

Wedded Bride 481

Chapter 481 Bring Lisa And Anthony Get Together

On Saturday night, Autumn headed straight for the Zhao family house. Charles was occupied with some other prior engagements, so Brent drove Autumn there.

Autumn had called and informed Arthur in advance on Anthony and her visit. Before going to the Zhao family house, Autumn demanded Brent to take her to the Y Hospital first. Instead of going to Anthony's office, she went directly to Lisa's. As Lisa had just finished her last appointment, she didn't expect another patient. So when someone knocked on her office door, she felt slightly surprised and wondered who it might be. She looked at the door and caught a glimpse of Autumn. With her forehead wrinkled, she asked in a displeased tone, "What are you doing here?"

"Surprise!" Autumn responded in an enthusiastic voice, as she gently closed the door behind her. "I'm here for you."

"Me?" Lisa asked, as her eyes widened in disbelief and confusion. "But for what?"

Autumn had no idea why Lisa was behaving so hostile towards her. Despite this apparent awkwardness, she still sincerely hoped that Anthony and Lisa would get together. And that was why she paid a visit to Lisa. Autumn explained, "I know you like Anthony. And I want to help you guys get

together. I invited Anthony to eat at home. I'm wondering if you have time to join us this fine evening."

"Why would you invite me? I mean you barely even know me," Lisa asked with her eyebrows raised.

'Hmm, Anthony likes her and yet she has come here to invite me. It seems like she came here to show off, ' Lisa thought with discontent.

"I want to give you two a chance to stay alone and sort things out. If you have no problem, I will text you where to meet later," Autumn replied patiently as she ignored Lisa's rude tone.

Lisa gazed at Autumn's bulging belly and she wondered, 'She is pregnant now. They are impossible no matter how much Anthony likes her and wants to pursue her. He has no choice but to give up on her.

This will only end badly.'

Staring at Autumn, she put out her concern laced with confusion,"Do you really want to help me pursue Anthony?"

Lisa had often considered giving up on Anthony. After all she had come to Y City almost half a year, but there was still no progress between Anthony and her. With each passing day her determination, hope and love for him were wavering. She grew so frustrated with her countless failed attempts to reconcile

their relationship that she now wanted to give up.

But when time and again she had moved on, she just couldn't bear to actually give up on that excellent man. She loved him with all her heart.

That was why she still stayed here after all this time.

"I don't understand why you want to set Anthony and me up?" Lisa asked again, looking bewildered.

She just could not understand why Autumn would want to do that.

"Well Anthony is my friend," Autumn replied, a warm smile flashing across her face, "and with that said, I just want to see him to be happy and to be with someone who loves him wholeheartedly."

Autumn drew closer to Lisa, grabbed her hand and observed friendly. "I have liked you since the first time we met each other. I think Anthony and you can work it out and will actually make a great couple.

That's why I intend to bring you both together. Please don't doubt my good intentions. I have nothing but positive feelings for you."

As she looked at Autumn, Lisa nodded and said, "Well then, if you insist, I'd love to join you."

"I'm glad that you agreed," Autumn exclaimed, as she let out a cheerful smile. "Well then I gotta head out now. I will text you the details soon. I'm looking forward to seeing you there."

Autumn left the hospital in a good and cheerful mood. When she arrived at Arthur's house, she saw Emily sitting on the sofa in the living room. Emily had been ill abed. Upon hearing that Autumn was visiting today, she gathered the strength to get out of the bed and dragged her exhausted body outside.

After talking to Autumn for a while, she couldn't bear her overwhelming weariness any longer.

"Come, I'll escort you to your room," Autumn offered as she rose slowly from the couch.

Emily refused stubbornly, "Please just stay here, Autumn. Lucy can accompany me to my room. Don't worry about me, I am just an old woman. But you my dear are a pregnant woman now, so you need more rest and attention."

As Emily insisted, Autumn had no option but to agree.

Sharp by the clock at 5 pm, Anthony reached the Zhao family house and rang the doorbell. Arthur opened the door and saw Anthony lugging many bags. With a frown, Arthur said to him, "You're so formal with us. You didn't have to go through the trouble of bringing us so many presents."

"It's simply impolite to visit elders empty-handed," Anthony returned with a courteous and warm smile.

"I just brought some herbal supplements for everyone. I hope you will like them."

"Come in, please. Dinner is almost ready to be served," Arthur said with an approving and pleased laughter, as he moved aside to let Anthony into his home.

"Sure," Anthony replied. As Anthony entered the living room, he saw Autumn and Abby sitting on the couch engaged in a serious conversation. The two expectant mothers had many discussions about baby to keep them occupied and oblivious from everyone else present there.

Abby's baby was two months older than Autumn's. Recently, Abby had undergone a color Doppler test, and the doctor told her that she had a malposition. With great fear, she confessed her concern to Autumn. But upon noticing Anthony had arrived, Autumn immediately took his arm and dragged him to Abby. She then said to him, "My aunt has a problem. She has a malposition. Can you give us any suggestion about the diagnosis?"

"You..." Anthony stammered as he was shocked by this sudden question. With a speechless look, he whined to Autumn, "Did you really invite me just for dinner? Or was it a front because you just needed a doctor?"

"Anyway. The meal isn't prepared yet. Now that you have nothing to do now, you can put your time to use and help out a lady in distress." Autumn grinned.

Anthony wasn't mad at Autumn. He went through the B mode ultrasound images, and remarked with a relieved smile, "Don't worry. This is not a big deal. Please just be extra careful and do a set of exercises to correct the position of the fetus. Otherwise, you will need a cesarean section."

"I prefer a natural labor," Abby pouted. "When I was carrying Cindy, I had a c-section. I don't want that again."

Looking at Anthony with concern, Abby asked optimistically, "Is there any method to adjust the position of the fetus?"

Anthony asked Autumn to bring him some sheets of paper, and then jotted down some cautions and useful exercises for her to do often. Instead of writing words in a cursive style, he practiced his beautiful handwriting. Autumn was surprised at the sight of those neatly written characters.

"I never expected that... you could write so well. Your handwriting is impeccable," Autumn praised him as her eyes remained wide-open in shock.

After hearing Autumn's compliment, Anthony did not respond. He turned to Abby and advised, "Follow these instructions and I'm positively sure that you'll get better."

After a pause, he continued, "You will also need to go to the hospital and get some test after a while.

For now concentrate on exercising properly."

"I understand. Thank you so much!" Abby thanked Anthony with a grateful smile.

'I heard that Grandpa Craig's grandson is an experienced doctor. But to my surprise, he is so very young yet exceptionally good, ' Abby thought to herself.

"Wash your hands, Autumn. The dinner is set on the table," Amy informed Autumn. Autumn took a glance at the door, and replied, "Please wait for a moment, grandma. I had a friend who was supposed to join us and she hasn't come yet."

"Who is this friend you talk about?" Arthur was surprised. 'She didn't tell me that she invited another friend for dinner, ' he thought.

"It doesn't matter really," Anthony smiled at Arthur. "I want to ask you some medical questions, Grandpa Arthur. Is it okay if I pick your brain?"

"Okay sure that seems reasonable. We can have a discussion in my study," Arthur replied with a welcoming smile. Arthur led Anthony to the study, closed the door, and poured Anthony a cup of tea.

Noticing Anthony took a seat, he asked, "Is this about Autumn's disease?"

Chapter 482 Lisa Chose To Leave

"Yes, you are right. It is about Autumn." Anthony answered as a frown descended upon his face. With

Autumn's due date drawing closer, Anthony began looking for a drug that would completely cure her

disease. He had tested countless Chinese and western medicine, referred to many medical books and

finally found two kinds of medicine which would prove helpful.

One was Chinese medicine while the other was western medicine, but...

"What has happened? Why don't you speak out your trouble openly?" Arthur added as he got more

nervous by the second, "Is there any problem in the medicine for Autumn's treatment?"

