

Wedded Bride 441

Chapter 441 Anthony's Ex-girlfriend

In the hospital

After Anthony finished diagnosing the last patient, he turned around to look at supper Autumn

delivered, and almost immediately a warm and content smile flashed across his face.

Anthony had been busy studying medicine and he was slow-witted man when it came to his heart and

expressing his feelings. Though he had been with Lisa for quite some time when he was in America, it

was Lisa who took the initiative to woo him. However, once they got along with each other and had

been together for some time, Anthony realized there were severe cultural discrepancies between them

which were hard to overcome. Moreover, they had totally different personalities.

Autumn was the first girl who he fell in love with almost at the first sight, but it was beyond late for him

to make her acquaintance in that regard as she was married.

Looking at the dinner basket, Anthony heaved a sigh.

Anyway, people strongly believed that the best way to love someone was to let them loose and protect

their happiness. Now this was the only thing Anthony could do for her wholeheartedly.

"Hello! May I come in?" Just when he was lost and immersed in his thoughts, someone knocked the

door, drawing him back to reality suddenly. Anthony took a look at the intake form and felt confused since there was no one scheduled for this hour. He did finish diagnosing all patients. So who was knocking the door at this time?

He opened the door hesitatingly and a blonde haired girl stood across from him with a bright smile across her face. "Anthony surprise!" the girl stared at Anthony as she cheerfully exclaimed.

She then held his neck tightly, and began kissing him softly and was reluctant to loosen her grip.

"Anthony, I missed you so much..."

"Lisa, what are you doing here?" Anthony asked her in shock as his eyes widened. Anthony shook off her hands, took two steps back and maintained a certain distance with her. "I told you many times. It is over between us. We have already broken up with each other. Which part of that don't you understand?" he tried to be polite but there was a hint of impatience to dismiss her reflecting in his note.

"Anthony..." Lisa looked at him with a pitiful look and said, "Why are you so resolute about things in the past? I missed you so very much over the past days. I missed you every single second and I can't live

without you. It was just crazy chatter when I said I wanted to break up with you. I did not mean that.

Please forgive me and let us pick up where we left things. We are meant to be together and you will see that. Anthony, please just give me one more chance."

Lisa grabbed his hands and refused to let him go while Anthony had no other options but to shake off her hands over and over again. It got tiring but he was trying to send the message across loud and clear. "Lisa, we are adults. There is an old Chinese saying which goes likewater once spilled cannot be gathered. You took the decision all by yourself to end things with me and I respected your decision while agreeing with it. Now we are two independent individuals without any relation. If you want to travel here, then I will welcome you. But if you came all this way to reconcile, then you might as well give up," said Anthony, his eyebrows raised.

"Why are you so persistent? Can't you consider what I am suggesting for a second?" Upon hearing this, Lisa looked at Anthony, with puppy dog eyes and said," It was simply a joke when I said I was going to break up with you. I know it was in bad taste and ridiculous. I didn't mean it, not one bit. I am sure you know me well after all these years. I am just childish and act rather impulsively without thinking much. But I have come round after realizing what a grave mistake I made and have decided to

woo you again."

"Don't utter nonsense here. There is no point talking about this any further..." At this point, Anthony was

unable to control his impatience and conceal his emotions. "Don't lobby around here like a limpet. We

broke up. You are an American citizen and with that said it is impossible for you to stay here with me.

Go back as soon as possible and stop harrowing me any further. I am sure your parents are worried

about you."

"But if I promise you that someday in the near future I will be able to stay with you in this city, then will

you change your mind and agree to be with me again? I am willing to do anything and everything just to

be with you. Please believe me when I say that." Lisa was not going to back down, not after realizing

what she had lost.

The doctors and patients who were passing by kept passing glances at them and tried to hear their

intimate conversation curiously. After all Lisa was a beautiful blonde girl and it was easy for people to

be distracted by her. She was after all conspicuous.

After noticing all the unwarranted attention, Anthony could not help but frown. It was time for him to end

his shift as he was done winding up all the work, so he took off his white gown, and simply held Lisa

and gestured her to follow him outside.

"Slow down. You are hurting me," Lisa said in a upset tone.

"I am so sorry. I didn't intend to hurt you." With his growing anxiety, Anthony didn't realize that he hurt

Lisa's arm by dragging her out so suddenly. Upon hearing this, he hastily loosened her grip, apologized

to her and then took her out for coffee near the hospital. "Do you still want a cup of Americano?" He

asked as usual and in that moment it seemed like nothing had changed after all.

"Yes, I will like that very much. Thank you." Lisa smiled gently as she heard this. Though they had been

broken up for over half-a-year, Anthony still remembered her favorite coffee beverage. 'This means that

he still loves me. He is not as resolute as what he said. There is still scope for things to get better...'

Lisa thought to herself.

Just with this thought, Lisa got ecstatic and tired to hold his hands. "Anthony, I know I am too capricious

and ill-tempered, but I would like to rectify all the mistakes I made and work on our relationship," Lisa

sincerely requested him for forgiveness.

After a small pause, she then continued, " I have mulled over this for a long time. Now that I have decided to be with you, I will not go back to my country right away not until you agree to be with me."

However, Anthony just withdrew his hands from her grip and chose to remain silent.

He was clear about it from the start of their conversation that it was impossible for him to be with her anymore, because he simply didn't love her anymore. The only relationship he could think of sharing with her was that of friendship. They could not be lovers since he was reluctant to reconcile with her.

Then there was no need for her to wait here and waste her time.

Just when he was about to say something, the waiter served two cups of coffee. Taking a small sip of the coffee, Lisa frowned almost naturally and asked, " It tastes a little weird. What is it?"

After hearing this, Anthony smiled and then replied, " You see, it is hard for you to get used to even the coffee here since you are an American. Lisa, there are too many problems between us which have not been resolved. And the most important factor is that I don't feel the same about you anymore. I don't love you. Our story is in the past and we cannot move past it. Do you understand?" Anthony tried to persuade her patiently.

"This is utter bullshit!" Lisa still could not accept they were over. She could not compromise and said to Anthony, " You still remember my favorite coffee. It clearly means that you haven't forgotten me let alone my tastes and choices. Why can't we just reconcile?"

She held his hands again and said, " Anthony, please give me a chance to make it up for after that you can make your final decision. I will prove that I am a woman worthy of your love and loyalty."

Anthony just realized that talking to her at this point was rather useless as she was adamant. She was trapped in her own thoughts and denial deeply.

"Yes, I do remember your favorite coffee, but it is just a habit which I developed at the time when we were in relationship. And it has nothing to do with love." After saying this, he let out a sigh and went on, " Now I only regard you as one of my friends. I can take you to visit some places in Y City if you are interested but beyond that I am simply unavailable especially not to entertain such requests of yours. I can't do anything else for you."

"Is there really no way I can make up for?" Lisa stared at him almost numbly. She missed him so much these past few days and she finally got a chance to come back to Y City, so she came to him eagerly

with so much hope.

Nothing could stop her to unite with him.

She was determined to tell him that she still loved him so much and couldn't live without him. She hoped Anthony would be with her again even if she had to pay a heavy price for her mistakes. She was willing to go the extra mile, because for her, he was worth everything.

Lisa had even thought that if Anthony declined her suggestion to settle back in America with her, then she would compromise and live with him in China because all that mattered was that they would be together.

She was confident that Anthony would be moved by her sincerity, but now her hopes and dreams were broken into what felt like a million pieces. Anthony did not accept her apology while refusing to give her another chance to mend the situation.

Chapter 442 Became Neighbors

After having broken up with Anthony, Lisa had dated several men in the United States. But the vacuum left in her heart by his absence just wasn't filled by any one of them. It was not until then did she realize how much she loved him. Never would she be happy if she couldn't spend the rest of her life with him.

Before it was too late, she had to take action.

After careful consideration, she decided to come to Y City and made up her mind to pursue Anthony again after the way she had ended things between them. No matter how difficult it would be, she wouldn't give up.

"Past is in the past," Anthony replied indifferently, staring at Lisa. "You are pretty and well educated.

There will a number of men lining to date you. We have split up and you must accept it. Please move on and put an end to this pointless chatter." If Lisa had returned to Y City with him, their relationship might have been cemented. They might have even been married after receiving blessings and support from Anthony's grandpa. The moment she refused to come to Y City earlier, their relationship had ended completely. Besides, it was not fair to accept Lisa while embracing his developing feelings towards Autumn. That was why he consistently refused Lisa's request throughout their meeting.

"But you are the only one in my heart. I can't throw myself into starting over another relationship not when I want to fix ours," With a determined look Lisa went ahead and said. "To be completely honest, I have already accepted Y Hospital's offer. From now on, I will be a doctor in the emergency department of your hospital. We are already colleagues. I am happy to have the opportunity to work with you!"

