

Wedded Bride 351

Chapter 351 Mess Up (Part One)

It was Wendy who opened the door and walked in while Yvonne followed closely behind. A sly smile showed on her face as Rachel saw them. 'How could it be possible for Autumn to return and be a part of Zhao family in peace?' Rachel thought to herself.

Wendy's presence led to a furor in the hall. All of the people turned to focus on her. Autumn furrowed slightly as she saw them. Just as she expected, Wendy was definitely not going to leave the matter at that.

She finally showed up with her annoying daughter, Yvonne.

Arthur stood close to Autumn seeing her frowning tightly. "Autumn, don't be afraid. I am here. I will protect you. No one can hurt you!" comforted Arthur as he patted her shoulders gently.

Autumn was moved by his words somehow. No one, except for her grandma and father, had cared about her like this. Therefore, Autumn felt warm yet a little bit grieved.

Staring at Autumn who was standing at the center of the stage, Wendy, with a piteous look, immediately attracted the reporters' attention. Soon they all rushed to her. "Mrs. Gu, what brings you here today?"

"It is the birthday party of my daughter. How could I not come? I have to wish her a happy birthday."

Wendy smiled bitterly and then walked forward to Autumn, held by Yvonne. "Autumn, today is your birthday. I am your biological mother and I come to wish you a happy birthday, " said Wendy.

She then took out a small box from her pocket, opened it slowly and went on, "It is a gift for you. I should have given it to you at your wedding since it is actually a wedding gift. Take it. I wish you a lifetime of happiness."

"There is no need to give it to me. Keep it for yourself, " said Autumn in a cold tone. She didn't know what Wendy was going to do and what she had up her sleeves, but she was sure that it was just a trick or a trap.

"Don't reject her, Autumn." Seeing this, Arthur sneered and asked his assistant to take the bracelet from Wendy. "Anyway, this little gift is a token of her regard, so take it."

In any circumstances, Wendy was Autumn's biological mother and it was something that can never be changed. As for the bracelet, she could take it and donate it to those in need.

Though reluctant, Wendy paid heavily to buy this bracelet since she had to put on a play before the

public today.

She looked at Autumn with caring eyes as if she was really a warm and loving mother. Seeing this, the reporters began to ask, "Miss Ye, could you explain why you are so eager to change your surname and break your relations with your mother? She is your mother. Do you really hate her so much?" The questions were getting sharper and more stressful.

"Hate her? How could it be possible?" With a grim smile, Autumn replied. 'I wish I'd never see her again for the rest of my life and I hope I had never been her daughter.

It was her, a vicious woman, who killed my father and my grandma indirectly, ' Autumn thought.

Taking a glance at Wendy, she then replied, "There is no need for me to worry about her life after all she has started a new one. Now she is taken care of by her new husband and a lovely daughter, Yvonne, so I would definitely not disturb them for now. And that is why I didn't like to go to her house when I was still a kid, because I was afraid of causing her trouble which would easily make her unhappy."

Indeed, Autumn was trying to tell those reporters that Wendy had never taken care of her when she was a child. So why should she look after her now that she had grown up?

"Autumn, you..." Upon hearing this, Wendy pretended to be sad. "Autumn, are you blaming me for not taking care of you when you were a kid? You may have misunderstood me. You know that I..."

However, before Wendy could finish her sentences, Autumn interrupted her. "Of course I am not. I

didn't mean that." Autumn felt disgusted that Wendy put up this farce before the public. Though she was unwilling to expose her private life before the public, it didn't mean that she would allow Wendy to mess around with it.

Autumn gazed at Wendy with a grim smile and continued, "Haven't you had a happy life over the years? I am glad for you. Now I have been married and I have also found my family. Isn't it good for us since we won't have to interfere with each other's lives in the future? Do you really want me to clarify why I should change my surname and break the relations with you?"

"Miss Ye, could you please explain to us what you mean? Do you mean that you tried to break relations with your mother just because you didn't want to disturb your mother's new life?" asked the reporters, puzzled.

Autumn nodded slightly and said nothing.

"It's not the case as you said. You are lying." Yvonne, who stood by silently for a long time, joined in.

She gazed at Autumn and went on, "That's not what you said."

Obviously, the reporters were all shocked by her words. When they were at a loss whom they should believe in, Yvonne suddenly spoke again, attracting everyone's attention.

The reporters all turned to her and asked, "Miss Gu, what do you mean? Do you mean that Miss Ye is not telling the truth?"

"Yes, Miss Gu, you are also involved in this. Could you tell us what the truth is?"

"Miss Gu, please explain it for us." The reporters echoed one after another.

Yvonne had recently been hiding from the public. Time had passed and people gradually forgot the things that happened to her before. That was why she dared to come out with Wendy now.

She burst into a sneer as she found that all of the people focused on her. Defiant and arrogant, Yvonne looked at Autumn and said, "She's not telling the truth. Things were not as she said. She does want to break all relations with us, but it is not because she doesn't hope to disturb our life. Instead it is because the Zhao family is richer than us. She takes great fancy to the family property of the Zhao family."

Yvonne smiled grimly and raised her voice. "All of this is because she despises the poor and favors the rich, " said Yvonne with a disdainful look.

"Well, Yvonne stop. That's enough." Wendy pretended to stop Yvonne after Yvonne said all that she wanted to say. "She is your sister in any case. She is right. It is all my fault, " said Wendy with a pitiful look.

She heaved a sigh and went on, "I don't blame her if she really wants to do that."

"Mom! You are always considerate of her, but did she care about your feelings in return? It isn't worth doing this for her, " said Yvonne in a very discontented tone, her eyes filled with irritation. "She never cares about you. If she still regards you as her mother, she would honorably inform you about this news conference. Why did we have to come here without an invitation? You said that you had to hand this gift to her in person, but now it turns out she would never be grateful."

Saying this, Yvonne then turned to Autumn and said sarcastically, "She is now part of the Zhao family and she could own anything that she wants. It is impossible for her to care about this little bracelet."

"Yvonne, you think that you can pull your weight here, " said Autumn coldly. Autumn furrowed her eye

brow and felt disgusted at the two of them. "You must be clear about what the truth is. I know in my heart who among us is lying. All you are doing is bringing disgrace on your own selves."

"Yes, I know what the truth is." Yvonne showed a grim smile and turned to Wendy, "I know that my mom has been most perfectly fulfilled both in love and duty. May I remind you? How could it be possible for you to get married to someone like Charles? He is such a brilliant man and many women are after him. If it weren't for mom, you would never have had the chance to marry him."

"Yvonne, that's enough, " Wendy said abruptly. However, indeed she felt herself highly flattered, because Yvonne had said exactly what she wanted to say. Now all of the people present would regard Autumn as a snobbish woman. And that was her purpose of coming here today. What she wanted to do was to put her into more trouble.

Chapter 352 Mess Up (Part Two)

Wendy smiled bitterly and patted Yvonne on the back of her hand. "Let's go. We are not wanted here."

"No, I won't go. Now that we are here, we have to make everything clear." The troublesome half sister gave her mother a wry smile. "Mom, you have the heart to bear it, but I don't. What does she mean by doing that? Why is she so hell bent on severing ties with us? Is she worried that we will ask her for money?"

Yvonne stepped closer to Autumn. "You should know, when my mother heard that you were going to change your surname to Zhao, she was so angry and stressed that her old illness re-surged. Today we had just come from the hospital just to congratulate you on your birthday. She sticks up for you at any time, but you still decide to change your surname. Do you think you are worthy of what she had gone through because of you?"

People naturally had a soft spot for mothers and began to condemn Autumn. The lovely birthday party was finally ruined halfway, which annoyed the celebrant. At this time, Arthur Zhao, who was standing on the stage, opened his mouth to speak.

He gave Wendy the coldest stare and said, "I didn't want to say these words at first, because Autumn once said that you were still her mom after all. And I will also show you some respect for Autumn's sake. But how shameless of you to come here and ruin this birthday party. But I have to clarify my position even if it upsets Autumn. Since Autumn is my only granddaughter, I must protect her from being misunderstood by other people, which is clearly your intent in coming to crash this party."