"Yes," Anthony said with embarrassment, "I have referred to all the Chinese medical books and found a

kind of medicine to cure Autumn's disease, but it works very slowly and Autumn will take three years to

completely recover."

Arthur let out a sigh and said, "Well, Autumn looks normal now and is much better than her earlier state.

Now she won't lose her control as long as she isn't irritated, but her character has been changed. She

has two pole opposite moods; either she gets too indecisive or too kind. That is totally different from

who she was, I fear with each passing day she is changing into someone different from our dear lovely

Autumn."

"Yes. This medicine is known to change one's nature and behavior." Anthony sighed and added, "I have written to my teacher from abroad and he knows about another western medicine which can cure Autumn's disease with just one pill."

Then he gave a bitter smile and said to Arthur, "The reason why I came here today is to discuss with you whether we should share this piece of information with Autumn and let her choose the medicine she wants to go with or not."

"Is there even a need to have a discussion about this? I mean the choice seems obvious. Of course it's better to use the western medicine." Arthur added, "Now that we have found a kind of medicine that can cure her disease in one go, so why should we think about the Chinese medicine which would take so many years and alter her character?"

Anthony was speechless while Arthur realized that it seemed too good to be true and hesitantly asked, "Does this western medicine have some counter effect?"

"Yes, it does." In fact, Anthony wouldn't have come here to discuss matters with Arthur if the medicine

was safe and clear cut the right option. Anthony took a heavy breath and answered, "This medicine can completely cure Autumn's disease effectively. But among the ten subjects that were tested with this medicine, nine lost their memories soon after that. Therefore I'm very concerned and have to consult you about this pressing matter. The odds here with the western medicine are very slim."

Arthur folded his hands and paced around the study room anxiously. He felt so hurt and helpless that being a sophisticated and world renowned doctor, even he couldn't find the cure for his granddaughter's disease.

There were only two kinds of medicine for her disease and both had adverse affects which could impair her lifelong. One was slow to take effect while the other would leave severe after effects. Both of them were not the best and safe option.

"So... what is the third option, if we decide to abandon the first two cures?" Arthur asked Anthony hoping for some better way out of this mess.

Anthony shook his head and answered, "I have read all books and material available about this disease and consulted many experts worldwide. It seems that only the two kinds of medicine can cure her disease irrespective of the side-effects."

Arthur sighed out of disappointment and exclaimed, "This is all my fault to begin with, I did not take care of her carefully. How could I let something like this to happen with my blood?"

"It's not your fault, Grandpa Arthur. Please don't think that way." Anthony said to Arthur, "I hope you can

decide whether to tell Autumn about this or not."

Autumn was a married woman and was going to give birth to babies soon. How could she lose all her memories at such a crucial time? Would Charles agree for her to take the medicine at the cost of her forgetting everything?

Ultimately it was a life altering decision and it had to be Autumn who had to make a decision.

"I think we shouldn't tell Autumn about this right now. There will come a time, because she has to make this decision herself." Arthur said with concern. Autumn would give birth to the babies within the next few months. It was better to tell her about this after the childbirth. Then Arthur would ask her to make a decision.

As for Charles, Arthur thought he should inform Charles the truth so that Autumn and he could discuss it together to help her make the best choice after the babies were born.

"I agree, that seems like the best way around it." Anthony nodded in approval and said, "Autumn will give birth to babies soon and shouldn't be bogged down by this matter right now. The stress will do no good. It's better to tell her about this after the babies are born."

"Yes, you are absolutely right." Arthur nodded slightly and said to Anthony, "Let's go join everyone for dinner now."

They had been speaking for over fifteen minutes in the study and it was time to see whether Autumn's surprise guest had arrived yet or not.

As they walked out of the study, the sound of several woman talking greeted them. Lisa had arrived a while earlier and was chatting with Autumn and Abby. Upon seeing Lisa with delicate makeup, Anthony was shocked and arched his brow.

He realized now that the other guest was Lisa.

"Autumn, is this your second guest?" Arthur asked Autumn hoping to understand the connection between them. Lisa looked familiar to Arthur. He recalled that she was a doctor in Y City Hospital too, but he wondered how Autumn got so close with her. After all Autumn had never mentioned her before.

"Yes, this is the guest I was waiting for." Autumn smiled and said, "Well grandpa, this is Lisa. I believe you met her in the hospital."

"Come and sit here please." Arthur said to them enthusiastically as he welcomed her into the house.

Autumn left the seat beside Anthony for Lisa and said to her with a smile, "Lisa, sit here please."

Lisa felt a little embarrassed and awkward but obliged to Autumn's request. Looking at Lisa and

Anthony, Autumn felt that they looked like a perfect couple.

Autumn spared no effort to get Anthony and Lisa back together during the dinner. "Anthony, I

understand that you have known Lisa for a long time. So why don't you two catch up?" Autumn urged on purpose.

Anthony gave a reluctant smile and answered, "Well, we are just colleagues so the only topic between

us would revolve around work. And that's too boring for dinner. And more so it's not proper to talk about

work here."

Autumn was blindsided by his perfect excuse while Lisa felt of tug of embarrassment. 'Anthony doesn't

care about my feelings at all. He'd rather make excuses than talk to me, ' Lisa thought to herself.

"Fine, as you please." Lisa patted Autumn on her shoulder and indicated her to stop making any further effort. She felt rejected.

She had already gotten used to his cold behavior towards her, so she wouldn't feel disappointed. But sometimes, she felt so tired to actually make an effort.

The atmosphere at the table got a bit awkward and dull owing to Lisa. When they finished dinner,

Autumn took Lisa to a corner, where nobody could see them and said, "Lisa, I'm sorry. I screwed it up. I didn't mean to embarrass you like that"

"It's okay Autumn." Lisa smiled and added, "I know you did all of that out of kindness and just good intentions. It's getting late now and I should head home."

She felt so awkward to be here so she chose to leave abruptly.

"Hold on." Autumn took her back to the living room and said to Anthony, "Hey, you are heading home, right? I know you live in the same community as Lisa, so I want you to escort her home. It's dangerous for a girl to go home alone so late at night."

Chapter 483 Give Up

"No no, there is absolutely no need for that," Lisa responded. After being dismissed by Anthony several times over the course of dinner, she didn't expect that he would drive her. "I can honestly go home by

myself," she added in an affirmative tone.

"Let's go please," Anthony said to Lisa bluntly, as he got up to leave. "I'm heading out now."

Lisa stared at Anthony in disbelief yet a little content. Upon seeing that Anthony agreed to drive Lisa home, Autumn with a satisfied laugh added, "Now that you guys have decided to go, I'll not keep you here any longer. Have a safe drive!"

Anthony strode towards the door, followed by Lisa. It was a twenty-minute drive from the Zhao family house to their neighborhood. On the way home, Anthony didn't utter a word. Lisa intended to say something but held her tongue at last. As a result, an eerie silence prevailed in the car.

After parking his car right across from Lisa's apartment, Anthony finally opened his mouth and uttered, "Here is your stop."

"Well thank you. I'll see you tomorrow!" Lisa responded with a hesitant look. She opened the door but before walking out, she turned around and said, "Today I finally clearly understood why you fell in love with Autumn."

Anthony hated her for saying that and snapped back sharply, "That's none of your business, Lisa. Stay

out of it!"

"Yeah, I understand. I won't meddle in your personal matters, not anymore." Lisa responded calmly almost like she understood what had to be done. With a bitter smile, she went on, "When I ate at the table, I realized that you would never accept me. So I have decided to quit my job here and return to America."

"So you're leaving?" Anthony gazed at Lisa in disbelief. All this while he never actually thought she would return to the United States. After he got over the shock, he asked, "Why did you suddenly make this decision?"

"How does it matter? Weren't you expecting me to leave? Well now, your wish has finally come true," Lisa replied, without a shiver in her voice. She was certain about it now. Today she finally figured it all out sitting at that dinner table. She realized that she should stop wasting time on Anthony. Time and again, Anthony made her realize that he didn't want to mend their relationship. Over the past six months, she flew halfway around the world to get back with him, but he dismissed her every chance he got. There was no reason to go on with this torture, and it was not worth it.