Lisa then changed her tone and began to plead with imploring eyes, "Anthony, it doesn't matter if you don't love me anymore. I am telling you that I will pursue you until you change your mind and agree to date me. I'm not giving up on us."

"Are you out of your mind?" Anthony couldn't understand why she was so persistent in her efforts to mend their relationship. In fact he would have been happy and content about them being together but now it was too late. Withdrawing his feelings about Autumn seemed impossible. Even though it was unlikely that they would end up together, he still wouldn't get involved with Lisa again. He was just frustrated with her constant persuasion. He stared at her in disbelief and tried to speak sense to her yet again, "You have excellent opportunities in your own country, opportunities that people dream of in our profession. And you walked away from those and decided to settle here? You are so naive to make such a hasty decision."

"Why can't I work here? Is it because you are here?" Lisa replied nonchalantly, "Besides, I am a mixed-race woman. I know, I looked like a European or an American. However, no one can deny the fact that half of my blood is the same as yours. I came here to lend my medical skills for my country. Is there something wrong with that?"

Anthony found it hard to respond to that, so he chose to remain silent.

At this point she was enjoying the conversation, preening herself like a winner of a debate. Lisa's proud tone guaranteed him a miserable future. Just thinking about what he was going to go through made his head hurt.

He murmured under his breath, 'She has agreed to work in Y hospital. No wonder she found my office so easily.'

"Let us start over. Hi, my name is Lisa," Lisa reached out a hand and beamed.

She had just arrived, so she didn't have any place to stay especially since she assumed she would live with him. It made it a legitimate reason to force Anthony to let her stay in his house. But Anthony turned

her down anyway and got her a room in a hotel. But instead to get rid of her, he had no choice but to agree looking for a house with her the next day as he had the day off.

How could he be so heartless so as to let a woman stay alone? She was new in the city and moreover didn't have any acquaintances. Anthony had no choice but to say yes to her.

Even though it was his off the next day, he was woken up in the early morning. Lisa called to inform

him that she was on her way to his house. Right after getting washed up and ready, he saw Lisa in his

house who then compelled him to go out for breakfast. To his shock, she chose a local restaurant.

It was incredible that someone new to the city was able to find this restaurant. He stared at her

doubtfully and asked, "How did you find this restaurant?"

In his opinion, only people who were familiar with Y City knew this place as it was not openly spoken

about. It was unexpected which increased his curiosity by the minute about how she made it.

Lisa prided herself on acting like a local. With glimmering eyes looking forward to his compliments, she

said, "Well what do you think? Isn't this restaurant great? I did a thorough research on the Internet

before I came to Y City. This restaurant was highly rated and recommended by locals. Since then I was

looking forward to trying this place with you. I didn't expect to fulfill my dream today."

Her excitement was obvious to Anthony. He didn't say anything but kept on eating. Honestly, he

couldn't put up with her overzealous behavior. If they were still lovers, maybe he would have enjoyed

her solicitude. The fact was that he had had been nagging at her.

After breakfast, Lisa advised to look for a house in his neighborhood, as she clearly preferred to live

close to him.

Anthony didn't agree, but Lisa kept begging him," Anthony, as you know I have no friend here except you. In other words, you are the only one I know in this city. Besides, it is not safe for a woman to live alone. I don't mind being treated like a friend but look at this way, you can help me when I am in trouble. It's more convenient to live closer. What if... What should I do or whom do I turn to if anything happens to me?"

Lisa's words succeeded in persuading Anthony. He gave in and took her to a real estate agent. After seeing several nice properties, she chose a good one bedroom apartment and paid the advance. The apartment was rather satisfactory but all that she mattered was that she was living close to Anthony. It was a good start in pursuing him.

"Anthony, we are neighbors. Can I visit you frequently?" Lisa asked brazenly.

Anthony retorted with a look of grim determination on his face," Of course not!"

All this while the real estate agent thought they were a couple but when he overheard their bitter exchange, he was astonished. He had never seen such a hostile couple. Lisa's face turned gloomy as she was embarrassed by his rude and harsh tone. However, it didn't take her much time to cheer up.

Her apartment was not far from Anthony's. After all it was unlikely that he would slam the door in her face if she did go to visit him.

After the tenancy agreement was signed, Lisa invited Anthony to have some food together. She expressed her gratitude for his help. Knowing her, it was useless for him to even try to say no. She again began pestering him to agree. There was not a single person who wouldn't yield to Lisa's indomitable spirit. She pleaded, " Anthony, I know you don't want to see me. But you have to eat anyway. If you don't have dinner with me, you will have to cook when you go home. Is it not a better choice to share a table in a restaurant?"

Anthony declined her invitation with determination and said goodbye. For him, it was more enjoyable and peaceful to have instant noodles at home alone than to stay with her in a fancy restaurant. An ambiguous attitude would give her a wrong signal. His only wish was to stay away from her. If that was not possible, then the only relationship between them should not be more than friendship.

Meanwhile, in a bid to avoid being recognized by anyone, Rachel disguised herself with a face mask and a pair of sunglasses and went to Moon Café for an appointment with Roger. She arrived at 1:50

pm. As she entered the private room, she took off her mask and sunglasses. Fortunately, since it was winter, wearing thick clothes as well as a mask and sunglasses didn't draw any attention or look any suspicious.

She ordered a pot of rose tea and was almost immediately lost in thought. 'When I found I was pregnant, I came here to meet Chris. I told her about this exciting news proudly. This is the first time I have come here since then. Only two months passed, but a lot of things have changed.'

News about Chris and Sam holding their wedding ceremony was widely covered in all media outlets including newspapers. Autumn was also leading a good and happy life with Charles. 'I am hated like a rat crossing the street. I hid from everyone and dared not to come out of my shelter.'

The more she compared her life with Chris and Autumn, the angrier she felt. She cursed them in her mind, 'Why are they living happily while I suffer so much? Autumn marrying Charles is the main reason of all my grief and doom.'

Has she not appeared, Charles wouldn't have abandoned me even. I would have been Mrs. Lu and living a happy life. My career too would have reached a new level.'

Rachel blamed Autumn for everything she had experienced. She even fancied taking the money Roger

had promised and moving abroad. After she got made enough money and thought out a detailed plan, she would come back to take revenge. Autumn would pay the price.

The moment she snapped out of her thoughts and returned to reality, she saw the door open. She stood up to welcome Roger, only to find Chris in the doorway. It was too late for her to realize she was trapped.

She cursed at Roger in her mind and blamed herself, 'Roger is a playboy. How could I believe such a poor lie that he would give me money?'

In fact Rachel's stupid behavior was understandable. No one helped her. Like a drowning man at a life heir, she wasn't expecting Roger's offer to be the straw that broke the camel's back. This time, she would lose everything.

Chris was glad to see Rachel there. After putting on a cheerful smile, she greeted her, " Here you are."

Rachel took her sunglasses and face mask on the table and walked towards the door. She didn't utter a single word, let alone say goodbye to Chris.

"Why are you leaving? You just got here." Chris stopped Rachel and requested," We haven't seen each

other for quite a long time. Let's have a heart to heart talk today just in case I never find you again."

"We have nothing to talk about," Rachel pushed Chris away and impatiently said, "I have something

else to do so there is no time to waste talking with you here."

Chapter 443 The Last Chance

"How about me? Have you completely forgotten what happened between us? Don't you think we need

to have a chat?" Rachel pushed Chris aside with all her strength and was just about to run, when

Edward blocked her only way out. She then realized it was impossible to leave as she saw Edward.

"Bitch!" Edward kept looking for her every where in the past few days to divorce her, but she was in

hiding to prevent such a scene. Therefore, they couldn't really get divorced until this very moment.

Edward couldn't contain his anger a moment longer after seeing Rachel. He slapped her hard across

her cheek.

Rachel felt hurt but knew there was no point to argue with him, she didn't have the courage to do so

either. She covered her face with shame and guilt as Edward restlessly stood across her.

"Why did you come out of your hiding hole? I should have thought you are omnipotent! So why do you

show up now huh?" Edward yelled out at Rachel seeking answers.

Rachel was speechless as she trembled from fear.

Chris frowned and said to Edward, "Dad, please calm down. Don't forget that we have come here for a more important thing."

After signing the divorce papers, they both could go back to being strangers. As for Edward, he could not wait to finish all of this as soon as possible as he had waited for what seemed like a decade.

Edward finally recalled his sole motive to come here as he sneered at Rachel and said, "Hurry up, come to the Civil Affairs Bureau with me to finalize our divorce! I have prepared everything for our divorce. Let's finish it today and we'll have nothing to do with each other anymore."

"No!" Rachel refused instinctively and said to Edward, "I told you earlier and I'll say it again, that if you want a divorce, you must accept my demands. If not, I will not sign on the agreement."

