

Wedded Bride 431

Chapter 431 What On Earth Are You Up To

Thinking of the phone call that Nancy received earlier, Autumn was sure that she must have been threatened by someone.

Letting out a sigh of relief, Charles turned to Autumn and said, "Autumn, I am telling this to you in order to discuss something with you. Tonight, you..."

He moved closer to Autumn and then whispered something in her hear. The look on her face changed as she listened to Charles's words. She finally nodded in agreement with Charles.

At twelve o'clock in the middle of that night, Autumn suddenly suffered from a severe abdominal pain which frightened Lu family. She was rushed to the hospital immediately. Charles also made a phone call to notify Zhao family members who also reached the hospital at the earliest. As soon as Charles left home with Autumn to reach the hospital, Nancy made a call to Ferry. "Autumn has been rushed to the hospital. When will you let my son go?"

Ferry also received the news from his heeler who kept watching at the gate of Dream Garden, so he knew that Nancy was not telling a lie. "Don't worry. I will let him go soon, " replied Ferry in an indifferent tone.

Upon hearing this, Nancy burst into anger and said, "You better keep your promise. If you don't let him go now, I won't do anything for you anymore. I have destroyed my conscience utterly to help you, and if you threaten me regarding my son ever again, then I would rather die than do anything for you."

"Don't get so furious. I have told you that I wouldn't ask you to do anything for me again, " replied Ferry in a cold tone. Ferry hung up the phone with great content. Now that he had achieved his goal, there was no need for him to detain Brent.

As soon as Ferry hung up the phone, his attendant approached Ferry and asked with astonishment,

"Mr. Fang, are we really going to let him go?"

"Of course. There is no need to detain him anymore." Malicious yet indifferent, Ferry continued, "His mother has paid off all of the money that he owed us, so we can let him go right away. Get him out of here. He has been here for a long time. Send him back to his mom."

"Okay." The man nodded slightly and then replied, "I will do that right away."

"Wait a minute." Ferry stopped the man who was going to release Brent and asked, "Is there anyone keeping a watch at the hospital now? We have to be careful."

"Don't worry, Mr. Fang." Saying this, the man smirked and responded, "I have asked someone to keep a watch there. And he will notify us if something happened."

"Where is Yvonne? How's she doing?" Ferry asked. It was Ferry who saved her from prison. But he had been keeping a close watch on Autumn during this period and had no time to care about what happened to Yvonne.

"I have arranged a new identity for her and sent her to get a cosmetic surgery done in Korea. When she comes back, she would be presented with her new identity. I am sure no one could recognize her, " said the man with a sly smile. "Moreover, I have collaborated with Leila as well. Autumn has come to know that Leila has a new boyfriend. What shall we do next?" the man asked.

"Next..." Saying this, Ferry burst into a sneer and then replied, "Next we just have to wait and watch. We're going to have some good fun seeing what comes next! I am so eager to see that!" Ferry had a very calm and pleasant look as he spoke these words.

In the hospital

When Autumn was rushed to hospital, she looked absolutely miserable and drenched in her own sweat. Charles had confirmed earlier that it was none other than Anthony on duty, so Charles took

Autumn directly to his office.

Anthony just finished making the rounds of the wards when Charles rushed into his office with Autumn in his arms. Shocked and anxious, Anthony hastily asked Charles who looked flurried, "Charles, what happened? What's wrong with her?"

She was fine when she came for the physical examinations today. But why does she look so bad now?

Did she get any stimulation?" Anthony asked several questions in one breath.

"Close the door. Hurry up!" Instead of answering Anthony's questions, Charles said in a serious tone and then turned to Autumn and said in a soft voice, "Stay here and I will take care of the rest."

"Charles, can you tell me what are you doing? What happened?" Confused, Anthony finally asked. It seemed that Charles and Autumn were putting up a show which made Anthony even more puzzled.

"Okay, I will wait here for you. Don't worry about me. Just take care of yourself, " replied Autumn. When Charles got out of the office, Autumn sat up calmly as if nothing had happened. This made Anthony completely taken aback.

Outside the office, Charles signalled Andy with a wink. Andy took the hint, walking aside to make a call.

After he hung up the phone, they looked at each other, and then sneaked out from the hospital.

"How's it going?" As soon as they got into the car, Charles asked in a hurry.

"Don't worry. Everything is under control. Nancy has called me just now and told me that Ferry has sent

her son back. Now Ferry must think he has achieved his goal. He must be celebrating for it. He will

definitely not expect us to come to him at this point of time." Andy assured Charles in a calm voice.

Now that it was impossible to handle this with some impartial means, Andy had to use his previous

connections. Though he hadn't been in touch with his old friends, they would like to help him without

any hesitation.

Ferry was celebrating with his attendants in a bar. He was triumphant at last. He had been waiting for

this day for such a long time. At a time when he was completely overwhelmed with joy, the door of the

balcony was opened all of a sudden. The dim light in the room turned to brightsome that almost blinded

everyone. Ferry shielded the light from his eyes and soon his brothers rushed to the door. "Fuck! Who

is it? Didn't you see Mr. Fang is here?"

"Mr. Fang? Wow, don't be so patronizing!" Andy looked at Ferry with cold and sharp eyes but ignored

him.

"What kind of demon are you?" Ferry cooled down soon and asked Andy, but when he found Charles behind, he laughed grimly. "I see! It is Mr. Lu! Your wife is still in the hospital. But why are you here?" he asked sarcastically, squinting at him.

'It was clear that Charles is a powerful man but not a magician after all. How could he reach me so fast?' Ferry thought in his mind.

Ferry always kept a low profile. Just as the old saying goes that the wily hare has three holes in his burrow, even Ferry had several hiding places. But how could Charles find him in such a short span of time.

It meant that someone must have betrayed him or Charles had asked some big guns for help.

Though a little bit flurried, Ferry still kept a sober disposure.

"I am sure you are aware of the reason of me being here." Charles replied him in a cold tone and a severe look.

One of Ferry's heelers stepped forth to Charles and pointed at him with anger. "There is a small suggestion for you. You better get out of here as soon as possible, or else you will be a sitting duck

very soon, so..."

Unfortunately, before he could finish his words, his wrist was broken.

"Ouch! It hurts!" the man wailed. Charles looked at Ferry harshly, loosening his grip of the man without a change of expression on his face and then wiped his hands with a disdainful look. Charles ignored the man's scream as if nothing had happened.

"What the hell are you going to do?" Ferry furrowed his eyebrows since he perceived the irritation in Charles's face. He tipped a wink and soon his another heeler took the man who was howling out of dislocation to hospital.

Chapter 432 Impossible To Give Up

Walking up to Ferry, Andy sat beside him and greeted him with a cold smile, pouring himself a cup of wine and tasting its flavor. "A good taste!"

"Take it if you like it." Ferry offered the bottle of wine to Andy respectfully, "Andy, I think, you'd better just stay out of it."

"I am surely involved in this case, considering the relationship between me and Autumn." Andy replied in a calm and composed manner.

"But you've already given up the old business." Ferry was shocked that Andy decided to protect

Autumn. Andy used to have a overriding prestige in the gangland, but he had long quit the industry.

While Ferry was no more than an novice involved in the gang affairs, Andy had absented himself from the gang world and established his family. But Ferry had been bombarded with Andy's exploits.

Ferry had thought of Andy's influence when evolving his scheme against Autumn but assumed Andy would not interfere in his plan.

And what justified Andy's interference?

But at that moment, Ferry came to a conclusion that those concerned would put their heart and soul into serving Andy if he asked for their help; even though Andy had long been out of contact with anyone in the gang affairs.

Ferry was, at that moment, badly wanted on the phone by influential and powerful personalities, who threatened to doom him if he continued his petty design.

Seven or eight calls successively bombarded on him, and then Ferry realized he had offended a person he shouldn't.

Ferry was holding the receiver, paralyzed with fear and then went into silence.

"So can you make sense of these calls?" Andy questioned Ferry after the end of those menacing calls,

"Now can you make a decision?"

