

Wedded Bride 61

Chapter 61

Linda took Autumn to a restaurant. She handed her the menu with a big smile and said, "This restaurant is well known for its delicious food. Have a look and you can order whatever you want. Please don't stand on ceremony."

However, Autumn only ordered two dishes. Linda furrowed her brows and turned to the waiter. She ordered some other dishes without taking a look at the menu. "Well, if it is not enough, I will order some more later."

"That's enough for the two of us. Maybe we wouldn't be able to finish even this." Autumn hastily told her.

Linda gave her a glass of lemonade and said, "It is your first day here, so there should be a reception in honor of you."

"Are you familiar with this place?" Autumn asked. Just as the old saying goes: people should take things as they come. Thinking of this, Autumn calmed down. She also wanted to figure out what Linda had got up in her sleeves.

"Yes. I used to eat here with Jenny." Linda pretended to mention Jenny unintentionally, and then she made a pretense of embarrassment. She clamped her hand over her mouth. Linda explained to Autumn, "I am sorry. I didn't mean to mention Jenny to you."

"It doesn't matter." Autumn smiled sardonically to herself, but she still acted as if nothing had happened. "I will never care about it." Autumn added.

Linda was insatiable since Autumn did answer back, so she started talking about things that always revolved around Jenny. "Autumn, In fact, I never expected that Jenny would detest you like that. Before you came here, Jenny had lost her heart to Mr. Lu. Perhaps she is just afraid that you will take her beloved, so she treated you like that."

"Really?" Autumn replied indifferently and continued, "But it is all over now. "

"I just feel pity for her." Obviously, Linda was not going to spare her so easily, so she went on. "Though Jenny is a disagreeable bad-tempered woman, she is competent. Mr. Lu always gives her important tasks. She would do a good job on time, so Mr. Lu was always freed from worry."

Saying this, Linda sighed and continued, "But now she has left and all of the work is going to be handed over to us. It means the workload will be burden-some."

Autumn was in a bad mood because of Yvonne, so she was even more distracted when she heard Linda complaining about work. "I will take charge of Jenny's work and I will do mine too. So you don't have to worry about that." Autumn was annoyed now.

"I didn't mean that." With a passive smile, Linda looked at Autumn and explained, "We are workmates, so it is natural that we should cooperate at work. I just feel weird that why Mr. Lu would fire her so easily. He even took the slap from Jenny for you. Ye, what is your relationship with Mr. Lu?"

"Obviously, it is a superior-subordinate relationship." Autumn replied to her impatiently. Linda's real purpose was to find out her relationship with Charles.

"Is there nothing else apart from a professional relationship?" It seemed that Linda was determined to make a detailed inquiry about that. "Everyone in the company knows that the woman who came to you today is Mrs. Lu's sister, and you know her well. So I am afraid that it is not just professional between you and Mr. Lu."

"What do you want to know from me?" Autumn asked her directly.

"Nothing." Linda went on with a smile, "Don't be so disgruntled. I just take you as my friend since you are my workmate now. So it is just girl's talk. Don't be so serious."

"I am your friend?"

Autumn stared at Linda and smiled grimly. "Linda, you were being sarcastic to me with Jenny before Mr. Lu showed up. But you came to make it up with me because Jenny got fired. I know you think that I must have an ambiguous relationship with Mr. Lu."

"Don't speak like that. I invited you for a meal, because I really want to make friends with you."

"Make friends with me?" Autumn laughed sarcastically and went on, "I am sorry. I am a picky woman. Though I never select specific people as my friends, I know clearly that who I am not going to be friends with."

"You....." Linda was startled. She never expected that Autumn would decline her directly. "Ye, I know I have wronged you. But I have also made my apologies. What else do you expect?"

"I don't expect anything." Having said this, Autumn stood up. "I come here to work instead of making friends. And to be frank, I don't have an ambiguous relationship with Mr. Lu. What's more, please don't be so hypocritical. Though we are in the same office, it is enough for us to be workmates. I think now, you may not want to be friends with me at all. Well, fortunately, I have the same intention for you."

Autumn turned around to leave, and left her alone there.

Autumn bought a sandwich from a cafe house nearby. When she went upstairs she happened to meet Charles.

Charles waited for Autumn for a long time. But it was not until he went out that he found she had already left. It drove him mad.

"Where have you been?" No one was present in the office at that time, so Charles held her hands tightly while asking her.

"You're hurting me." Autumn frowned. Somehow she felt embarrassed to meet him.

The thought of Charles dining alone with Yvonne in the evening made her a little upset.

Hearing that, Charles loosened his grip. "Where did you go? Do you know that I have been looking for you?"

It was her first day to work.. He was going to take her out for a feast, but he didn't expect that they would get angry with each other.

Autumn's face darkened with anger. She looked at him face to face. "Why are you looking for me? Why not go to dine with Yvonne?"

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"You are not?" Charles Lu frowned. Autumn Ye was acting a bit of modest under his gaze. Indeed, she had even thought about the togetherness of Charles and Yvonne Gu seriously.

Autumn went silent.

Charles put a stop to the arguments and said to Autumn, "Well, I am not blaming you. I just hope that you are not so stubborn in the future. You should tightly hold on to what is rightfully yours if someone tries to take it away."

"I see."

Autumn sniffed and was about to burst into tears, "So... are you still going to have dinner with Yvonne?"

"Of course I'm going to." Charles nodded faintly. "Now that I have accepted her invitation, of course I should go, but..."

"But what?"

"But I have my own agenda. I'm just going to show up there and then I will come back home, all right?" Charles waited for Autumn's approval. She smiled back and nodded.

Seeing that there was only a sandwich in Autumn's hand, Charles asked, "David told me you went for lunch with Linda. How come you came back only with a sandwich?"

"I am not hungry." Autumn shrugged. Although she put it concisely, Charles understood what she meant.

"About today... I knew the fact that Linda started it but it was Jenny Ding whom I fired. Will you blame me for that?" Hearing what Charles had just said, Autumn was astonished.

