

# My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 124

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)  
Chapter 124 My Aunt

"Eve, it really is you! It's me, your aunt."

Naturally, I recognized her. She was my father's younger sister, making her my aunt. But after my father passed away, all my relatives had distanced themselves from me. My aunt was afraid that our family would get her into trouble, and even moved away in secret. These past few years, I hadn't had contact with her.

During that period of time, I realized the true nature of humanity.

"You've grown up so fast, my dear. You've changed a lot! How beautiful you've become." My aunt was staring at me with such excitement.

Even when my dad was still alive, she had never been this kind to us.

There was a man standing next to her. He was her son, making him my cousin. Although he had changed a lot since I last saw him, I could still recognize him.

I hadn't seen them for many years, and I never once felt close to them.

My aunt held my hand, hoping to catch up on the old days. However, I felt uncomfortable and just wanted to walk away..

"What's going on, honey?" Derek said from behind me as he gently placed his arm over my shoulder.

Both my cousin and my aunt looked at him, and their eyes lit up.

"Eve, this is your husband?" asked my aunt.

"Who are these people, my love?" asked Derek.

Thus, I had to introduce them. "This is my aunt, and the guy beside her is my cousin. Auntie, this is my husband, Derek."

My cousin broke his silence and reached out his hand to Derek with a smile on his face.

"I'm honored to meet you, Mr. Sullivan. I'm Eve's cousin, a construction contractor. Since we're family now, I do hope that you help me in the future."

I now realized that my aunt and my cousin probably saw the statement that Derek had released, and that was why they were being so kind to me today.

Dere International was engaged in real estate. Since my cousin was a construction contractor, having a connection with Dere International meant that he could have steady flow of income in the future.

If a reason like that never existed, I was certain that they would avoid me if they ever saw me

Derek didn't shake my cousin's hand, and just looked at me.

"Honey, why didn't I see any of your relatives when my mother-in-law passed away?"

My cousin withdrew his hand awkwardly, and my aunt became embarrassed after hearing

Derek's remark.

"My sister-in-law has passed away? Eve, why didn't you tell me? I would've attended your mother's funeral if you had informed me!"

Informed her, huh? How would I even begin to contact them? I felt ashamed for having relatives like them.

Derek glanced at his wristwatch and said to my aunt and my cousin, "Sorry about this, but we have something else to do, so we won't be able to accompany you any longer."

Just before we could leave, my aunt stopped me. "Eve, tell me your phone number. Your parents are dead, and that leaves me the task of taking care of you. From now on, you can contact me more often. If you even run into any difficulties, don't hesitate to come to me."

I scoffed at them in secret. Where were they when I was at my lowest point back then?

But in the end, I gave my aunt my phone number.

After I got in the car, my aunt ran to the car and put on a flattering smile, saying that she wanted to keep in touch with me more often. 1

I saw my cousin staring at the car. Even if my aunt had no idea what kind of car it was, I knew that my cousin probably knew its value since he was a man who had worked in society for many years.

Their snobbish behaviors made me feel ashamed in front of Derek.

Once the car drove away, I finally felt at ease.

"You know, my aunt's family has lost contact with me for many years," I said to Derek.

He seemed to understand why I looked ashamed and smiled.

"That's human nature. Those who really care about you will help you in your time of need. Just treat them however you want and follow your heart. Don't stress yourself out. Even without those fools, you still have me."

His words warmed my heart, but when I thought of my discord with Shane earlier, my heart sank again.

"My father asked us to drop by at his house for dinner," said Derek.

My heart sank even lower than it already was.

He glanced at me and added, "He specifically asked me to take you along." When I thought of what Gifford told me last time, I felt like I was sitting on pins and needles. "Your father isn't very fond of me," I muttered.

Gifford must've seen the statement that Derek had released.

Because of me, the stock price of Dere International fell. I'm sure his father must be very angry.

But since I chose to stay with Derek, I had no choice but to face his dad.

He seemed to have sensed how uneasy I was and suddenly held my hand.

"Eveline, you're my wife. You should never think of backing down."

When he said those words, I had a strong hunch that the dinner would be daunting, and that something ominous was about to happen.

