

A Bird in the Cage by Wild Dandelion

Chapter 121

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Chapter 121 There Shouldn't Be Anything Going on Between Them

"Cammy?" While Ryan and Catherine were staring at each other, they suddenly heard Jasmine's voice.

There seemed to be a questioning tone when she called out to Camilla. Was she suspicious of the strange way they stared at each other?

For a moment, Catherine was shocked, but she didn't turn around immediately. Instead, she remarked, "Thank you for your concern, brother. I will take care of myself."

After saying that, she calmly turned around and faced Old Mrs. Walker, Leonardo, and Jasmine,

who were all walking over.

There wasn't anything unusual about Old Mrs. Walker and Leonardo's expressions. However, Jasmine looked at her suspiciously. If Jasmine didn't have any doubts, she wouldn't have had that

Catherine's heart lurched.

In that brief moment, Jasmine frowned slightly and relaxed.

She thought that she was perhaps just overthinking it. Although Catherine and Ryan were staring intently at each other, Catherine had called him "brother" just now, so there shouldn't be anything going on between the two of them.

Besides, Catherine was her best friend since they were children. Catherine wouldn't be messing around with her husband behind her back.

"Grandma!" Catherine called out and walked forward to hold her arm.

"Jasmine!" she called out to Jasmine as well as if nothing had happened earlier.

"Just call me Jas in the future. We're about the same age after all." After all, Catherine had been calling her Jas all this while.

But since they were pregnant now, Jasmine thought that it was only a matter of time before Catherine married Leonardo.

Glancing at the two women secretly, Ryan couldn't help thinking that these two were indeed best friends. Their acting was FLAWLESS. Catherine changed her name and pretended to have no relationship with Jasmine.

"Were you so happy that you couldn't sleep last night, Grandma?" Ryan approached and asked Old

Mrs. Walker with a smile.

"Of course. The whole night, I was thinking about how lively this place would be when my great grandchildren are born. Oh, your grandpa is coming back today, but none of you can tell him about it. I have to personally tell him about this matter."

Since Old Mr. Walker got physically hurt during the war, it was impossible for him to mess around. So, he just stayed loyal to Old Mrs. Walker this whole time.

As a result, both of them stayed by each other's side ever since they were young. It was a kind of deep relationship no other couples could have.

When Ryan saw how happy Old Mrs. Walker was, he felt depressed.

In the past, he thought about getting Catherine to

bear a child just to make his grandmother happy. They finally had babies on the way, and Grandma was indeed excited about it, but he had no choice but to ruthlessly shatter her beautiful dream.

Since Jasmine's child was not his and not a baby of the Walker family, he was surely not going to let her deliver it and bring shame to the Walker family.

Besides, both of them had already agreed that Jasmine would have an abortion as soon as Old Mrs. Walker went abroad.

Meanwhile, Catherine's child was also destined not to come to this world. Once Old Mrs. Walker came back from Arinth, how was Catherine going

So, he thought that he would have to convince his grandfather to go over to Arinth with his grandmother. At the same time, the younger generation of the Walker family would visit her in

Arinth often. If they could spend a long time there, he would then think of a way to let his grandfather slowly accept the fact that the babies were all gone.

Other than this, it seemed like there was no better way.

After all, he couldn't go back on his agreement with Jasmine and force her to have his baby. Moreover, he was not interested in her.

Also, it was impossible for him to let Catherine keep the baby or have his baby. These were just unrealistic ideas.

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Chapter 122 Mercy

“Okay, we’ll let you tell the good news to Grandpa, Grandma. All of you better not say a word!” Ryan ordered with a smile. Old Mrs. Walker couldn’t tell that his mind was full of all kinds of complicated thoughts.

By then, Ryan had completely calmed down. No matter how tricky the thing was, he had to hang on because it was his responsibility.

So, he wasn’t going to let anyone suspect that there was something going on between him and Catherine anymore. As for that brief change in Jasmine’s expression earlier, he noticed it as well.

Perhaps she had her doubts, but she knew her place. She had no right to interfere in his relationship with other women.

That was because they had agreed earlier on that they were free so they can, even flirt around with other people, but they had to pretend to be a pair of loving husband and wife in front of others.

In fact, Ryan had already shown Jasmine sufficient mercy. So, Jasmine was actually grateful to Ryan deep down.

Indeed, she had difficulties when she married into the Walker family. However, these difficulties were not to be exposed to any outsiders according to their agreement.

Meanwhile, this pregnancy was an accident for Jasmine. All this time, she paid close attention to her safe periods, but she didn’t expect a miscalculation on her part.

