

Wedded Bride 471

Chapter 471 Worries

"Yeah, here it is," Burke affirmed, a soft smile lighting up his face. "You'll be teaching here soon. Are you happy?"

"Yes, of course," Pamela replied in a happy tone, her eyes sparkling. She was over the moon at the prospect of starting her new job. She turned to face Burke and clashed into his smiling eyes. The air sizzled with the strong chemistry between them that they both looked away hurriedly. Pamela's face turned red while Burke tried to look nonchalant.

Burke cleared his throat and said, "It's getting late. Let me bring you home."

"Sure," Pamela agreed readily. When she left home to study abroad, Pamela didn't really forget about Burke, despite how much she tried. Seeing him again like this made her realize that she still loved him.

They were both quiet on the drive back to Pamela's house. Upon arriving, Burke parked in front of her gate. "Here we are," he said as he turned to Pamela, finally breaking the silence.

Before leaving the car, Pamela decided to speak. "Thank you, Burke. See you later!" Pamela said, trying to sound cheerful. Deep inside, she was disappointed that he was leaving so soon. She smiled up at him, overcoming her shyness. "Do you think we can hang out later?"

"Of course. You can call me anytime." His reply came without hesitation as he was seemingly pleased at her request. He was almost afraid he sounded too eager, shaking his head as he drove away.

Meanwhile, in the Dream Garden, Autumn was blooming with good health. Brent seemed to turn over a new leaf after receiving much scolding from Nancy. Nothing went missing at home after that.

With Chris and Sam's wedding fast approaching, both families were busy with wedding preparations.

Time passed in a blur. Autumn never missed her regular check-up at the hospital while actively helping

Chris with her wedding preparations. Since there were only three days left before the wedding, Chris stopped meeting Sam. Instead, they resolved to call each other daily.

Chris hung up the phone and met Autumn's teasing eyes.

"Stop it, Autumn. Quit teasing me!" Chris reproached Autumn.

"I was just wondering about what you guys talk about these days," she started. "You're getting married

real soon. Do you have some important matters to discuss that you must fix immediately?" Autumn

asked with mischief clear in her voice. Autumn knew Sam very well. She knew he was not such a

talkative man. She could tell from their conversation that it was mostly Chris talking and Sam was just

listening, maybe talking shortly on and off.

She was surprised that he could tolerate Chris' nagging.

"Stop making fun of me, Autumn!" Chris flushed. "We used to meet daily. But now it has been days! It has been truly difficult."

There was a custom in Y City warning couples not to meet each other before their wedding day because it brought bad luck. Therefore, Sam and Chris decided to follow this tradition and avoided each other the past few days.

"Well, there's only two days left. So try to be patient," Autumn advised Chris. "Besides, Sam has to wrap up his work so he can free some time for your honeymoon. What do you think?"

"But..." Chris stammered, blushing. "I don't know what's wrong with me. I guess I just miss him a lot.

You know the saying, 'One day apart seems like three years'. Now I understand that feeling," Chris said with a heartfelt sigh.

"My goodness, where is that shy girl I knew? Girls should have self-restraint." Autumn reminded Chris gently despite knowing well what she was going through.

Instead of getting mad at her, Chris suddenly burst out laughing.

'I'll be his wife in three days but I'm too impatient. I wish I could marry him tomorrow.' Chris giggled.

Autumn gently caressed her belly as she lay down to relax on the sofa. With twinkling eyes, she told

Chris, "Don't be impatient. Two days will go by in the blink of an eye. Besides, I'm sure you will miss us

in no time."

"I suppose so," Chris said seriously, suddenly feeling sad. Drawing nearer, she grabbed Autumn's arm,

leaned her head on her shoulder and started to speak, concern apparent in her voice. "You know what,

Autumn? It's actually you I'm going to miss most when I leave here. Because I worry about you most."

"Don't be silly. I have Charles to take care of me so there's no need for you to worry." Autumn gave her

a reassuring smile.

"But Charles..." Chris hesitated. After a short pause, she continued, "After living with Charles all these

years, I know my brother very well. He is a serious but inconsiderate man. I'm afraid..."

"Don't worry," Autumn reassured Chris with a gentle smile. She reached for Chris' hands, clasping it

gently. "Look at me. I'm good now."

"Don't defend him, Autumn," Chris scowled at her. "I know Charles loves you very much, and he clearly

adores you. But marriage can't live on love alone." She paused and further added, "He should pay more attention to you. He also doesn't know how to treat you well, how to please you when you're mad. I know he broke your heart many times since you got married."

Since marrying Charles, Autumn had been embroiled in a lot of troubles. Most of the time, Charles had not been around when she was in danger.

Chris had never doubted his love for Autumn, but she knew his brother could be so indifferent sometimes. He even ignored Autumn's emotions and feelings.

"That's enough," Autumn interrupted, holding up her hands to stop Chris. 'I've been married to Charles long enough to know what kind of person he is.

I know his flaws and I've accepted his shortcomings. Besides... he's not always inconsiderate.

We got married without seeing each other. That's why our marriage started on the wrong foot.

It doesn't mean that Charles is a bad husband. Once I got to know him better, I knew how lucky I was to be his wife.' Autumn thought to herself.

"I know Charles. Your assumptions about your brother are wrong. He really is a good man," Autumn defended her husband staunchly. "You will also be a wife in just a few days. The only thing you need

now is to get some beauty sleep to make sure that you'll be the most beautiful woman at the wedding.

On top of that, you also need to plan your married life. Focus on those two important tasks instead of worrying unnecessarily about me."

"But..." Chris said, interrupting Autumn. "I'm worried about you and your unborn babies," she continued,

mimicking a man's voice and looking concernedly at Autumn. Autumn laughed spontaneously at Chris' hilarious expression, clutching her belly. "You're impossible!" she said, after a few minutes of laughter.

Charles got off from work early and went home directly. He heard laughter coming from the living room as he stepped inside. He found his wife and his sister sitting companionably together. A soft smile broke on his tired face. 'They are the two most important women in my life. One is pregnant with my children, and the other is about to get married. After her wedding day, she will now be a wife in another house, ' he thought as he gazed at them affectionately.

Despite feeling happy, he also felt upset at the thought of Chris getting married and finally leaving home.

Chapter 472 Charles And Autumn Get Intimate

He stepped forward, pretended to look serious and said,"Hey, what are you doing here?"

"Charles, you're back!" an ecstatic Autumn cried. She giggled at her husband's antics and said, "I'm talking to Chris. She'll soon get married, and I'm not ready to be separated from her."

Charles was busy at work all day while Gary was getting older. Chris was the only one similar in age to Autumn and was not very busy with work, so Chris could keep her company. They also shared many interests and always had several topics to discuss.

So it was Chris who usually kept her sister-in-law company since she became pregnant.

Their shared affection was evident, and when Chris announced she was getting married soon, Autumn became sick at heart. That meant she would move out to live with Sam, while Autumn would remain at the Lu family's house.

Without Chris as a companion, Autumn would be very lonely since there was no one else who could spend as much time with her.

"Why are you so late coming home today?" Chris addressed her brother rather sharply. "Don't you know Autumn needs your companionship during this time when her condition is so delicate?" she pointed out.

Her wedding to Sam was happening soon, but she was spending more time with Autumn than preparing for the event. It was time to remind Charles of his responsibilities. "You do know that once I move out of here, it will be your duty to take care of Autumn. And you're going to be held responsible if something happens to her because you've been remiss," she warned her brother.

Charles only glanced at his sister but said nothing.

"Chris, don't make fun of your brother," Autumn pleaded. She wrapped her arms around Chris and urged her, "It's late. You get some rest. And thank you."

Suddenly, Charles spoke up while glaring at Chris. "You are really a horrible sister of mine," he teased, "Autumn is my wife, so of course I will take care of her!" He flashed her a big smile of gratitude.

Chris heaved a big sigh of relief. "Well, at least that's clear. You really should be spending more time with her," she suggested. But Chris knew her brother would take good care of his wife when the time came. She turned to Autumn. "I'm off now and I am going on a break."

Charles and Autumn headed to their bedroom once Chris left. Charles started reading papers from work and waited for Autumn to come out of the bathroom. "You still have a lot of work to do?" she inquired.

"Oh yes. I'm very busy these days," he replied while grinning. Charles pulled his wife towards him and helped her sit on his lap. "You're pregnant, and soon our babies will be born. That's why I have to work harder so I can provide a better life for my family," he said teasingly.

"You're making fun of me again, Charles," Autumn pretended to complain. She put an arm around her husband's shoulders and said, "The babies won't be coming any time soon. There's still a lot of time before you begin worrying about them." Charles laid his hand on Autumn's belly. "But I'm worried about you," he said gently.

Autumn savored his touch. She then laid her forehead on his before saying, "You also have to take care of your health. I'm worried that your long working hours would eventually drive you crazy."

"Thank you, but you don't have to worry about me. I promise to take care of myself because you and our babies need me. I have to be a responsible husband and father, right?" he said tenderly. Charles then buried his face in Autumn's neck, enjoying her sweet scent. After they learned of the pregnancy, Charles had to control his sexual desires but missed the intimacy with his wife. He held her for a long while before raising his head. He said, "It's getting late. Why don't you get some sleep."

