

# REMARRIED AFTER I SECRETLY DIVORCED THE CEO

## When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 211

### When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 211 Summary

Sienna, known for her fiery temper and desire for attention as the president of the Carter Group's sister, confronts Vanessa, who prefers to stay unnoticed. Sienna resents Vanessa's calm demeanor and better grades, mocking her humble background and insisting that Vanessa will never achieve the success she expects from working in her family's company. Despite her harsh words, Sienna's own academic success had once been thanks to Autumn's patient tutoring.

However, Sienna's attitude changed when Luna appeared, offering her a carefree life filled with luxury and no pressure to study. This indulgence led Sienna to resent Autumn's strict guidance, causing her grades to decline. Vanessa, unbothered by Sienna's outburst, mocks her arrogance and excuses, enjoying the confrontation with a relaxed confidence.

Meanwhile, Autumn prepares breakfast early in the morning before leaving for a business trip. She packs food to take to Keith, who has been recovering from a fever that has not returned after medication. When Autumn visits Keith, he opens the door looking composed, and she warmly offers him the breakfast she made, showing her caring nature amidst the ongoing tensions between the other characters.

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Sienna was known for her fiery temper and her love of being the center of attention. As the sister of the president of the Carter Group, she was admired and envied by many at school. Her confidence seemed to fill every room she entered, and she thrived on the spotlight.

In contrast, Vanessa preferred to stay under the radar. She never boasted about her family background, choosing instead to blend in quietly with her classmates. Most people assumed she came from an ordinary, unremarkable family, which was exactly why Sienna targeted her relentlessly.

Sienna's anger was always simmering just beneath the surface, and with no outlet to release it, Vanessa's straightforward and unbothered demeanor only fueled her fury further. Her chest heaved with frustration as she confronted Vanessa.

"Don't think you're better than me just because your grades are higher," Sienna snapped, her voice sharp with resentment. "You come from a poor family with no connections or money. No matter how well you do in school, you'll end up working for someone else. I'm different. After graduation, I'll be working for my family's company."

She paused, her eyes flashing with bitter certainty. "That alone is something you'll never achieve in your entire life. No matter what, you'll always be the loser."

What Sienna refused to admit was that her own once-impressive grades had been the result of Autumn's encouragement and guidance. Whenever she struggled with a subject, Autumn would patiently explain the concepts and show her different ways to apply them. It was nearly impossible not to improve under such dedicated tutoring.

But then Luna entered the picture, and everything changed.

Luna was the complete opposite of Autumn. She never pressured Sienna to study or improve. Instead, she showered her with luxury gifts and treated her to extravagant meals. With Luna, there were no expectations or stress—only indulgence. Eat, shop, relax. That carefree lifestyle was intoxicating.

Slowly, Sienna began to resent Autumn's strictness. Even her own mother wasn't as demanding. Why should Autumn control her life so rigidly? She wasn't a machine programmed to obey every command. Why slave over books when she could enjoy the finer things in life instead? She wasn't foolish.

Vanessa looked at Sienna with a cool, amused smile and let out a quiet laugh. "Nobody expects you to have good grades, but it's rare to see someone so useless yet so full of themselves."

She leaned back slightly, her tone dripping with sarcasm. "Is this sour grapes? Jealousy, maybe? Too proud to admit it?"

Vanessa's eyes sparkled with a hint of mischief as she continued, "So you make excuses for your poor performance? You should have some shame. I never even considered you competition."

With that, she relaxed into her seat and casually reached for another cookie from the tin, nibbling on it with obvious enjoyment. She sipped her milk, completely at ease, as if the whole confrontation was nothing more than a minor annoyance.

Sienna's fury boiled over, but unable to come up with a retort, she could only snort coldly and stomp back to her seat, her pride wounded.

What she hated most was admitting that ever since she stopped listening to Autumn, her grades had steadily declined. Even worse was the bitter jealousy she felt whenever she saw Autumn baking cookies for Vanessa. It twisted her heart with a mix of envy and resentment.

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That morning, Autumn had to leave early for a business trip. She woke at seven to prepare breakfast, carefully packing a portion to take over to Keith's place.

After Vanessa had gone home, Autumn had checked in on Keith several times to see if his fever had returned. Thankfully, his health remained stable. Once he'd taken his medicine, the fever never came back.

At his door, she knocked gently.

Keith opened it, dressed neatly. The dim light behind him softened his sharp features, giving him an enigmatic and quietly captivating presence.

Holding out the food container, Autumn smiled warmly. "Good morning, Senior. I made breakfast for you—eat before you head to work! Or if you're short on time, you can take it with you and eat in the car."

## When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 212

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 212 Summary

Autumn remembered that when someone caught a cold, it was best to eat something light and easy to digest, like oatmeal. Keith made space for her to join him and invited her to eat together, but she declined, saying she only made enough for herself. Unexpectedly, Keith handed her a set of house keys, explaining that he didn't usually carry keys and worried about being locked out, so having a spare with her would be safer. Autumn hesitated, concerned about the responsibility and the possibility that if both forgot their keys, they'd be locked out.

Keith didn't address her worry directly but instead prepared to leave, rolling out a suitcase and carrying a briefcase. When Autumn asked if he was going to Seaview City for the annual technology expo, he revealed that he was actually flying overseas for a week due to an urgent matter. Prompted by concern, Autumn quickly went home and returned with homemade cookies and a bag of cold and anti-inflammatory medicines for him to take along.

As she handed over the items, Autumn reflected on how her caring reminders resembled those she used to give Julian before his work trips, sometimes seen as nagging. She worried Keith might find her fussing annoying but was relieved when he responded calmly and without impatience. Keith reassured her that if she worried about him forgetting things, she could simply send him a message to remind him, which helped ease Autumn's nerves.

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Autumn recalled that whenever someone caught a cold, it was best to eat something light and gentle on the stomach—oatmeal was always the safest bet. Its mildness made it easy to digest, especially when feeling under the weather.

Keith stepped aside, creating space for her to enter. "Come in and eat with me," he invited quietly.

Autumn blinked in surprise, caught off guard by his offer. "Huh?" she murmured.

Once she understood what he meant, she quickly shook her head. "No, that's not necessary. I only made enough for myself. My portion is still warm in the pot."

Keith took the container without pressing further. Instead, he reached into his pocket and handed her a set of keys. "Here—these are for the house." The source of this content is find~novel~net

Startled, Autumn hesitated, unsure why he was giving her his house keys. “Wait, why would you give me these? I don’t come over often. Yesterday was just a coincidence, and you’re not sick all the time.”

