

Wedded Bride 491

Chapter 491 Autumn's Water Broke

Autumn just hold on to that thought! "Wait!" Leila called out to Autumn anxiously. She knew that if

Autumn went back and confronted Charles about it, all her lies would be unveiled.

"While you were in the hospital, Charles conducted your grandma's funeral. Why didn't he tell you?

Don't you realize anything different?" she asked aggressively, trying desperately to drive a wedge

between Autumn and Charles.

"He kept the truth from you because he's afraid something might happen to the babies. He'll break up

with you any minute after you give birth. Don't you see it clearly?" The truth was that Autumn had

already lost her calm the moment she heard about Emily's death. She was just holding herself together

during the argument with Leila.

Unwilling to stay a moment longer and listen to her harp on, Autumn flurried out of the cafe. At the

same time, Leila was scared out of her wits just thinking about what Autumn was going to do.

She had been mentally calculating about it and realized she could not fall short at the eleventh hour.

She called Ferry in a hurry. It was all Ferry's idea to keep her in hiding all these days, and of course it

was also his job to fix the problem she now encountered.

The call was soon went through and she heard Ferry's voice from the other side, "How's it going?"

"Ferry, you told me the plan was full proof and it was going to work out this time," said Leila anxiously.

"But the truth is that Autumn didn't have the slightest emotional reaction to what I just told her. Now she

is going to confront Charles. If they really meet, won't all the work and effort I've invested all go down

the drain?" she questioned Ferry sternly.

"What's the rush? Let things unfold the way they have to and then we will decide what to do." A snarl

came over the phone from Ferry. "You've done what you're supposed to do. Now go and wait where I

told you. I'll handle the rest."

"But..." Leila had more to say, but Ferry had already ended the call.

Once Autumn came out of the shop, she felt heavy tension and sharp pains building in her abdomen.

Despite the pain, she looked around for Brent for a long time.

"What's wrong, Mrs. Lu?" Seeing her terribly pale face, Brent hurried to help her into the car. "What

happened?" he asked sincerely with concern.

"Nothing, everything is fine," Autumn answered weakly, covering her abdomen with her hands. "Brent,

just take me straight to Shining Company," she added.

She was eager to see Charles and figured out if what Leila said was true. On the way, Brent's cell phone rang all of a sudden. At the sight of the caller ID, Brent grew nervous. He hesitated and let it ring for a long time, but finally he received the call.

"What do you want from me?" Brent screeched in a low voice, as his face turned pale.

Autumn was in the back seat, holding her belly. Brent kept an eye on her as he answered the phone and spoke in hushed tones. Since it was Ferry who called him, he could never let Autumn find out.

Ferry was smuggled back in the city the other day. In case Andy found out about his return, he never went to the hotel.

"Brent, I've contacted you twice, and I think I've made myself quite clear." Ferry's voice drifted into Brent's ear over the phone, making Brent scared. "You took my money. Now it's time for you to do the work you signed up for," he demanded.

"No, I quit. I refuse to work for you," Brent resolutely refused, looking at Autumn's miserable expression in the rear-view mirror. If it hadn't been for Autumn, he might have carried out the task. He had never

been a kind or considerate man, but he could not hurt a pregnant woman.

"Don't worry. I'll pay you back the money. Give me some time." Without any emotions, Brent replied, "I'm

hanging up now."

Just as Brent was about to hang up, Ferry sneered and went ahead, "Well, Brent, now that I know you

don't want the money. What about your mother's life then? I guess you still care about her."

Brent started to gasp as he struggled to breathe with fear at Ferry's threat. "What the hell do you

want?" he cried out in desperation.

"If the money is not enough, I can give you more until you're content. But..." Ferry laughed grimly, and

continued, "Think about your mother, how much she has done for you? Do you really have the heart to

make her suffer in her old age, or even lose her life because of you?"

"Are you threatening me?" Brent frowned. In the recent past, whenever they met Ferry beat him black

and blue. Brent knew very well that if he did not follow Ferry's instructions, Ferry had the spine to do

whatever necessary to punish him.

"How could I?" Ferry argued, but his tone was still threatening. "I just want you to bring Autumn here

and I'll handle everything after that. It's an easy task and you can earn more than a million dollars from it. It's a good deal, just think about your mother and accept it."

Brent hesitated, between the safety of his mother and harming a pregnant woman who had been nothing but kind to him and his mother. He didn't know what to choose.

While he was talking on the phone, Autumn, who was sitting in the back seat, suddenly felt the warm water coming out of her. She immediately realized that her water broke. At this point, she didn't want to pursue any other matter but to head straight to the hospital. All she could think about was giving birth to

her two babies safely. "Brent listen to me, I... I think I'm in labor. Take me to the hospital immediately," she told Brent with a sense of urgency.

"Uh? What did you just say?" Brent, who was still on the phone, was gripped with panic after he heard Autumn. "Okay, I'll rush you to the hospital right away."

Hearing what Brent just said to Autumn, Ferry got furious and burst out, "Brent, you've only got ten minutes to think this through. My people are at the gate of Dream Garden. Money and your mother's life or obeying my instructions, your choice."

With that, Ferry ended the phone call, leaving Brent in a fix.

Brent then called Ferry again, but Ferry's phone had been turned off.

He took a glance at Autumn, who was moaning and breathing heavily. At that moment, they came to a crossroads, and turning left would take them to the hospital and right was to the place where Ferry had asked him to bring Autumn. With a selfish thought, Brent turned right.

"Brent, where are you taking me? This is not the way to the hospital." Realizing that they were going in the wrong direction, Autumn knew something terrible was going to happen. She pulled her phone out of her bag, and dialed Anthony's number after a minute's hesitation. "This is not the way to the hospital.

Where are you taking me?" she asked Brent again as she was struck with fear.

Anthony picked up call, but before he could speak, he heard Autumn talking to someone else. It made him feel strange when he heard what Autumn was saying. He remained silent and listened carefully to what was said on the phone. He heard Autumn anxiously repeatedly ask someone, "Tell me, where are you taking me... "

Autumn sounded so weak that it got him all worried and concerned. He rushed out of the office, ignoring the patients waiting to see him.

Without hanging up, Anthony listened carefully to Autumn. Fortunately, Autumn was very clever that she gave him many tips between her words. After passing through many red lights, he finally found Autumn's car.

Chapter 492 The Way To Marry Charles

Anthony could hear what was happening clearly across the phone, despite Autumn's repeated interjections that the driver still headed towards the outskirts even after she told him her water broke. Worried as he was, he didn't utter a word in the fear of losing the connection. Instead, he focused on following Autumn's car.

"Here we are, Mrs. Lu. This is the requested destination," Brent said with a shiver in his voice, as he turned and looked at Autumn with fear and guilt. Autumn had no idea how long she had stayed in the car. When she heard her driver's voice, she anxiously looked out the window. But all she could find was an abandoned warehouse. Brent opened the window, stuck out his head and shouted at the depot, "I brought what you wanted, Ferry."

"I always knew you were a smart guy and you would make the right decision." Ferry's content and happy voice reached the car. Two tall men in black appeared, dragged Autumn out of the car and

mercilessly took her to depository.

Brent thought of stopping them but gave up on the idea. 'I brought her here. What's the point of being a good guy now? I have already failed her.' He shook his head in contempt.

Out of concern, he walked fast to catch up and asked the men in black, "What are you going to do to her?"

"That's none of your business," one of the men replied in a cold tone. The man handed a black gym bag to Brent and said, "This is your reward. Take the money and leave from here now. We don't need you hovering around here at all."

The men dragged Autumn who looked like all the blood had flushed out of her face. She lifted her eyebrow at the sight of Ferry sitting before her. With her fear and surprise, she managed to mumble, "It's you..."

"Yeah," Ferry sneered as he gazed at Autumn with satisfaction. "You must be shocked. I mean so many years have passed, but I didn't forget you for a moment."

"What do you want from me?" Autumn shrieked with fear and growing pain. Autumn felt that her babies

were coming as the contraction got more frequent. Fighting the overpowering weakness, she pulled herself up and negotiated, "I don't know why you brought me here. But as long as you let me go, I'll ensure you that you will be given a big sum of money."

