said, eyebrows raised. He continued to stare at Leila, still in doubt about what he just learned about the relationship.

He snapped back to attention when he heard, "Mr. Lu..." Leila was smiling at him as she said, "My boyfriend and I are having lunch so we have to leave now. Perhaps we can have dinner together one

time when you're not so busy."

The couple turned to leave, while Charles looked on still bewildered.

At that moment, a nurse came out and instructed Charles to pay the charges at another area of the hospital. So Autumn did not see her husband when she walked out of the doctor's office. She sat down to wait for him.

While waiting, she noticed two children playing roughly nearby. All of a sudden, one boy was pushed towards Autumn and was likely going to slam into her. She freaked out.

The boy looked to be more than ten years old. If he did bump into Autumn, it was likely the baby in her womb would be hurt.

Autumn was paralyzed in fear as she watched him coming her way. Instinctively, she covered her belly with her hands.

She shut her eyes and waited to feel the pain of being hit, but nothing happened. When Autumn opened her eyes, she saw a stranger catching the boy's hand and admonishing him. "Who are the parents of these children?" He spoke loudly, "How could you be so careless, allowing them to play here?"

To Autumn he asked, "Are you all right?" Shortly after, a peasant woman came forward, profuse with apologies. "I am so sorry. I wasn't watching them carefully. Is your wife okay?" she inquired.

Autumn blushed at the mistake and tried to explain that she and the man were not related. Instead, she was interrupted by him, "Just be careful next time. This is a hospital and kids should not be playing around because they might hurt patients. This floor especially, where the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics is, should always be safe because pregnant women may get hurt with that kind of behavior."

The young mother bowed her head in embarrassment. "Yes, you are right. I should not have let them play here." She started to admonish the children as she led them away. The man turned around and asked Autumn again, "Are you sure you're okay?"

She nodded and gave a weak smile. "Yes, I'm fine. Thank you." Autumn was only too grateful to have escaped danger. And she thanked the stranger once more.

"You're welcome, " he replied. The man looked her over and pointed out, "You looked dispirited. You need to be more cautious because of that pregnancy."

"Yes, I need to be more careful, " she said, adding, "Are you a doctor in this hospital?" Autumn tried to recall if she had ever seen him around the hospital premises because most of the doctors there were familiar to her.

He shook his head and answered, "No, I'm not." The man finally straightened up and excused himself.

"Please be careful. I'm going now as I have something else to take care of. Sorry, but I have to leave you now."

Autumn surprisingly felt disappointed when he disappeared.

Just then, she heard her name. "Autumn!" It was Charles, coming back after paying the fees. He saw her looking puzzled, and sat down beside his wife. "Who was that man?"

Autumn shrugged. "I don't know him either." Then she narrated what happened about the children horsing around and how the stranger prevented one from bumping into Autumn.

As he watched the man's retreating figure, Charles frowned over the incident. "What about the examination?" he asked his wife. "Is the baby okay?"

Autumn rubbed her belly and heaved a sigh of relief. "Yes, it's okay." She was pleased that all the precautions she took paid off because the doctor told her their baby was healthy and coming along as

expected.

Chapter 422 We Meet Again

On their drive home, the couple dropped by a mother-and-baby store. An excited Autumn, with Charles in tow, went around the store browsing through the display of several lovely clothes for infants. Charles was delighted to see his wife so cheerful.

"You like it?" he asked as Autumn inspected one item in blue. His wife looked at him, hesitating.

"But I still don't know if it's a boy or girl, " Autumn sighed. "I don't know which color to pick, " she added,

with a light laugh. Shopping was fun, though, Autumn thought. She kept looking at one item after another, admiring the cute designs.

Charles encouraged his wife. "It doesn't matter what you buy now. You can buy more later." The he

flashed a mischievous smile. "Besides, they might all be useful someday." Autumn blushed at her

husband's statement. It seemed like Charles wanted to have many babies. After looking at several of

the infant clothes, Autumn finally picked out two of different colors. She handed these to Charles, who paid the bill.

On their way home, Charles turned to Autumn. "When you feel much better, I'd like to take you out to

buy things for the baby, " he told his wife.

"Really? That would be wonderful, " she replied. Autumn was pleased that Charles was taking more interest in the baby and her. She laid her hands on her belly and lovingly rubbed it, speaking to the baby in her mind.

When they got home, Autumn was out of the car first and walked in to find a surprise waiting for them.

Arthur stood by the door and was ready to welcome the couple. "Grandpa! What brings you here today?" Autumn cried out in delight.

Arthur gave Autumn a warm hug, and pulled her to sit down on the couch. "I was worried about you so I came to check how you were, " he said, while closely inspecting Autumn's face. "And how was the physical examination today?"

"Oh, I'm fine, Grandpa. And the baby's well, " she assured Arthur. Then she grinned and excitedly brought out her purchases. "Look! We even went shopping for baby clothes."

Charles walked in as she was showing off the clothes to Arthur. He greeted his grandfather warmly, who motioned for him to sit down. "Charles, Autumn, I have something to talk to you about, " Arthur

began. "And I want to ask your opinion on something, " the elder man said.

Charles and Autumn looked at each other. "What is it, Grandpa?" he asked, a slight frown on his brows.

"I have a good friend who specializes in Traditional Chinese Medicine. He's here in Y City for a holiday.

And I was thinking..." Arthur paused for a while and looked at Autumn and Charles before continuing,

"Since Autumn can't take any kind of Western medication because of her pregnancy, I was wondering if she's open to Chinese traditional treatment. I have spoken to my old friend and he is willing to help. If you are agreeable, we can pay him a visit later. What do you think?"

Charles heaved a quiet sigh of relief. "Well, that's wonderful!" he told Arthur. Like his grandfather, he worried about Autumn's mental condition and was hoping she would really get better soon, for the sake of the baby.

"So, do we need to invite him for dinner?" he asked his grandfather. Arthur nodded in agreement. He told Charles, "All right. I will make reservations at a restaurant now while you and Autumn get some rest first."

But Charles stood up quickly. "No, grandpa. I'll do it, " he offered. Charles knew a place that was not

like the usual restaurants and wanted to bring his wife there. "I know a good place — it's located in a farm — and they have many special cuisines. The dishes they serve are pretty good, " he said.

Besides, he didn't want to trouble his grandfather with the task, so it was better to take the initiative to make reservations.

He easily made the call to the farm estate. It was located in a suburban district and was part of Eric's family property. It was not in the downtown area but the scenery was beautiful and relaxing plus the food was quite good. 'This would be perfect, ' he thought.

It was already late in the afternoon, but Nancy, who also left the house earlier, still had not arrived.

Charles decided not to worry about her. Once the reservation was settled, he told Arthur to inform his friend about the plan, and to get ready to be picked up.

By five o'clock, Charles drove to Pure Zone with Autumn. The trip itself was relaxing and smooth.

When they arrived, Charles went to order while Autumn decided to look around.

She took several deep breaths, admiring her surroundings. The property was large, quiet and clean.

There were two huge stones on each side of the gate. The spacious garden was surrounded by two

rows of bungalows. A grape trellis was set up in the center of the yard, where several marble tables were arranged around it. A dozen stone carvings made interesting decor along the passageway that led to the beautiful scenery once in the garden. Autumn felt at ease and safe while enjoying the view.

Several chestnut trees were planted at the end of the yard. Although these were still bare because harvest season was a long time away, it would be exciting to visit in the fall when the trees were heavy with ripe fruit.

"It's rather cold out here, " a voice spoke up, startling Autumn. "You better get inside where it's warmer."

Autumn was about to explore the back of the garden when she heard the man. When she turned to see who it was, she was surprised to find the same person she met at the hospital earlier. She gasped, "It's you! What are you doing here?"