She worried that if she accepted the keys, she’d have to keep track of them carefully. That felt like an unnecessary responsibility.

But Keith pressed the keys firmly into her palm. “I don’t usually carry keys around. I’m afraid I’ll forget them and get locked out. It’s better if you keep a spare—double the security.”

Without thinking, Autumn blurted out, “But what if one day I forget mine too? Then neither of us would have keys, and we’d be stuck outside with nowhere to go.”

The moment she said it, a strange unease crept over her. Something about her words felt off, though she couldn’t quite pinpoint why.

Her memory wasn’t the best these days. Living with the Carters and having Zoe around, she hadn’t needed to carry keys herself for a long time.

She genuinely worried that if both of them forgot their keys, they might really have nowhere to turn.

Keith didn’t respond to her concern. Instead, he rolled out a suitcase from the corner of the room, carrying a briefcase in his other hand.

Noticing the luggage, Autumn asked, “Are you going on a trip too?”

“Mm,” Keith replied shortly.

Curiosity pushed her to ask again, “Is it to Seaview City?”

The annual technology expo there was a big event, and as one of Northhaven’s heirs, it made sense that he’d be invited.

Still, wasn’t it rather late to be heading there now? The earliest flight from Northhaven to Seaview City left at ten in the morning. Was it really time to leave for the airport already?

Keith’s expression darkened slightly, but he spoke with unusual calm. “No, I’m flying overseas for a week. There’s an urgent matter I need to take care of.”

So, it wasn’t Seaview City after all.

Should she prepare something for him before he left?

Without a second thought, Autumn turned on her heel and hurried home. “Wait for me,” she called over her shoulder.

She returned shortly, carrying a box of homemade cookies and a bag filled with various cold and anti-inflammatory medicines. She handed them to Keith with a small smile.

Pointing to the bag, she said, “I baked some cookies for you, and here are some medicines for colds and inflammation. Take them along.”

“You don’t have a fever right now, but it’s better to be prepared. It’s always better to have these on hand than regret it later.”

As she spoke, Autumn realized these were the same words she used to say when Julian traveled for work.

At first, Julian thought she was considerate; later, he found her reminders a bit nagging, like an old-fashioned nanny.

She hadn’t even noticed how much those little warnings had become second nature—and now she was doing it again.

She wondered if Keith would find her fussing irritating. She looked up at him, searching his face.

To her relief, he met her gaze calmly, without any hint of impatience.

That eased her nerves. As long as he didn't mind her worrying.

Keith's deep eyes held hers steadily. "Alright, I got it. If you're worried I'll forget, just send me a message to remind me."

# When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes

## 213

### When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 213 Summary

Autumn is puzzled by Keith's unusual request that she remind him of something, especially since he is known for having a poor memory himself. Keith, pressed for time, quickly locks the door and leaves to catch a flight. Downstairs, Jesse waits for Keith by the car and notices Keith carrying a plain container of oatmeal himself, which seems out of character for a successful company boss. Despite this humble meal, Keith wears a rare, genuine smile that surprises Jesse, who has never seen him so happy before. Jesse reflects that Keith's good mood might mean a lighter workload for the employees.

Upon arriving in Seaview City, Autumn and Ethan settle into a hotel restaurant for lunch, but Autumn feels unwell and lacks appetite despite the variety of dishes. She explains to Ethan that she had snacks on the plane and is not very hungry, a small lie she manages to get away with since they were seated apart during the flight. Ethan notices her discomfort and asks gently about it, but Autumn brushes it off.

Their quiet meal is interrupted when Julian, Luna, and the Lewis brothers approach their table, asking to join them because the restaurant is supposedly full. Simon apologizes and offers to pay the bill, but his tone deliberately excludes Autumn by addressing Ethan alone. Ethan immediately sees through the poor excuse and declines the invitation firmly, knowing their real intention was something else. He then invites Autumn to leave, leaving the group to find their own place, ending the awkward encounter.

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Autumn lowered her gaze even further, confusion knitting her brows. What exactly did he mean by being afraid he'd forget? That sounded absurd. After all, he was the one known for having a notoriously poor memory. If anyone was unreliable when it came to remembering things, it was definitely him. And now, he expected \*her\* to remind him? The logic behind that request seemed utterly backwards. For more chapters visit [find•novel.net](http://find-novel.net)

Keith glanced at his watch, noting the time was pressing. Without wasting a moment, he locked the door behind him and headed out. "I have a flight to catch. I'll leave first," he said briskly.

Downstairs, Jesse was already waiting by the car. The moment he spotted Keith stepping out, he quickly moved to open the door and grab the luggage. But Keith clung stubbornly to what he was carrying in his hands. Jesse caught a glimpse — it looked like a simple container of oatmeal, plain and unadorned.

If Jesse hadn't known that the company was flourishing, he might have suspected they were on the brink of bankruptcy. The idea of the boss eating something so humble, and even carrying it into the car himself, seemed completely out of character. What was more surprising was the faint smile playing on Keith's lips, a rare softness that lit up his usually guarded expression. Just the sight of it made Jesse want to laugh quietly.

In all the years he'd been by Keith's side, this was the first time Jesse had seen him genuinely happy. Normally, Keith's smiles were mere formalities, polite facades worn to mask what lay beneath. But yesterday, Keith had taken the entire day off. Jesse had no clue where he had gone or what had happened, but whatever it was, it had clearly lifted his spirits.

If the boss was in a good mood, then life for the employees would likely be easier too. No more crushing workloads or endless demands. Just thinking about that possibility brought a lightness to Jesse's heart.

Keith's thin lips parted as he said, "To the airport."

By the time Autumn arrived in Seaview City, the sun was high in the sky, already past noon. They settled into their seats at the hotel restaurant, and by the time the food arrived, it was well after one o'clock.

Though the table was laden with a variety of dishes, Autumn found herself lacking appetite. Perhaps it was because she had missed her usual meal times, leaving her stomach unsettled and sour. Despite having taken her medicine back in the hotel room, the discomfort lingered, dulling her desire to eat.

Peter had prescribed a handful of pills this time, and after swallowing them, Autumn felt unusually full, unable to eat much more than a few bites.

Noticing the troubled look on her face, Ethan asked gently, "Is something wrong? Don't like the food here?"

Autumn shook her head softly. "No, I had some snacks on the plane, so I'm just not very hungry right now."

