

Wedded Bride 141

Chapter 141

"Ye, since when has there been a mad dog running wild at your home?" Isla had never met Yvonne before, although she did hear of her. Without Autumn introducing Yvonne, Isla could guess who she was

Before Autumn could say anything, Yvonne standing nearby couldn't remain silent any more. She turned her gaze from Autumn to Isla and shouted, "Who are you to interrupt me?"

Autumn refrained from talking back. She knew she had had enough of Yvonne's bad temper. She was about to say something, when Charles stood up.

Since Yvonne moved in, Charles had been ignoring her. He looked through Yvonne and at Autumn. "Darling, have you finished your breakfast? I would like to take you to a nice place. You can come with us, Isla."

"Alright." Isla was pleased with Charles's attitude. She and Autumn got changed and were about to walk out of the door, when Yvonne rushed to Charles and gave him a flirtatious smile. "Charles, look at my sister. I'm her sister, but she is getting help from someone else to gang up on me. Anyway, I'm going to move into the main building tonight. The servants' house is dirty and small. How can I live in that place?"

Yvonne took Charles's hand tenderly and asked, "Charles, how could my sister treat me that way? After all I'm..."

"She can do that because she's the hostess of this house." Charles dropped Yvonne's hand and said with a straight look. "This is her house. She decides who can and can't live here. If you're not willing to live in the house for servants... That's fine with me. You can go back and live with the Gu Family any time."

Charles smiled bitterly. "Please tell me if you decide to leave. I can ask my chauffeur to drive you home."

"No, " answered Yvonne angrily and anxiously. How could she go back, like a beaten dog, with her tail between her legs?

She swallowed her pride and said to Charles sweetly, "Charles, I just got confused. I'm so sorry. Can you forgive me?"

Isla hated her callousness.

Yvonne swallowed her anger and said humbly, "I don't know how to behave properly, so please don't be angry with me. Please."

"You should tell that to your sister," said Charles. "Honestly speaking, you did many wrong things, but your sister has always been kind to you. She has never rebuked you. So, you should apologize to her."

Yvonne went pale. But she knew that she shouldn't provoke Charles any more today. She had to exercise restraint, and went to Autumn unwillingly. She said, "Sister, I'm sorry, please forgive me."

"Don't mention it. No big deal. Just forget about it," said Autumn in a way which was magnanimous. However, her next words almost made Yvonne lose her temper again. "However, I have had enough of your over-persistence. If you do this again, I will have to ask you to leave. Are we clear on that?"

"You..." Yvonne's face went white. She was about to fight Autumn again, but she looked back and saw the threatening look on Charles' face. She restrained herself and calmly answered, "Alright, sister. Don't worry. I'll behave."

"Well, it's good that we've finally come to an agreement. Now, let's go," said Charles. Then, Yvonne came forward and asked them, "Charles, where are you going? I want to go with you."

Since it was the weekend, Yvonne was determined to go with them.

Autumn was about to refuse her, but unexpectedly, Charles agreed.

"Alright, let's go together," said Charles, nodding his consent.

Autumn had no idea of why Charles would do that. But Isla knew that Charles must have other intentions, otherwise why would Charles allow Yvonne to come along and burden them?

Outside the house, Yvonne rushed to open the front passenger door. "Sister, I get carsick easily. Can I sit in front beside the driver?"

It's well known that the front passenger seat is reserved for the driver's wife or girlfriend. Yvonne wanted to win over Autumn on this so she tried and looked into Autumn's eyes in a threatening manner. She thought Autumn would cave in, but she was wrong. Autumn smiled coldly and said, "I'm so sorry. I'm also likely to be carsick."

Yvonne never expected Autumn to refuse her request. Isla, standing nearby, came to Autumn's aid. She took Yvonne's hand and said amiably, "Let's both sit in the back. There's no need to interrupt the couple. We can have a good talk."

Isla said the last two words emphatically. Then, she took Yvonne and got in the car.

Yvonne hated Isla already. She knew Isla just made an excuse to force her to take the back seat but unexpectedly, Isla literally wanted to talk to her.

"What's your relationship with Ye? Why hasn't she told me before that she has a sister?" asked Isla wryly.

Yvonne had decided to impress Charles. So, she gave Isla a big smile and answered, "We are distantly related. So it's quite normal that she hasn't introduced me to anyone else."

"Are you serious?" asked Isla coldly. She might have been fooled by Yvonne if she hadn't already known Yvonne's background. Now, she wanted Yvonne to give herself away. "Your distant relative is treating you so well. Look at your clothes, they must be expensive. Where did the money come from?"

Chapter 142

"That's not necessary." Yvonne stole a glance at Charles who was driving. She was afraid he would misunderstand it, so she immediately yelled to Isla, "Thank you for your kindness. But don't bother! I have someone in my heart."

"Well, you don't have a boyfriend right now. It's okay to meet more guys." Isla said to Yvonne, "Hey, I'm talking to you. Why do you steal glances at Charles from time to time?"

"I don't! Stop talking nonsense!" Yvonne was taken aback by Isla's words and yelled, "Stop it! I won't see other guys!"

"Never mind. I thought you and my friend were a perfect match. But since you don't want to give it a try, forget what I've said." Isla said indifferently. Yvonne was finally relieved as she thought Isla would stop. However, Isla continued to ask, "What kind of man do you like?"

"I refuse to answer that. It's my own business!" Yvonne answered coldly.

"Come on! Let's make some small talk. We aren't there yet." Isla gave a scornful smile and continued, "Well, is it because the guy you like is already taken?"

"Bah! That's nonsense!" Yvonne denied it at once. She dared not admit that she loved Charles.

While Yvonne was out of her wits, Charles parked the car and said, "Here we are."

Autumn raised her head and asked in confusion, "Cloud Advertising Company? Why do you bring us here?"

"Don't worry, you will find out." Charles answered with a mysterious smile. He had taken over the Cloud Advertising Company. Autumn had now become the General Manager of the company.

"Let's go." Charles held Autumn's hand and walked into the building.

