

REMARRIED AFTER I SECRETLY DIVORCED THE CEO

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Autumn pulled out her phone and played a recording.

It was Grace's voice, clearly promising the money.

"Autumn, as long as you find a way to get Julian to sign the divorce papers, I'll immediately transfer six million to you as compensation."

The moment Grace heard the recording, she instinctively lunged for Autumn's phone.

But Autumn quickly pulled it back, giving her no chance to snatch it.

With a mocking curve of her lips, Autumn said, "Ms. Palmer, I only wanted to leave quietly, but since you've been pushing so hard, don't blame me for fighting back."

Her illness had already drained most of her strength.

She had no energy left to go head-to-head with them.

But since they kept pressing and were even coming after her rights, there was no way she'd just sit and take it.

She shoved the stack of documents on the table toward Grace.

"These are our chat records over the years, transfer receipts, and proof of the gifts I bought.

"Even though the total amount I spent doesn't come close to six million, it's enough to prove I didn't marry into your family for money.

"Ms. Palmer, if you're trying to use this to slander me, it's not going to stick. You'll have to come up with something else."

She had clearly anticipated what Grace was planning and blocked every escape route.

After all these years, Autumn knew her mother-in-law well.

She had clearly taken the old saying-'Know your enemy, and you'll win every time'-to heart.

Grace looked at the documents in panic. "What do you want from me?"

Autumn smiled. “Isn’t it obvious? Tit for tat. However you treat me, I’ll return it in kind.

“If you want to play, then let’s go all in. Let your future daughter-in-law hear what kind of mother-in-law you’ve been to Julian’s ex-wife.”

She had nothing left to lose, nothing to fear.

If it came to mutual destruction, so be it.

She wasn’t backing down.

She wasn’t afraid of going to court.

What, did the Carter family really think they were above the law?

But the Carters had a lot more to lose-like Luna, for example.

They had hidden Autumn’s existence from her all along, pretending Julian was still single.

If the truth came out, they’d see who would really be humiliated.

Grace’s heart pounded with fear.

If Autumn really went to Luna, all the lies they had carefully built would fall apart instantly.

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

Autumn then pulled another stack from her bag-photos and printed chat logs—and tossed them in front of Grace again.

“These are the proofs of Julian’s affair. Tell me, if I make this public, and it’s shown that he cheated first, wouldn’t I be entitled to half of his assets?

“Ms. Palmer, think carefully. What’s worth more-six million, or half of the Carter estate?”

The Carter Group was easily worth billions.

If she filed for divorce with proof of infidelity, she could take half.

Compared to that, six million was nothing.

The photos were taken by a private investigator she’d hired back then. [READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT findnovel.net](http://findnovel.net)

As for the chat logs, they came from Julian’s old phone that had been damaged and tossed into the trash.

She’d suspected he was cheating at the time, so she secretly took the phone to be repaired and copied its

contents.

She had left it untouched afterward, never expecting it to come in handy now.

Back then, part of her had still held out hope for Julian, hoping he might come back to her.

But now?

She just wanted to use these as leverage against Grace.

Who knew-she might even be able to squeeze more money out of her.

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Grace stared at the photos and chat logs in disbelief, momentarily stunned.

Still, she forced herself to stay composed.

“Autumn, where did you get all this? You actually spied on someone’s private life? That’s illegal. You could go to jail for this!”

Her heart was in a full-blown panic, but her mouth remained sharp.

This wretched girl-how could she possibly have so much evidence?

She’d been caught completely off guard.

Autumn let out a cold, mocking laugh.

“Is that so? Then let me tell you, I’ve had this evidence for a long time. If you people hadn’t pushed me so far, I wouldn’t have brought it out.

“Surprised, Ms. Palmer? That I have so much proof of Julian’s affair?”

“I copied it from his phone. Got it through perfectly legal means. If you’ve got a problem with that, take it up with your son.”

As she spoke, Autumn pulled Julian’s old phone from her bag.

“There’s plenty more in here-like the hotel bookings he made last year. Would you like to take a look?”

