

His kiss 1191

Chapter 1191

The whole exchange — cold, transactional, stripped of any warmth — cut through Aubrey like a blade.

Yet her parents, cash in hand, were so wary of being cheated that they stood there counting every bill in front of everyone present.

Dr. Su's mother rolled her eyes, thoroughly exasperated, as she watched.

Once satisfied the amount was correct and having inspected the brand-new car, Aubrey's parents left without so much as a backward glance, cheerful, as if walking away from their own daughter were the simplest thing in the world.

Watching their retreating figures, Aubrey felt, for the first time, that cutting ties with her own family might be the luckiest thing that had ever happened to her.

With the matter settled, Wesley said his goodbyes to Dr. Su, while Gabriela stayed behind, sensing Aubrey wasn't in any state to be left alone.

"Aubrey, congratulations on becoming a bride," Gabriela said, handing over a thick red envelope, the traditional wedding gift, one she'd quietly prepared ahead of time.

“Now that things with Kevin are over, don’t keep dwelling on him. Whatever else, Dr. Su is a good man. Don’t let him down.”

“Life keeps moving forward,” she added gently. “We should too.”

Aubrey choked back tears and nodded. “I understand.”

Ever generous, Alissa handed over her own thick envelope, matching Gabriela’s without a hint of holding back.

Accepting both, Aubrey said sincerely, “Thank you. Both of you.”

How could she possibly let Dr. Su down after this?

Her vision was compromised, her parents had thrown her away, and she already felt like little more than an unwanted burden. Simply not being discarded felt like a gift in itself — how could she dare to disappoint the one person still standing by her?

Besides—

Whatever Dr. Su had done today, it was almost certainly out of pity.

It wouldn't be long before he came asking for a divorce.

The thought left her hollowed out with despair.

Meanwhile, the man she believed she was burdening was elsewhere, weathering the full weight of his own parents' scrutiny.

Professor Su slammed a hand against the table, frustration plain on his face.

"This is absurd. Marriage is not something to be handled so recklessly!"

Patient as ever, Dr. Su poured tea for his parents and said respectfully, "Dad, Mom, please, calm down."

Mrs. Su couldn't quite bring herself to lay into her son outright.

She simply had no good impression of Aubrey. A daughter-in-law acquired under circumstances like these unsettled her deeply, and she was already fairly convinced divorce was only a matter of time.

"What exactly are you thinking?" she asked.

A confirmed bachelor well into his thirties, Dr. Su answered evenly, "I've already registered her into our household."

"My first priority is helping her recover her eyesight. After that, I'll bring her home and take care of her properly, the way she deserves."

Something in Mrs. Su's chest tightened.

Was her son actually serious about this girl?

No.

She couldn't accept this as her daughter-in-law.

Chapter 1192

Noticing her displeasure, Dr. Su let out a sigh and said, "Let's see how Aubrey feels about all this first."

He then walked his mother through the full details of Aubrey's family situation.

By the time he finished, some understanding began to settle over Mrs. Su.

She still didn't particularly warm to Aubrey — but it was becoming clear the real problem was her horrendous parents.

And now that they'd signed away every tie to her, Aubrey was no longer bound to them at all.

Mrs. Su had also gotten a good look at Aubrey earlier. Whatever her circumstances, the girl seemed to have real character.

She'd graduated from a prestigious university, held a stable job at a major company.

For a family as modestly comfortable as theirs, someone like Aubrey wasn't entirely out of the question.

And most importantly — her son was already in his mid-thirties, still single, a constant source of worry for both of them.

If this marriage worked out, that worry might finally be laid to rest.

Something in Mrs. Su's thinking began to shift. Maybe Aubrey wasn't so bad, after all.

Keeping her tone carefully composed, she said, "I'll keep an eye on her for a few days."

Dr. Su smiled warmly. "I'll leave it in your hands, Mom."

She huffed. "Why didn't you listen to me sooner? If I'd had my way, I wouldn't have let her parents off that easily."

"What else was there to do?" Dr. Su asked, genuinely curious.

However terrible Aubrey's parents were, they had, in the end, raised her and paid for her education.

To him, 880,000 yuan and a car felt like a fair enough settlement.

Mrs. Su sighed.

"Those two are genuinely foolish. With Aubrey's salary, and the cultural expectation she'd have supported them in their old age, they could have lived quite comfortably. Instead, they threw away a golden opportunity."

The next day, having come to terms with her son's choice, Mrs. Su arrived at the hospital with a basket of fruit to see Aubrey.

