

Wedded Bride 151

Chapter 151

Autumn's grandmother felt relieved after she briefed Charles all about Autumn's background. She soon fell asleep while leaning against the head of the bed as she was tired. Charles helped her lie down and slowly walked out of the ward.

As soon as he got out, he saw Autumn coming towards the ward with a container in her hand. He signaled her to keep quiet with a hand gesture and explained while whispering, "Grandmother has fallen asleep. Let her take some rest now."

"Charles, I am scared and worried, " Autumn said with tears welling up in her eyes. She could never hide her weakness in front of Charles.

She hated the fact that she had trusted Wendy. She thought, 'Maybe when people are driven to a corner, they grab any life-saving straw available without thinking who is at the helping end of the straw.'

Charles held Autumn by the shoulders. The magic in voice had succeeded in comforting and assuring her yet again, "Don't worry. I am here."

His plain and simple words were enough to put Autumn's minds at rest.

Autumn always felt safe when she was around Charles.

As Autumn was in a stressful situation, she had missed several calls from Isla. Isla who was hiding in the bathroom, almost cried as she muttered to herself, "Answer the call please."

Then she heard a familiar yet disgusting voice. It was her client. He said, "Miss Zhao, I have booked a room. Come out soon. As long as you make me happy tonight, I will send the contract to you tomorrow."

"I don't want it, " Isla shouted to him through the small door between them.

"Don't say that. You know the situation of your company very well. Your general manager was accused of plagiarism. And with such a tricky situation, no other company will cooperate with you. Considering that I have known you for a long time, I give you this chance to balance out the situation. Or else, I wouldn't talk to you," The client laughed from outside the door, "Miss Zhao, I have been missing you since the last time we met. Don't worry. I will give lots of cases to Cloud Advertising Company provided you spend the night with me."

"There is no way that is happening. Get out of here!" Isla thought, 'I was too naive. I found it weird when I arrived. It's uncommon to negotiate business without his assistant or secretary. I wanted to take the chance and tried my best.' She wasn't expecting to feel dizzy after having one drink. She was convinced her wine was laced with some drug.

She pretended to have an urge to use the washroom but instead hid herself there. But that creep followed her till there.

She called Autumn several times but couldn't get through. The moment she was trembling with fear and desperate for help, her cellphone rang. She answered and cried to the caller, "Autumn, I am in the washroom on the first floor of Hong Fu Restaurant. Please come and save me!"

She used all her energy to finish the sentence and fell down with a faint. She felt relieved because Autumn had finally called her back and she felt assured that she would be saved.

Aron called Isla to ask her out explaining about things that happened years earlier. He hadn't expected to hear Isla asking for help when his call got through. He was anxious and went towards the door without uttering a word.

"Aron, where are you going at this time?" Becky asked as she saw Aron preparing to leave in a hurry. She felt nervous, so she stopped him, "My father and mother are coming here to discuss about the wedding ceremony. It's just not appropriate for you to leave like this, isn't it?" She had been unwilling to come back, but Aron had been adamant. She worried and felt threatened about their relationship because Isla was in this city.

Aron ignored Becky completely. In reality, he had never actually agreed to marry her. The wedding and all was just wishful thinking on her part.

"Aron! Aron?" Becky shouted out at Aron, but he didn't stop. Becky was furious and she made a call, "Keep a watch on Aron and tell me anything you find about him."

When Becky and Aron lived overseas, she behaved like she was his girlfriend. Aron didn't deny their relationship either. Once they returned home Becky got worried. If Aron came back to get back Isla, Becky knew she would be abandoned and alone. So she asked her parents and Aron's grandparents to discuss their wedding at the earliest, to seal the deal. She was not expecting Aron to leave in advance.

She had a gut feeling that Aron went out to meet Isla but she did not have any evidence about this.

"Becky, where is Aron?" Mandy and Aron's grandparents arrived at the same time, so they came in talking and laughing. They were surprised to see Becky nervously pacing in the room all by herself. Aron was nowhere to be seen in the room.

"Mother..." Becky whined, "He... is out right now."

"Becky, what happened?" Aron's grandparents wrinkled their brows with worry. When they lived abroad for all these years, it was Becky who looked after them with love and care. They regarded Becky as their granddaughter-in-law. When they heard that Aron had promised to talk about marrying Becky, they were ecstatic.

Their grandson Aron was always a loner and with that they constantly worried that he would remain single and alone all his life. They didn't dream that a girl like Becky would love Aron with her whole heart. They were looking forward to Aron and Becky's wedding ever since they heard news of it. They thought they could help take care of their children, if Aron and Becky married as soon as possible.

They thought disconsolately, 'We are here but where is Aron?'

"Grandfather, Grandmother..." Becky said in a sad tone with her mouth quivering. She looked heart-broken.

Aron's grandmother Joanna felt sorry. She went towards Becky and held her hand as she said, "Becky, tell me, did Aron do something to make you unhappy? Don't worry, I will look out for you dear."

"I agree. Becky..." Aron's grandfather Mike said, echoing his wife's sentiments, "Although Aron is stubborn, he has filial affection for us. Tell us what has happened. We will talk to him about it."

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"Please don't say that and don't be angry, Mandy." Aron's grandparents flushed with embarrassment upon hearing all that Mandy had to say. They did feel extremely guilty about the matter especially since their grandson was unable to meet Becky's expectations. Becky had been with him for over four years and now it was time for Aron to make his decision, whether he wanted to move forward or not.

When Becky and Aron went abroad, Becky found out that she was pregnant. But he did not care about it at all. One unfortunate day, Becky fell down accidentally during a quarrel with Aron. They paid heavy price for that quarrel.

"Becky, you are a kind girl. I know you are being wronged and you have suffered many hardships," said Aron's grandma, Joanna. She took Becky's hands and said softly, "I am sure that you also know that grandpa and I have always regarded you as a part of our family over these years. So you don't have to worry. I will definitely get Aron to marry you and as your family I am responsible for your welfare for the rest of your life.

"That's okay, grandma. I am absolutely fine." Becky pretended to be strong and considerate and added, "I will wait for him irrespective of how long it will take for him..."

"Oh my god. You really are a silly girl, Becky!" Before Becky could finish her sentence Mandy interrupted her. "Do you know how long you have already been waiting for him? You have been waiting for him for four whole years! You will never get this time back and all these years you could have been someone else's wife! Becky, how many years do you have to wile away like this? You have wasted the most valuable years you have as a girl on him. You know what, now every one of our relatives thinks that you are getting married soon. Do you want them to laugh at you? Do you really want to be the laughingstock?"