Autumn looked into her husband's eyes. "Charles..." she whispered. She held on to his hands and looked at him shyly.

"What is it, Autumn?" he asked. Charles was having a hard time keeping his passion in check.

Autumn was mumbling and muttering but could not express herself clearly. "Do you want..." she stopped. "It's been so long," she said softly.

"What are you saying?" Charles asked, his grip tightening. He was unsure about what Autumn was trying to say, but seeing her embarrassed look, he understood then. "I miss you, too. But how about the babies? How can we..."

Charles stopped in mid-sentence. His sexual desire was building, and he was having a hard time controlling his urges. But he had to consider Autumn's condition. She was pregnant with twins, and he was afraid of hurting the babies. Charles was always careful turning in bed while Autumn slept and only held her very gently.

But now, it was Autumn taking the initiative. She wanted him, too. He tried to control his urges even as he needed to push her to the bed. Looking at her swollen belly, he restrained himself.

"Go ahead and get in bed. I'll join you soon," he said struggling to stay calm. Autumn saw the desire in

her husband's face mixed with apprehension.

Her voice shaky, she told him, "I've been reading books. And it says the babies won't get hurt as long as we are very cautious." Autumn waited for his response.

'She's been reading books?' Charles thought. He stared at his beautiful and very pregnant wife and was at a loss for words. She looked so delicate and irresistible and it was becoming a losing battle against temptation. "Autumn, you do know you're playing with fire, right?"

His heart was racing and his body was heating up.

Autumn suddenly stuck her tongue out and grinned. It was natural for married couples to talk about sexual needs. As an understanding wife, she had to consider Charles's feelings. She loved him deeply and knew it was her duty to address his physical needs.

She moved closer to him, and then began kissing him gently. She felt her cheeks flush. It was a light kiss, but Charles became even more aroused.

"Are you sure?" he almost groaned. His hands were running down her neck, and his voice had turned husky.

"I'm sure. Don't worry about me," she answered. As she nodded and encouraged Charles, he became more ardent and started kissing his wife more passionately.

He took his time and enjoyed her lips before he drew back. Then he groaned and dragged Autumn carefully towards the bed.

Autumn was feeling a little nervous now. She was not about to reject her husband's need for intimacy.

But this was the first time they've come together since she became pregnant. Once on the bed, he began kissing her earlobes. Soon, the dimly-lit bedroom reverberated with passionate moans. It was under the sheets where they shared tender, passionate lovemaking.

"Oh, Autumn. I love you. I love you so much. I can't live without you," Charles gasped. Thinking about the babies, he moved gently, even as his body felt hot as fire. He had restrained himself for so long that it needed to explode and let go.

But his mind was on Autumn and making sure he would not hurt her or the twins inside her. So, he decided to concentrate more on pleasing his wife rather than worry about his release. Looking at her, he nearly growled as he heard her moans of pleasure. Charles was content.

It seemed a long time before Charles finally held Autumn in his arms, a satisfied smile on his lips. "Did I

hurt you?" he asked.

"No, Charles. It was beautiful," she said stroking her husband's face. He rubbed her arm gently, while they held on to each other. Soon, Autumn fell asleep.

Charles still had things to work on but was afraid he would wake Autumn if he moved. He decided to hold her while she slept.

When Autumn woke up in the morning, Charles had already left for work. She stretched contentedly.

Breakfast was ready and was on the bedstand. Autumn smiled secretly.

Finally, it was Chris' wedding day. Autumn got up early that day to wake the bride up. She had made arrangements for someone to come and do Chris's make-up.

It was March, but there was still an early morning chill. Charles had asked Autumn to wear a thick coat.

He worried about her health. But she started to sweat with the air-conditioner running.

"You look weird, Autumn. Are you feeling all right?" Chris noted. She felt excited but gave her sister-in-law a worried glance. Chris finished her breakfast. She was now seated in front of a dressing table being made up. Looking at the mirror, she noticed Autumn's cheeks turning pink. She was about to

stand up to check on her sister-in-law but was told, "Don't move, or your makeup will be ruined."

Autumn called out, "I'm fine, Chris. Please don't worry about me." She smiled to assure the bride. Then

Autumn stood up and complained, "It's rather hot here. Let me go and change my clothes."

"Are you sure you're okay?" Chris asked her again. She was starting to worry about Autumn.

Chapter 473 Chris's Wedding (Part One)

"Please don't worry about me. I am honestly fine. You just sit still and continue with your makeup. I'll be

right with you after changing into something thinner," Autumn responded with a smile. She then

returned to her bedroom to change and headed directly downstairs to have a look around at all the

arrangements before going back to Chris. In a rare sight, Edward and Charles were elegantly standing

side by side and greeting guests harmoniously. After seeing that Autumn had changed into a thin

dress, Charles put on a severe look wondering why she did so.

He then strode past the crowd towards his wife. "Didn't I tell you to wear more layers? Why did you

change your clothes suddenly?" he demanded with a frown hoping for a reasonable answer. "It's quite

cold and chilly outside."

"I'm okay love, please don't worry. I changed because Chris's room is way too hot. I almost passed out

right now owing to the unbearable heat," Autumn explained her wardrobe choices. "Charles, I can take

care of myself. So now you can go back to attending the guest while I'm going to head upstairs to be with Chris."

"Okay sure, carry on then." Charles nodded ever so slightly and lovingly watched Autumn walk upstairs before he went back to greeting the guests.

Given the high and powerful social status of Charles and Edward in Y City, there were naturally a great deal of people who had gathered to grab an opportunity to cash in favors from them. But thankfully, both Charles and Edward had predicted this behavior. So in order to avoid Chris's wedding being philistine, they had carefully selected the guests with that only those who had an invitation could attend the ceremony.

The guests were gathering downstairs as time passed, while the bride seemed to grow anxious and feel helpless upstairs. As a girl who seldom wore makeup and did her own grooming, Chris felt a little uncomfortable sitting in front of the mirror and having a makeup artist work on her face. However, it was not possible for her to do it any other way. After all, it was her wedding day, the biggest and most important day of her life.

The makeup artist, who was hired by Sam, was supposedly the best and was said to have worked with many famous celebrities. With nothing to do, Chris who was bored tried to gossip, "Hey, so have you ever worked with Rachel Bai?"

"Of course I have," answered the makeup artist almost immediately, seeming displeased. She then pursed her lips, and added after pausing for a moment, "That woman has a terrible temper and attitude.

I've seen her lose her temper countless times. She never has a grip on her emotions. I can't understand how a person with such bad character and temperament could remain so popular for such a long time."

"What do you mean?" asked Chris, intrigued by the first hand account.

"When she was on top of the social ladder owing to her famous stature and reputation, no one dared to expose her past. It was like she was invincible. But ever since she has disappeared, all her scandals have slowly come to light. It must be karma. Hmm, it's said that she became famous and gathered fiction only by sleeping with Director Zhang. Now she has become the laughing stock of the entire show business," the makeup artist narrated dismissively. "I haven't heard from her lately. Neither does anyone seem to know how or where she is now," she said, as she applied rouge on Chris's cheeks with

some expertise.

"She hasn't been seen in show business since, you know, that incident. It's almost like she's been wiped out of the world. It is strange, but also seems natural for something of this magnitude to happen."

Chris chuckled to herself. 'Umm so, she's too embarrassed to remain in this city. What else would she do if she did not disappear?'

"Well, your makeup is all finished. Please let me know if you need some tweaking," said the makeup artist. "Now you can go change into your wedding dress."

It was a one-of-a-kind and elegant wedding dress that Sam asked an American designer to make especially for Chris. After the makeup artist helped Chris put on it, her shoulders were half bare. A solid colored emerald diamond necklace adorned across her chest and completed her regal look, and earrings of the same color swung back and forth as she walked, bringing out her soft and beautiful eyes.

The graceful curve of the front of her dress accentuated her slender and delicate waist. The snow-white gown flattered her perfect figure, and was complemented with hair pulled back into a high, black bun.

The delicate folds at the hem undulated gently like ripples in water as she gradually walked to the mirror. Chris looked like an angel from heaven under the light.

The most creative and fantastic feature of the dress was the hundreds of three-dimensional flowers dotted across the entire dress. The soft petals created a fashionable, romantic yet subtle look, making Chris feel as if she was in a pleasant spring field.

Looking at the stunning bride in the mirror, Chris could hardly believe it was her. She felt so pleased with how the entire look had turned out. It was even better than her dreams.

She usually acted as casual as a boy, so she had no idea that she could ever look so beautiful and perfect.

"Wow, Chris, you look perfect! Let me look at you carefully," exclaimed Autumn, who had just entered the room and was amazed by the bride's enthralling beauty. "You're a sight for sore eyes!" she further praised her as her eyes lit up with pleasure.

Chris immediately blushed and clutched her wedding dress sheepishly. At this point, she just realized that the day had come where she was going to get married. It all seemed rather surreal.

A wave of tension swept across her, and sweat broke out in her hands.

"What's wrong, Chris? Is something bothering you?" Noticing Chris's furrowed brow, Autumn hurried over to her and asked with growing concern. "You were fine just now. Are you feeling sick?" she inquired worriedly.