"So soon? I mean you just got settled here," Anthony responded, looking surprised. He had never

thought that Lisa would resolve to leave all of a sudden after all that talk of always being around him to mend their relationship. Upon hearing this, he was overwhelmed by a wave of surprise.

Lisa stated bitterly, "Actually I had been thinking about this for a while now, but it wasn't until tonight did

I actually make up my mind. When I caught a glimpse of how you looked at Autumn with such affection and admiration, I understood that you would never fall in love with me no matter how hard I try. So I decided to let you go."

With her eyes resting on Anthony, she changed the subject and went on, "I'm leaving soon. But before leaving, I think as your friend, I should give you some advice."

Anthony wore a cold expression in his silence. Lisa ignored his look, and went ahead, "Autumn is a good woman who deserves every bit of your affection. But she is married. If she ever finds out how dearly you love her, she will feel troubled and guilty. If you really like her, you should stay away from her and never let her know about your feelings. This way, she can lead a happy life with her husband. I think that's what you should do."

"I know and I understand all of that very well," Anthony replied, as a wry smile spread across his face.

He had resolved to keep his adoration for Autumn to himself. Under no circumstance did he ever intend to let anyone know this, let alone telling Autumn.

"I never intended to tell this to Autumn as I don't expect to win her heart," he said with a resolute look.

After a pause, he continued, "After she gives birth, I'll apply for a transfer to another hospital. I couldn't think of a better option than leaving the Y Hospital."

"Yeah, that makes sense." Lisa nodded approvingly. "It'll do you good, I am sure."

Anthony looked at Lisa with kind eyes and asked, "Have you really made up your mind to leave?"

When Lisa came to Y City all alone for him, Anthony had complex feelings for her. On the one hand, he didn't want to see her waste time on him. On the other hand, he admired her greatly especially for her determination and strength.

She came to a strange country all alone just to pursue the guy she loved without any assurance of their future. Not every girl had the courage to do that.

He couldn't force himself to accept her, so he had to treat her in a cruel manner to push her away and it had finally worked.

A relieved smile shone on Lisa's face. Since she made her choice, she felt much relieved and optimistic of returning home. She didn't have to conceal her emotions and try all means to please Anthony anymore.

'From today on, he has nothing to do with me. It is way past the time I should have moved on but better later than never.

I don't care who he loves as long as he is happy!' she thought to herself.

"Why did you ask that question? Don't tell me after all this time you don't want me to leave?" Lisa joked yet hoping somehow for him to hold her back. Fixing her earnest eyes on Anthony, she continued in a serious one like a love-lorn girl, "If you ask me to stay, perhaps I'll stay here for you."

Her eyes sparkling with hope, she was so nervous as if her heart was in her mouth. If Anthony asked her to stay, she wouldn't go anywhere, not now nor ever.

Deep inside, she yearned for a positive sign from Anthony. After all this was the first time since she came that they had exchanged words and had a polite conversation.

However, Anthony didn't give the reply she sought. With a warm smile he asked in a bid to change the topic yet answer her question, "So when are you going to leave? I'll definitely see you off at the airport."

When she heard his diplomatic answer, all the hope left in her eyes and her heart was crushed.

'I am so very stupid after everything we have been through. Why did I still hope for something from him?

He doesn't love me at all. Why would he ask me to stay?' she ridiculed herself inside to reduce the burdening pain she felt.

"No, thanks for the offer," she rejected. "I'll resign tomorrow. After the resignation procedure is finished,

I'll have serve a month of notice period. I don't want you to see me off. I'm afraid I might burst into tears at the sight of you. I wish you happiness and all the luck for a bright future."

"I'm sorry," Anthony responded with guilt of having let her down. He couldn't think of anything else to say in that moment.

"You didn't need to apologize Anthony," Lisa said. With a desperate smile, she continued, "This was all my own idea and doing. I came to you and tried to get back with you. I'm tired now of repeatedly trying so I give up."

'You'll never find a woman who loves you as much as I did, ' Lisa said to herself silently with

disappointment.

"Goodbye!" Lisa said in a heartbroken tone. She turned around and got out of the car. Overcome with grief, she slowly walked into the apartment building, as tears trickled down her flushed cheek. It was finally over and there was nothing to do but move on.

Watching Lisa walk into her building, Anthony let out a sigh, and then drove straight to the hospital.

The next morning, the news about Lisa's resignation had spread like wild fire throughout the hospital.

Many nosy nurses came to Anthony and inquired about Lisa's sudden resignation. "Did Lisa give up pursuing you because you refused her consistently?" Anthony did not respond but instead smiled at them.

During lunch, he caught sight of Lisa. With a wide smile, she was talking to someone else. Anthony felt like he was looking at the same Lisa whom he met in college for the first time.

Since Lisa came to Y City, Anthony hadn't seen her with such a bright smile. She looked wonderful and at peace.

He grabbed his meal, took a seat and began eating. After bidding farewell to her friend, Lisa sat down

opposite to Anthony with her tray and asked, "May I sit here?"

Chapter 484 Something Bad Is Gonna Happen

"Please have a seat," Anthony smiled at Lisa warmly, as he watched her take the seat opposite him.

Lisa took a small bite of her steamed egg custard and remarked in a regretful tone, "After I return to

America, it'll be hard to find delicious Chinese food."

Anthony asked in shock as his eyes opened wide, "Did you really resign today?"

"Oh, yeah I did," Lisa replied blankly. Lisa was a girl of her word. Now that she had decided to leave,

she was determined to get everything in order to leave as soon as possible. So after she reached the

hospital this morning, she headed straight to the dean's office and handed in her resignation.

"The dean agreed to handle my resignation procedures soon after he knew that I needed to go back.

Probably things will be settled in a week," Lisa stated.

"So soon? I thought it was going to take a month." Anthony froze in thought, 'This time when she

leaves she'll leave here forever. I might never see her again.'

"I don't think it's fast really. If it were up to me, I'd finish the procedures tomorrow itself," Lisa replied

with a downcast expression, as she adorned a faint smile. She soon changed the subject and

continued, "My family and friends were so excited and happy when they heard that I was coming back

soon. If you ever come to America, please do drop by and visit me. I'll be more than happy to see you there."

"Okay, I will surely. If you ever come back here, I'll be glad to meet you as well," Anthony reciprocated in a rather flat tone.

With a polite smile, Lisa said to Anthony, "To be honest, I don't think I'll come back here. I have many miserable memories here. If I return, I might find it difficult to live it all over again."

She glanced at Anthony and said, "I'm full now. I gotta go finish some documentation."

Since that lunch, Anthony didn't meet Lisa again at the hospital. It seemed like Lisa was dodging him deliberately.

On the day Lisa finished her exiting procedures, she invited Autumn to dine out. Autumn gladly agreed expecting to hear news about the development between Lisa and Anthony. But to her amazement, Lisa told her that she had booked her air ticket and was leaving the country soon.

"Why did you make this decision all of a sudden? What happened since I last met you for things to have gone down in a drastically different direction?" Autumn asked as her brows were raised with

confusion.

"I had considered leaving for a long time. So, it wasn't a rash decision. The circumstances here are not in my favor," Lisa replied with a wide smile. "Now that Anthony doesn't like me, I have no reason to continue to stay here. I think leaving is the best decision for both of us. I can move on without badgering him to date me"

"But..." Autumn frowned. "How are you dealing with leaving him behind like this?"

"I have no choice. If I got even one sign from him about wanting this relationship, I would have dedicated my heart and soul into rekindling our fire, but it does not seem like he wants us with the same intensity I do," Lisa replied with a bitter smile. "He loves someone else. No matter how hard I try, I will never get him back. I can see that my love for him has become a burden for him which is anchoring him down. So I must leave him. I don't want to leave a bad impression on him."

