

Love at the Wrong Table

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 141-Emmanuel never thought Mackenzie would agree. After all, it had taken him a lot of convincing to make her go home with him the last time. Hence, he figured there was no way she would want to go to Ryder's house this time.

"Let me check my schedule. Maybe I can take one or two hours out tomorrow." "Huh? I-" Mackenzie's reply was so unexpected that Emmanuel was overwhelmed with surprise.

"What's wrong? Did you not want me to go?" Mackenzie asked, eyeing him suspiciously.

"No, no, no! I'm just too happy! Tommy really likes you, you know? He even said you being in his house will be the greatest gift for him." The excitement in Emmanuel's voice was unmistakable.

"Tch!" Mackenzie turned away to feign indifference, but a subtle smile formed on her face while she faced the car window.

This is weird. Why am I feeling happy? This is so weird.

Meanwhile, both Ryder and his son were elated when they learned Emmanuel was bringing Mackenzie over tomorrow night.

Tommy was so excited that he stayed up all night to wait for Mackenzie's arrival.

Abellyn, on the other hand, had been out playing poker through the night.

When she found out her son had not slept because of the visitors who were coming, she began nagging at Ryder again.

"What are you doing? How could you let Tommy stay up all night? Don't you know he's still growing? Lack of sleep will stunt his growth." While listening to her, Ryder packed his things to leave. He was long immune to the woman's nagging.

Tommy, too, was putting on his clothes and getting ready to head out with Ryder to go to school. The truth was, he found Abellyn rather ridiculous. She

was out the whole night playing poker. How dare she scold Daddy when she wasn't around either?

"You're a useless man! You can't make money, and you can't even take care of your son. Ugh! I must've been blind to marry someone as useless as you!" Abellyn nagged for some time and ended with the same words before heading to the room to get some sleep.

Suddenly, Ryder refuted, "That's right, I don't make a lot of money, but at least have a monthly income of about six thousand. What about you? All you do is play poker. More importantly, you're jobless! If you had a stable income every month, do you think our family would be living so frugally?" All of a sudden, a switch flipped within Abellyn. "Oh? So you're putting the blame on me now? What was all that talk about making money being a man's responsibility before we got married? What is this now? Are you changing your mind now that I'm your wife and have given you a son?" Ryder's anger and frustration manifested on his flushed face.

I really shouldn't have made those stupid promises back then. We still have so many years to live. No one knows what kind of changes we'll see in our lives.

Back then, his family's finances were still adequate. But now, things were getting worse each year. Not only was Abellyn jobless, but she was also neglecting her duties as a mother. Even a man as patient as Ryder would snap.

"Daddy, stop arguing. I'm going to be late for school." Tommy's words finally broke off the couple's argument that happened on daily basis.

"I'm not in the mood to argue with you. Emmanuel and his wife are coming over to celebrate Tommy's birthday tonight. You'd better stay home to cook instead of going out to play poker tonight," Ryder reminded before leaving the house with Tommy.

In their family, it was a man's duty to provide for the family. In fact, Abellyn's living expenses came from Ryder.

Ryder usually turned a blind eye to Abellyn's schedule—playing poker all day and not cooking meals for the family. That day, however, was Tommy's birthday. Ryder was going to make sure she prepared everything accordingly.

Abellyn scoffed and let out a yawn before returning to the room to sleep.

At six in the evening, Ryder arrived home on a motorcycle with his son, only to be greeted by the darkness. Even worse, the kitchen was in complete silence.

Immediately, Ryder's insides burned with anger.

"Abellyn Sheppard! Come out this instant! Abellyn!" The look of fury on Ryder's face scared Tommy.

He rarely saw his father looking so terrifying. After all, Ryder had always been patient with Abellyn.

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 142-"What's wrong? Is there an earthquake? Is there a fire? What are you shouting for?" Abellyn took her sweet time exiting the room, completely unfazed by Ryder's bellows.

In truth, she had been awake for quite some time and had been watching some video clips on the bed. She had enjoyed herself so much that she did not realize it was already six o'clock.

Ryder pointed at her and bombarded her with questions. "You useless woman! Didn't I tell you to stay home so you could cook? Where's the food?

Why is the kitchen so quiet?" "You told me to stay home, and I did. Besides, I never agreed to cook. Why are you so mad? It's not too late to cook, anyway." Abellyn had no fear of Ryder, nor did she think the man would dare to hit her.

It'll be better if he does. That's domestic abuse. I'll have a legal reason to leave him, then.