Arthur had lost all his tolerance of Wendy Ye. He continued, "You eloped with my son, Bowen, many

years ago just because you thought that he was a man of wealth. But when you found that Bowen was not as rich as you expected, you thought of leaving him. As a result, after you gave birth to Autumn, you thoughtlessly left her for Bowen to raise her alone. You then, disappeared with an amount of money which you extorted from Bowen. I haven't wronged you with these words, right? The heavens bear witness that every single word is true. "

Arthur smiled with scorn. "Bowen died of depression shortly after you abandoned them. You haven't taken good care of Autumn at all. She was brought up only by Emily. Everything I said also matches the fact, right?"

"Stop talking nonsense here." Yvonne retorted. "My mother certainly took her back home and looked after her closely for a long time. It was she herself who was unwilling to stay with the Gu family anymore. My mother is not the one to blame for it!"

The esteemed doctor ignored the troublemaker. His gaze did not leave Wendy, and he said with surety,

"Autumn and Emily could only depend on each other. Life was hard enough for them, but you were so heartless that you kept adding to her pains and giving her a hard time. Your pathetic family business needed financial support from Shining Company to survive the crisis, so you came up with the

connections by marriage. At the very beginning, you wanted your wretched daughter to marry Charles, but Yvonne Gu ran away from the wedding. So, in order to still make your plan work, you blackmailed Emily with documents and forced Autumn to marry Charles in Yvonne Gu's place. Now in a beautiful twist of fate. Autumn is now getting along with Charles perfectly in this marriage. Your regret must be killing you and eating you alive, every time you see them happy together."

By this time, no one had an idea whom to believe, but Arthur's words could well explain why Autumn would marry Charles. His story seemed more credible.

"Wait. There's more. That was not the end of it. Later, you found that Charles was a man of striking appearance and he treated Autumn quite well at the same time. So you egged Yvonne to seduce Charles. However, to your burning disappointment, during Yvonne's disappearance, Yvonne had an affair with other man and got pregnant. In the end, the baby was aborted, and you had not choice but to give up the Charles plan." Once again, Arthur's words caused an uproar among the guests. Everyone began to feel sorry for Autumn. Supposing that Arthur Zhao didn't distort the facts, then how much hardship did Autumn Ye suffer to get where she was today?

"Emily didn't get timely cure for her illness, and now she can hardly see anything. It's all caused by you.

As for all these things that I stated just now, I didn't do you any wrong, did I?" The head of the Zhao

family asked her with great eloquence, which made Wendy melt with embarrassment. Part of her

wanted to fade away, but on second thought, Wendy still decided to stay. She should try her utmost to

achieve her goal, otherwise, her coming here would go for nothing.

She turned around to look at Autumn on the stage, saying with pretended grief, "My daughter, if these

accusations against me make you happy, then I will make a confession."

She gave a bitter smile to Autumn and then deeply bowed to the reporters. "Yes, I am such an

irresponsible mother. I hope that you never put my daughter in an awkward situation. Whatever she

wants to do, I will give her my support. I hope that you can understand a mother's great pains."

Dumbfounded, Autumn could say nothing. She just looked at Wendy. At first, Autumn thought that

Wendy would contradict grandpa's words, but she acknowledged all of it. Her act of humility made

people believe in her words more.

Autumn could not bear it. She stepped down the stage and stood in front of Wendy. She asked angrily,

"Wendy Ye, what the hell do you want from me?"

"I just wanted to come and see you." Wendy wanted to take Autumn's hand, but she drew her hand back with embarrassment because Autumn avoided her. "I know that you have been resentful that I treated Yvonne better than you. But I have to clarify that in my heart... both of you are my precious daughters. There is no difference between you two."

"Can you stop acting here?" Autumn shouted at Wendy, getting impatient. "What will you get from doing this? Or are you happy enough that you embarrassed me on my birthday?"

"You are not as important as you imagine." Yvonne pulled Autumn aside and said, "Mom only came to see you. As for me, I cannot restrain my anger anymore. I came here today to lay bare your true character. You can refuse to accept me, because I don't need you to accept me anyway. But you have to keep my mom, the one who gave birth to you, in your life."

"Miss Ye, excuse me, could you respond to what Doctor Zhao has said just now? Are those all true?"

The reporters asked Autumn one after another.

Autumn hesitated and said nothing for a long time, but finally she nodded. "Yes, it's all true."

"Could you please show us some evidence?" A verbal statement without any proof had no credibility.

Autumn thought it over and wondered, 'How could there be evidence for such things?'

Autumn frowned a little. Yvonne sneered before Autumn could say a word, "What kind of proof can she bring out at this time? Even though she shows any right now, it must be forgery."

"I..." Autumn still knitted her eyebrows. Now, she felt quite helpless that the two conniving bitches had the advantage over her. After a long while, she shook her head and was ready to tell the reporters that she had no evidence at all. But salvation came at the perfect time. Behind the crowd came a male voice, "I am the evidence."

Hearing the voice, the crowd parted to give way to this man who appeared out of nowhere. When the man eventually walked to the front of Yvonne and Wendy, they stood gazing at one another, looking very tense.

"What are you doing here?" Wendy put her hands on her hips and asked him.

"Thanks to you, Autumn and I have become good friends. I have come to take part in her birthday celebration." It was Aron. Arthur had divined that such situation was likely to occur today, so he also invited Aron here just in case.

"Aron, I think you had better mind your own business." Yvonne warned Aron nervously. To a large

extent, Aron was a very favorable witness. Without his appearance, Autumn was doomed to be

defeated in her own party.

Chapter 353 They Deserve No Mercy (Part One)

"Why are you in such a hurry? I haven't said anything yet." Aron sneered.

"I know you hate me, Aron. But this is between a mother and a daughter today. Please keep your nose

out of this and I would appreciate it." Wendy tried her best to act properly. Yet Aron only scoffed at what

she had just said.

He gazed at Wendy and said, "Auntie, I just could not bear to see someone suffer wrongful treatment in

front of me. It is my principle of being. And I think it might due to... my own experience in my childhood.

At the sight of something like this, I could not help but think of being wrongly accused of stealing when I

was a child."

"Mrs. Gu, may we know who he is..." Many reporters were not familiar with Aron for he rarely appeared

in front of the media. Nevertheless, a few reporters recognized Aron immediately.

"Well, he is....." Clenching her fist, Wendy very nervously looked towards at Aron. She was at a loss

how she should introduce him to the public.

"Hey everyone, I'm Aron Gu. I am Mrs. Gu's..... stepson." Turning his face to the reporters, Aron

revealed, "Yvonne is my half sister. And her mother Wendy Ye, who is now standing in front of you all,

slept with my father more than twenty years ago. There may be a lot of people who know nothing about

this. But, my mother, with a broken heart, died because of this affair."

"Aron, please stop!" In an instant, Wendy was near the point of breaking down. The secret that she had

locked away for more than twenty years, was now being openly exposed to the public by Aron. Looking

at the contemptuous and judgmental eyes of the people around her, Wendy felt that she was almost

going off the deep end.

"Stop?" With a sneer, Aron continued, "She tried hard to attach herself to my father that very year,

though she knew perfectly well that my father had a wife. And you might guess what for? Wasn't it

because of my father's money? My mother could not bear that my father had an affair and died out of

depression. What was even worse, Wendy wrongly accused me, an innocent kid at that time, of

stealing. And my father threw me out because of her vicious lies. She did that on purpose, because she

was afraid that I would fight her for my share of his wealth. A woman like her, with such a twisted and

wicked mind, dares to do anything evil."

"Aron Gu, just stop talking nonsense here." What Aron had just said made Yvonne and Wendy diffident and angry. They never thought he would appear at this event. "You must be saying these out of hatred for my mother. Because she was the one who found out your habit of stealing. You are taking your revenge on her today on purpose, aren't you?"

"Well..." With himself turning to address the public, Aron asked, "What would you do as parents if your child stole something?"

"For my own kid, I would beat him first, and then teach him well of course," a reporter blurted out. He had just become a father lately.

Aron smiled. "Exactly! Normally, parents would teach their children well in case they make the same mistake again. But this Mrs. Gu did not. She only incited Simon, that's my father's name, to throw me out. Luckily, my grandparents took me in and they have taken care of me ever since. They were the ones who raised me into adulthood."