Yvonne followed them. She was burning with jealousy when she saw Charles holding Autumn's hand.

Isla finally realized something. She had heard that the Cloud Advertising Company was taken over by another company. Now Charles brought Autumn here. Did it mean...

Autumn was nervous as she didn't know why Charles brought her here. Meanwhile, Ryan and Paula were waiting anxiously at the elevator. The new General Manager was to take office today. Therefore, Ryan dressed up and came early, hoping to make a good impression on the new General Manager.

Only the mysterious new owner could save Cloud Advertising Company now.

Ryan and Paula were standing by the elevator. The elevator door parted and Charles stepped out, followed by Autumn and Isla. Ryan frowned as he saw Autumn. He had thought that he wouldn't see Autumn ever again, but he didn't expect to see her at Cloud Advertising Company so soon.

He uttered no word, but Paula couldn't bear it. She walked up to Autumn and sneered, "Oh my god! How dare you come here? Shame on you!"

"Why can't she come here?" Isla stood between Paula and Autumn as she spoke, "Are you the boss? Or is there a rule that says Autumn is not allowed to enter?"

"Come on. Isla Zhao, I know you are good friends." Paula taunted. She cooked up the story that Autumn had copied from others and received kickbacks from Party B. But Autumn looked great right now, which enraged Paula.

"Isla Zhao, she has a bad name now. I don't think it's wise for you to defend her like this. Others might think you are on the same side." Paula said coldly.

Isla retorted, "I know her well. As for the rumors, we both know who cooked those up. Autumn is a capable lady and she can always find a good job, unlike you!"

"I admit she is more capable than I am. However..." Paula laughed and continued, "She has become notorious. Now every company is staying away from her. But... I have to admit she is a beautiful woman. She can find a good husband and be a housewife."

"I agree with you on that. She will find a good husband and have a happy family in the future." Isla held Autumn's hand and said proudly, "Autumn will definitely be happy. Don't be jealous of her!"

Isla and Paula bickered with each other without stopping. Autumn pulled Isla away and said in a light voice, "Isla, don't argue with her."

"Come on! I'm defending you." Isla said indifferently.

Ryan frowned as he walked to Charles and said, "Mr. Lu, I don't know why you are here. But we have something really important today. Could you please come back tomorrow?"

"Yes, please." Paula disliked Charles very much. If it weren't for him, Ryan would still trust her and the Cloud Advertising Company wouldn't be in trouble now. "Autumn Ye, you are not a part of Cloud Advertising Company anymore. Please don't come here. You are no longer welcome."

"It's not decided by you!" Charles said in a cold voice, "Paula Pan?"

It took a long time for Charles to remember Paula's name. He said seriously, "You are fired!"

Chapter 143

Autumn did not show any sign of happiness instead she looked a little worried. She grabbed Charles by his arm and took him aside to a quiet corner. She then whispered to Charles in hushed tone, "I can't possibly take this company."

"Why?" asked Charles in confusion. Charles couldn't understand what was happening. 'This company is my gift to her. If it were Rachel, she would embrace me and thank me. But here I am, and Autumn is refusing to take it.'

"Charles, you don't understand. I..." Autumn didn't know how to explain what she felt to Charles. 'If I accepted this company, I would be ill at ease with Charles,' she thought to herself.

Isla walked up to Autumn with determination and said, "Dear, just take it." Charles couldn't comprehend Autumn's thoughts, but Isla could. A few days back they had a conversation about this. When she saw Autumn and Charles walk to a corner, she followed them as she knew that Autumn would refuse Charles's proposal.

With a little frown, Autumn responded, "Isla, you know me very well."

Isla nodded with approval, "Of course I do." "But this is not the time to consider your pride. Mr. Lu is your husband. It is not a big deal for him to let you take over Cloud Advertising Company. Don't overthink this and accept his generous and considerate proposal."

"You know that I don't want..."

"I know and understand your concern well. In the past, I would have supported you and your decision. But now things have changed."

Perhaps as Isla was a bystander, so was able to think through this situation rather rationally when compared to Autumn. She proceeded, "Have you forgotten all that has happened? Now, not a single company will employ you owing to those negative rumors about you. I also offered to open a company together if you couldn't find a job. Now, your husband is presenting you with such a good opportunity. Why don't you just take it?"

"But..."

"Don't hesitate any further." Isla continued advising her, "You're his wife. He has earned so much money and it is all for his family. If you don't spend his money, who else has the right to do so? Am I right, Mr. Lu?"

"Yes absolutely..." Once Charles heard their conversation, he began to understand Autumn's thoughts. Not to cause stress to Autumn, he added with a comforting and calm look, "Shining Company's public relations business has been outsourced to several other companies in the past few years. Although we have our own PR department, it has no practical function in reality. Cloud Advertising Company isn't a big company yet but it does receive excellent feedback. I have my reasons to acquire it. I already have a lot of work and responsibility which come with handling and managing Shining Company. If I manage Cloud Advertising Company too, I might be left with no time to even sleep."

"He is right." Isla joined his line of dialogue and added, "If you take over this company and handle its functions, you will be doing your husband a favor. If you still feel uncomfortable, then you can try your best to manage Cloud Advertising Company well, and bring him actual benefit and profits by the end of this financial year."

"But..." Autumn's determination and conviction were shaken slightly, but she still had some concerns.

'Charles has spent a huge sum of money acquiring this company. What if I ruin the functioning of Cloud Advertising Company and lead it to suffer a loss?' thought Autumn to herself.

Charles encouraged, "There is nothing to worry. All you need to concentrate on is doing your job as well as you possibly can." He then turned to Isla and said, "Isla, I heard that you lost your job because of Autumn. Are you interested in working in the Cloud Advertising Company to help her run this company?"

"Isla, I need your help. Please don't think twice, just come and work with me." If Charles hadn't reminded her, in that moment, she would have forgotten that Isla lost her job because of her. 'Now, I have to take over Cloud Advertising Company especially for Isla's sake.'

Isla looked at Autumn with a content and pleased look in her eyes. She said to Autumn, "If you want to hire me, you need to pay me a generous salary."