Autumn wrinkled her forehead into a frown, not knowing how to comfort her.

'I don't want to see Lisa leave. If she leaves, Anthony will never find a girl who loves him as much as Lisa does.

She is a good girl, why doesn't he like her? What kind of girl does he want to date?' she wondered.

Staring at Autumn's scowling face, Lisa poked fun with a smile, "Come on! I'm the one with a broken heart. Why do you look sadder than me?"

Autumn remained silent.

"Actually I came to say goodbye to you. You tried your best in helping me win back Anthony. I really appreciate your support. In the future, if you take a travel to America, please do visit me," Lisa said while looking at Autumn.

"Now that you have resolved to leave, I'll respect your decision and support you," Autumn sighed with a disappointed look. "You mentioned earlier... Anthony has a crush on someone. Who is that girl?"

"Well..." Lisa stammered, not knowing what to say next. With an embarrassed expression, she glanced at Autumn, and went on, "I think it's better for you not to know it. Anthony and she can never be together."

"Why not?" Autumn asked in utter confusion. Observing Lisa's hesitant expression, she changed the subject, "Forget it. If you don't want to tell me, I understand. Well, then I wish you a safe journey and the best for your future."

Autumn and Lisa left the restaurant and bid farewell to each other cordially.

Brent had driven Autumn here. When she walked back to her car, she didn't find him inside. She called him, but no one answered. As Brent didn't show up, she lost her patience and grew anxious.

She stood beside the car, looking all around. All of a sudden, she caught a glimpse of Leila. But in a blink of an eye, she was out of sight. Autumn was shocked.

Fear crept up on her as she suspected that she was traced. After waiting for quite a while, Brent finally turned up. He apologized to Autumn almost like he hadn't disappeared for long, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Lu. I had diarrhea, so I urgently rushed to the bathroom. Why didn't you call me?"

"I called you several times but no one answered," Autumn replied with discontent. "Did anything happen to you, Brent? How come you have an upset stomach so frequently?"

Autumn didn't believe his excuse for he had always used the same excuse.

Brent's expression told her that something had happened to him which he was hiding.

"I'm fine," Brent replied, avoiding Autumn's eyes. "Oh, I forgot I left my phone in the car," he faltered.

With an awkward smile, he tried to change the topic and said, "Mrs. Lu, did you wait a long time?"

"It doesn't matter. Let's just head home!" Autumn urged, looking displeased. She felt uncomfortable

standing there almost like someone was watching her. All she wanted was to leave here as soon as possible to feel safe and calm again.

After reaching home, she still experienced palpitations from that anxious situation. She had a gut feeling that something terrible might happen.

Nancy poured Autumn a glass of milk. Noticing that Autumn looked restless, she asked, "Is everything okay, Mrs. Lu?"

"I'm disillusioned. I feel like something bad is going to happen," Autumn answered with a worried and anxious expression. She confided in Nancy for she couldn't find anyone else and needed to talk about it as she was growing increasingly worried by the minute.

Since Chris was married and no longer in the same, Autumn couldn't find someone to talk to immediately.

"What happened? Did you not sleep well? Is your belly hurting?" Nancy asked with concern. Ever since Autumn hired Brent as her driver, Nancy treated her like her own daughter. That was why she looked equally worried and concerned when Autumn told her the problem.

"I'm at a loss of words," Autumn shook her head with a troubled look. She constantly recalled the flashing sight of Leila. As she recalled that Leila feigned her pregnancy and traced herself stealthily, her uneasiness increased greatly.

"Mrs. Lu," Nancy called tenderly, as she took a seat next to Autumn. "Perhaps you haven't rested well. That's why you are so nervous. Please go ahead and sleep for a while. You are home now, safe and sound. Nothing will happen to you here," she consoled.

"I really hope so," Autumn responded absently as her thoughts were caught in a mess.

Chapter 485 Emily's Condition Has Worsened

Autumn retired early after having dinner. She hoped that a good night's rest would help her get rid of this discomfort. However, she woke up in the middle of the night with the same heavy feeling. Her throat felt dry so she decided to go downstairs for a glass of water. She frowned as she heard Charles's voice coming from the living room. He was on the phone talking to someone. "I'm uneasy telling Autumn about this, you know how she's been doing lately. She went to bed early, but I guess I have to tell her about it tomorrow," Charles said in a resigned tone.

He was quiet for a while, listening to whoever was on the other line. After a few seconds, he spoke again in a low tone, "Okay, I get it. I will tell her." He hung up the phone with a sigh, not realizing that

Autumn was behind him. He was taken aback when he saw her and frowned slightly. "You startled me.

What are you doing up?" Charles asked in a concerned tone.

"I woke up feeling thirsty so I came down to get a glass of water," Autumn replied, looking searchingly at her husband. "Who was that just now?" she asked referring to his phone call.

"Just office staff asking something about work," Charles replied not meeting Autumn's eyes. His hand unconsciously tightened on his phone. He already decided that he would wait until the morning before telling Autumn about the phone call.

"Really? But I think I heard you mentioned my name," Autumn insisted, her eyes fixed on her husband's to catch his changing expression.

"Charles, tell me what's going on. You don't have to worry about me. I'm strong, I can take whatever it is," Autumn pleaded, catching Charles's sleeves urgently.

Charles hesitated briefly; he knew it was hard to put off Autumn now that she heard part of the conversation. With a sigh, he led his wife to the sofa, pouring her a glass of water from the pitcher by the table. He made sure she finished her glass before speaking in a gentle tone, "You have to promise

me that you will keep calm after hearing what I have to say. You're in the third trimester. If you get too excited, the consequences will be terrifying."

Autumn gently rubbed her tummy and said seriously, "Rest assured that I have my emotions under control. There's nothing more important to me than our babies. I will protect them at all costs."

After hearing Autumn's reassurance, Charles decided to tell her the truth. "I'm sorry for lying to you," he apologized gently, taking his wife's hand. "Actually, it was Grandpa Arthur I was talking to on the phone, not my office staff."

"Grandpa?" Autumn's heart skipped a bit at what she heard. "Why did he call you so late?"

"He called about..." Charles broke off not knowing whether he should continue. With a deep sigh, he continued, "Grandma Emily's condition has worsened. They have brought her to the hospital now."

"What?!" The color drained from Autumn's face as she heard the news. Although she had been trying hard to mentally prepare herself for this day, the reality was still hard to take. Panic gripped her heart at the thought of losing Emily. "How is that possible?" She jumped to her feet, asking Charles in a trembling voice.

"I'm sorry, sweetheart, but it's true." Charles held Autumn in his arms. "Take a deep breath. Think about

our babies," he whispered gently.

His reminder about their babies had a calming effect on Autumn. "How is Grandma Emily now?" she asked anxiously.

"Grandpa Arthur told me she seemed unwell after supper so he took her to the hospital. He didn't realize that her condition had worsened and was surprised when the doctor took her straight to the operating room. He wanted to call you but decided to call me instead. We agreed to wait until tomorrow

before telling you. I didn't expect..."

Autumn didn't let him finish. "I have to see her now, Charles. Please take me to the hospital now!"

Autumn cried, her eyes wild.

"All right, Autumn, calm down." Charles tightened his arms around Autumn, gently massaging her back.

"Listen, first, you calm down, and then I will take you to the hospital. You'll only make matters worse if you go to the hospital in your present condition."

"You're right. I have to pull myself together," Autumn said, taking deep steadying breaths. They rested on the sofa for a while until Autumn regained her color and looked less flustered. They went straight to

the operating room upon reaching the hospital. Arthur and Amy rushed to them at once.

"Why did you come, Autumn?" Amy asked in concern. She frowned, turning to Charles. "Didn't we agree that you would wait until tomorrow? Why did you bring her here, now?" she demanded, mildly scolding Charles.