"Money?" Ferry laughed maliciously. "Everything I did was in pursuit to see you suffer. I don't need your money."

Before he could utter another word, Leila dashed towards them instinctively. With a worried glance at Autumn, she berated Ferry impatiently, "What are you doing? Didn't you see that her water broke? Just let her give birth of her child and then we can leave her."

"Leila?" Autumn mumbled, as she stared at Leila with wide eyes. In that moment, she understood that Ferry and Leila were partners.

"Are you really surprised?" Leila asked with her lips pursed. "After you give birth, I will treat this child as my own and bring him up. I will take him to Charles and live with him happily. He is after all Charles' blood. Even if Charles doubts my words, he will never find out you're the child's mother. You will finally be doing some good for me, Autumn."

What do you think? Isn't this the perfect idea to get away with a crime?" With a smug expression, Leila

burst into laughter. Her eyes gleaming with satisfaction, she went on, "The first time I saw Charles, I knew I was destined to be with this man. So you were the wrong choice from the start. Now it's time to get things back on track."

With no intention of letting Autumn leave the compound alive, Ferry got a midwife instead of a physician. Leila, Ferry and his men left the depository, leaving the woman alone to assist and take care of Autumn.

Focusing her gaze on the harmless midwife who was in her fifties, Autumn seized her hand tightly and begged, "Please help me. Please. I will give you lots of money in return. Please for the love of god!"

"I..." the old woman stammered, looking troubled. "I wish I could save you, my child. But it is not in my hand. He took my grandson. I'm vulnerable. I don't have other choice. I'm sorry that I can't help you."

Dwelling in a countryside, she only had a baby grandson. As the village she lived was away from the town, she had delivered all the children in her country. That was why she got into trouble.

The old woman heaved a sigh, feeling sorry for Autumn. Fortunately, Autumn had a fast labor.

The midwife held the baby's face up, showed it to Autumn and said, "It's a baby boy."

"Boy..." Autumn repeated in a weak trembling voice. She lay on the ground, as she caught a glimpse of a smiley-face birthmark on the baby's wrist.

Just looking at her baby, she passed a bright warm smile. But before she could hold him, Leila broke in and grabbed the boy from the midwife's hand. "Boy, it's a boy. Charles will be so pleased to see him," she exclaimed with ecstasy.

With a loud laugh, she grinned at Autumn who was all sweaty and nervous. "Don't worry. I'll take care of this child and treat him like my own until my last breath. After all, he is the key to my happiness and my way to marry Charles."

"I won't spare you even if I die," Autumn screamed at Leila with all her remaining energy. Noticing at Autumn's determined and furious expression, Leila got so scared that she didn't utter another word.

With the baby in her arms, Leila turned to Ferry and said, "I must leave. Handle her as soon as possible."

Ferry cast a glance at the men dressed in black, dropping a hint to kill Autumn. They were all unaware of the existence of another baby in Autumn's belly. The old woman knew it, but she didn't tell them in hopes of saving the child.

Watching the men in black coming in their direction, the midwife walked fast and stood between the men and Autumn. Looking at Ferry, she offered a solution, "Sir, how about just leaving her here in her precarious condition? As you can see, she is already in a bad health and has bled a lot after the labor.

If she isn't taken to the hospital, it is certain that she won't survive. How about leaving her here to bleed out and suffer? This way you don't need to do it yourself. What do you think?"

Ferry knitted his brows and then took a glance at Autumn who was slowly turning pale and breathing heavily. Realizing that the old woman's advice made sense, he agreed. "Well, let's do it your way," he said to the midwife.

He walked over to Autumn, squatted down and said with a sly smile, "Don't blame me, Autumn. You deserve this. You shouldn't have intervened in other's matters. Hope you learn your lesson for the next life!"

"Go to hell, you monster!" Autumn cursed, and then spat at his face. Instead of getting furious, Ferry left the warehouse laughing loudly, considering today's feat a victory in his plot for revenge.

The old woman gave Autumn a concerned glance and whispered, "That's all I could manage to do for

you. If you and your unborn baby survive this, please find it in your heart to forgive me. Be strong and gather your strength. Your next delivery will be tougher! Don't seek revenge, and go away from that man. He is mad."

"Hey lady, don't you want to see your grandson?" Ferry shouted at the midwife impatiently indicating her to rush.

"I'm coming right away," the old woman answered helplessly. She wiped away the sweat from Autumn's forehead, and said to her, "Please take care of yourself and gather the strength to survive this."

Without turning around, she left the depository immediately.

After their departure, Autumn was the only one left all alone in the empty and huge room bleeding on the floor.

The other baby seemed to be a good and understanding child already. When the bad guys were hovering around, she remained silent within Autumn's belly. But the moment Ferry's car drifted away, Autumn felt the child coming.

Soon she heard Anthony's voice echoing from one corner. As Anthony was afraid of being found, he had parked his car away from the warehouse. The minute he arrived, he saw Ferry's car leaving. As he

was worried about Autumn's safety, he rushed in immediately to her aid.

Anthony was stunned at the sight of the blood everywhere and Autumn helplessly lying on the ground.

He was petrified.

Chapter 493 Autumn's Disappearance

"What's happening?" Anthony anxiously asked and took Autumn in his arms. He quickly realized that it

was not time to figure out what was going on. The priority was to keep Autumn alive.

"Help my unborn baby, Anthony..." Autumn pleaded in a weak and shaky voice, as she gripped

Anthony's clothes.

"Baby?" Anthony murmured to himself with a confused expression. As soon as he noticed the blood on

the ground, he thought that Autumn had lost her babies.

Autumn struggled to nod at him. "Yes, there is still one left."

"Don't worry about your baby," Anthony instinctively answered. "The most important thing is to save

your life."

"No..." Autumn uttered, as she reached out and grasped Anthony with her hand full of blood. Anthony

froze in shock to see her bloody hands. He could not believe his eyes.

Autumn looked so pale. Her eyes were full of frustration and desperation as if she was losing hope. "If you have to choose between me and my baby, please keep the baby. I don't want to live anymore," she desperately pleaded.

"What are you talking about?" Anthony exclaimed. Actually he was mad at himself. Anthony blamed himself for what just happened. He stormed towards the entrance while enfolding Autumn in his arms.

"Don't worry. I won't let anything happen to you. You'll be okay."

"Listen to me... keep the baby safe," Autumn insisted. "Please... Anthony. If I'm dead, help me raise him, will you?" she pleaded.

"Don't say that!" Anthony answered. Anthony feared that he might lose Autumn any moment if she kept exhausting her energy. To reassure her, he said, "I promise both you and your baby will be safe."

As an experienced doctor, he always kept his first aid kit in his trunk.

Judging by Autumn's condition, he was aware that he should waste no time. He grabbed his kit and helped her to deliver the baby. He desperately wanted to fulfill his promise to Autumn.

After an intense labor, he felt relieved and said, "It's a baby girl!" Anthony exclaimed gladly, as he took off his coat to wrap the baby in.

Autumn squeezed a smile on her face, and mumbled, "I'm so glad..."

"Your wound needs to be taken care of. I'm taking you to the hospital," Anthony said.

Autumn shook her head adamantly. "Don't take me to the hospital. Don't contact anyone," she demanded

She just wanted to stay alone. After saying this, she blacked out.

This once happy woman just lost her closest family member, got one of her children stolen and was betrayed by her very own husband. Autumn couldn't take it anymore.

After some hesitation, Anthony followed Autumn's request and took her home.

As soon as they reached home, he dealt with Autumn's wound. He then took care of the baby and placed the baby on his bed. Looking at the baby girl, he couldn't help but worry about his new responsibilities.

He bought lots of baby milk and diapers the other day. As the child kept crying, he knew he had to feed her and tuck her to sleep.

Autumn was sleeping soundly on the bed. Since she disappeared, Charles looked everywhere for her

in Y City.