"Y-You!" Ryder was seething, and his fists were clenched tightly.

He never lost his temper when Abellyn played poker every day instead of working, taking care of Tommy, or cooking meals.

However, it was Tommy's birthday that day. Ryder could only get off work at five thirty, and he had already invited Emmanuel and his wife for dinner to celebrate Tommy's birthday at six. By seven o'clock, the couple would leave.

And now, it was already past six, and Abellyn had not even prepared a single dish. What will Manny and Ms. Quillen eat later? novelbin "Why are you clenching your fists, huh? To hit me? Go on! Do it then!" Abellyn continued provoking him, even though his face was already contorted with anger. This

coward wouldn't dare to touch me. I'll make sure he completely submits today. That way, he wouldn't dare to lash out at me in the future.

Ryder never thought of hitting his wife, but her stubborn refusal to admit her wrong was pushing his limits.

Fortunately, a knock sounded on the door right then.

"Ryder, Abellyn, are you guys at home? Mackenzie and I are here!" Standing outside was a cheerful Emmanuel who wore a bright smile. After all, it was Mackenzie's first time visiting his relatives.

"Coming!" Ryder responded quickly before hissing at Abellyn, "I'll deal with you later!" "Hah! Deal with me? What makes you think you can do that?" Abellyn crossed her arms, her eyes gleaming with disdain. She was annoyed, so instead of going to the kitchen, she sat on the couch in the living room with her legs crossed.

"Manny, Mackenzie, I'm so sorry about this. Abellyn and I have just started cooking since we just got home. I'm afraid you'll have to wait for a little while." Ryder rarely lied, but he did not want to expose his family's discord. Thus, he lied to cover up his wife's flaw. Manny and his wife will look down on Abellyn if they find out about her character. I'd be the one humiliated when that happens.

To Ryder's horror, as he led Emmanuel and Mackenzie into the house, Abellyn remained seated in the living room, the kitchen still in complete darkness. It clearly did not look like anyone was cooking.

"Y-You! Why aren't you cooking? Are you trying to p*ss me off?" Ryder's anger erupted. His face darkened as his features were overshadowed by fury, and his fists clenched tightly again.

Abellyn was taken aback by his reaction. She half-pretended to leap up from the sofa and hid behind it as if afraid her husband would abuse her.

"Ryder, calm down!" Emmanuel quickly stepped forward to stop Ryder from doing anything rash. "It's okay. I can help you guys. The food will be done in no time." Mixed emotions—frustration, anger, exasperation—swirled in Ryder's heart as he sighed. "You guys are the guests. How could we make you cook?" "It's fine. I cook at home, too. Besides, you're my cousin, not a random stranger."

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 143-Emmanuel did his best to calm Ryder.

A harmonious family was the key to prosperity. Moreover, Tommy was still a child. Watching his parents argue or fight would only become a bad memory when he grew up.

To Emmanuel's surprise, Abellyn took advantage of his words and screeched, "You hear that, Ryder? Your cousin cooks at home, too! You're just an incompetent man. You can't make money, nor do you cook, yet you have the audacity to scold your wife. You're good for nothing!" "You-" Ryder clutched his throbbing chest, finding it hard to breathe suddenly.

"Ryder, are you all right? There, there. Stop fighting already." Emmanuel was afraid Ryder's blood pressure might spike and cause health problems if they continued arguing. After all, the latter's blood pressure was already a little high.

Crossing her arms, Abellyn returned to the couch and beckoned for Mackenzie to join her. "Come, Mackenzie. We, women, should rest and let the men take care of dinner. Women should be doted on by men, anyway." Emmanuel was annoyed by Abellyn's behavior too. He knew how hard Ryder was working for the family, yet Abellyn never lifted a finger. And now, she was playing the feminist card. It was clear that she supported the movement.

Ryder was still panting and said nothing in response.

Meanwhile, Mackenzie had been watching the entire scene indifferently. She had no attachments to Ryder and his wife. In fact, Emmanuel and Tommy were the only reason she was there that night.

In spite of that, Mackenzie, too, thought Abellyn was going overboard.

Despite being a woman, Mackenzie never once used the feminist card.

All Mackenzie thought was that Abellyn was being unkind. How could she deliberately anger her husband? Is she cold-blooded?

"Sorry. I might not be in charge of the chores at home, but I never just sit around. Besides, I'm responsible for the household expenses." Mackenzie finally spoke up.

Abellyn, who was feeling good about herself moments ago, felt her cheeks flaming.

