

Wedded Bride 461

Chapter 461 Madeline Zhou

"Please don't ask me why," Leila said as she turned her head away to avoid confronting him. "We're not meant for each other, Burke. Since we got together, I have never truly felt happy. Today... I was planning to tell you that I wanted to break up with you, but I didn't expect things to take such a turn..."

With a guilty smile, she continued, "I really appreciate what you have done and all that you said to me today. But if I force myself to accept you and get married to you, I am sure both of us won't be happy.

And I don't want that for either of us. We both deserve happiness, love and a bright future. We should stop seeing each other, Burke."

"Now that you tell me you don't like me, why did you agree to date me in the first place?" Burke asked as his anger began to build up. With a heart-broken expression, he stared at Leila while saying, "If you refused me at first, I wouldn't have gone so ahead to propose, let alone expecting anything from you."

A hint of embarrassment flashed across Leila's face. If Ferry hadn't urged her to find a fake boyfriend, she would have never agreed to see Burke and lead him on the way she did.

"I'm sorry," Leila apologized sincerely again. She didn't know what else to say except that, her heart ridden with guilt for treating Burke the way she did. He was like a pawn in her plan.

Burke looked at Leila thoughtfully. 'She still looks like what she did ten years ago, but I feel that she has turned into someone else. Is she really the same girl I fell in love with almost ten years ago? It seems not...'

He had finally picked up the courage to make this grand gesture of proposing her in such a romantic manner.

Initially when he told his family his intention to marry Leila, no one took his side. But finally after much persuasion they gave him their consent. They agreed to let him marry Leila as long as he proposed successfully.

But much to his surprise and dismay, he had failed miserably.

Leila shook off Burke's hand and softly said, "I'm really sorry with all my heart, Burke. I strongly believe that you will meet a better girl. But you and I are impossible. I give you my sincere blessing for your future, the girl who marries you will be lucky and blessed."

After remaining silent for quite a while, Burke finally blurted out in anger, "That's enough of this charade!

You can leave now. From today on, I won't dote on you."

He had loved her with all his heart had to offer over the past decade. Today, he finally decided to put an end to his unrequited love and move on. He had made up his mind to go on several blind dates and also would see suitable girls his family would arrange for him.

This time he was resolute in his pursuit to get over Leila and move ahead in life.

Burke said to Leila coldly, "I will not drop you home. Please fend for yourself and have a safe journey."

Leila felt upset as she noticed the immediate change in Burke's attitude toward her. She moved forward, held Burke's hand and said to him optimistically, "Even we can't be a couple, but at least we are still classmates, and can be friends. We can still meet each other, can't we?"

"I think there is no need for that anymore," Burke declined her offer almost immediately. As he took a glance at Leila, he went on, "I liked you for so many years. Now that time is gone and I cannot recover it. So I don't want to waste anymore of my time or energy on you. From now on, I think it's better for us not to keep in touch at all."

He feared that if he continued to meet her and have her around as a friend, he would never be able to move forward.

Even though she had no feelings for Burke, Leila still enjoyed being the center of his universe where she was showered with love, attention and care.

"Can't we be friends? It's the least I ask of you," Leila asked with a pitiful look.

Burke shook his head to indicate his choice. Realizing that he wouldn't change his mind and there was nothing she could do about it, Leila decided to leave. She then tenderly said to him, "Well, I'm leaving now. No matter who you date, I wish you live happily. And one last thing, please do return that diamond ring. I'm sure you must have spent a big sum of money. If you run out of money, please come to me."

As soon as she finished these words, Leila turned around and was heading for the entrance. Noticing that Burke had no intention of stopping her, she went to the lift with a disappointed expression. As the doors opened, she saw a graceful and elegant lady walking out, followed by a well-dressed girl who looked lovely and pretty.

More importantly, the two were evidently dressed in high-end designer clothes. Compared to them, Leila looked like a country girl with no taste.

Overcome with inferiority, she hid her bag behind to avoid being judged for her appearance.

After a brief moment, Leila recognized that the older woman was the owner of this hotel. Although she

was around fifty, she still looked attractive and classy. When Leila was Charles' secretary, she met her once. At that time also, she wondered if she would be as gracious and charming as that lady when she was around that age.

"Hello, Mrs. Zhou," Leila greeted sweetly as she walked over to her. With a flattering smile, she asked respectfully, "I hope you remember me..."

"Excuse me," Madeline Zhou responded with a bewildered look, as glanced at Leila. 'I meet many people every day. It's nearly impossible for me to memorize all of their names.

I only pay attention to important figures. Now that I don't remember her, it clearly means that she is nobody important enough to grab my attention, ' she thought to herself.

Madeline Zhou was a successful and sophisticated business woman. Even though she didn't remember Leila, she still addressed Leila politely with a smile, "Beg your pardon. But I don't remember making your acquaintance."

Her good manner never failed to please every one she met.

Hearing this, Leila didn't feel offended. Knowing that Madeline Zhou, for a fact, met many people daily,

she thought it was normal for her to forget her. She smiled at Madeline. "I was Charles Lu's secretary.

You may not recall but we had dinner together several months ago."

"Oh well, I see," Madeline Zhou smiled back. "I remember you. If I am not wrong your family name is

Zhang. Can you please tell me your full name?"

"I'm Leila Zhang," Leila replied cheerfully. Leila felt glad that Madeline Zhou still remembered her last

name. Now that she ran across her, she intended to impress her by engaging in a small chat.

Madeline Zhou gave a faint smile and asked, "Oh, yeah, you were Mr. Lu's secretary. What are you

doing here this fine day?"

"I came here for dinner and was just about to leave. How about you?" Leila answered cheekily, almost

like she had known Madeline Zhou for a long time.

"I have something to do here. Miss Zhang, could you help me and arrange a meeting with Mr. Lu? I

want to discuss business with him at the earliest," Madeline Zhou responded.

With an embarrassed smile, Leila faltered, "I... I don't work for Mr. Lu anymore. With that said I'm afraid

that I won't be able to help you with this favor."

"Really?" Madeline Zhou responded, after taking a surprised look at Leila. "It's a pity. You are a

competent and dedicated secretary. I noticed that during our last meeting and was quite impressed by your work manners."

Chapter 462 Pay The Bill

Upon hearing this, Leila stood there uneasily with an embarrassed expression. During their last meeting, she was with a man in his fifties. Since he was one of Charles's most important clients, she tried all means to please him and ensured that he signed a contract with Charles. Undoubtedly she let that man take advantage of her.

After ignoring other people seated around the table, she rested herself on that man's lap seductively.

Even though she finally bagged the deal for Charles, others thought her act was uncouth and indecent.

But hearing Madeline mentioning their meeting in a good light, she was certain that she was being mocked.

With a faint smile, Leila returned, "You flatter me. I just did my job obediently."

"Oh, is that so?" Madeline sneered. "Miss Zhang, I have something rather important to deal with. I shall see you later!"

"Sure, please do carry on," Leila responded politely. Leila felt quite disappointed as she reflected upon

their meeting. 'She said those words just out of courtesy. I know she didn't mean it. I don't know if I will ever get to meet her again. After all, she is a successful business woman.'

Madeline turned around and commanded the obedient girl waiting behind her, "Follow me, Pamela."

"Um, Aunt Madeline!" that girl replied meekly, catching a glimpse of Leila unintentionally. Catching the girl looking at her, Leila returned the gaze by looking into her eyes. When she saw her innocent eyes, she was stunned. It had been a long time since she met someone as naive and innocent as her.

Pamela He followed Madeline blindly, and they went straight towards Burke. Watching them going towards Burke, Leila was shocked.

'Do they know Burke?

Burke and Madeline, what's their relationship?' Her mind was flooded with a million questions, answers to which she might never get.

After Leila left him, Burke returned to his seat and began to drink. Once he realized the wine bottle was empty, he waved his hand in the air and shouted at the hotel manger who was standing behind him, "Spencer, bring me another bottle of wine."

The second he heard this, Spencer Ge cast a glance at Madeline. Upon seeing her shake her head

slightly, he didn't respond. As he got no answer, Burke got up wobbling and caught sight of Madeline.

She stood in front of him, looking displeased and disappointed.

"What are you doing here right now?" Burke asked rather coldly.

"I came here for you," Madeline replied in a dissatisfied tone. After looking at Burke and his obvious dejection, she couldn't resist expressing her anger and berated. "Look at yourself. You look like a sore loser who cannot get a grip on his life."

"Just leave me alone," Burke snapped back impatiently, as he waved his hand gesturing her to leave. "I failed, just like you thought I would. Are you happy now?"

"I told you clearly from the very start that it was impossible for you and that woman to be together,"

Madeline pouted. "Didn't you plan your grand proposal to her for tonight? Where is she?" she asked, as she looked around.

She saw no one except Leila who was standing still in shock and disbelief.

She wondered with a frown, 'Is she that woman Burke has loved for over ten years?'