"What on earth could you be satisfied with?" Ferry looked at Andy in a cold manner.

"You should have gotten even with Yvonne, who is responsible for the death of your ex-girlfriend and your disfiguration. All I expect of you is to stop harming Autumn, otherwise..." Andy let off a cold smile,

"Do you still remember Troy?"

Ferry was unable to conceal his fear and shock at the mere mention of Troy, who had been a most influential and prestigious gang leader, only to be crippled as a street vagabond all because he had offended Andy.

In the ensuing vengeance against him, Troy was as good as lost.

Andy, seeing Ferry greatly alarmed, was pleased inwardly.

Andy let off a sarcastic smile and patted Ferry's shoulder meaningfully. "I have long excused myself from gang feuds. And promising young generations will surely excel their predecessors. But if you continue the attack against Autumn, I will be bothered to doom you through my previous connections."

"You...." Ferry was fully aware of Andy's unabated influence and prestige in the gang world. He had just

had a taste of it from the phone calls from Andy's previous connections.

Ferry finally succumbed to Andy's power. "Andy, please spare me this time. I swear not to harm Autumn anymore."

"It is not enough." Andy let off a cold smile and demanded Ferry, "From now on, you should give up your tracks in the Y City, otherwise...."

Ferry was terrified instantly, "Do you.. demand me to leave Y City forever?"

"Exactly." Andy replied with great composure, "As far as I am concerned, you are not a native person.

Since you have sworn to spare Autumn, it is time for you to leave Y City. This is the only thing I demand from you. You better accept it gladly."

Andy looked at Ferry with piercing eyes and perceived Ferry's hesitancy to leave Y City.

Andy was fully aware that to remove Ferry from Y City was the last thing Ferry would accept. But

Ferry's attempt to hurt Autumn could not be spared.

Andy had no alternative but to expel Ferry from Y City for the sake of Autumn's security until she gave birth to her child.

Ferry, with his hard-won accomplishments, though much inferior to Andy's, found it exceptionally difficult to leave Y City at that moment. However, if he did not follow Andy's order, he would meet his violent end.

To leave or not, Ferry would emerge as a loser in that game.

"So it seems you are hesitant to leave Y City." Andy retorted harshly, seeing Ferry torn by indecision,

"To leave or not, it depends on your decision. But I am too impatient to wait for your decision. So you better make up your mind as soon as possible."

As he spoke, Andy made a gesture to leave, when Ferry stopped Andy immediately. "Andy, I have to leave Y City on your command, but

"What?" Andy replied with great composure.

"But Andy, as far as you are concerned, even I have gathered some strength and power in the gangland. Can you grant me some time to settle something up?" Ferry pleaded earnestly, "I will not attempt to hurt Autumn anyway with the knowledge of her family relationship with you. But I need one-week's time to take care of my public duty."

Andy, a man of reason, decided to grant Ferry a grace period. "How long do you need?"

"Just a week is enough." Ferry promised to Andy, "After a week, I will leave Y City without any responsibility left."

"Okay." Andy granted Ferry 's request, "Remember one-week's time. And then I will designate someone to see you off."

Actually Andy would send someone to supervise Ferry's removal.

After the departure of Andy and Charles, Ferry collapsed into the couch, overcome with a growing sense of futility.

"Ferry, how could you leave Y City like this?" one of Ferry's underlings challenged Ferry.

"No alternative!" Ferry forced a helpless smile as he spoke to his underling, "Andy would doom me considering his lasting influence and power in our gangland. I have to leave Y City, otherwise, I would meet my violent end."

"What would be the consequences of your removal?" Ferry's underlings were uncertain of their future prospects.

"Firstly, let my statement be known to all of you that whoever willing to follow me will be treated well or

willing to stay will be duly regarded. Second, tomorrow you have to arrange me a private meeting with

Leila unnoticed." Ferry let off a cold smile. Actually Ferry was not ready to spare Autumn under any circumstances on the ground of his sufferings caused because of Autumn.

Chapter 433 An Ace

Leila remained more than willing and keen to evolve his scheme against Autumn. Besides, Yvonne would be an ace, at the right time, to win the game.

"We will arrange it all for you." Ferry's underlings withdrew, and then Ferry was relieved to reflect for a moment.

Upon learning about Nancy's betrayal and Autumn's fake miscarriage, Ferry felt almost crippled and powerless to reverse the situation, at that moment. He knew he had to come up with something soon.

"Andy, how could you spare him like this? I don't understand." Charles expressed his displeasure and anger to Andy after leaving the nightclub. "He should be cruelly punished for harming Autumn and making her suffer as much as she did!"

"It is enough!" Andy looked at Charles helplessly. After getting into the car with Charles he retrospected about the entire incident. "Your dissatisfaction and anger are perfectly understandable, but I, after

considering my family bliss, could not get myself to do anything desperate as I did before. All I can do is to remove Ferry from Y City to prevent him from harming Autumn again. That should help the situation."

Andy just would not do anything extreme at the risk of bothering his family. He hoped Charles could show maturity and understand the other side of the story. Things were not always black and white.

"Okay, I understand your reasons and thank you for trying your best." Charles nodded subtly to indicate his understanding, as Autumn was now safe from any attack. This was all he hoped for.

Meanwhile, in the ward, Autumn had been lying on the bed for quite a long time. Anthony was growing more anxious and impatient with every passing minute to learn the truth. "I think it is time that you are supposed to tell me what was going on."

"Nothing special. Believe me. I was just fooling someone here." Autumn spoke to Anthony in a playful yet humorous tone, "I have started to doubt your professional skills, as even a single patient did not visit you during my long stay here. A rather curious observation..."

Anthony felt agitated upon hearing that.

Anthony was feeling like an idiot who was overenthusiastic to cure Autumn, who, at that moment, was a perfectly fine pregnant woman. It hurt his ego even to admit that in his mind.

Anthony then expressed his displeasure to Autumn after she raised her pertinent doubt. "Give me the benefit of the doubt, even if a patient wanted my consultation and was waiting for me, I am sure he or she was scared away by the sensational incident which just occurred here."

Autumn realized that Anthony's story did hold water.

"Autumn, how much longer do you want to stay here?" Anthony was quite cooperative with Autumn in putting up the entire play to meet Autumn's motives, even though Autumn had not told him of what all was going on.

But now Autumn had been there for an unreasonably prolonged period.

"Just a little more time, but less than what was expected..." Autumn drew her watch instinctively. 'Over two hours have passed since Charles's departure. My plan will pay off if Brent will return safe and sound, ' Autumn thought to herself nervously.

"I am feeling rather hungry now, " Autumn told Anthony whimsically.

Anthony managed to respond to Autumn's request, "It is amazing for you to be able to enjoy dinner

here."

Anthony drew out a well packed box from a stand and addressed Autumn, "This is the meal I got packed from home. I can heat it for you."

"Thank you for this gesture. I would love that, " Autumn replied almost immediately.

Anthony presented the heated food before Autumn. "Please do enjoy it."

"It is indeed amazing. Thank you again!" Autumn marveled at the little box of delicacies which were colorfully and tastefully prepared by Anthony.

"So after all Craig does not need to worry about you, and it seems like you can look after yourself quite well indeed." Autumn told Anthony in a positively impressed tone.

Autumn thought to herself and found that it would be nothing short than unnecessary to introduce him to a prospective girl who was helpful to to Anthony, as he would be more attentive towards the girl he loved.

Instead, Autumn should introduce Anthony to a lazy girl. This thought almost made her giggle.

"Your future girlfriend will surely consider it a blessing to be offered with your homemade meals. I mean

I could not fault with anything you have prepared. It looks like a fancy hotel dish but tastes just like home nutritious food." Autumn found the preparation was more delicious than it appeared.

"Please do enjoy your dinner. No more unnecessary chatter." Anthony handled Autumn with love and care. He then brought her a a cup of hot milk.

Autumn could not help but compliment Anthony, "If not for marriage with Charles, I would have happily chosen you as my loving husband to justify my reputation."