Politely, he said, "I'm here to attend a banquet. What brings you here?" He kept his face impassive but continued to gaze at Autumn.

"Me, too! What a nice coincidence, " she replied with a smile. Autumn realized she was really glad to see the man again. Because of her pregnancy, Autumn had been confined to the house where

everyone was careful not to upset her, afraid that she might throw a tantrum. She felt more like a patient that just a pregnant woman and it was becoming wearisome. She welcomed her encounter with the man who seemed to treat her like a normal person.

And it was very pleasant to run into the stranger who helped her earlier.

"You look weak and the weather is cold. It's not good for you to stay outside for long, " he pointed out.

His words of concern were a contrast to his indifferent tone.

Yet Autumn smiled at him. "I'm fine, really, " she assured him. "I rarely go out since I'm pregnant. I've forgotten how good it feels to walk around like this occasionally."

The man continued to look at her, but remained silent for several minutes. Then he observed, "I've met you twice but both times, you were always alone. Are you..."

His gaze dropped to her belly as he paused. He was wondering if Autumn was a single mom.

"Oh, I came here with my husband. He's inside ordering for us now, " she explained. At that moment, she saw Charles as he walked towards them. "Look, there he is, " she pointed out.

"Autumn, who are you talking to?" he asked curiously. Charles stopped beside his wife and looked at the stranger.

Autumn reached for Charles' hand. "Do you remember the man I was told you about, who helped me in the hospital earlier?" She looked at the stranger. "I didn't expect to run into him here." Autumn proceeded to introduce the two men and then suddenly remembered she did not know the stranger's name.

She cleared her throat in embarrassment, realizing the awkward situation they were in.

"I'm so sorry. I don't even know your name, " she apologized. "I'm Autumn Zhao, by the way." Autumn waited for his reply.

"Anthony Xiao, " he said. "I'm glad to meet you."

She sighed in relief, but continued to smile. "Now, let me introduce you to my husband, Charles Lu.

Charles, this is Anthony Xiao, " Autumn said.

"A pleasure to meet you, Anthony, " Charles remarked. He extended his hand for a handshake, which

Anthony Xiao took. Charles said, "Thank you for helping my wife earlier at the hospital."

"You're welcome, " Anthony Xiao said calmly. Suddenly, he said, "Please excuse me. I need to deal with something else."

Autumn was taken aback by his abruptness. But she said, "Okay." As Anthony Xiao walked away,

Charles and Autumn decided to head back to the balcony. "Let's go. Grandpa and his friend have arrived, " he said gently as he escorted Autumn.

"Oh, all right. Let's go then, " she said holding on to her husband's arm. As they approached the entrance of the balcony, they could hear Arthur's laughter. "Craig, it has been a long time since we've seen each other, " he said. Then he pointed out, "Your grandson is all grown up."

A quick pause was followed by, "Yes, how time flies... as swiftly as an arrow." This time, another man's laughter broke out in the balcony. And an old man's voice drifted towards Charles and Autumn.

"Arthur... you never told me you had a granddaughter. You should have introduced her to my grandson and then we would have been related by their marriage, " he said teasingly.

"Well, it's too late now, " Arthur retorted. He smiled and added, "My granddaughter is married. And she's also pregnant now."

Chapter 423 Traditional Chinese Medicine

Craig laughed at Arthur's expression. "Oh, look at you! I was only kidding. Don't look so worried." While

Arthur and Craig were exchanging pleasantries, Autumn and Charles entered the private room. They were amazed at the sight of their grandfather's friend. He was old, with grey hair and a goatee. But

more than that, he looked to be someone not of the human race, they thought. He looked rather immortal, which was stunning. In television serials, immortals always seemed to be surrounded by enchanting mist, like they were floating. That was how Craig seemed to the couple.

Seeing Autumn and Charles enter, Arthur immediately got up and introduced them to Craig. "This is my granddaughter, Autumn Zhao, and my grandson-in-law, Charles Lu."

Arthur gave Autumn a fatherly pat on the hand and turned to look at Craig. "Autumn, Charles, meet Craig Xiao, a very good friend of mine. You better call him 'Grandpa Craig', " he said with a twinkle in his eyes.

Autumn flashed a wide smile. "Grandpa Craig, it is nice to meet you." Charles, who stood beside his wife, echoed her greetings. Just as they were sitting, the door to the private room opened again. And Autumn was surprised to see a familiar face.

The young man looked a bit flushed, and apologized. "Grandpa, sorry I am late." It was Anthony, whom Autumn had run into twice already before his appearance now. She was surprised but pleased to see him again.

"Come, come. Let me introduce you to everyone, " Craig said. He pulled his grandson by the hand and said happily, "This is my friend Arthur Zhao. We have known each other for years." Anthony bowed in greeting for Arthur. "And these two are his granddaughter and grandson-in-law..."

"We met earlier, " Anthony interrupted Craig. While he tried to keep his emotions in check as Craig finished the introductions, Anthony could not help feeling glad to see Autumn again. It was a funny feeling to be excited seeing the woman once more, he admitted to himself.

"You've met before?" Craig inquired. He was surprised the two were already acquainted but did not pursue asking. Craig was just glad his grandson could be friends with Arthur's grandchildren like he and his old friend. "Have a seat, " he offered Anthony.

He then smiled at Autumn and said, "It's nice to see you again." Anthony sat next to Autumn. He pointed out how rare it was to meet a person thrice in one day. Autumn found this unusual as well but welcomed the happy coincidence. With a friendly grin, she told Anthony, "I didn't expect that we would have someone in common. We ran into each other twice totally unaware, only to discover our grandfathers are old friends."

They all laughed. Anthony again fell silent but continued to stare at Autumn. He was thinking, 'I've

never met anyone with such pure and innocent eyes. If she wasn't already married, I think I would fall for her.'

He could not help but be affected by her cheerful attitude and bright smile.

A soft knock on the door shook him from his thoughts. Everyone stopped talking and turned to see who was at the door. A waitress came in to start serving. When she left, Arthur poured a glass of wine for Craig. Anthony was quick to frown and warned, "I'm sorry Grandpa Arthur. But my grandfather has quit drinking. He's been suffering from hypertension in the last few years."

"Oh, I'm fine. Stop worrying, Anthony, " Craig admonished. Looking at the group, he explained, "I am glad to see my old friend Arthur. Surely, a little wine will not affect my health."

He turned to his friend and complained, "Look at him. He's acting as if he were older than me, and not like a grandson. I may be the grandfather but he is very strict about every aspect of my life. And he's a disciplinarian even when we're not at home."

Anthony was quick to defend himself. "That's because you lack self-discipline. If you showed stronger self-control, you know I won't interfere, " he told Craig. The two men looked each other in the eye.

Then Craig broke into an embarrassed smile. Everything his grandson said was true and he had no defense against it. Still Anthony allowed Craig a few drinks and after three rounds, Arthur went straight to the point of the meeting. "Craig, we've known each other for many years so I won't prolong this. I invited you here for two reasons. One, of course, is for old friends to reconnect again. The second is to ask you a favor."

Graig nodded in agreement. "We're old friends so there's no need to keep greetings long. What can I do for you, my friend?" he asked Arthur.

"Here's the thing..." Arthur began. Autumn's grandfather explained what happened to her over the past weeks. She was of course a bit upset and a frown creased her forehead. Anthony looked at Autumn worriedly after listening to Arthur's narration. He was particularly concerned. The words had escaped him before he knew what he was saying. "It's dangerous for you to give birth to this baby. You will put your life at risk." Anthony was confused. If Autumn's life was at stake, was it worth it to continue with the pregnancy?