"Miss Zhang," she called out as she walked up to Leila. With a stern look, she asked her

blatantly, "What's the nature of your relationship with Burke?"

"We were classmates," Leila stammered as she looked at Madeline nervously and wondered what her intentions were. She had no idea why Madeline asked this question suddenly.

"So Burke prepared all of this to propose to you, didn't he?" Madeline asked as her face reflected contempt and dismay. If she had known that Burke intended to marry Leila, Madeline would have opposed his decision decisively from the very start and ensured it never happened.

Leila froze and didn't dare to utter a word in response. Burke narrowed his eyes and caught sight of Leila. He shook his head and tried to act sober. Realizing that it was indeed Leila who was still there, he yelled out to her, "Why are you still here? We're over now. Which part of that is hard to understand? Just get out of my sight!"

'My entire family knew that I was going to propose a girl today. I told them that I would do it confidently.

I even asked my mom to come here so that I could introduce my fiancée to her. But my plan has been ruined. How embarrassing! What will I tell all of them now? That I got rejected?' he thought to himself.

Burke nudged Leila to leave as he wanted to protect her from what was about to unfold.

But Leila had no intention of leaving. After noticing that Burke seemed to share a close relationship with Madeline, she tried to use her connection with Burke to flatter and impress Madeline.

She drew closer to Burke, held his arm and help him sit back down on his seat. With a concerned look, she then asked Burke in a soft tone, "Are you okay? Is there something I can do for you?"

"I'm fine, I don't need your fake concern," Burke snapped at her in a cold and harsh tone. He pushed Leila away gently and went on, "Just leave from here. I don't want to see your face."

"Please don't urge me to leave, not when you are in such a bad state," Leila pleaded. With one glance at Burke, she continued acting tenderly, "You're my friend, how can I possibly leave you alone?"

With a sudden thud, Burke laid his head on the table and fell asleep. Leila was speechless, not knowing what to do next. She lifted her head, looked at Madeline in the eyes, and asked almost authoritatively, "May I know why you came here to meet Burke, Mrs. Zhou? As you can see, he is asleep now. And he can't possibly answer your questions. I'm his friend. If you have something to say to him, please let me know and I'll be sure to forward your message to him."

She observed that Burke and Madeline weren't just acquaintances, with that information Leila tried her best to pretend be a sensible girl in front of Madeline who cared about Burke very dearly. For a

moment, she even suspected that Burke was Madeline's son.

Burke had always maintained a low profile in high school, and he found a regular job after graduating from college. Owing to the hushed tones, she naturally assumed that he might be an affluent second generation.

She recalled, 'Each time I asked him about his family, he faltered. Perhaps he was afraid that I might be scared away by his background.'

Madeline observed Leila discreetly, lost into thought. 'I have met several different kind of people through the years since I started my business.

Many girls like Leila aspire only to marry a rich husband to change their fate and fulfill their dreams.

Even though she is trying to hide her greedy disposition, but her eyes betrayed her.

I can see the greed clearly reflecting in her eyes.'

"Now that you tell me you're his friend, I will speak my mind with you," Madeline initiated a conversation. After passing Leila a scornful look, she continued with a sneer, "Mr. Zhou reserved all the tables here. I understand that he is in low spirits because he failed, but after all business is business. I

came here to ask him to pay the bill and clear all the dues.

When Mr. Zhou booked, Spencer offered a 10% discount exclusively to him. But considering that he is your friend, I will give you a 20% discount on the entire bill which is now 8, 80, 000 in total." She then turned to Spencer and demanded, "Give me Mr. Zhou's bill, Spencer."

Chapter 463 Pamela

The moment Madeline finished requesting Leila, Spencer went straight to the cashier compliantly and asked for the bill to be printed. He fetched the bill as quickly as he could, handed it to Madeline, and said with an obsequious smile, "Mrs. Zhou, here is the bill as requested." He went the extra mile to impress his boss. Since Burke's proposal had failed rather miserably, he lent his unwavering support to his boss to teach this ungrateful woman a lesson.

Madeline didn't check the bill at all. Instead she stuffed it into Leila's hand and suggested in a harsh tone, "As you can see, he is drunk as a skunk and will not be awake for a while. In this state it will be impossible for him to pay the bill. Miss Zhang, you two are friends, so why don't you settle it? Do you agree with my suggestion?"

"880, 000 dollars?" Leila cried out in surprise as she least expected the conversation to take this turn.

In all honesty, she thought Burke was Madeline's son. That was the only reason she said she was

Burke's friend. It was beyond what she thought would happen to hear Madeline urging her to clear the bill. Besides, it was a rather huge amount and she didn't even have so much money. Of course, even if she had enough money, she wouldn't waste it on a man who she didn't love. When he made the grand gesture, she did not even think about all the effort he made.

Leila pretended to concentrate on the bill in her hand as she put up a concerned expression while in her heart she was thinking of a way to get out of the mess she got herself in.

"Yes, 880, 000 dollars," Madeline replied indifferently as she ignored her anxious expression. Her unwavering gaze was fixed on Leila. Pamela then tugged on Madeline's arm and asked in surprise, "Aunt Madeline, why are you ...?"

It was hard for Pamela to comprehend why Madeline said Burke had to clear the bill. The hotel was Madeline's. It was funny to ask her own son for money moreover to ask his friend to clear the bill on his behalf.

"Pamela, I know you have questions but just remain calm," Madeline stroked Pamela's hand and gently said. "I will explain everything to you a little later. Now, let me handle the situation first." She knew very

well that her son was obsessed with Leila for years. Even though the proposal had fallen flat, she still wanted to find out what kind of person Leila was. Of course, it didn't matter whether the bill was paid or not. She thought, 'If she is a good girl, I will stop interfering Burke's love life. If she is not, I will persuade him into giving her up and starting a relationship with Pamela. I am sure he will fall in love with Pamela soon after he sees what a wonderful person she is.'

Pamela nodded and waited for Madeline silently and yet obediently. She was a clever girl and knew how to adapt her behavior in different situations.

"Miss Zhang, are you done checking the bill?" Madeline asked in an aggressive tone as she looked at Leila with clear contempt. She would commend Leila for her loyalty to her son if Leila checked out. If Leila left directly, she would actually be happier. Because that would mean Burke would give up on her forever.

Leila coughed and murmured under her breath, 'Site use fee is 500, 000 dollars. The dishes and the wine are altogether more than 500, 000 dollars. My parents are not rich at all. Although I do have some saving after working for all these years, but my bank savings are still not enough to cover the bill.' She forced a smile and stammered, "Mrs. Zhou, on this matter... Unfortunately I can't handle this for him."

Leila put the bill on the table and said with a guilty expression wiped across her face, "Oh, I just thought

of something I have to do. I am leaving now. Mrs. Zhou, see you later. We will chat next time."

"You are leaving?" Pamela inquired as she pointed at Burke. "You are going to leave him alone here in this state?"

Burke was too drunk and had fallen asleep on the table. She was astonished about Leila's cold-cut behavior. She complained in her mind, 'How can she leave a drunk man alone? Even if she doesn't love him, they are at least friends and he did so much for her. How can she possibly be so heartless?'

Leila left that instant without looking back at Burke. She had reminded him of the hotel's expensive tariff. But he didn't care for her advice. It was reasonable for her to refuse to pay the bill.

"I have some emergency to handle right away. You can ask him to pay the bill. I am sure he will sober up pretty soon," Leila said vaguely. It was evident that her only wish that moment was to leave there as soon as possible without paying a cent from her pocket.

Pamela was immensely shocked to see Leila run away. She hesitated and said, "Aunt Madeline, this woman ..." She wasn't expecting her rival in love to be so stupid and ruthless. It was hard for her to

believe Burke had been infatuated with such an unkind and selfish woman.

"Did you see what she did right now? That was why I didn't agree with Burke's choice of pursuing her. I

didn't think a woman from a poor family deserved his love," Madeline sneered. She admitted she was

duping Leila. But it was not her intention to break up them but that didn't steer her away from denying

the fact that the result was satisfactory. It was proved that Leila was a heartless snob. She thought, 'If

Leila realizes she has missed the wealthy son of a hotel mogul, she will be filled with remorse and

regret.'

Pamela and Burke grew up together. Pamela was studying music abroad. These days she had

holidays, so she came to visit Madeline occasionally. When Madeline heard her son was planning to

propose to his girlfriend, she took Pamela to embarrass Leila. She didn't expect to see a woman as evil

as Cinderella's malicious sisters to break her son's heart. Asking Leila to pay the bill was like a litmus

test for her personality. She was glad to get rid of that wretched woman with such a simple trick.

After all it also proved to be worth it to keep the other customs out of the hotel tonight. The loss of

money held no worth when compared to Burke's happiness. After this, it was certified impossible for

Burke to get close to Leila ever again.