Charles responded with a warm smile, "Of course we will."

Isla said with an appreciate little nod, "Okay, Manager Ye, nice to meet you!"

Autumn couldn't help laughing once she heard her flattering words. She replied, "Screw you!"

Charles had finally succeeded in his endeavor to convince Autumn to take over Cloud Advertising Company. However, Ryan and other employees were waiting anxiously. 'Paula spread those rumors to frame Ye, but I had given her my permission to do so. Now Ye is the general manager of Cloud Advertising Company, and I will work for her. Perhaps she might give me a hard time,' Ryan pondered.

After some discussion, Autumn walked towards Ryan. While standing right across from him, she said to him, "Mr. Zhou, I hope to get on well with you in the coming days."

"Please don't call me Mr. Zhou. Now you're the general manager of this company, so just call me Ryan." With an anxious stance Ryan stared at Autumn. He proceeded, "What happened before was simply a mistake. I know you're an open-minded woman. Please don't blame me for that ordeal."

"Don't worry about it. I have forgotten and moved past what happened in the past. I just hope that it won't happen again." Then she walked forward and turned to Ryan in one swift movement, and said, "Mr. Zhou, please stay here to collect all the files after work. I need to check them tomorrow."

"As for my office..." continued Autumn, as she caught a glimpse of her former cabin. After she left the company, Ryan had given her cubicle to Paula. Everything inside had changed. Paula even had changed the position of the furniture including the desk. After glancing at her former office, she said, "Please tidy up my office. By the tomorrow morning I hope that everything inside will be restored to the way it looked when I worked here."

Autumn wanted to punish him a little for what he had done to her.

Ryan said, "Ye, what about moving into my office? There..."

"There is no need." Ryan's office was the best one in the company, but Autumn was used to her old section and just wanted that. She didn't care much about this, so she said, "I am accustomed to working from there. You don't need to move out."

Chapter 144

"I..." Paula looked at Ryan with embarrassment and finally embraced silence, In clear deference to Ryan's words and not Autumn's.

"Mr. Zhou, I entrust those matters just mentioned to you. I will begin work from tomorrow morning." Autumn said calmly asserting her new position. Ryan uttered his consent outright.

Paula observed the situation, realizing that there was no hope left for her, she attempted to stop Ryan by pleading, "Mr. Zhou, is there any way you could manage keeping me in the company in light of my long and dedicated term served here. You can't just let her drive me out of here....."

"Let go!" Ryan pushed away Paula's hands in one strong movement and said, "Paula, now she is the head of Cloud Advertising Company. Even I have to obey and follow out her directions. There is absolutely no point of begging me for help. I am simply powerless in this jurisdiction."

" But... this is, after all, your company where you can conceive some plan to help me out of this situation." Paula felt anxious and scared about the prospect of uncertainty upon her dismissal.

"Too late! My hands are tied on this matter." Ryan forced a smile. As the saying went, "every dog has its day". Ryan sighed: "Paula, as you have worked with me for a long time I also don't want you to be fired this way. You better plead to Autumn for your survival here."

" But...."

"Do not hesitate any more! This will make a difference to your job. Be quick to keep up with her." Ryan heaved a long sigh.

Paula finally acceded, managed to catch up Autumn and she pleaded: "Autumn, please slow down."

"What is up?" Autumn turned around to ask Paula. Autumn and the other three were about to leave when Paula greeted them.

"I am begging you now to talk to me privately for a minute." Paula had to swallow her pride for her very survival in this company.

"I think there is nothing left to talk between us which is private." Autumn said calmly, " Paula, frankly speaking, it is my wish that you leave Cloud Advertising Company as soon as you possibly can! "

Paula's endless cunning and less competency were her undoing.

Paula continued speaking in a morose tone, "Autumn, I pray you to consider that before all of this we were long-term colleagues, even though I have offended you several times by carrying out instruction given by others."

Paula knitted her eyebrows: "I admit that the rumors, which disturbed you, were my doing. But I was instructed by Mr. Zhou against my will to do so. I beg for your forgiveness..."

"You are trying to say that Ryan is the culprit, is that what you are saying?" Autumn replied with a cold smile, seeing through Paula's lame attempts to save herself.

"such being the case...." Autumn was about to refuse her when Isla grasped her by the garment and asked: "Doing whatever you can for your survival?"

"Definitely..." Isla's olive branch brought some hope for Paula, who turned to Autumn: "I will do whatever I can to ensure I still have a job here."

"Ok, that sounds fair enough." Isla replied gently, " But you have to be transferred to the logistics department but with the same salary. Can you accept this arrangement?" Autumn would have opposed it but she gave a second thought to Isla's proposal.

"The logistics department? Working as a toilet cleaner?" Paula stared at Isla with eyes wide open in shock, " You are insulting me beyond measure!"

"....." Isla looked at Paula speechlessly, "So you want to decline this offer?" Paula, a woman who was mean, thought that everyone was as mean as her. Isla had originally intended to place Paula in the photocopying room, however, Paula misunderstood the role.

Paula would not have yielded but the thought of the same salary made it an easier decision: " Accepted!"

Paula scowled at Isla and Autumn, though she ought to have remained silent and grateful in this moment.

Autumn walked away with Isla and wondered: "Isla, what is your intention with this? There is no point of keeping her in our company."

"Nothing good would come from her dismissal, either! " Isla explained her point of view.

Autumn thought it over before replying: "Paula would again try to slander my reputation for her satisfaction, though this time around I will simply not care...."

Isla grinned: "It does matter! She tried every means to hurt you when you left from Cloud Advertising Company. The dismissal would drive her to do something desperate which could be worse than before. So with that in mind, I thought it would be well advised that she remained in the company under our close watch."

It did sound reasonable to keep Paula as long as anything important would be kept away from her.

Chapter 145

Despite being very angry, Yvonne feigned weakness as she looked fearfully at Autumn.

It took Autumn some time before deciding to say yes.

She couldn't just ignore something that concerned her grandmother.