As for the consequences, she would bravely endure it. Although it was the baby of her lover, she had no choice but to cruelly give up on it

because she didn’t want to make things difficult for Ryan.

In the dining hall, Old Mrs. Walker naturally arranged for her two granddaughters-in-law to eat with her, and they both listened to her obediently.

Despite feeling nauseous, they suppressed the urge to vomit so that they wouldn’t make Old Mrs. Walker worried.

After breakfast, Ryan said goodbye to Old Mrs. Walker and left for work.

On the other hand, Jasmine also had work, and she wasn't going to skip work just because she was pregnant.

Since Leonardo was preparing to study overseas, he had nothing to do currently, so he could keep Catherine company.

As soon as they all left, Catherine chatted with Old Mrs. Walker. Of course, Leonardo was there too.

However, Catherine kept repeating Ryan's words in her mind. She had to abort the baby in three days.

At this point, she couldn't stay here anymore. She had to leave Walker Manor right away.

Noticing that Old Mrs. Walker felt happy, Catherine said, "Although Ryan will handle everything for Leonardo and me, I think it's still better for me to go back and tell this good news to my parents, Grandma."

After giving it some thought, Old Mrs. Walker agreed. So, she instructed Leonardo, "Send Cammy home and express your sincerity to them. Also, tell them that your brother will visit them and discuss about your wedding later on."

Naturally, Leonardo agreed to Old Mrs. Walker and

walked out of Walker Manor with Catherine.

Initially, Catherine had agreed to stay here to keep Old Mrs. Walker company until Old Mr. Walker returned, but Leonardo didn't know why she suddenly decided to leave.

normal since this baby wasn't his.

However, if she left, he would really have no chance to be with her anymore.

What could he do to made she agree to stay by his side?

When they left Walker Manor, Leonardo began to persuade Catherine in the car.

Obviously, she wasn't going to agree to it no matter what he said. Finally, he had no choice but

to just watch her got out of the car.

As usual, Catherine got off the car at the square. Every time Leonardo sent her home, she would choose to be dropped off there.

Since Leonardo was used to this, he really thought that she lived near the square. When he saw her disappear from his sight, he drove off.

Although Catherine had left Walker Manor, she actually had no idea where she should go or what she could do yet.

If she went back to Ryan's apartment now, she would just be sending herself back to the lion's den. If she were to go home, he would find her easily.

Then, he would surely use her parents and Jasmine as an excuse to force her to abort the baby. If that were to happen, she would really have no reason to insist on delivering "Leonardo's baby"

If she disappeared completely, her agreement with Ryan would be broken, and her father's factory would suffer.

Wait!

Cayden was negotiating the acquisition of the factory. Once her father's factory was under his name, he should be able to protect it with the power of the Winters family, shouldn't he?

Once her father's factory was fine, all she had left to worry about was Jasmine. However, for the baby, she was willing to face that.

Catherine was thinking that it was only a matter of time before Jasmine forgave her based on their relationship after she realized that Catherine had no other choice.

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Chapter 123 Pretending to Abort the Baby

The biggest problem right now was that Catherine didn't what Cayden's plan was going on. After all, her father's factory was still her biggest concern.

Standing on the busy streets, she didn't know where to go, so she just stood still in a daze.

She was in such a trance that she didn't even know when a car stopped right beside her.

"What are you doing here, Cath?" Kevin called out to her after winding down his window to snap her out of her daze.

"It's you, Kevin!" At that moment, she seemed to have seen her savior and naturally broke into a smile. As he was smart and full of good ideas, he

could possibly help her out.

"Are you that happy to see me? Or is it because you need my help?" he teased and leaned over to open the car door for her.

"Get in. Let's go somewhere else to have a chat. It feels like we haven't met in quite some time, Cath."

Without hesitation, Catherine hopped on car and shut the door.

After getting in, she didn't say another word, and the brief happiness from earlier was gone too.

"Tell me, what is troubling you? Whenever you have troubles, you will fall into a daze like that. You're an adult now, but you're still the same," Kevin said dotingly.

"This time, I'm really in big trouble. I really hope you can help me, Kevin. But I know that you

definitely can't help me this time."

"Just tell me what happened. Although I just work as a driver for a boss, sometimes I also serve as his secretary, so perhaps I can help you. Besides, can't you tell I look like Mr. Walker? It's useful to be handsome nowadays because it makes things so much easier." In Catherine's memory, Kevin always seemed to be cheerful this way as if he never had any troubles at all.

His smile was always warm, and he always hung a smile on his face. Because of that, everyone mysteriously trusted him a lot when they saw him.