Since she hadn't been seated near Ethan during the flight, she could get away with that little white lie. Otherwise, she wouldn't have known what excuse to come up with—it was such a relief to avoid explaining further.

The two of them ate slowly, the atmosphere calm, when suddenly a group approached their table. Autumn looked up and recognized Julian and Luna, accompanied by the two Lewis brothers.

Simon spoke with an apologetic tone, “Mr. Sharp, we just went to meet a professor, and when we came back, all the seats here were taken.”

He hesitated, then added, “Would you mind if we joined your table? Don’t worry, I’ll cover the bill.”

His choice of words—addressing Ethan directly as “you” instead of “you two”—clearly excluded Autumn on purpose.

Ethan caught on immediately. He glanced at the group, then set down his fork and stood up. “No need. I’m not so poor that I can’t afford a meal.”

“I’m finished anyway. Autumn, let’s go. Mr. Lewis, please, help yourselves.”

Ethan knew exactly what their real intention was. A hotel this size with no open tables? They couldn’t even come up with a better excuse. Besides, even if the hotel was truly full, didn’t they have the option to find another place to eat?

The tension hung briefly in the air before Ethan turned away, signaling the end of the matter.

## **When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes**

### **214**

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 214 Summary

In this chapter, it becomes evident that certain characters are using a social gathering as an opportunity to discuss business, deliberately ignoring Autumn's presence, which frustrates Simon deeply. Despite knowing Autumn's connections with these influential people, Simon chooses not to confront them, understanding that it would only cause unnecessary trouble. Autumn herself quietly leaves the room with Ethan, showing her disinterest in engaging with those who dismiss her.

Meanwhile, Ryan expresses disbelief and resentment over Autumn receiving a coveted expo slot, something usually difficult to obtain without strong industry ties. He questions how Autumn, a housewife with no industry knowledge, could have gained favor with Ethan and the Sinclair heir, both of whom seem to support her openly or subtly. Grant adds to the speculation, suggesting that Autumn's invitation might have come from Keith Sinclair, who had to leave town, as companies typically receive only one invitation to the expo.

Hector, Autumn's second brother, harshly criticizes her presence at the expo, viewing it as a waste of resources and predicting that she will embarrass herself among the country's top talents. He recalls her past academic failures and doubts her abilities, eagerly anticipating her downfall and subsequent rejection by Ethan and others. Julian, meanwhile, is internally conflicted about Autumn's attendance, suspecting her invitation might indeed have come from Keith, which unsettles him deeply. Despite his turmoil, he maintains a calm exterior as he orders food, while Luma notices his distracted demeanor.

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It was clear as day that they were seizing the moment to discuss business with him. There was no way he could be naive enough to miss that.

What irked him even more was their deliberate act of ignoring Autumn's presence, as if she were completely invisible. That kind of dismissiveness grated on him deeply.

He was fully aware of the connections Autumn had with these people.

Sure, he understood their little games and schemes, but he chose not to confront them directly. It wasn't worth the trouble.

Autumn quietly set down her fork, grabbed a napkin, and rose to follow Ethan out of the room. She had no desire to linger or waste her time with them either.

Simon watched their retreating figures, wanting to say something, but ultimately held his tongue.

He summoned a waiter, had the remnants of the meal cleared away, and finally sat down himself.

Ryan let out a sneer as he watched the two leave.

"Expo slots are practically impossible to get, and yet Mr. Sharp actually handed one to Autumn—someone who knows nothing about this. Has he lost his mind just because she's pretty? Do you really think the core team at Vanguard will accept that?"

Ryan knew his own slot was only secured because of family ties. He had expected Vanguard to be invited, but he never imagined Ethan would bring Autumn along.

How much influence did that woman possess to win favor from both Ethan and the Sinclair heir?

Not only that, but both men were openly and subtly supporting her.

He simply couldn't wrap his head around it. Autumn was just a housewife who could cook.

How on earth had she managed to captivate two such remarkable men?

Grant couldn't resist adding his thoughts. "I heard Mr. Sinclair got an invitation but had to fly overseas for urgent business, so he won't be attending.

"I'm beginning to think each company only got one invite. Could it be that Autumn's invitation actually came from him?"

He'd heard earlier that Keith had left town early, too soon to make it to the expo.

In Northhaven, every major company received at most one invitation, with only the strongest managing to secure two.

The Lewis family had barely gotten two, planning for Luna to accompany them.

As for Hector's invite, that was just luck—someone else had canceled due to illness, leaving a spot open for them to grab. Original content can be found at [Find~Novel.net](http://Find~Novel.net)

Hector snorted coldly. “As if Autumn had the kind of influence to make Mr. Sinclair personally hand her an invitation. Does she even deserve it?”

“So what if she has one? Coming to the expo without knowing the industry is just a waste of resources—she’s only here to embarrass herself.”

He was her second brother.

If anyone understood Autumn’s abilities, it was him.

Back in college, she hadn’t even studied seriously, failed to get into grad school, and that was why she never pursued further education.

This expo was packed with the country’s top talents. With Autumn here, wasn’t she just setting herself up for humiliation?

He was eager to see exactly how she would disgrace herself and how Ethan and the others would discard her afterward.

Julian held the menu in his hands, his eyes shadowed and unreadable. For Autumn to show up at an event like this was no small matter.

Even he had only received a single invitation. Could hers truly have come from Keith?

The mere thought tightened his grip on the menu. His face remained calm, but inside, his mind was in turmoil.

Just then, Luma leaned over with a curious look. “Julian, what’s wrong? Don’t you like the food here? You’ve been staring at the menu forever without ordering.”

Julian pressed his lips together, offering no reply. He casually selected a few dishes that Luma favored, then finally closed the menu and handed it to the waiter.

## When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 215

### When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 215 Summary

Luna’s face lit up with joy as Julian effortlessly recalled all her favorite dishes, a gesture that made her heart flutter and brought a warm sweetness to their interaction. Autumn, watching from the front desk, felt a pang of painful realization as she recognized that Julian’s memories and affections were clearly reserved for Luna, explaining why he had always struggled to remember her own preferences. This understanding brought a bitter ache to Autumn’s chest, making her years of effort feel like a cruel joke.

Ethan noticed Autumn’s troubled expression and offered gentle concern, but she brushed it off, masking her inner turmoil. After their meal, Ethan left to prepare for an upcoming expo, while Autumn returned to her hotel room, feeling the weight of her emotions in the quiet space. A message exchange with Keith briefly distracted her, but when a sudden knock at the door interrupted her rest, she was startled to find Ryan standing there instead.