Autumn followed Yvonne as she walked to a corner. "Just tell me what happened to Grandma!" Autumn faced her, demanding an answer.

Yvonne suddenly turned around, slapping her sister in the face.

It happened so fast that Autumn wasn't able to dodge it.

"Autumn, how many times do I need to tell you that you're just my substitute?! You better put yourself in your rightful place. Do you really think that Charles is interested in you?"

Charles only loves me. And the Cloud Advertising Company is mine. Do you understand?"

Yvonne felt that this wasn't fair. Autumn had always been second best even since they were children. Besides, she was the one who abandoned Charles, not the other way around. She couldn't just sit and let it pass now that he seemed to treat Autumn well and Autumn seemed to love it.

She was determined to get Charles back.

"Is that all you want to say?" Autumn said, touching her aching cheek as she looked at Yvonne.

"What else do you think we should talk about?" she replied with a sneer, making her sarcasm more evident.

"If it weren't for Charles, I wouldn't even want to see you at all."

Yvonne paused as she made herself clear with her following statement.

"Remember this. From now on, you should not take whatever it is that he tries to give you. You should also tell him that you're not fit to be the general manager and recommend me as your replacement. Got it?"

Autumn sneered back in response. "Is there anything else?

Allow me to make myself clear. I only married Charles at first to solve your problems. But now that I am his wife, I have the right to take anything that he gives me, not just the Cloud Advertising Company, but the Shining Company as well. As for giving you the Cloud Advertising Company, don't even dream about it."

Yvonne turned pale upon hearing this and said, "How dare you... You don't want to see that old bitch after all, do you? I..."

Yvonne wasn't able to complete her sentence as Autumn slapped her in the face. She would never allow Yvonne to insult her Grandma.

"I'm warning you now, Yvonne. If you dare insult Grandma again, I'll teach you a lesson you'll never forget. Don't assume that you can do or say anything you like just because Mom doesn't stop you. From now on, I will not consider her my mother nor you as my sister."

Autumn took a deep breath to calm herself down. "You'd better start acting kind if you want to stay here. Believe it or not, I can throw you out anytime I like, " she added.

Yvonne was frozen in shock. She couldn't believe what Autumn was saying. She didn't know she could be that fearless.

"I think you're forgetting the fact that I can just tell Charles who you really are, " she said in an attempt to threaten her.

This might have worked on Autumn in the past, but now that Charles knew who she really was, she was no longer afraid of Yvonne's threat. "Do it. Let's see what he'll do when he finds out that you left him at the altar, " she said without hesitation.

Deciding she didn't want to spend any more time with Yvonne, she turned and left the scene. All she knew was that she had to find her Grandma immediately or else Wendy might do something horrible.

That night, Autumn went to dinner with Charles and Isla, but she couldn't take the events of that afternoon off her mind. They noticed that Autumn seemed to be distracted during dinner. Fortunately, in the middle of the meal, Charles had to take a call, leaving Isla alone with her. "What's the matter? You look so anxious."

Isla asked her point-blank, trying to figure out what's going on.

Autumn sighed in response and told Isla what happened with Yvonne earlier.

"Charles has long known and accepted me for who I truly am. But I won't have peace of mind as long as they have Grandma. What should I do?"

Isla responded, trying to reassure her. "Don't worry about it. Charles will find her and bring her back soon enough."

She wanted to continue but she was interrupted as her phone rang. She frowned when she saw who was calling. With a sigh, she answered, "What is it, Mom?"

It was quiet in the room and her mother's voice was so loud, making it easy to hear the entire conversation. "You stupid girl! What have you done to that boy you went on the blind date with?" her mother yelled over the phone.

"Your aunt just called me and she said you treated him like trash! What's the matter with you?!"

Isla got immediately upset upon hearing about her aunt.

'If the boy was so nice, why didn't she have Becky go out with him?' She thought to herself.

"You have to give me a good reason why you did it. You're not getting any younger and you need to get married. You're not planning on being a nun, are you?" her mother said as she continued to scold her.

"I heard from your aunt that Becky's back and she returned for her engagement. Why don't you-"

Isla was already trying her best to keep her temper in check but when her mother mentioned Becky, she broke down and started yelling at her mom. "If Becky is so great, then why don't you go and be her mom instead?"

Her anger took her mother by surprise.

Isla continued her ranting. "I admit, I might be more stupid than her. But when she slept in my boyfriend's bed four years ago, what did you do about it?

You didn't even say anything at all. And why would you want to force me to go on that blind date? Do you know what sort of man Auntie recommended?

He is a bad and ugly coward! Do you really want me to marry a person like that?"

Chapter 146

"I almost got married to Aron four years ago." Autumn was startled by Isla's words. It was not until then that Autumn realized, they had developed such an intimate relationship with each other.

"I got the chance to meet him at a dancing party. I found out that he had lost his parents when he was just a child, and that he was brought up by his grandparents. It was said that his family was very notable, but the real reason I was attracted to him was... I found that he was very devoted to doing charity work, and the second time I met him was at an orphanage charity event." Isla looked so radiant when she talked about this to Autumn; even her eyes flickered with light. "I often peered at him secretly during the event. Somehow, the director of the orphanage discovered my secret. Since then he always intentionally assigned us into the same group. Time passed and finally he asked me to date him."

Isla was cheerful as she spoke and then she went on, "You can't imagine how excited I was when I got the phone call from him. I asked my sister to go shopping with me to buy some new clothes for the date. But my sister insisted on going with me because she wanted to see what kind of man he really was. I thought it might be awkward for me to go on the date alone, so I brought my sister along with me. But I never expected that..." Isla smiled bitterly. She didn't expect that it would be the start of her nightmares.

"I got along very well with Aron at the beginning and he also took good care of me. Even though my sister Becky always made various excuses to go out with me and be the gooseberry, she did not cause any troubles for us. But everything changed on Becky's birthday, four years ago." Isla looked so distressed when she talked about this, but she understood that she had to let it go, and that she would have to learn to face reality sooner or later.