"You are so..." Edward was infuriated by Rachel and her nature, but he calmed himself and asked Rachel immediately, "Are you still coveting my wealth while you are in such a pathetic condition? You must be dreaming!"

"Anyway, I said what I had to. If you don't fulfill my requirements, I simply won't divorce you." With a sly smile Rachel added, "Edward, I don't need to get divorced immediately. I lost everything so I don't care

if I am accused by someone else. But your case is different. Your daughter is getting married soon. If anyone asks you questions about me at her wedding, I don't think it will be easy to speak out our precarious little situation."

"Just shut your trap! I have had enough of you..." Edward was annoyed and was just about to slap her again and Rachel anticipating his next move closed her eyes in fear. Chris held Edward back immediately and said, "Dad, stop! You will beat her to death if you don't stop."

Chris was right because violence can never solve any problems. Now what they should do was to consider what to do next.

Edward was convinced and he put his hand down.

Rachel gave a cold smile. 'Edward will not dare to do anything to me, so he will agree on my requirement as long as I remain adamant, ' she thought.

"Have you thought it through? If you decide not to agree to my terms, I will leave now." Rachel added, "When you change your mind, you can come find me."

"Stop!" Chris stopped Rachel and said, "We will not agree on your requirement, but we can reach a settlement..."

Rachel cast a glance of contempt at Chris and asked, "What do you mean?"

"Miss Bai, we can't agree to your demands, but instead I can give you a sum of money. You should go abroad but you need to promise not to come back ever. Can you accept these conditions?" Chris said to Rachel.

Edward frowned and said to Chris, "You know I won't give her any money not even a single penny. Just let me do it my way, Chris. I'll make her divorce me even if I have to drag her to court."

"Dad, just calm down and let me handle it!" Chris gripped Edward's arm tightly and turned back to face Rachel. "Look! If you don't agree to my deal, you will not get anything! Miss Bai, I don't have too much time on my hands so you'd better reply as soon as possible."

Rachel hesitated for a long time and finally agreed after realizing that something was better than nothing. She then said, "Yes. But the amount you give me must meet my satisfaction."

"Fifty thousand and it simply can't be more." Chris added, "Miss Bai, you are not a big celebrity anymore, so staying here will only depress you. Taking this money and starting a new life abroad is the best choice for you. I strongly advise you to take it..."

"Only fifty thousand? Do you think I am a beggar? I may not be a big star anymore but I know my worth." Rachel sneered and continued, " Miss Lu, I won't accept your deal if you don't show your sincerity. Let's just wait and see who is the last one standing."

She didn't care about the accusation from others if she didn't divorce, but she very well knew Edward did.

Chris smile and said, " Fine. I won't try to persuade you if you have already made your decision. But I will remind you, Miss Bai, that you won't get any money from my father. Let's see how long you live on without any source of income."

She continued, " I sincerely hope that you don't starve to death, or else we won't be able to help our laughter even in dreams." Chris' words were harsh to ears and Rachel's face dimmed as she heard that. She then discretely looked at Edward.

This man once deeply loved and treasured her but she destroyed her happiness and future all by herself.

She once had a chance to live a rich and comfortable life. But now she had screwed it all. She regretted what she had done and if she could have a chance to go back in time and change everything,

she would.

After living with Edward for some time, she understood that the thing Edward couldn't tolerate the most was being betrayed. After all Edward did show her mercy by not killing her after knowing what she had done to him. Now she knew it was impossible to ask him for money.

He said that he wouldn't give her money and he meant it. Rachel too knew it clearly.

This fifty thousand might as well be her last chance.

She kept hesitating because the suggestion of going abroad seemed so attractive and alluring, but fifty thousand was far from enough to sustain her lifestyle.

Rachel cast a glance at Chris and said, "I want one million. Moreover, book the air ticket to go abroad and then I'll divorce him immediately."

Chapter 444 Rachel Agreed On The Divorce

"Okay, I accept your conditions but you must bear the promise in mind." Chris agreed almost immediately and said, "I'll arrange everything for you and will meet you at the gate of Civil Affairs Bureau at 8 am tomorrow. Once you finish the formality, I'll give you the credit card and ticket. Is it okay?"

"OK," Rachel answered happily knowing she just landed a good deal. She had thought it through and realized that it was the best decision she could make under the circumstances. After all she was still young enough to start a new chapter abroad.

Rachel went home and packed up all her belongings including valuable jewelries and handbags, she was preparing to take everything with her.

On their way home, Edward looked at Chris and said, " Why did you agree to her terms?"

In Edward's mind, it felt like a waste giving Rachel even a penny let alone one million that Chris had promised.

"Did I do something wrong?" Chris smiled and said to Edward, " Isn't it worth it to get your freedom and put an end to your concerns at a cost of one million?"

"But..." Edward frowned slightly. "I referred to the dowry my grandpa had prepared for me on purpose so that you would tell me about the dowry you would give me."

"What?" Amazed, Edward looked at Chris. He couldn't believe that his beloved daughter cared and thought only about his wealth.

Edward felt so crippled by sadness and he felt like he simply could not trust anyone any more.

"Please let me finish what I am saying before you react..." Chris continued with an assuring smile, " I was really very angry and upset when you decided to marry Rachel. I cared about you so I was constantly worried that she might cheat you, I feared that she would take away your ability to love and also your wealth. With that, I decided to do something to help you so that at least you wouldn't lose everything when you face her reality. I considered for a long time and finally decided to keep your wealth in the form of dowry, which would be inaccessible for her."

Chris added, " I planned to keep everything you gave me aside just in case you were cheated by her.

But I didn't expect Rachel to show her true colors so soon that I just took an action."

Chris went on with a bright smile, " I didn't expect that would happen so soon. With that said, I found it worthy to buy your peaceful life hereafter with one million."

Edward was so moved by her thoughtful and loving gesture that he was rendered speechless. His beloved daughter helped him so much secretly even when he constantly chose Rachel and didn't listen to her warnings. He felt so sorry for her and yet guilty about everything.

He had never taken care of her by himself. On the contrary, Chris was the one who was always

concerned for him once they were reunited.

He let out a sigh. "I owe you too much, child," he said with gratitude.

"Don't say that, Dad!" Chris said with a warm smile. "As long as Rachel is far away from you, everything I did is worthwhile.

Edward was so moved by Chris' kind words. From now on, he would try his best to compensate her to ensure that she would lead a happy and fruitful life.

"Autumn!" As she entered the house, Chris yelled out ecstatically at Autumn who was eating fruits on the sofa. Autumn was scared by Chris' sudden loud voice and asked, "What happened? Is everything okay?"

Chris gave Autumn a big warm hug and kissed her on her cheeks, and then she said, "Autumn, I found Rachel. Thank you so much. I don't know what I would have done without your help!"

"Really? I am so relieved and happy to hear that." Autumn also got excited for Chris. "So how did you deal with the entire situation?"

"I exchanged my father's freedom from her for a million. Rachel agreed to process the formality of divorce with my father tomorrow morning. I am so relieved." Chris' joy was very clearly reflecting on her

face. She looked at Autumn and said, " Autumn, it's completely your contribution that helped me solve

this issue. From now on, if you have any trouble, I'll spare no efforts to help you."

Autumn said with an assuring smile," We are family and we should always help and support one

another."

"My father strongly believed that." Chris smiled and added," He said that he misunderstood you

because of Rachel's lies. He felt embarrassed to apologize to you so he let me speak on his behalf. He

also said that he would give you a big gift the day your baby is born."

"Oh that is alright. Now the only thing you need to do next is to prepare your wedding." Autumn advised

her in a playful tone.

"It's time for dinner." Nancy had already prepared the dinner and said to Autumn," Mrs. Lu, I saw an old

lady selling silky fowls in the market and they looked pretty good as they were raised by the woman

herself, so I bought one and have been stewing for about six hours. Please drink some soup. It will be

beneficial for the babies and you."

"Okay, I will surely do that." Autumn answered gratefully as she reflected upon Nancy's dedication.

Chris looked into the room and asked, "Where is my brother?"

"He just called to let me know that he needs to work in the company late tonight and we should not wait

for him to have dinner." Autumn said in a calm tone. She asked, "Chris, what is the destination of

Rachel's flight?"

"Europe." Chris said indifferently, "She very clearly said that she wanted to go to Europe."

"Is that so?" Autumn smirked and said, "Why not..."

Autumn drew closer to Chris' ear and said a place, then she looked at Chris with rapture. Chris was a

little shocked, but she burst into laughter soon after. She couldn't help holding her belly with hands to

stop her laughter and said, "Autumn, you are so bad."

She would expect Rachel to get annoyed as she saw the ticket.

"She had done so many evil things with our family and now it's our turn to play a little prank with her..."

Autumn answered in a naughty and yet hushed tone.