She was surprised to know that Charles was aware of the real side of Linda.

"And you..." Charles burst into laughter before she continued.

"What? You are wondering why I still keep her even knowing who she really is?" Charles asked.

Autumn shook her head slightly and quickly figured it out, "Why should I blame you?"

Charles sighed. "Linda's got certain capabilities although her personal characters are not decent. Unlike her, Jenny Ding is purely brainless. As long as she stays in the office, she will always try to make things difficult for you. But Linda... she won't go too far. I can't fire them both at the same time. After all, there are a lot of things to do in the company, so... be careful when you get along with her in the future, I won't be able to protect you all the time. "

"Do not worry, I understand." Autumn smiled. Charles's concerns were pretty much understandable, how could she blame him?

"Well, I will go back to work now." Autumn went back to her desk. It was not long before Linda came back. She looked very calm, as if nothing had happened before.

"Ye, please help me print this document, Mr. Lu needs it tomorrow."

"Ye, can you please bring this reimbursement form to Finance Department? Thank you."

"Ye..."

Linda shoved most of her work to Autumn with big smiles on her face. Autumn didn't turn her down if she was not too occupied.

Linda stopped Autumn before she was leaving the office, "Ye, I know it was your first day at work and I should not bother you with this, but my hands are tight so I am asking for your help."

Linda was smiling. As common saying goes, don't be angry with those who are in smiles, Autumn didn't get angry and just asked faintly, "What's the matter?"

Working overtime at the Cloud Company was common for Autumn. Although it was her first day here today, reasonable overtime was no big deal to her.

"Here is the thing..." Linda paused and then continued. "I have a contract negotiation this evening and Jenny Ding was supposed to go with me. Now that she is gone, I can't do it alone, so I have to ask you to go with me."

"Contract negotiation at this hour of the night?" Autumn frowned. She vaguely guessed what Linda meant for, but couldn't help confirming, "When will the meeting end?"

"It's very simple, just having dinner together with the other party. All you need to do is co-operate and help me occasionally with a few words. After all, you are now working at Shining and will be involved in this in the future. So take today as a learning session." Linda informed her but Autumn already knew that they were mostly supposed to suffer some losses at such a dinner party.

"Linda, don't you have an appointment with Mr. Song tonight?" David Fan frowned slightly. Hearing that Linda was actually taking Autumn to a dinner party, he was more than horrified. If Mr. Lu knew about it, he would turn green-eyed with jealousy.

So Linda was not creating any trouble for Autumn in public but was playing all kinds of tricks behind her back, in a way that it left no evidence to others.

"Yes." Linda slightly nodded and told David, "It was originally the joint responsibility of Jenny and myself. Now that she's gone, I think Autumn should learn to take over. Is that a problem?"

David said with a poker face, "You are such an acquaintance of Mr. Song, so the dinner party is nothing but just a formality. Ye is different from you. You can go on your own. Do not take her with you."

"Different? Different how?" Linda smirked inside and continued talking to David, "David, what do you mean? Mr. Song is a famous lady-killer in the circle, and yes, I have been up my alley dealing with him and won't suffer a great deal. But you know, every time I have dinner with Mr. Song, I got drunk. If there wasn't Jenny to take me home, how could I remain safe and sound? Now that she is gone, do you want me to go alone?"

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"But..." When David was about to say something, Autumn interrupted him, "David, no need to say anything anymore."

Autumn wasn't a spoiled lady who would not do any work. Although she didn't like Linda, she couldn't let her go out alone. After all, it was not safe for a lady to go out by herself.

"I will go with you, " said Autumn plainly to Linda.

After she heard her, Linda smiled. But David was seemingly upset about this.

"You can tidy up your desk first. I will go to fetch the contract." Seeing Linda leave, David walked in front of Autumn's desk and stopped her. "Mrs. Lu, you don't have to agree to go with her. You know that... And if Mr. Lu knows this matter, he will blame me for it."

"Don't worry." Autumn smiled. "He has an appointment with someone else tonight, so he won't come back so early. Moreover, I'd be worried if we let Linda go out alone to meet Mr. Song. Don't worry. I'm an adult and I can take care of myself, " she said.

"But..."

"It's okay. It doesn't matter. I will try to come back early, " Autumn assured David.

David knew that it was impossible to dissuade Autumn, so he quietly came out of the office and dialed Charles's number nervously. However, he couldn't get through the call.

"Please pick up the phone."

David was very anxious, but after Autumn and Linda went out, he tried again but failed to reach Charles on call.

Autumn predicted what would happen during the dinner. Luckily, she listened to Charles's suggestion and wore a pair of long pants today. She thought that if she tried not to talk much during the dinner, she might not draw others' attention. Linda wore a custom-made cheongsam which perfectly showed her graceful and charming figure.

On their way to the restaurant, Linda kept on fixing her make-up. Autumn sat beside her quietly and enjoyed looking out on the streets.

Sending Linda back to her house safe and sound was Autumn's only goal.

"This is a profile about Mr. Song. You can study it now, " said Linda, while taking out a file and throwing it at Autumn's legs.

Without saying anything, Autumn took the document and started reading it carefully.

Mr. Song was one of the regular customers of Shining Company. The amount of orders from him took up a large share of the company's total orders. This time, the cooperation was especially important.

Precisely speaking, this time the cooperative partner wasn't Mr. Song, but a client whom Mr. Song had recommended. The client had just come back from abroad and wasn't familiar with how the business deals worked in domestic.

He had interest in Shining Company's products. After he researched about ten companies in the same industry in Y City, he wanted to meet the people of Shining Company. And he invited Mr. Song to recommend him to them.

Mr. Song provided them with little information. Linda had no idea about client's expectations, likes and interests, food preferences, and so on. What's worse, she knew nothing about the client's company.

Autumn frowned. She thought that Linda shouldn't meet a new client unprepared. It was not the proper way to do business.