At that moment, Kevin's smile managed to relax her a little.

Whatever it was, he would always make everyone around him feel fearless about their problems and that everything would be OK.

"Kevin, I..." She was really too shy to say that she was pregnant.

"I am pregnant."

"Huh?" Kevin was quite shocked.

"When... When you did it with Ryan, didn't you..." On the other hand, Kevin was too embarrassed to ask if they used protection.

"We did. That's what perturbed me because I don't know how I got pregnant. Ryan even had his family doctor prescribe some contraceptives for me, but I suspected that the pills he asked me to eat were not oral contraceptives at all. Otherwise, I wouldn't have gotten pregnant. I have been taking the pills regularly, and nothing like this had happened in the past two years."

"Right. What did he say? Does he want you to keep the baby?" Kevin asked her while driving slowly.

"No. He doesn't know that the baby is his, so he asked me to get rid of it."

Frowning, Kevin glanced at her in confusion. Since she knew that this was because he had questions, she continued, "Do you remember the time I told you that I was going to Walker Manor to pretend to be Leonardo's girlfriend? I didn't expect that his grandmother would secretly put aphrodisiacs in our food."

"Huh? So the two of you..."

Shaking her head, Catherine was fine with anyone else misunderstanding her, but she didn't want to lie to Kevin, nor let him think that she was that kind of woman who loved messing around with different men.

"Leonardo was a gentleman. I don't know how he did it, but he didn't touch me that night. Nothing happened between us. Ryan thought I cheated on

him and slept with his younger brother that night, but I didn't explain anything."

"What? Why didn't you tell him the truth? If you did, he'll let you keep the baby." Kevin stared at Catherine like she was an alien. While he stared at her, he couldn't understand why she would want to make herself suffer this way.

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Chapter 124 She Wanted to Keep the Baby

"Jas is pregnant too. That's why I don't want Ryan to know that I bear his child. If he knew, he wouldn't treat Jas as well as before. Even now, he doesn't care about her."

"Oh!" Kevin responded but still shook his head involuntarily and sighed. "You silly girl. You always think about others. If you don't tell Ryan that this baby is his, he will definitely ask you to abort it. After all, what kind of man could stand his woman cheat on him? What are you planning to do

then?"

"That's what's troubling me. I can't leave right now because he's threatening me with all kinds of things. If I don't do what he says, he will let Alan Ball close down and tell Jas about everything. If I

don't leave him, he will force me to abort the baby. So, what do you think I should do?"

"Are you telling me you still want to keep the baby?" Kevin asked with a look of disbelief on his face.

"Yes!" She nodded with determination.

"Can you tell me why? You don't love Ryan. So, why would you want to give birth to his baby? You should know that you will have to devote the rest of your life to raising his child once the baby is born. It won't be easy for you to marry another man with a child in the future."

Staring at Kevin, Catherine knew that the things he said were cruel and depressing, but he just wanted to help her.

"Even if I don't deliver the baby, I don't want to be with any one else once I break up with Ryan.

Because of him, I can't trust men any more. I just want to deliver this baby, Kevin. This baby is mine,

and it has nothing to do with Ryan."

"Let me think about it and see if there is any other way to fool Ryan."

While Kevin grabbed the steering wheel with one hand, he clenched his other hand into a fist and pressed it against his chin.

It was always his habit to think like that.

So, she kept quiet and waited until he thought of an idea for her.

"How about this?" Kevin finally broke the silence after a few minutes.

"I know a doctor. How about I help you bribe her so that she can prove that you have aborted the baby to fool Ryan?"

Actually, that was a pretty good idea. Although Ryan would find it out one day, it could buy time to keep the baby safe

At least, Cayden had already begun negotiations for the acquisition of her father's factory. Once the factory was saved, she could get rid of Ryan's control and deliver the baby safely.

“But Ryan is so cunning. Will he believe it?” That was Catherine’s only concern.

“How about this? I will call that doctor later. Then, you can call Ryan and ask him to see that doctor with you. If he really cared about the baby, he would probably agree to go with you.”

“Okay! Thank you so much, Kevin.”

“Don’t be silly. No matter how much I do for you in this lifetime, I will never make up for what I did to you,” Kevin responded guiltily.

Unfortunately, Catherine knew that he was referring to the accident and that he felt sorry for her.

“Don’t mention that anymore. It wasn’t like you did it on purpose. I never blame you. If anyone else had hit me then, they would have run away. By the way, I’ve found out what happened the day of the

accident, Kevin. There was someone called Elroy, Elroy Johnston, and he was probably the one that you’ve mentioned, who called me Cath. I’ve heard that I got into that car accident because of him. Since I lost my memories and my parents didn’t want me to remember him, they sent him abroad.”