Aubrey's face, soft and round, would have been genuinely charming if not for the bandage covering one eye.

The kind of face that naturally won over elders.

"How did you sleep last night, dear?" Mrs. Su asked gently.

Startled by the warmth in her tone, Aubrey felt overwhelmed.

She'd caused Dr. Su nothing but trouble, and yet his mother hadn't scolded her at all — she'd come to check in instead.

Compared to her own parents, Mrs. Su seemed like something out of a dream, the ideal mother she'd never had.

"Thank you for asking, Mrs. Su. I slept well," Aubrey said.

"My son can be a bit blunt sometimes," Mrs. Su said, referring to how bluntly he'd handled the whole situation the day before. "I hope the way he dealt with it didn't frighten you too much."

Though she'd come partly to size Aubrey up, there was no condescension in her manner, no hint of judgment.

She wasn't the type to nitpick unless there was something genuinely glaring to object to.

Chapter 1193

"No, not at all," Aubrey said softly, guilt threading through her voice. "Mrs. Su, honestly, it's me who owes Dr. Su an apology."

Aubrey's self-reproach dissolved whatever resentment still lingered in Mrs. Su's heart.

Yesterday's mess had put her son, Brenden, in an unfavorable position. If Aubrey had joined her parents in making a scene, he would have inevitably been dragged down with them.

Thinking it over, Mrs. Su took Aubrey's hand and patted the back of it gently.

"Aubrey, now that you're part of our family, there's no reason to keep dwelling on who's to blame."

Moved by the warmth in her voice, Aubrey nodded repeatedly.

“My Brenden has a gentle heart, but he’s older now and doesn’t always understand a young woman’s thinking. You’re not exactly a girl anymore either, and now that you’ve joined our family, you’ll need to look after him properly.”

Aubrey blinked, stunned.

Her own parents had schemed to trap Dr. Su, and yet here was his mother, not the slightest bit angry, treating her with such genuine kindness.

Even stranger was the way she carried herself — could it be Mrs. Su truly saw her as a real daughter-in-law?

Unbothered by Aubrey’s silence, Mrs. Su kept her warm expression steady. “Rest well. I’ll come see you again in a few days.”

Long after she’d left, Aubrey still couldn’t quite make sense of it.

It wasn’t until the nurse beside her remarked, “Mrs. Su really is such a lovely person. No wonder Dr. Su turned out so gentle,” that Aubrey finally snapped out of her thoughts.

Mrs. Su was simply too kind at heart — that had to be why she hadn’t held anything against her. How foolish, letting herself entertain the thought that she might actually become Dr. Su’s real wife.

Aubrey quickly pushed the fantasy aside.

In the days that followed, Dr. Su's own actions proved just how unrealistic her hopes really were.

Brenden hadn't visited the hospital in days, and Aubrey found herself assigned a new attending physician.

Mrs. Su, on the other hand, kept coming by regularly, every few days, her warmth toward Aubrey only growing.

Little by little, Aubrey's heart settled, and she grew steadier.

Whatever Dr. Su actually felt, she decided she wouldn't go seeking him out, wouldn't cling to him. He was a good man, and good men deserved good things.

She resolved that once this whole ordeal wrapped up, she'd be the one to propose divorce herself.

With that in mind, she sent him a message, laying out her honest thoughts.

"Dr. Su, I'm very grateful for your help getting the family severance agreement signed. As for the dowry and the car — 1.08 million yuan altogether, a significant sum by our standards — I'll pay it back to you gradually. And if you ever want me to sign divorce papers, I won't object."

She sent it nervously, feeling like she'd tossed a stone into the ocean — no ripple came back.

Half a month passed with no reply. Then, unexpectedly, a message did come in.

“How have you been?”

From Kevin.

Chapter 1194

Since their breakup, Aubrey hadn't reached out to him once. She hadn't even had time to recover from that heartbreak before suddenly finding herself Dr. Su's wife.

Real marriage or not, Aubrey held onto her own sense of integrity — she wasn't about to do anything that could bring shame on Dr. Su, and that included rekindling anything with an ex.

She hadn't expected Kevin to be the one reaching out first.

Their breakup, after all, hadn't come from a lack of love, but from their own convictions clashing — and, in the end, from reality itself.

Thinking back on the severance agreement, a bitter kind of absurdity settled over her.

If she'd only realized sooner not to insist on that 880,000-yuan dowry, maybe things with Kevin wouldn't have ended so badly.