"Linda, this..." Autumn was still frowning. "It is often said that one will be successful if one knew the opponents well. The client chooses us, so they must have done a thorough background check of our company. But if we know nothing about their company and sign the contract, I'm afraid that we might not get any benefit from the association."

"Do you think I don't know this?" Linda caught a glimpse of Autumn while fixing her make-up. "This client is very unpredictable. I have tried every way to look for his information but it was of no use. Mr. Song told me that if we succeed in closing a deal with this new client, Shining Company will reach a new height. So I have to try even if there's a slim chance."

Linda didn't tell Autumn that Mr. Song had arranged the dinner today. To put Autumn into an embarrassing situation, Linda accepted his invitation without any hesitation.

"Aren't you worried about this?" Autumn thought that Linda was someone who was trained by Charles, so she wouldn't be that stupid. Perhaps she didn't care about the deal this time because she just wanted to put Autumn in a difficult position.

"I don't worry about anything." Linda smirked and said, "You have just joined our company. There are a lot of things that you don't know. Mr. Song... is a bit lecherous, but he just dare say something unpleasant. And you don't have to worry. He has a sense of propriety while taking any action. I believe we can surely succeed in signing the contract with his help."

Autumn kept silent.

The taxi stopped at the gate of the restaurant. Linda had reserved a private room at this restaurant that had a local flavour.

She learnt that the client just came back from abroad. It was a good idea to choose a traditional restaurant. It would bridge the distance between them and the client.

Autumn couldn't help but have a look at Linda for a little while.

They arrived at the restaurant earlier than others. Mr. Song had reached the private room's door at 6:30 PM. He was a short man. His little eyes were fixed on Linda's breasts. He smiled and said, "Linda, it's been a long time. How are you doing lately?"

Linda smilingly stood up and walked up to Mr. Song while swinging her waist. She extended her hand to receive Mr. Song's arm. "I'm doing very well these days. But you seem to have lost weight. Are you keeping well recently?"

"Actually, I..." Mr. Song took Linda's hand and kept on touching her. Autumn was furious to see this.

"Linda, look, I lost weight because I miss you too much these days. So you must have more glasses of wine with me tonight..." He also pinched Linda's waist happily.

But Linda didn't react to his behavior. She was used to all these things.

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Linda stood up, and then walked towards Autumn. She said to Mr. Song, "I'm afraid that you may not see Jenny again because she quit today. But... she was replaced by a gorgeous beauty. She is our new companion, Ye."

"Ye, this is Mr. Song." Linda introduced Autumn to Mr. Song on purpose. Hearing this, Autumn had to raise her head and look above. She gave a slight smile to Mr. Song and said, "Nice to see you, Mr. Song."

Noticing the lust that gleamed through Mr. Song's eyes, Autumn became a little infuriated with concern. Then, she gave Linda a momentary glance. She captured a fleeting smug smile in her eyes.

Linda held Autumn by the arm and said smilingly, "Mr. Song, today is her first day at work. I brought her here to introduce her to you. Unlike me, she is shy and a little inexperienced. Please control your behavior a little and don't frighten her."

Mr. Song stared at Autumn and said, "Don't worry. I won't frighten her." "How could I not notice such a gorgeous girl like Ye?"

Her ordinary suit couldn't cover her fine features and smooth skin. She is way more stunning than Linda.' Mr. Song thought to himself.

Struck by Autumn's beauty, Mr. Song stayed still without saying a word. Autumn couldn't help but frown when she saw his open admiration.

Linda said with a smile on her face, "Then... Ye will be your companion when the client comes in. Please forgive me if I don't give you much attention today."

"I won't blame you. I understand. It's all for work." Mr. Song smiled and said, "Today you will meet a very important guest. Just do what you're supposed to do."

Hearing this, Linda returned to where she was before. Mr. Song just stopped paying attention to her, and even ignored her. He gave all his attention to Autumn. He asked her, "My fair lady, are you a native of Y City?"

Autumn resisted her impatience and replied, "Yes, I am."

"I never knew that there will be such a pretty girl like you in Y City." Then, Mr. Song put his hand forward in an attempt to grab her hand. He continued, "Somebody as pretty as you can do a better job than a secretary. How about coming to my company? I'll make you the manager. As for the salary, I will fulfill all your requirements."

"No, thanks, " Autumn declined. She didn't want to even think about it. When Mr. Song was about to touch her hand, Autumn raised her hand to lift the cup on the table. She successfully dodged Mr. Song's physical attempt.

Mr. Song didn't get frustrated. He said smilingly, "Don't stand on ceremony. I hate to see a girl suffer. I know Charles Lu. You can have things easy, if you want."

Mr. Song moved his stool closer to Autumn and proceeded, "If you come to my company, I promise that you'll have more fun than in Shining Company. What do you think?"

As soon as he finished his sentence, he put his hand on Autumn's thigh. Though she wore a pant, he could still feel her skin. He couldn't resist grabbing her thigh, and at the same time, Autumn stood up suddenly. Mr. Song and Linda got startled.

Linda scowled and shouted at Autumn, "What's wrong with you?"

Autumn frowned. After what Mr. Song had done to her, she felt disgusted and speechless. But considering her situation, she let her anger subside.

She said to Linda with displeasure in her voice, "I'm fine. I just need to go to the lady's room."

Mr. Song fixed his eyes on Autumn's rear as she walked away, as if she were his prey.

Linda had already known by now as to what Mr. Song's intentions were for Autumn. That was why she had brought Autumn here. Now, she knew that all she needed was to entice him. So she said, "Mr. Song, you're interested in her, aren't you?"

"Oh, what rubbish." Mr. Song laughed it off and put his hand on Linda's thigh. He coaxed, "You're my still favorite. Don't get envious."

"Come on, Mr. Song. Stop coaxing me with these sweet words. We have known each other for a long time. How can I not know you?" Linda laughed coldly and continued, "You're a play boy. If I were a jealous woman, I must have been crazy for you."

