

A Bird in the Cage by Wild Dandelion

Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Having a Meal

Ryan didn't like complimenting other people. However, he always finished all the food she made for him as his special way to appreciate her cooking skills.

Seeing that he enjoyed the food she made, Catherine felt like a contented wife.

Those were things that had happened a long time ago. She already decided never to cook for him again.

"Hey, I'm talking to you. Answer me! Don't be so rude," he said while poking her sides.

"I'm tired. If you're hungry, the doors are open. Go and find your own food," she answered sullenly.

"I want to eat here today!" Reaching out his arm, he flipped her around. He wasn't used to talking to someone's back.

"Go ahead!"

"What am I going to eat?"

"That's up to you. I don't have the strength to cook."

"Then cook for me tonight. I'll ask Luca to send food over for lunch." She didn't seem to have much strength left, so he decided to take the second-best option.

He hadn't eaten her dishes for quite some time now, so he missed them.

"I won't cook dinner for you. Listen, I won't cook for you anymore."

"How dare you!"

"Why not? No matter how powerful you are, you can't control my hands. According to the contract, it's not my responsibility to cook for you, remember?"

"Use the contract to defy me! I'll make you suffer if you try to defy me next time!"

Ryan was furious. He then stood up and left right after spitting out his sentence.

After he left, Catherine's stomach growled. She wanted to get up and cook, but her whole body was so sore that she couldn't even move.

Just as she was about to fall asleep, she suddenly heard the doorbell ringing.

There were usually no visitors at all, so she found it strange. After getting up from the bed, she tidied

her clothes and ran to the door.

Luca was standing outside the door, holding a box of food in his hand.

Catherine didn't want to see him. She hated to see Luca as much as she saw Ryan.

However, he seemed eager to see her. Luca kept on pressing the doorbell until she opened the door.

"Mr. Walker asked me to bring you food. He said you'll only be able to do your job well on a full stomach." Once he finished speaking, he placed the food on the ground and turned to leave.

"Take it away. I'm not eating the food he sent!"

"The order I received was to pass you the food. I don't need to know whether you will eat it or not. It's none of my business." Luca turned on his heel

after leaving her with the cold words.

Catherine could feel that he disliked her, but she didn't know why.

Perhaps he saw her as a lowly woman. Because other than that, there was probably no other reasons. She had never tried to provoke him in any

way.

Looking at the exquisite box and smelling the scent of food, Catherine could hear her stomach growling again.

This was the first time Ryan had delivered food to her, but she didn't feel any warmth at all. After her strength recovered, he was going to mercilessly torture her again and again.

Why did she have to make things difficult for herself? Only after filling her stomach could she fight the beast. With that, she picked up the food

and went to the dining room.

The food was from The Bright Orchid, so the taste was familiar to her.

When Catherine and Ryan had lived in peace before, she had inadvertently mentioned that she

loved the food from The Bright Orchid.

Perhaps, it was just a coincidence that that b*st*rd remembered the little things she had mentioned.

“Catherine, you have to be wary of his sugar-coated shell. He must have a prior intention even if he actually remembers your favorite restaurant,” she thought to herself.

Opening the box, she took out the exquisite food and placed them on the table.

The first time she visited The Bright Orchid, she was only a child. At that time, her parents weren't

rich, but they saved up so that they could grant her a birthday wish.

Later, when her family grew rich, her love for the food from The Bright Orchid remained the same. It was like a symbol of gratitude to her parents for

their kindness. Picking up her spoon, she began to eat in big mouthfuls. While she was digging in, Catherine recalled the days when her parents would shower her with love and care, and she didn't have to worry about anything. It made her fall into an abyss of sorrow.

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Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Call Me Hubby 1

Tears slipped down Catherine's cheeks and fell into the box of food. Ryan, who was hiding in the dark, put away his smile and drew his brows together.

At that moment, Catherine looked like a young married woman who had been bullied, crying alone while eating.

She even let the tears fall down her cheeks without wiping them and continued stuffing food into her mouth as if venting her anger.

'Didn't she say that she loves the food from The Bright Orchid? Why does she look so distressed? What a complicated woman!' Ryan assumed she must have invested too many emotions into acting, so now she was holding a

pity party for herself, even when no one was around.

“Stop crying, Catherine! That b*st*rd is just trying to intimidate you. Won't he be cackling in the dark if he sees you in this state? Finish up your food. One day he'll get what's coming to him.

Wiping her tears, she continued eating in silence.

'Look at what you've done for her. But does she even appreciate it?' Ryan's inner voice rang. He felt like a loving fool. She even cursed him for all he had done!

At that moment, he decided he would never do such a stupid thing for her anymore. Otherwise, he would only be treated as a joke by her.

In a huff, Ryan returned to his study room, but he tripped after accidentally kicking an antique porcelain vase placed in the corner of the room.

