

Zillionaire 451

Chapter 451 You're Such A Jerk!

Collin didn't even lift his head. His attention remained fixed on the documents before him. Without hesitation, he rejected Carol. "Sorry, that won't be possible."

Carol's smile faltered. She furrowed her brows, a flicker of anxiety crossing her face. "You haven't even checked your schedule. Are you sure you're really unavailable?"

Before she could finish, Collin coldly cut her off. "In every way, I'm unavailable."

Carol's embarrassment deepened. She clenched her fists, glaring at him. "Mr. Riley, don't you think you're

being a little too harsh? Is this how you treat someone from the Lawson family?" However, Collin didn't bother responding.

Taking a deep breath, Carol pressed on, her tone turning serious. "If you insist on treating me this way, it could affect the partnership between the Lawson Group and your company. You do realize that my brother only initiated this deal to find a cure for my heart condition?"

Still, Collin remained unmoved.

He finally looked up, his gaze cold and piercing. His voice was calm, but his words carried an unmistakable weight. "Miss Lawson, consider this your final warning. Stop overstepping your boundaries, and stop trying to get close to me. I've told you before-I'm married, and my wife and I have a strong bond."

Carol's eyes widened in shock. She opened her mouth to argue, but Collin didn't give her the chance. His voice turned even colder. "If you pull a stunt like this again, don't blame me for throwing you out-right in front of

everyone."

His words landed like a slap. Carol stood there, frozen, her face burning with humiliation. Her eyes shimmered with unshed tears as she clenched her jaw. "You... You're such a jerk!"

Tears spilled down her cheeks as she spun on her heels and rushed out, her footsteps echoing down the hallway.

Dustin, who had been hiding in the corner, finally dared to step into the room once the coast was clear. He cautiously glanced toward the door, as if making sure Carol wouldn't storm back in.

Collin arched an eyebrow. "What's with you? Don't tell me you're scared of her?" Dustin quickly shut the door before turning to Collin with a serious expression. "Who in town isn't afraid of Carol Lawson? She's the spoiled daughter of the Lawson family. Even if I made my parents furious, I still wouldn't dare cross her." Leaning against the table, Dustin continued, "Her family keeps

a low profile, and she hasn't caused much trouble-yet. If she did, I can't even imagine the chaos she'd create."

Collin scoffed indifferently, "You're exaggerating"

Dustin plopped down beside him, drumming his fingers on the table "Maybe, but you were ruthless just now The way you shot her down-cold as ice."

He gave Collin a thumbs up. "I gotta say, I respect that."

Collin's response was calm and matter-of-fact. "Carol has her own agenda. If indulged her even a little, she'd only become more persistent. Keeping my distance is the only way to avoid unnecessary trouble"

Dustin raised an eyebrow. "I see. So you only have a soft spot for your wife."

After a brief pause, he smirked. "Oh, and your grandma. Can't forget her."

Collin remained unfazed. "I'm married. That means keeping my distance from other women. Otherwise, Linsey would get jealous."

Chapter 452 I Do Owe

Linsey A Proper Proposal

As Collin spoke, an unguarded smile naturally crept onto his face.

Dustin watched, a mix of surprise and amusement flickering in his eyes. It was almost unbelievable Collin and Linsey had such a strong bond.

He shuddered slightly.

How did they manage to keep that spark alive for so long?

But just as quickly as Collin had smiled, his expression darkened. His brows knitted together as he slowly set his pen down. He said in a low, serious voice, "There was another incident at the Lawson family banquet last time. I still haven't had the chance to tell Linsey everything. It has been dragging on for too long. I don't even know how to approach it anymore."

Dustin let out a sigh. "You can't keep pushing this aside. The longer you wait, the harder it'll be. You need to

act soon."

Dustin had known Collin for years; it was rare to see him so unsettled.

Linsey had truly changed him.

Wanting to help his best friend, Dustin straightened up, his expression turning serious. After a brief pause, he asked cautiously, "Do you have a new plan?"

Collin nodded slightly. "I was thinking... Maybe I could host a public banquet as the founder of CR Corporation."