"Not long ago, Simon told me that he would hand over the company to me, because I am the only son in the family. However, this Mrs. Gu was not willing to make that happen. She said that the Gu's Group

was founded and operated both by her and Simon, and she would take a share of the company." With

a quick pause, Aron sneered, "I might as well tell you all here that the Gu's Group investment capital

came mostly from my mother's dowry. Thus, the Gu's Group would not grow to where it is today without

my mother's contribution. I do not want the right of management of it, but..... my mother's dowry, Mrs.

Gu, please give it back to me, " Aron said as he turned to Wendy.

"My mother died because of you. And you've commandeered her position of Mrs. Gu for so many

years. It would be too inhumane to commandeer her dowry as well, wouldn't it?" Aron cared nothing

about the money or the company at all. He just wanted to pound Wendy with such embarrassment.

"Aron, you asshole!" Knowing that the media would never believe in her and her mother any more,

Yvonne went quickly straight at Aron and shouted angrily, "Stop talking nonsense here!" She took a

swing at him and hit him perversely.

"Enough yet?" At the beginning, Aron endured her punches and kicks as she was a girl after all.

However, Yvonne became excessive. With a frown, Aron could not help but stop Yvonne with his hand.

"You are acting like you used to be when you were a child. What did Mrs. Gu do to your education?"

"Aron, what do you want from me exactly?" The embarrassed Wendy shouted, looking at Aron angrily.

She made no attempt to hide her outrage any longer. She was losing face fast and she was getting desperate.

"I said I only had two intentions here. First, to let the public know the truth. And second, I want my mother's dowry back. Am I understood?" Aron sneered even more.

"You can't do that, Aron. The Gu's Group is now suffering from a slump. It would totally ruin the Gu's Group if I give the money back to you." Wendy said nervously to Aron, caring nothing about how the people around looked at her any more.

As soon as they heard that, everyone at the event were able determine the truth so far. It turned out that Wendy was the one who was cheating everyone all this time. And what Arthur, Autumn and Aron said were all true.

How horrible it was! How could there be such a cruel mother in this world?

"Mrs. Gu, did you just admit it right now?" a reporter asked. Only then did Wendy realize that the fish had finally been caught in the mouth.

She stood there with a straight face, silent, as if she had blacked out and fallen into despair.

Yvonne could not help getting at Aron again. "It's all because of you! You had left that year. Why did you come back? Without you, dad would not hand over the company to you. Such things wouldn't have happened. Why did you come back?"

Now out of control, Yvonne tried to threaten Aron, "I am warning you, every penny of the Gu's Group belongs to me. Don't you dare take anything away from it."

It seemed that Autumn and her birthday was forgotten at that moment. The reporters were busing asking Aron questions about the company and the money.

And now everyone had seen the truth.

Autumn was quietly watching on the side all this time. She did not want to go out to help at all. In her view, Wendy and Yvonne deserved to suffer from their own actions. And they were just not worthy of anyone's sympathy.

"When are you gonna stop this insanity?" All of a sudden, above the noise and confusion, the angry voice of Simon came from the door.

It turned out that Charles had made a call to Simon. Arriving in a hurry, Simon was able to witness

Wendy and Yvonne getting mad because of his properties. He was so angry that he almost fainted.

Trying hard to hold back his anger, Simon came up to Wendy and asked, "What are you doing here?"

"Simon, I....." Confused and afraid, Wendy looked at Simon anxiously and tried to explain, "Aron and I

were talking about the Gu's Group. I was just saying on impulse....."

Chapter 354 They Deserve No Mercy (Part Two)

Wendy felt her head whip to the side as a furious Simon slapped her. His face flushed with anger, and

several thoughts began racing through his mind. 'What was she thinking making our domestic

problems public? Does she have no shame? The media will no doubt have a field day when this makes

headlines tomorrow!'

"Dad, why did you hit her?" Yvonne cried out.

She quickly ran and planted herself between Simon and Wendy. "Have you lost your mind?"

Yvonne knew she had to take Wendy's side no matter what happened. To her mind, they were two

grasshoppers tied to one cord. "It was Aron who started it, but why did you hit Mom?" she blurted out.

Still bubbling with anger, Simon screamed, "You're lucky I didn't hit you, too! Now, shut up!" Staring at

his daughter, he accused, "I'm not dead yet but you and your mother are already scrambling to divide

my property! You're probably praying for my early death!"

Wendy grabbed Simon's arm and tried to explain. "You misunderstood my intentions, Simon."

Looking into his eyes, she continued, "I did this for our family."

"Save the sob story for someone else!" he said, cutting her off.

"After all this time that we've been together, do you think I still don't know what kind of person you are?"

All you care about is money!" Simon stressed every word. "Had I known this earlier, I would never have chosen to marry you."

Voice filled with emotion, he continued, "Aron's mother was a wonderful woman who treated me so well. I had to divorce her to be with you. Then she died after a difficult childbirth. I have been tormented by guilt all these years." He gazed at Aron with regretful eyes before bringing back his attention to

Wendy. "If it hadn't been for you, my life would have been happy with Aron and his mother."

Wendy's spine stiffened in anger. "What do you mean by that?!"

'I have been married to this man for many years. Now he's saying he regrets marrying me?!' she thought to herself. Finding courage to speak, she declared, "I have done everything for you and the Gu's Group ever since we got married. I even gave you a child, a daughter who has now grown up.

How can you say such cruel things about me?!"

But her words only made Simon angrier. "Enough! Everything you've done wasn't for me but only for yourself! You did all that just so you would enjoy a good life!"

He took a deep breath to compose himself, then finally announced, "I have made a decision. Since we are no longer the same people, I think it would be better to end our relationship as soon as possible."

Wendy was stunned by her husband's words. Looking at Simon in disbelief, she almost whispered, "Are you going to divorce me?"

Wendy tried to regain her composure, as she angrily thought, 'We were getting along so well before Aron returned. But now he's spoiled everything.' To Aron, she said, "Is that why you came back, to see us fight over you? Are you satisfied now?"

He quickly brushed off Wendy's accusations. "Do not blame others for your situation. Why not try looking at yourself to see what you did wrong?"

With a look of contempt, he continued, "You caused all this. I don't care what's going on between you and Simon. Because unlike you, I never plan to set others up to fall."

His words only infuriated Wendy more. She shrieked, intending to pounce on Aron. But Simon quickly caught her hand and held it in a tight grip. "You'd better come home now. Stop making a fool of yourself, " he commanded.

Simon dragged the two women away and left the party. With the drama over, there was peace once again inside the banquet hall. Walking off-stage with Arthur, Autumn tried to explain what had happened. Gratefully, she said, "Thank you for what you did today. If you had not been there, I wouldn't know what to do."

Aron smiled. "It's not a big deal. You and Charles have helped me a lot.

I just told the truth. I've been bullied and tormented so much as a child by those two. I finally had a chance to strike back, " he added.

Autumn, looking a little worried, hesitated before asking, "Is Simon really going to divorce Wendy?"

Shrugging, Aron replied, "It doesn't really matter."

Sensing the woman's anxiety, he advised, "You're done with her now, Autumn. Remember, your family name is Zhao. So you should not concern yourself with whatever happens to her. Otherwise, you will just end up getting hurt."

"I know, but..." Autumn sighed. Yet there was a strong nagging feeling that she could not just brush aside her mother and what just happened.

'I can't help but worry about her, ' Autumn thought.

Seeing the worry in Autumn's eyes, he gently patted her shoulder. "Don't give it much thought, okay?"

To make her feel better, Aron added, "Look, you have a husband who cares about you, and family who loves you. Just focus on your life. And Wendy? She has nothing to do with you anymore, do you understand?"

Autumn nodded and gave a weak smile. She muttered to herself, 'Perhaps, I should learn from Aron and treat her as a stranger. That way, I will feel better.'

Aron's phone rang and he excused himself. "I have to take this."

His brows furrowed as he walked to a corner. "Uncle, I told you I was busy tonight, " he said.

Aron listened, impatient to end the call.

Finally, he said, "I will come see you soon, " then clicked the phone off.

Aron took a deep breath, while thinking to himself, 'Each family has its own problems. Now, I have to

solve mine.'