“A married man who constantly used business dinners as an excuse not to come home, but was actually booking hotel rooms left and right-what do you think that means?”

“It means your son was cheating. It started as far back as last year. Just because I kept quiet doesn’t mean I didn’t know.”

In truth, the records only included a few hotel stays.

Julian had been careful, deleting most of his tracks, but she still managed to find traces.

Back then, she had fallen into despair.

She cried so much her eyes were nearly swollen shut.

She couldn't believe it until the evidence made it impossible to deny.

Once that seed of suspicion was planted, it only grew.

From that point on, Autumn became hypersensitive, constantly chasing shadows and picking fights over small things.

At first, Julian would brush it off with excuses.

But over time, he grew impatient until that frustration turned into open disgust.

None of that mattered anymore.

Their three-year marriage was about to come to an end.

Grace's heart was pounding.

She instinctively reached out to snatch the phone from Autumn's hand, but Autumn stepped aside swiftly, dodging her without effort.

"Autumn, you actually stole Julian's phone? Do you want me to call him right now and have him throw you out?"

That wretched girl-she had completely blindsided her.

She'd seriously underestimated her.

Just thinking about how Autumn's former gentleness and obedience had all been an act made her furious.

It was absolutely infuriating!

This woman had managed to keep up the act for years, fooling everyone around her.

She was more calculating than Grace had ever imagined.

Autumn shrugged, completely unfazed.

"Go ahead and call him. The divorce cooling-off period is almost over anyway. Whether it ends a few days early or late doesn't make any difference."

After everything Julian had done during her two hospital stays, any last shred of hope she had was already gone.

She no longer loved him, and she certainly had no expectations left.

From now on, they'd be nothing but strangers.

Grace's face turned red with anger, veins standing out on her neck as she glared at Autumn like she could burn her alive with just a look.

If Autumn brought this evidence to court, her son's future would be completely destroyed.

No, she could never let that happen.

With that thought, Grace changed tactics, putting on a softer expression and tugging gently at Autumn's arm.

"Autumn, let's talk this through calmly. We're civilized people, aren't we? There's no need to escalate things like this."

Autumn yanked her arm free without hesitation. "I wanted to talk things through, but did any of you actually listen? Fresh chapters posted on find~novel~net

"You attacked me first, then gave me a sugar-coated apology. Ms. Palmer, do you really think that still works on me?"

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"If you don't want me to take this to court, fine. Have your son withdraw the lawsuit and transfer another four million as compensation for emotional distress."

Autumn's voice was calm, but her tone left no room for negotiation.

She had endured so much in the Carter household for Julian's sake.

Grace had made her life miserable more times than she could count.

Asking for four million would've been generous.

Grace's eyes widened in disbelief. "What? Four million? Autumn, that's outrageous! Why don't you just rob a bank?"

Autumn gave her a look like she was watching an idiot.

"Robbing a bank is illegal, Ms. Palmer. Didn't you know that?"

Grace was speechless.

"Fine. If you won't pay, we'll settle it in court."

Autumn didn't bother arguing.

She calmly gathered the documents in front of her and slipped them into her bag.

If she hadn't come prepared, Grace would've denied everything without blinking.

That was why she'd printed everything out on short notice.

She knew exactly what kind of person she was dealing with.

"Wait!" Grace called out just as Autumn turned to leave.

Autumn paused, glancing over her shoulder. "Yes, Ms. Palmer?"

Grace clenched her jaw and muttered, "I don't have that much on hand right now. Can you give me some time to gather it?" Fresh chapters posted on FundNovel.net

Autumn thought for a moment, then said, "By five o'clock tomorrow at the latest. If the money hasn't hit my account by then, there's nothing more to discuss."

"Don't come up with anymore tricks, Ms. Palmer. I've got nothing to lose, but you do. I don't mind dragging this out, but can you afford it?"

"If this evidence goes public and your son's reputation takes a hit, do you really think your precious business alliance through marriage between the Carters and the Lewises will still happen?"

She hadn't wanted things to end like this.

But they kept pushing, and she was done turning the other cheek.

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Grace seemed to grasp the weight of that and suddenly lashed out, "You say my son cheated, but don't act like you're so virtuous either!"