Autumn acknowledged that she was aware of the risks. "The doctor I met a few days ago told me the consequences of my decision. But this baby..." She inhaled before continuing, "No matter what

happens, I want to give birth to Charles' baby."

"But why?" Anthony could not help blurting out. He was full of questions. He thought, 'I don't understand. Why is she so determined to have this baby at the risk of her own life? Why is she being foolish?'

Anthony shuddered at the thought of Autumn dying while in labor, but it appeared she was ready to sacrifice her life for the child.

When he realized that Autumn had really made up her mind, Anthony turned to Charles and asked,

"And you agree with her decision?" He was expecting for Charles to shake his head. If the husband supported his wife's decision, he would regard Charles as irresponsible and that Autumn deserved a better man.

"Of course I don't agree with it, " Charles answered. He explained, "We all want for her to have an abortion. Once her health condition is treated, then we will have plenty of time to prepare for another baby. But Autumn absolutely refuses to give up this child. She is insisting on giving birth to it, and believes the first baby must be saved."

He looked down, sighed, and continued, "And since she is determined, I have to respect her decision."

Craig looked at his old friend, saw his dilemma, and understood his concern. "Arthur, we've known each other for a very long time. So I won't mince words and get to the point, " Craig said. "Please my friend, just say it. However painful the truth, we will listen, " Arthur prodded.

Arthur, Autumn, and Charles all turned to look at Craig. The old doctor glanced at Autumn first before speaking. "It's not right for your granddaughter to save this baby, " he began. "The better option really is to get well then have another baby."

No one spoke a word. Charles shifted in his seat and held on to his wife's hand.

Craig then looked at Autumn to try and talk sense into her. "My child, I don't mean to hurt you. But abandoning this baby is for your own good. You don't need to worry because I will take care of you.

And with my help, I am hoping you will recover soon. So, your plan to have a baby will just be delayed for a little while."

But Autumn remained steadfast. "Grandpa Craig, I appreciate your concern about my well-being. But I want this baby to live. And even if it costs me my life, I will not abandon it, " she said clearly. Autumn knew Craig only meant well and he was giving sound advice as a physician, so she could not be angry

with him.

"You foolish girl! Why are you so stubborn?" he said in exasperation. The old doctor and Autumn stared at each other, then he sighed. Craig felt sad for his friend because he believed it was not worth saving a life that would take away another.

Finally, Arthur spoke up. "There is no more need to talk about this." He forced a smile as he looked at Craig. "I will be grateful and will do anything to show my gratitude if you can persuade my granddaughter to change her mind. We have tried many times, but she is committed to protecting this baby. We are left with no other choice but to ask your help to strengthen her health using Traditional Chinese Medicine."

In his heart, Arthur was hoping it was the right choice. Craig remained quiet and hesitant, but was trying to figure out how to address this complicated condition. His training and knowledge told him

Autumn's condition was very bad. Before he could open his mouth, Anthony spoke up. "Why don't you go to my hospital tomorrow morning?" he suggested.

Autumn looked confused. "What do you mean go to your hospital?" "For treatment, " Anthony replied.

Although he was reluctant, and would rather have Autumn give up the baby, this was the better option for now since she resisted the advice to terminate the pregnancy. He would do his best to keep her safe and help her get better. Arthur, Charles, and Autumn looked to Craig to understand what was being proposed.

"That's right. My grandson has learned Traditional Chinese Medicine from me. And I'd say the student has become better than the teacher, and is now the master. He also took up Western medicine in university," Craig said proudly. He added, "His medical skills are so much better than mine." Craig clapped his grandson on the back. "Anthony will take very good care of Autumn. Don't you worry."

Anthony's decision to take over the difficult task was unexpected but quite welcome for his grandfather.

He had full faith in his capabilities as a doctor, although the others looked doubtful he was that competent because of his young age. So he would do the next best thing and put in a good word for Anthony.

Arthur was surprised to learn that Anthony became interested in what he thought to be boring Traditional Chinese Medicine. Besides, he didn't look like he was already an expert in it. It would be more credible if he said he was just a new graduate.

Craig read his friend's mind and gave assurance. "Trust me, my friend. There is no need to worry." To further convince Arthur, Craig related, "My grandson has been playing inside my medicine storeroom since he was a young boy. At five years old, he could identify all the herbs and even prescribe the proper medication to patients. And when he went to college, his medical skills outstripped mine." Craig could not mask his pride in his grandson. "Then he went to study Western medicine. So accept his offer to treat Autumn. And trust him. He will take good care of her so you do not need to worry."

Chapter 424 First Treatment Session

To further boost his grandson's image, Craig announced, "Anthony will soon begin working at Y Hospital with his preferred salary." The elder physician said, "I just accompanied him to make things easier and also to take a short vacation in Y City before finally returning home."

After listening to Craig, Arthur suddenly felt much relieved to learn that Anthony was just as skilled as his grandfather. "Thank you, my friend, for the reassurance. And to you Anthony, I am leaving Autumn in your care. I trust you will take good care of her."

Anthony bowed. "Grandpa Arthur, please put your mind at ease. As you are my grandfather's old friend, I promise to put my heart and soul to ensure Autumn will get a proper treatment." He remained

composed even as his heart swelled with pride over his grandfather's words.

On their drive back home, Autumn was in a cheerful mood. Charles really hoped Anthony can help his wife to heal.

After several minutes of silence, Autumn spoke up. "Charles, tomorrow I can go to Y Hospital for treatment by myself." She wanted to prove she could be independent again.

But Charles, ever protective of his wife, dismissed the idea. Quite roughly, he expressed his concern. "I don't see any advantage of allowing you to go to the hospital by yourself."

He added, "I will feel better if I accompany you to Y Hospital tomorrow, given your delicate condition."

Autumn was ready to argue. "But, I'm strong enough to do that." She hoped to convince her husband to trust her to go by herself.

Charles drummed his fingers on the steering wheel while thinking. Finally, he proposed, "Here is my suggestion. I will accompany you to see the doctor for the first time. If his diagnosis shows that you are sound enough to be by yourself, I will go back to the office to take care of business. Is that acceptable to you?"

Autumn heaved a sigh of relief. "That's definitely okay with me, " she told her husband.

It was 10:00 p.m. by the time they got home. Nancy was waiting for Autumn's arrival and was quite

impatient as she went to greet the couple. Autumn was surprised to see Nancy still awake that late.

"Nancy, why have you not slept yet?" she asked with concern.

Autumn noticed Nancy looked a bit anxious.

"I was waiting for you, Autumn, " said she. Nancy rarely smiled, but this time she had a sincere one for

Autumn. "I made these baby clothes during my spare time and wanted to give them to you. I wasn't

sure what your favorites were."

Autumn was presented with neatly stitched clothes, the workmanship of which she greatly admired.

"Oh Nancy! These are beautiful." After inspecting them carefully, she said, "They will fit my baby

perfectly."

Nancy had made baby pants, tops, shoes and hats with elaborate stitching that would definitely look

cute on a baby.

"Thank you for your appreciation, " she humbly said to Autumn. Nancy stood up and bid goodnight.

"You go on and get a good night's rest, " she told Autumn.

Charles, sitting calmly, watched everything that happened between the two women. Still, he would continue to keep a close watch on Nancy.

The following day, Charles drove Autumn to Y Hospital. As Autumn entered the examination room, they both saw Anthony wearing the doctor's white coat.

Autumn was amazed at how Anthony looked different simply because he was dressed as a doctor now.

"You look distracted, " he told Autumn. Anthony led his patient into the room, and got busy checking her. First he took her pulse and conducted an ultrasound meticulously. Then he carefully asked about how she was feeling.

Finally, he said, "For the time being, you are in good condition. But I want you to be honest with me and tell me if there's something bothering you. Tell me the truth."