"Naughty boy! I prevented him from becoming a doctor but he remained unwilling to help me manage our hotels. He insisted that he wanted to dedicate his life to make a difference by treating patients and curing injured people. I tried my best, but he didn't listen to my advice." Madeline sighed. "Pamela, you surely won't mind Burke's occupation, will you?"

"I won't. In fact, I respect him for it. It is a noble profession." Pamela bent her head to hide her blushing pink cheeks as she added, "I have been in love with Burke since I was a young girl. He was always kind and good to me. It was a pity that he met such a wretched woman. I feel sorry for him. Aunt Madeline, don't worry. I will give him company these days to help him get over the disappointment and sorrow of the break-up."

Madeline held Pamela's hand and happily said, "The best way to move on from a heartbreak is to start a new relationship. Burke is single now. If you are sure you like him and see a future with him, please don't hesitate to pursue him. I will help you in any way I can."

The more Madeline looked at Pamela, the happier she became at the thought of her son with her. With a broad smile, she joked, "If you become my daughter-in-law, I will be the happiest woman."

"Aunt Madeline, stop joking with me." Pamela's face grew even redder. She stared at Burke with concern and sighed, "I am afraid Burke may forget me. We haven't seen each other for years. He looked desperate. I am sure he loved that woman truly." Pamela knew it was hard for her to win Burke's heart. After all, he had been infatuated with Leila for so many years. His history with Leila seemed to intimidate her.

"Infatuated? Oh does it matter? It is over now and that is the important thing to remember." Madeline looked at Pamela and sniffed, "You saw her reaction. She left my son alone in his time of need. 880,000 dollars has scared her away. She is not a good girl and doesn't deserve my son's affection or even his attention. If you want to share a future with someone or fall in love, he or she must have the same background as you. That kind of relationship can be a harmonious one and will last longer. That's my thought about love. What do you think?"

She smiled at Pamela and continued, "All these years, Burke was disillusioned, and he mistook a total gold-digger for his soulmate. After you spend some time with him, he will find you are a good girl. When he moves past that woman, he will fall in love with you. I fully support you."

Pamela gazed at Burke who fell asleep at the table with optimism. Her eyes were glittering with love

and tenderness.

She swore in her mind, 'Burke, don't worry. I will help you forget that shameless woman.'

"Spencer, please come here now," Madeline said loudly as she then asked Spencer to carry Burke into

the car. Leila had left, so there was no need to pretend.

Leila had left the restaurant but not the building. As soon as she came out of the hotel, she found it had

started raining all of a sudden. As she didn't drive here, nor did she have an umbrella, she had no

option but to wait. So after calling for a taxi, she waited in the lobby impatiently.

In a few moments, the lift door ringed and opened. Spencer came out holding Burke on his shoulders.

Right behind them Madeline and Pamela came out of the elevator.

They all looked rather anxious. Madeline repeatedly reminded Spencer to "Slow down and be careful."

As they were in a hurry to get Burke home, they didn't notice Leila but Leila saw them and realized she

was being fooled. Before she could say anything, she heard Madeline say, "I should have taught that

Leila Zhang a lesson. My son has been waiting for her so many years. I thought she was an excellent

girl but she clearly turned out to a gold-digger."

Madeline's words were filled with scorn and anger. She should have agreed to meet Leila years ago. If she had done that earlier, Burke would have known what kind of person Leila was. It was a pity she had rejected Burke's request earlier without even considering it.

"Come on, Aunt Madeline. There is no need to be angry at that shameless woman. Things will now get better," Pamela patted Madeline's hand and comforted her, "Burke has broken up with that woman. You should set your mind at ease now as the worst is over and the best is yet to come."

Chapter 464 Take Care Of Burke

"That's just the way it is." Madeline was pleased to see Pamela so optimistic and then she cheerfully said, "I will be more pleased if you marry my son. I really hope with all my heart that you could be my daughter-in-law someday."

As Pamela heard Madeline express her deepest desires, her cheeks began flushing pink out of shyness. Staring at two of them who acted like a loving mother and a daughter, Leila felt hit by the truck, as she stood there motionlessly.

All through these years, she had made every attempt to marry a rich man to live the luxurious life that she longed but now to find this out about Burke was like a slap in the face. Happiness and her dreams were right in front of her but she could not recognize it.

However, Charles had no interest in her and it always seemed impossible for them to be together.

There were days even she wanted to give up.

But now she had lost the chance to marry a man of rich second generation who loved her deeply and sincerely for many years. It seemed so absurd as well as ridiculous and now she regretted for what she did to Burke in the past. 'I should have accepted his proposal, ' Leila thought to herself with deep regret.

She had known Burke for ten years, but she never knew that Burke came from such a rich family and he also didn't mention his family background to her. He was such a humble man.

She wanted to rush at Burke, wake him up and tell him that she would love to marry him. But now it was just too late. How could she do such a shameless thing?

Madeline, Burke's mother, was also escorting him to car so executing her idea seemed more than ridiculous.

Even if now Burke was willing to marry Leila, his mother would object to their union after knowing what she did.

'No, I can't just give up. I have to figure out an idea to marry Burke. This way, I won't have to wait around for Charles or any other eligible bachelor.' Leila planned in her mind.

Leila looked at them as they got into the car and soon soared away, and felt repentant, but she could do nothing. The car gradually faded from her sight. Within the next few moments, her cab arrived, and as she sat in it she was caught in a web of thoughts forgetting her surroundings. She didn't even realize that the taxi had stopped.

"Here we are, miss." The driver kindly reminded her and then said, "This will be fifty dollars."

"Oh, thanks," replied Leila with low spirits as she was still lost in thought. She took out her wallet, paid the driver, and then got out from the car, rushing home in owing to the rain.

She couldn't help but imagine that had it been Burke who drove her home today, he could not bear to see her get wet in the rain. Now she began to miss the days spent with Burke as well as the things that he did for her in the past. He was always so considerate and loving.

'Now that I have found a more convenient way to become rich and prosper, I don't have to seek far and uncertainties while ignoring what lies close at hand, ' Leila thought to herself.

Leila felt that she was so stupid not to see the signs that Burke must have come from a notable family.

She recalled that when they were in high school, the teachers decided to organize a fall excursion once. However, the school couldn't find an available pleasure ground. It was Burke who helped solve this dilemma by calling somebody.

Leila still remembered that Burke told her that one of his relatives was working in that pleasure ground.

There were signs all along, and she just had to pay attention.

And even after she graduated from school, it was Burke who helped her land a job.

Every time he would tell her that he asked his friends or relatives for help, but now it turned out that the hotel was his family property, so he didn't have to ask others for help at all. It was always his family who extended a helping hand.

When Leila got back home, she sneezed as she had caught a cold from getting wet in the rain just now.

However, instead of avoiding falling sick, Leila even had a cold bath. She was determined to employ the ruse of sickness to win Burke's confidence the next day.

At the same time, Madeline also took Burke home and took care of him with Pamela's help.

Pamela had moved abroad when she was just ten-year-old and they hadn't met each other for over

thirteen years. Since the last time he met her, she had grown from a little girl to an elegant and pretty girl. Burke, too evidently, grew from a wimpy kid to a handsome man.

Looking at Burke who was lying on the bed lifelessly, Pamela heaved a sigh.

She felt overburdened with regret as she thought if she would have come back earlier, Burke would not be hurt like this. His eyebrows were knitted into a frown even as he was asleep which made Pamela even more upset.

Reaching out, she was about to ease his frown. However, as she touched his eyebrow, Burke held her hands tightly, and murmured, "Leila, Leila... Please don't leave me alone. Why don't you love me?"

"Burke..." Upon hearing this, Pamela felt uncomfortable in her heart. She had fallen in love with Burke and had never forgotten Burke in the past ten years. But now it turned out that he had already forgotten her. He loved another woman so deeply that he would even murmur her name in his sleep just begging for her love and attention.

Pamela was about to draw back her hands as she was not okay to be regarded as the other woman, who came after his great love, even if he did it unintentionally.

Right that moment as she stood across Burke, she decided to win his heart back.

"Let me go, Burke," Pamela requested in a soft tone. She tried repeatedly to shake off his hand but failed again and over again since he held her so tightly. "Don't leave me, please. I really love you so much. Leila, give me another chance," murmured Burke with a choking voice.

After she heard this, Pamela's frustration and anger just built up more. She looked at Burke and decided to let him hold her hands. She was willing to do that for him if it could relieve him even a little bit. Thinking this, Pamela sat down beside him.

She stroked his hands gently and said in a soft tone, "Well, I won't go anywhere and I will stay here with you always through thick and thin."

After Burke heard this, his face almost lit up with a faint smile.

Madeline, who was about to take a glass of hydromel for Burke, closed the door quietly when she happened to see the scene and she didn't want to disturb them.

Madeline knew Burke's temperament very well. He would definitely be moved if he found that Pamela had taken care of him the entire night.

Or at the very least he would not antagonize Pamela anymore. Perhaps he would be impressed by her

kindness and would take an interest in her.

