

The Wife He Forgot to Marry (Winona and Yule)

Chapter 5

Winona had learned from her grandfather since childhood, and her talent surpassed even her father's and aunt's. She studied pharmacology in college.

When she applied for a job at the Locke Group after graduation, Conrad immediately recognized her as the little girl who used to follow Leander around. He hired her on the spot. She was highly valued in the R&D department, but everyone except Conrad ostracized her, whispering behind her back that she had connections.

The rumors grew even nastier after she started dating Yulen. One time, Yulen overheard someone gossiping about her in the breakroom and fired the employee on the spot. He then made her the nominal director of the R&D department. He figured that even if she wasn't qualified, it was worth it just to see her happy.

What he didn't know was that she had been the lead researcher behind many of the company's best-selling herbal medicines for chronic illnesses in recent years.

Even after leaving the company, she continued to follow the R&D department's work, often guiding Conrad on adjusting research plans. She wasn't driven by fame or fortune, only by the desire to help more patients regain their health.

After agreeing, Winona fought through a wave of morning sickness and opened her laptop to review the formula Conrad had sent. Two hours later, she finally pinpointed the problem.

Conrad's face lit up as he listened. "Thank you so much, Mrs. Locke. The R&D department is truly at a loss without you!"

He sometimes wished Winona had been born a boy so she could have stayed in the department. It was a shame, he thought, that because she was a woman, everyone expected her to center her life on marriage and children.

Winona opened her thermos, took a sip of water to quell the nausea rising in her stomach, and said, "Conrad, I've decided to come back to work."

She was done being kept at home by Yulen, ignorant of the company's affairs. She needed to understand the company's situation to get her fair share of Yulen's assets.

Conrad was thrilled but also worried. Yulen and Tallulah were openly together at the office. Wouldn't Winona be upset if she saw them?

But Yulen was his boss, so he couldn't expose him. He could only say tactfully, "Mrs. Locke, perhaps you should discuss this with Mr. Locke first?"

Winona knew everyone saw her as nothing more than a trophy wife, someone who needed Yulen's permission for everything. This time, she was determined to prove to them all that she, Winona, was not just some pampered, worthless rose.

"That won't be necessary," she said firmly. "Yulen himself told me that even if I left to focus on our family, my position as Director of R&D would always be waiting for me. I'm not reapplying; I'm simply returning to my job."

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That evening, Winona began preparing her work materials. Despite being away for three years, she had never stopped learning, and her professional skills were as sharp as ever.

Just then, Yulen called.

Annoyed, she answered, feigning a casual tone.