"At the time, I had already taken Aron to meet my parents and all of my family members were satisfied with him. They all said that he was a nice person and that he would also make a good husband. Every person in the village received the news that I had found a good boyfriend." Isla paused for a few seconds and then continued, "My dad lived frugally when he was young so as to save money for my aunt's tuition fees. He encouraged my aunt to go to college even though he was very poor at that time. I don't know what happened during her college years, but she got married as soon as she graduated from college. Although my aunt's husband is much older than her, he is rich. After they got married, my aunt hardly went back to see my dad. She lives in Y City now with her husband. If I hadn't been working in Y city, perhaps I would have already severed my ties with her.

"On the contrary, I had a good relationship with my cousin, Becky. She often invited me for meals or to go shopping with her. Of course, Aron would go with me every time. I have to admit that I was really silly at that time. It was not until then that I realized Becky also loved Aron." Isla forced smile on her face when she said that. "It was Becky's birthday, when I found a new job and just received my salary. I really

appreciated Becky's kindness towards me, so I spent a whole month's salary buying her a bottle of perfume. I knew that it was not a big deal for her, but that little gift was a token of my appreciation.

When we arrived at her house, I found that she had only invited Aron and me. She said that she didn't want it to be very high-profile and I agreed with her as well.

But I could have never expected, what happened later. I was drunk after drinking a glass of wine and when I finally woke up I found myself lying on the couch, while my aunt was there, reading the newspaper leisurely." Isla couldn't stop trembling when she recalled the scenes from her past. Although it happened four years ago, she could still clearly remember the domineering look of her aunt. "Isla I know that you are going to get married to Aron soon, and I am happy for you, but..."

Her aunt paused after she said that. Isla felt uneasy and she stood up to find Aron. However, her aunt stopped her quickly and went on, "Isla, it is Becky's fault. She's also been in love with Aron for a long time and now they have had sexual intercourse. You are her older sister, can you forgive her this time? Would you help fulfil your sister's wish?"

"It felt so absurd and unreasonable to hear her say that. Aron was my boyfriend and I trusted him. I was sure that he would never betray me. But when I saw Becky and Aron lying on the bed without a stitch of clothing, I realized I was wrong."

"Well, what happened later?" Autumn was so pitiful for Isla when she heard her sad story. Autumn felt sorry for her as she imagined it must have been a grievous experience. She must have been wrought with pain when she found out that her sister had stolen her betrothed from her.

"And then... I hid myself from them. I didn't want to see him and I didn't want to talk or listen to him. I hated Becky. Before this, I had considered her to be my best friend and she was also the person I trusted the most. But it turned out that she was only willing to be intimate with me for the sake of Aron." Isla laughed bitterly as her eyes filled up with tears. "I hid for nearly a month. During that time, Aron called me countless times, but I never answered. I finally came around about a month later and then I sent him a breakup message. I didn't want to be dispirited anymore. After that I changed my phone number and I forced myself to forget all about it.

Do you know the feeling of being betrayed by your beloved man and sister?" Isla sneered and explained, "All of my hopes were smashed to pieces, but my relatives were still reluctant to let me go. Every time I was at a family reunion, they would compare me to Becky. They'd say that Becky's family is notable and

Becky is beautiful. Moreover, her academic qualification is better than mine, so it was natural that Aron chose her instead of me. It seemed like I was the guilty person in their eyes."

Isla was expressionless while talking. "My mom keeps forcing me to get married. I know that she doesn't want my relatives to talk about this matter again over again. She understands my bitterness, so she still hopes that I can find a nice man to marry me. I understand her point, but I... But I just can't control my bad temper."

Chapter 147

"Don't worry, I'm moving on." Isla smiled with a light heart. She looked Autumn in the eye and said, "All I have to do now is to help you run Cloud Advertising Company properly, and make it prosper. That is my priority. As for other things... Well...who cares!"

"You are right, that's the most important thing for the time being, " said Autumn with a smile on her face. Since she had taken over the mess, she would try her best to sort it out. She promised herself that she wouldn't let Charles down.

They enjoyed talking until late into the night before returning to their respective homes. To Autumn's surprise, she heard the hum of conversation and ripples of laughter coming from the living room, upon her arrival. Chris had been working overtime these days. Charles shouldn't be home at this time. And Gary had been away recently. 'Who are chatting in the house then?' Autumn wondered.

She entered the room to find Rachel sitting on the sofa. This big star seemed to have changed a bit after all this time, she was now... well...more confident.

Yvonne was sitting right beside her, even Nancy was grinning from ear to ear and chatting merrily. It was typical of Nancy to draw a long face whenever Autumn was around. So now it seemed to Autumn, that she was the one who did not belong here.

"Welcome back, Mrs. Lu." The sharp-eyed Rachel was the first one to notice Autumn. She rose up to greet her at once.

Yvonne and Nancy had also stood up, but they straightened their faces without saying a word.

"What brings you here?" Autumn asked Rachel.

"Sister, I beg your pardon? Rachel is a super star. We are blessed to have her here, " said Yvonne, before she quickly took Rachel's hand and sat her down again. She then showed her hospitality by saying, "Rachel, please sit down and have some fruits."

"Thank you very much, " Rachel replied with a bright smile, as if nothing had happened.

"Mrs. Lu, you should take a seat, too. Let's have a nice chat, " she then said to Autumn. Rachel was beaming with delight. For a moment, Autumn had actually thought that she was paying a visit to Rachel's home, if not for Nancy's presence.

Autumn sat down on the other side of the sofa. "Rachel, why are you here today... " she asked lightly.

She was certain that Rachel wouldn't come here if Gary was at home. It was no coincidence that she showed up once Gary was away.

Autumn dryly cast Nancy a glance, and realized that their servant must have tipped Rachel off.

"You see..." Rachel and Yvonne were two different types of people. Yvonne was the kind of person who would wear her heart on her sleeve and would do things mindlessly. In stark contrast to her, Rachel was rather shrewd and sophisticated.