"OK! Let's do it." Chris agreed happily.

The next day's morning, Chris dressed up and picked Edward up to go to Civil Affairs Bureau. They

met Rachel the moment they arrived. Rachel was armed to the teeth and complained, "Why weren't you here by 8:00? It is so late now."

Chris checked the time. It was 8:20. She smiled and said, "Let's go inside now, better late than never."

There was a traffic jam on their way so they arrived late. However, Rachel found fault with them for such a trivial and non-consequential matter.

Rachel stopped her as she was about to enter the gate and blurted out, "Wait! Have you prepared all the things I requested for?"

"Of course, it is all ready." Chris cast a scornful glance at Rachel and said, "There is one million in this card. It has no password and it will be yours right after you finish the divorce formality."

Rachel felt reassured when she checked the card and ensured that there was one million in the card.

Chris sneered and said, "The ticket is for 10 am on the day after tomorrow. Do you want to check this as well?"

Chapter 445 Autumn In Pain

Rachel shook her head and said, "No, thanks." She didn't think that Chris would give her a fake ticket since she had already given her one million. She cast a glance at Edward, and finally said, "Let's go."

"We'll finish the paperwork here and have nothing to do with each other anymore."

Rachel walked fast heading for the gate. She kept her chin up. Chris stayed behind. Seeing Rachel and Edward go inside, she let out a sigh of relief. Chris had been nervous asking Rachel if she would check out the ticket that was handed to her. Had she done so, Rachel would have discovered Chris' trickery and the whole plan would be screwed.

But Rachel didn't. She was more interested in the money.

Not long after, the former couple came out of the bureau with Chris walking towards Rachel to hand her the card. "I wish you nothing but happiness, Miss Bai," Chris told Rachel before turning to Edward.

"Let's go home, Dad."

Once inside the car, Chris looked out the window to see Rachel's expression. Seeing the excitement in her face, Chris burst into laughter.

Edward frowned slightly. "What are you laughing about?" He saw amusement in his daughter's eyes.

But she only said, "Nothing." After a few seconds, Chris was unable to hold back her glee and turned to her father. "Dad, the air ticket I bought for Rachel is for some poor little country. I couldn't help laughing because I can already imagine how desperate and mad she would become once she gets to the airport

the day after tomorrow!"

Edward was initially shocked. But eventually, he joined in the laughter. He found it totally hilarious that

Rachel, always cautious in everything, would find herself in some far away land like a deported

refugee.

Rachel found herself very lucky to have sold her apartment in a day. With the money from the sale plus

the amount given by Chris, she would start a new life overseas.

So it came as a complete shock when, arriving at the airport, she realized she was holding a ticket for a

country she had never heard of. Rachel was fuming mad and immediately called Chris to berate her.

Her call was unanswered. Rachel knew she could not throw a tantrum in public.

What was she to do? Her apartment had been sold so she had no place to stay. Rachel grudgingly

decided to buy herself a ticket for Europe and swore never to lay eyes on Chris again.

Chris was expecting Rachel's call and had no plans to answer her phone. As she looked at her ringing

phone, she broke into laughter along with Autumn, who was beside her.

Suddenly, Autumn felt a sharp pain in her abdomen.

She grabbed Chris' arm and grimaced in pain. "My stomach..." Autumn said, panic in her voice. Seeing

Autumn in pain, Chris was immediately concerned.

"What's happening? What are you feeling?" she asked. Now Chris was panicking as well. "Wait here.

I'll drive you to the hospital. Just let me get the car!" she nearly shouted.

Autumn and her babies were very important to the family. Everyone knew they must do everything to keep them safe.

At the hospital, Chris learned it was Anthony's day-off so she had to bring Autumn to the Emergency Department. On the way in, they met a nurse. "My sister-in-law could be going into labor. Could you find a doctor to take a look at her, please?" Chris nearly pleaded.

Her fear was rising by the minute. The nurse took a look at Autumn and asked, "Did you bleed?"

When Autumn shook her head, the nurse told her impassively, "I'm afraid you need to wait. There are many other patients needing more immediate treatment and they were here before you."

Chris was aghast at the nurse's manners. "How could you be so rude?" In her mind, Autumn's pregnancy was not like every woman's so she needed more care, particularly because she was carrying twins. The nurse's attitude really annoyed Chris. Worried about Autumn, she told the nurse,

How can you just dismiss her when you don't even know her condition?" She took a deep breath and went on, "Unlike most women, she has a very delicate pregnancy that puts her and her babies at risk. If something happens to them because she has to wait too long, will you be responsible for that?" Chris ended with a threat, "I can report you to your supervisor and have you fired!"

It was the first time she felt like retaliating because of a family member being treated unfairly. But the nurse was not cowed. Instead she looked at Chris with scorn. "Ha! I think your condition is worse than your sister-in-law's and you need careful examination. You probably don't realize you're suffering from severe hypochondria!" The nurse sneered, "You act as if you own this hospital!" She looked at Chris, her cheeks turning dark pink. "I just followed the rules of the hospital when it comes to handling patients. You have no right to fire me for doing my job!"

Chris was sputtering in anger but controlled herself. Autumn pulled at her sleeve and urged, "Stop arguing already!" Pain engulfed her again. "Just call Anthony and tell him what happened!"

Chris hugged her, partly to apologize. Once she calmed down, she called Anthony before helping Autumn sit down. "Wait here. I need to fill up hospital forms."

She got busy dealing with hospital admission procedures while Autumn remained seated, sweat

beading on her forehead. The pain in her womb was become more excruciating and she worried about her babies. She closed her eyes, pain etched in her face, and when she opened them, she saw a woman who asked, "How about you now?" She got hold of Autumn's hands and asked, "Are you all right? What do you feel?"

Autumn's face scrunched in pain when she was about to reply. She fainted instead before she could utter anything.

The woman who caught her was Lisa. She overheard Autumn mention Anthony was her doctor and decided to check in on her.

If she was able to help the pregnant woman, Anthony would be grateful to her, Lisa thought.

Lisa gave orders to place the unconscious Autumn on a gurney and handled her examination. Results of the lab tests would come out after 30 minutes but she stayed with Chris to wait. After Anthony, Chris also called Charles to relate what happened.

Lisa finally got the results of Autumn's tests and saw she was suffering from acute gastroenteritis. She was about to order the nurse to give the appropriate medication when Anthony barged into the

emergency room. He gave Autumn a worried look and tried to help her sit up.

Lisa stepped forward to inform him of the results. "The woman is suffering from acute gastroenteritis,"

she began. "She needs to be given medication now."

But Anthony snapped at her, "She is my patient and you no longer have to worry about her." He flashed

Lisa a cold stare before escorting Autumn to another area. Chris, still worried, followed behind. Lisa

stood where she was, shocked at Anthony's behavior.

'What is wrong with Anthony? I just wanted to help and he acted like I was to blame for what happened,

' she thought.

Anthony usually had a grip on his emotions. But when he received Chris' call that Autumn was taken to

the hospital, his heart raced and he drove as fast as he could to get to her. It was a struggle to hide his

emotions when he saw Autumn lying down, face so pale.

It shook him that he was afraid he would lose Autumn forever.

Anthony did another round of tests to make sure it was really just gastroenteritis. He let out a sigh of

relief when this was confirmed. He prescribed the necessary medication for pregnant women and had

Autumn lie in bed before covering her with a blanket to keep her warm.

Chapter 446 At The Hospital

Chris saw Anthony's behavior and was suddenly feeling confused and uncomfortable. Why was she feeling weird?

She noted how Anthony stared at Autumn affectionately. He was not looking at Autumn as a patient but with loving eyes. She tried to ward off any inappropriate thoughts. Was he staring at Autumn with passion in his eyes? Chris felt her heart thumping. She thought, 'Autumn is my sister-in-law. No matter how attractive or charming she was, she is a married woman. And Anthony knows he cannot fall in love with her!' Chris wondered about the young doctor. He was handsome, a competent physician and came from a rich family. It wouldn't be difficult to find a more suitable partner than Autumn. She looked up with questions in her eyes, but Anthony's face was now impassive. 'Did I misunderstand his actions? He was probably just concerned about her as a patient, and knew he had to look after her babies.' Chris thought.

Once Anthony controlled his emotions, he noticed the skeptical expression on Chris's face. It suddenly hit him that paying too much attention to Autumn was improper and would cause suspicious looks.

Quickly, he schooled himself to behave like a doctor to erase any doubts Chris might be having about

him. The last thing he wanted was to get Autumn in trouble when she was already suffering.

He faced Chris and gave instructions. "Once the saline drips are all used up, please look for me." He

checked Autumn, still unconscious, one last time before taking his leave. Anthony knew if he stayed

longer, he would keep staring at Autumn.