Luckily, the porcelain was of good quality, so it didn't break. It rolled on the ground, but Ryan sprained his foot.

"Who's there?!" Catherine screamed and ran out of the dining room. She saw Ryan sitting on the ground grabbing his foot with a pained look on his face.

"Why are you here?"

"I've got my comeuppance. Are you happy now?" Ryan didn't look up at her when he said those words in an icy cold tone. He merely held onto his poor feet.

Catherine realized he was probably trying to enter the study room from the dining hall, so she suspected him of having eavesdropping on her just now.

Even though she was a little awkward, Catherine

was delighted to see him suffer.

What he said was right. The Gods listened to her prayer and gave him what he deserved.

"Is... Is it bad?" Looking at his tightly knitted brows, she was still overflowing with sympathy.

"It's still too early for me to die. This small injury is nothing."

"It's nothing, huh? Then why are you frowning? Tough guys in movies don't even blink when they take out bullets." She immediately regretted sympathizing with a bad guy.

"You. you better watch out tonight!" His brows were no longer knitted as he stood up, enduring the pain.

He couldn't believe that she looked down on him. He went rigid due to the anger surging in his heart.

"If you're not afraid that the injury will worsen, suit yourself." Catherine folded her arms in front of her chest and stared at his injured foot. It shouldn't be a big problem at all.

"Oh, and a gentle reminder, this is just the beginning of your misery. You will become more unlucky if you don't let me go!"

"D*mn you, woman!" He scolded her a hundred times inwardly, but he was still wearing a wicked smile.

"Baby, if you want me to let you go, dream on! Don't worry, I'll find my own way and deal with you tonight. Get ready for some fun!"

Ryan had thought she loved and cared for him, but he was wrong.

Who knew she was just a cruel beauty who had no compassion for him?

With a sullen face, he hopped past her on one foot and into the study room.

There was no hint of noise or movement in the study room for a long time, so Catherine quietly went to take a look. She was a little conflicted about whether she should head out and get some ointment for him.

'No way! If his injury were that serious, he would see his family doctor. Moreover, Luca is just right outside the house.' she thought to herself.

At such a moment, Catherine figured that it would be best to leave Jas with him, so as to improve their relationship as husband and wife.

She wanted to be indifferent to him, so she wasn't going to worry about his feet.

After Ryan locked himself in the study, he sat on a chair and adjusted his ankle. After massaging his

foot for a while, it got better, and the pain was no longer there.

However, he was a little confused about his abnormal behavior earlier. He was obviously furious just now, but he didn't leave the house after opening the anti-theft door.

He then secretly returned to the study and opened his laptop. The growling stomach noises from that d*mned woman kept on ringing beside his ear, so he decided to call Luca and asked him to bring her some food from The Bright Orchid.

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Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Call Me Hubby 2

Ryan realized that his heart had softened for her over time, but when she faced him, she always wore a bitter expression.

When they were making love, she rejected him; when she spoke to him, her tone was cold.

Even when he sprained his foot, she sneered at him instead of worrying about him.

This woman was a natural actor! She was like a completely different person now.

He vividly remembered the time when she just moved in. That day, he had a fever and didn't take it seriously, but she was so anxious to the point that she was on the verge of crying.

She wanted to call Luca over, but he refused. She took care of him all night without sleeping a wink. Throughout the night, she was busy cooling him down with a wet towel.

Perhaps this was her strategy. Initially, she tried to be good and obedient to him so that he could get used to her. Now that she knew that her dream of being rich and powerful had been shattered, she purposefully ignored him and pressured him so that she could get what she wanted.

"Ryan, you don't want to be betrayed by her again. Once is enough!" Ryan silently thought to himself.

"You're the one in control of this relationship! You have to control her, manipulate her, and have your way around her."

As he thought of the contract between them, he called Luca to confirm Alan's request for increasing investment.

Then, he calmed down, stopped thinking about her, and began to focus on work.

There were a few projects that didn't go well recently, especially with the property project that involved the Burton family. It seemed as if someone was interfering in the project.

After making a few rounds of calls, he felt a little weary, so he picked up the mug in front of him.

This mug had been bought by Catherine and it was bought from Dunkee and had a white base. When he picked it up and observed it carefully, there was a cozy picture on it. The painting on the mug was a pretty little house with a couple sitting on the ground. There were also children running on the field.

It took him nearly two years to notice the details on the mug.

Catherine once said that the mug symbolized a lifetime. What was she trying to hint at then?

Was it her dream to have such a romantic and simple life?

He loved to drink coffee, but she told him too much caffeine wasn't good for his body, so she often secretly replaced his coffee with tea.

If not for her cunning mind, such a considerate young woman would indeed make a good partner. Unfortunately, everything was just a show. Besides, he had already married Jasmine Burton. Marriage wasn't a child's play.

When he realized he was sympathizing with

Catherine again, the gentle expression on his face immediately turned rigid as he shouted coldly, "Catherine Green!"

