

Girl Boss 831

Chapter 831 Bathroom

“No.” Toby shook his head without hesitating.

Sonia was surprised. “Why?”

A flash of resolve glinted in Toby’s eyes. “Because I won’t change my mind even if you don’t like it. I’ll have you stay with me for life. You’re mine and only mine. You’re my wife and the lady of the Fuller Family. That fact will never change.”

She looked at him for a long while, and she laughed. “That’s not just being bossy. I call that unreasonable.”

“It doesn’t matter. This is what I want.” He held her hand and kissed it.

After peering at him, she said, “Since you want me to stay with you for life, then you must never have a change of heart. You can only have me. If you fall for someone else, I will take you down with me. After all, you said you want me to stay with you for life first. Remember what you said today and never go back on your word, or I will take you down even if that’s the last thing I do.”

“Of course,” Toby agreed without even thinking.

Sonia smiled happily. “That’s more like it.”

He touched her forehead with his and asked gently, “So, do you want to be Mrs. Fuller now?”

She looked away. “You know the answer to that.”

As he knew she was shy, he stopped teasing her and instead chuckled. “So, can you help me out here, honey?”

“What is it?” She nodded.

He let her go and spread his arms open. “I can’t stand my clothes sticking to me. Can you take it off for me, honey?”

Sonia’s eyes widened. “You want me to take your clothes off? Don’t you have hands, Toby?”

“But I don’t want to move.” Toby gazed at her innocently. “And my arm’s not fully healed yet. You said so, didn’t you?”

Sonia was annoyed, and the corner of her lips twitched. “I did say that, but I didn’t say the wound is so bad that you can’t take your clothes off.”

Toby closed his eyes and said nothing. His arms were still open, and he obviously wouldn’t put them down until she took his clothes off.

She was speechless. She knew he was being cheeky, but she never thought he could act like this. I guess the more shameless you are, the stupider the things you can do. She didn’t let him carry her because his arm wasn’t healed yet, and now he had used the same excuse to get her to take his clothes off. Well, that backfired.

Although she was annoyed, she took his clothes off anyway. It wasn't like she had any other choice. If she didn't do it, he might never lower his arms. What did I do to deserve this? He just plays me like a fiddle. She heaved a sigh and tossed Toby's black shirt into the laundry basket, where her laundry resided.

Then, Toby held her arm.

"What is it?" Sonia was surprised.

He gazed at her in silence before he pulled her into his embrace and held her chin up, then he kissed her.

Sonia struggled by reflex, but he quickly released her chin and held the back of her head. It pulled them closer to each other, and she couldn't break free.

Toby's kissing skill was improving over time. It was probably men's instincts to improve their skill. Sonia showed no improvement, and she couldn't even breathe normally when she was kissing. On the other hand, he was already starting to lead her into a world of enjoyment at this point.

Her strength left her halfway into the kiss, and everything around her started to spin. Her legs gave out and she slid down. He noticed that and quickly pulled her closer to him, but she still couldn't steady herself. Her legs turned to jelly, and if it weren't because she was leaning against him, she would have already collapsed in a heap on the ground.

Oh, this won't do. Toby's eyes glinted. He let her go and held her legs before lifting them up.

After she was carried, he took her to the basin and placed her on the counter so she could sit. That way, she couldn't slide down even if her strength left her. At the same time, he didn't have to hold her tight just to keep her from falling. He could spend more energy kissing her all over.

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About two or three hours later, the sound of running water coming from the bathroom finally stopped. Toby looked at Sonia, who was in the bathtub. Her eyes were closed, and her body was filled with hickeys. Toby changed into his bathrobe, a smile curling his lips.

Sonia's eyes were closed. She placed one hand on her belly and the other on the side of the bathtub. She didn't move, looking as if she was asleep.

After Toby changed into his bathrobe, he took a women's bathrobe from the rack and crouched down before the bathtub. He pushed the hair covering her face aside and called softly, "Little Leaf?"

Sonia heard that, and she opened her eyes with difficulty, her gaze filled with an unspoken complaint. "What is it?"

"Get up. We're going back to the room now," Toby said softly.

She raised her hand and waved it weakly. "I can't. I don't have the strength to." Her voice was soft and adorable. Her face was tinged with a red hue from all the love earlier, and she looked just like a little kitten playing around.

He felt something shooting into his heart, and he stopped breathing for a few moments. Oh my gosh. She's so adorable that it's almost illegal!

She almost never acted cute around him, so he didn't know what she looked like if she acted that way, nor did he know if she could act that way. Now that she was acting cute, he realized that she could be illegally adorable if she wanted to. I knew it. Just because a woman has never acted cute doesn't mean she doesn't know how to do it. It's just that they're almost always illegally adorable when they do. He gulped, and he said hoarsely, "Alright then. I'll take you out."

"But your arm—"

Toby huddled closer and whispered, "It's fine. Don't worry about it."

Sonia was too exhausted to move even a finger, let alone her whole self. As Toby was offering to help, she stopped refusing and nodded before she closed her eyes again.

He covered her with her bathrobe and carried her up, after which they came out of the bathroom.

Thanks to the heater in the living room, it didn't feel cold when they came out, and he didn't have to worry about her coming down with a cold. He laid her down on the couch, then helped her wear the bathrobe. After that, he placed her wet hair on the couch's armrest to keep it from sticking to her face and neck.

He then went to the bedroom and came back to her side with a blowdryer and clean towel. He dried her hair with the towel gently, worried that he might hurt her if he was being even just a bit rough.

Chapter 832 Send You Off

Sonia wasn't really asleep yet. Her eyes might be closed, but she was half-awake, and she could feel what was happening around her, including the fact that Toby was drying her hair gently. Especially the fact that he was drying her hair gently. She smiled. "Toby."

"Hm?" Toby stopped drying her hair for a moment, surprised that she wasn't asleep yet. "What is it?"

"Will you dry my hair like this forever?" she asked, her eyes still closed.

And I thought she was going to say something else. He chuckled and answered, "Of course. You'll always be my wife, and I'll always dry your hair."

"That's nice." After she got the answer she wanted, she turned away and fell asleep.

She fell asleep just like that? He shook his head and pinched her cheek, mumbling, "You only care for yourself, huh?" You might have fallen asleep, but I still need some time. Toby might be grumbling, but the love in his eyes was palpable. He went back to drying her hair and blew it with the hair dryer. Then he picked her up and took her back to the bedroom, sleeping with her in his arms.

He opened his eyes at the break of dawn the next day. His circadian clock would never go out of whack unless something special took place. He would always wake up at the break of dawn, and he noticed something pressing down on him that day. It wasn't heavy, though it did get in the way of his breathing. He looked down and saw the silhouette of a head on his chest. Sonia was still sound asleep, and he chuckled silently.

No wonder I felt something pushing down on me last night. I remember pushing it away, but then it came back like it grew hands and legs, and it held onto me like some kind of octopus. So it's just Sonia. He brushed his hand down her hair and took his phone from the bedside table to look at the time. It was almost seven. He put his phone back and slowly moved Sonia's head to the pillow beside him. That was just the beginning, however, as he still had to move all of her away.

He gently lifted the blanket, and when he saw her beautiful long legs interlocking with his, a spark of desire flared in his eyes. He put his hand on the base of her thighs and caressed them, then he moved them aside. On a closer inspection, he seemed reluctant to do so. Of course he was reluctant. The woman in his arms was the one he loved, and nobody would put the woman they loved aside right after they woke up. Nobody would do that, unless they didn't love the woman.

Toby had to do his best to hold his desire down, and he finally moved her legs away. However, his eyes were still glued to her thighs, and he massaged his temples, then he chuckled dryly. She really does know how to seduce people. Men are always horny in the morning, and she clung to me like a koala. Of course that won't help with my desire. If it weren't because he had a morning meeting that day, he would have done something lewd with her as punishment for seducing him so early in the morning.

Toby heaved a sigh. When his desire had lessened, he put his hand down from his temple and looked at Sonia's hand, which was on his waist.