Dustin's eyes brightened instantly. "That's a brilliant idea!"

Then, a new thought struck him, and he smirked. "Wait a minute. Isn't our company's annual gala coming up? We always invite high-profile guests. Why not use that event? Since Linsey works in the company too, we could turn it into a surprise for her."

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As Collin considered it, a slow smile spread across his lips. He gave a firm nod. "That could work."

Dustin grew more animated. "Right? You and Linsey had a flash marriage, so you never actually proposed to her, did you? She'll be incredibly touched if you do it in front of everyone at the gala!"

Collin hesitated, looking thoughtful. "Really?"

Before meeting Linsey, he had never been in a relationship. Romance wasn't his strong suit, so he instinctively relied on Dustin's judgment on this kind of issue.

Dustin said confidently, "Trust me, women love grand romantic gestures. Just do it."

Collin mulled it over for a few seconds before his eyes steadied with resolve.

"I do owe Linsey a proper proposal. Let's go with this plan."

Meanwhile, a shocking rumor spread like wildfire through CR Corporation. Carol had stormed out of the top

floor in tears.

"This is crazy! I thought the founder and Miss Lawson were close. Why did she suddenly run off crying"

"Do you think there's some secret drama behind the scenes?"

"I have no idea, but one thing's for sure-the receptionist must be relieved."

"True! Miss Lawson had her practically shaking in fear."

"Yeah, we all thought Carol had the power to fire anyone she wanted. Who would've guessed the founder would be the one to make her cry instead?"

"Shh! Keep your voice down. You'll be in trouble if any of Carol's people hear you."

"Honestly, I expected the founder to be more soft-spoken, but he turned out to be pretty ruthless."

"I think the founder must already have a wife. If there's someone he's protecting, it has to be his wife. No reason to be nice to Carol, right?"

Chapter 453 My Husband Is Ridiculously Possessive

"Yeah, exactly! The founder is a devoted husband. Don't forget, he recently spent

a billion on a necklace at an auction just to gift it to his wife."

"Oh, right! I almost forgot about that!"

Linsey, however, wasn't particularly interested in gossip like this.

Whether it was Carol or the mysterious founder of CR Corporation, neither had much to do with her life

At most, she was just a little curious about what the founder actually looked like. This morning, her mind was entirely focused on Gorman's design.

She and Collin had agreed-since Gorman refused to take the money back, the best way to settle things was to complete the design and hand it over.

That way, she wouldn't owe him anything.

After two full days of effort, Linsey finally completed the wedding gown design Gorman had commissioned.

Once it was done, Collin arranged for it to be sent straight to Gorman's residence.

Whether he personally received it or not, they didn't bother to check.

That day, Linsey was at her desk, focused on work, when a company-wide announcement set off a wave of excitement.

"The annual company event is just around the corner!"

"The prizes have always been incredible! I can't wait to see what they're giving out this year!"

"Forget all that-I just want some paid leave!"

Stepping out of her office, Linsey overheard the chatter and couldn't help but chuckle.

"Seems like we all have the same dream. A few extra days off sounds amazing," she remarked.

A few coworkers turned toward her, smiling. "Linsey, what brings you out here?"

She smirked. "I saw the announcement too."

Just then, someone threw out a bold suggestion. "What if the grand prize this year is a private dinner with the founder?"

The room buzzed with excitement.

"Oh my God! That would be a dream come true! I'd love that?*

"Imagine the kind of high-end place he'd take you to!"

"All you ever think about is food."

One of them turned to Linsey with a grin. "What about you? You must want this

prize. You've always admired the founder, haven't you?"

At that, a few heads turned her way, curiosity evident on their faces.

"Is that so?"

Linsey let out a small laugh. "Well, my introduction to design came through the company he built. That's what inspired me to pursue this field, so in a way, he played a role in shaping my career."

"Ohhh, that makes sense."

"But I doubt I'd win anything." Linsey added with a shrug.

"You never know! Everyone has a shot!" a colleague said.