Anthony did not express it, but he did feel the same way about Autumn. 'Had I met with Autumn prior to

Charles, we would have been happy together for all of our lives.' Anthony thought to himself.

"Oh what to do with me was too late, and you are unavailable now." Anthony reciprocated to her remark pleasantly yet playfully. They were on cordial terms considering their family friendship.

Moreover, Anthony was paid more attention towards the girl he fancied as even she thought he was befitted as a dutiful husband.

"Autumn..." As they whiled away their time, Charles returned, only to unexpectedly find Autumn eating propping up from the bed as she finished eating something, and he then expressed his concern, "Are

you feeling fine?"

"You can rest assured, as I can take charge of Autumn." Anthony reassured Charles, "Charles, you would better escort your naughty wife back home now. It has been quite a while."

"I am sorry to have bother you again!" Charles apologized with a smile as he went on, "I will treat you later for this favor."

"Please just head home now, and be careful on the way." Anthony replied gently in a soft tone.

After Autumn and Charles's departure, Anthony gazed at the leftover food with growing uneasiness. It was almost like he missed her presence.

"Charles, how is it going? Has Brent recovered?" Autumn asked anxiously in the car, to ascertain if Brent had survived the misfortune.

Charles looked at Autumn helplessly. "Autumn, you are too kind-hearted to ignore your own affairs like this."

'Autumn should have valued and prioritized her own problems over Nancy's burden, ' Charles thought to himself.

"I am fine now, trust me." Autumn smiled and explained her intentions to Charles, "Brent, although

unworthy of my efforts, is Nancy's only son. If something untoward happens to Brent, Nancy will be unbearably hurt. After all as a mother all she ever sought was his welfare despite their mangled relations. With that said, we should try our best to save Brent."

"You need not worry about Brent any further, as he escaped from this dire misfortune." Charles replied with great composure, "Nancy informed over a call that Brent escaped from the kidnapping even though he was badly wounded. Brent, I suppose, will soon be better after recuperation."

Chapter 434 Nancy's Son

"Okay, I am relieved to hear that. I hope he has a speedy recovery." Autumn finally got some relief. She didn't ask anything further about it because she strongly believed that Charles and Andy would deal him for her.

Meanwhile, Ferry asked his man to go head and schedule an appointment with Leila. She came to the cafe they chose soon after Burke left for work. This cafe was not easily known to others so they didn't have to worry about being seen by someone they knew.

Ferry went to great lengths to ensure he had gotten rid of the detectives arranged by Andy and headed straight to the cafe as Leila had already been waiting for him for over an hour.

Leila didn't blame Ferry for tardiness and instinctively stood up as he entered the room.

"Sorry, I'm late for our appointment." Ferry had spend a lot of time and energy to get rid of Andy's men.

Now Leila was the only one he could turn to for help to deal with Autumn, bearing that important role in mind he spoke to Leila with extreme politeness.

"What would you like to drink?" Ferry asked Leila.

"Nothing really, thank you." Leila asked, "Why did you call for this urgent and sudden meeting here? Is everything alright?"

Leila was a little scared of Ferry so she always talked respectfully and also carefully.

Ferry smiled and replied to Leila, "Don't be nervous. I will not eat you up."

Leila was rendered speechless and then Ferry added, "I came here to inform you that owing to some unforeseen incidents I have move to another place for a while and I'm afraid I won't be able to return soon, with that said to achieve your plan now you can only depend on yourself. I cannot extend my support at this time."

"What are you saying?" Leila was shocked by what Ferry said. She then replied with broaden eyes,

"Hmm... what do you mean by that?"

You promised me you would help me unite with Charles under any cost and I always trusted you, but now you tell me that I must do all of this all by myself. Are you kidding?" Leila was irritated and angry.

She lost her temper on Ferry and could not conceal it.

"Don't get so worked up and emotional. Before reacting any further just hear me out" Ferry pulled her down to take her seat and said, "Now both Charles and Autumn already know and think that you have a boyfriend, so it is better if you don't approach them for a while. Just let them believe that you love your boyfriend very much and are happy. That is the best option now."

"But if I let Charles believe that I have really fallen in love with another man, will he still be open to the thought of being with me?" Leila asked in a concerned tone.

"You will need to find an appropriate excuse to break up with your boyfriend. Just remember, you don't try to bother Autumn and Charles in any way and I'll work out all the logistics for you, " Ferry assured her and tried to regain her trust. But Leila was adamant and didn't take his advice. She stared at Ferry as she blurted out, "No, this is not how it will work this time. Now, you must tell me all the details of your

plan, if not, I chose not to listen to you any further."

Ferry was very angry and offended with her response but constrained his emotions in a bid to regain

Leila's trust and cooperation. He got close to Leila's ear and told her everything. Upon hearing the plan,

Leila was shocked and inquired with her eyes wide open, "Can this really work?"

"I promise you that one day in the near future you will be with Charles so long as you do all what I just

told you. Now believe it or not, the plan solely depends on you." Then Ferry relaxed back into his seat

with an air of confidence.

Leila frowned and considered all what he said for a moment, realized the gravity of his plan and

nodded her head. She said, "Okay, I believe you and extend my support."

She looked at Ferry and added, "I will do anything for you as long as you can help me be with Charles.

This has always been my unwavering motivation and intention for lending support. Bear that in mind."

"OK." Ferry let a sly smile take over his face.

Despite Autumn's help, Nancy also had to take care of Brent every day in the hospital because he was

grievously hurt. Autumn worried that all this would tire Nancy a lot, so she told Nancy that she didn't

have to work till her son had completely recovered.

Nancy was very grateful for Autumn's unwavering support but she still chose to prepare breakfast for Autumn every morning. One day she came to the hospital with breakfast for Brent. He was much better now and had almost recovered completely. She opened the meal box and said to Brent, "Please have some breakfast now."

Even though she went everyday to take care of him, his attitude towards her was always remained cold and distant. But today something seemed different, he suddenly grabbed Nancy by her hand and said, "Mom... I'm sorry. I am so sorry for everything."

Nancy looked into Brent's eyes and asked, "Why did you apologize son?"

She still remembered the day she approached Ferry, for Brent and watched him beg him to let her replace him as Ferry's hostage. This made Nancy realize and see clearly that even though Brent was her son, he had become a cold hearted bastard just like his father who had lost all his love for his mother after being with that man for so many years.

She couldn't see her son die and not help his situation so she chose to do the best thing she could and that was to take care of him. When he recovered, she wouldn't have anything to do with him, not after how things unfolded.

"I know you are still disappointed and angry with me and you have all the right to be." Brent let out a bitter smile and said to Nancy, "I have thought a lot what I would say to you over these past few days. I was brought up only by my father who always spoke ill of you and how you abandoned us. Without questioning it ever, it became a part of my reality. He told me that you never cared about me, but now I know and I can see that you love me, if you did not, you wouldn't manage to pay the money for me or save me in any means. I have wronged you and I deeply regret it."

Nancy looked at Brent with her tear-filled eyes. She felt like all the pain she held in her heart was washed away as her son finally understood her. She turned around and wiped her tears. Then she said, "I'll never abandon you because you are my son. It is in my blood to love you. I often came back and tried to see you, but your father never allowed me to see you openly. Even though I always bought some presents for you, I did not dare to give them to you because I was afraid that you wouldn't accept them simply because they were from me."

Nancy gave a faint smile, "Now your behaviors and nature seem the same as your father. With that I decided that I won't bother you in your life if you don't want to regard me as your mother. You can do

anything you wish after you recover and I will not stop you."

Nancy understood that she had caused so much trouble to Lu family, so she decided to make up for

Autumn and ensure that Autumn gave birth to her babies safely.

"Mom, are you still angry with me?" Brent grabbed Nancy's hands nervously and said, "I have realized

all my grave mistakes. Mom, I was too scared to have said all that nonsense without giving it any

second thought. I swear I didn't do that on purpose and I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive

me for my naive behavior."

"Brent." Nancy sighed and sat in front of Brent. After pausing for a brief moment, she said, "I forgive

you."