He held her wrist and was about to put her hand away, but that woke her up. She stirred and opened her eyes, and she saw him holding her wrist while sitting on the bed. She moved around and adjusted her position.

He noticed that and turned around. Their eyes met, but she still looked groggy and confused. "Good morning."

"Good morning," they said at the same time.

They froze for a moment, apparently never expecting them to say the same thing at the same time.

They snapped out of it and said, "Why didn't you sleep in?" That was the second time, and both of them laughed.

"I guess we're telepathic, huh?" Sonia stopped laughing a moment later and stared at Toby.

He straightened out the blanket. "We are telepathic. It's still early, and the sun isn't fully up yet. Sleep in. You must be tired."

Her face turned pink, and she shot him a playful glare. "And that's all your fault, you know that?" If we hadn't fooled around in the bathroom, I wouldn't have fallen asleep right away. We did it everywhere. The counter, the bathtub, and even the ground.

She thought she wouldn't get too exhausted if they had sex again, since she was improving her stamina, but he was also improving at the same time, which nullified her improvement.

Toby noticed the complaint in her eyes, and he chuckled. "Alright, it's my fault. Just go back to sleep, alright?" He patted her as if he was trying to get a child to sleep.

It actually worked on Sonia. She started yawning and blinking. "What about you? Why are you up so early? Are you leaving?"

"Yeah. The overseas branch company's top brass is here to give me a report on their management. They'll leave right after that, so we're on a tight schedule. It must be done in the morning, so I have to be there early." He took the clothes on the bedside table, which he had prepared beforehand, and he changed into them.

Sonia sighed. "That's the problem when your company grows too big. Good thing Paradigm Co. is still a small workshop."

Toby scraped her nose. "It's a small workshop for now, but not in the future. You'll get busy too."

She pulled his hand down and pinched it like it was a toy. "It's still too early to talk about that. Even if I can make it big, it won't grow as big as your company, so I won't be as busy as you are." She laughed in delight.

He flicked her forehead. "You really love to laugh at my misery, huh? Just sleep in. I'll get someone to send you breakfast. See you later." He got out of bed and tied his necktie beside it.

He looked very handsome while tying his necktie, and it was pleasing to Sonia's eyes. She turned to her side and held her head up just to stare at him. "I'll come back to sleep after I send you off."

"Aren't you sleepy?" He straightened his tie out, smiling. "Can you still sleep after you send me off?"

"I can watch some TV and wait for the sun to come up if I can't. Don't worry about me. I know what I'm doing." She sat up as well.

Toby patted her head. "Alright then. Let's go. I thought you're sending me off?"

"Alright then." She nodded and got out of bed. Toby extended his hand to her. She wore her slippers, smiled at him, and took his hand. He held her hand firmly, and they walked out of the bedroom.

#### Chapter 833 Sendoff

They came to the porch, and Toby bent over to change his shoes. Sonia opened the door, and a gust of cold breeze smacked her in the face. She shivered from the chill that ran through her body.

Toby noticed that, and he frowned. He then took his scarf off and wrapped it around her shoulder. "I should have asked you to put on another layer. Alright, that's enough. You should go back to the bedroom now."

"It's alright." She shook her head and held the scarf on her shoulders. She was refusing to leave. "It won't take long, and nothing will happen. I've never sent you off to work before. This seems fun, and I want to try it. Don't tell me to go back to the room."

He noticed the light in her eyes, and he couldn't bring himself to ask her to go back to her room. He patted her head lovingly and relented. "Fine, you can send me off if you want to, but just to the door, alright? You don't have to send me off to the lift."

“Alright.” Sonia nodded. She knew he wouldn’t let her even if she wanted to send him all the way to the elevator. The weather outside would only get colder, and he wouldn’t let her suffer that. Letting her send him to the door was already the limit, and she wouldn’t want to challenge that.

Toby stopped patting her head and pulled her into his embrace, happy that she listened to him. He put his chin on her shoulder and said gently, “I’m going now. See you tonight.”

“See you tonight, and drive safely.” She raised her hand and hugged him back, and she patted his back.

Toby chuckled. “I will. It’s cold outside, so go back in.” He let her go.

“Yeah, sure. You should go now. I’ll go back in once I see you off.”

So she won’t go back in until I leave? Toby had no choice but to leave, but right after he took one step, he stopped and turned around. Then he gave her a hug and kissed her.

Sonia was surprised at first, but she wrapped her arms around his neck and responded to his kiss in a moment.

Toby knew when to stop. He had work to do, and she was feeling cold, so he only kissed her for a minute before he let her go. He looked at her crimson lips and wiped the saliva off the corner of her lips, and he smiled. “I’m going now.”

“Okay.” Sonia nodded, her face red, and she was a little out of breath.

Toby let her go and left the house. This time, he didn’t stop, nor did he turn around to give her a hug or a kiss. All he did was go ahead.

Sonia stood at the door and saw him off. Toby came to the lift and turned to wave her goodbye. She waved him goodbye as well, and after he went into the lift, she put her hand down and stopped smiling. Then she closed the door and went back to the bedroom. It was cold outside, but the room was adequately warm.

Sonia took her slippers off and went into the bed. It was still warm, and the moment she went back to bed, she felt herself surrounded by warm air, and she stopped shivering from the cold. “Nice.” She lay back down and stretched her arms. Sonia closed her eyes and tried to sleep, since the sun wasn’t fully up yet.

However, her sleepiness was all gone after she said goodbye earlier, and she couldn’t sleep. Sonia opened her eyes and stared at the ceiling. She pushed the blanket down to her belly and heaved a sigh. “I can’t sleep.”

Toby’s right. He said I won’t be able to sleep once I send him off, and now I can’t sleep. She flailed her legs and messed the blanket up even more before she calmed down. She then turned to the side and touched the spot where Toby slept in. There was still some warmth there, but it felt a lot cooler than her side of the bed. Even so, she felt happy to feel that, for it was as if she could feel him by her side.

It was funny though. It hadn’t been long since they got back together, but she was already starting to find his short absences unbearable. Even though they would meet every night, she still felt empty during the day. She wanted him to be by her side at all times. He had just left, but she was already missing him. Oh, why is love so torturous?

She thumped his pillow in frustration, then she fell silent and spaced out. That spacing-out session lasted for more than an hour, and by then, the sun was already fully up. Sonia heard her phone's alarm ringing, and she snoozed it before she got up. She washed herself up and went to the porch to see if breakfast had arrived. Lo and behold, when she opened the door, room service was already standing outside, and it was still the same waiter who served them the last time.

Toby must have known that she couldn't sleep after she sent him off and asked the hotel to send some room service after he left. Sonia took the breakfast from him and smiled. He knows me best. "Thank you." She smiled at the waiter and closed the door before she came back in.

After she put the breakfast on the table, she took a photo of it with her phone and sent it to Toby. 'Breakfast is here. Do your best at work today.' She then sent a cute panda emoji to him. The sight of that emoji reminded her of the photo where Toby saddled her bag. He was in black attire in the photo, and her bag was beige. The colors matched that of a panda's, and she chuckled at the thought of that. Sonia locked her phone and put it on the table before she went to have breakfast.

Toby was probably busy and wouldn't text her back, so she didn't wait for his reply. He'll text me back after he's done with work. But the phone rang not long after she put it down, much to her surprise. She paused for a moment and stared at her phone.

Whoa. I thought he was working. He's calling me now? She put her spoon down and quickly picked her phone up, but when she saw who the caller was, her smile faded. It was Tim, not Toby. Why is he calling me so early in the morning? She took the call curiously. "Hello, Dr. Lancaster."

"I hope I'm not disturbing you." He was sitting behind his desk, leaning into his chair. His phone was held in one hand, and a scalpel in the other.

Sonia shook her head. "No. I'm not working just yet, so you aren't disturbing me."

"Good." Tim nodded.

She tilted her head and held her phone between her head and shoulder. "Why did you call me?"

"Nothing big, really. I just want to know if you have found the genes of Jessica's child's father. You did, right?" Tim asked.