Linsey smiled but shook her head. "Even if I did win, I wouldn't be able to go. My husband is ridiculously possessive. He'd probably make a huge fuss over it, and honestly, I don't have the energy to deal with that."

The room fell quiet for a second before realization clicked. Oh, right. Linsey wasn't

just married-her husband was Collin, the eldest son of the Riley family.

Collin didn't have a good reputation in Grester, but her colleagues wished her happiness.

"She makes it sound like a complaint, but you can hear the affection in her voice."

"She's kind and gorgeous-if I were her husband, I'd be keeping an eye on everyone around her too."

Chapter 454 Your Baby Is Bound To Be Adorable!

The remark instantly sent laughter rippling through the group.

Linsey smiled and shook her head. "You guys sure have a way with words."

One of her colleagues suddenly said, "By the way, Linsey, have you and your husband thought about having kids? You two are such a loving couple, but we haven't heard any news yet."

She hesitated briefly before responding with a warm smile, "It's already something we've talked about. If there's good news, you'll be the first to know."

"With your looks, Linsey, your baby is bound to be adorable!"

After the lighthearted conversation, she returned to her desk and got back to work.

But the topic lingered in her thoughts..

The idea of having a child with Collin was an unexpectedly sweet thought.

A soft smile formed on her lips as she imagined it.

Just then, her phone buzzed

She picked it up and saw

"I have a business trip to

a new message.

me on the screen.

neighboring city for the next few days. Take care of yourself while I'm away. I'll be

back as soon as possible. If you need anything, call me anytime."

Linsey blinked in surprise. She hadn't expected him to leave on such short notice.

She quickly typed back, "Did you pack everything you need?" "Yeah, all set."

A few moments later, another message popped up. "By the way, I noticed you were running low on sanitary pads, so I had them restocked. Your period's been late this month, so you might have cramps when it starts. If you're not feeling well, let me know, okay?"

Linsey couldn't help but smile at his thoughtful words. She replied, "Got it. Don't worry about me-just focus on your trip. I'll take care of myself."

Even the smallest details never escaped him. It was impossible not to feel touched.

That evening, when Linsey arrived home, Collin was already gone.

The house felt quieter, almost emptier without him. Even the meal in front of her seemed to have lost its usual

flavor.

A servant, noticing her lack of appetite, spoke gently. "Mrs. Riley, before Mr. Riley left, he reminded us multiple times to make sure you're eating well. If the food isn't to your liking, we can prepare something else for you.*

Snapping out of her thoughts, Linsey quickly shook her head. "No, no, the food is delicious. I just got distracted

for a moment."

It wasn't the meal-she simply missed Collin.

After dinner, she went to freshen up. As she opened the bathroom cabinet, her eyes landed on the neatly arranged sanitary pads. Her chest tightened.

Even when he was away, his presence was everywhere. Linsey let out a small snuffle, surprised by how much

she already missed him.

She debated calling but figured he was probably still busy.

With a quiet sigh, she climbed into bed, willing herself to sleep.

She realized she was becoming more and more dependent on Collin.

But just as she started to drift off, a sudden realization jolted her awake. Her period. It really was late!

Linsey sat up in a rush, unlocking her phone and pulling up her calendar.

Her fingers quickly scrolled through the dates. A month and two weeks had passed since her last cycle.

Her heart pounded.

Could she actually be pregnant?

Chapter 455 Linsey, It's Been Quite Some Time

Linsey lay awake, unable to sleep.

Her excitement was clear as she sat up and grabbed her phone from the bedside table

Could she possibly share the news with Collin immediately?

She hesitated, biting her lip, then decided against it.

Collin was away on business, engrossed in his work, and it was impractical for him to come back on such short

notice.

Moreover, her suspicion of being pregnant was just that-a suspicion, unconfirmed.

She remembered a previous false alarm that had ended in collective disappointment.

Linsey resolved to visit the hospital for a confirmation before saying anything this time.

If her suspicions were confirmed, she would surprise Collin on his return.

With her plan in place, excitement bubbled within her, and she took a calming breath.