Autumn recalled the blazing row between Rachel and Charles back in Z City. Although it wasn't exposed by the media, many people had found out about it through the grapevine. But now, Rachel was acting like it was no big deal.

"The last time we met, I forgot to give you and Charles my birthday party invitation. And I have been busy with my work thereafter. I've just come back, so I decided to drop by to offer my apologies and hand it to you personally, " said Rachel, while taking two invitations out from her bag and passing them to Autumn.

Autumn glanced at them coldly and said with a faint smile, "That's very kind of you, Rachel. But, why bother yourself with such trifles. You could have simply asked your people to deliver them, instead of coming here personally."

"That would be most inappropriate," Rachel shook her head immediately, "You and Charles are among my distinguished guests, I have to give you the invitation in person and make sure that the both of you will come. It puts my mind at ease. Mrs. Lu, you and Charles... will surely join in my party, right?"

"Well..." Autumn hesitated and tried to come up with the right words. She didn't want to go at all. For one thing, Rachel was just a mere acquaintance to her. For another, it seemed that Rachel was certain that she could win Charles back. Just think about it, would a woman be willing to attend the birthday party of her rival in love? Definitely not.

"Rachel, I'm afraid..." But before Autumn could finish, Yvonne interrupted her in mid-sentence, "Autumn and Charles will certainly attend, you can be sure of that, Rachel."

"Thank you in advance," said Rachel as she stood up, smiling with satisfaction. She had deliberately come here to knock on the door in Charles' absence, so as to make it hard for Autumn to decline.

Without a word, Autumn glanced at Yvonne with her face darkened.

She knew what Yvonne was up to. After all, her enemy could very well become Yvonne's ally. She was not afraid of going to the party, neither would she give in to any plan Rachel might have been working on.

Yvonne had no idea about what was on Autumn's mind, but she was eager to take revenge on Autumn. What happened earlier today had driven her to the verge of a nervous breakdown. So now she was thinking that perhaps... she could use Rachel to fight Autumn back.

Once she realized this, she suddenly stumbled upon an idea, so she didn't go back to work the next morning, instead she made every effort to find the whereabouts of Rachel's company, intending to have a talk with her.

As for Rachel, things had not been going well for her either. Ever since the day she offended Charles publicly, all the directors seemed to have cut off all ties with her. Moreover, she was urgently replaced halfway through the filming of some of her projects. In the past, people would beg her for her cooperation. But now, even if she approached those she had turned down before, she was given the cold shoulder.

"Rachel, those directors gave no explanation for their rejection or estrangement at all. You are still so popular, there should be no shortage of offers. How come..." Rachel's assistant just couldn't figure out the reason for her sudden downfall.

However, Rachel had somehow foreseen it. She knew it in her heart that it had something to do with her conflict with Charles. But she had never expected that he would go this far.

Rachel gave no response. But her assistant couldn't sit back anymore. It could be the end of Rachel's career if they failed to turn things around. "Rachel, have you offended someone lately? What about..."

"Enough! Just get out and leave me alone," responded Rachel irritably. She got really upset thinking about the things concerning Charles. After driving the assistant away, she phoned several of her familiar directors for help. Unfortunately, they had all refused her politely. This time her self-esteem truly suffered a devastating blow.

Rachel started to have regrets about her rashness. Had she known that she would end up in such difficult position, she would have never quarrelled with Charles.

"Didn't I tell you to leave me alone? Why did you come back?" snapped Rachel when she saw the door of her lounge being pushed open.

The assistant got startled at her anger and stopped at the door. "Rachel, someone is here to see you," uttered the assistant timidly.

Chapter 148

"What's your plan?" Rachel asked after hesitating for a while. Charles had been so hard on her. She also planned to stir up troubles for him and Autumn.

"What if... my sister has an affair with someone else? Would Charles still be nice to her?" Yvonne made an obscure statement, but Rachel immediately understood her point.

Rachel gave a scornful smile and asked Yvonne, "Why do you want to collaborate with me? Stop saying that it's because you are not getting along with your sister. I don't believe in all that hocus-pocus."

Yvonne smiled and stated, "Well, actually I feel the same way about Charles as you do. We both think we are the right one for him. Now we have a common enemy. I think we'd better cooperate with each other to defeat our common enemy first. Otherwise, we will have no chance to get close to him."

After a short pause, Yvonne continued, "Of course, we will be opponents once we defeat our common enemy. What do you think of that?"

"Well, I hope that we can be happy working together," Rachel smiled and raised the wine glass in her hand.

The next day, it was Autumn's first day as the General Manager. She woke up early to clean herself up and to put on make up on her face. She took the subway to the company after having breakfast. When she arrived at the entrance, Isla hooted at her. Isla said with a frown, "Hey, sister, you are the General Manager now. You can't always take the subway, huh?"

Autumn smiled and explained, "I need to save up money for my Grandma's medical fee. I won't buy a car until she is fully recovered."

"Well, where is Mr. Lu? Why didn't he drive you here?" Isla asked curiously.

"He... He didn't come home last night," Autumn answered with a frown. She had called Charles many times the night before, but he didn't answer. She had to go to bed alone. When she woke up this morning, he still hadn't come back. She called him again, but there was still no answer.

"He didn't come back last night?" Isla cast Autumn a surprised glance and asked, "Aren't you worried about him?"

"Of course I am. I called him so many times but he didn't answer." Autumn frowned as she spoke, "We've been married for a long time now, but this is the first time he has spent the night outside. I'm so worried about him."

"You should keep an eye on him. Countless women are interested in your husband. You should always be careful." After hearing Isla's words, Rachel's face crossed Autumn's mind. To be honest, Rachel was the most threatening lady to Autumn.

On the one side, Rachel had dated Charles for a long time and he had loved her; on the other side, she was also a well-known celebrity who was crazy about him.

Autumn was very worried, but she pretended to be calm and said to Isla, "Come on, Isla. I trust Charles!"

"Fine! Charles is the best husband in the world," Isla answered in resignation. They took the lift to the company. When they got out, all the employees headed by Ryan were waiting for Autumn. Autumn couldn't help but giggle when she saw Paula in cleaner's uniform.