By this time, the makeup artist had packed her belongings and was waiting downstairs, so Chris could say anything to Autumn without any scruple. They were all alone in the room.

"I feel maddeningly nervous, Autumn," replied Chris, with a bitter smile. "Come on, it's your big day.

Don't frown, okay? It's probably just pre-wedding jitters. It's okay to feel nervous, your entire life is about to change but it is all for the good," Autumn comforted her, as she took the uptight bride's hands and realized her hands sweaty.

"Oh, you really are nervous darling." She couldn't help teasing her about it to make light of the moment.

"You silly girl, didn't you always look forward to marrying Sam? Now that dream is finally coming true in a most beautiful manner. There's no need to be panic," she consoled Chris, hoping that she would relax. "Think of today as a mission you must go through to reach your destination. Once you get through this, Sam and you will be together forever."

"But..." Chris was just about to say something when a knock at the door surprised her.

The knock sounded very rhythmic. "Is it Sam? The groom and best men are already here?" Chris asked, as her voice trembled with nervousness.

"No, it can't be them. I'll just check. No, I am positively sure it isn't them." Autumn patted Chris on the back of her hand, and explained, "When they arrive, firecrackers will be set off and we'll hear it. Calm down. I'll just answer the door."

When Autumn opened the door, she saw two girls standing across her wearing the same dresses.

They then walked past her and rushed up to Chris, and with a wide smile said, "Surprise!"

"Why are you here?" Chris asked excitedly, as her eyes began to turn red. "Oh, honey, please don't cry! You're the bride," the two girls said, gleefully grabbing her hands and consoling her.

"We didn't travel all the way here to make you cry, Chris. We thought you would be pleased." "Yes, you're right. It's my big day. I should not be crying like this,"

Chris said as she held back her tears. "But, but you said you couldn't attend my wedding. What changed?" she asked curiously.

"We really couldn't have made it, but Sam called to invite us specially and he even booked us the

tickets and ensured we would join you on this auspicious occasion. He was so sincere that we couldn't say no," one of the girls said.

"A brilliant surprise, isn't it?" the other girl asked enthusiastically. "Yes! I'm so happy and thrilled that you could come to my wedding," Chris replied, smiling happily and feeling grateful for having a partner like Sam.

She wasn't expecting Sam to do this for her. She was greatly touched by his thoughtful gesture.

In order to make her happy and the wedding the best day of their lives, Sam went out of his way to do these small things for the start of their life together. Chris knew it meant that Sam really cared about her and loved her with all his heart to offer. Just thinking back on all of this, she found that her tension had miraculously dissipated. In fact now she was excited to walk down the aisle and marry the love of her life.

Listening to their conversation, Autumn smiled as she thought that Sam had really come around and knew how to please Chris.

Chapter 474 Chris's Wedding (Part Two)

"You're so lucky, Chris, to have found such a wonderful, generous and caring partner," one of the girls

said with a hint of envy reflecting in her tone. "When we were in college, you dreamed of getting married to Sam someday. And today your dreams will finally come true. How are you feeling?" she poked fun at Chris cheekily, as she clenched her fist and took her hand near Chris's mouth.

"Screw you!" Chris retorted as her cheeks flushed pink at the thought of Sam. With a sweet smile, she pointed at Autumn and introduced her formally, "Well girls, I forgot to introduce you to my sister-in-law, Autumn Zhao."

"Hello, it is so nice to meet you," Autumn greeted with a polite smile. "Are you Chris's friends whom she met abroad?"

"Oh, yeah that will be us," the two girls replied in chorus. "So Autumn, we were Chris's dear classmates while she studied abroad," they responded with a sweet smile.

"Well these two dear girls are my best friends, Tina and Hannah. I met them in university. Once we graduated, we parted ways as they remained abroad and I moved back home. I invited them to attend my wedding, but they refused initially saying they didn't have time. But now look they suddenly came here," Chris explained, as her eyes turned red. She had planned to invite and ask them to be her bridesmaids. But when she called them, they both instantly rejected her request and said they didn't

have time. Chris was so disappointed that she insisted on having no bridesmaid at her wedding as she

could not have anyone else but her two best friends. It turned out that they gave her a big surprise.

Autumn smiled at the two girls and said, "You girls stay here and catch up. I should head downstairs

and greet all the guests."

Autumn left the three alone deliberately, hoping that they would enjoy each others' company after such

a long time. 'They must have much to talk as they haven't seen each other for a long time. If I stayed

there any longer, they would feel awkward, ' she thought as she walked out.

The minute Autumn walked downstairs, Hannah said to Chris with a confused look, "I feel like I have

heard about your sister-in-law's name somewhere. I just cannot recall from where."

"Did you?" Chris asked casually, not paying attention to this line of dialogue. "Well I don't see how that

is possible as you have never met her before."

"I'm sure I heard her name somewhere." Hannah scowled, looking wistfully. After a long pause, she

said bluntly, "That's it. I recalled Sam and you drinking together. Tina and I were with you that time. Sam

got drunk and kept mumbling her name. You drank much as well, so perhaps you didn't remember that.

But..." She shifted her gaze to look at Tina, and asked, "You must remember it, don't you?"

"What are you talking about?" Tina flustered, snapping at Hannah who was quite simple-minded and honest. Winking at Hannah, she continued, "I don't actually remember that. You must be confused about someone else."

She changed the subject, and turned to Chris. "You look so beautiful today, Chris."

But Hannah was a persistent girl. She grabbed Tina's arm and interrupted her. "No, I'm sure about it.

Her name is unique so I remembered it being mentioned very clearly. The name Sam murmured was Autumn Ye. Yeah, that's it, that is how I remember her! Her name is Autumn Ye," she exclaimed excitedly as she recalled the past.

Thinking of Chris's introduction, Hannah knitted her brows and asked in confusion, "What's going on here? Their last names are different. How could that be?"

"See? I said that you made a mistake. Today is Chris and Sam's important day. Do you have any idea what you're taking about? Stop blabbering on about trivial things!" Tina yelled out, casting Hannah a reproachful glance. Hannah realized how improper and unnecessary her words were. With an awkward laugh, she said to Chris apologetically, "Well, don't mind what I said, Chris. You know I have a big

mouth and don't know when to shut up."

Since Chris was her best friend, Hannah hoped that Sam would love Chris wholeheartedly.

"It doesn't matter really. Consider it forgotten," Chris said to Hannah with a reassuring smile. "But I

actually must tell you that your assumption is correct. Autumn was Sam's ex."

"What are you saying?" Hannah cried out as she stared at Chris, her pupils almost popping out at the

revelation. Meanwhile, Tina too froze dumbfounded, as she fixed her eyes on Chris not knowing what

to say next.

"Don't look at me like this. I learned about their relationship a long time ago. It is all in the past and it

does not matter," Chris said to them blatantly. Noticing the concern reflecting on the two girls's faces,

Chris reassured them with a bright smile, "It's not a big deal honestly."

"I don't know how you can say that so casually. It's not okay," Hannah pouted. "Your husband's ex is

your brother's wife. How could you be cool with it? I mean you all are one close knit unit."

"I don't see there is any problem. We all are in different places in life and are happy," Chris replied with

a calm tone. With a smile, she continued, "We all have our own past which cannot be changed. Now

she has been married to Charles and they are extremely happy, and today Sam will marry me. I should let it go. Besides, Autumn refused Sam and helped unite Sam and me together. She has always supported and helped us selflessly. I really appreciate her help and support."

"Wake up, my naive friend," Hannah tried to snap her out of her goody good world in a sisterly tone.

"We both know Sam loved that woman very much. What if he decided to marry you because he wanted to approach that woman and get closer to her?"

"That's enough! If you have nothing positive to say, you may leave." Chris cut in impatiently, pulling a long face. Even though Hannah was her friend, Chris considered Autumn more important and dearer to her. She continued in a grave tone, "Even though you spoke ill of Autumn, I don't blame you because you don't know her. But if you continue to talk nonsense like this, you will not be my friend. Autumn and Sam are not that sort of wretched people. I trust them so please don't sit here on my wedding day and try to poison my thoughts. Am I clear?"

"I said this for your sake and only because I care for you." Hannah frowned with a disappointed look. "I traveled a long way to attend your wedding. I only wish you lead a happy life. How can you..."

"Come on, girls. Stop getting so serious. She is getting married today," Tina broke in, attempting to

break the intense atmosphere and change the topic. "Hannah, you haven't been with Chris all these years, so you have no idea what happened to her, or what Sam and she went through. You shouldn't have questioned their relationship like this and especially not today. Anyone who hears you take that tone is bound to get angry."

After a pause, she remarked calmly, "As for Charles' wife, I saw she was an amiable woman. She also is pregnant now. I am sure she must love Charles very much and she wouldn't do anything to hurt Chris. What you said is unfair to Autumn and so judgmental."

With an approving nod, Chris opened her mouth and spoke in a gentler tone, "Autumn is a kind woman. She had helped me a lot over the time I have known her. I don't want to berate you. I just hate to see anyone speak ill of her."

"As for you, Chris." Tina turned to Chris with a positive outlook. "You know Hannah's disposition. She is a simple and yet a outspoken girl. She said those words out of good will. She is just concerned about you. You know that, don't you? So please don't dwell on it or feel attacked."