Subconsciously, she touched her stomach and whispered a hopeful, "Let this be

true."

A smile of hope spread across her face.

She quickly checked her calendar on the phone.

Saturday was just two days away, an ideal time for her hospital appointment.

Content with her plan, Linsey set her phone aside and settled back into bed.

She closed her eyes, her mind buzzing with anticipation.

Gradually, sleep took her, and she spent the night without dreams.

Come morning, Linsey woke up rejuvenated.

She got to work punctually, already looking forward to Saturday and the potential confirmation of her pregnancy.

Linsey was deeply focused in her designs when a gentle knock at her office door interrupted her concentration. "Linsey," someone called, their expression hinting at gossip, eyes sparkling with curiosity. "You have a visitor." Curious, Linsey began to inquire further, but before she could speak, the other person leaned in closer and murmured, "It's Carol Lawson. She claims she's here to discuss a design."

The unexpected news briefly startled Linsey "Carol Laurson orants a design from
mer

The Lawson family undoubtedly had access to the most celebrated designers in the day

Yet here Carol was, choosing to visit her personally for a project.

Though uncertainty lingered, Linsey gathered herself and asked, "Has Miss Lauron been shoom to the STING room already?"

"She has," the colleague said with a quick nod.

"Alright, I'll go meet her now." Linsey quickly organized the scattered papers on her dock, picked up her notebook and pen, and set off down the hall.

The moment Linsey stepped through the doorway, her gaze immediately found Carol, prices elegantly on the

center sofa.

Her tailored designer suit, flawless hairstyle, and impeccable appearance declared loudly the refined debase associated with the powerful Lawson family.

At the gentle click of the door, Carol placed her cup gently onto the table, turning her head gracefully to get Linsey without bothering to rise. "Linsey, it's been quite some time."

Linsey offered a small, polite nod as she moved forward. "Miss Lawson."

Just before Linsey could take a seat, Carol's voice drifted through the air with casual authority Linsey, don't

sit just yet."

Linsey stopped midway, standing composedly, her expression serene as she met Carol's gaze.

"Is there something else you require first, Miss Lawson?" Linsey asked.

Carol glanced nonchalantly toward her abandoned coffee, lips curled in mild distaste. "Well, I sampled the coffee here and found it disappointingly ordinary. Perhaps you could make a quick trip to my favorite café

Chapter 456 There's No

Need To Get Defensive

As Carol spoke, her intense gaze locked onto Linsey, causing a twinge of discomfort in Linsey

Enflly diverting her gaze, Linsey composed herself and then asked, "Miss Lawson, did you come here today talk about design?"

With a casual air, Carol responded, "Yes, that's why I'm here. However, I find it hard to concentrate without my favorite coffee in hand."

Reclining with a mixture of playfulness and sincerity, she added, "You lead the Fashion Design Department here at CR Corporation; accommodating a simple client preference should be within your capabilities, right?"

Within moments, Linsey understood that Carol was provoking her.

Such hostility was not new to Linsey, years of similar challenges had honed her senses.

Her carefree days were over, replaced by a keen awareness of people's intentions toward her.

Linsey had no doubts about Carol's feelings toward her..

The tension had been evident since their encounter at the Lawson family's event.

This understanding brought Linsey a sense of relief. A small smile played on her lips as she maintained her composure. "As you've pointed out, my role is to create designs for my clients. Handling errands, however, falls under the expertise of professionals."

Before Carol could respond, Linsey was already reaching for her phone. "Since you're used to luxury, you might not know about the many services available for errands. I'd be happy to connect you with one."

Carol's face hardened, her smile turning into a grimace. "I was under the impression that you would take care of a simple request like this personally."

Without pausing, Linsey responded confidently, "Wouldn't doing that just mean throwing away my effort? You've approached me because you believe in my talent. Why should I bother myself with insignificant tasks?"

Carol examined Linsey closely, noticing the quiet certainty that radiated from her calm demeanor.

She tightened her jaw, startled by Linsey's complete lack of nervousness around someone of her influence. Others would have scrambled eagerly to fulfill her wishes without a second thought.