“Yes! That’s right! I remember. His name is indeed Elroy!” Kevin agreed while it seemed like he just recalled it.

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Chapter 125 Abortion

Since Kevin had already confirmed this, Catherine no longer had any other questions about it.

Right now, the only thing that was troubling her was what had happened between her and Ryan in the past.

However, she was no longer in that much of a hurry to know about their past. From the looks of it, Ryan probably wasn’t going to let her go even if she knew what had happened between them before that car accident.

So, it was wiser for her to think of a way to leave him instead.

“Let’s go to the hospital now, Cath.”

“Okay!”

Turning the car around, Kevin headed straight for Guardian Hospital.

When they arrived in the hospital lobby, Kevin told her the name of the gynecologist, Dr. West.

“Wait here for a while. I will go in and let her know what’s up,” Kevin instructed. Catherine nodded.

After she queued and got the hospital registration, she waited in the hall for Kevin.

Soon, he came out to get her.

“I will take you to Dr. West right now, Cath. I have arranged everything. Even if Ryan comes here, he will think that she has performed the surgery for you. Don’t worry. You will be able to deceive him for quite some time.”

After saying that, he brought Catherine upstairs to see Dr. West. Then, he told her to go in herself while he waited outside.

Dr. West was in her forties. She seemed serious as she treated Catherine.

It seemed like she was really going to do the abortion. Catherine had no idea how Kevin did it, but she wasn’t in the mood to figure that out.

“When was your last menstruation?” Dr. West asked.

Giving it some thought, Catherine answered her question.

“Do you want a painless abortion?” she asked again.

Upon hearing that, Catherine nodded.

“Have you had a scan?” asked the do Catherine

shook her head to that question.

“Let’s go for an ultrasound!” she instructed officially and wrote her a note.

With the note in hand, Catherine left the room, and Kevin accompanied her to pay the fees. After drinking some water, Catherine went for her ultrasound.

When Catherine saw the vaguely present peanut-sized baby in her belly, she had complicated feelings. She felt bliss and heartache, but most of all, she felt a great responsibility for this little life and a glorious mission for the rest of her life.

Because it was pretty early in her pregnancy, the little baby was barely as big as a pea. It was so difficult for her to imagine how big the baby would grow into one day,

“Look at it, Kevin. That’s my baby,” she introduced her baby to Kevin proudly when she showed him the ultrasound photo.

“He’s so cute!” Kevin complimented.

“What did you see that made you say it was cute? Haha. But he really is quite cute.”

Looking at the photo, Catherine felt like she forgot all her troubles, and now she was immersed in the joy of seeing her baby for the first time.

As a result, she was even more determined to deliver the baby healthily no matter what happened.

“I’m leaving, Cath. Call Ryan and let him come over right now. But you have to pay close attention to the timing. Before he comes, you have to stay in the operating room, do you understand?”

“Okay, Kevin. Thank you so much!” Now, Kevin had helped her solve a huge issue. Perhaps it was even the biggest problem she had ever faced in her life.

Without saying more, Kevin dotingly stroked her head.

Then, he reminded her once more, “After the miscarriage, you are supposed to be weak. You have to pretend that your stomach hurts or you’re not good with cold and the chilly breeze. In short, the more you pretend that you feel weak, the more he will trust you.”

Upon hearing that, Catherine nodded quickly. She understood what he meant. Didn’t Ryan say that she was good at acting? Actually, she realized that she was indeed pretty good at it sometimes.

After Kevin left, Catherine went to the doctor’s office and handed the scans to the doctor. Then, she was told to wait outside.

After she calculated the time and estimated when Ryan would arrive at the hospital, she entered the operating room and called him.

Since the call was critical for her plan, she was pretty nervous.

At the time, Ryan had just finished his meeting. He was surprised to see Catherine calling him.

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Chapter 126 | Am in the Hospital

Catherine would almost never take the initiative to call him. Now that she did, it probably meant that something went wrong.

At the time, she should be in Walker Manor. Why did she dare to call him?

After giving it some thought, he answer the phone.

"I'm in Guardian Hospital's gynecology department, Ryan." She tried her best to keep her tone calm, and because of that, Ryan didn't find anything suspicious.

"What are you doing there?" Ryan asked. He suddenly felt a little nervous when he heard her say she was in the hospital.

However, he couldn't let her sense his concern so he made himself sound indifferent.