Ryan, surprised but composed, blocked the door and requested that Autumn swap rooms with them for the night due to an important project meeting that would run late. He suspected that Autumn

had deliberately tracked down Julian's room number and was staying nearby to get closer to him, a bold and refined tactic that made the situation tense. Grant soon arrived, confirming the situation and advising Autumn that her actions could upset Julian, urging her to cooperate by switching rooms without revealing the situation to Julian.

Despite the pressure and the seriousness of the request, Autumn's heart pounded with a mix of anxiety and quiet determination, hinting at a growing resolve as she faced the complicated dynamics unfolding around her.

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A soft glow of satisfaction spread across Luna's face as she noticed Julian recalling every single one of her favorite dishes with ease. The way he listed them so precisely made her heart flutter, and she clung to his arm with a sweetness that seemed to brighten the entire room.

Meanwhile, at the front desk, Autumn glanced up and caught sight of this tender scene. Luna's radiant smile and the way she leaned into Julian stirred something inside Autumn. She listened carefully as Julian enumerated Luna's preferred foods, each one spoken with a familiarity that felt intimate and genuine.

In that instant, a painful clarity settled over Autumn. She finally understood why Julian had always struggled to remember her own likes and dislikes. The truth was painfully simple: the memories he held dear were reserved solely for Luna. No wonder he mixed things up when it came to her. The difference between remembering with intention and forgetting through neglect was glaringly obvious.

A bitter ache settled in Autumn's chest. All the years she had poured into him now felt like a cruel, heartless joke. How could she have been so blind?

Ethan, having finished what he needed at the front desk, noticed Autumn's troubled expression. Concern flickered in his eyes as he approached her. "What's wrong?" he asked gently.

Autumn quickly averted her gaze and forced a small shake of her head. “It’s nothing. Let’s go,” she replied, masking the turmoil inside.

After their meal, Ethan left to meet with someone important, knowing that with the expo scheduled for noon the next day, there was still ample time to prepare. Autumn returned to her hotel room, the quiet space feeling suddenly heavy.

Her phone buzzed with a message from Keith: \*Just came out of a meeting room. Have you eaten?\*

She paused, her fingers hovering over the screen before instinctively typing back: \*I’ve eaten. No matter how busy you are, don’t forget to eat on time too.\*

Almost immediately, regret washed over her. She quickly tried to recall the message, but before she could, Keith’s reply appeared: \*Too late to recall. I saw it. I’ll eat on time.\*

Autumn stared at the screen, speechless. Well, if he had seen it, he had seen it. It wasn’t like she had said anything embarrassing.

Setting her phone aside, she sank onto the sofa and closed her eyes, hoping for a brief moment of rest. But the sudden knock at the door startled her, pulling her back to reality.

Assuming Ethan had returned early, she hurried to open the door. “Senior, you’re back from visiting your friend so soon...” she began, but her words caught in her throat when she saw who stood on the other side.

Her first instinct was to slam the door shut.

Ryan, equally surprised to find Autumn there, froze for a moment. But before she could shut him out, he stepped forward swiftly, blocking the door with his foot.

“Autumn,” he said smoothly, his tone coaxing yet firm, “I don’t care how you found out Julian’s room number, but tonight you’re going to have to swap rooms with us.”

He glanced behind him briefly. “We have an important project to discuss, and it’s going to run late. Please, just do us this favor, alright?”

Ryan hadn’t expected Autumn to be bold enough to track down Julian’s room number, let alone stay right next door. It was hard to believe she wasn’t doing this deliberately—everyone knew she was trying to get closer to Julian.

Her tactic of retreating only to advance again was becoming more refined, more daring.

Didn’t she realize how uncomfortable it might be if she overheard... something... from the adjoining room tonight?

Just then, Grant approached. He paused for a moment, taking in Autumn’s presence, then quickly pieced the situation together. With a polite but serious tone, he addressed her.

“Autumn, I know you mean well, but following us like this won’t get you anywhere. You don’t even understand AI, yet you tracked us down, found out which hotel Julian booked, and now you’re staying next door.”

He looked at her earnestly. “If Julian finds out, he’ll be upset. You should swap rooms with us. Don’t worry, we won’t tell him about this.” For original chapters go to [Find\[N\]ovel.net](http://Find[N]ovel.net)

Autumn’s heart pounded. The weight of the moment pressed down on her, but a quiet resolve began to stir within.

## When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 216

### When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 216 Summary

In Chapter 516 of “When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 216,” Derek confronts Selena, who has been a source of humiliation for him. Determined to reclaim his dignity, he challenges her as she arrogantly brushes past him. Once a proud heiress, Selena now faces the consequences of her actions, yet her defiance remains unshaken. Derek sees her as an inflated ego that has forgotten her former status, and he relishes the opportunity to confront her about the financial disaster their partnership has become.

As tensions rise, Selena’s dismissive attitude towards Derek escalates, showcasing her belief that she is above him. She contemplates how long her brother, Victor, will tolerate Derek’s failures before severing their business ties. Derek, feeling like a freeloader in her world, imagines a future where Selena’s downfall will be complete, and he will finally have the last laugh. However, the situation takes an unexpected turn when Sophie, a companion of Selena, trips and falls, causing a chaotic scene that leaves both women in a compromising position.

The crowd gathers, and whispers about the spectacle begin to circulate, further deepening the humiliation for Sophie and Selena. As they become the center of attention, Derek attempts to manipulate the narrative, claiming that Selena is merely jealous and trying to ruin his life. Meanwhile, the onlookers speculate about Selena's past and her current fall from grace, suggesting that her former status as a "rich princess" no longer protects her from public scrutiny.

Amidst the chaos, Autumn, a bystander, calls out Derek for his hypocrisy, reminding him of his own infidelities and how he used Selena's resources to support his mistress. This moment highlights the shifting dynamics between the characters, revealing deeper layers of betrayal and resentment. As the crowd continues to gossip, the emotional stakes rise, leaving both Selena and Sophie grappling with the reality of their situation, while Derek desperately tries to maintain control over the perception of their intertwined fates.

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**\*\*When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 216\*\***

**\*\*Chapter 516\*\***

Derek stepped into their path, a determined look on his face. "Hold on a second. You think you can just hit someone and walk away? Not so fast."