"Hey, what's up?" Isla asked Aron.

While walking towards him, she noted the displeasure on his face.

"Oh, it's nothing. I just have something to deal with. Isla, I'm sorry, I can't drive you home tonight, " Aron

apologized. Still trying to figure out what to do, he frowned, which Isla noted.

She quickly replied, "That's all right. I can go home myself.

I can grab a cab later. It's not a long drive."

"Then I'll see you tomorrow!" Aron said, waving.

He looked for Autumn to say goodbye, then left the party in a hurry driving straight to the airport.

It was Aron's uncle, Albert, who called earlier. He and his family had just gotten off the plane, and

requested Aron to pick them up at the airport.

It was a request Aron could not say no to, so he drove to the airport to meet Albert and his family. His

plan was to check them into a hotel, but they refused and insisted on staying at Aron's house.

He drove home reluctantly. Their arrival woke up Mike and Joanna, and the sight of Albert's family

washed away all remnants of sleep.

"What are you doing here?" Mike said, demanding an answer.

He was trying to figure out why Albert's family was not checking in at a hotel and looked to be staying at Aron's house instead.

It was Fiona, Albert's wife, who spoke up. "Dad, Mom, we have no intention of going back overseas this time. And it's not convenient to live in a hotel.

So we decided it's better to stay here in the house."

Fiona always thought Mike and Joanna favored Aron and she didn't like it. So she could not help but be sarcastic when speaking to them.

"Aron is a lucky boy. He is still so young but he's already bought his own house. Unlike him, our son

Colin has nothing. He has to struggle hard to support himself, " Fiona said, jealousy evident in her tone.

"This house probably costs a lot of money, right?" she said as she continued to needle Mike and

Joanna.

Chapter 355 The Weirdo Relatives

Aron turned to Fiona, holding his temper. "Did you have to sound so cynical talking to my

grandparents? I will say it again: I bought the house myself and they had nothing to do with it." He was

helping Albert's family take their luggage out of the car.

"You bought the house yourself?!" Fiona scoffed. "Well aren't you the boastful one!" Unable to stop herself, she continued further. "You would never have earned so much if your grandparents did not let you run the company! You should think about Colin, and not just make money for yourself."

Aron resigned himself to his aunt's ranting so he just kept quiet. After taking out the bags, he said, "It's already late. You can stay here if you wish, but tomorrow... You will have to leave. You can't stay here.

Now that you're back, you need to find a house of your own. We don't run a shelter here, " he told Albert's family.

"How can you say such things?!" Colin exclaimed. He grabbed Aron by the collar and growled, "Let me tell you something... I have every right to whatever you are enjoying now. That had better be clear to you."

Still holding the collar of Aron's shirt, he spat, "If not for me, you would not be rich and live a comfortable life! Don't think you're so great just because you have been the company's general manager for several years. Just to warn you, I am going with you to work tomorrow. And sooner or later, I'm going to prove myself better than you!"

Aron smirked at Colin. "Anytime, my cousin." He brushed off Colin's hand and declared, "I'm ready for the challenge. But, you still have to move out tomorrow."

Albert, Fiona, and Colin listened to him in disbelief. "What is wrong with you?" Fiona demanded. "Why should we listen to you and move out?" Waving her arms in exasperation, she said, "We are you uncle and aunt, your elders. What gives you the right to kick us out?"

"The house is under my name and that gives me the right." There was a steely edge to Aron's voice, even as he held his temper.

He could not remember how many times he chose to swallow the insults and humiliating words from these people because he refused to embarrass his grandparents. But enough was enough.

"Did you hear what your nephew said, Albert?" Fiona fumed. "How dare he speak to me in this manner! Are you not going to do anything... teach him a lesson?"

Voice raised, Albert berated Aron. "You ungrateful bastard! How could you talk to your aunt like that?"

The man grabbed a broom resting by the door, slightly raised it as if to hit Aron while saying, "If I had known you would turn out to be an ungrateful bastard, I would never have taken pity on you, and

brought you home to raise you!"

Blood rushing to his ears, Aron snatched the broom from Albert and stared at him with eyes so fierce

his uncle shuddered in fear. "If you don't want to drag your suitcase to a hotel in the middle of the night,

you better behave yourself, " he said in a low voice, every word given emphasis. Taking a deep breath,

Aron continued, "You never raised me a day in your life, so don't act like you sacrificed anything for me.

As for my grandparents, I care about them with all my heart. But you? You're nothing but just relatives

to me!" Albert had never seen such look on Aron's face and it unnerved him a little.

Fiona, too, backed down a bit and began whispering to Albert how Aron may soon be robbing their son

of his share of the family fortune. She also reminded her husband about the considerable dowry

presented by Aron's mother when they got married, and the young man was now staking his claim on

the family's riches.

And this was the reason why Albert never regarded Aron as his nephew... or as a family. Rather, he

thought of him as an enemy.

Growing up, Aron was always polite in front of Albert, which led his uncle to believe it was easy to fool

and bully him. But Aron was anything but a fool or a weakling. How could he be when he had been

hustling in the business world for many years? In business circles, he was well-known as an action man.

Because of this confrontation, Albert now regretted more than ever his decision to allow Aron to be part of their family.

Much of his misfortune, however, was because he had a useless son. Colin may have been born to wealth, but all he was good at was eating, drinking and gambling. And he knew next to nothing about running the company, which became an advantage for Aron.

"Wait, what do you mean?" Fiona asked her nephew. "Why can your grandparents live here but we can't?"

Albert's family always lived extravagantly, spending freely and never saving up for the future. They lived on company dividends but also relied on his parents for additional finances. Their primary reason for coming back was because of fear that Aron would take over the entire company and they would be cut off from any gains.

Still, Albert believed that his parents would never abandon him because he was their son.

And since they could not afford to buy a house, and would need to save what little they had, the best option was to live in Aron's house.

Aron, however, stood his ground. "They can live here because they raised me. You didn't, " he answered Fiona. Turning to his grandparents, Aron gently said, "Grandma, grandpa, it's very late. You really need to go to sleep. I will take care of this."

Mike and Joanna looked at each other helplessly. While they were not in favor of Albert's family staying in Aron's house, they did not know how to help them.

"Aron, how about..." Mike started to speak.

But Aron quickly cut him off. "Don't even think about it." He knew the two elders would be sympathetic to Albert's family, but he had to put his foot down. "I will never let them move in, " Aron said with finality.

Colin decided to get in the act. "Grandpa, grandma..." Mike and Joanna usually doted on Colin as he was good at giving sweet talk. And he took advantage of this, coming closer to the two, pleading, "We just got back. Where do you want us to stay?" Throwing a glance at Aron, he declared, "This is your house. If you say so, he cannot refuse to let us stay."

But the two simply shook their head in embarrassment, with Mike admitting, "It's Aron's house. And it is his decision. We can't do anything about it."

Realizing that Colin was useless in bargaining, Fiona stepped in and offered, "We could move out."

She paused, then went on, "But we have a condition."

Mike and Joanna heaved a sigh of relief. "What condition?" As long as they could negotiate, everything would turn out well, or so they thought.

"We're new here and don't know anyone. If you want us to move out, you must find a house for us.

That's quite simple, right?" Fiona said. Sneering, she added, "Since Aron has a house here, it's only right that Colin has one, too."

Fiona continued, "The house would be under Colin's name, and you will buy it for your grandson.

You're not going to say no, will you?"

Aron had run out of patience. His uncle's family did not seem to understand the financial situation of his grandparents. Controlling himself to keep from screaming, he explained, "Grandpa and grandma have been retired for many years. Instead of you giving them money, you did everything to take money from them. Have you no shame, depriving old people of resources?"

Colin went from stunned to angry. "What did you just say?! What?! Why should I be ashamed to ask them to buy a house for me, when they did exactly that for you?" he exclaimed, facing his cousin.

Chapter 356 Down Payment Only

Exasperated, Aron said, "I already told you I bought the house myself!"

He couldn't believe how difficult it was to talk to Albert's family. It was as if the people he was talking to were crazy.

Fiona kept needling him. "Who knows?"