At such a crucial and intimidating situation, this was his instinct reaction, reflecting his true inner

thoughts. So how could she blame him for the thoughts his father ingrained in his head?

She also blamed herself for not staying with him all these years when she could have taught him how

to be a good person.

"Thank you, mom. I am so happy to hear you say that." Brent breathed with relief and contentment as

he reflected on what Nancy said.

Chapter 435 Stay In Y City

As Brent finished his scrumptious breakfast and put his chopsticks down on the table, Nancy hesitantly

said, "You have made a sufficient recovery. The doctor said you can leave the hospital tomorrow. So

you can head back to our hometown then, okay? I don't have much here as I have spent even the last

bit of my saving to save you and nurse you back to health." Nancy then took out ten thousand and

handed it to Brent.

"I'll send you some more money later when I do have some but for now this should do. Please find a

wonderful wife and have a happy life ahead. But if you continue to gamble like your father, I'll give you

the cold shoulder and will fail to acknowledge your existence," she warned him.

Brent took the money and counted it shamelessly in front of her. 'Only ten thousand! Do you think I'm a

beggar?' he thought to himself with growing anger but he did not let his expression reflect his feelings.

"I don't want to go back, mom. I want to stay in Y City. It seems good enough for us. Please, help me

get a job here," he implored Nancy, as he held her hand almost like a child requesting for candy.

"What? Did I hear you right, you don't want to go back?" For a moment, Nancy could not comprehend

what he meant when he said that. "Do you think it's easy to find a job here? Listen, let me make

something clear, it is not easy to live in the city. I think it is better if you just go home."

"Mom... " Brent didn't give up. He kept giving Nancy mournful looks to draw out some pity. "I have considered this idea and thought about it carefully for days now. It is simple, if I go back to my old life, surrounding the same people I used to gamble with, they will definitely come back to pester me and will boggle me down no matter how hard I try to go the other way. You know, it's hard to shake off these people. I might as well stay in Y City and start afresh that way I could give our relation also a new beginning. Mom, I promise I'll make money and provide for myself. This way I will not be looked down upon anymore."

Brent then let out a wry smile and went on, "I really want to turn over a new leaf. Please believe in my future and support me. That is all I ask of you."

"But... " Nancy hesitated with a frown because she doubted his motivations.

But in all honesty, she was concerned about Brent joining the company of his old bad friends. And if her fears came true later, she would really have no means to save him yet again.

'But if he stays in Y City, what can he possibly do to sustain himself?' Nancy wondered, trying to figure out a way for Brent to make a living in the modern city.

"Mom, why don't you ask the family you have been working in for a favor? They are so rich and generous that I am sure they will help us. After all something of this proportion must be just a piece of cake for them." Brent put across his idea which seemed almost prepared and thought-over.

Nancy spared him a warning look. "I have caused them a lot of trouble on your account. I could not possibly ask for any more favors after the things they have already done for me. I just cannot..."

"Humph, you've been working for them for years. Why can't you ask them a favor? Besides, you are just asking to help find a job, not asking them to support me or put up with me. Don't act as though I'm trying to freeload here." Brent shrugged casually.

"Oh, you just shut up!" Nancy stopped him in a strict voice, but actually she didn't have the heart to force him.

After Brent was discharged from the hospital, Nancy put him up in a hotel to recuperate for some days.

Upon noticing Nancy's return at work, Autumn curiously asked, "Nancy, has your son been discharged?"

"Yes, he is doing quite well now." Nancy nodded gently, and smiled. "He has almost recovered and is

now staying at a hotel. I'll go over and cook for him every evening."

"Oh Nancy, you should not have come back. Please go take care of your son first and come back to work after he completely recovers," Autumn urged her warmly.

"How could I take any more days off?" Nancy expressed as she chopped some vegetables. "I have already troubled Mr. Lu and you so much due to Brent. Only if I come back to work sooner will I feel less guilty about this entire episode."

With a warm and comforting smile, Autumn said, "You don't have to stress so much. I don't blame you at all for what happened. I understand a mother's love and responsibility for her children is of utmost importance."

"Autumn..." Nancy called out to her and bit her lip. Then she sighed and took a long grateful glance at

Autumn. "You are so kind that I just feel so overburdened by guilt about all the evil things to you.

Despite Charles and you making it clear repeatedly that you don't blame me, I still can't get myself forgive. It was heinous and a crime," she poured her heart out, as she lowered her head in shame.

Then with a bitter smile, she continued, "Please let me do something for you. This is the only way I'll feel better."

Autumn, without persuading her further, dropped the subject. "What are your plans for the future?" she

asked, looking at the side of her face. "Do you mind telling me?"

"We haven't made any plans as yet." Nancy stopped chopping, turned to Autumn and replied, "Brent

said he wanted to stay in Y City and get a job, but I wonder what he can possibly do? After all, he has

never had a real job so I am growing concerned about it."

She sounded rather depressed and annoyed with this new challenge. "I was urging him to return to our

hometown, but, on the other hand, I was increasingly scared that he would again fall into the company

of his evil friends who always dragged him down in life. If he gets into trouble like this once more, he'll

really be done then. So I thought it might be a good idea for him to stay in this city and start a new life.

I'm still in a dilemma." After voicing her concerns, Nancy smiled, as she gathered some hope and

strength.

"Anyway, after he recovers over the next few days, I'll make him look for a job. That way he won't get

bored and will be able to provide for himself."

"Oh, you do have a reasonable point." Autumn said, as her neck was bent in thought. "Nancy, why

don't you ask him to come and live in this house with you?" Autumn offered, looking up at Nancy

optimistically. "You haven't lived with him all these years, so this is a good opportunity for you to make a connection and develop your relationship with him. Besides, if he lives here, you can save some money."

"You... are always so kind and considerate, Autumn." Nancy's face lit up with happiness immediately.

She actually would be relieved in many ways if Brent could stay with her. However, she wondered if Charles would agree to this proposal.

"But..." Nancy hesitated, with a worried look. "Brent has been a couch potato. You should not extend your generosity for free, but I really don't know what he can do for this family," she voiced her concern.

"Let me think about it," Autumn said, as she rubbed her chin and brooded. Within a few seconds, an idea occurred to her. "Can he drive?" she inquired immediately.

"Yes, that he can do," Nancy answered optimistically. "He got his driving license several years ago, but he hasn't been driving in the recent past. Why do you ask?"

"I was thinking he could maybe be my driver." Autumn stroked her tummy and explained, "My tummy is getting bigger by the day and it's hard to drive by myself before giving birth, so I actually would require

a driver."

"Autumn, you... I don't know... what to say. But... just thank you!" Nancy was unable to express her feels as she was just so happy and excited. She knew that Autumn was saying all of this to help her.

After all the terrible things she had done to her, Autumn was still willing to help her with all her heart.

This made her feel more guilty about what she had done.

"This is a deal then. I'll speak with Charles about it later. I think he'll agree to this arrangement."

Autumn patted Nancy on the back of her hand and added, "Even if he objects, I will persuade him and ensure he agrees. So please don't worry."

"Autumn... " Nancy choked, as tears began to well in her eyes. "I will take care of you as my own daughter from now on. I really can't express how grateful I am to you. The way you treat people with care and generosity is an example to all of us to always be our best selves."

"Well, let's not talk about this anymore. I am glad I'm able to help you." Autumn smiled. "Go ahead with your cooking. I'll leave you alone. Charles should be home anytime soon now."

"Yes sure." Nancy watched her back as she left, still greatly touched by her help.

As soon as Autumn walked out of the kitchen, she saw Charles, who also had just walked into the house. He seemed relieved as he saw Andy's people send Ferry away with his own eyes. "How are you feeling today, Autumn? Everything okay?" he asked sweetly as he took her into his loving embrace.

Chapter 436 Autumn's Driver

"Oh I am just fine." Autumn pulled Charles to sit in the sofa and then said to him with loving eyes,

"Charles, I want to... discuss something with you right now."

"What is it love?" Charles was a little anxious as he wondered what it was that Autumn wanted to say.