"Don't blame Charles, grandma," Autumn defended her husband immediately. She was too worried about Emily's situation to bother explaining to them why Charles was forced to tell her. Catching Arthur's hand in a firm grip, she inquired fretfully, "Grandpa, how is Grandma Emily now?"

"Not too good, I'm afraid," Arthur answered truthfully. "Autumn, you should brace yourself; you know this day will come sooner or later. The doctors are doing their best to save her. You must stay calm for the sake of the babies in your tummy."

Although Autumn knew that she should do as Arthur said, she couldn't stop the feeling of foreboding gripping her, making her shake.

After all, Emily was her dearest grandmother. They had been through a lot together.

Charles, noticing the distraught look in Autumn's eyes, rushed to seat her on the waiting bench. "You're

freaking out, Autumn," he said. "Sit and relax."

While sitting nervously, Autumn felt a sharp pain in her tummy and started to panic. She got up hurriedly to call Charles, feeling sudden wetness on her undies. As she looked down and saw blood stains on the spot where she was sitting, she swayed and almost fell. "Char...Charles..." she called her husband distraughtly.

"What is it, Autumn? What's wrong?" Charles asked anxiously catching Autumn in his arms. He noticed her pale face and the horrified way she was looking down at the bench. At the sight of the blood stains, Charles's heart stopped for a second. Fear almost froze his brain.

"How... what should we do?" Autumn's alarmed voice brought him back to the crisis in hand. Arthur and Amy noticed the commotion and rushed to Autumn's side, overwhelmed by the situation. "Please wait here for Grandma Emily, grandpa, grandma. I'll bring Autumn to the Emergency Room." Charles said taking charge of the situation.

"Okay, hurry!" Arthur urged him nervously.

Charles picked up his horrified wife and rushed right to Anthony's office down the hall. Anthony was about to go home for the night since he was not feeling well?when suddenly the door burst open to

admit Charles with pale Autumn in his arms. "Oh, God. What happened?" Anthony shouted leading

Charles to the examination table.

"Her grandma's condition deteriorated. The shock must have been too much for her. She just started

bleeding. Please see to her at once!" Charles ordered Anthony; he was beside himself with anxiety.

Anthony's face turned grim as he assessed the situation.

Bleeding at the beginning of the third trimester is not a good sign. He hoped to God there was nothing

wrong with the babies.

"Put her here. I'll examine her now, calm down and wait outside," Anthony ordered. Charles went out of

the room reluctantly.

Sweating profusely, Autumn gripped Anthony's hand and told him desperately, "Anthony, please help

me, don't let me lose my babies."

"Stop talking and calm yourself. Be still," Anthony ordered gently, frowning in concentration. "Or else,

I'm not sure if I can help you save them."

Chapter 486 Stay In Bed

Anthony gave Autumn a thorough checkup. While waiting for the examination report, Autumn could not

keep her mind off Emily's deteriorating health as well. She wanted to go visit Emily.

With Autumn's extreme emotions and fragile health, Anthony persuaded her to calm down. He advised her to check on Emily once she got better. In spite of Anthony's persuasion, Autumn stubbornly insisted to check on Emily right away.

"Just lie down!" Anthony shouted with a commanding air. It was the first time that he had snapped at Autumn. "If you continue to act like this, you would lose your babies!" He howled at Autumn with a grave look.

Hearing Anthony's howl, Autumn was petrified. Bursting out into tears, with a fragile expression, she sobbed, "I..."

"Come on! Don't cry," Anthony said in a comforting tone as he noticed Autumn's tear-filled eyes and heart-broken expression. "Don't worry, we got the best doctors here. They're going to help Emily make it through."

"Really?" Autumn answered with tears gushing out from her eyes. Her eyes gleaming with concern, she stared at Anthony and asked, "Is grandma really gonna be okay?"

Anthony meditated in silence. Actually, he had learnt about Emily's condition. Knowing it was just a

matter of time before her body gave up, he was certain that Autumn was not ready to take this terrible news yet.

The only thing he could do was to tell some white lies to Autumn and help her get through this.

"Yes, she will. Your grandma will be okay," Anthony reassured Autumn.

His words set Autumn's mind at rest. She composed herself and laid there silently.

Anthony sighed in relief. "You should take care of your unborn babies, Autumn. If your grandma woke up and found out you lost your babies because of her, it would be hard to bear for her and she would blame herself,"

he reminded Autumn tenderly. "So you must look after yourself, okay?"

"Okay," Autumn answered. Anthony studied psychology in the university. Under his guidance, Autumn gradually calmed down. Laying on the bed, she looked much better.

"Is the result ready?" Autumn asked Anthony.

Anthony left for a while. When he came back, he had with him the results. With a scowl, he replied in a serious tone, "There are two reasons why you had a bleeding. It's either caused by placenta previa or

premature delivery."

"So, what happened to me?" Autumn asked anxiously.

"Are you nervous now?" Anthony asked. He said jokingly, "You need to know you're pregnant with twins.

If I were you, I would be careful not to let them get hurt."

"Come on! Tell me now," Autumn demanded anxiously. "I checked it myself. You didn't suffer from

abdominal pain and your bleeding wasn't serious. You just sustained a blow and got the preterm of

labor. If you continue to get stressed like this, you're much likely to give birth prematurely," Anthony

replied in a solemn tone.

"Just tell me one thing. Are my babies okay?" Autumn asked, looking nervous.

"You need to stay in bed and get some rest. You must also control your emotions," Anthony advised.

"Alright, I will." Autumn nodded obediently.

In case of any emergency, I'll ask Mr. Lu to handle the registration procedures for you. You need to stay

here for two days," Anthony added.

Autumn nodded her head again. After coaxing Autumn into sleeping, Anthony left and told Charles who

was waiting outside the ward, "Please go and settle Autumn's admission procedure. She needs to be

hospitalized for observation."

"How is she? Is she alright?" Charles asked, looking worried.

"Nothing serious. But she still needs great care," Anthony replied. Before Charles could utter another word, he urged, "Autumn is resting inside. Go fix her hospital registration now."

Charles completed the registration procedures and transferred Autumn to a general ward. When he entered Autumn's ward, he poured her a glass of water and asked with concern, "Are you feeling better?"

"I'm fine." Autumn answered. With an anxious look on her face, she asked Charles, "How about Grandma Emily? Is she alright?"

Charles froze for a while, which escaped Autumn's observation. She grabbed Charles's hand tightly and worriedly asked, "How is she?"

Charles peeled an apple for Autumn and replied, "I don't know. I've been waiting for you outside, and then went for the admission procedure. I didn't have time to check Grandma Emily."

"Go have a look," Autumn insisted.

"Then eat the apple," Charles handed the freshly-peeled apple to her. Autumn took the apple and insisted, "Go now."

"Okay," Charles agreed. He rose from his seat, walked towards entrance and left the door ajar. Peeping through the crack, he saw Autumn lying on the bed staring outside the window wistfully.

Charles heaved a sigh and closed the door gently. Arthur and Amy were standing outside the door. As they saw Charles walk out, they dashed to him and whispered, "How is Autumn? Is she alright?"

"Anthony said she was fine. She can't sustain any emotional blows and needs rest," Charles replied with a gloomy look on his face. "I don't know how to mention Grandma Emily's death to her."

"Let's just keep it from her for now." Arthur suggested with a heavy heart. He sighed, "When Emily entered the surgery room, she got so worried that she almost lost her babies. If she knew Emily left, I don't know what would happen to her."

"We'd better keep it to ourselves for now," Arthur sighed.

Amy sobbed, "Emily devoted herself to us. She did her job faithfully in our house. She raised Autumn up. And now Autumn couldn't even attend her funeral."

"Well, stop crying. Autumn might hear you." Arthur intervened, as he looked through the window to

check on Autumn.

Anthony was worried about Autumn's health. He had heard about Emily's death. Since Arthur and the dean were on good terms, the dean asked the best doctors to perform the surgery for Emily. Though they had done their best, they still failed to save her life.