In fact, Mandy was constantly worried that Aron would not marry Becky after spending so many years together. And if it turned out to be true, then everything they had gone through earlier would all be in vain.

Mandy tipped Becky a wink and continued, "I asked you to come back when you had your miscarriage, but you refused to come back. I did not force you then because I knew that you love him deeply. But four years have passed, do you still want to continue things the way they are? Will you not resent him for the future he isn't giving you?"

"Mom, please give some more time. Aron is just..." Dwelling upon what Mandy said Becky now started to see sense. She had schemed against Isla that year and forced her to break up with Aron. She had struggled for many years. She had been waiting for Aron for so many years and she was absolutely not going to give up.

"Be a good girl. Go back home with me now." Mandy took Becky's hands and began comforting her. She then turned to Aron's grandparents and said, "You are the dearests and closest to Aron. So could you please help me by telling Aron that if he still harbors reluctance to get married to Becky, my daughter will definitely not badger him to do so. If we are not meeting to discuss their wedding next time then we don't have to meet again."

"Mandy, please wait. Mandy..." The old couple could do nothing but just look at Mandy who took her daughter away. In that moment they felt more helpless and anxious, than they had felt in years, as they simply could not get through to Aron.

Seeing this, Aron's grandpa couldn't help complaining to his wife and blaming her, "This is all your fault. How dare he act in such a manner but for your indulgence in daily life?"

"I am sure that you know about Aron's life experiences. And with his experiences, it is needless to say you must know how much hardships he has bared. Then how can I possibly be strict with him in this case? What's more, there is also your 'credit' in some of it, right?" Aron's grandma was not going to be compromising. She took a sigh after a long time and said, "Perhaps they would have gotten married to each other if Becky had not lost their baby accidentally. Becky had a miscarriage just after their quarrel. How could that little baby be so vulnerable? That poor baby of theirs did not even get the chance to have a glimpse of this world."

"Babies are all vulnerable even before birth. Perhaps it was because of the violent mood swings of Becky during their quarrel," said his grandpa.

The old man sighed helplessly and added, "But I really feel guilty for what is happening with Becky. During these four years, Aron has always hidden his face from Becky. He has never cared about her let alone taken care of her. But anyway Becky lost a baby because of Aron and now he has to be responsible for Becky."

"Yes, you are absolutely right." His grandma wore a concerned look while talking about this. "Aron is a reserved man and he never let us worry about him. He said he was going to take his girlfriend back four years ago. And I felt like he loved that girl very much at that point in time. But I don't know what happened to them. Why would they develop like this?"

The old couple thought Becky was the girl Aron was going to take back four years ago while Aron had never really explained what had really happened with him.

"It seems that Becky's mother is really infuriated with Aron's behavior. We better find a right time for their wedding. I am also really looking forward to having a great-grandson soon." Joanna said calmly.

Meanwhile as Becky decided to leave with her mother, she was still worried. "Mom, don't you think we went too far today? If Aron is still unwilling to marry me this move of ours may simply make him happy! Then all my efforts over the years will be in vain."

"Don't worry," replied Mandy firmly while calming her racing thoughts. She comforted Becky while driving to their house. "I can't read Aron's mind and I also don't know what he is planning but you have gotten along well with his grandparents in all these years. What's more, you have made them feel guilty by pretending to have a miscarriage four years ago, so you don't have to worry. Though his grandparents have been living abroad for so many years, they still hold a traditional view. They must think that as you two have shared a sexual relationship, Aron should be responsible for you. So they will definitely ask and pressure Aron to marry you."

Becky frowned slightly as she heard her mom mention the bleak past. At her birthday four years ago, Becky put sleeping pills into Isla and Aron's wine. After that she took off Aron's clothes and lay down with him on the same bed in order to give Isla the impression that they had slept together. Becky played such a shabby trick on them and forced Isla to break up with Aron after this misunderstanding.

But she never expected that after Isla really broke up with Aron, he would move abroad.

However Becky did not want to give up after such an elaborate and manipulative plan, so she also went abroad to find Aron. But Aron treated her rudely and often tried to get rid of her. Not knowing what to do, Becky lied to Aron that she was pregnant with his child. She went to a hospital and bought off the doctor to give her a fake pregnancy report. But as time passed, she was afraid Aron would catch her lie, as she did not have a pregnant bump. It was then that she found an excuse to have a violent quarrel with Aron and then pretended to have an accidental abortion.

After this slapstick, Becky also wanted to have a baby with Aron. But he never got close to her let alone slept with her. Unfortunately, she did not get a chance at all.

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"Uh huh." Mandy took a deep breath and continued, "What happened that year made Isla a new person. She drinks at bars every day and dates countless men, but all these years she never brought home any boyfriend. Becky, Aron is really a nice man. You must keep an eye on him."

It was that same year, Becky trapped Aron and made him believe that he had slept with her. She had invested a lot of her time and energy on him over the past years. If after all of this Aron still refused to marry her, she would become a complete joke.

"I don't think Isla has moved on quite yet." Becky gnashed her teeth in anger. She had a gut feeling that Aron still loved Isla. Otherwise, he wouldn't come back to Y City now after all these years.

"Mom, how is Isla?" 'You know how they say, keep your friends close and your enemies closer.' With that in mind, Becky wanted to learn more about Isla.

"Not so good." Mandy shrugged and said in disdain, "Your aunt told me that Isla lost her job again. A 30-year-old woman with no job and no boyfriend, how pathetic is she?"

Becky was relieved after hearing that. "I told you not to come back when you told me that Aron and you planned to come back. At least you should have gotten married first. Now what if he gets back together with Isla?" uttered Mandy in a single breath.

"Mom, come on! Do you really think I can change his mind?" Becky said with a frown accepting her fate, "Aron decided to come back, and I was left with no choice but to come back with him. Anyway, you must keep an eye on Isla for me. Keep her away from Aron!"

"Don't worry. If she even dares to seduce Aron I swear I won't spare her!" Mandy sneered. Isla was nothing when compared to her beloved daughter. Then why was she so lucky to have such an exceptional boyfriend?

Therefore, when Becky had planned to set up a trap for Aron, Mandy helped her without wavering for even a second.

Becky's phone rang while her head was leaning against the back of the seat for rest. "Hello. How is it going?"

A man's voice came from the other end of the line. "Miss Zhang, Mr. Gu got into the ladies room of Hong Fu Restaurant and came out with a woman in his arms. Should I keep following him?"