Mr. Song admitted, "You know me." He proceeded, "I have never met a woman as enchanting and impressive as she is. Don't laugh at me. "

"No, I won't." Linda laughed and said to Mr. Song, "You have helped me a lot in the past. Without you, I wouldn't have gotten where I am now. "

Mr. Song responded plainly, "I'm glad you remember that." His eyes were fixed on the door, waiting for Autumn to come back.

Linda gave a little smirk and said, "Mr. Song, if you're really fond of her, I can help you..."

Mr. Song looked at Linda, and asked doubtfully, "What do you mean?" 'Though Linda didn't mind my intimate behavior, we never went further.' He thought to himself.

But now, Linda proposed to help him, which made him feel suspicious for her.

"Mr. Song, I just want to do you a favor." Linda endured his harassment, but she needed to pretend as if nothing had happened. She said, "Ye lives a poor life. If you two can get together, it will be a kind deed for my colleague. So it will be a win-win for all of us, right? "

"Really?" Mr. Song was confused. He looked at Linda and said, "But she seems to have no such intention..."

"Mr. Song, you are thinking too much. It's your first meeting with her. Please be patient." Linda continued to persuade Mr. Song, "I'll ask her to behave well with you. When she gets drunk, she will be all yours."

Mr. Song said hesitantly, "I.."

Linda interrupted him immediately and give him no time to think, "Mr. Song, this is the only chance. If you say yes, I will help you."

After hesitating for a while, Mr. Song remembered Autumn's figure, and finally agreed. "You have promised me."

An evil smile appeared on Linda's face.

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Autumn stayed in the rest-room for quite a long time. She was in a dilemma whether she should go back or not. On thinking about Mr. Song's annoying mug face, Autumn frowned and clenched her fist.

Finally, Linda came to look for her. She furrowed her brows when she found that Autumn was standing there, astounded. "What are you doing here? The client have arrived. Why don't you go to receive our client? Follow me. Hurry up."

"Linda, I....." Autumn pondered over and said, "Can you go by yourself? I will wait for you here and I will find you when you have finished the meal."

"How can that be possible?" Linda scowled at her and asked, "Ye, are you kidding me? You have to go out now. He is here already. Are you afraid that Mr. Song would take advantage of you?"

"....." Autumn kept silent. Linda smirked and said, "Well, I know that you are worrying about that. But don't worry. Mr. Song won't act in a frivolous manner. He is just joking. What's more, now the client has arrived. So I can't deal with them alone."

Saying this, Linda grabbed her hands and said, "Let's go. They have been waiting for a long time now."

Autumn hesitated for a second but finally went out with Linda.

Linda headed in first and then apologetically told them. "I am sorry, Mr. Song. She is a new comer. Please don't mind for her impertinent manners."

Linda pushed Autumn forward and said, "Ye, hurry up. Propose a toast to Mr. Song and apologize to him."

Autumn looked up slightly. But when she saw Sam sitting there, her brows furrowed. She had never expected that the client Linda highly praised would be Sam.

Didn't he just come back from abroad? What was his purpose behind contacting Shining Company?

Sam's eyes lighted up as soon as he saw Autumn. The main reason for his dealings with Shining Company was that he wanted to get a chance to know more about Charles. In this way, he could gain an advantage to compete with Charles for Autumn.

But he didn't expect that he would meet Autumn here.

'Isn't she married to Charles? Why is she here? Did Charles ask her to be here?' Sam wondered.

"Stop staring blankly. Ye, hurry up, " said Linda. Autumn was pushed by Linda when she was still a little stunned. "You have to drink with Mr. Song tonight. I am going to take care of Mr. Lin." Linda went on.

Autumn became furious at Linda for pushing her abruptly. She was still lost in her thoughts, wondering about Sam's purpose. "You know I can't drink." Autumn replied with a cold voice.

She is a woman of poor drinking capacity. Not to mention that she would definitely not want to drink on such an occasion.

"Why are you so ignorant? Don't you know that it is a significant occasion? In any case, you have to take care of Mr. Song and drink with him." David and Charles were not here. That was why Linda was becoming so bossy.

"Hurry up." Linda urged again. After finishing her words, Linda pushed Autumn towards Mr. Song. Sam was just observing things silently, as if he was a stranger.

"I told you. I can't drink." Autumn was not compromising today.

They reached a deadlock there while Mr. Song said with a smile to ease the situation. "Well, don't force her to drink knowing that she can't drink. Linda, order a glass of juice for her."

"Mr. Song, you can't have a soft and forgiving heart for her. I am afraid that she would get spoiled." Linda chuckled and then asked the waiter for the juice.

"I would like to do that for her", replied Mr. Song. He took Autumn's arm to sit down and told Linda again. "Linda, go and accompany Mr. Lin. Don't worry about me. Miss Ye will take care of me."

"Okay." Linda replied briefly. She nodded and stepped towards Sam. Linda showed a big smile and said, "Mr. Lin, I am also not a drinker. But in order to show my sincerity for your company, I will break my rule to drink with you tonight. I shall propose a toast to you first. "

She took out a goblet while talking, pouring a glass of white spirit for herself. After that, she poured another glass of spirit for Sam with a smile. But Sam had ignored Linda completely since he just kept gazing at Autumn who sat opposite him.

Cautious, Autumn sat there silently with a frown while Mr. Song kept joking with her. However, Autumn was reticent and kept apart with Mr. Song when he moved closer to her.

Sam was confused why she would come here, now that she was reluctant to do such a job.

"Mr. Lin?" Linda called. She was a little agitated when she saw that Sam kept focusing on Autumn.

'Why all of the men who I am interested in would only cast their eyes upon Autumn? It seems that there is no chance for me wherever she is.' Linda wondered.

"Mr. Lin....." Linda was reconciled to accept this truth, so she raised her voice and got closer to Sam. "I am sincere. As long as you will cooperate with Shining Company, I promise you that I will do whatever you ask me to."

Linda was confident about her beauty. She thought she had a good understanding about men and she was clear what kind of woman a man likes the most.