"Yeah, I understand her intentions very well," Chris sighed. With a sincere laugh, she gripped their

hands and giggled. "I'm really glad you could come here and join me as I begin a new journey."

The three of them immediately forgot the unpleasant argument as they burst into hearty laughter. Soon after, the sound of firecrackers resounded outside the window. Autumn knocked at the door and said to them, "Sam is here. I'll leave the bride and bridegroom to you girls."

"Don't worry, Autumn. We know exactly what to do and will take care of things from here on." Tina grinned.

Autumn didn't stay with Chris as she was pregnant. After filling them in on Sam's arrival, she left the room and walked over to Charles. With a nervous look, Charles gripped Autumn's hand tightly.

Chapter 475 Chris's Wedding (Part Three)

"Is everything okay? You seem so upset and bothered." As Autumn stared at Charles, she was amused by his expression somehow especially since he rarely showed his emotions in front of outsiders.

"I am fine," replied Charles briefly but she somehow did not believe him. He shook his head slightly, but he still wore a sad expression. "Actually, I am quite frustrated and overwhelmed right now. Chris grew up with me and now she is going to get married and move out to live with another man. It is hard for me to accept this reality in such a short span of time. All these years I knew this day would come sometime but now that it is here, I can't believe how time flew by us," he confessed his feelings and confided to

her.

"But what if we have a daughter and she gets married someday? Would you still be so devastated?"

Autumn joked with him to lighten the atmosphere.

"No. Autumn, please don't talk about this with me now. Let's change the topic. Every time when I am

reminded that my daughter will leave us and live with another man someday, I feel as like a knife is

piercing my heart. Just the thought of our daughter moving away is so unbearably painful," Charles

responded with dripping emotions and honesty. He clutched his chest while speaking which amused

Autumn and made her realize how emotionally vulnerable he was at the moment. She giggled, patted

his shoulder to comfort him and then said, "Come on, Sam has arrived."

As soon as she finished her sentence, Sam opened the door and walked in with a bunch of red roses.

He wore a big wide smile and his cheerful and happiness was reflecting on his bright face.

Chris, who had been always carefree, was now so anxious and bashful that she kept rubbing her

hands together and asked Tina who was standing beside her, "Tina, I have been waiting here for a long

while, but why isn't he here yet?"

"Don't be so nervous, Chris. Your brother is downstairs. Perhaps they have something to negotiate. I

am sure he will be here soon," Tina comforted her. Just as Tina said that, there was a flurry of

excitement in the vestibule a few minutes later. And soon Nancy's voice was heard. "Mr. Lin has

arrived!"

Hannah stepped forward to ensure the door was closed. They were ready for Sam to pick up his bride.

Sam's groomsman was his classmate in college and they all knew each other very well, including Tina

and Hannah. They began to knock the door as they reached Chris's bedroom. "Chris, open the door!

We are here to pick you up!" They shouted from the outside alerting the girls of their arrival.

Upon hearing this, Chris smiled gently while Hannah responded, "Fern, Chris is here. But before

opening the door, we have to check if you have enough red packets."

"Hannah, it's you again!" Fern's voice sounded rather helpless. "Hannah, why are you again? It seems

that I run into you everywhere I go. Today is a red-letter day for Sam and Chris. Hurry up and open the

door. Don't ruin their auspicious occasion," replied Fern sternly.

"Don't utter absolute nonsense. Just hand the red packet to us first. You must know this Chinese

traditional rule very well." Hannah was simply unwilling to display any sign of weakness.

Sam was amused by their conversation, so he turned to Fern and said, "Don't stand around and flirt

here please. Have some sense of urgency and hurry it up, Fern. Hand them the red packets."

Shocked, Fern widened his eyes since he thought that Sam would stand at the same front with him but

that was not the case. His cheeks soon blushed out of shyness by Sam's remark. He handed over the

red packets through the crack of the door again and over again. However, after the fiftieth red envelope

had been stuffed across to the other side, Hannah still refused to open the door. Anxious, Fern asked

in a loud voice, "Hannah, you have got enough red packets, so why don't you go ahead and open the

door?"

"Don't get so worked up, Fern. Good things come to those who are patient," Hannah giggled as she

sarcastically spoke out. She continued to speak, "It is a big day for Sam and Chris, so I am also glad for

them. But as you are Sam's Groomsman, I have one last requirement for you. Why don't you sing us a

song? I will open the door as soon as you finish a melodious tone. What do you think of my idea?"

"Hannah, you have crossed the line. There is no way I am going to sing a song standing in this

corridor." Fern felt incredibly awkward to sing a song before so many people since he never could sing

a song in tune. In fact he was quite a bathroom singer. Therefore, he lowered his voice and tried to persuade Hannah instead,"Hannah, I sincerely request you to open the door. It is unnecessarily getting late for their wedding ceremony."

Hannah was pleased and content as she heard this. She finally got a chance to get even with him and she had to grab this opportunity to take him down a peg.

Sam also smiled and put across some encouraging words,"Fern, just please sing a song and she will open the door. Please hurry up. It is your personal vendetta with Hannah, but it is my wedding day.

Your stubborn decision will delay me from picking up the bride. So please put your ego aside and just sing a small hymn."

After hearing this, Fern felt even more helpless. He then realized that he had no other option but to submit to their request. Taking a glance at Sam with his piteous eyes, he began to sing a song.

"In your arms as the dawn is breaking..."

Fern blushed uncontrollably while singing, but Hannah was still not content with him. "Sing a little louder. I can't hear you from across the door," she yelled out at Fern.

With increasing embarrassed, Fern raised his voice. In order to be a responsible groomsman and help

Sam pick up his bride earlier, he had to sing louder to please Hannah and hurry up the process.

There is a famous Chinese old saying that opponents always meet, just like Fern and Hannah.

It took him a few minutes to finish singing the song while Hannah also kept her promise and immediately opened the door. She was understanding, so she knew when enough was enough and she drew the line there. The wedding couldn't be delayed any further.

"Well, come on in," said Hannah. She opened the door for them. Stepping in, Sam found Chris sitting on the bed elegantly, waiting for him quietly yet brimming with excitement.

Sam always knew how Chris was pretty, but until this moment he never knew that she could so incredibly beautiful after she was dressed. She looked like a fairy from up above with the sun rays complementing her skin.

The white wedding dress served as a foil which accentuated her sharp features and fair skin, her cheeks rosy, with her head lowered slightly. Sam understood that she was nervous, so she dared not to look at him.

Sam wore a bright smile, and walked up to her step by step, slowly and cautiously as if he was treading

on Chris's heart. Sam knelt over and raised the bunch of roses in front of Chris with such grace and love.

"Honey, you look incredibly beautiful. I cannot believe today we will be united in holy matrimony," said

Sam with great affection and admiration. Sam was honey mouthed while Chris was not used to it.

Taking the bunch of roses from Sam, she said coyly, "Sam, don't speak nonsense before so many people. I feel so embarrassed."

"It is not nonsense, Chris. I am just telling the truth," Sam defended with all honesty. Squinting at Chris from across her, he further added, "You are the most beautiful bride in my heart and no one else can catch you." His eyes filled with tender affection for her.

"Well, that's enough. Stop the lover's prattle. You can say all this to Chris at your nuptial night and no one will disturb you. I can be sure. But now please don't display your sweetness and gratitude here.

After all we are still a bunch of many bachelors," joked Hannah poking fun at their blossoming love.

After a small pause, she then continued, "Well, now it is about time for you to go downstairs. You still have to serve tea to your grandpa and dad to express your gratitude for this day."

Chris still lowered her head like a shy little teenager. She then accompanied Sam downstairs, hand in

hand. Gary as well as Edward were waiting with hopeful eyes for them in the hall.

Though Chris had come to accept and regard Edward as her father, she still called Gary as her grandfather and Charles as her brother. After all these years, those bonds were strengthened and could not be changed over night.

She was calling them that and it was hard for her to change now after all these years, while Edward also did not mind it at all as he actually appreciated them being there for her in the capacity they were.

Two round mats were arranged in front of the seat of honor where Gary and Edward sat. Autumn took tea for them and they began to serve the tea to Gary and Edward. "Grandpa, thank you for bringing me up. Please drink the tea," said Chris with gratitude.

"Grandpa, thank you," said Sam too. From now on, Gary was also Sam's grandpa as well. They were all one big family.

"Sam, Chris, I am so very happy and excited for you to start this wonderful chapter together." Gary smiled cheerfully since he was growing excited just anticipating this day for a long time. He took a sip of the tea and then took out two big red packets, handing to them. "Sam, you have to take care of Chris

from now on. You have to keep her from harm's way at all time."

"Don't worry, grandpa. I promise you that I will take good care of Chris. She is my wife and I will be

considerate to her. I won't wrong her ever," said Sam firmly and sincerely. He then took a glance at

Chris who was moved by his determined and optimistic words and assured her with a wide smile. It all

seemed so perfect and she wanted to cherish this moment for eternity.

Gary nodded with great satisfaction after hearing Sam's firm statement. In fact, Sam had won Gary's

approval long time ago as he was just a brilliant, compassionate and charming man. Therefore, Gary

felt relieved now that Chris was getting married to him. He would not have had it any other way.