"Weren't you having a relationship with some other man while he was working?"

Thinking of what Sienna had told her, Grace found a bit of footing again, and her voice gained strength.

Autumn gave a cold snort.

"Ms. Palmer, accusations require evidence. If you have proof, show it. If not, slandering me without basis is defamation, and that's legally actionable."

Grace choked on her words.

Autumn couldn't be bothered to waste another second on someone so shameless.

She turned and walked straight out of the café.

Grace was left fuming on the spot, stomping her feet in frustration, yet powerless to do anything about Autumn.

After thinking it over, she picked up her phone and dialed Julian.

The call rang for a long time before he finally answered.

The moment it connected, Grace blurted out, "Julian, drop the lawsuit against Autumn!"

There was a brief silence on the other end before Julian asked, "She came to you?"

"No, no, she didn't," Grace rushed to deny it.

Gritting her teeth, she added, "I remembered wrong. I didn't give six million dollars to Autumn. I invested it in

stocks.

“I lost money and didn’t want to tell you, so I just blamed her and let her take it.”

It wasn’t true, of course, but she couldn’t come up with a better excuse.

If they didn’t withdraw the lawsuit and pushed Autumn any further, that lunatic would drag them all down.

Julian replied quickly, “Got it.”

Before he could hang up, Grace added, “Julian, can you transfer me four million? I saw a jewelry set recently. It would look perfect on Luna. I want to buy it for her.”

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As soon as Autumn left the café, a wave of nausea surged in her stomach.

She clutched her abdomen and got into the car, collapsing against the steering wheel, gasping for breath.

Once again, those irrelevant people had pushed her to the brink.

If she didn't walk away now, their shamelessness might actually kill her.

She pulled out her medication, popped a pill into her mouth, and unscrewed her thermos, taking several big gulps to wash away the bitterness.

After that, she slumped weakly against the wheel, drenched in cold sweat from the pain.

A dense, gnawing ache spread through every inch of her body, like tens of thousands of ants were chewing on her from the inside out.

She couldn't hold on.

Her vision went black, and she passed out on the spot.

She didn't know how long had passed when she slowly came to and realized she was still in the car.

The worst of the pain had subsided after the nap, and once she felt steady again, she started the engine and drove off.

No one knew that during that brief moment, Autumn had nearly died. Updates are released by find[©]novel.net

Fortunately, she was too stubborn to go down that easily—even death had to back off.

Soon after, she received a call from a lawyer representing the Carter Group.

“Ms. Lewis, regarding the letter we sent you—one of the claims has been withdrawn.

“Ms. Palmer admitted there was a misunderstanding; she remembered incorrectly. That lawsuit has been canceled.

“However, the other one still stands. Due to your negligence, the company suffered a direct loss of one million.

“The evidence is valid, and we ask that you repay it as soon as possible.”

“I'm just calling to remind you the final deadline is the day after tomorrow. I suggest you start gathering the funds, Ms. Lewis.”

After hanging up, Autumn let out a bitter laugh.

So, the countdown had started from the day she was hospitalized.

Julian really didn't miss a trick.

He would stop at nothing to force her into submission.

How absolutely shameless.

If it weren't for her illness and her urgent desire to leave the Carter family behind, she would've enjoyed dragging this out and watching them squirm.

But her body was deteriorating by the day, and she didn't want to be tangled up with any of them anymore.

She'd only ever wanted to leave quietly, but they insisted on dancing in front of her face.

It was exhausting.

The next day, Monday, marked her first day at Vanguard.

She got up early, had breakfast, and drove out.

The day after tomorrow was Wednesday.

It would be the day she officially moved out of the Carter residence.

Just thinking about finally escaping that hell made her feel lighter.

As she stopped at a red light, her phone rang.

It was Ethan.

"Autumn, it's your first day reporting to the company. Do you want me to come pick you up?"

Autumn shook her head. "No need, I've already left and I'm almost at the office."

Ethan sounded surprised. "That fast? Then you might have to wait a bit. I'm almost there too."

After ending the call, the light turned green.