For far too long, he had endured the sting of humiliation, but now, the opportunity to stand tall had finally arrived. He wasn't about to let this moment slip away without taking a jab at Selena.

Once a proud heiress, she now stood before him, stripped of her former glory, yet still possessing the audacity to meet his gaze with defiance.

She had clearly inflated her ego, forgetting the boundaries that once defined her.

With a careless shove, Selena brushed past Derek, her expression dismissive. “You expect me to apologize to a mistress? As if! Let her get lost, and you too. You’re blocking my view.”

Her eyes narrowed as she considered how long Victor’s patience with these people would endure.

The partnership that Derek had managed to snag with her brother’s assistance had turned out to be a financial disaster, draining millions over the past three years.

Had it not been for her influence, her father would never have agreed to collaborate with them. Both her father and brother had felt the pressure from shareholders to support her, and here was Derek, a freeloading opportunist, strutting around with an air of superiority that he didn’t deserve.

She couldn’t help but wonder how much longer Victor would tolerate the losses before deciding to cut his ties.

Derek was nothing more than a petty opportunist; without her paving the way, he would crumble. She imagined the day when he would be the one left weeping over his failures.

In that moment of distraction, Sophie slyly extended her foot, and before Selena could react, she stumbled. In a desperate attempt to regain her balance, she instinctively reached for Sophie, but the move backfired spectacularly.

Sophie lost her footing and crashed to the ground, Selena landing heavily on top of her. Follow current novels on [noverlFind.net](https://noverlfind.net)

“You set this up, didn’t you, Selena?” Sophie’s face contorted in pain, her teeth grinding together. “You’re like a dead weight. Get off me; you’re crushing me!”

The turn of events was entirely unexpected for Sophie. Now, with Selena pinning her down and a growing crowd gathering around them, she felt the heat of humiliation wash over her.

Whispers began to ripple through the onlookers, and the worst part for Sophie was that Selena showed no intention of getting up.

“This is ridiculous! Look over there, those two women are fighting! I just saw it. That girl in the white dress tripped the other one and ended up pinned under her!”

“That one in white seems like trouble. Ever since she walked in, she’s been making life difficult for that girl. Looks like karma is swift. Let’s see if she still has the guts to bully others after this.”

“And that guy, dressed all fancy like he’s someone important, but the garbage he spewed was revolting. He deserved every bit of that drink thrown on him.”

As the gossip swirled around them, Sophie felt her blood boil. They were the ones wronged, so why were they the ones being blamed?

Derek, clearly agitated, barked back, “You people don’t know anything! She’s my ex! She’s just jealous and trying to ruin our lives!”

“When she was still some rich princess, we couldn’t touch her. Now that she’s fallen from grace, what’s wrong with calling her out?”

“She went and hooked up with other men just to get under my skin. She even cheated on me! She’s done so many shameless things. Shouldn’t I teach her a lesson?”

In Derek’s mind, the louder he shouted, the more control he had over the narrative. He genuinely believed he was in the right.

Did Selena think she could make him jealous? She hadn’t just dated one man; she had a string of them. What kind of man would still want a woman like that?

Autumn, standing nearby, couldn’t suppress a smirk. “Derek Quinn, playing the victim is the only thing you excel at, isn’t it?”

“You cheated first, using Selena’s money to support your mistress, and you even had the audacity to move that mistress into the apartment Selena paid for.”

## **When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes**

### **217**

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 217 Summary

In Chapter 517 of “When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes,” Autumn confronts Derek with palpable anger and disdain. She accuses him of being ungrateful and manipulative, highlighting the sacrifices made by Selena for his sake. Autumn’s emotions are intense as she recalls how Selena cut ties with her family and supported Derek’s failing business, only for him to turn his back on her when things improved. Autumn’s fierce desire to confront Derek stems from her outrage at his victim mentality and the betrayal he represents.

As Autumn’s words resonate with the crowd, they quickly turn against Sophie, whom Autumn labels as the mistress. The atmosphere is charged with hostility, and the women present express their disdain for homewreckers. The community’s collective outrage underscores the theme of justice and loyalty, as they rally around Selena and condemn Derek’s actions. The narrative shifts from a personal conflict to a broader social commentary on betrayal and the treatment of women in such situations.

In a dramatic turn, Selena, fueled by her own anger, confronts Sophie directly. She physically attacks her, delivering a series of slaps and kicks that reflect her pent-up rage and the sense of vindication she feels. This violent outburst shocks Derek, who is left in disbelief at the transformation of the woman he once knew as gentle and compliant. Selena’s fierce defense of her dignity and self-worth is a powerful moment, showcasing her refusal to be a victim any longer.

Sophie, overwhelmed by the humiliation, pleads for help, revealing the depth of her shame as she grapples with the consequences of her actions. The chapter culminates in a stark contrast between the empowerment of Selena and the degradation of Sophie, highlighting themes of betrayal, loyalty, and the fierce protection of one’s honor. As the crowd witnesses this confrontation, the dynamics of power and victimhood shift dramatically, leaving a lasting impact on all involved.

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**\*\*When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes\*\***

**\*\*Chapter 517\*\***

“You dare to call that being unrelated? Do you genuinely expect anyone to buy into that ridiculous claim?” Autumn’s voice dripped with disdain, her anger boiling just beneath the surface as she gritted her teeth. “You maintained your loyalty to your precious old flame for three long years, and the moment she decides to waltz back into your life, she moves right into your home? And you have the audacity to claim you two were innocent? Do you think people are that gullible?”

Autumn’s heart raced as she recalled the sacrifices Selena had made. “Selena severed ties with her family for you, you know! She even went behind the scenes, begging her brother to lend a hand to your struggling business—all for you and your pathetic pride. And now that you’ve finally scraped together some cash, you look down on her? It took her leaving for you to realize your empire was crumbling and your company was on the brink of collapse. And now you cling to her like a lifeline while dragging her name through the mud? Are you even a real man?”

The thought of what Selena had endured made Autumn’s blood boil. The urge to confront the despicable man surged within her—a fierce desire to shake him until he understood the gravity of his actions. How dare he twist the narrative and play the victim? He deserved nothing less than to be exposed for what he truly was.

Her words echoed through the crowd like a thunderclap. In a world where justice still had its champions, the atmosphere crackled with tension.

People had little tolerance for homewreckers; women, in particular, were merciless. The moment Autumn branded Sophie as the mistress, a wave of hostile glares washed over her.