"What? The ladies room?" Becky clenched her fists and thought to herself, 'Aron Gu, I devoted myself to you. How dare you betray me?'

"Follow him and find out where they go. Forward the address to me as I'll go there right away!" Becky demanded and hung up as she was in anger.

Mandy was taken aback by Becky's distorted face. She asked with concern, "What happened? Is something wrong?"

"Mom, could you please take a taxi home right now? I need to borrow the car." Becky didn't tell Mandy what had happened. She just wanted to find out whether Aron was with Isla right now.

If yes, she would show no mercy towards Isla.

A few moments later, the man sent Becky an address. It was a hotel in Y City. Becky drove there, pulled over and leaped off the car, burning with rage.

She knocked at the room door without hesitating. Assuming it was hotel staff, Aron opened the door without thinking too much. He frowned when he saw Becky standing outside the room. "You are following me?" Aron asked authoritatively.

"Get out of my way!" Becky yelled as she pushed Aron aside. She was filled with fury now and didn't care about what he thought at all.

She rushed to the bedroom and saw Isla lying on the bed. She was blind with rage and devoid of reason as she pointed towards Isla and yelled hysterically, "Aron Gu, what are you going to do?"

"This is none of your concern!" Aron answered impatiently. "Becky Zhang, get out of my room. Right this instant!"

Isla lay unconscious through this argument as she was in a drug induced coma and needed nothing other than rest now. Knowing that, Aron didn't want Becky to wake her up.

"I won't be the one to leave. It is her who should leave!" Becky again raised her finger to point at Isla while trembling with anger. "Aron Gu, I am your girlfriend. I have been with you for so many years. We should be discussing the wedding affairs with our parents right now. But you left us in the lunch for this bitch! Have you ever cared or even considered my feelings? Why do your eyes only see her?"

"Since when have you been my girlfriend?" Aron spoke indifferently, "You considered yourself to be my girlfriend from the very beginning without having any conversation with me whatsoever. I have never admitted to being in a relationship with you! "

"But you never denied that either, did you?" Becky panicked and said, "Aron, we are getting married soon. Would you please stop cracking such jokes? It is not funny at all."

Becky was about to grab his hand but he stepped aside. He gave her a cold stare and said, "Let me make myself clear now. I have never admitted that you are my girlfriend and I will never ever accept you."

"Hahaha..." Becky flared with anger, "Aron Gu, you think Isla will forgive you for this? Don't you forget that she saw us lying on the bed together. She broke up with you even without listening to your explanation. Do you really think she loves you after all of this?"

Becky gave a scornful smile and continued, "Aron Gu, if she learns about the fact that I've lost a baby for you, do you think she will get back together with you?"

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"It...

"It's not his fault, " Becky said, tears streaming down her face.

"Grandpa, please don't blame him. He must have been bewitched by some woman..." Becky continued while sobbing.

"You just wait here for a bit. I'll call him right now, " he said, picking up his phone as he pacified Becky with some assuring words.

As the phone rang and rang, Grandpa Gu's calls went unanswered. To offer some consolation, he assured Becky a grand wedding ceremony will be held. This seemed to quell her emotions. She left shortly after.

Isla woke up with a start after a deep slumber and saw that it was already dark. She recalled that she was in a hotel room. As she tried to reach for the cup of water she remembered placing on the night table, the lights suddenly went on. She saw a familiar but upsetting figure facing towards her. "Feeling better? How was your sleep?" he said, offering a glass of water.

"How did you get here?" Isla asked out of disdain, ignoring Aron's concern.

Aron replied with silence. It was clear from Isla's face that she didn't like him to be here.

"We have not seen each other for four years! How can you talk to me that way?"

Aron sat on the sofa. He crossed his legs and took Isla's response behind him. Aron just dwelled on the fact that he was now in the presence of the woman that he had been yearning for four years.

But Isla did not feel the same way.

Isla realized that the call she received before she slept was not from Autumn, but from Aron. Isla grabbed the cup from his hand and said her thanks. She was about to stand up and leave when Aron stopped her.

"It's already late. You should just stay here for the night, " Aron said, stopping her as he pinned her in his arms.

"Let me go, " Isla protested.

"Look, I want to thank you for saving me. I promise I'll do my best to return the favor.

But I should go, " she said, removing herself from Aron's clutches.

"Isla, I-" he trailed off, unable to finish his sentence.

Feeling incredibly hurt, he realized that she still hadn't stopped resenting him.

However, Aron was comforted by the glimpse of hope that Isla might still had feelings for him even if four years had passed.

"Let me go!" she exclaimed, tears starting to well up in her eyes.

"You have gone too far this time, Aron!

I don't want to get hurt by you again!"

"Isla, I could never. The last thing that I would want to do is hurting you, " he said, holding her tight. "This is all because of Becky..."

"Stop! There's nothing more to talk about here. I know that both of you slept together for a long time, " she said, her voice muffled with sobs.

Isla cried her heart out, her eyes swollen and red from her constant crying. As Isla's tears waned off, she told Aron, "From now on, I do not want to know anything about the both of you. Your relationship is none of my business. So please, don't walk into my life again."

"Isla, can you please let me finish?" he said, refusing to end the conversation.

Aron said with a raised voice, "I know I have failed you. But I was trapped by the situation. Can you please give me another chance?"

Isla, clearly dumbfounded, doesn't know what to say.

"Are you now calm enough to hear me out?" Aron asked further.

Isla looked into Aron's eyes and nodded.

Aron poured Isla a cup of water. He then assisted Isla to the sofa and said, "I tried every way to reach you but you didn't answer any of my calls. I also had to take my ailing grandma abroad for treatment.

Did our time together mean nothing to you? You should have trusted me!"

Aron looked at her, feeling extremely hurt. He would have returned back to China after his grandma's recovery if it weren't for Becky's pregnancy.

Aron did all he could to reach her. It turned out she changed her phone number and address.

"Seeing is believing,"

Isla said coldly.

The shame brought by her fiance and cousin's relationship prevented her from asking for an explanation.

She wanted to do nothing with them, seeing what happened was something that she couldn't tolerate.

"Seeing is not believing!"

Frustrated, Aron lit a cigarette. Isla coughed from the smoke which made Aron put the lighted cigarette out. "I'm sorry! I shouldn't have lit a cigarette in front of you."

The concern exhibited by Aron over Isla was heartwarming. This proved that his memory was not tarnished despite being separated for four years.

"I do not remember you smoking back then..."

She said, looking at Aron with a frown.