When Anthony reached Autumn's ward, he immediately saw Charles, Arthur and Amy.

"Here you are." Arthur greeted Anthony blankly. He was still trying to cope with the loss of Emily.

Chapter 488 Emily's Funeral

Charles pulled Anthony to the corner of the hall and said, "I just want to discuss this matter with you."

Charles spoke in a somber voice. "I have decided to do Emily's funeral myself. Autumn will not be able to attend the funeral. But it is my duty as her grandson-in-law to see to it that she is respectfully laid

down. I also have an obligation to say goodbye to her on Autumn's behalf." Autumn was kept in the

dark regarding her grandmother's demise. She was at a very advanced stage of her pregnancy, and

given her delicate health and mental condition, this news could prove to be lethal for her at this stage.

Charles spoke as he took Anthony into confidence. "But someone has to be there with Autumn to take

care of her. Also if she doesn't see me for a long time, that will arouse her suspicion. So..."

Anthony stopped him before he could finish the sentence and said, " Okay, I see. So you want me to take care of Autumn while you're away, right?"

"Yes," Charles replied with a smile. He continued politely, " Who else can I trust in this situation? And I am sure that Autumn will also have a good company if you are around. Since I have to spend a lot of time at the funeral in the next few days."

Anthony looked at Charles, gave him an affirmative nod and said, " Okay, do what you should do and I'll look after Autumn." Charles was relieved when Anthony readily consented to this request. Anthony had been a great support all through out Autumn's pregnancy and Charles could not thank him enough for what he did for Autumn.

For the next three days, Autumn saw very little of her husband. She was told and convinced that she needed to stay in the hospital for her babies' sake. She had no clue about what was going on in her grandparents' house in her absence. Anthony came to visit her in her ward often to spend time with her and showed great concern for her. Autumn's favorite pastime when she had no one to talk to during her pregnancy was to read parenting books. Also she was given a task to take a note of her babies' movements. So she just focused on that. That day as she flipped over that pages of the parenting

book, Anthony came to her ward. It was just before the lunch time. All these days, when Charles could not be with her, Anthony made sure he was present during each of her meal. Though she was touched by his gesture, she could not help teasing him this time. "Hey, Anthony, you really have a very leisurely job! Don't you have any other patients? Why do you come to my ward every day?"

Anthony was startled at the sudden question coming from Autumn. He could not reveal the real reason behind Charles's absence and his frequent visit to her ward. "Obviously, I'm taking care of you as a doctor and also as your friend. Don't be so ungrateful, Autumn." Anthony pretended to be teased just to make her happy. "You'll be out of the hospital soon, and then, I won't take care of you even if you ask me to."

Autumn smiled apologetically and said, "You know I don't mean that. I mean, I'm not your only patient, and you, as a doctor, can't be here all day taking care of me. I can't be so selfish." Autumn did not suspect anything till now. And that was a great relief for Anthony. He had been able to play his part well. He smiled gently and said, "I am aware of my duties as a doctor. You just take care of yourself."

"Oh, Anthony, I have something to ask you." Her sudden remark sent a chill down Anthony's spine. Did

she begin to suspect anything? Pretending to be absolutely normal, Anthony asked, " Please go ahead." Autumn had a little concern as she spoke. She was given to understand that Charles was busy with his work and hence, he could not visit her as often. Even Autumn had been a understanding wife, but once in a while she was stung by some kind of a separation anxiety. Ever since she became pregnant, she had enjoyed undivided attention from Charles which she kind of got used to. Now, in the last couple of days, Charles' not being around as much as made her feel a void that she tried to cover up and distract herself to either reading or talking to the hospital staff.

'Will he come today?' she wondered.

"Do you know what Charles has been doing these days? He seems very busy," said Autumn. Anthony could already see it coming. He pretended to be calm as if nothing happened.

"Something happened in his company that demands his presence there. He's been working on it these days, so he asked me to take care of you." Anthony tried to make it as normal as he could. He could not afford to give the slightest hint of the reality to Autumn. Hence he resorted to tell a little white lie in a

normal voice.

Charles seldom discussed his office matters with Autumn. Nevertheless, his prolonged absence made her worried. "Is it something serious?" Autumn asked Anthony with a lot of concern in her voice.

"Nothing to worry about, I suppose," Anthony answered casually and handed her a freshly peeled apple. This act of pretense was getting difficult with every passing moment. Autumn took the apple in her hand and drifted into some deep thought. Anthony observed her and thought to himself, 'How sensitive she is? Even the mention of a slightest tension of someone close to her makes her so worried.' "What would you like for supper?" he asked gently to bring her back from the trance. "I'll cook for you."

"It's very kind of you, but don't bother," Autumn declined politely. "I'll wait for Charles. He should come today."

"Charles... he probably cannot come today," Anthony said lightly. He avoided eye contact with Autumn as he spoke these words, yet he watched her frown from the corner of his eyes.

Emily was going to be buried today and Charles must be at the funeral by now.

"What? What do you mean by that?" Autumn asked with a perplexed look on her face.

"Oh, nothing at all, it is just conjecture." Anthony hurriedly covered up his slip of the tongue. Autumn

could sense something weird in the way Anthony spoke and behaved with her. Her mind got clouded with several thoughts. Anthony tried to change the topic. "It's getting windy." He looked out of the window and tried to divert Autumn's attention. "It seems to be drizzling outside. Let me just close the window." He stood up at once and headed for the window. It was becoming more and more difficult to behave normal in front of Autumn.

Autumn could not understand how much information she could expect from Anthony if it was indeed something to do with Charles' official matter. "Thank you." Autumn forced a smile, looking out of the window. All of a sudden, an uneasiness seized her. She could sense a void inside her heart. All she wished was to have Charles right next to her as soon as possible.

What she didn't know was that just a few kilometers away, her grandmother had started off for an eternal journey, away from her. As she was seated in the hospital ward thinking about all possible reasons for Charles being away from her, Emily's funeral was going on. It was a faint sense of loss and void that Autumn could feel at the bottom of her heart. Only she did not know the reason behind it.

On the other part of Y City, amidst a heavy downpour, a group of people gathered to bid their final

goodbye to Emily. The sky was hazy and the rain was falling steadily on the smooth coffin lid.

Everybody gathered around Emily's coffin with Charles, Arthur and Amy in the front row. Charles' heart was heavy not just for Emily's demise but also with the guilt of hiding such an important information from Autumn. He shuddered from the thought of how she would react when she would come to know about this.

The funeral was a big one, but just a few people had showed up because Emily had no family. The rain drops fell on the coffin, adding more sadness to the grave atmosphere. Amy kept wiping the coffin affectionately and untiringly with tears in her eyes. It was the toughest moment in anyone's life to bid a final goodbye to someone who had been such an integral part of your life. "It's time to lower the coffin," reminded a man behind Charles. Charles turned towards him and then again turned his face towards the coffin trying to get a final glance of Emily's face as rain dropped and washed over it making the vision blurred.

"That's enough. Stop it," Arthur said to Amy and pulled her away from the coffin. "It's raining. You can't have it dried by wiping it."

Amy suddenly lost her composure. She threw herself into her husband's arms and burst into tears.

"Time's up," the man reminded again.

Emily was finally lowered and laid down to sleep peacefully. Charles did not remember when the funeral ended, until Arthur came and told him that it was over and that they could leave the cemetery.

Charles said to Arthur, " Please, you go ahead. I want to spend more time with Grandma Emily for

Autumn's sake." Charles knew Emily would approve of holding her funeral without Autumn's

knowledge, but he still felt sorry for Emily. He did not know how he would face Autumn when she came to know about it.

He then held his umbrella over Emily's tombstone, which had a black-and-white photograph of her with

a big smile. He looked her smiling face and a painful smile appeared on his own face. 'She must be in

a happy space bereft of all pains and sufferings, ' he thought to himself. "Grandma Emily, I'm sorry. It's

your burial day, but Autumn could not be here to say goodbye to you," Charles said gently, looking at

Emily's photo.

