

REMARRIED AFTER I SECRETLY DIVORCED THE CEO

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 161

When it came to Autumn, Luna knew her well enough.

She was quick-tempered, easily provoked, but lacking real ability.

Word was Autumn only had a bachelor's degree; with her mother passing away early, she never even pursued a master's.

Aside from a sharp tongue, she was useless in every other regard. Her entry into Vanguard this time was pure luck.

She always had to rely on men to stay afloat, and Luna despised women like her the most.

Autumn arched a brow. "Miss Lewis, and who exactly are you to me? Do you think you know me that well?"

What a joke mistresses passing judgment on the wife, and she didn't even have the shame to keep it to herself.

Though she no longer cared, that didn't mean she would let Luna speak about her however she pleased.

Luna frowned but quickly masked it. For original chapters go to [Find_Novel \(.\)net](#)

Autumn was just a clown, not worth her time.

Selena let out a cold snort. "Two mistresses hanging out together... no wonder you're both so good at stealing men. Turns out it's a joint operation!

"What's wrong? Being a mistress isn't something you're ashamed of, but proud of instead?

"No wonder you're two of a kind. Since you're such good friends, maybe I should give you a nickname-how about the 'Homewrecker Club?'"

She had only just found out that Sophie and Luna actually knew each other, and she'd even overheard Luna giving Sophie tips.

How shameless.

Furious, she'd marched right up and slapped Sophie across the face.

And honestly? It felt good.

Sophie, tearful, retorted, "The one who isn't loved is the real mistress. Derek hasn't loved you in ages-you're the one clinging to him.

"Selena, I can't believe how uncivilized you are, hitting someone in public."

"Do you really think I won't go straight to Derek and have him throw you out, you spiteful witch?"

She had only come to have lunch with Luna, chatting away when this lunatic Selena suddenly stormed in.

Without a word, Selena slapped her across the face, leaving her stunned.

Sophie had never been hit in her entire life, and today it came from someone she'd always looked down on.

The more she thought about it, the angrier she became.

Selena sneered. "Go ahead, or better yet, call that scumbag right now-want me to dial for you?"

"Fighting over the garbage I tossed out, turning yourself into a human trash bin and you're actually proud of it?"

"Well, I hope you two stay shackled for life, reach your happy ending soon, and end up childless together."

Scumbag and shameless woman-may they both rot.

She would never care again.

"You!" Sophie's chest rose and fell sharply with anger.

But clearly, when it came to trading barbs, she was no match for Selena and could only glare.

Sienna raised her hand toward Selena's face. "You're just like Autumn-can't keep a man's heart, so you point fingers at

everyone else.

"Have you ever thought about the problem being you? Why is it that others can swoop in later and still do better, easily winning

a man's heart?

"Birds of a feather-both unreasonable shrews. When you can't win, you spew vicious words. That's the mark of the weak."

She knew Autumn for years and thought she understood her, but now she was completely different.

The way they were acting now, they were no different from street shrews.

But before her slap could land on Selena's face, Autumn caught her wrist, squeezing until it cracked audibly.

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

162

Sienna struggled to yank her hand free. "Autumn, let go! You're insane!"

Autumn's eyes swept over her, sharp as a blade. "Oh? So, you hit someone and think you're in the right? You

dish it out but can't take it?

"If I were you, I'd be holed up at home right now, finding the best lawyer I could to see if you even have a chance of winning this case.

"Not parading around like nothing happened and definitely not taunting your plaintiff every chance you get.

Then Autumn leaned in, her voice dropping to an icy whisper. "You want me to drop the lawsuit, yet you keep mocking me over and over. The nerve.

"If you're such a cheerleader for mistresses, then I hope one day your own husband leaves you for one. You're welcome."

As Sienna clenched her teeth and fought harder to break free, Autumn suddenly let go.

Sienna gave a sharp cry and landed hard on her backside.

The fall jolted through her spine, and her head clipped the edge of the table.