“Oh my God, she’s the mistress? No wonder she had the audacity to act so shamelessly. I honestly thought she was the legitimate girlfriend. You really can’t judge a book by its cover,” one woman whispered, shaking her head in disbelief.

“This poor girl! She used her family’s hard-earned resources to secure a place for them, pinching pennies all the while, and now the mistress moves in first? It’s shocking that this guy even thought he could get away with that,” another added, her voice laced with indignation.

“The jerk actually played the victim card, accusing this girl of jealousy and infidelity. I bet those two have been sleeping together for ages,” a man chimed in, his tone filled with contempt.

“If I ever found out that the bed I bought was shared with a mistress and my boyfriend, I would absolutely lose it. We stand by this girl. Keep your distance from trash like them!”

Derek had intended to pull Selena away from the chaos, but the rising tide of voices made him hesitate.

Selena, fueled by rage, stood up and plopped down forcefully on top of Sophie, her eyes blazing with fury. In one swift motion, she raised her hand and slapped Sophie hard across the face.

“I’m going to teach you what it means to be the other woman! I’ll show you not to act so brazenly in my presence! And I’ll make sure you know better than to bring your sleazy jerk here to provoke me.”

“Derek and I ended things quietly,” she continued, her voice steady but fierce. “I gave you your chance, yet you still can’t seem to stop chasing after me like a pest. Do you really think I’m someone you can just walk all over? And you genuinely believe Derek is your big win? Without me, he’s nothing!”

Her hand came down again and again, each slap landing with a resounding crack, leaving Sophie’s face swollen and bruised.

Sophie, caught in a whirlwind of shock, could barely muster a response. Whether it was fury or fear that left her trembling, she was at a loss for words.

But Selena wasn't finished. Rising to her feet, she delivered a few swift kicks to Sophie's stomach, each impact fueled by a mix of anger and vindication.

Derek stood frozen in disbelief, utterly stunned. He hadn't anticipated Selena would unleash such ferocity. Where had the gentle, obedient version of Selena gone? Updates are released by

Finally, Sophie began to process the humiliation. Clutching her battered face, she wailed, "Derek, call the police! Arrest this bitch! I want her thrown in jail!"

The depth of her shame was unbearable; she had never experienced such public humiliation. How could she ever show her face again with her features marred like this?

## When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 218

### When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 218 Summary

In Chapter 518 of "When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes," the tension in the police station is palpable as Selena and Autumn face stern officers. Selena feels isolated and desperate, especially since her family is on vacation, leaving her without support in this crisis. Autumn, having secured her own release through Derek, is a reminder of Selena's predicament, highlighting her loneliness and the bitter twist of fate that has brought them both here.

Selena's anxiety mounts as she contemplates reaching out to Mr. Sinclair for help, but the thought of him discovering her situation terrifies her. Instead, she decides to contact someone else, hoping for a quick resolution. When Zack arrives to help, Selena's heart sinks; she had hoped for Mr.

Sinclair's assistance instead. The presence of Zack, who already holds a negative view of her, adds to her distress, shattering the composed image she has worked hard to maintain.

As they get into Zack's car, Selena's discomfort escalates with the unexpected presence of Nina, her rival. Zack's casual mention of Nina makes Selena's stomach churn, and she struggles with the idea of being trapped with her in the confined space of the car. Nina's teasing demeanor only adds to Selena's frustration, prompting her to snap back defensively.

Ultimately, Selena decides against joining them, feeling that being around Nina would be unbearable. She apologizes to Zack, citing a friend coming to pick her up as her excuse. Despite her internal conflict about Zack's choice of Nina, Selena resigns herself to the reality of their situation, grappling with feelings of rejection and heartbreak as she watches the two of them together.

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**\*\*When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 218\*\***

**\*\*Chapter 518\*\***

Inside the bustling police station, the atmosphere was thick with tension as Selena and Autumn stood before the officers, who delivered a lecture that was as stern as it was unyielding. The weight of their situation pressed heavily upon them, and the officers' words felt like a relentless tide crashing against the shores of their patience.

Selena's brow furrowed in worry. "My family is all on vacation... is there really no way I can just sign my own bail form?" The desperation in her voice was palpable, echoing her sense of isolation.

Autumn had been fortunate; Derek had already come to her aid, securing her release without delay. The officers, recognizing that both girls had played a part in their predicament, had chosen not to complicate matters further. But Selena's predicament was different. The realization struck her like a cold wave: her parents and brother were off enjoying their holiday, leaving her utterly alone in this moment of crisis.

And as fate would have it, her only confidante, Autumn, was right there with her, sharing in this misadventure.

What a delightful twist of fate, she thought bitterly.

No one to call for help.

What a dismal reflection of her life.

The officer, maintaining an air of professionalism, replied, "No. Someone must come to sign for you. How you arrange that is entirely up to you." His words felt like a final verdict, sealing her fate in this unwanted situation.

Selena bit her lip, her mind racing. She turned to Autumn, her eyes pleading for a solution. "Autumn, what do we do? Maybe... maybe we should call Mr. Sinclair?" The thought of reaching out to him filled her with both hope and dread.

With a swift motion, Autumn sent a message, and almost immediately, her expression brightened. "He said to wait here. He'll be right over," she announced, her relief evident.

Selena felt a wave of gratitude wash over her but quickly followed it with anxiety. She couldn't bring herself to call Keith for help. The mere thought of him discovering her trouble at the station sent shivers down her spine. The consequences of that revelation would be catastrophic, and she could already envision the disappointment in his eyes.

So, she made a quick decision and reached out to someone else. Anyone they knew could come to their rescue—problem solved.

Ten minutes dragged on like an eternity before Zack appeared in the lobby, dressed in a crisp white suit that accentuated his anxious demeanor.

The moment Selena laid eyes on him, her heart sank. She instinctively tugged at Autumn's sleeve, her voice barely above a whisper. "I told you to call Mr. Sinclair... why did you call your cousin?" The thought of Zack witnessing her in this predicament filled her with dread.

Zack already harbored a less-than-favorable impression of her, and now he would see her entangled in trouble at the police station. Just perfect.

Any semblance of the composed, sweet girl she had tried so hard to portray was now in tatters.

One misstep, and her reputation lay in ruins.

Autumn, unfazed by the gravity of the situation, shrugged nonchalantly. "I don't want to be yelled at. Zack spoils me. He's the only one who won't scold me for this."

It was a fair point. While she and Keith shared a bond, it wasn't the kind that allowed for calling him every time she found herself in a mess.