"Please don't blame her. She nearly had a miscarriage when she learned that your condition had

worsened. I had no choice but to hide your death from her," Charles went on. "Autumn didn't mean not

to come to bid the final farewell to you.

After her delivery, I will definitely bring her and our babies to meet you and apologize to you. Blame me instead of Autumn." Completely drenched with rain, he stayed there talking to Emily until it was dark.

He then drove to the hospital. Autumn was delighted to see Charles entering her room at one moment and the very next moment, she noticed that he was dripping from head to toe. "What is this, Charles?

Why are you all wet?" she asked apprehensively.

"I hurried out of the office after work and forgot my umbrella." Once again Charles lied to Autumn.

Charles looked at Autumn affectionately. She looked beautiful and absolutely undisturbed, exactly the way he wanted her to be.

Autumn looked at Charles with concern in her eyes. "Oh, you, as an expectant father, how come you don't know how to take care of yourself at all?" Autumn sighed helplessly. Then she sat him down and said, "You sit and I'll get you a glass of hot water. Otherwise you will catch a cold."

She then handed over the towel to Charles and urged him to take a shower. When he came out of the shower, Autumn was lying on her single bed. Charles crept on to the bed silently and held her from the back.

"What's wrong, Charles?" Autumn could sense a sudden change in his behavior. His unusual silence made her anxious. Autumn tried to turn around and look at him but could not break free from his tight embrace. Charles had his face buried in her neck. "Don't worry, darling. I'm fine. I'm just tired," he whispered, sounding really tired.

Autumn could not bring herself to believe him. She could sense that something was being hidden from her. But she could not make Charles to open up. She felt helpless but she had no other option than to believe in what he said.

Early the next morning Anthony came to her ward and examined her. Later, he turned to Charles and said, "Autumn is stable now. She can be discharged from the hospital."

Autumn was happy to learn about her discharge. Charles brought breakfast for her and went sign the discharge papers. When he came back with the discharge papers, Autumn was all prepared to leave.

Charles had intended to take her directly to Dream Garden, but Autumn insisted on going to her grandparents' house first.

Charles had no choice but to secretly call Arthur and tell him to get the house ready so that there was

no trace of Emily's demise.

When they arrived at the Zhao family, everything looked the same as before, as if nothing had really happened.

Arthur and Amy's eyes brightened up to see Autumn getting off from the car. They had to put up a happy face in front of her. "Oh, Autumn, you have just been discharged from the hospital. You should have gone home to take rest. Why have you come here?" Amy reproached Autumn. Then she turned towards Charles and scolded him, "And you, Charles, why don't you stop her? How can you allow her to go back and forth as soon as she leaves the hospital?"

"Grandma, don't get mad. I insisted that Charles bring me here," Autumn said, grabbed her grandma's hand and tried to calm her down. As she spoke, her eyes roved around the house towards Emily's room. Actually, she came here in such a hurry because she was worried about Emily. When she was in the hospital, she wanted to have a video chat with Emily, but she did not want Emily to know that she was in the hospital, so she decided to contact her after her discharge from the hospital.

Chapter 489 Something Wrong With Your Baby

Autumn thought, doctors and nurses were all busy and chaotic there, and it was far better for Emily to remain away from all of that. She was ill, so she needed the quiet and peace.

"Just come on in," Amy said. Arthur told all the family members to ensure the rooms look the same as before after Charles informed him that Autumn was on her way.

Amy asked Autumn to have a seat and asked, "Are you here for Emily? My dear child, you just left the hospital. You should take some while to rest and recover."

"Yes, grandmother I will, don't worry." Autumn said awkwardly, "I'm increasingly worried about her, so I'm here to ask if I can make a video call to her."

"No, that is not possible!" Arthur interrupted Amy without letting her answer, which shocked Autumn.

"Why?" She couldn't understand what was happening and looked at Arthur. "All I want is just to take a look at Grandma Emily. Why is it so hard?"

Arthur calmed down and said, "Autumn, dear, Emily has gone abroad to see a doctor, not to travel. She may be sleeping now. Given her condition, how can you wake her up? Well, look, if it is any consolation I promise that you will see her soon, but first you have to promise to get better and bring the children into the world, and then take out one month to recover. By that time your Grandma Emily will return, and you can see her, what do you think?"

"But..." Autumn was still concerned.

"Come on, no more BUTs. We are just looking out the both of you." Charles looked at her and

said, "You know, the most important thing now is that Grandma Emily and you both recover your health

right?"

Autumn paused for a moment, and nodded. She hoped that Emily could only remain healthy and

recover completely, no matter how long it would take.

She then promised, "Okay, I'll take good care of myself. Grandpa, don't forget your promise that you'll

look after Grandma Emily."

"That's okay." Arthur without stuttering lied to her, "Her doctor is my good friend. I'm sure that he'll do his

best."

Autumn was relieved after hearing what Arthur added. She could probably get better soon, but Charles

could not. He would need some time to recover.

Maybe it was because he got wet in the rain, Charles was knocked over by fever and it couldn't be

controlled by medicines, so Autumn was incredibly worried about his health.

"Charles, why don't you go have a bath and I'll make you a bowl of ginger soup. If your current condition persists till tomorrow, I'll have to take you to the hospital to get an IV drip," said Autumn with concerned eyes.

"Don't worry. I'll be fine. It's just a fever, and it'll pass when its course is over." Charles grabbed her by the arm and stopped her in her tracks. He insisted that he was okay and urged Autumn to rest along with him.

"Don't you realize that you're sick? Why do you have to act being so tough and strong all the time? Let me just take care of you." Autumn was anxious to cry and said, "Just wait for a few moments, I'll be back soon."

After saying that she immediately rushed downstairs. Nancy came out of her room to see what happened, and then she assisted Autumn to make the ginger soup, and said, "Mrs. Zhao, you don't have to do this yourself. Just leave it to me. I'll handle it from here."

"It's so very late, so I'd rather not bother you. Please go back into your quarter and rest," said Autumn.

"Just leave me be. I can make the soup and off you go."

She then swiftly carried the ginger soup to Charles. When she reached the room upstairs, he just got

out of the bathroom, and she gave him the soup and told him to drink it up.

Charles obediently drank up the soup quickly without uttering a word because he didn't want to make

Autumn worry. The next morning Charles' temperature was back to normal. Autumn was finally

relieved.

In view of everything that happened earlier, Autumn was very careful. She paid all attention to the two

fetus and wouldn't risk anything bad happening to them. In her spare time she would go out with Isla

and Chris for a cup of tea and to chat with them. As godmother and aunt, Isla and Chris bought her lots

of presents, which filled up the baby's nursery with all hues of colors.

She often smiled in such moments of pure bliss, but in the back of her mind she was always worried

about Emily. It had been a long time since she went abroad, and she received no word from her end

and this kept gnawing at her mind.

Over the past few days, Autumn always had the same recurring dream. In the dream Emily was in

good spirit. She stood across her and told her to take care of herself.

Autumn stretched her hands to touch her, but Emily was somehow levitating farther and farther away.

No matter how loudly she shouted or tried, she just couldn't reach her.

Autumn just yearned to say hello to Emily, as her babies would soon join the world in a month.

"What are you thinking about, honey?" Charles held her in his warm arms from behind and asked as

Autumn stood by the window watching the beautiful night view. Her pregnant belly was reflecting in the glass. This all looked perfect.

"Well, I was thinking whether the babies are boys or girls." Autumn smiled as she spoke.

"In one month, you'll not only know the answer but have them in your loving embrace. Honey, it's pretty late now. You should head to bed, okay?" Charles smiled.

"All right." Autumn nodded.

When Autumn woke up in the next day, it was already noon. Charles had gone to work. Autumn felt oppressive for no reason, so she called Isla, asking her if she had time to meet her for a while.

Isla said yes almost immediately and they decided a mutually suitable time and place.