"Why are you taking the hydromel back? He didn't drink it?" Lucas Zhou was reading newspaper on the couch when Madeline went downstairs with the hydromel. Confused yet worried, he asked her.

"He is not awake yet. It is also quite late now. Let's have some rest." Madeline assured Lucas Zhou who looked concerned.

Shocked by her words, Lucas Zhou paused for a few seconds before he said, "Are we going to take break now? Pamela is taking care of Burke and do you really let her stay in his room alone at this hour? Both of them are not married yet and I am afraid that people will gossip about them in bad light."

"Don't worry about this. I will handle it myself," replied Madeline calmly. After a small pause, she continued, "We don't have to worry about it since Pamela does not mind devoting her attention on him at all. Moreover, I am sure you also know that what has been done cannot be undone. I really hope Pamela will marry Burke someday. She is a kind and beautiful girl. I really want her to be my daughter-in-law. Well, I remember that you also like her. Am I right?"

"Yes, I do in fact appreciate this girl since she is sensible and beautiful. But what good will it do? The most important thing is that Burke needs to like her. Hasn't he fallen in love with some another girl?" He

remembered that Burke several days ago had said that he would take that girl back today, but why did

he drink so much and get drunk instead?

"Just don't mention that please." Madeline furrowed her eyebrow as she recalled what happened today.

"Your son misjudged a woman and it is really a pity for him. That woman is a materialistic girl and I

really don't understand why Burke loves her."

Saying this, Madeline let out a sigh but then said, "Let's go and have some rest. Don't worry. Burke is

totally drunk and he can do nothing to Pamela." After finishing her sentence, she went upstairs with

Lucas Zhou hand in hand.

When Burke slept on both ears, Pamela drew back her hands, washed his face and crouched up on

the couch for the whole night.

Burke felt a throbbing headache when he woke up the next day morning since he drank a lot. He was

hungover. However, he was stunned when he found a woman sleeping on the couch. "Who are you?"

he asked with great confusion. "Hey, why are you here? Who let you in?" Burke blurted out his

confusion in one breath.

Chapter 465 You Deserve A Better Girl

"How long have you been awake?" Pamela stayed up late last night to take care of Burke, so she still felt a little groggy when she woke up. She looked at Burke and was about to tell him her identity but was interrupted by Madeline. She opened the door abruptly and let out a scream as she saw Burke awake. "Thank God, you are up and about!"

"Mom, you are just in time." Burke pulled Madeline's hand and asked her with a sense of urgency, "Who is she? Why is she in my room? Could you please tell me what happened last night?"

"Don't you remember her?" Madeline said in an interrogatory tone and added, "She is Pamela He. Don't you remember her? You played together almost every day when you were kids."

"Pamela?" With his eyes wide open in shock, Burke turned around to look at her carefully. He couldn't find any resemblance of her appearance as a child. "You have grown up now," Burke exclaimed.

"Yes, I most certainly have." Pamela said to Burke with a smile, "You have become quite a handsome man now."

Burke grabbed Pamela's hand and looked at her carefully, then he said, "Wow, you too are a much more beautiful girl than before. I like what I am seeing."

"OK, enough." Madeline accused Burke, "Pamela looked after you the entire night. Why don't you thank

her?"

"Never mind, Auntie Madeline. There is no need for such formality," Pamela said in a sweet tone.

Burke's face grew dull the second he heard what happened and in a serious tone he said to

Madeline, "Mom, how could you let Pamela look after me all by herself. It's simply inappropriate for a

girl to do such things."

"It doesn't matter, Burke." Then Pamela lowered her head slightly and said to Burke in response, "I did

that last night only because I wanted to do and it had nothing to do with Auntie Madeline."

"Okay, let's head downstairs first. Burke, give Pamela some room to wash up and ask her to eat

breakfast with us after she is done cleaning herself," Madeline said to her son.

After Madeline went downstairs, only Burke and Pamela were left in the room. They felt a little awkward

to stay alone with each other. They were very close when they were children, but now they hadn't seen

each other for so many years and they were not kids any more. And especially with how last night

turned out, both of them felt a little weird in that moment.

"So when did you come back?" Burke asked Pamela to cut down the awkwardness.

"Just yesterday actually." Pamela smiled and said, "I came to see you right after I got off the airplane.

Auntie Madeline told me that you were going to propose to your girlfriend so I came there with her.

However..."

"Okay, enough I don't need to hear more." Burke felt embarrassed as he recalled his experience from

last night. Then he refrained himself and said to Pamela, "I'm sorry, wait a minute."

Burke then took out a new dress from his closet. It was the latest design from the current season,

limited edition. He gave it to Pamela and said, "I bought it for Leila and planned to give it to her as a gift.

But now... I don't need it any more. You can wear it if you like. Thank you for what you did for me last

night. I really appreciate it."

Pamela took the dress and said, "You're welcome. I'm going to clean up now."

"Sure." Burke nodded in approval and sat on the bed, waiting for her. Upon hearing the trickling water

from the bathroom, he was seized by a strange feeling suddenly.

Burke found a new toothbrush and cup for Pamela. When she finished, he began cleaning up. Pamela

had already put on the dress as he came out of the bathroom. Somehow, he almost mistook her for

Leila.

"So how does it look?" Pamela circled before Burke to show off the dress as she asked him.

Burke came to himself finally and answered, "You look absolutely stunning."

He cleared his throat and said to Pamela, "Let's head downstairs now and have breakfast."

After getting along with Pamela for one night, Burke had a strange feeling for her even though nothing happened between them yet.

A big breakfast spread had been prepared for them as they got downstairs.

Madeline grabbed Pamela's hand and said with a smile, "Darling, you are the most beautiful girl I have ever seen."

"Auntie Madeline, are you kidding?" Pamela responded with a hint of embarrassment in her voice.

Madeline laughed and said, "I prepared both local and western breakfast for you because I worried that you would not enjoy our local food after living in a foreign country for so long. Which breakfast do you prefer?"

"Both seem good to me," Pamela said tactfully to avoid disappointing her.

Pamela and Madeline spoke to each other happily while Burke remained silent like a stranger in his

own house.

As Burke finished breakfast, he said to Pamela and his mother, "I'm full now. So I'll get to work."

"Hold on a moment." Madeline stopped Burke and said, "I want to say something to you."

Then she said to Pamela, "You can continue eating and I will come back after talking to Burke."

"Okay, please do carry on." Pamela nodded.

Madeline dragged him to the study. Burke cast a glimpse at his mother and said, "Mom, I know what

you are trying to do here, but I just broke up with Leila and it's unfair for Pamela to start a relationship

so quickly when I am still picking up pieces from my breakup."

"Shut up! I was not going to talk about this with you." Madeline said with a dull expression, "I want to

talk the things about Leila."

"I have nothing to do with her now, so what do you want to talk about?" Burke got impatient the

moment he heard Leila's name.

"You are my son and I know you very well." Madeline added, "You can tell everyone that you have

nothing to do with her, but I know if she comes back to get reunited with you, you will agree

immediately."

Burke frowned without responding. He considered what he would do if Leila really asked him to patch things up once again.

Maybe he would say "yes" just like Madeline predicted.

"Burke, I never opposed you dating Leila. Otherwise I wouldn't have allowed you to propose. But I saw her yesterday and realized something too. So I need to tell you what happened." Madeline said to Burke in a serious tone.

"The first time I saw Leila, she was Charles Lu' secretary then. She was perched on top of an old man's legs and flirted with him brazenly. She even allowed the man to feel her up and down all over her body publicly, just in order to land a contract with him. I felt so disgusted with her and the way she conducted herself." Burke was shocked. He frowned and said, "Mom, it's impossible. Leila is..."

"Why does this seem so impossible?" Madeline interrupted him and blurted out in anger, "If you don't believe what I witnessed, you can investigate yourself to check whether I lied or not."

Burke fell silent. Leila was always cold and indifferent with him and he believed that was her nature. He couldn't imagine that Leila would give up her virginity just for the sake of a business transaction. He

couldn't help but wonder whether he really knew her or not.

"Whether you will be with Pamela or not is secondary, but at least you know for sure that she is a good girl and her family's stature can match to ours. She is much better than Leila and that I can vouch for."

Madeline sneered and said, "Leila guessed that I'm your mother and pretended to get close with me last night, but she ran off immediately as I asked her for some money to clear your bill. You deserve a better girl rather than such a cunning one who will abandon you in your times of need."

Chapter 466 Leila's Badgering (Part One)

"Mom..." Burke started speaking, intending to defend Leila, but he suddenly could not find the words to do so. The shameless girl his mother was talking about now seemed like a complete stranger to him, a far cry from Leila, whom he had known and loved for many years.

With a frown, he fell deep into confusion.

"Look, I was there and I know Leila is not the right girl for you. I've seen right through her character.