"You have a great memory, but I did smoke a bit back then when I was stressed and on business. I do find it hard to quit smoking because of socializing." Aron asked in a soft voice, "Isla, the whole incident at that time..."

Did you not sense that it was just a ploy?"

Isla did not bother to think of the past. She left everything behind her as if it had never happened.

Back then, Aron and Isla got along so well to the point that they were almost married. They loved each other. It was such a tragedy that their romance ended up this way due to Aron's fault.

"It makes sense, anyway. Compared to me, Becky is younger. She is prettier and is from a well-known family. It didn't really come as a surprise when you chose to marry her instead," she said, forcing herself to smile.

Isla made a half-smile and said, "You should have told me that you loved her. I am a woman of sense. I would have totally understood. I would definitely..."

"You are still as foolish as you were four years ago," interrupted Aron.

Aron angrily told Isla, "I was unconscious at that time. I did not know what was happening when you found me and Becky in bed."

His words left Isla speechless.

Up until then, a light bulb lit inside Isla's mind. She realized that prior to waking up on the sofa that day, all she ever drunk was a glass of wine. It was unusual for her to be out cold with just a glass of wine. This led her to think that the whole thing might have been planned out.

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"At first, I also thought that her pregnancy was a result of the night we slept together in a drunken stupor... but later I realized that none of it made any sense. Somnolence and morning sickness are the most common symptoms a pregnant woman should have. However, she showed no signs of having any such symptoms. Perhaps, she had discovered that I was investigating her, so she declared her miscarriage shortly afterwards, in order to clear herself of my suspicions." Aron's grandparents had scolded him because of Becky's miscarriage. But for Aron, Becky's declaration of miscarriage had instead confirmed his speculation about her fake pregnancy.

He knew that Becky was determined on marrying him. So he presumed that if Becky did, in fact, get pregnant, she would have done everything in her powers to keep the baby, to use it as a bargaining chip to marry herself into the Gu family. It just made no sense that she had had a miscarriage so easily.

"What happened then?" Isla had also begun to grow suspicious of the whole thing after hearing Aron's words.

"I had tried very hard to uncover the truth. To get more information, I tried to contact the doctor responsible for Becky's pregnancy test, only to find that she had bought the doctor off. The doctor then skipped town. In order to gather evidence against her, I spent four years living abroad. It was not until very recently that something finally came to my attention. It so happened that there was some business to talk over back home, so I grabbed the chance and returned." He said to Isla, gently taking her hand. He had been planning to reveal all of these to her for years, and now he finally got the chance to do so, personally. "Isla, I'll admit that it was my fault for going abroad without even saying good-bye back then. But please, believe me when I say this, I have always loved you and dreamed of getting married to you. Now that we have cleared up all the confusion, will you..."

"I'm afraid it's too late now." Isla said with a forced smile, "Everyone knows that you are Becky's fiance. You two have been together for four years. Whatever has happened, it is now your responsibility to marry her. If I disregard everyone else and insist on marrying you, I will surely become a target of public criticism. I really cannot afford to lose my dignity over this again."

"So you are willing to give up on us without a fight?" Aron frowned, "I have never accepted Becky to be my girlfriend. That was all her doing."

"But your family has already accepted her, and... even my relatives back in my hometown know about your relationship." Isla had not been seeing anybody else in the past four years, and because of that, every time she went back to her hometown, she would have to face her family's criticisms. From their point of view, Isla should have already found herself a boyfriend to be in a stable relationship with, instead of trying to come in between Becky and Aron. Besides, they liked Becky more than Isla, so if she were to take Aron back, she wouldn't have been welcomed back to her hometown ever.

"Isla, don't let other people's opinions affect you. Just answer this, do you still want to be with me?" He held her hand as he said that. Isla could read the sincerity in his eyes.

"I..." Isla paused, "Weren't you afraid that I might have gotten married after all these years? You've come back too late, and four years is a long time."

"I had done my homework, and I know that you are still single." As a matter of fact, Aron had investigated her status quo, and the fact that she was still single gave him the courage to try and win her back. He believed that he still had a place in her heart.

"You..." Isla blushed. But, because everything was happening so quickly, she found herself at a loss for words. She couldn't understand what was going on in her mind as well.

Even just a few days before Aron had come back, Isla had despised him for not telling her the truth, because of which she supposed that he had fallen in love with someone else. He had made her look like a complete fool when she learned the truth later.

Isla started to feel differently about Aron after he came back, especially when he told her the truth about what had happened between him and Becky. And Isla began to resent Becky strongly. If not for

Becky's plan, she and Aron would not have to suffer such a long separation. Besides, she hated herself for leaving Aron because of Becky.

He had been away for four years.

And she had missed him for all those years.

"Isla, I know that time changes things, but it can't change how I feel about you. Although we have been apart from each other for four years, I still love you just the same. I know that this is coming to you out of the blue, and you still need time to think it over. Don't worry, I will wait for you as long as it takes," Aron gently looked at Isla and proposed, "How about one week? In the meantime, I will speak with Becky and set things straight with her. What do you say?"

"You... are you really going to break up with her?" Asked Isla as she frowned mildly.

"How could I break up with her when we weren't even together in the first place?" Aron let out a smile and continued, "But you are right, I must make a clean break. I need to persuade my grandparents, and make it clear to Becky. Isla, please don't push me away anymore, okay?"

"..." Isla said nothing, but gave her answer by nodding her head lightly.

Early next morning, Aron sent Isla home. After that, Isla tried calling Autumn to ask for a leave. She was caught by surprise when she heard Charles's voice on the other end of the line.

"May I speak to Autumn?" Isla asked in confusion. She quickly glanced at the phone screen to make sure that she had dialled the correct number.

"She has just gone to sleep. Is it very urgent?" Charles said in a cold voice.

"It's not a big deal. Just that, something important came up last night, so I was wondering if I could take the day off," Isla said softly.

"Isla, I'm afraid that I must say no." Charles didn't mean to push her too hard, but... Given Autumn's current state, it would be impossible for her to get back to work anytime soon. "Miss. Zhao, Autumn stayed at the hospital all night. She's a bit emotionally unstable at the moment, and won't be able to make it to work. You are the only person she trusts in the company, so..."

"What happened to her?" Isla's heart sank.

"Nothing serious. It's just that we have found her grandmother, but she is not in a very good condition. So Autumn has to stay at the hospital and look after her. If you don't mind... could you please take care of the company affairs for Autumn while she's absent?" Charles believed that Isla would understand their situation.

