

The Wife He Forgot to Marry (Winona and Yule)

Chapter 37

Conrad was the first to learn she was leaving and came to persuade her. "Mrs. Locke, the company can't afford to lose you right now. We have the upcoming project with Goddard Group. If you leave, what will our R&D department do?"

Winona smiled. "The company will manage without me. I'm sure you'll find a suitable replacement."

Resigned, Conrad went to consult Yulen.

When Yulen saw him approach, he asked, "Is my wife at work today?"

Conrad nodded. "She is."

Yulen felt a sense of relief. It seemed Winona wasn't angry about him standing her up last night. He'd seen her bonus application email, and while he didn't quite believe in her R&D abilities, he was willing to give her whatever she wanted.

He told Conrad, "My wife applied for a bonus, right? Tell HR to give her a thirty percent raise, starting this month."

He assumed the raise would make her happy enough to overlook the fact that he had stood her up.

Conrad was about to mention Winona's resignation when an assistant entered with a new phone for Yulen. "Mr. Locke, your phone."

Yulen took it. Since his previous chat history hadn't been backed up, he never saw the breakup message Winona had sent.

The assistant then reminded him, "Mr. Locke, Mr. Maddox is here."

Mr. Maddox was an important client. Straightening his tie, Yulen walked out of the office, telling Conrad, "We'll talk later. I have to see a client."

Tallulah came in and, finding Yulen gone, sat in his chair. She saw the resignation email from Winona, and her eyes lit up. She immediately approved it for him. With Winona gone, she and Yulen would have more time alone at the office. This was great news.

Conrad was a bit surprised when HR told him that Mr. Locke had approved Winona's resignation. But he figured it was their business as a couple and that they had likely discussed it already, so there was no point in him trying to persuade Mr. Locke any further.

*

On Saturday, Winona went to visit Nikita.

Matteo hadn't been back since their last argument. During dinner, Nikita sighed, trying to persuade Helena to yield. "A family can't really function without a man in the house. How are you supposed to handle everything on your own?"

Helena was tired of the subject. "He hasn't been home lately, and we've been just fine. Mom, don't try to convince me. He's brought me nothing but pain and disappointment. I'm already preparing to file for divorce. He'll have to sign the papers whether he wants to or not."

Nikita's face flushed with anger. "Helena Jowett, you just try to get a divorce! I'll never allow it, not even if it kills me!"

Helena looked at her, a lump forming in her throat, and swallowed the words she wanted to say.

Winona had wanted to side with Helena but held her tongue when she saw how upset Nikita was. The situation also made her worry about her own predicament. If Nikita couldn't accept Helena's divorce, she would certainly oppose Winona's separation from Yulen.

As they left Helena's house, Nikita was still lecturing Winona. "Just be a good wife. Men make mistakes. As long as he still supports you and comes home in the end, that's what matters. Do you understand?"

Winona's heart felt heavy. She didn't nod or agree, simply leaving in silence.

On her way home in a taxi, she received a call from Violet. Forcing some cheer into her voice, she answered respectfully, "Violet, is everything alright?"

Violet's voice sounded weary. "Winona, dear, I'm not feeling well. Could you come and see me?"