Word of mouth is never a guarantee." Her next words left Mike and Joanna with no alternative. "Father,

Mother, we want to make this easy for you. You either allow us to live here, in this house or... you buy

a house for us. Those are your only choices." Looking at the couple with a glint in her eye, she added,

"The decision is yours."

Before either one could reply, Fiona quickly ordered Colin, "Take your luggage upstairs and choose a room."

He said okay and proceeded to follow his mother's order, lugging his heavy bags up the stairs. Seeing their family quarrel always upset Mike and Joanna. How they wished everyone would just get along

with one another! But since that was not likely to happen, they knew the only solution to prevent fights was to buy a house for Albert and Fiona.

Before Mike or Joanna could speak, Aron raised his hand and said, "Okay, I want to make a proposition..."

He glanced at his grandparents before turning to his uncle and aunt. "You can go buy a house you like.

And I will take care of the down payment. However, the rest of the payment will be your responsibility."

Aron didn't want to put Mike and Joanna in a difficult position, so he made a compromise. 'If a house must be bought, so be it. But I will not allow my grandparents to pay for it!

Contrary to what they may be thinking, my grandparents do not have a lot of money.' "Down payment?"

Albert blurted out. "You have got to be kidding!"

His face turned pale just thinking about owing money. A life in debt was something he would not be able to endure.

Fiona, however, decided to play it smart. "Okay."

She patted Albert's arm to assure him. "Aron wants to buy a house for us to show respect. We had better accept his kindness." To her nephew, she said, "We will look for a house tomorrow."

"All right, " Aron nodded to acknowledge her. He hoped things were settled and there would soon be peace.

Albert, Fiona, and Colin headed upstairs. Colin wanted to stay in Aron's bedroom, so he asked his cousin, "Could you let me sleep in your room? Anyway, it is just for one night."

Fiona further pushed and said, "Be considerate with your family. We are your guests after all."

Her statement made Aron snap. "Guests, are you?

So now you realize you are just guests, " he said with disdain.

"You've been living abroad for too long. Have you never heard of the saying that guests should never impose on the host?"

Aron held his temper in check but stressed every word. "I'm warning you. If you do not want to be thrown out of this house, you had better take your things out of my bedroom."

Sensing Aron was serious, Fiona blurted, "Oh, just forget it!"

She pulled at Colin and said, "There is no need to quarrel with him. Besides, we will have our own house by tomorrow."

Colin was annoyed and grudgingly took his luggage out of Aron's room, then moved his stuff to a smaller bedroom.

When they were in bed getting ready to sleep, Albert complained to his wife. "Why did you stop me from arguing with Aron about him paying for just the down payment of our house?" Still bristling, he declared, "I cannot accept living like a destitute. He should pay that in full!"

Fiona patted her husband. "There's no need to worry."

She shared her plan. "Tomorrow, we will ask your parents to go check out houses with us. Do you actually think they will refuse to pay for the house if Aron was not around to interfere?" Fiona said. She was confident they would not even have to wrangle over cost, knowing how soft-hearted Albert's parents were. She thought, 'If we beg them, they will easily be persuaded.'

After careful consideration, Albert smiled a little. "You're right. They will definitely pay for the house."

He realized that Fiona's plan made sense. Although his parents tended to favor Aron, they could not turn down their own son.

'Whatever I want, they will get for me, ' he thought smugly.

Albert rubbed Fiona's shoulder and was satisfied with the plan. "Let's get some sleep. We will be busy

looking at houses tomorrow, "

Fiona said while yawning.

The next morning, Aron was up early as usual. As he headed downstairs, his phone rang. It was Isla

calling. "Aron, how are you?" she asked.

"I called last night but you didn't answer. Was something wrong with you?"

Aron squeezed his eyes shut for a moment then assured Isla, "Nothing's wrong. I'm okay."

He decided to set her mind at ease. "I was busy handling business matters. By the time I finished, it

was very late. So I didn't call you back. I'm sorry. But really, there's nothing to worry about."

Isla accepted the explanation and felt relieved.

Aron let out a silent "whew" when she calmed down.

He was still upset with Albert's family and actually brightened up when he heard Isla's voice. Being

cared for and loved definitely made him feel better. "Wait for me after work. I'll pick you up and we can

have dinner together, " Aron invited.

"Looking forward to that, " Isla said then hung up.

That put Aron in a better mood.

But no sooner had he put the phone down when he heard Colin's disgusting voice. "Was that your girlfriend?"

Colin continued to annoy him. "You two sound really close."

Aron could feel anger bubbling inside him and frowned as his cousin went on. "I heard you broke up with Becky. What a pity! How could you let go of someone so lovely and pretty?"

Colin still could not resist taunting Aron and said, "I'm curious about the kind of woman worth giving up such a beauty for."

He threw Aron an inquiring look.

Aron took a deep breath then seriously declared, "It's none of your business. So stay out of my personal affairs."

Colin shrugged and kept quiet. At the dining room, Fiona had laid out a feast for breakfast that she had prepared. When she heard their footsteps, she called out, "Aron! Colin! Come have breakfast."

Joanna was only too happy to see Fiona's domesticated side. Her daughter-in-law had apparently shaken off the unhappy episode the night before. The elder woman had been wishing to sit down with

her family over a meal and just chat. It had been far too long since there was bustling around the house, and people were happy.

But Aron knew it was all for show. "No, I won't be having breakfast, " he said. 'As the saying goes, there's no free lunch; everyone pays for their own way, ' he muttered under his breath.

"Aron!" Fiona called out sharply. She went around the table and pulled her nephew so he could look at her. "Aron, I know you don't like me. But we're still family. And since breakfast is ready, why don't you do me a favor and have some with us. However much you take, I will be grateful."

"Yes, Aron, " Joanna tried to persuade her grandson. "Your aunt has been cooking breakfast since 4:00 am. Don't refuse her kindness, " she implored.

Joanna motioned Aron to a chair and said smiling, "Look, your aunt has made your favorite small wontons."

After several seconds, he pulled a chair and sat down. He would take the opportunity to figure out Fiona's motive.

She wasted no time. "Aron, there's something I want to tell you."

He looked at his aunt, thinking, 'Here it comes...' Even before he could enjoy the wonton, Fiona said,

"Last night, you agreed..."

She paused, tried to be polite, and continued, "If you insist on keeping your promise about the house,

we are going out to look for one today."

As unpleasant as he felt, he answered gruffly, "Don't worry, I will keep my word about giving the down

payment for the house." novelbin

He was willing to spend money if it meant Albert and his family would leave as soon as possible.

"It's a deal!" Fiona said happily.

She was quick to add, "By the way, why don't you take Colin to work with you today? Then see that he

learns about the company. After all, he will one day take over running it, too. Managing the company

alone all the time is just impossible, right?"

Feeling more confident now, she declared, "Colin doesn't have to accompany us. Father and Mother

will come with us instead to look at houses."

Chapter 357 Buy A House

'Aron has been taking over the company. It is obvious that Fiona came back to take the company away

from him, ' Joanna thought with a frown.

Aron brought Colin to the company without a word. After introducing him to the board members, he left

Colin alone and went straight to his office.

Colin got acquainted with the female employees, who scrambled to butter him up after knowing who he

was. Soon, he started to flirt with them, making Aron displeased with his frivolous behavior. He thought

Colin would leave in a couple of days once he got bored.

Meanwhile, Autumn had just arrived at the company. The moment she sat on her chair in her office,

Isla came in and asked, "Do you have some time now? I have something to tell you."

"Please sit down, " Autumn replied.

"What is it?"

"What happened?" she asked Isla who took a seat opposite her.

"Is there anything wrong with the activity for Giant Promise Company?" Autumn asked in a concerned

tone, thinking that Isla came to talk about work.

Isla gave her a serious look. "I didn't come here for work, " she replied.

"Autumn, do you remember Roger?" she asked, raising her eyebrows.

"Yeah. I do, " Autumn scowled.

"What's up?" she asked, not knowing why Isla would mention Roger.

"Why are you mentioning him suddenly?" she continued.

"I saw him at your birthday party yesterday, " Isla replied with a confused look.

She didn't understand why Roger would go there. novelbin

"I met him too, " Autumn said.

"He came and talked to me. But I don't know what he wants, " Autumn went on.