Autumn stepped on the gas and pulled smoothly into traffic.

Once she arrived at the company, Ethan's assistant, Colin Fang, came out to meet her and led her inside.

As they passed the reception lounge, Autumn was caught off guard by a familiar face.

Her eyes widened slightly. What was Luna doing here?

Inside the lounge, Luna sat with poise as a young woman handed her a glass of water.

She accepted it gracefully but didn't drink, just set it aside.

Sensing someone staring at her, Luna glanced toward the hallway.

The moment she saw Autumn, a flicker of surprise crossed her eyes.

But she quickly returned to her usual calm.

Since Autumn had been dismissed by Julian, she naturally assumed she was here for an interview.

Luna hadn't noticed Colin walking just ahead, and only saw Autumn, so it was easy to assume she was just one

of many job applicants.

She was here today to see Ethan.

Since Vanguard had a recent collaboration with the Lewis Group, she used the opportunity to get closer to him.

Her goal was to speed up the process of becoming his student.

On top of that, she was genuinely interested in their company's AI diagnostic medical program.

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She wanted to use this opportunity to learn more about them.

After all, when their AI diagnostic system first launched, it caused quite a stir.

Hospitals across the country quickly began adopting their research.

It was a nationwide sensation-an undeniable success.

To this day, no one had managed to surpass that achievement.

Rumor had it the project was led by Ethan himself.

And ever since Luna saw Ethan sitting beside Edwin in that private room, she'd become even more eager to get close to him.

After all, the students Edwin trained were all national-level researchers.

If his students were that accomplished, then the teacher himself must be extraordinary. This text is hosted at find*.novel.net

When Ethan arrived at the company, the receptionist walked over to inform Luna, who was busy reading from her tablet.

She quickly stood and headed toward the door.

Catching a glimpse of Ethan's hurried back, Luna immediately called out, "Mr. Sharp, long time no see!"

Ethan paused and turned slightly. "Ms. Lewis, did you need something?"

Luna smiled. "I'm here on behalf of the Lewis Group to discuss our partnership."

She pulled out her tablet and began navigating through some documents, but Ethan cut her off.

"I don't have time right now. I'm meeting someone important. We'll talk another time."

With that, he turned and walked off quickly.

Luna's hand froze mid-motion, a frown tugging at her brow.

Someone important? Who could that be?

Meanwhile, Autumn followed Colin to the CEO's office.

He handed her a glass of warm water.

"Ms. Lewis, please wait here for Mr. Sharp. He'll be here shortly."

"Thank you." Autumn nodded politely as she took the glass.

After Colin left, Ethan arrived moments later.

Autumn stood, and he pulled her into a warm hug.

"Welcome back to the company."

Autumn smiled. "It's been three years. I just hope it's not too late to start again."

Back then, she had insisted on marrying for love right after graduation.

Looking back now, it felt like a cruel joke.

But some roads had to be taken to quiet the heart—even if they left her battered, scarred, and utterly spent.

Her mentor was right: life wouldn't give her test runs. Every choice came with a price.

But Ethan shook his head. "Not at all. You're right on time. Come on, I'll take you to your workstation."

"Alright." Autumn nodded and followed him out.

As they passed the lounge again, she caught sight of Luna, who was just about to leave.

Their eyes met for a moment before Luna quickly turned away, haughty as ever, pretending not to recognize her.

Luna hadn't expected that the important person Ethan mentioned would turn out to be Autumn.

And he had actually postponed a business meeting just to walk her in?

How unbelievable.

He was completely blinded by lust.

To think someone that shallow was leading such a major project-he clearly wasn't destined for greatness.

Autumn was replacing someone named Ben Lee, who had originally planned to leave in a few days.

But the company hiring him demanded he start immediately, and he was so eager to jump ship that he gave up half a month's salary just to leave on the spot.

With one person suddenly gone, the whole team had been scrambling for days.

They were just hoping the company would fill the position quickly so they could finally breathe.

Ethan motioned for everyone to pause their work and introduced her, "This is Autumn Lewis, she's joining us to take over Ben's role. You can pass everything over to her."