Therefore, she devoted herself to lure Sam in front of her.

She had noticed that he didn't wear a ring. "If I can seduce him successfully, perhaps I will be well-known someday. After all, Charles has been married. And I am unable to be his wife anymore but could only be a mistress of him even if he would like to be with me." Linda thought.

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So Charles Lu was confident that she could handle the situation and close the deal on her own. What she said to Sam Lin today was only to reduce the distance between them.

Linda Zhao relaxed a bit. She smiled and told Sam, "Let's drink, Mr. Lin. It is important to have fun in life. It doesn't make any sense to care so much about the trivial details. Don't you think so?"

Linda smiled and filled Sam's glass again. "I know you are not feeling well, so I bring you red wine this time. So... should we have a toast on that?"

"Sorry, I don't drink wine." Sam said faintly.

Linda looked embarrassed for a second but continued, "Mr. Lin, come on... this is really embarrassing."

"How come..." Sam smiled and said, "Peter will drink with you, okay?"

When Sam stopped talking, Peter stood up. "Miss Zhao, please don't make things difficult for Mr. Lin. I'll drink it up with you. Please consider it as our redemption."

Peter drank up the wine without saying another word. No matter how hard Linda tried, Sam didn't drink at all. Linda was getting a bit anxious.

Till now, Sam didn't drink any wine. Linda knew very well that several business deals were closed at this table only after the involved parties were satiated with food and drinks. If Sam remained as sober as he was now, she might not be able to finalize the deal.

Linda stood up and put her hands on Sam's shoulder. "Mr. Lin, about the cooperation..."

While she was talking, Sam stood up in an instant. Although he was talking to Linda, his eyes were on Autumn. Seeing Mr. Song force Autumn to drink, he could no longer sit still.

"Lin... Mr. Lin, what's wrong?" Linda was shocked. So was Mr. Song who was seated on the other side of the table. He stopped what he was doing to check on Sam, "Mr. Lin, what's the matter?"

"Nothing..." Sam struggled in his heart but finally sat down and told Linda, "Take a seat. There are a few details about the cooperation that needs to be clarified. Peter will discuss the same with you."

"OK..." Linda took a seat by his side. Peter raised a couple of specific questions and Linda gave him the appropriate answers. Indeed, she was quite a professional at work.

"Mr. Lin, I have no further questions." After getting satisfactory answers, Peter told Sam, "Miss Zhao made a great offer and the product quality is guaranteed. Most importantly, Shining Company has a very good reputation. If you are okay with it, we can fix a time for the contract-signing."

"Good." Sam nodded slightly and suddenly asked Linda, "Miss Zhao, who is this lady over there..."

Linda was elated about the cooperation. However, her smile vanished in an instant when Sam enquired her about Autumn. She asked Sam, "Mr. Lin, are you interested in her, too?"

"No." Sam said placidly, "She looks kind of familiar, like a classmate from the old times..."

"Oh, I see." Linda took a sigh of relief and told Sam, "She joined the company today. She is Ye. She works as a small secretary here. There is no way that she could have been your classmate, Mr. Lin."

One was a senior executive and the other was a mere secretary, how could the two be rooted from the same soil?

"Is that so?" Sam frowned slightly but his eyes were fixated on Autumn. He was concerned about her.

"Yes." Linda nodded a little. "She probably wanted to push herself forward in front of the boss so she desperately wanted to be here. And now she's playing all innocent here. I don't know what's in her mind."

Sam stopped talking while Linda was still rattling and bad-mouthing Autumn. After his efforts to force Autumn to drink went in vain, Mr. Song went ahead and crossed another line. He started touching Autumn inappropriately and reached out for her hips. Autumn stood up immediately and threw a glass of wine on his face.

While she remained silent, Linda went mad.

She hurried over and dragged Autumn away, "Ye, I brought you here to help me out, not to increase my troubles. What have you done?"

Autumn brushed her off and didn't say a word. Linda checked with Mr. Song nervously, "Are you all right Mr. Song?"

"Yes." Mr. Song tried to be very patient with Autumn but when Autumn threw a glass of wine on his face he felt totally disgraced in front of Sam. He put on a long face and accused Autumn saying, "What have you done? I was being so nice to you. Why would you throw this wine on my face?"

Mr. Song sneered at Autumn, "So this is the part where the whore declares herself as a virgin. Didn't you come here with Linda to sell your body? Stop playing innocent!"

Autumn's face turned pale and Linda didn't look good either.

What Mr. Song said hurt Linda's feelings too.

Nevertheless, Linda forced a smile and told Autumn, "Stop standing there like a tree. Come over and clean up for Mr. Song! And, apologize to him right away!"

Her voice was stern, leaving no chance for Autumn to argue.

Autumn stood by and said, "I didn't do anything wrong. Why should I apologize?"

Linda was so angry that her face turned green. It was not about right or wrong. What would happen to her future orders if Mr. Song was pissed off?

Chapter 67

"Mr. Lin, why are you standing in my way?" Mr. Song sneered and turned to Autumn Ye, "Bitch, so you're seducing Mr. Lin, not to mention you tried on me too. As far as I can see, you need to learn a lesson."

Mr. Song tried to grab Autumn's arm while talking but was stopped by Sam Lin. "Don't go too far, Mr. Song."

"Mr. Lin, I have to teach this woman a lesson today." Mr. Song sneered. "I look up to you because of your father, Mr. Lin. Nevertheless, I am your senior. You should remember who you are and not ruin our relationship."

"Hand this woman over to me right away and fuck off, or I will teach you a lesson too." Mr. Song said scornfully and raised his hand again.

Linda Zhao rushed over, dragged Sam aside and said, "Mr. Lin, just leave them alone please. All this happened because of the ignorance of my colleague, so let Mr. Song teach her a lesson in whichever way he wants. It's not a big deal."

Linda smiled sweetly and looked at her watch, "It's still quite early, why don't... we continue our meeting somewhere else?"

She leaned on Sam consciously or unconsciously, rubbing Sam's arm and suggesting implicitly.