The pain left her momentarily speechless. Autumn had timed it perfectly-letting go just as she pulled back. NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON

How infuriating.

The door swung open, and Julian stepped inside just in time to see Sienna on the floor.

From his angle, it looked exactly like Autumn had shoved her.

His brow creased almost imperceptibly.

Spotting her brother, Sienna burst into tears and flung herself into his arms like she'd just been rescued.

Pointing at Autumn, she cried, "Julian, you're just in time! She pushed me—I'm hurt! Call the police and have her arrested!"

That wretched woman had dared to humiliate her, leaving her sprawled on the floor in disgrace.

And on top of that, she'd sued her. The fury bubbled higher.

Julian walked over unhurriedly, helped Sienna to her feet, and fixed Autumn with a dark, unreadable stare.

"Autumn, don't you think you should give me an explanation?"

Luna, seeing Julian walk in, hurried over and slipped her arm through his, her posture radiating the smug possessiveness of someone staking her claim.

In the past, no matter how over the line Julian and Luna were, they never flaunted it in front of her.

Now they didn't even bother to hide it—standing right there, putting their affection on display.

Autumn's lips curved in a half-smile that didn't reach her eyes. "Explain what? Didn't you see it all yourself, Mr. Carter? Or should I give you a live reenactment?"

Since the masks were already off, she had nothing to hold back.

Whatever she said or did, he wouldn't believe her anyway.

So why waste her breath explaining to people like them?

With that, she stepped forward toward Sienna, who instantly shrank back into Julian's arms.

Her voice trembled. "Julian, help me!"

But almost as soon as she said it, she realized how pathetic it sounded.

Sniffing, she added, "Julian, look at her. She's so arrogant. I don't even know where she gets the nerve. You have to put her in her place!"

Autumn had deliberately startled her just to humiliate her in public.

As hot-tempered as she was, Sienna wanted nothing more than to tear her apart.

Wasn't Autumn supposed to be all alone in this world? Then where did she get the confidence to act like this?

Selena let out a cold snort, cutting through Sienna's lies without mercy. "You were the one who tried to hit me. Autumn only grabbed you to protect me.

"You pulled too hard yourself—that's why you fell. You're just playing the victim, and you're good at it."

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

163

"Looks like you're a repeat offender—practiced to perfection. Tsk tsk... having fun?"

She'd grown up as a pampered little princess herself, so there was no way she'd back down from Sienna's petty provocations.

It was obvious Sienna was the type to bully the weak and fear the strong, and watching her expression sour further only made her want to laugh.

Julian frowned, about to say something, when the door opened again and Simon walked in, looking tired.

The moment he saw Autumn, his hand on the door hesitated, but he quickly recovered.

Autumn glanced at him once before looking away.

Seeing him only reminded her of their mother's death anniversary—how they had waited, hoping her two brothers would show up.

And the result?

Exactly the same as the past two years.

Today, Hector had tossed out a few light words, as if that could erase what they'd done.

Ridiculous. [READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT find~novel~net](#)

Simon acted as though he hadn't seen her, striding past to Luna. "Luna, Hector's out at a dinner. I happened to be free, so I came to pick you up."

The sight pulled Autumn back to when she was very young, after a fight with her mother.

She'd hidden in a corner and fallen asleep.

Her mother had searched everywhere nearby before sending her two brothers to look for her.

It was her eldest brother who'd found her first, speaking to her in that same gentle tone.

But now, years later, Simon bypassed her completely to use that voice with another sister.

Maybe they'd long since forgotten who their real mother and sister were.

Ever since Luna and her mother moved in, everything had changed.

Her eyes stung, though she told herself she didn't care about them anymore—she only felt sorry for her mother.

She tugged lightly on Selena's sleeve and murmured, "Let's go."

"Alright."

Selena nodded.

Autumn, who was right in the middle of it?

They had barely reached the restaurant entrance when they ran into Derek, striding toward them in a rush.