Autumn took another two cups of tea for Sam and Chris, because it was time for them to serve the tea

to Edward.

Chapter 476 There Must Be Some Mistake

Seeing the daughter walking up the wedding aisle is an extremely emotional moment for every father. It

is indeed a cruel tradition to let your child go away and live with another family. It was not different for

Edward. Chris and Sam took the cup and served tea to Edward respectfully.

Edward looked up at Chris' face. She looked sparkling, her innocent eyes, so full of love and optimism

towards the new life she was walking towards. And Sam standing just behind her made both of them

look complete. Why did his eyes swell with tears every time he looked at Chris? 'I've just acknowledged my daughter. Before I could spend some time getting to know her, I have to marry her off, ' he thought repentantly.

The more he thought, the more upset he got. His heart was so filled up to the brim that he just could not stop tears flowing out of his eyes. He turned around to secretly wipe his tears. Gary approached and gently put his palm on his brother's shoulder and said, "What are you doing? Chris is getting married today. It's such an auspicious moment. Stop crying!"

"Yeah, I know," Edward replied, as he wiped off his tears with his sleeve. "These are the tears of joy."

When her father got so emotional, Chris' heart mellowed down as well. At the same time, she felt blissful to see so much love for her in Edward's eyes. It was a bitter sweet feeling that made her emotional as well. She thought to herself, 'I understand why he is acting so emotionally today. Perhaps, he can't bear the fact that I am getting married so soon.'

After a while, she stepped forward and spoke gently, "Please don't be so sad, Dad. I am just getting married. I will come to you frequently. Please don't..."

But before she could finish, she burst into an uncontrollable sob.

Edward quickly controlled himself as he drew Chris closer to his chest and reassured her, "Don't cry,

Sweetheart. I'm very happy to see you getting married." He held her close as she rested her head on

his chest. In that one moment, the father and daughter tried to make up for the long separation that

they had experienced. Then slowly, Edward wiped her tears away and smiled at her to make the

atmosphere light. He took out two red envelopes. "Here, these are my wedding gifts for both of you," he

said to the new couple.

Seeing two bulging envelopes, Sam promptly came forward and took Chris by the hand. Then he swore

to Edward solemnly, "Please don't worry about Chris. I promise that I will love her and care for her all

through my life. You're always welcome to visit us and supervise me at any time."

Sam's earnest pledge made Edward burst into laughter. "I have faith in you, young man. I believe that

you'll treat Chris well. Now, you guys hurry up to the hotel, or you'll be late."

Edward had faith in Chris's judgment. 'Now that she chose Sam, I'm sure he'll give her a happy life, ' he

thought.

Soon Chris entered the car, followed by Sam. He gripped Chris's hand tightly and said, "You're my wife

now, Chris. I have always waited for this moment for such a long time"

"And you're my husband now," Chris smiled at him bashfully. Sam looked at his soon-to-be bride. At that very moment she was the prettiest woman he had ever seen. He started into her sparkling eyes and felt to be the luckiest man in the world. "Are you okay?" asked Chris.

"Yes. I'm fine. I'm just so excited," Sam said gathering himself. He smiled back giving her a light nudge on her head.

Chris was happy to find that Sam had invited Hannah and Tina to be her bridesmaids. She was grateful to Sam for being so considerate in each and every small wish of hers. She looked into his eyes and said, "Thank you!"

"My stupid little girl!" Sam responded affectionately stroking her hair. "From today on, we are a family.

You don't need to be so formal with me."

"Got it," Chris replied softly.

It was just a 15-minute drive from the Lu family house to the hotel they had booked for the wedding.

Fortunately they didn't miss the auspicious time. Chris greeted all the guests, and then waited at the

entrance.

The door of the banquet hall was closed. Chris could hear the voice of the hostess. She knew it was her turn. She stood at the entrance waiting for the most awaited, most cherished moment of her life.

Eyeing the entrance strewn with rose petals, she drifted into a trance. It was like watching her dream take shape in front of her eyes. 'After I walk to the end of the rug dotted with red rose petals, I'll be Sam's rightful wife, Mrs. Lin.' She could feel the butterflies fluttering inside her stomach.

"Are you nervous?" Edward's voice brought her back from her sweet dream. Chris held Edward's arm, nodded at him and answered shyly, "Yes Dad, I'm quite nervous."

"Take it easy, sweetheart," Edward consoled, stroking her hand. "I'll be here with you."

Chris was touched by Edward's words. She had never felt so secured, happy and loved. She felt like being the luckiest girl. With a look at Edward, she said, "Thank you, Dad!"

In the hall, the hostess announced in an impassioned voice, "Now we shall welcome our beautiful bride."

The door was flung open all of a sudden. Chris stood there, sweeping her gaze through the guests on both sides before finally settling on the man standing at the other end of the red carpet. This man would

be her husband soon. Her heart beat faster than ever. She held Edward's hand tightly. The most cherished dream of her life was coming alive little by little.

Edward and Chris walked towards the man slowly, arm in arm. Chris had her gaze fixed on Sam. 'This man promised to protect me for this lifetime, ' she exclaimed inwardly.

Sam beheld his beautiful bride walking towards him. As they reached the other end of the hall, Edward put Chris's hand to Sam's carefully, and took a deep breath inside as if he had finally finished a sacred ritual. He looked at Sam and stammered, "I leave Chris to your hands now, Sam."

When he uttered these words, his heart wrenched at the thought of leaving the apple of his eye in the hands of another man. Sam could sense it as he took Chris's hands in his own.

Sam nodded at him without uttering a single word. 'Words are not enough to sooth a father's concern towards his daughter. The only way to erase Edward's concern is to show my love for Chris to him and keep her happy in the days to come, ' he made an unuttered pledge to himself.

The host on the stage delivered a speech of congratulation to the new couple. Chris and Sam looked each other in the eye affectionately, basking in the blissful moment as they were declared to be man

and wife.

They had long waited for this moment and finally their dream had come true. Surrounded by friends and family members who came to be a part of their happiness. they were both thrilled. Truly blessed is the moment when a new couple starts their life together with the blessing, love and good wished from all their loved ones. Chris and Sam were absorbing every bit of sunshine and happiness that was being showered on them.

Finally all the rituals came to an end. Chris was really exhausted at the end of everything. After taking a rest for a while, she again had to drag her exhausted body to toast the guests.

As her pregnancy advanced, Autumn had been prone to get tired very soon. Moreover, a wedding in the family left her with very little time get proper rest. She even had to wake up early in the morning.

After having luncheon, she couldn't overcome her fatigue any longer. She said to Charles, "I have to go to the bathroom. I'll be back soon."

Charles marked the fatigued look on her face and asked, "Do you need me to escort you there?"

"There is no need," Autumn answered hurriedly, shaking her head. "I can handle myself. Don't worry."

'I enter the lady's room and keep Charles waiting for me outside. It's so weird. I'd better go myself, ' she

thought assuming the awkwardness of the situation.

She splashed water on her face. Water splashing on her face made her feel fresh. After washing her face, she walked towards the exit to reach the wedding hall. The moment she stepped out of the bathroom, she caught sight of the man who was seeing Leila. She observed him intently thinking, 'I remember this man. He is also a doctor in the Y Hospital.'

Even Burke noticed Autumn. He raised his head and acknowledged Autumn's presence by greeting her with a polite smile. Autumn never expected him to acknowledge her in this way. Several questions crowded her mind.

Madeline had been invited to Chris's wedding by Charles for they were business partners. Burke was going to take up his family business, so Madeline brought him along so that he could meet Charles and also get to know and interact with some of the rich and powerful people in the Y City.

As Burke was about to leave, Autumn stopped him. She could not conceal her curiosity any more.

"What are you doing here? Has Leila also come with you to the wedding?" she asked.

Burke was completely taken aback with such questions from someone he was interacting for the first

time. But since Autumn was Charles' wife, he had no choice but to reply to her with utmost politeness.

Hence he put up a diplomatic smile on his face and replied, "Mrs. Lu, we had split up."

"Split up?" Autumn repeated, petrified. She could not believe him. She cast a reproachful glance at

Burke, demanding a reply. "How could you break up with her?" she asked.

Burke was surprised to be questioned like this by a stranger on his personal matter. This time he could

not avoid frowning at Autumn. Even though she was Charles' wife, still, she had no right to question

him about his relationship with Leila. He could not understand why Autumn concerned so much about

Leila.

Burke felt uncomfortable and did not know how to reply to the rude questions hurled at him by Autumn.

But before he could open his mouth, Autumn explained to him, "Well, please don't get me wrong. I met

you once in the shopping mall and I knew that you were Leila's boyfriend. And today I ran into you

here. That's why I asked you those questions." Now he was beginning to get some clarity of the

situation.

Autumn smiled politely as she continued, "I'm not intending to interfere in the stuff between you and

Leila. But when I saw her last time, she told me she was carrying your child and you were going to get married soon. That's why I asked you those questions."

"There must be some mistake," Burke said as he was completely taken aback. 'Leila is pregnant? How could it be possible?' he wondered.