"Manager Ye, I've done what you've asked me to do. Your office is ready and the documents you've asked for are on your desk. What else can I do for you?" Ryan said to Autumn as he showed her the new office.

"Tell everyone that we are going to have a conference in the meeting room in half an hour," Autumn demanded seriously.

Autumn had a totally different attitude as she had come back to Cloud Advertising Company again. Although she had taken the initiative to leave the company before, she had no other choice at that time. But now she could raise her head high with dignity.

She gave a satisfied smile as she stood in front of the French window and looked down the street.

Ryan assembled all the employees. After everyone gathered in the meeting room, Ryan knocked at Autumn's office door and said, "Ye, everyone is waiting for you in the meeting room."

"Okay. I'm coming." Actually, Autumn had nothing important to announce. There is an old saying, "A new broom sweeps clean." Autumn was the same.

There was a big management shuffle in Cloud Advertising Company. Autumn had been working in the company for a long time and had known everyone's capabilities. She promoted some capable employees and fired some incompetent ones.

As a result, the company was short on staff now. Autumn looked around and stated in a serious manner, "Everyone, good morning. We've been colleagues before, so I won't waste time introducing myself. I'm a strict person and I will be strict with you as well. I have only one request for you and it's simple. You must complete the tasks I give to you on time."

After a short pause, she continued, "I know how the company has operated in the past, but I'm the new boss now. If you want to stay in the company, you must do your best. I know all of you very well. I know that some of you are diligent, while some are lazy. From now on, if you work hard, you will receive a handsome annual bonus. But if you still intend to muddle along, you'll be sorry."

"Ye, don't worry. We will work hard for sure." Most of the employees had worked with Autumn before and knew her quite well.

Once they had to work overtime every day for an important project. Ryan promised to give them bonuses, but he went back on his word later. Autumn gave up her own bonus to split with the rest of the employees. These people were glad to know that Autumn became the new boss.

Chapter 149

"Well, I think I should go with you. Let me accompany you." Autumn received a call from Charles as soon as she finished her words. Isla took a glance at Autumn and then said, "Thanks. But there is no need to accompany me. I'll be just fine on my own. Your phone is ringing. Answer your phone."

As soon as she picked up the phone, Charles' voice was heard from the other end of the phone, but he sounded a bit serious. He just told her that he was waiting for her downstairs and then hung up the phone. When she turned around to explain it to Isla, she found that Isla had already left.

"Where did you go last night? I called you many times but you did not answer my calls." Autumn pretended to make a fuss when she got into the car. Usually Charles would explain to her patiently. However, this time he just took out a cigarette and ignited it.

"What's wrong with you? What happened?" Immediately Autumn perceived, something was wrong. "Can you tell me what happened, Charles?"

"Autumn, I have found your grandma," replied Charles. He extinguished the cigarette in his hand and looked at Autumn's eyes.

"What? Are you serious?" Autumn's eyes lit up upon hearing the news from him. "Where is she? Take me to her. Hurry up. I want to meet her right away."

"Don't be so anxious." Charles received the call from his private detective last night, so he went to see him immediately. In order to prevent Charles from finding Autumn's grandma, Wendy took her grandma out of the hospital and left her in the care of a distant relative in a remote countryside. Charles picked up her old grandmother there and brought her to the hospital. But she was seriously ill, and she was in critical condition. Her grandma was admitted to the operating room last night where Charles spent the whole night waiting just outside the operating room.

He did not deliberately refuse to answer her phone. He just did not want to tell Autumn about the real condition of her grandma, because he was afraid that it would drive her insane.

The doctor just told Charles that she had missed the optimal opportunity for treatment and that she only had a few days left to live. Autumn would lose her grandma soon.

"Is she fine? Did something happen to her?" It was supposed to be good news, but seeing Charles' heavy-laden state gave her an ominous feeling.

"Don't be so worried, Autumn. Please listen to me. I will tell you what happened." Charles tried to comfort her, but he had to tell her the truth. "I am sorry. I am really sorry, Autumn. If I found her just a little earlier..." Charles felt pitiful and apologized to her.

"It is not your fault..." Autumn was bathed in tears after she heard the truth from Charles. She took his hands and said, "Charles, please take me to meet her right now. Please. I've missed her so much."

"Okay. Don't be so anxious. I will take you there right now." He had arranged for the best ward as well as the most experienced doctor for her grandmother. Unfortunately, even after repeated diagnosis, he still got the same result.

There was nothing else he could do for her grandmother. What he could do, was to ask the doctors to try their best to alleviate the suffering of her grandma's illness.

Charles started the car and drove to the hospital. Autumn didn't expect for the journey to feel so long. She was so eager to meet her grandma. She waited anxiously until the car finally stopped at the hospital. Autumn opened the door and rushed out, but she didn't even know where her grandmother was.

"Don't be worried." Charles ran to her in a hurry and then held her hands, so as to give her strength, which relieved her somehow. Hand in hand, he brought her to her grandmother's ward.

"Wait," said Charles. The tears trickled down her cheeks and when she was about to open the door of the ward, Charles stopped her. He turned her around and carefully wiped the tears off of her face. "Don't cry. You have been searching for your grandmother for such a long time, and now we have finally found her, so you should be happy about this. Don't let your grandma see you sad."

"I know. I know," Autumn mumbled with a low voice. She forced herself to hold back her tears, took a deep breath and then walked into the room.

She hadn't seen her grandma in a long time. She looked frail, lying there motionlessly. Her cheeks had receded and she was so skinny, she looked as if the wind could blow her away.

Autumn opened her mouth, trying to call her. But her tears just rushed down her cheeks and she couldn't control it anymore.

She couldn't believe that this poor skinny old lady was her dear grandmother. Autumn felt as if a knife was piercing her heart. Looking at her grandma's poor condition, she was yearning to kill Wendy right then.

Her grandma was her only family. How could Wendy put her grandma's life at risk?"

"Grandma..." She finally called her grandma with a trembling voice as she knelt in front of the sickbed, bursting into loud sobs.