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Claire Adams glanced at Autumn.

She was so young, so Claire couldn't help but question her capabilities.

In their company, even entry-level hires typically held a master's degree or higher.

Judging by Autumn's age, she probably was still a grad student, right?

The rest of the team looked at her too, silently thinking the same thing-this one probably couldn't handle

much.

But since she was brought in by the boss himself, no one dared to speak up.

All they could do was silently pray she wouldn't make their already hectic workload even worse.

After Ethan left, Claire led Autumn to Ben's former desk and gave her a quick overview of the tasks he had handled.

When he finished, he asked curiously, "Ms. Lewis, you look so young-are you still in grad school?"

"No," Autumn shook her head.

"I started working in the finance department right after earning my bachelor's. I didn't pursue graduate studies.

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That stunned the entire team even more.

Someone without a graduate degree had actually been hired on exception by their boss?

That was it.

Whatever hope they had instantly crumbled.

A bachelor's degree? What could she possibly contribute? She was probably going to slow them down.

Claire looked equally shocked. "Can I ask why you didn't go for a master's? Was it that you didn't get in? Or financial reasons?"

From the way Autumn was dressed, she clearly wasn't someone who couldn't afford tuition.

So maybe she just didn't pass the exam?

A poor student too?

Great. That only meant more trouble ahead.

Claire deflated at the thought.

So, this was what they had been waiting for?

A walking disaster.

Autumn picked up the stack of documents on the desk and shook her head. "Neither. It was for personal reasons.

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Seeing that Autumn didn't want to explain further, Claire didn't press.

He simply pointed at her own workstation and said, "That's where I sit. If you need help, feel free to come over." Content originally comes from f1ndnovel.net

He said it nicely, but in his mind, Claire couldn't stop grumbling. 1

The boss had brought in a bachelor's graduate and from finance, no less.

He seriously questioned his judgment.

Why not just stick her in accounting? Why dump her here to make their lives harder?

"Thanks," Autumn said politely, then lowered her head and got to work.

She worked with such focus that Claire couldn't help glancing over several times, watching her act like she actually knew what she was doing.

Two hours went by, and Autumn still hadn't come over to ask a single question.

Was she pretending to understand and just blindly working through everything?

Would Claire have to redo the whole thing later?

The thought made her curious enough to walk over and sneak a peek.

Well, judging by her serious attitude, Claire didn't have the heart to say anything critical.

If she had to redo it, so be it.

Autumn was new-mistakes were part of the process.

Worst case, Claire would just work a few extra hours.

No big deal.

Autumn spent the entire morning reviewing the stack of documents.

Not only did she go through everything thoroughly, but she even left notes in areas she felt needed corrections, complete with detailed suggestions.

Right after the lunch break, she handed the files to Claire.

Claire was stunned.

He took the documents and stared at Autumn in disbelief.

"This was several days' worth of work for Ben. You finished it in one morning?"

Was she bluffing? Just making things up to look impressive?

The rest of the team overheard and looked up in surprise.

A bachelor's graduate had pulled that off?

Was she just faking it the whole morning, pretending to be competent so she could hand in something half- baked?

The more they thought about it, the more their expressions turned dismissive.

To them, there was no way she got in without connections.

Without pulling strings, someone like her wouldn't have even made it past the front door.

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Claire flipped open the file and was stunned to find that Autumn hadn't just completed all of Ben Lee's unfinished work, she had also provided remarkably detailed suggestions, pointing out insights they themselves had never even considered.

"You're really just a bachelor's graduate?"

Claire's eyes were filled with genuine admiration.

All of them-graduates from top schools-had just been outclassed by someone with a mere undergraduate degree.

It was humbling.

"Yeah." Autumn nodded.

The rest of the team, seeing Claire's impressed expression, gathered around, curious.

When they saw Autumn's work for themselves, their jaws nearly dropped.

That slap in the face stung.

They had looked down on her when she first arrived, but now all they felt was the burn of embarrassment.

They'd been worried she'd drag them down.

But clearly, they were the ones who couldn't keep up.