"Mr. Lu, please eat something. Since Mrs. Lu disappeared, you haven't eaten anything or gotten any sleep. If you continue to act like this, you'll get sick," Nancy pleaded.

"Get out of my sight!" Charles yelled at her angrily. He had put his guard on, unwilling to talk to Nancy, not to anyone. He got so irritated with Nancy.

"Mr. Lu, I..." Nancy muttered, trying not to cry. Autumn left home three days ago. Since then, she had never come back. The first day his wife disappeared, Charles had called up Isla. When he learned that Isla didn't meet Autumn, he fell into a panic.

He then contacted Brent but no one answered.

No clue on Autumn's whereabouts until the police discovered Autumn's car and Brent's lifeless body by the cliff. They also found a full bag of money.

The only good news was that Autumn wasn't there at the crash site.

The car was a total wreck. Charles had no idea what happened, but he had a hunch that Brent had something to do with Autumn's disappearance.

"I feel sorry for what happened to Mrs. Lu, but you can't treat yourself like this. Otherwise, you'll

collapse sooner or later..." Nancy continued, expressing her deep concern. When she learned about Brent's death, she was heart-broken. Compared to her grief for the loss of her son though, she felt more sorry for Autumn and Charles.

Brent was just a driver. It was impossible for him to have a great deal of money.

There was only one explanation for it. He must have sold Autumn out.

Nancy was sad and ashamed. She had considered leaving the Lu family. But she gave up on that thought and instead, waited for Autumn to come back.

If only Autumn would return safely, Nancy thought she could leave without any apprehensions.

"I asked you to leave! Haven't I made myself clear to you?" Charles howled at her furiously. Charles had always been a reserved and calm man. It was the first time she had seen Charles got so furious like this. Nancy had been working for the Lu family for years. Believing that she deserved Charles' anger, she remained silent.

The Lu family helped them a lot over the years. The family treated Nancy and her son well, but they only brought trouble in return.

She poisoned Autumn's food once and now her son was involved in her disappearance. She wouldn't blame Charles even if he killed her.

With a wry smile, Nancy left the food tray on the table and returned to the kitchen quietly.

'I should have asked Brent to leave when I discovered him stealing things. None of this would have happened, ' she blamed herself.

Knowing Autumn had an accident, Chris hurried to return from abroad.

Aron, Andy and Sam already used all their connections to search for Autumn, but they failed to locate her.

Autumn vanished from the world without a trace.

After looking for Autumn for three long days, Charles was at the brink of losing hope.

Andy kept digging and finally found out that Ferry came back to Y City secretly about half a month ago, before Autumn disappeared.

"What did you just say?" Charles asked, exasperated. He hadn't gotten any sleep for three days. He grabbed Andy by his collar and berated, "You told me that you would keep an eye on Ferry, look what you've done! Almost twenty days has passed, and you just found out about this?"

Chapter 494 Charles In Agony

Charles knew he shouldn't have blamed Andy for Autumn's disappearance, but was unable to control himself. He had been close to losing his mind since his wife went missing.

"Sorry. I forgot to mention that he traveled by sea," Andy told Charles. He understood Charles' behavior because he felt responsible for what happened and decided to cut him some slack. "I'm sorry about what happened," Andy offered.

But Charles was inconsolable. "Sorry? It's useless apologizing," he said harshly. "Can your sorry bring my Autumn back?" he said in despair. Charles stared at Andy with bloodshot eyes. Suddenly, he raised his fist and was about to strike the other man. Chris grabbed her brother with all her strength.

"Calm down, Charles! Now isn't the time for violence. What's important is that we find Ferry and Autumn. Blaming people at this point isn't going to help us." Chris gripped Charles' arm tightly until her brother started to relax.

'She's a pregnant woman. Where could she have gone?' Charles wondered.

"Charles, what happened was all our fault," Abby said. "Once we find Autumn we'll accept whatever punishment you give us." She kept rubbing her rounded belly to soothe her nerves.

The incident had depressed everyone, especially Arthur and Amy, who just recently reunited with their granddaughter. The two seemed to have aged faster because of too much worrying. They never expected Autumn to be involved in something like this.

"Autumn is pregnant with twins. It's too dangerous for her to be out there now." Chris was tearful as she kept thinking about Autumn.

Sam did his best to console Chris. Charles was in agony and had to deal with his fears. He felt worse as he saw people around him suffering.

He suddenly stood up to go out. Chris cried out to stop him. "Where are you going?"

"Get out of my way. I'm going to look for her," Charles snarled. Chris saw her brother looking very serious and restless. He detested not being able to do anything to find his wife.

"No! You can't go," Chris pleaded. She stood to block his path. "You've been up for a long time. You need to sleep. Otherwise, you'll be sick."

Chris was now just as concerned about Charles' health as she was about Autumn.

She knew if her brother continued to worry about his wife without eating or sleeping properly, he would soon collapse.

Charles raised his voice, "I'm saying it again, get out of my way!" He didn't want to listen to any of them.

All he could think about was finding Autumn.

"Listen to me, please," Chris begged. She was terribly disappointed with her brother's behavior. Chris

said, "When Autumn disappeared, I know it's possible that she could be dead. So, I think it's useless to

go rushing off to look for her."

Charles' head snapped back. His sister's words stung. He was furious at Chris for saying the words

that he slapped her cheek.

It was the first time he ever laid a hand on his sister. But his emotions were spiraling out of control. He

growled, "Listen carefully. I will never believe she is dead until I see her body!"

"Ohhh! You are so stubborn!" Chris cried. The sting of his palm hitting her cheek brought tears to her

eyes.

Everyone in the family was worried about Autumn's disappearance. But what she told Charles was a

real possibility, and Chris couldn't understand why her brother was denying it.

"We all need to calm down, please," Sam gently pushed Chris aside. To Charles, he said, "I have all my

men looking for Autumn. If I receive any news about her whereabouts, I will inform you as soon as possible." Sam continued to look Charles in the eye.

"Thank you," Charles finally said. Then he stepped out of the house, his head bowed, and left his whole family astonished.

Abby began to feel pain in her womb, so Andy immediately brought her to the hospital. They wanted Anthony to examine Abby but learned the doctor had taken the week off.

Andy was puzzled why Anthony suddenly went on leave at such a crucial time but had no time to ask for an explanation.

Abby delivered her baby that night while Charles found the warehouse where Ferry had kept Autumn a prisoner before. He saw large pools of blood in one area and it made him realize that his wife must have suffered extremely while in captivity.

He was now beginning to lose hope of ever finding her and remembered Chris' words earlier. The possibility that Autumn might be dead was becoming more real.

He felt more grief than he thought possible and suddenly fainted. The fatigue and worry finally caught up with him. Fortunately, Sam and Chris followed him and were able to bring him home immediately.

They laid Charles on the car's back seat, with his head on Chris' shoulder. "I should've stopped him from leaving," she said guiltily.

"Enough Chris! It's not your fault," Sam ordered. He added, "Autumn was everything to your brother.

Her disappearance was more painful since she was carrying their babies. You can't stop him from worrying about them."

"I didn't mean to stop him from worrying," Chris defended. "I just didn't want him to do anything to risk his health. If he continues to lose sleep and miss meals, he'll collapse again before we find Autumn."

She inhaled before adding, "It's been so long since Autumn disappeared. I don't want to think this, but it is very possible that she could be dead." She stroked Charles' hair gently.

"And if Autumn is truly gone, he would need to live alone in this world. That would kill him!" Chris was terrified of the thought.

"Enough! Stop talking now," Sam urged Chris. He caught a glimpse of Charles from the rearview mirror.

Sam knew what Charles was feeling. He'd been through a similar situation in the past. Sam

remembered the pain and how he never gave up believing that his Little Ye was waiting for him.

Charles was close to losing his mind when he lost Autumn and their unborn babies, the most important people in his life.

The pool of blood in the warehouse had dried up, but it still left them in shock. Sam felt his hands shaking as he held on to the steering wheel tightly.

Autumn slept for three days straight in Anthony's apartment.

When she finally woke up, the first thing she saw was a man holding a tiny infant in his arms. He looked at the child with eyes filled with so much emotion.