The moment he saw them, he turned on Selena, unleashing a barrage of scolding.

"Selena, how could you hit Sophie? Do you have any idea how you look right now? Just like a street shrew!

"You were never like this before. You've clearly been corrupted by Autumn. My advice—stay far away from her.

"I just don't get it. She couldn't even keep her own marriage together. What on earth could you possibly gain from spending time with someone like that?"

He was already worn thin from dealing with company matters, and for Selena to stir up trouble now was, in his mind, the height of thoughtlessness.

He thought back to how she used to hang on his every word, only to see her now stubborn and defiant.

Worse, she had even encouraged her brother to move against his company.

The very thought made his temper flare.

Autumn hadn't expected his anger to spill over onto her yet again, and this wasn't the first time, either.

Did they really think that just because she hadn't struck back yet, she was some harmless kitten?

Her expression hardened as she let out a cold, derisive laugh.

"What, did you eat crap for breakfast? You're spewing nothing but filth. Honestly, don't you disgust yourself?

“So, I can’t make a man stay—that’s your excuse for cheating, is it?”

“You run off with your precious ‘true love,’ then expect Selena to be gracious and keep playing the fool. Unbelievable.”

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

164

Sure enough, scumbags were all the same.

Julian and Derek were two peas in the same rotten pod—every bit as shameless as each other.

And this particular lowlife happened to be her best friend’s ex, which meant there was no way she’d just sit back and watch.

“You!”

Derek’s veins bulged with rage, his words tumbling out in a near incoherent snarl.

“You think you’re so righteous? You’re nothing more than a discarded wife a man didn’t want. What’s so great about that?”

“You’re an orphan with no sense of your place, and once you’re divorced, you’re nothing.”

Selena was seething.

She never imagined the things she’d vented to Derek in the past would be twisted into a weapon for him to stab Autumn with.

She couldn’t fathom how someone could be so shameless and still have the audacity to think she’d ever go back to him.

Only if she’d completely lost her mind.

At least now she’d seen Derek for what he really was, and just in time.

Marrying someone like him would’ve been a lifetime of regret.

Her temper finally snapped. “Derek, you’re disgusting!”

Then she turned to Autumn with an apologetic look.

“Autumn, I’m sorry... I only ever complained about you to him a couple of times. I never imagined he was this low. It’s my fault, I...”

She rushed to explain, eyes rimmed red, terrified Autumn might never speak to her again.

Autumn reached over and ruffled her hair. “I know. This isn’t your fault. I don’t blame you.”

A scumbag was still a scumbag—their shamelessness always exceeded normal human limits. For original chapters go to findnovel.net

Selena was a victim here too. How could Autumn possibly hold it against her?

Just then, someone came out from inside.

The moment Sophie saw Derek, tears welled instantly.

She threw herself into his arms, sobbing dramatically. “Derek, Selena actually hit me! You have to stand up for

me!

“I didn’t even do anything wrong. What right did she have to slap me?”

The more she thought about that wretched woman barging in and hitting her without a word, the more the hatred boiled in her chest.

Derek didn’t love Selena anymore, yet she’d supposedly been clinging to him.

At least, that was how they made it sound.

It was athletic and shameless.

Cradling Sophie in his arms, Derek’s voice dropped to a deep, accusatory tone. “Is what Sophie said true? Why did you hit her?”

Selena’s lips curved into a cool smile. “And if it is? Do I need a reason to slap a shameless homewrecker?”

In a way, she had Derek’s coldness to thank—it helped her see his true colors much sooner.

Watching him stand there, defending Sophie and demanding answers from her, she felt the last of her attachment fall away.

No matter how good they’d once been, from this moment on they were strangers.

Separate lives and paths.

“Selena, you...!” Derek ground his teeth, seething.

Sophie stepped in, feigning concern. “Derek, don’t be mad. That’s just how Selena is. She’ll calm down once she’s cooled off.”