"Yes," Sonia said. "How did you know? I don't remember telling you that." She was going to tell him after Zane came back with the genes so Tim could help her with its cryopreservation, but she never expected him to find out before she told him.

Chapter 834 Daphne is Pregnant

"Yeah. We found it. But how did you know about this?" Sonia ran her fingers through her hair as she asked him curiously.

Tim spun his scalpel around furiously. "Zane told me about it. He gave me a call and told me to prepare the equipment needed to cryopreserve it."

"I see. So, he was the one who told you about it!" Sonia nodded thoughtfully. "Tsk. He told you about it even before I had the chance to do it." She felt like laughing.

He lowered his scalpel before he pushed his gold-rimmed glasses up the bridge of his nose. “He sounded so full of himself when he told me about it. He just helped with completing a task, yet he felt so proud about it,” he muttered.

Sonia let out a hearty laugh this time, and Tim lowered his hand from his glasses as he continued speaking. “Alright. Enough about him. I just contacted you to check whether you’ve really found the gene. Since you did, I’ll order the hospital to prepare their cryopreservation tools.”

“Okay. Thank you so much.” Sonia nodded gratefully.

Tim’s glasses glinted for a moment. “It’s nothing. It’s just a small thing to me—I can get it done after sending a few orders.”

“That’s because you’re about to get the role as the dean,” she replied with a smile.

He curled his lips into a grin as well. “By the way, there’s something else I want to tell you,” he uttered.

“What is it?” Sonia took a mouthful of her porridge.

Tim glanced at the pregnancy report on his table. “Your secretary dropped by at the hospital yesterday for some tests,” he stated.

Sonia was surprised to hear this. “Are you talking about Daphne?”

“Yeah, that’s her name,” he uttered as he checked the name on the report.

She felt a surge of worry when she was certain that it was her secretary they were talking about. “What is it? Is she ill?” Sonia asked worriedly.

“That’s not the case.” He shook his head. “She went for some tests with the gynecologist. I guess you know what that means, right?”

The gynecologist?! A look of disbelief spread across Sonia’s face. Of course I know what that means. How could I not understand?! I went to the gynecologist back when I was pregnant. That means...

She parted her red lips in surprise. “Is Daphne pregnant?”

“Yeah. She’s two months into her pregnancy,” Tim uttered with a nod.

“H-How can this be true?!” Her voice went a few octaves higher as a look of utter shock spread across her face. How could Daphne be pregnant for two months?! Right then, she recalled how Daphne had been feeling nauseous when she was in Sonia’s office.

She had been worried about Daphne’s health and had suggested she visit the doctor in the company’s infirmary. However, Daphne had rejected Sonia’s suggestion with a look of panic and even said that she didn’t need the doctor as she had just eaten something bad.

Sonia didn’t think much about it back then, but it seemed like Daphne knew about her own pregnancy all along now that she recalled her conversations with Daphne. That’s why she declined my suggestion for her to visit the doctor. She didn’t want her pregnancy to be exposed, but why can’t she tell others about it? There has to be some issue with the child’s father. Otherwise, Daphne wouldn’t have to hide it at all. She’s a grown woman—it’s normal to get pregnant. Yet, Daphne chose to keep it a secret. She



doesn't have a boyfriend, and she isn't married, yet she's now pregnant... That means that she has to be hiding her pregnancy because of the child's father. But who is the child's father?

She bit her lip as she found a probable answer in her mind.

When she thought about the unique chemistry between Charles and Daphne, how Charles had suddenly seemed rude toward Daphne, and how Daphne looked like she had things she wanted to tell Charles... I'm afraid she might be pregnant with Charles' kid.

Sonia massaged her temples. "Is the child healthy, Dr. Lancaster?" she asked.

Tim glanced through the reports on his table. "The child's pretty healthy, but the mother seems to be under a lot of stress. She's not doing too well, and this might cause problems in the long run," he replied. If he hadn't realized how loyal Daphne was to Sonia, he wouldn't have paid much attention to the pregnancy report, and he wouldn't have retrieved a copy from the gynecologist and called to tell Sonia about it either.

Sonia frowned when she heard that Daphne wasn't in good health. She was about to say something when Tim spoke up. "Anyway, Daphne is thinking of aborting the child and she just had a conversation with her gynecologist yesterday."

"What? An abortion?" Sonia's eyes widened as she had a dumbfounded look.

He nodded. "She has the intention of doing it, but nothing's set in stone yet. She mentioned that she would go home to think about it, but I think there's a high chance she might follow through with the procedure."

Sonia felt her heart sinking as she tightened her grip on her phone. "I got it. Thank you for telling me about this."

"No worries. I only paid more attention to her since she's related to you." Tim waved it off. Sonia chuckled—she knew that Tim wouldn't even have noticed Daphne's name if it weren't for her.

"Okay. That's all for now. I have a patient entering surgery today, so I have to get prepared now." He gazed at the clock on the lower bottom corner of his laptop. Then, he straightened his back as he decided that he couldn't laze around anymore.

She nodded. "Okay, go ahead. I'll buy you a meal when we have the time."

"Sure. I'll be waiting," Tim uttered as he smiled and adjusted his glasses. After the call was over, Sonia clutched her phone with both hands as a complicated expression formed on her face.

I would've never expected Tim to drop me such a huge bomb early in the morning. Daphne is pregnant, and the child might belong to Charles... Does Charles know about this? Sonia lowered her gaze and glanced at her phone before unlocking it. She found Charles' phone number as she wanted to call him to ask about his relationship with Daphne. She wanted to ask if the child belonged to him.

However, right before she tapped on Charles' name, she seemed to recall something, and she stopped herself at the very last minute. No. I can't call him. Not now, at least! Daphne's pregnancy seems to be a secret, and it doesn't seem like she has told anyone about it. That means that she isn't ready for others to know. Wouldn't I be causing harm to Daphne if I told Charles about it?

Furthermore, this is Daphne's matter—she should be the one announcing it to others. I have no right to do it for her. With that thought, Sonia lowered her phone once more. However, she still felt worried. She decided to do what she could—she would call and ask Daphne since she couldn't ask Charles about it.

Sonia was sure that Daphne would no longer keep it a secret from her at that point. So, Sonia dropped Daphne a text.

To Sonia's surprise, Daphne replied almost immediately. 'Is anything the matter, President Reed?'

Sonia glanced at the reply for a while before moving her fingers to type. 'Can we meet in person? There are some things I'd like to talk to you about.'

On the receiving end, Daphne felt her heart sink when she saw Sonia's text. Daphne had been sitting down and eating her breakfast, but an uneasy feeling spread across her chest after receiving the text. Daphne's heart was racing—she felt like someone had found out about her secret.

She lowered her spoon and contemplated for a moment. Instead of agreeing to Sonia's request, she replied with a question. 'What would you like to talk about, President Reed?'

Sonia scoffed. She's being really cautious. After shaking her head exasperatedly, she typed a reply to Daphne. 'It's about work.'

She didn't plan on telling Daphne that she knew about the pregnancy just yet. She knew Daphne well; Daphne would refuse to meet her and would use all sorts of excuses to avoid her if she confronted Daphne about the pregnancy.

#### Chapter 835 Meetup

As expected, Daphne was more relaxed after she heard Sonia claiming that Sonia wanted to meet for work-related matters. Daphne massaged her rather tense cheeks before she responded with a text. 'Sure, President Reed. Let me know where to meet. I can meet you anytime.' Daphne was still on holiday, so she had all the time in the world.

Sonia glanced at the watch on her wrist. 'Let's meet at 10.00AM at the milk tea shop right below the office.'

'Okay.' Daphne texted. After that, Sonia lowered her phone and continued eating. Her breakfast had turned cold since she had been talking on the phone and texting for a while. After eating a few more mouthfuls of it, she lowered her cutlery and decided not to have any more. She cleaned the table before picking her bag up and heading out.

As Sonia sat on her desk at the office, she found herself distracted by thoughts of Daphne's pregnancy. She couldn't focus on the work she was doing. She only managed to deal with two to three documents after an entire hour—she was much less efficient than she usually was.