"I'm here to confirm if I'm pregnant."

"Dr. Burns is an experienced traditional medicine practitioner. You don't need to doubt about his diagnosis. Who are you there with? Hurry up and go back to Walker Manor!" he ordered.

"Dr. Burns was indeed right... I am indeed pregnant, but not for long." she said in a melancholic tone. When she recalled how he had

cruelly asked her to abort the baby before, she felt sad.

"What do you mean?" He couldn't help frowning.

"I'm doing the abortion right away."

"Don't do it!" he cried out.

"Wait for me. I'll come and pick you up right away. Don't do it. Did you hear me?" he repeated anxiously.

He sounded so anxious that she could even felt a sense of helplessness when he said that.

Suddenly, he began to have doubts. What if the baby was his? What should he do then?

What if she lied to him before? Wouldn't he regret it if she aborted their baby?

"You were the one who said I couldn't keep this baby. I don't like other people controlling my life. Since I have to get rid of him no matter what, I would rather do it myself," Catherine declared and hung up immediately.

No! He couldn't let her abort the baby before he confirmed that the baby wasn't his!

Standing up from his office chair, Ryan rushed out of his office and called Catherine again.

Since Catherine was afraid that he wouldn't come, she answered the call.

"Is there anything else?" she asked.

"Tell me. Could it be possible that the baby is mine?" Ryan inquired seriously.

After all, they had sex so many times before. There was still the possibility that the baby was his. If it were his baby, he couldn't allow her to get rid of it just like that.

At that moment, Catherine had an ambivalent attitude towards her.

If she wanted to keep the baby, she naturally wanted to let her baby grow in a two-parent family

As long as she said yes now and was willing to be an underground lover for him for the rest of her life, she knew that she could provide her baby with a better living condition.

Before she was pregnant, she would always think that it was ridiculous that Ryan want her to be his mistress. Now, she suddenly began to understand why so many mothers were willing to compromise for the sake of their children.

Now that she was a mother, she began to understand that for their mothers, protecting their children were the most important thing in this world. She was willing to do anything for her baby.

After giving it some thought, Catherine ended up giving up her ridiculous and selfish idea.

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After all, she didn't want to be a home wrecker for the rest of her life. If her children found out what she had done to her best friend, they would

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definitely feel depressed.

“No, it’s impossible, Ryan. The baby is not yours,” she answered with certainty.

“How could you be so sure? Don’t forget that we-” As he rushed to the hospital, he tried to delay time. No matter what it took, he had to get her back to Walker Manor.

“Every time we had sex, I always took morning-after pills, but I never did it that night when I was with him. I didn’t only take the pills you

gave me, Ryan. Just to be safer, I even prepared some on my own.” Worrying that he would still have doubts in the future, she didn’t want to leave him any hope of having her baby.

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Chapter 127 Worry

Finally, Ryan got his answer. It was no wonder she got pregnant. It seemed like she really put in a lot of effort to prevent their pregnancy.

Just like that, his faint glimmer of hope had been extinguished. Right now, he could confirm without a doubt that the baby was Leonardo’s.

“Even if it is his, the baby belongs to the Walker family. You are not allowed to abandon it without my permission.”

Although he knew that the baby had to be aborted, he couldn’t let her do it on her own somewhere else. After all, he didn’t know the doctors there, and he was worried that something bad would happen to her if she had an abortion.

Damn it! Why was he still worried about her even at this juncture?

If something really were to happen, it would be her own fault. She deserved it. Would she even be grateful to him for worrying about her?

While he kept scolding himself in his heart, Catherine had no idea that he was worried about her health at all. All she thought was that he didn’t trust her.

“Do you have to personally witness the abortion? If you don’t trust me, you can come over right now.” After saying that, she hung up the call. Then, she turned off her phone. Minutes later, Dr. West informed her that she could enter the operating room.

Due to the urgency of the situation, Ryan did not call Luca and rushed right over to Guardian Hospital on his own.

When he arrived at the floor of the gynecology department, he saw a nurse helping Catherine out of the operating room while a doctor followed right behind her.

“Catherine!” he cried out and ran toward her.

Looking up at him, she seemed pale, sweating. It really looked like she had gone through the abortion.

“She just had an abortion so you need to take extra care of her. Don’t expose her to cold water. It’s best if she lies down in bed and have more rest for the time being,” Dr. West advised Ryan.

At that point, Catherine couldn’t help admiring Kevin’s ability to make such good arrangements.

Their plan seemed flawless, and it seemed that Ryan had fallen into their trap. In fact, they even prepared a complete medical record as evidence.