Autumn nodded. "Okay. So ask anything and I will answer truthfully." Anthony checked Autumn's chart, and frowned a little at the notations.

"Your previous physician told me you were drugged, resulting to your becoming mentally unstable, " he started. "Lately, how often do you feel like something is wrong with you?" Anthony inquired.

Autumn sat back, trying to recall her previous experiences. "When I had those attacks, I was restless

whether sitting down, standing up or lying down. I would get mad without any reason. Since I was examined by a doctor, who confirmed my condition, I have taken care about the food I eat, to make sure it was not drugged, and my peace of mind returned, " Autumn related.

She thought of the last time she felt troubled.

"So far, I have not felt that way in several days. I think I've managed to stay stable except for the last disturbing episode, " she added. Autumn sat calmly even as she recounted all these things to Anthony.

Her doctor nodded, and wrote some notes. He frowned briefly, and then looked up, her condition becoming more clear to him. "This is what I'll do. I will prescribe some Chinese medicine which, if properly decocted, should be conducive to the baby's health. After you give birth, we can do something else to help you feel better."

Autumn felt a great sense of relief. "Thank you for your kindness." His reassurance and course of action helped ease her anxiety.

Anthony gave his patient a small smile. "We are closely connected because of our grandfathers' friendship. I am duty-bound to see that you receive the best care." He patted Autumn's arm and said,

"Remember, you have to come in for a visit every three days."

Autumn nodded and said, "I want to consult you about another matter." She tried to look passive. "My family worries about my condition constantly. I'm wondering if there is need for them to always be caring for me?" Autumn asked.

"Definitely not!" Anthony smiled gently. "For now, all you need is to come in for regular check-ups and avoid things that make you anxious. You must stay relaxed and keep your mind calm, for the sake of your baby. You have to remember all these, okay?"

"Sure!" Autumn said with relief. She could now tell her husband that he did not need to be over-protective of her and he could devote more time to running the company's affairs.

"I appreciate all that you're doing for me, " she told Anthony. Autumn was talking to Anthony animatedly

as she stepped out of the office. Charles jumped up to greet them and was anxious to find out about her condition. "So what's the diagnosis?" he asked.

"I've given her a prescription that should be well-prepared and taken three times a day. More importantly, be sure she comes in to visit every three days, " Anthony told Autumn's husband. Then

remembering Autumn's concern, he suggested, "She is not in any danger despite her present condition. She should remain stable unless there is trouble. It would be best to treat her like a normal person. Excessive displays of concern would only stress her out."

Charles frowned a little and asked again. "So you mean my wife won't become unstable like she has been before?" Anthony patted Charles' arm in reassurance.

"She'll be fine, " he said with a smile. Charles let out a breath.

Before going home, Charles filled Autumn's prescription at a Chinese medicine pharmacy. When they got home, he saw Edward come to visit. Nancy had prepared a sumptuous meal and invited the couple to join the dinner. But Charles claimed they had already eaten and helped Autumn to the couch.

Autumn felt it was no longer necessary for Charles to protect her from Nancy, but she still appreciated his kindness and concern.

Nancy understood that she was dismissed and left without another word. Left alone, Autumn focused on Edward's state of mind instead.

Edward looked so different since the last time he visited. 'Something must have happened, ' Autumn thought.

Chris said, "Dad, I've been wanting to ask you... How have you been dealing with Rachel?" The same question had been asked by Chris previously, and he had been unable to answer then. He sat motionless for several minutes. The truth was he had almost forgotten about Rachel. "Rachel? I have not seen her for quite a long time."

Chapter 425 The Culprit

Edward sighed and spoke to Chris, "I have been trying to put an end to my failed marriage lawfully all this time, but I have not been able to reason it out with Rachel. Now, I am left bewildered."

"I suppose Rachel is trying to hide away just to avoid public pressure." Chris sneered. Because of her scandal, Rachel's career in the show business was completely shattered. No company was ready to invest on her. She also lost the faith of her followers.

Rachel was, at that moment, virtually blacklisted by everyone.

"Now I have no desire other than getting a quick divorce to just get rid of her once and for all." Edward heaved a sigh.

"Nancy." Charles handed over a pack of medicine to Nancy and said, "Please decoct this medicine.

Autumn should take this on a daily basis."

"Okay, I do it right away." Nancy, inwardly pleased, took the pack of medicine to the kitchen, paying no attention to the glimmer of hatred that lurked in Charles' eyes.

Nancy was somewhat relieved to be asked to boil medicine for Autumn. It came to her as a chance to win over Charles' confidence once again.

The boiling dregs diverted Nancy's thoughts to the mystery man's order. 'It is a rare chance to save my son, ' Nancy thought to herself.

Nancy drew the pack of powder from her pocket, momentarily caught between the thought of harming Autumn's baby and losing Brent.

'But.. is it worthwhile to harm Autumn and her baby for the sake of my unworthy son?' Nancy thought.

Nancy's honor ultimately triumphed over her personal sentiment.

As a result, Nancy dumped the pack of powder.

Nancy was, at that moment, overcome with guilt over Brent, heaving a sigh.

"Why don't you continue with your evil motive?" Charles' voice came like a thunderbolt right from behind Nancy. It made her completely taken aback so much that she was almost losing her grip on the pot.

"Oh.. Charles!" "Oh! Charles." Nancy looked at Charles in severe fear and shock but tried to put a calm expression. "I can not make sense of what you just said."

Nancy avoided the eye contact, looking very embarrassed in front of Charles.

"Nancy, I and Gary have placed our complete trust on you for so many years. How could you even think of harming Autumn. And I expected you to admit your crime of drugging Autumn in one of these days. But you have let me down." Charles looked at Nancy in contempt.

Her head lowered, Nancy was ashamed of facing Charles. But for her love and concern for Brent, Nancy would have disclosed the whole crime to Charles.

"Charles..." Nancy forced a smile and said, "It is natural that the suspicion will fall on me..."

"Why did you lose the perfect opportunity to drug Autumn again?" Charles, seeing Nancy dump the pack of powder, was somewhat relieved. Hence he came to ask Nancy the reason behind her misconduct.

Nancy grasped her skirt nervously and trailed, "I..."

"Charles, what are you doing?" Autumn finally entered the kitchen after waiting for a long time in the

living room. What she found was an extremely embarrassed and wronged Nancy in front of the prying eyes of Charles.

"What happened to the two of you?" Autumn was perplexed, standing between Nancy and Charles.

"Nothing serious." Charles dismissed Autumn's question. "I just expressed my displeasure to Nancy for her negligence. Autumn, you don't need to come here. Please go back and take a rest."

"Chris just escorted off Edward. I am too bored to wait any longer. Thus I came here to see what's going on here." Autumn smiled at Charles, trying to be a peacemaker. "It is human to err and humane to forgive. Please spare Nancy this time!"

"Okay, I know what to do." Charles smiled at Autumn. "This medicine will be ready soon. Autumn, you had better go and sit on the couch. I will come around to chat with you right away."

"Okay." Autumn nodded gently and left the kitchen. Charles, casting a contemptuous glance over Nancy, dismissed her with a word, "I don't want Autumn to learn of your crime lest she be troubled and disturbed. I will come to talk to you later."

Nancy realized that she was left with no other option but to confront her crime.

Autumn took the medicine and went upstairs to sleep. Charles took the advantage of her absence to

learn the whole thing from Nancy.

Nancy, at that moment, waited anxiously in the living room, mentally prepared for any consequence her crime would bring upon her.

"Charles." Nancy was overcome with growing sense of guilt and regret in front of Charles. "When was my dishonorable act exposed?"