Sonia only felt a little calmer after Toby replied to her text. Toby was busy, so they didn't talk for long. However, he tried his best to find the time to reply to her texts every now and then. After they texted for a while, Toby continued to focus on his work. It was about 10.00AM then, so Sonia headed downstairs after she was done texting Toby. She went to the milk tea shop right beside her office.

Daphne was extremely punctual—she was already in the store when Sonia arrived. Sonia entered the store to find Daphne waving at her, and Sonia smiled and waved back before walking over. Daphne stood up and pulled the chair out for Sonia to sit in. “Please take a seat, President Reed.”

“Thank you.” Sonia beamed as she sat down. Daphne only returned to her seat and sat down after Sonia did. “What would you like to drink, President Reed?” Daphne gazed at Sonia while handing her a menu. After going through the menu for a while, Sonia ordered an original-flavored milk tea. Without asking for Daphne’s order, Sonia simply returned the menu to the waiter. “Give her some warm milk,” Sonia told the waiter.

The waiter was just about to respond when Daphne frowned. “I don’t want to drink milk, President Reed. I don’t like its smell,” she uttered.

“No.” Sonia gazed at her sternly. “You’re pregnant, so it’s best for you to drink milk.”

Clang! Daphne’s glass fell from her hand, making a loud noise as it landed on the table. Water spilled out of the glass onto the table in front of her. Fortunately, the glass didn’t roll off the table, or it would have shattered.

However, Daphne didn’t care about the glass at all. Her pupils were shrunken, and her face was pale as she gazed at Sonia. Her lips twitched for a moment before she spoke in a trembling voice. “P-President Reed, how—”

“How did I find out?” Sonia interrupted. She was calm in the face of Daphne’s shock. Daphne could only open and close her mouth without saying much. It was clear that her silence was an agreement to Sonia’s words. Sonia pressed her palms together. “Calm down. For now, let’s clean up the mess in front of you.” Sonia called for the waiter beside her. “Excuse me! Sorry, can we get some help?”

The waiter smiled. “Sure. It’s no problem at all.” He quickly gathered some cloth and cleaning tools before he came over to Daphne’s side of the table and cleaned up the mess. Only then did Daphne realize that she had spilled a glass of water while she was panicking. She felt rather guilty. “I’m sorry. I didn’t do it on purpose,” she uttered.

“Don’t worry about it, Miss. This is no big deal. We can clean it up. What matters is that you aren’t hurt,” the waiter said with a smile. His actions were swift and smooth, and he cleaned the table up in an instant. After the waiter left, it was just Sonia and Daphne at the table.

Daphne felt even more afraid when she was alone with Sonia. In fact, Daphne was so nervous that her hands were shivering. She was unconsciously scratching the back of her own hands, and red marks had formed all over her skin.

Sonia sighed upon seeing what Daphne was doing. “That’s enough. You’re going to start bleeding if you scratch any harder.” Daphne lowered her gaze to see the red marks on her hand before she immediately pulled her hands off the desk and hid them under the table. Sonia lifted the glass in front of her and sipped on her drink before she spoke at a slow pace. “You went for a pregnancy checkup at First World Hospital yesterday, didn’t you?”

Daphne’s pupils shrank. Her first instinct was to lie, but she couldn’t seem to utter any of her lies when she looked directly into Sonia’s eyes. Instead, Daphne remained silent for a long while. Sonia sighed and

smiled upon seeing Daphne's expression. "The next dean of the First World Hospital is actually my friend. You guys have met in the past," Sonia explained.

"Is it Dr. Lancaster?" Daphne immediately thought about the man in his white lab coat. "Yeah." Sonia nodded. Sometimes, Daphne would accompany Sonia to the hospital for Sonia's checkups, so Daphne had definitely seen Tim around.

"He saw you at the hospital yesterday, and he had a look at your records since you're my assistant. He found out that you went for a pregnancy checkup, and he called me to tell me about it this morning—that's how I found out that you're pregnant," Sonia explained as she lowered her drink.

Daphne bit her lip. "I see. I thought you realized it on your own, President Reed."

"You're too good at hiding it. I would never have realized it on my own. Furthermore, there was once where you showed pregnancy symptoms in front of me, yet you managed to convince me that you just ate something bad. I didn't even suspect that you were lying! I was once a pregnant woman myself—I can't believe I was fooled by your lies!" Sonia chuckled.

Daphne laughed along with her. She knew that Sonia was trying to make her feel better by claiming that she was a good liar. Sonia was trying to ease the mood to make Daphne less tense. However, after speaking to Sonia about it, Daphne did feel a little less worried than before. "You were only pregnant for about two months, and you didn't know much about pregnancy, so it's no surprise that my little trick fooled you," Daphne said as she took her glass of milk that the waiter handed her.

Sonia took her milk tea and sipped on it before speaking. "Yeah. But I should have also checked on you more. If I did so, I might have seen through your lie earlier."

Daphne shook her head. "You're already good enough to me. You even gave me a holiday!"

"How are you feeling now?" Sonia gazed at the other woman. "Tim said that your health isn't that great. He said that you overthink, which causes all sorts of health issues in the long run."

"Did Dr Lancaster tell you that as well?" Daphne was shocked.

Sonia stirred her drink in the cup. "Since he decided to tell me about your pregnancy, he provided all the details as well."

"I guess that makes sense." Daphne nodded before responding to Sonia's earlier question. "My health isn't that poor. My blood sugar is a little low, and I get dizzy easily. I have a few of the symptoms of pregnancy, but apart from that, everything's fine," she said.

"That's still pretty bad." Sonia frowned. "I don't think you should come for work anymore. You need to stay home and rest. How does a three-month break sound?"

"No." Daphne shook her head immediately. "I don't need rest, President Reed. I can go to work."

Chapter 836 Is This Karma?

Daphne grabbed Sonia's hand worriedly. When Sonia saw her assistant's pale face and bony hands, she let out a sigh before using her other hand to hold Daphne's. "Calm down. I'm not firing you. I just figured

that it'd be bad for you to continue working when you're pregnant and when your body's weak. That's why I wanted you to take a break and rest a little more before coming back to work."

"I know, but there's no need for that." Daphne shook her head. "I'm about to abort this child, so I'll be able to come back to work soon. I won't need a break."

"What?" Sonia's expression changed immediately. "Are you really going to abort your child?" When Daphne heard the way Sonia phrased her sentence, she wasn't surprised by the fact that Sonia had expected her to abort the child. After all, if Tim told Sonia about Daphne's pregnancy, it was likely that he also told Sonia about Daphne's enquires about abortion.

"Yeah. I want to abort the child!" Daphne nodded with a bitter and disappointed look on her face. "This child shouldn't have existed, after all. The child's father doesn't know about my pregnancy, so I should abort it as soon as possible so that everything will go back to normal. I can just pretend that nothing happened between the child's father and me."

Sonia gazed at Daphne for a long while before questioning her. "The child's father is Charles, right?"

Daphne froze with a dumbfounded look on her face as she locked gazes with Sonia. She was clearly stunned by the fact that Sonia knew about this. Sonia sighed upon seeing Daphne's reaction. "I knew it. I was right. Charles is the father. You've always had feelings for Charles, so I didn't expect you to sleep with anyone else. Furthermore, there haven't been any other men in your life, so the child has to belong to Charles, right? When did you and Charles..." Sonia didn't finish her sentence as she felt rather shy to utter the remaining words, but both of them knew what she meant.

Daphne hung her head low. There was a mixture of embarrassment and awkwardness written all over her face. "It was that time when Mr. Lane left your office after he got mad. You were worried about him, and you told me to check on him to make sure he didn't do anything stupid."