That night, when I left with my luggage with my head held high while Gifford was staring at me, I never thought that the day would come when I would stand before him again as the daughter-in-law he didn't approve of.

I was even more nervous now than I was the first time to visit him.

Gifford trampled on my self-esteem, and his contemptuous gaze had been imprinted in my mind.

And now that I got back with his son, he was probably thinking that I had an ulterior motive.

At this moment, I believed that I had fallen in love with Derek. If I didn't believe in the power of love, I would never have the courage to step into Gifford's house again.

## My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 125

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)  
Chapter 125 I'm The Most Embarrassed Person

While my mind was still clouded, the car stopped.

I looked out the window and found that the car had been parked in the yard of Gifford's house.

As I got out of the car, I felt so nervous that I had no idea where to put my hands. Suddenly, I realized that I should've bought a gift and held it in my hands, so that I would be less embarrassed to be here.

There was a brand new car parked in the yard, and it didn't even have a license plate yet. I gathered that it was newly bought from a shop. 2

I didn't know much about cars, but I could tell that it was a good car.

I had no idea what Derek's father did for a living when he was young. I guessed that he must've had a successful career. The only explanation he had enough confidence to belittle someone at the bottom of society like me was because he used to be a man of high standing.

Derek's stepmother, Belinda Woods, walked out of the room. The smile on her face was bigger than the last time we came here.

But I could sense that her smile was fake.

Derek must've sensed my nervousness, and he walked on as he held my hand.

The warmth of his hand had the power to put me at ease.

The moment I entered the living room, I noticed Gifford resting leisurely on the sofa.

He was wearing a light gray sweater today. The soft texture of his clothes made him seem less strict.

Another reason he didn't seem so strict was because he was smiling. There was a young lady sitting across him, talking and laughing with him. They seemed to be enjoying each other's company.

Perhaps hearing our footsteps, they stopped talking and looked at us at the same time.

I didn't dare to look at Gifford's face. Somehow, I felt like I was treading on thin ice, and I was extremely uneasy.

Fortunately, he wasn't as cold as he was when he visited Derek's villa that day. "Oh, you're here! Have a seat!" he said lightly.

Once I had taken a seat next to Derek, I glanced over at the young lady sitting nearby.

She looked younger than me. Her eyes and smile were filled with vigor, which could never be found in a woman who just crawled out of a failed marriage like me.

The woman wasn't particularly beautiful, but her face and demeanor made people feel comfortable around her. Her legs were crossed in an elegant posture, and the exposed part of her legs looked amazing.

As I looked at her carefully, she kind of looked familiar. I searched in my memory to know where I might've seen her, but I couldn't think of anything.

"Hey guy! Long time no see."

She eyed Derek from head to toe, smiling at him.

"Hi, Charlene," he replied.

Belinda stood aside, staring at Charlene reproachfully.

"Charlene, how could you address Derek like that? That's impolite. He's older than you, so you should show him so respect."

Charlene grinned with disapproval, showing us her neat, white teeth.

"Mom, you're old, so you probably don't understand how young people like us get along. We aren't bound by so many rules. Besides, Derek isn't that much older than me." 1

Charlene was calling Belinda Mom? Was she her daughter? All of a sudden, I realized why Charlene looked familiar. She resembled Belinda somehow.

Gifford broke into a hearty laughter upon hearing their conversation.

"Charlene is right. Just leave the young ones alone, Belinda."

With a bright smile, Charlene took out a well-packed box from her bag and handed it to Gifford.

“Happy birthday, Uncle Gifford. This is my gift for you. It may not be worth much, but it represents my best wishes for you. I hope you accept it,” she said.

Upon hearing how she addressed Gifford, I figured that she must be Belinda’s daughter with another man.

Despite their seemingly awkward relationship, it was a surprise that they got along so well.

At this moment, I was the one who was the most embarrassed.

Today was Gifford’s birthday, but Derek didn’t tell me about it in advance, so I didn’t prepare any gift.

I glanced over at Derek. He was smoking on the sofa, and he rarely spoke. Judging by the look on his face, he knew that today was his father’s birthday.

