

Chapter 262

In the days that followed, Autumn was swamped with work, yet she still carved out time every evening to have dinner with Ginny.

With her by her side, Ginny's spirits lifted, her mood brighter each day, her health visibly improving.

Susan and Luna remained in the hospital for several days, and the two brothers rarely came home.

For the first time, Autumn truly felt her grandmother's late-life loneliness.

That afternoon, Autumn received a call from Ace. "Miss Lewis, tomorrow morning at nine, you'll need to appear at the Northhaven courthouse. I'll be representing you."

Autumn answered politely, "Alright, thank you, Mr. Reed."

After hanging up, she realized with a start—it was already the fifteenth.

Tomorrow would be the sixteenth. Busy days had flown by so quickly she had nearly forgotten.

If not for Ace's reminder, it would have slipped her mind entirely. Still, it was just as well—the truth behind her false accusations would finally come to light.

Sienna had made her carry this burden for far too long, until even Julian believed it to be fact.

Julian had used it to mislead her foolish brothers, but that wasn't something she could control or care to. What mattered was settling this

debt once and for all.

She worked straight through until seven that evening.

Just as she and Ginny finished dinner, her phone rang—it was her third aunt.

On the other end, the woman's voice shook with tears. "Autumn, your uncle suddenly collapsed during dinner.

"Zack is away on a business trip, not in Northhaven. I rushed out so fast I forgot to bring any cash, and my phone fell. I didn't know what else to do but call you.

"Could you come to the hospital?"

Autumn immediately shot to her feet. "Don't cry, Aunt. I'll be right there."
"

Beside her, Ginny looked at her anxiously. "Autumn, is something wrong with your uncle's family?"

Snatching her car keys from the coffee table, Autumn said quickly, "Grandma, I'll go check on things. Don't worry, just get some rest."

She didn't explain further, not wanting to make Ginny fret without knowing the full situation herself.

But Ginny was still uneasy. She gripped Autumn's hand and said, "Autumn, once you get to the hospital, call me and tell me how your uncle is. Otherwise, I won't be able to sleep."

"Alright, Grandma, I will," Autumn promised.

Autumn quickly left the house, and by the time she reached the hospital, she spotted her third aunt in the first-floor lobby, her eyes red from crying.

She rushed over, asking urgently, "Aunt, how did Uncle suddenly collapse? How is he now?"

Lily wiped her face with trembling hands, choking on her words. "I don't know. It happened so suddenly. He's still in the emergency room, they're trying to resuscitate him. They asked me to come down and pay the fees.

"When I got downstairs, I realized I'd lost my phone somewhere. I didn't even bring any money, so I had to borrow someone else's phone to call you. I hope I didn't trouble you?"

When Henry collapsed, she had panicked, leaving everything behind.

She hadn't even noticed her phone was gone.

If it hadn't been an absolute emergency, she never would have called Autumn. After all, young people were always busy, and she didn't want to burden anyone.

She knew Autumn was divorced, left with nothing, and already weighed down with her own troubles. Unless she had no other choice, she wouldn't have asked her for help.

She thought that once Zack returned, she would ask him to use the excuse of repayment to slip Autumn some extra money.

Autumn took the slip of paper from Lily's hand and said gently, "It's alright, Aunt. I'm not busy. Leave this to me—I'll go pay right now."