"What's the matter?" Catherine opened the door

and asked.

"Make me a cup of tea!" He pointed at the mug and demanded with a serious look.

"No. Making tea for you isn't written in the agreement," Catherine replied as she quietly observed his feet. They seemed to be fine.

"To increase the investment for Alan is in that contract, right? So do you want me to cancel it? If I take it back, your father will face the same consequences as two years ago."

"Why do you need to increase your investment in my dad's company? Wasn't the problem solved a

long time ago?" Catherine inquired strangely.

"You have to ask your father. He is such a 'great' businessman. I reckon you'll need to serve me for the rest of your life, Miss Walker." After getting his words out, he pointed at the mug again.

Catherine reluctantly walked towards the desk, but just as her hands touched the mug, Ryan pulled her down to force her to sit on his lap.

"Listen! You have to bring me water, cook for me, give me your body, and do everything I want you to do. If you dare to disobey and challenge me, I'll make his company pay the price! I won't say it again," he warned gently beside her ear. He wasn't going to base their relationship on any agreement anymore. This was a cruel society. Since she asked him for help, she didn't have the choice to make the rules.

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Chapter 26

Chapter 26 What Should You Call Me?

Bitterness immediately filled up her heart. All her resistance only brought her back to the start. No matter how hard she struggled to escape, she was still trapped in his solid cage, unable to break free.

However, she refused to accept the reality and was extremely unwilling to be stuck between him and his wife.

"I'll hate you if you insist on doing this to me!"

Hearing her words, Ryan was stunned for a moment, and then his face fell.

Reaching out his finger, he lifted her chin and met her gaze. There was a strong sense of loath and a trace of desolation in her eyes. Something

immediately tugged at his heartstrings.

Ignoring that feeling, he continued with a harsh tone, "I don't care if you hate me or not. Now go and get me a cup of tea!"

It turned out that he really didn't care about her at all. She was just an insignificant presence to him. (This novel will be daily updated at)When sorrow brewed to a certain extent, her heart went numb and her feelings for him completely died. She had no choice but to obey his orders and demands.

Sliding off his lap, Catherine refrained from crying. From now on, she wasn't going to shed a single tear for him.

She took the cup and walked out the door, while Ryan ruffled his hair in frustration.

Initially, he wanted to pull her onto his lap and pepper her with kisses. His original intention was

to seduce her or to try to make her fall in love with him, but what he did was entirely different from what he had planned. It was as if his actions had deviated from his initial intentions when he was with her.

Soon, Catherine brought the cup of tea into the room. Even though she brewed the same packet of tea using the same way, it tasted different because the emotions she poured into it were different from before.

"Prepare a full-course meal for dinner tonight. Now go, I want to eat before 6."

"OK," she replied curtly. It sounded as if she was yielding to fate, but at the same time, it also sounded like a silent protest. How ironic! She just declared that she wasn't going to cook for him anymore in the afternoon, but now she had no choice but to take back her words. What else could she do with her lowly status?

Furrowing his brows, he continued working in silence.

At 5:50, Catherine had dinner prepared.

Knocking on his door, she entered the room after getting his permission. She cleared her throat and informed, "Dinner's ready, Mr. Walker."

"What did you call me?" He looked at Catherine, who was wearing an apron, in surprise.

"Mr. Walker."

"Why are you calling me like that?" He strode towards her and stared at her.

"I'm being polite, Mr. Walker." She wanted to remind herself to draw a clear line with him.

He could have her body, make her do things for

him, and treat her as a servant, but he could never have her heart. She already decided to keep distant from him.

"There's no need for that."

"But you want me to obey your rules. Calling you Mr. Walker is just to remind me of my identity."

"Oh? Does that mean you'll obey all my orders now?" The corners of his mouth curled up in amusement.

"Yes, Mr. Walker."

"Call me hubby!" he blurted but was shocked by his own impulsiveness.

Catherine looked up at him in surprise. He quickly realized that he took the joke seriously. He was actually looking forward to this hypocritical woman calling him hubby in a sweet and gentle

tone, just like how Jasmine called him.

Their gazes collided in the air like a spark of lightning. In addition to surprise, there seemed to be something else in their eyes.

To avoid his burning gaze, Catherine lowered her head and apologized softly,(This novel will be daily updaed at) "I'm sorry, Mr. Walker.

This isn't within the range of service."

Ryan couldn't believe she wouldn't call him that way! Damn it! But he was even more damned. He was actually a little disappointed that she didn't call him hubby. Perhaps this was a man's nature-whether he loved her or not, he just wanted her to love himself. He wanted to force her to call him hubby, but he was afraid that she would know his intentions.

Turning his head away, he snorted, "Are you serious? Do you really think I want you to call me hubby?(This novel will be daily updaed at) Only Jas can call me that way! You wish!"