Selena shot her a glare, frustration bubbling to the surface. "I swear, believing you was a mistake."

They climbed into Zack's car, but as they settled in, Selena's heart dropped further. There, in the passenger seat, sat Nina, her presence like a dark cloud looming over the already tense atmosphere.

Autumn slid inside without a moment's hesitation, while Selena hesitated, feeling the weight of uncertainty. Should she just call for a ride instead? The thought of being trapped in the same vehicle as her rival was unbearable.

Zack, seemingly oblivious to the tension, offered an explanation. "When I drove past earlier, Nina was waiting for a cab. I thought I'd give her a lift since we were heading the same way."

His casual mention of Nina's name, laced with warmth, made Selena's stomach churn.

After a moment of internal debate, she still couldn't bring herself to join them. The air inside the car felt stifling, heavy with unspoken emotions, and she feared her true feelings would betray her.

Then Nina turned her gaze upon her, an eyebrow arched in curiosity. "Why are you backing out the moment you see me? Did you do something you don't want me to know about?" Her tone was teasing, but there was an underlying edge that made Selena bristle.

“Think whatever you want.” Selena snapped, shutting the door with a decisive thud, refusing to engage further. This chapter is updated by find♦novel.net

She turned back to Zack, her voice steady but laced with regret. “Sorry, Zack. I just remembered that a friend is coming to pick me up. You go ahead.”

The thought of being confined in the same space as Nina was unbearable, especially knowing exactly what kind of person she was.

In quieter moments, Selena had often wondered if Zack would ever regret his choice of Nina, if he ever truly understood who she was beneath the surface. But when she heard that he had already introduced Nina to his family, that flicker of hope extinguished, leaving her with a sense of resignation.

## When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 219

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 219 Summary

In Chapter 219 of **When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes**, Julian tenderly smooths Luna’s hair, creating a moment of intimacy that brings relief to Ryan and Grant, who watch from a distance. They feel a sense of gratitude that Luna remains unaware of a previous conversation, allowing her to sleep peacefully. Understanding that something significant is about to happen between Julian and Luna, Ryan and Grant quietly leave the room, granting the couple privacy.

Meanwhile, Autumn wakes up in a state of confusion and dread, realizing she has overslept. As she searches for her phone, she is startled by a call from Keith, who sounds exhausted. Their conversation reveals the time difference between them, and Autumn expresses concern for Keith’s well-being, urging him to take care of himself after his recent illness. This gentle worry reflects

her caring nature, reminiscent of her past interactions with Julian, and she wonders if she might be coming off as bothersome to Keith.

After their call, Autumn tries to shake off her worries but is suddenly interrupted by a knock at the door. When she opens it, she is confronted by the Lewis brothers, who question her presence in Julian's room. Their judgmental expressions and harsh words leave her feeling embarrassed and angry, especially as Simon scolds her for what he perceives as shameful behavior. Autumn grapples with a mix of emotions, feeling the weight of their accusations and the implications they carry about her character.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

**\*\*When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes\*\***

**\*\*Chapter 219\*\***

Julian made no move to return to his work files. Instead, he bent slightly, his fingers delicately smoothing the tousled strands of Luna's hair, a tender gesture that spoke volumes.

Watching this intimate moment unfold, both Ryan and Grant felt a wave of relief wash over them. They exhaled slowly, the tension in their chests easing as they realized that Luna remained blissfully unaware of the earlier conversation. Thank goodness for the soundproof hotel walls—her peaceful slumber was undisturbed.

As they observed the couple, a silent understanding passed between them. It was clear that something significant was about to transpire, a moment that required their absence. With a shared glance, they quietly rose from their seats, excused themselves, and slipped out of the room, leaving the couple to their private world.

Meanwhile, Autumn slept soundly, the hours slipping by unnoticed until she was jolted awake at half past five. With a groggy hand, she reached beneath her pillow, searching for her phone as if it were a lifeline.

When she finally glanced at the screen, her eyes widened in shock. Had she really slept that long? A sense of dread washed over her; her body was undeniably losing its strength.

Pushing the blanket aside, she swung her legs out of bed, only to be interrupted by the sudden ringing of her phone. She looked down to see Keith's name flashing on the screen.

With a swipe, she answered, and his low, fatigued voice filled her ears. "What are you doing?" he asked, sounding weary.

Autumn slipped on the hotel slippers she had retrieved from the cabinet, her voice emerging from the haze of sleep in a husky whisper. "I just woke up."

A thought struck her, and she asked, curiosity piquing her tone, "What time is it over there in the Westland?" She remembered there was a time difference but couldn't quite recall how many hours separated them. Was it the middle of the night for him?

On the other end, she could hear the faint rustling of papers. After a brief pause, Keith's tired voice came through again. "Work was busy today. Before I knew it, it was already half past one in the morning."

"What?" Autumn exclaimed, her voice rising in disbelief as she fully slipped her feet into the slippers. "It's that late and you're still working? Don't you ever rest?"

Unbeknownst to her, a note of concern threaded through her words, a tone she didn't even recognize as her own.

As the realization washed over her moments later, her cheeks flushed with warmth. It echoed the reminders she had often given Julian, who would dismiss her with a teasing remark about her being overly nagging.

Yet, she had never stopped caring.

Now, it seemed, she had unconsciously fallen into the same pattern with Keith, and a flicker of worry sparked in her mind. Would he find her just as bothersome?

However, the fatigue that had settled between Keith's brows began to ease as he heard the genuine concern in her voice. "I'll finish these files, then get some rest," he assured her, his tone softening.

Noticing that he was not irritated, Autumn continued gently, "You just recovered from a cold. Please don't drink coffee, and stop staying up late. Once you're done, go to bed early."

Keith glanced at the nearly empty cup of coffee on his desk, a small smile tugging at the corner of his mouth. "Alright, I'll remember," he replied, his voice laced with gratitude.

After they hung up, Autumn poured herself a glass of water, gulping it down as if it could wash away her worries. Just then, a sharp knock echoed through the room, startling her.

Setting the glass aside, she slipped her feet back into her slippers and made her way to the door. But as she opened it, her heart sank at the sight of the Lewis brothers standing there. Instinctively, she attempted to close the door again, but Hector's surprised expression stopped her.

"Autumn, why are you in Mr. Sharp's room?" he asked, peering past her into the disheveled space, his brow furrowing in confusion.

A wave of dread washed over her; could they think she and Julian had slept together? The mere thought made Hector's lips curl in disdain. He hadn't anticipated that Autumn would lower herself in such a way, all in the name of revenge.