Chris nodded and was quite relieved that the doctor was on his way out. But just as he was leaving the

ward, Charles came rushing in. Anthony just nodded in greeting and left. He was in no mood to speak

to Autumn's husband, although it was the proper thing to do. In Anthony's opinion, Charles was an

irresponsible husband. Besides, he knew Autumn needed rest, so what he thought didn't matter. It was

Charles who should be taking care of his wife. He was family. Anthony was just her doctor and an

outsider.

His face full of worry, Charles asked loudly, "Chris, what happened to Autumn?" Charles felt a

momentary panic when he entered and saw his wife lying asleep, her face ashen. He rushed to her

side and took Autumn's hand in his, stroking it gently.

"What took you so long to get here?" Chris demanded. Tears suddenly welled in her eyes and spilled

down her cheeks. Suddenly all the emotions that had been building inside her since she drove Autumn

to the hospital burst forth. If something terrible had happened to Autumn, she would never have forgiven herself.

"How is she?" Charles asked, his tone so distraught. He was stroking Autumn's hair gently when he noticed the glass infusion bottle hanging on the IV drip stand. Charles's brows furrowed. He was aware that giving her any infusion could affect her pregnancy. "Why is Autumn being given an infusion?" he inquired sharply. Charles was thinking, 'Did Chris forget to tell the doctor that Autumn had a delicate pregnancy? The medication could harm the babies!'

Chris snorted a little. "Calm down. I like the babies in Autumn's womb as much as you do. Doctor Xiao ran tests and found she has acute gastroenteritis. That medicine is safe for pregnant women," she added.

Charles bowed his head in relief. He now regretted his decision to return to work instead of taking care of his wife. 'If Autumn was not brought to the hospital on time, she might have lost our babies,' he thought. Charles now knew going back to work so soon was a bad idea, considering the risks to Autumn's health and the babies' safety. But his wife insisted that he go back to manage the company

and he gave in.

Chris looked at her brother, wondering if she should say anything about her earlier observation. It was a struggle whether to open up about her doubts or not. Autumn was her sister-in-law and she had full faith in her. But Anthony's behavior towards Autumn was nagging at Chris. She remembered the look he gave Autumn. It was not for a patient, but similar to how a husband looked at his wife.

Charles, totally clueless, said, "No matter what it is, just say it. Don't hold back on anything. I want to know what happened." At that point, he was consumed by guilt that he was ready to hear anything bad.

So, he was a bit confused when Chris said, "That Doctor Xiao, do you know him? Really know him?"

she asked. Chris was uncomfortable about what she saw but couldn't be certain it was real. She just noticed how Anthony showed more attention to Autumn than he did with other patients. He was even more anxious than Charles when he learned Autumn was taken ill. He made it look as if their

relationship was more than just doctor and patient. Chris knew that if she didn't tell Charles about

Anthony's unhealthy concern for Autumn, she would be eaten by guilt. But she also didn't feel right causing trouble between her brother and sister-in-law. So, she decided not to bring it up, but tried

insinuating things, hoping Charles might pick up on it.

Her brother replied, "Yes, I know Doctor Xiao." He looked at his sister, a little confused, and added, "His grandfather and Autumn's grandfather have been very good friends since long before. Why do you ask?"

But he was still more preoccupied with Autumn and her condition. Chris shook her head to wipe out earlier thoughts when she heard Charles's explanation. "Oh, nothing. I was just wondering," Chris quickly replied. It was normal for friends to be concerned about one another, especially if their grandfathers were close friends. So there was no need to worry.

An hour later, Autumn finally woke up. As soon as she remembered where she was, she quickly inquired about her babies. Charles held her hand for comfort. "Shhh... Don't worry. Our babies are all right."

Autumn slumped back, relieved. But then she noticed her husband's gloomy face. She turned her head and didn't speak. Autumn was feeling guilty that it was her fault that put the babies in danger.

Charles sighed. "What were you doing? You promised to take care of yourself and our babies if I return to work. I leave you alone for a while and look what happened to you!" He shuddered. "It has just been

a few days and here you are already ill and in the hospital," Charles pointed out. He knew it was wrong to blame Autumn because it would make her feel worse. But he couldn't help it.

"But I wasn't doing anything to put myself or the babies at risk," Autumn said glumly. She bowed her head again, feeling even more guilt at Charles's tone. "I am fine now," Autumn murmured. Still, she could not help blaming herself for becoming ill.

Charles was about to retort when the door opened. Anthony walked in. He nodded to Charles and quickly attended to Autumn asking, "How are you feeling now?" The doctor checked her pulse, and noted she was regaining some color in her cheeks.

"I feel much better," Autumn said softly. Even with the slight argument with her husband, Autumn was in much better spirits than when she was brought in.

Looking at the concern in Anthony's eyes, she was taken aback when he said sharply, "I thought you wanted to keep your babies safe. So why weren't you taking good care of them?" "I think this is the first time I've encountered a careless patient," the doctor reprimanded his patient.

Autumn was turning pale again, but was hesitant to retort. What could she say to defend herself?

She closed her eyes momentarily. Autumn began to realize that Anthony was speaking the truth. She

was not taking good care of herself, nor of her babies. Autumn had no choice but to accept her doctor's criticism.

Anthony spoke up. "From now on, you need to pay more attention to your diet. You were lucky your sister got you in time. So, your babies are safe." He checked the IV line. He instructed with his face impassive, "You are not allowed to eat today. But the liquid here will provide you with the nutrition you and your babies need. By tomorrow, you can eat a soft diet, like rice congee. Is that clear?"

Autumn nodded. "Yes, doctor," she said. She was properly scolded and knew she deserved it.

"All right then. Get some more rest. I have to see my other patients. If you have any problems, call the nurse." Anthony was acting like a doctor now. Since his face and tone were serious, no one could deny he was being responsible, reminding his patients about what to do and not to do for their health.

Charles stood up and followed Anthony. "I will see him out." As soon as the two men stepped out of the room and the door was ajar, Charles turned to the doctor and inquired, "Is she really out of danger?"

Doctors were trained to always be upfront about a patient's condition. Anthony told Charles, "It's not serious. But you have to be careful in the future. She was drugged before, which is making her

pregnancy difficult. You already know it's risky to go through with the pregnancy, so you can't be too careful." "Just take very good care of her," he advised Charles. "I'll go ahead."

Anthony left Charles standing there, relieved his wife was not in danger anymore. Charles was grateful for the news. He could not bear the thought of losing Autumn. It would break his heart and the safety of his babies did not seem as important.

Back at the ward, Autumn said she would sleep some more. Charles sat nearby, silently watching her.

Soon, he too fell asleep. When he opened his eyes later, he saw Arthur and Amy, both distressed over what happened to their granddaughter. Amy, her voice shaking, said, "Why do bad things always happen to Autumn? She has had a very rough time. Yet her sufferings seem endless."

As a child, Autumn was abused by her mother. Then she was made to marry Charles in place of Yvonne. Amy felt more pity for her granddaughter after what happened today.

"Grandma, I am okay," Autumn said quietly. She had heard Amy's voice and opened her eyes. She tried sitting up to comfort the older woman. "Look, I am better."

Arthur didn't quite know what to do around his granddaughter. But he said, "You must get well quickly.

Emily has been nagging us to see you. She said it has been a while since you last came to visit her. I

had to tell her you have been busy. We had a hard time persuading her to just wait for you to come visit her."

He touched Autumn's hand, and rubbed it affectionately. "Once you regain your strength and feel better, make time to see Emily. She doesn't have a lot of time anymore," he said sadly.

Autumn frowned as she looked at Arthur. "You didn't tell her I'm in the hospital, did you?" She worried about Grandmother Emily's failing health. If Emily became upset about her, Autumn would feel more guilty about her situation. The thought of Emily being gone forever was just too painful.

"We would never do that," Amy said. "We didn't even tell her when you were drugged. If she found out about it, her illness would only get worse. So we've spared her those details," she assured Autumn.

"That's good. Thank you," Autumn said in relief. "I promise to visit her once I get out of the hospital," she told Amy.

Autumn looked around the ward and noticed Charles was not there. She wondered where her husband had gone. But she did not want to think about it.

"Where did Charles go?" she asked her grandparents. Amy patted her granddaughter's arm.

"He just went out to get food. He left after we arrived," Arthur answered. He was grateful for his grandson-in-law's thoughtfulness.

Anthony dropped by again to check on Autumn. He interrupted his conversation with Arthur and Amy to examine his patient carefully. Satisfied that she was recovering, he told them she was getting better.

Before he left, Arthur was profuse with his thanks. "Doctor Xiao, thank you for taking good care of Autumn. We appreciate it very much."

Chapter 447 Being Hospitalized

Anthony flashed a smile. "Here we go again. You don't have to be so formal with me," he told Arthur.