She answered simply, calmly. "I'm doing well."

Kevin sat on the curb by the road, lost in his own head, his cigarette burning down to ash as he stared at those three plain words on his screen, brow furrowed tight.

He'd told himself he was tired of Aubrey, that the breakup wouldn't matter much — at most, a few less late-night texts asking if he'd eaten after a long shift.

But barely half a month in, restlessness had crept up on him.

He'd since moved into a job on a factory assembly line, and his skills had quickly earned him a supervisor role over seven production lines, with a solid paycheck to match.

On the third line, there was a young woman clearly taken with him, always finding some excuse to hover near his station. She wasn't as educated as Aubrey, sure, but she was prettier, younger, barely into her twenties, bright-eyed and fresh.

And still, Kevin felt nothing toward her.

No matter where he went or what he did, his mind kept circling back to Aubrey, to nine years' worth of shared memories.

He'd been certain she cared enough about him that she'd come crawling back within a week, begging for reconciliation. But over two weeks had passed, and not a single message had come from her.

Frustrated, he'd broken down and messaged her first.

Her cool reply had only stoked his irritation further.

He smoked through cigarette after cigarette, waiting for some kind of follow-up message that never arrived.

Halfway through his last one, he suddenly crushed it beneath his foot and decided to just call her.

Aubrey had only just taken her medication, settling in to rest, when Kevin's call came through. She hesitated, unsure what to even say.

"Aubrey," Kevin said first, his voice rough from too many cigarettes.

A wave of sadness rolled through her.

How could it not?

This was the man she'd loved with everything she had for nine years. She'd watched him grow from a rebellious teenager into someone steady, mature.

They'd come so close to their happy ending...

Choking back tears, she answered quietly. "Yes?"

"How's your eye?" Kevin asked. "Getting any better?"

"It probably won't ever fully heal," Aubrey said, earnest, "but at least it doesn't hurt anymore."

Silence stretched on his end.

Chapter 1195

Sensing his quiet grief, she forced some brightness into her voice. “It’s fine, really. I’ve still got my other eye, and if I’m careful, it won’t get in the way of work or life.”

Brenden, her new boss, had already visited her twice, insisting she focus entirely on recovering — an unusual gesture for their line of work — and had even assured her that as long as she stayed at Apex Group, her position would remain secure for however long she wanted it.

She knew he was doing all this for Gabriela’s sake.

Still, she wasn’t about to let the loss of one eye derail a career she’d worked so hard for.

After a beat of silence, Kevin suddenly said, “Aubrey. I was too rash, that day...”

Her heart lurched into her throat.

Just then, a knock came at the door, and Brenden stepped in. He wasn’t in his white coat this time — just a casual black T-shirt, looking a little disheveled, as if he’d rushed straight over.

Seeing him, guilt flooded through her, and she said quickly into the phone, “Kevin, I’m already married.”

Something tightened in Kevin’s chest. He’d been about to ask if it was the son of the man who’d offered 880,000 yuan for a dowry — but Aubrey had already hung up.

The steady, unbroken beep of the dial tone echoed her resolve — she didn't want to keep talking.

Furious, Kevin hurled his phone to the ground and took off running toward the hospital.

But once he reached the inpatient building, he hesitated.

Why had he even come?

He'd been the one to call the breakup in the first place. Chasing after her now would only make him look weak, unable to make up his own mind.

Kevin looked up at the brightly lit windows of the building, his shoulders sinking.

Forget it. Even if her words had just been an excuse, he wasn't about to lower himself and beg her forgiveness.

Giving in now would mean conceding to her parents' humiliating dowry demands, after everything.

Picturing their faces, Kevin turned and walked away.

Unaware Kevin had even come to the hospital, Aubrey felt a small, pleasant surprise at the sight of Brenden.

“Dr. Su, how do you have time to visit today?” she asked.

Rather than answer directly, he looked at her and asked instead, “Who were you on the phone with?”

Aubrey had, on some instinct, hoped Dr. Su wouldn’t find out about Kevin.

But faced with his gentle gaze, tinged with a faint weariness, even dodging the question felt like some kind of betrayal.

So she answered quietly, “It’s Kevin.”

The moment the words left her mouth, the air in the room turned heavy.

But when she stole a glance at Dr. Su, his expression stayed perfectly calm.

She rushed to explain. “I didn’t call him. He called me first — and I already told him I’m married.”

A faint smile tugged at his lips.

“Why are you explaining this to me?”

Her voice dropped even softer. “Because... I’m officially registered as your wife now.”