"Okay, no problem." Isla said while slightly nodding her head. She then asked worriedly, "Is Autumn alright? Does she need my help there? I can manage to go to the hospital and keep her company if necessary."

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"Don't turn a deaf ear to me. I am talking to you. Do you hear me?" His grandparents deliberately pretended not to know that Aron was at odds with Becky and carried on talking about the wedding with him.

"Grandpa and grandma, can we just please stop talking about this right now. I am definitely not going to marry Becky. I have explained this to you, countless times in the past four years. I don't like her and I am not going to get married to her. But you just won't listen to me. Today is the last time I am going to say this to you. Becky is not the person I want to get married to, so please don't stop wasting your time trying to convince me otherwise," said Aron.

"Why do you insist on talking about such nonsense?" His grandma's eye-brows furrowed in a deep crease and then she said, "Becky is a kind and beautiful girl who is madly in love with you. She has always been respectful to us. Why do you insist on breaking up with her? You're going to deeply regret passing on a good girl like her. Besides, she even had a baby with you before. You can't just break her heart like that, after what you two have been through together. You need to take some responsibility for that. You are my beloved grandson and I've always listened to what you've had to say, but this time I need you to listen to me. There is no longer any room for negotiations in this matter. I have already made up my mind on this."

After hearing this, Aron turned to his grandpa who coughed slightly and said, "I also agree with your grandmother on this. Becky is a really good girl. You've been together for so many years, I think it is time the two of you got married."

"No. You are wrong. I have never been in a relationship with Becky, not even for a single minute." Aron frowned and paused for a few seconds, "Grandma, to be honest, I already have someone I love dearly..."

But before he could even finish what he wanted to say, his grandma slapped him on the face, unexpectedly. At first, when Becky came to her to complain about Aron's betrayal, she did not believe her because deep down she knew what kind of person Aron really was. She believed that, he might have been cantankerous at times, but he was certainly not an unfaithful man, who could betray someone's trust so heartlessly. However, after she heard Aron confess, she realized that she had been completely wrong about him.

It was her first time to hit Aron. Although she felt remorseful after slapping Aron, she was not willing to compromise on the matter. Aron had to get married to Becky.

"Aron, now I can tell you that you no longer have any say in this matter. Whether you agree or not, you're going to marry her. Don't try to play tricks," she said to Aron, firmly, as she was starting to lose her patience.

"Aron, don't provoke your grandma. Hurry up, I want you to apologize to her and tell her that you will marry Becky." Aron's grandpa held his wife, as he calmly sat her down on the couch.

"Grandma. Grandpa. Isla is the only woman I have ever loved so truly. I am definitely not marrying Becky whether you like it or not, because to be completely honest, I don't love her at all." After the death of his parents, it was his grandparents who had raised him as their own. In any other situation, Aron would have heeded their wishes without hesitation, but this time he had to follow his own decision.

He was also determined not to make any compromises on the matter.

"Are you trying to piss me off, Aron?" His grandma pointed at him, trembling in anger. She was completely irritated by his insolence. "You'd better forget about that woman as soon as possible. I won't even allow you to be with her, let alone marry her."

"Grandma! Why are you being so stubborn?" Aron frowned impatiently as he had no idea how to persuade his grandparents.

"Stop! That is enough!" His grandpa had grown tired of their quarrel, he seemed to have also gotten angry at Aron now, "Do you really want to offend us? All right then, there's no use talking about this anymore. Let's call it a day. We'll talk about it tomorrow."

His grandma felt ill because she hadn't had a good night's rest last night. And now, thanks to Aron she was suffering from a sharp mood swing. She asked her husband to help her go back to her bedroom. After coming out of the room, Aron's grandpa glared at him with great resentment. "You know that your grandma hasn't been feeling well; why don't you try talking to her more patiently? Why are you so disobedient?"

"Is grandma... Is she okay?" Aron asked worriedly.

"It's nothing serious at the moment, but you've really hurt her feelings this time. Look at what you've done..." Aron's grandpa sighed heavily in utter disappointment.

"Grandpa, I know this is not the right time to talk about this with you, but I really want to follow my heart this time. You wouldn't want to see me getting a divorce from Becky in the future because I really don't love her. I never have. And you don't have to worry about anything at all. I will take care of this. As for Becky, I will find a way to make amends to her. No matter how long it takes, I will make reparations." Aron was determined to deal with the problem as soon as possible.

"Are you really that stupid, Aron? Don't you realize how much Becky loves you? Do you think she will be willing to break up with you so easily?" His grandfather took a breath and tried to explain the situation to Aron. "Besides, why don't you like her? She is such a good girl! Why don't you want to get married to her? Is that woman better than Becky?"

"Yes, " replied Aron firmly. He nodded and explained, "She was the woman I fell in love with four years ago and I am still madly in love with her, but..." Aron hesitated for a while and continued, "We broke up before, because of a slight misunderstanding, but now I have clarified my feelings to her."

"Well, what about Becky?" Aron's grandfather had never met Isla before, so he was unable to pass his judgement on her. But Becky had lived with them for four years, he had known her quite well by then.

Although Aron had always treated her indifferently, she had completely devoted four valuable years of her life to Aron. Moreover, Becky had always treated Aron's grandparents with care and respect.

Even if she did it purposefully on her own, they could not deny what she had done for Aron's family.

Aron furrowed his eyes slightly when he heard the question of his grandpa. "Grandpa, I've always had a clear position when it came to Becky. But every time I tried to explain myself to her, you and grandpa would persuade me not to. This has been delayed for four years, and it still hasn't been resolved yet. If I loved her, I would have already married her by now. But I didn't, because I never loved her. So could you please let me deal with it on my own. You don't have to worry about this. I am an adult and I am capable of handling this on my own."

Upon hearing this, Aron's grandpa took a deep breath, then he finally nodded and said, "We are old now and we don't want to get in your way anymore. Anyway, I expect you to deal with it appropriately. But, you will have to persuade your grandma on your own, I can't help you with that. She is too stubborn."

His grandpa had finally agreed with Aron. He understood that Aron was an adult now and he would have to be responsible for his own actions. He was old enough to know who his heart really belonged to.

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"Of course it is true!" Becky was fuming as she recalled the scene she saw yesterday. "I even know that woman very well. Just as the old saying goes that a rabbit doesn't nibble the grass near its own hole. But why would Aron want to be with that woman? If he wants to find another woman, he should..."