“Hear that? Did you hear that?” Ryder yelled, finally catching his breath. He could not agree more with Mackenzie’s words. “I’ve never seen a woman as lazy as you. All you do is play poker and sleep. Ms. Quillen might not do chores, but she earns a lot of money. Buy me a Maserati if you think you’re so capable!” It was one against three. For a moment, Abellyn dared not refute. She merely crossed her arms and sulked on the couch as her feelings of hatred were transferred to Mackenzie.

What’s that b*tch acting all high and mighty for? So what if she can make money? I, too, would’ve made a lot of money if I didn’t get married.

Abellyn felt aggrieved, for she believed she had sacrificed a lot for the family.

I married Ryder when I was in my early twenties. That’s when I looked the prettiest, and I gave it all to him. So, why can’t I relax a little?

“All right! Stop arguing. You guys carry on chatting. I’m going to cook now,” Emmanuel said.

Emmanuel had come to celebrate Tommy’s birthday. Naturally, he wanted to see the latter looking happy in a harmonious family rather than witnessing his family members squabble with each other.

Although Mackenzie did not know how to cook, she did not just wait around.

She pulled out the present she had prepared and handed it to Tommy, saying, “Happy birthday!” “Wow!” Tommy, who was trembling with fear from his parents’ argument, leaped with excitement and took the present with both hands.

It was a toy drone.

It cost around eight hundred, which was nothing to Mackenzie. To Tommy, novelin however, it was the best gift he had received in his life. In fact, it was his favorite toy.

“Thank you! Thank you, Mackenzie!” said Tommy excitedly.

A smile crept to Mackenzie's lips, for the kid remembered to address her as Mackenzie instead of Aunt Mackenzie. She swore she would have walked away coldly if he had used the latter.

Abellyn did not share her son's sentiments. She simply felt that Mackenzie was showing off. What's the meaning of this, giving my son a toy worth eight hundred? Is she mocking my family for being poor? I'm poor because!

married an incompetent man! Hmph!

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 144-"Oh my. You didn't have to spend so much, Ms. Quillen!" Ryder was stunned, too.

1/5 He had always found Mackenzie hard to approach, so much so that he would subconsciously address her as Ms. Quillen. Never did he expect her to be so generous by giving his son a gift worth eight hundred.

"It's okay. It's worth it as long as Tommy likes it," Mackenzie responded calmly.

She then found a quiet corner and took out her laptop and phone, planning on handling some work matters.

"Hmph! Show off!" Abellyn muttered under her breath and ignored Mackenzie. She did not think it was worth talking to a woman who was not on the same wavelength as her.

Tommy was thoughtful for a kid his age. He approached Mackenzie, asking, "Would you like to go to my room? It's quiet there." His bright eyes put a smile on Mackenzie's face. "Sure!" She did not want to see Abellyn, anyway.

Hence, Mackenzie went to Tommy's room to work while Ryder entered the kitchen to help Emmanuel.

Moments later, more people arrived.

It was Abellyn's mother and elder sister.

Their visit surprised Abellyn, as her family was not originally from Yeringham.

When she was sixteen, she traveled to the South to work in a workshop at an electronics factory. However, the income was too little for her, and the job was too demanding. Hence, she joined the workforce at the bathhouse, where she

could earn more money by washing the feet and hair of other men, as well as serving them with her body.

She continued fooling around until she was tired of it. At that time, she was twenty–three years old, which was when she decided to settle down and marry Ryder.

Her mother and sister did not live in Yeringham. It was only during New Year’s and other important events such as weddings or funerals that they would travel to the city to visit their relatives. Hence, Abellyn did not expect them to turn up that day for Tommy’s birthday.

Seeing that, Ryder quickly left the kitchen to entertain them. The two guests did not bring Tommy any gifts, but the former did not mind it.

Just like that, Emmanuel was left alone in the kitchen.

At that moment, Mackenzie was feeling a little hungry. When she stepped novelbin into the kitchen, she found her husband cooking alone. The idea of her husband serving Abellyn annoyed Mackenzie. Just as she was about to tell him to leave, she heard Tommy crying outside.

While Mackenzie was puzzled, Emmanuel muttered with a frown, “Abellyn’s sister’s son must be bullying Tommy again.” Abellyn’s sister was Chloe Sheppard. She had a son named Robby, who was two years older than Tommy. Every time Chloe brought him to Ryder’s house, he would make Tommy cry.