Instinctively, Autumn called out, "Charles!"

She called out softly, yet Anthony heard her distinctly. He moved towards the bed, holding the baby carefully.

"Thank God, you're awake!" he said in relief. Autumn finally recognized the man as Anthony, not Charles.

She gave a bitter smile. It was impossible for her husband to be there with her.

"I am awake," she replied. Autumn struggled to sit up. When she saw the baby in Anthony's arms, her

face lit up. She remembered seeing the infant the first time. It was ugly when she was born but now looked prettier.

"She looks so small," she said in wonder. Anthony handed the baby girl to Autumn carefully.

"She was born premature, and is a twin. That's why she's smaller than most babies," he explained. "But don't worry, I've completely examined her, and she is very healthy." Anthony spoke calmly to keep Autumn from getting anxious.

She stared at her baby and felt sorry for the child. She kept stroking her head to relax the two of them.

The baby remained very quiet. She cried when she was born but barely did since then, even when she wanted to feed on her mother's breast.

But now, she looked comfortable in Autumn's arms and quickly fell asleep.

Anthony got the infant and put her in the crib. He turned back to Autumn and asked, "Now, can you tell

me what happened to you?"

Chapter 495 Leaving Charles

Autumn lowered her head dejectedly. She didn't want to talk about what happened. Anthony sighed

resignedly and changed the subject. "You've been unconscious for several days, so you must be

hungry. I will bring you steamed chicken soup. I'll be back in a moment," he said and went to the kitchen.

Anthony was relieved that Autumn had regained consciousness. She had been through an ordeal and needed nourishing food to restore her health. Anthony prepared chicken soup every day hoping that Autumn would wake up. He wanted to serve her tonic food once she woke up to speed up her recovery.

He had examined Autumn thoroughly and he knew that she had regained consciousness but she was unwilling to wake up. Knowing that Autumn was pretending to be unconscious, Anthony was unwilling to disturb her.

He was still unclear what had happened to her, but he knew she must have suffered a lot.

Anthony came back with a bowl of steamed chicken soup and handed it to Autumn. "It may be a bit bland. I only added a little salt. Drink it up. Now that you have delivered your babies, you need to take good care of your health," he said gently.

"Thank you!" Autumn looked at Anthony gratefully. She owed him a lot for letting her stay in his place and taking care of her.

"No need to thank me. What are friends for?" Anthony returned with a smile. Autumn drank the soup slowly. Anthony watched her for a while, and then told her softly, "Rest more today. You have to regain your strength. I'm leaving now."

He knew that Autumn was not yet ready to talk to him about what she had gone through, so he decided to wait until she would approach him voluntarily.

"Wait," Autumn stopped him, biting her lip hesitantly. After all the unpleasant things that took place in a short time, Autumn needed a friend to confide in. In her eyes, Anthony was the best confidant.

"Are you busy today? I... I want to talk to you," Autumn asked, looking at Anthony pleadingly.

Nodding, Anthony walked back to her and settled himself at the edge of her bed. Finally, she was willing to talk. But Autumn was silent for a while as if marshaling her thoughts. Anthony frowned and said, "Charles has been combing Y City during the past days and it's only a matter of time before he finds that you're hiding in my house. You have to tell me the truth so I can help you. Otherwise, I can't stop him if he comes here to bring you and the baby back."

"Never! I won't return to that house," Autumn returned vehemently. A hint of anxiety passed her eyes

before she turned cold with anger. Giving Anthony a pleading look, she said, "Please don't tell him that I'm here."

"Tell me what happened," Anthony urged her, confusion in his eyes. 'As far as I knew, they were on good terms.

Now, suddenly Autumn seems to hate Charles. I noticed the pain and anger in her eyes as she mentioned her husband's name. Autumn seems to regard Charles as a bitter enemy now and not anymore her loving husband. What's really going on here?' He shook his head at his confused thought.

"Autumn, if you don't tell me what happened, I can't help you," Anthony reminded her sternly.

Autumn leaned her head back against the pillow. The sound of Leila's voice echoing in her head made her burst into tears.

"Don't cry. You will have a relapse if you don't stop," Anthony comforted her. "If you guys have a misunderstanding, you can sit together and work it out," he reasoned with her.

"You don't understand," Autumn sighed, smiling bitterly. 'No one can understand how desperate and depressed I am now, ' she thought sadly.

Autumn took a deep breath and recounted Leila's hateful words to Anthony. Upon hearing the story,

Anthony frowned and said, "I don't know what's going on between Charles and that girl. But as for the matter regarding Emily, I'm sorry, but I'm a part of it, too." he confessed guiltily.

"You, too!" Autumn exclaimed, dismayed at what she just heard. "How could you lie to me? Why? You knew how important Emily was to me. How could you have kept me in the dark about her death?" she reproached him bitterly.

"She brought me up and she sacrificed so much for me. But I didn't even attend her funeral. Do you know how much I regret that? She was everything to me and I didn't even get the chance to say goodbye to her," she cried.

"Please listen to me, Autumn," Anthony begged as he hurriedly explained, "We didn't want to keep you in the dark at first. But when you found that Emily was in the operating room, you were so distraught that you almost had a miscarriage. I'm your doctor, I couldn't risk any chances. Charles agreed with me to keep Emily's death a secret and tell you after you gave birth. But we didn't expect..."

They didn't expect that Leila would come to Autumn and tell her about this. Anthony admitted that they made a rash decision keeping her grandmother's death from her. It was a big blow to Autumn.

"I trusted you, Anthony. How could you help them lie to me?" Autumn told him in a hard disappointed tone.

Anthony couldn't defend himself. 'It's my fault. I shouldn't have lied to her, ' he told himself with regret.

Looking seriously at Autumn, he said,"You can't trust that woman's words. She has an ulterior motive in telling you that. You should go home and talk to Charles and figure out this matter."

"Go home?" Autumn laughed cynically. "I told you, never! Never would I set foot in that house again. I have seen their naked pictures. I'm through with him," she said roughly.

There was nothing to work out. The pictures said it all. She was certain that the pictures that Leila had shown her were original and not processed.

"Don't be too rash, Autumn," Anthony advised his friend with a frown. "I haven't known Charles for a long time, but I think he is a man of integrity. He doesn't strike me as an unfaithful husband. I think you should go back to him."

"If you insist on asking me to go back to him, I'll leave here with my child immediately," Autumn told Anthony, getting up from the bed.

Anthony panicked at Autumn's words and hurriedly put her back in the bed. "Stay, Autumn. You're too

weak to go anywhere," he said with a concerned look.

Autumn got up again and started putting on her shoes and walking towards the door. Anthony grimace.

Looking at her resolute face, he knew that she was not bluffing. Anthony raised his hand to his heart

and promised,"I promise I won't force you to come back as long as you don't want to. I want you to stay

here and take good care of yourself and your baby, okay?"

Autumn turned around and walked back towards the bed when she heard Anthony's words.

There was another thing he had been meaning to ask Autumn, so he asked hesitantly,"What about the

other baby?"

Autumn's heart broke as she thought about her baby boy. The mention of her other child brought a

constriction in her throat and she swallowed. After a while, she said,"He was taken by Leila.

Leila took him and said she would bring him to Charles," Autumn said bitterly. 'Charles has my son.

This way, I owe him nothing, ' she convinced herself but her heart felt hollow at the loss of her son.

The moment Leila had taken the baby away, she knew that she couldn't stay with Charles anymore.

Chapter 496 A Horrible Dream

"What are you talking about? Are you serious?" When Anthony heard that Autumn's baby was taken

away by Leila, he was in great shock. Worried, he immediately asked Autumn, "Why are you so calm?

Why didn't you tell me about this earlier?"

It was Autumn's baby, her own flesh and blood. How could she be so composed?

Autumn didn't answer his question but smirked. "Anthony, I am tired. I just want to take a break."

Autumn stayed in the bed, turned her back and stopped listening to him. Anthony furrowed his

eyebrows, stared at her for a while and finally left in frustration.

After Anthony left, Autumn cried incessantly.