"Since I was told by the doctor that Autumn was drugged to be mentally unsound, I had suspected you of doing so. But I was not certain of your crime, until Autumn told me of your arguing with someone over insufficiency of money over the phone in the Eve that I concluded my suspicion. Autumn was too kind to see you financially straitened by asking for my help." Charles sneered, "How could you do this to her?"

Charles looked at Nancy in burning hatred. "Nancy, you have been a maidservant in my family since my childhood. You are more of a loving senior than a servant to me. How could you resign yourself to such a heinous crime?"

"It was entirely my fault. I do fail you and Autumn." Nancy was overcome with tears of guilt and

repentance. "Charles, I have my own difficulties."

"Your own difficulties?" Charles sneered, "How could it justify your drugging Autumn? Nancy, you do fall short of my family's complete faith that has been entrusted upon you for so many years!"

Nancy nearly ruined Autumn in pregnancy.

"Charles..." Nancy, kneeling down before Charles, pleaded earnestly and piteously, "It was absolutely my mistake. I did so to save my son, though he abandons himself to vices of all kinds."

"No more of it!" Charles retorted harshly, "Now tell me whatever I want to know. Do you understand?"

"I am willing to tell you everything about it." Since there was no hope for any concealment, a true confession would be a best policy.

"Who instigated you to drug Autumn?" Charles pressed an answer from Nancy, "Who is it?"

"I..." Nancy trailed in terror and managed to tell Charles, "I don't know his real name, but my son call him Brother Fang."

Chapter 426 The Survival Of Nancy

It must be Ferry Fang, the mystery man who helped release Yvonne.

Casting a suspicious glance over Nancy, Charles was about to press the matter, when Nancy

continued with her confession. "Charles, my crime of drugging Autumn is beyond forgiveness. I am

unworthy of your family's respect and regards."

Nancy felt too ashamed to continue it.

Charles found it hard to forgive Nancy for her heinous crime, though he held Nancy in high regard

befitting his senior family members.

"Did he give you the pack of powder you just dumped?" Charles questioned Nancy.

Nancy nodded beyond shame and continued, "I had to do whatever the mystery man asked me to do

including giving him the due money and drugging Autumn if I wanted to save my wanton son who

abandoned himself to gambling which led him to heavy debts and then being taken into custody by the

mystery man. I was powerless to deal with that and followed his instructions instead."

Nancy pleaded piteously, remorse running over her, "Charles, if it weren't for my desire to save my

unworthy son, I would not have drugged Autumn as the mystery man demanded. I have served Lu

family most of my lifetime, but I have to save my son anyway."

"So you put the drug into the milk Autumn habitually drank. Did you realize it was a good way of

destroying Autumn who had to be institutionalized, though in pregnancy?" Charles retorted harshly.

"I..." Nancy lowered her head, guilt and remorse running over her. Though Nancy was short-tempered, she would not have committed the unforgivable act but for saving Brent.

"Charles, it was entirely my fault. The drug the mystery man gave me would kill Autumn's baby, as Autumn is too feeble to keep her baby." Nancy wept while speaking, "I am too ashamed to serve Lu family any longer. Before my leave, I must tell you to be well guarded against the culprit who may use another one to harm Autumn."

Nancy rose and bowed low before Charles in a gesture of sincere apology. "Charles, now I have to leave. Take care!"

"Wait a while." Charles stopped Nancy.

Charles moved in front of Nancy and looked into her eyes. "Are you sure you want to leave this way?"

"I..." Nancy looked somewhat perplexed and then she realized something. "You can be rest assured. I will return the money Autumn lent to me.

"I doubt you could find a shelter somewhere." Charles said in a cold tone.

All of a sudden, Nancy found herself too old to restart her life.

Besides, Nancy was a divorcee without the care of her parents. But at that moment, Nancy was too

ashamed to stay at Lu family any longer.

Nancy forced a smile and said to Charles, "Let it be. God will make a way."

"How could you leave without making up your fault?" Charles retorted harshly, with apparent contempt toward Nancy.

Nancy tried to defend herself, "Charles, I will accept whatever punishment you apply to me for my heinous crime, but now I have to leave Lu family to save my face. When I relocate myself, I will let you know."

However Nancy was, at that moment, powerless to save Brent.

"You are not allowed to leave!" Charles looked at Nancy in cruelty. "To atone for your crime, you are requested to take good care of Autumn until she gives birth to a child. Bear no evil idea or meet your doom."

"Charles, you forgave me?" Nancy could not but express her confusion.

"Definitely not!" Charles sneered, "You may win my forgiveness on the only condition that you give

Autumn the ever-present care. If something happens to Autumn, you will be punished strictly."

Nancy was unable to contain her gratitude. "Of course, I will exert my utmost efforts to look after Autumn."

Nancy realized it was a chance to amend herself for her survival.

Charles dismissed Nancy roughly, "It is too late. Go to sleep."

After that, Charles turned around to go upstairs, leaving Nancy reflect for a moment. If Nancy had chosen to drug Autumn again, Charles would not have spared her. But actually Nancy's conscience prevented her from doing so. Thus Charles offered her a chance.

More importantly, the culprit would be alarmed to learn of Nancy's removal and then buy another relative to do something much more horrible than Charles could address.

At that moment, Charles expected to learn more about the culprit Andy promised to investigate.

"Charles..." Nancy's appeal stopped Charles from going upstairs. "My son...."

Charles guessed out what Nancy wanted to ask for his favor. "I will try my best to save you son."

Nancy was greatly relieved at Charles's reassurance. If Nancy had enlisted Charles's help for the matter, Autumn would not have been hurt miserably.

On the following morning, Nancy prepared a loving breakfast beneficial to a pregnant woman according

to a cookbook. No sooner had Autumn partaken of the meal than Charles went downstairs and packed up his essentials and said to Autumn, "Now, I'm going to work." After the conversation, Charles's trust on Nancy rose again, as he did not prevent Autumn from eating everything Nancy prepared for her.

"Charles, you don't need to worry about me. Focus on your public duty." Autumn smiled at Charles.

After bidding farewell to Charles, Autumn, accompanied by Nancy, paid a visit to Cloud Advertising Company. She brought with her some afternoon refreshments from a dessert shop. Isla was stunned to see Autumn again.

Chapter 427 Does It Work

"Why did you come here?" Isla helped Autumn to sit down and blamed her out of concern, "You're pregnant, right? Why not stay at home and take a rest?"

"It's okay for me." Autumn smiled and said, "The doctor told me that I have recovered. I felt so bored to stay at home all these days so I came out from the house. There is nothing to be worried. I'm fine, really."

"Hey! Everybody..." Autumn patted on Isla's hand and announced, "I brought desserts for you. Take a break and eat some!"

"Thank you, Manager Ye!"

"That's really nice of you!" The employees said together.

Isla looked at Autumn with concern and said, "You really care for your employees too much. You don't

take the chance to take a rest at home, instead, you come to the company and stay with your

employees. How incredible you are!"

Autumn leaned her head against Isla's back and said, "I came here because I missed you."

"Liar! Stop talking nonsense!" Isla blamed her, "I think if your family allowed, you would begin working

right now! I warn you that I won't let this happen. If you go back to work, I will resign and break with you

at once!"

Isla threatened her.

"What? You are so cruel to me!" Autumn said to Isla jokingly. Actually, she had thought of start work

because there were too much work waiting for her in the company after the press conference of Giant

Promise Company. In order to handle the situation, Isla had to hire more employees.

All the employees were so busy working while Autumn as the boss could only stay at home. She felt

sorry for them.

Moreover, she was not used to being at leisure for a long time.

But Autumn was clear that she couldn't begin working because her health condition didn't allow her to do so. Therefore, she was satisfied with only coming back and staying with her employees.

"Don't worry, I won't start working now." She touched her belly and said in a soft tone, "I will take care of myself for the sake of the baby in my womb."