Perhaps sensing my gaze, he looked at me and understood how I felt just by looking at my eyes. Quietly, he held my hand to comfort me

Gifford already had a bad impression of me. And since I came here empty-handed on such an important day for him, he would probably hate me even more.

I could feel my face burning at the moment. I didn’t even need to look at myself in the mirror to know that I must be blushing from embarrassment.

## My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 126

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)  
Chapter 126 Saved Me From Embarrassment

“Sorry, I’m late.”

Just as I felt defeated, I heard a familiar voice coming from the door.

I looked up and found that Aaron had arrived.

He greeted Gifford first, handing him a small gift.

“Uncle Gifford, happy birthday!”

While I was feeling embarrassed, he sat down, and pushed another gift box towards me as he glanced at me.

"Eveline, this is the gift that you asked me to bring. I would've come earlier, but I was stuck in a traffic jam. Sorry about that." 1

I stared at the exquisitely packaged gift box on the table and had no idea what was in it. I understood what Aaron was saying, and looked at him gratefully.

Afterwards, I stood up to pick up the gift, but I had no idea what to say to Gifford.

The man had once told me that he would never acknowledge a daughter-in-law that he hadn't approved of.

His words had left an indelible shadow in my heart. He disliked me so much that I had no idea if he would even be willing to accept this gift. Besides, I didn't dare to call him "Dad" again.

For a long time, silence ensued in the living room.

After taking a deep breath, I finally said, "Happy birthday!"

Gifford cast me an indifferent glance as he took the gift and put it aside. Instead of giving me a hard time, he said, "Thank you."

I restrained my nervousness and sat back.

He then asked Aaron about what had happened to him while the latter was abroad. At the moment, Gifford just looked like a harmless older man. He was kind to Aaron, because he was his uncle.

Meanwhile, Charlene was sitting next to Aaron, and she seemed interested about his life abroad. From time to time, she would voice out her comments regarding the topic.

Based on what she had said so far, I could tell that she was a well-educated woman.

Derek also chimed in sometimes, but he didn't speak that often. Most of the time, he would just smoke in silence.

I was the only one in the living room who felt really suffocated and tense. Fortunately, Derek never loosened his grip on my hand.

After a while, Gifford said to him, "Derek, Charlene graduated from a prominent university with a bachelor's degree in business administration and management. She's a rare talent. Do you have any suitable positions for her in your company?"

It turned out that he and Belinda wanted Charlene to work in Dere International.

Before Derek could speak, Charlene said, "I'd prefer not to use personal connections. Mom, Uncle Gifford, I'll get a job in Dere International through my own abilities."

She was looking at Derek confidently, and then she glanced at me, making it seem like it was inadvertent.

All of a sudden, I realized that Gifford and Belinda didn't just want Derek to give Charlene a job.

And based on Charlene's behavior, I realized that she wasn't a simple woman. She was much wiser than those ordinary superficial women.

Soon, dinner was ready and we were all sitting at the dining table.

Belinda was quite a skilled cook, but I was feeling a little disheartened and had no appetite. Seeing that I wasn't eating that much, Derek would pick up food for me from time to time.

I wanted to tell him not to do that, as I didn't want anyone to pay attention to me while we were at the dining table.

Sitting across me was Charlene, and she was staring at me with interest.

Compared to how calm she was, the fact that I was so tense made me look even more ridiculous.

I wanted to put down my fork and say that I was full, but I realized how impolite it would be to do that.

Fortunately, Belinda spoke up, attracting everyone's attention.

She glanced at the pork spare ribs on the table and sighed. "This dish is Lean's favorite." Gifford's face became serious as he put down his fork and slowly chewed the food in his mouth.

"Lean's birthday is coming. You should make some for him and deliver it to him by then," he said.

I never dared to ask why Lean was sent to prison.

When Lean was mentioned, everyone else at the table fell silent, but Charlene reacted differently.

"Mom, you're the one who spoiled him. The only way he could learn is by going through hardships."

Belinda glared at her.



The first thing I did was to glance at Gifford and examine his reaction, considering how much he cared for Lean. His face didn't even change. It seemed that he concurred with Charlene's sentiment.