"Autumn is not only a friend but also your granddaughter, so I will take very good care of her," he assured.

Arthur laughed, admiring Anthony even more. "Still, I want to say thank you," he told his old friend's grandson. The two men shook hands as Anthony turned to leave the ward.

He did more rounds before returning to his office to rest a bit. As he was settling down, someone knocked on his door. Anthony refreshed himself before calling out, "Come in, please." He thought it was a patient who needed consultation.

Lisa pushed the door open quietly and entered the room. Anthony scowled when he saw her. "What

are you doing here?" he asked brusquely.

"I came to bring you some coffee," Lisa explained. She smiled and offered the cup in her hand. Lisa wanted so badly to patch things up with Anthony.

But he just gave her a quick glance and said coolly, "I don't want coffee right now. I'm tired and just want to have a break alone. So can you please go now?"

Lisa dropped by Anthony's office everyday, except when she was on duty and making rounds. Like

Anthony, she also worked at Y Hospital. Now, all the hospital staff knew she was ardently pursuing

Anthony and he did not like it one bit. He was already getting annoyed with Lisa but controlled his temper.

She offered, "Do you want me to massage your neck and shoulders?" Lisa moved behind Anthony's

chair. But he quickly saw what she was attempting to do and quickly got out of his chair, shouting, "No,

thank you! Will you just let me rest in peace?"

His sudden burst of temper petrified Lisa. She realized Anthony had run out of patience with her.

Lisa lacked the soft features of Chinese women. She had a long nose and pointed chin. Her eyes were

beginning to water as she stared at Anthony. She started to speak but was interrupted.

"Please leave now. I'm not in a good mood and want to be alone," he emphasized every word. Anthony only knew he had grown restless, but did not understand why. After leaving Autumn's ward, he became upset. So Lisa ended up at the receiving end of his bad temper.

"What is wrong with you?" Lisa asked with concern. She tried smiling again to calm him down. "You can tell me..." But Anthony was raging now and again raised his voice. "I asked you to leave. Did you hear what I'm saying?"

Lisa was dumbfounded and tried to speak. It was the first time she had seen Anthony become furious. She stared at him with a dejected look and tried to sense if he would calm down. Finally, she spoke up, "I will leave now and let you compose yourself."

As she walked out of Anthony's office, she thought of the patient that Anthony had been so concerned about. In her gut, she knew that woman had something to do with his ugly mood.

She grabbed a nurse who was walking by and carefully inquired, "Do you know what ward the pregnant woman is in?" "She complained of abdominal pain yesterday," Lisa added.

"Are you referring to Mrs. Lu?" the nurse said with a polite smile. "She's at the ward straight ahead, and

you can find her in the single room at the end," she pointed the way.

She answered flatly, "Thank you." Lisa didn't really know what made her ask about where Autumn was confined. But now, she wanted to check on her to see why Anthony seemed so obsessed with her.

As soon as she reached the ward, Lisa heard cheerful laughter. Looking through the glass window, she saw a man feeding Autumn with rice porridge. The patient was smiling brightly. Lisa pushed the door and entered.

"Who are you?" Arthur and Charles inquired. They looked her up and down, suspicious of the unfamiliar face. Although she also had on a white doctor's coat, Arthur still had doubts about her identity. Having worked in the hospital for a long time, he knew almost everybody there, but not this one. She looked like a foreigner to him.

But Autumn was overjoyed when she caught sight of Lisa. She patted her husband's hand and eagerly said, "Charles, remember the beautiful doctor who helped me yesterday? She's the one!"

"That's very kind of you," Lisa said, with a slightly embarrassed smile. "I just did what I had to do as a doctor seeing a patient in need," she explained.

Charles stared at her before saying in a cool voice, " Thank you for taking care of my wife."

Lisa replied, " You're welcome. I'm just glad she's better now." She observed Charles discreetly for several moments before deciding, 'He's nothing like Anthony. This one seems aloof. He probably only smiles at his wife.

Unlike him, Anthony sometimes appears apathetic, but in truth is a warm and considerate man. And he takes very good care of people that he cares about.

That's why it's so hard to forget him, ' she thought. And it was the reason why Lisa was pursuing him again after he left six months ago.

For her, Anthony was like insipid water. Plain as he was, he was indispensable.

"I'm sorry, I don't even know your name," Autumn said apologetically. She kept on smiling at Lisa. "I really wanted to thank you for what happened yesterday. Otherwise..."

She stopped what she was saying, remembering Charles and Arthur were in the room and would hear her.

Autumn told herself, 'The nurse was just doing her duty, so she was not at fault. I didn't really want to cause her any trouble.'

Lisa stared at Autumn, slightly confused. 'Why didn't she mention what the nurse did to her?' she wondered.

But Charles caught his wife's hesitation and tried to recall what Chris said to him. It came to mind so he told Autumn, "You don't have to keep it a secret. Chris told me how that nurse treated you."

"Your sister has a big mouth," Autumn grumbled. Recalling the events of the previous day upset Autumn.

"You think keeping the incident from us was doing her a favor?" Arthur broke in. "I've already spoken to the dean about the incident. The nurse has been suspended for a month. And if she continues to treat patients that way, she will get herself in bigger trouble. Fortunately for her, you and the babies are well,"

Autumn's grandfather said.

Arthur flew into a rage after learning of what happened at the Emergency Department yesterday. And he would be upset each time he remembered it. He spent most of his life serving patients but his granddaughter nearly lost her life because of a rude nurse.

"Suspended for a month?" Autumn gasped. "Isn't the punishment too much?" she asked Arthur.

"No, I don't think so. She deserved it," her grandfather replied. "It was wrong to treat you the way she did. If she was not punished for her behavior, how can she realize her mistake? And other patients will fall victim to her ways. She's actually lucky because it is just a light punishment," Arthur explained.

Seeing the displeasure on the old man's face, Autumn held back talking in defense of the nurse. She decided to change the subject and turned to Lisa, "So, what brings you here, doctor?"

Dazed over the discussion, Lisa recovered after hearing Autumn's question. 'I can't tell her I came to check out the woman who captivated Anthony.' She smiled but went on professional mode. "I just wanted to check on you. Patients diagnosed with acute gastroenteritis need to get a lot of rest, okay? And for now, it's just soft diet for you."

Autumn smiled, pleased with the concern. "Don't worry, I'm following doctor's orders." She paused, then with a twinkle in her eye continued, "I also have a doctor at home who supervises everything I do day and night. I wouldn't dare eat what I'm not supposed to behind his back!"

Autumn's words amused her grandfather, who burst into laughter. "Ah, my granddaughter is still a mischievous girl. What am I going to do with you?" he said fondly.

Lisa decided her continued stay was already inappropriate. She was overcome with embarrassment.

She regretted coming into the ward. Now, all she wanted to do was get out of the place.

"All right, then. It seems you're in good hands. So, I will take my leave," she told everyone.

"I hope to see you around," Autumn said. Autumn caught the hesitation on Lisa's face and wondered if she had something to tell her.

Once Lisa left the room, Autumn urged Arthur and Amy to also leave. She turned to them and said,

Grandpa, grandma, why don't you go home too and get some rest? Once I'm better, I will visit you."

Chapter 448 Autumn Plays Cupid

Charles agreed with his wife. "Yes, it's best for you to go home," he told Autumn's grandparents. "I can stay with Autumn. It's already getting late and you must be tired already."

Arthur and Amy were quite old so Autumn didn't want to endanger their health by worrying about her.

So, she made sure to assure them she was getting better.

"Oh, all right. You're right anyway. We will leave now." Arthur said. To Autumn he whispered, "You, my dear, get plenty of rest." Amy agreed. She didn't want to be out of the house for a long time in case

Emily would learn about what happened to Autumn.

Autumn stayed in the hospital for three days. Charles was with her the whole time. Sometimes, she would wake up in the middle of the night due to nightmares and would see her husband working with his laptop. She felt guilty and sorry for him.

Her husband had more to worry about because of her hospitalization so she needed to make it up to him once she was better.

Anthony came in to check her everyday. Once he was sure Autumn was out of danger, he announced that she could be discharged from the hospital. Charles, though, wasn't in the room when he said that.

So Anthony stayed a little longer, talking with Autumn. She found his humor quite amusing.

Autumn mentioned that it was Lisa who took care of her before he arrived. This embarrassed Anthony, because of the way he treated Lisa, even knowing what she had done for Autumn.

He was completely wrong about Lisa, he thought.

Autumn noted the change in her doctor's mood. "What's wrong?" she inquired.

"Nothing," Anthony quickly replied. He shook his head lightly, and gave Autumn a small smile.

Autumn stared at her doctor, trying to see if she could get a hint about his concern from Anthony's

expression. Recalling their previous conversations, Autumn suddenly remembered Anthony mentioning a foreign girlfriend when he worked overseas.