"Okay then." Isla also touched Autumn's belly and said with a smile, "I wonder what my godson will look like after he is born."

"How can you be so sure that it will be a boy?" Then Autumn added, "I hope I will have a daughter so that I can dress her up every day."

"Okay, a girl is not bad either, " Isla said with a smile.

The time she spent in her office passed very quickly. Soon it was 3:00 pm. Nancy came and reminded her that it was time for them to head homewards. "Autumn, we need to go home now. Or else Charles will get angry with us."

"Fine." Autumn left her office reluctantly. When she got home, Andy had already arrived. "Why have

you come here?" she asked.

Autumn looked around but she couldn't find Abby. She was curious why Andy came alone.

"I came for Charles. Where is he?" Andy asked with a serious expression.

"He went to work today and now he might be on the way home." Autumn asked, "What happened? Is there anything wrong?"

"No, nothing happened." Andy wasn't about to tell anything to Autumn before he discussed the matter with Charles.

Andy waited only a few minutes before Charles came home. Charles knew that the investigation about Ferry must have got final results as he saw Andy in his house.

"Hello, Charles, " Andy greeted him. Autumn looked pretty healthy and she walked up towards Charles immediately. Then she said to him, "Andy has been waiting for you since quite some time."

"Let's have a talk in the study, " Charles said to Andy. Charles didn't want Autumn to know too much about this investigation before it was completely solved.

He closed the door as they went inside the study room. Then Andy took out the materials about Ferry and said, "Ferry Fang was Yvonne's classmate in college. His girlfriend was Yvonne's best friend and

she went to the same company as Yvonne. Because Yvonne had a strong family background, the leaders gave her more attention than that girl. Soon later, Yvonne stole the girl's design draft during a company meeting. This irritated the girl and she committed suicide while Yvonne also resigned from the company after that."

"Does this have anything to do with Autumn?" Puzzled, Charles asked Andy. It seemed that Yvonne was the only one should be blamed. 'Is there anything to do with Autumn?

Why does Ferry try to take revenge on Autumn?' Charles wondered.

"Wait, I haven't finished yet." Andy continued, "Ferry got a little insane after his girlfriend's death. He believed that Yvonne killed his girlfriend and always caused trouble to her. He once came for Yvonne with a knife but came across Autumn unexpectedly. Autumn called the police, so he ran away. He was hit by a car when he was escaping and was disfigured. Therefore he hated Autumn since then."

Charles frowned as he heard Andy's words. Autumn was so unfortunate. She had nothing to do with this man but now he blamed all his misfortune on her.

Ferry was so ridiculous. The one he should blame was Yvonne but he turned his aim at Autumn.

"Wasn't Ferry put into the jail?" Still puzzled with the tale, Charles asked Andy.

"Yes, he was. But he knew a leader of a Mafia organization in prison and followed him since then. Now

Ferry has become one of the heads of the organization and he is famous for his cruelty. Therefore it's

very natural that you can't find his information." Then Andy added, "Ferry is very stubborn. He will

never give up until he achieves his aim. Now he has aimed at Autumn so he will try every means to

hurt her. We should find a solution to stop him forever."

"But... What should we do now?" Charles sounded worried as he spoke to Andy, "Nancy has confessed

to me that our unborn baby is his aim. What should we do?"

Charles grew restless because he was so worried about Autumn, not knowing how to deal with the

situation.

"Did you say that Nancy has completely confessed to you?" Andy frowned as he asked Charles.

Charles nodded his head and answered, "Yes, her son is still in Ferry's hands and I promised her that I

would spare no effort to save him."

"I have got an idea." Andy got close to Charles and said something to him. Charles frowned and asked,

"How does it work?"

Chapter 428 Leila's Boyfriend

"This is the only option left for us to address this matter." Andy spoke with great composure. Charles remained quiet for a moment and finally accepted the solution suggested by Andy, though he was still torn by indecision. "Let us give it a try."

By the time Andy came downstairs, Nancy had finished preparing the dinner. Seeing Andy take his leave, Autumn immediately offered him to join them for dinner. "Andy, why not have dinner with us and then depart?"

"I'm good." Andy smiled at Autumn. "Take a good rest. I have to manage my work."

Andy departed. Autumn found it unbearably boring to confine herself at home. Fortunately, Chris had promised to accompany Autumn for shopping the following day. However, with her impending wedding, Chris had to attend to many things while finding some time for Autumn as well.

"Autumn, do I look good on this dress?" Chris came out to buy her wedding essentials while Sam was arranging for what was more important.

"It fits you perfectly." Autumn smiled at Chris. As she looked around, she spotted a maternity shop. And needless to say, she could hardly resist the temptation to invade the shop right away.

The shop was a new mom's paradise to say the least. It had the most beautiful and heart-warming collection of children's wear. Autumn wanted to pick a few stuff from the shop. Meanwhile, Chris got worried to lose the sight of Autumn. Finally, she managed to find her in that shop. Chris expressed her concern, "Autumn, you should have told me you are visiting this shop. I was really scared to find you missing like this all of a sudden."

"Awfully sorry for that!" Autumn admitted her mistake and then smiled at Chris. "I am greatly attached to these children's garments, but I don't know if it is a boy or a girl. Hence I have no clue as to which color I should pick for the baby."

Chris too was amazed by the collection of the shop and was tempted to pick just everything for Autumn's baby. "Autumn, these are too appealing to choose."

As they were browsing through the collection while talking and laughing, Autumn caught a glimpse of a familiar figure—Leila.

'How could she be here?' Autumn wondered.

At that time, Leila was absorbed in examining a nursing bottle. She looked up to call an attendant, only to meet Autumn unexpectedly. Leila braced up to greet Autumn.

"Autumn, it seems we have not met each other for ages." Leila said with great composure.

Leila looked much more beautiful, dressed in simple clothes.

Upon seeing Leila standing in front of Autumn, Chris challenged Leila, "What on earth are you doing here?"

"It is just a coincidence!" Leila glanced at Chris naturally. "Lower your guard. I do not harbor any ill-intention against Autumn."

"You are unworthy of our trust!" Chris looked at Leila alarmingly and shouted, "Keep a distance or suffer the consequence."

Leila felt greatly wronged and spoke to Autumn in a soft tone, "Autumn, please forgive my deeds that had caused inconveniences to you. Now, I come to realize that Mr. Lu, though excellent and capable, is not a suitable man for me. And I have high regard for my present as well."

Leila's claim, though seemingly sincere, was not received with Chris's trust. "Anyway you are nothing but a slut with sweet talks."

Leila felt much embarrassed at Chris's condemnation.

Autumn drew back Chris and mediated, "No more of such disputes and quarrels."

Autumn was satisfied with Leila's removal from Shining Company, finding it unnecessary to incur any trouble again.

Thus Autumn stayed an unperturbed and calm mind while meeting Leila again.

To Autumn, Leila seemed to be someone insignificant and irrelevant.

Leila regarded Autumn with respect and humility, "Autumn, it is a coincidence that we meet each other here. I swear not to harm you anymore."

As she spoke, Leila touched her belly instinctively, which indeed amazed Autumn. 'I have never known

Leila being engaged with a man. Why did she pat her belly like this?' Autumn thought to herself.

"Are you expecting a child?" Autumn asked Leila directly.

Leila was somewhat stunned to be questioned like this. She said, "How could it be?"

Trying to avoid the eye contact, she excused, "I have come to buy some gifts for a distant cousin, who just gave birth to a child."

Leila was anxious to defend herself, "Autumn, you can put your mind at rest. I will not harm you as before, as I am living in peace and comfort. What I desire most is to keep such a wonderful lifestyle as

long as possible."