"Becky, you have to trust me. Aron must be brainwashed or beset by that woman temporarily, otherwise he wouldn't have done something like this." Aron's grandma quickly defended her dear grandson's actions, because she could not bear the thought of someone scolding him. "Well, Becky, it is not very convenient to talk about this on the phone. Do you want to meet somewhere else, to talk? I'd like to invite you for a meal."

"Of course, I would like to. But grandma, you are the elder here while I am your junior, so it is natural for me to invite you for a meal. I am going to get up soon and I will come to pick you up later." Becky said with a smile, but soon she added, "Well, grandma, I have something to remind you of... I think it would be better not to tell Aron that we're seeing each other today. You know that he is very angry with me at the moment."

"Don't worry. I won't tell him," Joanna promised at once, since she was now standing in the same line with Becky.

Becky hung up the phone and got off her bed in a hurry. After getting dressed, Becky went down stairs where Mandy Zhao was surprised to see her at that hour. It was rare for Becky to get up so early. "Becky, you got up so early today! Why don't you stay in bed longer and get some sleep? Do you have any plans for today?"

"No. I don't want to sleep right now." Becky replied calmly and went on, "Mom, I need your help to find out where Isla is working right now. It is time I paid her a visit since we haven't seen each other for so many years."

"Why would you want to meet her? What are you going to do?" Mandy was never fond of Isla.

"I will explain it to you later, but this is not the right time to talk about it. Hurry up, mom." Becky did not tell Mandy the whole story, because she wanted to meet Isla alone.

"Ok, I am going to call someone." Just within a few minutes, Mandy found out the address of Isla's workplace and then gave Becky the news. After getting her desired information, Becky went out with great satisfaction.

Soon she arrived at the house of Aron's grandparents and then she called Joanna. As Joanna was not in good health, Becky took her to a nearby porridge shop for a meal. "Grandma, you have been abroad for a long time and you rarely come back. I often came here to eat before I have to go abroad and I think it is a nice place since the food here is very delicious. Grandma, you should try it. Perhaps you will also like it."

"Okay, okay." Joanna looked at Becky and smiled softly. She was quite gratified with her warm and caring nature.

"Becky, you said that you know the woman whom Aron is in love with. Are you serious?

Who is she and where does she live?" Joanna was eager to dig out all of the information about that woman who seduced her grandson.

"Of course, I know her. I am being serious." Becky took a bowl of porridge for Joanna and said calmly, "Actually I know her quite well, because she is my cousin, my older sister."

"What? What are you talking about?" Joanna was completely astonished when she heard this from Becky. "That woman is your cousin?"

"Yes, " replied Becky indifferently. Becky smiled bitterly and said, "You think it is ridiculous? But it is the truth."

She paused for a few seconds and then continued, "She met a man a few years ago and said that she was going to get married to him. Unfortunately, the man left her for another woman. Since then, she was mentally traumatized and she began to date multiple men, but now she is thirty years old, and she still hasn't gotten married yet. Four years ago she even seduced Aron, who at the time, was completely obsessed with her, but then Aron had to go abroad with you that year, leaving their relationship unsettled. But I had never expected that she would come running back to Aron as soon as he got back.

Grandma, I really love Aron, please help me. Please. I have no idea what to do." Becky pretended to be pitiful and begged Joanna for help.

Joanna hastily nodded and comforted her, "Becky, don't worry. I have taken you as a part of my family and you have always been kind to us, so I will definitely help you."

Joanna was going to meet Isla to have a chat with her, but she didn't expect her to be such a shameless woman. Undoubtedly, she would never allow Aron to be with such a woman, let alone marry her, "Well, Becky, do you know where she is now? I want to meet her in person."

"Do you want to go now?" Becky furrowed her brows and pretended to be in a moral dilemma, "Grandma, don't do that. After all she is my cousin and she is at work now. And I think it would not be appropriate to go see her now, because I am afraid that she might lose her job over this."

"Becky, you are a good girl. You are always so understanding and considerate towards others." Joanna heaved a sigh and thought that Becky was too naive for her own good, which was why people took advantage of her kindness all the time. "You can't be so simple or you will suffer from a grave loss one day."

"But..." Becky still pretended to hesitate.

"Don't hesitate anymore. Give me her address. Hurry up." Joanna persuaded her and then added, "You know what? Even if you refuse to tell me her address, I will find her on my own sooner or later, so why don't you just tell me now?"

"Well, then... Okay." Becky finally agreed to tell Joanna after pretending to be hesitant for some time. "I will go with you as well, after we finish the meal."

Becky kept persuading Joanna not to scold Isla on their way to Cloud Advertising Company which made Joanna appreciate Becky's kind nature even more.

Isla had to deal with all of the office affairs since Autumn was on a leave today. She had never undertaken such an immense responsibility before, so she had to familiarize herself with the work here. She had been looking through the papers since morning and she had a headache at this very moment.

Paula had been transferred into the logistics department. When she was mopping the floor, someone in high heels stepped on where she had just mopped. She got annoyed, so she stopped and said, "Hey, do you know that..."

But before she could finish her sentence, Paula was shocked to find Becky standing right in front of her, with a menacing look on her face.

Becky glanced at Paula and asked, "Do you know where Isla Zhao is?"

"Why are you looking for her? Who are you?" Paula looked her up and down carefully. It seemed like they were here to make a punitive expedition against Isla. Paula hated Isla because she was Ye's friend, so she took pleasure in her misfortune as well.

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"Isla, long time no see! I've missed you." Becky continued with a little smile, "We haven't seen each other for years. How about... we find a place? Then we can sit down and have a talk."

Becky didn't curse Isla, but instead, she showed her good manners to her as Joanna was there.

She proposed to go outside for two reasons: firstly she knew that Isla wouldn't agree; secondly... Joanna would think that she was a sensible woman.

Having been filled in on what Becky had done to her, Isla refused Becky's proposal immediately. She replied with a sneer, "Becky, just stay here and tell me what you want to say. You and I... I did nothing dirty or wrong to you, so you can say what you want here."

Isla gave Joanna a curious glance, as she had no idea who this elder woman was. However, she had a hunch that she was an important person. She didn't know why Becky had brought her to her company.

Isla stared at Becky coldly and thought, 'This girl was my favorite cousin, a person I trusted unconditionally. But, Becky... ruined all of this.'

"Becky, just get straight to the point. I have a lot of work to deal with, so don't waste my time." Isla had thought that she could treat Becky in an emotionless manner, but she failed. She was still hurt at the thought of what had happened between them.

'We used to be intimate cousins, but now we are hostile to each other. All of this is because of Aron. It's not so bad after all. I finally got to know what kind of person she really is.'