How could she not be upset about her baby being taken away from Leila?

Charles had a horrible dream that night in which Autumn smiled brightly at him. He reached out to hold

her, but she just ran away with a soft smile. No matter how hard he tried, he was unable to catch her.

"Autumn, wait for me please," he pleaded. Autumn, however, just grinned and was reluctant to reach

out to him. Though she was pregnant, Autumn was robust in Charles's dream which stunned him

greatly.

He reached out to stop her but failed. "Autumn, you are pregnant. Stop jumping and running around.

You have to take care of yourself."

Autumn wore a smiling face while she stood from a distance. Though she was quite close to him,

Charles wasn't able to touch her.

Worried, Charles said in a soft tone, "Autumn, come here please. I promise to always keep you

company and I will never leave you alone ever again. Please don't leave me. Give me one more

chance. Let's fix this."

Autumn ignored his words and remained quiet. Slowly, she seemed drifting away which made Charles

feel that he was going to lose her soon. He tried his best to reach out and embrace her, but Autumn

soon disappeared from his sight.

It frightened him to wake up from this nightmare. The moment he opened his eyes, everything was a

blur.

He found that he was on a drip, lying on a hospital bed. He tried to pull himself up. Charles pulled the

needle off from his arm. He thought he couldn't be just lying there while Autumn was still missing.

"Charles, where are you going?" As soon as Chris came back from the nurse station, she saw Charles

sitting on the bed and was about to get up. Chris rushed to him and said, "Charles, you are still weak.

You have to take some rest. You can't go out yet."

Charles ignored her words since he was so absorbed in his own thoughts. He was determined to find

Autumn back.

Charles clenched his hand into a fist, and his fingernails had burrowed in his palm, but he couldn't feel any pain.

"Charles, you can't go on like this. You have to accept that Autumn might not come back anymore," persuaded Chris. She felt sorry for her dear brother.

Fortunately, Sam got back in time and helped Chris convince Charles. "Charles, I got some clues about the accident. If you would relax for a bit, I will give you an update and hand all the materials to you."

After hearing the news, Charles decided to lie back.

'Autumn, wait for me. I will find you soon, ' Charles thought to himself.

Chris immediately asked the nurse to check on him. The nurse was able to put the drip back in place.

"Sam, could you please hand me the materials now?" said Charles in a husky voice.

Sam's eyebrow was knitted into a frown. After hesitating for a while, he finally handed the paper to him.

"I have taken the blood on the ground for a DNA testing and found out that it was Autumn's blood. We

still couldn't find out where Autumn went though. The security cameras were all broken at the time of the accident," Sam reported.

"I have asked people to take a careful examination of Autumn's car and found that the accident was because of a brake failure. It seems that someone tried to kill Brent deliberately but there were no witnesses," Sam added. The person who did this was very careful and no matter how hard Sam tried, he only found very few clues.

"Thanks, Sam. Did you get some lead about Autumn's whereabouts?" asked Charles anxiously. He held on to the paper in his hands and hoped for Sam to say something positive.

"Not yet." Sam replied briefly while Charles heaved a sigh.

Ironically, perhaps the best news for Charles right now was getting no news from Autumn at all. She may still be alive.

Sam tried to tell Charles not to entertain too much hope. It had been a long time since the accident happened. If Autumn was still alive, she must have been found, since they had searched the area inch by inch.

Charles was not convinced and just ignored Sam's theories.

Charles clenched his hands and told Sam, "I shouldn't have let Ferry go! He is a wretch!"

"Charles..." Chris frowned slightly and turned to Charles. "I know you're frustrated now, but there is no way to fix the situation. It was an accident. Accept it and move forward. You have to let it go. Let yesterday rest, and live for today."

"Move forward?" Charles snapped and replied, "It is easy for you to say, but she is my wife and she is pregnant. Now, you're telling me to move forward and let it go? Do you think it is possible for me to give up everything so easily? Didn't Autumn treat you as her own sister, Chris? How could you say something like that?"

"I..." Chris was too shocked to utter a single word as she heard Charles's sentiments.

Chris was upset about what happened to Autumn as well, but she had to pretend to be adamant for Charles. As his sister, Chris also hoped that he'd be able to survive and eventually move on.

She didn't expect Charles would take it the wrong way, though.

"That's enough. Stop arguing," said Sam. He tried to pacify the situation. "Perhaps she is still alive," said Sam.

"Not perhaps. She is still alive. I know it." Charles replied, totally convinced that Autumn was still alive.

He was full of conviction but people could see such sorrow from his eyes.

Charles then looked up at Chris and said to her, "I will find her sooner or later. I have to find her no matter what."

Sam was stunned by his staunch words and all of a sudden, Sam was enlightened and realized why Autumn married Charles and not him. It was because Charles was better than him.

'Charles is of true metal, ' Sam thought to himself.

"Charles, I'm always here to support you, no matter what," said Chris. She smiled softly at her brother and decided to give him some encouragement. Now that he thought Autumn was alive, she was willing to help him find her. After all, Chris also hoped that Autumn and her babies would still be alive.

"But you have to promise me something," added Chris. "No matter what kind of decision you'd be making, you have to take good care of yourself. Grandpa is so worried about you that he could not sleep well these days. He even often sheds tears at home. How do you feel about that?" she asked as she took a glance at Charles.

Chapter 497 Anthony's Secret

A hint of regret flashed in Charles' eyes as Chris mentioned Gary.

Chris glanced at her brother to make sure he was all right. "Anyway, you need to take care of your health. If you promise to do that, I will leave you alone," she offered.

Charles quickly agreed. "Fine," he replied. He would say anything to make his sister stop nagging.

The moment Charles arrived home, he summoned Nancy to his study. After several days of living like the dead, he was now determined to put his life back in order.

And the first thing he had to do was dismiss Nancy. It was now impossible to let her continue living in this house.

"I think you know why I called you here," Charles began. He spoke calmly but inside was a jumble of nerves. He had lost much weight in the last several days. His face was gaunt and covered by stubble that was quickly growing into whiskers. Since Autumn disappeared, he no longer paid attention to his appearance.

Nancy also appeared composed. "Yes, I know," she replied. It was clear why Charles asked to see her immediately. After she had taken care of Brent's funeral, Nancy had been expecting this moment. And she knew she had to leave sooner or later.

Charles looked at their long-time housekeeper. Politely, he said, "I'm sorry for what happened to your son. You have served us for many, many years and did an excellent job. But this time, I have to let you go. You cannot stay here any longer."

Charles' announcement came as no surprise. Nancy had anticipated this day would come. But she didn't expect it would be so soon. She saw Charles take something from his pocket.

He handed her an envelope. "The money is for your retirement. Take it," Charles declared. He no longer wanted to see Nancy's face in his house. Her continued stay would only be a reminder that he was responsible for Autumn's disappearance.

"I can't take it, Mr. Lu," a flustered Nancy pushed the envelope away with shaking hands.

Embarrassed, she lowered her head and said, "I owe you and Mrs. Lu a lot. I had planned to leave after you found her. That way, I would feel less guilty about all this." She kept wringing her hands. "But it's been many days, and there's still no clue as to Mrs. Lu's whereabouts." Nancy raised her eyes to look at Charles. "I'm too ashamed to continue staying here."

With a bitter smile, the housekeeper admitted, "Even if you didn't ask, I've intended to leave soon. So, I

can't take your money." Nancy kept her hands behind her back.

"Just take it," Charles persisted, his manner cool. "If Autumn were here, she would insist that you do,"

he almost mumbled.

Charles ran a hand through his hair. Without Autumn beside him, he felt something was missing inside

him. And no matter how hard he tried, he remained miserable.

He thought, 'Nancy spent most of her life working for our family. Now, she's lost her son, and I have to

fire her. It's hard for an old woman like her to find another job. If she doesn't take the money, I can't

imagine how she would support herself.'

Charles insisted, and spoke louder, "Take it. I will feel much better if you do." Nancy felt terrible seeing

her young master this way.