Sure enough, when Emmanuel and Mackenzie stepped into the living room, they saw Robby playing with Tommy’s new toy. To make things worse, Robby maneuvered the toy so high that it hit the ceiling and came crashing down.

Crash!

“Ah! Uncle Manny, my drone!” Tommy sobbed pitifully. Instead of going to his father, he approached Emmanuel.

Deep down, the child knew his father would not be able to stand up for him.

Emmanuel quickly picked Tommy up and coaxed, “It might not be completely broken. I’ll mend it for you, okay?” With that, he approached Robby.

“It’s not my fault! Tommy was snatching the controller from me. That’s why I lost control of it. The drone wouldn’t have crashed if not for him!” Robby tossed the controller aside, washing his hands of the matter.

That was not all. As if afraid Emmanuel might teach him a lesson, Robby burst into tears and ran toward Chloe.

Right then, Chloe quickly approached. When she saw her son crying, she scolded Emmanuel without bothering to find out the truth, “What is this? The kids are just playing with a toy. Why would an adult like you want to interfere?” A deep crease etched itself between Emmanuel’s brows, and his face clouded over in a grim expression.

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 145-Emmanuel didn’t like to quarrel with a woman. Not to mention that she was Ryder’s relative, which meant that he should act in consideration of Ryder at the very least.

However, Mackenzie couldn’t stand it any longer. After walking up to Emmanuel’s side, she responded, “Is this your son? He broke Tommy’s birthday gift!” Upon hearing that, Chloe didn’t pay attention to the matter. Instead, she reacted just like Abellyn when she first saw Mackenzie. This woman is so beautiful!

Not only was Mackenzie beautiful, but she also had the temperament of a socialite of high status. Even the boss of Chloe’s previous company seemed far inferior to her!

Although Chloe, like Abellyn, was also considered a beauty when she was young, she couldn’t help but feel jealous of Mackenzie’s beauty and elegance.

Besides, Chloe marveled at Emmanuel’s luck because she couldn’t believe that a poor guy like him would be able to marry such a gorgeous woman.

“Chloe, let me introduce you to my sister-in-law, Ms. Mackenzie Quillen!” As the host, Ryder walked over and introduced them politely.

Chloe immediately put on her widest smile and tried to please Mackenzie because she believed that the gorgeous lady before her was rich and had high social status.

However, Mackenzie didn’t bother to respond to her. Her expression was indifferent as ever.

This woman is adamant about defending her son regardless of the truth, so she's definitely not a righteous person!

Furthermore, Mackenzie was very protective of Emmanuel. Although she bullied him sometimes, she would never allow anyone else to do so.

She also wouldn't let anyone bully Tommy, who was an obedient kid.

"What birthday gift? We are guests today. Although my son broke your son's toy, he's only eight years old. Don't tell me you expect me to compensate you?" Chloe asked Ryder impatiently.

Ryder looked helpless because he knew he was being guilt-tripped.

Emmanuel understood very well that if Ryder got into an argument with Chloe, the three women of the Sheppard family could defeat him easily.

Mackenzie, too, was unhappy that Ryder couldn't defend his son.

However, on account of Emmanuel, she didn't want to argue with these women at Ryder's house. She didn't want to be blamed in case any problem arose in Ryder's marriage.

Hence, she merely said to Tommy, who was still crying, "Don't cry. I'll buy you a better one. This broken toy can be given to a child who suits it!" Although she didn't state it explicitly, it was obvious that she was implying that the toy was for someone of poor character.

However, Chloe couldn't understand the underlying meaning because she clearly lacked education. Looking like she had stumbled upon a great deal, she quickly stuffed the drone into her son's hands without giving Tommy a chance to refuse.

On the other hand, Tommy was generous. "You can have that broken toy.

When I have a new one, I won't let you play with it!" he declared with a cold snort.

This time, Robby burst into real tears. With an envious expression on his face, he pleaded to his mother, "Mom, I want a new toy too! I want one too!" Chloe was about to agree to buy him a new one when she saw the price tag still

attached to Tommy's toy. The toy cost eight hundred and eighty-six. How could she afford to buy such an expensive toy for her son to play with?

"No showing off, Tommy! You're still a young kid. Who taught you to be so arrogant?" Abellyn couldn't help but feel that Mackenzie was intentionally showing off.

However, since Mackenzie was not someone to be messed with, she directed her frustration toward Tommy.

Disgusted by Abellyn's behavior, Mackenzie thought that she was unworthy of being Tommy's mother.