"Okay, I'll just tell you." Autumn let out a warm smile and continued, "My belly is growing bigger and more swollen so I'm afraid that I can't drive on my own any more."

"Yes, you are right. I don't want you to strain yourself." Charles nodded in approval and said to Autumn,

"I have arranged a driver for you. He will drive you anywhere you want to go."

"But that driver is an employee of your company and it's inappropriate to let him only work for me. That is after all personal use. With that said, I think I should have a driver working only for me." Autumn suggested with a wide smile.

Charles changed his posture in an attempt to get more comfortable and then said to Autumn, "What are you getting at?"

He could tell that Autumn was going to say something unexpected.

"Charles..." Autumn continued to smile as she looked at Charles and said, "Nancy's son has recovered and he wants to stay in this city. I think he is a good choice as my driver. On the one hand, I really need a driver to take me to the hospital for examinations and also to do other things. On the other hand, Nancy had parted with her son for so many years and I hope that I will be able to give them more time to get along with one another. Nancy has worked for our family for several decades and I wish that she can have a happy life once she is old."

She added, "If her son works at some other place, he will have to rent a house and it will be too inconvenient for Nancy to see him often. Do you agree?" Autumn asked Charles with eager and optimistic eyes, hoping for his approval.

"So you said and did all of this only to help Nancy?" Charles asked Autumn as he was puzzled.

Autumn nodded and said, "Nancy has already suffered too much and faced many ordeals. I think we should do something to help her. Don't you think so?"

Charles, do you agree with what I am saying or not?" Autumn pulled Charles' hand and sincerely asked

once again.

"I agree with your stand, we should help her in any capacity we can." Then he frowned and presented his dilemma, "I also do want to find a driver for you because you are pregnant but the driver must be reliable, or else, you and our baby might be in harm's way and I cannot let that happen. Well, you should ask him to come to our home and I'll see whether he is qualified or not. If not here, I'll arrange another place for him to work at. I think that is a fair arrangement. What do you think?"

"Yes absolutely, you are so kind." Autumn kissed on Charles' cheek as she bubbled with excitement and said, "I'll just go and share this good news with Nancy right now."

"Be careful Autumn. Don't run so fast!" Charles got scared when he saw Autumn dash towards the kitchen so he reminded her to slow down almost instinctively.

Autumn didn't care to hear what Charles said and instead rushed to the kitchen and told Nancy,

"Nancy, Charles agreed."

"Really?" Nancy turned around and saw Charles enter the kitchen, following Autumn. She asked

Charles with a hint of doubt, "Mr. Lu, you... really agreed to hire him?"

"Autumn's belly is already very swollen and she will need a driver, but I haven't decided to employ him

just as yet." Charles told Nancy in a cold tone, "Autumn's driver must be a reliable man. If he doesn't meet my requirement, I won't employ him. Let that be clear."

"OK! I'll ask him to come for the interview tomorrow." Nancy told Charles ecstatically.

If Brent could find a job, then Nancy would have nothing to be worried about as he would fend for himself.

The next morning, Nancy went to the hotel Brent was staying at. He was still sleeping when she arrived and she opened the curtains immediately. Brent, who was still in bed, asked her with dissatisfaction,

"Why have you come here so early, mom? I need to sleep for some more time."

"You consider sleeping more important than everything else! How do you hope to sustain yourself in this city? By sleeping?" Nancy lashed out at him in anger.

She made so much effort to help him get a job but here he was just thinking about sleeping. His laid back attitude really put her over the edge.

Brent sat up and said, "I... I haven't find a job yet but don't worry mother. I will work hard if and when I find a job. I won't let you down."

"Really?" Nancy questioned Brent's sincerity with suspicion, not knowing whether she should believe him or not.

"Of course!" Brent promised her almost immediately, "I have thought about it all rather clearly, I cannot go idling about my life without any purpose anymore. Gone are the days that I was young and could afford to be carefree now if I don't find a decent job, no woman will marry me in her right mind.

Therefore, I will work hard for you and my future wife. I need to build myself a stable and bright life."

Nancy sighed. If Brent had thought it through, she didn't have to stack up so much money for him.

The money she saved all through these years were enough for him to build a big house in countryside and get married.

"Remember what you said. If you break your promise in the future, I will punish you!" Nancy warned Brent of dire consequences in a serious tone.

She was pleased to see Brent change. From now on, if only Brent could work hard, she wouldn't care about the money she spent on him and rather would be a proud mother.

"Trust me, I will always remember that and never let you down." Brent stood up and said as he grabbed Nancy's hand, "Mom, did you find a job for me or talk to them about a job?"

"Yes, indeed I did." Nancy cast a glance at Brent and added, "The hostess of the family I work for is a kind woman and she agreed to provide you a job, so you should behave well to please her and leave a good lasting impression."

"The hostess? Is she..." Brent knew all about what Nancy was forced to do when he was kidnapped by Ferry so he couldn't help wondering whether Autumn was crazy or not when Nancy told him that Autumn was willing to offered him help.

"Yes, she is, so I warn you to be on your best behavior." Nancy sighed and continued, "We owe Autumn too much. If you want to get and keep a job here, you must show your determination to Mr. Lu and his wife. Then, we also need to express our gratitude to them."

"Okay, I understand." Brent grew more excited once he learned that he had finally got a chance to stay in the city, and then he asked Nancy eagerly, "Mom, so... what should I do?"

"You have a driving license, I hope?" Nancy cast a glance at Brent and said, "Mrs. Lu is pregnant and she needs a driver immediately, so bearing all that in mind she chose to employ you. Remember to drive slowly and prioritize her safety. She is pregnant and you should be careful and I cannot say that

enough. Do you understand?"

"What? You let me get employed as her driver?" Brent's excitement disappeared almost immediately as

he heard that the job was to be Autumn's driver and his face dimmed as it reflected his disappointment.

Chapter 437 Mother-And-Son Showdown

Since his mother Nancy had been working for the Lu family for many years, Brent had it in mind that

Charles and Autumn would at least give him a better position in the household staff. He was appalled

at just being assigned as Autumn's driver, a job far below his expectation.

"Mom, is there no other job they can give me?" he complained to Nancy. Brent was far from pleased

with what was being handed to him.

His mother was taken aback by his attitude. "What, you think it is not good enough?" Nancy was

extremely grateful to Autumn for agreeing to give Brent a job, even if it was only to serve as her driver.

She was aware that her son was hardly a responsible man and constantly worried whether he could

perform well in this job.

Yet here he was complaining that the work being given to him was not decent enough. She was really

getting annoyed with Brent now.

To express her frustration, she slapped Brent on the back and shouted, "I had to humble myself before

Mr. Lu to give you a job, so you have no other choice. Will you look at yourself? You have no other skills except for driving so what can you expect!" Nancy was nearly huffing. "Don't tell me you're dreaming of Mr. Lu letting you become an executive in his company!" She was pacing back and forth now. "He works very hard to manage the business, but can you do the same thing? I doubt it!" she scoffed.

Brent refused to be discouraged. "How do you know I won't be able to run a company if I don't try?" he told his mother. "Mom, I'm your son. Why do you think so little of me?" he asked in despair.

But Nancy could not be pacified. She was really very annoyed with Brent. Suddenly she grabbed the feather duster nearby and started whacking him with it. While she was frustrated with Brent, Nancy was also furious with herself for not having taught him to become a responsible person. As a result, he grew up with such unrealistic ideas. She screamed at him, "Look at yourself in the mirror! Is that someone who deserves to be boss?" Nancy continued to beat her son. "The only thing you do each day is daydream. I am only a servant of the Lu family so I can't give you a job as the boss." She was running out of steam. "If you want to work as a driver, then you'd better get to it now. Otherwise, I will never do

anything for you and you can just pack your bag and go back home to the countryside."

Brent, too, was exhausted. "Mom, please stop beating me," he pleaded. He held up his arms in

surrender and apologized. "I'm sorry. Please forgive me."

Nancy stopped. She felt very tired. But she could not keep herself from crying out, "Is this God's

punishment for me?" Looking at Brent, she warned, "If you don't work hard for Mrs. Lu, I will ask you to

leave before they can even fire you. I will never allow you to cause them harm."