Sonia recalled what happened back then. Charles had just confessed his feelings for me at that time. I rejected him and told him that I didn't have any feelings for him. I told him that he's only a good friend and that I couldn't be with him. He was really sad when he left. I was worried that he might do something rash, but I couldn't chase after him since I had just rejected his confession. Wouldn't I be confusing him if I chased after him and showed him my care? That's why I told Daphne to help me watch over him to make sure he didn't do anything stupid. I figured that Daphne is his ex-secretary, and they were classmates, after all. I thought it'd be good for her to check on him. But she didn't return after checking on him, and she was walking in a rather odd manner when she came back the second day. I didn't think much about it then, but it seems like there were a lot of things I neglected. Sonia rubbed her temples as she reflected on how careless she had been.

"So, it was that day. That explains it." Sonia pressed her lips together. "I just realized that things had been odd between you and Charles after that day. Before that, you guys seemed like normal friends. But after that day, his attitude toward you changed drastically, and he became really rude. You also seemed rather conflicted when someone mentioned his name."

"Yeah. It was because I slept with him that night." A bitter look spread across Daphne's face. "After Charles left that day, he went to buy alcohol. I told him not to drink too much, but he wouldn't listen to me, so I had no choice but to sit and watch him drink. I figured I would send him home after he got

drunk. But I didn't expect him to mistakenly think of me as you after he was drunk. He pulled me..." Daphne looked up at Sonia.

Sonia felt extremely awkward at that moment. What else could she feel apart from awkwardness? Based on what Daphne's telling me, she's saying that Charles thought she was me, and he dragged her into bed. So, Daphne was like my replacement that night, and Charles slept with her... A strong sense of guilt surfaced in Sonia's chest as she gazed at Daphne. Sonia couldn't help but blame herself for this. "I'm sorry, Daphne. I..."

"I know what you're going to say, President Reed." Daphne shook her head while smiling at Sonia. "This is none of your business, and it's not your fault either."

"No. It is my fault." Sonia rubbed her face guiltily. "If I didn't tell you to follow Charles that day, then Charles wouldn't have—"

"I did it willingly." Daphne interrupted Sonia.

Sonia was stunned. "Willingly?"

"Yeah." Daphne nodded. "You know that I like President Lane, President Reed. When President Lane thought that I was you and dragged me into the hotel, I didn't protest at all. I chose to follow him because I liked him. That was why I didn't reject him that day. I knew I would never get the chance to sleep with him if I rejected him that night. On top of that, I also drank a little with him. Although I wasn't drunk, he managed to lure the dark side of me out that night."

Sonia seemed to understand the situation a little better as she looked at Daphne. Daphne let out a scoff that was meant for herself. "Did you know this, President Reed? When President Lane dragged me into the room, my first instinct wasn't to push him away. Instead, I imagined that he would take responsibility for me if I slept with him. Then, I could be with him. He might not love me, but I thought I could touch him with my sincerity once I got together with him. I slept with him because of that, but the next morning, he didn't just refuse to take any responsibility. He even began to despise me for what I did. I didn't expect that." Tears welled up in Daphne's eyes as she spoke.

Daphne wiped the corners of her eyes with the insides of her wrists before she forced a smile. "Do you think this is karma, President Reed? I brought this all upon myself, didn't I?"

Sonia parted her lips to say something, but she remained silent in the end. She didn't know how to comment on this matter. At first, she assumed that she was the one who was at fault since she had told Daphne to go after Charles. Sonia thought that they only ended up sleeping together because of her. But after hearing Daphne's side of the story, Sonia realized that while she was at fault, the main reason for this whole incident was Daphne herself.

After all, Daphne claimed that she could have pushed Charles away and avoided all contact if she wanted to. Yet, the dark side of Daphne had come out, and she chose not to push Charles away. In other words, Daphne was trying to manipulate Charles to get him to marry her so that they could be together. However, Charles didn't go along with her plan as he didn't want to take any responsibility. So, it was true to say that Daphne brought this upon herself, but Sonia felt like it wouldn't be right for her to say such things.

Daphne didn't seem to care whether Sonia responded to her or not. The assistant simply took a sip of her milk before she continued speaking. It was as if she wanted to let out everything that she had been keeping to herself throughout this period. "President Lane is so cold and hateful toward me because he knows that I was trying to manipulate him. He knew that I chose not to push him away. He was the only one who was drunk, after all. I was still sober."

#### Chapter 837 Abort the Child

After all, would a sober woman, who had learned how to fight, not be able to push a drunk man off of her? No; of course she'd be able to do so. She could even knock the drunk man out before throwing him over her shoulder. Charles knew of Daphne's capabilities—that was why he immediately realized what she was trying to do after learning that she had allowed him to bring her to bed. That was why he hated her so much.

Daphne had been his secretary for years. She was a trusted secretary and friend, yet she tried to manipulate him this time. How could he not feel angry and hateful? So, he didn't exactly make a mistake when he decided not to take any responsibility for her. Sonia let out a sigh. "Regardless of who was right or wrong, the child is still innocent. Are you sure you want to abort the child?"

"Yeah." Daphne nodded. "I've made a decision. This child popped out of nowhere, and the father is not going to like the child. President Lane is not going to welcome the child if I give birth to it, and this would make my baby an illegitimate child. How am I supposed to answer my child when my child asks me who his or her father is? I thought about it. Since I can't give my child a happy family, and since my child won't have a father, I'd rather not have the child come into this world at all. I can't allow my selfishness to harm the child," she uttered.

Sonia wasn't too surprised after hearing Daphne's words. That was exactly what went through Sonia's mind when she was pregnant. Back then, she didn't know that she was pregnant with Toby's child—she thought the child belonged to a stranger. So, she decided not to give birth to the child as she didn't want things to be unfair for the child.

"Since you've made up your mind, I don't think I should make any more comments. But I'd like to know if Charles knows about this baby. If he does, then you should tell him about it before aborting the child. If he doesn't know about it, then you can just pretend I never said anything."

Daphne shook her head. "He doesn't know about my pregnancy. I didn't tell anyone about this, and I don't plan to tell President Lane about it either. If he knew that I got pregnant, he would only hate me even more. He might even think that I didn't take the morning after pill just because I wanted to be pregnant with his child."

"Well..." Sonia pressed her lips together as she didn't know what to say. It was a possibility, after all. Judging by the negative feelings Charles presently had toward Daphne, he would probably make the worst assumptions about all of her actions. So, if he found out about her pregnancy, he might think she had gotten pregnant intentionally, just so that he would have to marry her.

"But I bet President Charles would get me to abort the child even if he found out that I was pregnant. As I said, President Lane hates me, so how could he accept the child? So, the best way to deal with this child now is to abort it. That way, all of the fate and connection between President Lane and me would

come to a proper end,” Daphne said with her glass of milk in her hand. The milk was hot, yet its temperature didn’t seem to warm her cold hands or her icy heart at all. Her heart—like the rest of her body—felt as cold as ice.

“I guess that’s good,” Sonia said with a nod. Sonia finally understood that Charles and Daphne’s relationship would never work out. After she heard about what happened between them that night, she knew that she would no longer be able to matchmake the both of them. Charles now saw Daphne as a manipulative woman. So, he would never fall for a woman like Daphne, nor would he be with a woman like her. If that were the case, their child would live a sad life if he or she had been born.

Even if they kept the child, Charles wouldn’t stay with Daphne just for the sake of the child. Charles might even fight for custody over the child, and Daphne would struggle to win against him. If that happened, Daphne would only be more disappointed. What would all of it be for? Perhaps an abortion was the best choice.

“I’ll go with you for the procedure.” Sonia patted the back of Daphne’s hand. Daphne felt a warm, fuzzy feeling in her heart. “Thank you, President Reed.” Daphne nodded.

“It’s nothing.” Sonia shook her head. “I was part of the reason you and Charles ended up in this situation. I was the one who told you to follow him. If I hadn’t done so, perhaps you and Charles’ relationship would still be fine. You might have had a better chance of being with him.”

Daphne lowered her gaze as she smiled. “Even though you told me to follow him, I was the one who had control over how things turned out. I am the one who chose to do what I did, so I am the one at fault here. You shouldn’t blame yourself, President Reed.”

“It seems like you’re the one comforting me now.” Sonia shook her head as she laughed. After that, both of them stayed in the milk tea shop for a while more before they paid the bill and left.

