

Chapter 264

Luna sipped the oatmeal and muttered, "Mom, Autumn went way too far this time—hitting so many people. Isn't she afraid the family will never let her come back again?"

She honestly hadn't expected Autumn to lose control like that, striking both brothers and even her mother.

Foolish beyond belief.

But...

Susan sneered. "What she did only benefits us. Don't worry, the beating I took won't be for nothing.

"The more reckless Autumn becomes, the better it is for us. Once she's completely shut out of the family, those shares will end up in your hands."

Just the thought of how the family now treated Autumn lifted Susan's mood. If they no longer cared about her, then nine times out of ten, Ginny's shares would fall to Luna.

Luna knew it too. She took another spoonful of oatmeal, then pressed her lips into a smile. "Autumn brought this on herself. She can't blame us."

After all these years of bowing and scraping to please the Lewis family, the mother and daughter were finally about to have their day.

For some reason, hearing their words, seeing their shameless scheming, Autumn's heart stayed calm. She turned and walked away.

She had never coveted anything from her grandmother—she already

held shares in Vanguard. The Lewis fortune wasn't something she cared to fight for.

By the time she returned, Henry had already been wheeled out of emergency and taken to a ward.

Once inside, he lifted a weak hand, beckoning Autumn closer. She went obediently to his side.

Looking at her, Henry's voice was soft with guilt. "Autumn, you've lost so much weight. Haven't you been eating properly?"

"We promised your mother we would take good care of you, but instead, you've suffered so many grievances.

"It's my fault too. Back then, I didn't see Julian's true character, and you ended up enduring so much because of it."

He remembered, on her mother's deathbed, swearing to treat Autumn like his own daughter, to protect her well.

But they had broken that promise.

When Autumn married, they had failed to watch over her, failed to protect her, and she had suffered deeply for it.

For everything their Autumn had endured, they bore part of the blame. The guilt had never left them.

Lily wiped her tears and clasped Autumn's slender hand, choking out, "Autumn, why don't you move in with us? Live together as a family.

"You young people never cook for yourselves. It's always eating out or ordering delivery, and that's terrible for your health.

"If you move back in, at least I can promise you'll have three proper meals a day. Your room—we've always kept it ready for you."

Looking at how much weight Autumn had lost, her heart ached. She had long treated Autumn as her own daughter.

If a daughter was suffering and struggling out in the world, how could a mother not worry? Not feel that pain herself?

Autumn smiled at her. "It's alright, Aunt. I have my own place now, and I cook for myself often enough.

"You don't need to worry. I'm grown now, not a child anymore. I can take care of myself."

She knew her aunt and uncle truly cared for her, that they doted on her. But she couldn't trouble them with every little thing.

Just then, her phone buzzed in her pocket.

It was Ginny calling. Autumn answered right there in front of them, switching on the speaker.



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