So, he had no choice but to believe that the baby was gone.

She actually had the nerve to disobey him and abort the baby. Right now, he had the urge to strangle her to death.

However, he was no longer in the mood to hold her responsible after seeing how pale she was. Instead, he felt heartache when he saw her.

He even walked over and helped her walk. With a frown, he asked Dr. West, “Why is she clutching her belly, Doctor? Is it because the abortion didn’t go too well? Isn’t it supposed to be painless?”

When Ryan asked those questions, he sounded angry and Dr. West got a little nervous. However, she still kept her cool and answered,

“Even though it was a painless abortion, she would still feel some discomfort in her belly despite not

feeling any pain during the operation. You should take good care of her. Once she gets well, she can go home. Pay attention to her hygiene, and she can’t have sex for at least a month.” After the doctor informed him thoughtfully, she handed the medical record to Ryan and went back to her office.

Once Ryan took the medical record from the doctor, he wanted to ask Catherine if she was feeling okay.

In the end, he did not ask her that question. Then, he wanted to reprimand her for doing the abortion on her own like that, but he couldn’t do that as well. Instead, he could only stare indifferently at her. Bending over, he wanted to carry her.

"I'm fine. My belly just feels a little uncomfortable," she refused him.

"What's going on with this hospital? How could

they let you walk after an abortion? Why don't they have a wheelchair for you or something? What if there was a hemorrhage? Would they be able to take responsibility for that?" Ryan frowned and complained.

Suddenly, Catherine felt a lump in her throat when she heard that because he was complaining on behalf of her. It was his way to care about her.

As tears welled up in her eyes, she seemed touched when she looked at him.

Despite how cruelly he treated her last night and how he tortured her to the point she hated him to the core, she still felt moved when she saw how worried he was right now.

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Chapter 128 Act Alone

When Ryan saw that Catherine was touched, he also recalled how hateful she was. So, he uttered with a straight face,

"I had no intention of being concerned about you. The baby belongs to the Walker family so I'm just doing it for the Walker family. Don't overthink it."

It turned out that she was overthinking things. Even though her self-esteem was hurt, she didn't want to argue with him. Instead, she casually replied, "What am I thinking? It's just a little painful. It's fine. I can walk on my own."

Yes. She really shouldn't overthink it. How could he be worried for her health? If he was really worried about her, he wouldn't have been so rough on her last night and even forced her to have an

abortion.

"Does it hurt a lot? I'll ask Victoria to come and check on you!" Ryan asked. Bending over, he picked her up.

"There's no need. Didn't you hear the doctor? It is normal to feel uncomfortable after the surgery. I don't feel like talking anymore. I just want to go back and take a rest. Put me down later and I will get a taxi back to my mother's place.

"No! You can't go home. Go back to the apartment."

"Why not? My mom will take good care of me."

Why not? How could she ask that? How was he going to feel at ease if he let her go back home like that?

However, he wasn't going to say that because he

was just temporarily caring for her, and he couldn't let her think that he was concerned about her.

"Luca told me that your mother was urging the two of you to have a child. Wouldn't your mother be devastated if you told her you had an abortion? Besides, the baby belongs to the Walker family so you have to obey my orders. In the apartment, Maria will take good care of you. I will also find a maternity nurse to take care of you specifically. If need be, Victoria can go over to visit you at any time. It's definitely much better than going home."

"But 1--"

"You're not allowed to object! I haven't even settled the score with you for your doing the abortion on your own. If you know what's good for you, you will go along with my arrangements."

Upon hearing that, Catherine didn't have anything else to say. All she could do was compromise and

do as he said.

When Ryan saw her look so serious and quiet, he

thought that she was mad at him.

Then, he began to think that a person in confinement shouldn't be angry. Otherwise, it would hurt her liver.

After giving it some thought, Ryan softened his tone and explained to her,

"I'm doing this for your own good. Just listen to me and take care of yourself. Don't sulk like that. If you continue to feel unhappy, it would be bad for your recovery. I may not care about your body, but I cannot let Leonardo be criticized for leaving a woman in the lurch."

While he said all that indifferently, he had already

carried her out of the hospital.

"I can walk on my own. I don't need you to carry me!" Since she didn't really have the abortion, she felt incredibly uneasy being carried around by him like that.

"No!" he uttered coldly. Then, he continued to carry her against her will and then put her in the backseat of the car.

"Lie down!" He thought that she would feel much more comfortable lying down.

Not wanting to argue with him, she did what he said and lay down in the backseat.

After he started the engine, he drove very slowly, probably because he was afraid the journey might be too bumpy for her.