Daphne returned to her house while Sonia went back to the office. However, before they parted ways, Daphne specifically reminded Sonia to help keep her pregnancy a secret. “You can never tell Charles about this,” Daphne uttered. Daphne only left after Sonia promised to keep her secret.

However, Sonia knew that it would be unfair to keep this a secret from Charles. He was the father of the child, after all—he had the right to know about this. But she knew that she would cause a whole scene if she were to tell Charles about it. A person like Charles would certainly look for Daphne once he found out about this matter. That was why Sonia had promised Daphne without any hesitation.

Right when Sonia was zoning out at her desk, someone pushed her office door open. Toby walked in with a delicate-looking wooden lunchbox. When he saw the woman sitting around and zoning out with a soulless look in her eyes, he raised an eyebrow before walking in quietly. Sonia only noticed movement in the room when Toby placed the lunchbox on her desk. Then, her eyes lit up for a moment as she returned to her senses. She turned her focus toward the lunchbox.

At first, she was shocked by how a random lunchbox appeared on her table. Then, she shifted her gaze up and saw the person standing in front of her desk. She widened her eyes when she saw a man eyeing her with his eyebrows raised. “W-What are you doing here?” She wore a dumbfounded look on her face.



Sonia hurriedly got up and walked over to the man. “Shouldn’t you be at work now? What are you doing here?”

Toby let go of the lunchbox handle and gave her a smile. “I brought the management teams from international companies to take a look at the factory in Seafield, and I happened to pass by your area after leaving the place. Since it’s lunchtime, I figured that I would drop by to eat with you. After lunch, I’ll have to go to the airport to send them off.”

The management team consisted of CEOs that handled Toby’s international branches. They were dedicated to working with Toby, and they only traveled back to the country a few times each year, so Toby had to send them off to show that he was a boss who cared for them. That way, they would be more focused on their work, and they would take better care of the subsidiary companies overseas.

When Sonia heard that he was going to be busy after lunch, she let out an inaudible sigh. “I’m tired just hearing about it. It sounds like hard work.”

“It’s nothing much. There’ll be harder things coming up. I think I’ll be even busier from next month onward—the end of the year is when things get the busiest. Fuller Group will have to take a physical inventory count, so I’ll probably have to stay in the company for the entire duration.” Toby slipped his hand into hers before lifting the lunchbox with his other hand. He led her over to the couch.

“Are you really going to stay at the office?” Sonia turned her head to look at him.

“Yeah.” Toby nodded. “It’s always the same at the end of the year. I’m just letting you know now that I may not have the time to be with you during the end of the year,” he said. Then, he paused for a moment before gazing at her apologetically.

Sonia smiled. “Why are you like this? You’re just too busy to spend time with me. Why do you look so sorry?”

#### Chapter 838 Exceptionally Handsome

Sonia pulled her hand away before sitting down on the couch. “You’re doing it for the company. You’re not cheating on me, so you don’t have to feel sorry for anything. It’s not wrong for you to be too busy to spend time with me once in a while—I’m not the sort of woman who insists on being with you all the time, anyway. I have a company to run myself, and I, too, don’t have time to be with you when I’m busy. Do you think I should feel guilty for that?” she asked.

“No.” Toby shook his head.

“Exactly.” Sonia patted the seat beside her to get Toby to sit down. “As long as you’re not cheating, and as long as you still have feelings for me, you don’t have to feel sorry toward me at all. We’re grown-ups, and both our career and our relationship matter a lot to us. Sometimes, it’s inevitable for someone to neglect the other party due to our work—that doesn’t mean that we’re doing anything wrong. So, you don’t have to think that you owe me anything just because you’re too busy to spend time with me.”

Toby gazed at the woman before his eyes. He knew that she uttered all those words so that he wouldn’t overthink the situation. “Okay. I won’t say that in the future.” He smiled as a surge of warmth filled his chest.

“Let’s eat.” Sonia beamed and leaned forward to look at the lunchbox that he had brought. “What did you bring?”

Toby placed the lunchbox on the coffee table before opening it slowly. “While I was on the way back, I passed by a seafood restaurant that you spoke of in the past. I recall you saying that the restaurant was good, so I brought some of their dishes over,” he explained.

A look of joy and surprise formed on Sonia’s face upon hearing the man’s words. “Really? That’s great. I love seafood, and I miss the feeling of eating spicy seafood. Thank you, Toby.”

The smile on his face broadened. “Well, why don’t you take a look at the dishes to see if you like them?” He placed the few dishes out on the table.

Sonia only took one glance to realize that Toby had selected all of the signature dishes in that restaurant. She lifted her cutlery while smiling and nodding. “I love it. I love all types of seafood.”

“That’s great. Try this. How does it taste?” Toby gave her some steamed fish as he spoke. “I never tried these dishes before, so I don’t know how good they are. It sure looks good.”

“How bad could the dishes taste? You were the one who bought them, after all.” Sonia smiled before eating a mouthful of the fish that Toby had just placed in her bowl. The burning, spicy sensation filled her mouth, and her face turned as red as a tomato. Tears began to form in her eyes.

It was clear that the steamed fish was extremely spicy. Sonia had to open her mouth before fanning herself with her hand. “It’s so spicy!” she cried. Toby frowned when she saw how spicy the fish was for her. He quickly lowered his cutlery before handing her a glass of water. “Drink some water.”

She took the glass over before throwing her head back and pouring half of its contents into her mouth. The water washed off the spiciness, and she let out a long sigh before putting the glass down. Her eyes were still watery as she gazed at the worried man before giving him an embarrassed smile. “It’s been a while since I tasted something this spicy, so I couldn’t tolerate the spiciness of it.”

Toby pressed his lips together when he saw that both her eyes and cheeks were red as a result of the spicy food. “You should stop eating it if it’s too spicy. I’ll get my men to buy something blander. Your stomach won’t be able to handle such spiciness,” he uttered.

“It’s fine!” Sonia immediately reached her hands out to stop the man from taking the food away. “I haven’t had spicy food in a while—that’s the only reason I couldn’t tolerate it. I’ll get used to it after a few mouthfuls, so you don’t have to order any extra food. These dishes are great. They may be spicy, but they’re also really tasty!”

“I’m worried that your tummy will get upset later.” Toby frowned. He regretted his decision to purchase such spicy food. Even though he enjoyed pampering his wife, he should have also taken her health into account. But Sonia shook her head. “It’s fine. I’ve eaten things that were spicier than this, and I was fine back then. Furthermore, I’m a grown woman. Don’t you think I know what I can and cannot eat?” Ultimately, Sonia didn’t want Toby to keep the dishes away—she wanted to eat them.

When Toby looked into her eyes and finally understood what she meant, he sighed. “Fine. I won’t keep them away. But you have to promise me one thing—if your tummy doesn’t feel well, then—”

“You can punish me however you want to,” she interrupted him.

He narrowed his eyes. “Oh? Are you sure I can use any punishment?” There was a sly look in his eyes. Sonia immediately noticed the look, and she felt her heart racing as she realized that she had spoken a little too quickly. Aren’t I being a little too nice if I allow him to punish me however he wants to? If he wants to do some nasty stuff with me, I won’t be able to say no. Did I just dig my own grave?

The corner of Sonia’s mouth twitched as she thought of ways to get herself out of this situation. She had to take her words back. However, when Toby saw the confused look on her face, he immediately understood what she was thinking about. He spoke up before she could say anything. “Fine. Since you say that I can punish you however I want to, then I guess it’s decided. Go ahead and finish your food. I won’t keep them away.”

Sonia widened her eyes. “No. I didn’t say—I...”

“Go on.” Toby beamed as he interrupted her and placed more food into her bowl. Although the food still had chili in it, it didn’t look as spicy as the steamed fish. Sonia gazed at the food in her bowl before gazing at the man. The corner of her mouth twitched a little. She could tell that the man was doing this on purpose. He knew that she was about to go against her own word, so he instantly interrupted her so that she couldn’t take her words back. How was he going to punish her if she took her words back?