She might as well have poured gasoline on the fire.

Sure enough, Derek’s expression darkened further. “Selena, I’ve clearly spoiled you too much. That’s why you’ve grown so arrogant and unreasonable.

“If you still can’t see where you’re wrong, then don’t bother coming back.”

With that, he slipped an arm around Sophie and walked off without a backward glance.

Selena’s eyes burned red, her fury so sharp she almost spat curses after them.

If those two hadn’t had the sense to leave quickly, she really might have torn them both apart.

She spat in their direction. “Pathetic. They want me to come back and play the fool, and still have the nerve to act like they’re doing me a favor? What a joke.” ¹

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes

165

“Now I finally understand the saying—when someone’s got no shame, they’re unbeatable. Perfect match, those two. May they be chained together for life.”

Autumn gave Selena’s shoulder a light pat in comfort. “I’m glad you can see it that way. Want me to drive you home?”

A man’s love could turn in a heartbeat, and only when a woman truly saw him for who he was could she break free and start anew.

That was why a woman had to stand on her own two feet, built something of her own, and earned her place in the world.

Selena dangled her car keys with a little smile. “No need. I drove here tonight. My brother bought me this new ride a couple of days ago. Want me to take you for a spin?”

To make it up to her, her parents and brother had gone out of their way to treat her well.

Anything she wanted, they did their best to give.

Compared to Autumn, Selena was definitely the lucky one. Losing a scumbag still left her with a family who adored her.

Autumn, on the other hand, had no one.

That was why Selena's wounds healed faster because she'd been reminded how fortunate it was to be loved by family.

"Sure," Autumn said with a nod. "I actually have something I want to talk to you about."

She remembered Selena's uncle was the chief of police here in Northhaven, and she might have even worked a case involving him in the past.

If she could get his contact information, maybe she could dig up old evidence and reopen her case. NEW novel chapters are published on Find~Novel.net

The two of them got into the car, Selena chatting excitedly about her new ride and her life at home, almost as if she was letting off steam.

Autumn listened quietly, offering the occasional response, and waited for her chance to bring up what she really wanted to discuss.

When they rounded a bend, Selena finally fell silent, and Autumn seized the moment.

“Selena, is your uncle still chief of police in Northhaven?”

Selena nodded as she turned the wheel, glancing over at her in curiosity. “Yeah, he is. Why?”

Autumn hesitated before answering. “It’s like this—my uncle was also with the Northhaven police back then, but ten years ago, he was framed and sent to prison.

“Until the day he passed, his case was never overturned. But a few days ago, I saw that same girl from back then.

“I want you to ask your uncle if he can let me look into the old case files. I’ve got some evidence in my hands too.

Just thinking about it stirred something deep in Autumn’s chest.

She’d seen firsthand how her uncle had suffered over the past ten years.

If he hadn't stepped in to help Jasmine's family of ungrateful leeches back then, his life could have taken a completely different path—one bright with promise and potential.

He'd been an upright, principled officer, one of the most likely to rise to a senior post.

Who could have imagined that a single act of kindness would end up destroying him, leaving him to die with that injustice hanging over him?

Selena's eyes widened in shock. "Your uncle... was he the officer named George Fang back then? He's really gone?"

The case had been a huge scandal at the time. She'd heard plenty of rumors.

Being young then, and not knowing Autumn personally, it had been easy to be swayed by what people said.

She'd even disliked George at one point.

After all, with the rumors flying, plenty of parents had been shouting that men like him should be executed to appease the public outrage.

It wasn't until later, when she overheard her own uncle talking, that she learned George had actually been a decent man, and that his colleagues had always believed he was innocent.

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes

166

But the other party dug in their heels, insisting George had acted with ill intent.

With witnesses, physical evidence, and public opinion fanning the flames, panic had already swept through the community.

George had sworn to his last breath that he'd been framed, but without proof, no one could clear his name.

In the end, they'd had no choice but to follow procedure and lock him away.