Back at the apartment, Maria was there too. After Ryan mentioned to her that Catherine had just gotten an abortion, he told Maria to take good care

of her.

Then, Ryan called Luca and asked him to arrange for a maternity lady to care for Catherine here.

"I don't need it, Ryan. I really don't. Don't you know that ladies need a peaceful postpartum? That's why they hire confinement ladies to take care of the baby. I only had an abortion. There's no need for so many people to care for me."

In the end, she managed to convince him. On top of that, Maria added that she had served as a confinement lady before, so she asked Ryan to rest assured.

Upon hearing that, Ryan promised to double her salary so that she would be more motivated to provide a nutritious diet to Catherine.

"I still have some things to attend to at the company. I have to go back. Call me anytime if

anything happens," Ryan instructed.

"Got it. Go on!"

It was rare for the two of them to have such a conversation peacefully. Because of that conversation, Catherine was sitting on the bed in a daze even after Ryan had left.

After she sent Kevin a message to thank him for his plan and arrangements, she told him that everything went well and asked him not to worry about her.

"It's good that everything's fine. Take good care of yourself. Hope you recuperate soon."

"You must have paid Dr. West a lot this time, didn't you, Kevin? How much you paid her? I still have some savings with me."

“There’s no need. I happened to get a bonus this month so I still have some money leftover,” Kevin replied.

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Chapter 129 Pretend

“That won’t do. You still have to get married and raise children in the future. You need to save up. Hurry up and give me your account number!”

Obviously, Kevin wasn’t going to tell her his account number. After all, he didn’t really care about this measly sum of money.

So, Catherine had no choice but to consider withdrawing money next time and giving it to him.

Because she had to pretend to have a miscarriage, she couldn’t just leave the house whenever she liked. In her free time, she could only read some books at home.

Whenever Maria and Ryan weren’t around, she would turn on the computer to research some

information.

Whatever it was, Catherine would still feel uneasy if Ryan asked Victoria to come over and feel her pulse.

Coincidentally, Victoria was sent abroad by the hospital and couldn’t come back for a month.

“What a coincidence! Don’t forget that I’ve hired you to be my home doctor, Victoria.” Ryan sounded a little unhappy. Every time Victoria went away on business, she would inform him in advance even if it was just one or two days.

But this time, she didn’t tell him at all before she left the country. How could she be so rude?

“I got it, Mr. Walker. If you are not feeling well, you can call my father. I mean, we won’t risk having no one there to treat you for any sickness. It’s my mistake this time for not letting you know before !

left. I promise I won't do it again next time."

What else could Ryan do about it? Now that she was gone, he couldn't possibly go there and force her to come back, could he?

On the other hand, he couldn't really call Victoria's father to treat Catherine since her father worked as a private doctor for his grandparents. Therefore, Ryan was worried that her father would tell them about the abortion.

In the evening, Ryan still went home and accompanied his grandparents for dinner.

Now that Old Mr. Walker was back, Old Mrs. Walker finally agreed to accept treatment in Arinth under his persuasion. Obviously, this was great news for him.

"Camilla went home today, Ry. She didn't even call back. I wonder if her parents agreed. Leo told me

her parents loved him so I think you can visit her parents and discuss your brother's wedding with them," Old Mrs. Walker reminded worriedly.

"I will, Grandma. All you need to do is take good care of yourself and receive the treatment. I will handle everything well," Ryan promised.

After coaxing Grandma, Ryan talked to Jasmine for a bit and left with Luca to his apartment.

Now that Catherine was pregnant, it was much easier for her to feel sleepy. After she had an early dinner, she had already fallen into a deep sleep by the time Ryan arrived.

Since Maria was busy preparing the food for the next day's meal, she didn't realize that Catherine had fallen asleep.

When Ryan entered her room and saw that Catherine didn't cover herself with a quilt when

she slept, he was instantly dissatisfied with Maria.

He had doubled Maria's salary and reminded her to take care of Catherine. So, why did Maria not cover Catherine with a blanket when the latter fell asleep?

After covering Catherine with a thin blanket, he went to the kitchen with a sullen face.

"Maria!" he called out. Instantly, Maria stopped what she was doing and waited for him to continue.

“When did she fall asleep? Why didn’t you cover her with a blanket? It’s easy for her to catch cold. Do you know that?” When he asked those questions, he even tried to control his anger because he knew that Maria had been working hard here for many years. However, he needed her to understand that she should pay more attention to taking care of Catherine since the latter was

quite fragile after the abortion.