Finally, she nodded and accepted the money. "Mr. Lu..." she faltered. Nancy changed the topic and

said earnestly, "For whatever it's worth, I believe that Mrs. Lu is still alive. She has a kind heart, and

God will be on her side." She hurriedly added, "If you do find her, please let me know. I want to beg her

forgiveness personally. I hope she can still forgive my son and me."

Nancy grieved for her son's death. But she was more worried about Autumn's safety.

Charles nodded. "I will," he promised. He let out a long breath as Nancy went to her room.

The following morning, Nancy left the Lu family house. As soon as she heard the news, Chris decided to move back home.

That way, she could take care of both Charles and Gary while keeping an eye on her brother.

Chris made no mention of Autumn, whom she missed very much. She secretly shed tears every time she saw Autumn's belongings. Charles caught her crying a few times but made no move to comfort his sister. Instead, he focused all his energy into searching for his wife.

Anthony, who had asked to go on leave for a week, was returning to work today. Autumn was feeling better and could get out of bed without any trouble.

Anthony rattled off several reminders before leaving the apartment. First, he told Autumn to eat the pigeon soup for lunch. It was on top of the stove. Then he said the rice had been pre-washed and just needed to be cooked. Finally, he told her to heat the other dishes in the microwave. "Is that clear?"

Anthony asked.

Autumn's head was spinning from all that he said but she nodded. Since Autumn moved into Anthony's

apartment, the doctor had been very considerate and took excellent care of her and the baby. So, it was easy for her to feel at ease in his house.

Since she had the baby to keep her company, Autumn was content and yearned for nothing more.

Autumn named her daughter Shirley, with the hope the little girl would lead a life without misery.

Before stepping out of the door, Anthony turned to Autumn and said with concerned eyes, "As for the baby, you..."

Autumn quickly interrupted him, "Come on, grandma! You say this every day that I can recite them back to you. I know what to do." With a sigh, she proceeded to lecture Anthony, "You keep nagging! I wonder what kind of woman will marry you."

Anthony brushed her off and responded, "I really don't care." He glanced at Autumn one last time and said, "Well, I'm off to work. Call me if anything happens or you need help."

"Okay." Autumn smiled and waved him off. She hurried back inside to check on the sleeping baby.

When Anthony got to the hospital, he learned that Abby had already given birth. Since she was Autumn's aunt, he decided to pay a visit.

When he reached Abby's ward, he found that Arthur and Amy were inside with Abby. Amy was holding

the baby, and everyone looked preoccupied when he saw them.

Anthony knocked before entering. His arrival broke Arthur's reverie. He smiled and greeted the doctor, "There you are!"

"How is Abby, Grandpa Arthur?" he inquired. He peeked at Abby and she still looked a little pale.

"She and the baby are fine," Arthur replied. Autumn's disappearance greatly disturbed Abby. As a result, she gave birth way ahead of her due date. The Zhao family remained depressed since Autumn was still missing.

Shortly after Anthony's arrival, Andy returned carrying lunch. When he caught sight of the doctor, he gave a loud greeting, "Hello Anthony! I heard from a nurse that you asked to go on leave for a week.

Were you sick?"

Anthony was startled and stammered, "Well... uhm, yeah." He was a terrible liar. And hiding Autumn in his apartment was the worst thing he had ever done.

But he justified his actions. He had to lie to protect Autumn.

Andy kept looking at him, and this made Anthony uneasy. He decided to leave. He told Arthur, "There's

something I need to deal with, so I have to go ahead. Please come to my office if you need anything."

Arthur patted him on the arm and nodded, oblivious to the doctor's discomfort. Anthony bade everyone goodbye and rushed out of the room.

His immediate departure aroused suspicion in Andy. He stared at the doctor's retreating back, wondering about his unusual behavior.

Andy mumbled to himself, 'Hmmm. It looks like he's hiding something.'

Chapter 498 Tell No One

It was a busy morning for Anthony. At noon, he called Autumn to check if she had eaten lunch.

It pleased him to hear Autumn's tender voice on the phone. He could even imagine the scene that she held Shirley in her arms with a meek expression.

Deep inside, Anthony desperately wished that Autumn would stay with him indefinitely. But he knew no matter how hard he hoped, the woman and her baby belonged to someone else. And one day, they would have to leave.

"Well, I have to go now. See you later," he said. Anthony could not help smiling.

Autumn spoke up, "If you're busy, you don't have to call me. I can look after Shirley and myself."

"Got it!" Anthony replied. Anthony settled back in his chair, dreaming of the mother and baby.

He knew Autumn was not a child and could handle herself and care for the baby. But it felt good to take care of her and do everything for her sake.

Anthony ended the call and turned around.

He was startled to see Andy, standing afar, but with eyes fixed on him. The gaze made the doctor feel uncomfortable.

As his uneasiness increased, the doctor nervously put his phone behind his back. "Is there anything I can do for you, Mr. Xu?" he asked, his voice carrying fluster.

"Yes," Andy replied, his lips pursed. He noticed Anthony suddenly looked panic-stricken and was more certain the doctor was hiding something.

"What is it that you need?" Anthony asked again. Slowly, he calmed his nerves and now looked composed as he went on talking to Andy, "Please tell me what I can do for you."

Andy hesitated to check Anthony's reaction. "Well, I do have several questions for you," he told the doctor. Anthony wanted to fidget under Andy's gaze.

"Okay, I'm listening," he said in his professional tone.

Andy opted to be frank and went straight to the point. "You must have heard of Autumn's disappearance," he said while watching Anthony's reaction. "Charles has scoured the whole Y City looking for her. I want to know if..." he paused. "If Autumn ever contacted you," Andy finished.

The doctor schooled his features to hide any reaction. "What? Why would she get in touch with me?" he asked. He attempted a laugh, but it was an awkward sound that came out. Anthony thought of how to respond. "I am only the physician in charge of Autumn. If ever she has problems, wouldn't she turn to you, her family, for help instead of her doctor?" he pointed out.

Andy hid his irritation. "But you are also her friend aside from being her doctor." Andy deliberately brought up the subject of Autumn's disappearance, hoping to see how Anthony would react.

To Anthony's credit, he showed no signs of concern about his missing patient. But he was rather quick to distance himself from Autumn, which again triggered Andy's suspicion.

The doctor tried to defend himself and raised an eyebrow as he replied, "Mr. Xu, I think you're quite mistaken. I feel sorry for what happened to her, but I have nothing to do with her disappearance." He made it very clear to Andy that Autumn was only a patient and that was the extent of their relationship.

"I truly am sorry for what happened to her. But I know nothing else," he clarified again.

Andy's brow raised slightly. "I never implied you were involved," he said. "But please, tell me if Autumn ever called you," he urged, looking keenly at the doctor.

Anthony struggled to control himself. "I already said she did not," the doctor replied. He then added, "And it makes no sense for her to contact me."

Andy sighed in disappointment. "Well, if she does come to you, we would appreciate knowing about it immediately. It's not only Charles but my parents-in-law, my wife and I who are worried about her and hoping she will return safely." Andy kept his face impassive but still felt irritated.

Anthony nodded. "I will do that." The doctor added, "If I meet her, I will pass on your message."

Andy gave a small nod and thanked Anthony. He said, "Please get back to work. I have to return to my wife and watch over her."

On his way back to Abby's ward, Andy still had a nagging suspicion about Anthony. He decided to have his men closely monitor the doctor. From the hospital, Anthony went straight to the market to buy ingredients for tomorrow's meals. As soon as he arrived at the apartment, he went straight to the room and found Autumn and Shirley asleep on the bed. He smiled upon seeing their peaceful expressions.

He left the room quietly and went to the kitchen to start cooking.

It was crucial for dinner tonight. Since Autumn came to live with him, Anthony would prepare a

different soup each day. Autumn woke up and was led to the kitchen by the aroma of food.

At the doorway, she rubbed still drowsy eyes. Autumn took a deep breath and said, "I wondered what

the pleasant smell was," Autumn said. "I should have guessed it was you cooking."

"Hello, Autumn!" Anthony called out as he sprinkled chopped green onions on the fish soup. "Dinner is

ready. Go wash your hands," he instructed.