Feeling nothing at all, Sam raised his hand, pushed Linda away and shouted, "Get lost!"

"Mr. Lin..." While completely leaning against Sam, Linda never thought that Sam would push her away. She fell on the ground and her dress got rumpled.

After she cleaned herself up, she gave Sam a plaintive look.

"So you are determined to set yourself against me." Mr. Song sneered. All these years, he had been enjoying voluntary seduction from women because of who he was.

It's been a while that he himself had been interested in a woman. He didn't feel as if he took any advantage of her. So for him, Autumn throwing a glass of wine on him was totally uncalled for. How could he not be furious?

"Sam Lin, be sensible and step away, or the cooperation between HKind and my company will be over today." Thinking he was senior to Sam, Mr. Song tried to take advantage of his position. In his opinion, Sam was nothing but a naive person, who was nobody in front of him.

"Sam..." Autumn sighed quietly and told Sam, "I got myself into this trouble. I can clean my mess myself. Step away, please. I don't want your cooperation with Mr. Song to be hampered because of me."

Hearing this, Sam frowned a bit. Autumn was definitely not treating him the way she should be treating him. Until this moment, Linda and Mr. Song didn't realize that Autumn Ye and Sam Lin were actually old time acquaintances.

Linda was getting crazy because of jealousy. No wonder Sam gave her a cold shoulder.

"So you two know each other. No wonder you're protecting her like this." Mr. Song laughed scornfully and said, "Sam Lin, your old man got you back to run the company. What would he think if he gets to know that you are busy picking up hot chicks after coming back?"

Mr. Song looked quite pleased. Autumn frowned and stepped in front of Sam. "Mr. Song, this is between you and me. Don't get others involved. Just take it up with me."

"Yo...you see that? She's protecting her boyfriend now." Mr. Song sneered and said, "Tell me, how do you want this to end?"

"Mr. Song, you know exactly why this glass of wine was thrown on your face. I am not going to apologize to you for this. You tell me, what are you going to do to give this thing up?"

"Little Ye, you..." Sam was trying to drag Autumn behind him. He wanted to make her understand that this was now between two men. He couldn't let Mr. Song get away after his shameful act. But Mr. Song replied, "How about you spend a night with me and I'll forget everything that happened today. And my cooperation with Sam Lin continues."

Mr. Song continued scornfully, "Think it over and answer me. Now the future of your loved one is in your hands."

As Mr. Song was laughing arrogantly, a strong and powerful fist landed on his face. Before he had the time to see who it was, he was already knocked down on the floor.

When Autumn saw who that was, she felt relieved. However, the face of Linda, who stood next to her, went pale. She murmured, "Mr.... Mr. Lu."

How is he here?

Linda clenched her fist. She did confirm that Charles had a social engagement tonight before she brought Autumn here. She thought if something bad would happen to Autumn, she might be too embarrassed to tell others but she never thought that Charles Lu would show up here.

"Are you all right?" Not giving a damn about what others on the site would think, Charles nervously held Autumn and carefully checked on her.

"Let me go first. I am fine." Autumn was slightly embarrassed and tried to get rid of his hands.

Having confirmed that Autumn was safe and sound, Charles breathed a sigh of relief and said to her, "Did I not tell you to go home after work? Why are you here?"

Linda knew Charles very well. Charles was never the type of person who would protect his female subordinates.

She had worked with Charles as his secretary for so many years. Never did she hear him say no when she drank on his behalf at the table. Of course, she would get what she deserved when the deal was finalized.

Being an inhuman boss, Charles was now getting into a fight with his business partner, for a female secretary!

Linda would never believe it if she didn't see it with her own eyes.

Chapter 68

"Mr. Song, I didn't say you took advantage of me after I threw the wine on you." Autumn sneered. If he was not guilty, he wouldn't say that.

Mr. Song gave a murderous glance at Autumn and stated, "Those present here witnessed that. Am I telling the truth, Sam Lin?"

Mr. Song wanted to ask Linda to testify for him. However, Linda seemed to have lost her wits after Charles's arrival. So, he had to ask Sam to help him in haste.

Mr. Song was certain that Sam wouldn't dare to set himself against him. Unexpectedly, Sam gave a little smile and looked at him in the eye, "Mr. Song, she never said you took advantage of her. Did you mention that out of your own guilt? "

"You..." Mr. Song's face was distorted with rage. He didn't expect Sam to say that. He immediately laughed, "Oh, I see. You are with this bitch. You must have already got off with her!"

Others didn't know the relationship between Autumn and Charles, but Sam knew about it. He could not restrain his anger on hearing Mr. Song's accusation, so naturally Charles who was Autumn's husband was deadly furious.

Charles gave a brittle laugh and said in a cold, dead voice, "Mr. Song, could you say it again? Bitch?"

"Isn't she a bitch?" Mr. Song gave a scornful smile, "Mr. Lu, I know she is your secretary. Don't be fooled by this bitch! She seduced me! Even Mr. Lin is taking her side. I'm sure they are having an affair..."

Mr. Song was continuously mouthing bad words, and in a blink of the eye Charles seized him by the throat. Charles had the eyes of a vicious wolf as if he was going to slaughter Mr. Song. Mr. Song felt as if he was going to suffocate. He beat Charles's hand in a panic, "Charles Lu, are you out of your mind? Don't forget, we are partners. Let go of me, otherwise, I'll break this partnership!"

"Which hand did you use to touch her?" Charles ignored Mr. Song's threat and asked him with a sneer.

Mr. Song had threatened Sam with the termination of the partnership with him, but failed. Now, he tried to play the same trick on Charles. That was ridiculous!

"Let me off!" Mr. Song could not breath.

"Forget it." In order to simmer down the things, Autumn grabbed Charles's arm and said, "It's not a big deal. Forget it."

Charles ignored Autumn's suggestion. He stared at Mr. Song's right hand and asked, "Did you use this hand?"