"All right, it's our son's birthday today. No one is allowed to scold him! Go to the kitchen and help out so we can start the feast sooner and welcome the guests." Ryder couldn't take it anymore and finally spoke up.

However, Abellyn snorted coldly and sat back on the couch with her arms crossed, throwing a tantrum. "I'm not making dinner. Other people's wives don't have to work in the kitchen, so why should I?" "You..." Ryder really had had enough of her. He was so angry that he raised his hand.

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 146-"What now, Ryder? Are you trying to hit my daughter?" Ryder's mother-in-law, Mary Winston, suddenly spoke from behind.

Ryder hurriedly put down his hand, his breathing becoming rapid. Being naturally obedient, he hurriedly explained in a trembling voice, "No, Mom!" Although Mary was protective of her daughter, she also knew what was going on. She quickly flashed Abellyn a stern look. "Why don't you go prepare dinner, Abellyn? Household chores are women's responsibilities!" Under her mother's command, Abellyn let out another scoff before reluctantly heading into the kitchen.

Ryder's anger subsided as he managed to maintain a bit of dignity.

"Emmanuel, I need to go back and handle some work now," Mackenzie said as she glanced at the time.

She had no intention of staying for dinner because she had lost her appetite after seeing Chloe and Abellyn's behavior.

Besides, she liked to do things her own way, and she never cared about others' opinions.

"Okay." Emmanuel had no choice either. He knew that Mackenzie had strict principles when it came to her work. They had agreed to leave before half past seven earlier, and it was almost time now. There was not enough time for them to eat.

"We shall make our move first, Ryder." "Oh... Oh!" Ryder wasn't angry. He just felt guilty for not being able to welcome them with dinner properly, especially after Mackenzie had bought an expensive birthday gift for Tommy while Emmanuel had brought cake. He felt that it was quite impolite of them as the hosts.

Tommy cried and refused to let Emmanuel and Mackenzie leave.

"I'll have someone deliver the new toy to you tomorrow, Tommy. Stop crying!" Mackenzie was never one to beat around the bush. After comforting Tommy very briefly, she left the house directly.

Emmanuel could only catch up with her quickly after giving Tommy a gentle pat on his head.

As Mary and Chloe watched Mackenzie's cold and resolute figure, they sighed inwardly.

Unlike Abellyn, neither were they jealous nor did they dislike Mackenzie. They just thought that she had an impressive aura and a decisive attitude. She was truly someone extraordinary!

After Emmanuel and Mackenzie's departure, Ryder and Tommy clearly lost their enthusiasm. Despite that, Ryder still welcomed Mary and Chloe warmly.

Once dinner was over, Abellyn chatted with Mary and Chloe in the living room, leaving Ryder to help Tommy with his homework in the room. She acted like it wasn't her responsibility to teach Tommy.

Ryder suddenly felt bitterness welling up in his heart. As someone from the countryside, he used to think that he was very fortunate to marry such a beautiful woman like Abellyn.

At least that was what his relatives and friends said every time they saw the couple together.

Over the years, he always treated his wife very well and considered himself inferior, never letting her do any dirty or tiring work.

Abellyn hadn't worked since they had a shotgun wedding because she was pregnant, even though their child was now six years old.

Ryder hadn't thought much of it before that. After all, his cousin Jack's wife also stopped working after they got married. However, after seeing Emmanuel's wife, he couldn't help but compare Abellyn to her.

Why is my wife so different from Emmanuel's wife?

She's not as good-looking, not as classy, and not as capable!

Despite that, he didn't mind these aspects too much. After all, he couldn't compare to Emmanuel in terms of looks, temperament, and ability either.

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 147-Even so, Ryder couldn't help but feel resentful about the difference between his wife's character and Mackenzie's. He felt like he had married a fussy old woman. On the other hand, Emmanuel's wife might look difficult to get along with on the surface, but she was actually a warm-hearted person inside. She cared about Emmanuel deeply and was considerate of him. Besides, she was knowledgeable and reasonable.

He truly envied Emmanuel!

Around ten o'clock, after Ryder managed to put Tommy to sleep, he headed to the living room. Mary and Chloe had just left.

"About time, Ryder! I have something to tell you." Abellyn spoke to Ryder in a condescending tone.

This was a habit that had developed over the years that she simply couldn't change. From the moment they got married, she felt that he was truly lucky to be able to marry her.

Moreover, with the comments from her relatives and friends over the years, this mindset had deeply ingrained itself in her.