Autumn nodded and obeyed. At the dinner table, Anthony filled a bowl with rice for her. "Where's

Shirley?" he asked. Anthony kept on chattering as he served Autumn. "Did she behave while I was

away? Did she cry a lot?" He kept bombarding her with questions.

Autumn inhaled before replying, "No, she hasn't been crying. Once I give her milk, she falls asleep.

Before you arrived, she was up but fell asleep after drinking milk." She remembered her delight at

taking care of the baby. 'She's a good baby, so it's easy to take care of her,' she said to herself inside.

Autumn continued to bask in joy as she thought of her child.

"Is she now?" Anthony replied with a twinkle in his eyes. He, too, adored Shirley and was very fond of

her. Having spent a week staying with Shirley, Anthony became more fond of this obedient baby. He already treated her as his own daughter. When he went to work today, he missed his little girl very much.

Thinking about the day when the mother and daughter had to leave, he knew he would feel miserable and empty.

"Everything looks delicious!" Autumn exclaimed happily. She ignored Anthony's quiet moment. As she sipped the soup, Autumn couldn't stop complimenting Anthony. "You could open your own restaurant if you weren't a doctor. You're a terrific cook. And I bet your restaurant will be a big hit."

Anthony teasingly pouted. "No thanks! It's already hectic taking care of you, and you still want me to cook for others? You wish!" he joked.

Autumn gave him a faint smile. Since she moved into Anthony's apartment, their relationship became closer. Each time the doctor would crack a joke, his patient would smile.

Autumn slowly straightened herself.

The first time Anthony brought her to his home, Autumn looked like she would take her own life the

minute he left her.

Suddenly he remembered the news that Autumn needed to know. Anthony scowled at the memory.

"There is one thing you should know," he began. "Abby gave birth to a boy. They're both in the hospital," Anthony said without emotion.

Autumn froze at the news of her aunt's giving birth early. She tried her best to smile. "Did she?" she asked.

"I was told it was a premature delivery. Your aunt became stressed after learning about your accident.

So she had an early labor. The baby was incubated for several days, but he's strong now," the doctor reported. He fixed his gaze on Autumn, and asked gingerly, "Are you truly going to keep hiding here for the rest of your life?" Their secret was slowly taking a toll on the doctor. "Charles has no idea you're here. But Andy..." he paused. "I think he suspects I know something, and I don't know how long I can keep him in the dark," Anthony admitted.

"As long as you can," Autumn said firmly. "I'll think of something else when they're close to finding me here," she declared.

Chapter 499 Andy Tracked Autumn

Anthony wanted to argue. "But..." he started to say. Then he stopped. More than anything, he wanted

to help Autumn. She was still frail and would find it difficult to care for a child alone. He was uncertain if

Leila was telling the truth or not. It was partly guilt that kept pushing him to persuade Autumn to go back.

"Stop convincing me to return to them," Autumn said impatiently. She knew that if Anthony kept bringing up the subject, she would get extremely anxious and irritated.

Autumn laid down her chopsticks and announced, "I'm full now. Thank you for preparing dinner. I want to rest now."

It was wrong to be rude to Anthony. Autumn knew he did not deserve such treatment. But she couldn't control her temper.

The doorbell ringing broke the uneasy silence. They jumped at the sound. Anthony peeked to see who was ringing the bell and saw Andy. He hid his agitation but dragged Autumn to the room while telling her, "It's Andy. You have to hide. Hurry!"

Autumn was dumbfounded. They shouldn't find her there. She never expected Andy to come to Anthony's house so soon. Autumn quickly collected her things and hid them in the room.

Fortunately, Shirley was still sound asleep. If she cried, Autumn knew it would be all over.

Anthony answered the door as Autumn went inside the room. He looked at Andy in confusion and

asked, "Mr. Xu, what brings you here?"

"Oh, I wanted to ask you something," Andy replied pleasantly. All the while, he kept peering inside

Anthony's apartment to check if anyone else was there.

"What is it that you need from me?" Anthony asked again. He stood at the door but did not open it fully

and kept holding the edge to keep Andy out.

"Aren't you going to ask me in?" Andy said. He sensed that the doctor was displaying rather unusual

behavior.

Andy's people had orders to monitor Anthony once he left the hospital. His routine was to buy food at

the supermarket. Andy began to suspect Anthony was hiding Autumn because the amount of food he

bought wasn't just for one person. That's when he finally decided to visit the doctor at home.

"Of course. Please come in," Anthony said politely. He still held the door and hesitated before opening

it wide to let Andy in.

Andy looked around the house. He noted it was clean and everything was in order. "Mr. Xiao, your

house is so tidy and clean. I'm impressed."

"I am very particular about cleanliness," Anthony explained. "So, I clean my house whenever I have free time." His temper was simmering, but he held it back. After several moments of silence, he asked again, "Mr. Xu, what is it that you want from me? Why not be frank with me?"

Andy ignored him and proceeded to the dining area. He inquired, "You haven't finished eating yet?" He saw two meal settings on the table. Andy chuckled to himself and felt his suspicions were close to being proven.

Anthony heard him and realized he had not cleared the table. He groaned inwardly but forced himself to calm down.

"I was eating when you arrived and had no time to clear up. I'm sorry for the mess," the doctor said as he tried to figure out what Andy wanted.

"But the table is set for two," Andy pointed out. He was beginning to feel smug that Anthony appeared to be lying.

But the doctor quickly covered this up. "Yes, a friend was here earlier but had to leave suddenly

because of an emergency. He didn't finish eating. And like I said, I hadn't cleared up and washed the dishes," he explained, a bit embarrassed. Anthony paused before asking, "Mr. Xu, are you here to inquire about my life?" He was getting a little impatient.

All of a sudden, Andy claimed, "I'm a little hungry. Can I have some food?" He appeared to be pleading Anthony to feed him.

The doctor knew it would be rude to say no, and realized he should have invited Andy to eat. He handed him a bowl of rice and new chopsticks. Andy began eating with relish and quickly finished his meal. Anthony was astonished but made no comment. Instead, he asked, "So, what did you want to ask me?"

Andy rubbed his belly and smiled in gratitude. Then he replied, "To tell you the truth, it's been so long since I've eaten so much."

He kept staring at Anthony and grinning. "Charles almost hit me because of Autumn's disappearance.

But I don't blame him for wanting to do that because I know how upset he is since his wife is still

missing. After that, I've been in the hospital to take care of Abby. And I haven't had a decent night's

sleep since that time nor have I eaten a good meal." Andy lowered his tone, as if telling the story of his

life.

"Okay, I get it. But what is it that you're trying to tell me?" Anthony was getting both confused and impatient with Andy's rambling.

"Mr. Xiao, my father-in-law, is a good friend of your grandfather, so I'm not going to beat around the bush. I want to be frank with you. What I want to know is whether Autumn is here." He finally said it. He looked straight at Anthony to see his reaction.

The doctor was stunned. He never expected the man to be so straightforward so he quickly turned away to avoid looking at Andy. "Are you kidding me?" He continued with the pretense. "How is that possible?"

"Look, Anthony. Perhaps you can lie about this to other people, but not with me," Andy said deliberately. He spoke louder now and repeatedly said, "We're alone here. Just the two of us." Andy wasn't about to give up. "I want to know what happened to Autumn. I'm with Autumn on this one. Otherwise, you'd be facing Charles right now, not me."

Andy's words infuriated Anthony. But it only showed in his pressed lips. "Mr. Xu, I have no idea what

you're talking about. Since you've finished eating, can I ask you to leave now?" He emphasized each word.

Andy persisted. "It doesn't matter whether or not you understand what I'm saying as long as the person hiding in the room understands me." He smiled while looking at the closed door where Autumn and Shirley were hiding. "I know you're here, Autumn," he said loudly. "I didn't come here to harm you. But I want to know what happened. Can you please come out and explain everything to me?" Andy said.

Anthony snapped, "Mr. Xu, I already told you Autumn was not here. So I am asking you again to leave and stop harassing me!" The doctor's brows furrowed. He wanted Andy to leave for fear Shirley would wake up. As he was about to escort Andy out of his apartment, the bedroom door suddenly opened.