"I guess so. She was sitting on his right side." Sam fanned the flames. How dare Mr. Song take advantage of Autumn? Even if Charles would let him go, Sam would not spare him.

A faint smile appeared on Charles's lips. The very next second he heard the sound of fracture. Mr. Song howled like a wounded animal.

"Don't you dare show up in front of me from now on. Otherwise, I won't spare you!" Charles let Mr. Song off. He threatened and looked at him in the eye.

Autumn frowned.

"Charles Lu, how dare you do this to me? I swear, you'll pay for this!" Mr. Song covered his wrist with his left hand and shouted, "Just, wait and see!"

"Come on back, I'll be right here." Charles pulled out a chair and sat down before he took out his cell phone and called David, "David, issue a Letter of Cancellation. I'll terminate the partnership with Mr. Song. From now on, Shining Company won't cooperate with Mr. Song anymore. Moreover, inform our partners, if they ever have any transaction with Mr. Song in the future, we would break up the partnership with them too."

David immediately went on to issue the contract without raising any question. He knew the last thing Mr. Song should do was to offend Autumn. Charles would not forgive anyone who dared to take an advantage of his wife.

"You... How dare you?" Mr. Song didn't expect Charles to terminate their partnership for a mere secretary.

"Well..." Sam stated slowly, "Mr. Song, I don't care about the partnership between HKind Group and you. Now, I'm in charge of HKind Group and I don't want to cooperate with you anymore. I'll pay for the liquidated damages. I have only one request, I don't want to see your face in the future."

Two exceptional men had taken their stands for Autumn. Linda was consumed with jealousy.

Mr. Song was lustful, but he was nice to Linda. Most of Linda's orders came from Mr. Song. If Charles terminated their partnership, Linda would have a hard time at Shining Company too.

Linda decided to dissuade Charles because he was envious of Autumn and she wanted to strive for her own interests.

Although Linda feared and respected her boss, she mustered her courage and spoke, "Mr. Lu, I know you have a close relationship with Ye. But... I have to tell you something."

Charles turned to Linda with a frown.

Linda swallowed hard and continued, "Mr. Song didn't do anything wrong. It was Ye who first threw the wine on him. She even gave a false account of the true facts. If she stays in Shining Company, she would stir up troubles in the future as well."

"You mean, Mr. Song was telling the truth and Ye was lying?" Charles asked.

"Right!" Linda nodded firmly.

"Mr. Lin also lied?"

Chapter 69

Hearing this, Linda was stunned, "What... what did you say?"

'He is a married man. How could he openly...' Linda wondered.

"What? Haven't I make myself clear?" Charles smiled coldly and continued, "I'll make it easier for you to understand. Open your ears. Ye is my woman. She is my legally wedded wife. Do you hear that?"

On hearing this, Linda fell to the ground. She supposed that Ye was probably an acquaintance of Charles. But it had never occurred to her that she was 'the' Mrs. Lu.

'We never saw him take any woman so seriously since Jenny and I followed Charles years ago. Even that super star Rachel never got this treatment.

It's my fault. I should have recognized their relationship.' Linda blamed herself.

"Mrs. Lu... How is it even possible..." She kept babbling to herself, "It's my bad luck... How could I have offended Charles's wife without even noticing it?"

Charles stood up and told Autumn, "Let's go." He grabbed her hand and decided to leave. Mr. Song, who was lying on the ground, got irritated by Charles's words. He snatched a bottle of wine on the table and dashed it to Charles and Autumn.

He had never been insulted like this before.

Things happened too fast. Sam nervously shouted, "Watch out!"

Charles didn't know what was happening behind him, but he held Autumn to his breast unconsciously.

Bang! Charles was hit by a wine bottle on his head. All of a sudden, the bottle broke down into pieces and fragments of glass spread around. The wine splashed on the ground. Charles's head turned red instantly.

"Stay still, " Sam warned Mr. Song. He immediately walked forward and stopped Mr. Song. He left Mr. Song to Peter, and then called the police. When he turned around, he saw Autumn holding Charles in her arms. She was freaking out.

Sam told Autumn, "Stop crying. Rush him to the hospital immediately." Charles was hit, but he still consoled Autumn with a smile on his face, "Stop being a fool. It's no big deal. I'm fine."

"But you're bleeding..." Autumn cried incessantly. She blamed herself, 'If it hadn't been for me, Charles wouldn't have been injured like that.

I always get people around me into trouble.'

"Don't talk rubbish. It's all my fault..." replied Charles. Autumn could not stop sobbing.

Charles reached his hand to touch her face and stop her from crying but he was now losing his consciousness. Before he touched her face, he blacked out with his hand falling straight to the ground.

Autumn wailed.

"Well, stop crying." Sam felt terrible when he watched his beloved woman holding another man in her arms and weeping in grief.

He looked in the rearview mirror and caught a glimpse of Autumn. Seeing her heartbroken expressions, he felt sadder than her.

He knew Autumn was anxious, he kept running red lights all the way. Soon, they arrived at the hospital.

Terrified as she was, Autumn had no idea what to do. Sam handled the registration procedures and paid the registration fee. She squatted on the exit of the operating room, with her eyes fixated on the room door.

After finishing all the formalities, he came back. When he looked at Autumn's back, he felt grieved. He handed her the hot coffee he got for her and said, "Little Ye, sit down and take a rest.

Autumn shook her head and said in a hoarse voice, "No, thanks..." Before she was sure that Charles was safe, she couldn't eat or drink anything.

Sam persuaded, "Little Ye, you can do nothing for Charles right now. I don't think he will want to see you like this when he comes out of the operating room. You have to gather yourself for the sake of Charles." To be honest, Sam was taken aback when he saw Charles hold Autumn to his breast unconsciously. 'He wouldn't have protected her like this if he didn't feel anything for her.' He thought to himself.

Autumn muttered, "I want to be here with him." 'I'm not a good wife. Ever since we got married, I have only brought trouble to him.' She thought.