Autumn nodded, eyes rimmed red. "Yes. But my uncle really was framed. Can you give me your uncle's number? I have evidence that can prove it."

She could hardly bear to think about how her uncle had carried that injustice to his grave, never willing to talk about what happened and finding a reason to pull himself out of the shadows.

The thought made her want to wring Jasmine's neck.

That woman deserved to rot.

She'd lived free and easy for far too many years—it was time she learned what it felt like to lose everything.

And Autumn intended to make sure she learned it piece by piece.

At a red light ahead, Selena hit the brakes and pulled out her phone.

“Alright, I'll send you his contact on WhatsApp right now. Honestly, your uncle's case has always been a sore spot in my family.”

“But with no evidence back then, and the scandal being what it was, there was no way to clear his name.”

“Autumn, if you need anything, just say the word. I'll help you investigate this.”

By the time Autumn returned to her car, it was already ten at night.

She had just turned the key when she spotted Luna emerging with her arm hooked through Julian's, Sienna following a few steps behind.

Simon, it seemed, had left earlier.

The three of them were chatting and laughing, playing the part of a warm, happy family for anyone who happened to be watching.

Sienna, walking in the rear, spotted Autumn and made a beeline for her car.

Leaning toward the window with a sneer, she said, “Had a good look? My brother and future sister-in-law make a lovely couple, don’t they? Jealous?”

“Don’t tell me you regret divorcing my brother.

“Too bad you missed your chance. Even if you hadn’t divorced him, he wouldn’t spare you a glance.

“A scheming woman like you doesn’t deserve his love. You’d better give up now.”

She’d always looked down on Autumn—those little tricks of hers weren’t even worth noticing.

And no matter how desperate Autumn became, she would never catch her brother’s attention again.

After all, her brother had long since seen through all of Autumn's usual tricks and built up complete immunity

to them.

Autumn's lips curled into a mocking smile.

"Miss Carter, not only is your character rotten, but you're blind and clueless too. Luna picked up the trash I tossed away. I couldn't be happier about it.

"Leaving the Carter family means I don't have to tiptoe around anymore, and I'm done waiting on your whole clan. Why wouldn't I be thrilled about that?

"Tell me, when my life is this good now, doing whatever I please, why on earth would I want to go back and suffer? I'm not stupid."

Compared to her days in the Carter household, she truly enjoyed living alone—no constraints and constant moral guilt-tripping from the Carters.

She could live exactly how she wanted, and it was glorious.

Sienna ground her teeth in anger. “Don’t get too full of yourself, Autumn. I want to see how long you can keep up this arrogance without the Carter family behind you.”

Autumn’s smirk only deepened. “Miss Carter, you’d better worry about your own problems.

“Your court date’s on the sixteenth—less than ten days away. Maybe start thinking about how you’re going to

win that case.

“Because if you end up in custody with a criminal record, that perfect little life of yours is going to be permanently stained.”

NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON FindNovel.net

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes

167

Truthfully, she had no idea if Sienna would actually end up with a criminal record. For original chapters go to find (N)ovel.net

She was only trying to rattle her.

But Sienna had a knack for seizing every opportunity to prance around in front of her, and it was maddening.

‘Autumn, you...!’ Sienna’s chest rose and fell in fury.

From ahead, Luna called out, “Sienna, what are you doing back there? We’re leaving—come on!”

At the sound of her voice, Sienna gave a sharp, haughty sniff, lifted her chin, and strutted off, hips swaying. (1)

Autumn didn't give it another thought.

It was nothing more than a clown's last bit of posturing--no real threat to her at all.

She turned the wheel, pulling away and heading home.

When she reached her front door, she caught sight of Keith and Vivian standing together on the doorstep.

From where she was, they looked close enough to be in each other's arms.

Instinctively, she turned on her heel to leave, but after two steps, she stopped short.

What was she doing? It wasn't as if she'd done anything wrong--why should she run?