She started to put two and two together. Autumn probed, "Is Lisa... Is she the ex-girlfriend you were referring to?"

Anthony was taken aback. He wanted to deny it but decided it was better to tell the truth. "Yes, she's the one."

Her suspicions confirmed, Autumn was now confused. "What?" She didn't want to badger her doctor but was curious. "So why is she here in the same hospital where you are?" Anthony inhaled deeply.

How did he explain things to Autumn?

Instead he frowned. "I can't explain everything in minutes. But I will do that when the time is right," he told Autumn.

Anthony looked a little sad as he told Autumn, "Just rest. I need to look in on my other patients."

Then he left. Autumn wanted to urge him to stay but he quickly disappeared, probably for fear he would have to reveal more secrets.

Autumn stayed another night at the hospital to be certain she was really better. It was for both her and

Charles' peace of mind. The next day, Charles helped Autumn prepare for her discharge from the hospital. After waking up, she put on her own clothes, and searched for Lisa to thank her again, but the doctor was not around. A nurse informed Autumn she missed Lisa by just a few minutes.

She considered for a moment and decided to proceed to Anthony's office. He was on night shift yesterday and she figured he would still be in the hospital.

Without her doctor's help and care, Autumn would not have recovered so quickly. It was only proper to thank him.

She knocked at his office door. Anthony answered with a tired voice, "Come in!"

When she entered, she saw Anthony, leaning against a chair, looking almost ready to collapse from fatigue.

Recognizing Autumn, the doctor immediately straightened up and asked with concern, "What are you doing here?"

Autumn smiled. "I'm ready to go home now." She looked at her doctor, a bit worried about his appearance. "I was thinking you would still be here because you were just on night shift. I was right. I

wanted to thank you again for taking care of me these past days."

"It's my job as your doctor to take care of you. But you're welcome. It was my pleasure to treat you,"

Anthony said. He quickly reminded her, " Don't forget to stay rested and remember your regular examinations."

"Yes, doctor. I will remember." She smiled but suddenly panicked at the sight of blood on Anthony's scrub suit. "Did you hurt yourself?" she asked, pointing to a drop of blood.

Anthony stared down at where she was pointing. He shook his head and said, " Please, don't worry about it. It's not unusual for doctors to get blood stain on their uniforms while in surgery. I just finished an operation and wanted to rest before changing clothes. But you came before I could change." He felt ridiculously pleased over Autumn's concern.

And it was true, doctors were used to getting blood spatters on their scrub suits. It was all part of the profession.

He was surprised at Autumn's next words. "You need someone to take care of you," he heard her say.

Autumn was thinking, 'Anthony is always so busy working, even taking on the night shift. He really needs a woman to take care of him.'

"Are you kidding me?" Anthony said laughing. "I can take care of myself, and I don't need anyone's help. Thank you though." He examined his patient from afar before saying, "Go on home. It's not healthy for a patient who is healed to be staying on in the hospital."

Autumn was slightly annoyed with Anthony's attitude. "You are so..." She wanted to admonish him but couldn't find the right words. Instead she said, "I just care about you. Now, since you have no girlfriend and Lisa is just somewhere around here, maybe you should try getting back together."

Anthony was flabbergasted by Autumn's suggestion. But he masked his surprise with the order, "Go away. Right now. And don't worry about my life. Worry about yours." He tried to sound stern but ended up being gentle. He really couldn't be mad with Autumn, however absurd her thoughts.

Then she mentioned, "I just came from Lisa's office but she wasn't there. So, if you see her, please express my gratitude for what she did for me."

"I'll be sure to tell her," he replied. Anthony opened the door and was about to see Autumn out when Lisa came up and asked sweetly, "Are you done with your shift? Here, I got you coffee and sandwich."

She held up a cup and package.

Anthony was embarrassed but managed a bitter smile. Autumn found this scene quite interesting and looked at the two curiously.

"Oh, hello Miss Zhao," she said pleasantly. Lisa ran to Anthony excitedly. When she saw Autumn, she was a little amazed.

Autumn smiled and said, "Hello, Lisa. I'm about to leave the hospital and came to say goodbye to Anthony. I just came to your office but the nurse told me you went out. Thank you for your help."

Lisa responded, "It was my pleasure. Take care of yourself." She handed the coffee and sandwich to

Anthony. "They are your favorite latte and tuna sandwich. Eat them first before going home. So you can just rest after," Lisa instructed.

"Thank you," was all Anthony could say as he accepted the food. "I think it's time for me to leave,"

Autumn broke the awkward situation. She noted how beautiful Lisa was, and kind, too. It was also obvious how much she loved Anthony. Autumn just hoped that one day the two of them would get back together. But for now, she should leave and give them space and time to rediscover one another.

When Autumn had gone, Lisa told Anthony, "Eat them before they get cold. I had to go far to get them.

Sit and eat. And tell me if they really are good or not."

Anthony was thinking of something to say. "Lisa, I..." But she interrupted him. "Well, I should be getting back to work now," she said abruptly.

"Wait!" he said, to stop her from leaving. Lisa turned to listen. "Would you like to have dinner with me?" he asked.

She couldn't believe her ears. "What did you say?" she asked. 'Anthony invited me to have dinner with him?' Lisa thought. 'I must have heard wrong.'

Still uncertain of what he said, she asked Anthony. "What did you just ask me?"

Chapter 449 It's Not A Date

"I was asking you to have dinner with me tonight," Anthony repeated. He previously checked Lisa's hospital schedule and learned she was on day duty. So both of them would be free that evening.

"Are you free tonight?" he added. Lisa nodded immediately, and there was a mix of delight and surprise on her face. "Yes, yes, I'm free. And of course, I'll have dinner with you," she said trying to hide her excitement.

"It's settled then. I will pick you up at your house later," he said, face devoid of emotion. He thought,

'We live in the same neighborhood anyway so I can drive by her house.'

"Thank you. That will be good," Lisa instantly agreed. "I have to get back to work now," she said, adding, "You then get some rest, okay?"

As Lisa walked away, Anthony went back to his office, a frown on his handsome face.

That evening, he drove to Lisa's house and parked outside. He dialled her number to say he had arrived and waited for her to come out of her building. She was made up beautifully, and caught the attention of many passers-by. But Lisa ignored them all, her eyes focused on Anthony alone.

She opened the passenger door and asked Anthony coyly, "Have you been waiting long?"

He replied briefly, "Nope." Anthony stared at Lisa, and noted she appeared to be underdressed. "Get in quickly. It's too cold outside!"

Lisa misread his concern. She quickly got in the car, and then inquired, "So, where are we going to eat?"

She had expected Anthony to take her to a western restaurant. She quietly hid her disappointment when he drove to a hot pot restaurant instead. They ordered a two-flavor hot pot. At the end of their meal, Lisa's make-up, initially perfect, was now a mess.

Noticing that Lisa was content with her food, Anthony spoke up. "I invited you to dinner because I

wanted to apologize."

"Excuse me? Apologize, for what?" Lisa stopped eating to stare at Anthony. She was bewildered why he was apologizing.

"I wanted to say sorry for misunderstanding you that day when Autumn was admitted at the hospital," he began. He paused, thinking of how to go on.

Lisa dismissed his apology. "It's not a big deal," Lisa said bluntly. "No need to say sorry." She wanted to do something romantic. "Anthony, I heard there is a nearby park where couples go for a walk. Would you like to take a walk later?" Lisa inquired with a smile. Anthony had no reaction.

She added, "It would be very romantic to walk in the park hand-in-hand, don't you think so?" She looked at him expectantly.

That was when it dawned on Anthony that Lisa had mistaken dinner for a date. The truth was he had two reasons to treat her to a meal. First was to apologize for his mean behavior recently, and second was to show his gratitude for her helping Autumn at the emergency room.

But it was never his intention to get back with Lisa. And this bothered him, so he had to set things

straight. "I'm afraid you got all this wrong. I just wanted to apologize to you and thank you for helping Autumn. But I never meant to get back together with you," he said uncomfortably.

Lisa froze at his words. Suddenly, so many thoughts were running in her mind. 'I thought he asked me to dinner because he wanted to start dating again. He probably loves Autumn, but I believed he and I were still possible. She is a married woman, after all.'

Lisa's hopes started to crumble. 'Now, it seems he just wanted to treat me to dinner as a thank you for helping Autumn.'

She felt jealousy slowly envelop her entire being.

In her eagerness to reconcile with Anthony, she traveled to China alone and took great pains to adapt to life here, something that was so difficult. But it turned out Anthony wasn't even willing to give their relationship a chance. She suddenly realized the joke was on her.

Lisa refused to show her pain and shame. Her voice when she spoke again was cold. "Are you turning me down because you've fallen in love with someone else?" she asked bluntly.