"Mom!" Brent cried out. He was sore from the beating Nancy gave him. Brent tried to rub his back to

soothe the pain. He whimpered as his fingers ran over the welts he felt beginning to form. But he didn't

dare say anything more when he looked at Nancy's hard eyes.

She looked at the man who was her son with fury and disappointment. "Will you get up?!" she ordered

him.

"All right, all right!" Brent stood up slowly. While he was far from satisfied with the job he was given, he

would take it because it was still better to live in the city than in the countryside. He vowed to do

everything to get promoted.

Brent changed his clothes, all provided by his mother. It was a cheap suit, not made of good quality

material. But it was clean and gave him a tidy appearance, looking decent as a driver.

He was, after all, pretty handsome even with the scars on his face.

Nancy inspected her son, nodded with satisfaction and said, "Let's go. I'll bring you to the Lu family house."

Arriving at Dream Garden, Brent could not help looking around and admiring the house where his mother worked as they entered the gate.

He had heard the family Nancy worked for was wealthy but now he realized the Lu family was rich beyond imagination.

Deep inside, he felt the unfairness of it all. 'Why do they live in this huge house while I, already so poor, could get almost beaten to death for just a few thousands of dollars?'

Brent snapped out of his thoughts when he heard Nancy say, "Stop looking around." His mother reminded him as if he were a little boy. "Remember to be polite when you answer Mr. Lu's questions. And don't look too distracted."

Brent heaved a sigh. "I know, Mom." She had been repeating these words since they left the hotel and

Brent was already getting annoyed.

Yet he could not help the feeling of excitement as they entered the Lu family house. Every article he saw amazed him. They all looked very expensive. Unable to stop himself, he pulled at Nancy's sleeve and whispered, "How much does this house cost, Mom?" He pointed out, "Everything in this house appears to be expensive."

Nancy shook off his hand and muttered, "What does that have to do with you?" Walking briskly, she told Brent, "Let me remind you we only work for the Lu family. There is nothing here that belongs to us, so don't get any foolish ideas of taking anything. If I catch you doing anything wrong, I won't let you get away with it!"

Brent rolled his eyes. "Okay! Take it easy. I won't do anything." He grumbled, "I only asked a simple question and you get so emotional over it."

She stopped before saying, "Wait here a moment." Before going, she added, "Do not touch anything. I'll inform Mr. Lu that you're here now."

"Okay," he replied, as his eyes continued to roam the house. He motioned zipping his lips to indicate he would remain quiet but remained curious about everything around him.

As Nancy climbed the stairs, she kept looking at Brent to make sure he behaved himself. Once certain he did as he was told, she headed towards the bedroom of Charles and Autumn and knocked. "Are you up, Mr. Lu?" she called out.

Charles was still in bed reading files. He asked in a low tone, "What is it?" He wanted to be sure Nancy's voice did not wake his wife, who was still soundly asleep. Then he got up and went to the door.

"What is it that you need?" he asked Nancy after opening the door.

Nancy tried to peek if Autumn was awake. She felt a little nervous, and hesitated before replying, "I've brought my son with me."

"All right. Why don't you wait for me. I'll be downstairs shortly," Charles said. Nancy nodded and turned to leave.

Charles shut the door and went to change his clothes. As Nancy was going down, Brent could not resist picking up a jade piece, owned by Gary, and inspecting it closely. His mother saw him, annoyed, and marched up to him quickly. "Put that back! Didn't I just tell you not to touch anything?" Mad because Brent disobeyed her, she spat, "Didn't you understand what I said?"

She threw her arms in an angry gesture and said, "You freak me out!" Brent put the jade back on the shelf quickly, explaining his action, "I was just so bored being left alone so I took a closer look. Mom, is that jade worth several thousands of dollars?" he asked.

It was in fact worth several millions, but Nancy was not about to tell her son that. Instead, she glared at him without speaking.

She sat down and motioned for Brent to do the same. "Mr. Lu will be downstairs shortly. So sit and stay quiet."

He chose to remain standing, and waited for Charles' arrival in silence. Charles' first impression when he saw Brent was displeasure. He did not like the young man. He saw greed in his eyes and it was unsettling. Nancy pulled Brent, motioning him to walk towards Charles. She introduced him saying, "Mr. Lu, this is my son Brent." To the boy, she instructed, "Greet Mr. Lu, Brent."

She looked at him, saw Brent hesitate, and prodded him by touching his arm.

"Hello, Mr. Lu," Brent greeted politely. The two men looked at each other.

Chapter 438 Autumn's Admirer

"So, you're Nancy's son," said Charles. He sat on the couch while studying Brent.

Brent nodded politely and replied, "Yes, I am."

Charles began the interview. "How experienced are you at driving?" He wanted to make sure Brent would serve his wife well.

Brent stood up straighter to boost his confidence. "I would say I have enough experience as a driver," he told Charles. Even as he tried to sound confident, Brent felt intimidated by Charles.

"And how often do you drive?" Charles pursued the questioning with great composure.

Brent admitted, "Not very often." He thought for a second before adding, "I used to serve as a temporary driver for people in my village, especially when there were urgent circumstances."

Brent could not shake off the meekness that was gripping him in front of Charles.

But Charles still remained doubtful whether he was fit for the job or not, even as he noted that Brent was attempting to behave like a subordinate.

It was Nancy's appeal that he was really considering, so despite certain misgivings about Brent he would probably give him the job.

"Do you know what we need you for?" he asked Brent. Although Brent remained standing, Charles made sure to look him in the eye.

"Yes, I am aware," Brent replied. He looked at Nancy before adding, "My mom told me that I could work as a driver for Mrs. Lu."

Since Charles made no attempt to hide his dislike for Nancy's son, Brent tried his best to defend himself. "If you give me the chance, I promise to change little by little. And I will serve Mrs. Lu well in return for accepting my services," he said quickly.

Nancy spoke up in behalf of her son. "Mr. Lu, please give him a chance. Brent will do his best driving for Mrs. Lu." She looked at Brent. "I know he's done many foolish things and may even be thought of as unworthy, but I know he will take to heart serving Mrs. Lu. Besides, I will keep him under close watch," she vowed.

Charles looked from Nancy to Brent and was now torn by indecision.

Suddenly, he heard Autumn's voice. "Charles, why not give Brent an opportunity to reform himself."

Nancy didn't look like she was going to persuade Charles into employing her son, so Autumn thought she would come to her rescue. "I think Brent is capable of driving for me," she declared.

Charles was surprised to see his wife awake and making her way down the stairs. "What are you doing up already?" He would have wanted her to sleep longer and quickly stood up to help Autumn sit on the

couch.

She smiled at her husband in gratitude. "I don't need any more sleep, Charles. Don't worry about me because I am feeling perfectly fine." Autumn held on to her husband's arm before pleading, "Please say it's okay for Brent to drive for me."

When Charles still did not answer, she remarked, "Besides, we agreed that to engage Brent as a driver would be my decision, remember?" Charles looked at his wife helplessly, and finally gave in. "All right, Brent. You can try out for the job." Nancy broke into a smile and Brent heaved a sigh of relief.

Autumn smiled at Brent, too, and said, "Go back to the hotel and get your things. And Nancy, please arrange a room for Brent." She gave Charles a hug as an expression of gratitude.

Nancy raised her brow when her son remained quiet. "Aren't you going to thank Mrs. Lu?" She pushed him quite forcefully into action.

Brent felt not only gratitude for Autumn, but respect and humility as well. "Thank you very much, Mrs. Lu," said he. He eyed the woman he would be working for.

And was taken aback as he suddenly got a good look at her. Autumn was stunning.

Brent shifted into daydream mode. 'She looks like an angel from heaven, ' he thought.

Even when Autumn was already out of sight, Brent still could not get her image out of his mind.

His mother shoved him and quite harshly said, " Mrs. Lu is a woman whom you shall hold in awe and respect, understand? Stop those flighty thoughts you may have of her!"