This wasn't some clueless rookie-this was a powerhouse, someone leagues beyond their so-called top-tier credentials.

Around three in the afternoon, Autumn received a bank notification-Grace had wired four million.

Right after, a message came in: "Autumn, the money's been transferred. You'd better destroy all that evidence. I've got proof too. If you try to play me, I'll have you charged with blackmail. It won't take more than a minute.'

A few moments later, another message arrived: “Also, the cooling-off period is up. You’d better leave on your own. Don’t forget what you promised.”

Autumn replied with a simple “OK” sticker, followed by: “No problem. As long as the money’s in, anything’s negotiable.”

There was no further response.

She put her phone down and got back to work.

Just before the end of the workday, Claire handed Autumn’s completed report to Ethan.

His praise was clear and unwavering.

“Mr. Sharp, Ms. Lewis is incredibly capable. What took Ben several days, she finished in one morning.

“She even gave us detailed suggestions we hadn’t thought of. And she said she’s only got a bachelor’s degree, with no prior experience in the AI field. IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CHAPTERS, PLEASE VISIT findnovel.net

“But in my opinion, her abilities are on par with-if not beyond-any of us top graduates,” Claire said honestly.

Given what Autumn had said on her first day, it was understandable that everyone assumed she was a novice.

After all, with only a bachelor's degree and no background in AI, anyone would've thought she was just starting

out.

Who would've imagined that the so-called rookie they all looked down on would end up proving herself with such skill and making them all eat their words?

Ethan took the file, skimmed through it, and nodded with satisfaction. "This is only the beginning. You'll soon see the real difference between talent and effort."

Claire had to agree that Autumn clearly had talent.

Otherwise, how could someone who hadn't touched the field for years after graduation manage to offer such unique, insightful perspectives?

Their team had definitely lucked out.

By the time the workday ended, Autumn headed to the underground parking lot with her bag.

Ethan spotted her and walked over.

“Autumn, how are you feeling? Settling in alright?”

Autumn smiled. “Yeah. Getting back to doing something I love is like a surge of energy. I feel great.”

“Good to hear,” Ethan said warmly.

“Mr. Lee is hosting a dinner the day after tomorrow. Come with me. I’d like to introduce you to a few people.”

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“Alright.” Autumn nodded.

Ethan continued, “At the last seminar, you had to leave early because you weren’t feeling well. This time’s a good chance to finally introduce you to Mr. Lee.”

“I also heard that our mentor might be invited. Though no one knows if he’ll actually show up.

Wilson Lee was the director of the Medical AI Department.

This dinner was a private event he was hosting, so only a select few had been invited.

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But word had it his department was on the verge of something big, and companies were scrambling for a chance to collaborate with him.

Needless to say, the guest list for this dinner carried serious weight.

Autumn looked surprised. "Our mentor? Really?"

He was the type to bury himself in research day and night.

Social settings had always been his least favorite thing. Follow current novels on FindNovel.net

No matter the occasion-conferences, banquets, academic forums-he never showed up.

Because of that, not many people knew just how powerful Edwin truly was.

Most just assumed he was some ordinary old researcher.

Ethan rubbed his chin and smiled. "No idea yet. We sent the invitation, but whether he comes or not, we'll see."

Autumn pressed her lips together thoughtfully.

She doubted it. He probably wouldn't come.

The two chatted a bit more about work, then said their goodbyes.

Autumn got in her car and prepared to leave.

Just then, her phone rang.

It was Richard, probably calling on Luna's behalf to scold her again.

She ignored it.

That entire family was exhausting.

She started the car and pulled out of the company parking lot.

While waiting at a red light, her phone rang again.

This time, it was her grandmother.

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"Autumn, I'm getting discharged today. I've been craving your oatmeal. Will you come by?"

Autumn glanced at the countdown on the red light. "Sure. I'll head over now."

Even though she suspected the call was prompted by the Lewis family, she hadn't visited her grandmother in days due to her illness.

Going back to see her felt like the right thing to do.

Some things couldn't be avoided by running.

If the Lewis family wanted to cause her trouble, they had plenty of ways to do it, and there was no escaping it.