“What is it?” Ryder’s heart sank even though Abellyn hadn’t gotten to the matter yet.

Although they had been married less than seven years, there wasn’t a single good thing every time Abellyn told him something. He had since developed a subconscious response.

“Well, Robby wants to come to Yeringham for school too, but my sister doesn’t have a house here yet. She wants to transfer Robby’s household registration to us so that he can secure a spot at the nearby elementary school. Find some time in the next two days and get the procedures done.” Abellyn’s tone was calm as she commanded Ryder to follow her instructions.

However, Ryder exclaimed, “What? How can we do that? Robby is not our child!” “What’s wrong with it? Many people do this. Don’t you consider my sister’s child as family?” Abellyn retorted, challenging Ryder.

“Well... They might be our relatives, but Robby is not our own child! Besides, where will he live if he studies here?” Ryder’s expression became complicated and troubled.

“Of course he’s going to live with us. Don’t we still have a spare room?”^{3/5} With an entitled expression on her face, she continued coldly, “Don’t worry, you won’t be losing any money! Chloe will give us five hundred every month as Robby’s living expenses. I’m sure an eight-year-old child can’t eat that much, so you will definitely gain from it!” Ryder felt like he was being forced to eat a dead rat while being pressured to say it tasted delicious.

Since he wasn’t good with words, he didn’t know how to respond. Waving his hands repeatedly, he said, “No, absolutely not! I won’t agree to it!” “Why not?” Abellyn immediately became aggressive. Pointing at Ryder, she yelled, “Listen here, Ryder Lowe! I don’t care what you want. You have to agree to this because my sister has entrusted me to take care of Robby. If you dare to send him back home and ruin his future, I won’t let you off! You’re disrespecting me if you disrespect my family. Don’t expect me to treat you well in the future!” Ryder was dumbfounded. His dark face instantly reddened with anger.

He was so angry that he could kill someone!

However, Abellyn had the upper hand in the argument. Snorting, she taunted, “Remember when you said you loved me so much and that my family was

your family when we got married? What now? Have you forgotten your vows now that I've become older and not as good-looking as before?

Ryder struggled to catch his breath from anger.

Indeed, Abellyn's looks and figure couldn't compare to how she was six years ago.

Back then, she was still widely regarded as a beauty. However, she chose to do nothing and live a lazy life after marriage and giving birth to Tommy. Every day, she did nothing more than eat and play poker, which caused her to put on so much weight that she now looked like a pig with enlarged hips.

However, Ryder had never been disdainful of her appearance. What he couldn't bear was her attitude!

She didn't even perceive him as a person!

And now she was accusing him of disrespecting her?

Wasn't she framing him of what she always did?

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 148-“Anyway, this matter is decided. If you think five hundred is not enough for Robby's living expenses, I'll ask Chloe to give you eight hundred every month.

But if you don't allow Robby to come to the city to study, we're done. I will get a divorce!” Abellyn declared arrogantly and unreasonably.

Then, she went back to her room to sleep.

Ryder was afraid of quarreling in the room and waking up Tommy, who had.

just fallen asleep, so he slumped against the couch in the living room. Even after a long time, he was still unable to calm his anger.

When Abellyn got up the next morning, Ryder had already taken Tommy to school. She got up and left the house.

Chloe and Robby hadn't left Yeringham and were instead staying in a rented house.

A year ago, Chloe's husband passed away due to an accident, leaving her over three hundred thousand as compensation. Since his parents had already passed away, the money was all left for Chloe.

She could have used the money to buy a house in Yeringham, but she merely rented a house without letting Ryder know because her income was unstable.

Furthermore, she often went off to play poker with Abellyn, thinking that she could buy a house in full payment if she managed to win more money.

However, luck was often not on her side. Coupled with her extravagant spending, the money was almost gone now.

Robby was previously studying in Chloe's hometown and was taken care of by Mary, but Chloe hadn't given her mother any caretaker fees for the past two months. As a result, Mary now refused to take care of the child for free and gave the excuse that she was already old. In the end, Mary sent Robby back to Chloe yesterday.

Left with no choice, Chloe decided to put the pressure on Ryder.

When Chloe saw Abellyn, she immediately held her sister's hand and asked anxiously, "How is it, Abellyn? Did that honest guy agree?" Abellyn let out a long sigh and looked a bit angry. "Chloe, he didn't seem very willing. I told him you will give him eight hundred every month for living expenses, but he still doesn't want to take care of Robby!" As they spoke, Robby secretly eavesdropped from inside the house.