No matter how sincerely and candidly Leila presented herself, Autumn remained doubtful as ever.

Autumn had mastered Leila's character from the unpleasant encounters with her.

"No more of your defence." Chris found it unnecessary to continue the conversation. "All I expect of you

is not to trouble Autumn again. We would better not see each other to put an end to our feuds. Do you

understand?

Autumn, just forget this unpleasant encounter. Let's go." Chris drew Autumn's hand and was about to

walk away, when a figure almost skipping over Autumn headed toward Leila, with hot milky tea and

cake in his hand, and talked to Leila in high spirit, "I could not find you, though I just took my leave to

buy you a cup of milky tea."

"It doesn't matter." Leila held Burke's hand affectionately. "Let us go back home."

"Okay." Burke replied with a gentle smile, "I will buy some ingredients to prepare a sumptuous meal for

you. Would you like it?"

"I just love it." Leila smiled at Burke.

Autumn watched Leila romantically attached with Burke. 'When did Leila begin her relationship with that young guy?' Autumn thought to herself.

Chris remained perplexed too and, on the way back home, spoke to Autumn, "It was amazing to learn of Leila being engaged with such a man."

The man was handsome and attentive to Leila. Autumn expected Leila to cherish the his love.

Next day, Autumn decided to undertake a regular pregnancy test alone, though Charles expressed his willingness to accompany her. At the doctor's office, Autumn found Anthony busy with routine matters and was asked to sit for a while.

Chapter 429 What Do You See

While Autumn was waiting outside Anthony's office, she spotted Leila's boyfriend in the hospital. What really staggered her was that he was a doctor. And what a coincidence! He worked in the same hospital with Anthony. Although he was wearing a white coat, she recognized him at the first sight.

Myriads of thoughts came crowding into her mind. 'Charles fired Leila, and she had submissively submitted her formal resignation. It was so weird to see her give up Charles so quickly and start dating somebody else. And what a fine face he has! It's really impressive. And since she seemed to be pregnant, I hope they live happily and stayed away from me. Thank God, I could get rid of her finally.'

"Come in." Anthony's voice broke into Autumn's thoughts. He had finished up with the previous patient.

Autumn was about two months pregnant, so Anthony asked her to have an ultrasound scan in order to see the baby's condition. After the ultrasound picture was printed, Anthony was tickled pink. "What's wrong with you? Why are you so happy?"

Inquired Autumn.

Anthony put down the ultrasound picture and explained, "Miss Zhao, I admire your good luck. You... you are expecting twins." Anthony couldn't be happier for Autumn. If the twins could be born safely, her status would be consolidated.

"Twins?" The words escaped Autumn's mouth before she realized what she was saying. "You... you mean I have two babies in my womb?" Never had she imagined that it would happen to her. She was wild with joy.

"Yes, " Anthony replied with a smile. "You have to provide for two babies. Do pay attention to your diet."

As a doctor, it was his duty to remind her of taking in nutritious food in her pregnancy. In his heart of hearts, he had to restrain his vague feelings for her. After all, she had got married and obviously she

loved Charles.

"Okay, I will, " Autumn replied. Tears of joy rolled down her face. She was overwhelmed with joy. Her determination to save her babies became stronger. She never expected to have twins in her womb.

Maybe her persistence paid off.

"Why are you crying?" Anthony comforted Autumn. "It's good news. Stop crying." He had no experience of consoling a crying woman, let alone this special patient.

He glanced at the table and spotted a box of tissues. Impulsively, he hurried to draw a tissue out of the box. But before he could reach out to dry Autumn's tears, he recalled her identity and pulled back his hand. It was known to all she had gotten married. Although he had a very special place for Autumn in his heart, he knew that he could not show his feelings towards her. If you loved a woman truly, you shouldn't do anything that would bother her.

After convincing himself, he put the tissue on the table.

With her eyes still brimming with tears Autumn replied, "I am fine. I am crying out of joy."

"Let's go. I'll drive you home, " Anthony offered. He was always willing to do anything to help Autumn.

Besides, it was unsafe for a pregnant woman to go back home alone.

"You... Aren't you on duty today?" Autumn asked in surprise. It sounded not bad to be driven back

home by Anthony. However, if that influenced his work, it was not what she intended.

"I did the night shift. Now, I am off duty, " Anthony assured her as he took off his white coat and put on his own coat.

Anthony's waiting on purpose gave Autumn a warm feeling. She was glad to be cared and treated like a friend. She hesitated for a moment. After all, it was not proper to agree to a man to drive her back.

She felt a little uneasy at first but then tried to make herself comfortable by remembering the family relationship they both shared. After all, his grandpa and her grandpa were friends. She followed him out of the office and suggested, "I am going to have twins. This is really a piece of good news. Why don't we have lunch together? My treat."

"Lunch? Is it not too early?" Anthony stared at Autumn, smiling reluctantly. He knew her funny words were uttered because she was ecstatic at that moment. It was not good to make fun of a radiant mother, so he just reminded her of the time.

"Yes, I agree, " Autumn replied after checking her watch, "I have another idea. Since you are off duty

just now, why don't we have breakfast together? It's on me." It was nine o'clock in the morning.

"Great, " Anthony finally agreed. There were a number of good restaurants around them. Considering

Autumn's health conditions, they chose a restaurant that provided congee. After they sat down, the

waitress brought a menu for them. Autumn ordered pork rib soup with scallops and some specialties.

After the dishes were served, Autumn helped herself by filling her bowl with the soup. When she gulped

down some soup, she found Anthony sat still in his seat. Nor was he eating anything.

"Why don't you have some food?" Autumn asked. It confused her to see a man off duty refusing to eat

anything.

"I am not hungry. You can go on eating, " Anthony replied, pretending to be calm. He sat watching

Autumn savor her soup. She looked so cute enjoying her food. It seemed to be one of the happiest

things to watch her eat.

"Forgive me. I have developed a voracious appetite since I got pregnant, " Autumn said blushing. "By

the way, how is Grandpa Craig?"

"He went back, " Anthony said causally. He poured a cup of tea for Autumn but didn't hand it over to

her though. Instead he put it next to him till the time it was not so hot. Then he spoke as he placed the cup in front of her.

"My grandpa just accompanied me to register. Since I have got adapted to this hospital, he returned home, " Anthony explained.

"Then, do you live alone in this city?" Autumn inquired. "Or do you have someone to take care of your diet and daily life?" She was uncertain about whether he had a girlfriend or not.

"You overthink things, " Anthony forced a smile and said. "I don't have a girlfriend."

"You don't have a girlfriend? How could it be possible? You are handsome and outstanding, " Autumn retorted. Obviously she didn't believe what he said.

"Is it weird?" Anthony said reluctantly. "I fell in love with a girl in college. She was a foreigner. We managed to overcome many cultural differences. It was a good time. However, things changed when I decided to return home. She refused to come back with me, so we broke up peacefully." If possible, he would rather hide his past from her. If she came to know about his love experience, her attitude towards him might change.

"After that, didn't you find anyone else?" Autumn urged, waiting expectantly for his reply. According to

her, it was easy for him to find an ideal partner. After all, he came from a rich family. Besides, his appearance was remarkable.

"No, " Anthony shook his head and explained, "I... I have been absorbed in herbs since my childhood.

Nothing else can attract my attention."

"Then what kind of girl do you like? If I meet anyone that matches your preference, I will introduce her to you, " Autumn laughed heartily and asked curiously.

"Why are you so concerned about my love life?" Anthony said as he gave a small sad chuckle.

"It was a word of advice, " Autumn smiled. "Keep the goodies within the family, as the old saying goes.

You are so handsome. I certainly intend to introduce some good enough woman to you if I know any."