"But Mom, her beauty has possessed me!" he said eagerly. Brent couldn't care about his mother's admonitions. Instead he excitedly said, " I'm going to pack up my things and come back quickly. You better get a room ready for my return and the start of my stay here in Dream Garden."

"You don't have to tell me what to do!" Nancy retorted. She had mixed feelings about Brent driving for Autumn, one part thankful, the other worried.

True to his word, Brent moved in to Dream Garden that night. The next day, he drove Autumn to Y Hospital for her regular check-up. She got off at the hospital lobby, dismissed Brent, and headed to Anthony's office.

It was previously agreed that Anthony would devote mornings exclusively for Autumn's treatment when she was scheduled to come in. So Autumn went straight in without knocking.

Anthony, however, was talking over the phone, and looked rather anxious. She overheard him saying,"

Lisa, I don't see why you have to come and see me when we have put an end to our relationship."

Autumn closed the door gently, sat down and waited for Anthony to finish his conversation.

The young doctor suddenly noticed Autumn's presence and abruptly ended the call, telling his caller, "I

need to go now. A patient is waiting for me."

He hung up and greeted Autumn, smiling apologetically. "Come on."

She knew it was not polite, but she was intrigued. "Was that your girlfriend on the phone?" Autumn

sensed Anthony would rather not discuss the matter.

But he answered, "My ex-girlfriend." Anthony suddenly had the urge to talk to Autumn and did so

calmly.

Then he proceeded with the examination, taking great care to assure it would be a safe pregnancy.

Anthony explained, "Your baby is developing quite well. This means you just need to come here every

week instead of every three days."

But Autumn was hardly paying attention. Instead, she continued her questioning. "Is the girl you were

talking to on the phone a foreigner?" She had suddenly become interested in Anthony's personal affairs

rather than her own condition.

He looked annoyed that she was more interested about his relationship than her medical situation.

"Autumn, please pay attention to what I'm saying. This is all essential for a safe pregnancy," he urged.

She waved a hand dismissively and said, "Don't worry, I'm listening to everything that you're saying and will follow your advice." Still she persisted. "Back to your girlfriend... but you have parted ways?"

Autumn paused for a moment, frowned and said, "So why does she keep pestering you with calls?"

Does she want to get back together?"

Anthony sighed in resignation. Autumn would continue probing even if he ignored her so it was best to answer. "She decided to come back to rekindle our relationship. She said she was arriving shortly."

Anthony admitted to himself that he was finding it hard to deal with Lisa. "So, do you want to get back into a romantic relationship with her?" Autumn was getting more curious.

"Definitely not!" he answered quickly. Anthony was struggling to put his emotions into words. "Our relationship should be as good as gone," he snapped at her unintentionally.

As the young doctor spoke, he looked at Autumn affectionately. And he was trying very hard to stop every passionate thought about his patient.

But it just would not stop. Helplessly, he admitted to himself that he had a huge crush on Autumn.

Anthony knew he needed to be psychologically strong to remember that Autumn was off-limits and forget his feelings for her. Yet, he also wished to remain like a guardian angel to her.

Autumn was surprised to see Anthony lose his composure. "Please calm down. I don't understand why you're becoming very upset. It was a casual question," said she.

Anthony shut his eyes for a few seconds to relax himself. Then he said, "I think I'm okay now." The doctor realized he had behaved rudely and decided to get Autumn to leave. He pretended to check medical records on his table, and said, "I have another patient to attend to."

"I'll be on my way," she teased Anthony, knowing she was dismissed. Autumn was slightly disappointed not to learn anything more about the good doctor.

After her hospital visit, Autumn instructed Brent to drive her straight to Cloud Advertising Company, without passing by the house. She brought cakes and milk tea for her colleagues whom she had missed terribly. They were also unusually busy at that time and would appreciate the visit.

Isla learned that Autumn was in the office, and as she walked out to meet her, Isla saw that her friend

was already happily chatting with a group of staff.

Instantly, Isla was concerned that Autumn might get tired from standing so long. She expressed her displeasure quite loudly but affectionately. "Everyone is so excited to try out afternoon refreshments and chatting with Autumn but no one has even thought to make her sit down. Have you forgotten that she's expecting a baby and that she should be showered with care and love? Mr. Lu will not make it easy for all of you if his wife suddenly does not feel well because you kept her standing while talking."

Chapter 439 A Ploy For Vengeance

The ladies chatting with Autumn scampered to bring her a chair. Then one of them said to Isla, "So you don't know that Autumn is pregnant with twins?"

Isla's eyes lit up. "Really?" She turned to Autumn, who gave a shy smile while nodding. Isla gripped Autumn's hands in delight and asked more questions about the babies.

After several more minutes of chatting with everyone, Isla invited Autumn into her office so they could talk more privately.

She was starting to say something, paused, and remembered there was something she wanted to tell Autumn. "Do you still remember Roger?" she inquired gently.

Autumn was puzzled and repeated, "Roger?" She nodded and asked, "What about Roger?" The sudden question made her slightly curious.

"We've organized several activities recently," Isla began to explain. "I saw Roger attend one of them."

She waited for Autumn's reaction. When there was none, she continued, "He said hello and asked about your condition. I told him you were pregnant and needed to rest at home."

Autumn arched a brow. "Why was he asking about my condition?" They had not seen each other for a while so Autumn was puzzled about his inquiry.

"Well, he remains very grateful to you and said he wanted to thank you personally. After all, he is now quite famous and with countless of fans. In fact, he's about as popular as Rachel was during her time,"

Isla said. She sighed, thinking that it was really hard to predict what destiny had in store for you. In this case, Rachel's reputation was damaged, while Roger's fame rose.

"Is that so?" Autumn smiled at her friend. With her time and attention focused on her unborn babies, Autumn neither had the time or energy to bother about other people's lives.

Isla had more to say. "Roger also said Rachel had been calling him for days just to annoy him for taking

her place as a popular celebrity. Recently, she was asking him for compensation because she had an abortion because of him. Roger said he would consider her demand, but wanted to know what you thought about it." While Isla didn't really want to mention this to Autumn, she had learned that Edward couldn't find Rachel. She thought by relating this to Autumn, this might help Edward locate Rachel.

Autumn looked at Isla without saying anything. She didn't want to get involved in this matter, but Chris was getting married soon and she was still in trouble that was all because of Rachel. Hearing some news about Rachel, Autumn thought she might deal with her for the sake of Chris and Edward.

She rubbed her temples and thought, 'I'll consider it my gift for Chris' wedding.' Isla said nothing, waiting for Autumn to speak.

"Do you have Roger's phone number?" she finally asked. Isla jumped at the request.

"Yes! I have his assistant's number." She quickly searched for the number, rummaging through her desk before finding where she had written it down and handed a piece of paper to Autumn.

She handed Autumn the telephone, who quickly dialed the number. Fortunately, she got through immediately. Before she could even introduce herself, Roger's assistant recognized her voice and said, "You are Miss Zhao, right? I'll ask Roger to take your call. Please wait."

He had been briefed by Roger that a call from Miss Zhao was extremely important. And no matter what he was doing, he would take the call.

After several minutes, Autumn heard Roger's voice. "Mrs. Lu, this is a pleasant surprise. What can I do for you?"

"Roger..." Autumn began. "I have a favor to ask of you," she said.

Roger couldn't help but smile. "Mrs. Lu... I owe you more than I can say. Without your help, I wouldn't have achieved the popularity I enjoy today. So, whatever it is you need, I will be pleased to do it for you," Roger said, his tone full of gratitude.

At his words, Autumn smiled. "Well, whatever you've achieved is mostly because you're clever, talented and ready to seize opportunities. But anyway... this is what I need from you. I heard that Rachel called you recently, right?"

Roger was surprised about her inquiry. "Yes, she did." He added, "She called to ask me for money. I didn't agree but told her I wanted time to think about it."

Roger was certain Autumn learned of the phone call from Isla, whom he met recently.