Chapter 477 Impossible to Get Pregnant

"It is not possible." The weird conversation that started between the two strangers was getting to clarity slowly. Autumn could not help asking Burke about Leila as it was a matter that bothered her a lot.

Leila's getting out of their lives so easily and getting into a romantic relationship with this person, claiming to carry his child and then this sudden break off — all these incidents happened too soon and one after the other. Now that Autumn met Burke, she wanted to get to the depth of the matter. So she continued,"Last time Leila told me about her pregnancy after long stay with you, which dispelled my doubts and concerns."

Autumn could sense Burke's uneasiness for being challenged by this matter. But she wanted an answer.

"Earlier, Leila had promised to invite me to her wedding. Is there any misunderstanding?" Autumn asked Burke, her eyes set on his face, trying to analyze even the mildest twitch of his facial muscles

just to make sure that he was not lying to her.

Burke on the other hand felt trapped. Autumn being Charles' wife stopped him from being absolutely pointblank with her and tell her to stay out his personal life. He had to be polite and hence had to answer her questions. "Mrs. Lu, may I take the liberty to ask when was the last time that you met Leila?" Burke asked, trying to be as polite as possible. He had absolutely no clue about Leila's pregnancy.

Autumn paused to think back the exact time when she met Leila at the hospital. Then she said, "I think it was a month and a half ago. Is there anything wrong with it?"

Burke had no clue about Leila's intentions. Yet, he had to explain the matter to Autumn to the best of his abilities. "Mrs. Lu, actually I have parted ways with Leila. And I find it embarrassing to mention the reason behind our failed relationship. More so, I was not the defaulting party."

Burke paused for a while and continued, "It is impossible for Leila to get pregnant even for one month, let alone three-to-four months, as we have just parted ways half a month ago, when she had no signs of pregnancy."

"How could it be?" Autumn became completely numb when she heard Burke speak these words. 'Who is the one that has lied to me, Leila or him? What does she get out of all this? It was unbelievable for Leila to deceive me on the pretext of her pregnancy!' Autumn wondered.

"I haven't yet figured out the motive behind her doing so." Burke was equally surprised. He looked at Autumn gently and then suggested, "Mrs. Lu, you are better at judging Leila than I am. Leila is absolutely unworthy of anyone's respect and trust."

After saying this, Burke excused himself from Autumn's presence.

In just a few steps ahead of Autumn, Burke spotted Pamela approaching toward him. Burke thought it to be the best opportunity to engage with her to avoid further conversation with Autumn. He had met Pamela just a few days back and found her to be a very nice girl with whom he could think of getting married. On the other end of the hall, the nuptial was getting solemnized.

Pamela, catching the glimpse of Autumn, asked Burke, "Who is she?"

"One of my previous patients. It was an coincidence to meet her in this wedding, so we had a quick chat." Burke smiled at Pamela and asked, "What brings you here suddenly?"

"Aunt Madeline asked me to call you back for an interview with an important client she would introduce

to you." Pamela replied with a gentle smile.

"Okay. So let's go." Burke accompanied Pamela as they proceeded towards the hall.

As Burke left with Pamela, Autumn stood there, wondering at the unscrupulous intention of Leila that made her to lie to Autumn about her pregnancy. The more she thought about it, she got more and more confused.

Autumn somehow sensed something of a more catastrophic proportion.

After reaching home from the wedding, Autumn was still lost in thoughts. It was utterly unconvincing about how a woman could fake pregnancy. She was seated on the couch looking tensed when Charles walked into the bedroom. He got disturbed to find her in that state and asked, "Autumn, what is up?"

"Nothing serious. I am just fine." Autumn forced a smile and appeared to be normal in front of Charles.

That day was Chris's wedding. Autumn had to maintain the party mood in front of all the guests.

After the wedding was over, Autumn came home, took a shower and laid down on her bed to relax her body and mind. The thoughts about Leila kept haunting for a while and eventually faded away as she fell into a deep slumber.

Subsequently, as the time flowed, happy days rolled in: days passed as Autumn proceeded towards her delivery date with no sign of Leila anywhere around her to create trouble for her. In May, Isla got married with Aron. Colin and his family were denied the admission to the wedding reception by Aron as he feared of any kind of family dispute to ruin their special moment.

Autumn was the first person Isla met right after she was back from her honeymoon. They met at a coffee shop in the downtown. Brent still served as a chauffeur for Autumn entertaining her with casual conversations while on the drive.

Brent was now a more stable person dedicatedly serving Autumn. He had learnt from his past mistakes and resolved to lead a much sober life. This change in Brent came as a blessing for Nancy who was happy and proud to see her son amend himself. Everything seemed to be falling into its own place.

Nancy started musing about getting her son settled to have his own family. Thus, she thought of arranging a blind date for Brent.

At the entrance of the coffee shop, Autumn turned to Brent and said, "You better take a stroll around. I will call you when I am ready to go."

"Okay, I will come around upon your call." Brent left after dropping her at the coffee shop. Autumn

pushed the door open and spotted Isla standing right in front of her.

Isla had a happy glow on her face. Autumn approached her lovingly and said, "Turn around, and my my!

Look at you! You seem a little plumper."

Isla looked happier and more well-rounded than before. Every girl has a marked change in her appearance after getting married. The change from a girl to a wife is so apparent and swift! Isla looked happier than ever.

"Definitely." Isla complained laughing, "Aron made me eat highly nutritious food on a daily basis.

I am not as chiseled as I used to be!" She blushed while she spoke. Autumn was delighted to see Isla in a happy space.

"You are a lucky and pampered wife." Autumn smiled at Isla, "Aron is a very caring husband."

After the initial niceties shared by the two women, Isla motioned to offer something to Autumn. "I have come to give you something."

"What is it?" Autumn was curious to know what Isla has got for her.

Isla put down a big package in front of Autumn and said, "This package contains something really

special for you."

"What is there in this pack?" Autumn expressed her curiosity toward Isla. As her pregnancy developed, Autumn had been showered with many gift from friends and family. But coming from Isla, it had to be very special for Autumn.

"These are the stuff that I specially bought for you during my honeymoon." Isla smiled at Autumn as she handed over the box to her. "These make-ups were highly recommended by the salesperson to effectively erase your stretch marks. Hence I picked these for you. You may want to try these and let me know if you want to buy more."

Chapter 478 Due Date

"I bought some clothes for you. They will protect you from harmful radiation." Isla excitedly pulled two colorful dresses from the bag. "Summer is around the corner. I can't resist these lovely dresses. I knew you will look good in them so I bought them for you. I hope you'll like them."

Isla pulled more stuff out of the seemingly bottomless bag and explained, "These are for my sworn children. I bought baby formula, clothes, diapers and other small stuff for babies. There are also some toys which I'm sure my sworn children will like. The shop keeper said they're good for developing children's intelligence. I hope I didn't miss anything."

Autumn was speechless, looking at Isla with amazement. She obviously went overboard on shopping for the twins. "Are you crazy? Why did you buy so many things? Some of these things are not necessary for now."

"It's all right." Isla shrugged, smiling at Autumn. "You can set them aside and bring them out at the right time. I also bought four suits, two for baby boys and two for baby girls, to be safe," Isla added.

With a resigned expression, Autumn sighed, "You're a hopeless spendthrift. You shouldn't have bought so many."

"Hey! Remember they're for my sworn children. I can spend as much as I want for them." Isla grinned cheekily. "By the way, did you check the gender of the twins? Boys or girls?" Isla asked with excitement.

"No, I didn't," Autumn replied, shaking her head. "I don't have any problem whether I have boys or girls.

So there is no need to know the gender. Charles also thinks the same."

"I just thought that if you knew the gender of your babies, you didn't need to worry about buying the wrong baby stuff. What do you think?" Isla reasoned with a smile.

"I don't think it's a problem. Besides, Charles and I are looking forward to the surprise at the last moment," Autumn replied laughing softly. Autumn suddenly thought of Leila who had brazenly feigned her pregnancy. At that time, Isla was busy preparing for her wedding so Autumn was not able to bring up the subject. Seeing Isla relaxed from her recent honeymoon, Autumn decided to tell her. She cleared her throat before saying, "There is something I've been waiting to tell you..."

"What is it?" Isla asked alarmed at the ominous sound in Autumn's voice. "You can tell me anything.

Did Charles bully you?"

"Oh no... it's not about Charles," Autumn replied quickly. Fixing her gaze at Isla, Autumn continued, "Do you remember Leila?"

"Leila? What about her?" Isla asked, looking puzzled. 'If it hadn't been for Leila, Cloud Advertising Company couldn't have been cleared of suspicion for plagiarizing and Paula wouldn't have ended up in trouble, ' Isla thought to herself.

"Why did you bring her up all of a sudden?" Isla asked curiously, her eyebrows slightly rising.

"I ran into her several months ago, a few days before Chris' wedding. She had an evident bulging belly.

She told me that she was pregnant and she was going to marry her boyfriend soon. She seemed like a

different person and even apologized to me. I forgave her for the sake of her baby," Autumn concluded.

As soon as she heard the story, Isla's face turned grim. She turned to Autumn and rebuked her in a sisterly tone, "How could you have forgiven that shameless woman? You fell for her tricks after what she has done to you? You're so naive. If you continue to have mercy on your enemy, they will teach you a lesson sooner or later. So be careful."