What she seeks is not happiness but a complete change in her lifestyle. She wants to take advantage of her marriage to raise her social status and move into the upper class. I am telling you very clearly,

Burke, your father and I will never allow such a money-worshipping and hypocritical girl to marry into our

family," Madeline warned her son firmly. "A man should know the difference between good and bad girls. It doesn't matter even if the girl you want to marry is neither rich nor good-looking, but she must have a good character, I hope you understand," she pointed out earnestly.

Burke was duped by Leila all these years and blinded by her appearance. He could not see her true colors. As his mother, Madeline had the responsibility to bring the reality and truth to light.

"Oh, all right, I understand what you are trying to convey," Burke replied, and made a movement indicating his growing impatience. In fact, he already did realize that Leila and he would never be together as she declined his marriage proposal last night so whatever his mother just said cemented this fact.

"I'm sorry, Mom," he apologized immediately in a low voice as he grew aware of his rude tone. "You may rest assured that I will never be in any form of contact with her from now on," he continued. "But, about Pamela, for the time being I can only treat her like a little sister just as before. It is too soon to jump into something new. Please don't push me into it."

"Good, I won't hurry you into anything you don't want to do, I promise." A relieved and calm smile appeared on Madeline's face. "As long as you stop dating Leila," she added, looking gratefully at her

son.

"Okay, you have my word." Burke gave his mother a slight nod as he made the vow. "If that is all then I'm going to work now."

"Wait a minute," Madeline called to her son, who had started to walk towards the door. "Our family business is getting busier and busier by the day. Your father and I are getting a little overwhelmed with the increasing burden. Keep that in mind. Consider quitting your job and come back to take over portion of the business, please."

"Hmm... Well, I'll think about it," Burke replied flatly.

Before he left home, he said goodbye to Pamela in a soft tone. From the way Pamela looked at him, Burke could sense her growing affection for him was no longer the brother-sister feeling that she had felt as a child, but unexpectedly he didn't mind it.

It had just been a few moments since Burke had reached his office when there was a knock on the door. "Come in!" he cried out, as he was hurrying to put on his white coat with his back to the door.

He then heard the person outside come in. "Please take a seat. I'll be ready in just a minute," he added

as he was working on the uniform, without turning back.

"Burke..." The person then called out his name in a muffled voice. It was Leila, he could tell her voice apart in a crowd, and she sounded ill.

Burke froze almost instantly. "What are you doing here?" he asked coldly, still not turning around as he feared confronting her.

"I..." Leila gasped for breath and then she fell to the ground as she tried to answer.

Burke immediately rushed to pull Leila back to her feet, and found that she was flushed, which was a clear symptom of high fever. Fortunately, they were in the hospital. After timely infusion for a while, she looked much better.

Burke sat by Leila's bedside during her coma, and stared at her with an unreadable look.

"Burke..." Leila gradually woke up as she felt stronger. When she saw Burke, her eyes glistened with hope. "You're here!"

"You have a temperature as high as 39 degrees?centigrade. Now you need rest quietly. Please don't talk," Burke exclaimed flatly, and poured her a glass of water.

"No, there is something I must tell you at once. It simply cannot wait anymore," Leila cried and

suddenly grabbed Burke's hand. At this point she just wanted Burke to come back to her, and Charles was already in the past.

Burke withdrew his hand instinctively in an indifferent fashion. "We cleared this out last night. Now, you're the patient, and I'm the doctor, and there is no other relationship between us. We have nothing to talk about now or ever."

"No, listen to me, please. I am requesting you with all my heart." Leila looked at Burke ardently.

Madeline's words, however, kept echoing in Burke's mind, a constant reminder of how manipulative and conniving Leila was. Unwilling to talk to Leila, he stood up to leave. "Take some good rest. I have to get back to work now."

"Burke!" Seeing Burke launching off his seat to go, Leila quickly rolled out of bed, completely ignoring her infusion. Burke stopped her in her tracks immediately. "Are you crazy? I just told you that you have a temperature of 39 degrees?centigrade!" he scolded to drive some sense into her stubborn brain.

"I know you don't want to talk to me, let alone see me right now, but..." Leila lowered her head as she wore a pathetic and dejected expression. "Burke, I really didn't mean to refuse your proposal the way I

did last night. I want to explain..."

"Enough is enough!" Burke interrupted, and cast her an angry glance indicating her to stop that instant.

"You've embarrassed me enough last night, don't drag this matter any further. So don't rub salt onto my wound. I know very well that feelings need to be mutual. Since you won't marry me, I will never force you to. The matter ends there."

Leila was rendered speechless as she blankly stared at Burke, who had suddenly given her the cold shoulder. She wondered if Madeline had spoken ill of her to him which brought upon this cold behavior.

"Burke," Leila inquired tentatively, "did Mrs. Zhou say something about me to you?"

"Well, what do you think?" Burke shot back in an icy tone, with no thoughts of answering her.

"Let me explain," Leila defended immediately. "I know how nice and kind you are to me, Burke, but I feel so stressed. I turned you down last night because I didn't know if I could marry you right now as I simply wanted us to spend more time together to get to know each other better. I didn't mean anything else by my reaction."

"Oh really?" Burke smirked. "So you mean to say that now you are willing to marry me now, right?"

Leila blushed on purpose, to heighten his senses, but it suddenly occurred to her that she was ill and

her face was already red. She then bowed her head and pretended to be shy. "I actually thought about it for a long time when I got back home last night. I thought my answer yesterday was rushed. And in retrospect, I now know that I'd love to marry you, Burke. Do you still have the diamond ring? Will you please put it on me?"

Leila forced herself to look at Burke and nervously waited for his answer, while Burke stared at her, his face expressionless.

As the minutes went by, Leila grew more flustered and anxious and she could almost hear her heart beating fast.

After a good while, Burke finally opened his mouth. "Leila, you changed your mind and accepted my proposal because you found out about my pedigree, didn't you?"

"What? I don't know what you are talking about." Leila pretended like she didn't know what he was referring to. "Your pedigree? You're just a doctor, aren't you? That's all I know as that's all important." "Stop pretending!" Burke snapped and suddenly realized that Leila was not the girl he thought she was.

He became extremely sober and rational as he saw through her poor acting in a second.

His infatuation with her had evaporated in an instant, and he could not understand why he believed and fell in love with her in the face of her clumsy deception.

Chapter 467 Leila's Badgering (Part Two)

"You found out that my parents own that hotel yesterday, didn't you?" Burke asked, taking a stern look at Leila. "You initially refused my proposal because you thought I was just a doctor and couldn't earn much to sustain a luxurious lifestyle for you. But when you learned about my identity, you regretted turning me down. That's why you feigned your fever and came here to gain my sympathy. Am I right?" he continued grilling her scornfully.

"Do you think I'm a terrible and manipulative woman?" Leila asked, staring at Burke with sad eyes.

"We've known each other for a long time now, I thought you know what kind of person I am."

"Who knows anything really?" Burke snapped with a sneer. "We have known each other for over ten years, but I didn't know your true colors. It's so ridiculous!" he sighed as he expressed his clear disbelief.

"After all you turned out to be such a good actor! You've been fooling me for so many years," Burke added with a bitter smile.

'In front of me, she pretended to be a proud and innocent girl. While behind my back, she threw herself

at old men to please them for the sake of business deals. Now I won't believe a single word from her.

Mom is right, ' he thought to himself.

"You're disappointing me," Leila opened her mouth, as she turned her head away with dismay. She

didn't expect that things would take such a drastic turn after last night. Obviously Burke despised her

now. After pausing for a moment, she continued, "I just said that I needed time to consider our

relationship, but how can you take me for a shameless woman? You disgust me, Burke."

"Disgusting? I disgust you? It's funny you should say that." Burke snapped with a snarl. 'It's funny and

amusing to hear her assume a high ground.

I feel sick of her at the very thought of her flirting with that old man in his arms, ' he thought.

"Whatever," Burke remarked casually with no intention of wasting any more of his time speaking to her.

He was done. He gave Leila a cold glance, and went on, "From today on, you have nothing to do with

me. I won't see you again, and I hope you can just get out of my life. One more thing, you don't need to

see me at the hospital. There are other doctors who can cater to your needs. I resign today."

"What? Why?" Leila asked nervously wondering what caused him to take such a drastic step, as she

fixed her sight on Burke. 'As long as he works here, I can always find a way to change and influence his mind.

After all, he has liked me for a decade. I can always get him to fall in love with me all over again.

But if he quits the job, it'll become difficult to meet him, let alone getting him back, ' she thought, furrowing her brows, as she grew anxious and concerned.

"Do you detest me so much that you have decided to quit your job to just to avoid me?" Leila asked with a heart-broken expression.

Noticing Burke's silence, Leila gnashed her teeth and confessed, "I admit I learned you're Mrs Zhou's son. But I don't think it has any influence on our relationship. I want to marry you because of you and how you've treated me, not your background. No matter who you are, my feeling to you are true."

Burke gave a contemptuous smile. Now no matter what Leila said, he knew that she was acting just to access his wealth.