After all, it wasn't the first time they'd come after her because of Luna.

Every time Luna pointed a finger, the rest of them followed without question.

If Autumn pushed back, she was labeled difficult.

But she had never been the type to just accept mistreatment, which was why every meeting with them ended badly.

The last time, when Luna was seeking a mentor, they didn't come after her, probably because it hadn't affected their interests.

But this time? That was a different story.

Autumn didn't know what Luna was doing at Vanguard, but clearly, she didn't get what she wanted.

She probably left empty-handed and ran home to stir things up with the family.

She was childish, as always.

Autumn made a U-turn at the intersection and headed toward the Lewis residence, calm and steady.

Whatever happened, she would face it head-on.

When she arrived, the sky was heavy with dark clouds, and the air was thick and oppressive, making it hard to breathe.

It looked like rain was coming.

Ginny was already waiting at the gate.

She sat in a wheelchair, her leg wrapped in gauze, and the moment she saw Autumn step out of the car, quickly wheeled herself forward.

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"Autumn, you're back! You look thinner again. Have you not been eating?"

Autumn grabbed her keys and hurried over to help push the wheelchair.

"Grandma, it's probably just the heat. It's been too hot lately, so I haven't been eating much."

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Ginny looked up at her, eyes full of concern. “You don’t look so well either. Are you sick?”

Autumn touched her own face, small enough to fit in the palm of a hand and smiled.

“I don’t think so. You just haven’t seen me in a few days, that’s all. It must be your imagination!”

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After pushing her grandmother inside, Autumn saw the rest of the family gathered around Luna on the couch, unwrapping gifts together.

The moment she walked in, every smiling face froze, as if her presence had disrupted their perfect little scene.

Autumn didn’t react.

She had been ignored so many times that it no longer mattered.

In this house, aside from her grandmother, no one ever wanted her back.

Ginny gently tugged on her arm.

“Autumn, don’t let it bother you. Later, come to my room and pick out some jewelry you like.”

“It’s alright, Grandma. I stopped caring a long time ago.”

Autumn crouched beside her, eyes landing on the injury wrapped around her left leg, a swirl of emotions tightening in her chest.

She knew her grandmother only said that to comfort her.

Most of the jewelry in Ginny’s room was pieces she had carefully collected over the years.

They were cherished treasures.

She hadn’t earned them.

How could she accept them in good conscience?

Just then, Luna walked over with a pink gift box in hand, smiling sweetly.

“Sis, this is a gift from our older brother. He brought it back from overseas. He didn’t know you’d be coming, so he didn’t prepare one for you.

“But that’s okay, I’ll give you mine. Go ahead, open it, see if you like it.”

Autumn glanced at the box, already partially opened, and let out a cold, sarcastic smile.

“Giving me something you don’t want? Luna, you really are such a thoughtful little sister.”

She emphasized the words little sister with unmistakable sharpness.

Luna’s tactics were becoming more refined and disgusting.

Every time Autumn came home, she never once gave Luna a kind look.

But Luna was like an indestructible pest—relentless and persistent.

Take now, for example.

Autumn had only come to make oatmeal for her grandmother and still managed to run into this walking

headache.

Luna’s eyes turned red instantly.

She looked up at Autumn, timid and hurt. “Sis, you’re really misunderstanding me. I haven’t even opened the gift yet. You can check it yourself if you don’t believe me.

“I just saw that our brother didn’t bring you anything, and I didn’t want you to feel left out. That’s why I offered you mine.

“I didn’t know you’d be upset. I’m sorry. If you don’t want it, I’ll take it back. Please don’t be angry.”

She gave Autumn a cautious glance, then pressed her lips together and gently set the box aside.

Just then, Hector quickly walked over, the accusations already spilling from his mouth.

“Autumn, Luna only offered you something she liked because she saw you didn’t get a gift.

“How could you be so ungrateful? Saying she gave you something she didn’t want. Someone with a twisted heart really sees everything through a dark lens.”

Last time it was because they forgot her birthday while traveling.

Now it was about a gift.

Autumn always found something to cause a scene about.