They had come to discuss business with Ethan, but the sight of Autumn in her pajamas, her hair a tangled mess, left them utterly stunned.

Simon's eyes darkened, and he grasped her arm, pulling her aside with a harsh scolding. "Autumn, just for something that doesn't belong to you, you'd stoop this low? Don't you find it shameful?"

Her heart raced at his words, a mix of anger and embarrassment bubbling within her. She opened her mouth to respond, but the words caught in her throat, leaving her to grapple with the weight of his judgment.

## **When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 220**

When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes 220 Summary

In Chapter 220 of “When the Stars Forgot to Return My Wishes,” Autumn confronts her brothers, Simon and Hector, with unwavering defiance. The chapter opens with her standing firm against Simon’s accusations, feeling trapped in a situation where her actions are constantly misinterpreted. Despite her innocent motives for switching rooms due to discomfort, her brothers twist her intentions, leading to a barrage of insults and accusations. Autumn grapples with frustration as she realizes that no matter what she does, her brothers will always find a way to tarnish her reputation.

The tension escalates when Hector confronts her, and Autumn responds with a slap that signifies her growing anger and refusal to be belittled. She boldly challenges Hector’s insults, highlighting the absurdity of their accusations. Autumn’s sense of betrayal deepens as she acknowledges that her brothers’ prejudiced views will never allow them to see her truth. This realization empowers her, as she feels liberated from the expectations of the Lewis family, ready to break free from the chains that have held her back.

Simon’s anger reaches a boiling point as he physically confronts Autumn, pushing her against the wall and accusing her of disgraceful behavior. He believes it is his duty as the elder brother to discipline her, fearing for the family’s reputation. Autumn, however, stands her ground, questioning his authority to insult and strike her. The physical confrontation symbolizes the intense familial conflict and the struggle for autonomy that Autumn faces within her own home.

Just as the situation becomes dangerously volatile, Ethan intervenes, challenging Simon’s actions and questioning the morality of raising a hand against a woman, especially a sister. His cold, authoritative tone cuts through the chaos, forcing a moment of reflection on the dynamics of their family and the treatment of women. The chapter concludes with a tense silence, highlighting the shifting power dynamics and the potential for change within the family as Ethan’s words resonate in the air, challenging the status quo.

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**\*\*Chapter 220\*\***

Autumn lifted her chin defiantly, her gaze unwavering as it locked onto Simon’s piercing eyes. “As expected, filthy eyes see nothing but filth,” she retorted, her voice steady, laced with a mixture of anger and resolve.

It felt as though she was trapped in a twisted game, where no matter which room she chose to occupy, it was always the wrong one. If she dared to stay on the opposite side of the house, whispers would follow her like shadows, accusing her of deliberately trailing Jullan, as if she were some lovesick fool trying to inch closer to him. The insinuations were practically a breath away from outright claiming she was “climbing into his bed,” a phrase that made her stomach churn.

The reality was far simpler; she had felt an unsettling discomfort in her previous room, which prompted her to switch places with Ethan. Yet, here she was now, facing the wrath of her two dimwitted brothers, who had twisted her innocent act into something sinister, accusing her of crawling into Ethan’s bed instead.

It dawned on her with a bitter clarity—no matter where her feet took her, they would always find a way to cast her in a negative light. It was absurd, really. She hadn’t done anything wrong, yet their determination to paint her with their accusations felt almost comical.

“Autumn!” Hector spat, his teeth grinding together, his voice sharp enough to cut. “There’s a limit to your antics. Now you’re even playing games with your own reputation. You really have no shame.”

Before Hector could finish his tirade, the air was filled with the sound of a sharp slap as Autumn’s hand met his cheek with a resounding crack. Her eyes were frosty, devoid of warmth as she glared at him. “Hector, has your mouth been soaking in a latrine? It stinks so bad, and yet you dare to spew filth at others.”

“Tsk, ts. You two seem to enjoy spitting filth. Maybe wash your mouths out. What a curse you are,” she added, her tone dripping with disdain.

With their eyes clouded by prejudice, it became evident that no matter what she did, they would always find fault. So why even bother trying to explain herself? Even if she poured her heart out, they would never believe her. What was the point of trying to reason with those who had already made up their minds?

Hector's expression twisted with rage, his teeth clenched as if he were ready to explode. "Autumn! You actually hit me again! Who gave you the right?" His voice was a low growl, filled with disbelief and fury.

She was clearly in the wrong—he had merely been trying to teach her a lesson—and yet here she was, daring to strike him? The outrage boiled in his chest like molten lava. Who did she think she was?

Autumn crossed her arms defiantly, her glare unwavering. "So, what if I hit you? Who do you think you are, to insult me at will? If I don't hit you, then who should I hit? If you can't keep your filthy mouth shut, then don't speak. No one would mistake you for mute."

With the ties to the Lewis family severed, she felt liberated, unbound by their expectations. She would no longer hold back; the chains that had once restrained her were now shattered. Between them, the bond was so frayed that they were worse than strangers.

Simon's eyes darkened with an icy fury, the weight of his brotherly duty pressing heavily on his shoulders. Taking on the authoritative stance of an elder brother, he shoved Autumn against the wall, the impact jolting her. "Autumn, you've gone too far. You disgrace yourself with such shameless behavior, and when we call you out on it, you strike your second brother."

"You've grown lawless. As your eldest brother, it is my responsibility to teach you a lesson today. Otherwise, when you cause bigger trouble outside, it'll be the Lewis family's reputation dragged through the mud," he declared, his voice rising with indignation.

He had put up with her antics for far too long. She had roamed freely outside, returning home cold and indifferent, as if she had forgotten her place entirely. The sight of her icy demeanor only stoked the flames of his anger. The patience he had once prided himself on shattered in an instant, leaving only raw fury in its wake.

Autumn's back collided with the unforgiving wall, pain radiating through her as she gasped sharply. It hurt, the shock reverberating through her body.

Just as Simon's hand was poised to strike down upon her, a voice sliced through the tension like a knife. "Mr. Lewis, what exactly do you think you're doing?" Ethan's voice was cold as steel, cutting through the chaos. "A man raising his hand against a woman—is that how a gentleman behaves? More than that, she's your sister. Instead of protecting her, you would strike her? Is this how you treat family?"

The room fell silent, the weight of Ethan's words hanging heavily in the air, challenging the very foundation of their family dynamics.