'Why does he keep harassing me?' she wondered, finding Roger rather irksome.

Isla hesitated for a few moments before finally answering.

"I think I know why."

Isla came to see Autumn for this. Although she couldn't tell exactly what were Roger's intentions, she

had found some clues.

"What is it?"

Autumn asked, looking at Isla in confusion.

"I saw him with Rachel, " Isla replied.

Autumn finally understood why Roger kept pestering her. 'I think it was Rachel's instruction.

But why would she do this?' she was lost in thought.

"I think they're lovers, "

Isla concluded as she stared at Autumn.

"What are you thinking about?"

She asked Autumn who was frowning absentmindedly.

"Nothing, " Autumn replied as she shook her head. "Thank you for telling me this."

After finding out about his relationship with Rachel, Autumn decided to keep an eye on Roger.

'Whatever game Rachel is playing, I won't let her get what she wants, ' she told herself.

"I don't know what Rachel is thinking. She's already married with Edward. Why is she so hell bent on

destroying your relationship with Charles?" Isla complained.

'Rachel can date any rich and excellent young man she wants. Why would she choose Edward?' Isla

thought.

Autumn sneered, "Who knows? Maybe she's doing everything to break me and Charles apart because

she hates to lose."

"Anyway, keep an eye on Roger. We don't know Rachel's up to, " Isla reminded her. "I'm going back to work, then."

Aron was waiting in his car outside the Cloud Advertising Company by the time Isla got off from work.

She went straight to Aron's car, not noticing that they were being followed.

"What do you want to eat?"

Aron asked Isla with a bright smile.

Despite being in a bad mood, he chose not to show it to her.

"How about we try the new restaurant along Quanfu Road?" Isla suggested after a long pause.

"Sure, " Aron agreed.

Aron parked his car before entering the western restaurant with Isla. Meanwhile, a man got out of the taxi behind them, following them inside the restaurant.

Isla started giving their orders. "I'd like a filet mignon, medium-well with white pepper sauce. Aron, what about you?" she asked, turning to him.

"I'll have the same, " he told her without looking at the menu.

"Well, two filet mignons and, " Isla paused to search the menu for some snacks.

Someone went behind her and said, "Make that three filet mignons, fruit salad, and pasta. Thank you!"

Isla lifted her head to look at the man standing before her in confusion. But before she could open her

mouth, Aron was already on his feet. "What are you doing here?" he asked the man.

"Is she your girlfriend?" Colin asked.

Fiona asked him to stay close to Aron. He assumed that Aron was going to pick up his girlfriend as he

watched Aron leave the company without calling him. He was curious about the woman Aron was

dating, so Colin followed him behind privately.

"How did you know that I am here?" Aron asked coldly, ignoring Colin's question.

Colin turned to introduce himself to Isla, "Hello, I'm Colin. Aron's cousin."

"Hi, "

Isla nodded to him as she rose to stand.

Aron talked about his cousin occasionally, so she was a little familiar with him. She knew Colin was the

son of Aron's uncle, with whom he had a bad relationship.

"I finally know why Aron didn't come home. He's hanging out with his girlfriend instead, who turns out to

be such a sweet girl, " Colin praised.

"Don't just stand there. Sit down, " he urged Aron.

"Colin, if you don't get out of my sight at this moment, I will kick you out of my house today, " Aron

threatened, glaring at Colin with displeasure.

"Don't bother. I will move out even if you don't kick me off, " Colin sniffed.

"Didn't you know? My mother just told me that she bought that house. She said it would be mine once I

sign the contract tomorrow.

Our grandparents paid for the rest of the down payment you made for me. My mother wanted us to

check into a hotel instead of making you uncomfortable."

Having guessed that his grandparents would pay for that house, Aron was just a little surprised upon

hearing Colin's words.

Chapter 358 Divorce

Despite knowing the result, Aaron still felt the pinch of discomfort. Though the two elderly were quite

old, they still had to worry about the family of their son. However, the selfish and self-absorbed Colin

and his parents did not bother to even thank them let alone expressing gratitude. Instead, they took the elders' money for granted, which made Aron quite distressed.

"Is this true? Then I guess congratulations are in order, " Aron said rather sarcastically. "Why don't you come back and pack your things, since such a fortunate thing has happened with you?"

"Why should I be in a rush?" Colin smiled maliciously. "My mom will help me to deal with that as well.

Hunger breeds discontentment. I'm hungry now and I have to eat something."

Colin then looked at Isla, and asked, "What's your name, beauty?"

Without responding to his question, Isla just stared quietly at Colin.

Isla remained silent for every question Colin asked her next. Then she blatantly ignored his imposing

presence and happily chatted with Aron. Even though Colin wanted to say something, no one paid any

attention towards him, which was driving him crazy.

"Hey! I'm talking to the both of you. Have you suddenly lost your ability to speak and hear?" Colin could

not bear being neglected, so to make them aware of his presence he furiously shouted at them.

Isla still pretended not hearing his roar and continued talking to Aron, "This restaurant is actually pretty

good. We can come here again soon."

"Sure." Aron felt content and happy upon noticing the building anger and anxiety on Colin's face.

Aron wiped the corners of his mouth with a paper napkin, and then asked Isla, "Are you full? If you have finished your meal, then let's leave."

"That sounds good." Isla nodded as she stood up and walked right to the corridor. However, Aron remained seated near the window as he could not come out without passing Colin. "Excuse me, " Aron said to him in a cold and harsh tone.

Finally, Colin got a chance to vent his frustration. He smugly said, "Huh? Weren't you pretend to be blind? Why would you ask me for permission to leave? This seems impossible."

"Mr. Chen?" Isla gave Colin a cold and blank stare. "Everyone should have a clear estimation of himself. As for you, can't you see that you are not welcomed here?"

"What an eloquent woman you are! No wonder Becky lost Aron to you, " Colin said scornfully. "I'm afraid you don't even know who Becky is. Let me tell you. She's Aron's ex-girlfriend. They almost got married. Oh, how could I forget that Becky once had Aron's baby? She also helped him take care of his grandparents for four years while they lived abroad. How brutal Aron is that he got rid of such a

wonderful girl!"

Colin then mocked her, "Don't hang onto Aron and heap hope on dreams of your future. He might flirt with you and even make you feel special. But he is just playing with you, just like he played with Becky."

After he finished speaking, Isla did not react, as she knew very clearly as to what had happened between Becky and Aron.

Upon seeing Isla's emotionless face, Colin was very unhappy. In an attempt to get some reaction, he casually added, "If he leaves you, feel free to come to me. There is an advantage when it comes to being with me, I appreciate and respect girls.

I might have some interest in you."

"I dare you to repeat what you fucking said right now!" Aron tightly pinched his neck, and then warned him fiercely, "Colin, if you ever say that again I swear I will tear you apart and no one will be able to save you!"

"Don't do anything. Just leave him here, he is a miserable man." Isla rushed to Aron and grasped his arms in a bid to stop him in his tracks. When Colin was gasping for breath, Aron left him. Isla cursed

Colin, "Please calm your enthusiasm, Mr Chen. Even if all men in the world die, you will never even be a choice for me. I sincerely wish all the girls you meet in the future see you for the hollow bastard that you are! Thank you for your unsolicited advice."

"Also, here's another thing." Before she left with Aron, Isla turned to look at Colin as she added, "I have something to tell you. I actually know his ex-girlfriend, she's my cousin. She's a cunning and an insidious woman while you are glib, rude and vile. You two are a perfect match for each other. If you are interested in her, I am sure I can introduce you to her."

After saying these words in a confident tone, Isla held Aron's hand and left, holding her head high.

Both of them did not go home after this debacle. Isla and Aron decided to take a stroll in the picturesque park nearby. Many people gathered around the fountain which was in the middle of the park. Isla then took a seat next to Aron on a bench and asked him with concern, "Are you OK?"

"I'm just fine." Aron forced a smile as he said bitterly, "You have seen all of this. I do not lead a happy and cheerful life as you may think."

Isla felt sorry for him in that moment, "That's okay... I will stay with you forever."

She didn't say anything further, but stayed with Aron as they shared silence, waiting for him to calm down. After a long while, Aron stood up and said to her, "Let's go. I'll take you home."