Every time she came home, it was drama over one thing or another.

Honestly, he was sick of it.

Ginny's sharp gaze swept toward Luna. "You gave Autumn something that was already opened. What exactly were you trying to pull?"

Hector looked toward the gift box too-it did look like it had been opened earlier.

His eyes narrowed as he glanced back at Luna. Get full chapters from [find \(N\)ovel.net](http://find(n)ovel.net)

Luna bit her lip, eyes brimming with tears, barely holding them back as she stammered, "Grandma, you've misunderstood me. I didn't..."

Truth was, the gift had been opened.

It wasn't a style she liked, which was why she tried to pass it off to Autumn.

But there was no way she'd ever admit that.

Susan quickly stepped in, placing herself protectively in front of Luna.

"Mom, Luna was just being kind. If Autumn didn't want it, she could've just said so. Why accuse Luna like that?"

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

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Seeing her precious daughter in tears, Susan gently wiped Luna's face, her own eyes reddening with emotion.

Simon walked over with heavy steps, handing a gift box to Ginny.

"Grandma, this is something I brought for you. Open it and see if you like it."

Without even glancing at the box, Ginny shoved it straight into Autumn's arms.

"Autumn, this one's from me. Go on, open it and see what it is."

Autumn glanced at Simon, noticing the displeasure on his face.

She was about to say something when Ginny cut her off.

"I said it's yours, so it's yours. No need to pay them any mind-just open it."

Autumn lowered her head and opened the box.

Inside was a pair of exquisitely packaged emerald earrings, just one look at the quality and she knew they were worth a fortune.

Ginny beamed with warmth. "Beautiful. Perfect for our Autumn. You'd better keep them."

Luna clenched her fists by the side, nails digging into her palms without even noticing the pain.

Once again, Autumn had stolen her spotlight.

How infuriating.

She hesitated, then asked deliberately, "Sister, what were you doing at Vanguard today?"

The moment she mentioned Vanguard, Simon's expression darkened further.

He pressed a hand against his pounding temple, visibly exhausted.

He'd only landed back home at five this afternoon.

As soon as he arrived, he heard the news-because Autumn had gone to Vanguard, Ethan had decided to suspend the collaboration with the Lewis Group.

That deal had taken Simon over six months to secure.

And now, thanks to one move from Autumn, everything had fallen apart.

How could he not be furious?

Vanguard had risen to stardom after developing their AI diagnostic technology, quickly becoming the most sought-after partner in the industry.

Companies from around the globe had tried to collaborate with them, only to be turned away by Ethan himself.

Their products were now being steadily adopted by hospitals worldwide.

Many facilities, impressed by the results, had already signed long-term contracts.

The company's future was undeniably bright.

But the identity of the AI diagnostic system's original creator-known only as "Z"-remained a mystery.

For the longest time, people assumed it was Ethan. Get full chapters from Find*Novel.net

It was someone else entirely.

Autumn glanced at Luna and calmly replied, "Thanks to you, dear sister, I was fired from the Carter Group. So naturally, I went to Vanguard for an interview.

"After all, people need to eat. If I don't work, how do I feed myself and pay my bills? Don't you agree?"

Her words were clearly aimed at the Lewis family.

Luna lived like royalty-she could lie around doing nothing all day and still never go hungry.

But Autumn wasn't that lucky.

People like her, who lived off a paycheck, didn't have the luxury of not working.

Luna froze, caught off guard.

That was when Hector spoke up. "Autumn, stop with the passive-aggressive nonsense. No one forced you to work, so what are you even complaining about?"

"You think the Lewis family doesn't have the means to support someone like you?"

Earlier, when he realized Luna had given Autumn a gift that had already been opened, Hector had felt a twinge of guilt.

After all, he'd been the first to call Autumn out.

But after hearing her jab after jab, that guilt disappeared.

Luna was sweet and well-mannered.

There was no way she did it on purpose.

Autumn, on the other hand, was always sharp-tongued and unforgiving.

She was really hard to like,

Autumn let out a short laugh, fed up. "Right, the Lewis family has wealth and power. But what's that got to do with me?"

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