Chapter 1196

Dr. Su was practically perfect — kind, accomplished, from a family that clearly loved him. Standing in front of him, she felt utterly lacking, like some wounded, discarded thing that had no business being anywhere near him.

She couldn’t even bring herself to say the word “wife” out loud without it feeling like an excuse.

He smiled and reached out, ruffling her hair gently.

His hand was warm, broad, resting on her head, and for a moment Aubrey felt transported back to her teenage years, cherished, protected, like something fragile and worth handling with care.

Then his amused voice broke through. “Speaking so quietly — are you afraid of me? Or does being my wife on paper make you uncomfortable?”

She blinked, confused. “What?”

He pulled out his phone and showed her a message she’d sent him days earlier.

“...When do you need me to sign the divorce papers...”

Aubrey had assumed he simply hadn’t had time to read her messages, let alone bring them up in person.

Caught completely off guard, she stammered, “Dr. Su, I’m so sorry for what my parents did to you. They forced you into this marriage...”

“None of that was your fault,” he said with a sigh. “If that’s the reason you’ve been fixated on divorce, you don’t need to be.”

Aubrey froze, her round face still with surprise, her mouth parted slightly.

Her soft features, her slightly mussed bangs, gave her a look that was endearing, easy to warm to.

Dr. Su had grown particularly fond of that startled, wide-eyed look of hers, and couldn’t help a quiet laugh.

“Aubrey. Do you think you and your ex might get back together?”

Thrown by the sudden shift, she rushed to reassure him. “No, absolutely not! Dr. Su, you don’t need to worry about that. I have principles — I’d never act the way my parents did...”

Anxious, she grabbed his hand without even realizing it, genuinely afraid that what her parents had done might have colored his opinion of her.

He glanced down at her hands, his voice steady. “I believe you.”

Overwhelmed with gratitude, Aubrey said, “Thank you.”

Then, realizing she was still gripping his hand, she let go quickly, flustered.

“Do you trust me?” Dr. Su asked, out of nowhere.

She nodded without hesitation. “I trust you.”

“No matter what?”

She nodded again.

“Even if it means a real wedding ceremony?”

Aubrey nodded on reflex, then froze halfway through. “A wedding?”

His gentle expression turned serious, and he pulled a chair up to her bedside, sitting down.

His tone was solemn.

“I spent this whole time I was away from Okburg thinking through your message.”

“This marriage happened far too suddenly — it makes sense that it doesn’t feel real to you. But Aubrey, you are already my wife.”

“If you’re feeling unsure about it, I’m willing to give you a proper wedding ceremony.”

It took Aubrey a long moment to process what he’d said.

Was this... was Dr. Su actually confessing to her?

Had he just said he wanted to plan a wedding for her?

Seeing her stunned expression, he asked, "You don't want that?"

Chapter 1197

"No, that's not it!" Aubrey said, sounding defeated. "Dr. Su, someone like me... I'm not good enough for you."

Besides, she still carried feelings for her first love, a memory she couldn't simply erase. She knew it wasn't right, but emotions weren't something she could turn off like a switch.

She couldn't forget Kevin overnight.

How could someone like her possibly deserve to be his wife?

"How can you say that?" he said. "You graduated from a top university, you're younger than me by several years — how are you not good enough for me?"

“But my family background is nothing special. Just days ago I didn’t even have a family left to speak of...”

Tears welled up as her voice caught. “And... one of my eyes is blind.”

“I’m not some wealthy heir either. We’re both just ordinary people — no one here is beneath anyone else.” His gaze softened into a smile. “And your eye won’t stay blind.”

Aubrey froze. “It won’t?”

“I’ve found a better treatment option. Trust me — I can heal it.”

Her mind raced back to his sudden disappearance these past few days.

“Dr. Su, where did you go this whole time?”

He’d traveled extensively over those days.

First, he’d visited a remote village known for its traditional medicine, seeking out Dr. Hill, a well-respected practitioner, to consult on possible treatments for Aubrey’s injury.

Dr. Hill, already impressed by Dr. Su's reputation, had been moved further still by his humility and courtesy, and had agreed to offer his honest assessment.

"This kind of injury is better suited to Western medicine," Dr. Hill had told him.

Though he couldn't treat the wound directly, he'd offered suggestions and provided herbal remedies to support the healing process.

Dr. Su had then sought out another renowned ophthalmologist, Dr. Cheng, who'd agreed to come to Okburg once his current caseload cleared, to collaborate on Aubrey's treatment.