She was unable to control her emotions.

"Honey, you are here." Her grandma opened her eyes, and perhaps it was because she had perceived the arrival of Autumn. The old lady tried hard to see her beloved granddaughter, but no matter how hard she tried, she was unable to see her clearly. Her eyesight was deteriorating.

Autumn realized that her grandma was having a hard time trying to see. Autumn held her hands tightly and said repeatedly, "Grandma, I am here. It's me. I am here now. Don't be afraid."

The poor old lady smiled when she touched Autumn's face, as if she had gotten used to the darkness. She fondled Autumn's face carefully and then showed a soothing smile, "I am relieved to know that you are fine."

Chapter 150

Now she's all grown up, but her grandma was going to leave her.

Autumn remembered that when she was a little child, her grandma was very frugal and always wore old clothes, but she never treated Autumn shabbily. Autumn felt aggrieved and guilty at the thought of that.

"Sweetheart, don't cry anymore. Be happy. It breaks my heart to hear you cry." She wiped the tears off of Autumn's face and then sighed, "You are the only person I still care about in this world. Who will take care of you after I die? I am so worried about you, Autumn. Do you know that?"

That was the only thing she worried about. She was not afraid of death, but she just worried about her only granddaughter's well-being. Her faith in Autumn was the only support that kept her alive in this world. Although she was suffering from her illness, she tried her best to hold on, because she wanted to see Autumn, one last time, before her death.

Hearing this, Charles, who had been standing by the door silently for a long time stepped forward to put his hands on Autumn's shoulder and said, "Don't worry about her, grandma. I will take good care of her."

"Your voice sounds familiar. I remember your voice." Her grandma smiled and went on, "You brought me here yesterday, didn't you?"

"Yes, it's me. You have a good memory, grandma." Charles smiled and joked with her. "Grandma, in fact, I am her... I am her husband."

"Husband?" She was completely shocked by the news. She widened her eyes out of surprise, but her eyes were still hazy.

"Yes, grandma," replied Autumn. Autumn wiped her tears and then introduced Charles to her. "Grandma, I have gotten married. He is my husband. Don't worry. He is a nice person and he treats me well. He cares about me a lot."

The poor old lady had been detained by Wendy for a long time, but occasionally she heard from Wendy that Autumn had gotten married to someone for Yvonne's sake. Her hopes that had just ignited, extinguished as soon as she remembered that. "Sweetie, I know you want me to be happy, but... But I know what happened to you."

"Grandma, are you saying that I got married to her because I thought she was Yvonne?" Charles soon got her point and asked. He smiled softly and then said, "I am aware of the truth now. So please don't worry. I love her very much. And now we have gotten the marriage license. We are legally, a couple now. And I can promise you that I will love her forever and take care of her."

"Really?" She was finally relieved to hear that.

"Yes. It's true. We are legitimate couple now." Autumn nodded slightly and continued, "Grandma, Charles is a nice person, so you don't have to worry about me. He will take care of me."

Autumn understood that she would lose her dear grandma soon. The most important thing now was to soothe her grandma, so she could at least enjoy some moments of peace before her passing.

Her grandma could not see what Charles looked like, but she could tell from his voice that he was a reliable man. She reached out her hands slowly to Charles and said, "Charles, come on. Come over here please."

"Yes, grandma. I am here." Charles held her hands and comforted her continuously.

She held Charles hands tightly and said with a low voice, "She is my only granddaughter and she is also the only family I have in this world, so please help me to take good care of her. Don't let anyone bully her, or I won't be at peace. Can you promise me that?"

"Yes. Of course. I promise you that I will love her forever and that I won't let anyone bully her," Charles said firmly and seriously.

Grandma kept panting for breath momentarily as she was in a critical condition. Autumn quickly let her have some rest. "Grandma, get some rest now and let's stop talking. I will be here to accompany you."

Autumn helped her grandma adjust her posture so that she could lie more comfortably.

"Honey, I am a little hungry now. Can you get some food for me?" Her grandmother said to Autumn.

"Okay. Please wait me for a moment. I will get back soon." Autumn stood up without any hesitation and then walked out the room.

But Charles knew that it was just an excuse. She must have had something to say to him.

After Autumn left, Charles took the initiative to ask, "Grandma, what do you want to say to me?"

"Charles, even though I am blind now, I am not muddleheaded, instead I am quite level-headed. I can feel that Autumn loves you a lot." She said slowly with a low voice.

"Yes. I know that. I also love her very much." Charles said sincerely and then he added, "Grandma, we are family now. You can trust me and be frank with me."

She furrowed her brows and hesitated for a long while. Slowly she continued, "There is something... In fact, it is a secret and even Autumn doesn't know it."

Charles frowned since he saw grandma struggling to breathe. Charles quickly got a glass of water for her and then said, "Grandma, you can tell me later. You have to have a rest now."

"No. No. I have to tell you now. There is not much time left for me. If I don't tell you now, I am afraid that I won't have the chance to talk it to you again." She insisted on telling him the secret right away. Charles had no choice but to listen to her quietly. "I found an excuse to send my granddaughter out, because I want you to keep this secret safe for her in the future."

She took a sip of water and then told him the whole story. It turned out that she was not Autumn's natural grandmother. Instead she was just the wet nurse of Autumn's father.

Autumn's father was called Bowen and he was from Zhao family, which was a notable family in Z City. When Bowen was young, many girls wooed him, but unfortunately he was too simple-minded and then he fell in love with Wendy, who was a very devious person. And they even decided to get married.

But all of his family members disliked Wendy and they were all against their marriage. Bowen's father even told him that if he insisted on getting married to Wendy, he would break all ties with him and disown him.

But Wendy was actually only interested in Bowen for his family's property. Wendy strongly protested Bowen to break all relations with his family. She kicked up a row with Bowen and even angered Bowen's father.

Even after that, Bowen still left Z City with Wendy and his wet nurse. Since then, Wendy quarrelled with Bowen every day endlessly, asking Bowen to go back home to get his family inheritance, or she would be dead to him.