Yet Linsey acted as if the Lawson family held no power over her.

This woman had courage unlike any she had seen before.

Carol briefly considered this, and a cunning thought began forming in her mind.

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It occurred to her that CR Corporation's staff were probably unaware Linsey was married to their founder.

Did Linsey herself even know about this connection?

Perhaps she chose to work her way up independently, refusing to lean on her husband's prominent position at

CR Corporation.

Carol was entertained by this possibility, her lips curving subtly as she said, "Linsey, someone mentioned you're married. Is that true?"

Linsey's brow creased lightly, she was puzzled at Carol's sudden switch in topic.

"Is my marriage relevant to the matter we're discussing right now?" she asked with detached politeness.

Carol gave a quiet laugh and replied, "There's no need to get defensive. I was simply making conversation

Nothing more."

She glanced at Linsey, who had remained standing all along, and continued, "Forget about the coffee, then. Let's sit and talk properly."

Chapter 457 I Want A Gown

Like No Other

Linsey silently glanced at Carol, then decided to sit on the nearby sofa.

As she settled in, memories of Carol's recent visit to CR Corporation to meet its founder surfaced in her thoughts

Whispers from her colleagues began to echo in her mind.

Could it be that Carol harbored feelings for the founder of CR Corporation?

Yet, what concern was that of hers?

Despite her time at CR Corporation, she had never once encountered the founder.

Why would Carol link her to the founder?

The puzzle left Linsey completely perplexed.

She could not fathom any other reason behind Carol's animosity towards her.

They had only just met; their paths had not crossed before.

After pondering for a moment, Linsey responded with open honesty, "I am indeed married."

She declared her marital status clearly, hoping to dispel Carol's suspicions.

The last thing she

e wanted was to create an unnecessary

enemy

Carol quickly asked, "Linsey, with all your achievements, your husband must be quite remarkable, right? Does he run a business in town? Perhaps I know him."

Maintaining her composure, Linsey responded, "Miss Lawson, you flatter me too much. I lead a simple life, and so does my husband."

She changed her expression during a brief pause and quietly suggested, "If you are truly keen on working together, let's be direct. There's no point in wasting our time."

Linsey's straightforwardness slightly annoyed Carol.

"Linsey, I was merely hoping for a relaxed conversation. Is there a need for such formality?" She inhaled deeply before adding, "By the way, we're poised to forge a lasting alliance with your firm. Remember, I am a Lawson. It's quite surprising how you could speak to me with such disregard."

Unfazed, Linsey replied calmly, "Please don't take it the wrong way. I did not mean to offend. My schedule is quite full, and if you're here to chat informally, today may not be ideal."

Carol scowled, shocked at Linsey's aloofness. She couldn't recall ever being disregarded by someone of such

ordinary status!

Raising her head proudly, Carol said, "I approached you specifically for a design project. I'm looking forward to seeing your skills, considering how quickly you rose to lead the Fashion Design Department."

Without hesitation, Linsey flipped open her notebook. "Very well. Describe the type of garment you envision. What occasion is it for?"

With a slight raise of her eyebrow, Carol responded leisurely, "Your firm will soon host the annual gala. As a major partner, I and my family will naturally attend. I need an evening gown that suits my status. Make sure it's something extraordinary."

As Linsey took notes, she inquired, "Any particular preferences, Miss Lawson?"

Carol thought for a moment before replying. The design needs to be grand. I want

a gown like no other. We can talk more once I see your first draft."

Chapter 458 Make Sure The Design Is Ready Soon

"Understood," Linsey responded, her voice steady.

Carol rose, slinging her bag over her shoulder, and made her way out alone. "Make sure the design is ready soon. I'll review it in a few days."

Carol stepped out of the meeting room, a spark of confidence flashing in her eyes.

A smirk tugged at her lips.

As expected, Linsey had no idea that her husband was the mastermind behind

CR Corporation. His decision to disclose this truth to Linsey spoke volumes of his indifference towards her.