In exchange, Dr. Su now owed Dr. Cheng a favor, one he'd have to honor unconditionally whenever it came due.

He saw no need to explain any of that to Aubrey.

He simply said, "I went to find you a more skilled specialist."

Something in Aubrey's chest ached with gratitude.

There were only five of the country's most renowned eye specialists, and Dr. Su was one of them.

For him to go and personally recruit another expert must have cost him something significant.

Since he didn't seem inclined to elaborate, she didn't press further. Silently, she promised herself she'd remember this kindness for the rest of her life.

If they stayed married, she'd devote herself to taking care of him, never once betraying his trust.

And if they divorced, she'd still carry his generosity with her, always.

"Now that your worries are settled," Dr. Su said, "will you agree to the wedding?"

Aubrey hesitated.

Her parents' scheming had been what forced him into this marriage in the first place — the whole reason he'd signed that certificate at all. She worried his own parents might resent her for it.

Chapter 1198

Then, unexpectedly, he asked, "Ms. Zhao — may I ask how old you are?"

"Twenty-nine," Aubrey answered.

A year older than Gabriela, whose son was nearly four already, while Aubrey found herself suddenly single again.

"I'm thirty-five," Dr. Su said.

He let out a quiet sigh. "My parents have worried themselves sick over my marriage for years. Now that I've signed the certificate, they're still worried."

"Why?" Aubrey asked.

"They're afraid their new daughter-in-law might walk away at any moment."

"I won't!" Aubrey said quickly. "I won't leave."

Dr. Su had already paid a dowry worth well over a million for her sake. Walking away from that now would be far too cruel.

Aubrey made her earnest promise, and looking up, she found Dr. Su smiling gently at her. He reached out again, ruffling her hair lightly.

“Mm. I believe you.”

Flustered, Aubrey hurried to clarify. “Dr. Su, I’m not trying to cling to you.”

Everything that had happened that day left her feeling she owed him a debt she could never fully repay. Whatever he asked of her from here on, she wouldn’t utter a single complaint.

“Then let’s hold a proper wedding,” he suggested warmly. “Since you’ve already cut ties with your family, I’ll have my mother handle the arrangements. Do you have any objections?”

Aubrey shook her head.

How could she possibly object? The fact that his mother held no resentment toward her at all was already more good fortune than she’d expected.

And so, with only a few casual words from him, Aubrey found herself agreeing, still somewhat dazed, to the idea of a wedding.

When Zhuoming called his mother with the news, she was struck speechless for a moment.

“You’re getting married?”

There was a clear thread of amusement in his voice. "Yes. Let's set the date for two months from now."

By then, Aubrey's eyes should have fully healed, making it the ideal window for a wedding.

It took his mother a long moment to respond. "Have you really thought this through? Has Aubrey said anything to you about a divorce?"

She'd done her own homework. Aubrey had spent nine years with her ex-boyfriend, Kevin, and their breakup had only happened because of her parents' bizarre behavior.

Now that Aubrey had cut ties with her family, what if Kevin came back around, hoping to win her back?

And what if, in a moment of weakness, Aubrey agreed to reconcile with him? Wouldn't that leave Zhuoming looking like a fool?

Besides, even by Su's mother's relatively modest standards, she still felt Aubrey was something of a reach for her son.

"No, that won't happen," Zhuoming said, with real confidence. "Mom, I need you to trust my judgment on this one."

Aubrey might have carried a blind sense of duty toward her parents for years, but her willingness to cut ties with them, for his sake, showed exactly how clear-headed and decisive she could be when it mattered.

Chapter 1199

A girl this kind, with values this grounded, without any tendency toward reckless self-sacrifice — she would be a genuine blessing to whoever married her.

“Mom, marriage doesn’t have to be about forging alliances or building wealth. Sometimes it’s not about two families that look good on paper, but about finding someone you actually get along with. Life’s too long to spend it with someone who makes you uncomfortable.”

“Otherwise, even marrying the wealthiest heiress in the world would just mean endless arguments, big and small, until it became unbearable.”

“Trust me — once Aubrey’s part of this family, you’ll understand exactly why I insisted on her.”

Hearing her son’s reasoning, his mother let out a resigned sigh. “Fine. I’ll trust you on this.”

After all, this was her son’s lifelong happiness at stake. The moment she hung up, she went straight to discuss it with his father.

Su's father wasn't particularly thrilled, but he didn't object either, settling instead into a detached, hands-off attitude.