Autumn looked at Anthony and said, "If you fell in love with a girl I introduced to you, I guess, even

Grandpa Craig will appreciate it." Her big eyes were sparkling with intelligence.

"You, naughty girl!" Anthony grumbled to Autumn, pretending to be unhappy. "Don't worry about my love life."

It made Anthony uncomfortable to keep discussing about his personal affairs. When he saw Autumn

put down her chopsticks, he asked, "Have you finished eating? If you are full, I will drive you back."

Autumn nodded and called the waitress to bring the bill. She had said the meal was on her treat. When

the waitress returned with the bill, Anthony insisted on paying for it. Autumn attempted to persuade

him, but failed. Then, Anthony drove Autumn home. When the car stopped at Dream Garden, he

reminded her to have more rest and take the medicine regularly. It was normal for a doctor to talk to her

about the dos and don'ts. No one would suspect his intentions.

"I see, I see. You really talk a lot, " Autumn said with a broad smile. "Whoever will marry you, she would

find you annoying."

Anthony knew she was kidding, so he said goodbye and left. As Autumn entered the lobby, it was

already noon. Although Nancy had prepared lunch, Autumn refused to eat. She had enjoyed much food

with Anthony. After taking a nap upstairs, she woke up to find it was dark already outside the window.

"Are you awake?" Charles stared at Autumn and asked eagerly, "How did your doctor's visit go today?"

"Oh, look!" Autumn was sleepy and didn't want to open her eyes. Charles's question about her

pregnancy quickly refreshed her. She stopped feeling drowsy and groggy, and sat up at once. She

pulled her ultrasound picture out of her bag that was kept on the nightstand. Holding it up in the air, she said to Charles with a cheerful smile, "Look!" It seemed as if she was lifting something precious and priceless.

"What is it?"

"My ultrasound picture, " Autumn tried to conceal her excitement and replied casually. "What do you see?"

"How could I read the picture? You know I am not a doctor. Tell me, what on earth is the matter? Is our baby unhealthy?" Charles asked anxiously, holding Autumn's hand. He had been looking forward to their baby, but the drug she had taken made him anxious.

Charles's anxiety pleased Autumn. She burst into laughter and consoled him, "Our baby is fine. Don't worry." She used the word "baby" instead of "babies" in case Charles guessed they would expecting twins.

Autumn continued while pointing at the shadows, "Look at here. What do you see?"

"Stop testing me. Tell me the truth. What's wrong?" Charles became pale and urged her. If anything bad happened to their baby, he worried that Autumn would become desperate and her mental illness

would get worse.

Chapter 430 Unprovoked Hatred

Autumn said to Charles, "Anthony told me, have two babies in my womb."

"Two babies?" Charles was amazed, and then he got ecstatic. He grabbed Autumn's hand and asked

her, "Do you mean that they are twins?"

"Yes, they are." Autumn said with a smile, "I just came to know about it today. We are going to have two

babies soon, Charles!"

"Thank God! You were right to keep them rather than giving them up!" Charles was just too ecstatic.

This piece of good news spread happiness to all the members of Zhao family and Lu family. Andy

came to Charles' home early that evening and said to Charles, "Everything is ready now. When shall

we do it?"

"Okay, I got it." Charles frowned and told Andy, "I will inform you when I'm ready."

"Okay, " said Andy. And he went back.

After the dinner, Charles asked Nancy to meet him in the study and said to her, "Nancy, I need your

help."

"Charles, just tell me what it is and I'll try my best to help you." Nancy was indebted to Charles for his

forgiveness. She expressed her earnest gratitude to him and said, "You didn't care about what I did to

Autumn and I think I owe you too much. You have helped me a lot so I'm willing to do anything for you."

"Earlier, the man asked you to put medicine in Autumn's food, right? Now I want you to tell him that you

have done it successfully." Nancy was a little shocked and asked, "What?"

"Don't worry. I have got everything ready and the only thing you need to do is to tell him about this. I will

deal with the rest after that." Charles looked into Nancy's eyes and said, "Trust me please. I will bring

your son back from his hands safely."

"Okay." Nancy nodded her head for approval. Then she called Ferry in front of Charles.

The call got through immediately and Ferry said, "Nancy, it's very late now! I hope that I can hear some

good news from you."

"Where is my son?" Nancy exchanged a glance with Charles and added, "How is he now?"

"Take it easy, he is fine." Ferry sneered and said, "Nancy, I don't have much patience. If you don't give

me some good news, I'm not sure whether your son can still be alive tomorrow morning."

"Please, don't hurt him." Nancy replied to him without delay, "The thing you asked me to do... I have done it! So when will you give me my son back?"

"Really?" It sounded as if Ferry couldn't believe it.

"Yes, it's true." Nancy said, "I put the medicine you gave me to the food she eats everyday. I have done everything according to your orders, so when will you release Brent?"

"I will give him back to you when I am sure that she has an abortion." Ferry hung up the phone with a sneer.

Nancy looked at Charles nervously and asked, "Charles, did I make any mistakes while making the phone call?"

"No, you didn't. You did a good job." Charles nodded his head and said, "Now it's my work to deal with the rest of the things."

After taking a bath, Autumn lay on the bed and played with her smartphone when Charles went upstairs and entered the room. She put the smartphone aside and asked, "What were you doing in the downstairs? Why did you spend such a long time there?"

"Nothing, don't worry." Charles had called Andy before he entered the bedroom. Now the most

important thing he needed to do was to tell everything to Autumn. He considered for a moment and sat

beside Autumn. "Autumn, there is one thing that I want to tell you."

"What is it?" Autumn touched her belly, wondering what Charles was going to say. Seeing Charles in a

rather awkward state, she asked him, "What's wrong with you? Why do you hesitate in your speech?"

"Do you still remember Ferry Fang?" Charles looked at her with soft eyes.

"Ferry Fang?" Autumn frowned and considered for a long time but she couldn't remember this name.

She had been provoked the first time when Charles mentioned the name. But now she still couldn't

recollect who this man was.

"What happened?" Autumn asked Charles. She was getting curious.

"Think it over, please." Charles added, "Do you still remember that you once called the police for

Yvonne?"

"Yes, I do." Autumn nodded slightly and recalled as she spoke, "I just happened to be there at that

moment when a man was going to hurt her. She is still my sister no matter how much conflicts and

differences we might have, so I called the police. Later on, I heard that the man was put into jail. But I

know nothing about this man's present conditions."

Autumn sighed. "Actually, he is a fated guy. I came to know that his girlfriend committed suicide

because of Yvonne. But no matter what happened, he shouldn't have done that to Yvonne."

Autumn had never expected that her kind behavior could bring so much trouble in future.

She didn't even know the man's name.

Charles gave a bitter smile and said, "You were just too kind and now it is causing some trouble for you."

"What trouble could it be?" Autumn looked at Charles and asked him, "I think you would have done the same thing if you were in my position. Even if Yvonne was a stranger to me, I would have called the police."

"Do you know that the man caught by the police was none other than Ferry Fang?" Autumn was shocked by his words and asked him, "Really? I don't know his name."

She looked into Charles' eyes and asked, "Why did you refer to this man's name at this moment?"

Charles grabbed her hands tightly and said, "Before Yvonne disappeared from the prison, the last one who visited her was Ferry Fang. Moreover, your disease was also caused by him. He asked Nancy to

put some medicine in your food."

"Nancy?" Autumn was speechless for a moment, and then she spoke, "Oh! How could it be possible?"

"Don't worry. Nancy has confessed everything to me." Charles explained to Autumn. She patted on

Charles' hand and said softly, "I understand it."

Although there were conflicts between Autumn and Nancy when she just got married to Charles, she

came to know more about Nancy recently and believed that Nancy wouldn't harm her without any

reason.