Autumn got ready in a jiffy and Brent dropped her off where she was to meet with Isla. When she reached there she didn't see Isla, so she ordered a glass of orange juice and sat there reading a book anticipating her arrival.

In a short while, someone came and sat opposite her. Autumn didn't look up, as she assumed it was Isla and said, "How could you make me wait so long? I'm a pregnant woman, and I hope you know that."

As she received no response, Autumn looked up to see who it was. When she saw who sat opposite, her smile froze at once.

"What are you doing up here?" She was stunned to see the person was not Isla, but Leila, who had been awol for quite a while.

"Well here I am. Long time no see." Leila's belly looked even bigger and she looked at Autumn, with wide warm smile.

Autumn looked at Leila with surprise and asked, "According to the time you announced your pregnancy, it seems that you should have given birth by now. But look at you now, is there something wrong with the baby?"

Leila paused for a moment and drew out a round cotton pillow from her bosom. She looked at Autumn and said, "Well you caught my bluff, so no need to pretend."

"What on earth do you mean by this?" Autumn stared at her blankly and asked.

She wondered what Leila's purpose of pretending to be pregnant.

Leila had disappeared for a long time, but now she suddenly showed herself up in front of Autumn.

Autumn frowned deeply as she asked, "You've been following me, haven't you?"

She recalled how she probably saw Leila around a couple of times, which made her anxious.

Chapter 490 I Don't Believe

"You're having your baby, aren't you?" Leila asked, as she focused her sight on Autumn's belly. Since

she heard about Autumn's pregnancy, she was keeping track of Autumn's due date. Not until Leila

found out she was giving birth did she dare to actually show up in front of her.

"What do you want, Leila?" Autumn asked anxiously. Noticing that Leila fixed her gaze on her belly,

Autumn got nervous and feared that she might hurt her unborn babies.

"Don't get so nervous. I won't do anything to you," Leila replied with a sly smile on her face. As Isla had

chosen to meet at a coffee shop full of people, Leila couldn't even try to lay a hand on Autumn even if

she wanted to do so.

"It's been a long while since I met you. I just wanted to check on you to see how you have been

recently," Leila observed, as a sinister smile came across her face. "I went to the cemetery to pay my

respects to my grandparents the other day. To my surprise," she paused to create an air of suspense and went on,"do you who I saw there?"

"Who?" Autumn asked with her furrowed brows, as her uneasiness increased. Overpowered by a gut feeling about some bad news, she stared at Leila and asked,"What trick are you playing now?"

"My grandparents' graves were next to Emily's. What a coincidence! Perhaps they will be neighbors even in the afterlife." Leila burst into laughter, a vicious smile settled on her face soon after. Autumn trembled with fear and goosebumps appeared all over her body. Casting a dismissive glance at Leila, she snapped back,"Stop speaking rubbish. Emily is currently receiving a treatment abroad."

She then forced herself to calm down and went on,"Do you think I will believe your words just like that? Stop dreaming! I'm going to give birth in a month. All you wanted is to stimulate me now. What's your motive this time?"

Autumn clenched her fists and declared firmly,"No matter what your trick is, it'll never work. I won't believe a single word from you ever. I am not naive."

"Oh is that so?" asked Leila as she continued to smile. She discovered that Autumn was much stronger

and resolute than before. With a snarl, she went on, "I knew you wouldn't believe me, so I took some pictures." She took out her phone, put it on the table and gestured her to see them for herself. "Look, here is her tombstone. Isn't she Emily? She wears a bright smile in the photo on her grave," she remarked confidently.

Autumn tried to resist her pressing curiosity but failed to conquer it. With one glimpse at the phone, she caught sight of Emily's picture on the gravestone. All of a sudden, she was gripped by instant panic and fear. She could not breathe.

What was left of her mind kept screaming at her to leave the coffee house at once. Pretending to be composed and unaffected, she rose from her seat and addressed Leila coldly, "I don't know what you're talking about, but I must leave now."

"Stop, wait a minute!" Leila panicked, as she got up and grabbed Autumn's arm. "If you still doubt my words, I can take you to her graveyard now. Your grandma has been buried for a while, but you haven't visited her even once. Even I feel sorry for her," she exclaimed, with fake sympathy.

Autumn shook off her hand and retorted emotionally, "Just shut your trap! I won't be fooled by you again. I've heard enough."

Autumn kept convincing herself to believe what Charles said. But the minute she saw Emily's photo,

she lost her way. 'The person in the picture is Emily. The picture can't lie, ' her thoughts wavered.

"You just don't have the courage to face the truth, do you?" Leila commented, as if she read Autumn's

mind. "You had someone always by your side at home almost every day along the way. Emily worked

so hard all her life to raise you, but you didn't even attend her funeral. If others found out, they would

immediately call you an ungrateful woman. That's what you fear, isn't it?"

"I am sick and tired of telling you that Emily has gone abroad for her treatment. You're bluffing and I

won't fall for it," Autumn cried out, glaring at Leila angrily just wishing with all her heart that she was

wrong.

"Well, then what about these? How do you justify it?" Leila stated with a smirk, as she dropped some

photos on the table. In those pictures, Charles and she lay on the bed naked. Autumn broke down at

the sight of the photos.

"I can swear these photos are not morphed, Autumn," Leila swore solemnly, as she looked at Autumn

with satisfaction.

"What on earth do you want from me? I mean you never do something without a reason," Autumn asked with a scowling face. "Now that you showed these pictures to me, you must want something. So what is it? Just tell me and get it over with!"

"All I want is Charles. It is always about him and always will be," Leila replied immediately, with a triumphant smile shining on her face. "I appreciate all your help, but I can't give up on Charles. I love him and he loves me. We're mutually attracted to one another. So why can't you give up?"

"Mutually attracted? Now that's just funny," Autumn snorted. "I'm carrying his babies not you. I will not doubt his loyalty even for a second. So don't think you can walk in here with your sly smile and fool me with a set of fake pictures?"

Leila thought that Autumn would collapse as soon as she saw those pictures. But to her surprise, Autumn on the contrary looked quite unaffected and calm. Knitting her brows, she stated, "Believe it or not, I wasn't lying to you."

Pointing out to one specific picture, she declared, "Look at this one. There is a mole on Charles's chest. So how can you say it is a fake photo with such certainty?"

Unwilling to believe Leila's stories, Autumn still gave the picture a glance. 'The man in the photo is

Charles, ' she affirmed her greatest fears.

Dumbfounded, Autumn slumped into her seat, feeling her world collapse around her.

"You believe me now, don't you?" Leila put on a triumphant smile, as she observed the fear and anxiety on Autumn's face. She sneered, "Do you still believe Charles loves you the way you thought he did? He hasn't divorced you yet simply because you're pregnant."

"What is that you want?" Autumn asked with a pale look, as she pressed her belly seeking some comfort. 'If Leila just intended to meddle with me, then she has done it successfully, ' she thought dejectedly.

"Well what do you think?" Leila countered. "When I followed Charles in Europe when he came to attend a meeting, we slept together and got engaged. He promised to divorce you after he returned but unfortunately you got pregnant. You ruined my happiness and stalled our marriage. I won't let you lead a happy life after you ruined my happiness," she stated, gnashing her teeth as she finished her narration.

Upon hearing Leila mentioning the trip to Europe, Autumn almost believed her story. She thought of

that necklace Charles had bought her after his return from Europe. 'Am I the one who stole someone else's happiness? Did Charles really betray me?' she wondered, looking troubled.

"Sometimes I wish you would die. That way I can be with Charles without any hassle for the rest of our lives," Leila expressed her deepest desire, gritting her teeth. After resisting her anger, she warned, "I advise you to leave now. Otherwise you'll still be deserted soon after you give birth to your babies."

Autumn couldn't bear to hear anymore of her stories. With a resolute expression, she stood up immediately and snapped back, "You'll never fool me. I'm going to confront Charles about this and get to the bottom of it. I'll not believe a single word from your lips unless I hear these same words from him."