"What? Not even eight hundred?" Angry, Chloe spoke without thinking. "That guy is already taking care of a child that isn't his. What's the big deal if he takes care of another one? It's not like anyone pays him to look after that child!" Before she could finish, Abellyn hurriedly covered her mouth and glanced inside the house.

Robby quickly pretended to play with his toys happily as if he hadn't heard anything.

"Don't blabber about it, Chloe! If that honest guy finds out, I'll be in trouble!" Abellyn whispered anxiously.

"Hmmp, that man is truly foolish! Does he really think he could have married a beautiful woman like you with his conditions?" Chloe complained.

Then, she said directly, "Forget it. Let him be a little happier. If he still doesn't want to, you and I can sleep with him together and have Robby acknowledge him as his godfather!" Even Abellyn, who was not a virtuous woman herself, was shocked by the suggestion.

"Are you mad, Chloe? Both of us sleep with that kind of man? Who is he to deserve that? Even if we have to sleep with someone, that someone should be a wealthy man like Shawn. At least we may be able to gain some money from it!" Abellyn wasn't a chaste woman, but she thought a poor man like Ryder would be having it a little too easy if they slept with him.

Every time she slept with him, she felt as if she was experiencing sleep paralysis. If Chloe slept with him too, she couldn't even imagine the scene.

"If we had a choice, of course I would, Abellyn! But look at our age now and our figures! Why would wealthy men like Shawn fall for us? Do you think we still look like we did ten years ago?" Chloe's words served to remind Abellyn of a bitter memory.

Back when Abellyn found it too tiring to work in a factory, she started working at a bathhouse after Chloe encouraged her to.

At that time, many men would make appointments with her because of her attractive looks and figure. One could even say her business was thriving.

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 149-Regretfully, Abellyn had accidentally got pregnant at that time. That was the only reason she had set her sights on Ryder, who was an honest man, by pretending to be intoxicated and offering herself to him.

Fortunately, her son was born at full term and resembled her, so the man had never once suspected the truth in the past six years.

However, a leopard never changed its spots. As she was accustomed to being lazy, it was practically impossible for her to work for a living anymore.

Yet, it was no longer a piece of cake for her to obtain fast money as she did in the past. At her silence, Chloe continued softly, "You're not even thirty years old yet Abellyn. Try your best to lose weight. Even if you get a divorce, I can introduce a few rich bachelors to you. So, can you threaten that man a bit when you go home? All my hopes are pinned on Robby now. I only want him to make something of himself and have someone backing him up if he were to

succeed, he could also support you, no?" Abellyn had not had much education and had been duped by her sister ever since she was young. After having been brainwashed then, she gritted her teeth and vowed, "Don't worry, Chloe. If he dares refuse, I'll ask for a divorce!"

He won't bear to part with me!" "Yes, this is more like it! You're still very young, so you have nothing to fear in the event of a divorce, Abellyn!" Only concerned about her own interests, Chloe could not care less about the possibility of her sister's marriage crumbling to the ground. She naturally seconded and incited Abellyn fervently.

When night fell, Emmanuel again received a call from Ryder and made his way out of the residential area.

Seeing that his cousin had again delivered a box of fresh fruits over, he felt a tad embarrassed. "Mackenzie and I have enough fruits, Ryder. You don't need to always send fruits to us." Ryder chuckled airily and replied, "It's okay, Manny. This is my employee benefit anyway. Besides, Ms. Quillen and you had someone send a big toy helicopter over for Tommy. I merely want to express my gratitude." Emmanuel sighed imperceptibly.

He was very well-acquainted with both Mackenzie's and Ryder's personalities.

The former always kept her word, and it would seem that she had really had someone send a huge gift over to Tommy that day. Meanwhile, the latter was an upright person, and he would likely feel uneasy if he could not repay Mackenzie by giving her something in return.

That being the case, Emmanuel had no choice but to accept the fruits.

"Uh... Manny..." Just as Emmanuel spun on his heel to leave, Ryder appeared to have something to say yet was hesitant to voice it.

"What's wrong, Ryder?" Glancing back over his shoulder and noticing the expression on his cousin's face, Emmanuel immediately knew that something was bothering the man.

After all, Ryder was a candid person who could never hide his thoughts.

“Oh well, it’s nothing. Go home. Also, thank Ms. Quillen on my behalf once again!” Verily, Ryder envied Emmanuel to the core. His wife is far better than mine!