Being soft-hearted and forgiving, Autumn was not the kind to hold grudges for a long time. Isla had advised her to stop being so tolerant and forgiving but she didn't listen to her. If only she could be cruel and tough, she wouldn't have been bullied by Wendy like that.

"You make me sound like a pushover." Autumn protested. "I'm not always so gullible. Put yourself in my shoes, an unmarried pregnant girl came to apologize to you looking convincingly sincere, what would you do?"

Isla sighed and asked, "So what happened after that? What happened to her?"

"I saw her boyfriend, Burke at Chris' wedding. I asked him how Leila was doing and when they were planning to get married. He told me they already broke up. You can imagine my embarrassment."

Autumn recalled feeling stupid at that time.

Isla couldn't help but laugh, looking at Autumn's disgruntled face. After a while, she said

scornfully, "Two-faced bitches like Leila are difficult to get married. She's a liar and a gold-digger. Her boyfriend had a lucky escape."

Isla sighed and continued sadly, "I feel bad about her baby. Who knows if she will keep her child? Even if she decides to give birth to her baby, her child will have no father. Poor little soul!"

"There's something that really bothered me," Autumn said. "I asked her boyfriend why he dumped her knowing she was pregnant with his child. But that guy denied that Leila was pregnant. It's really weird because she looked obviously pregnant when I saw her."

Isla was dumbfounded. She didn't expect the twist in the story. The boyfriend said she was not pregnant, but Autumn said she looked pregnant. "Well, is she pregnant or not?" Isla asked impatiently.

"Honestly, I don't know," Autumn said, shaking her head. "I didn't see her after that. I tried to call her but

she changed her phone number."

Isla knitted her brows and asked Autumn, "Did you tell Charles about this?"

"Not yet," Autumn mumbled. "I don't think it's a big deal, so I didn't tell Charles. I still don't know why she pretended to be pregnant. Besides, I don't know how to broach the subject. What do you think is her motive? Any ideas?" she tossed the questions one after the other, looking expectantly at Isla.

"How would I know that?" Isla tossed back at Autumn. "Anyway, just be careful of Leila. Try to avoid her when you see her. Until you give birth to the twins, you shouldn't see her again," Isla warned, her tone grim.

"I see," Autumn replied thoughtfully, a cold shiver running up her spine. She was relieved that she finally got it off her chest. As for Leila, she had already made up her mind not to see her.

All she wanted was to bring her unborn children to the world safely.

She knew that while Isla was in charge of the company, everything will run smoothly. Now, all Autumn had to do was relax and wait for the arrival of her children. She was due to deliver the twins by late September.

Chapter 479 Brent's Secret

Isla offered to drive Autumn back, but her friend declined. Since Brent became her full-time driver, it was convenient for Autumn to go anywhere. More importantly, Brent was becoming more dependable lately, to Autumn's relief.

Autumn did accept Isla's help to carry her things for stowing in the trunk. Once everything was in,

Autumn called Brent and was puzzled when he wasn't answering. He picked up on the third call, but his voice quivered as he asked, "Mrs. Lu, are we going home now?"

"Yes, I'm done. Where are you, Brent?" Autumn answered a little impatiently. "I've called you several times, but you didn't answer." She was looking at Isla, her brows furrowed.

Brent was almost mumbling as he apologized to Autumn. He paused and explained, "I'm sorry. But I have diarrhea right now. Please wait for me. I'll be right there!" Brent hung up quickly while Autumn stared at her phone feeling weird.

She couldn't figure out what had happened to Brent. 'Diarrhea? What did he eat?' she thought. Turning to Isla, Autumn said, "I'll wait for Brent here. You can go now."

But Isla dismissed the order. "I'm staying right here with you," she declared. Isla was not about to leave

Autumn alone there. It took Brent more than ten minutes before he finally showed up. She waited until

Autumn was safely inside the car before going back.

During their drive home, Brent was quiet and ill-at-ease. Autumn chose to be silent. 'He might still be

experiencing abdominal pain, ' she thought. Brent was lost in thought while waiting for the traffic light to

turn green. Even when the light changed, he did not move. The car behind them started honking.

Autumn called out, "Brent, the light's green!" He still did not react, absorbed in his own thoughts.

"Brent!" Autumn raised her voice to call Brent's attention. When he still did not respond, Autumn finally tapped him on the shoulder. He shuddered as he felt Autumn's hand. "Mrs. Lu, what happened?" Brent shook himself awake.

"What's happening to you, Brent? Are you sure you're okay?" she asked with concern. She calmed down before adding, "Didn't you hear the car blowing its horn behind us?"

Brent shook his head again. "I am so sorry, Mrs. Lu," he apologized. He quickly started the car and drove off.

Autumn worried about Brent's strange look all the way home. She said nothing, but Nancy noticed her son's odd behavior as soon as he walked into the house. She called him several times but he never even reacted to her presence. Brent went directly to his quarters without greeting his mother.

Autumn called Nancy's attention. "Brent has been acting abnormally today. Can you please ask him

what happened?" she requested the housekeeper.

"I will, Mrs. Lu. And thank you for your concern," a worried Nancy replied. She looked at Autumn closely and said, "Mrs. Lu, you also have to take good care of yourself and your babies." She bowed her head in humility. "Don't worry about my son and me. Let me apologize again for what I did in the past. I do not wish to cause you any more trouble because I would then be too ashamed to stay on if I did."

"Enough of this kind of talk, Nancy. I promise to take care of myself, but I also don't want you to dig up the past ever again, understand? Just let it go," Autumn ordered. She gave Nancy a warm smile of assurance.

Charles had a social event that evening. So Nancy only prepared dinner for Autumn and Gary. Lately, Gary had been so passionate about fishing and often went out with his old friends to fish. He always came home with lots of catch and would ask Nancy to prepare fish soup for Autumn because it was nutritious.

Proudly, he said, "Autumn, this is the wild crucian I caught today. You need to eat plenty of this. It is said to be good for your health." Gary grinned at the pregnant Autumn. Like everybody else, he was

concerned about Autumn's health and well-being.

"Oh thank you, Grandpa! It's very delicious," Autumn said appreciatively. She had two bowls of the broth and felt quite full after. She decided to walk around the garden to help with digestion.

At around this time, Brent usually came out of his room and would ask Nancy to cook for him.

But that evening, he failed to show up even after Autumn and Gary had finished eating. After clearing the table, Nancy decided to look in on him.

She cooked fried eggs with tomatoes to bring to her son, thinking Brent would be very hungry.

Nancy tapped at Brent's bedroom door lightly but got no reply. She hesitated a bit before pushing the door open and walking in.

Nancy walked into the dark room. Not even a bed light was open. Her heart was pounding as she sought out her son.

"Brent, are you there? What is wrong with you?" she called out, her voice breaking. Nancy approached the bed, feeling her way in the dark. "Are you sick? Here, let me check you," she said anxiously. Nancy

groped for the light. When it came on, she found Brent lying on the bed silently, his shirt off. There were

several bruises on his torso. Nancy quickly put down the tray she was carrying and sat beside her son.

"What happened to you?" she cried out in alarm. Nancy nearly choked at the sight of his battered body.

"You're hurt! You have so many bruises," she said tearfully, afraid to touch them, but wanting to soothe

her son. "Who did this to you? Were you in a fight?" She fired several questions at Brent. She was sick

with worry, at the same time mad because of what they had done to her son.

Brent groaned in pain. "Mom, just please leave me alone." He hid under the covers. Grumbling, he told

Nancy, "I want to rest, Mom. Go away!" Nancy's questions annoyed him and made him more

uncomfortable. "I'm not hungry, Mom. I just want to be left alone."

But the mother persisted, "Tell me what happened, Brent! Tell me the truth." She looked at her son's

bruised body. She towered over him, eyes glistening. Then Nancy asked, "Why did you get into a fight?

Answer me!"

"I didn't start it. And I did not want to fight," came Brent's muffled reply. He wanted to moan in pain but

tried his best to assure Nancy. "I'm okay Mom. Please stop asking me. I just want to be left alone for a

while," he pleaded.

His mother stood firm. "I am not leaving until you tell me what happened." She bent over to inspect the

bruises and scratches on his chest and back. Looking at the injuries, she had no doubt Brent was

beaten up. "Tell me the truth. Did you go out with those unsavory characters again?"

"Mom, I told you I didn't! Why do you keep asking?" He was whining now. Since Nancy would not stop,

Brent suddenly roared. Briefly, he felt guilty and asserted, "They came looking for me today. They

wanted me to go back to gamble with them, but I refused. That's why they turned violent. Are you

satisfied now?"

His answer shocked Nancy. She was speechless for several minutes and became even more anxious.

Finally, she said, "Really?" Nancy was terribly upset about what happened to Brent. One part of her was

relieved that Brent refused to return to gambling. But she was also furious after seeing the bruises he

sustained for his refusal. Nancy inhaled deeply to let go of the fury. Her voice was shaking when she

uttered, "Those people are bastards. Someday, I hope they will be punished." She stood, patted Brent

gently and said that she needed to get the ointment for his bruises. Nancy could not stop the tears from

falling as she was about to go out.