A pretty face meant nothing without the right connections.

She was way out of Linsey's league.

That realization only made Carol feel even more self-assured.

Meanwhile, Linsey had just closed her notebook when her coworkers quickly gathered around.

"Linsey, how did the meeting go?"

"What brought Miss Lawson here to meet you?"

"It's surprising to see her here after she stormed out crying last time over something to do with our founder."

"I caught a glimpse at the end-Miss Lawson actually seemed pleased as she left."

"Our founder left her upset, yet she departed all smiles after meeting with you."

Linsey chuckled at the wild theories floating around. "You all really let your imaginations run wild."

Holding up her notebook, she declared with an arched eyebrow, "Miss Lawson was here for a business discussion, naturally."

The group's faces fell with disappointment.

"Just business? We

e were

all hoping for some dramatic news."

Linsey playfully tapped the biggest gossipmonger's head, scolding, "Always

digging for the dirt, aren't you? Want to know all the secrets."

She clapped her hands to grab everyone's attention. "Enough gossip, everyone. Let's get back to our tasks, or we're here till midnight."

"Understood, Linsey," they responded, heading back to their denken.

Linsey exhaled in relief as she watched them disperse

Fortunately, the meeting room's soundproof walls had kept her conversation with Carol private

Back in her office, Linsey placed her notebook down on her desk.

Despite Carol's agreement to proceed with the design collaboration, the probing into her personal life nagged at

her.

Something was unsettling about Carol's keen interest in her marital status, especially her pointed inquiries

about her husband.

Linsey

for thelled the conversations among her colleagues earlier, suggesting Carol might have harbored feelings

founder of CR Corporation

Yet, Linsey herself had no connection to him.

Despite this, she couldn't shake the feeling that this information was significant.

The thought persisted, refusing to be dismissed.

A memory suddenly surfaced in Linsey's mind.

Not long ago, she was caught in a plagiarism scandal and was forcibly dismissed by Coen, who was in charge at

the time.

Later, when the truth was revealed, she recalled that the CR Corporation's founder had personally defended her using the company's official account

At that time, Linsey was astonished that someone of his stature would support a designer of her standing

Now, reflecting on it, could Carol's animosity stem from seeing that public endorsement?

With these thoughts swirling in her mind, Linsey seated herself, turned on her computer, and navigated to the company's official social media page to revisit the post in question.

Chapter 459 How's The Business Trip Going

The signature in the bottom right of the apology unmistakably belonged to the founder of CR Corporation.

Why had the founder gone out of his way to advocate for Linsey in the past?

Was it possible that he had known her beforehand?

As Linsey pondered this, her phone started to vibrate.

Regaining her focus, she saw Collin's name flashing on the caller ID.

A wave of guilt washed over her.

She had been musing about another man, and if the notoriously jealous Collin discovered this, he would surely

react poorly.

Linsey set her thoughts aside, answered the phone, and spoke gently. "Hello, darling?"

There was a brief pause on the other end before Collin responded with a hint of suspicion, "Linsey, you sound a bit unusual today. It's only been a day since I left. Haven't you been up to something you shouldn't?"

Surprised by his accusation, Linsey's eyes widened. "Why would you say that?"

As she spoke, she recalled her recent reflections about the CR Corporation's founder.

Although it was a minor thought, she knew that to the jealous Collin, it could escalate into a major issue. Linsey resolved not to mention her thoughts about the CR Corporation's founder to Collin.

With a light chuckle, Collin teased, "I'm just messing with you. Don't take it to heart."

He then shifted to a gentler tone, adding, "Have you been eating regularly today? How did you sleep after work? And how about your menstrual cycle, any

discomfort? Remember, there's pain medication in our room's drawer if you need

it."

Linsey's heart warmed as she listened to his considerate questions.

She decided against mentioning that her period was late until she confirmed it with a test, wanting to spare Collin any worry

"Everything's fine with me, no need to worry." Linsey reassured him softly. "How about you? How's the business trip going?"

Collin's face brightened with a tender smile, though Linsey couldn't see it.