“Just say it if something is the matter. Don’t keep it to yourself! Did Abellyn pick on you again?” The sight of his cousin’s frustrated look had anguish flood Emmanuel. Being all too familiar with Ryder’s family, he could tell the reason right off the bat.

“Uh... Well, I don’t know how to say this.’ Ryder was still wavering, but under Emmanuel’s incessant interrogation, he ultimately laid his troubles on the table.

“Abellyn has gone overboard! How could she ask such a thing of you?” After Emmanuel listened to the entire matter, his face had gone as black as thunder.

Although it’s said that it’s abhorrent to advise someone to get a divorce, Abellyn has never done a good thing in the nearly seven years she’s been married to Ryder. Now, she has grown even worse, demanding that Ryder take her sister and nephew in! I reckon she must be doing this for some ulterior motive. Otherwise, no one would do such a thing unless she was not right in the head!

Love at the Wrong Table Chapter 150-That night, Mackenzie did not have Emmanuel pick her up from work as she had to attend a social event for business.

The driver, Wally, was approaching the entrance of the residential area in the Bentley when he spotted Emmanuel standing by the gates. He hastily slammed on the brakes.

14 There were lights at the entrance of the residential area, but the surroundings were dark. For that reason, they could see Emmanuel and Ryder, but Emmanuel might not necessarily have a clear view of them.

That was doubly true since the man was talking to Ryder.

“Mr. Lowe is at the gates, Ms. Quillen!” Wally reported, awaiting further instructions.

It was only then that Mackenzie lifted her eyes. When she saw Emmanuel discussing something emotionally with his cousin, she promptly ordered, "All right, I'll be getting down here. Just drive the car back." "Understood, Ms. Quillen!" Upon receiving his orders, Wally instantly drove off and disappeared from sight.

Mackenzie closed the distance before stepping forward to eavesdrop on the two men's conversation.

"What's your decision, then, Ryder? My suggestion is to never agree to that demand. Otherwise, it'd be exceedingly difficult for you to get Robby to leave your house in the future!" Emmanuel was already being very much polite in his speech. If it were someone with an explosive temper, that person would have likely roared, "Have that brat, Robby, buzz off!" "I don't want to agree either, but Abellyn said it'd mean I don't respect her family, and she'd leave the house immediately. On top of that, she even threatened to get a divorce!" Despite despising Abellyn greatly, he still could not accept getting a divorce when it was such a huge issue. Furthermore, he was afraid that it would affect Tommy's life.

That left Emmanuel without a retort.

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If he were in Ryder's shoes, he would undoubtedly part ways with Abellyn.

Alas, Tommy had to be taken into consideration as well.

At the end of the day, a broken family is detrimental to a child's growth.

"How could something so absurd happen?" Mackenzie interjected, strolling up to them without warning when she could not stand hearing it anymore. She wore an icy expression on her face, rendering her aura even more oppressive.

"Ms. Quillen!" Ryder hurriedly greeted.

"Ms-" Emmanuel was about to address her in the same manner when he remembered that his cousin was still there. "Mackenzie, you're back?" Mackenzie shot him a glare. Emmanuel flashed her an apologetic smile as though he had done something wrong.

Ignoring him, Mackenzie said to Ryder coldly, "Did you marry Abellyn or her sister? Why are you indulging her when they're obviously being unreasonable? If you were to compromise, believe it or not, they'd demand even more in the future." An epiphany dawned upon the two men.

Emmanuel similarly felt that his cousin should confront Abellyn in such a manner.

Meanwhile, a light bulb went off in Ryder's head. He felt that Mackenzie had given voice to his sentiments.

Acting like his superior, Mackenzie continued lecturing, "Your responsibility is to support your own family, not your wife's family. Don't be as stupid as Emmanuel!" "Me?" Emmanuel pointed at himself in shock. Huh? Why did I get dragged into this for no reason?

Sweeping a gaze over him, Mackenzie stepped into the residential area.

Ryder, who initially looked utterly depressed, felt as if he had been injected with strength after listening to her words.

"Ms. Quillen is totally right! I'll tell Abellyn that when I go home. What nerve!

Who exactly does she regard as her family? And who is more important to her? Above all, who does she want to spend the rest of her life with?" Hearing that, Emmanuel breathed a sigh of relief. He patted his cousin on the shoulder in agreement.

Ryder climbed onto his electric bike. Before leaving, he said, "I forgot to thank Ms. Quillen just now, Manny. Remember to thank her on my behalf when you go back." "Got it, Ryder!"