Keith spotted her almost instantly.

Seeing her turn away, he walked toward her. "Why are you running?"

The sound of his voice made her scalp prickle, a rush of embarrassment hitting like she'd just been caught spying.

She turned back with an awkward smile. "No, I just remembered I left something in the car. I was going to grab it."

She didn't know why, but every time she crossed paths with Keith, she felt as if he could see straight through her.

That was exactly why she disliked dealing with him--because in front of him, there was no hiding her thoughts.

And that feeling was deeply unsettling.

"Is that so?" Keith stepped closer, his sharp, assessing gaze cutting straight through her.

There was an edge to his tone, and it made her scalp tingle all over again.

She couldn't guess what he was thinking, and the uncertainty made her pulse skip.

Still, she bobbed her head in a quick nod, then turned to leave.

Just then, Vivian stepped forward and casually looped her hand through Keith's arm.

"Keith, who's this?"

Keith gave

her a single, cool glance, sharp enough to make her feel as if a blade had grazed her skin.

It rattled her, but she wasn't about to back down.

Autumn's steps faltered.

Vivian had sought her out before, and she'd already explained the nature of her relationship with Keith.

So how could Vivian possibly not recognize her?

The only explanation was that Vivian didn't want Keith to know she'd met with Autumn in private.

After a brief pause, Keith's lips parted, and two clipped words fell out. "My neighbor."

His gaze stayed locked on Autumn, as if testing for a reaction but her expression didn't shift in the slightest.

It was as if they really were nothing more than neighbors.

For some reason, that sparked an inexplicable irritation in him.

Vivian suddenly released Keith's arm and stepped up to Autumn, smiling sweetly.

"Keith and I are getting engaged soon. Since you're his neighbor, would you like to come to our engagement party?"

She'd already looked into Autumn's background—an orphan with no family, her mother passing away right after she graduated college.

Someone like that shouldn't have been a threat.

But then she discovered Keith had been quietly helping Autumn, dropping millions on couture gowns for her without hesitation, even sending Ace to assist her.

Vivian didn't believe for a second that it was all just to repay some supposed debt of gratitude.

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes

168

Autumn replied politely, "Sure, congratulations to you both."

The words came easily enough, but something in her chest tightened.

She wasn't sure why, only that it left her feeling strangely blocked inside.

Keith caught the flicker of disappointment in her eyes.

His brow creased almost imperceptibly before his voice dropped into a cool, cutting tone.

"Vivian, you've really gotten addicted to this little one-woman show of yours, haven't you?"

Vivian's hand, clutching her purse strap, tightened until her fingertips turned white. UPDATE FROM

She hadn't expected Keith to strip away her pretense so bluntly, especially in front of a woman who had nothing to do with them.

At that moment, Keith's phone rang.

It was Jesse.

He swiped to answer and hit the speakerphone.

Jesse's voice came through.

"Mr. Sinclair, the trending post online has been dealt with. The White family has also issued a statement clarifying the matter.

"They've announced that the whole thing was staged by their side alone, that it had nothing to do with the Sinclair family, and that any talk of an engagement between the two families is pure fabrication."

Vivian's face drained of color.

Her knees almost buckled, and she had to grab the chair behind her to stay upright.

She hadn't expected the slap in the face to come this fast or for the situation to turn on its head.

She'd assumed this would play out just like it had years ago: as long as the Sinclairs didn't interfere with public opinion, she could use the pressure to push for a marriage and nudge their relationship forward.

Never in her wildest dreams had she imagined Keith would have the White family delete the posts and publicly refute the entire story.

The reversal was so sudden that for a moment, she couldn't process and believe it was real.

Before she could gather her thoughts, Jesse's voice came again. "Mr. Sinclair, the White family also asked me to check with you—would you consider helping them, given the history between your families?"

Keith glanced at Vivian, then answered with two clipped words. "Absolutely not."

"Understood."

The call ended.