When I came to my senses, Gifford was putting some food into Derek's plate.

It was a piece of fish.

"I remember that you really like eating fish," he said as he took back his fork.

Although Derek wasn't saying anything, I noticed that he was touched by his dad's gesture.

After dinner, Gifford took out a set of car keys, handing them to Charlene with a smile. "Have you noticed the car in the yard? That's my gift for you."

I thought Charlene would refuse, but she accepted the car keys without hesitation.

"Thank you, Uncle Gifford."

Gifford smiled and said, "Why don't you try it? I heard that you just got your driver's license. Derek, you should go with Charlene and keep watch over her."

Derek got up, glancing at me while he was saying, "Fine."

Charlene seemed delighted. Before leaving, she glanced at Aaron and smiled. "Do you wanna come with us?"

However, Aaron looked at me, hesitant to answer. "You can go. I'll help wash the dishes," I told him.

Not long after, all three of them went out together. Meanwhile, I helped put the tableware into the kitchen.

Seeing that I was about to wash the dishes, Belinda left at once.

Her attitude was completely different from when Derek was present. She didn't even bother to cast me a glance, let alone smile.

## My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 127

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)  
Chapter 127 You Are A Jinx

I turned on the tap and placed all the tableware in the sink.

While I was washing the tableware, I was startled when I inadvertently turned my head.

Gifford was standing at the door of the kitchen, casting a stern gaze at me.

Truthfully, I sensed that his gentle demeanor earlier was just pretense.

The cigarette smell coming from him was very unpleasant. I was standing a few paces away from him, and yet I wanted to cough. 2

However, I held back my urge to cough and just held my breath.

“Miss Stone, you’re a jinx. Back when you weren’t around Derek, nothing bad ever happened to him, nor Dere International. But since you showed up, everything went wrong. I remember how lofty you were when you left that day. Why did you decide to come back? Whatever. It doesn’t matter. I’ll figure out a way to make you leave somehow.”

Crack!

The bowl in my hands fell to the floor and shattered.

I knew it.

After all, Gifford was a smart man.

He took advantage of Derek and Aaron’s absence to belittle me once more. He was speaking bluntly without beating around the bush. –

But there was no way I could leave Derek now.

I knew that no matter how I explained that I wasn’t after Derek’s money and had no other intentions, it was useless. Gifford would never believe me.

“Miss Stone, don’t overestimate yourself. Derek is my son, so I know him better than you do. He’s always been a hard worker. At his age, he managed to achieve something unbelievable. Many people who have lived for more than half of their lives can’t even compare to my son.”

Gifford was right. There was a gigantic gap between me and Derek. He was like heaven, and I was hell.

“He’s already very successful. What my son needs is a woman who can help him become even better. Miss Stone, what value do you offer to him? What can you even do for Derek?”

The way Gifford spoke made it seem like I really could do nothing for Derek. Truthfully, all I brought to Derek was trouble.

“Don’t tell me how much you love him. I do believe that love exists, but I don’t believe that it

lasts forever. Eternal love is just a lie to mask ulterior motives.”

The dignified middle-aged man was so daunting. And the way he described love to me showed me its darkest side.

At the moment, I couldn’t find a word to defend myself.

He might be right. I might actually be a jinx. More importantly, I had nothing to offer that could make people see me differently.

In the past, although I wasn’t rich or very outstanding, I was a hard worker. I was still able to have fun while doing an ordinary job.

This was the first time I hated myself for being so ordinary. I even wanted to improve myself and become the kind of woman who deserved Derek.

I wasn’t sure how much time had passed, but I found I was the only one left in the kitchen again.

I squatted down, feeling my stiff legs as I picked up the shards of the broken bowl on the floor.

Soon, I saw a familiar set of leather shoes. Then, he pulled me up from the floor.

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“What happened?” Derek frowned.

My mouth twitched as I said, “Don’t be angry. This was all my fault. I accidentally dropped the bowl while washing it.”

“It’s fine. It’s just a bowl.” Derek picked up a nearby broom to sweep away the debris.

I proceeded to wash the remainder of the unwashed dishes and pretended like nothing had happened.