Hmph. He’s such a manipulative man. Sonia stuck her lips out into an angry pout as she stuffed some food into her mouth before munching on it grumpily. She treated her food as if it was Toby himself. Toby didn’t seem mad even as he watched her releasing all of her anger toward him onto her food. He merely chuckled before he began to eat as well.

At first, he didn’t find any of the food spicy. However, after he tried some of the fish, his face and eyes turned extremely red. A thin layer of sweat formed on his forehead, and he felt oddly warm in the temperature-regulated room. He felt so hot that he couldn’t seem to calm himself down. He hastily lowered his cutlery before loosening his necktie and unbuttoning the buttons on his shirt. He exposed his chest to the air outside in order to cool himself down a little. Right after that, he took some of Sonia’s water that she hadn’t finished earlier. He tilted his head back and finished all of it. The water was cold, and it didn’t just cool his lips from the spiciness—it also served to cool the overall heat he felt in his body.

Toby heaved a sigh once he felt a little more relaxed. He leaned against the couch and rubbed his forehead with one hand while covering his eyes with the other. His red lips, his bare chest, and the strands of hair that were stuck to his forehead as a result of his sweat... All of this made him seem like a handsome vampire from the middle ages. He was too mesmerizing of a sight for one to look away.

Sonia found herself seduced by him at that moment. She didn’t blink a single time as she looked at him, and she even unconsciously gulped while checking him out. It wasn’t her fault that she was so uncontrollably attracted to the man—it was all because the man before her eyes was simply too gorgeous for one not to be mesmerized.

Furthermore, humans were creatures who were naturally attracted to pretty things, and Sonia was no different. So, it wasn’t her fault that she was attracted to Toby. Whose fault was it that he was so handsome?

## Chapter 839 Underestimated Their Relationship

Sonia had seen that sentence on the Internet and it now flashed across her mind again, as she found it very apt for the current situation between her and Toby.

Of course, Sonia knew that Toby's current state was not an attempt to seduce her, but merely a result of the spicy food he had just eaten.

Toby could not tolerate spice at all. Just a little bit was enough to make him suffer, and this was an alarmingly spicy dish. Thus, Toby's present state made it abundantly clear that he was really suffering from the spiciness this time. Otherwise, he would never look this vulnerable.

After all, Toby was always the picture of handsome masculinity. No one had ever seen such a fragile side of him. He looked as if he had been deeply hurt by someone.

Toby continued to be tortured by the spice, and Sonia quickly came back to her senses as she stopped herself from admiring his attractiveness. She briskly poured a glass of water and even got up to grab a few pieces of ice from the freezer.

"Here, have some iced water and you'll feel better." Once Sonia added the ice, she swiftly headed back to the couch and handed Toby the glass.

Toby removed the hand that was covering his reddened eyes which were beginning to water. He glanced at Sonia before reaching out for the glass of iced water and readily taking several large gulps.

His Adam's apple bobbed with each gulp, and Sonia's lips parted slightly. How dearly she wished to know how it would feel to touch it. But she knew that it was not the time to do such a thing. If she did it, then it would mean that she was trying to seduce this man.

What if she really did manage to seduce him, and they ended up doing the deed right there and then?

No touching, no touching. Sonia warned herself as she shook her head and tried to rid her mind of these lustful thoughts. She moved her gaze back up to his face instead.

Once Toby had finished drinking, Sonia took the glass from him first before reaching out with a pair of tissues to wipe the sweat off his forehead. "Are you okay now?"

Toby shook his head and answered hoarsely, "Yes, I feel a lot better now."

His breathing was indeed a lot calmer.

Sonia tossed the tissues away as she chided, "Really now, you shouldn't have taken a bite if you can't eat spicy food. Look at what happened to you just now..."

Just as she was speaking, she noticed how the spiciness had affected Toby. She could not help but chuckle as she took in his reddish lips, flushed face, and reddened eyes, as well as his hair that had gotten all sweaty.

When Toby heard her laughter, he raised his eyebrows. "What are you laughing at?"

Sonia tried to stifle her laughter by covering her mouth. "I'm laughing at you, of course! All it took was one bite for you to become so drained, so isn't it very funny?"

Toby pursed his lips but did not respond. He too did not expect to have such a low spice tolerance, and that one mouthful was enough to cause him this much pain.

Sonia had also felt the spice, but she was not at all as affected as he was.

He was a man, yet he was not even comparable to a woman.

Sonia could see the self-doubt that was written all over Toby's face, and once again, she chuckled as she shook her head. "Alright, don't think about it anymore. It's normal for people to have different levels of spice tolerance, and you just happen to be one of those who can't eat spicy food. You don't have to doubt yourself like that. Why don't you head to the washroom and wash your face? Oh, and remember to tidy up your hair as well. You were sweating earlier and your hair's all messed up now."

She reached out and adjusted his collar as she spoke.

Toby hummed in acknowledgment. "Okay, I'll do that. You should continue eating."

Once he finished speaking, he stood up and headed for the washroom.

Sonia stared at the table of spicy food in front of her, and not a single one was without spice. She let out another helpless laugh and commented, "Really now, if he couldn't eat spicy food at all, then why didn't he order a few non-spicy dishes for himself?"

Toby was always considerate of her and made choices in accordance with her preferences. Was he not afraid of spoiling her rotten?

She turned and looked toward the washroom before reaching for her cellphone to make a call.

"What would you like me to do, Miss Reed?" A woman's respectful voice rang out.

Sonia took a sip of water and answered, "Order a few dishes from Executive Dining and bring them over to me."

She listed out a few non-spicy dishes that she knew Toby liked eating.

Executive Dining was a private restaurant in Paradigm Co. that catered exclusively to the executives in the company. Although the chefs working there were not quite the same caliber as Michelin star chefs, they were definitely still skilled enough to open their own restaurants.

At the very least, it was good enough for Toby to eat.

"Duly noted, Miss Reed. I will bring it over soon." Sonia's personal assistant noted down her request.

Sonia ended the call after a brief acknowledgment.

By this time, Toby had tidied himself up and exited the washroom.

When Sonia turned to look at him, she saw that his hair was now perfectly styled, and his clothes were neatly arranged once more. Toby lost all signs of his previous vulnerability and had now resumed his usual dignified manner that was aloof and reserved.

Of course, this was only if she ignored his still-reddish lips.

“All good?” Sonia asked with a smile.

Toby nodded lightly and resumed his seat.

However, Sonia quickly took his cutlery away from him. “Don’t eat any of this anymore. I’ve already asked someone to deliver some non-spicy food over, and it’ll be here soon.”

“Okay.” Toby nodded in agreement. He really did not want to eat these dishes either, and he wished to never experience the horrendous pain that he had just gone through earlier ever again.

“Next time, don’t just blindly order whatever that I like to eat. You should think about yourself as well. Otherwise, you won’t be able to eat anything and it’ll just be a repeat of today,” Sonia started to lecture him as she tucked into the food.

Toby chuckled and replied, “I’ll pay more attention next time.”

“That’s right.” Sonia nodded and soon had a cheeky smile on her face. “Oh well, your food isn’t here yet. I guess you’ll have to just sit there and watch me eat.”

“Gladly.” Toby gestured toward the fish. “Not only will I watch you eat, but I can even pick out the bones for you.”

Right after he spoke, he started checking every piece of fish for bones and picking each one out for her.

Sonia’s heart grew warm as she observed Toby’s actions.

Therefore, while they were waiting for Toby’s food to arrive, Toby began to wait on Sonia as she ate.

When the personal assistant brought up the food, she happened to see Toby placing a piece of deboned fish onto Sonia’s plate.

The personal assistant was shocked by the sight of Toby’s oil-stained fingers. After all, Toby’s hands were usually fair and clean, as they were only used to sign documents.

All the employees knew that President Fuller was deeply in love with Miss Reed, and he would often shower her with lots of affection.

But it was still rather unexpected to see how far President Fuller would go for Miss Reed. He did not mind getting his hands covered in oil in order to pick out the bones for her. President Fuller did not even have a frown on his face while doing so, instead, he had a faint smile that was full of warmth.