Vivian finally found her voice, stepping forward to grab his wrist.

"Keith, you can't do this to me. The White family is in crisis—you can't just stand by and watch.

"I know you don't like me, but you can't treat me this way. After this blows up, what will people in our circle

think of me?

"I'm begging you don't be so ruthless. Please. I really do know I was wrong."

She'd thought coming here in person might change his mind.

Instead, she was met with absolute indifference, as if the connection between their families meant nothing to

him at all.

This was it—she'd ruined everything.

Not only had she failed to help the White family, but she'd dragged them into a public relations disaster.

She knew all too well how serious the fallout would be from publicly denying the engagement between the two families.

For years, the Whites had relied on the Sinclairs' connections to keep their teetering family business afloat.

Without that support, they would have declared bankruptcy long ago.

Keith shook off Vivian's hand without hesitation. "The goodwill between the White and Sinclair families ran out years ago.

“Vivian, when you decided to pull the same stunt again, you should have been prepared for this outcome.”

The force of his rejection left her stunned, her eyes brimming red as her mind scrambled for footing.

She’d expected to be exposed eventually, but not this quickly—barely a day after the rumor had been planted, it had been forcibly deleted, and the White family was pressured into issuing a public retraction.

Standing off to the side, Autumn watched the scene unfold, a trace of wryness in her eyes.

So, it had all been orchestrated by the Whites themselves, and apparently, it wasn’t their first time playing this

game.

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes

169

No wonder Keith was furious.

Autumn had no desire to get tangled up in their mess—feuds in families like theirs were far too complicated.

Vivian suddenly jabbed a finger toward her, turning on Keith.

“Keith, is this why you’re being so heartless with me? Because of her?”

Autumn froze, her scalp prickling. How on earth had she been dragged into this?

Keith didn’t answer, but she could feel the air around them shift, the atmosphere pressing down hard.

Great. The boss looked angry. Now what?

Vivian laughed suddenly, tears spilling down her cheeks. “I knew it. There’s no way you’d do all that for her if you were just neighbors.

“But Keith, don’t forget—she’s a divorced woman. Do you really think the Sinclair family would accept her?”

At that, Keith finally lifted his gaze to her, his eyes sharp as a blade.

“Stay out of what doesn’t concern you. If you don’t want the White family going bankrupt, keep your mouth

shut.”

He hadn’t confirmed or denied anything, but it was enough to leave Autumn stunned.

What did any of this have to do with her?

Keith stepped up to her, looking down. “Let’s go.”

Her mind went blank.

“Go where?” she blurted out.

“You said you were going to grab something from the car. I’ll go with you.”

His tone was almost patient for once.

That simple “I’ll go with you” hit her like a bolt of lightning.

Without thinking, she glanced toward Vivian,

Vivian’s face had gone paper-white, her gaze locked on them like she’d just caught them in an affair she’d suspected all along. The link to the origin of this information rests in [Find★Novel.net](#)

And just like that, Autumn realized she’d somehow gained another enemy without even understanding how the fight had started.

What now? Should she explain?

Would explaining just make it worse?

Before she could decide, Keith's low voice came from above her. "What are you standing there for? Don't want your things anymore?"

After wrestling with herself for a while, Autumn finally decided to follow Keith.

The man was not someone to cross—better to be smart about it.

They stepped into the elevator, and as the doors slid shut, she finally worked up the courage to ask, "Keith, why did you drag me into whatever's going on between you and Miss White?"

"We don't have any sort of relationship, so why not just clear it up with her?"

Thinking about the murderous look in Vivian's eyes made her feel completely wronged.

By staying silent, he'd basically let her think there was something between them and that could bring Autumn nothing but trouble.

Not that she was afraid, but she already had her hands full dealing with Luna and Jasmine.

Keith glanced down at her, his tone noticeably softer than before. "No need to explain."

Autumn was speechless.

Unbelievable.

The two people actually involved were having their spat, yet somehow the unlucky one caught in the middle was her.