Anthony shook his head, sad about how things were unfolding. "No." He looked at Lisa. "I told you it was over for us. And we can't be together anymore. You need to move on. If you really like the life in

China, stay and I will welcome you warmly. But if you're only here because of me, I advise you to leave.

We're just friends, nothing more."

But Lisa was not finished. "Are you closing the door on us because you have your eye on another woman?" She could not believe what was happening.

Anthony replied, frustration in his voice, "Even if I love someone else, it's none of your business. I don't think I need to explain anything to you."

"Is it Autumn?" Lisa asked with certainty. Anthony's head snapped to stare at Lisa. "What are you talking about? How could I..."

"Maybe you can keep others in the dark, but you can't fool me," Lisa said gruffly. "I've known you for so long and I know you so well. You never paid that much attention to other patients the way you did to her. I should have guessed that day when she blacked out and you carried her out that something was going on," she accused.

"That's rubbish! I treat her like my little sister. Our grandfathers are good friends so I have to be a little nicer to her than my other patients," he defended himself. "She is married and pregnant. So your

accusations are offensive to me and humiliating for her!" he spat.

"Oh, come on..." Lisa sneered. "It doesn't matter if she's married or has two children. You would still

love her! Loving has nothing to do with status or identity. You simply love her and everything about her.

And even when you know it's impossible, you still couldn't control your feelings for her, could you?" she

had raised her voice.

With a bitter smile, she went on, "And that's exactly how I feel. I knew you would never get back with

me but I still couldn't help but move to China to be close to you. And I am not giving up on you, even if I

only have a very slim chance of getting you back."

It was ironic that Lisa and Anthony were in the same boat — loving someone they couldn't have.

"Stop it! Shut up!" Anthony shouted at Lisa, his outburst attracting attention. He thought to himself,

'Here I was thinking no one could see what I felt for Autumn to avoid getting her into trouble. But Lisa

has seen through my feelings and the thoughts I was harboring about her. I now have no choice but to

face those feelings for Autumn.'

He heard Lisa's voice. "No, I won't stop! I can tell from your eyes that you have feelings for her. Do you

think you're doing her any good by keeping your feelings a secret from her?" Lisa was on a roll. "Let

me tell you this: you can't keep her in the dark forever. The truth will still come out. Someday, all of your secrets will be revealed. What are you going to do when that time comes?"

She suddenly felt calm. Shifting to a softer tone, she looked at Anthony and said, "Your love is a burden to her. Why can't you take your eyes off her and pay a little attention to me instead?" Desperately, she added, "I will yearn for nothing more if you can show me even just a little love."

Anthony panicked at Lisa's declaration. "Enough! Stop talking already!" he growled, fixing a steely gaze on her. "No one will ever see or know how I feel about Autumn. And if you tell her, I will never forgive you," he threatened.

"Why would I?" Lisa responded with a bitter smile. "My wish is that she never discovers what you feel for her. This way, I will have you all to myself."

Anthony gave up. He stood up to pay the bill. "It's late. I'll take you home," he told Lisa.

Chapter 450 Unrequited Love

Anthony went to the counter to pay the bill. When he reached the exit, he caught sight of Lisa waiting for him in front of the restaurant. He got his car and waited for Lisa to get in. He drove in complete silence until they reached Lisa's apartment. She didn't get out immediately. She turned to look at

Anthony with concern and asked gingerly, "What are you planning to do with your feelings for her?"

Anthony opened the window and lit a cigarette. "It's my business. It has nothing to do with her or you,"

he replied in a cold tone.

"I..." stammered Lisa. "I'm only asking because I care for you." She then faltered, her face looking

pained, "Anthony, you and her... you know it's impossible!"

"I know. I'm aware of that," Anthony nodded grimly. He knew from the beginning that he didn't stand a

chance with Autumn.

"I have met her husband," Lisa opened her mouth. Lisa stared at Anthony thoughtfully, 'Now he looks

utterly dejected. His face looked grim and hopeless, but I have to fight the urge to hug him. I know I'm

too harsh with him when he already seems upset. But for our sake, I must let him give up that hopeless

thought.'

"When Mrs. Lu looked at him, it was obvious that she's in love with her husband. No one can destroy

their relationship, not even you," she said warningly, her eyes flashing. "You know what? You'll just end

up being hurt and disappointed," she continued, looking at him steadily. "I can help you forget her, just

give me another chance," Lisa almost begged.

"Enough!" Anthony said in a low harsh voice, his eyes piercing her. "It's none of your business. I don't need your help," he said coldly.

He cast her a scathing look as he put out his cigarette on his car ashtray with force. "If you have so much free time, devote yourself in your own affairs. Even if I can't have Autumn, I will never get back with you. So don't waste both of our time. Just leave me alone."

"Why not?" Lisa felt hurt but was still unwilling to give up. "You're single, so am I. Why can't we be together? Besides, we used to date before. It's better than dating complete strangers, don't you think?"

Lisa pursued.

Anthony interrupted immediately, "It's because we already dated each other that I know we're not meant for each other. It won't work."

With a sigh, he continued, "Stop bringing me breakfast, coffee or anything else. I'm serious."

He glanced at his watch, giving Lisa a grim look. "It's late. Go inside. You need to go to work tomorrow."

'I know I'm being cruel to her, but... If I don't make it clear, it will be a bigger problem in the future. For her sake and my sake, she has to understand that rekindling our relationship is futile, ' Anthony mused

grimly.

Lisa got out of Anthony's car with reluctance. Her heart ached as she watched him drive away. Clearly,

there is no reason for her to stay in this country any longer.

'Should I really give up on him this time?

I don't know, ' she wondered despairingly. Her mind was in turmoil after what she just witnessed

tonight.

Anthony also had no idea what to do next.

'How can I forget my lovely, sweet Autumn?' he thought. 'What about her illness? I can't just turn my

back on her, can I?

But if I continue to stay with her, I might fall more deeply in love. What if I can't bear to leave her?

I have no answer. Deep inside, I've never really thought of finding an answer for it. Unrequited love can

really hurt like hell, ' he sighed.

His phone suddenly rang, intruding on his thoughts. He glanced at the caller ID and frowned as he

picked up the call. "What are you doing up at this time, grandpa?"

"I'm waiting for you," Craig replied with a hearty laugh. "I know you're free tonight, but you didn't call

me. So I called you."

Anthony laughed back at his grandpa's censoring tone. "I had dinner with a colleague and I just got back home."

"Colleague?" he asked, surprised. "A man or a woman?" Craig asked with interest.

"A woman..." Anthony answered bluntly.

"Is she that foreign doctor called Lisa?" asked Craig excitedly.

"How did you know?" Anthony asked in surprise.

"I have eyes in the hospital, you know. Your romance with that doctor is widely spread there," his grandpa chuckled. "Some said that you were meant for each other. I heard she traveled a long way to pursue you. Is that true?" Craig asked, bursting into laughter.

Anthony scowled, 'There are many rumors about Lisa and I these days. I ignored them because I thought people would stop talking about them soon. But now even grandpa heard the rumors. This has to stop.'

He replied grimly, "Grandpa, how can you believe such nonsense? Of course, it's not true."

"Really?" Craig asked, disappointment evident in his voice. 'What should I do? I was extremely happy when I heard the rumors. I thought my grandson was finally dating someone. Now he's denying it.

Will I live to see my great-grandson?' he thought, truly anxious and disappointed.

"Anthony, I know you're conservative. You don't have to worry that I may disagree with you dating each other. I may be old but I'm open-minded with these things. If you're sure about your relationship, I don't care if she's a foreigner as long as she treats you well. You can introduce her to me and your parents, then we can arrange your wedding as soon as possible. I can't wait to see my great-grandson," Craig voiced his opinion enthusiastically.

"Grandpa, I told you we're just friends," Anthony said exasperatedly, scowling. "I want to concentrate on my career, nothing else."

"You..." His grandfather was rendered speechless. "Are you trying to drive me crazy? Tell me what kind of girl you are looking for and I will find her for you. I don't believe I can't find a good wife for you if I put my mind to it," he said, losing his patience.

He thought of Autumn all of a sudden. "Look at your grandpa Arthur's granddaughter. She married young, and now she's about to be a mother. You should learn from her."

Anthony remained silent when he heard Craig mention Autumn. He took a deep breath before saying calmly, "I will take care of my affairs, grandpa. Please don't worry about me. If I find a girl, I will definitely bring her to you immediately."

After a pause, he went on, "It's late, grandpa. You should go to bed now. Thank you for calling. Good night."

"Anthony, hey, are you listening? Anthony!" Craig's voice thundered on his ears. Anthony felt bad hanging up on his grandfather, but he had enough. He threw himself resignedly on the couch, his mind troubled.

'I can't go on like this any longer, ' he muttered to himself.