Brent tried to stop his mother. "Mom, I'm fine. I don't need any ointment." He sat up and faced his

mother calmly. "I'm fine, so stop worrying. It will heal," he assured Nancy.

"But you're in pain," Nancy argued. She felt her heart was broken at the sight of Brent's injuries. Nancy could not help but worry about his condition. "The ointment would hasten the healing of your bruises."

Nancy paused, and advised, "Brent, always remember to avoid those thugs in the future."

She muttered fiercely, "They will get the punishment they deserve sooner or later." Brent nodded before looking at his mother to plead. "Mom, please don't tell Mr. and Mrs. Lu about this," he asked.

"Why not?" His request surprised her. Nancy had no plans to tell the couple what happened to Brent, but she was taken aback by Brent's appeal. She looked inquiringly at her son, waiting for an explanation.

"Nothing. They have so many things to think about already, so we shouldn't bother them with this.

They've been very helpful to us, so we should be more considerate. Mr. Lu is very busy at work, and

Mrs. Lu is pregnant now," he told his mother. Nancy was relieved after listening to Brent's explanation.

Her son was finally becoming more mature and it made her proud.

"All right, I won't mention this to them," she promised. Looking at Brent, she said, "It's late, and you must be hungry already. Get up and eat. We'll talk more about this later after you finish eating."

Chapter 480 Charles Discovered His Weakness

Nancy finally left Brent's room. In the dark, Brent's eyes lit up, as if he had a secret only he knew.

With Autumn's condition now more stable, her hospital visits were less frequent. After a refreshing shower, she went to bed. Soon after, Charles arrived.

He sat on the edge of the bed. "It's late. Why are you still awake?" he asked. Charles loved coming home to Autumn and greeted her with a smile.

She smiled back at her husband and replied, "I'm seeing my ob-gyn tomorrow. And somehow, I can't sleep thinking about it."

Charles was a little concerned. He quickly decided to help ease her worries. "Take it easy, love. I'll go with you tomorrow." He lifted Autumn's chin to look into her eyes. "And why are you worried? I'm sure you and our babies are fine," Charles assured his wife. "Relax. Have sweet dreams. I'm just going to take a shower and join you."

The following day, Charles brought Autumn's breakfast to their bedroom so she could eat in bed as soon as she woke up. Autumn was pleased with the attention. After eating, Charles drove her to the hospital.

Autumn was about to knock on Anthony's office when Lisa came hurrying out. Her eyes were red. When she realized who it was at the door, she threw Autumn a very dark look, and that confused the pregnant woman.

Autumn could never forget how friendly Lisa had been during their first meetings. But lately, Autumn noticed a change in her attitude each time they ran into each other. It seemed like Lisa was looking at her with hatred.

Charles prodded his wife to enter. "Go on. I'll wait for you out here." He took Autumn's bag and turned to sit down in the hallway.

Autumn tapped on Anthony's door. When no one answered, she knocked again. Still, no one answered. With a little hesitation, she pushed it open and entered. At the sound of the door opening,

Anthony scowled and growled without looking up, "I told you not to bother me. Can't you understand..."

He stopped when he saw Autumn standing inside his office, with a shocked look. "What are you doing here?" he asked quickly, suddenly feeling awkward.

Autumn replied, "I have an appointment with you today, remember?" She tried to compose herself.

Anthony's loud voice shook her badly.

Anthony quickly checked his calendar and saw that he had indeed forgotten about Autumn's regular check-ups.

"I apologize for the outburst earlier," he said. Leading Autumn to the examination table, he instructed her to lie down. "I'll be with you in a minute." He turned to put on his white coat, breathing deeply to calm himself.

"You looked angry. And Lisa was in a rush to leave as I came in. Was she crying? I noticed her eyes were red. Did you two have a fight, Anthony?" Autumn asked as Anthony walked towards her.

"No, it was nothing like that," the doctor denied. "What would we fight about?" he said, shifting to a more businesslike tone.

"Lisa's a very attractive woman," Autumn pointed out. Lisa might not seem very friendly to Autumn recently, but it was hard to deny the woman was nice and would make a good match for Anthony.

Autumn thought of giving her doctor some advice. "Don't you want to give Lisa a chance, since you don't have a girlfriend anyway?" she asked.

"Oh, please stop! If I hear another word about Lisa, I'll quit being your doctor," Anthony threatened

Autumn. His threat worked. "Okay. You won't hear anything about her from me again. So, please stay on as my doctor," Autumn said quickly.

Anthony proceeded with the examination and was relieved that she remained in good health.

"You and the babies are doing well," he announced to the expectant mother. Autumn was delighted with the good news. And she was certain that Charles would be happy, too. "The babies are due in less than three months. So, it is crucial that you pay attention to your health and get enough rest. Also, moderate exercise is necessary to help with easier birthing," Anthony explained. The doctor gave further instructions and Autumn listened patiently.

"Okay, got it!" she smiled like a good student. "If you must know, I've been following your advice. Every day after dinner, I take a walk for about an hour and rest when I feel tired," Autumn said proudly.

"That's good," Anthony said, while nodding. "Keep this up and you'll be just fine," he added.

"I will do that, Doctor," Autumn teased. She suddenly remembered something and looked at Anthony.

"You've been here in Y City for a while, yet you haven't been to my grandparents' house to have dinner," she pointed out. "Why don't you join us for dinner at their home? Think of it as a token of my appreciation," Autumn smiled.

"I'm sorry, I can't accept your invitation. But thank you, just the same," Anthony declined without thinking. He believed there was an ulterior motive behind Autumn's invitation. "I'm your doctor, and I'm only doing my duty by looking after you," he explained.

"Well, not to me," was Autumn's retort. She had to convince him to have dinner with the family. "You've done all you can to ensure that my condition is properly managed. So, it's only right to treat you to a hearty meal. Besides, my grandfather often talks about you," Autumn said persuasively.

Her mentioning Arthur made Anthony hesitate. He did want to see Autumn's grandfather to consult about a medical concern. "Okay then. I am free the next few nights. Just tell me when dinner with your family will be," he finally gave in.

"Good! Good!" Autumn could hardly contain her excitement. She stood up and got ready to leave. She and the babies were healthy, and Anthony accepted her invitation to dinner. It was all good.

Charles rarely took the day off. But he decided to spend time with his wife today. After leaving the hospital, they went to the mall and spent hours buying baby stuff, including cribs for the twins. They made arrangements for everything to be delivered to Dream Garden and then had lunch at a western

restaurant. Since Autumn became pregnant, the couple rarely had a chance to eat out together.

In the afternoon, Autumn said she wanted to see a new movie, and her husband readily agreed.

Autumn found the story somewhat corny, but she still watched with deep interest.

When they came out of the cinema, Autumn was happy and satisfied. Charles went to the bathroom

first, while his wife waited by the cinema entrance. All of a sudden, a crowd pushed their way in, and

Autumn lost her balance after being caught unaware. Fortunately, there was a nearby wall that broke

her fall. She steadied herself and looked up only to see a familiar figure.

If she was right, the person she saw was Leila. The last time she saw the woman, she was heavily

pregnant. But seeing her now, she was slim as ever, like she was never pregnant at all.

As she wondered, Leila disappeared from sight.

Instinct told Autumn to run after that woman, but a pair of hands stopped her from moving.

"Where are you going, Autumn?" It was Charles. He had just come out of the bathroom when he saw

his wife about to leave.

"I..." she stopped and frowned. She wanted to break free from Charles' grasp to catch up with Leila

because she wanted to find out why Leila had been lying about being pregnant. But by then, Leila had

disappeared with the rest of the crowd.

Dismayed, she turned to Charles and replied, "Never mind. I thought I saw someone I knew, but she was gone when I turned to look again." She shrugged with resignation.

"Let's go home then," Charles suggested. "You should be very tired from being out so long today," he added.

Autumn nodded. She was feeling a bit tired already. On the drive back to Dream Garden, she kept thinking of Leila. She wanted to find out what the woman was doing. 'Was she following me?' Autumn wondered.

So many questions came to mind, but the most important one was where could she find Leila.

The baby stuff purchased in the morning was already at home by the time they arrived. Since Autumn was having twins, they bought two of every item, including the cribs. The cribs came with an unexpected challenge. The owners had to assemble them themselves.

"Oh my goodness! The babies' cribs are just piles of wood!" Autumn cried out as she stared at two stacks. "What are we going to do with them?" she asked, looking helpless.

Her husband came to the rescue. "Don't worry. I'll put them together," he said confidently. Charles buckled down to work immediately. He rolled up his sleeves and began sorting the pieces. Autumn offered to help, but he brushed her aside.

He did not realize assembling a crib was like a giant puzzle, and he wracked his brain all evening. By eleven o'clock, there was not even one crib put together.

Autumn, who was sitting down watching her husband, stifled her giggles. She started to make fun of Charles. "Oh, it seems the high and mighty Mr. Lu has a weakness after all."

Charles blushed in embarrassment. "Er... I'll have someone come over to assemble it," he said. He couldn't believe a pile of wood got the best of him.

'Well, everyone has to be bad at something, ' Charles thought and he finally discovered his weakness.

It seemed that to assemble a crib was more difficult than to achieve his company's annual sales.