"But I don't want to marry you now, it's that simple. Didn't you hear what I said just now?" Burke snapped. "We're not possible anymore. We've known each other for ten years. If we were meant for each other, we would have already gotten together. I have given up on you and I'm thankful for the way

things have turned out. Anyway, I wish you fulfill your dream of marrying a rich man. Best of luck!"

"You..." Leila stammered angrily, as her face turned red. Burke ignored her anger and said, "Take care of your health too. I must leave now."

Watching Burke walk out of the ward, Leila lost her patience. 'I took a cold shower yesterday so that I can meet him at the hospital. To get Burke back, I even ensured I caught a fever. I can't give up so easily. There has to be a way back into his heart, ' she resolved.

Right after Burke walked away, she lay on the bed lost in deep thought. 'If I don't give up on him, will he accept me again? Compared to Charles, it is easier to get him.'

After leaving Leila's ward, Burke went straight to the HR department. After hearing that Burke was resigning, the dean came to meet Burke in person and persuaded him to stay. Despite of this, Burke insisted on quitting.

The dean took a deep breath and said, "When you came here in the first place, I didn't trust you much. I didn't think a rich second generation could be a qualified doctor at the hospital. At that time, I was sure you would quit soon after all you had no reason to work here."

With an approving smile, he continued, "But to my surprise, you worked here for several years and make yourself an example by being an excellent doctor. To be honest, you impressed me by your work etiquette, your skill and humble nature."

He then sighed, "We lack hands here on the desk, and you're experienced. I hate to let you go like this so unexpectedly."

"You flatter me, dean. I really want to take this moment to thank you for the opportunity to work at this prestigious establishment," Burke responded humbly. "You've got so many skilled hands on deck.

Besides, you have Anthony and he is an expert on traditional Chinese and even western medicine. I'm sure they will all do an excellent job."

"If you don't mind, can you tell me why you decided to resign so suddenly?" the dean asked him upfront.

After some hesitation, Burke explained, "You know my family background. My parents agreed to let me do what I like all these years. But now they're getting older, so I think I should help them with family business."

With a wide smile, he politely said, "I hope you can understand my pressing circumstances."

"I can completely understand. You're a dutiful man who wants to support your family," the dean replied with blessings for his future. With a benign smile, he went on, "If this is the case then, I won't force you to stay here. Your family needs you and that is of supreme importance."

"Thank you. I appreciate your understanding nature," Burke replied in relief. After he left the dean's office, he felt relieved and grateful.

The news of Burke's resignation had already spread like wildfire within the hospital. Since he had kept a low profile, all this while no one knew that he was from a wealthy family.

After learning about his family background, several nurses even made fun of him. "If I had known that you're an affluent second generation, I would have pursued you."

"What a pity! I wish I could have found out your identity earlier. The things that could have been..."

"Me too."

Burke felt bashful when he heard their jokes. He said to them, "Please stop teasing me. I will treat you to a lavish meal later."

"That sounds great. After all you're a rich master. You must treat us to a big and grand meal." Burke

nodded in agreement cheekily.

He went to bid farewell to the doctors with who he had been always on good and civil terms. When he

had walked halfway out of the premise, he ran into Anthony who was just getting out of a ward.

Anthony said to him, "Burke, I just met your girlfriend..."

"You must be kidding, Anthony," Burke interrupted him almost immediately. "I'm single. How would I

possibly have a girlfriend?" he asked.

"I thought she was," Anthony replied with a sense of doubt. When Anthony had been on his daily

round, he was taken aback at the sight of Leila admitted in the hospital. He wondered why she had

been hospitalized. As he knew that Burke had a soft corner for her, he had paid extra attention to her.

He left her after learning that she just had a fever.

Anthony asked in confusion, "Didn't you plan to..."

"I forgot to tell you one rather important thing, Anthony," Burke cut him hurriedly. "I resigned just now.
I

will leave the hospital soon after winding up all my pending work."

Chapter 468 Leila's Badgering (Part Three)

"Are you going to resign?" Anthony was shocked by Burke's words and then asked again in

disbelief, "Why? What happened for you to quit so abruptly?"

"No, nothing happened per se. But my personal affairs necessitate my attention right now, so I had to do this." With a faint smile Burke then went on to add, "Even though we will no longer be colleagues as I wind up my work here, we will always remain friends and I will invite you to dine with me or have a drink together more often than not."

"Well, I would like that very much." It was obvious to tell that Burke was in a low spirit and perhaps it had something to do with the woman lying in the sickbed. Burke seemed to do everything to distract himself from Leila's hovering presence in the hospital. However, Anthony asked nothing but smiled to assure him, "Burke, please do tell me if you need help at any time. Well, I still have some work to attend to, so I gotta go now."

"Okay. Thank you, Anthony, for your kind words," replied Burke. After finishing his sentence, he went back to his office to pack up his belongings. Indeed, he had great attachment for this place since he had been working here for a long time. All of a sudden, a tap on the door interrupted his flow of thoughts and Pamela entered the cabin. Startled, Burke asked her, "What are you doing here, Pamela?"

"I..." Pamela mumbled in fear. In fact, she came to meet Burke casually. But she happened to hear that

Burke was going to resign from the nurses outside, so she didn't know whether she came here at the right time or the worst.

"Burke, I was passing by here, and it is lunch time, so I came here to check if you have time to dine with me. So are you available now?" Pamela asked and waited for his response.

After hesitating for a few seconds, Burke finally accepted her request. "Okay. There is a good Western restaurant nearby. I will take you there. I hope you will like it."

"A Western restaurant?" Pamela smiled and then said, "I have been living abroad for so many years now and I am tired of the same bland taste of the Western food. Burke, I want to try something new. Do you know any good Chinese restaurant around here? Please let's grab some Chinese food today."

"Well, as you wish." Burke grinned and added, "Pamela, please wait for me. I will just take a moment.

Excuse me, I have to answer nature's call first."

Pamela was waiting at the door of his office. She passed a warm smile to the doctors and nurses passing by. As Burke left the restroom, some doctors asked him, "Burke, is she your girlfriend? When are you getting married? You have to invite us for the grand ceremony please." They joked with Burke

and pulled his leg.

"Of course I will," replied Burke with a sly smile. However, Pamela soon blushed after she heard this story from Burke.

Leila still lay on her back in the ward alone retrospecting how things could have gone in the other direction had she not turned down Burke's proposal. Her fever had remitted since she was put on a drip. She wanted to take a walk outside since she had been on bed for a long time. As she got out of the room, she happened to hear about Burke's resignation from the nurses. "I really didn't expect Burke to submit his resignation letter so suddenly," said one of the nurses at their station.

"Yes, I am also stunned by this sudden news," replied another nurse in disbelief.

"I think he is going to get married soon. I heard that his girlfriend came to meet him just now. Everyone said that they made a charmingly beautiful couple."

"Wow, is that so? Does Burke have a girlfriend already?"

"I heard him mention earlier that he might have a girlfriend. The girl looks so beautiful with fair skin. Her eyes are her best feature, wide-set and compelling. What's more, her temperament seems so remarkable. It is easy to tell that she is not an ordinary girl. She is poised, attractive and well nothing

short of perfect."

"Alas! It seems that the God is unfair. Someone is born in a notable family while others..." After a small pause, the nurse continued, "Others can't live like that even for a day even if they struggle for their entire life."

"Excuse me. You said that Burke had a girlfriend?" Leila asked them anxiously as she interjected their chat. She stepped forward and stopped the two nurses who were about to leave. "Where did you hear this news? Are you positively sure he has a girlfriend?"

"Yes, I am certain." The nurse nodded slightly and then persuaded Leila, "You are sick. Please don't concentrate on such trivial matters and go back to your ward for some rest. Don't hang around here."

After hearing the shocking words from the nurse, Leila felt like that she was hit by the thunder and her face turned pale. She felt weak with grief.

Compared with the girl called Pamela who she met last night, she was in the dry tree.

But she was not going to yield to the situation.

Leila bit her lips anxiously, as she ignored the nurse's words and turned towards Burke's office quickly.

As she arrived there, Burke was just about to go out with Pamela.

"Burke, wait a moment." She stopped him immediately.

"Why have you come here again?" Burke was unable to hide his impatience and anger now.

"You... Are you really going to resign to avoid confronting me?" Leila finally asked him upfront. She

knew that he was trying to avoid her or else he definitely would not have resigned so abruptly.

"Of course. I have made up my mind," replied Burke in a cold harsh tone. He smirked and then

said, "But it is none of your business as it is my private affair. I don't need your unnecessary comment

on how I conduct my life."

"You..." Leila's face turned pale out of irritation. She was too furious to utter a single word in defense.

"Burke, have you really come to hate me so much overnight? You are even willing to quit your present

job so as to avoid meeting me. It just seems so ridiculous," Leila said in a shaky voice.