Andy heaved a sigh of relief at the sight of his niece. She stood there with no injuries.

"Autumn!" he cried. "I am so glad to see you without a scratch." Andy decided he had to set everything straight with his niece.

Anthony stared at Autumn, looking helpless. He tried his best to get Andy to leave. But here was Autumn, surprising him by making her appearance.

"Don't worry, Anthony. I'm fine," she assured her friend. She shook her head to indicate she was okay

and he was not at fault. "Let me talk to him," Autumn said.

She asked Andy to follow her inside the room. As soon as he entered, Andy saw the baby asleep on the bed. He peered at her closely and found that she looked a little like Cindy, which stunned him. Then he looked around, and found himself asking, "Where is the other baby?" He remembered Autumn was pregnant with twins. "Didn't you have twins?" he inquired.

"There's only Shirley," she said quietly. Autumn asked her uncle directly, "How did you know I was here?"

"Only Shirley?" Andy almost whispered. It was a shock to hear Autumn confirm there was only one baby. "What do you mean? What happened to the other baby? Tell me what happened, please. Now that you're safe and sound, why haven't you gone back home? Everyone is worried about you, especially Charles," he talked non-stop. "Do you know that your disappearance almost drove your husband crazy? He's combed every square inch of Y City to search for you!" he claimed.

"That's none of my business," Autumn said coldly. She looked Andy in the eye and said clearly, "Never mention Charles in my presence. It's over between us. I will leave this house only when he stops

searching for me. I'll go to a place where no one knows me. I want nothing to do with him anymore. Do you understand?"

Andy was flabbergasted. "Autumn, what are you saying?" He couldn't believe it was Autumn talking.

"Charles is your husband, your baby's father. How can you say he's none of your business?" Andy

massaged his forehead in confusion. He couldn't understand why Autumn wanted nothing to do with

her husband now. Why was she so mad at Charles?

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"But he cheated on me!" Autumn blurted out. She took out a photo with both Leila and Charles naked on the bed, and showed it to Andy. "As you can see, he doesn't deserve to be my child's father," she said with conviction.

'Those drugs must have made Autumn become so assertive, ' Andy suspected. With a scowl, he

defended Charles, "There must have been some mistake. Since you disappeared, he seemed to have

lost his mind and looked everywhere to search for you. I think he really cares about you."

"The photo will not lie. It turns out he is a good actor and fooled all of us," Autumn exclaimed. After a

long pause, she smiled wryly and continued, "I thought he was the man I could rely on for the rest of my

life. But you have seen the picture. He is a cheater."

"Autumn, you..." Andy tried to persuade her, his brows knitted. Autumn looked at Andy, and interrupted, "Andy, if you really care about me, please stop trying to defend him. Charles and I... we're done."

As she spoke those words, she felt great pain as if a dagger pierced her heart. However, she thought leaving Charles was the best choice. All she could yearn for, was to have her daughter with her.

Andy's expression turned sour. He stated blandly, "I know you're still mad at him. When you calm down, you can come to talk to me."

Looking at Autumn, Andy negotiated, "Don't worry. I won't tell anyone that you're here, including Abby.

When you're ready, you can come to us. Does that work for you?"

"Okay, thank you!" Autumn nodded.

Andy made this decision after weighing things out. 'It's Autumn's personal matter. If I tell Charles and the Zhao family that she is here, she will hate me. It'll just make things worse.

I'll just wait. When she composes herself and tells me her final decision, I'll figure it out, ' he thought.

When Andy left Autumn's room, Anthony had already put away all the plates. At the sight of Andy,

Anthony greeted, "Are you done talking?"

"Oh, yeah," Andy replied. Andy then asked why Autumn was staying here. Anthony told him how he discovered her. Knowing what had happened to Autumn, Andy understood why Autumn made the decision.

"Anyway, thank you! Without you, Autumn and this child might have died," Andy expressed his appreciation.

"It's not a big deal. Autumn and I are friends," Anthony responded with a smile. After a long pause, he went on and said, "I hope you can do me a favor. Autumn gave birth to two children. Her son was taken by Leila. Can you help me find him?"

"Don't worry. I'll find that boy even if you didn't ask," Andy replied with a resolute expression. "Well, I got another question. When can Autumn receive her treatment?"

"She..." Anthony faltered, frowning. Shortly after, he stated in a serious tone, "I mentioned two treatment

options to Arthur..."

Anthony listed all the pros and cons of each scheme. Andy hesitated for a while, and reacted, "I can't

make a decision for her on this matter. We can discuss it later after Autumn gets better."

With a bitter smile, he urged, "Please take care of Autumn for now."

"I will," Anthony assured him, "I'll look after her well, don't worry."

When Andy stepped out of Anthony's house, he felt so much relieved. Now he knew that Autumn was safe. However, he couldn't share this good news with others.

After being discharged from the hospital, Abby returned to the Zhao family house. The moment Andy got home, he headed to his bedroom to find Cindy inside. With her head rested on her hands over the crib side rail, she knelt on the floor staring at her little brother in the crib.

The Zhao family was supposed to be leading a happy life. But owing to Autumn's disappearance, none of them looked cheerful. Even the arrival of the baby couldn't wash away their concerns and unrest.

"Cindy, go to your grandparents. I want to talk to your mom," Andy turned to Cindy. As Cindy got out of the room, Andy sat beside Abby. "I heard that you didn't eat much. What's up? Did you lose your appetite?" Andy asked tenderly with a concerned look.

"I'm fine," Abby replied with a listless expression. "I worry about Autumn. I don't know if she..." she uttered with her furrowed brows.

"You just had a baby. Don't think too much," Andy comforted Abby. There came a moment when he was tempted to tell Abby the truth. He tried not to give in though, because he wanted to keep his promise to Autumn.

"How could I stop thinking about her?" Abby countered dejectedly, "I don't know if she is safe."

"You have my word. I'll help you find her back," Andy promised sombrely. "God will bless her. She is so kind and I believe that she will get through this," he pacified.

"I hope so," Abby answered.

Andy finally convinced Abby into drinking a bowl of soup. When he walked up the stairs, he heard Cindy's wailings. "I want little sister, grandpa," Cindy cried in Arthur's arms.

'Since Autumn disappeared, the whole family have been affected. Even obedient Cindy started to make trouble.

I can't imagine the scenes in Lu family.

But to keep my promise, I have to keep them in the dark, ' he sighed.

After Andy left Anthony's house, Autumn opened her door, and went over to Anthony. "Is what you said

to Andy true?" Autumn asked, her eyes kindling with expectation.

"What do you mean?" Anthony asked, quite puzzled.

"I remember you mentioning before. You said that Western medicine could not only cure my illness but erase my past memories too. Is that true?" Autumn asked, her eyes sparkling with delight. It seemed that the medicine's side effects turned out to be a good thing for her.

After much mulling, she thought the only way for her to start a new life and move on was to forget Charles.

"Are you gonna choose this drug?" Anthony asked, his pupils almost popped out.

"Yeah," Autumn replied enthusiastically. "I need to care for my child. If I fail to get a treatment for my illness, I'm afraid I might hurt my baby girl one day," she explained.

"But..." Anthony echoed hesitantly.

"That's it," Autumn decided. "After I take this medicine, please take me and Shirley with you. I don't mind wherever you'd take us. I just want to stay away from Charles. I don't want to see his face again."

"What about your other family members? Are you gonna forget Arthur, Amy... all of them?" Anthony asked, lifting his eyebrows.

She was hesitant for quite a while, and then told Anthony, "This is the only way to help me forget him.

You don't want to see me live in pain like this, do you?"

With a smile, she continued, "I never expected I would end up hating Charles like this. Right now, I only

want to be a good mother, not a dutiful granddaughter nor a sensible wife."

'I can only play one role. And that is, as my daughter's mother, ' she resolved.

"How about your other child?" Anthony asked carefully, focusing his gaze on Autumn.

She remained silent. After a long pause, she uttered, "Charles will take good care of him."