Becky responded, looking as pathetic as she could, "Isla, when did we... become so distant? Do you remember when we..."

Isla interrupted decidedly, "I remember nothing." She only remembered that scene from four years ago. Becky knelt down with a pathetic look on her face and said that she couldn't help sleeping with Aron and begged her to leave Aron forever.

When she had been told this, she was in despair. Since that day on, she resolved to break up with Aron, and stay away from him.

Now she saw Becky with that expression again.

"Isla, then I will tell you my purpose for coming here. I came here to ask you to stay away from Aron." 'Now that Isla doesn't want to have a chit-chat, I will stop pretending to be nice. After all, it's just a show for Joanna. The more aggressive Isla acts, the weaker I look in Joanna's eyes,' she thought complacently.

"Isla, you are pretty and have a successful career. You can date any man you want. Unlike you, I have stayed with Aron and everything I have done in the past four years was for him. I felt happy for him when he was pleasant, and felt sad when he was unhappy. He is my everything. I can't live without him. Have some mercy and give Aron back to me."

Becky took two steps forward and grabbed Isla by the hand. She looked at Isla with her puppy dog eyes and said to her, "Isla, I have always yielded to you since we were little girls. I gave you everything as long as you wanted it, including dresses and toys. But Aron is different. Please, just this one time. Could you make a concession for me?"

"Becky, you are such a good liar! It is you..." Isla stared at Becky angrily. 'I always made a compromise for Becky on everything. I even gave up on my boyfriend for her. Haven't I made enough concession?' thought Isla to herself.

Before Isla could continue her speech, Becky interrupted immediately, "Isla, yesterday Aron told me that he still loved you as he did four years ago. I have kept his company for four years, and my relatives and friends all think that he is my fiance. I had his baby. I can't live without him. Please, don't steal him away from me. I can't suffer such a disgrace," Becky sobbed out.

All of a sudden, Isla realized what was going on was ridiculous. 'I haven't agreed to see Aron yet. Even if I did, I didn't owe her anything.'

When Becky stole Aron away from me, did she care about my feelings?

At that time, everyone knew that he was my fiance. Even so, she still separated me from Aron without hesitation.'

"Isla..." Becky continued with her eyes brimming with tears, "I have heard from my mom that after Aron left, you dated many men. You have so many choices, why do you still want to take away my boyfriend? Please leave him alone. I beg you."

"Enough!" Isla shouted at her. Becky was not only lying, but she was also slandering her. Isla couldn't resist her anger anymore.

She shook off Becky furiously and scolded, "Becky, we both know what happened four years ago. I know how low you stooped to get what you wanted. Aron is a man, not a commodity that can be dealt with as such. It's his choice to decide who he wants to be with, and you have no right to decide for him. Are we clear?"

Isla trembled with rage at the thought of what had happened between them. 'I have dodged Aron and lived alone in low spirits these past four years. Now she's accusing me of stealing her happiness.'

"Isla!" Becky fell on her knees in front of Isla and clung to Isla's clothes. She implored with her tears streaming down her face, "I'm begging you. Please give Aron back to me. He is my everything and your future cousin-in-law."

Chapter 159

"Cousin, I ..." Becky bit her lip, her eyes asking for Joanna's help. Joanna had been watching quietly. She mulled over, 'I will find out what kind of person Isla is. There is no need to make an ugly scene. If she is highly cultured and reasonable, I will talk to her and solve the problem peacefully.' Isla turned out to be an arrogant woman. Joanna decided to change her strategy and get straight to the point.

She didn't expect all of this to have been plotted by Becky. Becky provoked and angered Isla on purpose so that Joanna would think the worst of her, forming a stark contrast with her virtuous and good-natured character. Becky believed that she was the better partner for Aron, compared to such an impolite and rude Isla.

"Becky, are you alright?" Joanna asked with her brows knitted as she got Becky back on her feet. Becky cast an angry look in Isla's direction and replied, "Grandmother, I am okay." When Isla heard Becky call the old woman "Grandmother", she realized who Joanna was and why Becky created this drama. Isla thought, 'Becky did all of this intentionally so that Aron's grandmother will think badly of me.'

Becky will do everything she can just like she did four years ago to push me away from Aron.'

"You are Miss Zhao, aren't you?" Joanna sneered at Isla, "I am Aron's grandmother. But I don't know if it is my place to talk to you about Aron."

"Madam, things are not as what Becky has told you. She took Aron away from..." Isla was anxious to explain. She had never forgotten Aron all these years. Although she has not yet agreed to be Aron's girlfriend, she wanted to show the best of herself in front of his grandmother. After all, if Aron's family didn't like her, it would be a big problem for him. So Isla wanted to tell the truth about the story of their love and what a bad person Becky was.

But Becky wouldn't give Isla any chance to explain herself. She said in a low and sad voice as she held Joanna's hand, "Grandmother, let's go. There is no need to talk to her. If Aron knew we came here, he would get angry. I am sure he will think I compelled you to bother Isla."

"Don't worry!" Joanna said without reservation, "Since we are already here, let's be frank and put our cards on the table. If Aron asks about this, I will stick up for you. Miss Zhao, I agree with you. There is no need to waste time. I am telling you now, Becky will be my granddaughter-in-law. I will never allow you to marry Aron."

Joanna gave Isla an icy smile and continued, "Over the last four years, Becky is the one who has always been with Aron and taken care of us. We have already accepted her as our granddaughter-in-law. Listen, you are good-looking and pretty. If you'd like, you can marry whomever you can lay your eyes on. Why are you so determined to get in between your cousin and Aron? Don't you feel shameful? Has no one ever taught you manners?"

"Grandmother, it's just a misunderstanding. The truth is four years ago, Becky, she...." Joanna interrupted Isla, "Stop. Please address me as 'Madam'. Don't call me grandmother. In my heart, you will never be Aron's partner." Becky had told Joanna too many bad things about her.

Isla turned pale. Not only did she feel angry, she was also embarrassed. Becky's bad mouthing her and Joanna's disdain had made her lose face. She worried that her colleagues would gossip about this.

Isla calmed herself and said through gritted teeth, "Madam, what happened in the past wasn't like what Becky told you. Aron and I already had plans to get married. He even promised to take me to visit you and his grandfather. Then ... Out of nowhere, Becky came into our lives."

Joanna looked at Becky searching for a reply. Becky denied, "Grandmother, you don't believe what she is saying, do you?"