"Miss Zhang, it is Burke's decision and it has nothing to do with you. So you don't have fret over it,"

Pamela said all of a sudden after remaining silent for a while. Though it seemed that Pamela was trying

to assure Leila, but in actuality Pamela was telling her that she shouldn't poke her nose in Burke's affair

anymore.

"Miss He, I am not talking with you, so you may excuse yourself," Leila snapped at her in a loud voice.

Leila glared at Pamela and went on to add, "It is also none of your business. And I am talking with Burke, so please give us some privacy."

Saying this, Leila burst into sneer and slyly said, "It is not polite to eavesdrop our conversation and interrupt it as you see fit."

"I..." Pamela frowned slightly but said nothing in defense. She then turned to Burke for some reaction who too remained silent there and said, "Burke, it seems that Miss Zhang has something to talk with you. I will wait for you over there."

"No. There is certainly no need for that." Taking a glance at Leila, Burke looked so impatient and his eyes were filled with anger. "I have nothing to talk to her. We should get going now. I am quite hungry."

After he finished speaking, Burke urged Pamela to leave. Seeing this, Leila rushed to him and blocked his way by standing right in front of him. "Burke, you have to clear things with me. I am your girlfriend, and you said that you wanted to marry me last night. But now you have gone back on your words because of this bitch! How could you betray me like this?" Leila wailed, as her eyes filled with tears and

resentment.

She pointed at Pamela furiously and waited for Burke's response hoping for some relief.

"Don't utter nonsense here and create a scene, Leila!" Burke pushed her hands away and said, "I have made everything crystal clear to you last night. This has nothing to do with Pamela. Don't get her involved in this pile of dirt."

"Wow, you have already started defending her." Leila sneered and said to Burke sarcastically, "Well, then please explain why you decide to break up with me so abruptly."

"Are you serious, Leila? You are unbelievable. It is you who decided to break up with me last night after I proposed. So how did you come around to blame me now?" He felt like exploding owing to the growing anger.

"I..." Hearing this, Leila hesitated but then added, "But I regret what I said now." Saying this, Leila stepped to Burke and said, "Burke, I know I was wrong to dismiss your feelings the way I did last night. I don't want to break up with you. Could you please give me a chance to mend the situation? I promise I won't let you down..."

Pamela felt an uncomfortable knot in heart when she found Leila behaving like a spoiled kid in front of

Burke, but she just remained silent there as she knew that if Burke had come round, he would handle the situation properly. She trusted him completely.

"Leila, don't create a scene here." Burke shook off her hands again and replied, "We have broken up and can't possibly reconcile anymore. You know that we should have ended our relationship earlier."

Chapter 469 Leila's Badgering (Part Four)

"You... You are treating me in such a cold and harsh manner for her, aren't you?" Leila questioned him as she raised her voice, being fully aware of where they stood. Noticing that more and more passers-by gathered around them, Leila tried to utilize this growing attention to embarrass Pamela. With a hurt expression, she stared at Burke and asked, "You changed your mind overnight because of her, didn't you? Just tell me the truth."

"It's all between Burke and you. I had nothing to do with it. So why are you suddenly shifting the blame on me?" Pamela snapped back in defense as she flushed pink with embarrassment. Pamela was a shy girl. Realizing that crowd was whispering to one another and casting her reproachful glances, she basked in embarrassment. She explained and defended herself in a hurry to save face, "I just came

from abroad. I knew nothing about you. So how can you possibly blame me for your failed relationship?

This is not fair."

"Oh come on!" Leila sarcastically led her on. "Burke and I were getting on perfectly before you appeared in the scene, and he even proposed to me yesterday. But now suddenly things have changed and turned sour in my favor. You are a self-righteous and entitled bitch. You must have spoken ill about me in front of him, didn't you?"

"You..." Pamela was too infuriated at this point to even finish her sentence. Her good breeding and demure stopped her from stooping down to her level and scolding her like Leila did to her. She knitted her brows and remarked, "You're being too unreasonable, so there is no point to engage in a conversation."

"I'll teach you a lesson for what you did," Leila pounced at Pamela with a furious look. Burke dashed forward and stood between Leila and Pamela. He seized Leila's hands while howling at her, "That's enough of this charade. Haven't you done enough already that you had to create a public spectacle over nothing and blame this girl for your shortcomings?"

"Burke..." Leila called his name affectionately with a pathetic look. She stared at Burke and begged for

mercy,"Please don't leave me. Please just give me another chance. I know you still love me."

"That is impossible," Burke replied with a resolute expression. He realized that the only way to get rid of Leila was to leave the hospital premises. A doctor who was walking past Burke stopped and out of good will, he turned to Burke and reminded as he whispered,"Burke, don't let things get worse. After all, this is a hospital."

"I understand," Burke replied, looking a bit guilty and awkward for the situation he was caught in.

'Fortunately I have resigned. I won't bring shame to the hospital even if Leila continues to stir up trouble like this, ' he thought to himself.

He looked at the passers-by and said,"Just go back and mind your own business. There is nothing to watch here!"

Leila moved closer to Burke and said,"This isn't over yet. You must make things clear to me today,

Burke. What are you going to do about us?"

Burke was always getting on well with his colleagues thanks to his good temperament and humble

nature. The nurses too began to actively help him by dismissing the on-lookers while saying "It was just

a misunderstanding. Please go back to minding your own business."

Upon noticing that Leila was about to speak yet again, Burke seized her arm in one strong swift

moment and warned her, "I have quit my job here. You can't scare me even if you still stay here and

create a debacle like this."

Leila glanced at Burke with fear, growing fully aware that quarrel wouldn't help her situation anymore.

She grabbed Burke's hand and said in a soft tone, "I just want you to give me an answer, Burke. I..."

"Follow me!" Burke interrupted her with a stern expression. He dragged Leila to her ward, and asked

impatiently, "Tell me, what is that you want from me? Tell me the truth."

"Nothing..." Leila said casually, as she looked into Burke's eyes hoping to seem sincere. "You have

loved me for over ten years. I finally realized that you are the one who treats me best, with love and

care. But why did you decide to dump me suddenly? Did you leave me because of that entitled bitch?"

"Just shut your mouth!" Burke shouted at her realizing there was no use of having a chat with her. At

this moment, he regretted loving and wasting his time on Leila for ten years. With a sneer, he said

defensively, "Don't call her bitch. She has a name. The reason I decided to break up with you has

nothing to do with her. Please shove that in your puny little brain."

"But you do still speak for and defend her... like she is your own," Leila said in disdain. "How could you let me believe that there is nothing going on with her?"

"Will you let me go once I explain the situation to you?" Burke offered her an explanation hoping that she would leave after that. "You want to know why I am so resolute to break up with you, don't you? Well, fine then, I'll tell you the reason."

Giving her a scornful look, he blurted out, "I thought you were a kind and innocent girl. But I found out that you're nothing but a materialistic girl, a whore who is willing to sell herself just for some money. Did you forget about how you landed contracts when you were Charles' secretary?"

He was so mad at Leila, for the way she conducted herself, that he spoke out some mean words.

When he saw Leila's face turning pale with embarrassment, he gave a laugh of contempt.

She never expected that Madeline would air her dirty laundry in front of Burke.

"That's... what my job required of me. Do you think I willingly did that, that I enjoyed doing that? It is what I had to do." Leila responded with a downcast face, knowing it wasn't the best decision to admit that, but she had no other choice in the matter. She smiled bitterly and went on, "If you must know, I

hated doing all of that. I hated being used as a pawn in the barter system. But... I didn't have other choices back then. If I had failed to get those contracts, by hook or by crook, I would have lost my job.

Besides, those men just took advantage of me and that's all. It's not a big deal..."

With a pitiful look, she stared at Burke and said, "I hope you can understand that I had no option and it wasn't what I wanted. Everyone has a dark past, something they are ashamed of and this is mine. If you are going to judge me harshly on the worst thing I ever did then I can't possibly influence your mind."

After observing Burke remaining silent, she tugged on his sleeves and went on, "If you don't want me to do that, I'll not do it again. I promise. You was born in a rich family of privilege, so you will never understand how hard it is for poor girls like me to be recognized and stand out. We have to struggle every day to just make it through the day.

Sometimes my pretty face might land me in trouble, but... sometimes it also helps me a lot. And I just had to use it for my advantage."

"Now you're just making excuses for your horrible conduct. No matter how dire the situation was, you always had a choice Leila," Burke returned coldly. He continued with a snort, "So many girls work hard

in this city. How do they remain unblemished and dignified but you couldn't?"

With a repulsive face, he stated, "You really disgust me, Leila. And I'm glad I found out about all of this after you rejected my proposal. It is a great relief."

"Please listen to me, Burke..." Leila pleaded as she hugged Burke tightly just hoping that somehow he would come around to understanding her. "I realized I was wrong. Please give me one more chance. I will do whatever... Anyway, I really like you. I really want to make this work. I will change for you in whatever aspect you want but just give me another chance."