Autumn outlined her plan. "Please give Rachel a call, and make an appointment at Moon Café downtown at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon. And tell her you will give her the money." Roger was surprised at Autumn's instructions. She added, "Please do everything to make sure she agrees to meet with you, understand?"

He was curious now. "Do I really go to meet her?" he asked. Roger had to fix his schedule and ask permission from the production team to take a leave from his shoot.

He was relieved when Autumn said, "No, you needn't show up. I'll deal with her myself."

"All right then. I'll call you as soon as I make the arrangements," Roger said. After hanging up, he apologized to the director for the interruption. "I'm sorry. That was an important call. Also, I need to make another call, if that's okay with you," Roger added.

The director nodded. "That's okay. Why don't we just take a break," he instructed. He knew Roger was hard working so he did not mind granting him some time off. Besides, being a hot rising star, his projects will surely be a hit among fans.

Roger hurried out of the studio to call Rachel and put Autumn's plan into action.

Rachel was now a wreck. She was hiding in her old apartment, which nobody knew about and that was

why Edward didn't know where to find her.

But her ex-husband locked all her credit cards and the only cash she had was enough to support her for only a month.

Rachel also wanted to divorce Edward, but refused the separation because he didn't give her any money. Besides, she had already suffered a lot from false accusations and a smeared reputation. So, Rachel vowed to take revenge on Edward.

Therefore a divorce was unacceptable.

Other than her troubled marriage, Rachel was also envious of Roger.

He now enjoyed the popularity she once had, because he used her and shot up to stardom, while she lost her status.

Every time she remembered how she lost everything, she would be irritated. That was why she kept calling Roger.

And since Roger had gotten her pregnant, Rachel thought he owed her big time. And to get even, she demanded money from him.

So, she was happy to receive Roger's call. And when he told her to meet him so he could give her the money, she became even more excited.

Chapter 440 Talk About The Twins

Roger carefully issued the invitation, sounding very composed. "If you want the money, meet me at the Moon Café, 2:00 p.m. tomorrow."

As excited as she was, Rachel became suspicious. "Wait a minute!" 'Why the need to meet?' she thought. "Can you not just transfer the money to my bank account?" Rachel asked Roger. "I don't think we need to meet somewhere for that purpose."

Roger smiled. "Ah, but it's necessary," he said coldly. Before making the call, he thought of how to counter any objection Rachel might raise about the meeting.

"You have to understand that I need to make certain any relations with you are totally cut off after that.

You see, the relationship is not good for my image," Roger said quite arrogantly. "I, a sought-after star and you, a has-been actress subject to public condemnation," he added. He waited for a beat and continued, "Besides, I need you to sign an agreement that signifies our parting after you receive the money. Privacy is essential, right?"

Acting perfectly, Roger told Rachel, "I will only hand you the money on condition that you sign the

agreement."

Rachel was annoyed with the proposal, but had little choice. "But I fear being spotted and media dogging me to make my situation even worse," she nearly wailed. "Your fears are baseless, believe me," Roger replied.

He did think of that but Autumn said to do anything to make Rachel agree. "My position is not much better than yours," he said, "I also run the risk of being seen with you!"

Finally, he threatened Rachel, "Better give your answer quickly, or you can forget all about this call."

Rachel had many doubts but did not want to give up an opportunity, so she gave in. "All right, I will do as you request."

"Good then!" Roger exhaled in relief. "I shall see you tomorrow." He hung up without saying goodbye.

The plan was in place. It was up to Autumn to carry it through.

Back at the Cloud Advertising Company, Isla was worried about Autumn's scheme.

She looked at her with concern and said, "Autumn, don't you think you're acting in haste? Remember, you're an expectant mother."

But Autumn dismissed her concern, however well-meaning. "Please don't worry," she reassured Isla. "I will not personally carry out the plan," she told Isla. "Once I relay all this to Chris, I will leave it to her and Edward to deal with Rachel."

Isla blew out a breath, out of relief. "Now, that's a great idea!" After hearing Autumn's instructions to Roger, Isla had sort of panicked. If anything happened to Autumn during the encounter, she could never face Charles out of shame.

"Okay, good. Now, let me drive you home," she told Autumn. Her offer was declined immediately. "No, thanks. I have a personal driver and he'll bring me back home."

"You have a personal driver?" Isla asked. That was news to Isla. She recalled the last time Autumn came by to visit the company, she was accompanied by Nancy.

"Yes, my driver is Brent. He is Nancy's son," Autumn explained. She went on to tell Isla everything that happened which led to their hiring Brent to drive for her. In sympathy, Isla kept on sighing over and over again as she listened.

Then Autumn remembered something. "There is another matter..." Colin came to mind and she wanted to see if all was right with Isla. "Isla, is Colin still pestering you?" she asked.

Colin, in fact, continued to harass Isla, showering her with compliments at every opportunity. But his efforts only irritated Isla more, who did her best to avoid him. She kept this a secret from Aron, afraid of what he might do to Colin. And she did not want to bother Autumn about it because of her pregnancy.

Isla simply smiled, reached out for Autumn's hand and reassured her. "You can put your mind at ease.

Colin will not dare bother me again. Because Aron will definitely protect me from his ill-mannered cousin."

She added, "And I will definitely teach him a lesson if he insists on further molesting me."

"That's good to know," said Autumn. She felt relieved because she was terribly concerned about Isla.

Arriving at Dream Garden, Autumn found Chris about to leave the house to attend to her wedding preparations.

Autumn pulled her aside. "Chris, a minute please?" Chris stopped and looked inquiringly at Autumn.

She saw Autumn looked a bit serious.

"What do you need to tell me?" she inquired.

Autumn went straight to the point. "Has Edward and Rachel's divorce been settled?" She was

uncomfortable being so direct but did not want to waste time.

Chris became upset at the mention of the divorce. "Rachel has been putting off the divorce by hiding from my father," said she.

Autumn knew Chris and Edward would continue worrying about Rachel until the divorce was finally settled.

She proceeded to reveal her brilliant plan. "Well, I learned earlier that Rachel is meeting someone at Moon Café tomorrow at 2:00 p.m., although I'm not quite sure if it's true," she said innocently.

"Perhaps, you can see for yourself whether she will be there," she suggested.

Chris became uneasy with the news. "And where did you hear that, Autumn?" she inquired suspiciously.

"Oh the source of information is not important," said Autumn. "Whether it is true or not, you have nothing to lose if you check it out. You do want to find Rachel, right?" Autumn said more convincingly.

"Well, that's true," Chris admitted.

She thought for a while before saying, "Okay, I know what to do." Chris hugged Autumn affectionately.

"I am going to repay your kindness if this information is true and Dad uses the opportunity to finally get

rid of Rachel."

"No need to thank me. I'm just happy to be of help," Autumn said smiling. "Think of it as a token for your wedding from me... if it is accurate," Autumn hastened to add.

Chris was smiling now. "I'm on my way to try out my wedding dress. Sam is picking me up." Autumn was glad that Chris was looking forward to something pleasant.

"Oh, you're going to enjoy that," she told Chris. Turning serious, she reminded Chris, "Remember what I told you... the time and place and be sure not to miss it."

"I won't!" Chris said aloud and turned to leave. She was already thinking of Sam and their date.

Sam was delighted to see his fiancée in high spirits when she got into the car. "You look very happy," he commented.

"It's a secret," she whispered laughing. Chris wanted the good mood to continue. "Did I tell you Autumn is expecting twins?" she told Sam.

"Twins? Really?" he answered in surprise. Sam welcomed such good news while driving. It was better than hearing about problems. "If that's the case, Charles will be most delighted."

"I'm certain he will be crazily happy!" Chris responded. Chris was truly happy for Autumn and the coming babies. "Autumn is getting the best love and care, so her pregnancy should be fine. I wish they would have a pigeon pair."

"What is this I hear?" Sam said teasing. "Jealous of that prospect, are you now? He loved having this kind of conversation with Chris."

Chris turned shy, but countered. "I know I will be given due respect by Autumn's children."

Sam turned wistful. "Will you produce a pigeon pair for me?" he said softly.

Chris looked at him seriously, "Now, you're dreaming!"