They are all lies. She has twisted the truth." Becky knew that Joanna would believe whatever she said. She said shamelessly, "Grandmother, you mustn't believe her."

Joanna started to become suspicious of Becky when she heard Isla's words, but still sided with Becky. She angrily said, "Miss Zhao, you are young and pretty. Why do you still need to be cunning? I have raised Aron since he was a kid. I am well aware of who he is. I know the way his mind works. If he really loved you, he would have brought you to us and asked our permission for your marriage. There is no need to wait that long. Moreover, Becky is the girl who has been with him all this time, not you. What do you think of me, an old fool?"

"Madam, what I said is true..." Isla was determined to turn the situation to her favor. However, Paula who was watching nearby, took the opportunity to kick Isla when she was down. "Miss Zhao, you have only been with this company for a short time, but you set a good example for us. Your ability is undisputed, or you won't have been our planning manager on your first day. But today you are wrong. There are many outstanding but available men out there. Why do you still have your eyes on your cousin's boyfriend. Aren't you ashamed?"

"You, shut up!" Isla yelled at Paula angrily. She had no one on her side. Owing to Becky's slander, she had already gotten embarrassed and frustrated. And Paula's added insults made her furious. She couldn't fight with Joanna because she was Aron's grandmother. Since she still loved Aron, she couldn't afford to go against Joanna. But with Paula, there was no need to restrain her anger. She questioned, "Why are you here? This is none of your damn business."

Chapter 160

"Exactly! What a scheming woman Ye is! Mr. Lu is so obsessed with her and even bought the company for her as a gift. If Mrs. Lu finds out about this, she would be furious."

"Isla and Ye are just two birds of the same feather when it comes to seducing and controlling men. Maybe Isla learned that from Ye."

"Enough!" Isla thundered, "Have you finished all your work? Are you free now? How about helping Paula clean the toilet?"

The gossiping crowd quickly fell silent and went back to their own seats, stealing glances at Isla's office from time to time. Paula, however, remained standing at the office door. Isla walked towards Paula and questioned her, "Why are you still here? You want to get in, huh?"

"No, no." Paula shook her head and said, "I haven't finished cleaning yet. I'm leaving now."

Bang! Isla shut the door and turned to Becky. "Becky Zhang, do you dare say it again, who was the other woman four years ago?" Isla demanded.

"Of course!" Becky sneered. Isla was the same silly girl as four years ago. "If it weren't for you, Aron and I would have fixed our wedding date. If it weren't for you, we would now be living a happy life."

Becky stared angrily at Isla and asked, "Isla, I know it is too much to expect you to wish us happiness. I beg you, stay away from us."

"You..." Becky's accusation drove Isla crazy. She took out her cell phone to call Aron and ask him to take Becky away. She couldn't bear it anymore. As soon as she took out her phone, Becky was instantly alarmed. "What are you going to do? Are you going to call Aron?" Becky moved closer, in an attempt to snatch Isla's phone.

"Get away from me!" Isla pushed Becky away as she snorted, "What are you so nervous about? You say that I am the other woman? Fine! I'm calling Aron over. Let's get everything straight today. Don't try to stop me. Are you afraid of being found out?"

Becky's expression amused Isla. Isla continued, "Well, we have a witness here and she should know how you managed to break me and Aron apart by saying that you miscarried for him. Did you really think your plan was perfect? You are too naive."

Becky felt dazed when Isla mentioned her miscarriage. She had long worried about her plot being uncovered, but she never expected Isla to find out and expose it.

Becky was fuming. "Isla Zhao, you are talking nonsense! You know nothing about what happened between me and Aron. It pains me a lot to think about losing my baby. Why do you rub salt into my wound? What do you want?"

Isla gave a scornful smile. She hadn't exposed the truth yet, but Becky was already on the edge of panicking. What Becky said only gave herself away.

Becky panicked even more when she looked at Isla's smile. She yelled hysterically, "Isla Zhao, are you accusing me of feigning pregnancy, huh? I'm telling you, they would not believe anything you say. You think you can bring me down? You're dreaming if you think you can win."

Isla smiled and responded calmly, "I said nothing just now. It is you who mentioned the fake pregnancy. What? Is it your guilty conscience?"

Joanna's doubts grew, looking at the way Becky reacted. It was true, Isla didn't mention anything about feigning pregnancy, but Becky spilled it all out. No wall can stop the truth. Was Becky extremely agitated because she was afraid that Isla knew about it?

"I... I'm not guilty at all. I didn't do it. Stop making up stories!" Becky grabbed Joanna's hand tightly and explained anxiously, "Grandma, don't listen to her. She made up this story to drive a wedge between you and me. I did conceive a child..."

"Becky, why are you so nervous?" Joanna had never doubted Becky's pregnancy before. However, looking at the sweat on Becky's forehead, Joanna became more suspicious. "Miss Zhao said nothing, but you just mentioned feigning pregnancy. Becky, are you trying to hide something from me?" asked Joanna.

"No, I'm not." Becky denied it without hesitation. Her face drenched in sweat. She had kept this secret for years. She knew that if Aron and his grandparents found out, they would never ever trust her again.

"Miss Zhao, can you tell me the truth?" Joanna wanted an answer to her doubts.

"Madam, I am telling the truth. Aron and I were a happy couple four years ago. Somehow, Becky slipped some narcotic in our drinks at my birthday party and knocked us out. Then she slept on the same bed with Aron and made me see it. I was devastated. She begged me to leave him. I was left with no choice but to do so. I changed my phone number and haven't been in touch with him since then." Isla swallowed her bitterness and continued, "When we were together, Aron had visited all my relatives, and we planned to visit you. If you don't believe me, you can hire a private investigator."

Isla looked rather calm, making her statements more convincing. Joanna somewhat believed her.

"What about the baby? What happened to the baby?" Joanna asked, frowning, "Four years ago, Becky and I went to the hospital together. The doctor said she was pregnant."

"That's true! Grandma, I've never lied to you. You know that." Becky held Joanna's arm tightly, but the latter shook off her hand in silence. She decided not to trust either of them until she knew the whole truth.

"Last night, Aron came to me and wanted to explain what really happened. He had been with Becky for a long time, so I had no plans to talk to him. But he told me that Becky lied about the pregnancy. That time, Aron had planned to go back to Y City, but she pretended to suffer a miscarriage to stop him and cover up the false pregnancy. This supposed tragedy made you feel guilty and sorry for her. Aron has been investigating the whole thing all these years, and he has found out the truth."

Isla looked Joanna in the eye and said sincerely, "You can ask Aron for the details."