With no pushback from her husband, Su's mother wasted no time picking out an auspicious date.

She even made a point of visiting Aubrey herself to go over wedding details.

"July 22nd is a good day for weddings. If that works for you, I'll start sending invitations right away. Time's tight, and there's quite a list of people to invite..."

It was only early May, leaving just over two months to prepare. His mother worried it might be cutting things close.

Aubrey listened carefully as she went through the details, running down the list of Su family relatives and friends. Realizing there wasn't a shred of resentment in the woman's manner, gratitude swelled in her chest, her nose tingling as tears threatened to spill.

Noticing Aubrey's reddened eyes, Su's mother startled.

"What's wrong? Why are you crying?"

"Mrs. Su, I'm sorry. My family's gone now, and I'm stuck here in the hospital. I can't help you with any of this."

Half amused, half exasperated, Su's mother patted Aubrey's hand.

"You just focus on recovering. On your wedding day, all I need from you is to be a beautiful bride."

Feeling the warmth of that hand, something in Aubrey softened. Her tears slowed, and she murmured, "Mrs. Su, don't worry. As long as you'll have me, I'll spend the rest of my life being a good daughter-in-law to you. And I'll give Dr. Su my whole heart — I'll never do anything to let him down."

Even if her words weren't entirely composed, there was no mistaking the sincerity behind them.

Su's mother smiled, satisfied. "You're a good girl."

In that moment, she genuinely began to believe her son's judgment.

Given how financially secure the family already was, there was no real need to bring in some scheming daughter-in-law to complicate matters further.

Once her initial hesitation faded, Su's mother found herself growing more delighted by the day.

Her youngest son was finally getting married!

Chapter 1200

Every time she handed out an invitation, she was met with surprise and congratulations, and each time, she reminded herself — whatever family Aubrey came from, as long as she was a decent person, this was worth celebrating.

While his mother busied herself with preparations, Zhuoming wasn't idle either.

Dr. Cheng had finally arrived in Okburg to collaborate on Aubrey's treatment plan.

Meanwhile, Tessa was caught off guard hearing about the upcoming wedding — especially since the groom wasn't Kevin, the boyfriend of nine years she'd always assumed Aubrey would marry.

But since Aubrey didn't seem eager to dwell on the subject, Tessa had the good sense not to press for details.

"Speaking of weddings," Tessa said instead, "Tyler and I are getting married two weeks before you. Wouldn't it be something if we could share the same day?"

But her and Tyler's date had been set long ago, and shifting it now on a whim would be considered bad luck.

Aubrey's date, meanwhile, had been chosen by her in-laws with her eye treatment in mind — equally non-negotiable.

Having thought it through, Tessa let out a disappointed sigh.

Amused by this rare burst of sentimentality from her friend, Aubrey felt her own mood lift as she pictured herself marrying the wonderful Dr. Su.

She teased, "Tessa, you could always bring it up with Gabriela and Mr. Moss. Maybe they'd let you share their wedding day instead."

If Tessa could talk Gabriela into it, Wesley would undoubtedly throw together a grand wedding without a second's hesitation.

Tessa swatted her lightly.

"Stop that. Do you want to get me fired?"

Everyone knew Gabriela wasn't ready for marriage yet. Bringing that up to Mr. Moss would be asking for trouble.

"But what if it worked?" Aubrey laughed. "You might even get a raise out of it. High risk, high reward..."

As the two of them joked back and forth, Zhuoming walked in alongside Dr. Cheng.

Catching the smile still lingering on Aubrey's face, something in his gaze softened.

Dr. Cheng grinned. "What's got the two of you so cheerful?"

"We were talking weddings," Tessa said, a sly note in her voice. "Aubrey thinks two months is far too long to wait to marry Dr. Su. She's genuinely upset we can't share the same wedding day."

Aubrey's face went bright red.

Fond of a bit of teasing as she was, joking about someone as good-hearted as Zhuoming felt like crossing a line.

And Tessa, usually so composed and elegant, had actually teased her about something this personal!

A flicker of amusement crossed Zhuoming's eyes as he watched Aubrey's flustered expression, his gaze softening further, warm with indulgence.

Not giving Aubrey a chance to protest, Tessa added quickly, "You're here to check on her, right? I'll leave you two to it."

And with that, she left, sticking Aubrey with the embarrassment of being labeled as far too eager for her own wedding.

The two doctors carried out a thorough examination of Aubrey's eyes, reviewing every detail carefully before preparing to leave.