“Actually, it’s only August, Mr. Walker. I didn’t turn on the air conditioning in the room. I was worried that she would get heatstroke if it’s too hot and that won’t be good for her.” Even if Ryan never criticized or reprimanded her, Maria was afraid of Ryan all along.

Although he didn’t fly into a rage today, she knew that he was angry so she quickly explained herself softly.

After hearing what she said, Ryan seemed to realize that he had wronged her.

“Thank you for that. I guess you’re more attentive than me,” Ryan thanked her with a gentler expression. While he said that, he had already decided to pay her a bonus for being so considerate of Catherine.

After specially telling Maria to pay attention to Catherine’s diet, Ryan went back to the bedroom.

Even though they were talking softly, Catherine was still awoken by their conversation.

“What did you just say to Maria? She took great care of me. Don’t make things difficult for her,” Catherine said with a frown.

“I didn’t make things difficult for her. What did you eat tonight?”

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Chapter 130 Guilty Conscience

After Catherine had listed all the things she ate that night, Ryan nodded.

“Have an early night. Don’t worry. I will be by your side tonight,” he mentioned gently.

After saying that, he pulled out his laptop and started to work by her side.

Every time he treated her well, she would feel very conflicted and hoped that he would be harsh to her instead.

That way, she would never waver between leaving or staying. Unfortunately, he was just unpredictable. One second, he would be considerate of her, and the next second, he would drop her into an abyss of despair.

As if he subconsciously felt her gaze, he shifted his gaze from the laptop to her face.

In an instant, her face was beet red like a thief that was caught red-handed.

When Ryan saw her flushed little face, he forgot about all the bad things she had done for some reason.

Right now, he felt like she was just a little woman staying by his side. Since she had just had an abortion, she needed his care, and he had to be more gentle with her.

"A penny for your thoughts," Ryan muttered softly.

Once again, these gentle words softened her heart once more. Thinking back to the time she ran into that homeless man, she realized that Ryan treated her this gently as well.

Indeed, he was pretty hateful sometimes, but whenever something bad happened to her, he would protect her like a husband.

"Nothing much. I just think that you are strange today," she whispered with a pout.

"What do you mean?" he asked while turning off his laptop.

When Catherine saw how gentle he seemed, she

couldn't help trying to chat him up and communicate with him. If she was lucky, she could gain his trust and made him open up to her.

Turning off his laptop, he sat on the bed, and Catherine edged in a little to make some space for him. Just like that, both of them sat beside each other leaning on the headboard.

At that moment, they both wanted to forget their prejudices towards each other and have a good

talk.

"Sometimes, I would feel like you're a devil who only knows how to torture people, but sometimes you're not that hateful. That's why I find it very strange," Catherine mentioned honestly.

"Isn't that the same with you? You seem innocent

sometimes, but scheming most of the time.” It was so rare for Ryan to tell her what was on his mind. Perhaps it was because he was tired of pitting himself against her all this while.

“You don’t know me. Actually, you really misunderstood me this time. I never expected that your grandmother would drug Leo and me.”

“But why were you in his room that night? Why didn’t you take the morning-after pill after you slept with him? Also, there shouldn’t be any issues with the oral contraceptives Victoria has prescribed. If you had taken them, you wouldn’t

have gotten pregnant. Don’t forget that those are long-term contraceptives.” For a moment, Ryan’s series of questions overwhelmed Catherine.

Naturally, she wasn’t going to tell him that Jasmine asked her to go to Walker Manor just to pretend to Leo’s girlfriend because she was worried that Ryan would punish Jasmine, who was

also pregnant, for that.

However, if she didn’t tell him about that, it was natural that he would misunderstand her.

Since Catherine was struggling with the thoughts in her mind, she frowned a little. To Ryan, she was cunningly making up some excuses. She wasn’t willing to tell him the truth at all.

He was the foolish one who thought they could be open up to each other.

“Forget it. You don’t need to say anything. Go to

sleep!” Ryan tried his best to control his anger because he didn’t want to lash out at her since she was fragile.

“Okay!” she sighed and lay back down in bed.

Obviously, it was a luxury for them to have an honest and sincere conversation. It was practically impossible.

The next night, Ryan did not come over.

He didn’t want to see her again, but he still asked Maria how Catherine was doing there days.

He also told Maria to pay more attention to her and to keep Catherine company through the night if the latter felt scared.

Three days later, Ryan would make arrangements for Old Mr. Walker and Old Mrs. Walker to go to Arinth. After getting the first-class tickets for them,

Ryan was about to take them to the airport when Old Mrs. Walker suddenly refused to leave no matter what.