What kind of twisted game was this?

When they reached the garage, Autumn walked out of the elevator at a slow pace, only to hear Keith suddenly ask, "Autumn, have I made things difficult for you?"

"No," she said, turning her head toward him before shaking it.

In just a few steps, he was right behind her, close enough that she could hear the steady sound of his breathing.

The warmth radiating from him made her back tense, her own breath stuttering.

Why had he suddenly moved in so close? What exactly was he trying to do?

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes

170

70-

Lost in her thoughts, Autumn heard Keith's voice above her.

"Her grandfather once did mine a favor, but there's never been an engagement between us. That rumor only started after my grandfather passed away.

"That year, the Whites faced a major project crisis, so they floated the idea of a business alliance through marriage with my family.

"Out of respect for my grandfather, we didn't step in to deny it.

"They benefited from that silence, which is why they dared to pull the same stunt now, but I'm done indulging them."

Most of all, Vivian had the nerve to confront Autumn directly.

That was something he could never tolerate.

The girl he went out of his way to protect-how could he stand by and let someone else push her around?

If he didn't push back, people would start forgetting their place, thinking they had the right to dictate to the Sinclair family.

Waving borrowed authority like it was their own was utterly delusional.

Autumn listened quietly, and for reasons she couldn't quite explain, she felt that beneath his cool, aloof exterior, he wasn't as cold-blooded as he appeared.

At least in this matter, he was loyal to those he cared about.

Otherwise, with his influence, there was no way he'd allow the Whites to treat her this way.

Still, this was the first time she'd ever heard him speak so much, and it was to explain his situation with Vivian.

"Senior, honestly..."

She hesitated before saying, "You don't have to tell me all this. I don't care about that sort of thing."

Whether Keith and Vivian had any personal involvement was irrelevant to her—they were nothing more than former classmates.

Too much explaining only invited misunderstandings.

Keith studied her for a long moment. When he saw she truly wasn't bothered, he let out a quiet sigh.

"It's late. Go home and get some rest. And don't forget, you've got your follow-up at First Light Hospital at nine

tomorrow."

Autumn nodded. "Alright. Thanks for the reminder, Senior."

She turned and made a quick exit from the garage, taking the stairs this time to avoid running into Vivian.

Keith watched her retreating figure, his expression thoughtful.

He didn't get into his car until her silhouette had completely vanished.

Sliding into the driver's seat, he pulled out his phone and dialed Jesse.

Jesse had just wrapped up for the day and was pulling out of the company parking lot when he saw Keith's name flash on his screen. His stomach gave a small lurch.

Every time Keith called after hours, it meant he wasn't really off the clock—there'd be something else to handle.

And now, with it pushing close to eleven at night, Jesse had no idea what could be so urgent.

Letting out a resigned breath, he pulled over, rubbed at his tired brow, and answered quickly. "Mr. Sinclair, it's late. What can I do for you?"

Keith leaned back in the rear seat, eyes closed in fatigue.

After a long moment of silence, he finally voiced the thought that had been sitting in his mind.

"Jesse, how do you win a woman over so she truly lets you in?"

Jesse froze, his breath catching for half a beat.

He even pulled the phone away to check the caller ID again—yes, it really was Keith.

He hadn't expected that question.

Was the boss actually falling for someone?

After a brief pause, Jesse chose his words with care. "From what I've heard, women appreciate a sense of occasion and a man who genuinely wants to share his life with them.

"Things like keeping her in the loop about your day. And when it comes to that sense of occasion—holidays, birthdays—think flowers, jewelry... gestures that make her feel special."

Keith listened quietly, committing every word to memory, before tossing out a casual follow-up.

"You seem to know a lot about women. Have you ever gotten the girl you wanted?"

Jesse was speechless.

Right. For original chapters go to

It was a clean hit to the ego.

Keith knew perfectly well he'd buried himself in work these past few years—where would he have found the time to chase anyone? 1