"If I were him, I wouldn't want to see you act like this." Sam helped her get up and held her to the corridor. He seated her on a bench and said, "All you need to do now is stay calm. Since he is in the hospital, should we... inform his family?"

Reminded by his words, she said, "You're right. I need to make a call." She took out her phone, to dial Chris's number. A voice reached her ear, "Hello..."

Hearing her voice, Autumn couldn't help but cry. Chris flurried too when she heard Autumn crying. She asked hurriedly, "Yvonne, what's the matter with you? What happened?"

Autumn calmed down after she heard Chris's comforting words.

It was too late so she didn't dare to call Gary. She feared that he might overreacted. She told Chris what had happened. Chris said immediately, "Yvonne, send the address to me. I'll come right away."

Hearing that Chris would come, she felt much relieved. She walked to the door of the operating room, totally ignorant of Sam who had his eyes fixated on her.

Wendy too rushed to the hospital because the doctor told her that Autumn's grandma didn't have much time.

Wendy had hidden Autumn's grandma in the hospital so as to keep Autumn in her control. Before she left the doctor's office, the doctor urged that Autumn's grandma needs an immediate surgery or it would be too late to save her life.

After hesitating for a while, she thought it was unnecessary to spend that much money on her. She asked the doctor to keep Autumn's grandma alive for another three months. 'In three months, Yvonne could get Charles to fall in love with her. Then, I will not need Autumn any more.' Wendy thought to herself.

As soon as she walked out of the doctor's office, she caught sight of Autumn.

Chapter 70

"Chris..." Seeing a family member show up, Autumn got nervous. She pulled Chris's hands and pleaded, "Tell me he is fine..."

Autumn had no idea how Charles was and she was in desperate need for someone to tell her over and over again that Charles would be fine.

She believed it would be true if someone said it repeatedly.

"Take it easy, Yvonne." Though Chris was equally worried, she kept comforting Autumn. "My brother has always been very lucky. He even survived the car accident that got my parents killed. This little accident can't do any harm to him."

Autumn didn't know it until today that Charles's parents died in a car accident. She was shocked to know that Charles was in the same car with them and watched his parents die so helplessly. How did he hold it up all the way?

"It's all my fault..."

Autumn was interrupted by Chris before she could even finish her sentence. "What are you talking about? It's the fault of that scumbag. Why are you blaming yourself?"

Being a fighter against injustice as she was, Chris said in anger, "If I were there, I would have taught that scumbag a good lesson."

She gently pacified Autumn and waited for Autumn to calm down. Then she turned to Sam Lin and said, "Sam, thank you so much for today. Now it's late and you should go back home. I will stay here with my sister-in-law."

"Will the two of you be okay?" Sam wanted to be with Autumn, but he knew that now he was in no position to do that.

"Yes, be rest assured." Chris nodded briefly. Autumn, who was standing on the side, also added, "Sam, I was lucky that you were there today. Charles and I shall thank you in person when he's a little better."

"No, it's not necessary." Sam smiled and told them, "Now, you both take care of yourselves and call me if you need any help."

"OK." Chris nodded slightly. Having watched Sam leave, the two seated themselves on the bench and impatiently waited for the lights in the operating room to go out.

After a long while, the lights in the operating room finally went out. Autumn tried to stand up but her legs got numb because she had been sitting for too long. Chris on her side helped her get up and said, "Be careful!"

Autumn walked in front of the doctor and asked, "Doctor, how is my husband now?"

"He's got a slight concussion because of the impact in the head. In addition, we gave him four stitches on the head. Now he'll be transferred to the general ward. It's nothing serious."

Knowing Charles was fine, Autumn felt relieved.

Autumn and Chris stayed up all night, but when they saw Charles quietly lying in the bed, they felt it was all worth it.

"Autumn, please don't tell Grandpa about my brother's injury at the moment. We'll talk about it after he wakes up." Chris reminded Autumn.

"I see." After all, her grandpa Gary was an old man now, he might not be able to stand such a big shock.

"Please stay here with my brother and I'll go out to get some breakfast for us. You haven't slept all night, and you need something to replenish yourself."

Charles would wake up any moment now and he would have wanted to see Autumn when he opened his eyes. Chris made an excuse and left the two alone in the room.

Autumn held Charles's hands tightly and couldn't help but complain, "Why are you so stupid? It was such a big bottle and you didn't even dodge."

"If something like this happens again, you just don't worry about me, OK? All I want is for you to be safe and sound."

"Do you hear me? Wake up right now if you hear me, OK?"

As Autumn was chattering away, someone broke into the ward all of a sudden. She grabbed Autumn's wrist and dragged her away from Charles. "Get out! I don't want to see you here."

It was Yvonne. She didn't know that Charles bailed on her because of Autumn until Wendy Ye went home and told her what she saw and heard in detail.

She was waiting alone in the restaurant for three hours, and Charles didn't show up at all.

"Look at you, Autumn Ye. You are such a jinx. Get away from here now. I don't want to see you, and Charles doesn't want to see you, either." Knowing Autumn so well, Yvonne targeted every word on Autumn's weaknesses. "Look at what you have done? Only bad luck has followed Charles ever since the day you two married. It's only a few days, and Charles is now in hospital and unconscious because of you. You are really bringing bad luck to others."

"Stop it!" Autumn frowned. What Yvonne just said was like a sharp spear piercing her heart.

"Yvonne, I know that you hate me, but he got hurt because of me, so I have to stay here. You have my word, as soon as he wakes up, I will leave." Looking at Charles's pale face, Autumn's heart ached.

Yvonne was right -- he was hurt only because of her.

"Autumn, don't you think that I don't know what you're up to. You are trying so hard to make him fall in love with you. Your tactics won't ever work on him. Do you understand? I am telling you, as long as I live, I won't let that happen. Don't you even dare think about it." Yvonne sneered, "And don't forget, I am his wife, and you are nothing but a substitute."

Autumn's face turned pale, but she was unable to say anything against Yvonne. After a long while, she murmured, "I just want to be here with him until he wakes up."