While taking Isla home, Aron received a call from Simon. His mobile phone was, by default, connected to the Bluetooth speaker inside the car, so Isla could clearly hear what Simon said to him.

"Is something wrong?" Aron quickly replied to Simon, "If you have nothing important to say now, please hung up."

"Please wait." Simon stopped Aron almost immediately out of impulse, "I...

Aron... If I say, I will divorce Wendy, then will you come back?" It took Simon a lot of courage to say that out loud.

After hearing that, Isla looked at Aron out of reflex, as she waited for him to answer. However, he remained silent for a long while. Simon then asked him again, "Aron, are you still there?"

Aron then opened his mouth to speak almost like he was unaffected. He replied in cold tone, as if Simon said nothing of significance, "Come back? Back where?"

"Back home..." Simon said in a helpless tone, "I know you hate me. But I am trying to make amends here. Now I have tried to clear out the mess as I too feel regret and guilty for all that I have done. I

shouldn't have left your mom and married again. Aron, could you please find it in your heart to forgive me?"

"I think it's better if you ask my mom for forgiveness. Why are you asking me?" Aron said that in a harsh tone. He was indifferent towards Simon. How could he come back after all these years?

"You... are so full of hate towards me?" Simon's tone soon turned sour, as if he was desperate to get some answer. He never imagined not once that he would have impacted Aron's life in such a massive manner after so long.

He still could not get himself to forgive Simon.

"Aron, you are the only child I have. If I divorce Wendy, then I'll be all alone by myself. I just hope you can come back and support me. As for the company, cars and houses, you can inherit them all. That bitch will not get a cent from me, not anymore." As Simon spoke about Wendy, there was tense sense of resentment in his voice. It was almost like he bore the grudge against her for a long time.

Chapter 359 We Need A Talk

At this point, one thing was certain and it was that Simon would divorce Wendy now that the vile event which occurred twenty years ago had been disclosed to the public. Wendy's true colors were finally

exposed.

"After all these years, you finally remembered that I am your son? Wow, this is unbelievable, " Aron

said sarcastically. People often recalled their beautiful memories as they got older, just as Simon was

right now. However, Aron was no where near appreciating this sudden kindness. "The year Wendy

kicked me out of the house, it was you who helped her. Have you forgotten that day? But I have not.

Why did you not treat me like your son then? It is too late for you to repent now. The harm you caused

then is simply irreversible just like time itself, " Aron said in a cold and resolute tone.

"I..." Simon was now unable to utter a single word as Aron's harsh words reminded him of the cold

reality. The damage was irreparable. He felt ashamed yet guilty as he recalled how he treated Aron in

the past. Simon drove Aron out of the house as Wendy's statement was enough to convince him. He

did not even try to figure out the truth. Simon also hoped that Aron would not disturb his new life with

Wendy but at that time Aron was just a walking and talking reminder of his dead wife, Aron's mother.

So it was easy for Simon to turn a blind eye towards Aron as Wendy made a fuss over nothing.

Simon thought that he was still young and someday he could have another son with Wendy.

However, even after being married to Wendy for several years, they only had a daughter.

Now that he was getting elder, and was seeing Wendy's dark side, he remembered and missed his son.

"Aron, it is all my fault. I am so sorry. I truly regret what I did to you in the past and no words could ever be enough to express the guilt I feel, " Simon said as he sighed. He paused for a moment to compose himself before going on, "Aron, I know you must hate me for the way I treated you. But I am determined to get a divorce with Wendy. Could you please forgive me? I will wait for you to visit me at home after you think this through with a calm mind."

Simon ended the call soon after he finished the sentence while Aron remained silent on the entire ride to Isla's house. After she got out of the car, Isla came around and knocked on his side of the car as

Aron rolled down the window. "Aron, I know you still care about your father and I also understand why you just can't forgive him that in such a short span. But Aron, look at it this way, he is your father who is getting older and you don't have many days left with him. Now that he is trying to make amends, don't concentrate on what he did in the past, do away with the hate and try to get to know him. If you want I will come with you when you do decide to meet him."

"Okay. Please don't worry about me. I will be just fine." Aron then smiled as he continued, "It is quite chilly outside. Rush back inside. I will see you tomorrow, love."

Meanwhile, after disconnecting the call, Simon slouched down on the sofa as he recalled the things that happened twenty years ago. He got very furious just at the thought of it. He would have definitely not done those horrible things to Aron if it weren't for Wendy who wedged a bone between them.

"Simon, I want to have a talk with you, " said Wendy, who walked over suddenly almost surprising him.

Wendy and Yvonne did not go out since they came from Autumn's birthday party. Wendy had had a quarrel with Simon last night. Simon didn't sleep with her after the argument and instead on sleeping alone in his sanctum.

A day had passed, but the news cycle did not stop making rounds. Most people began to vituperate

Wendy and even the newspaper were full of negative articles about her, which not only fed the public's anger, but also got Wendy frustrated. She forced herself to calm down and decided to talk to Simon.

She knew the most important thing to do was to regain Simon's trust.

"Okay, I also have something that I need to discuss with you, " Simon replied in a calm yet indifferent tone. He now realized that he had no other emotions towards Wendy except hatred almost like they

had no relation.

As she stared at Simon's cold expression, she had a gut feeling that things were going to get worse.

Despite having such a strong feeling welling up in her heart, she still tried her best to remain calm, and

look at Simon peacefully. "Well, why don't we start with what you have to say?" Wendy said.

Instead of going ahead with what he had to say, Simon poured himself a glass of tea and said, "No, you go first."

He was eager to see what tricks Wendy was going to play this time.

"I..." Wendy choked on her tears as she found it hard to speak. Wendy stammered as she tried again

but failed. With her head lowered slightly, her tears started to trickle down her cheeks all of a sudden

which shocked Simon. He suddenly was reminded of all the times in the past when he was misled and

manipulated by her tears.

In the past, he couldn't bear the sight of her crying so miserably, so he would promise her anything as

long as she would stop crying. But things were completely different now, he saw through her

manipulative attempts. No matter how hard she cried, he maintained an indifferent attitude. In fact,

Simon was determined not to show any mercy on her, so he just quietly looked at her in amusement.

Wendy cried for a quite long while but Simon just would not console her. She then realized that he was completely annoyed this time, so she had to come up with some alternative plan to make him stay.

Slowly, she looked up at him, as her eyes glistened with tears. "Simon, you must be very angry now?

I know that I have really pushed things very far this time, so I can understand what you must be feeling,

" said Wendy in a guilty tone. "I was just very angry with Autumn. After all she is my daughter but even

then she stole Yvonne's husband. And now after all that we have done for her, she tried to break all

relations with me, " Wendy said as she continued to sob. "I am so sorry. I know I was wrong. Please

forgive me. I will never act in such a manner ever again. I promise I will take care of my behavior."

At the thought of Yvonne, Simon furrowed his eyebrows. Yvonne was brought up by Wendy all these

years as Simon was busy with work. However, it was too late to intervene when he found out that his

only daughter had turned out just like her mother who was selfish and capricious. She was entitled and

would go to any length to get what she wanted. So Simon also felt disappointed for Yvonne. He felt like

she had let him down.

"Simon..." Wendy moved closer to Simon as she realized that he remained silent through her

monologue and was not moved by her words. "We have been married for so many years and I am sure you know my temperament very well. I love you and I care about our family so much. I admit I made a mistake this time and took things very far. But do you think this is such a big sin? Please forgive me the last time. I will never act like this not even in my wildest dreams, " she said in a shaky voice.

She reached out her hands, and tried to hold his. However, Simon just shook off her hands and said in a harsh tone, " Don't toy with me."

Wendy was hurt and offended by his sudden cold behavior. After a long time, she again addressed Simon, "I know you are mad at me now. But I just wanted to get even with Autumn. I really didn't expect Aron to be there. He even helped Autumn speak up to me like that. How could I not get angry? Simon, you must understand that it takes two to tango. You cannot just blame me and hold me accountable for the debacle, " Wendy said with a pitiful look.

"You just said that you went to get even with Autumn? Are you serious or is this just a joke?" After saying this, Simon let out a sneer.