“Why are you back so soon? Charlene just got her driver’s license. It wouldn’t be safe for her to drive alone,” I said.

“It’s okay. Aaron is in the car with her,” he said from behind me.

After I washed the dishes, I walked out of the kitchen and saw Gifford on the sofa watching TV like he never even moved from his spot.

Upon seeing him, I quickened my pace and hurried out of the house with Derek.

When I walked out of the yard's gate, I soon saw the new car.

The car's windows were rolled down on both sides, and Charlene was driving, looking quite excited. I had no idea what she was talking about with Aaron, but I saw them laughing together.

Perhaps because of how shallow I was, I found women who could drive really cool.

Moreover, Charlene was a classy woman. It was beautiful seeing someone as pretty as her

I thought she was a pretty good driver, considering how she managed to turn around so smoothly.

"I want to get a driver's license," I told him.

My voice was soft, but Derek was standing beside me so he heard me. He then pursed his lips, looking at me with amusement.

"Driving doesn't suit someone timid like you." 1

I looked at him, smiling bitterly.

"I see. You also think I'm pathetic, huh?"

Derek placed his arm around my shoulder, and whispered in my ear, "Aren't you satisfied having me as your driver? I'm an experienced driver, and I'm skilled in other things, too. You probably know that already."

Upon hearing his double entendre, I had no idea how to respond, because my heart was filled with other emotions.

## Chapter 128 How To Turn The Tables

On our way back to the sea view villa, I didn't say a word.

But I was the only one who knew how restless I was.

I was indeed a person cursed with bad luck. Because of me, Shane was now blackmailing Derek into giving him fifty million dollars within three days.

I wondered how I could turn the tables in my favor.

"What's the matter?" Derek suddenly touched my face.

Since I was immersed in my thoughts, I was startled by this, but I soon shook my head in response.

"I'm just not feeling well." "Would you like to go to the hospital?" he asked. "No, it's not necessary. I'm just a little exhausted, that's all."

"I see. Then we should get back as soon as possible, so you can rest," Derek replied.

"Got it," I responded.

After returning to the sea view villa, I went to bed early.

Soon, I closed my eyes. Derek must've thought that I was asleep, so he made sure to make as little noise as possible when he went to bed with me. But in truth, I was so anxious that I couldn't fall asleep.

I'd rather not think about my situation, but I needed to figure out a way to get out of this dead end.

Shane had given me an ultimatum of three days. The first day had passed, and there was less and less time for me to come up with a solution.

When half of the second day had passed, I felt a sense of urgency that made me feel suffocated.

I had considered whether to tell Derek about it or not, and whether I should accept Shane's proposal of sleeping with him at the cost of offsetting ten thousand dollars from the total price each time. All sorts of terrible ideas flooded my brain, and I wanted to kill that bastard. 5

I felt like I was going insane.

During the afternoon, it began to rain. We didn't go outside of the house today, and we just watched TV.

Derek must've noticed that I hadn't spoken much these past two days, so he suddenly sat next to me, embraced me, and pressed his forehead against mine.

"Are you feeling sick? Do you really not want to see a doctor?"

I stared back at his eyes, and upon seeing how concerned he was for me, I felt guilty.

I was wrong. I shouldn't have tried to sort out this matter on my own without telling him. I wasn't even smart enough to come up with a solution for this.

Thus, I decided to tell him the truth. At the very least, I needed to mentally prepare him to see those photos. I was afraid that he wouldn't be able to accept me anymore if Shane were to post those pictures of me online.

I licked my dry lips, ready to speak. But suddenly, his phone rang.

The disruption ruined my perfect timing to confess.

After answering the phone call, Derek went out and didn't come back despite the fact that it was getting dark. It wasn't a holiday, and there weren't many people staying by the seaside, so it was tranquil around the sea view villa.

It was so quiet that it made me nervous.

I called Derek many times, but he wasn't answering, so I felt really uneasy. At nine in the evening, I heard the sound of a car. Hope ignited in my heart as I ran outside the house.

But upon seeing the car, I was left disappointed.

The car wasn't Derek's, and the person who got out of the car was Aaron.