"There is no need for such drastic measures," Burke said in an adamant tone, as he looked at Leila. He then opened the door, and said to Pamela who was waiting at the doorway, "Please come in now, Pamela. I'm sorry to keep you waiting. We will head for lunch right away."

"That is alright, I'm just coming in," Pamela entered the room. Pamela was a sensible girl. She realized Burke needed to bid farewell to his ten-year one-sided love, so she hadn't followed Burke into the ward until this moment.

"Here I am," Pamela said meekly, not knowing what to do next. Burke smiled at her and then turned to

Leila, "Didn't you keep asking what Pamela and my relationship was?"

He moved closer to Pamela, took her hand in his warmly and said to Leila, "Well, Pamela is my girlfriend. Now I hope you can stop harassing me. We'd better cut off from each other. Things are over here now."

"No, you're lying," Leila retorted in disbelief of this sudden revelation. 'Burke is mad at me, so he is using Pamela to force me to leave. But I won't give up so easily, ' she was determined. She calmed down and went on, "It's not funny anymore, Burke. We're going to get married, so how can you possibly date her?"

Burke grasped Pamela's hand nervously, his palms wet with sweat. To get rid of Leila, he had no choice but to use Pamela as a pawn. He was growing anxious that Pamela might disapprove and be hurt by his act.

Pamela then tightened the grip, almost like a sign, which made Burke much relieved.

"I will not repeat myself twice. You and I are over. I will never get back with you. If possible, I even want to forget our past. I strongly advise you to do the same."

Chapter 470 Leila's Badgering (Part Five)

"And I'm supposed to believe you? It's obviously an excuse," Leila said. "Stop dreaming, Burke. I am

not going to give up!" she exclaimed. Leila was getting impatient, but could not resist sneering. "I will

not give you up as long as you're not married. You wait and see!"

Leila's threat made Burke frown. He was annoyed at being pestered by a woman with no shame and

disgusted by her humiliating behavior.

Pamela, who was standing beside Leila, chirped in, "Miss Zhang, I forgot to tell you we are soon getting

engaged. And that's the reason why I came back here." She peered at Leila to see if the woman was

listening. "Our families are long-time friends. And I think it is best to marry someone who is more your

equal." Leila remained silent. "Well, I am not sending you a wedding invitation because I'm certain

you'll be able to see this when the media reports on it," Pamela said, still smiling.

'Leila doesn't have to know that everything I've told her is not true, ' she thought. Pamela simply wanted

the other woman to stop badgering Burke, and this prompted her to lie.

"What are you talking about?" a shocked Leila blurted. She glanced at Burke to check his reaction. "Is

she telling the truth? Tell me!" she cried.

"Of course it's true," Burke asserted. "In fact, we will be announcing our engagement soon!" Burke

looked straight at her. "So, Leila I hope you can congratulate me and wish me a happy marriage," he added.

To make the pretense appear more credible, he held Pamela's hand and said softly, "Let's go. You must be hungry. Didn't you just say you wanted some Chinese food?"

Pamela smiled at him and replied, "Oh, yes, I am hungry. Let's go." Their ploy worked because seeing them so cozy nearly drove Leila crazy. She hated seeing the two acting so sweet in front of her.

As soon as they were out of the hospital, Pamela let go of Burke's hand. Her cheeks were flushed from embarrassment. "I'm so sorry, Burke. I shouldn't have said those things. But I just wanted to help you get out of that unpleasant situation," she said shakily.

Burke stopped her. He smiled apologetically. "Pamela, please don't say that. I should be the one apologizing because I should not have involved you in this." He blew out a breath. "Will you blame me for playing along? I had no intention to make you part of it."

"It's okay, really," Pamela assured him. She then grinned at him. "It was worth it if she finally stops pestering you," she added.

Burke sighed in relief. "Thank you for understanding, Pamela." He took her arm and started walking.

"Now, I did promise we'd eat. So, let's go."

The two left feeling so much better. Meanwhile, Leila remained anxious in the ward. She wondered,

'Shall I give up just like that?' Agitated, she kept pacing in the room.

Leila was frustrated. She had yet to decide between Charles and Burke. She was admittedly thrown off

by Burke's announcement of their break-up. She was likewise shocked to learn about Pamela, Burke's

beautiful and elegant girlfriend. Leila thought they were well suited. She knew Burke's mother,

Madeline, was a tough nut to crack, and she would be another challenge for Leila.

If she picked Burke, Leila figured her chances at success was extremely low.

Now, if she chose Charles, things would be different. Yes, Charles was married and his wife, Autumn,

was pregnant. But Ferry owed her a favor and would help her out. It would be risky, but she believed

her success rate would be higher with Charles than with Burke.

Leila did everything to make Burke change his mind but without success. The situation now seemed

impossible to change. She decided it was better to go back to the original plan and make sure this one

worked.

As the plan began to form in her mind, Leila decided to leave the hospital as soon as possible. She had already lost face and could no longer stay.

At the China Town Restaurant, Burke played a gracious host.

He had ordered several of the restaurant's specialty dishes but still encouraged Pamela to choose something she liked. "Look through the menu and order anything else you want Pamela," Burke urged.

Pamela laughed and shook her head. "You ordered enough food already." She was pleased with how things turned out. Pamela wasn't really interested in the food but wanted to be alone with the man. She was content to spend this time with him. "The food is more than enough for us. We shouldn't waste food," she told Burke.

He looked a bit guilty. "It's quite reasonable," he rationalized. "But all right, we can just order more dishes later." Burke was beginning to appreciate Pamela more and liked that she was understanding.

"Thank you!" Pamela nodded and grinned at him. She became silent for a minute and then looked at him seriously. "Burke, are you really going to resign?"

He nodded slightly. "Yes, I have made my decision." Burke sat up straighter and continued, "I've considered submitting my resignation for a long time. But I only decided to push through with it now."

He quickly added, "And I won't change my mind about this."

Coming from a notable family whose property holdings were extensive, Burke now found it difficult to pursue a different career path. He became even more content after his mother Madeline promised to give him two years to do anything he wanted.

He had been planning to tell Leila about his real family circumstances and resigned from the hospital after she accepted his proposal. But he didn't expect things to get messed up as it did.

Burke thought of all that happened and then let out a sigh. "It's time to help my parents manage the company," he told Pamela.

She frowned at this. "But I heard your mother said you really wanted to be a doctor. If this is something you enjoy so much, why are you giving it up?" Pamela inquired gently.

Burke lowered his head momentarily trying to think of how to explain himself. "Yes, I like being a doctor and treating patients. But you can't understand what I'm feeling right now." With bitterness in his tone, he continued, "There are rules in my world. Many restrictions make it nearly impossible to live as we please. I was only given a limited time by my mother to be a doctor. That time is now up, so I have to

abide by our agreement. Even if I am reluctant to leave the hospital, I have no other options."

Burke no longer wanted to discuss the matter and quickly changed the subject. "Let's talk about

something else. Tell me, Pamela, why are you suddenly back?"

She was taken aback by his question and hesitated before answering. Pamela looked Burke in the eye

and replied, "Would you believe me if I said I came back for you?"

She looked so sincere that Burke suddenly felt uncomfortable. "What? You're joking, right?" Burke

coughed slightly to ease the awkward situation. Her statement embarrassed him. "You are quite

amusing. We haven't seen each other for more than ten years, yet here you are making fun of me

already," he declared.

Now it was Pamela's turn to feel awkward. She finally got the courage to confess her feelings to him

but was disappointed by Burke's reaction. But she was not giving up. Smiling shyly, she told Burke, "I've

been studying music the past few years. And I still have not adapted to life abroad. I received an offer

to be a music teacher at a nursery school in Y City, and I decided to take it.

"Wow, that sounds good," Burke said, impressed. He continued to inquire about the nursery school and

learned it was one of the prestigious bilingual kindergarten schools in Y City. "It is an excellent place to

work. You know, my annual salary can barely pay for the tuition of a student for one year," he exaggerated.

"Now you're making fun of me!" Pamela retorted. She suddenly looked worried and confided to

Burke, "While I do like children, I'm not quite sure if I would make a good teacher." She leaned forward.

"And I'm afraid that children might not like me."

Her admission surprised Burke. He decided to assure Pamela and reached out to touch her hand.

"Hey, don't worry. I believe in you. You will make an excellent teacher," he assured. The waiters arrived to serve their dishes. Burke sat back and smiled. "Let's eat. Try everything. I'm sure you'll like them."

While it was true they had not seen each other for many years, Burke and Pamela were comfortable talking about many things they had in common. She was even amused when Burke recalled how much fun they had during their childhood.

After finishing their meal, Burke invited Pamela to take a walk since it was a long time since she been back. So many things had changed in Y City over the years, and Pamela was no longer familiar with the place. They reached the nursery school where Pamela was going to work.

"Oh, so this is Eton Kindergarten," she said, while taking in the surroundings. She stood for several minutes, a smile lighting her face.

Pamela suddenly felt excited to start working, although she was still nervous about her new job.