Unbeknownst to Linsey, Collin had traveled to a nearby city to secure a diamond ring from a famous jewelry

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designer. Taking advice from his friend train, he planned to reveal all at the CR Corporation's upcoming gala and propose in spectacular fashion though they were already married

The ring demanded meticulous preparation, prompting Collin to select a renowned designer who, due to a packed schedule was only available at an event in the neighboring ty

Collin planned to personally consult with the jewelry designer under the pretext of traveling on business, aiming to craft the ideal ring

He orchestrated a surprise for Linsey by maintaining secrecy about his true plans, even choosing to inform her of his departure via a text message to keep his intentions hidden

Thus far, his secret had been safe, with no hints accidentally revealed by Dustin

"You're my good luck charm. Everything just falls into place when you're with me," Collin said sincerely

Linsey's face lit up with a smile at his words

"When will you be returning?" she inquired

As she asked. Linsey thought about the timing of his return. She anticipated having the results of her pregnancy test by then, which would clarify whether or not she was expecting.

Chapter 460

Congratulations, You're...

Linsey entertained the possibility of sharing exciting news with Collin upon his return if she was indeed pregnant. Otherwise, she resolved to shoulder the sadness alone. She wanted to spare Collin the pain of another false alarm.

Collin, feeling a soft warmth flood through him as he listened to Linsey's soothing voice, responded gently, "I'll try to get back as soon as I can." His voice had a raspy depth to it.

He was hesitant to promise a specific day for his return due to a scheduled meeting with a jewelry designer. The desire to abandon his plans and return to Linsey's side was overwhelming, he had been away for only a day but missed her immensely.

Collin had never experienced such longing before Linsey entered his life. Now, every moment felt richer, filled with happiness that he had come to cherish deeply.

"Okay, I'll wait," Linsey responded quietly, her voice tender.

On Saturday morning, Linsey rose early, skipped breakfast deliberately, and went to the hospital for her pregnancy test on an empty stomach.

The test was completed swiftly, and Linsey soon found herself sitting quietly outside the examination room, awaiting the outcome.

To pass the time, she checked her phone and noticed a message from Dolores. "My dear friend, what are you up to now?"

Linsey replied, "I'm at the hospital for a check-up."

Dolores quickly sent another message, expressing concern. "Is everything okay? You're not unwell, are you?" Linsey paused for a moment, contemplating whether to disclose her current situation to Dolores.

With the test results imminent, Linsey opted to keep the details to herself until she knew more. She responded with a noncommittal message. "Just a regular health check-up, nothing to worry about. How's everything with you?"

Linsey swiftly steered the conversation in a different direction, and as expected, Dolores eagerly shifted to discussing her own affairs.

Soon, Linsey was called for her appointment with the gynecologist.

Her pulse quickened and her breathing grew shallow.

Inhaling deeply, Linsey rose from her seat and made her way to the doctor's office.

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She reminded herself to remain composed regardless of the outcome

Excessive stress, she knew, could negatively impact her fertility

With the test results in hand, Linsey entered the doctor's office

"Please, take a seat," the doctor said warmly, gesturing towards the chair with a comforting smile

The doctor began by reviewing the report, then looked up at Linsey and inquired, "You're married, a Why didn't your husband accompany you today?":

Linsey explained, "He's away on business. He doesn't even know I'm here"

As the doctor sifted through the pages of the report, her expression turned grave "This"

aren't you?

Linsey's pulse quickened upon observing the change in the doctor's face. "What is it, Doctor? Is there something wrong?"

She wondered if her recent symptoms might indicate an illness.

Had her recent dizziness and nausea been symptoms of an illness?

Linsey's mind was instantly overwhelmed with alarming thoughts.

The possibility of receiving a diagnosis for a terminal illness caused her heart to plummet.

Seeing Linsey on the verge of panic, the doctor quickly reassured her, "No, no, you've got it wrong."

Breaking into a smile, the doctor said, "Congratulations, you're pregnant."

For a moment, Linsey was too shocked to move. "Could you repeat that, Doctor?"