"Of course I am serious. She is my daughter who I raised and took care of. What made me so furious

was that I told her to get married to Charles temporarily. However, once they got married she was unwilling to leave him. Shouldn't I teach her a lesson for her shameless behavior?" Just recalling all of this, Wendy got more irritated. "If it weren't for Autumn, things would not have gotten so bad."

"That's enough! Don't always try to blame others, " Simon interrupted her impatiently. "Autumn lived with our family for no more than a month. Do you really need me to remind you how you always treated her earlier?"

Wendy soon turned red out of embarrassment as she heard Simon speak out. He was right. Wendy never cared about Autumn and always ill-treated her. She would ask Autumn to do all the cleaning at home even though she was just a young kid. Moreover, Wendy also turned a deaf ear to Autumn every time Yvonne bullied her.

It was not Wendy who brought up Autumn. In fact it was the other way around, and it was Autumn who always took care of Wendy, Gu family and their lives.

But now Wendy tried to take credit as she said it was her who raised Autumn up. What a shameless and vicious woman! It was ridiculous for her to say something like this after all that girl went through on her account.

"So what?" After catching a glimpse of Simon, Wendy went on to add, "I am her biological mother at the end of the day. I gave her life and brought her into this world, so she had an obligation to support and obey me. Why would she even consider breaking ties with me?"

Chapter 360 Hideous Wendy

"If I were her, I would not acknowledge your existence and would break all ties, " Simon said as he defended Autumn. All this while, Yvonne was hiding in a corner of the stairs. The moment she heard Simon speaking for Autumn, she couldn't control her anger and dashed towards Simon in an angry stride. "Dad, how could you speak in an outsider's favor especially after how she treated mom? Do you forget that I am your real daughter? Autumn is just a shameless bitch. She seduced the man I was to marry and now she is trying to disown us. There is nothing good associated with her, " she exclaimed.

"Yvonne, why did you come downstairs unannounced?" Wendy asked as she yelled at Yvonne. "I am speaking to your father. You shouldn't come like this between our private conversation, " she berated.

"Mom, I am not a child anymore, " Yvonne snapped back. "If not for that ungrateful wretch, I would have married Charles and would have had my own child."

"Enough with you!" Simon shouted at both of them in anger. Simon was annoyed by their unrealistic

expectations. "Just take a look at yourself. Do you really think that Charles would ever hit on you in a right frame of mind?" he berated Yvonne.

"Simon, what do you mean by that?" Wendy replied in shock and anger as to how he could say something like that to his very own daughter. 'Yvonne is not only my sweet little girl, but also his daughter. How could he belittle her like this without considering her feelings?' Wendy thought to herself in disbelief.

"Did I say something wrong?" Simon asked sarcastically. "I arranged your wedding with a good boy and family, but you ran away with a cheap man instead. Later, you came back alone and pregnant. Once you saw how handsome and wealthy Charles was, you started regretting your impulsive decision and tried all means to seduce him even though your sister married him. If I were Charles, I would have already taught you a lesson instead of letting you go time and again."

"Dad..." Yvonne called out as she looked at Simon in disbelief. She had never expected to hear such harsh and hurtful words from her father. "I'm your daughter. How could you insult me like this?"

Wendy started to feel queasy and anxious as she heard Simon go on...

"I shouldn't have showered you with so much affection and played along in your little sham. If I would

have been a proper father then maybe you would not have become such an overbearing and unreasonable girl. Now it is too late, so from now on I won't interfere in your matters. Take care of yourself, " Simon glanced at Yvonne with dissatisfaction. He did not care about what she thought, not anymore at least.

"What... what are you trying to say?" Wendy nervously asked him as her heart starting beating much faster. "She is your daughter. Who will teach and guide her if not you?"

"She has you, she always has, " Simon snapped at Wendy. "When are you free? We can go to the Bureau of Civil Affairs and finish the procedures."

"Are you going to divorce me?" Wendy asked, dumbfounded as she did not see this coming. She almost broke down as she collapsed onto the floor out of shock. It had never occurred to her that Simon would really grow the spine to divorce her.

"Yes, I have every intention to divorce you, " Simon said adamantly. "Wendy, I have grown more and more tired of you over these years. I don't want to live such a harrowing life. I am sure about my decision to get a divorce."

"No, but I don't want a divorce, " Wendy retorted hysterically. In the past, she would have taken the money and agreed to divorce without hesitating for a second. But now she was old and that changed everything. The idea of losing everything after divorce petrified her. It was now impossible for her to marry another rich man as she was way past her charming youth.

After all she too was tired and all she yearned was to have a stable and comfortable life.

"Simon, I don't want to get a divorce. If you think that I have any shortcoming, please just let me know and I will change. Let us sort it out, we can't just end our long standing relationship like this. Please don't abandon me, " she said in an imploring tone, as she tugged on Simon's clothes tightly.

"I will do anything as long as I can convince you to change your mind, " she begged, gripping Simon's hand.

"It is too late to reconcile, " Simon said coldly, as he shook off her firm grip. "I gave you many chances, more than you deserved. Wendy, we're over now and it is all because of you!"

"Simon, you have resolved to get divorced from me because of Aron, haven't you?" Wendy asked in an authoritative tone. "You saw Aron return from abroad, so now you are in a hurry to get a divorce. You intend to let Aron take over the company, hmm?"

"Does any of this really concern you?" Simon asked with a stern look. "The company is mine. I can give it to anyone I please. It is none of your business."

"Simon, I served by your side as a loyal partner for so many years, but you have decided to desert me in times of need because of your son. You're so inconsiderate and cruel to me, " Wendy whined, as she broke into tears.

"Stop blabbering. The reason why I am divorcing you has nothing to do with others. Have you ever paused to think that something may be wrong with you?" Simon snorted. "That is it. I will meet you at the Bureau of Civil Affairs tomorrow. If you don't come, I won't spare you."

"Dad! Dad!" Yvonne yelled out in disbelief as she grabbed Simon's arm in a hurry. "This is all my fault. Please don't divorce mother. I will change, I promise to be a good person and will obey all you ask of me. I won't do anything that displeases you. Please!" she apologized sincerely in a bid to save her parents' shattering marriage.

"Let me go!" Simon yelled at her as he yanked his hand. Once he had made up his mind, no one could change it. His annoyance increased by manifolds just by hearing Yvonne's voice. He was resolute and

no matter what happened, the divorce was final.

"Once we get divorced, I will have nothing to do with you. Just live with your mother, " Simon said to

Yvonne in a stern voice.

"Simon!" Wendy again grabbed his arm in an attempt to hold Simon back as he was about to leave.

"There is no way I can agree for our divorce, " she continued.

"Wendy, you disgust me, " Simon responded in anger, as he had finally lost his patience. "Can't we just

get a divorce peacefully? You know this is not working. As for the death of Aron's mother... do you

really want me to explain it to you?"

"What do you mean?" Wendy was petrified. Her anxiety crippled her mind. She was unable to breathe.

"The day has eyes, the night has ears. I will not tell anyone about what you did for now. But trust me

when I say, if you don't show up in the Bureau of Civil Affairs tomorrow, I can't promise you that the

police won't learn about it, " Simon threatened her.

Simon walked out of the house without looking back once, leaving panic-stricken Wendy behind. "Mom,

what shall we do now? If dad really divorces you, how will we sustain our life?" Yvonne asked

anxiously, as she looked at Wendy sprawled on the floor.

Wendy was not even thinking about the divorce anymore. 'I didn't even tell Yvonne about this matter.

How did Simon find out?' Her mind was brimming with doubts as she was about to have an anxiety attack.

"No, it is simply impossible. He cannot know it, " Wendy murmured to herself in assurance. "He was just trying to scare me, " she continued, shaking her head in disbelief.

"Mom, mom, are you alright?" Yvonne asked Wendy with a frown, "What shall we do now? Just say something... You are starting to scare me!"

"Now that he's so mean to me, he can't blame me for what I about to do with him. As long as he is alive, he has no choice but to be my husband. He can't think of divorcing me, but if... he is dead, "

Wendy muttered, as she let out an evil laugh, a hint of resolve flashing through her eyes.

"Mom... What did you mean by that?" Terrified by Wendy's plan, she stammered, "What... what are you planning to do?"