He approached me and said, "Derek told me that you'd get scared of being alone here, so he asked me to take you home."

"Where is he?" I asked.

"He's probably dealing with something in his company. Don't worry about him," he said, trying to comfort me.

Truthfully, I wasn't afraid of being alone here, but I was bound to overthink. Just looking through the glass window, staring at the stark darkness outside and listening to the tides could make me feel unhinged.

Thus, I decided to go with Aaron back to Derek's villa. There, he cooked food for me. I couldn't bear to disappoint him, so I forced myself to eat.

Afterwards, he told me to go to bed early. I wasn't sleepy yet, so I sat in the living room and turned on the TV. However, I wasn't really watching TV.

Meanwhile, Aaron was sitting aside. "You should get some rest. You still have to go to work tomorrow, right?" I said to him.

With a faint smile, he said, "It's fine. I'm used to staying up late."

It was already eleven in the evening, and Derek still hadn't come home yet. Moreover, I couldn't get through to him, so I was becoming more and more restless.

When it was already midnight, I finally heard the sound of a car.

I put on my slippers and rushed to open the door.

After parking his car, Derek got out of it.

"Why are you still up? Are you unable to fall asleep without your husband?" he bantered as if nothing had happened.

But when he walked into the living room, I noticed that his shirt was dirty and his hand had been grazed.

"What on earth happened to you?" I asked, visibly surprised.

He glanced at me, letting out a sigh. "If I tell you, don't laugh, okay?" After a pause, he said, "I fell over by accident."

He didn't reek of alcohol, so his answer sounded a little farfetched.

"Are your injuries serious? Are you hurt anywhere else?"

Derek took off his coat, sat on the sofa, and embraced me.

"Yes, my wounds really hurt, so I'm going to need you to comfort me later," he whispered as he leaned close to my ear.

"It's getting late. You should get some sleep," Aaron suddenly chimed in, stood up and went upstairs.

Thus, we followed him upstairs.

After taking a shower, Derek came out of the bathroom, stark naked. I forgot my shyness and carefully examined his body.

Fortunately, there were no other injuries on his body.

As he pressed me onto the bed, staring at my lips, his eyes dimmed and he slowly lowered his head.

However, I wasn't in the mood to have sex, so I turned my head away.

"Where did you go today? And what on earth happened to you?" I asked.

Derek got off me and stared at me for a moment before he lay beside me.

"Don't you trust me?"

It seemed that he didn't want to tell me the truth, so I decided not to probe any further.

My questions appeared to have ruined his arousal, so we didn't end up having sex. Soon, he held me in his arms as we drifted off to sleep. 1

However, the following day, another scandal spread all over the city.

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Chapter 128 How To Turn The Tables

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But when he walked into the living room, I noticed that his shirt was dirty and his hand had been grazed.

"What on earth happened to you?" I asked, visibly surprised.

He glanced at me, letting out a sigh. "If I tell you, don't laugh, okay?" After a pause, he said, "I fell over by accident."

He didn't reek of alcohol, so his answer sounded a little farfetched.

"Are your injuries serious? Are you hurt anywhere else?"

Derek took off his coat, sat on the sofa, and embraced me.

"Yes, my wounds really hurt, so I'm going to need you to comfort me later," he whispered as he leaned close to my ear.

"It's getting late. You should get some sleep," Aaron suddenly chimed in, stood up and went upstairs.

Thus, we followed him upstairs.

After taking a shower, Derek came out of the bathroom, stark naked. I forgot my shyness and carefully examined his body.

Fortunately, there were no other injuries on his body.

As he pressed me onto the bed, staring at my lips, his eyes dimmed and he slowly lowered his head.

However, I wasn't in the mood to have sex, so I turned my head away.

"Where did you go today? And what on earth happened to you?" | asked.

Derek got off me and stared at me for a moment before he lay beside me.

"Don't you trust me?"

It seemed that he didn't want to tell me the truth, so I decided not to probe any further.

My questions appeared to have ruined his arousal, so we didn't end up having sex. Soon, he held me in his arms as we drifted off to sleep. 1

However, the following day, another scandal spread all over the city.