It was certain that President Fuller was doing it willingly, and it was not just a request from Miss Reed.

Their assumptions about the relationship initially made complete sense to them. Since President Fuller was someone with such a high status, he would not easily deign to do such a thing for Miss Reed no matter how much he loved her.

Furthermore, even for normal couples, a guy would not necessarily be willing to do this for his girlfriend, let alone the almighty President Fuller that they all looked up to.

Still, what they assumed was impossible was exactly what was happening now. President Fuller was not only deboning fish for Miss Reed, but he was also doing it willingly as he waited on Miss Reed.

It seemed like they had underestimated Miss Reed's wiles, as well as the feelings that President Fuller had for Miss Reed.

This couple was far more loving than they thought.

The personal assistant's thoughts started straying to the future. It was likely that she would not feel startled no matter how shocking President Fuller's actions were in the future. After all, she had just witnessed how President Fuller deboned fish for Miss Reed.

After giving Sonia an envious look, the personal assistant placed the food on the table and reported, "Miss Reed, here is the food you requested."

Chapter 840 Toby's Disdain

Sonia patted Toby's thigh as a hint that he could stop waiting on her.

Toby set his cutlery down before getting up and saying, "I'll go wash my hands."

"Alright." Sonia nodded.

Once Toby walked away, Sonia looked at the personal assistant in front of her. "You can just leave it here. Thank you."

"Not at all, Miss Reed. Shall I head back to work now?" The personal assistant pointed toward the door.

"Go ahead," Sonia acknowledged.

The personal assistant nodded and left.

Sonia then got up and started rearranging the table in order to accommodate the new dishes. Just as soon as she finished, Toby came back from the washroom.

Sonia waved him over. "Come and eat."

Toby's lips curved into a smile. "Coming."

He sped up his steps and soon sat down beside her.

Sonia stuffed a new set of cutlery into his hands. "Hurry up and eat. The food might not taste as nice as what you're used to eating, but you'll have to make do. It's not good to go on an empty stomach for too long."

"I know," Toby chuckled.

"Okay then, so let's eat." Sonia gave him a smile and resumed eating as well. She had not eaten her fill yet either.

Sonia had not been able to indulge in an entire meal of spicy food for a very long time. Who knew when she would get to eat such spicy food again? Since she had the opportunity now, then she had to eat to her heart's content.

Toby was worried that Sonia might end up with an upset stomach from eating that much spicy food, but when he saw how she continued eating with such relish even though she was gasping from the

spiciness, he relented and did not say anything. In any case, he made a mental note to call her up later tonight and check if she felt any discomfort.

The meal went on for over an hour. When they were done, Sonia had her personal assistant come in to clear the table while she and Toby went to the washroom to freshen up.

Once they were in the washroom, Toby took her hands into his and added a dollop of hand wash onto her palm before he started to rinse her hands under the tap.

Sonia turned to look at Toby, who stood behind her with a serious expression as he washed her hands for her. Something about this image felt wrong to her. Somehow, their position reminded her of a father who was washing his daughter's hands.

No, that must be her own misconception!

Sonia shook her head and chased the thought out of her mind. She did not want to dwell on it.

As for Toby, he never thought that his actions would be equated to a father helping his daughter. Toby washed Sonia's hands for her simply because he wanted to.

Plus, her hands were tiny. They were only two-thirds the size of his, and he could easily wrap his entire hand around hers. Furthermore, her hands were soft and felt like they had no bones in them, which made them feel very comfortable to hold onto.

That was why Toby could not get enough of her hands, and he kept toying with them while he washed Sonia's hands for her.

"By the way, what were you thinking about when I came in earlier?" Toby was done with the rinsing and was drying Sonia's hands with a hand towel.

Sonia sighed. "It's nothing, really. Something just happened."

When Toby heard that something had happened, his face immediately became solemn. "What happened?"

Sonia could tell from his expression that he misunderstood it as something bad happening to her, so she chuckled and assuaged his concern. "No, not me. It's something between Charles and Daphne."

"Charles Lane?" Toby frowned and instantly lost interest in the subject. He did not bother finding out about the incident anymore.

But Sonia herself wanted a listener, so she regaled the story without being prompted. "Two months ago, Charles slept with Daphne, and now Daphne is pregnant with Charles' kid."

Sonia knew that Toby despised Charles, and Toby would not tell Charles about this.

Thus, she felt at ease when sharing the story with him.

However, when Toby heard that Charles had a child, he was dazed for a moment. "What did you say? Charles Lane got someone pregnant?"

"Yeah." Sonia nodded.



Toby snorted and his eyes were telling. It was obvious that Toby thought Charles had it coming.

In the past, when Sonia's pregnancy was exposed, everyone knew that it was Toby's child. Charles personally sought him out and ridiculed him for being an irresponsible man who got Sonia pregnant even though they were getting a divorce.

Yet now, Charles himself had gotten Daphne pregnant despite not being in a relationship with her, so who was the irresponsible one now?

"What are you thinking about?" Sonia gently nudged the man behind her.

Toby's gaze was a little distant, but he quickly came out of his reverie. "It's nothing. I'm just thinking about how Charles keeps saying that he likes you, so how did he end up sleeping with another woman?"

At least in this matter, Toby was far more of a gentleman than Charles was.

Even when he had been hypnotized into believing that he loved Tina Gray, he never got into bed with her. Tina herself did try to make it happen several times, but he rejected her on every single occasion and kept his virtue.

Which meant that the only person he ever slept with was his Little Leaf. Toby was not at all like Charles, who would get into bed with another woman even as he claimed to be in love with Sonia.

Some kind of love this was.

Meanwhile, Sonia did not know what Toby was gloating about inside. She rubbed her forehead and sighed again. "Actually, Charles got drunk that day and mistook Daphne for me."

"What?" Instantly, several deep creases formed on Toby's brow. He was beginning to feel a little repulsed as he asked, "Do you really believe that he was drunk?"

"Huh?" Sonia did not expect Toby's question. She looked at him and queried, "What do you mean? You're saying that he wasn't drunk?"

Toby had a scornful smirk as he explained, "When a man is really drunk, he would not be able to have an erection, so how would he be able to sleep with another woman? Since he did sleep with her, then it means that he wasn't actually drunk. And if he wasn't drunk, would he not be able to tell who he was with at the time?"

"This..." Sonia was at a loss for words. Toby had a point.

"It's just Charles' excuse to avoid taking responsibility for his actions," Toby declared. He did not bother hiding his disdain at all.

Sonia opened her mouth to speak, but eventually just sighed. "Regardless if he was drunk or not, the fact of the matter is that he did sleep with Daphne, and now Daphne's pregnant. Charles doesn't even know about it yet."

"Just tell him then." Toby did not consider it an issue.

But Sonia hurriedly shook her head. "We can't tell him. Charles thinks very ill of Daphne right now, since he believes that the incident was Daphne's fault. If Charles finds out about her pregnancy, then he will only despise her even more. Daphne's situation becomes even more dire if that happens."

Once Toby heard that, he began to frown again. "Charles Lane is being ridiculous. He is the one who slept with her, but he wants to push all the blame to her? What a way to paint himself as the faultless victim."

Toby stood by his earlier words. If a man was really drunk, then he would not be able to have an erection. Therefore, Charles could not have been drunk, and his excuse of mistaken identity was undeniably false as well.

Charles surely knew who he was getting into bed with. He just did not want to admit that he had betrayed his professed love for Sonia. This was why he had to blame it all on the woman instead. Perhaps he thought that by framing it this way, it would mean that he had not intentionally betrayed Sonia, and it was someone else who put him in that situation.

Ha, what a joke!

Sonia rolled her eyes at Toby, but she did not refute his words. She knew that Toby was right. Both Charles and Daphne were responsible since both of them had a part to play in this situation. Neither one of them could have done it alone.

It was similar to what had happened between her and Toby. Even though Toby was not aware that he had slept with her at the time, she did not place all the blame on him. In such a situation, the fault would often lie with both parties and not just one of them.